





multi-Risk sciEnce for resilienT commUnities undeR a changiNgclimate

Codice progetto MUR: **PE00000005** – F83C22001660002



Deliverable title: Report on sources and scale of source of environmental

degradation

Deliverable ID: 4.2.1

**Due date: 20/11/2023** 

**Submission date: 30/11/2023** 

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## 1. Technical references

Project Acronym	RETURN	
Project Title	multi-Risk sciEnce for resilienT commUnities undeR a changiNg climate	
Project Coordinator	Domenico Calcaterra	
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Project Duration	December 2022 – November 2025 (36 months)	
Deliverable No.	DV4.2.1 - Report on sources and scale of source of environmental degradation	
Dissemination level*	PU	
Work Package	WP4.2 - Setting the scene on environmental degradation stressors in terrestrial and marine environment	
Task	T4.2.1 - Identification and mapping of source and scale of processes and sites critically relevant from exposure to chemical/physical/biological stressors, also considering climate change and extreme events, and their compound-occurrence and effects	
Lead beneficiary	UNINA, Fabio Terribile, Nada Mzid	

- \* PU = Public
  - PP = Restricted to other programme participants (including the Commission Services)

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- RE = Restricted to a group specified by the consortium (including the Commission Services)
- CO = Confidential, only for members of the consortium (including the Commission Services)







## **Document history**

Version	Date	Lead contributor	Description
0.1	17.11.2023	Fabio Terribile, Nada Mzid UNINA	First draft
0.2			Critical review and proofreading
0.3			Edits for approval
1.0			Final version







## 2. ABSTRACT

Environmental degradation has been recognised as a threat to the European and global ecosystems with direct impacts on climate change adaptation, ecosystem conditions, food-security, and social assistance. A lot of scientific effort has been devoted to the concepts and approaches for the monitoring and assessment of environmental degradation and to the question of how the ecosystem resources could be directed towards sustainable use. In addition, within the broad concept of environmental degradation, there are very different processes ranging from air/water/soil contaminants to loss of ecosystem services.

In this regard, the aim of this deliverable is to analyse sources and scale of source of the most prominent environmental degradation processes.

In order to perform such task, we have proceeded in two steps: (i) a preliminary analysis of environmental degradation factors based on bibliometric analysis and (ii) a synoptic view of the outcoming results analysing sources and scale of land degradation.

For the bibliometric analysis, documents type, subject area, documents sources, high-frequency keywords, and the geographical distribution of publications were analysed. The study focused on a total of 19748 articles published from 2016 to 2023, collected through an automated process from the Scopus database and later analysed using techniques such as bibliometric indicators analysis on R and VOSviewer. To identify the sources of environmental degradation and assess the scale and the extent of their dispersion, diverse monitoring techniques have been discussed, highlighting the necessity of a global high spatio-temporal database derived at marine and land scales. Finally, a synoptic analysis has been produced in view of the RETURN project.