

Contents

Acknowledgements	5
Executive summary	7
1 Introduction	10
1.1 Fingerprint of the Mediterranean Sea	10
1.2 Physical environment.....	10
1.3 Hydrography.....	10
1.4 Ecosystem productivity	11
1.5 Fauna and flora: biodiversity status	11
1.6 Pressures from human activities and their impacts.....	12
1.6.1 Nature and severity of problems on the Mediterranean coastline and coastal sea.....	12
1.6.2 Priority issues on a country-by-country basis	13
1.6.3 Emerging issues threatening ecosystems.....	13
2 Analysis of problems	16
2.1 Land-based sources of pollution	16
2.2 Habitat destruction and physical alteration.....	23
2.3 Off-shore and marine based pollution	25
3 Pollution issues country by country	28
3.1 Albania	28
3.2 Algeria.....	29
3.3 Bosnia and Herzegovina	30
3.4 Croatia	30
3.5 Cyprus.....	31
3.6 Egypt	31
3.7 France	32
3.8 Greece.....	32
3.9 Israel.....	34
3.10 West Bank and Gaza.....	34
3.11 Italy	35
3.12 Lebanon.....	36
3.13 Libya	36
3.14 Malta	37
3.15 Monaco.....	38
3.16 Morocco	38
3.17 Serbia and Montenegro	39
3.18 Slovenia.....	39
3.19 Spain.....	40
3.20 Syria	41
3.21 Tunisia.....	42
3.22 Turkey	42
4 Key issue: natural hazards	44
4.1 Seismicity	44
4.2 Volcanic activity	44
4.3 Mass movements — tsunamis.....	45
5 Key issue: exotic species	47
5.1 Biological invasions: a non-stop process	47

5.2	Mode of introduction and distribution of exotic species across the Mediterranean	47
5.3	Impact of exotic species	48
5.4	Exotic species as a fishery resource	49
5.5	Added value from studying exotic species in the Mediterranean	50
6	Key issue: Harmful Algal Blooms	51
6.1	Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) in the Mediterranean Sea	51
6.2	Toxic effects on humans	51
6.3	Fish kills and contaminated seafood	52
6.4	Ecosystem changes	53
6.5	Socio-economic effects	54
7	Key issue: ecosystem changes due to unsustainable fishing	55
7.1	The ecosystem approach in fisheries	55
7.2	Biodiversity loss — the problem of discards	56
7.3	Changes in the structure of fish populations	57
8	Key issue: ecosystem changes due to aquaculture development	59
8.1	Key issues of aquaculture impact	59
9	Key issue: ecological quality status in coastal areas	63
9.1	Presence and coverage of benthic macrophytes (sensitive/opportunistic)	63
9.2	Presence/abundance of sensitive/opportunistic zoobenthic species/taxa	64
9.3	Community diversity index (H) based on zoobenthos	64
9.4	Ecological quality status based on zoobenthos	66
10	Legal and policy instruments	68
10.1	The Barcelona Convention and its protocols (Barcelona system)	68
10.2	EU cooperation with the Mediterranean partner countries	69
10.3	A review of environmental concerns and their corresponding legal and policy instruments	70
10.3.1	Pollution	70
10.3.2	Conservation of biodiversity	71
10.3.3	Fisheries — aquaculture	72
11	Conclusions	73
11.1	Main findings	73
11.2	Steps towards better environmental management	74
11.2.1	Gaps in knowledge and further work needed	74
11.2.2	Pollution prevention and improved management practices	75
11.2.3	Socio-economic capacity for environmental management	76
11.2.4	Needs and future interventions for Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM)	76
11.3	Needs for adequate regulatory mechanisms	77
	Acronyms	78
	References	81