**Blue Hope approach**

The Food and Agriculture Organization’s (FAO) Blue Hope Project seeks to address these challenges by developing sustainable and inclusive multi-sectoral investment plans that facilitate the transition of small-scale fishing communities to blue growth.

This approach is founded on two key premises, including:

- that an inter-sectoral and inter-disciplinary approach will help to reduce sectoral conflicts, impacts, inefficiencies, while maximizing synergies and thereby increasing collective benefits; and
- that investment planning can help bring stakeholders together to chart a vision for the future, and that public and private finance is often needed to help jumpstart that transition.

To this end, the blue growth investment plans are being developed by leveraging and integrating existing FAO tools and international instruments, including:

**The Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF)** provides the foundation for capture fisheries sustainability.

**The Ecosystem Approach to Aquaculture (EAA)** is an approach to develop aquaculture while minimizing environmental degradation.

FAO’s value chain methodologies ensure that value chain development potential is assessed in gender-sensitive ways.

The SSF Guidelines help ensure, particularly for small-scale fishers, that opportunities for livelihood diversification such as through fishing-based tourism are considered.

FAO’s Rural Invest modules ensure that the investment plans are developed inclusively and methodically.

**FAO’s Blue Growth Initiative**

The FAO Blue Hope Project would not be possible without the following partners:

- Republic of Turkey, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, General Directorate of Fisheries and Aquaculture
- General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean
- Republic of Algeria, Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Fisheries, General Directorate of Fisheries and Aquaculture
- WWF Mediterranean
- Republic of Tunisia, Ministry of Agriculture, Hydraulic Resources and Fisheries, General Directorate of Fisheries and Aquaculture
- Mediterranean Conservation Society
- CopeMed II (supported by the European Union and Spain)
- EastMed (supported by the European Union)
- CIHEAM Bari
- Mediterranean Conservation Society

**Blue Hope (desired) Impact:** sustainable and inclusive socioeconomic growth in fisheries-dependent communities

**The challenge**

Diminishing production from capture fisheries in the Mediterranean is increasingly threatening the livelihoods, food security, economy, and culture of coastal small-scale fishing (SSF) communities, encompassing millions of people.

These changes largely stem from years of unsustainable rates of exploitation, compounded by other anthropogenic stressors including climate change. Governance and capacity-building efforts at different scales to reverse these trends are well underway but progress can be slow.

There is a need to rethink and redesign humans’ relationship with fisheries and the sea, such as in the Mediterranean, to sustain these communities.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
00153 Rome, Italy

Some rights reserved. This work is available under a CC BY-NC-SA 3.0 IGO licence
**Blue Hope Project**

FAO’s Blue Hope Project spans three countries: Turkey, Algeria, and Tunisia. The illustration below lays out the approach taken for each project, highlighting the priority issues, main actions and expected outcomes.

---


---

### Turkey

Turkey’s project area is centered on the marine protected area (MPA) in Gokova Bay and associated communities. Their priorities are to implement, monitor and enforce their EAF plan, legalize pescatourism for alternative and seasonal livelihood diversification, explore aquaculture potential for restocking of the MPA, and develop the value chains of fisheries cooperatives.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Small-scale fishing (SSF) vessels</th>
<th>Revenue from SSF (at first sale only)</th>
<th>Employment from SSF</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>14,173 92% of national total</td>
<td>168 million USD</td>
<td>25,427 78% of national total</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Algeria

Algeria’s project area is the coastal and marine area of the wilaya of Bejaia. The country’s priorities are to develop and implement an EAF plan, build capacity for aquaculture (a new industry), foster fish feed production independence for offshore aquaculture, and develop value chains.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Small-scale fishing (SSF) vessels</th>
<th>Revenue from SSF (at first sale only)</th>
<th>Employment from SSF</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1,856 54% of national total</td>
<td>204 million USD</td>
<td>7,605 25% of national total</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Tunisia

Tunisia’s project encompasses the coastal and marine area of Djebel and Zarzis as well as the village of Jderia. The country’s priorities are to develop and implement EAF plans (one for each sub-area), to develop pescatourism activities adapted to the local context, to sustainably develop small-scale aquaculture, and develop value chains.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Small-scale fishing (SSF) vessels</th>
<th>Revenue from SSF (at first sale only)</th>
<th>Employment from SSF</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12,074 98% of national total</td>
<td>83 million USD</td>
<td>35,180 76% of national total</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Stakeholder engagement approach

While the project is coordinated by FAO, the engagement of a variety of stakeholders is essential to the inclusiveness and success of the project.

- **Political leaders** are essential to championing a systemic blue growth paradigm shift.
- **Government staff**, including government focal points, are essential to buy-in and advancement of the project.
- **Community members** are essential to developing investment plans that actually capture their needs.
- **Financial institutions**, both public and private, national and international, are essential to providing seed financing.
- **Stakeholder engagement approach** (for specific stakeholder groups).

### Multi-sectoral strategic axes

- **Ecosystem-based fisheries management**: a foundation for sustainability.
- **Aquaculture**: exploring different means of sustainable fish production.
- **Value chains**: enhancing fish product safety and value.
- **Livelihood diversification**: enhancing the value of the fishing sector through synergies with other sectors, such as tourism, and capitalizing on tradition, culture and history.