

The prevention of illegal fishery in the districts of Neftchala and Lankaran

MEG-AZ26-04

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Grant Budget: USD2,940

Objective of the Project:

To raise awareness of the fishermen and the local residents, especially the youth on the negative consequences of illegal fishing and provide means to mitigate the current problem.

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Background and problem statement

Under the law of the Azerbaijan Republic about the fishery and under the decision of Cabinets of Ministers the protection of fish stocks and rules of fishery, the fish hunt is especially regulated in the territory of Azerbaijan Republic in the water objects. But the people living near to these water objects, breaking these rules, are engaged in fishery, causing the big harm to the nature, ecosystem and to a biodiversity. This problem gives out itself more particularly in the Azerbaijan part of the Caspian Sea, one of the biggest water objects of republic, especially in the Neftchala and Lankaran districts.

According to the legislation, the physical and legal persons can be engaged with the fishery, only who have got a license and on the basis of the fishing ticket, on the places, quantity, a kind and other conditions identified by the contract. But local people act how always they saw and have got used, choosing a way favorable to them. But sometimes the local dealing organizations close their eyes to these facts, or purposely created for them conditions. The people, which always saw and have already got used to do so, choose easy way for them, not understanding the minus consequences of the acts. Specified these problems already is not a secret for anybody and for the prevention of this problem are not conducted the thorough works. Considering these problems, we have planned to carry out this project.

Goal and objectives

The goal of the project is the prevention of illegal fish hunting through informing of the dwellers of Neftchala and Lankaran districts and local official bodies. It's objectives are:

- To inform the dwellers of the specified districts about the illegal fish hunting, the negative consequences of the similar works.
- To form the teen-agers and youth for conducting against these negative situations;
- To concentrate the attention of state and other organizations to this problem;
- To inform the fishermen and other interested people about the rules of legal fishery;
- To help activity of State Fish Protection Service.

Implemented project activities:

The main task of the project was to assist the prevention of illegal fishery in the above-mentioned area. It was also necessary to attract the attention of youths for conducting the struggle against these negative circumstances by means of their involving into the process as volunteers. The other target

was to cooperate with State Service of Fish Conservation in the struggle against illegal fishery. The project envisaged monitoring with the purpose of identifying the reasons for illegal fishery as well as to raise public awareness about the consequences of this process. Among the main events, was the holding of meetings with population in the area as well as educational trainings on how to receive license for legal fishery. The project was carried out in correspondence with the task stated. The tangible result was the receiving of official license for fishery by 8 people, by 6 people in the Banka district of the Neftchala region and by 3 people in Ilich district of the Lenkoran region. Published informational booklets and posters were distributed among beneficiaries with the help of volunteers who took part in the project.

During the first 10 days, the grantee specified beneficiaries and organized large information campaigns among the public, also local government and non government organizations was informed about the project. These actions were realized with the help of press conferences and meetings. Then it held the monitoring with the employees of State Fish Protection Service in the places of fishery during fish hunting. The monitoring held in the 5 sea-side zone of Lankaran (Port-Ilich, Babey, Namukh, Zenit, and Samum) and 3 avenues (Banka, Efet, and Salassin) of Neftchala. The monitoring held twice in a week during a month and the total number of monitoring were 19. During the monitoring, the grantee organized different meetings and conversations about separate themes with fishermen, tried to learn the reasons of illegal fishery, also to achieve high level co-operation among the local people and state bodies.

During this period, project group prepared different written materials about the illegal fishery. One of these materials was colored brochure with the critical paragraphs. It prepared and printed on the basis of collected information in the size 1,000 in the format A4. There are information about the rules of fishery, a place and terms of fishery, the instrument and methods of fishery, the kinds of the responsibility for infringement of rules of fishery and etc. The printed brochures distributed among the beneficiaries (it is attached). Together with the brochures, printed the colored posters on format A3 in the size 500. The poster is illustration bases. It posted in public places (schools, hospitals, in the buildings of municipalities and executive committees of villages and districts). At the same period, the grantee also carried out the meetings among the local people and representatives of local executive committees and municipalities, explained the negative consequences of illegal hunting of water animals, and discussed the ways of prevention of the problem. The grantee has prepared the simple license form about the legal fishery and introduced it to our beneficiaries during the meetings.

In brief, the following activities were conducted in this project:

- A public campaign against illegal fishing was conducted with the cooperation of State Fish Protection Service among youths of Neftchala and Lankaran;
- Colored brochures, booklets and posters were published; The local government and non government organizations were also informed about the project with the help of press conferences and meetings;
- Monitoring was conducted during the fish hunting season with the help of employees of State Fish Protection Service. The monitoring was held through site visits of 5 sea-side zones of Lankaran and 3 neighborhoods in Neftchala. Site visits held twice a week;
- Official fishing licenses for 8 fishermen in the Neftchala and Lenkoran regions was obtained;
- 26 meetings were organized on illegal fisheries and its negative consequences for fishermen, local residents and youths during the monitoring period;
- The monitoring of the new fishing licenses and public campaigns was conducted.

The project was completed in January 2006.