



CASPIAN ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

Towards a Convention and Action Programme for the Protection of the Caspian Sea Environment Project



Announces the

MICRO ENVIRONMENT GRANTS ROUND II IN THE CASPIAN REGION

an opportunity to apply for micro grants from
USD 500 to USD 3,000
to raise public awareness of the environment of the Caspian

CASPIAN ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME (CEP) PROGRAMME COORDINATION UNIT (PCU) Matched Small Grants Programme (MSGP)

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WHAT IS THE MICRO ENVIRONMENT GRANTS PROGRAMME?

The Caspian Environment Programme (CEP) started in 1998 and the overall goal is to promote the sustainable development and management of the Caspian environment, a major and unique ecosystem under threat from pollution and loss of biodiversity.

As a way of making this happen CEP have a grant Programme called Micro Environment Grant (MEG). This is funded by the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) and managed by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE MEG?

The purpose of the MEG is to raise public awareness, knowledge and understanding of the environmental problems facing the Caspian Sea. The MEG will help you to finance the small-scale projects with a REAL impact to address urgent environmental problems through raising awareness of a number of specific issues including the declining biodiversity, pollution of land near the Caspian and of rivers that flow into the Caspian.

HOW MUCH CAN WE PROVIDE? WHAT WILL WE SUPPORT?

The MEG will finance projects that will raise awareness and have real impact on environmental issues:

- We can award grants from a minimum scale of USD 500 to maximum USD 3,000;
- Projects should be completed in max. 12 months or less;
- You may wish to use your own resources as well. This can be money, time or other resources;
- You can put fees for people into your budget but not more than 20% of the money can be spent on this
- You can buy some equipment, but not more than 30% of the budget can be spent on this – and you will have to justify it very carefully;
- Grants will be paid in two instalments. The first instalment will be maximum 70% of the total grant and will be paid before you start the project. The second instalment will be paid after you have finished and submitted the final project report and financial reports.

WHO CAN APPLY?

We will support projects in the Caspian Regions of Azerbaijan, I.R. Iran, Kazakhstan, Russia, and Turkmenistan. The Caspian Region is defined as coastal areas and 100 km inland of the sea, and also includes the major tributaries.

Any group of people who has the capacity to raise public awareness is eligible. This includes NGOs, Schools, Community Groups, specialist groups, associations, trade unions and others. If you are not sure whether you qualify then contact your national MPPA or PCU-Tehran.

HOW CAN I APPLY?

If you want to apply for a grant you should:

1. Either complete the MEG Application Form, or contact your national MPPA to discuss your ideas over the phone or through a meeting;
2. If the idea matches our simple criteria then you should complete the MEG Application Form. Ask your national MPPA to help you to fill out the application form if needed;

HOW DOES THE SELECTION PROCESS WORK?

1. Your application form will be assessed by the national MPPAs and Caspian Concern Groups (CCGs). These groups meet frequently and will forward your application to the Programme Coordination Unit (PCU) stationed in Tehran for final approval;
2. You will be informed whether your project has been approved or not within two months of submission;
3. If your project is not approved then we shall tell you the reason;
4. If your project successful and approved then a meeting will be arranged with the national MPPA who will inform you about project implementation and things like reporting, financial arrangements and so on;
5. You must start your project within a month of receiving the approval letter for your project. If you don't, then we shall probably take away the grant award unless there are very good reasons why you are late starting!

WHAT ARE THE CRITERIA FOR SELECTION?

All application forms will be evaluated by the PCU based on advice from MPPAs and CCGs. We have a transparent and open evaluation process to help us choose the best projects.

Projects eligible under the MEG Programme must address at least one of the following environmental areas, which have been identified as the priority areas of concern in the Caspian Strategic Action Programme (SAP) priorities:

- Unsustainable use of bioresources (particularly sturgeon)
- Threats to biodiversity, including those from invasive species;
- Pollution
- Unsustainable coastal area development

Successful projects will need to:

- have a realistic workplan with tangible objectives and clear activities;
- demonstrate sustainability after the grant period;
- be cost effective;
- have an effective stakeholder participation and sufficient information dissemination;
- deal with issues that have been identified in the SAP and/or in the National Caspian Action Plan (NCAP).

EVALUATION CRITERIA		MAX. POINTS
A)	The project has a realistic workplan with tangible objectives and clear activities.	5
B)	The results of the project are sustainable after the grant period.	5
C)	The project is cost effective.	5
D)	The project bears significant participation, including partnerships with appropriate stakeholders.	10
E)	The project is Caspian related and has a tangible and sustainable environmental impact, consistent with SAP and/or NCAP objectives.	25
TOTAL		[50]

SAMPLE PROJECTS

- An awareness raising poster for school students illustrating how the Caspian is being polluted;
- A series of broadcasts on radio for farmers made to focus specially on environmental issues;
- A series of articles in a local newspaper about Caspian issues;
- A special play performed in public places during the summer – aimed at tourists – performed by schools students;
- A special leaflet designed to show the links between Religious and the Environment;
- Series of training workshops; etc;
- Collection of local tales on environmental endogenous knowledge, etc.

OTHER CASPIAN GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

The MEG is just one of the grant opportunities available and it might not be appropriate for your organization or project idea. Other grants can be provided through the following schemes:

- UNDP supported GEF Small Grants Programmes in I.R. Iran and in Kazakhstan: <http://www.undp.org>
- EU/Tacis supported CEP Sustainable Development of Caspian Coastal Communities Programme: <http://www.carec.kz>
- Matched Small Grants Programme (MSGP), the UNDP supported CEP-SAP project: <http://www.caspianenvironment.org>

For more information please contact your national MPPAs.

THE CASPIAN ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME (CEP) is a regional umbrella programme established by the five Caspian littoral states and aided by the international agencies including EU/Tacis, the World Bank, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to meet a desire for regional cooperation towards the sustainable management of the Caspian environment. Under the first phase of the CEP a regional environmental management mechanism has been established, a Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) has been carried out, a Portfolio of Priority Investment Projects (PIPs) has been identified and 16 Matched Small Grants have been awarded. Five National Caspian Action Plans (NCAPs), one in each country and a Strategic Action Programme (SAP) have been developed and approved. Also through a constructive regional dialogue the Framework Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Caspian Sea has been produced and signed by all. The first phase of CEP /GEF was completed by end of 2002. In November 2003 the GEF Council approved the second phase of GEF support to the CEP. This was followed with the regional approval of the Project Document and its activation in April 2004. The Project, short titled as CEP-SAP, aims to achieve four major objectives of a) commencing the implementation of the SAP in the priority areas of biodiversity protection, invasive species, and persistent toxic substances; b) continuing specific capacity building measures to ensure a regionally owned CEP coordination mechanism capable of full implementation of the SAP and regional coordination of the NCAPs; c) strengthening the environmental legal and policy frameworks operating at the regional and the national levels and d) achieving tangible environmental improvements in the SAP priority areas through implementation of small scale investment supported by a Matched Small Grants Programme (MSGP).