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ECO FUTURE GRANT PROGRAMME NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the third issue of the Eco-Future Grant Programme Newsletter! In this third edition, we highlight the progress made since the second issue in July 2025 and share key news on climate change and biodiversity.

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As Türkiye and the world face intensifying climate impacts, from record-breaking heatwaves to an alarming number of wildfires and biodiversity loss, the Eco-Future Grant Programme stands as a timely response to empower civil society in shaping resilient, nature-positive futures.

With the overarching goal of increasing the capacities of civil society organizations (CSOs) to support the achievement of Türkiye's ambitious net-zero and nature-positive climate targets, the programme has already seen strong engagement. The first call for applications, launched on 13 June 2025, officially closed on 11 August, receiving an impressive 386 applications from across the country. We are now in the process of assessing these submissions and preparing for the second stage, where selected applicants will be invited to submit full proposals. This next phase will be crucial in identifying and supporting high-impact, community-driven solutions that contribute meaningfully to climate action and biodiversity conservation.



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Updates from Eco Future Grant Programme

Operation Coordination Unit Meetings



10th OCU Meeting on 8 September 2025

On 8 September 2025, we convened the 10th Operational Coordination Unit (OCU) meeting online with the Delegation of the European Union to Türkiye (EUD). We reviewed recent milestones, including the Launch Event and six regional informative sessions.

We also shared updates on project management and reporting. The project's gender consultant finalised the Gender Mainstreaming Action Plan, and we expanded visibility through media coverage and active use of social media platforms.

We also reported progress on the Grant Programme. The first stage call for concept notes closed on 11 August 2025. We have initiated the evaluation process and established a roadmap for the full application stage, marking the next milestone in our implementation timeline.

Thank you for following our journey. Stay tuned for more updates as we continue moving forward.

A Recap of Our Nationwide Informative Sessions

Following the initial launch event and first information session in Ankara, we conducted five additional sessions in Istanbul, Izmir, Gaziantep, Erzurum, and Samsun throughout July 2025, targeting CSOs from various regions, including Marmara, Aegean, Eastern, Southeastern, and Black Sea regions. We successfully engaged a total of 545 participants (502 in person and 43 online) to assist CSOs in effectively navigating the "Guidelines for Grant Applicants."



First Informative Session, Ankara
17 June 2025



Second Informative Session, Istanbul
2 July 2025



Third Informative Session, Izmir
3 July 2025



Fourth Informative Session, Gaziantep
10 July 2025



Fifth Informative Session, Erzurum
22 July 2025



Sixth Informative Session, Samsun
28 July 2025

Updates from Eco Future Grant Programme

The informative sessions provided participants with a comprehensive understanding of the programme's objectives, the application process, the required documentation, and key information on the Guidelines for Grant Applicants. Attendees were guided through the grant application system and offered step-by-step instructions on proposal preparation and annexes. The sessions played a crucial role in ensuring that potential applicants are well-informed and prepared for the application process.

Eco Future Grant Programme-Concept Note Stage Completed



As part of our two-stage application process, the Concept Note phase was successfully launched on 13 June 2025, inviting CSOs to submit their proposals via the Grant Programme Information System (GPIS).

Comprehensive details were made available through both the UNDP project page and the project website. Originally set to close on 1 August 2025, the deadline was extended to 11 August 2025 through Corrigendum No.2, allowing additional time for applicants to finalize their submissions.

Throughout this period, help desk support was provided by the Eco Future team, who responded to inquiries and offered guidance to applicants. A large number of applications was received, and the selection phase has been initiated. The official selection committee has been appointed, and two independent assessors have been brought on board to ensure an objective, fair and transparent selection process. The Concept Note phase marked a significant milestone in the grant programme, ensuring a transparent and well-supported application process for all interested CSOs.



United Nations International Days

World Cleanup Day, 20 September

Proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly in December 2023, World Cleanup Day is now officially observed every 20 September. The day serves as a global call to action, encouraging governments, civil society, businesses, and individuals to engage in cleanup efforts that support sustainable development and environmental stewardship. Facilitated by UN-Habitat, the observance highlights the importance of collective responsibility in maintaining clean and healthy ecosystems.

The inaugural celebration, held in Tromsø, Norway, focused on the theme “Arctic Cities and Marine Litter”. The event showcased Norway’s innovative waste management strategies and emphasized the role of collaboration, community engagement, and sustainable practices in protecting fragile environments.

Looking ahead to World Cleanup Day 2025, the global campaign will focus on the growing challenge of textile and fashion waste, which contributes significantly to pollution and climate change. Through clean-up activities and advocacy, the initiative aims to raise awareness, promote responsible consumption, and strengthen waste management systems in support of the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement.



Photo: © Unsplash/Naja Bertolt Jensen

Did You Know?



More than two billion people lack access to waste collection, more than three billion to controlled waste recovery or disposal facilities.



Good News Column

Species Recovery Offers Hope for Global Biodiversity

Recent conservation efforts have led to encouraging signs of recovery for several endangered species around the world. Targeted protection measures have helped populations of the Iberian lynx (*Lynx pardinus*), European bison (*Bison bonasus*), and humpback whale (*Megaptera novaeangliae*) rebound in recent years.



Iberian lynx
(*Lynx pardinus*)



Humpback whale
(*Megaptera novaeangliae*)



European bison
(*Bison bonasus*)

The Iberian lynx, once considered the world's most endangered feline, has seen its numbers rise due to habitat restoration and breeding programmes. Similarly, European bison have been successfully reintroduced into the wild across parts of Eastern Europe. Marine conservation laws and anti-whaling campaigns have also contributed to the steady recovery of humpback and blue whale populations.

These successes demonstrate that with sustained commitment and collaboration, biodiversity loss can be reversed—offering hope for ecosystems and species under threat.

Eco-Dictionary

Regenerative agriculture is a way of farming that nurtures and restores soil health, and therefore reduces water use, prevents land degradation, and promotes biodiversity. By minimizing land ploughing, practicing rotating crops, and using animal manure and compost, regenerative agriculture ensures that the soil stores more carbon, conserves more moisture, and is healthier due to thriving fungal communities.

Intensive agriculture is responsible for a third of global greenhouse gas emissions, uses 70 per cent of the fresh water we consume, and leads to soil degradation through its use of heavy machinery, chemical fertilisers, and pesticides. It is also the biggest contributor to biodiversity loss. By contrast, regenerative agriculture helps lower greenhouse gas emissions, conserves water and restores land. Moreover, healthy soil produces more food and better nutrition and has other positive impacts on ecosystems and biodiversity.

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