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ECO FUTURE GRANT PROGRAMME NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the fifth issue of the Eco-Future Grant Programme Newsletter!

In this edition, we highlight the progress made since the fourth issue in December 2025 and share key news on civil society organizations, climate change, and biodiversity.

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In 2025, we continued to advance the Eco-Future Grant Programme through sustained engagement, knowledge-sharing, and coordination with civil society organizations across Türkiye. During the year, we organized six informative sessions and two regional capacity-building programmes, providing inclusive platforms for dialogue, peer exchange, and local climate and biodiversity action. We ensured transparent and consistent communication by publishing four newsletter issues and submitting one comprehensive Progress Report outlining implementation achievements and future plans. In addition, we finalized four technical reports, contributing to the programme's analytical foundation and strategic direction.

We also convened seven Operation Coordination Unit (OCU) meetings in 2025, maintaining structured oversight, coordination, and alignment among stakeholders.

Looking ahead to 2026, we plan to organize further capacity-building programmes to strengthen advocacy, partnership development, and effective local-level implementation across Türkiye.

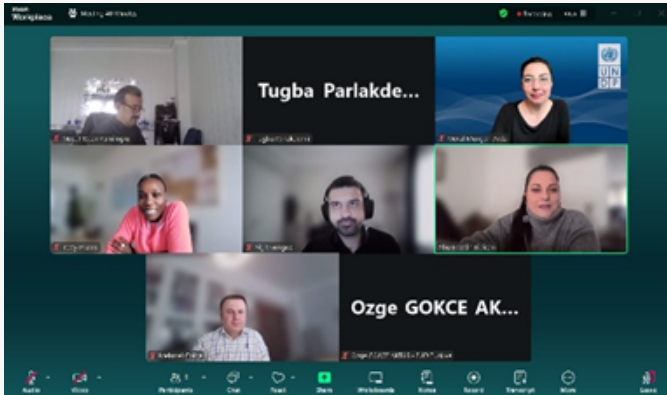


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Updates from Eco Future Grant Programme

Operation Coordination Unit Meetings



13th OCU Meeting on 27 February 2026

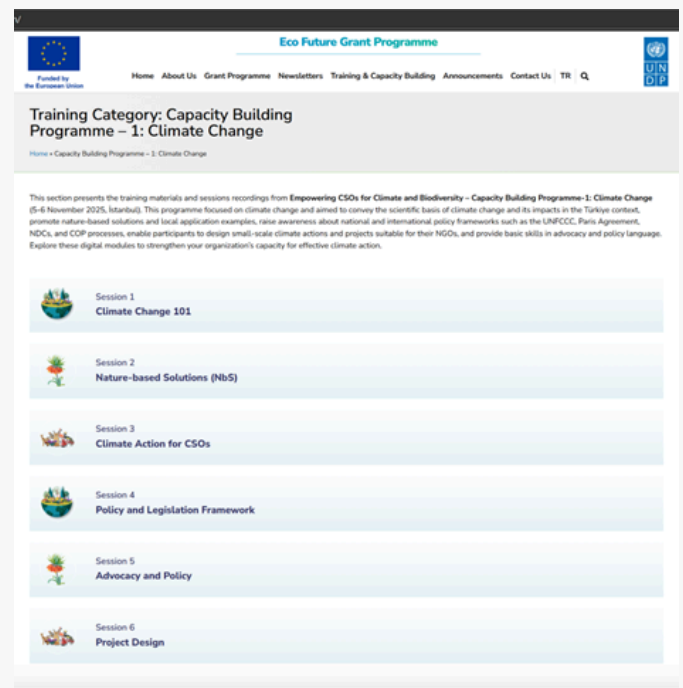
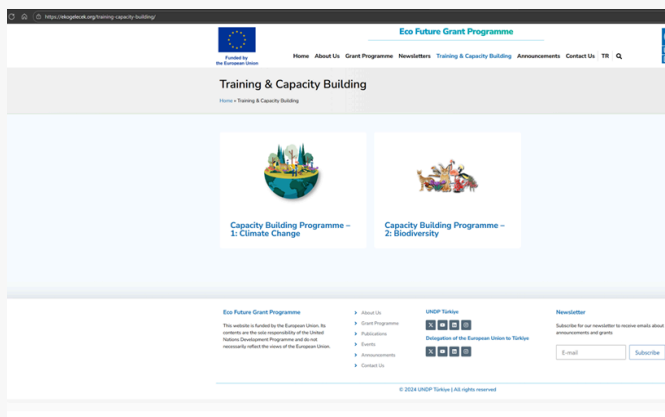
On 27 February 2026, we held a project coordination meeting with key team members to review progress and upcoming activities. We shared updates on both components of the project. Highlights included a comprehensive review of the grant evaluation process and statistical outcomes under Component B.

Thank you for staying connected! More updates are on the way as we advance towards our next milestones.

Capacity Building

As part of the project's capacity-building activities, presentation materials and recordings of the capacity-building programmes (Istanbul, 5-6 November 2025, and Izmir, 26-27 November 2025) have been uploaded to the project website ([Training & Capacity Building - Eco Future Grant Programme](#)).

We are compiling a library of resources from UN entities, the European Commission, and other reliable sources, organized into the categories of Climate Change, Biodiversity, Nature-Based Solutions, SDGs, and Sustainability. We will upload them to the project website and share via a social media post in the coming days.



United Nations International Days

World Wetlands Day, 2 February

Wetlands are ecosystems in which water is the primary factor. They encompass a wide range of habitats, including lakes and rivers, aquifers, marshes and swamps, peatlands, wet grasslands, estuaries and deltas, mangroves, coral reefs, and even human-made sites such as rice paddies, reservoirs, and salt pans. Although wetlands cover only about 6 per cent of the Earth's land surface, they support 40 per cent of all plant and animal species, making them among the most biologically diverse ecosystems on the planet. They provide essential ecosystem services such as water regulation, flood control, water purification, and carbon storage, contributing significantly to climate stability and disaster risk reduction.

World Wetlands Day is observed annually on 2 February to raise global awareness about the importance of wetlands and to promote their conservation and sustainable use. The day highlights the indispensable role wetlands play in supporting biodiversity, strengthening climate resilience, and advancing sustainable development. Through campaigns, community events, educational initiatives, and policy dialogue, it encourages governments, organizations, and individuals to recognize wetlands not as wastelands, but as life-giving ecosystems essential for our common future.

Theme for 2026: Wetlands and Traditional Knowledge – Celebrating Cultural Heritage

The 2026 theme explores the deep-rooted connections between wetlands and the cultural practices, traditions, and knowledge systems of communities worldwide. Indigenous peoples and local communities have long safeguarded wetlands through sustainable management practices grounded in traditional knowledge. This year's campaign emphasizes the importance of valuing and integrating this knowledge into conservation and restoration efforts, recognizing cultural heritage as a vital component of environmental stewardship.

Protecting and restoring wetlands is therefore essential for sustaining biodiversity, strengthening climate resilience, reducing poverty, and securing a sustainable and equitable future for all.

Source: <https://www.un.org/en/observances/world-wetlands-day>

Did you know?

About 1 in 8 people make their livelihoods from wetlands in ways that also provide food, water supplies, transport, and leisure.

Source: <https://www.un.org/en/observances/world-wetlands-day>



Good News Corner

Türkiye Ratifies the Global Ocean Treaty

On 17 January 2026, the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction-BBNJ Agreement (Global Ocean Treaty) officially entered into force, marking a historic milestone in international efforts to protect marine biodiversity. Türkiye formally ratified the Treaty following its approval by the Grand National Assembly and its publication in the Official Gazette, thereby joining the global community in advancing the protection of oceans.

The Treaty first opened for signature in September 2023, when United Nations Member States began endorsing the agreement. Türkiye signed the Treaty in 2024 and completed its ratification process in early 2026, culminating in its entry into force on 17 January 2026.

The Global Ocean Treaty establishes a comprehensive framework for the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction. It enables the designation of science-based marine protected areas in the high seas and strengthens international cooperation to safeguard ocean ecosystems. By doing so, it contributes to the responsible management of marine resources for present and future generations.

Environmental organizations welcomed Türkiye's ratification as an important step forward. As Türkiye prepares to host UNFCCC COP 31 in 2026, stakeholders underscore the opportunity for the country to demonstrate leadership not only through its endorsement of international agreements but also through active engagement in developing and implementing science-based conservation measures in the high seas.

Türkiye's bringing the Global Ocean Treaty into force on 17 January 2026 reflects a strong commitment to global environmental stewardship. The Treaty opens a new chapter in ocean governance and reinforces collective international efforts to ensure healthier, more resilient marine ecosystems worldwide.

Source: <https://www.un.org/bbnjagreement/en>

Eco-Dictionary

The Blue Economy is a concept that promotes economic development, social inclusion, and the preservation or improvement of livelihoods while ensuring the environmental sustainability of the oceans and coastal areas. This concept has diverse components, including established traditional ocean industries such as fisheries, tourism, and maritime transport, as well as new and emerging activities such as offshore renewable energy, aquaculture, seabed extractive activities, and marine biotechnology.

Seas provide essential resources such as water, food, and oxygen, and help regulate the climate. In the face of growing climate change risks, the blue economy approach seeks to balance economic growth with environmental protection by sustainably using marine and coastal resources.

Source: *The Climate Dictionary, 2023, UNDP*

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