

GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY

PROPOSAL FOR PDF BLOCK B GRANT

1	Countries	Bulgaria, Georgia, Romania, Russian Federation, Turkey, Ukraine
2	Focal Area	International Waters
3	Operational Programme	OP 8 - Waterbody-based
4	Project Title	Nutrient Reduction Programme - Regional Project for the Black Sea
5	Total Cost	US\$510,920
6	PDF Request	US\$349,920
7	In-kind contribution	EU-Tacis US\$84,000 (long-term expert plus 1 support staff) Turkey US\$77,000 (provision of building, utilities, security and ground maintenance)
8	Requesting Agency	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in association with the World Bank, UNEP and the Black Sea Commission
9	Executing Agency	United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS)
	Block	PDF Block B
10	Duration	9 months (October 1999 – June 2000)

1.1 Project objective

The main objective of the GEF Nutrient Reduction Programme for the Black Sea is to assist in implementation of the practical measures for restoring and protecting the Black Sea environment agreed by the coastal countries in the 1996 Strategic Action Plan (SAP) for the Rehabilitation and Protection of the Black Sea. The SAP provides the policy framework to implement priority actions and address transboundary environmental concerns associated with, amongst others, sustainable fisheries, tourism, conservation of living marine resources and coastal landscapes, and pollution from shipping and land-based sources. The most important transboundary issue identified in the Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) and addressed in the SAP is the reduction of nutrient inputs to the Black Sea from riverine and land-based sources. As a component of the GEF's basin-wide Programmatic Approach to the Black Sea, the proposed programme will help the Black Sea countries to develop and implement action plans to prevent and remedy nutrient releases, through a combination of:

- development, reform and enforcement of environmental policy and legislation;
- application of economic instruments;
- strengthening public participation in nutrients reduction (through programmes of public awareness and environmental education); and
- monitoring of trends and compliance for nutrient reduction goals.

The programme will in addition, during implementation, help to strengthen the institutional and management capacities of the nascent Black Sea Secretariat, particularly on issues related to basin-wide control of nutrients and eutrophication.

1.2 Global significance

The Black Sea is widely recognized as one of the regional seas most damaged by human activity. Almost one third of the entire land area of continental Europe drains into this sea. It is an area, which includes major parts of seventeen countries, thirteen capital cities and some 160 million persons. The second, third and fourth major European rivers, the Danube, Dnieper and Don, discharge into this sea while its only connection to the world's oceans is the narrow Bosphorus Strait. The Bosphorus is as little as 70 meters deep and 700 meters wide but the depth of the Black Sea itself exceeds two kilometers in places. Contaminants and nutrients enter the Black Sea via river run-off mainly and by direct discharge from land-based sources. The management of the Black Sea itself is the shared responsibility of the six coastal countries: Bulgaria, Georgia, Romania, Russian Federation, Turkey, and Ukraine.

In a period of only three decades (1960's-1980's), the Black Sea has suffered the catastrophic degradation of a major part of its natural resources. Particularly acute problems have arisen as a result of pollution (notably from nutrients, fecal material, solid waste and oil), a catastrophic decline in commercial fish stocks, a severe decrease in tourism and an uncoordinated approach towards coastal zone management. Increased loads of nutrients from rivers and coastal sources caused an overproduction of phytoplankton leading to extensive eutrophication and often extremely low dissolved oxygen concentrations. The entire ecosystem began to collapse. This problem, coupled with pollution and irrational exploitation of fish stocks, started a sharp decline in fisheries resources.

The transboundary nature of most of these problems, coupled with earlier political realities, was the main reason for the insufficiency of previous control measures. The problems themselves also have important extra-regional and global dimensions. One of the main factors in the decline of Black Sea fisheries has been the introduction of alien species, for example, the massive invasion of the Black Sea by a comb jelly, *Mnemiopsis leidyi*, which was probably accidentally

introduced one decade ago in ship-borne ballast water from the eastern seaboard of America. Its presence in the Black Sea represents a threat to other regional seas. Similarly, quantities of persistent pollutants, such as “persistent organic pollutants”, reach the Black Sea basin and reduction in their input to the Black Sea is an essential part of a global strategy to control them. Finally, the conservation of biodiversity in the Black Sea as well as the preservation of Black Sea habitats, vital for endangered migratory bird populations, has an important global significance.

1.3 Background

A Framework for Action

Inspired by the Regional Seas Conventions the Black Sea countries drafted their own “Convention for the Protection of the Black Sea against Pollution” that was signed in Bucharest in April 1992, and ratified by all six legislative assemblies by early 1994. The “Bucharest Convention” includes a basic framework of agreement and three specific Protocols, which are: (1) the control of land-based sources of pollution; (2) dumping of waste; and (3) joint action in the case of accidents (such as oil spills). Its implementation is to be managed by a Commission with a permanent Secretariat in Istanbul (the Istanbul Commission).

A Ministerial Declaration on the Protection of the Black Sea Environment was signed by all six Ministers of the Environment in Odessa in April 1993 in order to set the goals, priorities and timetable needed to bring about environmental actions. The document is based largely upon the Agenda 21 adopted at the UN Conference on Environment and Development in 1992.

In order to make an early start to environmental action and to develop a longer-term Action Plan, the Black Sea countries requested support from the Global Environment Facility and a three-year Black Sea Environmental Programme (BSEP) was established. The most important achievements of BSEP were the Transboundary Diagnostic Analyses (TDA) and the regional Strategic Action Plan for the Rehabilitation and Protection of the Black Sea (BS-SAP).

The TDA and its supplement “Black Sea Pollution Hot Spots” report identified and analysed perceived transboundary problems, their root causes and the areas where action is required. The BS-SAP is an innovative document, in which the governments of the Black Sea countries, together with the wider international community, commit themselves to a pragmatic programme of actions based upon common objectives and milestones for restoring and protecting the Black Sea. Adopted by the six coastal countries on 31 October 1996, together with the Bucharest Convention, BS-SAP forms a comprehensive framework for sustainable regional management. Since signing the Black Sea-SAP all the coastal countries have drafted National Black Sea Strategic Action Plans (NBS-SAPs) adding to commitments already made under the Black Sea-SAP and amalgamating the findings of the TDA and priority studies, binding them into more focussed plans. The countries are currently in the process of ratifying these plans. The next stage, in line with the GEF programmatic approach, will be to encourage the countries to address the core-problem of Black Sea decline, identified in the TDA and SAP, namely nutrient loading (see below) as a priority. An important activity of the PDF-B will be the provision of support to the countries in for planning the development of national nutrient reduction action plans (NAPs).

During its five years tenure an effective network of institutions covering the six main regional themes has been built within the framework of the BSEP. Supported by the BSEP Programme Implementation Unit (PIU) based in Istanbul, strong Regional Activity Centers (RACs) have developed in the Black Sea countries. The RACs in the Ukraine (monitoring), Romania (fisheries) and Bulgaria (shipping) are capable, once they have been adopted by the Istanbul

Commission, of developing and implementing their own programmes in support of the Black Sea-SAP. The RACs in Russia (ICZM) and Georgia (Biodiversity) still need further strengthening before reaching this stage. EU-Tacis is currently providing support to these two RACs through their 97/98 Black Sea programme, which will continue until December 2000.

Alongside the activities of the RACs, increased public awareness of the Black Sea's critical condition has been a major and continuing achievement of BSEP. Tacis generously funds NGO activities in the region and plans for the next Black Sea Action Day on 31 October 1999 are well advanced.

In addition to Tacis, EU Phare multi-country programme continues to support environmental activity in the Black Sea. On-going projects include a study of Port Reception Facilities in Romania, Bulgaria and Turkey and chemical monitoring technical assistance to the monitoring focal points in Romania and Bulgaria. The International Maritime Organisation together with the RAC in Varna is also very active. They continue with the development of the Regional Oil and Chemical spill contingency plan and are launching a study into management of ballast waters to protect against the introduction of exotic species this autumn, and have begun an initiative to introduce Port State Control in the Black Sea.

Transboundary Issues:

The Black Sea ecosystem is a semi-enclosed water body connected with the Mediterranean Sea through a narrow and shallow strait-Bosphorus. Contaminants and nutrients enter the Black Sea via river run-off mainly and by direct discharging from land-based sources. Threats to sustainable development are eutrophication and algae blooms in coastal and offshore waters, overexploitation of fisheries, introduced alien species. The chain of events leading to the decline of the ecosystem started with an increase in nutrient flux down the major rivers in the late 1960's.

In August 1998, a joint Danube-Black Sea Technical Working Group came to the conclusion that:

“the long term goal is for all Black Sea basin countries to take measures to reduce nutrient levels and other hazardous substances to such a level to permit Black Sea ecosystems to recover to similar conditions as those observed in the 1960s”.

and, “as an intermediate goal, urgent control measures should be taken by all countries in the Black Sea basin, in order to avoid that discharges of nitrogen and phosphorus to the Black Sea exceed those levels observed in 1997”.

To meet these goals will require the Black Sea countries to adopt and declare strategies that permit economic development whilst ensuring appropriate practices and measures to limit nutrient discharge, and to rehabilitate ecosystems which assimilate nitrogen and phosphorus. It should be noted that, from 1991-1997, with the severe downturn in the Central and Eastern European economies, the nitrogen and phosphorus burdens to the Black Sea from the Danube River fell by 62% and 48%, respectively. Preliminary data indicate that the Black Sea ecosystem is responding favorably to these reduced nutrient burdens, further underscoring the need to take measures to maintain nutrient flows at their 1997 levels or below.

Assisting the countries to implement these necessary measures is the main objective of the proposed GEF Black Sea Basin Programmatic Approach, which consists of the following two basic components:

1. A “Strategic partnership” to prepare country level investment projects for nutrient reduction under the leadership of the World Bank.
2. GEF Regional Projects (Danube and Black Sea) to support regional coordination, capacity building and policy, legal and institutional reforms for nutrient reduction. These will be jointly implemented by the three GEF implementing agencies under the leadership of UNDP.

Through the World Bank-GEF Strategic Partnership, projects will be identified which will make a significant contribution to the control and/or abatement of nutrient discharges to the Black Sea. The two Regional Projects would strengthen the capacity of the two Secretariats on nutrient reduction issues; facilitate nutrient reduction policy/legal reforms in the countries; facilitate public involvement in nutrient reduction; support development of indicators and monitoring of trends and compliance; and provide the framework for the dissemination and replication of successful demonstration activities in the region. This proposal for a PDF-Block B grant will help prepare the Black Sea Regional Project.

1.4 Project description

The Black Sea Regional Project will support the countries in the development and implementation of their national nutrient reduction strategies. These reduction strategies will include many opportunities for affordable incremental cost investments, often through policy adjustments, changes in consumer practice (e.g. encouraging the use of non-phosphate detergents), or by employing alternative technology. The Regional Project will also assess the efficiency and effects of practical measures to reduce nutrient discharges and improve environmental management, such as the packages of investments and grants which would be developed in parallel by the World Bank-GEF Strategic Partnership.

The Project will include, inter alia, the following elements:

- a feasibility study for a nutrient reduction trading system at the national and multi-country levels;
- actions for revising the Protocols of the Bucharest Convention in accordance with the Global Programme of Action (GPA), particularly with reference to the control of nutrients and eutrophication;
- formulation and implementation of policy and legislation with respect to nutrient discharge and control;
- initiatives aimed at the local level to encourage public awareness and changes in consumer and sectoral practices that cause nutrient pollution;
- Development and monitoring of Black Sea process, stress reduction and environmental status indicators;
- increasing the national NGO capacities and identify means of strengthening NGO cooperation on the regional scale in addressing the nutrients issue;

It has been recognised that at the commencement of the GEF regional project the Secretariat to the Black Sea Commission will itself have only just been established, and it will lack the institutional and management capacity to implement a complex environmental project. It is proposed therefore that, during a transitional period of up to a year, the regional project be managed by the CTA of the Project PIU. Through cooperative activities between the PIU and Secretariat and on-the-job training, the Secretariat will be assisted in building its institutional and management capacity during this transitional period. For this purpose a Memorandum of

Understanding will be drafted and signed during the project development stage by the Black Sea Commission and UNDP setting out the management and transitional responsibilities for the Regional Project. The Memorandum of Understanding is required to ensure that final responsibility for project implementation resides with the Black Sea Commission and its Secretariat, and the PIU's role is limited to advisory and support body. It may be necessary to increase the number of Secretariat staff at this stage to cope with the enlarged management responsibility

1.5 Description of proposed PDF activities

The activities proposed for the PDF are aimed at developing a GEF Black Sea Regional Project brief and would include:

- Activity 1: Establishment of coordination mechanisms between the Istanbul Commission, the related country ministries and institutions and the funding agencies during the project preparation stage by establishing an inter-ministerial coordination body in each country; this body will be charged with development of national nutrient reduction action plans during the full project. Efforts will be made to utilize and built upon existing inter-ministerial mechanisms, e.g. the UNDP-supported National Agenda 21 processes.
- Activity 2: Assess existing and planned policies and legislation (including enforcement) in each country with respect to nutrient discharge and control. Identify barriers to legal and policy reform and subsequent remedial measures which the Regional Project could help address. Assist the countries to develop draft framework nutrient reduction plans for implementation over the next five years. The plans would include: 1) summaries of the existing situation in each country (nutrient inputs including sectoral contributions, largest hot spots, status of national legislation and policy); and 2) Five year Action Programs (national/baseline and incremental/GEF) of investments, policy, legal and institutional reforms; and 3) a monitoring and assessment programme to track the indicators identified in Activity 3.
- Activity 3: Develop a preliminary set of Black Sea ecosystem indicators based on GEF's process, stress reduction and environmental status framework. Indicator monitoring and assessment activities which are eligible under GEF criteria will be identified and considered for funding under the Regional Project.
- Activity 4: Identify and design regional project activities to facilitate broad stakeholder (public, NGO's, private sector) involvement in and awareness of basin-wide nutrient reduction activities.
- Activity 5: Draft a Memorandum of Understanding between UNDP and the Black Sea Commission outlining management responsibilities and transition plans for the regional project.
- Activity 6: Design training activities including study tours between the Black Sea Secretariat and other relevant regional waterbody Commissions and secretariats (e.g. HELCOM, MAP, etc.) to share strategies and experiences in addressing transboundary issues.

Activity 7: Coordination meetings between Black Sea PIU and Danube Secretariat in respective regional project preparation exercises with respect to the countries that belong to both the Black Sea and Danube (to avoid duplication).

Activity 8: Coordination and briefings with UNDP Country Offices in mainstreaming nutrient reduction issues into planned and ongoing UNDP country and regional programmes (e.g. policy and legislative reforms, awareness raising, institutional reform, etc.), taking advantage of UNDP-supported fora, such as Agenda 21 Committees, National Sustainable Development Committees and other inter-sectoral bodies. Secure UNDP co-financing commitments.

Activity 9: Identify and prepare activities and mechanisms under the Regional Project to:

- Promote dissemination and replication of successful nutrient reduction strategies by documenting and sharing lessons learned and facilitating exchanges between projects and countries;
- Coordinate with existing and emerging GEF International Waters and Biodiversity interventions in the Black Sea basin to ensure their involvement in and coherence with the programmatic approach;
- Dialog and coordinate with investment banks involved in Black Sea basin interventions, such as EBRD;
- Participate in EBRD's PPC process to promote and facilitate support for the Programmatic Approach among the basin's donor community.

Activity 10. Organize a Black Sea Basin Stocktaking Meeting in Istanbul with the participation of 1-2 representatives from each basin country as well as GEF IA's, GEF Secretariat, regional development banks and other relevant agencies. The Stocktaking Meeting would consider the following subjects for discussion, with a view to building support for the programmatic approach to the Black Sea basin:

- the draft Regional Projects for the Danube and the Black Sea;
- the World Bank-GEF Strategic Partnership;
- existing and planned nutrient reduction policies and legislation in the Black Sea basin;
- draft framework nutrient reduction plans from each basin country;
- other GEF and donor activities which support the programmatic approach;
- proposed coordination arrangements between the two UNDP led Regional Projects and the World Bank-GEF Strategic Partnership.

Activity 11: Complete the Black Sea regional project preparation process; draft the final version of the GEF Project Brief and UNDP Project Document with the assistance of an external consultant.

Prepare UNEP Regional Project component on nutrient oriented GPA Protocol to the Bucharest Convention.

Prepare World Bank component of Regional Project on Tradable Nutrient permit feasibility study.

An inception meeting among the collaborating agencies was held in late September 1999 and provision will be made for another meeting of collaborating agencies toward the end of the

PDF-B to discuss the outputs of the project development process and the draft Project Brief of the Regional Project. During the course of the PDF-B implementation the PIU will prepare monthly written progress reports outlining achievements and constraints, including any programming issues for further consideration.

Special collaboration arrangements between PIU and the World Bank would be established during implementation of the PDF-B activities to ensure that:

- the management structures within countries and of the Regional Project are compatible with the structure proposed for the Strategic Partnership. Particular importance will be given to the need to establish effective in-country inter-ministerial cooperation bodies to develop and implement national nutrient reduction programmes (activities 1 and 5);
- in drafting the Project Brief (activity 11) the Regional Project is designed to provide maximum support to the Strategic Partnership in line with GEF guidelines, and that arrangements are in place for the World Bank to be regularly informed and consulted and actively involved in the management process at key decision moments; and
- where the World Bank and UNDP's agreed areas of interest coincide (for example, activities 2 and 3) the World Bank will be invited to participate and if appropriate take a lead in the implementation.

Collaboration with the World Bank will be coordinated through the offices of the concerned Task manager appointed by the World Bank.

UNOPS is proposed to be the executing agency for the PDF-B. As the executing agency for BSEP since the commencement of the programme UNOPS possesses the institutional memory and knowledge of the issues and coordination challenges facing the PIU in the region. Their experience and knowledge of BSEP and its various funding mechanisms will be invaluable when designing the Regional Project and in negotiations with the countries. In addition UNOPS execution would provide a comparative cost advantage over other competing Executing Agencies.

1.6 PDF Block B Outputs

The proposed PDF Block B outputs will be:

- Establishment of inter-ministerial coordination bodies for development and implementation of nutrient reduction programmes in all participating Black Sea countries.
- A full inventory of existing national policies, legislation and regulations relating to nutrient removal in municipal and industrial WWT, control of the use of fertilizers (organic and inorganic), and the identification of necessary steps to be taken regarding legal, policy and regulatory reform. Identification of status and need for legislation on prohibiting or phasing-out the use of phosphorus detergent and proposals for introducing new legislation and/or better enforcing existing legislation;
- Enhanced country commitment to the Black Sea Basin Nutrient Reduction Programme in the form of draft framework nutrient reduction national action plans (NAPs).
- Preliminary process, stress reduction and environmental status indicators for long-term monitoring of the Black Sea's response to the basin-wide approach;
- Regional project activities designed to facilitate broad public awareness of and involvement in Black Sea basin nutrient reduction;

- UNDP country office and SURF commitments to mainstreaming Black Sea Regional Project objectives into their national and regional program activities;
- Draft Memorandum of Understanding between the Commission and UNDP, with regard to the management of the Regional Project during the transition period;
- Twinning activities for the Regional project designed to transfer valuable lessons learned from mature international waterbody commissions and secretariats to the new Black Sea Secretariat;
- A full GEF project brief and UNDP Project Document detailing the approach to be taken in the Black Sea Regional Project;
- A UNEP Regional project component for development of a nutrient-oriented GPA Protocol to the Bucharest Convention;
- A Regional Project component under the World Bank for a Tradable Nutrients permit feasibility study;
- Coordination between the Black Sea PIU and Danube Secretariat on respective Regional Project activities in Danube-Black Sea 'overlapping' countries;
- Agreed coordination and information sharing mechanisms with other pertinent GEF activities in the Black Sea basin, and with other investment banks in the region, including the PPC process;
- Mechanisms built into the Regional Project to ensure dissemination, replication and sustainability of the Regional Project and Strategic Partnership interventions.

1.7 Eligibility

The proposal is eligible under the GEF Operational Programme Number 8 "Waterbody-based Operational Programme". The transboundary, regional and global effects presented in Section 1.2 further enhance the Nutrient Reduction Programme's eligibility under GEF's criteria.

The Programme will help the Black Sea countries to utilise the full range of technical, economic, financial, regulatory and institutional measures in order to make operable sustainable development strategies for international waters and their drainage basin, coastal zones and marine environment.

1.8 National level support

The Black Sea Nutrient Reduction Programme is of regional and national priority, as demonstrated in the TDA and BS-SAP and it is consistent with the national environmental policies outlined in the NEAPs of the coastal countries. By requesting GEF assistance to help address serious transboundary environmental problems in the Black Sea; by their participation in different activities in the framework of BSEP; and by approving the Black Sea Strategic Action Plan, the coastal countries have demonstrated their support and commitment. Copies of the endorsement letters for the present PDF-B proposal received from the six countries are contained in Appendix B.

1.9 Justification-Global benefit

There is a real need to establish protective measures in order to prevent further degradation of the Black Sea marine environment. The most important phenomenon affecting the Black Sea – eutrophication – is a transboundary one and can be successfully addressed only by the concerted efforts of the entire suite of basin countries, with the support of the international organisations. As the economies of the Black Sea countries are still very weak, external support is essential to provide the initial momentum and then to galvanize country participation and commitment. The

involvement of GEF in addition will help to attract and coordinate a wide spectrum of international funding partners and provide an increased emphasis on transboundary environmental issues.

Regional Benefits. The PDF grant will help to establish the regional and the national structures needed for the management and ultimate full implementation of the Nutrient Reduction Programme in the Black Sea. A regional structure is required in order to coordinate the country activities in general, ensure consistent and prioritised NAPs, ensure the liaison among the GEF partners (WB, UNDP and UNEP), and the national governments, competent national bodies, national and regional institutions and NGOs.

Global benefits. All semi-enclosed seas around the world face similar challenges as the Black Sea. By developing sound and effective arrangements for the reduction of nutrient inputs the overall project will contribute to reducing the impact of pollution on the global marine environment, thus contributing to the implementation of GPA. A number of global benefits will accrue from this nutrient reduction programme:

- Strengthened capacity of national and regional institutions basin-wide to identify, plan and manage activities related to nutrient reduction and sustainable use of coastal and maritime resources;
- A model for resource management in a region gradually emerging from severe economic crises following a transition period;
- Improved regional stability and security by supporting regional dialogue and joint action in addressing the transboundary environmental concerns;
- Reversal of the trend of declining biodiversity and fisheries resources by addressing the problem of eutrophication of the coastal waters.

2.0 Timetable

PDF B activities are planned to start in October 1999 and are to be completed by the end of May 2000 when the Secretariat of the Commission on the Bucharest Convention is expected to be fully established. The Black Sea Regional Project and the World Bank-GEF Strategic Partnership on Nutrient Reduction will be presented to the GEF Council in May 2000.

21. Budget

Activity	Task	Cost(\$US)
1	Country Coordination between the Istanbul Commission, related country ministries and institutions. Establishment of inter-ministerial coordination bodies for the implementation of the Regional Project (meetings, mission costs, etc.)	15,000
2	Assess the existing national policies and legislation on nutrient discharge and control, identify barriers to legal and policy reforms and regional project activities to overcome them (national and international consultants).	40,000
3	Preliminary development of process, stress reduction and environmental status indicators; identification of national and regional monitoring mechanisms (consultant).	10,000
4	Design of regional project public participation activities (consultant/NGO)	10,000
5	Draft MOU between UNDP and the Black Sea Commission	PIU
6	Design of twinning exercises between the Black Sea Secretariat and established international waterbody commissions (meetings, missions)	10,000
7	Coordination with the Danube Secretariat (meetings, mission costs)	4,000
8	Coordination with six UNDP Country Offices in mainstreaming nutrient reduction issues (meetings, mission costs)	12,000
9	Participation in the PPC process; coordination with other GEF projects in basin; design of programme-wide coordination, dissemination and replication activities (meetings, mission costs)	10,000
10	Stocktaking meeting for the Black Sea basin (meetings)	48,000
11	Design of World Bank component on tradable nutrient emission permits feasibility study (consultant)	15,000
11	Complete the GEF Project Brief and UNDP Project Document (consultant)	15,000
11	Design of UNEP project component on nutrient-oriented GPA protocol to Bucharest Convention	15,000
	Overall PDF B coordination (PIU staff)	81,000
	PIU travel, coordination with GEF Implementing Agencies and GEF Secretariat	20,000
	Miscellaneous (PIU office expenses = copying, communications, consumables, etc.)	19,000
		324,000
	Project Support Services (8%)	25,920
	TOTAL	349,920

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02 AUG 1999

MINISTRY OF WATERS, FORESTS AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
*General Directorate for European Integration, Programmes,
Projects and International Affairs*

B-dul Libertatii nr. 12, Sector 5, Bucharest, ROMANIA
tel: 40 -1- 410 53 86 or 312 55 07; fax: +40 -1- 312 55 07

From: Mihai COZARIUC, General Director
Ministry of Waters, Forests and Environmental Protection

To: Black Sea Programme Secretariat
Fax: +90 212 227 99 33

2nd August 1999
Bucharest

Dear Madame/ Sir

*This letter is to confirm our endorsement for the actual Project Development Facility -
Blok B Grant - Nutrient Reduction Programme, Regional Project for the Black Sea.*

We consider this programme very important for improving the actual Black Sea situation.

Hoping in a very good collaboration with you, please accept our highest consideration

Sincerely yours,

Mihai COZARIUC
General Director



**REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND WATER**

67 W. Gladstone St., 1000 Sofia, Bulgaria; Tel:+359 2 981 4982 ; Fax:+359 2 986 4848

06 AUG 1999

**BLACK SEA PCU
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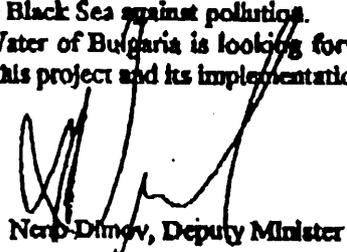
To
Dr. Radu Mihnea, Coordinator of the
Black Sea Environmental Programme (BSEP),
Programme Implementation Unit (PIU)
Dolmabahce Sarayi II, Harekat Kosku
80680 Besiktas, ISTANBUL, TURKEY
Fax: 0090 212 227 9933

Subject: Proposal for PFD Block B Grant

Dear Dr. MIRNEA,

With this letter we endorse the application for a PFD Block B grant for the preparation of the Nutrient Reduction Programme: Black Sea Regional Project, which will be one more step towards the goal of protection of the Black Sea against pollution. The Ministry of Environment and Water of Bulgaria is looking forward to collaborating with the BSEP PIU in the preparation of this project and its implementation.

Yours sincerely,



Neno Dimov, Deputy Minister

05.08.1999
Sofia

V.D./



საქართველოს გარემოსა და ბუნებრივი
რესურსების დაცვის სამინისტრო
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT OF GEORGIA

საქართველო 380015 თბილისი, შ. კოსტავას 68 ა. ტელ: 33-15-82, ფაქსი: 98-34-2594-36-70 .

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E-mail: gmepr@caucasus.net

28 07 1999
N 01-3/908

To: the coordinator of
BSEP PIU in Istanbul
Mr. Radu Mihnea

From: Deputy Minister of
Environment Protection of Georgia
Mr. Merab Sharabidze

With this letter we endorse the application for a PDF Block B grant for the preparation of the Nutrient Reduction Programme: Black Sea Regional Project, which will be one more step towards the goal of protection the Black Sea against pollution.

The Ministry of Environment of Georgia is looking forward to collaborating with the BSEP PIU in the preparation of this project and its eventual implementation.

With great respect,

Merab Sharabidze
Deputy Minister



**MINISTRY FOR ENVIRONMENT
DEPUTY STATE SECRETARY
KIHA-2807/1999**

30.09.1999.

**Mr Christopher Briggs
Regional Coordinator**

UNDP GEF RBEC

New York

**Subject: Letter of Endorsement for the project proposal: Building Environmental
Citizenship to Support Transboundary Pollution Reduction in the Danube: A Pilot
Project in Hungary and Slovenia"**

Dear Mr. Briggs,

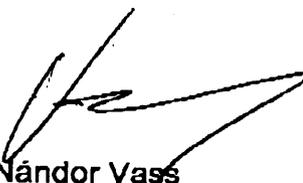
hereby I would like to inform you that Hungary supports the UNDP-GEF initiative for
the above mentioned project and we will be glad to participate in its implementation.

As the designated GEF Focal Point for Hungary, I am pleased to endorse the project
proposal: "Building Environmental Citizenship to Support Transboundary Pollution
Reduction in the Danube: A Pilot Project in Hungary and Slovenia".

Yours sincerely,

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RÖEC REGISTRY	
OCT 1 1999	
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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ACTION	<input type="checkbox"/> INFORMATION
TO: <u>CB</u>	

<input type="checkbox"/> ACTION COMPLETED	
<input type="checkbox"/> ACKNOWLEDGE	
<input type="checkbox"/> NO ACTION REQUIRED	
INITIALS _____	



**Dr Nándor Vass
Deputy State Secretary
GEF Political and
Operational Focal Point**

**To: Mr. Philippe Algualé
Representative of UNDP in Russian Federation**

Dear Mr. Algualé

Inform You Russian State Committee of Ecology considered project of UNDP " Programme of decreasing biological pollution of Black Sea" from UNDP Russia and agreed to support this project.

Realization of this project help BS countries create and entry in to force, under support of UNDP project, activity for decreasing pollution of Black Sea from biological things (nitrogen, phosphorus).

**With respect,
Deputy minister of Russian State Committee for environmental protection
Porudin A.F.**

PCU
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TUE 10 AUG 99 16:31 SOSSEMCOLOGIA +7 095 2548283

11 AUG 1999



ГОСУДАРСТВЕННЫЙ КОМИТЕТ
РОССИЙСКОЙ ФЕДЕРАЦИИ
ПО ОХРАНЕ ОКРУЖАЮЩЕЙ СРЕДЫ

STATE COMMITTEE OF
RUSSIAN FEDERATION
FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

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Fax: (095) 254 8283

№ 02-17/29-119 10.08.99

Г-ну Финлину Эльгуабялю,
Постоянному представителю
ПРООН в Российской Федерации

факс: 232 2037

Уважаемый господин Эльгуабяль,

Сообщаем Вам, что Госкомэкология России, рассмотрев полученный из представительства ПРООН в России проект ГЭФ/ПРООН "Программа сокращения биотонного загрязнения Черного моря", считает целесообразным поддержать представленный проект.

Полагаем, что реализация данного проекта поможет черноморским странам разработать в самостоятельном усилении инициативы ПРООН поддержку проекта ГЭФ/ПРООН мероприятия, направленные на снижение нагрузки загрязнения Черного моря биогенными веществами (азот, фосфор).

С уважением,

Первый заместитель Председателя
Государственного Комитета
Российской Федерации по
охране окружающей среды

Майдаку А.Ф.Порядин

05 AUG 1999



BLACK SEA PCU
DATE RECEIVED/SENT-
FILES-
ACTION / DRAFTED BY-

REPUBLIC OF TURKEY
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT

05.08.1999

Dr. Radu MIHNEA
Co-ordinator
Black Sea Environment Programme (PIU)
Dolmabahçe Sarayı II. Hareket Köşkü
Beşiktaş-İSTANBUL

Dear Dr. Mihnea,

As you are already acquainted with, Turkey attaches primary importance to the protection and rehabilitation of the Black Sea environment and believes that accomplishment of this difficult task would require timely and concerted action to be pursued both at the national and regional levels. The Black Sea Strategic Action Plan and the findings of the Ad hoc Committee of the Black Sea and Danube Commissions, point out that eutrophication, caused mainly by nutrient influx, is the major ecological problem in the Black Sea and could only be addressed through a basin-wide nutrient reduction programme. Taking into consideration the still limited capacity of the countries in the region to implement and finance such a sophisticated programme which ensures involvement of a wide range of polluting agents, Turkey is of the opinion that GEF support would be critical in the attainment of this objective. In this context, Turkey associates herself with the other coastal states to apply to the GEF for a "PDF Block B Grant" of 125 000 US \$ which will enable the preparation of a basin-wide nutrient reduction programme that consists of investments, policy reforms, legislation support and designing of proper enforcement mechanisms.

Sincerely yours,

Okun UÇER
Deputy Undersecretary
Member of the Black Sea Commission

Eskişehir Yolu 8. Km. 06100 Ankara / TURKEY
TEL : 90 (312) 285 17 06 - 285 31 97 FAX : 90 (312) 285 37 39

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND NUCLEAR SAFETY OF UKRAINE



MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND NUCLEAR SAFETY OF UKRAINE

Address: 250001, Kiev, Ukraine

Address: 250001, Kiev, Ukraine

11 AUG 1999

To: Mr. Rada Milovan, PTU coordinator
Attn: Mr. T. Turner
Phone: 380 44 288 26 97
Date: 10 August 1999
Subject: LETTER OF ENDORSEMENT PROPOSAL FOR BLACK SEA PCU

BLACK SEA PCU
DATE RECEIVED/SENT-
FILES-
ACTION / DRAFTED BY-

Dear Dr. R. Milovan

In response to UNDP letter of August 2, 1999 with a request of an endorsement letter for the Proposal PDP Black B Coast the Ministry would like to confirm that it considers this project as a very important activity and will fully support the proposal including the Black Sea PFI operation in this interim period. Nevertheless, the Ministry would like to comment on following activities planned for the project before signing the endorsement letter:

1. Activities 1, 2, 6, 7, 8 are accepted without any changes
2. Activity 3. It is not clear from the Proposal why we need additional consent on amending the existing national policies and legislation on nuclear discharges and control in this phase of project development. In our opinion this should go together with the first activity and should be done on national levels.
2. Activity 4. At least in Ukraine, the popular version of the Black Sea Strategic Action plan was published and distributed, though it should be mentioned that the popular version has not been discussed with the Ministry for Environmental Protection and Nuclear Safety.
3. Activity 5. Small NGO project for presenting the Nuclear Reduction Program in the coastal cities seems to be too early to discuss because the Nuclear Reduction Program is not endorsed. This activity should be focused for the long-term.

With proper amendments to the Proposal, the Ministry for Environmental Protection and Nuclear Safety of Ukraine will release the endorsement letter.

Sincerely yours,

V. Rudakov,
First Deputy Minister

IN Office of Ukr. ...
10.08.99
ME
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