

National Public Participation Strategy (NPPS)

1. Aim

Aim is to ensure the participation in the environmental processes countrywide/regionwide by the public through the broad awareness-raising consistent with the relevant provisions of the Framework Convention on the protection of marine environment of the Caspian Sea and the Strategic Convention Action Program.

2. Legal basis for NPPS

2.1. The followings are the legal basis for practical application of NPPS:

2.1.1. Framework Convention on the protection of marine environment of the Caspian Sea (Article 21.2 states: "The Contracting Parties shall endeavor to ensure public access to environmental conditions of the Caspian Sea, measures taken or planned to be taken to prevent, control and reduce pollution of the Caspian Sea in accordance with their national legislation and taking into account provisions of existing international agreements concerning public access to environmental information")

2.1.2. To the extend of relevance other applicable international agreements in force concerning public access to environmental information to which country in question is a party,

2.1.3. National legislation

2.1.4. Strategic Convention Action Program

3. Main non-exhaustive directions/spheres to achieve the public participation

3.1. To discuss with the relevant stakeholders the question of creating in the Azerbaijani language the internet/electronic information resources on the Conventional process, especially web-site devoted to the Framework Convention containing information about *inter alia* Convention itself, its Protocols as well as decisions taken at COP I in Baky, COP II in Tehran and COP III in Astana, and to take practical steps forward following discussions

3.1.2. To regularly update the internet/electronic information resources in the light of developments within the Conventional process

- 3.1.3. To study the possibility of arranging the mechanism for sorting out the best appropriate scientific works, assays and articles on fauna and flora of the costal and marine areas of the Caspian Sea littoral countries for a web-site compiling this information
- 3.1.4. To encourage physical and legal persons interested and active in the domain of environmental protection to be part of the awareness raising process by means of issuance in their part the same type publications, such as the scientific works, assays and articles on fauna and flora of the costal and marine areas of the Caspian Sea littoral countries
- 3.1.5. To consider the possibility of searching for a source of finance to ensure the sponsorship for a publication, translation and dissemination of actual books by local and foreign authors on the topics of Caspian Sea environment protection, including the Conventional process at large and its different components such as mechanisms of cooperation, means of national and international actions
- 3.1.6. To study the methodology of inclusion of the topic "Environment of the Caspian Sea" into the relevant section/sub-section of the university curriculum at the faculty of geography, biology, chemistry and others, as relevant, consistent with the priority sub-topics of the "State of environment of the Caspian Sea", "institutional mechanisms for environmental protection: national and international", "Framework Convention on the protection of the marine environment of the Caspian Sea"
- 3.1.6.1. To discuss with the leadership of schools the modules for organizing the lectures on the actual problems of Caspian sea environment and informational sessions on activities and measures taken by the Government aimed at protection of marine environment of the Caspian Sea, especially in the area of increase of biological resources
- 3.1.6.2. To organize the above-mentioned lectures and informational sessions at schools, as a matter of priority, of the biggest cities of Azerbaijan, first of all in the capital city:
- Baky, afterwards;
 - Sumqayit
 - Lankaran
- 3.1.6.3. To organize the afore-said lectures and informational sessions in other costal cities and districts, as well
- 3.1.7. To make utmost efforts for providing the university libraries, to the extend possible and upon their availability, with the books, journals and

other type of publications about the protection of the Caspian environment, in general, and Framework Convention on the protection of marine environment of the Caspian Sea and Protocols thereto, in particular

- 3.1.8. To enlighten by the mass media, including newspapers/journals, TV and radio channels, the topic of environment and actions taken thereon as well as the significance, impact and scale of topic itself and relevant actions in terms of best interest of large audience on monthly, quarterly and annual basis
- 3.1.9. To form up the environmental mentality of school children and acquaint them with the importance of the Caspian Sea environment protection and essence of practical arrangements, organizing for costal area school children the gatherings (subbotnics) aimed at cleaning of chosen areas by means of their own exercises and assistance in the biggest costal cities:
 - Baky city:
 - Azizbayov district
 - Sabuncu district
 - Bilgah, Zagulba and Mardakan districtsøbeaches
 - Sumqayit
 - Lankaran
 - Nabran
- 3.2. To choose in collaboration with the counter partners from the educational sector a pioneer school in Baky for organizing there the workshop/seminar devoted to the topic of Caspian Sea environment protection
- 3.3. To organize a round table with the scientific and student circles of the Baky State University to hold an interactive discussion on the Caspian Sea environment
- 3.4. To encourage journalist to describe in the Mass Media the Professional Day of the employees of the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources, and in this regard to arrange the interviews in Mass Media, especially in radio and TV, and to organize tours to the national parks
- 3.5. Joint gatherings of NGOs, students and youth to clean up and serve the green areas in the costal areas
- 3.6. To organize conferences on the topic of access to drinking waters in a changing environment in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and the participation of the local and national scientific circles and the public of villages where a new water-purifying structures have been installed

4. Structural mechanism for ensuring public participation

- 4.1. To establish an entity such as, for example, Council on Public Participation or any other entity with likewise title, to arrange a

mechanism and structured/institutionalized tool of communication to involve public, in particular NGOs, into ecological events, ecological information sharing and to achieve awareness raising,

- 4.2. To draw up new programs, action plans and other means and mechanisms, as necessary, with a view of increasing capacity of public to participate and express themselves
- 4.3. To qualitatively develop the involvement of public through more consultations with, more expertise and more comments by public, to lift up the frequency of contacts, to organize for public more meetings, seminars, conferences, and to ensure usual participation of public at events of national and international character
- 4.4. To seek for new up-to-date mechanisms for receiving in-advance comments and recommendations by public, especially NGOs and scientific circles, on draft administrative/legislative documents prior to the administrative, legislative and implementation measures/actions take place
- 4.5. To scrutinize the future mechanism for receiving through Council of Public Participation the comments by public, especially NGOs and scientific circles, on measures/actions under way
5. To list main non-exhaustive directions/spheres to achieve public participation at local level
 - 5.1. To prepare and disseminate the informational and propaganda booklets dedicated to the Conventional process as of relevance to the particular locality and to primarily include those passages from the Convention and its Protocols upon their entry into force, as well as from the decisions taken that are of importance for environmental protection strategy at local level
 - 5.2. To consider regularly updating local internet/electronic information resources in the light of developments within the Conventional process at national level
 - 5.3. To design t-shirts with the seal of environment protection to spread over the public the awareness of Caspian Sea environment protection, as well as fauna and flora of the local costal and marine areas, in particular in those areas located on the cost

- 5.4. To disseminate the environmental propaganda papers, publications and brochures with a view of sensitizing a topic of countrywide and local environmental protection
- 5.5. To encourage at local level public or private financing of the publication, translation and dissemination of books by local and foreign authors on the topics of Caspian Sea environment protection of a given locality, including mechanisms of cooperation at local level, means of local actions
- 5.6. To prepare a curriculum for local educational institutions at the faculty of geography, biology, chemistry and others, as appropriate, consistent with the priority sub-topics of the "State of environment of the Caspian Sea: given locality, its problems and perspectives of their settlement", "institutional mechanisms for local environmental protection"
- 5.7. To organize a country wide conference to enlighten a topic of environment and human rights aimed at discussing the human rights dimension of environmental protection and to sum up the consequences for the local coastal areas
- 5.8. To make the utmost efforts for providing libraries of local schools and universities with various types of publications about the protection of the Caspian environment as of relevance for a given locality, in particular, and for a country in question, in general
- 5.9. To make an efforts for sensitizing the local mass media means, including newspapers/journals, TV and radio channels, to enlighten the topic of environmental protection at local level, problems, priority strategies for settlement thereof as well as the significance, impact and scale of topic itself and relevant actions left for the public of locality
- 5.10. Structural mechanism for ensuring public participation at local level
 - 5.10.1. To learn the various aspects of establishing an entity such as, for example, Local Partnership or any other entity with likewise title, with a view of arranging a mechanism and structured/institutionalized tool of communication between local authorities and local public – physical and legal persons, including NGOs, with the purpose of achieving local public's involvement into ecological events, ecological information sharing and to accomplish awareness raising
 - 5.10.2. To draw up new local programs, action plans and other means and mechanisms to enable public of a given locality to participate and express themselves on the actual local environmental issues

- 5.10.3. To progressively raise up the involvement of local public through more consultations with, more expertise and more comments by public, as well as frequent contacts, meetings, seminars, conferences with the attendance of local public, to ensure usual participation of public at events of local and national character
- 5.10.4. To seek for new up-to-date mechanisms for receiving in-advance comments and recommendations by local public, especially NGOs and scientific circles, on draft administrative/legislative documents prior to the administrative, legislative and implementation measures/actions are approved and applied
- 5.10.5. To study the best mechanism for the quickest receipt through Local partnership of comments by public, especially NGOs and scientific circles, on measures/actions under way with the aim of their subsequent application
- 5.10.6. To establish a competition amongst journalists to determine the best article and tele-reportage consecrated to the Caspian ecological topics
- 5.10.7. To organize photo-exhibitions on water biological resources both at national and local levels
- 5.10.8. To establish and present regional analytical research laboratories to the broad public at national level and at the level of relevant districts of location
- 5.10.9. To organize round tables on the use of modern technologies in the process of environmental monitoring with participation of NGOs and relevant state and private stakeholders/partners
- 5.10.10. To organize marathon of journalists to the areas where the environmental protection systems are functioning
- 5.10.11. To organize scientific conference devoted to the environment and its protection