**“Caspian Sea Day”-2024, August 12,** the theme was

**“Twenty Years of the Tehran Convention Signing, the Convention Current Activity Areas and the Fifteenth Anniversary of the “Caspian Sea Day Celebration in Russia”.**

NCLO-CIP prepared an information letter for the **“Caspian Sea Day”-2024** celebration and circulated it to the Russian participants of the Caspian Sea national network of public and other environmentally oriented organizations **(*Annex 1*)** along with other information materials **(*Annex 2*),** including a draft information brochure on the 20th anniversary of the Tehran Convention signing. Based on those materials, representatives of the public and other interested parties had the opportunity to present in a brief systematic form a chronology of historical events and current activities within the framework of the Tehran Convention, including the national “Caspian Sea Day” сcelebrations.

The “Caspian Sea Day” has been celebrated in Russia since 2008 and is an important aspect of cooperation of all interested parties to solve environmental problems of the Caspian Sea region of Russia.

The most significant activities on the marine and coastal environment protection were the events held under the “Caspian Sea Day” in the framework of the Tehran Convention in **2008, 2010, 2014, 2015, 2017, 2019.**

In particular, in **2008,** the following event was took place in Russia: the “Caspian Sea Day” celebration in the framework of the Tehran Convention under the motto **“The Public for the Protection of the Caspian Sea Marine Environment”**,at which establishment of trilateral partnerships “The Public-Business-Government” was actively discussed.

**In 2010**, the “Caspian Sea Day” events, that took place under the Tehran Convention, were devoted to **“The Tehran Convention Capacity Building on Interaction with Three Global Rio Conventions: the Convention on Biological Diversity, the UN Convention to Combat Desertification and the Framework Convention on Climate Change”.**

The “Caspian Sea Day”-2014 under the Tehran Convention covered the issues related to **“Conservation of Biological Diversity and Ecosystems of the Caspian Sea, Protection of its Environment and Sustainable Development in the Russian part of the Northern Caspian Sea Region”.**  The meeting of various stakeholders, including representatives of the public, business structures, executive authorities of various levels, and scientific community took place in the context of the results of the 5th session of the Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Tehran Convention. Discussions were held with a view of the public significant role in the implementation of the environmental policy in the field of the Caspian Sea biological diversity and ecosystems conservation in the context of the development of oil and gas fields in the northern Caspian Sea region with taking into account the Tehran Convention and its protocols activities.

As a part of the “Caspian Sea Day”-2015 celebration under the Tehran Convention, the discussion on **“The Tehran Convention and the Interaction of Stakeholders in Solving Ecological Problems of the Caspian Sea”** was held in Astrakhan. Attention was focused on such areas as the public structures involvement in international projects activities to support the Tehran Convention, the Caspian Sea ecological problems and engagement of the Caspian Sea littoral countries public in solving these problems, public participation in EIA procedures in the Caspian Sea region, including transboundary ones.

In **2019,** in the city of Makhachkala, the following event was held within the framework of the “Caspian Sea Day” celebration under the Tehran Convention - **“The Significance of the Framework Convention for the Protection of the Caspian Sea Marine Environment of the Caspian Sea for the Conservation of the Caspian Sea Marine and Coastal Environment and the Achievement Ecologically Sustainable Development of the Caspian Sea Region with a View to Implement the National Project “Ecology” and the Federal Project “Clean Country”**.

Final documents of the above events, held under the “Caspian Sea Day” celebration in Russia, included recommendations to increase the role and effectiveness of the Tehran Convention at addressing ecological problems of the Caspian Sea region of the Russian Federation.

Since the Caspian Sea marine environment requires a radically new public attitude to it, issues related to measures of environmental training and education of the population attracted special attention at the “Caspian Sea Day” events in Russia.

Activities of environmentally oriented organizations in the region cover such areas as minimizing pollution of the Caspian Sea marine and coastal environment, disseminating information about the state of the environment, ecological education and awareness, mainly related to the education of the younger generation - schoolchildren and students.

In all three Caspian Sea constituent entities of Russia, various conferences, seminars, Olympiads for schoolchildren, and environmental actions with educational and informational functions are held during the “Caspian Sea Day” celebrations.

So in 2024, events, dedicated to the “Caspian Sea Day”, took place in the Astrakhan region, the Republic of Dagestan.

The “*Water Resources of Russia*” campaign, the purpose of which was to establish and maintain sanitary order in unorganized recreation sites of people on the shores of reservoirs, was held in the Caspian Sea constituent entities of Russia.

Events were organized to clean up the Volga River banks in the Astrakhan region and to clean the shores of the Caspian Sea in the Republic of Dagestan.

In the Astrakhan region, educational events (the “*Caspian Sea Day”, “ The Caspian Sea is Our Home”, “A Journey to the Caspian Sea”, “The Caspian Sea Beauties”, “The Caspian Sea is the Sea of Friendship”, quizzes for children “About the Caspian Sea”*) took place in the territories of municipal districts (Ikryansky, Volodarsky and Enotaevsky). Besides, book exhibitions “The Caspian Sea, You is in My Heart”, “The Soul of the Caspian Sea”, the “Caspian Sea Day”, “The Caspian Sea is the Pearl of Russia”, “The Gray Caspian Sea” were organized.

In total, more than 500 people took part in those events.

Based on the materials of the information brochure, dedicated to the 20th anniversary of the Convention, and other related materials, distributed by NCLO-CIP among the Caspian Sea national network participants, the public and other stakeholders had the opportunity to summarize the results of the “***Caspian Sea Day***” forums in Russia, aimed to promote understanding of the Tehran Convention role in the conservation of the Caspian Sea marine and coastal environment and in sustainable development of the Caspian Sea region environment.

Also, within the framework of the “**Caspian Sea Day”-2024** celebration, NCLO-CIP submitted to the Caspian Sea national network participants information on the ***integrated management of the Caspian Sea marine and coastal environment,*** *i.e.* an actual activity direction under the Tehran Convention and its protocols, including in the context of ***the Protocol for the Protection of the Caspian Sea Against Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities (the Moscow Protocol), which entered into force in November 2023.***

The Protocol is the fundamental one for the Tehran Convention, as, in accordance with the Convention provisions, it defines measures to prevent, control, reduce and to the maximum extent possible eliminate pollution and other adverse impacts on the marine environment and coastal areas of the Caspian Sea from land-based sources and activities (*Item 1 of Article 4, the Moscow Protocol).*

The NCLO-CIP information summarized the experience of applying an integrated approach towards the coastal marine management within the framework of regional conventions and programs, as well as other methods used in the marine environment management (marine spatial planning, etc.).

Attention was also focused on the specifics of the Caspian Sea region, which is associated with the vulnerability of the Caspian Sea marine and coastal areas and natural resources as a result of various natural and anthropogenic impacts, since the coastal zone of the Caspian Sea is a concentration of economic, recreational and environmental interests of the Caspian Sea littoral states. Therefore, the management system of the marine coastal environment management in the region should be based on the synergy of natural resources and socio-economic components.

Adaptation of the coastal socio-economic complexes to fluctuation of natural conditions (including the level fluctuations), which formed and are maintaining the uniqueness of its biodiversity and the commercial importance of biological resources, is significant for the Tehran Convention and its protocols in accordance with Article 15 (management of land affected by the proximity to the sea).

The Moscow Protocol envisages “an integrated approach to the development of coastal areas, on the basis of, *inter alia,* coastal area planning” (*Article 10*), “the adoption of regional and/or national programs or plans of actions based on pollution source control” (*item 2 of Article 5*), as well as “mitigation measures to reduce negative impacts of natural hazards such as long-term sea-level fluctuation, storm-surges, storms, earthquakes and coastal erosion on the population and infrastructure of coastal areas” (*item 1 of Article 10*), and “measures to reduce and reverse deforestation and land degradation in the coastal areas” (*item 2 of Article 10*). Application of integrated approach to the management of coastal marine areas in the Caspian Sea region is decisive for the Tehran Convention and its Moscow Protocol.

The “Caspian Sea Day”-2024 celebration, dedicated to the 20th anniversary of the Tehran Convention signing and the 15th anniversary of the “Caspian Sea Day” celebration in Russia with account of the NCLO-CIP corresponding materials and the Caspian Sea national network representatives participation, demonstrated the importance of enhancing the involvement of the public and other stakeholders in preventing and reducing pollution of the Caspian Sea and coastal zone and its biodiversity conservation in accordance with the provisions of the Tehran Convention and its Public Participation Strategy.