

## **Caspian in the National Legends of Coastal Communities of Azerbaijan** **MEGIII-AZ10-05**

**Grant Budget:** USD 2,980

### **Objective of the project:**

To collect and to prepare for the edition materials, legends, myths, jokes, folklore, unique facts from life of coastal communities of the Azerbaijan Sector of Caspian

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### **Background and Problem Statement**

The Caspian Sea is unique ecosystem with the rich natural resources, which are submitted mineral, biological, agro climatic, recreational components. Caspian today unique in the world the reservoir, where was kept trade herd of sturgeon. Except for sturgeon in Caspian, there are and many other rare animals, for example, crustacea and others. According to Ramsar Convention about wetlands four areas of coast Caspian delta of Volga, the gulfs Gizil Agah , Krasovods and Nothers Chelekensk are recognized wetlands of the international rank. In these territories three large reserves Astrakhan, Gizil Agach and Hazar were created.

The Caspian seal living practically on all water areas of the sea, in deltas of the rivers Volga and Ural according to classification of the International Union of Protection of a Nature was is referred to vulnerable kinds and is brought in to the Red List. As, porcupine, otter, jeyran, steppe cat, lynx, seal also are brought in to the Red book such animals.

The unique kinds of birds, such as pink and curly pelican, small and Egyptian heron, flamingo, swan, see eagle and them only 41 kinds living on a coastal and coastal zone of the Azerbaijan sector Caspian are included into the Red book.

The Caspian Sea from ancient times played a key role, as a major intersection of trade ways between East and West. More than 150 years on Caspian are extracted petroleum. The questions of protection of ecology of Caspian and its unique biovariety are at the center of attention of a public of Caspian countries. And the considerable role in covering of problems of ecology of Caspian , preservation of a historical and cultural heritage of Caspian countries, education of the responsible relation to natural resources of Caspian see, attraction of the ecological tourists in Caspian country is allocated to mass media, printed editions, informational - advertising and help means, education of a society. As well as others Caspian country regions of the Azerbaijan sector of Caspian , such as Baku (Apsheron), Siyazan , Devechi, Hahmaz (Is typed), Gusar, Salyan, Neftchala, Astara, Massalli, Lenkoran are known by the historical events, legends, myths interesting national fairy tales, songs and verses.

From ancient times of Azerbaijan on the sea the known seafarers, scientific, dealers and tourists from the various countries of the world visited. Many interesting histories are connected to them. The peoples living on Apsheron (Old city, Surakhani, Gobustan, Primorsk) have a lot of histories and legends of the dealers, connected to stay, and tourists from Asia and Europe, with religions zaroostriзм , Islam , Albanian history and Christianity, stay Vikings , exchange of cultures and religions, fairy tales and legends about love, development oil factories, histories of islands of Caspian (Bulla, Nargin etc.) on northern direction of the Azerbaijan sector of Caspian (Siyazan, Devechi Khahmaz, Gusar) about today's many legends concerning

sacred places and feasts, sea inhabitants, sturgeon and caviar, seals, magic force of the sea and elements, courage of the fishermen, at the peoples living in a southern direction (Salyan , Neftchala, Massalli, Astara, Lenkoran) set of histories about gold fish, sturgeon, " an iron tree ", wetlands birds, fantastic divines, sea travels etc. were kept.

**Goal and objectives:**

- To prepare the computer version of the book
- To collect necessary printed materials (articles and photo)
- To prepare the questionnaire for individual and group meetings
- To carry out interview and conversations with target groups in regions
- To enter the assembled materials into the computer
- To edit the assembled materials and photos

**Expected results of the project:**

The interesting historical, cultural, folklore materials from coastal communities of Apsheron and regions of republic will be assembled.

Among materials there will be unique in the sort of the information about a surprising history of Caspian and its bio-system interesting facts from a history of fishery, shipbuilding, diplomatic and trade communications between Caspian and other countries, scientific researches and expeditions, fairy tale and legend about a sea animals, Caspian endemic, mutual exchange and good impact of various cultures etc.

It is supposed, that on villages of regions more histories will be assembled 80 - 100 and which will be included in the computer version of the book. The texts depending on the contents will be on 1/3 pages, 2/3 pages, no more 2 computer pages.