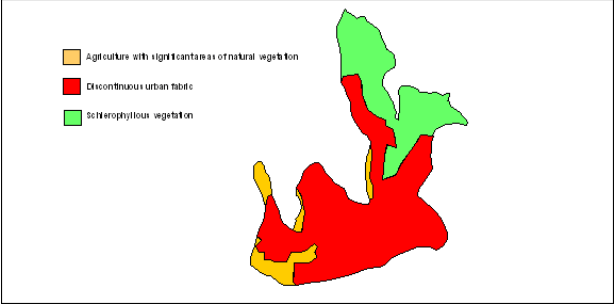
 <b>MALTA RESOURCES AUTHORITY</b>		
<b>Groundwater Body Code</b>		
MT016		
<b>Groundwater Body Name</b>		
Xaghra Perched Groundwater Body		
<b>Reference Year</b>		
2004		Corinne Landcover 2000
<b>Hydrogeological Characteristics</b>		
<b>Aquifer Description</b>		
<p>The outcropping aquifer formation in the Xaghra region is the Upper Coralline Limestone. Due to its lithographic nature and its sensitivity to weathering this formation hosts a generalized aquifer. The UCL formation varies considerably in thickness due to erosion and attains a maximum thickness of 35m in the region. The rather small thickness of this formation on the plateaus has made possible the direct exploitation of water resources by shallow wells. The outcrops of the Upper Coralline Limestone acts as a generalized recharge area for the underlying groundwater body.</p>		
<b>Mean Aquifer Thickness</b>	15m	
<b>Soil Type and Indicative Thickness</b>	The Xaghra series, a Terra Soil type can be found dominating most of the area. Other Terra Soil types and Carbonate Raw Soils are also present. Their indicative thickness lies between 19-63cm.	
<b>Mean Hydraulic Conductivity</b>	6.51E-6m/s	
<b>Mean Annual Groundwater Level Amplitude</b>	n/a	
<b>Pressures—Quantitative Status</b>		
<b>Mean Annual Recharge (Natural and Artificial)</b>	0.86 hm <sup>3</sup>	
<b>Mean Annual Groundwater Demand</b>	0.33 hm <sup>3</sup>	
<b>Balance</b>	0.38 hm <sup>3</sup>	
<b>WSC Groundwater Sources</b>	1 Spring	
<b>Registered Private Groundwater Sources</b>	475 boreholes, 15 springs	
<b>Pressures—Qualitative Status</b>		
<b>Principal Diffuse sources of Pollution</b>	Agriculture, leaks from the sewerage network	
<b>Principal Point sources of Pollution</b>	Contaminated land at Ghajn Damma	
<b>Nitrate Content in Groundwater</b>	Not known but expected to be high due to agricultural and urban Land use.	
<b>Chloride Content in Groundwater</b>	Not known but expected to be high due to existent situation in similar aquifers.	
<b>Pesticide Content in Groundwater</b>	No data available; however 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>		
The Groundwater body is probably at risk of failing to achieve the environmental objectives of the Water Framework Directive related to its qualitative status due to an expected high nitrate content due to the two main land-use types. .		