



Caspian Day Celebration Report 2016

یک زمین و بزرگترین دریاچه

The Caspian Day بزرگداشت روز خزر

A Land and the largest lake

۲۱ / مرداد / ۱۳۹۵

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برگزار کننده : تشکل یاپراک یاران ترکمن

با همکاری :
اداره محیط زیست شهرستان ترکمن و کمیشان



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1. Introduction

The framework Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Caspian Sea (named as Tehran Convention due to its signing ceremony in Tehran on 4th November 2003) is the first legally binding agreement aimed at prevention and reduction of pollution, restoration the environment, using the Sea's resources in a sustainable and reasonable manner and cooperation to protect the environment, which entered into force on August 12, 2006. This date is considered as a milestone in the history of environmental cooperation in the Caspian Region.

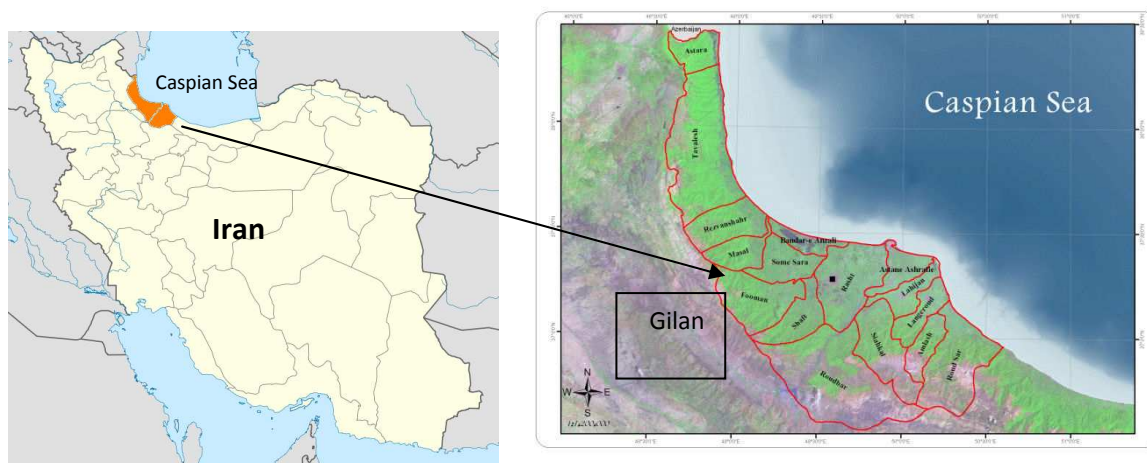
Celebration of the Caspian Day was decided at the First Conference of the Parties (COP I) to the Tehran Convention in Baku (Azerbaijan) in 2007. Since then, Caspian Day is celebrated on 12 August annually in the littoral countries in order to draw public attention to the need to safeguard the unique Caspian Sea environment and make the protection of the marine environment of the Caspian Sea a responsibility of each and every individual.

The 2016 Caspian Day Celebration program in I. R. Iran consisted of various events such as coastal clean-up activity, workshops for the residents of coastal cities and some entertainment programs. The objective of the present report is to provide a final report on implementation of the Caspian Day in Iran according to the Small-Scale Funding Agreement between United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and Department of Environment of Iran. The financial statement for the whole activity is provided in Annex.

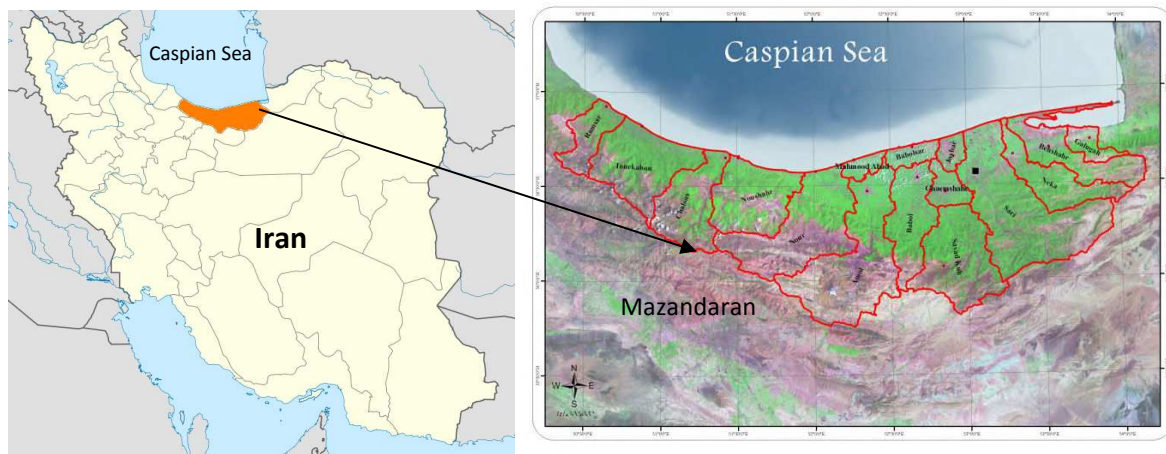
2. Iran's Coastal Areas by the Caspian Sea

Iran is subdivided into thirty one provinces, each governed from a local center, usually the largest local city, which is called the capital of that province. The provincial authority is headed by a Governor-General, who is appointed by the Minister of the Interior subject to approval of the cabinet. 3 of these provinces namely, Gilan, Mazandaran and Golestan lie along the Caspian Sea.

- **Gilan Province:** It lies along the Caspian Sea, just west of the province of Mazandaran. The total area of Gilan province is 14,042 km² and has a population of approximately 2.5 million. It has a humid subtropical climate with by a large margin the heaviest rainfall in Iran: reaching as high as 1,900 millimetres in the southwestern coast and generally around 1,400 millimetres. Rasht, the capital of the province, is known internationally as the "City of Silver Rains" and within Iran as the "City of Rain". Rainfall is heaviest between September and December because the onshore winds from the Siberian High are strongest, but it occurs throughout the year though least abundantly from April to July. Humidity is very high because of the marshy character of the coastal plains and can reach 90 percent in summer. The main harbor port of the province is Bandar-e Anzali. The Anzali Wetland (about 193 km²) is internationally known as a habitat of migratory birds and is located on the southern coast of the Caspian Sea in Gilan province. It was registered as a Ramsar site (150 km²) in June 1975. The wetland displays a spectacular view. Its aqua atmosphere is a suitable bed for the spawning of various types of fish, which play an important role in the economy of the region. This wetland is one of the best and appropriate surroundings for various waterfowls. Hundreds of species of migrant birds choose to settle in this area for breeding.

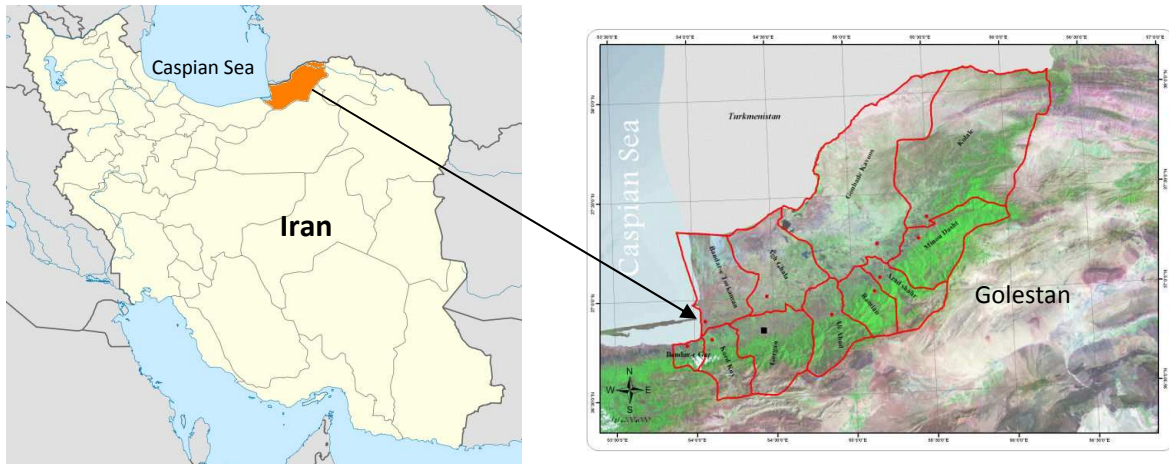


- Mazandaran Province:** Mazandaran is located between Gilan and Golestan provinces on the southern coast of the Caspian Sea. It has an area of 23,842 km² and a population of nearly 3 million people. Sari is the largest and the capital city of Mazandaran province. Mazandaran is one of the most densely populated provinces in Iran and has diverse natural resources, especially large reservoirs of oil and natural gas. The province's four largest counties are Sari, Babol, Amol and Qaemshahr. The diverse nature of the province features plains, prairies, forests and rainforest stretching from the sandy beaches of the Caspian Sea to the rugged and snowcapped Alborz sierra, including Mount Damavand, one of the highest peaks and volcanoes in Asia, which at the narrowest point (Nowshahr County) narrows to 8 Km. The province enjoys a moderate, subtropical climate with an average temperature of 25 °C in summer and about 8 °C in winter. Mazandaran is a major producer of farmed fish and aquaculture provides an important economic addition to traditional dominance of agriculture. Another important contributor to the economy is the tourism industry, as people from all of Iran enjoy visiting the area. Mazandaran is also a fast-growing centre for biotechnology and civil engineering.



- Golestan Province:** This province is located in the north-east of the country, south of the Caspian Sea. Its capital is Gorgan. Golestan was split off from the province of Mazandaran in 1997. It has a population of almost 1.7 million and an area of 20,380 km². Golestan enjoys a mild weather and a temperate climate most of the year. Geographically, it is divided into two sections: The plains, and the mountains of the Alborz range. In the eastern Alborz section, the direction of mountains faces northeast and gradually decreases in height. Miankaleh Peninsula is a narrow but long peninsula in Mazandaran Province in the north of Iran situated in the extreme south-eastern part of the Caspian Sea. The long and narrow peninsula is

48 km long, and between 1300 and 3200 meters wide. It sets apart the Gorgan Bay from the Caspian Sea. The elevation of the peninsula from the sea level is 23 meters.



3. Caspian Day Activities in I. R. Iran

3.1 Caspian Day Celebration in Golestan Province

Caspian Day ceremony was performed by an active NGO named Yarane Turkman in Golestan Province. Since the Caspian Sea is now on its falling period, a half-day event was held in Bandar Turkman Harbor with presence of local stakeholders, local governors of the Province, experts, NGOs and fishermen to discuss and review the reasons and the impacts of water level decrease.



Then a set of different fun activities such as drawing contest for kids aged 7-10, Beach volleyball match, waste separation game and other entertainment programs were held for participants.





The banner calling for the beach volleyball match on the occasion of the Caspian Day







3.2 Caspian Day Celebration in Mazandaran Province

In order to develop a sense of participation for rational use of the sea as well as to motivate and enhance knowledge and awareness of stakeholders and local communities to protect the environment of the Caspian Sea, a ceremony was held in a common public beach in Sari, Mazandaran Province. Different activities such as music festival, an exhibition of women handmade products and environmental education, street theater and a workshop were also managed to be done in the ceremony.

The organizer of the ceremony was a local NGO named Mehrvarzan Zamin-e-Pak (Clean Earth Friends). The celebration inaugurated with some official speech by local authorities.







Street theater on the Caspian Day ceremony





3.3 Caspian Day Celebration in Gilan Province

On the occasion of the Caspian Day different activities were done by different NGOs in different part of the Province. These programs include: holding an event in order to make tourists familiar with the concept of Tehran Convention along with local customs in coastal recreational areas of the Province, holding a drawing workshop for kids with the subject of Caspian Sea Ecosystem, preparation and distribution of brochures with information about Tehran Convention for tourists and local people, drawing and sculpture contests on Tehran Convention and protection of the Caspian Sea ecosystem.



The banner calling for the Caspian Day ceremony in Gilan Province





Written with shell under the seal sculpture: I have the right to live





Budget
(indicative budget posts)

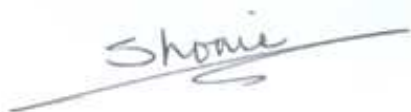
№	Activity	Costs (US\$)
1	Caspian Day event activities	4,000
2	Logistics and communication	1,000
	GRAND TOTAL	5,000

Approved:

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