I. Turkey

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This country report provides a comprehensive overview and assessment of the current state-of-play with regard to Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) in Turkey. After detailing Turkey’s country characteristics, its most important maritime activities are presented. Next, the country report discusses the legal aspects, key players, plans and projects related to Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) and MSP as well as the relevant international initiatives and platforms for cooperation. To conclude, the main findings related to Maritime Spatial Planning are summed up. The sources of information used and persons contacted are listed at the end.

I.1. Country Characteristics

Turkey is a transcontinental country as well as an EU candidate country. In the Mediterranean Sea basin, Turkey borders with Greece, Cyprus, and Syria. Turkey’s total coastline measures more than 8 300 km.

Both Turkey and Greece established a 6 nm territorial sea in the Aegean Sea. The breadth of the rest of the Turkish territorial sea is 12 nm. Turkey’s main country characteristics are summarised in Table 1.

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1 For the purpose of this study 20 country reports have been drawn up in total. Relevant available information on Monaco is included in the case study of the Western Mediterranean and information on the United Kingdom (Gibraltar) is included in the case study of the Alboran Sea.
I.2. *MARITIME ACTIVITIES AND THE PROTECTION OF MARINE AREAS*

Due to the presence of the Turkish Straits\(^2\), connecting the Mediterranean and the Black Sea, maritime traffic is intense in Turkey’s internal waters and territorial sea. The strait is considered a waterway of strategic and economic importance. *Figure 1* presents the main shipping and oil tanker routes passing by Turkey.

*Figure 1: Main shipping and oil tanker routes*

Although the *fisheries* sector does not contribute largely to the national economy (2009: 0.3 % of GNP), it is of vital importance to Turkey. In 2009, 464,462 tonnes of fish were caught in Turkey (including the Black Sea)\(^3\).

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\(^2\) Turkish straits consist of the Straits of Istanbul and Çanakkale and the Sea of Marmara.

\(^3\) Fishery statistics of the Turkish Ministry of Agriculture.
The aquaculture sector is mainly characterised by three species: rainbow trout, sea bass and sea bream. Both freshwater and sea farming play an increasingly important role in the production of fishery products. Aquaculture production in 2009 was 158,729 tonnes.

Maritime jurisdiction areas have not been thoroughly delimited between all coastal states in the Eastern Mediterranean. Turkey argues that in a semi-enclosed sea like the Eastern Mediterranean, international law dictates that such delimitation should be effected by agreement respecting rights and interests of all relevant coastal states as well as taking into account all pertinent conditions and special circumstances. There is no agreement among the relevant parties in this regard.

Turkey is also concerned about the effects Greek Cypriot maritime claims may have on the Turkish part of Cyprus. According to Turkey “…the Greek Cypriot Administration is not entitled to negotiate and conclude international agreements as well as adopt laws regarding the exploitation of natural resources on behalf of the entire island. This unilateral policy compromises and prejudges the Turkish Cypriots’ existing and inherent equal rights over the natural resources of the island and the sea areas of the Island of Cyprus.” and “Turkish and Greek Cypriots should benefit jointly from the Island’s natural resources.”.

As regards the protection of the marine environment, the Turkish coastal and marine protected areas (established and planned) are presented in Table 2 and Table 3.

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4 Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), Country note on national fisheries management systems – Turkey.
5 Fishery statistics of the Turkish Ministry of Agriculture.
6 Information provided by Turkish authorities.
7 Information provided by Turkish authorities.
Table 2: Marine and Coastal Protected Areas within the framework of 2873 – National Parks law

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Protected Area</th>
<th>Status of the Area</th>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Province/Provinces/District</th>
<th>Length coastline (km)</th>
<th>Declaration date</th>
<th>Date of Approval for Long Term Development Plan</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Coastal National Park of Olimpos-Beydağları</td>
<td>National Park</td>
<td>Mediterranean</td>
<td>Antalya</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>1972</td>
<td>31.03.2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Park of Marmaris</td>
<td>National Park</td>
<td>Aegean</td>
<td>Muğla</td>
<td>73.5</td>
<td>1996</td>
<td>05.08.2002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Park of Dilek Semi island-Büyük Menderes Delta</td>
<td>National Park</td>
<td>Aegean</td>
<td>Aydın/Kuşadası and Söke</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>1966</td>
<td>19.06.1997</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Park of Kazdağları</td>
<td>National Park</td>
<td>Aegean and Marmara</td>
<td>Balıkesir/Edremit</td>
<td>1.48</td>
<td>1993</td>
<td>1995</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Historical National Park of Troya</td>
<td>National Park</td>
<td>Marmara</td>
<td>Çanakkale/Ezine</td>
<td>20.9</td>
<td>1996</td>
<td>14.07.2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lagoon of Yumurtalık</td>
<td>Nature Conservation Area</td>
<td>Mediterranean</td>
<td>Adana/Yumurtalık</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>08.07.1994</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>İnciğüm Nature Conservation Area</td>
<td>Nature Conservation Area</td>
<td>Mediterranean</td>
<td>Antalya/Alanya</td>
<td>1.55</td>
<td>08.12.2006</td>
<td>12.08.2010</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Turkish Ministry of Environment and Forestry

The Gelibolu National Park is a special historical area with maritime protected archaeological heritage sites. In this area, coastal and sea-use is regulated by high level plans in order to prevent sea pollution in the Çanakkale Strait and the Saroz Gulf and to promote renewable energy. No new mariculture activities are allowed in this area and existing mariculture farms will be closed in the future. Integrated Coastal Zone Management is being used to define constructing opportunities and uses inside the coastal strip.
Table 3: Special Environmental Protection Areas (SEPA)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Protected Area</th>
<th>Status of the Area</th>
<th>Marine area surface (km²)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Datça-Bozburun</td>
<td>Special Environmental Protection Area</td>
<td>736.63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kas-Kekova</td>
<td>Special Environmental Protection Area</td>
<td>165.91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fethiye-Göcek</td>
<td>Special Environmental Protection Area</td>
<td>340.11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foça</td>
<td>Special Environmental Protection Area</td>
<td>51.78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gökova</td>
<td>Special Environmental Protection Area</td>
<td>299.35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Göksu Delta</td>
<td>Special Environmental Protection Area</td>
<td>80.78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kıyıceğiz-Dalyan</td>
<td>Special Environmental Protection Area</td>
<td>40.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patara</td>
<td>Special Environmental Protection Area</td>
<td>49.94</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Turkish Ministry of Environment and Forestry

In addition, a new marine and coastal SEPA is planned to be established in the Saroz Bay and the marine boundaries of Gökova SEPA are planned to be expanded.

I.3. LEGAL ASPECTS AND KEY PLAYERS

There is no specific law to regulate Maritime Spatial Planning in Turkey. Existing legal provisions which are relevant in the context of Maritime Spatial Planning include:

- Shore law:
  - In use as the main legislative structure in Turkey;
  - Sets out the principles for protection of the sea, natural and artificial lakes, rivers, shores and the shore strips;
  - Does not foresee a separate approach towards land-ward and sea-ward planning, both of them are within the scope of this law;

- Harbours law;

- Environmental law;

- Fisheries law: protection, exploitation, production and control of living resources;

- National Parks law: identification of areas which posses values of national and international importance and management of these areas without degrading their values and characteristics.

Furthermore, there is an uncoordinated management as regards coastal planning. More than twenty institutions are in charge of the sea and coastal areas resulting in responsibility overlaps and gaps. Nevertheless, the Ministry of Environment and Forestry together with the Ministry of Public Works and Settlements are the leading institutions with regard to the regulation of sea-uses except in areas

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8 It is unclear whether this refers to coastal planning or includes also the planning of (part of) the maritime zones.

declared as tourism centres, where the authority is transferred to the Ministry for Tourism. Table 2 provides an indication of the ministries or institutions which are competent to regulate sea-use.

Table 4: Key players with regard to the management of the coast and sea in Turkey

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Main public authority in charge</th>
<th>Related legislation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of Public Works and Settlements</td>
<td>Shore Law – Settlements Law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Prime Minister’s Office, Under Secretariat for Maritime Affairs</td>
<td>Harbours Law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of Transportation</td>
<td>Harbours Law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of Environment (Ministry of Environment and Forestry)</td>
<td>Environment Law – The Ministerial Decree for SEPA’s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of Agriculture</td>
<td>Fisheries Law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of Forestry (Ministry of Environment and Forestry)</td>
<td>National Parks Law – Forest Law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of Domestic Affairs</td>
<td>Coastal Security Force Law – Municipal Law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of Culture (Ministry of Tourism and Culture)</td>
<td>Law for the Conservation of Cultural and Natural Wealth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Municipalities</td>
<td>Municipal Law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of Tourism (Ministry of Tourism and Culture)</td>
<td>Tourism Incentives Law</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


I.4. NATIONAL AND SUB-NATIONAL PLANS, PROJECTS AND STUDIES RELATED TO ICZM AND MSP

The government of Turkey was involved in a Coastal Area Management Programme (CAMP) for the bay of Izmir in the period 1994 – 1998. The details of this programme are presented in Table 3.
Table 5: Overview CAMP Turkey

| Area covered: | • The bay of IZMIR |
| Major problems and issues: | • Natural systems are no longer able to accommodate the pressures of human activities  
• Port facilities and navigating vessels are a constant threat to the bay’s ecosystems  
• Insufficient cross-sectoral (horizontal) and institutional (vertical) coordination and integration of activities at various institutional levels  
• Absence of an adequate system of integrated planning and management |
  - Identify and propose urgent measures towards the improvement of the Izmir Bay  
  - Create appropriate conditions for carrying out actions in the field of liquid waste collection, treatment and disposal  
  - Organise training and preparatory activities leading to the preparation of an integrated plan for the Municipality of Izmir  
• CAMP (1990 – 1993)  
  - Implementation of protocols, signed by the Mediterranean countries  
  - Activities relative to the recovery of the Izmir Bay  
  - Establishment of ICZM |


In May 2008, the European Commission evaluated the status of ICZM in Turkey and came to the following conclusions:

- Turkey has not reported officially to the EU ICZM Recommendation;
- Holistic legal frameworks for ICZM and institutional mechanisms have not yet been established;
- The legal framework offers neither a wide scope ICZM law nor a special institutional development in this area and therefore efforts do not go beyond the project level;
- Since there is neither a law that covers all aspects related to coastal zones, nor a special institutional structure for this purpose, various organisations have authorities which overlap and this create gaps in management;
- Increasing problems at the coastal level led to the establishment of a number of units at the central governmental level, such as the ‘Coastal Inventory Agency’ within the Ministry of Public Works and Housing (charged with determining the coastal shoreline and developing inventories with regard to the implementation of the Coastal Law) and the National Committee on Turkish Coastal Zone Management (KAY) in 1993 (serves an important role in the ICZM approach at the national level through the organisation of seminars, courses and projects);

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Turkey has mainly committed itself to the implementation of ICZM by taking part in the development of and signing of several international agreements and conventions.

I.5. INTERNATIONAL INITIATIVES RELATED TO ICZM AND MSP

International initiatives (including EU-funded projects) related to ICZM and MSP in the Mediterranean Sea basin are presented in Annex II of the final report.

Turkey is involved in the following EU-funded projects:

- The HERMES project (Belgium, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Kenya, Morocco, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, the United Kingdom and Ukraine);
- The MedPAN project (Algeria, Croatia, France, Greece, Italy, Morocco, Malta, Slovenia, Spain, Tunisia and Turkey);
- The PEGASO project (Algeria, Belgium, Egypt, France, Greece, Croatia, Italy, Lebanon, Morocco, Romania, Spain, Switzerland, Tunisia, Turkey, the United Kingdom and Ukraine);
- The SAFEMED project (Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordanian, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestinian Authority, Syria, Tunisia and Turkey).

Other international initiatives

PIMS 3697 Strengthening Protected Area Network of Turkey: Catalyzing Sustainability of Marine and Coastal Protected Areas (May 2009 – October 2013).

The project’s implementing agency is UNDP. The Environmental Protection Agency for Special Areas (EPASA), as the executing agency on behalf of MoEF, will implement the project and work in close cooperation with the General Directorate for Nature Conservation and National Parks (GDNCNP), the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, the Department of Foreign Relations, State Planning Organization, the Secretariat for Maritime Affairs, the Turkish Coast Guard Command, the Ministry of Public Works and Settlement, the Ministry of Transportation, the Culture and Tourism, governors of districts and villages headmen, marine and coastal management faculties and research institutes, national and local NGOs and local representatives.

The project aims to facilitate expansion of the national system of marine and coastal protected areas and improve its management effectiveness.

The Kas Kekova pilot project is part of the MedPAN South project that aims to enhance the effective conservation of regionally important coastal and marine biodiversity features by assisting eligible countries, in the southern and eastern parts of the Mediterranean, to improve the management of their MPAs and to promote the establishment of new MPAs. It involves collaboration between EPASA (the
I.6. MAIN FINDINGS RELEVANT FOR MARITIME SPATIAL PLANNING

The main findings with respect to the potential for the application of Maritime Spatial Planning in Turkey are:

Country characteristics and maritime activities:
- The breadth of Turkey’s territorial waters is 6nm in the Aegean Sea and 12 nm in the rest of the Mediterranean Sea;
- Maritime boundaries have not been delimited between the relevant parties in the Eastern Mediterranean. In the Aegean Sea, the maritime boundaries between Turkey and Greece have yet to be delimited by agreement;
- Due to the presence of the Turkish Straits – connecting the Mediterranean Sea and the Black Sea – maritime traffic is intense in Turkey’s internal and territorial waters.

Legal aspects and key players:
- Since there is neither a law that covers all respects related to coastal zones, nor a special institutional structure for this purpose, various organisations have authorities which overlap and create gaps in management.

Current status of Integrated Coastal Zone Management and Maritime Spatial Planning:
- A legal ICZM framework has not been established yet;
- Increasing problems at the coastal level led to the establishment of a number of units at the central governmental level, such as the ‘Coastal Inventory Agency’ within the Ministry of Public Works and Housing (charged with determining the coastal shoreline and developing inventories with regard to the implementation of the Coastal Law) and the ‘National Committee on Turkish Coastal Zone Management’ (KAY) in 1993 (serves an important role in the ICZM approach at the national level through the organisation of seminars, courses and projects);
- Turkey has mainly committed itself to the implementation of ICZM by taking part in the development of and signing of several international agreements and conventions;

- Potential for short-term application of MSP in Turkey is limited given the fact that first steps towards ICZM have been taken but no actions towards MSP have been conducted yet.
I.7. OVERVIEW OF SOURCES OF INFORMATION USED AND PERSONS CONTACTED

a/ Sources of information used:

− European Commission – DG Environment, 2008, Evaluation of Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) in Europe – Turkey;
− FAO, Yearbook of fishery statistics.
− Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), Country note on national fisheries management systems – Turkey;
− Priority Action Programme, CAMP “The bay of Izmir”, available on http://www.pap-thecoastcentre.org;
− Priority Actions Programme – the coastal management centre, www.pap-thecoastcentre.org;
− Safemed Project - Maritime traffic flows and risk analysis in the Mediterranean Sea, www.safemedgis.org;
− The Network of managers of Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean, www.medpan.org;

b/ Persons contacted:

− Mr Mustafa Aydin, Ministry of Environment and Forestry;
− Mr Haldun Tekneci, DG for Bilateral Affairs - Maritime and Aviation;

Turkish authorities have provided feedback on a draft version of the country report.