



CASPIAN ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

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



Announces the Fifth Round of the

MATCHED SMALL GRANTS PROGRAMME IN THE CASPIAN REGION

an opportunity to apply for matched grants from
USD 5,000 to USD 50,000
to protect the environment of the Caspian

Deadline for Concept Papers: 30 April 2005
Deadline for Full Applications: 15 August 2005

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

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WHAT IS THE MATCHED SMALL 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 Matched Small Grants Programme (MSGP). This is funded by the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) and managed by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

***Important note:** the **main features** of the MGSP are the same as previous rounds - the **one big difference** with the first three rounds is that we have reduced the minimum grant sum from USD 10,000 to USD 5,000 as we want to encourage smaller project applications.*

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE MSGP?

The purpose of the MSGP is to finance small-scale projects to address urgent environmental problems in the Caspian region. Within this programme projects can be implemented quickly, in order to improve the environment through curative or preventive actions.

The MSGP also helps to develop the capacity for further actions to improve the Caspian environment.

HOW MUCH CAN WE PROVIDE? WHAT WILL WE SUPPORT?

The MSGP will finance projects that will produce tangible and practical results.

- We can award grants of between USD 5,000 and USD 50,000.
- **You will have to find at least the same amount of money from your own resources**
- **50% of this matching funding can be “in kind”, but the other 50% must be money.**
- The total project budget will therefore range from USD 10,000 to USD 100,000 or more, if you can find more funding yourself.

Projects eligible under the Programme must address at least one of the following areas:

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

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 legal entity that is a governmental, private sector, or non-governmental organization based in the Caspian region is eligible to apply for grants. Proposals from municipal and regional government bodies are encouraged. Applications from public-private partners or NGOs/CBOs in partnership with government or private sector are also eligible.

HOW CAN I APPLY?

If you want to apply for a grant you should

- Obtain a **Full Application** package from the PCU - Tehran, your national Matched Small Grants and Public Participation Advisors (MPPAs) or from the CEP website - addresses on the front page of leaflet. The Full Application package contains the Concept Paper and Application forms.
- We strongly recommend you submit the Concept Paper before making the Full Application submission. This will help us to advise you on your project.
- After receiving feedback from us, you should submit the Full Application.
- Submit your Concept Paper and then Full Application to PCU - Tehran, preferably by e-mail or fax.

DEADLINES

For the receipt of your Concept Paper (CP):	30 April 2005
For our comments on your Concept Paper and respond to you:	15 May 2005
For the submission of your Full Application:	15 August 2005

HOW DOES THE SELECTION PROCESS WORK?

All proposals will be evaluated by a committee made up of representatives from each Caspian coastal state and members of the CEP Steering Committee. We have a transparent and open evaluation process to help us choose the best projects.

Priority will be given to those projects that

- Address the priorities listed in the Strategic Action Programme (SAP) for the Caspian Sea and in the five National Caspian Action Plans (NCAPs)
- Make tangible environmental improvements,
- Create innovative solutions to environmental problems in the Caspian region, **and/or** demonstrate a solution that can be replicated at other locations in the region.

Information about the SAP and NCAPs is available on CEP website. You can also obtain the information from PCU – Tehran or from your national MPPAs whose addresses are given on the front page of leaflet.

- The grant evaluation committee meeting will be on November 15th (tentative)
- Awards will be announced at the end of November
- You will be informed of the results and given feedback if you have been unsuccessful
- We shall meet with the selected projects before the end of December.

WHAT ARE THE CRITERIA FOR SELECTION?

Successful proposals will demonstrate:

- Tangible and sustainable environmental impact;
- That it matches SAP and NCAPs objectives;
- That there is effective stakeholder participation;

- An ability to achieve tangible results with verifiable indicators;
- Confirmed ability to provide matching funds at 100% of amount of grant;
- Technical viability and cost effectiveness;
- Replicability in other communities or continuation on a larger scale;
- A realistic work plan to implement the project;
- A realistic plan for the sustainability of the investment after the grant period and
- A plan for the dissemination of project results.

The Matched Small Grants Programme focuses on investment projects and does **NOT** support the following activities: research; monitoring; formal academic training; ongoing institutional core support; scholarships and fellowships; study programmes; or individuals applying on their own behalf, including for travel or studies.

You are strongly encouraged to visit CEP website, or contact your national MPPAs to learn more about the programmes and previous successful MSGP

OTHER CASPIAN GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

The MSGP 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>
- Micro-grants scheme under the UNDP supported CEP-SAP project: <http://www.caspianenvironment.org>

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).