

[Turkey]



1. Existing Policies, Strategies, Plans and Initiatives for the Fisheries and Aquaculture sector

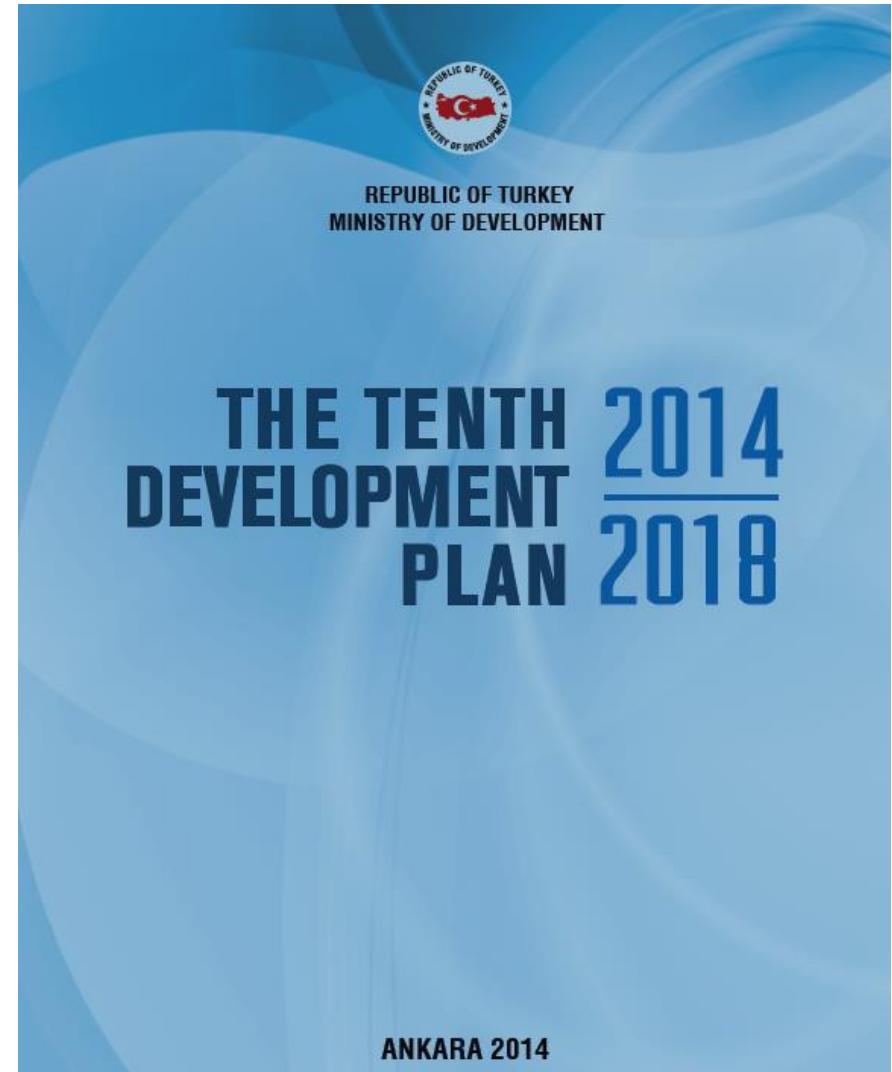
- Turkey has a very dynamic population which includes a considerable percentage of young people and continues to increase. Therefore food security and safety is an important point our country must take a position. Our government intends to secure that country's population can have access good nutritious and sustainable food resources. Capture fisheries and aquaculture are important elements that the government considers very useful to achieve this particular goals. So we welcome all national, international and interregional efforts to secure the sustainability of aquatic living resources.

1. Existing Policies, Strategies, Plans and Initiatives for the Fisheries and Aquaculture sector

- The basic national policy of fisheries and aquaculture (as for all sectors) is formed by a Five-Year Development Plan and other associated programs designed to secure efficient implementation. These include **Medium-Term Programs, Annual Programs, Investment Programs and Regional Development and Sectoral Strategy Plans**, all of which conform to targets determined by the government and are approved by the the **Grand National Assembly of Turkey** . The ministries also prepare their own strategic plans within the framework of the Five-Year Development Plans.

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- The most recent Five-Year Plan is the **Tenth Development Plan** and covers the period between 2014 and 2018.
- The Eleventh **Development Plan** (2019-2023) has been prepared but not yet published



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- The present development plan embraces the following policy goals relevant for Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector:
- Turkey will continuously maintain its efforts towards achieving the goal of full EU membership; i.e. the harmonization process with the EU acquis will continue in agriculture in chapters; “Agriculture and Rural Development”, “Food Safety, Veterinary and Phytosanitary” and “Fisheries”.

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- In the fisheries sector, resource management will be based on scientific data and will be carried out efficiently. Additionally, institutional capacities will be strengthened. Environmental sustainability will be taken into consideration in the aquaculture activities, and competitiveness in international markets will be improved through product diversification and branding.
- Values of natural resources and ecosystem services will be calculated and will be considered in policy-making and implementation processes.

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- Practices towards improving environmental consciousness, especially protection of nature and support of sustainable consumption, will be promoted and environment friendly products will be encouraged in public procurement.
- Uncertainties and inadequacies in duties, powers and responsibilities in environmental management will be resolved, supervising mechanisms will be strengthened and the role of the private sector, local administrations and NGOs will be increased.

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- Development policies in Turkey will progress towards sustainable development. In this framework, pollution prevention efforts, protection and sustainable usage of natural resources, and biodiversity are considered priorities. Turkey has the potential to transform the environmental threats into opportunities via decisions taken and projects implemented in environmental issues. Economic and social development processes will reflect a holistic and multi-dimensional view, and a participatory approach will be adopted within the human-oriented development framework.

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- The **Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF)**, which is the overall authority for the management of Turkey's fisheries sector, also has its own strategic five-year plan covering the period between 2018 and 2022.
- MAF's own DG of Agricultural Research and Policies Plan for 2016-2020 including Fisheries and Aquaculture



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- This plan boasts similar long term goals and related objectives associated with agriculture in a broad sense. Some elements contained in the plan can be considered relevant here. Examples include: protection, improvement, and assurance of the sustainability of agricultural resources, protection of genetic sources and biodiversity, food safety and security, encouragement for the use of environmentally-friendly production techniques, development of agricultural and social infrastructures to ensure rural development and prosperity and improvement of animal health and welfare, and strengthening of the institutional capacity.

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- These intended strategies and policies to be developed are also reflected in the Country Programming Framework between the FAO and Turkey:
 - Priority 1: Food and nutrition security and food safety
 - Priority 2: Sustainable forest and natural resources management including fisheries;
 - Priority 3: Institutional capacity enhancement of public and private sectors



COUNTRY PROGRAMMING FRAMEWORK
FOR TURKEY

2016-2020

2. Experiences with Blue Growth/Economy approach to development

The principal fisheries legislation in Turkey is the **Fisheries Law No. 1380** which entered into force in 1971 . This Law was amended by **Law No. 3288** in 1986 and **Law No. 4950** in 2003 . Article 1 of the Law outlines its scope as “protection, production and control of aquatic products ”. The Fisheries Law basically defines rules for fisheries and aquaculture activities.

In addition, the Law organizes wholesale fish markets, encourages formation of cooperatives and producers’ unions, and provides fishers and fish farmers several incentives, exemptions and protection. Various prohibitions, procedural provisions and penal clauses are also covered. The **MAF** is identified, in many articles, as the main responsible authority for the practical implementation of the Law,

2. Experiences with Blue Growth/Economy approach to development

- In addition to the MAF, there are other ministries in Turkey, which have Blue Growth related strategic plans:
- The Ministry of Environment and Urbanisation
- Strategic Plan 2018-2022
- Preparing action plans to decrease the marine pollutants including marine litter,
- Creating a water quality monitoring action plan from watershed to deep sea,
- Protection of biodiversity,
- Implementation of integrated coastal zone management.



2. Experiences with Blue Growth/Economy approach to development

- The Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources
- Strategic Plan 2015-2019
- Increasing green energy capacity from solar, wind and wave energy,
- Generating new geological, geophysical and oceanographic datasets for natural hazard, climate change, coastal protection



2. Experiences with Blue Growth/Economy approach to development

- The Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure
- Strategic Plan 2017-2021
- Developing action plans for short and long term maritime transport
- Contributing to the development of the maritime affairs
- Developing combined transport and maritime security strategies



3. Key opportunities and constraints for the sustainable development of fisheries & aquaculture

Opportunities

- It may be created some market opportunities for some invasive and discard species
- Tourism and small-scale fisheries are affecting each others positively. Any capacity building program to increase this interactions may help vabiliy of fishing activity
- Fishery cooperatives have a great potential for marketing, decision making and lobbying for the rights of their members
- Pescaturism may create an additional income source for fishers
- Well developed aquaculture sector ready to pass environmentaly friendly farming practices

Constraints

- The fishery law is needed to be amendment but...
- The legal framework does not allow for the new initiatives such as pescaturism for small-scale fishers
- Although the buyback programs were put in practice and about 1260 fishing vessels withdrawen from the fleet, there is no evidence which reflects reducing fishing capacity (It may be invasive species or buying of the nonfishing vessel)
- Aquacultre sector are based on mainly imported fish meal.
- insufficient fish consumption

4. Main sources of funding for the sustainable development of fisheries and aquaculture

- Public sources:
 - Reduced TAX for final consumer from 18% to 8% (For food sector including fish)
 - interest rate reduction (50%)
 - Reduced Fuel TAX
 - Disease free certificate support (For hatchery)
 - R&D support (TAGEM 70%, 50%TUBİTAK)
 - Recirculating Aquaculture support (50%)
 - Labelisation support for aquaculture products.
 - To breed alternative fish species for aquaculture (15 cent/kg)
 - Rainbow trout support (10 cent/kg)
 - Reduced water rental fees

4. Main sources of funding for the sustainable development of fisheries and aquaculture

- Private sources
 - Interest rate reduction, extended payback period
 - Insurance support (50%)
 - Seafood processing technology

5. Experience with country/sector/local investment planning and project formulation

- [although each country has its own planning processes at national level for public recurrent budget and investment, experience with development of territorial strategy and investment plans (for the TCP target sites) under multi-stakeholder and participatory processes might be more limited. Would on-the-job training for developing such local strategies & plans be needed/useful?
- How such territorial/site strategies and investment plans (following Blue growth/economy approach) could ensure more efficient and sustainable development of the area and facilitate access to funding (both public and private)?
- Experience of ministry in charge of Fisheries and aquaculture in project preparation and resource mobilization (notably with IFIs, GEF, bilateral and multilateral donors). What kind of FAO support would be needed for this?

6. Expectations for this FAO Project

- To increase adding value of the small-scale fishers aquaculture product
- To contribute to the livelihood of fishers
- To contribute to the food security, to meet local demand with the local fishing
- To increase the quality of the fish products by relevant capacity building programs
- To develop know-how program for new processing technologies to get benefits from discards and unwanted species
- To support and strengthen cooperatives of fishers (infrastructure facilities, marketing opportunities, and sustainable management of resources)
- **Aquaculture!!!**