

Revised NCAP summary Turkmenistan, Ashgabat

The development of NCAP was initialized by CEP (2006) and presents the ecological policy of the Turkmen government relatively to the Turkmen coastal zone of the Caspian Sea.

The National Caspian Action Plan (NCAP) was developed in 2002 in CEP frame, then it was updated in 2007. In 2008 the updated NCAP was approved by the special Decree of the President of Turkmenistan. It is the State Enterprise on the Caspian issues at the President of Turkmenistan and the Ministry of nature protection which are responsible for the NCAP development and further update.

The implementation of the NCAP is being coordinated at the high level by the Interagency Commission on the Caspian issues, chaired by the Deputy Head of the Cabinet of Ministers.

The Programme of Work (2009-2010) adopted by the second Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Framework Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Caspian Sea, Tehran, I.R. Iran, 12 November 2008, under its item 3 "Support to the development of National Strategic Convention Implementation Plans" provides for revising and aligning of the existing National Caspian Action Plans with the Strategic Convention Action Plan (SCAP). The Action Plan should be considered as the tool to implement the SCAP and the Convention itself in the country.

In accordance with this resolution NCAP is being revised, all concerned sectors are being analyzed.

According to the content (See Annex to the Summary) the Introduction provides the NCAP target and features.

The target of NCAP - to define strategic directions of planning and sustainable development of the Caspian region of Turkmenistan and to provide implementation of actions for solution of a set of national and transboundary environmental problems of Caspian sea and its coast, taking into account the provisions of the Teheran convention and its protocols.

NCAP features are connected with specificity of the Turkmenistan environment of the Caspian region with the reached condition and prospects of social and economic development of this region.

The subparagraph of Introduction covers physical, biogeochemical, legal and socially-economic parameters, including information on: Garabogaz gulf, mud volcanoes, biodiversity.

Garabogazgol gulf is the greatest deposit of natural salts of sea type in the world. To the certain extent from time immemorial it served as a regulator of water level and salt balance of the Caspian Sea.

The South Caspian pool is the classical area of formation and development of **mud volcanoes**; they are one of geological problems of the sea. At powerful eruption of mud volcanoes around the eruption animal and vegetative organisms perish.

The biodiversity of flora and fauna of the Caspian Sea are 2 543 species, including 733 (29 %) – plants, 1 810 (71 %) – animals. Turkmen share for Southeast Caspian Sea is 869 i.e. 1/3 of all biodiversity of the Caspian Sea.

The Chapter “National features” contains information on the Balkan region (the Caspian coastal region of Turkmenistan), including data on climate, soil, natural resources, population, education, health care and sanitary.

The next chapter **“Legislation”** gives the review of the next topics: State policy in the field of environment conservation and natural resources including the existing and new laws and decrees and subparagraph **“Institutional parameters”**. Along with the existing environmental laws there are a great number of new ones. Only for the last five years the ratification of the next legal documents should be mentioned:

- Three protocols to the Montreal report: Copenhagen, Montreal and Beijing;
- International Convention on pollution prevention from vessels 1973. (MANPOL-73/78) (2009)
- Convention on the international rules of collisions prevention of courts in the sea of 1972, with changes (COLREG 1972) (2009)
- The international Convention on a civil liability for damage from pollution by oil of 1969
- Signing of the protocol concerning regional preparedness, response and cooperation in combating oil pollution incidents to the Framework Convention for the Protection of the marine environment of the Caspian Sea
- “Provisions about the order of providing of ecological permissions to carrying out drilling, exploration, dredging and other works in water area and the coastal zone of Turkmen sector of Caspian Sea» is developed;
- The Ramsar Convention on wetlands (2009);
- Ratification (2008) of Cartagena protocol on bio-safety to the convention on the Biological diversity;
- Law on fisheries and bioresources protection (2011) and others.

Chapter 5 **“Priority development directions of the Caspian coastal zone of Turkmenistan”** covers the issues: development of oil-gas sector, formation of the Turkmen lake **“Altyn Asyr”**, development of the tourist industry on the Caspian coast.

Chapters from 6 to 8 view perspectives of fisheries, transportation and legislation development.

Transboundary issues are discussed in the Chapter 9. Such points are provided here:

- State of environment quality;
- Destruction of the coastal infrastructure and coastal landscapes;
- Soymonov bay;

- Sea garbage;
- Biodiversity conservation;
- Khazar state reserve;
- Ballast waters;
- Reduction of fish stock;

The international activity re the Caspian is presented in the chapter 9.

The international cooperation in environment conservation in the framework of the Caspian environment program (CEP) through:

- Teheran convention and its ancillary protocols;
- The organization of the monitoring program of the Caspian Sea as a basis for development of regional cooperation through EC/TASIS Project "Caspian water quality monitoring and action plan for areas of pollution concern";
- Development of integrated management of biodiversity in Khazar State Reserve at the Caspian Sea coast in the framework of "Khazar project»;

The considerable part of the NCAP (**Chapter 11**) is given to the Public participation in the Caspian environment protection. Conservation of the Turkmen sector of the Caspian sea environment, its biodiversity conservation, prevention from pollution is necessary not only for economic and social development of the country, but also for satisfaction of ecological, cultural and aesthetic requirements of the society without what the sustainable development in the Caspian coastal zone is impossible.

Being guided by all ratified international conventions, including the Teheran convention, Public Associations of Turkmenistan make efforts to implement the planned tasks.

In this connection, it is necessary to note, that in Turkmenistan Public Ecological Associations play an important role in biodiversity protection, prevention of pollution, etc. Possessing considerable intellectual and technical resources, Public Associations (PA) of Turkmenistan have achieved the successes in the work with local population in eco-education, studying of environmental contaminations reasons, in carrying out of pilot projects on biodiversity conservation, etc

There are given possible assumptions and risks at NCAP realization. (**Chapter 12**) Among assumptions the next ones are listed: Terms of actions' implementation are delayed, Not all actions can be supported (are financed), Incomplete access to the data and information can limit work on actions' realization in the field of monitoring and bioresources conservation, etc.

The Strategy of resources mobilization is presented in **Chapter 13**. At NCAP realization the most decisive importance has the availability of resources for implementation of the developed actions. Revealing and determination of sources for financing of the given actions is one of the most complicated problems during NCAP working out. In case of absence of a certain source of financing of action it is necessary to define correctly a potential source of financing.

The **Annex** to the NCAP draft contains the information on “*Building of Industrial complex on artificial cultivation of sturgeon kinds of fishes and manufacture of fish production in the place of Gyjanly of the Balkan region*”

NCAP actions are presented for the next field of concern: *Biodiversity conservation, Pollution control, Fisheries and commercial biological resources, Coastal zone planning and management; public participation in environment protection.*

At the present time NCAP actions are reviewed and discussed, they will be actions of high priority and urgent implementation.

The content of NCAP

1. Introduction

1.1. Target of the NCAP

1.2. Peculiarities of NCAP

2. Physical, biochemical, legal and social- economic parameters

2.1. Physical and biochemical parameters

2.1.1. Garabogazgol gulf;

2.1.2. Mud volcanoes ;

2.1.3. Biodiversity;

3. National peculiarities:

3.1. Social conditions.

3.2. Balkan region:

3.2.1 Climate;

3.2.2. Soil cover;

3.2.3. Natural resources;

3.2.4. Population

3.2.5..Education

3.2.6. Public health and sanitary;

3.3. Economic transformations;

3.4. regional economic structure and it significance;

4. Legal parameters;

4.1. State policy in the environmental and natural resources field;

4.2. Institutional parameters.

5. Priority areas of Turkmenistan development in the Caspian coastal zone:

5.1. Development of oil-gas sector;

5.2. Turkmen lake ðAltyn ó Asyrö;

5.3. Development of ecotourism industry on the Turkmen coast.

6. Perspectives of development of Fishery:

6.1. Renewal of fishery vessels;

7. Perspectives of transport development.

8. Prospects of development of legal support.

9. Transboundary issues:

9.1. Destruction of a coastal infrastructure and coastal landscapes;

9.2. State of environment;

9.2.1. Soimonov bay;

9.2.2. Marine litter;

9.3. Biodiversity conservation;

9.3.1.Khazar State reserve;

- 9.3.2. Ballast waters.
- 9.4. Trade stocks of fishes reduction

10. International activity regarding to the Caspian:

- 10.1. The international cooperation in environment conservation within the limits of the Caspian ecological program (CEP);
- 10.2. Tehran convention and its protocols.
- 10.3. Organization of monitoring programme as a basis for regional cooperation development ó EC/TACIS project «Caspian water quality monitoring and action plan for areas of pollution concern»;
- 10.4. Development of integrated management of the biodiversity in the State Khazar Reserve on the Caspian coast by the «Khazar project»;

11. Public Participation in the Caspian Sea environment protection

- 12. Assumptions and risks at NCAP realization.
- 13. Strategy of resources mobilization

- 13.1 Strategy of Turkmenistan in resources mobilization

14. Annex

15. NCAP Actions