



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

ENHANCING SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF MARINE FISHERIES IN THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN

Eastern Mediterranean countries have active fisheries that provide important sources of food and employment. However, overfishing and environmental degradation pose a threat to the sustainability of these fisheries. In addition, fisheries data are scarce for some parts of the Eastern Mediterranean, while the capacity to formulate and implement the necessary management measures to promote sustainable fisheries still needs to be strengthened in some countries. The past general lack of partnerships and cooperation has resulted in significant differences between nations in the way that fisheries are managed. This, in turn, has led to considerable disparity in the subregion's fisheries departments. Furthermore, national management plans were often weak or absent, and the level of engagement of Eastern Mediterranean countries in regional management processes was very limited. Against this background, the project aimed to support and improve the capacity of national fisheries departments in five target countries (Egypt, Lebanon, Palestine, the Syrian Arab Republic and Türkiye), to increase their scientific and technical information base for fisheries management, and to develop coordinated and participative fisheries management plans in the Eastern Mediterranean subregion.



WHAT DID THE PROJECT DO?

The project introduced the fundamentals of fisheries management, and developed the capacity of fisheries departments and other relevant institutions to collect and analyse the required data. This included assisting the target countries in designing or improving and implementing national data collection programmes. In addition, the project carried out experimental surveys on fishery resources, in order to develop the capacity of the countries participating in the project. These actions assisted in undertaking more coordinated and cooperative activities in fisheries research, which, in turn, will support fisheries management in the Eastern Mediterranean subregion. The coupling of numerous training courses with the organization of working groups and pilot studies was successful in improving the quality of scientific advice for fisheries management, particularly in Egypt, Lebanon, Palestine and Türkiye. Support for fisheries information systems and IT infrastructure of fisheries was provided (as well as the required equipment), to develop and/or improve the capacity of the fisheries departments to collect, organize and analyse fisheries data, through the establishment of tailor-made fishery information systems and databases. In addition, the project supported processes that encouraged the participation and cooperation of fisheries stakeholders within the wider context of fisheries management, through the participation of national experts in regional meetings and consultation processes, and the promotion of subregional cooperation and collaboration for fisheries research, monitoring and management in close coordination with the FAO General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM).

KEY FACTS

Latest Approved Budget
USD 1 174 831

Duration
September 2009 – December 2021

Resource Partners
Ministry of Agricultural, Food and Forestry Policies (MiPAAF), Italy

Partners
Cyprus: Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment;
Egypt: General Authority for Fish Resources Development; Greece: Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Rural Development and Food; Italy: Ministry of Agricultural, Food and Forestry Policies; Lebanon: Ministry of Agriculture; Palestine: Ministry of Agriculture; Syrian Arab Republic: Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform; Türkiye: Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry

Beneficiaries
Fisheries administrators, managers, scientists and technicians in participating countries

IMPACT

The project interventions contributed to enhancing the sustainable management of marine fisheries in the Eastern Mediterranean. It is expected that this will contribute to enabling marine fisheries to provide support to national economies, and to protect the livelihoods of those involved in the fisheries sector.



ACTIVITIES

- Capacities of staff of national administrations strengthened, covering various components of regionally consistent multidisciplinary fisheries appraisal and management tools, through organization of 38 training courses.
- Support to fisheries data collection provided to Egypt, Lebanon, Palestine and Türkiye, to improve national fisheries data collection systems.
- Support to the development of management plans consistent with the ecosystem approach to fisheries in Egypt, Lebanon and Türkiye.
- Series of joint MedSudMed/EastMed/FAO GFCM data preparation meetings on deep-water red shrimp organized (2018-2020), attended by experts from Cyprus, Egypt, Greece, Italy, Lebanon, Malta, Tunisia and Türkiye.
- Two market value chain analyses conducted in Egypt and Lebanon.
- Subregional data analysis working groups established to progress on numerous activities initiated in region, including the analysis of fisheries socioeconomic indicators and the assessment of priority fish stocks, including the round sardinella.
- Assessment of vulnerability of small-pelagic and demersal fisheries in Eastern Mediterranean to the impacts of climate change conducted by team of experts from subregion.



Project Title

Scientific and Institutional Cooperation to Support Responsible Fisheries in the Eastern Mediterranean (EastMed)

Project Code

FAO: GCP/INT/041/ITA

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