

# Management issues of the Turkish Black Sea coastal zone

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The Turkish Black Sea coastline is 1701 km long (the mainland: 1695 km, islands: 6 km). This constitutes 20.4 % of the total length (8 333 km) of the Turkish coastline.

The Turkish Black Sea coastal zone is generally narrow due to presence of mountain ranges extending parallel to the coast. Three major rivers, Sakarya in the western part, Kızılırmak and Yeşilirmak in the middle, discharge into the Black Sea. Coastal areas around these rivers form the major coastal plains. Three rivers are also responsible for a great part of the Black Sea sand beaches. The eastern Black Sea coast, without any significant plains, is continuously narrow. A great deal of human activities are concentrated in this narrow coastal strip.

Population of the Turkish Black Sea coastal zone is basically rural, only about 1/3 living in towns and urban centers. 14 Turkish provinces (of the total 73) have coastline to the Black Sea. These have 77 coastal municipalities. Only three towns (Zonguldak, Samsun and Trabzon) have populations over 100 000. Black Sea coastal population is about 28 percent of the total coastal population, and about 8.5 % of the total population of Turkey. The important industrial activities are concentrated mainly in Zonguldak and Samsun Provinces. Coal and copper mining and processing are also significant economical activities.

Tourism along the Turkish Black Sea coast is not important, compared to the Aegean and the Mediterranean coasts. The eastern Black Sea coast is slowly developing as an ecotourist destination because of its very attractive, green valleys and plateaus shaped by coastal mountains. Agricultural activities and fishing are the important sources of income for the rural Black Sea population. Tea, hazel nuts, tobacco and corn are among the most important crops. On the other hand, the Black Sea provides more than 80% of the total fish catch in Turkey. Extensive fishing activity by small boats has resulted in building a significant number of small and medium sized, fishing boat refuge harbors (mainly to the east of Samsun). These harbors together with the construction of the coastal highway, running often very close to the shoreline, have disturbed the dynamic shoreline equilibrium, and have caused coastal erosion at local scales.

Kızılırmak Delta is a wetland of international importance as a habitat for a large variety and number of local and migrating bird population. Numerous smaller sites of natural and ecological significance which are worthy of high level protection, are located along the coast.