**Collaboration with CASPCOM**

(Note by the interim Secretariat)

**Introduction**

The Coordinating Committee on Hydrometeorology and Pollution Monitoring of the Caspian Sea (CASPCOM) is the successor of the Coordinating Committee on Hydrometeorology and Pollution Monitoring of the Caspian Sea, which was established in 1994 by hydrometeorological services of the Caspian littoral states with the active support of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO). The main objectives of CASPCOM are coordination, standardization, cooperation and improving in the fields of hydrometeorology and pollution monitoring of the Caspian Sea.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between CASPCOM and the Tehran Convention interim Secretariat (TCIS) was signed on 27-28 November 2013 during the 18th Session of the CASPCOM in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan (TC/COP5/5 of 6 March 2014). The MoU was welcomed by the Fifth Meeting of the Conference of Parties to the Tehran Convention (COP5) (TC/COP5/9, Annex V – Ministerial Statement and Decisions). The MoU is attached as the Annex I.

**Historic overview**

CASPCOM participated conventionally in Meetings of the Conference of the Parties to the Tehran Convention as well as other meetings organized under the Tehran Convention in the capacity of an observer. TCIS conversely participated in the sessions of CASPCOM. Throughout the years of cooperation CASPCOM provided numerous contributions to the Tehran Convention activities, in particular while in the field of environmental monitoring and assessment. The involvement of CASPCOM was also prominent in developing climate change related project proposals.

**Scientific Conference on Climate Change in the Caspian Sea Region**

One of the recent examples of the cooperation between two regional bodies was a Scientific Conference on Climate Change in the Caspian Sea Region. In a view of tangible changes in the water sea level fluctuations of the Caspian Sea an urgent need was recognized for further research in this field. At the 24th session of CASPCOM, 10–11 December 2019, Tehran, Iran, the idea was revealed to hold the Scientific Conference to obtain more climate change related information.

In this context, the Scientific Conference on Climate Change in the Caspian Sea Region was organized under the auspices of the CASPCOM and the TCIS in October 2021. The Conference, held online, brought together over 80 leading scientists from the Caspian littoral states and other countries. The preparation of the Conference was coordinated by an Organizing Committee consisting of designated representatives of the Caspian littoral States serviced and supported by representatives of CASPCPOM and UNEP/TCIS. The Terms of Reference and the Composition of the Organizing Committee are attached as the Annex III**.** The Organizing Committee of the Conference and the panel of reviewers, which included the scientists from different countries, decided on 40 abstracts to be presented at the Conference, as well as on those to be published in the follow-up to the Conference. The Conference was chaired by Dr. Sahar Tajbakhsh, President of the Iranian Metrological Organization and reviewed over 35 selected and presented scientific studies within the four thematic sections: 1) Climate of the Caspian Sea region and its changes in the 21st century; 2) The Caspian Sea level change: analysis, modeling, and long-term projection; 3) The effects of climate change on the ecosystem and biodiversity of the Caspian Sea; and 4) Adaptation to climate change in the Caspian Sea region. The Annotated Agenda of the Conference is contained in the Annex IV. The list of participants of the Conference is attached as well as the Annex V. The Procedural Report of the Conference is contained in the Annex II.

Following the results of the Conference, a list of Recommendations for the Caspian littoral states and academia was compiled as recommendations of the Conference. The Participants to the Conference recommended *inter alia*  to establish a network of scientists supported by a thesaurus of climate change related research, to advise and assist the Parties to the Tehran Convention and members of CASPCOM in the development and implementation of their climate change related policies and cooperation. The Proceedings of the Conference were published on 13 June, 2022. The Recommendations and the Proceedings of the Conference are contained in the Annexes VI and VII respectively.

The results of the Conference were communicated to the Caspian littoral countries by the letter from Mr. Mahir Aliyev, Coordinator of the TCIS and Ms Elena Ostrovskaya, Coordinator of CASPCOM dated 29 June, 2022. The full recording of the Conference is available on the Tehran Convention website (https://tehranconvention.org/en/news/scientific-conference-climate-change-caspian-sea-region-materials-are-available-viewing).

**Suggested action**

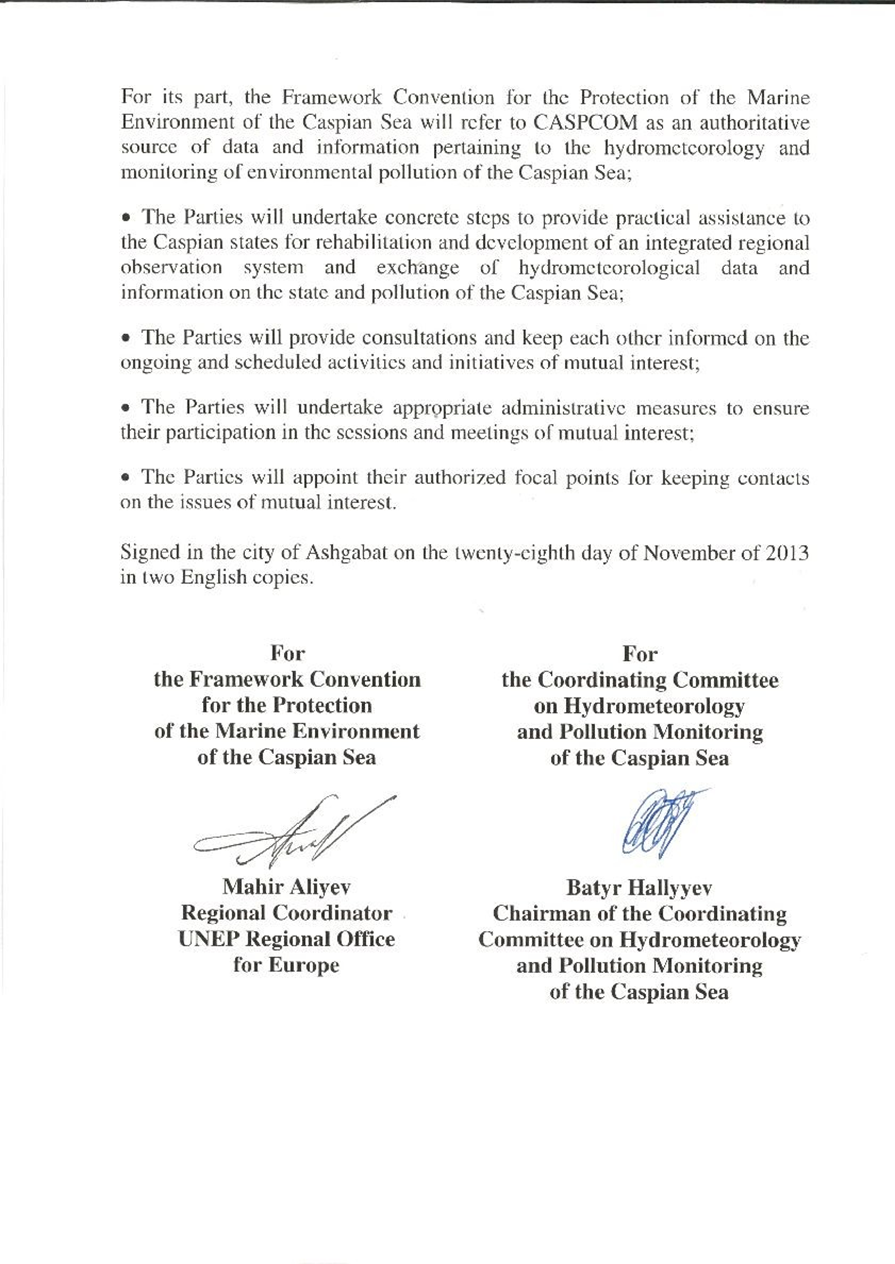
The Conference may wish to:

* Welcome the organization and outcomes of the Scientific Conference on Climate Change in the Caspian Sea Region and express its gratitude to the Organizing Committee of the Conference, along with the Chair, keynote speakers and the CASPCOM for their significant contribution;
* Request the TCIS and the CASPCOM to develop the Terms of Reference and working arrangements for the network of scientists supported by a thesaurus of climate change related research, to advise and assist the Parties to the Tehran Convention and members of CASPCOM in the development and implementation of their climate change related policies and cooperation for consideration of the COP7 and CASPCOM.

**Annex I**

Text, letter

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**Annex II**

**Scientific Conference on Climate Change in the Caspian Sea region**

**27-28 October 2021**

**Introduction**

The Conference was organized under the auspices of the Coordinating Committee on Hydrometeorology of the Caspian Sea (CASPCOM) and the Interim Secretariat of the Framework Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Caspian Sea (Tehran Convention).

Its key objectives were to:

1. Collect and discuss recent findings related to climate change and its consequences for the Caspian Sea region;
2. Identify key research and knowledge gaps related to climate change;
3. Inspire global and regional research that will lead to peer-reviewed publications and scientific reports;
4. Stimulate global awareness among stakeholders of climate change in the Caspian Sea region;
5. Promote and support improved identification of current and future predictable climate change effects on coastal economies, populations and the natural resources of the Caspian Sea and its basin.

The following 4 themes were chosen as the core focus of the Conference:

1. Climate of the Caspian Sea region and its changes in the 21st century.
2. The Caspian Sea level change: analysis, modeling, and long-term projection.
3. The effects of climate change on the ecosystem and biodiversity of the Caspian Sea.
4. Adaptation to climate change in the Caspian Sea region.

The preparation of the Conference was coordinated by an Organizing Committee consisting of designated representatives of the Caspian littoral States serviced and supported by representatives of CASPCPOM and UNEP/TCIS.

In the course of the preparatory process abstracts were solicited from scientists, focusing on the objectives, methodology and results of their work. In total 82 abstracts were received. The book of abstracts is in preparation and will be published in June 2022.

Assisted by experts from UNEP the Organizing Committee, in 6th meetings reviewed the contributions, prepared and submitted a summary evaluation per theme to the Conference for its consideration.

On the basis of the review and nominations from the Riparian States, the Organizing Committee selected a moderator and speakers for each of the themes.

**The Conference**

The Conference elected Dr. Sahar Tajbakhsh, President of the Iranian Meteorological Organization, as Chair, Ms. Elena Ostrovskaya, CASPAS Coordinator, CASPCOM and Mr. Mateusz Benko, Tehran Convention Officer, UNEP as rapporteurs.

Under agenda item 1 welcome and keynote addresses were made by 1) Dr. Sahar Tajbakhsh, President of the Iranian Metrological Organization; 2) Mr. Mahir Aliyev, Coordinator of the Interim Secretariat of the Tehran Convention; 3) Ms. Danara Alimbayeva, Director General of Kazhydromet, Chair of the CASPCOM; 4) Ms. Andrea Hinwood, UNEP Chief Scientist and 5) Mr. Hoesung Lee, Chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

The discussion on theme 1 was moderated by Ms. Svetlana Dolgikh, Candidate of Geographical Sciences, Head of climatic research department of RSE “Kazhydromet” Research Center.

The discussion on theme 2 was moderated by Mr. Mikhail Bolgov, Doctor of Technical Sciences, Head of the Surface Water Modeling Laboratory, Chief Researcher of the Water Problems Institute, Member of the Russian National Committee for the UNESCO Intergovernmental Hydrological Program.

The discussion on theme 3 was moderated by Ms. Natalia Ogar, Doctor of Biological Sciences, Corresponding member of the National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Corresponding member of Russian Academy of Natural Sciences. Director of “Terra-Priroda” Ltd.

The discussion on theme 4 was moderated by Mr. Murad Atadjanov, Director, Institute of the Caspian Sea of Turkmenistan.

In its final plenary session, the Conference reviewed and adopted the compilation of the recommendations prepared at the break-out sessions.

Closing remarks were made by keynote speakers as well as representatives of the Tehran Convention and CASPCOM after which the Chair declared the Conference closed.

A full list of participants to the Conference is attached.

**Follow-up**

As discussed and agreed upon by the Conference its full proceedings will be captured and published in a Book of abstracts. The Participants to the Scientific Conference on Climate Change in the Caspian Sea region recommended that, based on the outcome and proceedings of the Conference, a network of scientists be established supported by a thesaurus of climate change related research, to advise and assist the Parties to the Tehran Convention and members of CASPCOM in the development and implementation of their climate change related policies and cooperation.

**Annex III**

**Terms of Reference of the Organizing Committee**

Scientific Conference on Climate Change in the Caspian Sea region

The Organizing Committee will be serviced, and its work and operations will be overseen by the Secretariats of the Tehran Convention (interim Secretariat) and CASPCOM. The Committee will ensure that the contributions to and reports of the Conference are science-based and take political sensitivities into account. The decisions of the Committee will be taken by consensus while leaving room for recording dissenting opinions. Members who are not able to attend meetings where decisions are taken will be allowed to join the consensus or register their dissenting opinion through the Secretariats. In cases where no consensus can be reached, the Committee Chair/Co-Chair in consultation with the Secretariats of the Tehran Convention and CASPCOM will decide.

The main functions of the Organizing Committee are to:

1. Organize itself and nominate a Chair, Co-Chair and a rapporteur;
2. Promote the conference among interested parties; members should explore and apply all means to maximize public knowledge and interest in the Conference in their respective countries;
3. Encourage, coordinate and oversee the inputs and participation from the Caspian states, international organizations and audience;
4. Plan and undertake the necessary preparatory activities, both at the regional and national levels;
5. Select the Conference Chair and communicate with him/her during the preparatory process and the conference;
6. Guide the development of the scientific program to ensure the content is relevant and meets the objectives of the Conference;
7. Oversee the call for abstracts as well as the subsequent review and selection of abstracts for inclusion in the Conference program;
8. Monitor the progress of the scientific program at the Conference;
9. Select all session moderators and speakers, to be confirmed by the Conference;
10. Prepare the conference proceedings for decision and adoption by the Conference participants.

The Organizing Committee can perform all these functions itself or nominate a core scientific committee consisting of three members , with the possibility to co-opt additional members (if needed). They will deal with the abstract reviewing, selection of the session speakers, scientific program and preparation of the proceedings as an editorial group (Functions 5-9). While the scientific committee works independently, accountability and feedback to the organizing committee is to be maintained.

**Composition of the Organizing Committee**

**Scientific Conference**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Country** | **Name** | **Position** | **Email**  **Mobile phone number** |
| Azerbaijan | Mr. Akbar Asgarov, | Head  Organization and methodological support of surveillance systems division, National Hydrometeorology Service, | [akber1@yandex.ru](file:///C:/Users/schlingemann/Downloads/akber1@yandex.ru)  +994553315830 |
| Iran | Dr. Hamid Alizadeh Ketek Lahijani. | Deputy of Research and Technology, Iranian National Institute for Oceanography and Atmospheric Science | [lahijani@inio.ac.ir](mailto:lahijani@inio.ac.ir)  [hamidlahijani@gmail.com](file:///C:/Users/schlingemann/Downloads/hamidlahijani@gmail.com)  +989121159462 |
| Kazakhstan | Ms. Natalya Ivkina | Head    Department of Hydrometeorological research of the Caspian Sea,  RSE “Kazhydromet” | [Ivkina\_n@meteo.kz](file:///C:/Users/schlingemann/Downloads/Ivkina_n@meteo.kz)  +77772734436 |
| Russian Federation | Mr. Igor Shkolnik | Head  "Voeikov Main Geophysical Observatory” | [igor@main.mgo.rssi.ru](file:///C:/Users/schlingemann/Downloads/igor@main.mgo.rssi.ru) |
| Turkmenistan | Ms. Elena Kamneva - | Engineer-Hydrologist Department of Hydrology  Hydrometeorological Service | [ytwehab93@gmail.com](mailto:ytwehab93@gmail.com) |
| TC Secretariat | Mr. Frits Schlingemann | Senior Advisor  TC Secretariat | [schlingemann.frits@gmail.com](file:///C:/Users/schlingemann/Downloads/schlingemann.frits@gmail.com)  +41793571414 |
| CASPCOM | Ms. Elena Ostrovskaya | Coordinator  CASPCOM | [eostrovskaya@mail.ru](file:///C:/Users/schlingemann/Downloads/eostrovskaya@mail.ru)  +79064558488 |

Resource person: Mr. Matthew Billot, UNEP, Science division, [matthew.billot@un.org](file:///C:/Users/schlingemann/Downloads/matthew.billot@un.org)

**Annex IV**

**PROVISIONAL ANNOTATED PROGRAMME**

**Wednesday, 27 October 2021 (CET Time)**

*(+1h Moscow; +1.5h Tehran; +2h Baku; +3h Ashgabat; + 4h Nursultan)*

*Please kindly connect 30 minutes before the beginning of the Conference to make sure that everything works correctly.*

*In case of technical issues, please, address to*

**Room 1** - Mr. Daniel Nixdorf; (EN) [danixdo@posteo.org](mailto:danixdo@posteo.org) (+31 6 461 620 96; WhatsApp)

Ms. Kristina Russkikh; (EN&RU) [kristina.russkikh@un.org](file:///C:/Users/Benko/Desktop/kristina.russkikh@un.org) (+7 985 490 50 30; WhatsApp)

**Room 2 -** Mr. Denis Shipilov (RU) [cyberden85@gmail.com](mailto:cyberden85@gmail.com) (+7 960 861 01 90; WhatsApp)

Ms. Julie Nevski (EN&RU[) julie.nevski@un.org](file:///C:/Users/Benko/Desktop/)%20julie.nevski@un.org) (+41 78 628 80 58; WhatsApp)

**Room 1** (plenary session)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83908334451?pwd=UjRDL0tKRm1pSW81c25pQzJvSHdUdz09>

Meeting ID: 839 0833 4451; Passcode: 696062

8:00 – 8:30 - Opening of the Conference (plenary session)

The Conference will be opened and chaired by **Dr. Sahar Tajbakhsh**, President of the Iranian Metrological Organization.

- Welcome address by the representative of the Tehran Convention Secretariat

**Mr. Mahir Aliyev,** Coordinator of the Interim Secretariat of the Tehran Convention

- Welcome address the representative of the CASPCOM

**Ms. Danara Alimbayeva,** Director General of Kazhydromet

- Message by UNEP Chief Scientist

**Ms. Andrea Hinwood**

- Message by Chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

**Mr. Hoesung Lee**

8:30 – 8:45 - Presentation of the Conference objectives (plenary session)

**Ms. Elena Ostrovskaya**, CASPCOM representative will present the programme of the Conference and outline its objectives.

The Conference has been organized by CASPCOM and the Tehran Convention interim Secretariat (TCIS) through an Organizing Committee consisting of representatives of the two organizations and of the five Caspian States. The Organizing Committee was chaired by Dr. Hamid Alizadeh Ketek Lahijani, Deputy of Research and Technology, Iranian National Institute for Oceanography and Atmospheric Science. The Organizing Committee selected the themes, abstracts and speakers of the Conference, prepared recommendations for each of the themes, and will be responsible for the Report and the Book of Abstracts to be issued after the Conference.

Following the welcome addresses, the four Conference themes will each be introduced by a keynote speaker. The keynote speakers will then each moderate a breakout session with up to 10 presentations, with a short time for Q&A. Each presenter is requested to summarize his/her presentation and ensuing Q&A discussion in one or two paragraphs for inclusion in the report of the Conference. The keynote speakers will be assisted by members of the Secretariat (CASPCOM; TCIS).

The Organizing Committee has prepared a set of recommendations for each of the 4 themes. They will be presented and shown on the screen at the end of each breakout session. Keynote speakers, presenters and participants are invited to consider and submit additional recommendations until a week after the Conference. The recommendations will be annexed to the Report of the Conference.

The Report of the Conference and the Book of Abstracts will be prepared by the Organizing Committee after the Conference and will be widely distributed. The Report of the Conference will indicate how the Conference was organized and conducted and include summaries of what has been presented and said at the Conference, as prepared and submitted by the speakers and presenters. The list of members of the Organizing Committee, the list of Conference participants and a list of all abstracts submitted with an indication of their selection will be annexed to the Report. The Book of Abstracts will, apart from an introductory part include the abstracts selected by the Organizing Committee for publication, each with a reference to the full article or underlying research.

8:45 – 10:30 - Keynote presentations (plenary session)

1. Climate of the Caspian Sea region and its changes in the 21st century.

**Ms. Svetlana Dolgikh,**

Candidate of Geographical Sciences, Head of climatic research department of RSE “Kazgidromet”

1. The Caspian Sea level change: analysis, modelling, and long-term projection.

**Mr. Mikhail Bolgov,**

Doctor of Technical Sciences, Chief Researcher of the Water Problems Institute, Member of the Russian National Committee for the UNESCO Intergovernmental Hydrological Program

1. The effects of climate change on the ecosystem and biodiversity of the Caspian Sea.

**Ms. Natalia Ogar**,

Doctor of Biological Sciences, Corresponding member of the National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Kazakhstan and Russian Academy of Natural Sciences. Director of “Terra-Priroda” Ltd.

1. Adaptation to climate change in the Caspian Sea region.

**Mr. Murad Atadjanov**

Director of the Institute of the Caspian Sea, Turkmenistan

10:30 – 11:00 Coffee break

11:00 – 12:00 Breakout sessions

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Room 1**  **Climate of the Caspian Sea region and its changes in the 21st century.** | **Room 2**  **The Caspian Sea level change: analysis, modelling, and long-term projection.** |
| <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83908334451?pwd=UjRDL0tKRm1pSW81c25pQzJvSHdUdz09>  Meeting ID: 839 0833 4451; Passcode: 696062 | <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83294910013?pwd=RS9hOUlubS9WNmd3UVFDaDJSZVlKdz09> Meeting ID: 832 9491 0013 Passcode: 248762 |
| Moderator: **Ms. Svetlana Dolgikh,**  *10 min for each presentation*  *5 min for Q&A after each of the presentation*  *20 min Recommendation*  1) Climate research in the Turkmen part of the Caspian Sea  **Ms. Maral Mukhammedova**  2) Modern Changes in Atmospheric Precipitation on the Absheron Peninsula of Azerbaijan  **Mr. Said Safarov**  Mr. Elnur Safarov,  Mr. Dzamal Guseynov  Ms. Naila Ismayilova  3) Storm Surges in the Northern Part of the Caspian Sea and Atmospheric Circulation  **Ms. Galina Surkova**  Mr. Viktor Arkhipkin,  Mr. Ivan Okhlopkov  4) Simulation of Dust Emission in Gorgan Bay Area in Semi-Arid Conditions  **Ms. Parvin Ghafarian**  Mr. Hamid A.K. Lahijani  Mr. Mohammadreza Mohammadpour Penchah  12:00 – 13:00 - Lunch break | Moderator: **Mr. Mikhail Bolgov,**  *10 min for each presentation*  *5 min for Q&A after each of the presentation*  *20 min Recommendation*  1) Effect of Long-Term Variations in Wind Regime over Caspian Sea Region on the Evolution of its Level in 1948–2017  **Mr. Nikolay Dianskiy**  Ms. Tatiana Vyruchalkina  Mr. Vladimir Fomin  2)Modelling of Projected Caspian Sea Level under Increasing Anthropogenic Climate Change and Human Water Withdrawals during 21st Century  **Mr. Sifan A. Koriche**  Ms. Joy S. Singarayer  Ms. Hannah L. Cloke  3)Future Decline of the Caspian Sea Level: Does the North Atlantic Oscillation Matter?  **Mr. Matthias Prange**  Ms. Sri Nandini-Weiss  Ms. Ute Merkel  Mr. Klaus Arpe  4) Modeling of the Caspian Sea Level in Various Climatic Conditions Using the IVMIO-CICE Oceanic Model and the INMCM Climate Model  **Ms. Polina Morozova**  Mr. Konstantin Ushakov  Mr. Evgeniy Volodin  Mr. Vladimir Semyonov |
|  |  |

13:00– 15:30 *Continued:* Breakout sessions

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Room 1**  **Climate of the Caspian Sea region and its changes in the 21st century** | **Room 2**  **The Caspian Sea level change: analysis, modelling, and long-term projection** |
| <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83908334451?pwd=UjRDL0tKRm1pSW81c25pQzJvSHdUdz09>  Meeting ID: 839 0833 4451; Passcode: 696062 | <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83294910013?pwd=RS9hOUlubS9WNmd3UVFDaDJSZVlKdz09> Meeting ID: 832 9491 0013 Passcode: 248762 |
| 5) Volga Delta Hydrological Regime under Conditions of Modern Climate Changes  **Ms. Olga Gorelits**  Ms. Galina Ermakova  Mr. Igor Zemlyanov  Ms. Anna Sapozhnikova  Ms. Inga Milutina  6) Evidences of the so-called 4.2 climate event observed in the cores collected from the southern Caspian Basin  **Mr. Hadi Gerivani**  Mr. Hamid A.K. Lahijani  Ms. Victoria Putans  7) Evaluation of Climate Model Simulations of the Caspian Sea Region  **Ms. Kim Stadelmaier**  Mr. Patrick Ludwig  Mr. Joaquim Pinto  8) Projected Changes in Precipitation Intensity in the Southern Coast of the Caspian Sea Using a CMIP6 Multi-Model Ensemble  **Ms. Azar Zarrin**  Mr. Abbasali Dadashi-Roudbari  9) Volga Water Flow under Conditions of Holocene Optimum and Scenario Anthropogenic Climate Changes in the 21st century  **Mr. Alexander Georgiadi**  Ms. Irina Milyukova  10) Assessment of Changes in the Caspian Sea Ice Cover by the End of the 21st Century According to Climate Scenarios  **Ms. Zhanar Naurozbaeva**  The breakout session will be concluded by the recommendations prepared by the Organizing Committee followed by a brief Q&A | 5) Modeling of Wind Waves at the Port of Aktau  **Ms. Aizat Yeltay**  Ms. Natalia Ivkina  6) Numerical Modeling of Physical Oceanography Properties in the Southern Caspian Sea  **Mr. Javad Babagoli Matikolaei**  Mr. Behzad Layeghi  7) Assessment of the Impact of the Caspian Sea Level Falling to the Coastal Zone Geomorphology Characteristics of the Caspian Sea from the Cape Bandovan to Astarachay River of the Azerbaijan Water Basin Based on Satellite Image Processing  **Ms. Turkan Mamishova**  Mr. Amir Soltan Aliyev  Mr. Rauf Haji Gardashov  8) The Flow of the Volga River with Global Warming by 1.5 and 2 Degrees  **Mr. Andrey Kalugin**  9) A Non-Linear Model of Caspian Sea Level Fluctuations in Paleotime  **Mr. Anatoly Frolov**  10) Climate Changes and Fluctuations in the Caspian Sea Level: A Retrospective Analysis for the Last 10,000 Years  **Ms. Tamara Yanina**  Mr. Boris Romanyuk  Mr. Valentin Sorokin  The breakout session will be concluded by the recommendations prepared by the Organizing Committee followed by a brief Q&A |

**Thursday, 28 October 2021 (CET Time)**

9:00 – 10:30 - Breakout sessions

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Room 1**  **The effects of climate change on the ecosystem and biodiversity of the Caspian Sea** | **Room 2**  **Adaptation to climate change in the Caspian Sea region** |
| <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88263227367?pwd=Vi9qQXVjQUdOTWRGOGt2dG5qcXBHQT09>  Meeting ID: 882 6322 7367 Passcode: 106620 | <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82031123891?pwd=dG5sRU5GcmZiRnJqOEwvKythQjhJZz09> Meeting ID: 820 3112 3891 Passcode: 709193 |
| Moderator: **Ms. Natalia Ogar**  *10 min for each presentation*  *5 min for Q&A after each of the presentation*  *20 min Recommendation*  1) Projected 2100 Caspian Sea Level Drop Has Devastating Consequences  **Mr. Frank P. Wesselingh**  Mr. Matteo Lattuada  Mr. Thomas Wilke,  Ms. Sri Nandini-Weiss  Mr. Matthias Prange  Mr. Maxim Vinarski  PRIDE Team  2) EMODnet Seabed Habitats – Delivering a Habitat Map for the Caspian Basin  **Mr. Fergal McGrath**  EMODnet Seabed Habitats consortium  3) Assessment of the state of the Caspian Sea ecosystem due to the impact of climate changes in recent years based on the results of studies in the coastal waters of Azerbaijan  **Mr. Elchin Mamedov**  Mr. Mehman Akhundov  Ms. Elnara Jafarova  4) On the dynamics of the biodiversity of the Turkmen sector of the Caspian Sea depending on climate variability  **Mr. Eldar Rustamov**  Mr. Alexandr Shcherbina  Mr. Sakhatmurat Mammedov | Moderator: **Mr. Murad Atadjanov**  *10 min for each presentation*  *5 min for Q&A after each of the presentation*  *20 min Recommendation*    1) Methodological Bases of Strategies for Adaptation to Climate Change in the Regions of Russia  **Ms. Elena Akentieva**  2) Lower Volga Region Water Management under Conditions of Climate Changes  **Mr. Igor Zemlyanov**  Mr. Mikhail Bolgov  Mr. Alexander Buber  Ms. Olga Gorelits  3) Urbanization and Climate Change Adaptation in Coastal area of Caspian Sea; Challenges and Solutions; with focus on Iran and Azerbaijan  **Mr. Mehrdad Rahmani**  Ms. Katja Schaefer  Mr. Mateusz Benko  Ms. Cerin Kizhakkethottam  Mr. Soumyadeep Banerjee  4) Towards the Possibilities of Achieving Land Degradation Neutrality in the Countries of the Caspian Region (on the Example of Russia, Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan)  **Mr. German Kust**  Ms. Olga Andreeva  Ms. Daria Shklyaeva  Mr. Vasiliy Lobkovskiy |

10:30 – 11:00 - Coffee break

11:00 – 13:00 - *Continued*: Breakout sessions

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Room 1**  **The effects of climate change on the ecosystem and biodiversity of the Caspian Sea** | **Room 2**  **Adaptation to climate change in the Caspian Sea region** |
| <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88263227367?pwd=Vi9qQXVjQUdOTWRGOGt2dG5qcXBHQT09>  Meeting ID: 882 6322 7367 Passcode: 106620 | <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82031123891?pwd=dG5sRU5GcmZiRnJqOEwvKythQjhJZz09> Meeting ID: 820 3112 3891 Passcode: 709193 |
| 5) Changes in the Trophic Capacity and Productivity of the Northern Caspian Sea under the Influence of a Changing Climate  **Ms. Larisa Degtyareva**  Ms. Elena Ostrovskaya  Mr. Roman Kashin  6) The Potential Impact of 21st Century Climate Change on Caspian Seals (Pusa caspica)  **Mr. Simon Goodman**  Mr. Harrison Tan  7) Impact of the Climate Change and the Regression of the Caspian Sea on the Distribution and Abundance of the Caspian Seal (Pusa Caspica)  **Mr. Mirgaliy Baimukanov**  8) The Effects of Climate Change on the Iranian Side of the Caspian Sea Fish Stocks  **Ms. Mahnaz Rabbaniha**  Mr. Fereidoon Owfi  Mr. Hasan Fazli  Mr. Akbar Pourgholami | 5) Modernization of the University Learning Courses on Geospatial Technologies in Order to Ensure the Environmental Safety of Coastal Ecosystems of the Caspian Sea  **Mr. Orazmukhammed Durdyyev**  Mr. Govshut Shadurdyyev  6) SOCAR's Proactive Steps in Combating Climate Change  **Ms. Rana Humbatova**  7) Improving the Quality of Climate Services through Automating the Marine Observation Network  **Mr. Denis Shipilov**  Ms. Elena Ostrovskaya  8) Conservation and Effective Management of Biodiversity in the Context of Climate Change  **Ms. Shirin Karryeva** |
| 9) Study of the Flora of the Caspian Desert in the Context of Climate Change  **Ms. Ogulnabat Rakhmanova**  The breakout session will be concluded by the recommendations prepared by the Organizing Committee followed by a brief Q&A | 9) Contribution of International Projects on Climate Change in the Caspian Sea Region to the Tehran Convention Development and Implementation  **Ms. Tatiana Butylina**  Mr. Amirkhan Amirkhanov  Ms. Natalia Tretyakova  The breakout session will be concluded by the recommendations prepared by the Organizing Committee followed by a brief Q&A |

13:00 – 14:00 - Lunch break

**Room 1** (Plenary session)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88263227367?pwd=Vi9qQXVjQUdOTWRGOGt2dG5qcXBHQT09>

Meeting ID: 882 6322 7367 Passcode: 106620

14:00 – 15:30 Summary of the breakout sessions (plenary session)

The Chair will invite the keynote speakers to summarize the results of the breakout sessions, inform the Conference about the conclusions of the presentations and recommendations provided by the participants.

The Chair will furthermore inform the meeting about follow up actions as agreed by the Organizing Committee.

15:30 – 16:00 - Closure of the Conference (plenary session)

The Chair will invite the keynote speakers and other Representatives to provide closing remarks and after that close the Conference.

**Annex V**

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| **Научная конференция по изменению климата в регионе Каспийского моря**  *27–28 октября 2021 года* | **Scientific Conference on Climate Change in the Caspian Sea region**  *October 27-28, 2021* |
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| **СПИСОК УЧАСТНИКОВ** | **LIST OF PARTICIPANTS** |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Азербайджанская Республика** | **Republic of Azerbaijan** |
| **г-н Саид Гасанович Сафаров**  Доктор географических наук  Институт географии им. акад. Г. Алиева Национальная академия наук Азербайджана  Эл. почта: safarov53@mail.ru | | **Mr. Said Hasan ogly Safarov**  Doctor of Geographical Sciences  Institute of Geography after Academician Hasan Aliyev  Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences  E-mail: safarov53@mail.ru |
| **г-н Ельнур Саидович Сафаров**  Институт географии им. академика Гасана Алиева Национальная академия наук Азербайджана  Эл. почта: | | **Mr. Elnur Said ogly Safarov**  Institute of Geography after Academician Hasan Aliyev  Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences  E-mail: |
| **г-н Джамаль Сурхайевич Гусейнов**  ЗАО Азербайджан Хaвa Йоллары,  Управление воздушного движения Азераэронавигация  Эл. почта: camal\_huseynov\_88@mail.ru | | **Mr. Jamal Surkhay oglu Huseynov**  Azerbaijan Airlines CJSC,  Azeraeronavigation Air Traffic Control  E-mail: camal\_huseynov\_88@mail.ru |
| **г-жа Наила Нурмаммадовна Исмайылова**  Национальная служба гидрометеорологии  Министерство экологии и природных ресурсов Азербайджана  Эл. почта: | | **Ms. Naila Nurmamat kyzy Ismayilova**  National Hydrometeorology Service  Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Azerbaijan  E-mail: |
| **г-н Исмаил Мухтарович Зейналов**  Доктор наук  Институт географии им. академика Г. Алиева  Национальная академия наук Азербайджана  Эл. почта: ismayil\_zeynalov@outlook.com | | **Mr. Ismail Mukhtar ogly Zeinalov**  Ph.D.  Institute of Geography after Academician Hasan Aliyev  Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences  E-mail: ismayil\_zeynalov@outlook.com |
| **г-жа Улькер Халиловна Махмудова**  Кандидат географических наук  Институт географии им. академика Г. Алиева  Национальная академия наук Азербайджана  Эл. почта: | | **Ms. Ulker Khalil kyzy Makhmudova**  PhD in Geography  National Hydrometeorology Service  Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Azerbaijan  E-mail: |
| **г-н Джавид Гасанович Гусейнов**  Национальная служба гидрометеорологии  Министерство экологии и природных ресурсов Азербайджана  Эл. почта: cavid-huseyn1977@mail.ru | | **Mr. Javid Huseynov**  National Hydrometeorology Service  Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Azerbaijan  E-mail: cavid-huseyn1977@mail.ru |
| **г-жа Наргиз Рамизовна Мамедова-Фараджли**  Национальная служба гидрометеорологии  Министерство экологии и природных ресурсов Азербайджана  Эл. почта: Nargiz.mamedova.1994@mail.ru | | **Ms. Nargiz Mamedova-Farajli**  National Hydrometeorology Service  Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Azerbaijan  E-mail: [Nargiz.mamedova.1994@mail.ru](mailto:Nargiz.mamedova.1994@mail.ru) |
| **г-жа Туркан Мамишова**  Национальное аэрокосмическое агентство  Эл. почта: turkan.memishova@gmail.com | | **Ms. Turkan Mamishova**  National Aerospace Agency  E-mail: turkan.memishova@gmail.com |
| **г-н Рауф Гаджиевич Гардашов**  Доктор наук  Институт географии им. академика Г. Алиева  Национальная академия наук Азербайджана  Эл. почта: rauf\_gardashov@yahoo.co.uk | | **Mr. Rauf Haji Gardashov, DSc**  Institute of Geography after Academician Hasan Aliyev  Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences  E-mail: rauf\_gardashov@yahoo.co.uk |
| **г-н Амир Солтанович Алиев**  Институт географии им. академика Г. Алиева  Национальная академия наук Азербайджана  Эл. почта: | | **Mr. Amir Soltan Aliyev**  Institute of Geography after Academician Hasan Aliyev  Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences  E-mail: |
| **г-н Эльчин Вагифович Мамедов**  Кандидат наук  Центр исследований биологических ресурсов  Министерство экологии и природных ресурсов  Эл. почта: evmamedov@mail.ru | | **Mr. Elchin Mamedov**  Ph.D.  Center for Research of Biological Resources  Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources  E-mail: evmamedov@mail.ru |
| **г-жа Эльнара Эльдаровна Джафарова**  Кандидат наук  Центр исследований биологических ресурсов  Министерство экологии и природных ресурсов  Эл. почта: elqid@mail.ru | | **Ms. Elnara Jafarova**  Ph.D.  Center for Research of Biological Resources  Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources  E-mail: elqid@mail.ru |
| **г-н Мехман Максудович Ахундов**  Доктор биологических наук  Центр исследований биологических ресурсов  Министерство экологии и природных ресурсов  Эл. почта: azfiri@azeurotel.com | | **Mr. Mehman Akhundov**  Doctor of Biological Sciences  Center for Research of Biological Resources  Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources  E-mail: azfiri@azeurotel.com |
| **г-жа Рена Эльдаровна Гумбатова**  Департамент экологии  Государственная нефтяная компания Азербайджанской Республики (ГНКАР)  Эл. почта: rena.humbetova@socar.az | | **Ms. Rana Humbatova**  Ecology Department  State Oil Company of Azerbaijan Republic (SOCAR)  E-mail: rena.humbetova@socar.az |
| **г-н Расим Саттар-зада**  Глава  Отдел экологической политики  Министерство экологии и природных ресурсов  Национальный сотрудник по взаимосвязи с конвенцией  Эл. почта: [rsattarzada@gmail.com](file:///C:/Users/AS/Downloads/rsattarzada@gmail.com) | | **Mr. Rasim Sattar-zada**  Head  Environmental Policy Division  Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources  National Convention Liaison Officer  E-mail: [rsattarzada@gmail.com](mailto:rsattarzada@gmail.com) |
| **г-н Фаиг Муталлимов**  Начальник подразделения  Отдел управления водными ресурсами  Министерство экологии и природных ресурсов  Эл. Почта: [faig.mutallimov@eco.gov.az](file:///C:/Users/Benko/Desktop/To%20be%20added/Monitorng%20Protocol%202%20Feb%202021/faig.mutallimov@eco.gov.az) | | **Mr. Faig Mutallimov**  Head of subdivision  Water Resources Management Division  Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources  Email: [faig.mutallimov@eco.gov.az](file:///C:/Users/Benko/Desktop/To%20be%20added/Monitorng%20Protocol%202%20Feb%202021/faig.mutallimov@eco.gov.az) |
| **Исламская Республика Иран** | | **Islamic Republic of Iran** |
| **Г-жа Азар Заррин**  Кафедра географии  Мешхедский университет имени Фирдоуси  E-mail: zarrin@um.ac.ir | | **Ms. Azar Zarrin**  Department of Geography  Firdowsi Mashhad University  E-mail: zarrin@um.ac.ir |
| **Г-н Хади Геривани**  Доктор наук  Иранский национальный институт океанографии и атмосферных наук  Эл. почта: gerivani@inio.ac.ir | | **Mr. Hadi Gerivani**  Ph.D.  Iranian National Institute of Oceanography and Atmospheric Sciences  E-mail: [gerivani@inio.ac.ir](mailto:gerivani@inio.ac.ir) |
| **Г-н Хамид Лахиджани**  Доктор наук  Иранский национальный институт океанографии и атмосферных наук  Эл. почта: lahijani@inio.ac.ir | | **Mr. Hamid Lahijani**  Ph.D.  Iranian National Institute of Oceanography and Atmospheric Sciences  E-mail: [lahijani@inio.ac.ir](mailto:lahijani@inio.ac.ir) |
| **Г-жа Парвин Гафарян**  Доктор наук  Иранский национальный институт океанографии и атмосферных наук  Эл. почта: p.ghafarain@inio.ac.ir | | **Ms. Parvin Ghafarian**  PhD  Iranian National Institute of Oceanography and Atmospheric Sciences  E-mail: p.ghafarain@inio.ac.ir |
| **Г-н Хоссейн Багери**  Иранский национальный институт океанографии и атмосферных наук  Эл. почта: baghery1@gmail.com | | **Mr. Hossein Bagheri**  Ph.D.  Iranian National Institute of Oceanography and Atmospheric Sciences  E-mail: baghery1@gmail.com |
| **Г-н Джафар Азизпур**  Иранский национальный институт океанографии и атмосферных наук  Эл. почта: Azizpour@inio.ac.ir | | **Mr. Jafar Azizpour**  Iranian National Institute of Oceanography and Atmospheric Sciences  E-mail: Azizpour@inio.ac.ir |
| **Г-н Казем Дарвиш Бастами**  Иранский национальный институт океанографии и атмосферных наук  Эл. почта: darvish\_60@yahoo.com  darvish.bastami@inio.ac.ir | | **Mr. Kazem Darvish Bastami**  Iranian National Institute of Oceanography and Atmospheric Sciences  E-mail: darvish\_60@yahoo.com  darvish.bastami@inio.ac.ir |
| **Г-н Али Хамзепур**  Иранский национальный институт океанографии и атмосферных наук  Эл. почта: | | **Mr. Ali Hamzepoor**  Iranian National Institute of Oceanography and Atmospheric Sciences  E-mail: |
| **Г-н Мохаммадреза Мохаммадпур Пенчах**  Доктор наук  Иранский национальный институт океанографии и атмосферных наук  Эл. почта: mmohammadpourpenchah@gmail.com | | **Mr. Mohammadreza Mohammadpour Penchah**  Ph.D.  Iranian National Institute of Oceanography and Atmospheric Sciences  E-mail: mmohammadpourpenchah@gmail.com |
| **Г-н Хоссейн Фарджами**  Доктор наук  Иранский национальный институт океанографии и атмосферных наук  Эл. почта: h.farjami@inio.ac.ir | | **Mr. Hossein Farjami**  Ph.D.  Iranian National Institute of Oceanography and Atmospheric Sciences  E-mail: h.farjami@inio.ac.ir |
| **Г-н Хомаюн Хошраван**  Доктор наук  Национальный исследовательский и учебный центр Каспийского моря  Институт водных исследований  Эл. почта: H\_khoshravan@yahoo.com | | **Mr. Homayoun Khoshravan**  Ph.D.  Caspian Sea National Research and Study Center  Water Research Institute  E-mail: H\_khoshravan@yahoo.com |
| **Г-н Джавад Бабаголи Матиколаи**  Доктор наук  Центр океанических и атмосферных исследований (OASC)  Тегеранский университет  Эл. почта: javadbabagoli@gmail.com | | **Mr. Javad Babagoli Matikolaei**  Ph.D.  Oceanic and Atmospheric Science Centre (OASC)  University of Tehran  E-mail: javadbabagoli@gmail.com |
| **Г-н Бехзад Лайеги**  Доктор наук  Центр океанических и атмосферных исследований (OASC)  Тегеранский университет  Эл. почта: layeghi2001@yahoo.com | | **Mr. Behzad Layeghi**  Ph.D.  Oceanic and Atmospheric Science Centre (OASC)  University of Tehran  E-mail: layeghi2001@yahoo.com |
| **Г-жа Махбубех Молави-Арабшахи**  Доктор наук  Научно-технологический университет Ирана  Эл. почта: molavi@iust.ac.ir | | **Ms. Mahboubeh Molavi-Arabshahi**  Ph.D.  Iran University of Science and Technology  E-mail: [molavi@iust.ac.ir](mailto:molavi@iust.ac.ir) |
| **Г-н Мохаммад Хассанзаде Сабер**  Доктор наук  Международный исследовательский институт осетровых рыб  Организация по сельскохозяйственным исследованиям, образованию и распространению знаний (AREEO)  Эл. почта: Saber.merag@gmail.com | | **Mr. Mohammad Hassanzadeh Saber**  Ph.D.  International Sturgeon Research Institute  Agricultural Research, Education and Extension Organization (AREEO)  E-mail: Saber.merag@gmail.com |
| **Г-жа Ширин Джамшиди**  Доктор наук  Международный исследовательский институт осетровых рыб  Организация по сельскохозяйственным исследованиям, образованию и распространению знаний (AREEO)  Эл. почта: s.jamshidi@abrii.ac.ir | | **Ms. Shirin Jamshidi**  Ph.D.  International Sturgeon Research Institute, Agricultural  Research, Education and Extension Organization (AREEO)  E-mail: s.jamshidi@abrii.ac.ir |
| **Г-н Шахрам Абдолмалаки**  Доктор наук  Международный исследовательский институт осетровых рыб  Организация по сельскохозяйственным исследованиям, образованию и распространению знаний (AREEO)  Эл. почта: Abdolmalaki2014@gmail.com | | **Mr. Shahram Abdolmalaki**  Ph.D.  International Sturgeon Research Institute  Agricultural Research, Education and Extension Organization (AREEO)  E-mail: Abdolmalaki2014@gmail.com |
| **Г-н Мохаммад Реза Хошгальб**  Международный исследовательский институт осетровых рыб  Организация по сельскохозяйственным исследованиям, образованию и распространению знаний (AREEO)  Эл. почта: | | **Mr. Mohammad Reza Khoshghalb**  International Sturgeon Research Institute  Agricultural Research, Education and Extension Organization (AREEO)  E  -mail: |
| **Г-н Сайед Али Мусави**  Международный исследовательский институт осетровых рыб  Организация по сельскохозяйственным исследованиям, образованию и распространению знаний (AREEO)  Эл. почта: | | **Mr. Sayed Ali Mousavi**  International Sturgeon Research Institute  Agricultural Research, Education and Extension Organization (AREEO)  E-mail: |
| **Г-н Турадж Сохраби Лангруди**  Доктор наук  Международный исследовательский институт осетровых рыб  Организация по сельскохозяйственным исследованиям, образованию и распространению знаний (AREEO)  Эл. почта: | | **Mr. Tooraj Sohrabi Langroudi**  Ph.D.  International Sturgeon Research Institute  Agricultural Research, Education and Extension Organization (AREEO)  E-mail: |
| **Г-н Мехди Ализаде Рудпошти**  Международный исследовательский институт осетровых рыб  Организация по сельскохозяйственным исследованиям, образованию и распространению знаний (AREEO)  Эл. почта: | | **Mr. Mehdi Alizadeh Roudposhti**  International Sturgeon Research Institute  Agricultural Research, Education and Extension Organization (AREEO)  E-mail: |
| **Г-жа Махназ Раббаниха**  Доктор наук  Международный исследовательский институт осетровых рыб  Организация по сельскохозяйственным исследованиям, образованию и распространению знаний (AREEO)  Эл. почта: rab.mahnaz@gmail.com | | **Ms. Mahnaz Rabbaniha**  Ph.D.  International Sturgeon Research Institute  Agricultural Research, Education and Extension Organization (AREEO)  E-mail: rab.mahnaz@gmail.com |
| **Г-н Ферейдун Овфи**  Доктор наук  Международный исследовательский институт осетровых рыб  Организация по сельскохозяйственным исследованиям, образованию и распространению знаний (AREEO)  Эл. почта: sillaginid@hotmail.com | | **Mr. Fereidoon Owfi**  Ph.D.  International Sturgeon Research Institute  Agricultural Research, Education and Extension Organization (AREEO)  E-mail: sillaginid@hotmail.com |
| **Г-н Хасан Фазлы**  Доктор наук  Международный исследовательский институт осетровых рыб  Организация по сельскохозяйственным исследованиям, образованию и распространению знаний (AREEO)  Научно-исследовательский институт экологии Каспийского моря (IFSRI, AREEO)  Эл. почта: fazlihasan@gmail.com | | **Mr. Hasan Fazli**  Ph.D.  International Sturgeon Research Institute, Agricultural Research, Education and Extension Organization (AREEO)  Caspian Sea Ecology Research Institute (IFSRI, AREEO)  E-mail: fazlihasan@gmail.com |
| **Г-н Акбар Пурголами**  Международный исследовательский институт осетровых рыб  Организация по сельскохозяйственным исследованиям, образованию и распространению знаний (AREEO)  Институт аквакультуры внутренних вод (IFSRI, AREEO)  Эл. почта: Pourgholami\_yas@yahoo.com | | **Mr. Akbar Pourgholami**  International Sturgeon Research Institute,  Agricultural Research, Education and Extension Organization (AREEO)  Inland Water Aquaculture Institute (IFSRI, AREEO)  E-mail: Pourgholami\_yas@yahoo.com |
| **Г-жа Фатемех Наджафи-Харсини**  Тегеранский университет  Эл. почта: harsini@ut.ac.ir | | **Ms. Fatemeh Najafi-Harsini**  University of Tehran  E-mail: harsini@ut.ac.ir |
| **Г-н Рауфех Абедини**  Университет Сари  Эл. почта: abedini\_rf@yahoo.com | | **Mr. Raufeh Abedini**  Sari University  E-mail: abedini\_rf@yahoo.com |
| **Г-н Камбиз Пуртахмази**  Тегеранский университет  Эл. почта: pourtahmasi@ut.ac.ir | | **Mr. Kambiz Pourtahmasi**  University of Tehran  E-mail: pourtahmasi@ut.ac.ir |
| **Г-жа Жалех Амини**  Доктор наук  Департамент окружающей среды  Эл. почта: amini@ut.ac.ir | | **Ms. Zhaleh Amini**  Ph.D.  Department of Environment  E-mail: amini@ut.ac.ir |
| **Г-н Мехрдад Рахмани**  Доктор наук  Градостроительная школа  Университет Тегерана  Эл. почта: rahmani13@ut.ac.ir | | **Mr. Mehrdad Rahmani**  Ph.D.  School of urban planning  University of Tehran  E-mail: rahmani13@ut.ac.ir |
| **Г-н Махья Хосейни**  Технологический университет имени Насир ад-Дина Туси  Эл. почта: Mahya.hoseini12@gmail.com | | **Mr. Mahya Hoseini**  K. N. Toosi University of Technology  E-mail: Mahya.hoseini12@gmail.com |
| **г-жа Фарназ Шоаи**  Отдел морской среды и ВБУ  Департамент окружающей среды  Национальный сотрудник по взаимосвязи с конвенцией  Pardisan Nature Park, Hakim Highway, Tehran  Тел.: +98 21 88233148  Эл. почта: [farnazshoaie@gmail.com](file:///C:/Users/AS/Downloads/farnazshoaie@gmail.com) | | **Ms. Farnaz Shoaie**  Marine Environment and Wetlands Division  Department of Environment  National Convention Liaison Officer  Pardisan Nature Park, Hakim Highway, Tehran  Tel: +98 21 88233148  E-mail: [farnazshoaie@gmail.com](file:///C:/Users/AS/Downloads/farnazshoaie@gmail.com) |
| **г-н Аббасали Дадаши- Рудбари**  Кафедра географии  Мешхедский университет имени Фирдоуси  E-mail: | | **Mr. Abbasali Dadashi-Roudbari**  Department of Geography  Firdowsi Mashhad University  E-mail: |
| **Республика Казахстан** | | **Republic of Kazakhstan** |
| **г-жа Айзат Елтай**  Казахский национальный университет им. аль-Фараби  Эл. почта: yeltay\_aizat@mail.ru  eltai\_a@meteo.kz | | **Ms. Aizat Yeltay**  Al-Farabi Kazakh National University  Email: yeltay\_aizat@mail.ru  eltai\_a@meteo.kz |
| **г-жа Наталья Ивановна Ивкина**  Кандидат географических наук  Республиканское государственное предприятие «Казгидромет»  Эл. почта: n\_ivkina@mail.ru  ivkina\_n@meteo.kz | | **Ms. Natalya Ivkina**  Candidate of Geographical Sciences  Republican State Enterprise “Kazhydromet”  Email: n\_ivkina@mail.ru  ivkina\_n@meteo.kz |
| **г-жа Галаева Анастасия Владимировна**  PhD  Республиканское государственное предприятие «Казгидромет»  Эл. почта: nastlin@list.ru | | **Ms. Anastasia Galaeva**  Ph.D.  Republican State Enterprise “Kazhydromet”  Email: nastlin@list.ru |
| **г-жа Жанар Куанышевна Наурозбаева**  Кандидат географических наук  Республиканское государственное предприятие «Казгидромет»  Эл. почта: naurozbaeva.zhanar@mail.ru  naurozbayeva.zhanar@gmail.com | | **Ms. Zhanar Nauryzbayeva**  Candidate of Geographical Sciences  Republican State Enterprise “Kazhydromet”  Email: naurozbaeva.zhanar@mail.ru  naurozbayeva.zhanar@gmail.com |
| **г-жа Светлана Анатольевна Долгих**  Кандидат географических наук  Республиканское государственное предприятие «Казгидромет»  Эл. почта: svetlana\_dolgikh@mail.ru | | **Ms. Svetlana Dolgikh**  PhD  Republican State Enterprise “Kazhydromet”  E-mail: svetlana\_dolgikh@mail.ru |
| **г-жа Елена Александровна Скольская**  Казахстанское агентство прикладной экологии  Эл. почта: scol@kape.kz | | **Ms. Elena Skolskaya**  Kazakhstan Agency of Applied Ecology  E-mail: scol@kape.kz |
| **г-н Владимир Николаевич Уваров**  Кандидат географических наук  Казахстанское агентство прикладной экологии  Эл. почта: v.uvarov@kape.kz | | **Mr. Vladimir Uvarov**  Candidate of Geographical Sciences  Kazakhstan Agency of Applied Ecology  E-mail: v.uvarov@kape.kz |
| **г-н Фёдор Владимирович Климов**  Кандидат биологических наук  Казахстанское агентство прикладной экологии  Эл. почта: f.klimov@kape.kz | | **Ms. Fyodor Klimov**  Candidate of Biological Sciences  Kazakhstan Agency of Applied Ecology  E-mail: f.klimov@kape.kz |
| **г-жа Е.В. Мурова**  Казахстанское агентство прикладной экологии  Эл. почта: | | **Ms. E. Murova**  Kazakhstan Agency of Applied Ecology  E-mail: |
| **г-н Сагиден Турсынгалиевич Ербулеков**  Кандидат биологических наук  «Норт Каспиан Оперейтинг Компани Н.В.» (НКОК)  Эл. почта: | | **Mr. Sagiden Erbulekov**  Candidate of Biological Sciences  North Caspian Operating Company (NCOC)  E-mail: |
| **г-н Миргалий Тулеугалиевич Баймуканов**  Кандидат биологических наук  Институт гидробиологии и экологии  Эл. почта: institute\_he@ihe.kz | | **Mr. Mirgaliy Baimukanov**  Candidate of Biological Sciences  Institute of Hydrobiology and Ecology  E-mail: institute\_he@ihe.kz |
| **г-жа Галина Христофоровна Чернова**  Центр эколого-правовой инициативы «Глобус»  Эл. почта: globus-caspi@mail.ru | | **Ms. Galina Chernova**  The “Globus” Center of the Ecological and Legal Initiative E-mail: globus-caspi@mail.ru |
| **г-н Абзал Тлепказиевич Ергалиев**  НОРТ КАСПИАН ОПЕРЕЙТИНГ КОМПАНИ Н.В.  Эл. почта: Abzal.Yergaliyev@ncoc.kz | | **Mr. Abzal Yergaliev**  NORTH CASPIAN OPERATING COMPANY N.V. (NCOC)  E-mail: Abzal.Yergaliyev@ncoc.kz |
| **г-жа Айнур Алпамысовна Абуова**  НОРТ КАСПИАН ОПЕРЕЙТИНГ КОМПАНИ Н.В.  Эл. почта: ainur.abuova@ncoc.kz | | **Ms. Aynur Abuova**  NORTH CASPIAN OPERATING COMPANY N.V. (NCOC)  E-mail: ainur.abuova@ncoc.kz |
| **г-н Ерахмед Амангазыевич Муханбетов**  НОРТ КАСПИАН ОПЕРЕЙТИНГ КОМПАНИ Н.В.  Эл. почта: Yerakhmed.mukhanbetov@ncoc.kz | | **Mr. Yerakhmed Mukhanbetov**  NORTH CASPIAN OPERATING COMPANY N.V. (NCOC)  E-mail: Yerakhmed.mukhanbetov@ncoc.kz |
| **г-жа Жанна Казиева**  НОРТ КАСПИАН ОПЕРЕЙТИНГ КОМПАНИ Н.В.  Эл. почта: Zhanna.kaziyeva@ncoc.kz | | **Ms. Zhanna Kaziyeva**  NORTH CASPIAN OPERATING COMPANY N.V. (NCOC)  E-mail: Zhanna.kaziyeva@ncoc.kz |
| **г-н Сарсенбай Жагипашев**  НОРТ КАСПИАН ОПЕРЕЙТИНГ КОМПАНИ Н.В.  Эл. почта: Sarsenbay.zhagipashev@ncoc.kz | | **Mr. Sarsenbay Zhagipashev**  NORTH CASPIAN OPERATING COMPANY N.V. (NCOC)  E-mail: Sarsenbay.zhagipashev@ncoc.kz |
| **г-н Майкл Мейленерс**  НОРТ КАСПИАН ОПЕРЕЙТИНГ КОМПАНИ Н.В.  Эл. почта: Michael.Meuleners@ncoc.kz | | **Mr. Michael Meuleners**  NORTH CASPIAN OPERATING COMPANY N.V. (NCOC)  E-mail: Michael.Meuleners@ncoc.kz |
| **г-жа Диляра Муратовна Мустапина**  НОРТ КАСПИАН ОПЕРЕЙТИНГ КОМПАНИ Н.В.  Эл. почта: Dilyara.mustapina@ncoc.kz | | **Ms. Dilyara Mustapina**  NORTH CASPIAN OPERATING COMPANY N.V. (NCOC)  E-mail: Dilyara.mustapina@ncoc.kz |
| **г-жа Наталья Петровна Огарь**  Доктор биологических наук  Член-корреспондент Национальной академии наук Республики Казахстан  Член-корреспондент Российской академии естественных наук  Директор ТОО «Терра-Природа»  Эл. почта: ogarnp@mail.ru | | **Ms. Natalia Ogar**  Doctor of Biological Sciences  Corresponding member of the National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Kazakhstan  Corresponding member of the Russian Academy of Natural Sciences  Director of “Terra-Priroda” Ltd.  E-mail: ogarnp@mail.ru |
| **г-н Ахметов Серик Кабдуалиевич**  Национальный сотрудник по взаимосвязи с Тегеранской конвенцией  Эл. почта: [serik.akhmetovkz@gmail.com](https://unitednations.sharepoint.com/sites/Blabla/Shared%20Documents/General/serik.akhmetovkz@gmail.com) | | **Mr. Serik Akhmetov**  National Convention Liaison Officer  E-mail : [serik.akhmetovkz@gmail.com](file:///C:/Users/Benko/Desktop/To%20be%20added/Monitorng%20Protocol%202%20Feb%202021/serik.akhmetovkz@gmail.com) |
| **РоссийскаяФедерация** | | **Russian Federation** |
| **г-н Пётр Иванович Бухарицин**  Доктор географических наук  Институт океанологии им. П.П. Ширшова  Российская академия наук  Эл. почта: astrgo@mail.ru | | **Mr. Peter Bukharitzin**  Doctor of Geographical Sciences  P.P. Shirshov Institute of Oceanology  Russian Academy of Sciences  E-mail: astrgo@mail.ru |
| **г-н Артём Алексеевич Максимов**  Научно-исследовательский центр «Планета»  Эл. почта: maksimov\_a@planet.iitp.ru | | **Mr. Artem Maksimov**  Scientific Research Center “Planet”  E-mail: maksimov\_a@planet.iitp.ru |
| **г-жа Ирина Степановна Тренина**  Научно-исследовательский центр «Планета»  Эл. почта: | | **Ms. Irina Trenina**  Scientific Research Center “Planet”  E-mail: |
| **г-н Виктор Семёнович Архипкин**  Кандидат географических наук  Московский государственный университет им. М.В. Ломоносова  Эл. почта: | | **Mr. Victor Arkhipkin**  Candidate of Geographical Sciences  Moscow State University after M.V. Lomonosov  E-mail: |
| **г-н Иван Александрович Охлопков**  Московский государственный университет им. М.В. Ломоносова  Эл. почта: | | **Mr. Ivan Okhlopkov**  Moscow State University after M.V. Lomonosov  E-mail: |
| **г-жа Галина Вячеславовна Суркова**  Доктор географических наук  Московский государственный университет им. М.В. Ломоносова  Эл. почта: galina\_surkova@mail.ru | | **Ms. Galina Surkova**  Doctor of Geographical Sciences  Moscow State University after M.V. Lomonosov  E-mail: galina\_surkova@mail.ru |
| **г-н Александр Георгиевич Георгиади**  Кандидат географических наук  Институт географии  Российская академия наук  Эл. почта: georgiadi@igras.ru  galex50@gmail.com  galex-50@mail.ru | | **Mr. Alexander Georgiadi**  Candidate of Geographical Sciences  Institute of Geography  Russian Academy of Sciences  E-mail: georgiadi@igras.ru  galex50@gmail.com  galex-50@mail.ru |
| **г-жа Ирина Павловна Милюкова**  Кандидат географических наук  Институт географии  Российская академия наук  Эл. почта: | | **Ms. Irina Milukova**  Candidate of Geographical Sciences  Institute of Geography  Russian Academy of Sciences  E-mail: |
| **г-н Виталий Олегович Татарников**  Каспийский морской научно-исследовательский центр  Эл. почта: tatarnikov@caspianmonitoring.ru | | **Mr. Vitaly Tatarnikov**  Caspian Marine Scientific Research Center  E-mail: tatarnikov@caspianmonitoring.ru |
| **г-жа Ирина Владимировна Гонтовая**  Каспийский морской научно-исследовательский центр  Эл. почта:Irinagontovaya7\_74@mail.ru | | **Ms. Irina Gontovaya**  Caspian Marine Scientific Research Center  E-mail: Irinagontovaya7\_74@mail.ru |
| **г-н Максим Александрович Очеретный**  Каспийский морской научно-исследовательский центр  Эл. почта: kaspmniz@mail.ru | | **Mr. Maxim Ocheretny**  Caspian Marine Scientific Research Center  E-mail: kaspmniz@mail.ru |
| **г-жа Диана Рафаилевна Светашева**  Каспийский морской научно-исследовательский центр  Эл. почта:svetashevadr@yandex.ru | | **Ms. Diana Svetasheva**  Caspian Marine Scientific Research Center  E-mail: svetashevadr@yandex.ru |
| **г-жа Динара Хайрлаевна Азмухамбетова**  Каспийский морской научно-исследовательский центр  Эл. почта:kaspmniz@mail.ru | | **Ms. Dinara Azmukhambetova**  Caspian Marine Scientific Research Center  E-mail: kaspmniz@mail.ru |
| **г-жа Елена Владимировна Гаврилова**  Каспийский морской научно-исследовательский центр  Эл. почта:kaspmniz@mail.ru | | **Ms. Elena Gavrilova**  Caspian Marine Scientific Research Center  E-mail: kaspmniz@mail.ru |
| **г-н Сергей Александрович Варначкин**  Каспийский морской научно-исследовательский центр  Эл. почта: kaspmniz@mail.ru | | **Mr. Sergey Varnachkin**  Caspian Marine Scientific Research Center  E-mail: kaspmniz@mail.ru |
| **Г-жа Ирина Григорьевна Радованова**  Каспийский морской научно-исследовательский центр  Эл. почта: kaspmniz@mail.ru | | **Ms. Irina Radovanova**  Caspian Marine Scientific Research Center  E-mail: kaspmniz@mail.ru |
| **Г-жа Наталья Владимировна Стольникова**  Каспийский морской научно-исследовательский центр  Эл. почта: kaspmniz@mail.ru | | Ms. Natalia Stol’nikova  Caspian Marine Scientific Research Center  E-mail: kaspmniz@mail.ru |
| **Г-н Алексей Александрович Курапов**  Доктор биологических наук  Астраханский государственный технический университет | | **Mr. Alexei Kurapov**  Doctor of biological sciences  Astrakhan State Technical University |
| **г-жа Виктория Албертсовна Путанс**  Кандидат геолого-минералогических наук  Институт океанологии им. П.П. Ширшова  Российская академия наук  Эл. почта:vitapu@mail.ru | | **Ms. Victoria Putans**  Candidate of Geological and Mineralogical Sciences  P.P. Shirshov Institute of Oceanology  Russian Academy of Sciences  E-mail: vitapu@mail.ru |
| **г-н Игорь Владимирович Землянов**  Кандидат физико-математических наук  Государственный океанографический институт им. Н.Н. Зубова  Эл. почта: ivz@geocentre.ru | | **Mr. Igor Zemlianov**  Candidate of Physical and Mathematical Sciences  N.N. Zubov State Oceanographic Institute  E-mail: ivz@geocentre.ru |
| **г-жа Ольга Владимировна Горелиц**  Государственный океанографический институт им. Н.Н. Зубова  Эл. почта:gorelits@mail.ru | | **Ms. Olga Gorelits**  N.N. Zubov State Oceanographic Institute  E-mail: gorelits@mail.ru |
| **г-жа Галина Сергеевна Ермакова**  Государственный океанографический институт им. Н.Н. Зубова  Эл. почта: | | **Ms. Galina Ermakova**  N.N. Zubov State Oceanographic Institute  E-mail: |
| **г-жа Анна Александровна Сапожникова**  Государственный океанографический институт им. Н.Н. Зубова  Эл. почта: | | **Ms. Anna Sapozhnikova**  N.N. Zubov State Oceanographic Institute  E-mail: |
| **г-жа Инга Юрьевна Милютина**  Государственный океанографический институт им. Н.Н. Зубова  Эл. почта: | | **Ms. Inga Milutina**  N.N. Zubov State Oceanographic Institute  E-mail: |
| **г-н Евгений Витальевич Борисов**  Кандидат физико-математических наук  Государственный океанографический институт им. Н.Н. Зубова  Эл. почта: evborisov@inbox.ru | | **Mr. Evgeny Borisov**  Candidate of Physical and Mathematical Sciences  N.N. Zubov State Oceanographic Institute  E-mail: evborisov@inbox.ru |
| **г-н Виталий Борисович Ермаков**  Кандидат физико-математических наук  Государственный океанографический институт им. Н.Н. Зубова  Эл. почта: | | **Mr. Vitaly Ermakov**  Candidate of Physical and Mathematical Sciences  N.N. Zubov State Oceanographic Institute  E-mail: |
| **г-жа Раиса Евгеньевна Никонова**  Государственный океанографический институт им. Н.Н. Зубова  Эл. почта: RENikonova@gmail.com | | **Ms. Raisa Nikonova**  N.N. Zubov State Oceanographic Institute  E-mail: RENikonova@gmail.com |
| **г-жа Тамара Алексеевна Янина**  Доктор географических наук  Московский государственный университет им. М.В. Ломоносова  Эл. почта: paleo@inbox.ru | | **Ms. Tamara Yanina**  Candidate of Geographical Sciences  Moscow State University after M.V. Lomonosov  E-mail: paleo@inbox.ru |
| **г-н Валентин Михайлович Сорокин**  Доктор геолого-минералогических наук  Московский государственный университет им. М.В. Ломоносова  Эл. почта: sorokin@geol.msu.ru | | **Mr. Valentin Sorokin**  Doctor of Geological Mineralogical Sciences  Moscow State University after M.V. Lomonosov  E-mail: sorokin@geol.msu.ru |
| **г-н Анатолий Васильевич Фролов**  Доктор технических наук  Институт водных проблем  Российская академия наук  Эл. почта: anatolyfrolov@yandex.ru | | **Mr. Anatoly Frolov**  Doctor of Technical Sciences  Institute of Water Problems  Russian Academy of Sciences  E-mail: anatolyfrolov@yandex.ru |
| **г-жа Полина Анатольевна Морозова**  Доктор технических наук  Институт географии  Российская академия наук  Эл. почта: morozova\_polina@mail.ru | | **Ms. Polina Morozova**  Doctor of Technical Sciences  Institute of Geography  Russian Academy of Sciences  E-mail: [morozova\_polina@mail.ru](mailto:morozova_polina@mail.ru) |
| **г-н Константин Викторович Ушаков**  Кандидат физико-математических наук  Институт океанологии им. П.П. Ширшова  Российская академия наук  Эл. почта: | | **Mr. Konstantin Ushakov**  Candidate of Physico-Mathematical Sciences  P.P. Shirshov Institute of Oceanology  Russian Academy of Sciences  E-mail: |
| **г-н Евгений Михайлович Володин**  Доктор физико-математических наук  Институт вычислительной математики им. Г.И. Марчука  Российская академия наук  Эл. почта: | | **Mr. Evgeniy Volodin**  Doctor of Technical Sciences  Marchuk Institute of Numerical Mathematics  Russian Academy of Sciences  E-mail: |
| **г-н Владимир Анатольевич Семенов**  Доктор физико-математическихнаук  Институт физики атмосферы им. А.М. Обухова  Российская академия наук  Эл. почта: | | **Mr. Vladimir Semyonov**  Doctor of Technical Sciences  Obukhov Institute of Atmospheric Physics  Russian Academy of Sciences  E-mail: |
| **г-жа Татьяна Юрьевна Выручалкина**  Кандидат географических наук  Институт водных проблем  Российская академия наук  Эл. почта: morozova\_polina@mail.ru | | **Ms. Tatiana Vyruchalkina**  Candidate of Geographical Sciences  Institute of Water Problems  Russian Academy of Sciences  E-mail: [morozova\_polina@mail.ru](mailto:morozova_polina@mail.ru) |
| **г-н Николай Ардальянович Дианский**  Доктор физико-математических наук  Московский государственный университет М.В. Ломоносова  Эл. почта: nikolay.diansky@gmail.com | | **Mr. Nikolay Dianskiy**  Doctor of Physico-Mathematical Sciences  Lomonosov Moscow State University  E-mail: nikolay.diansky@gmail.com |
| **г-н Владимир Васильевич Фомин**  Доктор физико-математических наук  Государственный океанографический институт имени Н.Н. Зубова  Эл. почта: | | **Mr. Vladimir Fomin**  Doctor of Technical Sciences  Zubov State Oceanographic Institute  E-mail: |
| **г-н Андрей Сергеевич Калугин**  Кандидат географических наук  Институт водных проблем  Российская академия наук  Эл. почта: andrey.kalugin@iwp.ru | | **Mr. Andrey Kalugin**  Candidate of Geographical Sciences  Institute of Water Problems  Russian Academy of Sciences  E-mail: andrey.kalugin@iwp.ru |
| **г-жа Елизавета Михайловна Чертопруд**  Московский государственный университет им. М.В. Ломоносова  Эл. почта: e.chertoprud@gmail.com | | **Ms. Elizaveta Chertoprud**  Lomonosov Moscow State University  E-mail: e.chertoprud@gmail.com |
| **г-н Дмитрий Михайлович Палатов**  Кандидат биологических наук  Институт проблем экологии и эволюции имени А.Н. Северцова (ИПЭЭ РАН)  Российская академия наук  Эл. почта: triops@yandex.ru  triops@sev-in.ru | | **Mr. Dmitry Palatov**  Candidate of BiologicalSciences  Severtsov Institute of Ecology and Evolution  Russian Academy of Sciences  E-mail: triops@yandex.ru  triops@sev-in.ru |
| **г-жа Татьяна Яковлевна Ситникова**  Доктор биологических наук  Санкт-Петербургский государственный университет (СПбГУ)  Эл. почта: sit@lin.irk.ru | | **Ms. Tatiana Sitnikova**  Doctor of Biological Sciences  Saint-Petersburg State University  E-mail: sit@lin.irk.ru |
| **г-н Максим Викторович Винарский**  Доктор биологических наук  Санкт-Петербургский государственный университет (СПбГУ)  Эл. почта: radix.vinarski@gmail.com | | **Mr. Maxim Vinarsky**  Doctor of BiologicalSciences  Saint-Petersburg State University  E-mail: radix.vinarski@gmail.com |
| **г-н Лев Константинович Сидоров**  Кандидат биологических наук  Всероссийский научно-исследовательский институт рыбного хозяйства и океанографии (ВНИРО)  Эл. почта: | | **Mr. Lev Sidorov**  Candidate of BiologicalSciences  VNIRO Russian Federal Research Institute of Fisheries and Oceanography  E-mail: |
| **г-н Владимир Ильич Черноок**  Доктор географических наук  Всероссийский научно-исследовательский институт рыбного хозяйства и океанографии (ВНИРО)  Эл. почта: | | **Mr. Vladimir Chernook**  Doctor of Geographical Sciences  VNIRO Russian Federal Research Institute of Fisheries and Oceanography  E-mail: |
| **г-н Василий Владимирович Кузнецов**  Доктор биологических наук  Всероссийский научно-исследовательский институт рыбного хозяйства и океанографии (ВНИРО)  Эл. почта: | | **Mr. Vasiliy Kuznetsov**  Doctor of BiologicalSciences  VNIRO Russian Federal Research Institute of Fisheries and Oceanography  E-mail: |
| **г-жа Лариса Вячеславовна Дегтярева**  Кандидат биологическихнаук  Каспийский морской научно-исследовательский центр  Эл. почта: kaspmniz@mail.ru | | **Ms. Larisa Degtyareva**  Candidate of Biological Sciences  Caspian Marine Scientific Research Center  E-mail: kaspmniz@mail.ru |
| **г-н Роман Дмитриевич Кашин**  Астраханский государственный технический университет  Эл. почта: | | **Mr. Roman Kashin**  Astrakhan State Technical University  E-mail: |
| **г-н Сергей Павлович Чехомов**  Волжско-Каспийский филиал  Всероссийский научно-исследовательский институт рыбного хозяйства и океанографии (ВНИРО)  Эл. почта: astraserg82@mail.ru | | **Mr. Sergey Chekhomov**  Volga-Caspian Branch  VNIRO Russian Federal Research Institute of Fisheries and Oceanography  E-mail: astraserg82@mail.ru |
| **г-н Виталий Викторович Барабанов**  Кандидат биологических наук  Волжско-Каспийский филиал  Всероссийский научно-исследовательский институт рыбного хозяйства и океанографии (ВНИРО)  Эл. почта: | | **Mr. Vitaliy Barabanov**  Candidate of BiologicalSciences  Volga-Caspian Branch  VNIRO Russian Federal Research Institute of Fisheries and Oceanography  E-mail: |
| **г-н Виталий Викторович Разинков**  Волжско-Каспийский филиал  Всероссийский научно-исследовательский институт рыбного хозяйства и океанографии (ВНИРО)  Эл. почта: | | **Mr. Vitaliy Razinkov**  Volga-Caspian Branch  VNIRO Russian Federal Research Institute of Fisheries and Oceanography  E-mail: |
| **г-н Герман Станиславович Куст**  Доктор биологических наук  Институт географии  Российская академия наук  Эл. почта: kust@igras.ru | | **Ms. German Kust**  Doctor of Biological Sciences  Institute of Geography  Russian Academy of Sciences  E-mail: kust@igras.ru |
| **г-жа Ольга Валентиновна Андреева**  Кандидат биологическихнаук  Институт географии  Российская академия наук  Эл. почта: Andreeva@igras.ru | | **Ms. Olga Andreeva**  Candidate of Biological Sciences  Institute of Geography  Russian Academy of Sciences  E-mail: Andreeva@igras.ru |
| **г-н Василий Анатольевич Лобковский**  Кандидат географических наук  Институт географии  Российская академия наук  Эл. почта: v.a.lobkovskiy@igras.ru | | **Mr. Vasiliy Lobkovskiy**  Candidate of Geographical Sciences  Institute of Geography  Russian Academy of Sciences  E-mail: v.a.lobkovskiy@igras.ru |
| **г-жа Дарья Сергеевна Шкляева**  Московский Государственный Университет им. М.В. Ломоносова  Эл. почта: d.shklyaeva17@gmail.com | | **Ms. Daria Shklyaeva**  Lomonosov Moscow State University  E-mail: d.shklyaeva17@gmail.com |
| **г-н Александр Леонидович Бубер**  Всероссийский научно-исследовательский институт гидротехники и мелиорации им. А.Н. Костякова  Эл. почта: buber49@yandex.ru,  buber@vniigim.ru | | **Mr. Alexander Buber**  All-Russian Scientific Research Institute of Hydraulic Engineering and Land Reclamation after A.N. Kostyakov  E-mail: buber49@yandex.ru,  buber@vniigim.ru |
| **г-жа Елена Марковна Акентьева**  Кандидат географических наук  Главная геофизическая обсерватория им. А.И. Воейкова  Эл. почта: eakentyeva@mail.ru | | **Ms. Elena Akentieva**  Candidate of Sciences in Geographical Sciences  Voeikov Main Geophysical Observatory  E-mail: eakentyeva@mail.ru |
| **г-н Денис Сергеевич Шипилов**  Каспийский морской научно-исследовательский центр  Эл. почта: cyberden85@gmail.com | | **Mr. Denis Shipilov**  Caspian Marine Scientific Research Center  E-mail: cyberden85@gmail.com |
| **г-н Амирхан Магомедович Амирханов**  Кандидат биологических наук  Федеральная служба по надзору в сфере природопользования  Министерство природных ресурсов и экологии Российской Федерации  Эл. почта: | | **Mr. Amirkhan Amirkhanov**  Candidate of Biological Sciences  Federal Service for Supervision of Natural Resources (Rosprirodnadzor)  Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of the Russian Federation  E-mail: |
| **г-жа Наталия Борисовна Третьякова**  Министерство природных ресурсов и экологии Российской Федерации  Эл. почта: nataliat@mnr.gov.ru | | **Ms. Natalia Tretyakova**  Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of the Russian Federation  E-mail: nataliat@mnr.gov.ru |
| **г-жа Татьяна Павловна Бутылина**  АНО «Центр международных проектов»  Национальный офис по взаимосвязи с Тегеранской конвенцией  Эл. почта: okpd@bk.ru | | **Ms. Tatiana Butylina**  ANO “Centre for International Projects”  Tehran Convention National Convention Liaison Office  E-mail: okpd@bk.ru |
| **г-жа Светлана Геннадьевна Голубева**  ООО «Агентство Системного Развития»  Эл. почта: sgolubeva@asr-net.ru | | **Ms. Svetlana Golubeva**  “Agency for System Development” LLC  E-mail: sgolubeva@asr-net.ru |
| **г-жа Светлана Алексеевна Гуцуляк**  НОЦ «Осетроводство»  Астраханский государственный университет  Эл. почта: gutculiak@mail.ru | | **Ms. Svetlana Gutzuliak**  Scientific and Educational Center “Sturgeon Breeding”  Astrakhan State University;  E-mail: gutculiak@mail.ru |
| **г-н Илья Германович Алексеев**  ООО «Каспийская нефтяная компания»  Эл. почта: alexeevig@caspoil.com | | **Mr. Iliya Alekseev**  “Caspian Oil Company” LLC  E-mail: alexeevig@caspoil.com |
| **г-жа Мария Евгеньевна Дуванова**  ООО «Каспийская нефтяная компания»  Эл. почта: duvanovame@caspoil.com | | **Ms. Maria Duvanova**  “Caspian Oil Company” LLC  E-mail: duvanovame@caspoil.com |
| **г-н Александр Эдуардович Левинтас**  ООО «Каспийская нефтяная компания»  Эл. почта: levintasae@caspoil.com | | **Mr. Alexander Levintas**  “Caspian Oil Company” LLC  E-mail: levintasae@caspoil.com |
| **г-жа Наталья Викторовна Попова**  ООО «Каспийская нефтяная компания»  Эл. почта: popovanv@caspoil.com | | **Ms. Natalia Popova**  “Caspian Oil Company” LLC  E-mail: popovanv@caspoil.com |
| **г-н Мирземет Зейналович Герейханов**  Махачкалинский филиал  ФГБУ «АМП Каспийского моря»  Эл. почта: gereykhanov\_mz@ampastra.ru | | **Mr. Mirzemet Gereykhanov**  Makhachkala branch  Administration of Sea Ports of the Caspian Sea  E-mail: gereykhanov\_mz@ampastra.ru |
| **г-жа Юлия Германовна Миронова**  Кандидат социологических наук  Астраханский государственный университет  Эл. почта: lysjakova@mail.ru | | **Ms. Yulia Mironova**  Candidate of Sociological Sciences  Astrakhan State University  E-mail: lysjakova@mail.ru |
| **г-жа Елена Николаевна Макарова**  Кандидат биологических наук  Северо-Каспийская дирекция по техническому обеспечению надзора на море  Эл. почта: seains@mail.ru | | **Ms. Elena Makarova**  Candidate of Biological Sciences  North Caspian Directorate for Technical Support of Supervision at Sea  E-mail: seains@mail.ru |
| **г-жа Наталия Рэмовна Шумейко**  Институт проблем экологии и эволюции имени А.Н. Северцова (ИПЭЭ РАН)  Российская академия наук  Координатор  Международная программа по исследованию каспийского тюленя  Координатор  Программа исследований байкальской нерпы  Руководитель КАСПИКА  Эл. почта: shumeyko.n@mail.ru | | **Ms. Nataliya Shumeyko**  A.N. Severtsov Institute of Ecology and Evolution  Russian Academy of Sciences  Coordinator  International Caspian Seal Research Programme  Coordinator  Programme for the Baikal Seal Researches  Head of KASPIKA  E-mail: shumeyko.n@mail.ru |
| **Туркменистан** | | **Turkmenistan** |
| **г-н Мердан Аманович Атабаев**  Педагогический институт имени Сейитназар Сейди  Эл. почта: mrdntbw@gmail.com | | **Mr. Merdan Atabaev**  Seyitnazar Seydi Pedagogical Institute  E-mail: mrdntbw@gmail.com |
| **г-н Чары Атабаевич Kулиев**  Педагогический институт имени Сейитназар Сейди  Эл. почта: | | **Mr. Chary Kuliev**  Seyitnazar Seydi Pedagogical Institute  E-mail: |
| **г-жа Марал Мухаммедова**  Гидрометеорологическая служба  Министерство сельского хозяйства и охраны окружающей среды Туркменистана  Эл. почта: ytwehab93@gmail.com | | **Ms. Maral Mukhammedova**  Hydrometeorological Service  Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection of Turkmenistan  E-mail: ytwehab93@gmail.com |
| **г-н Пирли Аждарович Кепбанов**  Кандидат биологических наук  Национальный институт пустынь, растительного и животного мира  Служба охраны окружающей среды  Министерство сельского хозяйства и охраны окружающей среды  Эл. почта: pirlikep@yandex.ru | | **Mr. Pirli Kepbanov**  Candidate of Biological Sciences  National Institute of Deserts, Flora and Fauna  Service for Environmental Protection  Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection  E-mail: pirlikep@yandex.ru |
| **г-н Какабай Оразович Аннаниязов**  Кандидат технических наук  Национальный институт пустынь, растительного и животного мира  Служба охраны окружающей среды  Министерство сельского хозяйства и охраны окружающей среды  Эл. почта: | | **Mr. Kakabay Annaniyazov**  Candidate of Technical Sciences  National Institute of Deserts, Flora and Fauna  Service for Environmental Protection  Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection  E-mail: |
| **г-жа Марал Сахатова**  Национальный институт пустынь, растительного и животного мира  Служба охраны окружающей среды  Министерство сельского хозяйства и охраны окружающей среды  Эл. почта: ytwehab93@gmail.com | | **Ms. Maral Sakhatova**  National Institute of Deserts, Flora and Fauna  Service for Environmental Protection  Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection  E-mail: ytwehab93@gmail.com |
| **г-жа Огулнабат Языевна Рахманова**  Кандидат биологических наук  Туркменский государственный университет им. Махтумкули  Эл. почта: orahmanova.tdu@gmail.com | | **Ms. Ogulnabat Rakhmanova**  Candidate of Biological Sciences  Turkmen State University after Magtymguly  E-mail: orahmanova.tdu@gmail.com |
| **г-н Эльдар Анверович Рустамов**  Доктор биологических наук  Рамсарская региональная инициатива Центральной Азии  Эл. почта: elldaru@mail.ru | | **Mr. Eldar Rustamov**  Doctor of Biological Sciences  Ramsar Regional Initiative of Central Asia  E-mail: elldaru@mail.ru |
| **г-н Александр Алексеевич Щербина**  Рамсарская региональная инициатива Центральной Азии  Эл. почта: | | **Mr. Alexander Shcherbina**  Ramsar Regional Initiative of Central Asia  E-mail: |
| **г-н Сахатмурат Маммедов**  Рамсарская региональная инициатива Центральной Азии  Эл. почта: | | **Mr. Sakhatmurat Mammedov**  Ramsar Regional Initiative of Central Asia  E-mail: |
| **г-жа Мерджен Язгельдиевна Агаева**  Туркменский сельскохозяйственный университет им. С.А. Ниязова  Эл. почта: merjenagayewa97@gmail.com | | **Ms. Merjen Agayeva**  Turkmen Agricultural University Named after S.A. Niyazov  E-mail: merjenagayewa97@gmail.com |
| **г-жа Нурсолтан Мухамметмырадовна Танырбердиева**  Туркменский сельскохозяйственный университет им. С.А. Ниязова  Эл. почта: | | **Ms. Nursoltan Tanyrberdieva**  Turkmen Agricultural University Named after S.A. Niyazov  E-mail: |
| **г-жа Анастасия Олеговна Джапбарова**  Центр технологий Академии наук Туркменистана  Эл. почта: winkos95@mail.ru | | **Ms. Anastasia Japbarova**  Technology Center of the Academy of Sciences of Turkmenistan  E-mail: winkos95@mail.ru |
| **г-н Гапуржан Ораевич Хамраев**  Кандидат геологических наук  Туркменский государственный университет им. Махтумкули  Эл. почта: gapur2013@mail.ru | | **Mr. Gapurjan Khamraev**  Candidate of Geological Sciences  Turkmen State University after Magtymguly  E-mail: gapur2013@mail.ru |
| **г-н Султан Керимович Вейсов**  Кандидат геологических наук  Национальный институт пустынь, растительного и животного мира  Министерство сельского хозяйства и охраны окружающей среды  Эл. почта: | | **Mr. Sultan Veysov**  Candidate of Geological Sciences  National Institute of Deserts, Flora and Fauna  Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection  E-mail: |
| **г-жа Мехриджемал Алламурадова**  Туркменский сельскохозяйственный институт  Эл. почта: aynabat-atayeva@mail.ru | | **Ms. Mekhrijemal Allamuradova**  Turkmen Agricultural Institute  E-mail: aynabat-atayeva@mail.ru |
| **г-жа Айнабат Атаева**  Туркменский сельскохозяйственный институт  Эл. почта: aynabat-atayeva@mail.ru | | **Ms. Aynabat Ataeva**  Turkmen Agricultural Institute  E-mail: aynabat-atayeva@mail.ru |
| **г-жа Сайяра Балтаева**  Туркменский сельскохозяйственный институт  Эл. почта: aynabat-atayeva@mail.ru | | **Ms. Sayara Baltaeva**  Turkmen Agricultural Institute  E-mail: aynabat-atayeva@mail.ru |
| **г-жа Шекер Курбановна Аширмурадова**  Туркменский государственный университет им. Махтумкули  Эл. почта: sheker71@mail.ru | | **Ms. Sherker Ashirmuradova**  Turkmen State University after Magtymguly  E-mail: sheker71@mail.ru |
| **г-жа Ширин Какаджановна Дурдыева**  Туркменский государственный университет им. Махтумкули  Эл. почта: shirin-merv@mail.ru | | **Ms. Shirin Durdyeva**  Turkmen State University after Magtymguly  E-mail: shirin-merv@mail.ru |
| **г-н Оразмухаммед Язлыевич Дурдыев**  Туркменский сельскохозяйственный университет им. С.А. Ниязова  Эл. почта: odurdyyev@gmail.com | | **Mr. Orazmukhammed Durdyev**  Turkmen Agricultural University Named after S.A. Niyazov  E-mail: odurdyyev@gmail.com |
| **г-н Говшуд Шадурдыев**  Туркменский сельскохозяйственный университет им. С.А. Ниязова  Эл. почта: | | **Mr. Govshud Shadurdyev**  Turkmen Agricultural University Named after S.A. Niyazov  E-mail: |
| **г-жа Ширин Баймухамедовна Каррыева**  Рабочая группа по Конвенции о биологическом разнообразии,  Проект «Центральноазиатская инициатива по пустыням» (CADI)  Эл. почта: shirinkarryeva.sk@gmail.com | | **Ms. Shirin Karryeva**  Work Group on the Convention on Biological Diversity  The Central Asian Desert Initiative (CADI) Project  E-mail: shirinkarryeva.sk@gmail.com |
| **г-н Сердар Эеберенов**  Управление охраны окружающей среды  Министерство сельского хозяйства и охраны окружающей среды Туркменистана  Эл. почта: serdar.05@mail.ru | | **Mr. Serdar Eyeberenov**  Department of Environmental Protection and Hydrometeorology  Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection of Turkmenistan  E-mail: serdar.05@mail.ru |
| **г-жа Елена Анатольевна Камнева**  Гидрометеорологическая служба  Министерство сельского хозяйство и охраны окружающей среды Туркменистана  Эл. почта: ytwehab39@gmail.com | | **Ms. Elena Kamneva**  Department of Environmental Protection and Hydrometeorology  Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection of Turkmenistan  E-mail: ytwehab39@gmail.com |
| **г-жа Гозель Какамурадовна Ораздурдыева**  Национальный сотрудник по взаимосвязи с Тегеранской конвенцией  Министерство сельского хозяйство и охраны окружающей среды Туркменистана  Эл. почта: gozelcep@gmail.com | | **Ms. Gozel Orazdurdyyeva**  National Tehran Convention Liaison Officer  Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection of Turkmenistan  E-mail: gozelcep@gmail.com |
| **г-н Мурат Гельдыевич Атаджанов**  Директор  Институт Каспийского моря  Эл. почта: atmurat72@gmail.com | | **Mr. Murat Atadjanov**  Director  Institute of the Caspian Sea  E-mail: atmurat72@gmail.com |
| **Участники из других стран** | | **Participants from other countries** |
| **г-жа Ким Штадельмайер**  Магистр наук  Институт метеорологии и исследований климата  Технологический институт Карлсруэ  Германия  Эл. почта: kim.stadelmaier@kit.edu | | **Ms. Kim Stadelmaier**  Master of Science  Institute of Meteorology and Climate Research  Karlsruhe Institute of Technology  Germany  E-mail: kim.stadelmaier@kit.edu |
| **г-н Патрик Людвиг**  Доктор наук  Институт метеорологии и исследований климата  Технологический институт Карлсруэ  Германия  Эл. почта: patrick ludwig@kit.edu | | **Mr. Patrick Ludwig**  Ph.D.  Institute of Meteorology and Climate Research  Karlsruhe Institute of Technology  Germany  E-mail: patrick ludwig@kit.edu |
| **г-н Хоаким Пинто**  Доктор наук  Институт метеорологии и исследований климата  Технологический институт Карлсруэ  Германия  Эл. почта: joaquim.pinto@kit.edu | | **Mr. Joaquim Pinto**  Ph.D.  Institute of Meteorology and Climate Research  Karlsruhe Institute of Technology  Germany  E-mail: joaquim.pinto@kit.edu |
| **г-н Маттиас Пранге**  Доктор наук  MARUM – Центр морских экологических исследований  Бременский университет  Германия  Эл. почта: mprange@marum.de | | **Mr. Matthias Prange**  Ph.D.  MARUM – Center for Marine Environmental Sciences  University of Bremen  Germany  E-mail: mprange@marum.de |
| **г-жа Шри Нандини-Вайсс**  Доктор наук  MARUM – Центр морских экологических исследований  Бременский университет  Германия  Эл. почта: s.nandini42@gmail.com  sri.durgesh.nandini-weiss@uni-hamburg.de | | **Ms. Sri Nandini-Weiss**  Ph.D.  MARUM – Center for Marine Environmental Sciences  University of Bremen  Germany  E-mail: s.nandini42@gmail.com  sri.durgesh.nandini-weiss@uni-hamburg.de |
| **г-жа Уте Меркель**  Доктор наук  MARUM – Центр морских экологических исследований  Бременский университет  Германия  Эл. почта: umerkel@marum.de | | **Ms. Ute Merkel**  Ph.D.  MARUM – Center for Marine Environmental Sciences  University of Bremen  Germany  E-mail: umerkel@marum.de |
| **г-н Клаус Арпе**  Доктор наук  Институт метеорологии Макса Планка  Гамбург, Германия  Эл. почта: | | **Mr. Klaus Arpe**  Ph.D.  Max-Planck-Institute for Meteorology  Hamburg, Germany  E-mail: |
| **г-н Борис Федорович Романюк**  Группа предприятий «Моринжгеология»  Рига, Латвия  Эл. почта: officeRiga@morinzhgeologia.lv | | **Mr. Boris Romanyuk**  Group of companies “Morinzhgeologia”  Riga, Latvia  E-mail: officeRiga@morinzhgeologia.lv |
| **г-н Али Акбар Расули**  Доктор наук  Факультет наук об окружающей среде  Университет Маккуори  Сидней, Австралия  Эл. почта: joaquim.pinto@kit.edu | | **Mr. Ali Akbar Rasouli**  Ph.D.  Department of Environmental Sciences  Macquarie University  Sydney, Australia  E-mail: joaquim.pinto@kit.edu |
| **г-н Сифан Кориче**  Доктор наук  Факультет геонаук  Университет Бейлора  Уэйко, Техас, США  Эл. почта: s.koriche@reading.ac.uk  Sifan\_Koriche@baylor.edu | | **Mr. Sifan A. Koriche**  Ph.D.  Department of Geoscience  Baylor University  Waco, Texas, USA  E-mail: s.koriche@reading.ac.uk  Sifan\_Koriche@baylor.edu |
| **г-жа Джой Сингарайер**  Доктор наук  Факультет метеорологии  Университет Рединга  Рединг, Великобритания  Эл. почта: | | **Ms. Joy S. Singarayer**  Ph.D.  Department of Meteorology  University of Reading  Reading, United Kingdom  E-mail: |
| **г-жа Ханна Клок**  Доктор наук  Факультет географии и экологических наук  Университет Рединга  Рединг, Великобритания  Эл. почта: | | **Ms. Hannah L. Cloke**  Ph.D.  Department of Geography and Environmental Science  University of Reading  Reading, United Kingdom  E-mail: |
| **г-н Саймон Дж. Гудман**  Доктор наук  Лидсский университет  Великобритания  Эл. почта: s.j.goodman@leeds.ac.uk | | **Mr. Simon J. Goodman**  Ph.D.  University of Leeds  United Kingdom  E-mail: s.j.goodman@leeds.ac.uk |
| **г-н Харрисон Тэн**  Лидсский университет  Великобритания  Эл. почта: h.a.tan1@leeds.ac.uk | | **Mr. Harrison Tan**  University of Leeds  United Kingdom  E-mail: h.a.tan1@leeds.ac.uk |
| **г-жа Ольга Юрьевна Анистратенко**  Кандидат геологических наук  Институт геологических наук (ИГН)  Национальная академия наук  Украина  Эл. почта: olga.anistrat@gmail.com  olga.anistrat@izan.kiev.ua | | **Ms. Olga Anistratenko**  Candidate of Geological Sciences  Institute of Geological Sciences  National Academy of Sciences  Ukraine  E-mail: olga.anistrat@gmail.com  olga.anistrat@izan.kiev.ua |
| **г-н Виталий Вячеславович Анистратенко**  Доктор биологическихнаук  Институт зоологии им. И.И. Шмальгаузена Национальной академии наук Украины (ИЗАН), Киев  Эл. почта: vitaliyanistratenko@gmail.com  anistrat@izan.kiev.ua | | **Mr. Vitaly Anistratenko**  Doctor of Biological Sciences  Schmalhausen Institute of Zoology of National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, Kiev  E-mail: vitaliyanistratenko@gmail.com  anistrat@izan.kiev.ua |
| **г-н Хаким Мунавварович Ахмедов**  Доктор химическихнаук  Центр инновационного развития науки и новых технологий  Национальная академия наук  Таджикистан  Эл. почта: ahmedovhakim48@gmail.com | | **Mr. Hakim Akhmedov**  Doctor of Chemical Sciences  Center for Innovative Development of Science and New Technologies  National Academy of Sciences  Tajikistan  E-mail: ahmedovhakim48@gmail.com |
| **г-н Курбонали Партоев**  Доктор сельскохозяйственных наук  Центр инновационного развития науки и новых технологий  Национальная академия наук  Таджикистан  Эл. почта: pkurbonali@mail.ru | | **Mr. Kurbonali Partoev**  Doctor of Agricultural Sciences  Center for Innovative Development of Science and New Technologies  National Academy of Sciences  Tajikistan  E-mail: pkurbonali@mail.ru |
| **г-н Мирзоали Сафармади**  Центр инновационного развития науки и новых технологий  Национальная академия наук  Таджикистан  Эл. почта: sfarmadi.mirzoali@mail.ru | | **Mr. Mirzoali Safarmadi**  Center for Innovative Development of Science and New Technologies  National Academy of Sciences  Tajikistan  E-mail: sfarmadi.mirzoali@mail.ru |
| **г-н Александр Гогаладзе**  Доктор наук  Центр биоразнообразия Натуралис  Лейден, Нидерланды  Проект PRIDE  www.pontocaspian.eu  Эл. почта: aleksandre.gogaladze@naturalis.nl | | **Mr. Aleksandre Gogaladze**  Ph.D.  Naturalis Biodiversity Center  Leiden, The Netherlands  The PRIDE Project  www.pontocaspian.eu  E-mail: aleksandre.gogaladze@naturalis.nl |
| **г-н Франк Весселинг**  Доктор наук  Центр биоразнообразия Натуралис  Лейден, Нидерланды  Проект PRIDE  www.pontocaspian.eu  Эл. почта: frank.wesselingh@naturalis.nl | | **Mr. Frank P. Wesselingh**  Ph.D.  Naturalis Biodiversity Center  Leiden, The Netherlands  The PRIDE Project  www.pontocaspian.eu  E-mail: frank.wesselingh@naturalis.nl |
| **г-н Нильс Раес**  Доктор наук  Центр биоразнообразия Натуралис  Лейден, Нидерланды  Проект PRIDE  www.pontocaspian.eu  Эл. почта: niels.raes@naturalis.nl | | **Mr. Niels Raes**  Ph.D.  Naturalis Biodiversity Center  Leiden, The Netherlands  The PRIDE Project  www.pontocaspian.eu  E-mail: niels.raes@naturalis.nl |
| **г-н Маттео Латтуада**  Доктор наук  Технический университет Брауншвейха  Германия  Проект PRIDE  www.pontocaspian.eu  Эл. почта: m.lattuada87@gmail.com | | **Mr. Matteo Lattuada**  Ph.D.  Technical University Braunschweich  Germany  The PRIDE Project  www.pontocaspian.eu  E-mail: m.lattuada87@gmail.com |
| **г-н Михаил Олегович Сон**  Доктор биологических наук  Институт морской биологии Национальной академии наук Украины, Одесса  Проект PRIDE  www.pontocaspian.eu  Эл. почта: vitaliyanistratenko@gmail.com  anistrat@izan.kiev.ua | | **Mr. Mikhail Son**  Doctor of Biological Sciences.  Institute of Marine Biology of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, Odessa  The PRIDE Project  www.pontocaspian.eu  E-mail: vitaliyanistratenko@gmail.com  anistrat@izan.kiev.ua |
| **г-жа Ана Бьянка Павел**  Доктор наук  Национальный институт исследований и разработок в области морской геологии и геоэкологии (GeoEcoMar, Constanta Branch), Констанца, Румыния  Проект PRIDE  www.pontocaspian.eu  Эл. почта: ariadnas30@yahoo.com | | **Ms. Ana Bianca Pavel**  Ph.D.  National Institute for Research and Development of Marine Geology and Geoecology (GeoEcoMar, Constanta Branch), Constanta, Romania  The PRIDE Project  www.pontocaspian.eu  E-mail: ariadnas30@yahoo.com |
| **г-н Томас Вилке**  Доктор наук  Университет Юстуса Либиха  Гессен, Германия  Проект PRIDE  www.pontocaspian.eu  Эл. почта: Tom.Wilke@allzool.bio.uni-giessen.de | | **Mr. Thomas Wilke**  Ph.D.  Justus Liebig University  Giessen, Germany  The PRIDE Project  www.pontocaspian.eu  E-mail: Tom.Wilke@allzool.bio.uni-giessen.de |
| **г-н Фергал МакГрат**  Европейская сеть морских наблюдений и данных (EMODnet)  Эл. почта: Fergal.mcgrath@marine.ie | | **Mr. Fergal McGrath**  European Marine Observation and Data Network (EMODnet)  E-mail: Fergal.mcgrath@marine.ie |
| **г-н Ага Байрамов**  Доктор наук  Гронингенский университет  Лейденский университет  Нидерланды  Эл. почта: a.bayramov@rug.nl | | **Mr. Agha Bayramov**  Ph.D.  University Leiden  University of Groningen  The Netherlands  E-mail: a.bayramov@rug.nl |
| **г-жа Маржан Срымова**  Посольство США в Республике Казахстан  Эл. почта: SrymovaM@state.gov | | **Ms. Marjan Srymova**  US Embassy in the Republic of Kazakhstan  E-mail: SrymovaM@state.gov |
| **г-жа Гульнара Жумабаева**  Специалист по научным вопросам  Центральноазиатский региональный хаб-офис по окружающей среде  Посольство США в Республике Казахстан  Эл. почта: ZhumabayevaG@state.gov | | **Ms. Gulnara Zhumabayeva**  Scientific Affairs Specialist, PhD, PMP  Central Asia Regional ESTH Office  US Embassy in the Republic of Kazakhstan  E-mail: ZhumabayevaG@state.gov |
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| **Временный секретариат Тегеранской конвенции** | | **Tehran Convention interim Secretariat** |
| **г-н Махир Алиев**  Временный Секретариат Тегеранской конвенции  Региональный координатор  Региональный офис ЮНЕП для Европы  International Environment House  Эл. почта: [mahir.aliyev@un.org](file:///C:/Users/AS/Downloads/mahir.aliyev@un.org) | | **Mr. Mahir Aliyev**  Tehran Convention interim Secretariat  Regional Coordinator  UN Environment Europe Office  International Environment House  E-mail: [mahir.aliyev@un.org](file:///C:/Users/AS/Downloads/mahir.aliyev@un.org) |
| **г-н Матеуш Бенько**  Сотрудник Тегеранской конвенции  Временный Секретариат Тегеранской конвенции  Эл. почта: [mateusz.benko@un.org](file:///C:/Users/AS/Downloads/mateusz.benko@un.org) | | **Mr. Mateusz Benko**  Tehran Convention Officer  Tehran Convention interim Secretariat  E-mail: [mateusz.benko@un.org](file:///C:/Users/AS/Downloads/mateusz.benko@un.org) |
| **г-н Анатолий Савельев**  Временный Секретариат Тегеранской конвенции  Переводчик  Эл. почта: [toto-22@yandex.ru](file:///C:/Users/AS/Downloads/toto-22@yandex.ru) | | **Mr. Anatoly Savelyev**  Tehran Convention interim Secretariat  Translator  E-mail: [toto-22@yandex.ru](file:///C:/Users/AS/Downloads/toto-22@yandex.ru) |
| **г-н Даниэл Никсдорф**  Временный Секретариат Тегеранской конвенции  Советник  Эл. почта: [daniel.nixdorf@gmail.com](file:///C:/Users/AS/Downloads/daniel.nixdorf@gmail.com) | | **Mr. Daniel Nixdorf**  Tehran Convention interim Secretariat  Adviser  E-mail: [daniel.nixdorf@gmail.com](file:///C:/Users/AS/Downloads/daniel.nixdorf@gmail.com) |
| **Г-жа Кристина Русских**  Сотрудник по вопросам информационно просветительской деятельности и коммуникациям  Временный Секретариат Тегеранской конвенции  Европейский офис ЮНЕП  E-mail: [kristina.russkikh@un.org](file:///C:/Users/Benko/Desktop/To%20be%20added/Aktau%20Meeting/kristina.russkikh@un.org) | | **Ms. Christina Russkikh**  Advocacy and Communication Officer  Tehran Convention interim Secretariat  UN Environment Europe Office  E-mail: [kristina.russkikh@un.org](file:///C:/Users/AS/Downloads/kristina.russkikh@un.org) |
| **Международные организации** | | **International Organizations** |
| **г-жа Катя Шэфер**  Программа ООН по населённым пунктам (ООН-Хабитат)  Эл. почта: katja.schaefer@un.org | | **Ms. Katja Schaefer**  UN-Habitat  E-mail: katja.schaefer@un.org |
| **г-жа Серин Кижаккетоттам**  Программа ООН по населённым пунктам (ООН-Хабитат)  Эл. почта: cerin.kizhakkethottam@un.org | | **Ms. Cerin Kizhakkethottam**  UN-Habitat  E-mail: cerin.kizhakkethottam@un.org |
| **г-н Сумьядип Банерджи**  Международная организация по миграции  Эл. почта: sbanerjee@iom.int | | **Mr. Soumyadeep Banerjee**  International Organization for Migration (IOM)  E-mail: sbanerjee@iom.int |
| **Организационный комитет** | | **Organizing Committee** |
| **г-н Акбар Аскеров**  Начальник  Организационно-методическое обеспечение отдела систем наблюдения  Национальная гидрометеорологическая служба  Азербайджанская Республика | | **Mr. Akbar Askerov**  Head  Organization and Methodological Support of Surveillance Systems Division  National Hydrometeorology Service  Republic of Azerbaijan |
| **г-жа Наталия Ивкина**  Начальник  Управление гидрометеорологических исследований Каспийского моря  РГП «Казгидромет»  Республика Казахстан | | **Ms. Natalya Ivkina**  Head  Department of Hydrometeorological research of the Caspian Sea  RSE “Kazhydromet”  Republic of Kazakhstan |
| **д-р Хамид Ализаде Кетек Лахиджани**  Заместитель директора по исследованиям и технологиям  Иранский национальный институт океанографии и атмосферных наук  Исламская Республика Иран | | **Dr. Hamid Alizadeh Ketek Lahijani**  Deputy of Research and Technology  Iranian National Institute for Oceanography and Atmospheric Science  Islamic Republic of Iran |
| **г-н Игорь Школьник**  Заведующий отделом  Главная геофизическая обсерватория им. А.И. Воейкова  Российская Федерация | | **Mr. Igor Shkolnik**  Head of Department  Voeikov Main Geophysical Observatory  Russian Federation |
| **г-жа Елена Камнева**  Инженер-гидролог  Кафедра гидрологии  Гидрометеорологическая служба  Туркменистан | | **Ms. Elena Kamneva**  Engineer-Hydrologist  Department of Hydrology  Hydrometeorological Service  Turkmenistan |
| **г-н Фриц Шлингеманн**  Старший советник  Секретариат Тегеранской конвенции | | **Mr. Frits Schlingemann**  Senior Advisor  Tehran Convention Secretariat |
| **г-жа Елена Островская**  Координатор  КАСПКОМ  **Эл. почта: eostrovskaya@mail.ru** | | **Ms. Elena Ostrovskaya**  Coordinator  CASPCOM  **E-mail: eostrovskaya@mail.ru** |

**Annex VI**

***RECOMMENDATIONS***

Participants of the **International Scientific Conference** “**Climate Change in the Caspian Sea Region**”, held on October 27-28, 2021 under the auspices of the Coordinating Committee for Hydrometeorology of the Caspian Sea and the Tehran Convention interim Secretariat,

**Taking into account** the climate changes occurring in the Caspian Sea region and expressed in:

* Increase in air temperature,
* Decline in water flow of rivers,
* Increased evaporation from the surface of water bodies in the sea basin,
* Decrease in the sea level,
* Changes of ice regime;

**Recognizing** the need to strengthen international cooperation between the Caspian littoral states in addressing climate variability and change;

**Supporting** the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) – 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development;

**Recognizing** the growing need to study and address the interrelated implications of urbanization and climate change related to sea level fluctuations, drought and water scarcity to ensure long-term economically sustainable and environmentally sound management of the Caspian Sea coastal zones;

**Realizing** that the Caspian Sea is a unique body of water with many inherent features; the most famous is the fluctuation of its level under the impact of changes in natural and anthropogenic processes;

**Recognizing** the need to exchange operational and regime information on the state of the environment to ensure the security and sustainable development of the Caspian region in a changing climate;

**Considering** that the change in the interrelations that make up the water balance, especially river runoff and evaporation, has the greatest impact on long-term sea level fluctuations;

**Noting** that under the impact of climate change, the life cycles and distribution of unique endemic species of the Caspian Sea are altering, trophic networks will be affected and the functioning of ecosystems will be disrupted, what in the worst case will result in the extinction of many species,

Recommend:

***Aimed at adequate assessment and development of climate change forecasting in the Caspian Sea region***

1. To the Caspian littoral states:

* To develop climate services in the region on the basis of the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS), to facilitate the exchange of data on climate and the state of the environment within the framework of WMO, CASPCOM, Tehran Convention, and other interstate agreements;
* To promote regular international complex field studies of the current state and pollution of the marine environment and river deltas, state of biological communities of the Caspian Sea, including the assessment of their dynamics under the impact of climate change;
* To promote the exchange of information and results of scientific climate research among scientists inside and outside the region, to form and maintain a network of interested researchers.

2. To academia:

* To contribute to the development and improvement of the quality of global and regional climate models, including the study and modeling of paleoclimate and individual climatic characteristics, modeling and forecasting of dangerous hydrometeorological phenomena;
* To facilitate the study of impact of hydrometeorological conditions and climate changes in the Caspian region on the state of the marine environment, hydrophysics, hydrogeology, hydrochemistry, hydrology of rivers, and ecology of the sea;
* To develop remote monitoring methods and GIS applications for the study of regional climate, hydrological and ice regimes of the sea and their changes;
* To continue research on long-term changes in the runoff of rivers flowing into the Caspian Sea, including long-term periods of increased/decreased water content, as well as flow of heat, sediment, chemicals runoff, and natural and anthropogenic factors affecting them.

***Aimed at improving the quality of monitoring, modeling and forecasting of the Caspian Sea level***

1. To the Caspian littoral states:

* To monitor changes in the main components of the water balance and hydrometeorological characteristics of the Caspian Sea within the framework of the intergovernmental Agreement on Cooperation in the Field of Hydrometeorology of the Caspian Sea;
* To develop scientific co-operation in the region within the framework of the intergovernmental Agreement on Cooperation in the Field of Scientific Research in the Caspian Sea being developed;
* To promote regular updating of the General Catalogue of the Caspian Sea Level, Catalogues of water and air temperature, surface runoff into the Caspian Sea and salinity, established under the auspices of CASPCOM to assess the dynamics of these parameters under the impact of climate change;
* To develop monitoring networks, especially on the east coast, in coastal and open areas of the Caspian Sea, as well as to encourage shipowners to voluntarily register hydrometeorological parameters in the open part of the Caspian Sea;
* To facilitate the exchange of hydrometeorological and prognostic information to ensure safety at sea in accordance with the international obligations of the Caspian littoral states and the agreements among them.

2. To academia:

* To contribute to the study of impact of fluctuations in the Caspian Sea level on its ecological state and changes in morphometric characteristics;
* To develop remote sensing methods for the study of the sea level regime;
* To develop a scientific project on the diagnosis and long-term forecast of changes in the Caspian Sea level based on the new CMIP results from AR-6, establishing a targeted scientific fund and combining the efforts of the national scientific foundations of the Caspian littoral countries;
* To develop a new generation of interactively linked regional models “atmosphere – land surface – lake” to refine estimates of evaporation and obtain more reliable forecasts.

***Aimed at the conservation and protection of the ecosystem and biodiversity of the Caspian Sea***

1. To the Caspian littoral states:

* To promote ecosystem-based management of biological resources of the Caspian Sea as a strategic tool for marine planning to overcome the social and economic consequences of climate change and sea level decline, the cumulative human impact, and to strengthen efforts on the conservation and restoration of the marine environment on the border between land and sea;
* To reduce, to the extent possible the anthropogenic load on marine and coastal ecosystems, including the reduction of land-based and marine-based pollution, overgrazing, cutting of shrub vegetation, discharge of collector and drainage waters, construction of various structures;
* To ensure the protection of marine and coastal ecosystems, cessation of illegal fishing, as well as support the exchange of experience and lessons learned on their implementation in the Caspian region;
* To support the development and implementation of regional projects on the impact of climate change and adaptation to it on the marine environment and coastal zones of the Caspian Sea under the auspices of the Tehran Convention in close cooperation with international donor organizations (the Green Climate Fund, Adaptation Fund and the GEF);
* To promote regional cooperation of the Caspian littoral countries aimed at the conservation, reproduction, rational use and sustainable management of joint biological resources of the Caspian Sea, such as sturgeon, sprat and Caspian seals, for a better understanding and overcoming the consequences of global warming and climate change in the Caspian Sea;
* To establish a regular (quarterly) meeting of the Working Group on Biodiversity in the Caspian Region, possibly with the involvement of the Tehran Convention interim Secretariat;
* To implement the provisions of the Article 6 of the Part II of the Ashgabat Protocol and, above all, provision (A): provide comprehensive inventories of threatened species of flora and fauna; to develop the Caspian Red Book of the Tehran Convention on the basis of the inventories for its adoption at the Conference of the Contracting Parties;
* To carry out systematic monitoring of the natural flora, regular assessment of the condition of rare species, reproduction in natural conditions and possibility of cultivation in experimental sites;
* To take into account the assessment of environmental and climate risks in all projects for the use of natural resources;
* To provide training for young researchers and to support existing researchers with experience in taxonomy and biodiversity to provide a good scientific basis for addressing the Caspian biodiversity crisis now and in the future by regional scientists;
* To raise public awareness of the local communities of the Caspian region about how to protect the biodiversity of the Caspian Sea in the conditions of climate change.

2. To academia:

* To strengthen collective efforts in the framework of regional cooperation among the littoral countries to carry out a large meta-studies covering biodiversity, the temporal and spatial scales of variability, modeling of ecosystems, as well as standardization of future research (taxonomic groups, methods, time horizon, scale, and so on);
* To contribute to the development of information systems on biodiversity of the Caspian Sea through the platform IOC/IODE/OBIS;
* To jointly plan a Coastal Marine Ecological Classification Standard based on the CMECS model for the countries of the Caspian basin to monitor changes in sensitive and vulnerable habitats due to the likely harm from climate change, taking into account the experience of Iranian Fisheries Science Research Institute (IFSRI);
* To use the seabed habitat maps developed with the support of the European Marine Observations and Data Network (EMODnet) to address gaps in research and knowledge about the current and future projected impacts of climate change on the ecosystem and biodiversity and the Caspian Sea, as well as to make informed decisions on climate change issues in the Caspian Sea region;
* To promote cooperation with the portal of the European Marine Observation and Data Network (EMODnet) on seabed habitats in the field of comparison, development and compilation of EUSeaMap in the Caspian Basin, including in the development of a large-scale map of the Caspian Sea habitats (EUSeaMap), being developed for information monitoring of the impact of climate change on the ecosystem and biodiversity of the Caspian Sea;
* To create a centralized library of detailed local maps of communities, biocenoses, biotopes and habitats for the entire Caspian Sea, with the assistance of the EMODnet portal on seabed habitats;
* To establish a catalogue of data on the Caspian basin biodiversity (including wetlands), a catalogue of environmental data, that would facilitate centralized access to data on biodiversity in the Caspian region, as well as the comparison and aggregation of existing environmental aspects of ecological importance for the Caspian Sea;
* To establish a modern and updated library of Caspian species, accessible to everyone, since the correct identification of species is the basis for environmental and biodiversity monitoring;
* To support the study of impact of the new invasive species *Beroe ovata*, which is a natural enemy of *Mnemiopsis leidyi*, on pelagic and benthic communities and fish stocks in the changing environmental conditions of the Caspian Sea;
* To develop indicators of the climate change impact on the Caspian Sea biodiversity, which would summarize empirical data from monitoring programmes for the analysis of relevant loads, conditions, impacts or measures related to biodiversity;
* To develop regional models to assess the impact of climate change on the Caspian Sea biodiversity, primarily the impact of sea level changes.

***Aimed at the conservation of the unique population of the Caspian seal***

1. To the Caspian littoral states:

* To give priority attention to the elimination of existing threats, in particular, to reduce the mass mortality of seals during illegal fishing and to develop protected areas, as this will increase the resilience of the population to climatic impacts;
* To promote the establishment of a network of protected areas of the Caspian Sea, such as the Ramsar wetlands under the Tehran Convention, for the conservation and restoration of the Caspian seal population, and to strengthen international co-operation;
* To exclude the Caspian seal from the Agreement on the Conservation and Rational Use of Aquatic Biological Resources of the Caspian Sea, which implies commercial fishing of joint aquatic biological resources, which, according to this document, currently includes the Caspian seal.

2. To academia:

* To study the adaptive responses of the Caspian seal to rapidly changing environmental conditions to predict the future situation, given that global climate warming and sea regression may adversely affect its numbers and distribution;
* To facilitate the modeling of the Caspian seal population to obtain quantitative forecasts of the consequences for its demography under various scenarios and of how climatic processes may interact with other anthropogenic stress factors, such as the mortality of seals associated with fishing;
* To explore the prospects for expanding alternative habitats for breeding, including the establishment of artificial marine substrates for breeding and protected areas on land.

**Aimed at the conservation of the unique avifauna**

1. To the Caspian littoral states:

* To ensure the maximum possible conservation of wetlands that provide a food base for the resources of wetland birds and biodiversity;
* To facilitate the systematic development of Special Protected Areas (SPA) network, including wetlands of international, regional and national importance;
* To restore degraded wetlands, river floodplains and rivers flowing into the Caspian Sea ;
* To initiate the establishment of an international working group of ornithologists from the Caspian region countries to combine efforts to study the wintering of waterfowl in the Caspian and the long-term dynamics of their numbers.

2. To academia:

* To continue accounting and monitoring of waterfowl with the involvement of all countries of the region;
* To assess the contribution of climatic factors to the degradation of habitats of waterbirds in the Caspian region;
* To prepare a collective monograph: “The dynamics of biodiversity (on the example of waterbirds) against the background of climate change in the Caspian region”.

**Aimed at minimizing the adverse effects of and adaptation to the climate change in the Caspian Sea region**

1. To the Caspian littoral states:

* To develop national and regional climate change adaptation plans;
* To ensure close interaction of the hydrometeorological services specialists, academic and departmental science and users of climate information in the sectors of economics, nature use and the social sphere, including decision-makers, in the development and implementation of all stages of the adaptation process;
* To strengthen transboundary co-operation within the framework of existing agreements (CBD, Tehran Convention, Ramsar, CMS and other conventions, AEWA, and funds, initiatives);
* To adopt at the regional level the Environmental Monitoring Programme based on generally accepted goals and water quality standards and supported by a well-developed network of marine observations, as a means and tool for policy development and decision-making in relevant regional bodies, in particular at the Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Tehran Convention and CASPCOM;
* To include the impact of climate change on vulnerable ecosystems and biodiversity of the Caspian Sea region in international and national disaster risk reduction plans and programmes such as Global Network of Civil Society Organisations for Disaster Reduction (GNDR);
* To promote the expansion of the network of protected areas and establishment of new marine SPAs;
* To facilitate the strengthening of conservation measures and sustainable management of the nominated EBSA areas (ecologically and/or biologically significant areas) in the Caspian Sea;
* To promote the establishment of spatially dynamic protected areas taking into account changes in important habitats due to climate change and sea level regression;
* To develop appropriate coordinated measures and procedures to mitigate the effects of fluctuations in the Caspian Sea level;
* To assess vulnerability of coastal areas to the instability of the Caspian Sea level to plan adequate adaptation, protective and restoration actions;
* To promote integrated coastal zone management in the Caspian Sea as a tool for addressing increased environmental risks in the conditions of the Caspian Sea level fluctuations on the basis of regional co-operation of the countries of the region;
* To provide, within the framework of the implementation of the main provisions of the Tehran Convention, work on maritime spatial planning – the development and implementation of the state and transboundary Marine Plans (as an example, Directive 2014/89/EU “On establishing a framework for maritime spatial planning” of July 23, 2014);
* To ensure that oil and gas producers in the Caspian Sea region develop low-emission development strategies, using new and innovative measures and technologies to reduce emissions at all stages of the oil and gas production cycle, including with the support of appropriate agreed legislation;
* To reduce dependence on fossil fuels in the oil and gas producing regions of the Caspian Sea and its coastal zones through coordinated research and operation of suitable renewable energy sources and measures to adapt and introduce fully cost-effective industrial and domestic equipment;
* To strengthen regional and international co-operation of the Caspian littoral countries, including the implementation of international projects, joint scientific research in the field of assessing the impact of the Caspian Sea level fluctuations on marine and coastal ecosystems, as well as to mitigate the effects of sea level fluctuations;
* To raise awareness of the coastal population, starting from preschool age, about the Caspian Sea, its wildlife, history, environmental conditions, challenges and threats to the health of the sea and its coastal zones to develop a respectful attitude towards nature and household habits that do not harm the Caspian Sea and its coast.

2. To academia:

* To conduct studies on the dependence of the efficiency of fishing and agriculture on the hydrographs of the catchment basins of rivers flowing into the Caspian Sea to ensure optimal regulation of their operation modes for sustainable development;
* To encourage the updating and introduction of new research and subjects into the curricula of universities, to maximize the human potential in littoral states to eliminate the economic, social and environmental consequences of climate change; to this end, an interstate academic exchange programme and a database could be developed;
* To establish a network of concerned scientists and experts on various aspects of biodiversity, hydrology and climatology of the Caspian Sea (a database of regional experts under the auspices of the Tehran Convention interim Secretariat) to participate in future regional projects.

**Annex VII**

**Proceedings of the Scientific Conference on the Climate Change in the Caspian Sea region**

https://tehranconvention.org/en/news/proceedings-scientific-conference-climate-change-caspian-sea-region-are-now-available

*You can see and download the Proceedings of the Conference by following the link. For practical reasons the content is not copy-pasted below.*