

THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION IS A BIODIVERSITY HOTSPOT

It makes up only 1% of the world's ocean areas but houses 10% of its biodiversity. 1 in 3 species - and 2 in 3 plants - found in this region exist only here

One of these endemic plants is the **Posidonia Oceanica**, the “lungs of the Mediterranean” and one of the world's largest and oldest plants in existence.



It's critical for water purification and sea life, absorbing **15x the CO2** as its equivalent material amount in the Amazon rainforest. **It's critical for life** here.



BUT THE REGION'S UNIQUE ECOLOGY MAKES IT EXTRA SENSITIVE TO CLIMATE CHANGE...



heating up **20% faster** than the rest of the world's oceans.



The Poseidonia is expected to be **70% extinct in just 25 years**, allowing oceans to acidify and become unsafe for marine life - including the beautiful, unique landscapes characteristic of coastal Mediterranean towns



With heat, acidic oceans expand - causing sea levels to rise and infiltrate irrigation systems with water **unsafe** for farming, bathing, consumption, or to power hydroelectric power plants that fuel technology and production.



Within 75 years, average regional temperatures are expected to rise by 34-42 F (1.2-8.5 C) - an average new high of nearly 130 F for Europe / 150 F in MENA regions.



The Middle East & North Africa is already home to ¾ of the world's most water-scarce areas. Total water scarcity is expected by 2050.



Climate Change is directly associated with the rise of sexually transmitted diseases and exploitative economies.

Fresh water shortages + infertile land + dying marine species = food shortages & health concerns like malnutrition, dehydration, sanitation, infections, etc. - but also disrupts local economies. In Kenya, **50 tons of fish died** out due to water quality and overfishing, leading to a practice known as **“Fish for Sex,”** where food-desperation is exploited and sexual favors are exchanged for fish.



Women and girls are often responsible for water collection miles (~3.7, or 6 km RT) from their homes & are often the victims of **gender-based violence**, harassment, or rape. Disease transmission rise, mental health suffers, and they remain stuck in a **cycle of poverty**.



Environmental Conditions like these have **caused ~15% of major recorded world conflicts** in just the last 200 years - which doesn't include where natural resources like water were weaponized or withheld as a result of conflict.



Resource depletion in MENA regions expected to cause **mass migration north** to Europe, as they too begin battling with MENA's current situation – but now, it's at a much higher population level and with much less economic or technological advancement as in the past.



Climate change **still isn't grounds to claim refugee status**. “Illegal” migration from MENA countries imposes additional risks and will likely make refugees more vulnerable to exploitation along the route - as well as marginalization upon arrival.

WE WISH THAT WERE IT! SADLY, WE HAVEN'T EVEN TALKED ABOUT EUROPE OR THE WEST YET. BUT REMEMBER, IF THERE WERE NO HOPE, WHY WHY BOTHER TALKING ABOUT IT? THERE IS!