

# **Coastal and Marine Protected Areas in Turkey: Problems and Perspectives**

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## **Abstract**

Enclosed with three seas, Turkey has an important potential for coastal and marine protected areas. Protection of natural areas has been carried out since 1956 when the Forestry Law no: 6831 defined the category of national parks. Actually, seven types of protected areas are created under four different laws. However, there is no category named "coastal and/or marine protected area" in the existing legislation. Some protected areas of coastal and marine character have been created not especially for this purpose, but as an extension of terrestrial protected areas. The development of coastal zone management and related topics in the country from the 1990 onwards created a positive atmosphere for the establishment of "true" coastal, particularly marine protected areas. But, some problems in relation to their establishment and management need to be solved.