



PRESS RELEASE

United Nations Development Programme

TURKEY

TURKEY'S MARINE SENSITIVE AREAS TO BE IDENTIFIED

Ankara, 19 May, 2010 - Within the scope of the 2010 International Year of Biodiversity, Turkey is accelerating efforts to define sensitive marine areas. The "Identification of the Sensitive Areas Workshop" to be held on May 20-21st at the Yücelen Hotel in Akyaka, Muğla will aim to make critical decisions regarding the impact of marine tourism and fisheries on sensitive marine ecosystems. The workshop will be organized within the framework of "Strengthening Protected Area Network of Turkey: Catalyzing Sustainability of Marine and Coastal Protected Areas" project which aims at strengthening the national marine and coastal protected areas system and improve its effective management.

The workshop will introduce the project to stakeholders including related governmental bodies along with the local authorities, universities, relevant national and local NGOs and international agencies by presenting the current situation on the related subject in Turkey and related activities. The workshop also includes a technical visit to the one of the potential marine sensitive areas "Fisheries Restricted Areas" proposed in the Gökova Special Environmental Protected Area.

The workshop will define marine areas in terms of core and buffer zones along Aegean and Mediterranean coastlines based on a set of criteria and standards, determine whether marine tourism, fisheries should be allowed in sensitive areas, and set parameters to be used for marine gap analysis.

"Strengthening Protected Area Network of Turkey: Catalyzing Sustainability of Marine and Coastal Protected Areas" project is funded by the Global Environment Fund (GEF) and executed by the Environmental Protection Agency for Special Areas (EPASA) of the Ministry of Environment and Forestry in partnership with the General Directorate for Nature Conservation and National Parks (GDNCNP) of the same ministry, and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs' General Directorate of Control and Protection. UNDP Turkey provides technical assistance to the project and its partners. By establishing a Marine Protected Areas System in the country, the project, which runs until 2013, will contribute to the conservation of marine biodiversity.