



# BLUEING THE BLACK SEA

A JOINT CALL FOR REGIONAL INNOVATION

## WHY ACTION IS URGENT



The Black Sea is facing escalating pollution from agriculture, untreated wastewater, plastics, and industrial runoff. These pollutants are driving eutrophication, dead zones, biodiversity loss, and threats to food security, tourism, and human health. According to the World Bank analysis in 2024, over 80% of nitrogen and 90% of phosphorus reaching the Black Sea come from rivers, primarily due to agricultural and urban discharges.



# COUNTRY SNAPSHOTS

## TÜRKIYE

- Holds the longest Black Sea coastline.
- Major coastal cities discharge wastewater directly into the sea; nutrient removal is still insufficient in most wastewater treatment plants.
- Fertilizer use has increased significantly, with an average of 103 kg N/ha and 45 kg P/ha applied to arable land.



## GEORGIA

- Agricultural pollution and urban wastewater are increasing contributors to coastal degradation.
- Fertilizer use rose dramatically to 154 kg/ha in 2018, nearly five times higher than in 2010.
- The coastal environment is increasingly vulnerable due to urban expansion and tourism pressure





# COUNTRY SNAPSHOTS

## MOLDOVA

- A large portion of the population is not connected to sewerage systems.
- Many wastewater treatment plants are outdated and non-compliant.
- Nutrient runoff and pesticide residues threaten the Nistru and Prut rivers, both of which drain into the Black Sea.



## UKRAINE

- Large coastal cities account for over 40% of nutrient wastewater discharges to the Black Sea.
- The war has intensified environmental risks, including chemical and sewage pollution, debris, and oil leaks.
- The collapse of the Kakhovka Dam released thousands of tons of toxic waste and heavy metals into the Dnipro River, with downstream impacts on Black Sea marine life, fisheries, and coastal health.





# A REGIONAL RESPONSE: BLUEING THE BLACK SEA

In response to these urgent challenges, Blueing the Black Sea (BBSEA): a GEF regional project (budget USD 6,39 million) was officially launched on June 12, 2025 as a collaborative regional effort to strengthen national preparedness to reduce pollution in the Black Sea.

Funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), implemented by the World Bank and executed by UNOPS, the BBSEA project brings together the Black Sea community to address one of Europe's most pressing environmental challenges.

Over its four year implementation (2024–2028), BBSEA aims to:

- drive eco-innovation through a major global competition,
- support focus countries (Georgia, Moldova, Türkiye, Ukraine) improve their national policy frameworks and investment plans,
- implement studies for project preparation of future investments.





# EXPECTED OUTCOMES BY 2028

- A series of eco-innovation solutions implemented in Georgia, Moldova, Türkiye.

- Strengthened legal and institutional frameworks in each country.

- National investment pipelines developed for pollution reduction.



- Regional momentum through engagement of the Black Sea community.





# WHAT WE ASK FROM YOU

WE INVITE YOUR SUPPORT TO:

- Promote national participation in the Eco-Innovation Challenge by engaging with different stakeholders in your country.
- Ensure inter-ministerial coordination for national BBSEA activities.
- Nominate government staff for policy dialogue.
- Facilitate access to data and case studies for knowledge exchange.

# CONTACT



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