



# CASPIAN ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

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



## THE CASPIAN ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME ANNOUNCES THE 5<sup>TH</sup> ROUND OF THE MATCHED SMALL GRANTS PROGRAMME

The Matched Small Grants Programme (MSGP) is funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and is implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The MSGP is an element of the Caspian Environmental Programme (CEP). The MSGP finances small scale projects that focus on the key environmental problems in the Caspian Region through practical and concrete measures.

Grants are from USD 5,000 to 50,000. **At least 100% matching of the grant amount is mandatory**, total project budgets would therefore range from USD 10,000 to USD 100,000 or more, if additional resources are identified by the applicants.

The MSGP provides grants to applicants who are legal entities (government agencies, institutes, NGOs, private companies and firms) in the 5 states of the Caspian region (Azerbaijan, I.R. Iran, Kazakhstan, Russia and Turkmenistan). In general, the Caspian Region is defined as coastal areas and 100 km inland of the sea, but also includes all the major tributaries. Local governments, municipalities and community-based organizations are encouraged to apply, as are NGOs and private companies. Joint applications by any of the eligible entities are also permitted.

Grants are competitively selected by an evaluation committee comprised of representatives from each Caspian coastal state and members of the CEP Steering Committee.

For further information, please contact the PCU/MSGP office in Tehran, the Matched Grants and Public Participation Advisors (MPPAs) in your country, or check the web site of the CEP. Applicants are highly encouraged to submit a draft project concept to the MSGP staff for review and guidance before preparation of the final proposal. The deadline for submission of **DRAFT PROJECT CONCEPT** for the fifth round is **APRIL 30, 2005**. The deadline for submission of **FINAL APPLICATION** is **AUGUST 15, 2005**.

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