

Fisheries and Aquaculture Developments in Central Asia

KYRGYZSTAN

The EC-funded project “Development of inland fisheries and aquaculture in the Kyrgyz Republic to reduce rural food insecurity” (FishDev-Kyrgyzstan) (GCP/GLO/162/EC), was successfully terminated recently with the governmental approval of the “Strategy on Development and Management of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector of Kyrgyz Republic (2008-2012)”. Increased government attention to and prioritization of the fisheries and aquaculture sector development in the country was also reflected in the request to FAO for assistance in the formulation of a sector-wide donor-funded project. In response to this request, between April and June 2008, FAO assisted the country with a TCP facility project “Project Formulation of a Trust-Fund Project in Fisheries and Aquaculture” (TCP/KYR/3201). This small (USD46 000) project aimed to support the Ministry of Agriculture, Water Resources and Processing Industry of Kyrgyzstan, in the sustainable development and management of the capture fisheries and aquaculture sector, by formulating a donor-funded project through a participatory manner involving all relevant stakeholders. To this end, a mission by two Finnish consultants (expertise in fishery management and trout culture) was undertaken in May and a national workshop on aquaculture and ichthyology, was organized in Issyk-Kool Oblast Province from May 28-30, 2008. At present, the trust-fund project proposal is being discussed with the intended donor, the government of Finland. It is hoped that the project can start its implementation in early 2009.

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TAJIKISTAN

Tajikistan is the poorest country in Central Asia, with 64 percent of the population living below the poverty line of USD 2/person/day (122nd of 177 on the Human Development Index). Poverty is particularly acute in rural areas. The FAO TCP/TAJ/3104 (E) “Emergency assistance to Tajikistan in the aquaculture sector, livestock sector and comprehensive assessment and programme development” was requested by the Ministry of Agriculture of Tajikistan in March 2008, following a winter season which was extremely severe and the coldest in 25 years. The extremely low temperatures caused not only frozen rivers, reservoirs, lakes and ponds; up to 37 cms of ice had also caused the mortality of a large part of the fish stock used for aquaculture production. Low water levels in the reservoirs used for hydropower production contributed to the extreme high mortality rate (60 percent) particularly of young fish (one-year old fingerlings). This USD393 000 TCP intends to support the rehabilitation of the aquaculture sector over the period April – December 2008. It is foreseen that the project will supply trout eggs, fish fry (carp species), fish feeds, fish cages, laboratory equipment and technical advice and training to the affected sector stakeholders. Project results will be presented in a future issue of FAN.



Left: Leaflet to promote fish consumption in Kyrgyzstan (GCP/GLO/162/EC - Kyrgyzstan) - in Russian



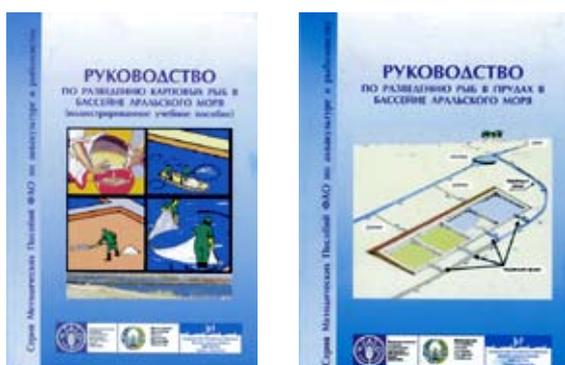
Right: Brochure to create awareness on the importance of fisheries and aquaculture for food security (GCP/GLO/162/EC -Kyrgyzstan) - in Russian

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UZBEKISTAN

TCP/UZB/3103 (D) facility project “Development of strategic partnerships in support of responsible fisheries and aquaculture development in Uzbekistan” had been extended to July 2008. The “Aquaculture and capture fisheries development policy and strategy of Uzbekistan (2008-2016)”, one of the outputs of this USD120 000 project, was approved in June 2008 by the Cabinet of Ministers, and will thus be implemented as the official government strategy for aquaculture and fisheries, counting on the support from the Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources of Uzbekistan. A series of 5 training manuals on aquaculture (see pictures of some covers) and the Policy and Strategy document were published in Issue No. 4 (2008) of the Ecological Herald of Uzbekistan. A trust-fund project formulation mission was carried out with support from national counterparts, an Indian aquaculture expert and an official of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs of Turkey. The resulting project proposal entitled “Support to Fishery and Aquaculture Development for Poverty Alleviation in Fergana Valley and the Karakalpakistan Region of the Republic of Uzbekistan” is currently being discussed with the intended donor, the Government of Turkey.

More information can be obtained from Raymon van Anrooy, Raymon.vananrooy@fao.org or Gerd Marmulla, FIMF. Gerd.Marmulla@fao.org, Fisheries Management and Conservation Service (FIMF)



*Left: Training manual on carp culture and reproduction in ponds (TCP/UZB/3103) - in Russian
Right: Training manual on pond aquaculture in the Aral sea region (TCP/UZB/3103) - in Russian*

TURKEY

A USD 51 000 TCP/TUR/3101 facility project “Developing a roadmap for Turkish marine aquaculture site selection and zoning using the ecosystem approach to management” (TCP/TUR/3101) is assisting the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs of Turkey in the development of: (i) a roadmap for sound marine aquaculture site selection and (ii) a zoning plan for marine aquaculture following the pan-Mediterranean guidelines for fish farmers. In July a participatory consultative workshop was organized in Mugla, Turkey, on the identification of conflicts.

More information can be obtained from Ms Doris Soto of FAOs Aquaculture Management and Conservation Service (FIMA), at Doris.Soto@fao.org

SUPPORT TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FAO CODE OF CONDUCT FOR RESPONSIBLE FISHERIES IN CENTRAL ASIA

As requested by the Central Asian transition economies, a Regional Workshop on the 1995 FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries in the Central Asian region: A Call to Action, was organized in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, from 8–10 April 2008. The regional workshop was hosted by the Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources of Uzbekistan in close technical collaboration with FAOSEC and the International Institutions and Liaison Service (FIEL), and with organizational support from the State Committee for Nature Protection of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Institute of Water Problems of the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Uzbekistan. The workshop aimed to bring together policy makers, administrators, sector representatives and other main stakeholders from the fisheries sector in the Central Asian countries to increase awareness on and understanding of FAO’s CCRF; foster steps towards more effective implementation of the Code in the Central Asian region; encourage fishery policy revisions reflecting the objectives and general principles of the Code; and encourage an inclusive approach to management whereby stakeholders are involved in the development and review processes and the implementation of measures.

The workshop was attended by stakeholders from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkey and Uzbekistan. The workshop participants produced a number of conclusions and practical recommendations in support of the workshop objectives. The workshop recognized that the Code provides a suitable framework and guide for environmentally-compatible, socially-acceptable and economically-viable development and management of the fisheries



Participants to the Regional Workshop on Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture in Central Asia: Status and Development Prospects, Demre, Turkey, 11-14 December 2007

sector in the Central Asian region. It was noted that some of the countries in the region (e.g. Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan) are using the Code as guidance in their policy and legal framework development.

The workshop concluded that additional efforts are needed by all fisheries and aquaculture sector stakeholders in Central Asia, including public and private sector stakeholders (e.g. policy makers, fishery officers and inspectors, trainers and extensionists, fisherfolk and aquaculture farmers and their organizations, researchers, civil society/NGOs, etc.) to implement the Code. The workshop emphasized that in the implementation of the Code, significant attention should be given to transboundary issues in relation to fisheries and aquaculture management in the region.

More information on this workshop can be found in the "Report of the Regional Workshop on the 1995 FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries in the Central Asian Region: a Call to Action, Tashkent, Uzbekistan, 8-10 April

2008". FAO Fisheries Report. No. 866. Rome, FAO. 2008. (bilingual Russian & English) or can be obtained from Raymon van Anrooy at Raymon.vananrooy@fao.org

OUTCOMES OF THE REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON INLAND FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE IN CENTRAL ASIA: STATUS AND DEVELOPMENT PROSPECTS, DEMRE, TURKEY, 11-14 DECEMBER 2007

Held at the Mediterranean Fisheries Research, Production and Training Institute (AKSAM) (Beymelek, Demre, Province of Antalya, Turkey), this workshop was jointly organized by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs of Turkey (MARA), the Turkish International Cooperation Agency (TICA) and FAO with 35 participants from the five Central Asian countries, MARA and TICA representatives, university professors from various universities in Turkey, private-sector representatives, as well as MARA and FAO resource persons. The objectives of the workshop were: (1) to increase knowledge and understanding among national policy-makers, fisheries and aquaculture sector experts on the status of fisheries and aquaculture development in the Central Asian region by sharing national-level experiences, problems encountered and opportunities for development of the sector with others from the region; (2) to work towards finalization of the national review study reports for five Central Asian countries (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan); and (3) to develop the basis for a strategic programme for fisheries and aquaculture development in the region. The workshop resulted to a SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats) analysis of the fishery and aquaculture sector in Central Asia and the basic ingredients for a sectoral strategic programme.