



Funded by
the European Union



ECO FUTURE GRANT PROGRAMME NEWSLETTER

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

In this edition, we highlight the progress made since the fifth issue in March 2026 and share key news on civil society organizations, climate change, and biodiversity.

**JUNE 2026
ISSUE 6**

In the first half of 2026, we continued to significantly advance the Eco Future Grant Programme through intensive grant evaluation, stakeholder coordination, and capacity development activities supporting civil society organizations across Türkiye. During this period, we successfully completed the concept note evaluation phase of the grant programme, opening the door for the highly anticipated full application step. To review our progress, evaluate performance tracking frameworks, and align on upcoming project management milestones, we successfully convened the 14th Operational Coordination Unit (OCU) meeting, the third Technical Advisory Board (TAB) meeting, and the third project Steering Committee (SC) meeting.

In parallel, we have advanced preparations for subsequent regional capacity-building training tracks and future grant field monitoring missions, while continuously strengthening our project visibility and outreach. As we move deeper into 2026, we remain firmly committed to guiding and supporting innovative, climate-positive, and biodiversity-focused civil society initiatives, working hand in hand with our partners to contribute to a sustainable, net-zero, and nature-positive future for Türkiye.



*Candy basslet
Liopropoma carmabi*

Updates from Eco Future Grant Programme

Eco Future Grant Programme



We have completed the second year of implementation for the Eco Future Grant Programme. During our second year, we achieved significant progress under both the technical assistance and grant programme components. Under the grant programme component, we reached major milestones in the evaluation process. We also continued to strengthen coordination and stakeholder engagement mechanisms through regular meetings of the Operational Coordination Unit, the Steering Committee, and the Technical Advisory Board.

As we enter the third year, we will continue supporting civil society organizations in developing innovative, climate-positive, and nature-sensitive solutions.

On 4 May 2026, we announced the completion of the concept note evaluation process under the Eco Future Grant Programme and shared the evaluation results with applicants through their email addresses. We would like to thank all civil society organizations for their strong interest and valuable participation in the programme.

We invited applicants who passed the concept note step to proceed to the next step, the full application step of the grant process. Full applications were to be submitted in English through the online application system on the official UNDP Türkiye project page and the Eco Future Grant Programme website by 8 June 2026 at 23:59 (Türkiye time, GMT+3). We concluded this step and closed the submission window.

Operation Coordination Unit Meetings

On 22 April 2026, we held the 14th OCU meeting with project stakeholders to review progress and upcoming priorities under both components of the Eco Future Grant Programme. Key updates included the completion of administrative and eligibility assessments for all grant applications, progress in the concept note evaluation process, and preparations for the launch of the full application phase in May 2026.



14th OCU Meeting on 22 April 2026

The team also shared updates on the upcoming capacity-building programme and the planned engagement of Key Expert 2 in grant monitoring and implementation support activities.

Updates from Eco Future Grant Programme

Technical Advisory Board Meetings



3rd TAB Meeting on 28 April 2026

On 28 April 2026, we held the third Technical Advisory Board (TAB) meeting with representatives from relevant institutions, ministries, UNDP, and the Delegation of the European Union to Türkiye to review progress under the Eco Future Grant Programme. Our discussions focused on progress made across both project components, including completion of the concept note evaluation phase, preparations for the launch of the full application step, ongoing capacity-building activities, and upcoming grant implementation and monitoring processes.

Participants also exchanged views on future coordination opportunities and continued stakeholder engagement throughout the implementation phase.

Steering Committee Meetings

On 2 June 2026, we held the third project Steering Committee (SC) meeting with representatives from relevant institutions, ministries, UNDP, and the Delegation of the European Union to Türkiye to review progress under the Eco Future Grant Programme. Our discussions focused on the substantial progress made across both project components since the second Steering Committee Meeting, including the successful evaluation of the concept note applications and the ongoing transition to the full application step.



3rd SC Meeting on 2 June 2026

We reviewed the Project Annual Work Plan and budget for 2026, alongside an overview of the ongoing Project Quality Assurance (PQA) frameworks, project monitoring and evaluation systems, and the updated project risk register with our committee members. Our meeting highlighted key capacity-building achievements, such as the initial regional training workshops, while establishing a strategic look-ahead toward the completion of full application evaluations, upcoming grant implementation period, and subsequent monitoring missions. To ensure the long-term quality, transparency, and impactful closure of the grant projects, our committee members exchanged views on operational timelines, including endorsing the exploration of a strategic project extension and mapping future stakeholder collaboration opportunities around upcoming climate and biodiversity milestones such as COP31.

Thank you for following our journey. Stay tuned for more updates as we continue advancing the Eco Future Grant Programme and its upcoming milestones.

United Nations International Days

International Day for Biological Diversity, 22 May

Observed annually on 22 May, the International Day for Biological Diversity aims to raise awareness of the vital role biodiversity plays in sustaining life on Earth and supporting human well-being. Established by the United Nations, the Day highlights the importance of protecting ecosystems, species, and genetic diversity, all of which are essential for food security, health, livelihoods, climate resilience, and sustainable development. From forests and oceans to agricultural landscapes, biodiversity forms the foundation of healthy ecosystems and economies worldwide.



The 2026 theme, **“Acting locally for global impact,”** emphasizes the critical role of local action in delivering effective responses to global environmental challenges and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The theme also underscores the importance of a 'whole-of-society' approach to connect on-the-ground initiatives with the 23 global targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. Serving as a crucial midpoint milestone between the adoption of the framework and its 2030 deadline, the Day highlights that halting and reversing biodiversity loss hinges on leveraging the vital contributions of civil society, local communities, and sub-national actors alongside national government efforts. At a time when ecosystems face accelerated pressure from climate change, habitat fragmentation, and unsustainable consumption patterns, the Day serves as an urgent reminder to translate global commitments into concrete local actions to protect nature, build environmental resilience, and secure a sustainable future for all.

Sources: <https://www.un.org/en/observances/biological-diversity-day/>
<https://knowledge4policy.ec.europa.eu/event/international-day-biological-diversity-2026/>
<https://www.cbd.int/idb/default.shtml> <https://www.cbd.int/biodiversity-day/2026>



United Nations International Days

World Environment Day, 5 June

Observed every year on 5 June, World Environment Day is one of the most widely recognized global platforms dedicated to raising awareness and encouraging action for environmental protection. Established by the United Nations following the 1972 Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment, the Day has since played a key role in mobilizing governments, institutions, civil society, and individuals to address pressing environmental challenges and advance sustainable solutions worldwide.

Over the decades, World Environment Day has highlighted critical issues ranging from climate change and biodiversity loss to pollution and ecosystem degradation, while promoting collective responsibility for protecting the planet.

The 2026 theme, “Inspired by Nature. For Climate. For Our Future,” draws urgent attention to the intensifying global climate crisis and the necessity of nature-based solutions. With the past eleven years marking the hottest on record and the world dangerously close to crossing the critical 1.5°C warming threshold, the campaign calls for immediate, large-scale collective mobilization through the **#NowForClimate** initiative. It highlights that healthy ecosystems, acting as the planet’s original climate solution, are not optional but foundational to regulation, carbon absorption, and community resilience. By shifting focus toward scaling up clean technologies, transitioning to renewable energy, and cutting super-pollutants like methane, the global community is encouraged to respond to the Earth’s warming signals with decisive action, ensuring a safer, healthier, and more equitable future for all.

Sources:

<https://www.un.org/en/observances/biological-diversity-day/>

<https://knowledge4policy.ec.europa.eu/event/international-day-biological-diversity-2026/>

<https://www.cbd.int/idb/default.shtml> <https://www.cbd.int/biodiversity-day/2026>

Did you know?

Healthy ecosystems absorb nearly half of the greenhouse gas emissions produced by human activities each year, making biodiversity one of our strongest natural allies in tackling climate change. Yet, around one million plant and animal species are currently threatened with extinction due to human-induced pressures on nature.

Source: <https://www.un.org/en/climatechange/science/climate-issues/biodiversity>



Good News Corner

Takkeli Cılıbt Spotted in Türkiye for the First Time

In March 2026, birdwatchers in Türkiye recorded an exciting biodiversity milestone with the first-ever sighting of the "takkeli cılıbt" (*Thinornis tricolor*) at Hancağız Dam in Gaziantep. The species, which is normally found in Sub-Saharan Africa, including around the Nile River basin, as well as Madagascar, became the 504th bird species officially recorded in Türkiye. The observation attracted significant interest from nature observers and further highlighted the ecological importance of Türkiye's wetlands and migratory bird routes.



Photographed by Yakup Yener, Nature Photographer

The discovery also renewed calls for stronger protection of wetland ecosystems and biodiversity-rich habitats. Nature observers emphasized the importance of conserving areas such as Hancağız Dam, which continue to provide refuge for migratory and rare bird species and contribute to Türkiye's growing importance for biodiversity monitoring and conservation efforts.

Source: TRT Haber, "Türkiye'de ilk kez takkeli cılıbt kuşu görüldü", March 2026.

Eco-Dictionary

A **carbon sink** is any natural or human-made system that absorbs more carbon dioxide from the atmosphere than it releases. Forests, oceans, soils, wetlands, and marine ecosystems are among the world's most important carbon sinks, helping regulate the climate by storing carbon over long periods.

However, human activities such as deforestation and fossil fuel use are reducing the ability of these ecosystems to absorb carbon effectively. Protecting and restoring carbon sinks is therefore essential in addressing climate change.

Source: The Climate Dictionary, 2023, UNDP

This publication was funded by the European Union. Its contents are the sole responsibility of the United Nations Development Programme Türkiye Country Office and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union.



@EUDelegationTur

@undpturkiye

Access our website: <https://ekogelecek.org/>