

# What is the GEF?

GEF emerged as a pilot after the 1991 Rio summit as a pilot mechanism serving as the financial instrument of the different global environmental conventions.

# What is GEF IW?

The GEF IW does not serve a specific convention, but the purpose of bringing countries together to collaborate over the shared and sustainable use of transboundary water resources (both fresh and marine).

# Why has GEF funded this project?

- For over two decades, when investing in nutrient management GEF has focused on reducing the negative effect on the environment from nutrients from sewage and agriculture that contribute to the alarming spread of coastal “Dead Zones”.

# Relevance

- The expansion of hypoxia and eutrophication is just one result of a global scale disruption of the earth's nitrogen cycle. Groundwater nitrate levels are another such impact.
- The challenge presented by the scope of the increasingly perturbed global nutrient cycle remains under-appreciated in both policy and scientific circles, but impacts of such changes on biodiversity, climate, economies, livelihoods, and human health provide convincing arguments to trigger priority actions leading to better nutrient management and related policies.

# Expected results

- Innovative policy frameworks, economic, and financial tools.
- From GEF side it is our expectation that not only the GEF IW portfolio and related GEF focal areas will benefit from the results and outputs of the project, but that we will be able to inform N cycle investments across the globe, including stakeholders within research, government and private sector.