



Delta-Eko

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Turkey gets approval for energy plan

The World Bank has approved \$600 million of financing for a renewable energy and energy efficiency project in Turkey, which faces the twin challenge of ensuring energy security and containing greenhouse gas emissions to mitigate climate change.

Private Sector Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Project aims to help increase private energy output from indigenous renewable sources within the market-based framework of the Turkish Electricity Market Law, the bank said Thursday.

The financing includes \$500 million from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, or IBRD, and \$100 million from the Clean Technology Fund, or CTF, a new \$5.2 billion multilateral fund managed by the World Bank and administered through the World Bank Group and other multilateral development banks.

"Turkey's Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Project will help enhance energy security, support a clean energy transition, and increase private sector involvement in the development and financing of clean energy and energy efficiency investments," said Ulrich Zachau, World Bank country director for Turkey.

"The project establishes a financial mechanism through Turkish banks that will assist Turkish entrepreneurs in leveraging their capital to economically develop renewable resources. We are especially happy that this project will be the first to receive low-interest funding from the CTF for renewable energy resource development."

Other donors such as the Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau and United Nations Development Program will provide technical assistance and financing from their existing and planned programs. Additional financing and technical assistance is also expected to be provided by Agence Française de Developpement, or AFD, and Japan International Cooperation Agency, or JICA.

Summit on climate change

Local and regional authorities from all over the world have gathered at the Local Government Climate Change Leadership Summit in Copenhagen, Denmark held between June 2 and 4.

Gaye Dođanođlu, chair of the Committee on Sustainable Development, is currently representing the Danish Congress in the summit. The delegates will underline the key role they play in tackling climate change and will try to open dialogue with national governments on climate issues.



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Deal signed to improve gulf water circulation

The İzmir Metropolitan Municipality has signed an agreement with the Dokuz Eylül University Nautical Sciences Institute to clean up the İzmir Gulf by digging a channel at the bottom to improve water circulation.

Under the agreement, a map of the gulf's stream system and active seismic fault lines will be made and research will be conducted in various parts of the body of water.

After the stream models are defined, the bottom of the gulf will be deepened to ease water circulation. According to a written statement released by the metropolitan municipality, the parties also expect to discover some sunken ships during the one-year project.

Channel will be opened to strengthen the stream

"There is a stream entrance off the Yenikale area that cannot go out from Ragıp Paşa Fish Trap. For that reason, cleaning cannot occur," Mayor Aziz Kocaoğlu said.

"We will open a circulation channel around a depth of 12 meters at the fish trap area to straighten the stream. With this project, we are aiming to clean up the gulf and increase the diversity of living species there.

This research will also give us the data needed to make a plan to built docks and marinas at the most convenient places in the gulf."

Kocaoğlu added that the metropolitan municipality and the nautical sciences institute have been conducting research together for four years.

"We agreed with experts at the university that a circulation channel is a must. With this protocol, we have accelerated our work," he said.

The project would also determine the active seismic faults in the gulf, Kocaoğlu said, adding, "This will also help us define the earthquake risk to our city."

Foreigner support for activist in Marmaris

Volunteer environmentalist İmdat Avcı, who has been cleaning up the coves of Marmaris for years without any institutional support, has received funding for the upkeep of his boat from foreign residents living in the area.

Though Avcı, 54, was in good economic shape, the annual upkeep of his boat, "Özgür," which was a gift from the Kalkavan family, taxed him financially. When a group of foreigners living on boats in Marmaris' Netsel Marina heard about this, they pooled their money to help Avcı take care of his boat and continue his work. Gwen Bylond, a British citizen, said they had been following Avcı's efforts and wanted their money used to keep the beautiful coves of Marmaris clean. "I have been living in Marmaris for 10 years, so I know İmdat Avcı is a real friend of the environment," Bylond said. "We do not want to be bystanders to his contribution to nature."



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Avcı said that he would do his best to continue preserving the area. "I thank Netsel Marina and my foreign friends for supporting me," he said. "I will keep up my efforts to clean up Marmaris and its coves."

İzmir expects wild money from Sasalı

Sasalı Natural Wildlife Park is about to hit the one-million visitors mark but the municipality expects even more from the area this summer. With about 1,500 animals from 120 species, Sasalı is touted as one of the world's largest wildlife parks, and is a center of attraction for children, students, environmentalists and nature lovers.

Sasalı Natural Wildlife Park in İzmir, one of Europe's largest natural wildlife parks and home to 1,500 free-roaming animals from 120 species, is expected to surpass 1 million visitors in June. The park, one of the prestige investments of the İzmir Metropolitan Municipality, is attracting visitors from all over Turkey. It lies between the Gediz River and Tuzla Street on 425,000 square meters of land containing 3,000 trees and 250 kinds of plants. With its variety of animals and rich vegetation, the park's attractions are expected to bring a tourism boom to the city.

Entry a bargain

When the park opened, 60,000 people visited on the first day. The first month drew 500,000 people, and the first six months, 828,000. The park has a capacity for 15,000 visitors at a time. According to park management, with the warming weather, the number of visitors is on the rise. In April, 98,000 people, including 41,774 students, visited the park. As of this year, the entrance fee is 50 kuruş for students and 1.5 Turkish Liras for adults. Before 2009, admission was free.

Visitors have the chance to closely watch the animals in facsimiles of their natural environment. An area comprising 15,000 square meters of open land and 50 sheltered square meters has been built for elephants in the nature park.

For lions, tigers and pumas, a 10,000-square-meter area has been allocated. Monkeys live on two islands, both 6,600 square meters each. Bears and wolves roam a total of 10,000 square meters. Giraffes, zebras and African antelopes all live together in the "African Savannah" section. Wild birds are housed in an area of 500 square meters.

Between 500 and 700 square meters have been allocated for each animal among the five species of deer, wild goats and camels. Swans and ducks swim in a 3,000-square-meter pond area. A further 600 square meters is reserved for visitors to feed parrots.

For domestic animals, including horses, rabbits, chickens, geese and dogs, there is a special garden where children can ride the horses or visit them in their barns. There are also recreational areas for parents who want to enjoy the park along with their children, and an 8,450-square-meter pond at the park's entrance.



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Children can explore watchtowers, tracks and playgrounds in the park. Instead of wires or cages, natural barriers such as creeks or ditches separate human visitors from the animal residents of the park, adding excitement to the interaction. Training and exhibition halls, a lounge, a granary and a 500-space car park are all available to visitors.

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