

## REPORT

### **On Activities under the Caspian Sea Day - 2018 In the Caspian Sea Constituent Entities of the Russian Federation**

In accordance with the provisions of the Tehran convention and its Strategy for Civil Society Engagement in the Caspian Sea Marine Environment or Public Participation Strategy (PPS), one of the main mechanisms for the stakeholders involvement into the Caspian Sea marine environment protection is the annual celebration of the “Caspian Sea Day” in each of the Caspian Sea littoral states. The fest was established on August 12, 2006, to mark the entry into force of the Convention.

The regional activity of the ecologically-oriented organizations covers such areas as minimization of the Caspian Sea marine and coastal environment pollution, dissemination of information on the environment status, environmental education and awareness-raising which mainly relates to bringing up the younger generation – schoolchildren and students.

In 2018, the activity devoted to the Caspian Sea marine and environment protection was conducted in all three Caspian Sea constituent entities of the Russian Federation – the Astrakhan region, the Republic of Dagestan and the Republic of Kalmykia.

The events dedicated to the “Caspian Sea Day”-2018 were held in the **city of Astrakhan and in the Astrakhan region.**

One of the main activity areas related to the Caspian Sea environment protection in the Astrakhan region in 2018 was ecological awareness-raising.

On the threshold of the “Caspian Sea Day”, there were held public events in the **Aktyubinsk district of the Astrakhan region** on August 3-12.

The staff of the Culture Club in the Bataevka village invited the children from the Leisure Amateur Association for **a walk to the Chistaya River**. On the river bank, the children were able to feel the atmosphere of the coastal zones of the Sea; a short lecture about this holiday was delivered to them; the children were presented a lot of interesting and useful information on the fish species inhabiting the Caspian Sea, about resources and peculiarities the Sea is famous for. The audience took an active part in games, listened carefully to the information delivered to them, and then each participant launched a handmade paper boat with personal wishes hoping that they would reach the Caspian Sea.

The organizers of the event in the Akhtubinsk district showed great enthusiasm at elucidating the “Caspian Sea Day” celebration: they tried to involve into the significant event not only children but also residents of all ages. On August 13, the Inter-settlement Central library of the **Akhtubinsk district** held the action **“The Caspian Sea Is the Sea of Friendship”** on the territory adjacent to the library. The Library staff, dressed in branded t-shirts, handed out booklets “Sedoy Kaspiy” (“Ancient Caspian Sea”) and “The Caspian Sea Is the Sea of Friendship” to passers-by. The people were not indifferent to the action and did not pass by without taking with them at least one booklet. Anyone could take part in the quiz “The Caspian

Sea: a familiar stranger” and test their knowledge in geography and biology. Besides, the event was accompanied by music and songs about the Sea and by the organizers’ cheerful mood which was gladly shared with their fellow-countrymen.



On August 10, the staff of the Multifunctional Centre of the Ikryaninsky district organized a trip for the schoolchildren from the Ikryanoye village to the salt lake and Lotus fields, where they held an action titled “In the out-of-doors near the river”.





On August 10, an educational hour “All information about our native Caspian Sea” was held at the Culture Club of the Novo-Nikolaevka village.



Cognitive hour in the village of Novo-Nikolaevka

An ecological hour was held at the Culture Club of the Kapustin Yar village. One more educational discussion on the theme “The Sea inhabitants” was conducted for the school children by the staff of the **Pokrovka village** Culture Club.

On August 11, the **Kapustin Yar rural library** hosted an event “Whether a sea or a lake...” dedicated to the “Caspian Sea Day”. Participants of the event were greeted with the words from a song. The librarian presented information about the origin of the Caspian Sea, its geographical location, the history of the fest. And, of course, she touched upon the topic “Environmental problems of the Caspian Sea and their causes”. Further on, a video about the Caspian Sea was shown.

**Demonstration of videos about the Caspian Sea in a foyer of the cinema.** On August 10, a large-scale educational event the “Caspian Sea Day” was conducted by the staff of the **Regional History Museum** for schoolchildren. The children learned a lot of interesting facts about the Caspian Sea, its physical/geographical features, about flora and fauna of the water body, and that it is the largest lake on the Planet.





Cognitive event at the Center of Culture

On August 9, an ecological lesson was held at the **Srednebaskunchak village library**. Its purpose was to acquaint readers with the history of the Caspian Sea, to emphasize the uniqueness of the Caspian Sea nature, to chart a vision about the Sea fauna and flora. The librarian prepared an information poster titled “Do you know?” and delivered a presentation “The Caspian Sea Is the Sea of Friendship”.



Eco-lesson in Srednebaskunchuk library

An educational event took place on August 12 at the library of the **Pirogovka village**. The educational discussion about the Caspian Sea was arranged. The children listened with interest a presentation on the Sea flora and fauna, the reserve of international importance with many birds inhabiting bays of the Caspian Sea coast; and about the seals inhabiting the Sea. They came to know that the Caspian Sea had been for ages famous for its fish stocks.



Theatrical performance of marine life

On August 3, the readers of the **Kapustin Yar village children's library** participated in a virtual educational journey on the ship “Luboznatelny” (“Curious”) across the Caspian Sea, during which they took part in an eco-educational game “What's beneath the Caspian Sea waves”.

The purpose of the event was to raise awareness about protection of natural resources of the Sea, to increase knowledge about the Sea flora and fauna; to nurture pride in one's homeland.

The librarian, acting as a guide; gave an overview information on the Caspian Sea. She reminded that it is the largest water body on Earth, which can be called either a lake or a sea. She described its location, area, depth, taste of water in it and the Sea inhabitants. The audience admired the beauty of the Caspian Sea through pictures. Special attention was paid to the Caspian rose – Lotus, which grows in the coastal zone of the Sea, in the Delta of the Volga River. The listeners expressed great interest to the legend of the Lotus. The guide's story was interrupted by quizzes and contests in which the children demonstrated their knowledge.



Caspian travel



Caspian Festival in the Large Library

On August 8, the **Volodarsky district** libraries conducted eco-lessons with the participation of children from local villages. So, in the Zelenga rural library a discussion on the theme “A drop is small, but a lot of drops make a sea” was organized in an entertaining manner.

The discussion aimed at studying the basic properties of water and improving ecological education of the population. The children learned where water drops are born, where water is found in nature, what the importance of water is; they solved riddles and got to know proverbs about water.

On August 9, the **Zelenga rural library** staff conducted an entertaining ecological game for children of 3-5 grades on the theme “Discovering the secrets of the Sea”. The game was dedicated to the Sea and its inhabitants. The goal was to attract attention of adults and children to the need of the Caspian Sea environment protection. Before the game, a video about the Caspian Sea was demonstrated. Then, two teams -“Albatross” and “Scarlet sails”- took part in the game. It consisted of several contests: “Names of seas”, “Riddles about seas”, “An arithmetical problem about an octopus”, “Identify by a silhouette” and a quiz “A call for the Sea protection”.



**The Caspian SeaDay in the Zelenga Rural Library**

The **Enotaevsky district** was another participant of the large-scale “Caspian Sea Day” celebration. On August 12, the campaign “Let’s save the legend of the Caspian Sea” with a thematic quiz “What do we know about the Caspian Sea?” was held.

On that day, **booklets with information** on interesting facts about the Caspian Sea were offered to the village residents in the central streets of the Enotaevka village and in the park “Mechta” (“A Dream”).





Promotion "Preserve the Legend"

On August 12, the **Zamyany village of the Enotaevsky district** celebrated the “Caspian Sea Day” with a program “We live near the Caspian Sea”. There was arranged a discussion with the children on the Caspian Sea flora and fauna and its international and political importance. Then, fun contests, outdoor games and fun disco took place.



The action "White ship" in the city of Znamensk

The **town of Znamensk** citizens took an active part in the “Caspian Sea Day” celebration. On August 10, a thematic hour “My Caspian Sea” was held for children at the local Culture Centre. A moderator presented information about the importance of keeping the Caspian Sea clean. The event continued in the disco hall, where the children participated in the action “Belyy korablik”(“White boat”).



**Kite festival**

On August 11, on the eve of the “Caspian Sea Day” celebration, the staff of the local Culture Club in **the town of Kamyzyak** organized a festival of kites. The fest took place out-of-doors. For the fest to be a success, the staff provided all the necessary materials to make kites. At the event, a master class in kite-making was conducted. Children and teenagers were most enthusiastic in that activity. They were engaged in the process of making kites with their own hands with great inspiration. Every child and adult managed to launch their own kite. That fun activity was accompanied by music, informative stories about the Caspian Sea, cheerful and loud laughter of the children.

At the kindergarten №1 of **the Kamyzyak town**, the nursery teachers conducted an educational hour in the form of a quiz “Experts of the Caspian Sea” with the aim to systematize the child’s knowledge about the Sea. There were presented didactic materials such as a map of the Caspian lake-sea, photos of the Caspian Sea, atlases, ships, flags, small anchors, chips, emblems. The kids together with their teachers “took witchcraft off” the magic Lotus flower and even made a wish – “Let our Kamyzyak town be a beautiful and clean city!” The event demonstrated their proud of the Caspian lake – sea!



At the library №2 of the Krasnoyarsk district, an eco-hour “Tatishchev’s Caspian projects” was held for regular readers. In the course of the eco-hour, the Krasny Yar village population was informed about projects of Vasily Tatishchev, the Governor of Astrakhan city and the Russian historian. He was the founder of the national economic geography. V. Tatishchev carried out a lot of studies and contributed to the **collection of reliable information about the Caspian Sea as of 1745**. On the instruction of Vasily Tatishchev, surveyors made new maps of the Caspian Sea coasts. In the Vatazhnoye village, the staff of the local Culture Club and library conducted a video-cruise along the Caspian Sea for the children team “Pokoleniye” (“Generation”) from the local school. The pupils actively participated in quizzes, solved a crossword puzzle and talked about interesting fish species inhabiting seas.



## Eco-hour "Caspian projects Tatishcheva"

On August 9, at the Culture Club of the **Janai village (the Krasnoyarsk district)**, a discussion on the theme “The Sea of my homeland” was arranged for young villagers. The audience was shown a thematic video. The children actively participated in quizzes and contests. The event program was completed with a fiery flash mob. Also, an exhibition of drawings and crafts “My Caspian Sea” was held on the same day.



## Conversation "The Sea of My Land" in the village of Janay

On August 9, a **quest game “The Sea voyage”** was conducted at the secondary school “Vatazhenskaya” in the Krasnoyarsk district.

An event with elements of ecological quiz “**In the footsteps of the ancient Caspians**” (Caspians - nomadic pastoral tribes) was held with the aim to form the young generation knowledge about landscape and biological diversity conservation. It began with a history of the Caspian Sea name. The children were shown videos on the protection of the Caspian Sea natural resources; they were told legends about the Guardian of the Caspian Sea; there was presented information about flooded ancient civilizations along the Sea coasts near Baku and Derbent cities, about the glow of its coast due to endemic species, about the unpredictability of the Caspian Sea where the strength of storms is in the second place after the Bay of Biscay, about periodic disappearance and appearance of islands near the Zhyloy island, about an “inhale” and “exhale” when the Sea increases and decreases in size. The frequency of this phenomenon remains a mystery both for us and scientists. During the event, the children formed teams and played a game “What? Where? When?”. They also participated in an ecological quiz “Clean Caspian Sea”, promptly answering almost all questions correctly, thereby they showed their knowledge and ingenuity with regard to the information they acquired.



### Cognitive hour "In the footsteps of the ancient Caspians"

From 08.08.2018 to 11.08.2018 at the **Krasny Yar village school № 1, the Krasnoyarsk district**, the ecological and educational campaign “Rivers flow into the Sea” took place aiming at the protection of the Caspian Sea marine environment. There was delivered a presentation on the theme “Environmental safety of the Caspian Sea”; problems of the Sea pollution, overfishing and poaching, eutrophication, changes in natural biogeochemical cycles were elucidated.

Within the framework of the “Caspian Sea Day” celebration, at the foyer of the Culture Club, there was arranged a round table titled the “Caspian Sea Day” for the youth of the **Protochnoye village, the Limansky district**. In the course of discussions, the participants talked about the Caspian Sea, the Caspian Sea flora and fauna, the ecological problems associated with water pollution as a result of oil transportation. The children enjoyed a slide presentation “The Caspian Sea”. They asked a lot of interesting questions, came to know new information about the Caspian Sea, learned about endangered species inhabiting the Sea and expressed their opinion about the environment protection.



Round table in the village Protochnoe



Events in the village of Liman

On August 12, in the **village of Sudachye, the Limansky district**, there was conducted a thematic discussion **“Our homeland is the area where moriana\* murmurs”**, dedicated to the “Caspian Sea Day” celebration. The artistic Director told the children about the origin of the Caspian Sea, which had been appeared more than 10 million years ago, and that the old Slavic population gave the name of **Khvaliysskoye** to the Sea. The audience was told about the

moriana - harsh, strong wind blowing from a sea in the estuaries of rivers (northern — in the mouths of the northern rivers, south-eastern — on the Caspian Sea and the Volga River).

flora and fauna of the Caspian Sea. Following the question “What species inhabit the Caspian sea?” the children gave the right answers: perch, carp, sprat, bream and sturgeon. Finally, a video about plants, animals and fish of the Caspian Sea was shown to the children.



On August 12, the Culture Club in the **Kamyshovo village, the Limansky district**, hosted an intellectual **historical and geographical quiz “Expert in the Caspian Sea”**, in which the participants competed with each other in their knowledge of the Caspian Sea. The first qualifying round envisaged the participants to answer questions on various topics - history, geography, natural resources and cultural life of the peoples living near the Caspian Sea. The children were a success to pass the first round. Then, the children answered general questions, and, finally, the winner was nominated. At the end of the quiz all participants were awarded with gifts, which had been prepared for them by the children of the Applied Arts group. After the quiz, the participants of the game visited an exhibition arranged in the Kamyshov village library.



Intellectual quiz in the village Kamyshovo

A theme hour “Oh, the Sea, the sacred Sea, the Sea powerful surf, sorrows and grieves are insignificant when I admire you!” was held in the village of Kryazhevoye, the Limansky district. The lines were written by a poetess Lyudmila Denisova about the Caspian Sea to which the virtual education hour “What do the Caspian Sea waves hide?” was devoted. The event was organized by the Basy village library. The schoolchildren learned a lot of interesting facts about the Caspian Sea: there is hardly a sea as rich in various fish species as the Caspian Sea; strongest storms occur here, waterfalls are formed, in the southern region of the Caspian Sea you can see the glow of water; islands appear and disappear, and many other interesting facts. The schoolchildren learned about geographical location of the Caspian Sea, its history, different legends about the Sea narrated by sailors and fishermen. Also, the participants themselves described the Caspian littoral states and cities which are on the Sea coast.



Virtual informative hour in the village of Bass



## Exhibitions devoted to the Caspian Sea

Numerous items from the collection of Sergey Efremov were presented at the exhibition arranged in the Kapustin Yar village library, the **Akhtubinsky district**, and were devoted to the Caspian Sea. The exhibition included photographs, postcards, brochures, numismatic materials describing people who contributed to the study of the Caspian Sea nature, as well as historical events that took place in the Caspian Sea aquatoria in the previous century.

In the Pirogovka village, **the Akhtubinsky District**, the teachers were able to attract children's attention to the Caspian Sea through the creative process. For three days the children were drawing **bright colorful pictures of the nature of the Caspian Sea** at the local Culture Club. In their work, they were able to depict the flora and fauna of the Caspian Sea and adjacent area, as well as elements of the folk art of the Caspian littoral states. On August 12, their drawings went to the **exhibition** of art masterpieces dedicated to the “Caspian Sea Day” celebration.



Artwork Exhibition

In the framework of this event, the following videos about the Caspian Sea were shown in the foyer of the cinema before movies with the aim to attract the public` attention to the ecological problems of the Caspian Sea: “7 facts about the Caspian Sea”, “Water resources of the Caspian Sea”.



Demonstration of Caspian videos in the cinema foyer

On August 3, at the **rural library of the Bolshoy Mogoy village, the Volodarsky district**, there was arranged a **book – exhibition “The wind in sails”** and conducted a thematic quiz “Over seas, over waves”. The librarian told the children about seas and ships. Books on the marine thematic were presented; souvenirs brought from the Sea were on display. The children spent the time with benefit and interest: they solved crosswords, puzzles, riddles.



**Caspian Festival in the Large Library**

**On August 6, at the rural library of the Tuluganovka village, the Volodarsky district**, an **exhibition “The Caspian Sea Is the Sea of Friendship”** was arranged. The exhibition presented literature about the Caspian Sea: the encyclopedia; poems of the Astrakhan poets such as a collection of poems “At the junction of Asia and Europe” by A. Parshin; “Near the Volga River, near the Caspian Sea” by N. Travushkin, etc. Also, a presentation about the Sea, its subsoil and animal world was delivered. On August 8, the library staff demonstrated a film titled “The Caspian Sea”. Afterwards, there was a lesson-journey “The Caspian sea is a pearl of the region”. At the lesson the children made a virtual trip to the Caspian littoral states.

For local residents on August 2 a book exhibition was organized in the Central Library - an introduction “We live near the Caspian Sea”. Each reader was able to familiarize himself with the presented books which tell about the nature of the Caspian Sea about the countries borders of Russia about the wealth of the natural resources of the Caspian Sea.



### Caspian Festival in the Tuluganov Rural Library

On August 9, an exhibition of children's drawings dedicated to the Caspian Sea was held at the Center for children left without parental care “Rucheyek” (“Trickle”) of **Ikryaninsky district**. Specially for that exhibition, pupils, with the help and support of teachers of the Center, presented their vision of the Caspian Sea, its flora and fauna, their understanding of the need for careful attitude to the nature wealth. All that was reflected in the pupils' drawings made in colored pencils, crayons, paints, and the most creative children used plasticine and colored paper in their work.





Day of the Caspian Sea in the village of Zhitnoye

On August 10, at the **library of the Kamyzyaksky district**, there was organized a **book/illustrations exhibition “Oh, Caspian Sea, sweet coast...!”** An eco-hour “The Caspian Sea salty breath” was conducted. The readers and residents of the town had an opportunity to listen to the literature review about the Caspian Sea, to take part in the local history quiz “Oh, Sea, sacred Sea, the mighty Caspian Sea surf...”.



Caspian Day in Kamyzyaka

On August 10, at the Central model library of **the Olya village, the Limansky district**, a **book exhibition** “Caspian Sea – a pearl of Russia” and an intellectual-educational game were arranged for pupils from the summer sports camp of the Olympic reserve school of the Astrakhan city.



On August 12, in the **Biryuchya Kosa village, the Limansky district**, a **book/illustrations exhibition** “Congratulations on the Caspian Sea Day” and an information/poetic hour “Sedoy Caspiy” (“Ancient Caspian Sea”) devoted to the Caspian Sea Day were held. The exhibition presented interesting facts about the Caspian Sea, legends and myths about the Sea, fiction, ecological and environmental literature. The librarian told about the history of development and study of the Caspian Sea, its uniqueness, the peoples and countries inhabiting its coast. An information on the ancestors of the village population, about their means of fishing in the Caspian Sea, history of a lighthouse in the Vyshka village and the “Caspian campaigns” of Peter I, was very interesting and educational.



Book exhibition "Flora and fauna of the Caspian Sea"

On August 12, at the Voskresenovka village library, the Limansky district, an eco-exhibition “You are in my soul, the Caspian Sea” was arranged. The librarian gave the children information about the **Framework Convention for the Protection of the Marine environment of the Caspian Sea (Tehran Convention)** signed by representatives of the five Caspian States. She drew children’s attention to the fact that **the Convention entered into force on August 12, 2006**. Then the children played an intellectual game about the Caspian Sea inhabitants. The game acquainted them with the wonderful and mysterious world of the Sea.



At the rural libraries of the Narimanovsky district, on August 10-12, there were arranged **book/illustrations exhibitions “Flora and fauna of the Caspian Sea”**.



On August 12, in the **Chernoyarsky district**, there was organized an **exhibition “Ecology and we”**. Besides, a literary/musical composition **“We live near the Caspian Sea!”** was held. Videos about people working at the Sea and about the Caspian flotilla were shown. The performance included songs about the Sea, poems about the Astrakhan region.



#### **ECOLOGICAL CAMPAIGNS TO CLEAN THE VOLGA RIVER BANKS “CLEAN BANKS”.**

On August 9 and 13, in the **Nikolskoye village of the Enotaevsky district, the Astrakhan region**, the environmental campaign **“Clean banks”** was held to clean up the **banks of the Volga River**. Participants removed garbage from the coastal territory near the Nikolskoye village. During the campaign about 3 m<sup>3</sup> of waste was removed. In addition, informational/educational hour **““The Caspian Sea Is the Sea of Friendship”** was conducted at the village secondary school with the participation of senior pupils. In the course of the event, they discussed issues related to the conservation of the marine biodiversity, ecological safety, monitoring of the water and coast pollution level.

Besides, there were shown videos about the protection of the Caspian Sea natural resources. Legends about its keepers were told; information on the flooded ancient civilizations in the coast area near the cities of Baku and Derbent, and on the unpredictability of the Caspian Sea, where the strength of storms is in the second place after the Bay of Biscay, was presented.



The action "Clean Shores"

Similar events were held on August 10 in the villages of Ikryanoe and Chulpan, the **Ikryaninsky district**. They include, *inter alia*, ecological campaign “Clean river – clean coast”, dedicated to the Caspian Sea Day. The pupils from the Center “Rucheyek” (“Trickle”) cleaned the eric coastal zone from household garbage.



The action "Clean Shores"



In the **Kamyzyaksky district**, by efforts of the participants, the banks of the rivers flowing through the town of **Kamyzyak**, as well as the adjacent territories, were cleared off debris.



Clean shores in the city of Kamyzyak

In the **Kharabalinsk district**, an ecological campaign “Clean banks for our rivers and lakes” was held.



On August 11, the staff of the Culture Club in the **Protochnoye village, the Limansky district**, conducted the action “**We can not do without water**”. All participants of the action cleaned coast and a coastal zone of the water body. The purpose of the event was to involve villagers of different social strata into addressing environmental problems.

The main purpose of the activities in the Astrakhan region, dedicated to the “Caspian Sea Day”-2018 under the Tehran Convention, was the formation of ecological awareness of the population, the drawing attention to the problems of the Caspian Sea marine and coastal environment protection, the education of children and youth in the spirit of careful attitude to nature.

The activities under the “Caspian Sea Day”-2018 in the Astrakhan region included educating children, young people and the general public, organizing exhibitions and cleaning rivers` banks from garbage campaigns.

**In 2018**, activities to clean the coast of the Caspian Sea, organized by the non-governmental environmental Fund named after V. I. Vernadsky, were conducted in the city of Lagan, **Republic of Kalmykia**.



In the framework of the **all-Russian campaign “Water of Russia”**, there were conducted **subbotniks (volunteer work) to clean the banks** of the Caspian navigable canal, the “Lagansky Bank” canal, the Olya-Caspian irrigation canal. In total, the youth organizations of the Lagan town cleared about 88 km of the coastline of the Caspian Sea canals.



In order to promote scientific, technical and project activities of schoolchildren of the Republic, aimed at addressing the problems of sustainable water use and conservation of aquatic biological resources, the regional phase of the Russian national water contest of scientific research and applied projects elaborated by the Kalmykia students on the “Protection and rehabilitation of water resources” was arranged. The project proposals submitted to the contest, including those from the coastal area in the Lagansky district of the Republic of Kalmykia, showed the students' interest in the problems of water resources conservation in the Republic.

**In 2018, in the Republic of Dagestan**, a number of activities were carried out with the aim to protect the Caspian Sea and its coast. It was mainly related to cleaning the marine and coastal zones of the Caspian Sea, as well as river banks.

Various environmental actions (subbotniks, conferences, etc.) involved the state authorities (ministries, departments and municipalities), as well as residents of cities and mountain areas of the Republic.

Successful addressing problems of the pollution prevention, reduction and control depends to a large extent upon the people's everyday behavior and awareness of these problems. A variety of practical campaigns, such as cleaning the coast, contribute to raising public awareness, to the growth of incentives for environmentally responsible behavior.

### **Ecological actions to clean up the Caspian Sea coast and river banks.**

The Republic of Dagestan joined the nationwide action “A big cleanup of the country”, initiated by a coalition of social and political organizations “The All-Russian Public Front”. Subbotniks were held in all municipal districts and cities of the region. The main objects of the cleanup were the **coast of the Caspian Sea and the Eltava forest in the Makhachkala city, and the Yaryg-su River bed in the Khasavyurt town.**

The nationwide action held in Makhachkala was supported by the Public Chamber of the Republic, students of the leading universities, schoolchildren, volunteers, enterprises engaged in garbage collecting and sorting, environmental and public organizations. The assistance in organizing and carrying out the subbotnik was rendered by the officials of the waste sorting enterprise and Administration of Makhachkala.

The subbotnik, which was conducted on the **coast of the Caspian Sea**, involved a lot of participants. The participants were divided into groups and were engaged in cleaning the large territory of the coast from debris. The work was carried out in the Eltava forest. The forest was in need of cleaning, as in recent years many spontaneous dumps had appeared. The territory was cleared in the coastal areas of the Caspian Sea.



Within the framework of the action “A big cleanup of the country”, the staff of the regional Rosprirodnadzor office carried out awareness-raising activity on the need to collect and remove garbage by local residents and fishermen who were fishing on the coast at that time. Under the project, there was launched an open network resource “Interactive map of landfills”, where the citizens could mark places of illegal garbage storage or landfills.



The garbage collection campaign was conducted on the coast of the **Sulak Canyon in the framework of the ecological project “Clean games”**. There were 50 participants in the action, and they formed 8 teams. In the format of a competition, they collected more than 400 bags of garbage.



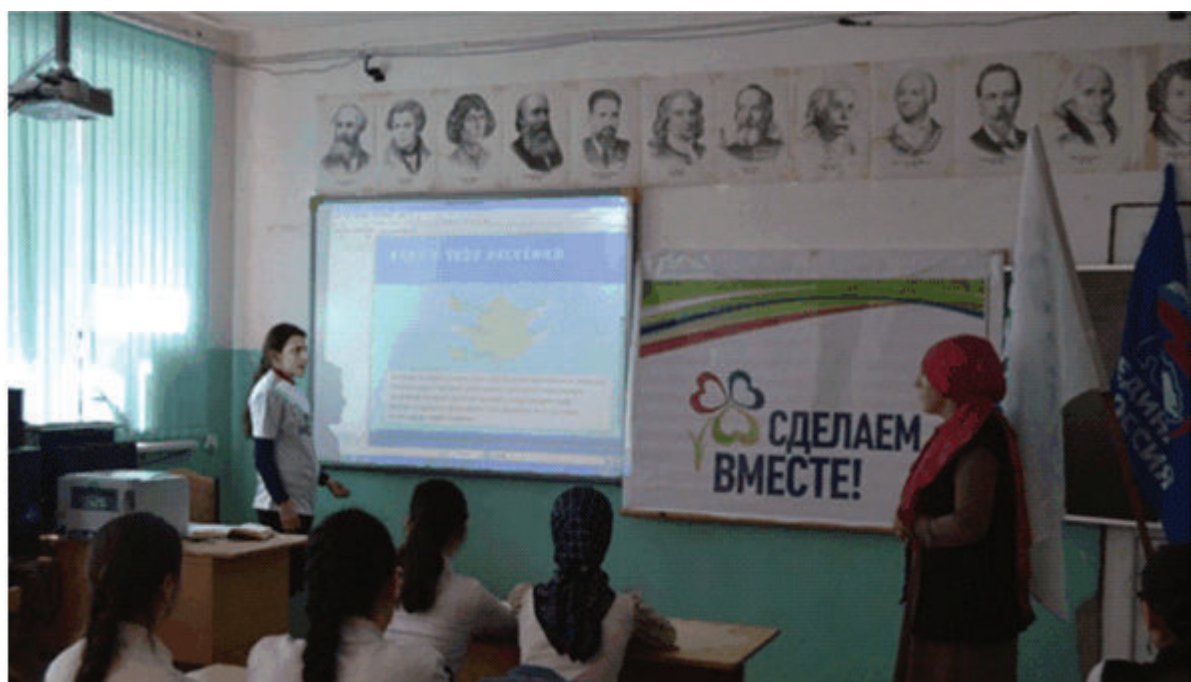
The participants, in a game format, obtained the experience of waste management, waste sorting, etc. They took responsibility for the cleared territory. And there were no losers in those competitions. After all, each participant made his own, a great contribution to a positive image of his native land.



An **ecological marathon**, which was held in 2018 in the capital of the Republic of Dagestan – Makhachkala and **involved over 800 individuals**, was important for the conservation of the Caspian Sea marine and coastal environment. The ecological marathon was organized by the Ministry of Youth of the Republic.

The flash mob was joined by “Lezginka” ensemble, Dagestan State Agrarian University, Dagestan State Technical University, Dagestan State University, and other educational institutions, as well as volunteers.

As a part of the campaign, activity was carried out to clean the area from dry leaves and branches. Cleaning took place along the Makhachkala-Caspiysk road and in other areas.



On September 17, **the international youth forum “Caspian Sea-2018”** was held in the **Karabudakhkent district of the Republic.**

The Forum was attended by 250 young people from 28 constituent entities of the Russian Federation and 5 foreign States, namely, Azerbaijan, Egypt, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and the Republic of Moldova.

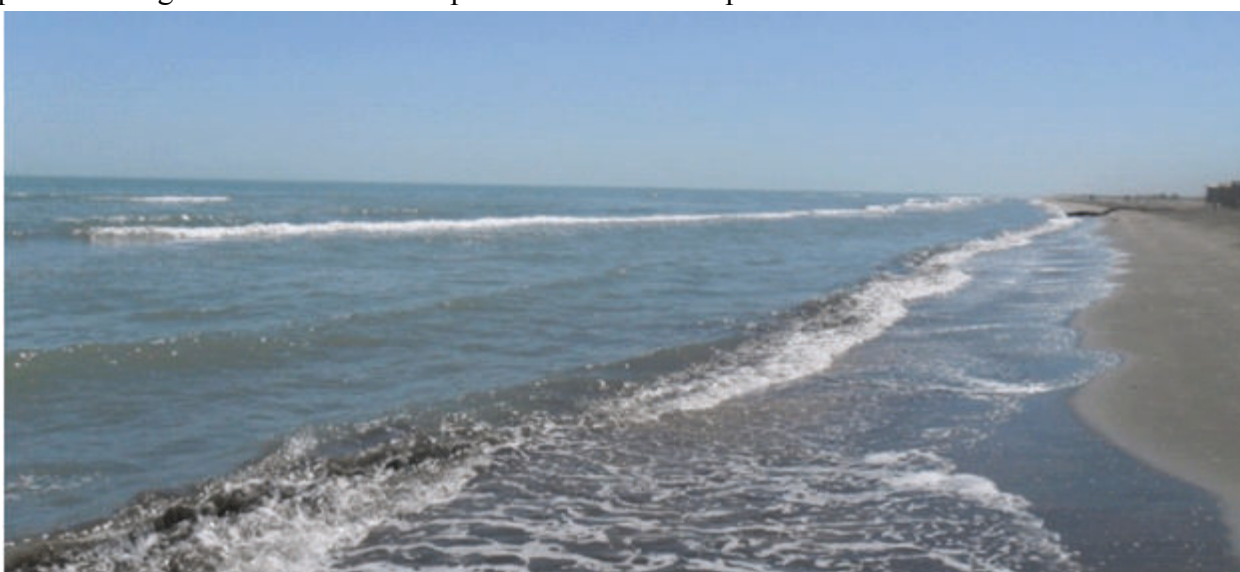
The participants and guests of the Forum conducted an ecological quest “Clean Caspian Sea” on the territory of the municipal beach in the Manas village. It resulted in 82 bags of garbage with a total weigh of half a ton.

The Forum was initiated by the Ministry of Youth of the Republic of Dagestan with the support of the Government of the Republic and the Federal Agency of Youth.



Dagestan was actively involved in the **Nationwide Campaign for cleaning water bodies and their shores titled “Water of Russia”**. Events were held on the Caspian Sea coast, water reservoirs, rivers and lakes of the Republic with the participation of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Ecology of the Republic of Dagestan.

All municipalities and urban districts of Dagestan, as well as all those interested, took part in ecological actions to clean up the coast of the Caspian Sea.



The beach territory in the Reduktorny district of Makhachkala with an area of several hectares was also cleaned off household garbage.

**In the Kaitagsky district, there took place an ecological campaign to clean up water bodies and their shores.** On that day, more than two thousand Kaitagsky district residents from all 16 municipalities of the district took part in cleaning the water areas. They carried out cleaning along the coastal lines of rivers and water protection zones located on the territory of their municipalities.



An ecological subbotnik on cleaning the **banks of the Chirag-Chai River** was held in the **Agulsky district under the action “Clean area - clean water”**. Cleaning the banks of the Chirag-Chai River prevents pollution of the Caspian Sea. The banks of the Chirag-Chai River between the village of Durushtul in the Agulsky district and the village of Khoredzh in the Khivsky district were cleared off garbage.



In the Republic of Dagestan, the action **“Clean coast”** is annually carried out by the Ministry of the Russian Federation for Civil Defense, Emergencies and Elimination of



Consequences of Natural Disasters. The action is aimed at cleaning the coastal area from landfills and garbage.



Measures to clean up garbage were undertaken in the coastal zone near the cities of Makhachkala, Izberbash, Dagestan Ogni.



The Dagestan branch of RusHydro and students from the Institute of Ecology and Sustainable Development of Dagestan State University conducted the **ecological campaign “oBEREGAy” (“Protect shores”)** in the Dubkinsky Forest – a popular recreation place of the Dagestan people and guests of the Republic. A **picturesque site on the Sulak Canyon** turned into a waste dump after a season of picnics and walks in nature. One could see there a lot of plastic bottles, dishes, bags and other non-degradable garbage. Traditionally, in the framework of “oBEREGAy” campaign the coastal areas are cleaned from garbage, but given the condition of Dubkinsky Forest, the decision was made to conduct also cleaning up in that forest. The student-ecologists gathered 120 bags of garbage in total.



In the Chirkey village (the **Buinaksky district**), the large-scale **ecological campaign “oBEREGAy”** took place as well. The ecological cleaning involved more than 150 people. Volunteers cleaned up garbage from the coastal area of the Chirkey water body, which is a favorite place of the local population and visitors for recreation and swimming. Such actions involve young people into addressing issues of ecosystem conservation, promote careful attitude towards the environment of the native land.



The “**Green routes**” activity envisages the development of tourist routes and ecological paths. The regional coordinator of that initiative was the Ministry of tourism. The participants cleaned the territory off natural and domestic debris, assessed the ecological status of the territory, and also considered routes from logistics point of view. Geographically, the events were held on the territory adjacent to the Sulak Canyon, as well as on the coastal territory of the Chirkey water body and on the territory of the Samur Forest.



Activity on **the protection of forests** is of importance for Dagestan. On August 17-18, under the **Khasavyurt district** ongoing action “Let’s clean forest of garbage”, another ecological clean-up was held to clean the territory of the forest Fund: the area of more than 5 km long became free of household waste and dry grass. The ecological groups conducted the action along the Republican highway and roads in the Botayurt and Bammatyurt settlements.



As a part of the **All-Russian ecological campaign “Live, forest!”** , the Kaitag forestry officials and the municipal district Administration organized planting of young trees of different species. The residents of the district rural settlements and administrations of the municipalities, heads and employees of the district organizations and institutions, directors of secondary schools, preschool staff and labor veterans supported that initiative. The purpose of the action was to attract special attention of society to the problems of restoring and increasing the forest resources in the region, as well as forming a careful attitude of young people and of the population of the region as a whole to the nature of the native land.



**The ecological action “Plant your tree” was conducted by schools of the Khasavyurtovsky district.** The action aimed at attracting attention of the pupils to the problems of the environment, as well as to the improvement of the school territory. During the event, the pupils planted more than 350 tree specimens.



Informing and educating, raising public awareness of the duty to prevent the environment pollution is the basis of a number of activities carried out in Dagestan in 2018.



The main purpose of the ecological measures was to attract public attention to the problems of the environment pollution, **ecological education and public awareness.**

The organizers of those events were the Dagestan Scientific/Local History Center in collaboration with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Ecology of the Republic of Dagestan and the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic.

The events involved more than 70 schools in the region. About 1800 pupils and 85 teachers took part in the activity. Also, the staff of the State Reserve “Dagestan”, scientists, postgraduates and students were involved in the work.

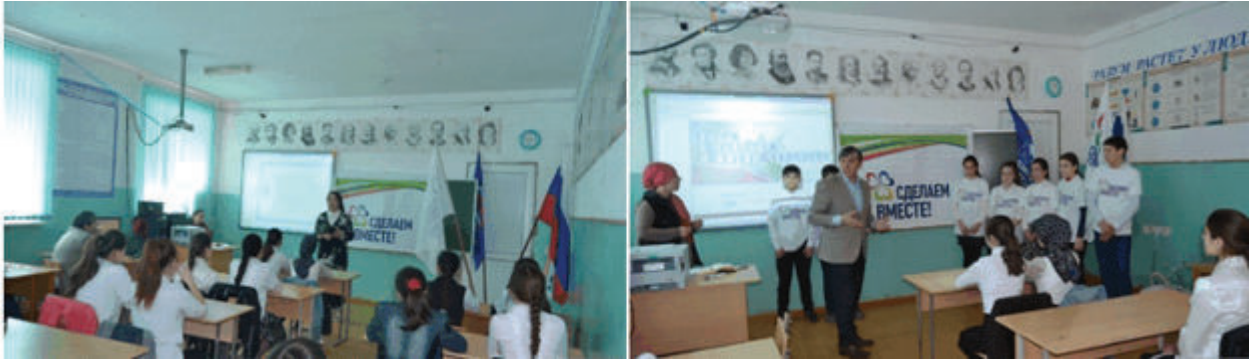
Library exhibitions of books, quizzes, ecological games, competitions, open lessons, round tables, class hours, exhibition of drawings were organized. The largest number of participants took part in subbotniks to clean and landscape the territories. Also, a series of discussions, videos demonstration were arranged.



Schoolchildren visited the specially protected natural areas of the Republic, where they were informed about the history of the reserves and delivered a presentation about the protected areas of Dagestan.



As a part of the All-Russian ecological campaign “**Water and health**”, **environmental lessons were held in the Akushinsky district**. About 30 pupils of 9-11th grades, including 8 activists of eco-action, participated in the environmental lesson. The schoolchildren need to know and to study the water bodies of their region. Taking it into account, they were informed about the properties of water, its chemical composition, the water cycle in nature and the human impact on water resources.



**The ecological and educational campaign “Let's do it together”** was held at the Palace of Children's Creativity in the town of **Buinaksk**. The main goal of the campaign was to increase students` environmental literacy, to reveal the actuality of environmental problems, to talk about everyday practices that allow each pupil to contribute to their solution, to identify eco-leaders and activists in the environmental field.



During the Campaign, the participants learned about the problems of the environment pollution, methods of separate waste collection and recycling, offered their solutions for the proper disposal of hazardous waste. They were able to test an “Ecobox”, in which they could dispose burned out bulbs and batteries.





Environmental education is one of the most important areas of activity of the **Dagestan Nature Reserve**, which includes:

- The Kizlyar Bay site, located in Tarumovsky district, in the northeast of Dagestan, at the mouth of the Kuma River. Its territory covers the Sea shallow waters and young drained areas along the western coast of the Caspian Sea;





- Reserve “Agrakhansky”, which is one of the most important nesting sites, migration stops and wintering of waterfowl and near-water birds on the western coast of the Caspian Sea;

- The Federal zakaznik “Samursky”.



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The staff of the Department of environmental education organized the corresponding work at schools, children's environmental associations, and higher educational institutions of the Republic of Dagestan.

The environmental associations “Naturalist” and “Sarykum” continued their activity in secondary schools located near the Sarykum site of the Reserve.

In the village of Kochubey, located near the reserved site “Kizlyar Bay”, collaboration was maintained with the group “Nature Protection”. In the village of Primorskiy, which is located on the territory of the Federal Reserve “Samursky”, the school forestry “Dubki” successfully functioned. The Reserve’s cooperation with schools № 43, 47 and 49 of Makhachkala, with the Republican Ecological and Biological Center for Pupils, schools № 2, 4 and 6, the city gymnasium and with the Young Naturalists Station of the Kaspiysk town was developing in 2018.

Ecological festivals, quizzes and contests, discussions, lectures, ecological lessons, the campaigns “Day of Birds”, “Day of the Environment”, “International Day of Biodiversity Conservation” and “Clean the Planet of garbage” involved thousands of pupils, students and ecological activists.

Exhibitions of children's drawings, applied art, mobile photo exhibitions were organized. The staff of the Department of environmental education arranged tours for visitors to the excursion zone, to the Visit Center and the Museum, along tourist routes and the ecological path of the Reserve “Wise Turtle Path”.

Films about the nature conservation (“The Caspian Sea Bays”, “Sarykumsky Dunes” and The Reserved Dagestan”) were created.

The staff of the **Yangiyurt<sup>1</sup> reserve in the Kumtorkalinsky district** conducted an informative lesson about the Reserve and its inhabitants for schoolchildren. The children were delivered a presentation “Nature reserves of the native land”, they were informed about animals and plants listed in the Red Data Book, and an ecological quiz was arranged.

The most active pupils received gifts, and the school was presented with a Red Data Book. Also, the staff of the Reserve together with the schoolchildren of the Ajidadin school collected garbage at one of the Reserve sites. The sanitary action was attended by 25 pupils.



<sup>1</sup> The Yangiyurt reserve was established on November 4, 1975. Its area is 22 thousand 670 hectares. It is located on the territory of Babayurtovsky, Kizilyurtovsky and Kumtorkalinsky districts of the Republic in the lower reaches of the Sulak River. There are 12 species of higher plants, 1 species of crustaceans, 28 species of insects, 3 species of fish, 1 species of reptiles, 34 species of birds and 8 species of mammals in the Reserve which are listed in the Red Data Books of Russia and Dagestan.

The main part of the Yangiyurt reserve overlaps with a key bird area (IBAS) of international importance “Yangiyurt reserve and the Bakas swamp” and listed in the directory of the North Caucasus IBAS. This area is of international importance for the nesting of an imperial eagle and roller, as well as for the nesting and passing of a little bastard.

In 2018, in the Republic of Dagestan, the main environmental events were actions to clean up the banks of rivers, the coastal zone of the Caspian Sea and the Samur forest Park from accumulated garbage. To this end, the Department of Youth with the participation of volunteer corps conducted actions “Clean coast” and “Take care of the forest”, and that was fully consistent with the relevant articles of the Tehran Convention and the Moscow Protocol.



In general, on the territory of all three Caspian constituent entities (the Astrakhan region, the Republic of Dagestan, the Republic of Kalmykia), the following actions took place: “Clean banks – clean rivers – clean seas”, “All rivers flow into the Sea” and actions to clean up the banks of small rivers and water bodies - “Clean banks to our rivers and lakes”.

The objectives of raising awareness and educating the young generation that realizes the value and importance of the natural environment for human life are solved by many regional educational institutions of ecological orientation.

At present, a significant number of organizations (libraries, schools, other educational institutions, cultural centers, public environmental organizations, etc.) in the Caspian constituent entities of the Russian Federation carry out activity on these issues.

From a "strategic" point of view, ecological improvement of the environment should be considered as a long-term process, which is determined by a fairly long period that is no less than 20-25 years. At the same time, we should talk about correlation of the processes of ecological improvement of the environment, on the one hand, and the intellectual development of new generations, on the other. Just as the marine environment of the Caspian Sea requires a radically new attitude to itself from society, so a school (primary and secondary) in the Caspian republics requires a fundamentally new environmental training and education approach. In this regard, measures concerning the activities of schools and schoolchildren in the Caspian regions/republics and the implementation of specific methods of environmental training and education are of particular importance.

In this context, the events (various Olympiads, quizzes, exhibitions of drawings, etc.) organized for schoolchildren in the Astrakhan region and, partly, in the Republic of Dagestan, are of great significance for educating and raising awareness purposes.

In the Astrakhan region, most events were devoted to the “Caspian Sea Day” under the Tehran Convention.

The participation of the public and other stakeholders of the region in the conservation of the Caspian Sea marine and coastal environment and biodiversity contributes to the implementation of the Tehran Convention main thematic areas (prevention, reduction and control of pollution, protection, preservation and restoration of the marine environment, etc.). It is based on the experience and existing structures of the public environmental initiatives in the region and corresponds to the main activity directions and events under the Public Participation Strategy of the Tehran Convention.