



Let's act NOW for a better future TOMORROW!

Partners:

- District Government of Enez, Turkey;
- Division Directorate of National Parks of Edirne under Istanbul Regional Directorate of Ministry of Forestry and Water Affairs, Turkey;
- Foundation Caucasus Environment, Georgia;
- Agricola NGO, Ukraine;
- Green Balkans – Stara Zagora NGO, Bulgaria;
- Management of Evros Delta National Park and Samothraki Protected Areas, Greece.

Target areas:

- Gala Lake, Turkey;
- Pomorie Lake, Bulgaria;
- Evros Delta, Greece;
- Danube and Dnieper Deltas, Ukraine;
- Wetlands of Central Kolkheti and Tbilisi, Georgia.



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Common borders. Common solutions.



BioLEARN BSB142
“Eco-Conscious Minds to Stop Pollution in the Valuable Wetlands of Black Sea Basin”

<http://bio-learn.org>

Joint Operational Programme Black Sea Basin 2014-2020

Green Balkans NGO – Stara Zagora

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Litter dumped by man and falling into rivers and seas represents not only an aesthetic problem that threatens the landscape. It also poses a major threat to the planet's biodiversity and a risk to human health. The main feature related to solid waste in the marine environment is that its origin is mostly from land-based sources.

The main objective of the Bio Learn Project is to ensure exchange of information and experience between partners; trainings, capacity building; development of a common approach and methodology for conservation and education; organization of campaigns to raise public awareness in order to reduce pollution in key wetlands and in the Black Sea.

Expected results: created network of info-centers for stopping pollution and nature protection; a good practice guide on environmental education to reduce pollution of significant wetlands; trainings for the implementation of best practices; children's drawing competition; campaign for cleaning of valuable wetlands in the 5 target regions; international conference, etc.



Pomorie Lake is a natural hypersaline lagoon separated from the sea by sandy strip.

This is a prerequisite for traditional human activities – the extraction of sea salt by evaporation and mud treatment with the lake-specific black mud, rich in minerals and trace elements. Healing mud is a product that is obtained during the decomposition and subsequent mineralization of organic matter (phyto- and zooplankton, products of the vital activity of birds, fish, invertebrates) in the specific conditions of the lake – high salinity and lack of oxygen.

Here can be observed:

The largest and one of the last localities of the rare plant sword-leaf dogbane *Trachomitum venetum!*

Over 270 species of birds (nesting, wintering, migrating) – most of them are rare, endangered and are not found in other places – Pied Avocet, Black-Winged Stilt, Kentish Plover, Common Shelduck, etc.

The largest colony of Sandwich Terns (over 2,000 pairs) on the Balkan Peninsula, nesting on habitats restored by Green Balkans' volunteers.

The critically endangered species of dragonfly – Dark Spreadwing *Lestes macrostigma!*

Pomorie Lake is a complex of protected natural areas. Declared a protected area in 2001, in 2002 it became part of the List of Wetlands of International Importance to the Ramsar Convention. With the accession of Bulgaria to the EU in 2007, the lagoon became part of the European ecological network NATURA 2000 through two sites – for the protection of wild birds and natural habitats, wild flora and fauna.

For the wetlands and specifically for Pomorie Lake, a serious threat is posed by the lost or thrown into the water fishing tackle – lines equipped with lead sinkers and hooks. They are often swallowed by swans and other birds looking for food at the bottom of the lake.

According to the illustrated scheme, the litter dumped in the water and on the shores of the lake decomposes into smaller and smaller particles, until they turn into microplastics smaller in size than a grain of sand! They mix with the healing mud, salt or other products and stay in them forever.

