

The Mediterranean Basin with its mountainous shores, high biodiversity and spectacular scenery is located at the intersection of Africa and Eurasia. Through the 8000 years of human development in this area, there have been tremendous changes in its history and biogeography. Approximately 300 million people live here today. Although the evergreen maquis, vineyards, olive plantations and natural woodlands cover the lands all over the basin, it is facing severe destruction of habitats due to deforestation, intensive grazing, fires, and in particular, a severe coastal degradation due to infrastructure development, which is changing the landscape. Both the historical heritage and geography of the land is facing a great threat due to urbanisation and fragmentation. Time has come for its inhabitants to weigh their impact on its ecogeography in order to save the biodiversity as well as the history of the basin. This book synthesises the knowledge from different disciplines so as to increase awareness among the humans in the basin.

**Prof Dr Recep Efe** has authored a number of scientific books and has published numerous articles in refereed scientific journals and conference proceedings, with emphasis on ecosystem analysis, ecology, land cover change and vegetation analysis. He is, or has been, on the editorial boards of five international journals in ecology and geography; has organised several international conferences including GEOMED, TROGAS, IKES; and has served on the committees of many international conferences. He is a member of the European Geosciences Union, the Balkan Geographical Association, and the International Geographical Union.

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