

# Wetlands International

**Promotion of public awareness on  
wetlands in projects of Wetlands  
International Black Sea Programme**

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# WI BS Program Background

## **WI mission:**

to sustain and restore wetlands, their resources and biodiversity for future generations through research, information exchange and conservation activities, worldwide

**WI in Ukraine:** Since early 1990s

**Office established :** 1997

**Located :** Kiev, Ukraine

**Permanent staff :** 5 persons

**Geographical Focus:** Black Sea Region & Ukraine

**BS Program purpose:** to implement environmental projects aimed at the conservation and restoration of wetlands

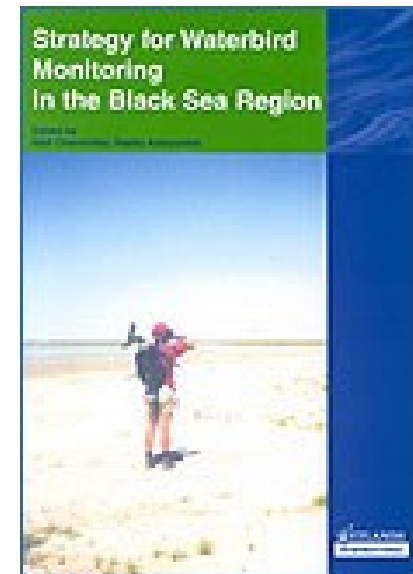
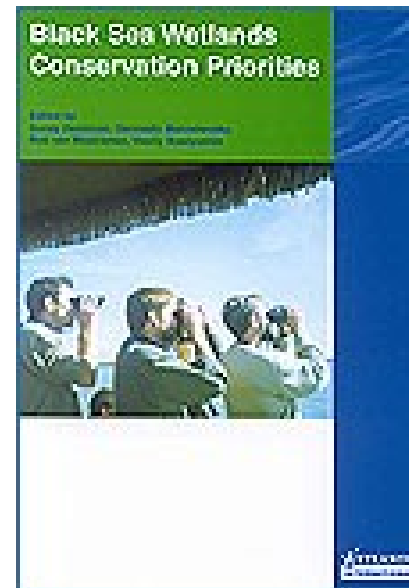
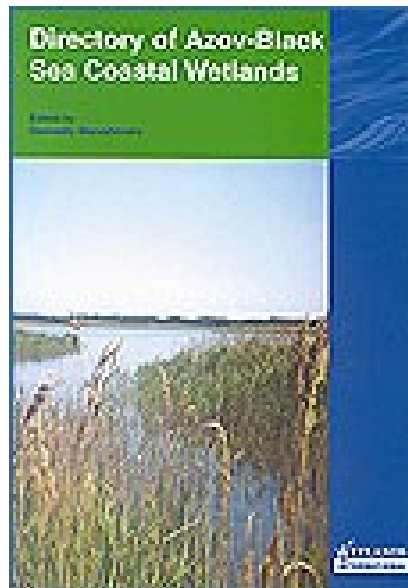
# particular for migratory waterbirds (2000-2003)

## Project objective:

to establish collaboration between Black Sea countries in the sphere of wetlands conservation, as well as at creating an international network of experts on waterbirds and wetlands

## Publications:

- "Directory of Azov-Black Sea Coastal Wetlands"
- "Black Sea Wetlands Conservation Priorities"
- "Strategy for Waterbird Monitoring in the Black Sea Region"



# Black Sea coastal wetlands

## Coastal wetlands importance:



- In all Black Sea countries, namely: ***Bulgaria, Georgia, Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Turkey and Ukraine*** wetlands support a rich and globally significant diversity of habitats and species.
- Coastal wetlands in the Black Sea countries also provide important services and benefits to people that have economic value.
- They also have a vital role in ensuring the health of the Black Sea

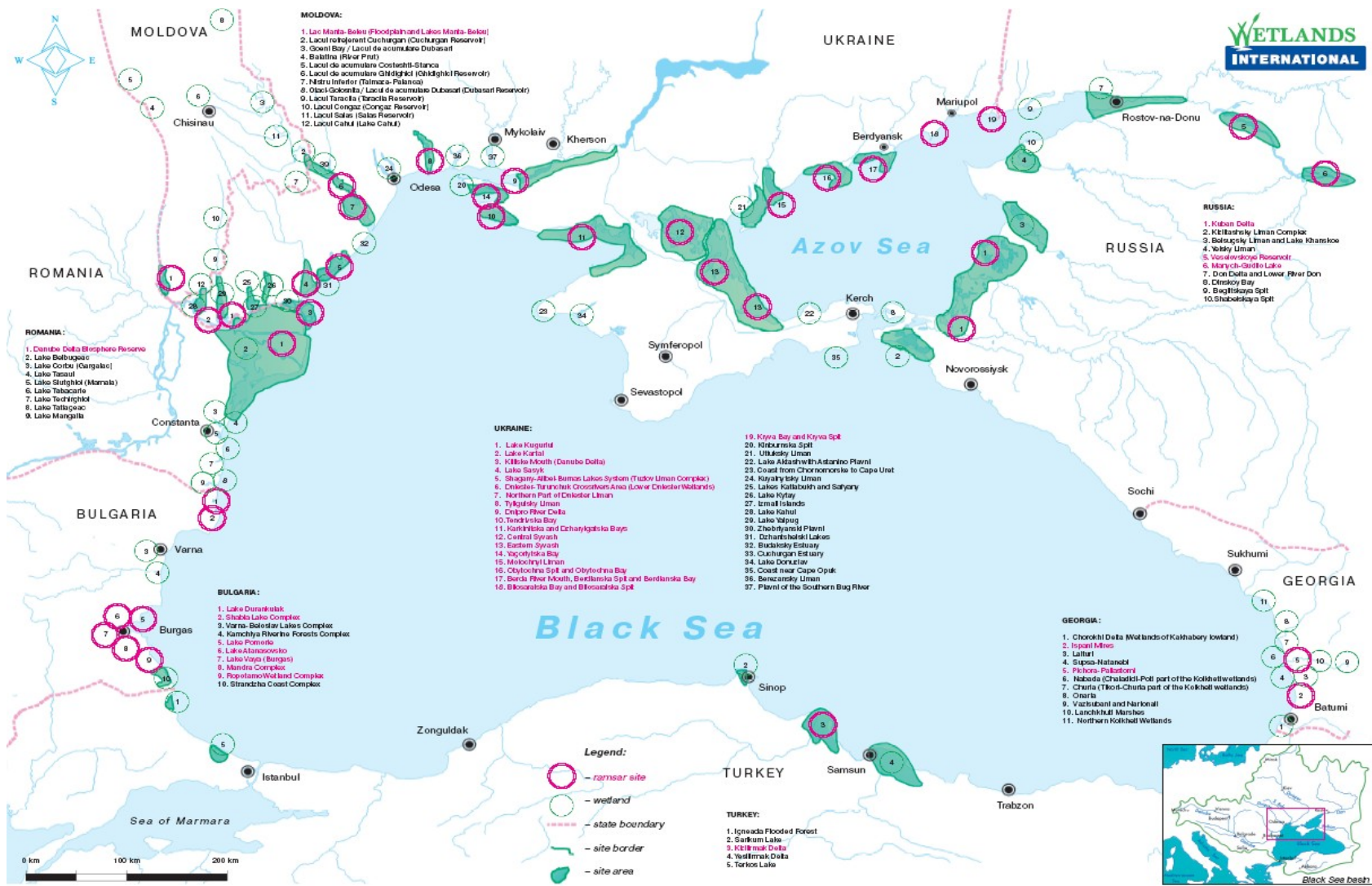
## The Problem:

*Despite the clear importance to biodiversity and benefits to people, Black Sea coastal wetlands have been seriously degraded in recent years, both through activities in the catchment, and also through direct impacts from land reclamation, drainage, pollution and overexploitation*



# Black Sea Coastal Wetlands

2,486,372 ha of Black Sea coastal wetlands are considered to be of national and international importance and 35 sites totalling 1,953,576 ha, are designated as Ramsar sites



# Conservation and wise use of Sivash Wetland, Ukraine

## Projects:

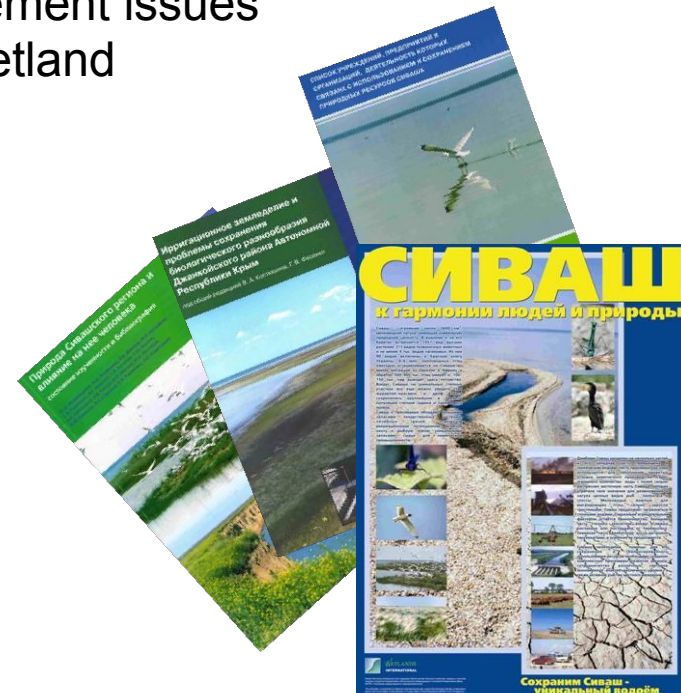
1. Support for the conservation of wetlands and wetland species in the Azov-Black Sea region of Ukraine (1997-2000)
2. Support to the Establishment of the Integrated Management Approach for the Sivash, Ukraine (2002-2005)

## Main results:

Information base for Sivash management plan (based on sectoral reviews and surveys of environmental information)

Public hearings on Sivash and related management issues

GIS system and zonation to act as basis for wetland management plan



# National Wetlands Strategy and Action Plan (Ukraine)

## Wetlands in Ukraine

- Ukraine is rich in wetlands including rivers, lakes, ponds, reservoirs, lagoons, marshes, saline lakes, peatlands, floodplains and swamp forests
- About 5.3% of territory is covered by wetlands
- The biggest wetlands are located to the south (coastal wetlands) and north of Ukraine (peatlands of the Western Polissia, Shats'ky lakes, Pryp'iat' and Desna floodplains)
- 1160 artificial reservoirs, 28,000 ponds, 7 big channels (total length 2000 km), 14 lagoons
- National wetland strategy and action plan developed through stakeholder consultation
- National Wetlands Directory
- GIS based information base

# Problems of Small Rivers

- Pollution, littering
- Degradation of natural landscapes
- Destruction of river floodplains
- Land ploughing closely to the banks of small rivers, resulting in erosion problems
- Deforestation in river valleys
- Loss of habitats
- Decreasing of biodiversity values
- Engineering transformation (river canalisation, deepening of river bed, construction of dams and rivers bodies, melioration, excavation of sand and gravel, etc.)
- Eutrophication, resulting in silting and decreasing of flowage





# Small rivers conservation

1. Small rivers of Ukraine: public participation in their conservation and sustainable use (2000-2004)
2. Public participation in conservation and sustainable use of small rivers in Ukraine; support for the River Network in Ukraine (2002-2005)

## **History of URN Establishment**

1996 - Living Water National Campaign

1998 - Living Water - 98 (To Clean Springs)

1999 - Strategic Environmental Action Plan of Ukrainian Environmental NGOs Network on Conservation and Restoration of Rivers

2000 - All-Ukrainian seminar «Public Participation in Conservation of Small Rivers in Ukraine», URN establishment

# Ukrainian Rivers Network

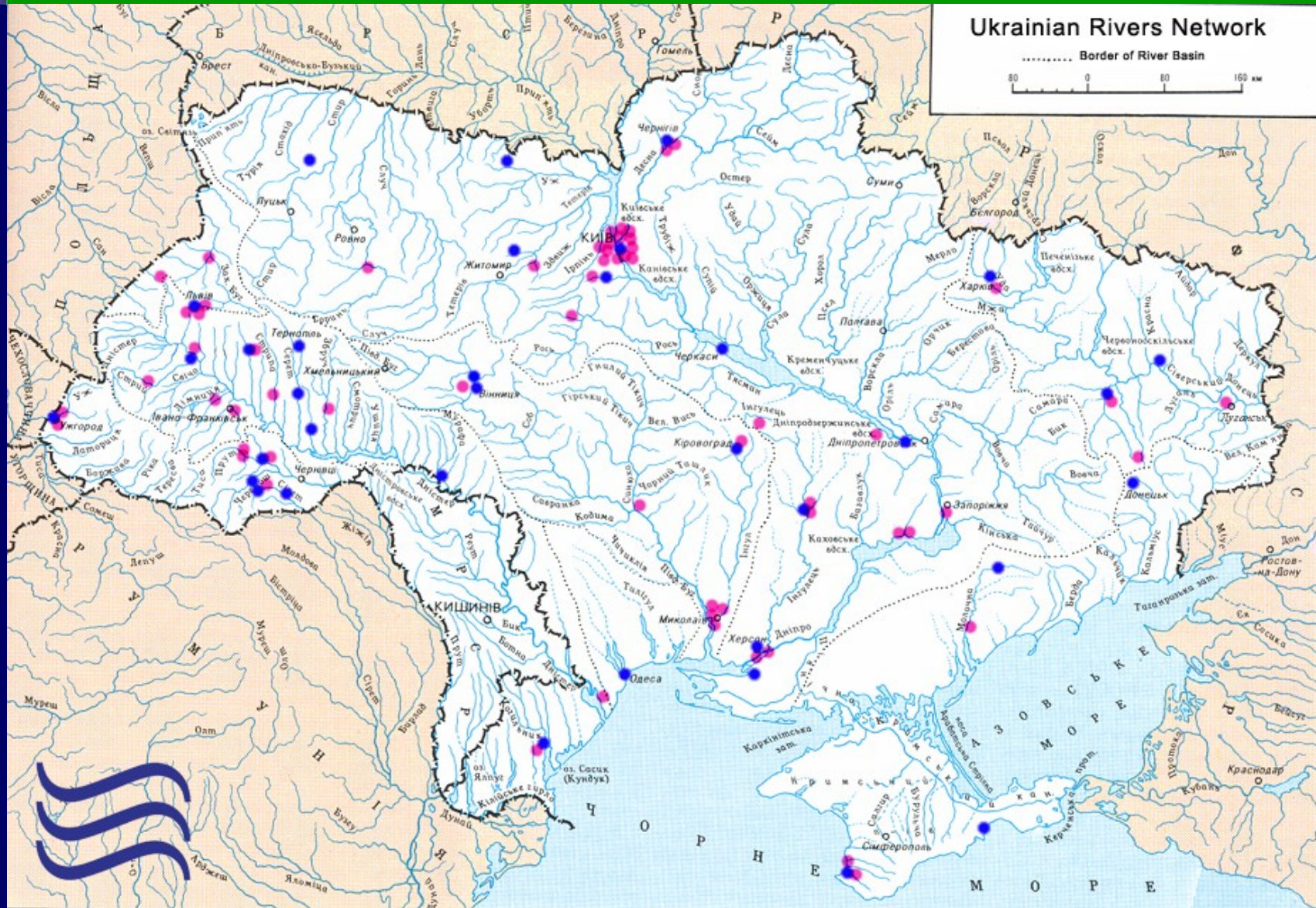
Volunteer association of NGOs, citizens and local communities

**Membership:** 105 NGOs, 4 individual members

**Mission:** to promote improvement of ecological state of rivers and positive changes in environmental policy of Ukraine in the field of river conservation

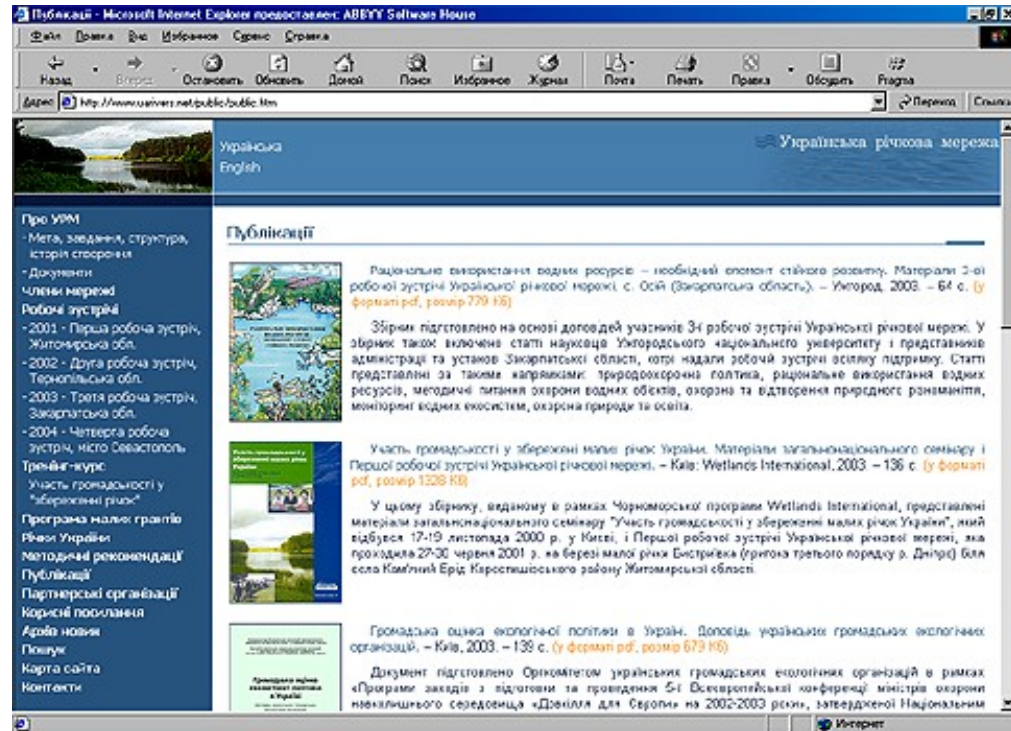


# Ukrainian Rivers Network



# Information tools

URN Web-site:  
[www.uarivers.net](http://www.uarivers.net)



# Training-course

## Main topics:

2. Basics of river system functioning
3. Life in small rivers.
4. Bioindication; species-indicators
5. Conservation and restoration of small rivers
6. System of water management in Ukraine
7. Integrated water resource management – river-basin approach
8. Legal aspects of the conservation and restoration of small rivers: protected water zones and protected riversides
9. Development and implementation of local environmental action plans (LEAPs)
10. Restoration of natural river valley complexes (landscape fitomelioration)
11. Establishment of protected areas
12. Public participation in small rivers conservation
13. Environmental education



# Clearing up water-protection zones and protective strips on riverbanks



# Clearing rubbish from riverbanks



# Tree planting





# Thematic lectures for local population



# Street actions for raising public awareness

Public Children Association Unisphera 'Environmental patrols' teams systematically monitor the ecological state of small river basin and disseminate 'Environmental News leaflet

Leaflet that prohibit to throw rubbish on river banks



# Environmental education for schoolchildren



# Environmental performances and games



# Round tables with local authorities



# Environmental street actions

Regional landscape park  
'Granitte-Steppe  
Pobuzhya'

Violation of  
environmental law  
Destruction of unique  
archeological, historic  
and cultural landscapes  
Flooding the Gard island

Gathering signatures  
against completion of  
construction of Tashlyk  
hydro accumulating  
power station



# Econet development in Dnipro River Corridor (started 2006)

**Project objective:** to promote the development of the National Ecological Network in Ukraine along the Dnipro ecological corridor

## Some outputs:

- Information pack on legal aspects, methodological approaches and public involvement in biodiversity conservation and econet development for staff of local branches of the Ministry of Environmental Protection of Ukraine, local authorities, decision-makers from different sectors economy (agriculture, water economy, forestry, fishery), the Parliament of Ukraine and URN members.
- Educational toolkit for teachers, environmental NGOs and other local stakeholders on biodiversity conservation, econet development and integrated river basin management that will include series of lessons and presentations on CD.
- Trainings



# BlackSeaWet Regional Initiative

**Black Sea Regional Initiative for the  
wise use of coastal wetlands – from idea  
towards implementation**





# BlackSeaWet Regional Initiative

## (Planned) Outputs:



- A [web-based directory](#) detailing key government, civil society and scientific organisations in the Black Sea Region concerned with wetland conservation and sustainable development;
- Improved networking between national and sub-national stakeholders focused through [National Working Groups](#) composed of government, civil society and scientific organisations concerned with the Black Sea;
- An [international conference](#) on conservation and sustainable development of Black Sea coastal wetlands;
- [Portfolio of Actions](#) focused on biodiversity conservation and sustainable development;
- A [Vision document](#) for conservation and sustainable development of Black Sea coastal wetlands;
- [Donor awareness](#) of the need for support of Black Sea Coastal Wetlands [increased](#) to the point where dialogue engaged for support of Portfolio implementation.

# Thank you for your attention!

