

L.N. 233 of 2024

**ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION ACT
(CAP. 549)**

**Species Protection (Designation of National Species)
(Amendment) Regulations, 2024**

IN EXERCISE of the powers conferred by articles 54 and 55 of the Environment Protection Act, the Minister responsible for the environment after consultation with the Environment and Resources Authority, has made the following regulations:

1. The title of these regulations is the Species Protection (Designation of National Species) (Amendment) Regulations, 2024 and these regulations shall be read and construed as one with the Species Protection (Designation of National Species) Regulations, hereinafter referred to as the "principal regulations".

Citation.

S.L. 549.120.

2. In regulation 3 of the principal regulations, the definition "specimen" shall be amended as follows:

Amends regulation 3 of the principal regulations.

(a) words "those species." shall be substituted by the words "those species:"; and

(b) immediately after there shall be added the following new proviso:

"Provided that the term "specimen" in relation to *Apis mellifera ruttneri* refers to a bee colony."

3. Paragraph (c) of regulation 8 of the principal regulations shall be substituted by the following new paragraph :

Amends regulation 8 of the principal regulations.

"(c) prevent the introduction of, control or eradicate those invasive alien species which may threaten National Species, provided that such measures do not affect negatively any species used for apiculture; and".

4. Regulation 10 of the principal regulations shall be substituted by the following new regulation:

Substitutes regulation 10 of the principal regulations.

"Permits in relation to species listed in Schedule I.

10. Any assessment carried out or permit issued by the competent authority in accordance with the relevant regulations shall be deemed as issued under these regulations:

S.L. 36.36. Provided that any registration in accordance with the Bee Keeping Regulations involving, *inter alia*, the use of the National Insect as referred to in Schedule I(b), for the production of honey, royal jelly, propolis, beeswax or other honey bee related products, is to be considered as a valid permit for *Apis mellifera ruttneri* under these regulations and under the Flora, Fauna and Natural Habitats Protection Regulations.".

S.L. 549.44

Substitutes Schedule I of the principal regulations.

5. Schedule I of the principal regulations shall be substituted by the following new Schedule:

**"SCHEDULE I
NATIONAL SPECIES OF THE MALTESE ISLANDS**

Schedule I(a): National Species (Birds)

SCIENTIFIC NAME	MALTESE NAME	ENGLISH NAME	NATIONAL SPECIES
<i>Monticola solitarius</i>	Il-Merill; Iċ-Ċikkudiddiju	Blue Rock Thrush	National Bird

Schedule I(b): National Species (excluding birds)

SCIENTIFIC NAME	MALTESE NAME	ENGLISH NAME	NATIONAL SPECIES
<i>Aphanius fasciatus</i>	Il-Bużaqq	Mediterranean Killifish	National Fish
<i>Apis mellifera ruttneri</i>	In-Nahla ta' Malta; In-Nahla Maltija	Maltese Honey Bee	National Insect
<i>Palaeocyanus crassifolius</i> (= <i>Cheirolophus crassifolius</i>)	Widnet il-Baħar	Maltese Rock-Centauray	National Plant
<i>Potamon fluviatile lanfrancoi</i>	Il-Qabru; Il-Granċ tal-Ilma Ħelu	Maltese Freshwater Crab	National Crustacean
<i>Tetraclinis articulata</i> (= <i>Callitris quadrivalvis</i>)	L-Għargħar; Is-Sigra tal-Għargħar	Arar Tree; Alerce; Sandarac Gum Tree	National Tree

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