

GCP/RER/031/TUR Central Asia Regional Programme for Fisheries and Aquaculture Developments (Under FAO – Turkey Partnership Programme)

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Within the framework of the FAO Turkey Partnership Programme (FTPP), the Turkish Government, through its Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (MARA) provides assistance to the countries of the sub-region for which the FAO Sub-regional Office for Central Asia (SEC) is responsible within FAO, namely, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan.

JUSTIFICATION FOR AND OBJECTIVES OF THE PROGRAMME

Assistance in the rehabilitation process of the fisheries and aquaculture sector in Central Asia is urgently required as fisheries production and the availability of fish for consumption has decreased significantly in the last decades. Since the collapse of the Soviet Union in the beginning of the 1990s, when the Central Asian Republics became independent, the capture fisheries and aquaculture production has declined dramatically. The combined fish production (fisheries and aquaculture) in the five Central Asian republics fell from 158 thousand tonnes in 1991 to 43 thousand tonnes in 2001. In 2008 the production summed up to 77 thousand tonnes, of which only some 4 thousand tonnes originated from aquaculture. Causes for the collapse in capture fisheries and aquaculture production are similar to those found in many other Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) countries, and include a mix of institutional, political, economic, social and technical factors.

The programme is structured in such a way that it can achieve within a five year period the following outcomes: 1) A formally established Central Asian and Caucasus Fisheries and Aquaculture Commission; 2) Strengthened fisheries and aquaculture sector policy, legal and institutional frameworks; 3) A Capacity building and education programme for fisheries and aquaculture professionals of the region established and functioning; and 4) Increased sustainability in the management of fisheries and aquaculture.

PROGRAMME COSTS

The regional programme has a budget of USD 1.9 million over the five year lifecycle of the programme (from July 2009 to June 2014). The FAO Turkey Partnership Programme will cover USD 1.5 million, while the participating countries will contribute in-kind an estimated USD 400 thousand to the programme. Being an umbrella programme, the programme management will actively seek additional donor support to increase the scope and dissemination of the programmes' outputs and the outcomes foreseen.

What is the work-plan for 2010?

The following activities are included in the work-plan for 2010.

1. Regional Collaboration

The Second Steering Committee Meeting to prepare for the Third Intergovernmental meeting on the Establishment of the Central Asian and Caucasus Fisheries and Aquaculture Commission was held in Istanbul on 24-25 of February 2010 with support from the programme. The Third Intergovernmental meeting, which will take place on 6-8 September in Kyrgyzstan will also be supported by the programme.

2. Policy, legal and institutional framework support

The programme will support, on request of the Government of Tajikistan, the preparation of a National policy and strategy for fisheries and aquaculture development for poverty alleviation, in the period May-July 2010.

3. Capacity Building and education

The programme conducted on 12-14 January 2010 in Tashkent, Uzbekistan a "Regional Workshop to assess the fisheries and aquaculture sector education, training and research needs in Central Asia". Currently the programme team, consisting of many technical FAO staff, is following-up on the assessed needs. Some of the assessed needs will be supported in 2010, such as the following:

- Regional training workshop on fish and livestock feed nutrition and feed technology (Dushanbe, Tajikistan, 7-8 May 2010).
- Studytour on fish culture and fish processing in Thailand, organized in combination with the Aquaculture 2010 - Global Conference: Farming the Waters for Food and People (Phuket 22-25 September 2010) and the 5th session of the Committee on Fisheries (COFI) Sub-Committee on Aquaculture (Phuket, 27 September -1 October 2010).
- Studytour to FutureFish Eurasia 2010, <http://www.eurasiafairs.com/eng/index.html>, Izmir, Turkey 16-18 September 2010, with visits to fish feed factories and fish farmers.
- Regional capacity building workshop on fishery and aquaculture statistics, information and trends: improving data collection analysis and dissemination. This workshop is scheduled to take place in Kazakhstan in the last quarter of 2010.

4. Aquaculture development and management

The programme has started to develop Better Management Practices (BMP) for carp production in

ponds. Experts have been contracted, who are working on the draft BMP document and an expert workshop to discuss and finalize the BMPs will be organized in October 2010. Carp aquaculture has not developed much in the region in recent years and application of modern technologies and knowledge is low. For that reason this workshop and finally the BMP for carp aims to increase the total production of carp in the region.

Towards the end of the year, the Programme is planning an education tour on trout culture. Trout is an important species for the region. The education will include field studies in Turkey – Isparta and Mugla area. Most of the trout farms in Turkey get eggs from their broodstocks in December, thus it would suit best to organize the tour in December 2010. Well equipped trout farms that have complete hatchery facilities will present invited people unforgettable scenes.

More information can also be obtained from Mr Raymon van Anrooy (FAOSEC Fishery and Aquaculture officer) at

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Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Monitoring in Aquaculture

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The FAO Technical Workshop on Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Monitoring in Aquaculture was held in Rome in September 2008 as part of the FAO/Japan umbrella project “Towards sustainable aquaculture: selected issues and guidelines”. The project component on EIA and monitoring in aquaculture focused, in particular, on the relevant regulatory requirements, practices, effectiveness and suggestions for improvements. It generated four regional reviews on EIA and monitoring in aquaculture in Africa, Asia-Pacific, Latin America, Europe and North America, a special study on EIA in salmon aquaculture, as well as a global review and synthesis which drew on the findings of the review papers, covering information from more than 35 countries. The workshop reviewed and discussed findings of all review and synthesis papers, as well as possible elements for policy guidelines.

All outputs including regional reviews and global synthesis, case studies, policy conclusions and the workshop report were published in:

FAO. 2009. Environmental impact assessment and monitoring in aquaculture. Requirements, practices, effectiveness and improvements. FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Technical Paper. No. 527. Rome, FAO. 57p. (includes a CD-ROM containing the full document 648 pages).

Readers are invited to request the publication on CD-ROM from Uwe.Barg@fao.org or access the online version at: <http://www.fao.org/docrep/012/i0970e/i0970e00.htm>
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