

Impact of climatological changes in S.E. Europe

Fokion K. VOSNIAKOS

Balkan Environmental Association (B.EN.A.), Alexander Technological Educational Institute of Thessaloniki, P.O.Box 141, 57400 Sindos, Thessaloniki, Greece, (e-mail: bena@gen.teithe.gr)

Abstract

The Mediterranean Sea covers more than 2.5 million km², with a 46.000 km coastline. Mediterranean countries have a population of nearly 425 million, with an additional 170 million tourists visiting each year.

Its average depth is just 1500 meters. It is a semi-enclosed sea with two main exits: the Gibraltar Strait, approximately 14 km wide, and the Suez Canal.

Mediterranean is one of the richest biological diversity seas in the world: 7.5% of all animal species and 18 % of all marine floras, in a sea that represents only 0.7% of the total surface of the oceans (partly of temperate zones species and partly of subtropical species, of which 30 per cent are endemic.).

The accelerating loss of biological diversity, land degradation, impending water scarcity and deteriorating marine ecosystems are all prominent issues.

Over the past two decades, the Mediterranean countries have focused mainly on strengthening environmental policies and institutions, without finding complementary intervention mechanisms related to consumption and production activities, or to economic and social policies.

Key words: Mediterranean Sea, climate changes, pollution

sa2011_a0101