



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*

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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 Programme

*August 12, 2015*

10:00 – 10:30	<b>Opening. Greetings.</b> <i>MNRE of Russia; Astrakhan oblast Government; Tehran Convention (interim) Secretariat</i>
10:30 – 11:45	<b>Plenary session: “Caspian Day 2015 and significance of the Tehran Convention and its protocols for addressing the Caspian environmental problems</b> <i>Presentations by the Department of International Cooperation, MNRE of Russia; Parties to the Tehran Convention (Azerbaijan Republic, Islamic Republic of Iran, Republic of Kazakhstan, Russian Federation, and Turkmenistan); Other stakeholders</i>
11:45 – 12:00	Coffee-break
12:00 – 13:00	<b>“Tehran Convention and Stakeholders Interaction in Addressing Environmental Problems of the Caspian Sea”</b>  Thematic area: <b>“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”.</b> <i>Presentations by the Parties to the Tehran Convention, Tehran Convention (interim) Secretariat and other stakeholders</i>
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch
14:00 – 17:00	Thematic area: <b>“Tehran Convention and mechanisms for interaction of public and other stakeholders in addressing the environmental problems of the Caspian Sea”</b> <i>Presentations by the stakeholders</i>
16:00 – 16:15	Coffee-break
17:00 – 18:00	Thematic area: <b>“Tehran Convention as the tool for provision of ecological/environmental safety in implementation of energy-resource capacity, including potential environmental risks”</b> <i>Presentations by the concerned participants</i>

*August 13, 2015*

10:00 – 12:00	Thematic area: <b>“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”</b> <i>Presentations by the participants, including the representatives of the Parties to the Tehran Convention, Tehran Convention (interim) Secretariat.</i>
12:00 – 12:30	<b>Discussion of the presented proposals and Outcome Document</b>
12:30 – 13:00	<b>Concluding presentations. Closure</b>