
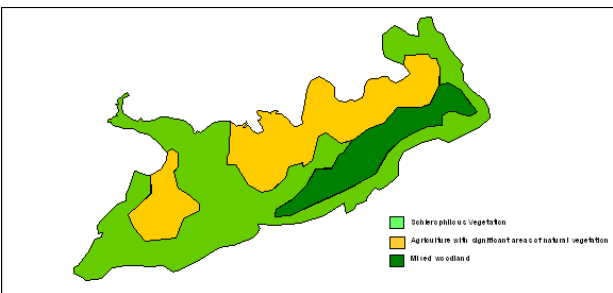


<p style="text-align: center;">   <b>MALTA RESOURCES AUTHORITY</b> </p>	 <p style="text-align: right; font-size: small;"> <span style="color: lightgreen;">■</span> Subtropical vegetation  <span style="color: yellow;">■</span> Agriculture with significant areas of natural vegetation  <span style="color: darkgreen;">■</span> Mixed woodland </p> <p style="text-align: center;">Corinne Landcover 2000</p>
<b>Groundwater Body Code</b>	
MT010	
<b>Groundwater Body Name</b>	
Marfa Coastal Groundwater Body	
<b>Reference Year</b>	
2004	
<b>Hydrogeological Characteristics</b>	
<b>Aquifer Description</b>	
<p>The aquifer formation in the region is the Upper Coralline Limestone. The formation attains a maximum thickness of 48m. The Marfa ridge is essentially monoclinical in nature - the beds dipping gently to the north with only minor exceptions. These occur at the south-western tip of Id-dahhar and at L-Ahrax tal-Madonna where there are southerly dips. In addition a small pitching syncline is located at Il-Latnija in western Marfa.</p>	
<b>Mean Aquifer Thickness</b>	26.5m
<b>Soil Type and Indicative Thickness</b>	Terra soil s and Carbonate Raw Soils predominate whilst the indicative thickness lies between 16-50cm.
<b>Mean Hydraulic Conductivity</b>	2.93E-6m/s
<b>Mean Annual Groundwater Level Amplitude</b>	n/a
<b>Pressures—Quantitative Status</b>	
<b>Mean Annual Recharge (Natural and Artificial)</b>	0.89hm <sup>3</sup>
<b>Mean Annual Groundwater Demand</b>	0.62hm <sup>3</sup>
<b>Balance</b>	0.27hm <sup>3</sup>
<b>WSC Groundwater Sources</b>	None
<b>Registered Private Groundwater Sources</b>	4 springs and 135 boreholes
<b>Pressures—Qualitative Status</b>	
<b>Principal Diffuse sources of Pollution</b>	Agriculture, Irrigation
<b>Principal Point sources of Pollution</b>	Animal Husbandry Activities
<b>Nitrate Content in Groundwater</b>	Not known but expected to be high due to intense irrigation.
<b>Chloride Content in Groundwater</b>	Not known but expected to be high due to saline intrusion.
<b>Pesticide Content in Groundwater</b>	No data available; however the karstic nature of the aquifer makes it highly vulnerable to pesticide pollution.
<b>Other Pollutants</b>	n/a
<b>Direct discharges to Groundwater</b>	No direct discharges have been permitted
<b>Associated Aquatic Ecosystems—sites under investigation</b>	
No sites enclosing groundwater dependent eco-systems have been identified.	
<b>Preliminary Risk Assessment</b>	
<p>Owing to the fact that no chemical data exists for the Marfa coastal groundwater body, the condition of the body should be assessed on the basis of similar groundwater bodies. These considerations lead the groundwater body to be considered as 'probably at risk' of failing to achieve the Water Framework Directive's objectives for qualitative status. However real chemical data should be obtained during the further characterisation stage in order for the significance of this 'risk' to be determined.</p>	