

THE CASPIAN CONCERN GROUP (CCG)

TERMS OF REFERENCE

The CCG is made up of people representing different stakeholder groups from the region, who will serve voluntarily with an interest in and a commitment to public participation. At least one CCG to be established in each Caspian littoral countries (Azerbaijan, I.R. Iran, Kazakhstan, Russia and Turkmenistan) and consists of minimum 5 people with the possibility of growing up over time by inviting the other concerned people to join the CCG and creating networks.

The composition of CCG will vary from country to country but mainly consist of the members from:

- Environmental agencies, both at national and local level;
- Local authorities, personalities;
- Businesses (possibly from a Chamber of Commerce or business association);
- Religious representative;
- Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs);
- Community Based Organizations (CBOs);
- Government (especially from the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Industry);
- Media (journalists);
- Tourism Organization;
- Industries;
- Academia;
- Other relevant stakeholders.

The main responsibilities of the CCG are to:

- Facilitate the dialogue between the Caspian Environment Programme (CEP) and the local communities in all feasible ways;
- Air the views, concerns and perceptions of the local communities on Caspian environmental issues;
- Support the Matched Small Grants and Public Participation Advisors (MPPAs);
- Provide feedback into the Stakeholder Analysis (AS) and Public Participation Strategy Papers (PPS) through attending workshops and completing the related questionnaires;
- Support the review of the first drafts of the PPS and Stakeholder Analysis Revisit (SAR);
- Support the Public Participation Plan;
- Support the implementation of the Micro Environment Grant Programme (MEG);
- Provide input to Ground Truthing process;
- Assist in holding a conference of the Caspian Mayors and establish linkages with EU-Tacis Coastal Sustainable Development project through information exchange, joint activities, and reciprocal representation/participation in meetings/activities.

The members of the CCG will be identified by the MPPAs. CCG members will receive an honorary letter of appreciation from the CEP/GEF Manager. CCG membership is on voluntary basis and no payment will be made to the members. GEF II will consider covering cost of meetings including associated travel on case basis.