Tell me more about these birds

- They live for a long time; so far, the oldest of these birds in Malta is 20 years old and still going strong.
- Once the chicks leave the nest, they get no more help from their parents and learn to navigate the open seas and fish alone.
- They can drink seawater and expel the salt through a special gland on their beak.
- Both parents take turns to sit on the nest and can spend a week there without eating.

Bumblebee orchid, one of the plants at the site

The project will also benefit other wildlife like chameleons

Where can I find out more ?

We want to hear from you!

Call us: **21347644**
Email us: **info@lifeshearwaterproject.org.mt**
Website: **www.lifeshearwaterproject.org.mt, www.birdlifemalta.org**

Best of all, come and visit our project site. You can also book a free guided walk with our site warden by calling 21347644.

Għidli iktar fuq il-garni.

- Il-garni jgħix ħafna; s'issa l-ixjeħ garnija li nafu biha Malta għandha 20 sena u għadha b'saħħitha.
- Meta l-fellus jikber u jitlaq mill-bejta, il-ġenituri ma jibqgħux jieħdu ħsiebu, għalhekk il-ferħ irid jitgħallem waħdu jistad u jfendi għal rasu fil-baħar.
- Il-garni kapaċi jixrob l-ilma baħar, għax il-melħ jista' jeħles minnu minn glandola speċjali li għandu f'munqaru.
- Fil-garni, iż-żewġ ġenituri joqogħdu fuq il-bajda fil-bejta, u kultant idumu anke ġimgħa fuq il-bejta bla ma jmorru jieklu.

Scientist ringing shearwater

Xjenzati qed jirringjaw il-garni

Shearwater outside the burrow

Garnija fid-daħla tal-bejta

Fejn nista' nsib iktar tagħrif ?

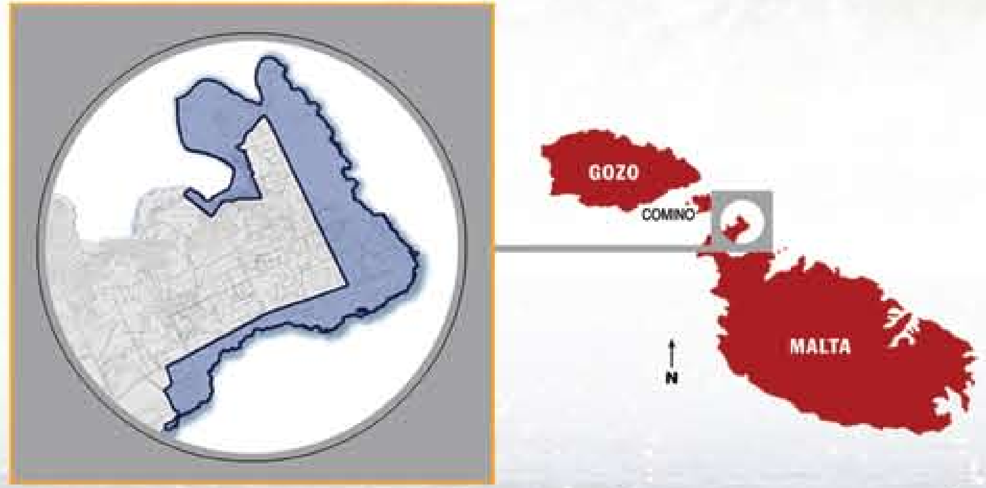
Nixtiequ nisimgħu minn għandek!

Ċemplilna fuq **21347644**
Jew ibgħat imejl fuq **info@lifeshearwaterproject.org.mt**
Tista' żżur ukoll il-websajt **www.lifeshearwaterproject.org.mt jew www.birdlifemalta.org**

L-awqa ħaġa hija li tiġi inti stess iżżur is-sit tal-proġett. Jekk trid tista' tirranġa biex tmur dawra flimkien mal-Gwardjan tas-Sit, dan huwa servizz bla ħlas. Ċempel 21347644.

The Project Location

The protected area at Rdum tal-Madonna is shown in blue



Iż-żona protetta fi Rdum tal-Madonna qiegħda bil-blu

EU LIFE
Yelkouan Shearwater PROJECT
BirdLife MALTA

Yelkouan Shearwater

Proġett Garnija
The EU LIFE Yelkouan Shearwater Project

Working in partnership for shearwaters, wildlife and people

The Yelkouan Shearwater Project is a joint EU LIFE funded partner initiative with :

Co-funded by :

RSPB · BirdLife Malta · Heritage Malta · HSBC The world's local bank · MEPA

The LIFE Nature Programme provides funding to European Union countries to promote sustainable development and assist in developing positive management for key habitats and birds.

What is the EU LIFE Yelkouan Shearwater Project about ?

The project aims to protect Yelkouan Shearwaters in Malta. It will also improve the Rdum tal-Madonna site in the North of Malta for wildlife and visitors.

Why is it important?

Malta is home to 1500 pairs of Yelkouan Shearwaters (*Puffinus yelkouan*). That's around 10% of the world's population of this species! It's important at an international level to stop the population from declining.

Conservation work on the site

Xogħol ambjentali fis-sit

Ringing Shearwaters

Xjenzati qed jirringjaw il-garni

F'hiex jikkonsisti Proġett Garnija ?

L-iskop ta' dan il-proġett huwa l-ħarsien tal-garni f'Malta. Dan il-proġett se jtejjeb ukoll l-ambjent naturali ta' Rdum il-Madonna, li jinsab fit-tramuntana ta' Malta.

Għaliex huwa importanti dal-proġett ?

F'Malta jbejtu ma' l-1500 par ta' garni (yelkouan shearwater *Puffinus yelkouan*), jiġifieri 10% tal-popolazzjoni dinjija ta' din l-ispeċi! Għalhekk huwa importanti anke fuq skala globali li nwaqqfu l-popolazzjoni ta' din it-tajra milli tibqa' tonqos.

Why do we need to help the birds ?

The birds have been facing a variety of man-made threats. Here are some of the ways we are going to deal with this:

Threat: Rats are attracted in by rubbish and eat the shearwater chicks.
Action: A rat eradication programme is underway.

Threat: Noise, light and building works can cause birds to abandon their chicks.
Action: We will be working with the authorities to reduce this disturbance. We will advise boat owners to avoid stopping near the area during the breeding season (March to July).

Campers leave rubbish on site

Skart li jħallu warajhom nies li jiġu jikkampjaw

Dumping on site

Rimi ta' skart

Għaliex għandu bżonn l-għajnuna dan it-tajr ?

Il-garni qed jiffaċċja numru ta' theddid li kollu ġej mill-bniedem. Dawn huma wħud mit-theddid u kif se nippruvaw insolvuhom:

Theddida: L-iskart li jħalli l-bniedem qed iġib il-firien, li jattakkaw u jieklu l-flieles tal-garni.
Azzjoni: Bħalissa għaddejja ħidma biex neqirdu l-firien mis-sit.

Theddida: L-istorbu, id-dwal u xogħol ta' żvilupp qed igerrex il-garni minn fuq il-bejtiet.
Azzjoni: Se nkunu qed naħdmu id f'id ma' l-awtoritajiet konċernati biex jitnaqqas dan it-tfixkil. Se nħajru sidien ta' dgħajjes biex waqt l-istaġun tal-bejta (minn Marzu sa Lulju) ma jibqgħux jieqfu jew jankraw, minn tlugħ ix-xemx sa nżulha, eqreb minn 2km mill-irdum.

Threat: Accidental catching of birds on longline gear by fishermen.
Action: We will be working with local fishermen to find out if this is a problem and trialling solutions to reduce accidental by-catch.

Threat: Human disturbance from activities such as camping
Action: Our site warden will explain why the site is important and how to protect it. Campers will be asked to avoid certain areas.

Threat: Little is known about the birds' behaviour
Action: We will observe the birds from boats and also fit some electronic devices to find out exactly where they go. This will lead to the creation of a Marine Special Protection Area.

Rat eradication work on the site

Ħidma biex neqirdu l-firien mis-sit

Victim of baited fishing hooks

©Terje Lislevand

Vittma ta' snanar illixkati

Theddida: Qbid bi żball ta' tajr mis-sajjieda
Azzjoni: Se nkunu qed naħdmu mas-sajjieda biex naraw kemm hija serja din il-problema u nippruvaw soluzzjonijiet biex innaqqsu inċidenti ta' dan it-tip.

Theddid: Tfixkil minn attivitajiet tal-bniedem bħalma huwa l-ikkampjar.
Azzjoni: Il-Gwardjan tas-Sit se jkun jispjega għaliex is-sit huwa importanti u dwar il-bżonn li jitħares. Min ikun jixtieq jikkampja jintalab biex jevita jtella' tined f'ċerti nħawi.

Theddida: Ftit għadna nafu dwar l-imġiba ta' dan it-tajr
Azzjoni: Se nkunu qed nosservaw dan it-tajr minn fuq dgħajjes, u uħud mit-tajr se jitwaħħallu apparat elettroniku biex jurina fejn eżatt ikun qed imur. Bis-saħħa ta' dan it-tagħrif inkunu nistgħu niddikjaraw Area ta' Ħarsien Speċjali fil-Baħar.

The Project will put Malta on the map for international seabird conservation.

Il-Proġett se jpoġġi lil Malta fuq il-mappa internazzjonali għall-ħarsien tat-tajr tal-baħar.

Who is doing it ?

International and local bodies are sharing their experience in an innovative project partnership of four government authorities and three local and international conservation organisations. The project is 50% funded by the EU LIFE Nature fund, with contributions from MEPA and HSBC.

Where is the project based ?

The main focus is Rdum tal-Madonna. The site is a Special Protection Area (SPA) and a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) under the European "Natura 2000" series of protected areas. Have a look at the map on the back page.

Conservation work on the site

Xogħol ambjentali fis-sit

Ringing Shearwaters

Xjenzati qed jirringjaw il-garni

Min qed imexxi dal-proġett ?

Proġett Garnija huwa inizjattiva innovattiva li ġġib flimkien erba' awtoritajiet tal-gvern u tliet għaqdiet ambjentali Maltin u barranin. L-imseħbin qed jużaw l-esperjenza tagħhom biex il-proġett ikun suċċess. Nofs l-ispiża tal-proġett ħatitħallas mill-EU LIFE Nature Fund, b'kontribut ukoll mill-MEPA u l-HSBC.

Fejn qed isir Proġett Garnija ?

Il-proġett ħa jikkonċentra l-iktar fuq is-sit magħruf bħala Rdum il-Madonna. Dan il-post huwa Area ta' Ħarsien Speċjali (SPA) u Area ta' Konservazzjoni Speċjali (SAC) u jifforma parti min-nisġa ta' nħawi protetti Ewropej li jissejħu Natura 2000.