



Central Asia Regional Programme for Fisheries and Aquaculture Development (FISHDEV- Central Asia; GCP/RER/031/TUR)

The start of the Central Asia Regional Programme for Fisheries and Aquaculture Development (FishDev Central Asia), with technical support from the FAO Turkey Partnership Programme, through a financial grant of 1.8 million US\$ made by the government of Turkey, marked a new era of fishery collaboration between countries in the region. Current partner countries in the Programme are Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkey and Uzbekistan. The other two countries of Central Asia (Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan) will be expected to join soon.

The development goal of the Central Asia Regional Programme for Fisheries and Aquaculture Development (FishDev – Central Asia) is to increase the Central Asian fisheries and aquaculture sector performance in terms of its capacity to generate food, employment and income, and in terms of its economical viability, environmental compatibility and social acceptability.

The programme particularly focuses on the fisheries and aquaculture sector as listed under “Area 3 Natural Resources Management, including Forestry and Fisheries” of the FTTP. The programme is structured in such a way that it can achieve within a five year period the following outcomes: 1) A formally established regional fisheries and aquaculture arrangement in the form of Regional Fishery Body or Network covering the participating countries; 2) Strengthened Fisheries and aquaculture sector policy, legal and institutional frameworks; 3) A Capacity building and education programme for fisheries and aquaculture professionals of the region established and functioning; and 4) Increased sustainability in the management of fisheries and aquaculture

Between the period 2009-2011, FISHDEV Central Asia organized some technical trainings and study tours on fish feed production, aquaculture recirculation technologies, fish trade and investment, fish and fisheries products packaging, organizational strengthening of fishers groups and fisheries policy and strategy development, principles of cage culture in reservoirs. So far, more than 250 persons benefited from training delivered by FISHDEV Central Asia programme. At the same period several workshops have been conducted to assist the development of institutional and legal systems to regulate fisheries and enforcement of the “Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries” (CCRF) also preparatory meetings for establishment of the CACFISH (<http://www.fao.org/fishery/rfb/cacfish/en>) by FISHDEV.

The Central Asian and Caucasus Regional Fisheries and Aquaculture Commission (CACFISH) as a regional fishery body under FAO has been established officially as a result of activities and efforts devoted by FISHDEV.

The FISHDEV Central Asia Programme will continue its support to the region over the coming years; contributing to regional cooperation among fishery sector Stakeholders.