Conservation of Caspian biodiversity

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Conservation and sustainable use of globally significant biological diversity in Hazar Nature Reserve on the Caspian Sea Coast

Timeframe: October (May) 2006 – October 2010

Implementing agency: UNDP Turkmenistan

Executing agency: Ministry of Nature Protection

Project partners: Local authorities, Oil and Gas sector, Fisheries, Hunting association and others

Donors: Global Environment Facility, UNDP Turkmenistan, Government of Turkmenistan

Total finance: 3.026 million USD (including GEF-$1.48 mln, UNDP Tkm $0.48 mln)

Beneficiaries: Hazar Nature Reserve, Local authorities, Ministry of Nature Protection (PA system of Turkmenistan), local communities

The project resulted from Component IV of the first phase of the Caspian Environment Programme on Priority Investment Project Portfolio



Map. Khazar State Reserve's three branches: Khazar, Ogurchinskiy Island and Essenguly branch.

Importance of the Hazar reserve

Created in 1932 (extended 1968,1993)
3 branches Turkmenbashy, Esenguly, game reserve in Ogurjaly Island More than 260,000 hectares
More than 80% of watershed



Map. Khazar State Reserve's three branches: Khazar, Ogurchinskiy Island and Essenguly branch.

International importance

- **Ramsar Convention**
- **Sits on the crossroads of major flyways**
- **Place of wintering of 500 ths. +**
- **Place of wintering and fattening of many species of fish**



Map. Khazar State Reserve's three branches: Khazar, Ogurchinskiy Island and Essenguly branch.

National importance

More than 360 species of plants (5 included into national red data book)

More than 420 species of mammals, 293 bird species, 48 fish species 47 nationally protected, 13 IUCN species



Map. Khazar State Reserve's three branches: Khazar, Ogurchinskiy Island and Essenguly branch.

Main threats to biodiversity in HNR:

- Degradation of habitat
  - •Development of oil and gas sector
  - •Oil and gas transportation
- Unsustainable use of the resources
  - •Resources "open for access"
  - •Absence of ownership of the resources
  - •Reduction of species from overuse

Project's overall objectives:

To strengthen Turkmenistan's national system of PA by demonstrating effective participatory PA management in Hazar Reserve on Turkmenistan's Caspian Sea Coast and systematically identifying and disseminating lessons learned

Project components (interventions):

Component I.

Hazar Nature Reserve (HNR) is better able to conserve biodiversity in an effective and appropriate manner

Activities:

- **Introduction of participatory planning process for *HNR* management**
- **Improvement of technical and HR capacities**
- **Improvement of legal and strategic framework of PA management**

Component I

- **The management planning and training need assessment initiated**
- **The stakeholder working group is created to assist the planning process**
- **Scientific priorities are identified and the biodiversity monitoring is initiated (aerial and ground surveys)**
- **Work on creation of bird guide of Turkmenistan started**
- **The program to increase the technical capacity fro scietific research and enforcement started**
- **Work with University and other educational institutions began**

Project components (interventions):

Component II.

Cross-sector capacity for integrated coastal Management Established and Biodiversity Conservation Objectives Mainstreamed into Productive Coastal Sectors Surrounding Hazar Reserve

Activities:

- **Introduction of process of coastal planning and coastal zone management**
- **Landscape conservation of Hazar Reserve is at place**
- **Information data base on coastal health parameters is at place**

Component II

- **Project activities are introduced to the National Caspian Action plan (NCAP), adopted by the President**
- **The study tour of high level officials to learn ICZM practices is taking place**
- **The environment data management system for Turkmenbashy is developed and under consideration**
- **The work on defining borders of reserve and preparation of Hazar Reserve map with the use of GIS technologies started**

Project components (interventions):

Component III

Hazar Reserve builds trust and goodwill with local communities and strengthens environmental governance over wildlife resources

Activities:

- **Increase social capacity and good will with Hazar Reserve**
- **Demonstration of sustainable use of bio-resources**

Component III

• Vital communities with high level of biological resource use were identified

• Conduction of wide participatory research program for selected communities to identify dependency on resources and resource use patters and community planning program underway

• The first round of grant program to improve social capacity and pilot economic alternatives started

• The cooperation program with hunters, via country's hunters association, started and aimed at the involvement of hunters into conservation and sustainable hunting activities

Project components (interventions):

Component IV

Project best practices are mainstreamed into the National System of Protected Areas of Turkmenistan

Activities:

• Development protected area management training program

• Introduction of new policies to encourage adaptive management

• Project lessons learnt spread nationwide

Component IV

- **Methodology on methodology to work with communities developed and introduced to PAs**
- **Project website has been created:**
  www.hazarwetlands.com
- **Publications of project documents, including methodologies, best project experiences underway**

Thank you