

Co-Evolve4BG

Pollution and other anthropogenic pressures affecting ecosystems

AUTHORS:

Béchir Béjaoui, Khoulood Athimen, Houaida Bouali, Oula Amrouni, Noureddine Zaaboub, Mahmoud Moussa, Hatem Kanfoudi, Mohamed Ali Briki, Giuliano Tallone, Erica Peroni, Paraskevi Chouridou, Dimitris Kokkinos, Eirini Argyropoulou, Arnaldo Marin, Nuria García-Bueno, Carolina Navarro, Emma Casanova, Andrea Muñoz Paupie, Carmen Mayorga Pedraza, Dalila Taieb, Chokri Brahmi, Adel Querghemmi, Afef Lamine, Nahed Msayleb, Sana Abi Dib, Malek Ghandour, Rebecca Baissari, Mohamed Ali Briki

Co-Evolve4BG project aims to analyse and promote the co-evolution of human activities and natural ecosystems in touristic coastal areas, towards sustainable development of tourist activities based on the principles of Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) and Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) while promoting the Blue Growth in the Mediterranean. Co-Evolve4BG, main outputs include:

- An integrated analysis of Threats & Enabling Factors for sustainable tourism at Mediterranean, National and Pilot Area scales.
- Tourism sustainability toolkit.
- Elaboration of Action Plans for sustainable development in the Pilot Areas.

ABSTRACT

Tourism is considered a major contributor to the Mediterranean economy. Over the past few decades, the Coastal/Maritime tourism market has grown steadily. Nevertheless, this growth generates pressures on the environmental resources of coastal areas. The rapid development and construction of tourist facilities at the expense of natural resources has been encouraged by the governments of Mediterranean countries in order to meet the demand for Coastal/Maritime tourism. This development, along with overpopulation of coastal areas, has led to serious pollution problems in many parts of the Mediterranean.

The analysis has emphasized the Coastal/Maritime tourism impacts on the coastal ecosystems. As, it threatens the integrity and the functionality of ecosystems through the generation of several types of "pollution" including:

- Solid waste and marine litter
- Air emissions
- Noise pollution
- Water pollution
- Light pollution

In addition to Coastal/Maritime tourism, many other human pressures disturb coastal ecosystems. Consequently, the development of Coastal/Maritime tourism is directly/indirectly affected by other human activities.

Ecosystem-based management approach is considered the best practice to effectively deal with these challenges in general and pollution generated from Coastal/Maritime tourism in particular.

KEY WORDS

Coastal/Maritime tourism, Anthropogenic Activities, Coastal Ecosystems, Pollution

