



EUROPEAN  
SOLIDARITY  
CORPS



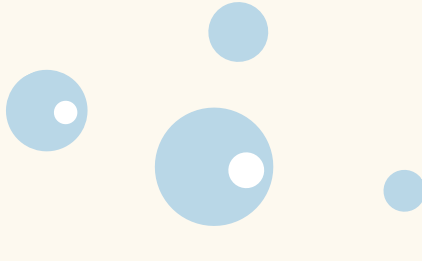
# SEA POLLUTION

HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW  
ABOUT IT?



A large sea turtle is shown swimming in clear, bright blue water. The turtle is positioned on the left side of the frame, moving towards the right. Its head is visible, and its front flipper is extended. The background is a gradient of blue, suggesting a deep ocean environment.

# Introduction

- Water covers over 71% of the earth's surface
  - The oceans and seas play a crucial role in the chemical and biological balance of life on earth
  - Human activity has had a harmful impact on the health of life in oceans over decades and lack of action will have irreversible effects on all earth
  - The habitats of marine mammals and fish have been degraded severely
  - Waste can persist in the environment for many years and accumulates over time
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# What causes pollution

## Oil spills, caused by:

- Accidents
- Breakdown of equipment
- Natural disasters such as hurricanes
- Acts of terrorism and war

## Toxic waste, caused by:

- Manufacturing and farming
- Water treatment systems
- Construction, automotive garages
- Laboratories, hospitals, and other industries





# What causes pollution

- Industrial air pollution
- Excess nitrogen stimulates an explosive growth of plants and algae, which deplete oxygen levels when they die
- Algae blooms produce powerful toxins like ciguatera and domoic acid that accumulate in fish and shellfish

## Water pollution, caused by:

- Littering
- Storm winds
- Poor waste management





# What causes pollution

## Boating and marinas:

- Poorly flushed waterways
- Boat maintenance
- Discharge of sewage from boats
- The physical alteration of shoreline
- Wetlands, and aquatic habitat during the construction and operation of marinas





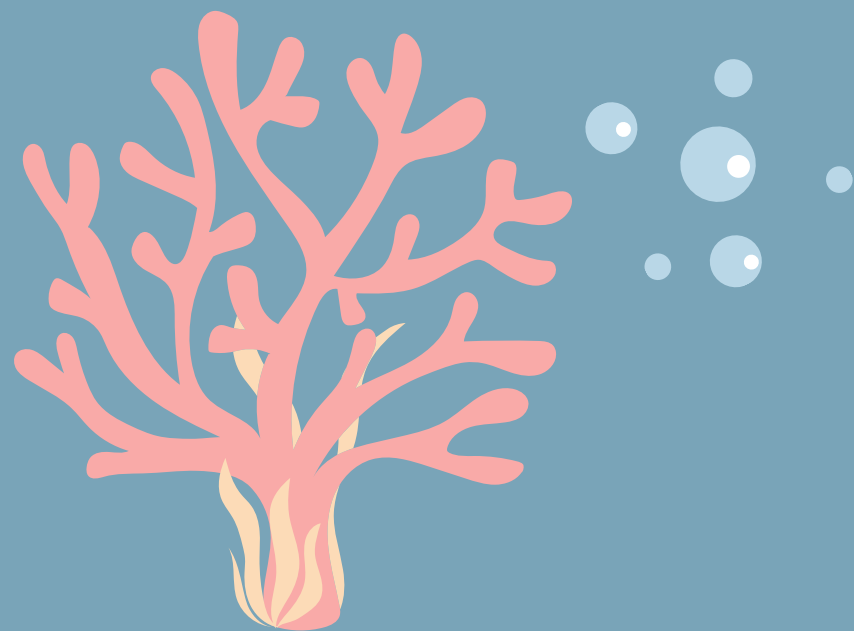
# WATER POLLUTION FACTS IN 2022

- Agriculture uses 70% of the earth's water supplies
- One million tons of oil go into the ocean from land sources
- 70% of industrial waste in developing countries is disposed in untreated waters
- About 40% of US fishing and swimming lakes are too polluted for humans
- Unsafe drinking water and poor sanitation in Africa cause 115 deaths per hour
- Half of the Chinese population doesn't have access to safe water
- 80% of India's water is polluted
- 844 million people don't have access to a clean water





- By 2050, Greece could be 2°C warmer with 18% less rainfall.
- Droughts could become more frequent and intense, while groundwater recharge, on which much of Greece depends, could continue to fall.
- Greece draws more than 40 percent of its usable water from groundwater aquifers—often more on the islands. But in many places, such as the island of Crete and Corinth city, groundwater is being extracted faster than it can be naturally recharged; not only does this steadily drain the aquifer but it also allows saltwater to seep in and contaminate the whole supply.



# WATER CRISIS IN GREECE





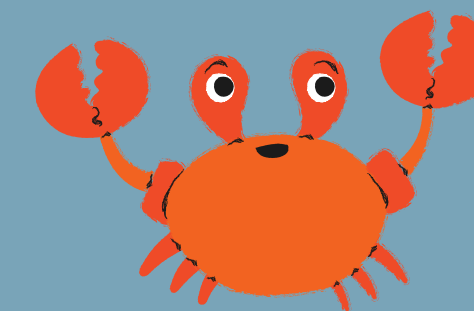
Greek islands face particular water problems. Small catchment areas, low rainfall, and geology make it hard for some to store sufficient water, causing severe shortages during the summer when demand peaks

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**14%**  
**of water consumption to which households account in Greece**

it is one of the highest water users in the Europe - nearly 177 liters per person daily

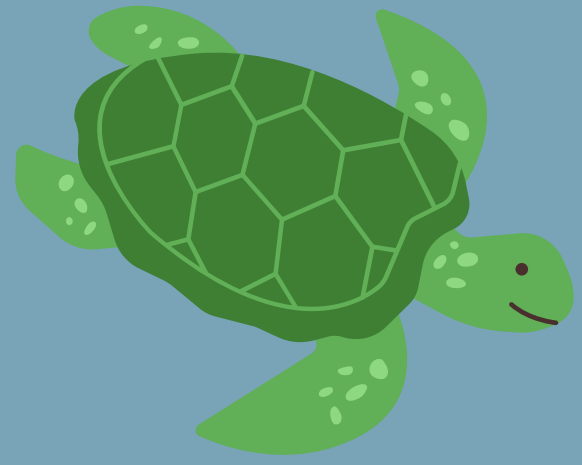
Desalination is now being proposed as the best long-term water solution for the islands.



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Fragments and fibres of plastic waste exposed to the environment have already affected all levels of the ecosystems and food chains the sea.





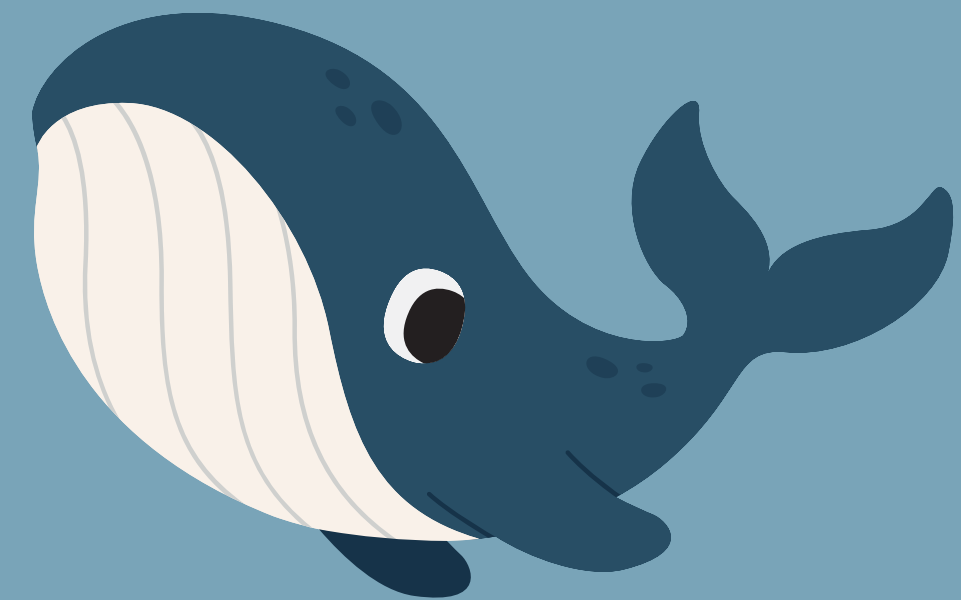
# ANIMALS ENDAGEROUD IN GREECE

The turtle "caretta-caretta" is now considered endangered species because of:

- Injuries caused by fishing gear
- Inability to lay eggs on the shore

Whales have been arising on the shore due to:

- Stomach filled with plastic
- Seismic testing which caused disorientation
- Vessel collisions, known as 'ship strikes'





# INICIATIVES IN GREECE

- Corfu Butterfly Festival
- Ionian Dolphin Project
- Iris Project (enables young people to protect and restore nature)
- REPOSIDONIA project (contribute to the management and protection of the seabeds with Posidonia meadows in Greece)
- Solidarity Tracks workshops and projects (recycling, reusing, beach cleaning, educate about sustainbily)

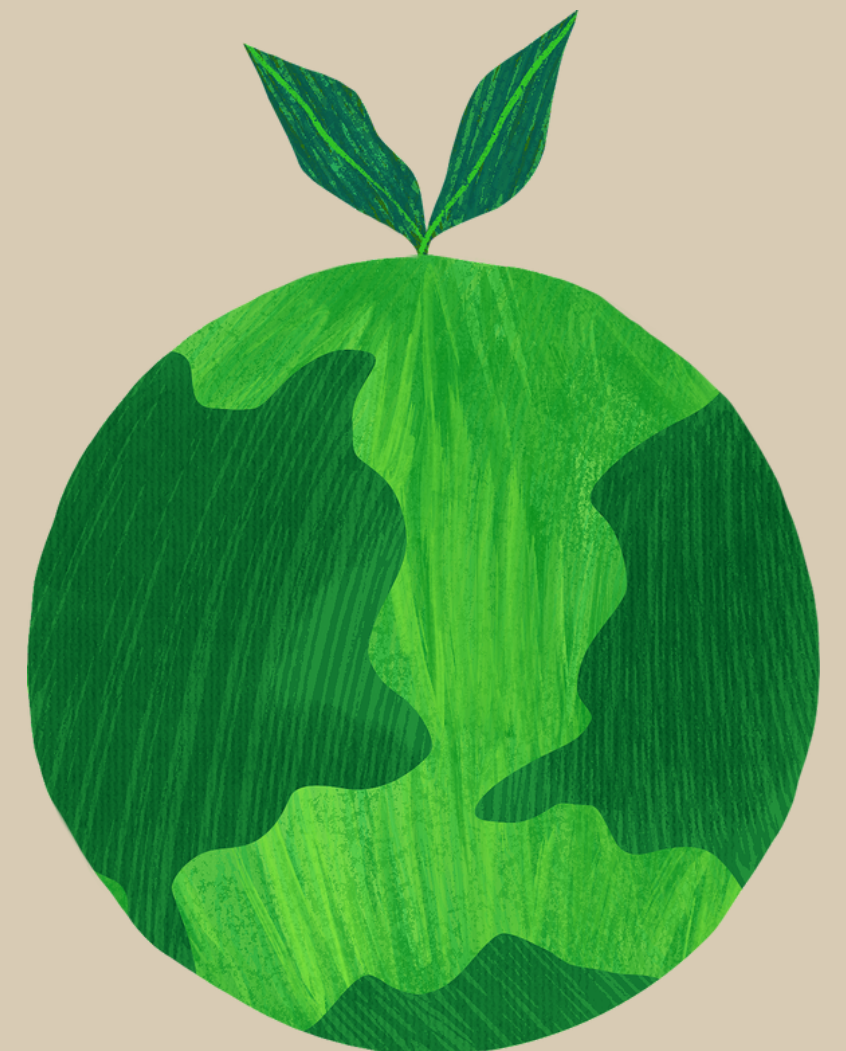




# WHAT CAN WE DO

While most responsibility lays on the backs of large organisations and lawmakers, there are things that we as a society can do to improve the environment around us and impose change.

1. Ban plastic products (bags, cups, straws) and use reusable, eco-friendly options, and buy items with less packaging.
2. Recycle
3. Reuse - find creative and practical uses for things you would throw away.
4. Spend less time in shower, especially not using so much water
5. Try to use more public transports or bike / walking






WE DON'T HAVE  
ANOTHER PLANET





An aerial photograph of a tropical bay. The water is a vibrant turquoise color, transitioning to a deeper blue further out. Several white sailboats are scattered across the water. The bay is bordered by sandy beaches and lush green vegetation. In the background, there are some buildings and a road, suggesting a small settlement or resort. The overall scene is serene and idyllic.

READY TO ACT?

THANK YOU