



FRAMEWORK CONVENTION
FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT OF THE CASPIAN SEA
MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION
NATIONAL TEHRAN CONVENTION LIAISON OFFICE – ANO “CIP”
ASTRAKHAN OBLAST ADMINISTRATION

CASPIAN DAY – 2015:

TEHRAN CONVENTION AND STAKEHOLDERS INTERACTION IN ADDRESSING ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS OF THE CASPIAN SEA

*August 12-13, 2015, Astrakhan, Russian Federation
Great Hall of the Administration of the Governor of the Astrakhan oblast
(15 Sovetskaya Street, Astrakhan).*

Framework Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Caspian Sea (Tehran Convention), which entered into force in August 2006, is the international legal basis for the regional co-operation in the Caspian in the field of environmental protection and rational nature use, as well as the evidence of acknowledgment by all the Caspian littoral states of commonality of the Caspian environmental problems and necessity in an interstate co-operation to address them.

Recognizing the responsibility towards the present and future generations for the conservation of the Caspian Sea and integrity of its ecological system, the joint Statements of the Presidents of the Caspian littoral states made at the Caspian Summits in 2007, 2010, and 2014 underlined the significance of the Tehran Convention as the important instrument for addressing the environmental challenges in the region.

In particular, in the course of the recent Summit that took place on September 29, 2014 in Astrakhan three pentilateral documents, which support, compliment and broaden the scope of the Tehran Convention: the Agreement on Conservation and Rational Use of Aquatic Biological Resources of the Caspian Sea, the Agreement on Co-operation in Prevention and Elimination of Emergencies in the Caspian Sea, and the Agreement on Co-operation in the field of Hydrometeorology of the Caspian Sea.

In addition, the Agreement on Co-operation in the sphere of Safety in the Caspian Sea (Baku, November 18, 2010) also contributes to the resolution of tasks related to the conservation of the Caspian marine environment.

The international environmental protection co-operation in the Caspian related to the development and implementation of the Tehran Convention with the support of the international projects is marking twenty years in 2015.

The Tehran Convention is a framework one in its format, and the concrete obligations on its implementation are determined by the protocols to it: the Protocol Concerning Regional Preparedness, Response and Co-operation in Combating Oil Pollution Incidents (Aktau, 2011),

the Protocol for the Protection of the Caspian Sea against Pollution from Land-based Sources and Activities (Moscow, 2012), the Protocol for the Conservation of Biological Diversity (Ashgabat, 2014), as well as draft Protocol on Environment Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context and draft Protocol on Monitoring, Reporting, Assessment, Access to and Exchange of Information.

The Strategic Convention Action Programme (SCAP) implemented through the National (Tehran) Convention Action Plans (NCAPs), Environmental Monitoring Programme (EMP), Caspian Environmental Information Center (CEIC), Public Participations Strategies, including the interaction between the Convention and oil-and-gas industry operating in the Caspian Sea, are an effective mechanism for its implementation.

In recognition of the important role of the public in addressing the problems of the Caspian Sea marine environment protection the 1st Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Tehran Convention (Baku, Azerbaijan, 2007) decided to annually celebrate the date of the Convention entry into force – August 12 – as the Caspian Day.

Highlighting the role of the public in carrying out the environmental policy at the Caspian, the Caspian Day 2015 is dedicated to the Tehran Convention and interaction of stakeholders in addressing environmental problems of the Caspian Sea.

The objective of the meeting: to discuss the participation of public and other stakeholders in the implementation of the Tehran Convention and protocols to it.

To achieve this goal it is necessary to focus on:

- Public component of international projects in support of the Tehran Convention;
- Experience and goals of the Caspian littoral countries public participation in addressing the environmental problems of the Caspian Sea, including the role of mass media;
- Public participation in EIA procedures in the Caspian Sea region, including the transboundary;
- Enhancement of the role of public in the NCAPs implementation.

The discussions will take place in the round table format under the below proposed thematic areas.

Preliminary Annotated Programme of Work

August 12, 2015

12:00 - 13:00	<p>Plenary meeting Caspian Day 2015 and significance of the Tehran Convention and its protocols for addressing the environmental problems of the Caspian</p> <p>Representatives of the parties to the Tehran Convention: Russian Federation, Azerbaijan Republic, Islamic Republic of Iran, Republic of Kazakhstan, and Turkmenistan. Other stakeholders.</p>
13:00 - 14:10	<p>Tehran Convention and interaction of stakeholders in addressing the environmental problems of the Caspian Sea</p> <p><i>The celebrations devoted to the Caspian Day 2015 in Astrakhan are traditional and connected to the activity of the Framework Convention for the Protection of</i></p>

	<p><i>the Marine Environment of the Caspian Sea and international projects supporting it. The topics correspond to the Strategic Convention Action Programme, which grounds on the understanding that the practical implementation of the Convention is only possible on the basis of the introduction of the concrete provisions into the realities of socio-economic processes that take place in the Caspian region, and what require the effective interaction of all stakeholders concerned in the sustainable development of this region. These stakeholders concerned in the Tehran Convention implementation include first of all the authorities, business and public of the Caspian littoral states.</i></p> <p>1-st thematic area: “20 years of international environmental protection cooperation at the Caspian related to the development and implementation of the Tehran Convention with the support of international projects”</p> <p><i>The participants will be familiarized with the principal stages of the development and implementation of the Tehran Convention in the linkage with the international and national projects supporting this activity. The brief slice of history of the environmental protection co-operation development in the Caspian will be provided through the eyes of its participants, as well as the glance into future – the possible future perspective partnerships and directions for cooperation and interaction.</i></p> <p><i>It is supposed to consider the experience in implementing the specific thematic areas of projects related to the provision of the scientific validity of the provisions of the Convention, its protocols and environmental action plans.</i></p> <p>Representatives of the Parties to the Tehran Convention, Interim Secretariat to the Tehran Convention, Other stakeholders.</p>
14:10 - 15:10	<i>Lunch (Hotel 7 Heaven)</i>
15:10 - 17:10	<p>2-nd thematic area: “Tehran Convention and mechanisms for interaction of public and other stakeholders in addressing the environmental problems of the Caspian Sea”</p> <p><i>It is anticipated that the discussion would involve the active participation of the representatives of the stakeholders, including the authorities, business, public, academia, and media.</i></p> <p><i>The general scheme of possible interaction among the stakeholders on addressing the environmental problems of the Caspian with the support of the Tehran Convention will be presented. It is expected to listen to brief presentations of the representatives of the stakeholders on the experience of their environmental protection activity related to the Tehran Convention with the specific focus on attraction of public and possible mechanisms of interaction with other stakeholders (and Conventional structures).</i></p> <p>Presentations of the concerned participants</p>
17:10 - 19:00	<p>3-d thematic area: “Tehran Convention as the tool for provision of ecological/environmental safety in implementation of energy-resource capacity, including environmental risks”</p> <p><i>The discussion stipulates for the active participation of the representatives from the companies and scientific research institutes of the energy sector, fisheries and environmental agencies, the Convention, as well as other stakeholders.</i></p>

	<p><i>The brief presentations will be made on the specificities of the Caspian Sea with regards to the environmental risks under the development and transportation of its hydrocarbon resources, as well as perspectives for further studies in this field. It is expected to formulate a number of generic proposals with respect to promising and priority directions of studies and researches on this subject.</i></p> <p>Presentations of the concerned participants</p>
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August 13, 2015

10:00 - 12:00	<p>4-th thematic area: “Decisions and measures, which should be taken to involve and secure the effective participation of the civil society and other stakeholders in the implementation of the Tehran Convention and its protocols”</p> <p><i>On the basis of the materials developed by the interim Secretariat to the Tehran Convention as the discussion document the presentations of the representatives of the Parties to the Tehran Convention and other concerned participants are expected with presentations of the gained experience in implementing the Public Participation Strategies and summarization of proposals submitted in the course of the first day the meeting.</i></p> <p><i>The participants are expected to formulate the necessary measures on the effective involvement of the public and other stakeholders into the activity of the Tehran Convention, its protocols and action plans.</i></p> <p>Presentations of the participants, including the representatives from the Parties to the Tehran Convention, and interim Secretariat to the Tehran Convention</p>
12:00 - 12:30	Discussion of the presented proposals and draft Outcome Document.
12:30 - 13:00	Concluding remarks. Closure of the meeting.
13:00 – 14:00	<i>Lunch (Hotel 7 Heaven)</i>