

The most comprehensive project on strengthening marine and coastal protected areas in Turkey

Inception Workshop of the project entitled as "Strengthening Protected Area Network of Turkey: Catalyzing Sustainability of Marine and Coastal Protected Areas" and A new project, aiming to facilitate expansion of the national system of marine and coastal protected areas and improve its management effectiveness, will be held on Thursday, November 12, 2009, at 09:00 at the Ankara Plaza Hotel.

Global Environment Fund (GEF) funded project is executed by the Environmental Protection Agency for Special Areas (EPASA) working in close cooperation with the General Directorate for Nature Conservation and National Parks (GDNCNP), and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs. The project implementing agency is UNDP Turkey and it will be carried out between 2009 and 2013.

The project has a great importance not only for conservation of marine biodiversity but also strengthening marine protected area network in Turkey. The objective of the workshop is to inform a broader range of stakeholders about the initiation of the project, their roles in the project, and to allow discussion of important technical issues. This will include introduction of project staff and stakeholders, presentation of the project structure and working group activity to further develop the project outcomes.

Representatives of all related governmental bodies along with the local authorities, universities, relevant national and local NGOs, international agencies, private companies and embassies are expected participating to the workshop.

The detailed information could be found on the websites of [EPASA](#) and [UNDP](#) .