

CEP PUBLIC PARTICIPATIONS GROUND TRUTHING REPORT TURKMENISTAN - 2004

1. Review of the Legislative Framework

General legislation

The main event in the changing of legislation of Turkmenistan, which directly influenced the public participation in Caspian regions, and throughout the whole country was the introduction of the new version of the Law on Public Association and associated documents¹. The new law, amendments in Administrative and Criminal Law and orders of the President forbid any public associations, including initiative groups, NGOs etc., to conduct any activities prior to the full registration with the government. The legislation was passed in October 21, 2003. The most of Caspian NGOs and initiative groups were not registered and had to stop their activities. At the present, only few NGOs are officially registered, including the Union of Nature Protection and the Union of Hunters and Fishermen of Turkmenistan. Some of initiative groups and ex-NGOs, while waiting for the registration, now turned to consulting services, working as a private entrepreneurs (without legal company registration) as well as returned to official government positions at schools, kindergartens etc. where they continued their active involvement in the Caspian issues.

Environment Strategy

Turkmenistan has taken the strategic approach in solving environment problems, which includes the development and implementation of cross-sector action plans of actions. The main documents, describing the strategy of the country in the social-economic development, are the Strategy of the socioeconomic development in Turkmenistan for the period to 2010” and recently adopted by the State Council of Elders “The strategy of economic, political and cultural development of Turkmenistan for the period to 2020” (April 15, 2003). The former document outlines the main principles of the long-term environmental policy, which is aimed at the provision of the environmental security of the state.

The National Environment Action Plan (NEAP) was signed by the special degree of the President from December 2, 2002. The document lists the priority environment issues of the country and outlines the major strategy of the country to tackle environment problems. It includes short-term and long-term activities to solve problems with the responsible government agencies listed. In accordance with the NEAP, in order to provide the environmental security for the country (long-term objective for the country's development), the environment strategy should be aimed at industrial development of the country in combination with environment protection, prevention of environment disasters in the Aral Sea Zone, guarantee of high-quality drinking water and other.

¹ Full version of the law as well as amendments and comments could be found on <http://www.icnl.org/car/LibTM.htm> (International Center for Non-commercial Law).

The public awareness component of the program reflected in “4.5. Environmental education and training” chapter of the plan. Among actions, proposed by the NEAP to increase the awareness:

- Development and improvement of environment education programs
- Wide use of the media for elucidative campaigns...
- Involvement of NGOs and self-government bodies for the educational process, dissemination of information...
- Expanding environmental publishing activities (issuing of calendars, pamphlets, booklets, methodological aids, charts, journals etc.)

Specific actions to increase the public involvement and awareness in solving environmental issues, proposed by the NEAP, are presented in table 1.1.

TABLE 1.1. Activities from the NEAP on increase of the awareness.

Section	Actions	Implementation period	Responsible agency / Stakeholder
I. Environment Protection (general)	Environment education of students and improvement of public environment awareness	2002-2010	Ministry of Education Ministry of Nature Protection
VIII. Cultural Heritage conservation	Development and publication of information materials (booklets, guides, textbooks, TV films etc.) on natural and cultural monuments	2002-2005	Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Nature Protection, National Broadcasting company

Source: National Environmental Action Plan of Saparmurat Turkmenbashi President of Turkmenistan, Ashgabat 2002

The document outlining the policy of the state and specific actions for the Caspian Sea was elaborated within the first stage of the UNDP-GEF financed Caspian Environment Program. The National Caspian Action Plan of Turkmenistan (NCAP) has as its main objective the sustainable development of the Turkmen sector of the Caspian region. As the NEAP, the NCAP outlines main environmental problems and lists the proposed mechanisms of their solution (actions, term, financing, responsible organisations, and priorities). The plan was approved by the special commission in the Cabinet of Ministers in October 2003 and now is waiting for the approval of the President. The public awareness actions of the plan are presented in table 1.2.

TABLE 1.2. Priority action of the NCAP, aimed at the increase of PP

Component. Actions	Terms	Responsible bodies	Source of finance
Coastal zone management. Increase of public environmental awareness	2005	Ministry of Nature Protection, Scientific & Industrial Associations	Own funds, grants
Biodiversity protection. Increase of the public environmental awareness/ Establishment of environmental education system	2005	Ministry of Nature Protection, Scientific & Production Association	Own funds, grants for Scientific & Production Associations

Fisheries. Broad public awareness via mass media, release and dissemination of brochures and etc.	2005 constantly	Fisheries State Committee, Scientific & Production Associations	Grants, own funds
--	-----------------	---	-------------------

Source: The National Caspian Action Plan, final version documents, not published, Ashgabat 2003

2. Communication Culture

During workshop with the Caspian Concern Group (CCG) the following media sources were identified as sources of environmental information:

For the country:

- 1) The television is considered as one of the most popular sources of the environmental information. However, local TV programs are popular in the rural areas and within the lower income groups of urban Turkmen-speaking population, while among middle and higher income population the satellite TV programs (mostly Russian and Turkish) are the most watched.
- 2) Newspapers are the second largest source of information, according to the opinion of the CCG. The local newspapers include the most popular regional Neytralniy Turkmenistan (in Russian, around 30.000 copies) and Turkmenistan (in Turkmen, 24000 copies), which are distributed through the post service system as well as through the government organisations. The latter provides the fact that almost all families employed by the state have subscribed one of the newspapers.
- 3) The environmental media includes newspapers “Vestnik prirody”, published by the Ministry of Nature Protection and distributed within the central government bodies and environmental organisations and TV program series.

At the local coastal level, the media includes only one newspaper, called “Balkan”. Other sources of the information at the local level include reports on environmental conditions of various organisations, both monitoring and polluting, as well as the informal transfer of the knowledge from professionals working on the environment and others, for example fishermen.

The distribution of media resource for various target groups is listed in Annex I.

The most information, published through the media, is of the descriptive type. The reports of environment organisations might contain some analysis of causes of environment problems, but they are not accessible to the general public and cover very limited target groups. Since the main source of the environmental information comes through resources owned, controlled or supervised by the government, the content of this information is politically softened. For the Caspian region of Turkmenistan, another important source of the information is activities conducted by initiative groups and NGO². The public actions,

² The most NGOs in the region applied and, while waiting registration, were performing their activities. After the degree of the Presidents in October 2003, the most of the NGO were refused to continue their activities until the full registration with the government authorities.

such as seminars, cleaning marathons and others, were produced with the support of international donors and had a large and, in some cases, still continuing impact on the public.

The media does not take a lobbying of any kind. Some public actions were performed with the participation of media, include school actions and campaigns in cleaning territories (the Earth day and similar).

As the result, the media provides only informative data and the information about the situation in the Caspian. Some information cannot be reliable and is biased due to political and economic dependency on the government.

The access to the information is primary depending on economic conditions of every particular household. With the increase of the income and the fall of the costs of communication, the household has the capacity to shift to more advanced systems of the information delivery, for instance from free-to-air antenna to digital satellite television. In the most cases this improvement shifts an individual from local TV programs to foreign, such as Turkish or Russian programs. Therefor, the transfer of the environmental information through local media channels is facing difficulties. The same can be applied to other media sources, such as newspapers etc., when the availability of digital TV can consume the time, before designated for reading newspapers.

Thus, the newspapers remain one of the effective ways of transferring the information, including environmental, according to the CCG opinion. The availability of newspapers through the distribution at the workplace (the government is the major employer in the country and in coastal region) provides the access to the information written. Other important source of the information could be some public awareness activities, conducted in the region. The use of the informal information flow is very strong, therefor even the limited target group coverage could provide a high multiplicity factor.

3. SWOT and Change

The SWOT analysis was conducted at the meeting with the CCG in August 11, 2004. Before the SWOT analysis was presented, the members of the group were asked to provide a definition of “the public participation”. The integrated definition was presented as:

“Public participation is the level of activity of the public in monitoring, evaluation, control over and solution of environment problems. It includes access to the true information, response on, lobbying of and prophylactics of ecological issues and problems”.

The following results of the SWOT analysis and their priorities were identified at the session of the Caspian Concern Group.

Table 1.3. Results of SWOT Analysis

Strengths	Scale	Weaknesses	Scale
1. Integrated approach of the CEP (openness, co-operation with other programs etc.)	4	1. Passivity of the people, related to the lack of the confidence that their problems will be solved	5
2. (Positive) Respond of local authorities on ecological threats to the population	3	2. Lack of the information \ sources of environment information	4
3. Active public responding on ecological problems	3	3. Absence of the awareness of the population about the possible ways of public participation	4
4. High level of awareness of the population due to active work of NGO \ initiative groups	4	4. Lack of financial possibilities to support the dialogue with the population	4
5. Interest of local authorities in solution of the ecological and social problems in rural areas (Turkmenbashi etrap)	5		
Opportunities	Scale	Threats	Scale
1. Bringing in \involving the rural population	5	1. Worsening the ecological situation and health of the population due to passivity and weak response on environment problems.	5
2. Encouragement of local initiatives	5	2. Blocking the implementation of all opportunities by low participation	5
3. Development of the dialogue between the population and local authorities (meetings, seminars)	5		
4. Publicising the environment information using various technologies	5		

For each SWOT statement indicate how strong it is on scale from 1 to 5 (1 = Not Significant, 2 = Slightly Significant, 3 = Moderately Significant, 4 = Significant, 5 = Very Significant).

The CCG also identified the ways in which public participation has improved or worsened and rank it as:

S: Significant - the general public have noticed these changes

M: Moderately Significant – the general public have not noticed but NGOs and professional groups have noticed a change

N: Not Very Significant – only those with an interest in public participation have noticed.

TABLE 1.4. Changes in public participation

THINGS THAT HAVE GOT BETTER	RANKING OF CHANGES	THINGS THAT HAVE GOT WORSE	RANKING OF CHANGES
Turkmenbashi town: public action has taken place to clean the territory of the beach	S	Decrease in activities of initiative groups due to regulation strengthening	M
Co-operation of local authorities with local communities	S	Decrease of the population awareness due to high level of migration (inflow from other regions)	S
Stirring up of community initiatives	M		
Started to work the system of response on threats to the population from local polluters	S		

4. Current Information on the Stakeholder Groups

The following stakeholder groups were identified as major by the CCG.

Table 1.5. Current stakeholder groups

STAKEHOLDER	TARGET GROUP	MAJOR PP ACTIVITIES OF STAKEHOLDER	EFFECTIVENESS OF ACTIVITIES - ON A SCALE OF 1 (VERY POOR) THROUGH TO 5 (VERY EFFECTIVE)	SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT
Local government	General urban and local population	Turkmenbashi town \ Awasa: Joint activities on cleaning beaches before the tourist season	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ More similar activities ◆ Establishing working level co-operation between government and population ◆ To involve public in other environmental issues, such as waste management, drinking water provision and other through conduction of awareness programs
Caspecocontrol, environment monitoring organisations (relevant departments of the local polluting industrial enterprises)	General population	Involvement the population in monitoring activities using “hotline”	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Strengthening co-operation through the involvement of initiative groups and NGOs (if any) and donor financing. ◆ Increasing awareness and sharing positive experience with the public to activate the participation in monitoring activities
	Industrial and municipal polluters	Conduction of seminar and other awareness programs on new monitoring methodology	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Increase of inter-organisational co-operation through the establishment of working groups and increasing awareness campaigns ◆ More actively work with small communities and local immigrants from other regions to increase their awareness and involve them into process ◆ Involving more coastal polluters on awareness campaign, co-operate with them in linking polluters with general public (population)
Central Government of Turkmenistan (Ministry of Nature Protection)	General population	<p>Raising awareness among public about environmental problems through publishing articles in press and showing TV programs in local TV</p> <p>Involving general public into awareness programs, including reps of population to the strategy discussion and development</p>	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Increasing the awareness campaign through the more active work of the Ministry on site through its organisations (Reserve, CEC and others). More emphasis should be paid to the Caspian Sea issues in TV programs and publications ◆ Intensifying consultations and awareness campaign with local polluters through its organisations on the coast ◆ More proactive involvement of other agencies in the planning process and in the work with general public

Protection organisations, including Fishery Inspection, Khazar State Reserve	Government Agencies	Informing government agencies on environment conservation issues through publishing and distribution of “Vestnik Prirody” and other reports	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ More closely working with polluters on identification of resources to conduct joint awareness campaigns, involving their funds in public actions (campaigns) through its branches ◆ Work more with local communities not only through TV programs but through conducting seminars, joint actions, creation of green teams, involving population into protection activities etc. ◆ Conducting campaigns aimed at the increase of the awareness of local newcomers
	Existing and potential polluters	Awareness on elaboration of strategic programs and development plans	3	
	General population, fishermen, hunters	Media campaigns to inform public about the importance of the biodiversity	2	
		Supporting “hotline” for general public to report pollution and other cases	4	

Table 1.6. Current NGOs

NGO	TARGET GROUP	MAJORPP ACTIVITIES OF NGO	EFFECTIVENESS OF ACTIVITIES - ON A SCALE OF 1 (VERY POOR) THROUGH TO 5 (VERY EFFECTIVE)	SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT
Union of Nature protection of Turkmenistan	General population	Awareness programs to improve participation of the public in environment	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Institutional strengthening of the organisation through the increased co-operation with the CEP, Khazar Reserve and other stakeholders ◆ Capacity building, especially in the “fishermen” coastal zone, working closely with Reserve, local governments and with target group on awareness
Union of fishermen and hunters of Turkmenistan	Hunters, fishermen	Registration of hunters and fishermen and very limited awareness activities about hunting and fishing	1	

5. Public Participation Activities

Public events and activities identified during the CCG and other meetings are presented in table 1.7.

Table 1.7. PP activities

EVENT OR ACTIVITY	ORGANISED BY	TARGET GROUP	IMPACT
National forum on the NCAP, June 2004	CEP	Coastal Stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Direct participation in strategy development ◆ Increased awareness of stakeholders on environmental problems ◆ From awareness point of view the activity was successful, since major stakeholders were presented, but generally more involvement of the stakeholders in elaboration of the strategy could increase the impact
Awareness campaigns under the UNEP grant to support Aarhus Convention, 1) Brochure and awareness campaign, including micro grants for NGO and schools, on Aarhus and National Environment legislation 2) Brochure on rules of protection from ballast water pollution in the Caspian presented in round table	Financed by the UNEP and implemented: 1) Ministry of Nature Protection, 2) State Enterprise on Caspian Issues	Round table for reps of all stakeholders; awareness campaign for youth and school students Round table with participation of all stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Around 500 people, including students, teachers, fishermen and other coastal community members have been informed about the convention ◆ Representatives of all stakeholders were participation in the meeting and increase the awareness
Public Actions on cleaning beaches in Awasa recreational site, Summer 2004	Turkmenbashi Administration, Local organisations (including environment) Population of Awasa, schools	All coastal stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Awareness about the recreational importance of the sea was increased ◆ Positive factor is that actions united all stakeholders under the local administration, approach which might have a practical future in the Turkmen coast – the first kind of action on the coast

6. Definition of Public Participation

The perception of the public participation by stakeholders and its meaning for the stakeholders may vary among the different stakeholder groups. From their definitions obtained during the CCG meeting, the meaning of public participation varies from “the access to the true information” to “lobbying of environment issues with the government”. Generally, the understanding of the public participation as an access to the true information prevailed during discussions.

The recent success in lobbying its rights with the government and a polluter³ provided some stakeholders with believe that the population can defend its rights for the clean environment. Moreover possibilities were also uncovered in organising the joint “state-industry-community” campaigns (beach cleaning in Turkmenbashi).

The perception among the various stakeholder groups is presented below.

Table 1.8. Perception of the public participation

No	STAKEHOLDER GROUP	WHAT IS THE MAIN EMPHASIS T, A OR D
1	Local government	T
2	Caspecocontrol, environment monitoring organisations (relevant departments of the local polluting industrial enterprises)	A
3	Central Government of Turkmenistan (Ministry of Nature Protection)	T
Etc	Protection organisations, including Fishery Inspection, Khazar State Reserve	T

Explanations:

Telling (T) - people are just being given information or taking part in an event

Asking (A) - setting up systems to ask people their view, but then decisions are still made by the decision makers

Discussing (D) - setting up systems for community dialogue and decisions being made jointly after discussion

Not

7. Barriers to Public Awareness and Participation & Access to Justice

The Constitution assigns the general obligation for the conservation of the environment as a responsibility of the state. In Article 10, “The state is responsible for the conservation of the national historical and cultural heritage, the environment...” and so on. Article 86 assigns as one of the responsibilities of gengeshi (local community leaders) the definition of measures on rational use of natural sources and conservation of the environment. The juridical protection of the citizens sealed in Article 41, where the citizens of Turkmenistan have rights for compensation for material and moral compensation cause by the illegal activities of state bodies, other organisations and their employees as well as private persons.

The Law on Nature Protection (1991) gives the right for every citizen:

³ Few months ago, after the installation of the new equipment in the Turkmenbashi Oil Refinery, the strange smell appeared in the air, causing health complaints in the nearby residential area of the town. Large number of telephone calls to the Caspecocontrol and local governor’s office, the most of which were anonymous, with complaints flooded the telephone line, pushing the government to make steps further to solve the problems. The Refinery had to install additional equipment to decrease the pollution level shortly.

- to demand and to receive timely and true information about the conditions of the environment
- to participate in elaboration of solutions, the implementation of which is aimed at the improving the environment and in conduction of public ecological expertise (monitoring)
- to appeal to the court to juridical entities and private people about the compensation for the damage, caused to their health and property as a result of the improper activities towards the environment “(Article 28).

The next article of the law is describing forms of participation of citizens in environmental conservation, including personal participation, donations to environmental conservation funds, participation in conservation activities organised by ... public organisations...

Therefor, the right to appeal to the courts exists in the form of the law. However, in practice, the lack of the culture of appealing against the state/or state organisations (polluters) leaves this type of participation only for monitoring organisations, which might sue local polluters. Therefor the access to the court system, even though exists and in theory well maintained by the legislation, in practice is not used almost at all (evaluated as 2 with 5 as a highest).

The practice of appealing to the court against polluters is used mostly by monitoring organisations, while general population is not familiar with the issues of the justice (evaluated 3 from 5).

TABLE 1.9 Barriers to Public Participation and Awareness on the coast

Barrier	Strength (from 1-	Importance (from
	low to 5 – strongest)	1- low to 5-the most)
Lack of the knowledge of rights and of local environmental issues	5	5
Lack of developed NGOs to support the PP and PA process	3	5
Lack of the mechanism of cooperation among various stakeholders	4	3
Low participation of the general population /community due to low awareness in participatory approaches	4	4
Absence of mechanisms of the involvement of the general public, including lack of mechanism of realization of Aarhus convention	5	4
Lack of cooperation with the stakeholders from the officials	3	3

8. Gender issues in Public Participation

According to the law and traditions, women in the coastal zone have equal rights in terms of the participation. As the previous experience showed women took the leading share in initiative groups and NGOs in the coastal area. However, social issues, such as workload at home, family responsibilities division, leave women, especially in rural areas, out of participation activities, due to the high workload. Moreover, the occupation rate of women in social infrastructure and other state service organizations is rather higher than of men, therefore their workload makes more challenging for them to participate. However, women, occupied as social workers, eg. school and kindergarten teachers and nurses, could become a good potential for participation activities.

9. Visions for Enhancement of Public Awareness and Participation

The members of CCG during its first meeting outlined their visions of the future of the public awareness and participation in the coastal area of Turkmenistan, presented in table 1.3. (grouped by meaning). The main visions were aimed at the improvement of conditions of towns and the Caspian through joint activities of the local government and people as well as through widening the information campaign about Caspian issues. Other visions of the future of the PP and PA are in conducting more the small grant program, the introduction of environment subjects at schools and establishment of the public pollution monitoring.

TABLE 1.10. Vision Statements of the future PA and PP.

	VISION STATEMENT
1	Conduction of joint actions to clean coastal zone of the Caspian Sea (more often), Conduction of joint actions (state bodies, local authorities, population and donors), Improved conditions in and “greening” of towns, clean sea; the committee of public participation at the level of the governor to solve environment problems
2	Wide network of informative publications; Network of environmental information distribution is in place; Creation of stands and posters with name “About love to the nature!” ; Delivery of the information through the media to every house ; Network of environmental information distribution is in place
3	To enhance the small program
4	Ecological monitoring with public participation on the basis of small local communities (settlement, part of town etc.)
5	Introduction of environment subjects at schools

10. Future Activities

The CCG also looked at and prioritised activities identified by the project documentation and by the SAP. The activities were prioritised as High priority, Medium priority and Small. The results are presented in Table 1.11.

TABLE 1.11. Evaluation of priorities of project and SAP activities

OUTCOME IN CEP PROJECT DOCUMENT	ACTIVITY	PRIORITY
A5	Create and train Caspian Watch Groups for Biodiversity Monitoring	H
B1	Establish and Eco Net and Run public biodiversity awareness campaigns	H
E3	Public awareness campaign against the use of banned pesticides	S
G1	Develop a CEP media kit	M
G2	Strengthen Caspian NGO community	H
G3	Establish Caspian Concern Groups	H
G4	Establish an Environmental Awareness training programme for policy makers	H
G5	Strengthened private sector participation in CEP	H
G6	Create a public participation plan	H

SAP EQO INDICATOR	ACTIVITY	PRIORITY
EQO II 1.5	Biodiversity Awareness Raising	H
EQO V 1.1	Create a Caspian Environment Centre (but after year 5)	M
EQO V 1.2	Create a CEP Press Bureau	H
EQO V 1.3	Promote broader access to environmental information	H
EQO V 1.4	Develop an Academic Curriculum for school and university	H
EQO V 1.5	Set up a micro funds grant	H
EQO V 2.1	Establish issues awareness training programmes for local administrations	H
EQO V 2.2	Implement EIA procedures	H
EQO V 2.3	Host mayors conferences	H
EQO V 2.4	Promote Eco Tourism	H
EQO V 3.1	Promote NGO/government/private sector partnerships	H

In general these actions are quite sufficient to achieve visions, explained in the previous chapter. All actions were considered to be necessary to achieve visions.

11. Additional Questions

Due to the new established law on public association, prohibiting the activities of any NGO prior to the registration, there are almost no NGO presented in the region (see Chapter 1). Currently, only four NGOs can be named as officially registered and operating (or have a potential for operations) in the coast:

- ◆ The Union of Nature Protection of Turkmenistan (more than 40 000 members throughout the country and staff of around 50) focused at conservation efforts with the attraction of local communities/members for the process. Funded by membership fees, the Union has a limited technical and institutional capacity to work on the Caspian, but it actively searches the ways to be presented in the region.
- ◆ The Union of Hunters and Fishermen of Turkmenistan is aimed at the registration and establishment rules for fishermen and hunters. Due to low technical and institutional capacity it has limited presence on the coast, however the large number of fishermen (approx. 1000) and hunters (around the same) gives opportunities for the development of activities of this organisation in the region. The union is financed from membership fees.
- ◆ The centre of social partnership under the administration of Turkmenbashi etrap is aimed at the provision of training for unemployed in organising business. Recently the organisation is trying to co-operate on environmental issues, including alternative income generating activities for boiresources extracting groups and ecotourism. The centre is being financed from grants.
- ◆ The Union of Entrepreneurs of Turkmenistan is having more than 2000 members and financed by membership fees. The organisation one of the few public organisations registered and is aimed at the assistance to local private sector in doing business in Turkmenistan. The public organisation is trying to work on the Caspian on establishing the support centres for local business.

CBOs

The concept of the CBO is weakly developed in the Turkmen sector of the Caspian. The recent influx of grant programs, namely TACIS-CAREC Coastal Community Development Grant program and TACIS-IMC Coastal Community Development projects have started some work with the communities in the sense of training on community mobilisation. Presently the community relies on opinion/view/advice of the local archin (official leader of the village) or kethuda, local respected elder person who is followed by and represents the opinion of the community.

Media

The media is limited in the coast by one Balkan district newspaper “Balkan” and by the national newspapers (around 5) with the most popular “*Neytralniy Turkmenistan*” (*Russian*) and “*Turkmenistan*” (*Turkmen*). Other media sources include the representatives of Turkmenpress News Agency and Turkmen television correspondents.

Population, protected areas and sources of income

The estimated population of the Turkmen sector of the Caspian coast is around 106000 and consists of the following settlements (approximations)⁴:

Bekdash	10,000
Guwlymayak	1,000
Gyyanly	200
Gyzylsuw	620
Turkmenbashi	65,000
Yangadja	3,000
Razyezd 126	75
Razyezd 129	85
Karatenniz	130
Bellek	1,400
Khazar	11,000
Ekerem	2,000
Aul-Bazar	175
Chekishlyar	1,380
Essenguly	3,600
Adjiyab, Karadengish, Chalyyol	7,000

The protected areas of the Turkmen Sector of the Caspian consist of the territory of the Khazar State Reserve. The reserve covers the territory of 262037 hectares, from which 226 589 hectares are strictly protected and 35 448 – protected areas. The water area of the reserve is 192 047 hectares. The reserve consists of three branches: Turkmenbashi branch (mostly area of Turkmenbashi bay) – 192 300 hectares, Essenguly branch (from Essenguly to Ekerem) – 69 700 hectares, Ogurchinskiy island – 7000 hectares⁵.

The following main income sources were identified in smaller communities in the Turkmen sector of the Caspian sea:

- ◆ The state/government work – administration, schools, hospitals, servicing organisations etc.
- ◆ Oil and Gas industry – exploration and extraction fields, pumping stations, refinery etc.
- ◆ Fishing and hunting for birds/rabbits – on privately leased larger vessels and small private boats.
- ◆ Livestock production (in Turkmenbashi etrap area) and national knitwear (carpets, in Essenguly etrap)
- ◆ Commercial activities (sell-buy, market stands, small shops)

Fisheries issues

Local specialists⁶ do not see any obstacles to successful fisheries management but those related to the lack of finance. The equipment of the fisheries inspection, the main

⁴ Data was partially collected from local authorities or estimated by local population during visits to the coast in December 2003, taken from Caspian Coastal Profile report (CEP. Ashgabat, 2003).

⁵ Data taken from “Turkmenistan. The State of the Biological diversity. Review”, Ministry of Nature protection of Turkmenistan, Ashgabat 2002

⁶ An interview with some specialists of the Fishery Inspection of Turkmenistan, located in Turkmenbashi town.

controlling body of the fisheries in the country, is obsolete and outdated. The absence of the modern technical capacity leads to the improper catch management.

Other problems, that we identified earlier with some specialists of the Fishery Committee under the Cabinet of Ministries of Turkmenistan, include the lack of the knowledge of the methodology for Total Allowable Catch calculation and introduction of new methods at the national and regional level⁷.

The main activity to protect genetic diversity of the fish from hatcheries in Turkmenistan is the catch control and monitoring. Since Turkmenistan does not have any reproduction plants (hatcheries), this is the only activity for protection of genetic diversity. However, the government is planning to build the hatchery on the Caspian Sea, near the settlement of Guwlymayak.

The biggest challenge of enforcing the CITES ban of fisheries is the lack of the modern equipment and means of transport. The modern poachers possess the modern equipment which several times exceed the capacity of the Fisheries Inspection.

Questioning Coastal Zone Residents

Environmental information

According to residents of Turkmenbashi town and other settlements the major source of the information about the state of the environment is informal. For example, private fishermen of the coastal communities receive the information from colleagues from the larger boats who obtain the information from observations as well as from specialists of Balkanbalyk Association where they sell their products. TV and other sources, such as newspapers, are provide only descriptive information and do not usually possess the negative information or information about problems. Environmental specialists could also be a source of the informal channel of the information for residents, since they receive the fresh information about the environment from reports from and the work conducted by environmental organisations (Caspian Ecological Control).

In Turkmenbashi town, where NGOs and initiative groups successfully implemented public awareness programs, the information comes from those who were informed as well as from some clubs and centres that were opened in the framework of these projects.

Main sources of the income

The main sources of income by the level of their importance were outlined above. Depending on the settlement, major income could vary among the five options:

- ◆ Salary from budgetary organisations, including administration, social infrastructure (schools, hospitals etc.), municipal services etc. is the main source of income in region's centres (Essenguly and Turkmenbashi settlement) as well as for larger towns
- ◆ Salary from oil and gas and chemical industrial enterprises is the main source for industrial towns and settlements such as Bekdash (Chemical plant), Guwlimayak (Salt production farm), Ekerem (oil terminal and oil extraction wells site), Cheleken (Chemical plant, Oil extraction sites and Dragon Oil Company)
- ◆ Salary from commercial fishing and sea transport is one of the main incomes in Gyzylsuw village
- ◆ Incomes from private fishing and hunting are one of major source of income in former farm association villages, such as Chekishlyar and Gyanyly, and are also becoming popular in some distant (from the coast) settlements, such as Adjiyab, Karadengis, and Chalyyol.

⁷ This problem was identified during the preparation of the NCAP of Turkmenistan and was included as a priority action to the plan's activities.

- ◆ Livestock, namely camel, sheep and cow, production is increasingly popular in all rural area settlements and in most cases it provides with substitute incomes in the form of fresh milk and meat.

The commercial activities, such as trade, are mostly performed by immigrants from other parts of the country and have not reached extend to be the major income-generating activity.

ANNEX I

Target/stakeholder groups and their source of environmental information.

Target Group	Sources of the information
Population of the towns and settlements.	Television, local newspaper “Balkan”, Training and studying materials, school ecological clubs. Informal: Reserve specialists, Fishermen etc.
Oil refinery and other enterprises of oil processing	Department of ecology (monitoring, laboratory); communication with the ministry of nature protection; reports of polluters, newspapers, Scientific Institute TurkmenNIPIneft.
Fishery enterprises	Ecology specialists, own experience, laboratory, media
State organisations, local authorities	Reports on environment situation from polluters and monitoring bodies, TV, newspapers
Transport enterprises	Ecology specialists, Port monitoring body, own observations, media
Health System	Bulletins on air pollution (from monitoring organisations), own data, media