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## **Towards effective conservation and governance of Pontocaspian biodiversity in the Black Sea region**

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## BIOGRAPHY

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Aleksandre Gogaladze was born on July 15<sup>th</sup> 1990 in Tbilisi, Georgia. After finishing high school at the No. 122 Public School in Tbilisi in 2007, he received a BSc in Biology from the Tbilisi State University in 2011 and a MSc in Evolution, Ecology and Systematics from the Ludwig-Maximilians University of Munich in 2013. In 2013 Aleksandre joined the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection of Georgia, where he promoted environmental awareness as part of the Education Center. In 2014 Aleksandre moved to the Biodiversity Conservation Department where, among the other tasks, he coordinated the National Biodiversity Monitoring System of Georgia. In 2015 he joined the EU Horizon 2020 Pontocaspian Biodiversity Rise and Demise (PRIDE) Program.



As an Early State Researcher in the PRIDE program, Aleksandre combined the full-time employment at Naturalis Biodiversity Center with PhD studies at Leiden University supervised by Prof. Dr. J.C. (Koos) Biesmeijer, Dr. Frank P. Wesselingh and Dr. Niels Raes. At Leiden University Aleksandre's research focused on the institutional design of stakeholder organizations in Romania and Ukraine, governance architectures and the legal and political frameworks that help or hinder effective conservation of Pontocaspian biodiversity. The scientific findings of his PhD project resulted in 3 published first-author papers in international, peer-reviewed journals. In the PRIDE program, Aleksandre co-developed and implemented the program-wide communication strategy; identified and liaised with PRIDE stakeholders at all levels; developed and maintained an online bio and geodiversity data platform and provided training on biodiversity data standards and databases for partners and stakeholders.

Since August 2020 Aleksandre has served as a member of the operational board of the European Marine Science Educators Association (EMSEA). His role in EMSEA entails the promotion of sustainable growth in the marine and maritime sectors (blue growth) within the Black Sea Region. Since March 2021 Aleksandre is the faculty liaison at the faculty of science of Utrecht University. As a liaison, he acts as a connecting link between the faculty and the academic services of the university library promoting the transition from current publication culture towards more open access publishing.

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