Zhaik-Caspian Aarhus Centre

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AREAS OF ACTIVITY

ZCAC:
• Ensures access to environmental information;
• Facilitates public participation in decision-making process related to environment;
• Helps to ensure access to the justice on environmental matters;
• Promotes implementation of the Teheran Convention;
• Facilitates capacity building of the stakeholders.
ZCAC provides a platform for **dialogue** what promotes **mutual understanding** and **cooperation**, and as a result helps to ensure **security** in the region.

ZCAC ensures the **public participation in decision-making process at all stages** using various mechanisms, methods and forms identified in the Aarhus Convention, etc.

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**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

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**ACCESS TO INFORMATION**

ZCAC is a link between the public, state and companies in obtaining environmental information and neutral dialogue ground.

**Getting of reliable and available environmental information:**
- Platform for dialogue between the state institutions – the public – the oil companies;
- Collection and dissemination of environmental information;
- Provision of consultations for the public regarding access to the information;
- Preparation of the public inquiries to the authorized bodies;
- Delivery of the public’s voice to the state bodies, oil companies and mass-media.

**Raising public awareness on environmental issues**

*For example:*

Jointly with the US Embassy, the lectures were held devoted to “Prevention, elimination and response to oil spills”, where Dr. Terry Heisen was the lecturer. He works in the Program of Biological and Ecological Studies of the US Energy Department.

Holding of consultations for the public by the specialists of the oil companies, state institutions, judges corps and ecological prosecutor’s office.
ACCESS TO JUSTICE

• Organize legal consultations for the public;
• Promote a dialogue on access to the justice with participation of the judges corps, prosecutor’s office, public, oil companies and mass media.

EDUCATION AND CAPACITY BUILDING

• Training of the public servants by request of the Regional Center of Enhancing of Qualification of the Public Servants;
• Holding workshops for the stakeholders;
• A number of manuals were produced

For example:
Manual “Public participation in decision-making related to the environment”
Implementation of the Teheran Convention and ETTI

- **Informational campaign** was held to raise public awareness on the Teheran Conference and its Protocols.

- Jointly with the International Institute of Environment and Development (IIED) under support of the Soros Foundation Kyrgyzstan, the UK Embassy organized and held the roundtable “Beyond Transparency Initiative of the Mining Sectors: regional prospective”.

CONCLUSION

- Dialogue – mutual understanding – cooperation – environmental security;

- education + awareness raising;

- Broader dissemination of ideas of the Aarhus Convention not limiting only by three components.