

Establishing of Ecological Educational Center **MEGII-RU01-05**

Grant Budget: USD 2,960

Objective of the project:

Increasing public awareness about the importance of conservation of biodiversity, environment and natural resources, attraction of public attention to problems of the Caspian region

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Background and Problem Statement

At present people in the Volga delta face the following environmental problems:

- absence of systematic ecological school and pre-school education related to the native environment;
- low public awareness about the values of biodiversity in the Volga and Caspian especially among young generation;
- lack of coordination between public and authorities responsible for ecology and nature protection;
- irrational management of bio-resources;
- unsustainable ecological development of coastal zone;
- regulation of water resources without taking into account the fisheries and population interests

Goals and Objectives

The objective of this project is to increase public awareness about importance of conservation of biodiversity, environment and natural resources, attraction of public attention to problems of the Caspian region.

Specific tasks

- development of effective system for continuous ecological education and careful use of nature in the Volga-Caspian region;
- mitigation of threats to biodiversity of the Volga delta and the Caspian Sea;
- wide dissemination of topical information on the state of environment, importance of biodiversity conservation and rational use natural resources

Stakeholders and beneficiaries

Native Nature Society - 51members, 12 kindergarten teachers, 17 school teachers, up to 100 kindergarten children and up to 500 schoolchildren. Also, there are People from Tumak village including up to 600 people and 1050 people from nearest villages. The project activity will also cover the area of Volodarski raion.

Target groups:

1. Children preschool age of 3-6 years
2. Children of school age of 6-10 years
3. Teenagers and youth of 10-18 years
4. Kindergarten and school teachers

Expected Outputs

- establishment of a permanent ecological educational center
- awareness raising among the population of the Tumak, Zelenga, Altunzhar, Makovo, Sizi Bugor, Sakhma villages (about 5600 people) about biodiversity value and environmental problems in the Caspian
- actual contribution into conservation of fish resources – at least several thousands fry of valuable fish species will be saved
- at least 4 workshops, 4 leaflets and 4 posts on Caspian problems prepared and implemented, as well as 3 articles the least in local press issued
- ecological program is elaborated and introduced into kindergarten and school curricula
- collaboration agreement achieved with nature protection and ecology bodies
- development of children's careful relation to nature and labor skills including socially useful work
- attraction of public attention to ecological problems of the Volga and Caspian Sea
- Long-term collaboration between kindergarten, school, Astrakhan Oblast Ecologo-Biological Center and nature protection bodies.

Implemented project activities:

- The Centre of the ecological education is established;
- The agreement on cooperation with Astrahan regional Ecological and biological centre is made;
- The seminar on ecological themes on the subject of "Main ecological notions. Methods of the education of the children with main notion" was conducted on March 30 2006;
- The equipment for the saving the fish action plan was purchased;
- 4 information boards about animal and plant biodiversity were prepared;
- An information brochure on the problem Caspian sea and Volga for public awareness to the ecological problems Caspian was distributed;
- Informative material about activities of the Centre for ecological education was published in regional newspaper "Astrahanskije notify" on 2.03. 2006 and in district newspaper "Zarya Kaspiya" on 17.02. 2006;

The grantee is completing the remaining tasks of the project.