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BLUE HOPE INITIATIVE IN THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA

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SDGs:



Countries:

Algeria, Tunisia and Türkiye

Project Code:

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FAO Contribution:

USD 495 000

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Contact Info:

FAO Representations in Algeria, Tunisia and Türkiye
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Implementing Partners

Algeria

Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Fisheries, Directorate General of Fisheries and Aquaculture, National Centre for Fisheries and Aquaculture Research and Development.

Tunisia

Ports Fishing and Facilities Agency of the Ministry of Agriculture, Water Resources and Marine Fisheries, Directorate General of Fisheries and Aquaculture and National Institute of Sea Science and Technology.

Türkiye

Directorate General of Fisheries and Aquaculture of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry.

Beneficiaries

National government staff and community stakeholders will be empowered to better manage their aquatic resources effectively within a broader development framework, to improve the economic value of those resources and to build social resilience to handle shocks, such as those stemming from climate change and migration.

Country Programming Framework (CPF) Outputs

Algeria CPF 2013-2017 – Sustainable improvements in technical, economic and social performance (Priority 1).

Improved natural resource management (Priority 2).

Institutional development and capacity building (Priority 3).

Tunisia CPF 2012-2015 – Providing support for improved performance of the agricultural sector (including fisheries) (Priority 1).

Sustainable management of natural resources (Priority 2).

Strengthening the political and institutional framework in support of the agriculture sector (including fisheries) and rural population (Priority 3).

Türkiye CPF 2016-2020 – Food and nutrition security and food safety (Priority 1).

Sustainable forest and natural resources management including fisheries (Priority 2).

Institutional capacity enhancement of public and private sectors (Priority 3).



BACKGROUND

Areas along the Mediterranean coast face considerable consequences from unsustainable fishing, coastal development, climate change and migration. These factors are exacerbated by poverty, a lack of alternative livelihoods and political instability. FAO's Blue Growth Initiative (BGI) was conceived at the Rio+20 Conference and launched in 2013, developed from the concept of the Green Economy and based on the principals of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries. The BGI is a multipronged, holistic approach and framework to developing fisheries, aquaculture and related aquatic sectors in a way that maximizes social and economic benefits, while minimizing environmental degradation and protecting against or overcoming the threats outlined above.

The objective of this project was to strengthen the capacity of governments, key institutions and stakeholders in Algeria, Tunisia and Türkiye to develop and implement integrated, multisectoral tools and investment programmes using the FAO BGI framework to make these sectors more productive and sustainable, the associated value chains more efficient and inclusive, and to reduce rural poverty. Strengthening the capacity of these countries to implement Blue Growth tools will also put them in a position to solicit additional funding and investment from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and African Development Bank, both of which have Blue Growth-focused investment priority areas.

Country Programming Frameworks for these countries include priorities related to improving food security, technical, economic and social performance, sustainable management of natural resources, strengthening the political and institutional framework in support of the agricultural sector and rural population, and more, which all closely align with the principles and objectives of the BGI.

IMPACT

The expected impacts of the project included enhanced production and sustainability of aquatic resources use, greater efficiency and inclusiveness of associated value chains and a reduction of rural poverty.



ACHIEVEMENT OF RESULTS

The project's expected outcome, namely that the three target countries pursue integrated, multisectoral programmes using the BGI approach, was achieved.

Multisectoral Investment Programmes (MIP) were prepared for Algeria and Tunisia, following consultation with the relevant stakeholders. In both countries, FAO will support the relevant authority (the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources in Algeria and the Directorate General of Fisheries and Aquaculture in Tunisia) in mobilizing the necessary funds to finance the development projects put forward in the respective MIPs. For Türkiye, meanwhile, the programme was shaped as a Multisectoral Investment Projects Plan (MIPP), as it covered proposals in priority areas requiring primarily research and development and capacity-building interventions, which cannot be directly considered as investments.

A study on opportunities to increase productivity and sustainability in the fisheries and aquaculture sectors and associated value chains using the Blue Growth approach was conducted in all three countries.

In addition, while capacity to implement the Blue Growth approach interventions was improved, no physical trainings took place because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

To capitalize on the results of the project in Türkiye, technical assistance formal request followed Directorate General of Fisheries and Aquaculture of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of Türkiye, to undertake resource mobilization activities for the Blue Hope Multisectoral Investment Projects Plan (MIPP), and follow up legalization process of pescatourism initiative in Türkiye. TCP facility funds will be allocated by FAO-Türkiye in the biennium 2022-2023 to provide the requested technical support.

IMPLEMENTATION OF WORK PLAN AND BUDGET

Due to limitations related to the COVID-19 pandemic, the project was subject to a no-cost extension, in order to allow sufficient time for the completion of project activities.

FOLLOW-UP FOR GOVERNMENT ATTENTION

Funding is expected to be allocated by FAO Türkiye in the 2022-2023 biennium to provide the technical support requested by the Directorate General of Fisheries and Aquaculture of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry for resource mobilization activities for the Blue Hope MIPP, as well as for follow-up for the legalization process of the country's pescatourism initiative.

SUSTAINABILITY

1. Capacity development

One of the main activities of the project for Türkiye under the livelihood diversification component included pescatourism. Legal barriers were outlined as being among the main obstacles to enabling pescatourism in the country. In response, the project assigned a legal expert to perform a comparative study to analyse the existing legal and institutional framework in other countries and to identify legal acts in Türkiye that may have an impact on the development of suitable pescatourism model in the country, and to suggest that draft regulations be adopted. At the project closure event, held on 28 December 2021, Turkish representatives reaffirmed that they would initiate the process of legalization of this activity, using the results of the legal analysis from the present project as a primary source of information.

The project ensured strong collaboration between state institutions, Non-governmental organizations (NGOs), universities and local fishery cooperatives in the pilot area. Similarly, in Tunisia, a legal expert from FAO headquarters was assigned to undertake an analysis of the main obstacles and legal barriers to the establishment of pescatourism activities in the country. The planned capacity-building workshops on value chain analysis could not take place due to the outbreak of COVID 19.

In Algeria, capacity development was achieved through a number of missions by the national project coordinator to the pilot site to assist and help local stakeholders in project formulation for an investment plan, in the context of Blue Growth/transformation. In addition, two workshops were held as part of the 2019 Fisheries and Aquaculture Fair (SIPA), namely "Sustainable investment and financing strategy as part of the Blue Hope initiative" and "Development of income diversification activities for fishers: "Pescatourism".

In January 2020, a workshop aimed at developing investment opportunities in the aquaculture sector and its value chain, specifically fish feed, was held in Béjaïa, Algeria, with the participation of Turkish and Algerian investors, professionals, administrators and researchers from the aquaculture sector.

Another workshop, "Sustainable and responsible investment and financing strategy", was held in Béjaïa in March 2020 as part of the initiative that brought together representatives of national banks, development aid agencies and financial institutions (such as the African Development Bank), in addition to representatives of the national administration.

2. Gender equality

Socio-economic sustainability was critical to the positive impact of the project, and required that all stakeholders, whether directly or indirectly impacted by the project, be invested in the project and have equal access to the benefits that it provided, for instance through trainings.

Although the project design did not feature a thorough gender equality competent, the regular and systematic inclusion of women in the delivery of ad hoc and ongoing capacity development training courses was one of its key strengths. In addition, during value chain analysis, sex-disaggregated engagement data was collected, in addition to inquiries about the needs of women in the sector, which were collected through socio-economic surveys.

3. Environmental sustainability

The project contributed to conserving, protecting and enhancing natural ecosystems by relying on the best available environmental science and analysis, regularly monitoring all impacts (direct or indirect) upon the relevant ecosystems while anticipating any long-term changes. Based on these impact assessments, interventions were adjusted as necessary.

4. Human Rights-based Approach (HRBA) – in particular Right to Food and Decent Work

The project provided for the equal participation of women and men in decision-making (e.g. prioritization exercises), their ability to exercise their human rights, access to and control over resources and the benefits of development and opportunities in employment and in all other aspects of their livelihoods (e.g. access to training, aquatic resources and ecosystems, etc.).

5. Technological sustainability

In-country/regional and remote support was available, through e-mail, conference and Zoom/Teams calls, with the FAO country office providing assistance where needed. Technical support and delivery mechanisms were also tailored to the specificity of each target country.

6. Economic sustainability

The project improved the capacities of the Government and of key institutions and stakeholders in Türkiye to develop and implement integrated, multisectoral tools and investment programmes using the FAO BGI. The main project output prepared for Türkiye (MIPP-Türkiye) has put stakeholders in a position to solicit additional funding and/or investment from the GEF and/or other development agencies with Blue Growth-focused investment priority areas.



DOCUMENTS AND OUTREACH PRODUCTS

Algeria

- ❑ **Mennad, M., Mekhazni, L., Mokrane, Z., Inal, A., Filali, T., Bernardon, M.** 2021. *L'approche écosystémique des pêches sur la côte ouest de Béjaïa en Algérie. Rapport de référence sur l'approche écosystémique des pêches.* Rome, Italy.
- ❑ **Kromer, J.L., Fantinet, M., Mokdad, A.** 2022. *Plan territorial d'investissement en économie bleue (PTIEB) – wilaya de Béjaïa (Algérie).* 110 pp.
- ❑ **FAO.** 2020. *Strengthening Blue Communities in the Mediterranean Rome. FAO Aquaculture Newsletter No. 61 (April).* pp. 33-34. <https://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/ca8302en/>.

Tunisia

- ❑ **Centre international de hautes études agronomiques méditerranéennes.** 2018. *Tunisia – Governorate of Médenine "Value chain analysis".* Bari, Italy. 59 pp.
- ❑ **Jarboui, O., Djabou, H., Bernardon, M., Bdioui, M.** 2020. *Mise en œuvre de l'approche écosystémique pour l'aménagement de la pêche artisanale de l'île de Djerba (Tunisie).* Rome. 95 pp.
- ❑ **Kromer, J.L., Fantinet, M., Elkhorchani, I., Bounouh, E.** 2022. *Plan territorial d'investissement économie bleue (PTIEB) – gouvernorat de Médenine (Tunisie).* 100 pp.

Türkiye

- ❑ **Aydin, M.** 2019. *Sea Cucumber Report.*
- ❑ **Sevgili, H.** 2019. *Is a Synergism Between Aquaculture and Fisheries Possible In Gökova Bay, Muğla, Türkiye?*
- ❑ **Wanguemert, M.** 2020. *Development of sea cucumber aquaculture and stock enhancement in Türkiye.*
- ❑ **Unal, V.** 2020. *Socio-economic conditions of small-scale fisheries in the Gökova Bay (Türkiye): Dependency on fishing activity and potential interest in livelihood diversification.*
- ❑ **Unal, V.** 2021. *Socio-economic conditions of small-scale fisheries in Datça/Bozburun (Türkiye): Dependency on fishing activity and potential interest in livelihood diversification.*
- ❑ **Öztürk, S. E.** 2021. *Recommendation on Establishing the Legal Ground for Pescatourism in Türkiye.*
- ❑ **Öztürk, S. E.** 2021. *Draft Regulation in Turkish for Establishing Pescatourism in Türkiye.*
- ❑ **Vurdem, D.** 2022. *Multi-sectoral Investment Projects Plan for Türkiye (MIPP-Türkiye).*

Outreach material

- ❑ FAO. 2019. Partnering with fisheries communities to promote pescaturism in Türkiye's Gulf of Gökova. <https://bit.ly/3AFYoUX>.
- ❑ FAO. 2020. Strengthening Blue Communities in the Mediterranean Rome. FAO Aquaculture Newsletter No. 61 (April). pp. 33-34. <https://bit.ly/3asNgYv>.
- ❑ FAO. 2021. Traditional fishing tourism in Gökova Bay (in English and Turkish). 6 pp. <https://bit.ly/3P2BJXA>.
- ❑ FAO. 2021. Commercial fish species in Gökova Bay (Fish cards). 11 pp. <https://bit.ly/3uGuXi2>.
- ❑ FAO. 2021. Gökova fishing tour - Welcome aboard! Safety instructions card for pescaturism tours (in English and Turkish). 2 pp. <https://bit.ly/3lvuLrx>.
- ❑ FAO. 2022. *L'Espoir bleu de la pêche artisanale* (video). <https://bit.ly/3uFTu6F>.



ACHIEVEMENT OF RESULTS - LOGICAL FRAMEWORK

Expected Impact	Improved livelihoods of relevant coastal communities from more efficient use of aquatic resources	
Outcome	Algeria, Tunisia and Türkiye pursue integrated, multisectoral programmes using the BGI approach	
	Indicator	Investment programmes following the BGI approach under active consideration or Implementation.
	Baseline	0
	End Target	One investment programme/plan per country.
	Comments and follow-up action to be taken	<p>The expected outcome was achieved.</p> <p><u>Algeria</u> The investment plan was prepared in consultation with all stakeholders. The collaboration with the National Centre for Fisheries and Aquaculture Research and Development (CNRDPA) and the synergy with the Coordination to Support Fisheries Management in the Western and Central Mediterranean (COPEMED II) project ensured that a baseline study could be carried out with a view to developing an implementation plan for an ecosystems approach to small-scale fisheries (SSF) management in the west of the province (wilaya) of Béjaïa. FAO will support the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources (MPPH) in mobilizing the necessary funds to finance the development projects put forward in the investment plan.</p> <p><u>Tunisia</u> The Directorate General of Fisheries and Aquaculture (DGPA) has a complete proposal for a regional blue economy investment plan for Médenine Governorate, which was prepared in consultation with all stakeholders. The collaboration with the National Institute of Sea Science and Technology (INSTM) and the synergy with COPEMED II ensured that a baseline study could be carried out with a view to developing an implementation plan for an ecosystems approach to small-scale fisheries management on the island of Djerba. FAO will support the DGPA in mobilizing the necessary funds to finance the development projects put forward in the investment plan.</p> <p><u>Türkiye</u> The programme was shaped as a MIPP, as it covered proposals in priority areas requiring primarily research and development and capacity-building interventions, which cannot be directly considered as investments.</p>

Output 1	Study on opportunities to increase productivity and sustainability in the fisheries and aquaculture sectors and associated value chains using the Blue Growth approach		
	Indicators	Target	Achieved
	One analytical study per country carried out through a Letter of Agreement (LOA) with an institution with relevant expertise and experience in this priority and geographical area.	Three studies.	Yes
Baseline	0		
Comments	A study on opportunities to increase productivity and sustainability in the fisheries and aquaculture sectors and associated value chains using the Blue Growth approach was conducted in each country.		
Activity 1.1	One analytical study (per country) carried out		
	Achieved	Yes	
	Comments	<p><u>Algeria</u> A number of consultation meetings with different stakeholders, both at local and central levels, enabled a systematic baseline study to be carried out on fisheries on the western coast of Béjaïa wilaya.</p> <p><u>Tunisia</u> The value chain baseline study for Médenine Governorate was conducted by the Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Bari. The study was presented during the project inception workshop held on 4 and 5 October in Gammarth, Tunisia.</p> <p><u>Türkiye</u> This analytical study was initially due to be undertaken through a LoA with the Mediterranean Fisheries Research Institute (MEDFRI) in Antalya, Türkiye. Its objective was to underline the priority areas of work and proposed interventions, which were included in the MIPP for Türkiye. Instead of the LoA and through more efficient use of project funds, a number of consultants were hired and contributed to the achievement of activities beyond Activity 1.1. The consultants undertook value chain analysis, socio-economic analysis, investigated possible synergies between aquaculture and fisheries in Gökova (finfish aquaculture and sea cucumber, seaweed farming) and livelihood diversification alternatives, specifically the pescatourism initiative.</p>	
Output 2	Improved capacity to implement the Blue Growth approach interventions.		
	Indicators	Target	Achieved
	Number of consultation and capacity development workshops.	Two consultation workshops and two capacity development workshops.	Partially
Baseline	0		
Comments	Although this target was achieved, no physical trainings took place because of the COVID-19 pandemic.		
Activity 2.1	Inception dialogue		
	Achieved	Yes	
	Comments	<p>The project's inception meeting was held in Gammarth, Tunisia on 4-5 October 2018, and was attended by delegations from all three participating countries. Its objectives were: (i) to present the concept and applications of the BGI in the context of SSF, (ii) to provide an overview of the project objectives and work plan and (iii) to identify key stakeholders in each community for national trainings.</p> <p>The inception meeting also helped to identify a number of elements to be incorporated into the execution of the project, including (i) focus on SSF communities as beneficiaries, (ii) the need for decent work and sustainable industry in many of the communities and the relevance of investment to that end, (iii) the value of interregional meetings in advancing the respective investment plans and (iv) the willingness to use the project to implement pilot activities including training and technical assistance, in addition to the investment plans.</p> <p>As part of the project inception workshop, the delegations also visited processing and export factories, as well as bivalve purification and consignment centres in Bizerte Governorate.</p>	

Activity 2.2	Technical training – value chain analysis	
	Achieved	Partially
	Comments	<p>Two field missions were carried out to Algeria and Tunisia for needs assessment and to identify key actors in the fisheries and aquaculture product value chain. The missions, to Béjaïa wilaya from 23 to 27 June 2019 and to Médenine Governorate from 19 to 22 June 2019 respectively, were carried out by two experts from FAO headquarters. Their objective was to meet the key actors in the value chains and to identify the main constraints and opportunities.</p> <p>In order to obtain an understanding of downstream value chain activities in the project area of Gökova Bay, such as end markets for existing and invasive species, a field mission was undertaken in March 2019 by the value chain consultant. The consultant, together with local counterparts, achieved the following: (i) development of a full value chain map showing key species/products, activities, stakeholders, services and price information, (ii) strengthened understanding of downstream value chain stages, particularly the end markets (domestic, regional and global), (iii) generation of further information on intervention ideas in order to determine their viability and (iv) upgrade strategy for the value chain that addresses the requirement of the Blue Growth IP.</p> <p>The field mission showed that the existing value chain is short and that options for increasing value are likely to rely on direct marketing to higher-value markets and the sale of more fish direct to consumers. The interventions/upgrade ideas identified for the potential incorporation into MIPP-Türkiye through the value chain analysis focused mainly on developing infrastructure capacity, such as the improvement of landing spots and site facilities, renovation of premises, purchase of equipment (e.g. ice machine, refrigerator). The outcomes of the value chain analysis were discussed at the second meeting of project stakeholders, which took place in Akyaka, Türkiye from 8-12 April 2019, further contributing to the development of prioritized interventions within MIPP-Türkiye.</p>
Activity 2.3	Technical training – investment programme development	
	Achieved	Yes
	Comments	<p><u>Algeria</u></p> <p>A high-level visit to Algeria took place from 14 to 18 July 2019 to mark the launch of the project. The delegation was based in Algiers and held talks with the key relevant ministries on 14 and 15 July, before travelling to Béjaïa, where it met stakeholders in the project area from 16 to 18 July. The main objective of the mission was to present the project to decision-makers involved in the blue economy and to explain the logic followed in the drafting of the investment plan.</p> <p>Two workshops were organized as part of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Fair (SIPA) held in Oran in 2019, focusing on blue economy financing and pescatourism. The events were attended by a number of intersectoral actors, including banks and international financial institutions. Two further workshops were held between Turkish and Algerian aquaculture investors with a view to finding synergies and agreeing on potential collaboration in the sector in the two countries.</p> <p><u>Tunisia</u></p> <p>An initial scoping mission to Médenine took place from 22 to 24 May 2019 in order to map cooperation/development projects in the area related to themes from the present project, identifying any synergies. During the mission, a number of meetings were organized with local professional organizations, associations and government to project the Blue Hope project, its objectives and main expected outcomes.</p> <p>A second high-level mission to Tunis took place from 17 to 19 June 2019, during which experts from FAO headquarters met representatives from different ministries in order to present the project to decision-makers involved in the blue economy and to explain the logic followed in the drafting of the investment plan.</p> <p>A third mission, focusing on analysis of pescatourism, took place in Médenine Governorate from 16 to 22 June 2019. An expert from FAO headquarters met the different actors involved in pescatourism, as well as fishers and their associations in the area, with the aim of identifying the constraints to and opportunities for development of the activity.</p> <p>In synergy with the COPEMED project, and in collaboration with the INSTM, six meetings were organized with the Technical Follow-up and Consultation Committee on fisheries in the lagoon of El Bibane. The El Bibane concept note was presented, examined and validated during the meeting held on 23 December 2021.</p>

Activity 2.3	Technical training – investment programme development		
	Achieved	Yes	
Comments	<p>A consultation workshop was held on 29 July 2020 in Djerba, with the participation of local partners, in order to (i) establish a local investment plan and present the “concept note” models needed to gather the necessary information, (ii) follow up on the investment needs identified by the different participants from the fisheries and aquaculture sector in the region, and (iii) to identify the institutions tasked with gathering data.</p> <p>A consultation workshop was held in Médenine in December 2021 to present the four development projects drafted as part of the investment plan, to examine the different activities and budgets and to validate the concept notes. Participants suggested a number of modifications to the activities and validated all four projects.</p> <p><u>Türkiye</u> During the second project stakeholders’ meeting, the concept of investment programme development was showcased to stakeholders from all three project countries.</p> <p>The two main methods for improving the social and economic conditions of fisheries-dependent coastal communities, namely (i) increasing fisheries production and (ii) increasing the value of fish products or the fisheries sector, need to be implemented sustainably. The tool chosen to drive this process was a MIP, which helped to identify, prioritize and integrate options for increasing fisheries production and value. The process included the relevant stakeholders and, thanks to FAO support, was technically sound.</p> <p>Although plans were made for country-specific trainings in community priority areas to discuss the draft investment programmes prepared after the second project stakeholders’ meeting, these could not take place due to COVID-19 related restrictions. Instead, draft investment programmes were reviewed by FAO’s Investment Centre, with project investment consultants modifying the content and accuracy of each proposal to ensure that they were both comprehensive and convincing.</p>		
Activity 2.4	Final dialogue		
	Achieved	Partially	
Comments	<p>A final dialogue meeting of the project was to be conducted, with a regional scope and with the participation of all stakeholders from each beneficiary country. However, due to travel restrictions as a result of COVID-19, the participating countries conducted their closure meetings at national level.</p> <p>Türkiye’s closure meeting, held on 28 December 2021 in Ankara, featured cross-sectoral policy dialogue among government representatives and stakeholders, introduced the results of the Blue Hope project, validated MIPP-Türkiye proposals and related the progress made on the technical assistance requested as part of the pescatourism initiative.</p> <p>While no closure meetings took place in the other two project countries, a multistakeholder validation workshop was held in Tunisia in December 2021 to present and validate the four project proposals featured in the investment plan, while another multistakeholder workshop in Algeria presenting the investment plan for cooperation and financial partners is scheduled before the end of 2022.</p>		
Output 3	Investment programmes informed by the study (Output 1), dialogues and trainings (Output 2)		
	Indicators	Target	Achieved
	Number of investment programmes established and dialogues and trainings organized.	Three investment plans and four promotional videos (one per country, as well as one interregional).	Yes
Baseline	0		
Comments	<p>Investment programmes were prepared for each project beneficiary country. While in Algeria and Tunisia the programme was investment-oriented, for Türkiye it was shaped as a MIPP, as it covered proposals in priority areas requiring mainly research and development and capacity-building interventions, which cannot be directly considered as investments.</p> <p>In order to capitalize on the results of the project in the country, a formal request for technical assistance was made by the Directorate General of Fisheries and Aquaculture of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of Türkiye for resource mobilization activities for the Blue Hope MIPP, as well as for follow-up for the legalization process of the country’s pescatourism initiative. TCP facility funds will be allocated by FAO Türkiye in the 2022-2023 biennium to provide the technical support requested.</p>		

Investment programme	
Achieved	Yes
Activity 3.1	<p>Comments</p> <p><u>Algeria</u> The regional blue economy investment plan for Béjaïa wilaya was drafted in a participatory manner, with efforts made to involve a range of local players. This sustainable, inclusive and multisectoral investment plan, focusing on fisheries, aquaculture and tourism, aims to help respond to the challenges faced in SSF and aquaculture in project areas, in order to facilitate the transition towards Blue Growth for SSF communities. The investment plan was built around the following two complementary pillars:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Protect the potential of marine ecosystems and sustainably maintain the services that they provide to society. The five projects identified as part of this pillar aim to (i) oversee the creation of the protected marine area of the Gouraya National Park, with some activities aiming at raising awareness among the general public of the richness and importance of its biodiversity, as well as the implementation of a monitoring system for the future marine area, (ii) allow the CNRDPA to improve its presence on the ground in the area in order to contribute to the development of SSF and aquaculture in Béjaïa wilaya and surrounding areas, and (iii) diversify the sources of income for women in communities living close to Gouraya National Park. – Contribute to the country’s food security through sustainable production of fisheries resources. The four projects identified aim to improve the strategic infrastructure in support of fisheries in Béjaïa wilaya, in particular for small industry, at different levels of the sector, from port infrastructure to the retail sale of fish. <p>In total, nine projects were formulated by national partners, at central and local levels, together constituting the investment plan.</p> <p>As part of FAO’s efforts for advocacy and mobilization of the resources needed to finance the Regional Blue Economy Investment Plan (PTIEB) for Béjaïa wilaya, Algeria, through the Ministry of Fisheries, benefited from an aid package (totalling no more than USD 1 million) from the African Development Bank. The Ministry is currently formulating a project document (not concerning the Béjaïa PTIEB projects) for a national blue economy investment plan. Meetings have been scheduled for the presentation of the investment plan to different technical and financial partners in the country.</p> <p><u>Tunisia</u> The regional blue economy investment plan for Médenine Governorate was drafted in a participatory manner, with efforts made to involve a range of local players. This sustainable, inclusive and multisectoral investment plan, focusing on fisheries, aquaculture and tourism, aims to help respond to the challenges faced in SSF and aquaculture in project areas, in order to facilitate the transition towards Blue Growth for SSF communities.</p> <p>The investment plan features four strategic investment projects that aim to help resolve the main constraints identified in the establishment of sustainable Blue Growth in Médenine Governorate, in line with the priorities of both the National Fisheries and Aquaculture Development Strategy (2020) and of the Ten-Year Tourism Action Plan (2016-2025).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Project 1: Ecosystem rehabilitation and integrated development of the lagoon of Boughrara; – Project 2: Management and sustainable development of fisheries in the lagoon of El Bibane – Project 3: Sustainable development of small-scale fisheries and economic diversification in Djerba; – Project 4: Integrated development of fisheries in Zarzis – Towards a Blue Port model. <p>As part of the national component, the process of mobilizing the resources necessary to finance these projects is already underway, with a number of proposals presented to donors. Meetings have also been scheduled for the presentation of the investment plan to different technical and financial partners.</p>

	Investment programme	
	Achieved	Yes
Activity 3.1	Comments	<p><u>Türkiye</u> The MIPP focuses on the implementation of the ecosystem-based fisheries management plan, including outlining investment to monitor and enforce the plan, as well as proposals on invasive alien species as direct effects of climate change, aquaculture development on sea cucumber and seaweed aquaculture and livelihood diversification, specifically the sustainable development of pescatourism, particularly through legislative solutions.</p> <p>The five proposals featured in the MIPP are outlined below. “Invasive Alien Species Uplifting Blue Economy”, to mitigate the threats of invasive alien species by creating a market and added value to local economies, strengthening living standards and capacity-building of fisherfolk on the southwestern coast of Türkiye. “Lionfish Removal Using Artificial Reef as an Ecological Trap”, to determine the distribution of lionfish in selected sites (four Special Environmental Protection Areas in Türkiye) and develop artificial reef to serve as an ecological trap for the lionfish catch. “Hatchery Sea Cucumber Culture and Sea Ranching in Türkiye”, to support the development of sea cucumber aquaculture in the country and, inter alia, reduce the pressure on its already overexploited wild stock, support restocking and/or enhancement programmes, increase production and exports, reduce negative environmental impacts from cage fish farming through Integrated Multitrophic Aquaculture (IMTA) and minimize the risk of farm failure by diversifying cultured species. “Macroalgae and Seaweed Production”, to activate an aquaculture facility for macroalgae and seaweed production and give impetus to macroalgae and seaweed farming in Türkiye. “Pescatourism Initiative for Sustainable Fisheries in Türkiye”, to reduce the fishing effort and pressure on fish stocks while creating alternative livelihood opportunity for the country’s SSF community</p> <p>The proposals included in the MIPP-Türkiye, with supporting/implementation programmes in priority areas, were determined by the relevant national authorities through a consultative, participative and inclusive process. The MIPP-Türkiye is also linked to a number of national, regional and global strategies.</p> <p>Although the project’s main product did not include resource mobilization activities, contacts were established with the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) and other external institutions such as the World Trade Organization (WTO) with a view to mobilizing resources for the implementation of the proposals. In this respect, funding for the “Invasive Alien Species Uplifting Blue Economy” proposal was secured by the GFCM’s GEF project “Fisheries and Ecosystem-Based Management for the Mediterranean Sea (FishEBM MED)”, which was due to be operationalized in 2022.</p>
	Communications for investment programme - video production	
	Achieved	Partially
Activity 3.2	Comments	<p><u>Algeria</u> Filming took place prior to the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, in particular during the Blue Hope project workshops held as part of the SIPA 2019 events. Despite this, the health situation in Algeria meant that it was not possible to carry out the filming needed in order to finalize the promotional video before the end of the project.</p> <p><u>Tunisia</u> A four-minute video was shot in Médenine Governorate, presenting the region’s assets in an attempt to attract investment from donors. The video will be shared on the FAO web site, as well as through the communication channels of national partners. It will also be used as an advocacy tool to encourage technical and financial partners to finance the proposed projects.</p> <p><u>Türkiye</u> The project prepared a video focusing on the potential for the development of pescatourism (sustainable, fisheries-related tourism) activities in the Gulf of Gökova. Fisherfolk associations, tourism industry representatives, local government and ministry officials are working alongside FAO to develop policies that will make these activities possible, bolstering livelihoods in coastal communities, while at the same time providing tourists with an insight into local customs and culinary specialities.</p>

Partnerships and Outreach

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