Environmental Problems in the Mediterranean Region. Environmental problems are a big challenge to the future of the Mediterranean region. Climate change and global warming could raise the sea level of the Mediterranean as much as 60 cm and, thus, flood parts of the Nile Delta or the city of Venice. Pollution has become widespread along the coasts of the Mediterranean as tourism dumps thousands of tons of sewage into the sea each year. Although many coastal areas and small islands of the Mediterranean depend on tourism as a main source of income, it has also driven animal life away from the shore.

“The sea level in the Mediterranean has risen by between 1 and 1.5 millimetres each year since 1943, but this does not seem set to continue, because it now seems that the speed at which it rises is accelerating,” Manuel Vargas Yáñez, main author of the book Cambio Climático en el Mediterráneo Español, and researcher in the Spanish Oceanography Institute (IEO), tells SINC. Its salinity is also increasing, and the rise in sea level is accelerating. Since the start of the 21st century the level has already risen by 20 centimetres. “The climate on Earth is experiencing inertia to a certain extent. Even though we have now As the Mediterranean Basin is experiencing the impact of climate change more than ever, an international network of scientists has worked together to synthesize the effects of climate change and environmental problems, as well as the incurred risks, in the region, to facilitate decision-making in addressing the issues. The first-ever study synthesizing risks posed by climate and environmental changes in the Mediterranean. Date: October 26, 2018.