

## Caspian Biodiversity, Future Generations MEG-TK10-04

[Photo Gallery](#)

**Grant Budget:** USD 3,000

**Objective of the project:**

To establish a marine biology laboratory for studying various species including sturgeon in a local school of Turkmenbashi City

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**Background and Problem Statement**

Our school's current biology program lacks materials about Caspian resources, its current condition, and an outlook for future generations - this stifles students' ecological education and sound use of Caspian resources.

In the 2004-2005 school year, after-school groups have been cut from the school's general education curriculum. This has created additional problems to teachers' and students' work regarding environmental preservation around the Caspian.

**Goal and Objectives**

The goal of our project is to develop an ecologically-minded world view in for the next generation. We hope to achieve this through working lessons and texts regarding biodiversity and the Caspian Sea into the curriculums of natural science, geography, Rukhnama, and biology. We may also present them during class meetings and parents' meetings. We are creating a marine biology laboratory for studying varieties of sturgeon along with other different kinds of fish, mollusks, crabs, and seaweed. Accomplishing these goals will help increase knowledge of students and community members in questions of Caspian ecology, efficient use of its resources, encourage proper beach maintenance, and will guide students in their career choices.

**Proposed Project Activities**

- According to our project we will transform our “Youth Marine Biology” room in a laboratory. We will install an air conditioner and fan to support a constant air temperature. We will provide the lab with special equipment: aquarium, scales, microscopes, containers for transporting fish, thermometers, different kinds of glass, and test tubes for keeping chemicals (smelling salts and formaldehyde).
- We are planning to have a taxidermist work the laboratory to teach children how to preserve living specimens. We are also hoping to obtain a professionally prepared collection of once living creatures.
- We consider it necessary to buy a computer and printer to prepare monthly information newsletters for telling participants and community members about work on this project and the current state of the Caspian (pollution levels, threats to endangered species, poaching, and efforts to write and enforce fishing regulations).

- We are planning to construct three bulletin boards and two photo albums, which demonstrate the work of the group, teachers' lesson plans for Caspian-related themes.
- Upon completion of this project, we are hoping to hold a conference, on the bases of the school No. 13, to exchange the experience. We will invite heads of schools, biology teachers who live and work in the coastal area of the Caspian.

**Implemented project activities:**

The goal of this project is to develop an ecologically-minded world view for the next generation. It is hoped to achieve this through working lessons and texts regarding biodiversity and the Caspian Sea into the curriculums of natural science, geography, Rukhnama, and biology. Also, they will be presented during class meetings and parents' meetings. The school is creating a marine biology laboratory for studying varieties of sturgeon along with other different kinds of fish, mollusks, crabs, and seaweed.

Accomplishing these goals will help increase knowledge of students and community members in questions of Caspian ecology, efficient use of its resources, encourage proper beach maintenance, and will guide students in their career choices. According to the project, the grantee transforms the "Youth Marine Biology" room into a laboratory and will install an air conditioner and fan to support a constant air temperature. Also, she will provide the lab with special equipment: aquarium, scales, microscopes, containers for transporting fish, thermometers, different kinds of glass, and test tubes for keeping chemicals (smelling salts and formaldehyde).

The school has established and started the laboratory for taxidermist work in order to teach children how to preserve living specimens and also is hoping to obtain a professionally prepared collection of once living creatures. It is considered necessary to buy a computer and printer to prepare monthly information newsletters for telling participants and community members about work on this project and the current state of the Caspian (pollution levels, threats to endangered species, poaching, and efforts to write and enforce fishing regulations).

Currently, the laboratory is ready for operation, the repair is completed, the furniture and computer are installed and the laboratory equipment is at place. They include tables, cupboards, rack for laboratory glassware, chairs, carpet, microscopes, test-tubes, Petri dishes, thermometers, weights, measuring tools, filters and computer. A meeting with members of the club "Caspiy" was held to familiarize them with working plan on project "Biodiversity of the Caspian – to future generations". The latest tasks include the taxidermist work on creation of stuffed fish and holding of the conference and other related events in accordance with the working plan. In brief, the following activities have been conducted in this project:

- **Purchased weights and measuring instruments (used)**
- **Purchased two water thermometers**
- The laboratory was established in a renovated hall in a local school;
- The required equipment like computer, aquarium, scales, microscopes, thermometers, etc...were purchased;
- The collection of living creatures under the supervision of a taxidermist is underway;
- Monthly newsletters on the major issues of the Caspian Sea like pollution, endangered species and fisheries are published for the school children;
- Preparation of two photo albums are underway;
- A conference will be held to inform the public about the achievements and experiences gained through this project;

The grantee is to hold a conference and prepare the final report.