

**Framework Convention for the Protection of the
Marine Environment of the Caspian Sea**

National Convention Action Plan for I.R. IRAN

Final Draft

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List of Abbreviations

CBO	Community-based Organization
CEP	Caspian Environment Programme
DoE	Department of Environment
DoE-DoMA	DoE's Deputy of Marine Affairs
EIA	Environmental impact assessment
ENGO	Environmental non-governmental organization
FRWO	Forests, Rangelands and Watershed Organization
MIM	Ministry of Industries and Mines
MoAJ	Ministry of Agricultural Jihad
MoE	Ministry of Energy
Mol	Ministry of Interior
NCAP	National Convention Action Plan
NGO	Non-governmental organization
PMO	Ports and Maritime Organization
SAP	Strategic Action Plan
SCAP	Strategic Convention Action Programme
Shilat	Fisheries Department of Iran
TDA	Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme

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*This report is kindly dedicated to the game-guards of the Department of Environment who have risked their lives for the Caspian Sea
and its living resources*

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

It was just recently during the COP III meeting in Aktau, Kazakhstan (10-12 August, 2011) that ministers of all littoral states stressed on the importance of developing National Convention Action Plans (NCAPs), with special emphasis on ways and means to ensure ministerial coordination, and mainstreaming concerns for the marine environment of the Caspian Sea in overall government policy, as well as short, medium and long-term budget requirements for NCAP implementation, confirming the intention of their respective governments to adopt, endorse, and initiate implementation of NCAP before the Fourth meeting of COP.

The NCAP for I.R. Iran has taken about a year to develop with support from the Government of I.R. Iran, Tehran Convention Secretariat (UNEP/GEF) and CaspEco project. The aim of NCAP for I.R. Iran is to help implement the objectives of Tehran Convention and its Protocols at national level, while a Strategic Convention Action Plan (SCAP) has been already prepared for the region and adopted in November 2008 by the member littoral states. The SCAP is a comprehensive, long-term agenda and framework for the implementation of the Tehran Convention and its Protocols over a period of 10 years. The present report has been prepared following closely Tehran Convention text and the SCAP.

Chapter I provides a background and history of events which led to Tehran Convention, and justifies the need for preparation of the present NCAP. It also elaborates on identified barriers and recommendations of the previously prepared National Caspian Action Plan and its revisit during 2007. At the end of this chapter the process of NCAP development has been explained in details.

Chapter II reflects the national need for an NCAP, presenting briefly an overview of the Caspian region of I.R. Iran (including population, socio-economic and biodiversity features), as well as its main environmental issues, and how national priorities might merge with regional ones.

NCAP Objectives are presented in Chapter III, closely following the SCAP objectives and Tehran Convention Articles. In Chapter IV, some actions and indicators for NCAP have been developed again based on SCAP and Tehran Convention text, as well as approved protocols. In Chapter V an attempt has been made to estimate the budget that would be allocated for NCAP implementation. This section needs to be further discussed inter-agency collaboration and approved by end of the Iranian fiscal year (August 2012).

Chapter VI builds on the results of a multi-stakeholder workshop that was hosted by the DoE's Deputy for Marine Affairs in March 2011. During this workshop, institutional arrangement for NCAP implementation was discussed. However regarding inter-agency coordination, a mechanism has been proposed which is yet to be approved. Chapter VII is an important part of NCAP as it analyzes the role of public participation in implementation of NCAP (integrating NPPS into NCAP).

Chapter VIII suggests a monitoring and evaluation mechanism for NCAP, and Chapter IX, identifies some possible risks and barriers for implementation. At the end, some recommendations are given to overcome those barriers. The summary of NCAP objectives, actions and indicators, as well as responsible agencies may be found in the following table:

Table 1- NCAP summary table for I.R. Iran

NCAP Objectives¹	NCAP Actions	Indicators	Leading Agencies	Collaborating Agencies	Timeline	Public Participation required
1.1	1-1-1 to 1-1-10	LB Protocol finalized, signed and ratified + Pollution from Land-based sources (municipal, agricultural and industrial waste waters) reduced by at least 5% by the end of 2016	DoE	MIM, MoE, Mol, MoAJ, FRWO	2011 onwards	Yes
1.2	1-2-1	Related protocol developed	Caspian Oil Company (KEPCO)	Related Orgs.	2012 onwards	-
1.3	1-3-1	Related protocol developed	PMO	Related Orgs.	2012 onwards	-
1.4	1-4-1	Related protocol developed	DoE, Ministry of Oil	Related Orgs.	2012 onwards	-
1.5	1-5-1 to 1-5-4	LB Protocol finalized, signed and ratified + Pollution from land-based sources (dams, dredging, land reclamation) reduced by at least 5% by the end of 2016	DoE	PMO, MoE, Tourism Org., Mol	2011 onwards	Yes
1.6	1-6-1 & 1-6-2	Biodiversity Protocol finalized, signed and ratified + no new invasive alien species introduced to the Caspian Sea	DoE, PMO	Shilat	2011-12	Yes
1.7	1-7-1 to 1-7-10	Emergency Protocol fully implemented	PMO, DoE, Mol	Related Orgs.	2012 onwards	Yes
2.1	2-1-1 to 2-1-7	Biodiversity Protocol finalized, signed and ratified + Red List prepared in collaboration with IUCN and biodiversity hotspots clearly delimited and protected	Shilat, DoE	PMO, MoAJ	2011-12	Yes
2.2	2-2-1	Related protocol developed	Mol	PMO, DoE, FRWO, MoAJ	2012 onwards	Yes
2.3	2-3-1 & 2-3-2	Related protocol developed	MoE	Mol	2012 onwards	-
3.1	3-1-1 to 3-1-5	EIA Protocol finalized, signed and ratified	DoE	MoE, MIM, Mol	2011-12	Yes
3.2	3-2-1 to 3-2-8	At least 3 more protocols finalized, signed and ratified	DoE	MFA	2011-13	Yes
3.3	3-3-1 to 3-3-5	State of the Marine Environment reports prepared for the Southern Caspian region (biannually)	DoE	MoE, MIM, MoAJ, FRWO	2012	Yes
3.4	3-4-1 to 3-4-9	At least 15 doctoral thesis proposals approved on NCAP actions	DoE	Universities , Research Institutes	2012-13	Yes
3.5	3-5-1 & 3-5-2	Caspian Data Centres established (with elect. access) + Media coverage of Caspian issues (at least one regular programme)	DoE	Mol	2012 Onwards	Yes

¹ Please refer to the main text of this document for details on NCAP Objectives and Actions

I. Introduction

1. Background

In 2003, the Caspian littoral states, comprising Republic of Azerbaijan, Islamic Republic of Iran, Republic of Kazakhstan, Russian Federation, and Turkmenistan, signed the Framework Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Caspian Sea. Following ratification by all five Governments of the Caspian littoral states, **the Tehran Convention entered into force on the 12th August 2006. The objective of the Tehran Convention is the protection of the Caspian environment from all sources of pollution including the protection, preservation, restoration, and sustainable and rational use of the biological resources of the Caspian Sea.**

However, what led to Tehran Convention was series of projects and activities that were initiated in late 1990s to protect and promote sustainable use of natural resources of the Caspian Sea. The following paragraphs provide a summary of those activities and events prior to the signing of the Convention and its entry into force:

1.1 First Phase of the Caspian Environment Program (CEP) – 1998 to 2002

In May 1998, the Caspian Environment Program (CEP) was launched in Ramsar, as a regional umbrella program by the five Caspian Littoral States (Azerbaijan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Russia and Turkmenistan) with support and collaboration of the Global Environmental Facility (GEF), UNDP, World Bank, UNEP and EU/Tacis. **The overall goal of the CEP was “environmentally sustainable development and management of the Caspian environment, including living resource and water quality, so as to obtain the utmost long-term benefit for the human population of the region, while protecting human health, ecological integrity and the regions sustainability for future generations.”**

The first phase (May 1998-June 2002) of the Caspian Environment Program (CEP) was successful in conducting the baseline studies, necessary to assess the state of the environment in the Caspian Sea and come up with a **Trans-boundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA)** report. TDA was then used to prepare a **Strategic Action Program (SAP)** for the Caspian that was approved by Caspian Steering Committee in November 2003. The SAP specified the region’s long-term vision for the Caspian environment and a set of strategic objectives, targets and specific interventions. As a follow-up measure, each littoral state prepared its own **National Caspian Action Program (NCAP)**.

1.2 Second Phase of the Caspian Environment Program (CEP-SAP) – 2003 to 2007

Regional approval and GEF support were secured in April 2004 for a follow-up 3-year project entitled **“Towards a Convention and Action Programme for the Protection of the Caspian Sea Environment”**. In addition, the second phase of the Caspian Environment Program supported implementation and further development of the SAP and NCAPs. More specifically, the **CEP-SAP Project** had four main objectives:

- To commence implementation of the SAP in the priority areas of biodiversity, invasive species and persistent toxic substances.
- To continue with specific capacity building measures to ensure a regionally owned CEP coordination mechanism capable of overseeing full implementation of the SAP and NCAPs and consolidate/update the TDA and SAP following a series of information gap-filling measures.
- To strengthen environmental legal and policy frameworks operating at regional and national levels, and where necessary improve implementation and compliance of those frameworks.
- To achieve tangible environmental improvements in priority areas by implementation of small-scale investments supported by a matched small grants program.

1.3 Tehran Convention and its protocols

The Framework Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Caspian Sea (known as Tehran Convention) was **adopted in November 2003** in Tehran, by the Caspian Littoral States, noting continued deterioration of the marine environment of the Caspian Sea due to pollution arising from various sources, including the discharge, emission and disposal of harmful and hazardous substances, wastes and other pollutants, both in the sea and from land-based sources.

By **entering into force on 12 August 2006**, Tehran Convention along with its protocols, was aimed to become the **first legally binding agreement** between the Caspian littoral states, laying down the general requirements and institutional mechanisms for environmental protection in the region.

At the First Meeting of the State Signatories (Tehran, July 2004), the Caspian government representatives agreed to initiate the development of protocols for priority areas of concern, namely:

- i) **Protocol on Environmental Impact Assessment in Transboundary Context**
- ii) **Protocol on Pollution from Land-based Sources and Activities**
- iii) **Protocol on Biodiversity Conservation**
- iv) **Protocol Concerning Regional Preparedness, Response and Cooperation in Combating Oil Pollution Incidents**

The State Signatories to the Tehran Convention also requested that consideration be given to the possibility of developing additional **Protocol on Fisheries**. It is worth noting that at present only one protocol (iv) is signed and ratified by all Contracting Parties (during COP III, 10-12 August in Aktau - Kazakhstan) and the other three are still being negotiated.

1.4 The CaspEco Project (2008 - 2012)

CaspEco project builds upon a solid foundation of regional cooperation put in place by the five Caspian states and the Caspian Environment Program over a period of more than 10 years (1998-2008). With continued catalytic support from the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the project aims **“to restore depleted fisheries and consolidate a Permanent Regional Environmental Governance Framework for the Caspian Sea”**. The project objectives are two-folds: 1) to **halt the decline** in bio-resources and restore depleted fisheries in the Caspian Sea, using the **ecosystem-based management approach**; and 2) to **strengthen regional governance mechanisms** and make it more sustainable.

The key outcomes sought under the two above objectives are:

- Improved ecosystem-based aquatic bio-resources management; Invasive species mitigation; Implemented policies & measures to increase reproductive success of Caspian’s diadromous fish species; Application of circum-Caspian approach to habitat conservation; and increased coastal communities participation and contribution to improved bio-resources conservation;
- Operational and sustainable Tehran Convention institutions; Coordination and synergy with other projects and activities including effective donor coordination and engagement; Implementation of Strategic Convention Action Plan (SCAP) at regional level and NSCAP at national/sub-national level; Enhanced stakeholders’ engagement in the Tehran Convention process and improved public access to information.

2. Justification for NCAP

With signing and entry into force of Tehran Convention in August 2006, and preparation and adoption of the Strategic Convention Action Program (SCAP) in November 2008, it deemed necessary that Tehran Convention and SCAP be translated into **National Convention Action Programs (NCAPs)** to facilitate implementation of Tehran Convention and its protocols at regional level. For this purpose, there was a

need to review the previously prepared NCAP (National Caspian Action Plan) undertaken during CEP-II (2003-2007) and update it with the goals and objectives of Tehran Convention and its protocols.

2.1 Strategic Convention Action Program (SCAP)

In moving towards implementation of Tehran Convention (TC), Article 18 (paragraph 2) of the TC requests key stakeholders to cooperate in the formulation of an Action Plan for the protection of the marine environment of the Caspian Sea. In preparing for the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COPI – Baku, May 2007), it was acknowledged that the Convention Action Plan should emerge from the review of the previously prepared SAP under CEP-II (2003-2007), taking into account the new requirements under Tehran Convention and its protocols. In accordance with the Programme of Work adopted by COP I, the Interim Secretariat prepared a draft of the Strategic Convention Action Plan (SCAP) for consideration in COP-II. **SCAP was adopted in Teheran (I.R. Iran) on 12 November 2008.**

The SCAP is a comprehensive, long-term agenda and framework for the implementation of Tehran Convention and its Protocols over a **period of 10 years**. Intermediate revisions of the Action Program may be decided upon by the meetings of the Key Stakeholders in order to take into account new protocols or other emerging developments related to the implementation of Tehran Convention. **SCAP is to be implemented through National Convention Action Programs (NCAPs) and regional Programs of Work for the periods between meetings of the Conference of the Parties. As a result, each littoral State is to review and adjust its existing National Caspian Action Plan (NCAP) to align them better with the objectives and requirements of the SCAP.**

2.2 National Caspian Action Plan

As mentioned previously, during the first phase of CEP (1998 - 2002) baseline studies as well as a Trans-boundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) and a Strategic Action Program (SAP) had been prepared and approved by the Caspian Steering Committee in November 2003. The SAP specified the region's long-term vision for the Caspian environment and a set of strategic objectives, targets and specific interventions, and was to be followed by National Caspian Action Programs to be prepared by each littoral state.

I.R. Iran prepared its National Caspian Action Plan during the first phase of CEP based on results of a consultative workshop with key stakeholders (2001) to identify key issues, and propose some priority interventions to be undertaken at national level to save the Caspian Sea. The report identified population growth, unemployment, inadequate laws/regulations, and insufficient environmental awareness as some of the key issues, and in return proposed some actions such as improvement of solid waste and sewage management, protection of biodiversity and prevention of land degradation.

In 2007, and under the second phase of CEP (known as CEP-SAP), there was an attempt to revisit the National Caspian Action Plan with the aim to **assess and evaluate the implementation status** and to address new transboundary issues. This assessment report did a thorough study of the National 5-Year Development Plan (2001-2006), and governmental budgets and plans, reviewed environmental laws and regulation, **identified barriers and challenges for implementation of the National Caspian Action Plan and made some recommendations.**

During this revision, the report concluded that **“even though SAP and NCAP were not embraced by all ministries as a policy guideline for their environmental activities in the Caspian area, many of the interventions and actions implemented by different ministries/organizations were quite in line with the targets identified under the CEP-SAP”**.

Some of the main challenges and barriers in full implementation of the National Caspian Action Plan, and related recommendations, may be summarized as follows:

- i. **NCAP need to be approved at highest level:** Stakeholders involved in preparing the National

Caspian Action Plan were mainly experts and not decision-makers, therefore the information that was exchanged did not get the attention of decision makers and was not considered as an obligation/full commitment by various government sections. NCAP/SAP never got endorsed by the Government and at the most it was endorsed by the CEP host Institution (the Marine Bureau of the Department of the Environment). While NCAP needs to be approved at higher levels of decision-making (eg. Governor's Office in each coastal province, High Council of the Environment, Office of the President, Cabinet of Ministers) in order to become a policy paper.

- ii. **A National Coordination Structure is needed:** There was no follow-up intra-agency communication and coordination mechanism for NCAP implementation.
- iii. **M&E mechanisms should be foreseen in NCAP:** Even though the Caspian Sea Priority Environmental Actions were somewhat incorporated in the environmental plans of the 4th Five Year Development Plan, no timeframe and no monitoring/evaluation mechanism was foreseen. SAP and NCAP did not contain any M&E plan.
- iv. **Institutional and financial arrangements are needed:** The financial modalities of the NCAP/SAP implementation remained vague; for example, the task of fund-raising for the NCAP and SAP implementations was assigned to the SAPICs/ NFPs which was quite unrealistic because they did not possess such authority.

3. Objective of NCAP

A National Convention Action Plan may act as a guidance document prepared at national level, in line with regional agreements and priorities. Ideally, NCAP should be considered by the three Caspian provinces for policy guidance, while at the national level the document is part of the development strategy defining regional and national priorities based on the Fifth Five-Year National Development Plan (2011-2016).

4. Scope

The scope of this report is the territorial waters and coastal areas of I.R. Iran within the jurisdiction of the three Caspian coastal provinces of Guilan, Mazandaran, and Golestan (see map in Annex I).

5. Principles

Pursuant to the Article 5 of Tehran Convention, the following principles shall guide actions to achieve the objectives of NCAP and to implement its provisions:

- (a) the "precautionary principle", by virtue of which, where there is a threat of serious or irreversible damage to the Caspian Sea environment, lack of full scientific certainty shall not be used as a reason for postponing cost-effective measures to prevent such damage;
- (b) "the polluter pays" principle, by virtue of which the polluter bears the costs of the pollution, including its prevention, control and reduction;
- (c) the principle of "accessibility of information" on the pollution of the marine environment of the Caspian Sea according to which government agencies provide each other with relevant information in the maximum possible amount.

6. Process

In preparing the National Convention Action Plan for I.R. Iran, first of all a desktop review of the key background documents such as Tehran Convention, SCAP, National Caspian Action Plan and its revision

was conducted.

On Sept. 2010, a workshop was held in **Almaty (Kazakhstan)** to clarify the goals and objectives of a National Public Participation Strategy (NPPS). Unfortunately the national consultant was not able to attend this meeting, however, a brief presentation was given by the Iranian delegation and feedbacks received on NPPS.

Then, on **20th February 2011**, a one day **initiation workshop** was held between key stakeholder organizations. The workshop was organized with support from the Deputy for Marine Environment of the Department of Environment and was conducted using a participatory approach by engaging a professional facilitator. During the workshop, a formal presentation on the goals and objectives of Tehran Convention was made by the National Convention Liaison Officer (Ms. Farnaz Shoaie), the general framework for preparing the NCAP was explained by the national consultant (Ms. Lisa Poursak), and a follow up discussion was held on methodology for preparation of NCAP. The discussion was focused on whether NCAP should address national issues and national priorities (using DPSIR method) or take a more regional stand by following up the SCAP model. It was explained by the national consultant that in the framework of this consultancy, NCAP will have to follow the SCAP goals and objectives, without necessarily conducting a baseline study on the Caspian issues and setting up new objectives. One of the key outcomes of the meeting was a table (**Table 1**) where each organization according to its general mandate, mentioned where it stands regarding roles and responsibilities in achieving TC and SCAP objectives.

The first regional meeting on **NCAP (Ashghabad, March 2011)** was critical in clarifying the general framework in which NCAP should be prepared. In this two-day workshop which was organized by the Interim Secretariat of Tehran Convention each country presented its preliminary approach to NCAP preparation and provided inputs for decision-making over the general structure of NCAP and how NPPS would fit in it. As a result, Mr. Oleg Guchgeldiyev was introduced as the lead international consultant to coordinate between countries in preparing their NCAP, and Mr. Daniel Nixdorf to provide support regarding NPPS. A preliminary outline for NCAP structure was proposed at the end of the meeting to help in comparing various reports for regional purposes. Some other points that were agreed during the meeting were as follows:

- NCAP should identify the countries priorities within the implementation of the Tehran Convention.
- NCAP should underline specific actions for contributing to regional efforts. These actions should be clearly defined.
- NCAP has to include clear analysis and description of the mechanism of implementation of the Tehran convention in the country; describe all institutions to be involved
- NCAP has to reflect potential challenges and risks in the implementation of the plan and how the country will deal with those.

After having made a decision regarding integration of NPPS into NCAP, the national consultant designed a questionnaire and with support from DoE Deputy for Marine Environment sent it to the three Provincial DoE offices (Mazandaran, Golestan and Guilan). The main goal of this questionnaire was to identify the areas where public participation would be necessary in helping with environmental protection, according to government officials. A sample questionnaire is attached (**Annex II**) and the results are explained in section VII of this report.

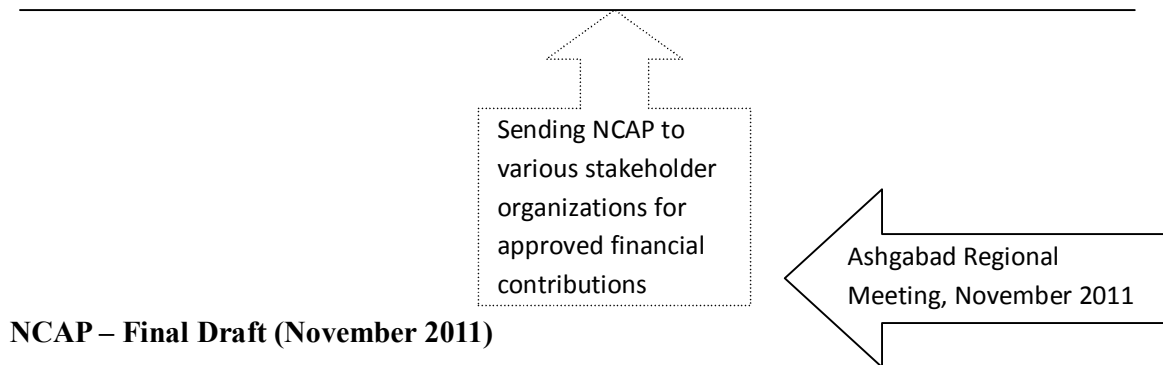
During the process of preparation of NCAP, a preliminary proposal was also prepared by the national consultant to allow for parallel work on NCAP/NPPS at national level. However this proposal is still being examined for funding.

Regarding NCAP work, a follow-up regional meeting was held in **Geneva in July 2011**, whereby each country had to present its draft NCAP according to the structure proposed and agreed during the Ashghabad meeting and as proposed by Oleg Guchgeldiyev. At that time, a draft NCAP report was

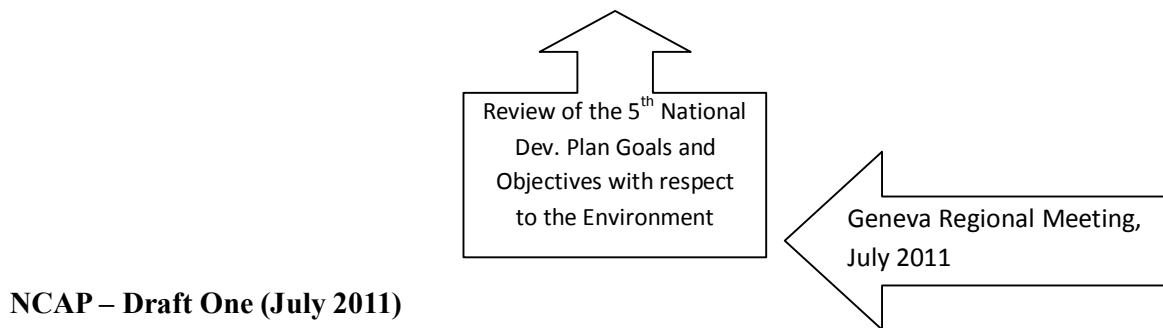
provided to the Secretariat for comments and was revised based on comments received from Oleg Guchgeldiyev. However, to prepare the final draft of NCAP for I.R. Iran, NCAP structure was revised to adjust its objectives and actions more closely to the Tehran Convention text and SCAP objectives. The added value of the new structure is to help find better linkages between national and regional goals, objectives, and actions. This final draft of NCAP was presented in a regional **meeting in Ashgabad in November 2011**, and undergone a final revision in December 2011. The following chart attempts to summarize the process of drafting NCAP for I.R. Iran and needed follow-ups towards its approval:

Figure 1- Procedure for Preparation of NCAP

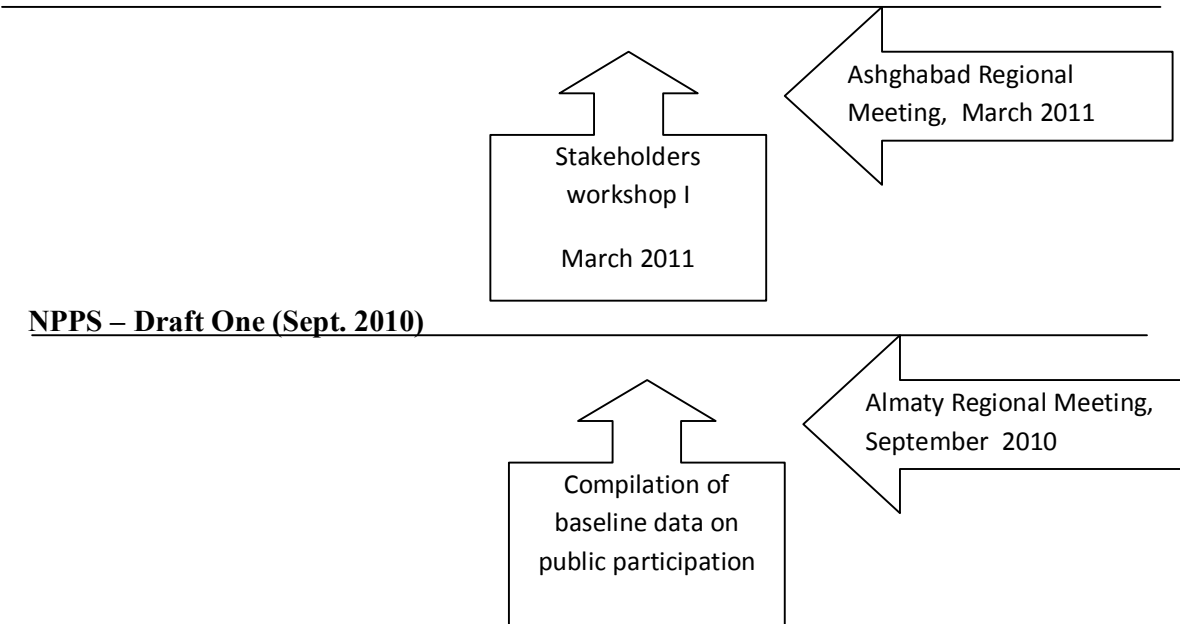
NCAP – Final Approved Report (August 2012)



NCAP – Draft One (July 2011)



NPPS – Draft One (Sept. 2010)



While this section of the report is about methodology of NCAP preparation, it is clear that NCAP implementation would only be possible through inter-agency collaboration and after sharing the report with other organizations through DoE's Deputy of Marine Affairs.

7. Highlights and Lowlights

Some of the highlights and lowlights of NCAP formulation work may be summarized as follows:

Table 2- Highlights and Lowlights of NCAP Preparation

Highlights	Lowlights
Active Convention Liaison Office within DoE's Deputy for Marine Affairs	NCAP/NPPS contract came rather late (Sept. 2010) and the first regional meeting on NCAP was only in March 2011
Full support from DoE's Deputy for Marine Environment (eg. funding the Stakeholders Workshop using a Participatory Approach, nomination of the consultant to participate in Regional meetings, support with inter-agency communications, as well as regional correspondence)	No parallel national work/initiative had been formulated for NCAP preparation, as a result it was somewhat difficult to mobilize a team (for example, it was difficult to mobilize other national experts for NCAP/NPPS work)
Smooth communication with the TC Secretariat and its Advisors for preparation of NCAP/NPPS	Technical support for NCAP/NPPS work from international and regional advisors was rather inadequate compared to what was required from national consultants
Full technical support from CaspEco project (when required)	A limited budget was available through CaspEco (approx. US\$5000) for NCAP/NPPS work
Regional Meetings were very effective in moving the NCAP/NPPS work forward	Invitation and participation in Regional meetings was sometimes short notice

II. Current Environmental Issues

1. Background

It is worth noting that a baseline report was prepared in July 2007 on the state of the environment in the southern Caspian Sea, referring to sea-level fluctuation, decline in bioresources (namely sturgeon, kilka and seal), introduced invasive species (*Mnemiopsis leidyi*), and decline in marine and coastal environmental quality (eg. mainly from diffuse sources) as well as increasing litter as some of the key environmental issues in the southern Caspian Sea. In addition, the National Caspian Action Plan (2001) referred to some of the root causes of environmental problems such as population growth, unemployment, inadequate laws/regulations, and insufficient environmental awareness, referring to solid waste and sewage, land degradation and decline in biodiversity as some of the outstanding environmental issues to be addressed. However, in here a more general approach is taken by referring to the physical and socio-economic features of the South Caspian region and identifying some of the main driving forces for its development:

- **Highly populated:** The Caspian region of Iran has a land area of 58678 sq. km which constitutes about 4% of the country's land area and 8% of the total population (6.3 million out of 75 million). The average population density however is almost 3 times higher (140/sq.km.) than the average population density in the country (45/sq.km). It is worth mentioning that 90% of the total population lives below 200m of altitude (in plain areas or mountain plateaus). The Caspian coastline of Iran is more than 800km long. There are three coastal provinces: Guilan, Mazandaran and Golestan, with main population centres as Rasht, Amol, Babol, Sari, and Gorgan.
- **High agricultural productivity:** The Alborz mountain range separates the Caspian region from the rest of the country, to form a narrow strip of land along the Caspian Sea, extending from east to west, with altitudes ranging from -29 (seaside) to 5671 m (highest peak in the country – Damavand). The northern of the Alborz mountain range are covered by dense Hyrcanian forests (more than 2.1 million ha – 37% of total land area). However, much of the forest has been converted to other land use forms namely rangelands (+1.7 million ha - over 30%) and agriculture land (+1.8 million ha - 31%).
- **Significant fisheries:** There are 79 species of fish in the southern Caspian region, 24% of which are endemic and 59% native. 48% of these species are freshwater fish, 23% migratory and 29% only live in the sea. The average annual catch for some economically important species such as sturgeon from 2001-2006 decreased from 35 tons in Golestan province (2001) to less than 5 tons in Guilan (2006).
- **Rapid Urbanization:** Since about 40 years ago, northern parts of Iran have become popular for tourism and services sectors. Especially in the past decade, the rate of urbanization has been accelerated with rise in land price and conversion of agricultural land to residential areas or tourism resorts, namely in the Mazandaran Province (between towns of Babolsar and Ramsar).
- **Tourism pressure:** The climate is mainly subtropical (with avg. temperatures rising from min. 2-4 degrees to max. 29-32 degrees) . Rainfall level is high ranging from more than 2m/yr in the western part (with an avg. 500-600mm/yr) to less than 200mm/yr in the eastern part. An important and emerging sector in the Caspian region of Iran is tourism. Up to 3 million visitors come to the Caspian coast in peak seasons (spring and summer) and during long-week end holidays.

As a result, the emerging environmental issues that the three Iranian coastal provinces need to deal with may be listed as follows:

- Coastal degradation and land reclamation as a result of rapid urbanization
- Deforestation and erosion due to expansion of rangelands and agricultural lands
- Agricultural run-off
- Solid waste due to population pressure and urbanization
- Wastewater discharge (urban and industrial)
- Gradual degradation of wildlife habitats
- Gradual decline in fisheries (also due to regional impacts)
- Gradual decline in water quality (freshwater and marine)

It is clear that addressing the above issues needs harmonized actions between provinces and between various agencies.

2. Current environmental priorities

In general, I.R. Iran has a strong legal and policy framework to support environmental protection, This is reflected in Article 50 of the Constitution, as well as numerous laws that have been put in place since 1970s. However, to find out more about the importance of the environment in the current governmental planning and budgeting scheme, it is best to quickly refer to development of an environmental agenda through the National Five-Year Development Plans:

- During the Second Development Plan (1995-1999) environmental concerns were for the first time expressed in National Development Plans;
- During the Third Development Plan (2000-2004), environmental policies were considered as cross-cutting themes and specifically addressed in two main articles (104 and 105). While the latter Article (105) proposed **EIAs for large projects**, the former Article (104) emphasized on looking at **carrying capacity of ecosystems** especially rangelands and forests, the implementation of “**polluter pays**” principle, support for **environmental NGOs**, reduction of **air pollution** in six major cities of the country, development of **Free Zones on the Caspian Coast**, relocation of industries from dense urban areas.
- In the Fourth Development Plan (2005-2009), the approach to environment became more holistic. Number of related Articles increased from 2 to 13, and important issues such as biodiversity protection, economic valuation, and environmental awareness were mentioned. In Articles 61 and 63, the Caspian Sea was specifically mentioned. In Article 61, implementation of **waste management** in the three northern provinces (on the Caspian coast) was mentioned, and in Article 63, some Caspian coastal areas were mentioned as Free Economic Zones, and **integrated coastal zone management** was recognized as mandatory. In Article 67, **ecosystem-based management approach** was enacted and particularly with respect to **Spatial Planning** for the three northern basins on the Caspian coast.
- The **Fifth Five-Year National Development Plan (2011-2016)** also pays special attention to environmental protection, and some of its key articles related to this matter are hereby presented:

Table 3- Summary of Articles on Environment in the Fifth National Five-Year Plan (2011-2016):

List of Articles	Text of the Article
Article 187	a) For protection, restoration and sustainable use of the environment, the Government needs to prepare Ecosystem-based Integrated Management and Action Plans for vulnerable and fragile ecosystems of the country (Amendment 1: DoE is responsible to identify and prepare the list of marine and coastal areas that have high ecological sensitivity).
	b) The Government has the responsibility to establish an organization specifically on Development of Marine and Coastal Areas to prepare plans for improvement in Swimming Areas (under supervision of MoI).
Article 188	To facilitate investment opportunities, DoE is responsible to prepare the necessary environmental standards to be published in a book to be reviewed in 5 years. All investments in all sectors are obliged to comply with these standards.
Article 189	a) To promote public awareness and environmental protection and sustainable development, DoE is responsible to prepare an Education and Awareness Plan which will be implemented in collaboration with other agencies without charging any fees.
	b) DoE is responsible to take the necessary measures to establish the Environmental Database of the country at national and provincial levels to allow for better monitoring and evaluation, as well as access to information.
Article 190	All governmental and non-governmental agencies are expected to help in implementation of the Green Management Plan to reduce waste and consumption in water, electricity and other primary sources of energy and products (such as paper).
Article 191	a) Ecosystem-based Management needs to be implemented in all sensitive ecosystems, especially in the Urmia Lake.
	b) To reduce hunting pressure , and protect biodiversity, the Government is responsible to review its policies in providing hunting permits. Permits need to be issues based on assessments of the dynamics of the wildlife population.
Article 192	To reduce pollution sources that cause environmental degradation, all industries are obliged to:
	- Undergo EIA for large projects
	- Assess pollution sources and levels , and report voluntarily
	- To follow environmental standards for water, air, and else
	Amendment 1: Government needs to prepare environmental costs table and determine the economic value of natural resources, and include these figures in national budgets and planning.
Article 193	a) Cities with population above 200 thousand, that are coastal or near wetlands, need to comply with Urban Waste Management Plans , and try to recycle, using new technologies (eg. Vermi-compost) especially to reduce organic waste.
	b) DoE is responsible to take the necessary measures in reducing air pollution to comply with international standards (determine sources of dust storms and greenhouse gases and take measures to control).
	c) Any new industrial and mining use of wetlands is prohibited after 2012.
	d) Government is responsible to apply Integrated Management in wetland ecosystems in collaboration with all stakeholders including user groups.

Source: Fifth Five Year National Development Plan (2011-2016)

Many of the above articles are in line with NCAP, SCAP and Tehran Convention goals and objectives for pollution reduction as well as biodiversity conservation, which may be used to address some of the environmental issues of the Caspian coastal area.

3. Vision on the country's regional roles:

In addition to the country's national role in addressing environmental issues, I.R. Iran may play a regional role as it has already become a member of a number of international and regional agreements. The following table summarizes some the country's international/regional commitments related to the environment:

Table 4- List of relevant international conventions where I.R. Iran is part of

Rio Conventions + national planning frameworks	Date of ratification / completion
UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)	May 1996
CBD National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP)	February 2001
UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)	June 1996
UNFCCC National Communications (1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd)	1 st report (March 2003); 2 nd report (under preparation)
UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)	1996
UNCCD National Action Programmes (NAP)	2004
BASEL Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal	5 th January 1993
International Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Co-operation (OPRC)	1997
Stockholm Convention (SC)	February 2006
SC National Implementation Plan (NIP)	July 2008
GEF National Capacity Self-Assessment (NCSA)	2008
Strategic Action Programmes (SAPs) for shared international water-bodies	Tehran Convention (2003) Kuwait Convention (1979)
Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL 73/78) - Note: Annex V to MARPOL 1973/78 (optional annex covering garbage)	Y
Convention for the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter and their Disposal	Y

Source: Adopted from Fazel and Ramboli, 2009; NCAP, 2007

While it is important to find the linkage between these global commitments (which was partially studied in the National Capacity Self-Assessment report that was prepared for the Global Environment Facility in 2008), it is obvious that I.R. Iran cares about the environment both from a national and international perspective. Thus, I.R. Iran may play a stronger regional role for example in areas such as research and promoting know-how on conservation of commercially valuable fish species (eg. sturgeon), monitoring of marine pollution, sharing experience of community-based projects for biodiversity conservation and pollution reduction in the Caspian region (UNDP/GEF/SGP).

III. NCAP OBJECTIVES

The main goal of NCAP is to help regional efforts in implementation of Tehran Convention and its protocols in order to prevent, reduce and control pollution (Objective 1 of Tehran Convention), and protect, preserve and restore the marine environment (Objective 2 of Tehran Convention).

To better move towards the above goals, a third objective has been added for NCAP Iran which is to strengthen the existing capacities that are necessary for implementation of Tehran Convention, its protocols, SCAP and NCAP.

The following presents the list of three main objectives and 15 specific objectives under NCAP (2011-2016) for I.R. Iran:

OB 1 - Prevent, Reduce and Control of Pollution

1. Pollution from Land-Based Sources
2. Pollution from Seabed Activities
3. Pollution from Vessels
4. Pollution Caused by Dumping
5. Pollution from Other Human Activities
6. Alien and Invasive Species
7. Environmental Emergencies

OB 2 - Protect, Preserve and Restore the Marine Environment

8. Marine Living Resources
9. Coastal Zone Management
10. Caspian Sea Fluctuation

OB 3 – Strengthen the Existing Capacities on:

11. EIAs
12. Regional cooperation
13. Monitoring
14. Research and Development
15. Exchange and access to information

IV. Actions and Indicators

The following table presents the complete list of Actions under NCAP objectives that are foreseen for the next five years (2011-2016). Those actions that are in line with National Five-Year Development Plans have been marked separately (***). Areas where some action is being taken at national level (plans/projects) are marked by (*):

Table 5- Table of proposed NCAP Actions and Indicators

NCAP Objectives	Actions	Indicators
1-Prevention, Reduction and Control of Pollution		
1-1 prevent, reduce and control pollution of the Caspian Sea from land-based sources. (Article 7 of TC)	<p>1-1-1 co-operate in the development of related protocols*</p> <p>1-1-2 prevent, control and reduce emission of pollutants at source through application, <i>inter alia</i>, of low- and non-waste technologies***</p> <p>1-1-3 prevent, control and reduce emission of pollutants from land-based point sources through licensing of waste-water discharges by competent national authorities***</p> <p>1-1-4 licensing of waste-water discharges based on promoting the use of environmentally sound technology***</p> <p>1-1-5 impose requirements stricter than above when the quality of the receiving water or the affected ecosystem of the Caspian Sea so requires</p> <p>1-1-6 apply various treatments to municipal waste water***</p> <p>1-1-7 apply best available environmentally sound technology to reduce organic substances inputs from industrial and municipal sources***</p> <p>1-1-8 develop and implement appropriate measures based on best environmental practices for the reduction of inputs of organic substances and hazardous substances from non-point sources, including agriculture*</p>	<p>LB Protocol finalized, signed and ratified</p> <p>Pollution from Land-based sources (municipal, industries, agriculture) is reduced by at least 5% by the end of 2016</p>

	<p>1-1-9 take measures on conservation and full liquidation for some coastal sources of pollution that continue to have negative impact on the Caspian Sea</p> <p>1-1-10 establish joint bodies responsible for identifying and resolving potential pollution problems, in a transboundary context</p>	
1-2 prevent, control and reduce pollution of the Caspian Sea resulting from seabed activities (<i>Article 8 of TC</i>)	1-2-1 co-operate in the development of related protocol to Tehran Convention prescribing agreed measures, procedures and standards taking into account relevant international standards	Related protocol developed
1-3 prevent, reduce and control pollution of the Caspian Sea from vessels (<i>Article 9 of TC</i>)	1-3-1 co-operate in the development of related protocol to Tehran Convention, prescribing agreed measures, procedures and standards taking into account relevant international standards	Related protocol developed
1-4 prevent, hindrance, reduce and control pollution of the Caspian Sea caused by dumping from Iranian vessels and aircrafts* (<i>Article 10 of TC</i>)	1-4-1 co-operate in the development of related protocol to Tehran Convention, prescribing agreed measures, procedures and standards taking into account relevant international standards	Related protocol developed
1-5 prevent, reduce and control pollution of the Caspian Sea resulting from any other human activities - not previously covered (<i>Article 11 of TC</i>)	<p>1-5-1 prevent, reduce and control pollution associated with land reclamation*</p> <p>1-5-2 prevent, reduce and control pollution associated with coastal dredging*</p> <p>1-5-3 prevent, reduce and control pollution associated with construction of dams***</p> <p>1-5-4 reduce the possible negative impact of anthropogenic activities aimed at mitigating the consequences of the sea-level fluctuations on the Caspian Sea ecosystem*</p>	<p>LB Protocol finalized, signed and ratified</p> <p>Pollution from land-based sources (dams, dredging, land reclamation) reduced at least by 1% by the end of 2016</p>
1-6 prevent the introduction into the Caspian Sea and to control and combat invasive alien species , which threaten ecosystems, habitats or species (<i>Article 12 of TC</i>)	<p>1-6-1 prevent the introduction of invasive alien species into the Caspian Sea</p> <p>1-6-2 control and combat invasive alien species, which threaten ecosystems, habitats and species*</p>	<p>Biodiversity Protocol finalized, signed and ratified</p> <p>No new invasive alien species introduced to the Caspian Sea</p>

<p>1-7 protect human beings and the marine environment against consequences of natural or man-made emergencies (Article 13 of TC)</p>	<p>1-7-1 cooperate to protect human beings and the marine environment against consequences of natural and man-made emergencies*</p> <p>1-7-2 apply preventive, preparedness and response measures, including restoration measures to protect human beings and the marine environment against consequences of natural or man-made emergencies *</p> <p>1-7-3 conduct risk assessment by identifying hazardous activities, capable of causing environmental emergencies, by identifying likely sources of discharge, itemization of available equipment and human resources, temporary storage and final disposal of oil/hazardous waste (while keeping a minimum level of pre-positioned equipment operational)*</p> <p>1-7-4 carry out environmental impact assessment of hazardous activities, and implement risk reducing measures, while notifying other Contracting Parties of any such proposed or existing activities*</p> <p>1-7-5 Set up early warning systems for industrial accidents and environmental emergencies*</p> <p>1-7-6 establish a national system of operation response to pollution caused by oil/ hazardous substances, including programs of exercise and staff training to improve the state of readiness and board oil pollution emergency plan for ships*</p> <p>1-7-7 in the event of an environmental emergency, or imminent threat thereof, notify at appropriate levels and without delay the Contracting Parties likely to be affected*</p> <p>1-7-8 establish and maintain adequate emergency preparedness measures, including measures to ensure that adequate equipment and qualified personnel are readily available, to respond to environmental emergencies*</p> <p>1-7-9 implement related protocols by designating a Competent National Authority and national operational contact points who would review implementation of protocols and submit reports to Tehran Convention Secretariat*</p> <p>1-7-10 review national legislation for compensation claim and promote the development of regional agreements for liability and compensation in the event of oil</p>	<p>Emergency Protocol fully implemented</p>
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	spills (including restoration measures)*	
2-Protection, Preservation and Restoration of the Marine Environment		
2-1 protect, preserve, restore and use rationally the marine living resources (<i>Article 14 of TC</i>)	<p>2-1-1 develop and increase the potential of living resources for conservation, restoration and rational use*</p> <p>2-1-2 maintain or restore populations of marine species at levels that can produce the maximum sustainable yield*</p> <p>2-1-3 ensure that marine species are not endangered by over-exploitation*</p> <p>2-1-4 promote the development and use of selective fishing gear and practices that minimise waste in the catch of target species and that minimise by-catch of non-target species*</p> <p>2-1-5 protect, preserve and restore endemic, rare and endangered marine species***</p> <p>2-1-6 conserve biodiversity, habitats of rare and endangered species, as well as vulnerable ecosystems***</p> <p>2-1-7 co-operate in the development of related protocols*</p>	<p>Biodiversity Protocol finalized, signed and ratified</p> <p>Red List prepared in collaboration with IUCN , and biodiversity hotspots clearly delimited and protected</p>
2-2 Manage the coastal zone (<i>Article 15 of TC</i>)	2-2-1 develop and implement an integrated national strategy and plan for planning and management of coastal areas***	Related protocol developed
2-3 protect, preserve and restore the marine environment from Caspian Sea level fluctuation (<i>Article 16 of TC</i>)	<p>2-3-1 co-operate in the development of related protocols to Tehran Convention</p> <p>2-3-2 undertake the necessary scientific research and, insofar as is practicable, the agreed measures and procedures to alleviate implications of the sea level fluctuations of the Caspian Sea*</p>	Related protocol developed
3- Strengthen existing capacities in:		
3-1 conducting EIAs (<i>Article 17 of TC</i>)	3-1-1 apply procedures of environmental impact assessment of any planned activity, that are likely to cause significant adverse effect on the marine environment of the Caspian Sea***	EIA Protocol finalized, signed and ratified

	3-1-2 co-operate in the development of related protocols to Tehran Convention*	
3-2 regional cooperation (<i>Article 18 of TC</i>)	<p>3-2-1 continue to co-operate in formulating, elaborating and harmonising rules, standards, recommended practices and procedures consistent with Tehran Convention, and with the account of requirements, commonly used in international practice, in order to prevent, reduce and control pollution of and to protect, preserve and restore the marine environment of the Caspian Sea.*</p> <p>3-2-2 continue to co-operate in the formulation of an Action Plan for the protection of the marine environment of the Caspian Sea in order to prevent, reduce and control pollution and to protect, preserve and restore the marine environment of the Caspian Sea.*</p> <p>3-2-3 continue to collect, compile and evaluate data in order to identify sources that cause or likely to cause pollution of the Caspian Sea and to exchange information among the Contracting Parties, as appropriate*</p> <p>3-2-4 continue programmes for monitoring quality and quantity of water*</p> <p>3-2-5 continue implementing contingency plans for pollution emergency cases*</p> <p>3-2-6 elaborate emission and discharge limits for waste and evaluate the effectiveness of control programmes*</p> <p>3-2-7 elaborate water quality objectives and criteria and propose relevant measures for maintaining and, where necessary, improving existing water quality*</p> <p>3-2-8 develop harmonised action programmes for the reduction of pollution loads from municipal and industrial point and diffuse sources, including agriculture, urban and other runoff*</p>	At least 3 more protocols finalized, signed and ratified
3-3 monitoring (<i>Article 19 of TC</i>)	<p>3-3-1 establish and implement individual and/or joint programmes for monitoring environmental conditions of the Caspian Sea*</p> <p>3-3-2 agree upon a list and parameters of pollutants which discharge into the Caspian Sea and concentrations to be regularly monitored*</p>	State of the Marine Environment reports prepared for the Southern Caspian region (biannually)

	<p>3-3-3 at regular intervals, carry out individual or joint assessments of the environmental conditions of the Caspian Sea and the effectiveness of measures taken for the prevention, control and reduction of pollution of the marine environment of the Caspian Sea*</p> <p>3-3-4 harmonise rules for the setting up and operation of monitoring programmes, measurement systems, analytical techniques, data processing and evaluation procedures for data quality*</p> <p>3-3-5 develop a centralised database and information management system to function as a repository of all relevant data, serve as the basis for decision-making and as a general source of information and education for specialists, administrators and the general public***</p>	
3-4 research and development (<i>Article 20 of TC</i>)	<p>3-4-1 conduct research and develop effective techniques for prevention, control and reduction of Caspian Sea pollution*</p> <p>3-4-2 conduct research and develop methods for assessment of toxicity of harmful substances and their effects on the Caspian Sea environment*</p> <p>3-4-3 conduct research and develop environmentally sound or safe technologies*</p> <p>3-4-4 conduct research and develop methods of out-phasing and/or substitution of substances likely to cause pollution*</p> <p>3-4-5 conduct research and develop environmentally sound or safe methods for the disposal of hazardous substances*</p> <p>3-4-6 conduct research and develop environmentally sound or safe techniques for water-construction works and water-regulation*</p> <p>3-4-7 conduct research and develop methods for assessment of physical and financial damage/cost resulting from pollution*</p> <p>3-4-8 conduct research and develop methods for improving knowledge about the hydrological regime and ecosystem dynamics of the Caspian Sea including sea level</p>	At least 15 doctoral thesis proposals approved on NCAP actions

	<p>fluctuations and its effects on the Sea and coastal ecosystems*</p> <p>3-4-9 conduct research and develop methods for studying the levels of radiation and radioactivity in the Caspian Sea*</p>	
3-5 facilitating exchange and access to information (<i>Article 21 of TC</i>)	<p>3-5-1 facilitating exchange and access to information directly or through the Secretariat on a regular basis*</p> <p>3-5-2 facilitating exchange and access to information to ensure public access to environmental conditions of the Caspian Sea, as well as measures taken or planned to be taken to prevent, control and reduce pollution of the Caspian Sea***</p>	<p>Caspian Data Centres established (with electronic access for the public)</p> <p>Media coverage of Caspian issues (at least one regular programme)</p>

V. Financial Mechanisms & Timeline

Any plan of action needs to have its related financial mechanism and timeline to ensure implementation. One reason for drafting NCAP for Iran based on regional and national priorities was to make sure the plan will have the necessary budget for its implementation. While part of the budget for NCAP implementation will come from national sources (approximately 70%), in areas which are of transboundary or regional/global nature, support from international and regional sources may be required. It is expected that in the framework of SCAP (Strategic Convention Action Plan), the necessary mechanism for support (technical and financial) to the Contracting parties will be made available through the Tehran Convention Secretariat.

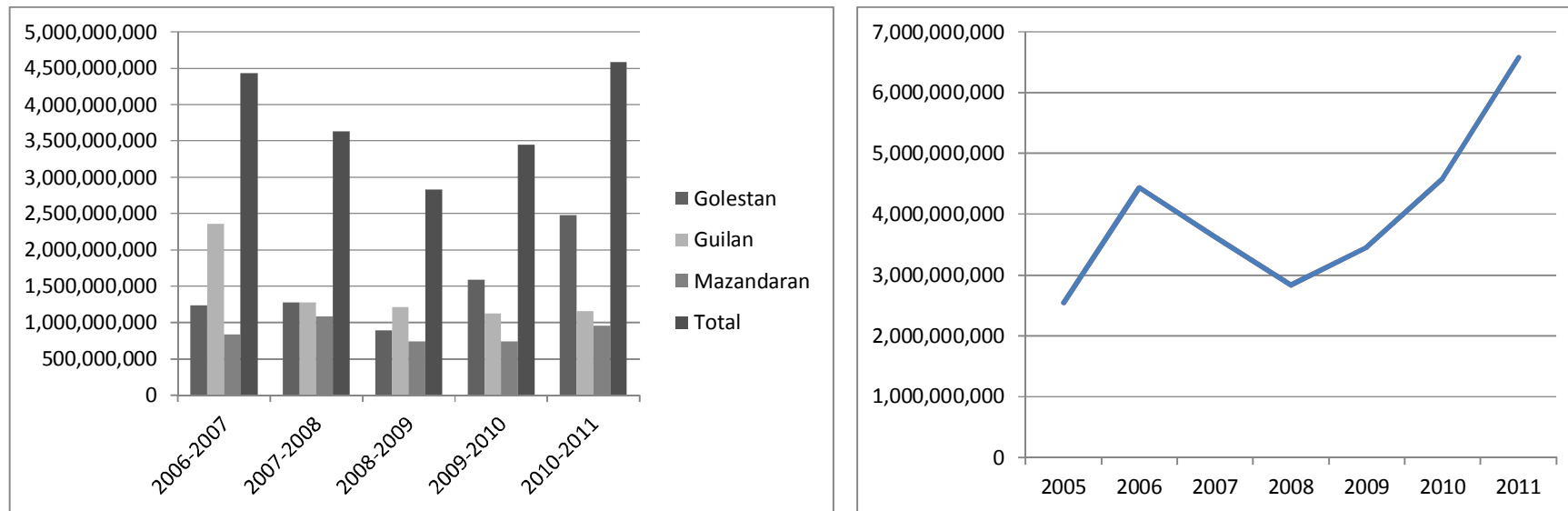
To estimate the national budget for NCAP implementation, it is suggested to use the approved budgets for various ministries and government organizations during the first year of the Fifth National Five-Year Development Plan (2011-2016), and use these figures as a basis for estimating the national budget for NCAP implementation. However, as the Iranian fiscal year ends in August, it is not yet possible to estimate these figures. Annex IV presents a tentative table to be filled by various Ministries and government organizations for this purpose by end of August 2012, through inter agency collaboration with kind coordination of the Convention Liaison Office at DoE's Deputy of Marine Affairs.

However, available data from DoE's Deputy for Marine Affairs (DoE-DoMA) show that on average from 2005 to 2011, a budget of around 4 billion Rls (approx. US\$350,000²) has been allocated annually by this office to the three Caspian coastal provinces (Figure 2 and Figure 3). If these figures are used as a basis for estimation of DoE-DoMA's contribution towards NCAP implementation for the next five years (2011-2016), total allocated budget would be around 20 billion Rls.

Also referring to a detailed report on governmental budget allocations for the National Caspian Action Plan implementation that was conducted in 2007 (Farshchi and Farahani Rad), the total government expenditure in the Caspian region of Iran was at least \$335 million (2005-2006). or approx. 335 billion Rls. These figures suggest that DoE-DoMA's budget constitutes around 1% of the total budget that would be available through governmental organizations. Consequently, NCAP budget for implementation would be no less than $20 \times 100 = 2000$ billion Rls. or US\$100 million (at a rate of exchange of US\$1: 20000 Rls).

² Exchange rate approx. US\$1: 10000 Rls, till 2008, and 12000 Rls in 2009 and 2010, and 15000 in 2011

Figure 2. Allocated budgets (in RIs) by the DoE-DoMA to the three Caspian Provinces (2005-2011)



Source: Department of Environment of I.R. Iran (2011)

VI. Institutional Arrangements

Interagency collaboration is very important in NCAP formulation and implementation. As mentioned previously, during a multi-stakeholder workshop (March 2011) various government agency representatives expressed their role with respect to NCAP work using a participatory approach. The results are reflected in table below:

Table 8- Institutional Involvement of Various Agencies in NCAP implementation

NCAP Objectives	NCAP Actions	Lead Agencies	Collaborating Agencies
1.1	1-1-1 to 1-1-10	DoE	MIM, MoE, Mol, MoAJ, FRWO
1.2	1-2-1	Caspian Oil Company (KEPCO)	Any other related organizations
1.3	1-3-1	PMO	Any other related organizations
1.4	1-4-1	DoE, Ministry of Oil	PMO, Shilat
1.5	1-5-1 to 1-5-4	DoE	PMO, MoE, Tourism Org., Mol
1.6	1-6-1 & 1-6-2	DoE, PMO	Any other related organizations
1.7	1-7-1 to 1-7-10	PMO, DoE, Mol	Any other related organizations
2.1	2-1-1 to 2-1-7	Shilat, DoE	Any other related organizations
2.2	2-2-1	Mol	PMO, DoE, FRWO, MoAJ
2.3	2-3-1 & 2-3-2	MoE	Mol
3.1	3-1-1 to 3-1-5	DoE	MoE, MIM, Mol
3.2	3-2-1 to 3-2-8	DoE	MFA
3.3	3-3-1 to 3-3-5	DoE	MoE, MIM, MoAJ, FRWO
3.4	3-4-1 to 3-4-9	DoE	Universities , Research Institutes, Others
3.5	3-5-1 & 3-5-2	DoE	Mol

VII. Public Participation Strategy

1. Background

While a separate NPPS document has been prepared for Iran, which may be considered as a supporting draft, it has been recommended (Ashghabad, March 2011) to include NPPS in the NCAP to ensure that civil society is adequately informed and engaged in the NCAP activities.

Tehran Convention (Article 21) puts emphasis on Exchange of and Access to Information and elaborates on stating that:

1. The Contracting Parties shall directly or through the Secretariat exchange on a regular basis information, in accordance with the provisions of this Convention.
2. The Contracting Parties shall endeavour 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.

On the other hand, SCAP stipulates that “the principle of public participation, including communities, individuals, and concerned organizations shall be given the opportunity to participate, at the appropriate level, in decision-making and management processes that affect the Caspian Sea. This includes providing access to information concerning the environment that is held by public authorities and effective access to judicial and administrative proceedings to engage all stakeholders to exercise their rights effectively. Public authorities shall widely disseminate information on the work proposed and undertaken to protect and rehabilitate the Caspian Sea.” (TC/COP3/9)

To enhance civil society participation and to promote Caspian Environmental Stewardship, SCAP has proposed the following:

- Encourage Participation of Public and other Stakeholders
- Enhance Communications and Information sharing
- Promote Environmental Education
- Work closely with national, provincial and local governmental authorities
- Form partnerships

Public participation has been integrated also in the NCAP document for I.R. Iran, namely under the Objective 3 which aims to “Strengthen the Existing Capacities” in Exchange and access to information (3.5). In terms of NCAP implementation, there are certain areas where the public can and should play a more meaningful role, while in some areas, the public has no role to play, for example in reducing pollution from seabed-activities. The following table is a quick list of those areas of NCAP where the public may play a role:

Table 9- Role of Public Participation in implementation of NCAP, SCAP and Tehran Convention Objectives

NCAP OBJECTIVES	NCAP Actions	NGOs	CBOs	Private Sector	General Public
1.1	1-1-1 to 1-1-10	X	X	X	X
1.2	1-2-1	-	-	X	-
1.3	1-3-1	-	X	X	-
1.4	1-4-1	-	X	X	-
1.5	1-5-1 to 1-5-4	X	X	X	X
1.6	1-6-1 & 1-6-2	X	X	X	X
1.7	1-7-1 to 1-7-10	X	X	X	X
2.1	2-1-1 to 2-1-7	X	X	X	X
2.2	2-2-1	X	X	X	X
2.3	2-3-1 & 2-3-2	-	X	X	X
3.1	3-1-1 to 3-1-5	X	X	X	X

3.2	3-2-1 to 3-2-8	X	-	X	-
3.3	3-3-1 to 3-3-5	X	X	X	X
3.4	3-4-1 to 3-4-9	X	X	X	-
3.5	3-5-1 & 3-5-2	X	X	X	X

2. Potentials and Pitfalls

To find out more about the role of the public in environmental protection, a questionnaire was designed and distributed to the DoE Provincial Offices of the three coastal provinces (Annex II). The answers to these questions reflect some real potentials and pitfalls in proceeding with public participation work.

2.1 Potentials

- “ There are many active NGOs and CBOS at provincial levels that have built good working relationship with GOs and are trusted by them because they have the necessary skills, motivation and experience
- “ These NGOs are working on various environmental issues (pollution reduction, biodiversity conservation, public awareness and education through workshops, publications, media coverage)
- “ Strong local community presence and traditional know-how of natural resource management could be mobilized to help conservation process (refer to UNDP/GEF/SGP projects, Caspian Cluster)
- “ Strong private sector presence and interests to invest in the Caspian region

2.2 Pitfalls

- “ Public awareness about environmental issues of the Caspian is relatively low (information is not there)
- “ Role of the public is usually minimized to a one-way communication (public awareness raising campaigns by GOs)
- “ Insufficient financial support and expertise within GOs to fully involved/engage the public (NGOs, CBOs, private sector, ...) in environmental activities/projects
- “ Official recognition and legal approval mechanism has been cumbersome for NGOs and CBOs (official registration easier as institutes or cooperatives which may have tax implications).

2.3 Recommendations

Some recommendations that emerged from the questionnaires regarding increased public participation in the Caspian were as follows:

For increased participation of NGOs

- GOs need adequate training, budgeting and personnel for working with NGOs
- Official recognition and legal approval will help in this regard
- Form joint partnerships in holding round-table discussion groups, seminars, events, exhibitions, projects
- Moral support from GOs is needed
-

For increased participation of local communities

- Raise awareness about environmental issues of the Caspian (through public media, local gatherings, festivals, schools and curricular activities, etc.)
- Form joint partnerships in holding local consultation meetings, training sessions, community projects
- Create incentives (ecological, economical and socio-cultural) for environmental conservation and sustainable use
- Moral support from GOs is needed

For increased participation of the general public

- Raise awareness about environmental issues of the Caspian (through public media, billboards, festivals, newspapers, brochures, posters, etc.)
- Encourage public involvement in projects such as Clean-up campaigns

3. A National Public Participation Strategy

A National Public Participation Strategy (NPPS) shall invest on the existing potentials and try to avoid pitfalls, while building on the above recommendations:

3.1 Vision:

The public participates in pollution prevention, control and reduction to the Caspian Sea and in protection, preservation and restoration of the marine resources of the Caspian Sea.

3.2 Mission:

Ensure public has access to information on environmental conditions of the Caspian Sea and measures taken or planned to be taken, and is given the opportunity to participate at appropriate levels in decision-making. (*Article 21 of Tehran Convention; SCAP*)

3.3 Strategic Objectives:

OB 1: Exchange and ensure access to information on environmental conditions of the Caspian Sea, measures taken or planned to be taken (*Article 21 of Tehran Convention*)

OB 2: Encourage Civil Society participation in Caspian environment stewardship (SCAP)

3.4 Actions and Indicators

OB 1: Exchange of and Access to Information

1-1 Ensure public access to information regarding the environmental conditions of the Caspian Sea

1-2 Ensure public access to information regarding measures taken or planned to be taken

Indicators:

- An active website for the south Caspian
- A State of the Environment Report for the south Caspian
- A Caspian Hotline to report on environmental issues
- NCAP in Farsi made available to the public

OB 2: Civil Society participation in Caspian environment stewardship

2-1 Promote participation of the public and other stakeholders

2-2 Enhance communication and information sharing

2-3 Provide Environmental Education

2-4 Engage local, regional and governmental authorities

2-5 Encourage forming partnerships

Indicators:

- Number of active ENGOs/CBOs/Private Sector Organizations
- Number of joint projects (in partnership with GOs and ENGOs)
- Number of times Caspian mentioned in educational texts for children and youth
- Number of micro-credit grants to local communities /NGOs/Private Sector to help in implementation of NCAP activities
- Number of industries adopting ISO 14000

3.5 More detailed actions:

1.1.1 Establish an active website for the south Caspian (linked to the general website of the Caspian Environment Programme or other nationally or regionally active websites)

1.1.2 Better media coverage of environmental issues of the Caspian Sea (in collaboration with local networks)

1.1.3 Translation of the already published materials on the Caspian Sea (under various projects and programmes) in Farsi

1.2.1 Publish a State of the Environment Report for the south Caspian (Biannually)

1.2.2 Promote presence of decision-makers in media holding discussion groups/interviews

1.2.3 Translation of NCAP into Farsi and its wide dissemination

2.1.1 Facilitate the registration process of environmental NGOs and CBOs at provincial levels

2.1.2 Strengthen environmental NGO and CBO Networks among the three coastal provinces of the south Caspian Sea (eg. Networks of fishermen, hunters, farmers, etc.)

2.1.3 Provide adequate training and budget to government organizations to work with ENGOs and CBOs (eg. Learn to apply the participatory approach in decision-making)

- 2.1.4 Promote and try to implement the NCAP and its Public Participation Strategy at governmental levels
- 2.1.5 Encourage national and local ENGOs/CBOs to get involved in national and regional events (eg. Caspian Day)
- 2.2.1 Designate a separate Radio/TV programme nationally/locally to disseminate information on the state of the Caspian Sea and its issues
- 2.2.2 Strengthen awareness of environmental issues in the Caspian Sea through publications, posters, banners, pamphlets, etc.
- 2.2.3 Establish an international film festival on documentaries about the Caspian Sea (linking socio-cultural, economic and ecological aspects)
- 2.2.4 Promote “Caspian Day” to raise environmental awareness for specific target groups about the Caspian environment (values and threats)
- 2.2.5 Designate a Hotline for the public to report back on issues of concern on the Caspian environment and to get informed about the latest news
- 2.3.1 Create attractive visitor centres near Caspian tourism hotspots to promote nature conservation and education for various target groups (Caspian Environmental Information, Communication, and Education Centres)
- 2.3.2 Develop academic curriculum materials focusing on Caspian environmental issues for various target groups (children, youth, ...)
- 2.3.3 Encourage the development of university level curricula for ecology and environmental science in conjunction with international institutions featuring Caspian issues.
- 2.3.4 Hold Caspian Sea Symposium possibly in collaboration with international organizations (addressing the scientific aspects and issues of the Caspian Sea)
- 2.3.5 Prepare field schools for local communities emphasizing on win-win scenarios and sound environmental stewardship through exchange of experience and know-how (possibly expand this programme to regional level)
- 2.4.1 Create targeted awareness building workshops for ministerial authorities and regional administration (involved in *inter alia*: agriculture, fisheries, transportation, and natural resource management) on public participation methods
- 2.4.2 Implement national EIA procedures for all appropriate Caspian project developments, with provisions for public participation.
- 2.4.3 Hold biennial mayoral meetings to foster networking among coastal local authorities and enhance their participation in implementing Tehran Convention and its protocols
- 2.4.4 Develop training programmes for regional and municipal authorities on modern techniques for wastewater and municipal waste treatment.

2.5.1 Promote environmental partnerships between ENGOs, government and private sectors to address specific Caspian issues by implementation of the National Convention Action Plan activities

2.5.2 Develop Stakeholder Dialogue Groups at the national level and exchange experience at the regional level to improve dialogue opportunities for various stakeholder groups

2.5.3 Develop a programme to encourage implementation of cleaner technologies by local industries corresponding to ISO 14000.

2.5.4 Set up a fund for micro-grants addressing coastal community development schemes and local environmental issues, in partnership with the private sector and international donor community (eg. UNDP/GEF/SGP).

Table 10- Summary Table on NPPS

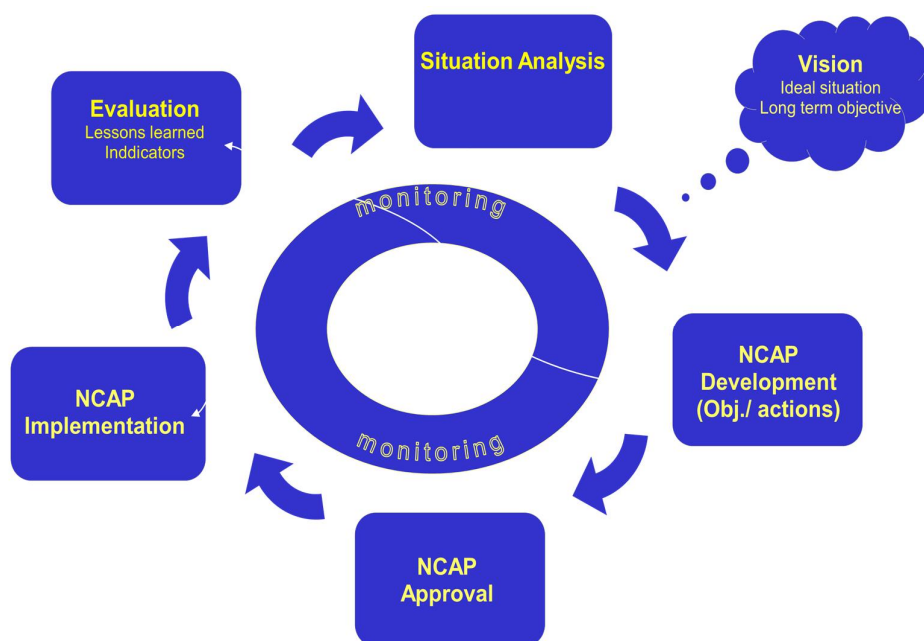
NPPS Objectives	NPPS Actions	Indicators	Collaborating Agencies	Timeline
1.1 – Ensure Public Access to information on conditions of Caspian Sea	1.1.1 to 1.1.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Caspian website • Caspian Hotline 	DoE	Year 1 + 2
1.2 – Ensure Public Access to information on measures taken or to be taken	1.2.1 to 1.2.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State of Environment Report • NCAP in Farsi available to public 	DoE	Year 1 + 2
2.1 – Promote Public Participation	2.1.1 to 2.1.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of ENGOs/CBOs registered • Number of micro-credit grants to local communities 	DoE, MoI, MoAJ, Cooperatives Org.	After Year
2.2 – Enhance Communication	2.2.1 to 2.2.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Caspian Film Festival • Caspian Day • Caspian Hotline 	DoE, National and Provincial/Local Media	After Year 2 or 3
2.3 –Provide Environmental Education	2.3.1 to 2.3.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visitor Centres • Caspian Symposium • Number of times Caspian mentioned in educational text books for children and Youth 	DoE, Tourism Org., Min. of Education	After Year 2 or 3
2.4 –Engage Local, Regional, Governmental Authorities	2.4.1 to 2.4.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical Workshops • Number of private sector institutions involved in NCAP/NPPS implementation • Number of industries adopting ISO 14000 	DoE, MIM	Year 1 + 2
2.5 – Forming Partnerships	2.5.1 to 2.5.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of Joint projects between GOs and ENGOs/CBOs 	DoE	Year 1 + 2

VIII. M&E Mechanisms

The M&E mechanism contains the country's approach to monitor the performance of NCAP/NPPS over time. To this end, a monitoring and evaluation plan is prepared in advance, including the actions and indicators for monitoring, the responsible bodies, and frequency of monitoring, as well as the time-frame for reporting on monitoring results.

It is worth noting that all aspects of NCAP (formulation, approval, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, revision and re-formulation) need to be following a multi-stakeholder decision-making process. The following figure illustrates the cycle NCAP needs to follow to make sure it moves in the right direction:

Fig. 2- Proposed M&E Mechanism for NCAP



Source: Deribe, 2010

To allow for better monitoring and evaluation over NCAP/NPPS implementation, while DoE remains the sole body to follow up progress, in here it is proposed that an expert level **Working Group** should be formed composed of official representatives of key stakeholder organizations. Members of the academia as well as knowledgeable and active ENGOs and CBOs representatives could also be part of this working group. The Working Group which will be at the core of the M&E work, will meet every 2 months (under the auspices of DoE or any other key stakeholder organization) to review progress of NCAP/NPPS towards its objectives, actions and indicators. It is worth noting that this model has been already practiced for two major wetlands, Urmia Lake and Lake Parishan, both Ramsar Sites and Biosphere Reserves, located in north-west and south of Iran respectively (CIWP, 2011).

There also needs to be a **Secretariat at national level** to coordinate the NCAP work as well as other matters related to Tehran Convention. This office needs to be established within DoE's Deputy for Marine Environment, building upon the capacities already in place (Convention Liaison Office). The National Secretariat will support all logistical matters, and will be the contact point with the Secretariat for the Convention.

Finally, once the NCAP has been adequately revised and new actions proposed, a **Caspian High Council** (or in its absence the High Council of the Environment) will be responsible to approve the necessary changes to the NCAP document, and approve the new NCAP (2016 onwards).

Table 11- Proposed M&E mechanism for NCAP

M&E Bodies	Reporting frequency	Location	Collaborating bodies
National Secretariat for Tehran Convention	Weekly	Department of Environment (Deputy for Marine Environment)	All other key stakeholder agencies through Caspian Working Group Provincial Governor offices for the three Caspian Provinces Public participation offices of DoE and other agencies
Caspian Working Group	Bi-monthly	Possibly Rotational	Experts and representatives of key stakeholder agencies Active and competent ENGOs and CBOs Outstanding members of Academia
Caspian High Council	Annually	Possibly rotational between the 3 provinces	Governors office of the 3 Caspian provinces

A tentative ToR for the above subsidiary bodies have been prepared and presented in Annex III.

IX. Possible Risks and Barriers

Regarding the risks and barriers which might undermine NCAP implementation, one may refer to the same risks and barriers which were mentioned in the Implementation Assessment report that was conducted back in 2007 for the National Caspian Action Plan by Farshchi and Farahani Rad:

1. **Budgeting mechanisms:** During preparation of NCAP, stakeholders involved were mainly expert representatives, but not decision-makers, therefore the information that was exchanged on Tehran Convention and NCAP objectives, may not have gotten the needed attention of key decision makers to allow for NCAP approval at highest levels.
2. **Inter-agency coordination:** There is still no follow-up intra-agency and inter-agency communication and coordination mechanism for NCAP implementation. Thus, a National Coordination Structure is needed:
3. **M&E mechanisms should be implemented throughout NCAP implementation:** Even though the 5th National Five Year Development Plan covers some areas of NCAP, the proposed timeframe and monitoring/evaluation mechanism still needs to developed using a participatory approach.
4. **Institutional and financial arrangements are needed:** The financial modalities of the NCAP implementation remains vague, especially regarding areas that need fund-raising from outside the country.

Concluding Remarks

Referring back to requirements of Tehran Convention Secretariat on NCAP preparation, and agreements reached during the first Ashgabad meeting (March 2011), the following was required in preparing NCAP documents:

- ✓ NCAP should be a visionary document
- ✓ NCAP should support specific articles of Tehran Convention and its protocols
- ✓ NCAP should include actions, timeline and budgets for implementation
- NCAP should be approved at highest possible governmental level
- ✓ NPPS should be integrated into NCAP

In addition:

- ✓ NCAP should identify the countries priorities within the implementation of the Tehran Convention.
- ✓ NCAP should underline specific actions for contributing to regional efforts. These actions should have been clearly defined.
- ✓ NCAP has to include clear analysis and description of the mechanism of implementation of the Tehran convention in the country and describe all institutions to be involved
- ✓ NCAP has to reflect potential challenges and risks in the implementation of the plan and how the country would deal with those.

While it seems that this report has met most of the above requirements, here are some quick recommendations for continuation of NCAP-NPPS work in I.R. Iran:

1. It is best to share the present NCAP document with key stakeholders representing various government and non-government organizations to get their final feedbacks on proposed actions, and possible budgets to be allocated;
2. Sharing and getting the approval of NCAP with the three Caspian Provinces including DoE offices and possibly Governors Offices would be very useful in moving NCAP towards further implementation;
3. By end of August 2012, a better estimation may be reached on the budgets available for NCAP implementation, thus Annex IV of this report needs to be shared and filled using a participatory approach;
4. Gaps in national budgets need to be identified and those actions that need international/regional support need to be distinguished.
5. Building on the existing networks and mechanisms for inter-agency collaborations, it is recommended to form a ‘Caspian Working Group’ where representatives of key organizations participate and help support and facilitate NCAP approval and implementation;
6. It seems necessary to strengthen the present Convention Liaison Office within DoE-DoMA (in terms of equipment and human resources) to allow for better coordination of NCAP-NPPS work.

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Farshchi, P. and Farahani Rad. H., 2007. SAP/NCAP Implementation Assessment, Caspian Environment Programme.

Tehran Convention Secretariat, 2008. Strategic Convention Action Programme

Tehran Convention Secretariat, 2003. Framework Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Caspian Sea.

Tehran Convention Secretariat, 2009. Strategy for Civil Society Engagement in the Caspian Sea Marine Environment (Public Participation Strategy) - Draft

And other related documents available on website: www.caspianenvironment.org

Annex I – Map of the Caspian region of Iran

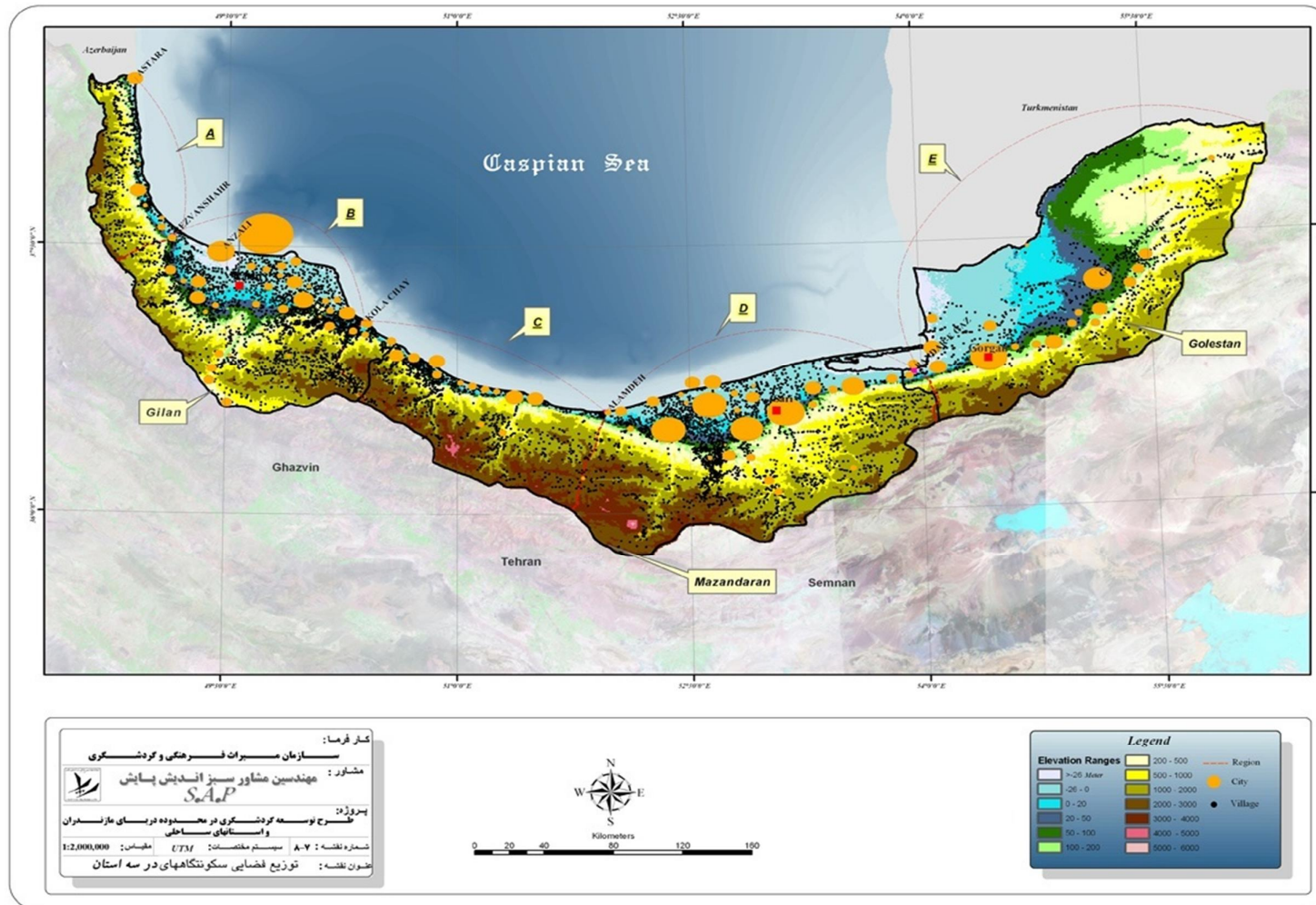


Fig. 1 – Iranian Caspian Coast includes three provinces of Golestan, Mazandaran and Guilan (from East to West) – Courtesy of SAP Consultants

Annex II – Questionnaire designed for assessment of public participation

This questionnaire has been prepared for preparation of the National Convention Action Plan for the Caspian Sea and its resources in the context of the Tehran Convention and the Caspian Environment Programme. Please select one or more possible answers for each question.

1-List some of the NGOs and CBOs that are active in the field of environment:

- a-.....
- b-

2-What kind of objectives for these NGOs and CBOs are following up?

- Pollution reduction
- Biodiversity conservation
- Environmental education and awareness
- Others (name them)

3-What is the mechanism for collaboration between your organization and these NGOs/CBOs?

- Promote environmental awareness and education (through publication of posters, etc.)
- Hold festivals and other awareness raising campaigns and workshops
- Work closely in implementation of projects
- Others (name them)

4-How do you think NGOs and CBOs might contribute to the goals and objectives to your organization?

- Promote environmental awareness and education (through publication of posters, etc.)
- Hold festivals and other awareness raising campaigns and workshops
- Work closely in implementation of projects
- Others (name them)

5-What kind of difficulties you (your organization) might face while working with NGOs/CBOs?

- Legal barriers (unregistered NGOs, etc)
- Operational challenges (inadequate training and capacities)
- Administrative barriers (lack of funding and expertise to work with NGOs/CBOs)
- Others (name them)

6-At present, what kind of incentives are used by your organization to encourage NGO/CBO participation?

- Existence of an office for Public Relations or Public Participation
- NGO/CBO networks (thematic or geographical)
- Projects with strong public participation component
- Others (name them)

7-Name some of the NGOs/CBOs that are well trusted by your organization:

- a-.....
- b-.....

8-What are the main reasons for selecting the above NGOs/CBOs?

- a-.....
- b-.....

9-What are the main criteria for selection of NGOs/CBOs as partners in conservation work?

- Official registration
- Expertise and the actual capacity to do the work
- Scientific knowledge and background
- Others (name them)

10-What are the main reasons for disconnecting NGOs/CBOs from your organization?

- Lack of legal status (unregistered)
- Lack of sufficient expertise
- Low scientific knowledge
- Irrelevant work (such as working for profit, or political aims)

11-What are your suggestions for strengthening the working relationships between government and non-governmental organizations?

.....
.....

12-To what extent local communities (farmers, fishermen, herders, etc) degrade the environment?

Very little
Little
To some extent
Very much

13-How can local community participation be enhanced to help governmental goals in environmental protection?

Through awareness raising (eg. Media)
Through field work (participation and on job training)
Through scientific learning and training (classrooms, etc.)
Others (name them)

14-What kind of barriers might exist between you (your organization) and local communities?

No common language
Administrative hurdles
Lack of know-how and knowledge among local communities
Others (name them)

15-What are your suggestions for enhancing the working relationship between governmental organizations and local communities?

.....
.....

16-To what extent do you think the public is informed about the Caspian and its environmental issues?

Very little
Little
To some extent
Very much

17-To what extent do you expect change in attitudes while public awareness increases?

Very little
Little
To some extent
Very much

18-What kind of incentives there might be for the public to better collaborate with environmental agencies?

Ecological values
Economical values
Moral and intrinsic values
Others (name them)

19-What are your suggestions for enhancing collaboration between the public and the government agencies in charge of the Caspian and its resources?

a-.....
b-.....
c-.....

Name: (optional).....

Position: (mandatory).....

Annex III – Tentative Terms of Reference

To enhance inter-agency collaboration, the following institutional mechanisms are proposed:

1. Forming a Caspian High Council supported by a Caspian Working Group

The Caspian High Council shall consist of one representative from each of the key stakeholder agencies (Department of Environment, Fisheries Organization, Ports and Marine Organization, MoAJ, FRWO, Ministry of Oil), who shall have one vote. Each representative may be assisted by one or more advisers, from the Caspian Working Group.

The first meeting of the Caspian High Council shall be convened not later than twelve months after the date of approval of NCAP. Thereafter, the High Council and Caspian Working Group shall hold ordinary meetings at regular intervals to be determined by the first meetings.

The Chairmanship of the meetings and location shall be determined in the first meetings. All decisions of the High Council and Working Group shall be made by unanimous vote of members.

During the first meetings also decisions shall be made on establishing other institutions as deemed necessary; the arrangements for the permanent national Secretariat of the Convention, including its location and staffing; the rules of procedure and financial rules.

Functions of the High Caspian Council and Caspian Working Group shall be:

- (a) to keep under review the implementation of the Convention, its protocols and NCAP;
- (b) to keep under review the content of the Convention and its protocols;
- (c) to consider and adopt any additional protocols or any amendments to the Convention or to its protocols and to adopt and amend the annexes to the Convention and to its protocols;
- (d) to receive and consider reports submitted by stakeholder organizations, as well as other Contracting Parties and to review and evaluate the state of the marine environment and, in particular, the state of pollution and its effects, on the basis of reports provided by key stakeholders and by any competent international or regional organisation;
- (e) to consider reports prepared by the Secretariat on matters relating to the Convention;
- (f) to seek, where appropriate, the technical and financial services of relevant international bodies and scientific institutions for the purposes of the objective of the Convention;
- (g) to establish such subsidiary bodies as may be deemed necessary for the implementation of the Convention and its protocols;
- (h) to appoint the Executive Secretary of the Convention and such other personnel as may be required, taking into account the equitable representation of the key stakeholders.
- (i) to perform such other functions as may be required for the achievement of the objective of the Convention.

2. Establishment of permanent national Secretariat for the Convention

The Secretariat shall be comprised of a National Executive Secretary of the Convention and such other personnel as required to perform the functions specified hereafter.

The National Executive Secretary shall be the chief administrative officer of the national Secretariat of the Convention, and shall perform such functions which are necessary for the administration of the

work of the national Secretariat of the Convention, as determined by the Caspian High Council and in accordance with the rules of procedure and financial rules adopted by key stakeholders.

The functions of the National Secretariat shall be:

- (a) to arrange for and service meetings of the High Council, the Caspian Working Group and meetings of the Conference of the Parties and subsidiary bodies;
- (b) to prepare and transmit to the above, notifications, reports and other information received;
- (c) to consider enquiries by and information from the above and to consult with them on matters relating to the implementation of Tehran Convention and its protocols;
- (d) to prepare and transmit reports on matters relating to the implementation of this Convention and its protocols;
- (e) to establish, maintain the database of and disseminate national laws and international commitments relevant to the protection of the Caspian Sea;
- (f) to arrange, upon request by the High Council for the provision of technical assistance and advice for the effective implementation of the Convention and its protocols;
- (g) to carry out functions as may be established under the protocols to this Convention;
- (h) to consider co-operation, as appropriate, with relevant regional and international organizations and programmes;
- (i) to perform such other functions as may be determined by the stakeholders.

Annex IV - Financial costs of NCAP for I.R. Iran

(to be filled by various stakeholder organizations by end of August 2012,

based on their annual budget for 2012)

NCAP Objectives	NCAP Actions	Total Cost (US \$)	Available National Budget (2011-2012)	Additional Required Budget (US \$)
1.1	1-1-1 to 1-1-10			
1.2	1-2-1			
1.3	1-3-1			
1.4	1-4-1			
1.5	1-5-1 to 1-5-4			
1.6	1-6-1 & 1-6-2			
1.7	1-7-1 to 1-7-10			
2.1	2-1-1 to 2-1-7			
2.2	2-2-1			
2.3	2-3-1 & 2-3-2			
3.1	3-1-1 to 3-1-5			
3.2	3-2-1 to 3-2-8			
3.3	3-3-1 to 3-3-5			
3.4	3-4-1 to 3-4-9			
3.5	3-5-1 & 3-5-2			

Annex V- Tentative timeline for NCAP Implementation

NCAP Objectives	NCAP Actions	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
1.1	1-1-1 to 1-1-10	*****	****	***	**	*
1.2	1-2-1	*	*	*	*	*
1.3	1-3-1	*	*	*	*	*
1.4	1-4-1	*	*	*	*	*
1.5	1-5-1 to 1-5-4	*****	****	***	**	*
1.6	1-6-1 & 1-6-2	*****	****	***	**	*
1.7	1-7-1 to 1-7-10	*****	****	***	**	*
2.1	2-1-1 to 2-1-7	*****	****	***	**	*
2.2	2-2-1	***	***	***	***	***
2.3	2-3-1 & 2-3-2	***	***	***	***	***
3.1	3-1-1 to 3-1-5	*****	****	***	**	*
3.2	3-2-1 to 3-2-8	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****
3.3	3-3-1 to 3-3-5	*****	****	***	**	*
3.4	3-4-1 to 3-4-9	**	**	**	**	**
3.5	3-5-1 & 3-5-2	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****

*Note: number of * shows priority of actions*

Annex VI – Pictures from the Stakeholders Workshop (March 2011)

