## Strengthening The System Of Marine & Coastal Protected Areas Of Turkey

Güner Ergün <sup>(1)</sup>, Gülden Atkın Gençoğlu <sup>(2)</sup>, Katalin Zaim <sup>(3)</sup>, Bekir Erdoğan <sup>(4)</sup>, Yunus Emre Dinçaslan <sup>(5)</sup>, Kübra Ceviz <sup>(2,6)</sup>, Esra Kartal <sup>(2,7)</sup>, Özlem Katısöz <sup>(2,8)</sup>, Z.Derya Yıldırım <sup>(2,9)</sup> and Harun Güçlüsoy <sup>(2,10)</sup>

(1) Ministry of Environment and Urbanization - General Directorate for Protection of Natural Assests, 06500 Ankara, Turkey

Telephone: +90 312 222 1234 / ext 400 Email: guner.ergun@csb.gov.tr

(2) UNDP-GEF, 06610 Ankara, Turkey

Telephone: +90 530 878 7016 Email: gulden.atkin@undp.org

(3) UNDP, 06610 Ankara, Turkey

Telephone: +90 533 604 9091 Email: katalin.zaim@undp.org

(4) Muğla Environment and Urbanization Provencial Directorate, 48000 Muğla, Turkey

Telephone: +90 536 988 3500 Email: bekir erdogan@hotmail.com

(5) Izmir Environment and Urbanization Provencial Directorate, 35530 Izmir, Turkey

Telephone: +90 505 807 5836 Email: yedincaslan@gmail.com

(6) Telephone: +90 312 222 1234 /ext 344 Email: kubraceviz@gmail.com

 $(7) \ Telephone: +90\ 533\ 164\ 4320\ Email: esrakartal@hotmail.com$ 

(8) Telephone: +90 533 164 4321 Email: ozlemkatisoz@gmail.com

(9) Telephone: +90 533 164 4322 Email: zderya.yildirim@gmail.com

(10) Telephone: +90 530 878 7017 Email: harun.guclusoy@undp.org

The major outcome of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) "The Future We Want" document stressed "the importance of the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans and seas and of their resources for sustainable development", and the article 177 dictated that the "importance of area-based conservation measures, including marine protected areas", and noted that "decision X/2 of the tenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, that by 2020 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, [were] to be conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well-connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures". In this context, within the marine areas bordering Turkey's lengthy coastline is found an abundant, highly diverse and globally significant biodiversity endowment. As a baseline in 2009 about 2.8% of Turkey's territorial waters was protected. Turkey's system of MPAs consists of 10 Special Environmental Protection Areas (SEPA), 3 National Parks, 1 Nature Park, about 40 fisheries restricted areas. The proposed long-term solution for marine biodiversity conservation in Turkey's marine areas is a reconfigured Marine and Coastal Protected Areas (MCPA) network designed to protect

biodiversity while optimizing its ecological service functions - under effective and sustainable adaptive management. Working together with its partners, the GEF project, started in 2009, and is supporting the development of responsible institutions able to prioritize the establishment of new MCPAs and more effectively manage existing MCPAs. The project is also facilitating adequate levels of revenue generation and cost-effective management through the development of an MCPA management system. Finally the project promotes Inter-agency coordination mechanisms to regulate and manage economic activities within multiple use areas of the MCPAs. To date, there are major achievements under capacity building, financial sustainability and coordination outcomes. To maintain the sustainability MCPA Training and Implementation Centre was established in Akyaka, Muğla, and the curriculum for the centre is under preparation together with NOAA and WWF Mediterranean Program Office. The cabinet decree, which declares Gulf of Saros (Çanakkale) -covering approximately 75.000 ha.-as SEPA, entered into force. With the same legislation, the Gökova SEPA's (Muğla) borders were also extended (50.000 ha.) in December 2010. Gökova and Foça SEPA Management Plans were prepared. National MCPA Strategy and Action Plan document is prepared and is awaiting final inputs from relevant stakeholders. The Business Development Unit as the Permits and Management Branch Directorate of General Directorate for Protection of Natural Assets was established and income generated from respective MCPAs reached to 16% of total institutional budget from 10% baseline figure. The valuation of eco-system services for six project sites were calculated at 410 million USD, and shared with public, this was the first national level initiative for marine eco-system services. Ten No Fishing Zones were established in the Gökova and Datça-Bozburun SEPAs in 2010 and 2012 respectively. The preparation and development phase for the establishment of the 6 NFZs in Gökova SEPA were achieved under GEF-SGP funded project by the Underwater Research Society - Ecology Group. The main outcomes of the project achieved and contribution of it to "the State of Mediterranean Marine and Coastal Environment Report" will be shared with the key actors of Barcelona Convention at its COP meeting in December 2013 in İstanbul. This will also serve as the best practice and lessons learnt examples for Least Developed Countries.