

MINISTERU GĦALL-IŻVILUPP SOSTENIBBLI,
L-AMBJENT U TIBDIL FIL-KLIMA

SEGRETARJAT PARLAMENTARI
GĦALL-BIEDJA, SAJD
U DRITTIJET TAL-ANIMALI

Dipartiment tas-Sajd u Akkwakultura



MALTA

MINISTRY FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT,
THE ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARIAT
FOR AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES
AND ANIMAL RIGHTS

Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture

LIFE BaĦAR for N2K (LIFE12 NAT/MT/000845)



Action A1 – Desktop Data Collection

Summary report on Action A1



The LIFE BaĦAR for N2K (LIFE12 NAT/MT/000845) Project is 50% co-financed by the EU LIFE+ Funding Programme

Il- proġett LIFE BaĦAR for N2K (LIFE12 NAT/MT/000845) huwa parzjalment (50%) iffinanzjat mill-fond LIFE+ ta' Unjoni Ewropea





The Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture within the Ministry for Sustainable Development, the Environment and Climate Change (MSDEC-DFA) is responsible for Action A1 – Desktop Data Collection. MSDEC-DFA collaborated with the project partners, namely the Environment and Resources Authority (ERA), the Ministry for Sustainable Development, the Environment and Climate Change (MSDEC), Department of Biology of the University of Malta (DoB-UoM) and Fundación Oceana, as well as various other stakeholders. The overall main objective of this Action was to collect readily available data from various data owners within Malta's Fisheries Management Zone¹ for interpretation and identification of the areas surveyed through the other deliverables within the project, mainly Action A2 and A3.

The specific tasks of this action were:

- Review of all the existing data collected on the marine environment relevant to the habitats under study - **sandbanks** habitats which are slightly covered by sea water all the time; submerged or partially submerged **caves** habitats; and **reef** habitats; baselines, bathymetry, legislative boundaries, threats and pressures.
- Make available all data in the form of GIS data layers and document repository for all end users.
- Plot and produce maps.
- Create metadata catalogue of all of the datasets used, with consent of the data owners.
- Compile an Activity Report

The methodology which was adopted was based on the objectives identified above. Scientific articles and geospatial data on geological seabed, bathymetry, habitat and/or species, existing marine/coastal protected areas, and pressures were subsequently requested from the relevant stakeholders and collected from different data sources. Also, additional data on caves were gathered from 5 diving school operators from Malta and Gozo to provide knowledge on the caves surrounding

¹ 25 Nautical Mile zone away from the Maltese coast



**MINISTERU GHALL-IŻVILUPP SOSTENIBBLI,
L-AMBJENT U TIBDIL FIL-KLIMA**

**SEGRETARJAT PARLAMENTARI
GHALL-BIEDJA, SAJD
U DRITTIJET TAL-ANIMALI**

Dipartiment tas-Sajd u Akkwakultura



MALTA

**MINISTRY FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT,
THE ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE**

**PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARIAT
FOR AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES
AND ANIMAL RIGHTS**

Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture

the Maltese coastline. Fishing activity maps were also produced by MSDEC-DFA on the basis of previously unmapped existing data; this data was manipulated to aid interpretation and analysis.

While the published scientific articles were compiled in a document repository, the spatial data were inputted into a GIS database, and were transformed from tabular data to geographic data, when required, and maps plotted. Activity reports were compiled, detailing the data collection and mapping exercise carried out and including a number of maps produced.

Further to the above process, DoB-UoM identified the importance of having consistent classification of mapped data throughout the project. Therefore, the habitat categories in the GIS datasets which contained the most data on the distribution of habitats were encoded using the European Nature Information System (EUNIS) 2007 classification scheme.

A number of issues were encountered during the data collection exercise; these related to data harmonisation, duplication of data, lack of metadata, and delays in data provision due to data sharing procedures/confidentiality. Most of these issues were subsequently addressed through communication with the data owners and encoding of the different habitat datasets using the EUNIS classification.



The LIFE BaĦAR for N2K (LIFE12 NAT/MT/000845) Project is 50% co-financed by the EU LIFE+ Funding Programme

Il- proġett LIFE BaĦAR for N2K (LIFE12 NAT/MT/000845) huwa parzjalment (50%) iffinanzjat mill-fond LIFE+ ta' Unjoni Ewropea

