

*In anticipation of a research report we provide you with some initial information.*

## **UNEP - RR2 - Measures to combat the decline in biodiversity in the Mediterranean Sea**

A May 2019 study showed that in 83% of the oceans over 25% of assessed species were threatened, and in 15% of the ocean over 50% of the species is threatened ([Source](#), please don't read the entire report unless you really want to) The Mediterranean Sea is identified as one of the areas in which biodiversity is most at risk. The Mediterranean Sea is a [marine biodiversity hot spot](#). The Mediterranean Sea is also home of 28% of endemic species and 7.5% of coast species even though it covers less than 0.7% of the world's ocean area. [Source](#) Biodiversity in the Mediterranean Sea is thus both very important and threatened.

There are numerous causes for a decline in the Mediterranean Sea, such as a massive influx of tourists every year, intensive urbanization, overexploitation of resources, the busy maritime transport routes and pollution. Addressing these causes is difficult, as they represent major economic interests of various countries involved.

In your research report please discuss the importance of the Mediterranean Sea as a hot spot for marine biodiversity and how it has been doing. Then discuss the causes of the decline in biodiversity. Address the difficulties in combatting the decline due to economic interests, lack of education etc etc. Also pay attention to what is being done and some measures that could be taken to improve the protection of biodiversity. In order to help some beginning delegates that may be in your committee, mention some concrete, easy to understand measures that would help the biodiversity but also mention an obstacle these measures face (eg: stop dumping untreated sewage in the ocean. However, treating sewage is really difficult and expensive and some countries can't do it on their own).

Some links used for these paragraphs besides the ones already linked: (some are academic articles that you don't really need to read or understand, but might be helpful in providing sources)

<https://medwet.org/2019/05/conservation-of-mediterranean-biodiversity-idb2019/>

[https://medwet.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/MWO\\_2018\\_Technical-report.pdf](https://medwet.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/MWO_2018_Technical-report.pdf) -> This contains some recommendations in bullet points at various points throughout the report. It's not about the entire Mediterranean Sea though.

<https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0011842>

[http://www.rac-spa.org/sites/default/files/doc\\_cop/biodiversity.pdf](http://www.rac-spa.org/sites/default/files/doc_cop/biodiversity.pdf) -> read from page 78 has some recommendations for urgent actions