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**CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES  
Sixth Meeting  
19-21 October 2022, Baku, Azerbaijan**

**Collaboration with CASPCOM**

(Note by the interim Secretariat)

**Introduction**

The Coordinating Committee on Hydrometeorology and Pollution Monitoring of the Caspian Sea (CASPCOM) is the successor of the Coordinating Committee on Hydrometeorology and Pollution Monitoring of the Caspian Sea, which was established in 1994 by hydrometeorological services of the Caspian littoral states with the active support of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO). The main objectives of CASPCOM are coordination, standardization, cooperation and improving in the fields of hydrometeorology and pollution monitoring of the Caspian Sea.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between CASPCOM and the Tehran Convention interim Secretariat (TCIS) was signed on 27-28 November 2013 during the 18<sup>th</sup> Session of the CASPCOM in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan (TC/COP5/5 of 6 March 2014). The MoU was welcomed by the Fifth Meeting of the Conference of Parties to the Tehran Convention (COP5) (TC/COP5/9, Annex V – Ministerial Statement and Decisions). The MoU is attached as the Annex I.

**Historic overview**

CASPCOM participated conventionally in Meetings of the Conference of the Parties to the Tehran Convention as well as other meetings organized under the Tehran Convention in the capacity of an observer. TCIS conversely participated in the sessions of CASPCOM. Throughout the years of cooperation CASPCOM provided numerous contributions to the Tehran Convention activities, in particular while in the field of environmental monitoring and assessment. The involvement of CASPCOM was also prominent in developing climate change related project proposals.

**Scientific Conference on Climate Change in the Caspian Sea Region**

One of the recent examples of the cooperation between two regional bodies was a Scientific Conference on Climate Change in the Caspian Sea Region. In view of tangible changes in the water sea level fluctuations of the Caspian Sea an urgent need was recognized for further research in this field. At the 24<sup>th</sup> session of CASPCOM, 10–11 December 2019, Tehran, Iran, the idea was revealed to hold the Scientific Conference to obtain more climate change related information.

In this context, the Scientific Conference on Climate Change in the Caspian Sea Region was organized under the auspices of the CASPCOM and the TCIS in October 2021. The Conference, held online, brought together over 80 leading scientists from the Caspian littoral states and other countries. The preparation of the Conference was coordinated by an Organizing Committee consisting of designated representatives of the Caspian littoral States serviced and supported by representatives of CASPCOM and UNEP/TCIS. The Terms of Reference and the Composition of the Organizing Committee are attached as the Annex III. The Organizing Committee of the Conference and the panel of reviewers, which included the scientists from different countries, decided on 40 abstracts to be presented at the Conference, as well as on those to be published in the follow-up to the Conference.

The Conference was chaired by Dr. Sahar Tajbakhsh, President of the Iranian Metrological Organization and reviewed over 35 selected and presented scientific studies within the four thematic sections: 1) Climate of the Caspian Sea region and its changes in the 21<sup>st</sup> century; 2) The Caspian Sea level change: analysis, modeling, and long-term projection; 3) The effects of climate change on the ecosystem and biodiversity of the Caspian Sea; and 4) Adaptation to climate change in the Caspian Sea region. The Annotated Agenda of the Conference is contained in the Annex IV. The list of participants of the Conference is attached as well as the Annex V. The Procedural Report of the Conference is contained in the Annex II.

Following the results of the Conference, a list of Recommendations for the Caspian littoral states and academia was compiled as recommendations of the Conference. The Participants to the Conference recommended *inter alia* to establish a network of scientists supported by a thesaurus of climate change related research, to advise and assist the Parties to the Tehran Convention and members of CASPCOM in the development and implementation of their climate change related policies and cooperation. The Proceedings of the Conference were published on 13 June, 2022. The Recommendations and the Proceedings of the Conference are contained in the Annexes VI and VII respectively.

The results of the Conference were communicated to the Caspian littoral countries by the letter from Mr. Mahir Aliyev, Coordinator of the TCIS and Ms Elena Ostrovskaya, Coordinator of CASPCOM dated 29 June, 2022. The full recording of the Conference is available on the Tehran Convention website (<https://tehranconvention.org/en/news/scientific-conference-climate-change-caspian-sea-region-materials-are-available-viewing>).

#### **Suggested action**

The Conference may wish to:

- Welcome the organization and outcomes of the Scientific Conference on Climate Change in the Caspian Sea Region and express its gratitude to the Organizing Committee of the Conference, along with the Chair, keynote speakers and the CASPCOM for their significant contribution;
- Request the TCIS and the CASPCOM to develop the Terms of Reference and working arrangements for the network of scientists supported by a thesaurus of climate change related research, to advise and assist the Parties to the Tehran Convention and members of CASPCOM in the development and implementation of their climate change related policies and cooperation for consideration of the COP7 and CASPCOM.

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
between the Framework Convention  
for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Caspian Sea  
and the Coordinating Committee on Hydrometeorology  
and Pollution Monitoring of the Caspian Sea**

**Recognizing** the uniqueness and integrity of the Caspian Sea, its significant natural resource and economic potential, whose rational use is of paramount importance for the sustainable development of Caspian littoral states;

**Noting** the common interest in development of the Caspian Sea monitoring for preservation of its environment;

**Emphasizing** the importance of providing the end-users with reliable hydrometeorological data and information on the state of the environment, to assist them in their activities, as well as in solving social, economic and environmental problems of the Caspian Sea;

**Acknowledging** the assistance from the international organizations, foundations, and donors towards solution of the economic and environmental problems of the Caspian Sea;

**Relying** on commitments of the Caspian littoral states to render support to activities towards the sustainable development of the Caspian Sea region

the Framework Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Caspian Sea (Tehran, 2003) and the Coordinating Committee on Hydrometeorology and Pollution Monitoring of the Caspian Sea (CASPCOM), hereinafter referred to as the "Parties", have agreed as follows:

- The Parties will provide effective contributions to implementation of the objectives under the Framework Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Caspian Sea, as well as the objectives under the Integrated Programme on Hydrometeorology and Pollution Monitoring of the Caspian Sea (CASPAS);
- The Parties will cooperate in the field of hydrometeorology and pollution monitoring of the Caspian Sea. To this end, CASPCOM will avail the Framework Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Caspian Sea of data and information obtained by CASPCOM that are pertinent to solution of the social, economic, and environmental problems of the Caspian Sea, provided that such transfer of information will be executed in accordance with the agreed legal standards required for this procedure.

For its part, the Framework Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Caspian Sea will refer to CASPCOM as an authoritative source of data and information pertaining to the hydrometeorology and monitoring of environmental pollution of the Caspian Sea;

- The Parties will undertake concrete steps to provide practical assistance to the Caspian states for rehabilitation and development of an integrated regional observation system and exchange of hydrometeorological data and information on the state and pollution of the Caspian Sea;
- The Parties will provide consultations and keep each other informed on the ongoing and scheduled activities and initiatives of mutual interest;
- The Parties will undertake appropriate administrative measures to ensure their participation in the sessions and meetings of mutual interest;
- The Parties will appoint their authorized focal points for keeping contacts on the issues of mutual interest.

Signed in the city of Ashgabat on the twenty-eighth day of November of 2013  
in two English copies.

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



Mahir Aliyev  
Regional Coordinator  
UNEP Regional Office  
for Europe

For  
the Coordinating Committee  
on Hydrometeorology  
and Pollution Monitoring  
of the Caspian Sea



Baty尔 Hallyyev  
Chairman of the Coordinating  
Committee on Hydrometeorology  
and Pollution Monitoring  
of the Caspian Sea

**Annex II****Scientific Conference on Climate Change in the Caspian Sea region****27-28 October 2021****Introduction**

The Conference was organized under the auspices of the Coordinating Committee on Hydrometeorology of the Caspian Sea (CASPCOM) and the Interim Secretariat of the Framework Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Caspian Sea (Tehran Convention).

Its key objectives were to:

- 1) Collect and discuss recent findings related to climate change and its consequences for the Caspian Sea region;
- 2) Identify key research and knowledge gaps related to climate change;
- 3) Inspire global and regional research that will lead to peer-reviewed publications and scientific reports;
- 4) Stimulate global awareness among stakeholders of climate change in the Caspian Sea region;
- 5) Promote and support improved identification of current and future predictable climate change effects on coastal economies, populations and the natural resources of the Caspian Sea and its basin.

The following 4 themes were chosen as the core focus of the Conference:

- 1) Climate of the Caspian Sea region and its changes in the 21st century.
- 2) The Caspian Sea level change: analysis, modeling, and long-term projection.
- 3) The effects of climate change on the ecosystem and biodiversity of the Caspian Sea.
- 4) Adaptation to climate change in the Caspian Sea region.

The preparation of the Conference was coordinated by an Organizing Committee consisting of designated representatives of the Caspian littoral States serviced and supported by representatives of CASPCPOM and UNEP/TCIS.

In the course of the preparatory process abstracts were solicited from scientists, focusing on the objectives, methodology and results of their work. In total 82 abstracts were received. The book of abstracts is in preparation and will be published in June 2022.

Assisted by experts from UNEP the Organizing Committee, in 6th meetings reviewed the contributions, prepared and submitted a summary evaluation per theme to the Conference for its consideration.

On the basis of the review and nominations from the Riparian States, the Organizing Committee selected a moderator and speakers for each of the themes.

**The Conference**

The Conference elected Dr. Sahar Tajbakhsh, President of the Iranian Meteorological Organization, as Chair, Ms. Elena Ostrovskaya, CASPAS Coordinator, CASPCOM and Mr. Mateusz Benko, Tehran Convention Officer, UNEP as rapporteurs.

Under agenda item 1 welcome and keynote addresses were made by 1) Dr. Sahar Tajbakhsh, President of the Iranian Metrological Organization; 2) Mr. Mahir Aliyev, Coordinator of the Interim Secretariat of the Tehran Convention; 3) Ms. Danara Alimbayeva, Director General of Kazhydromet, Chair of the CASPCOM; 4) Ms. Andrea Hinwood, UNEP Chief Scientist and 5) Mr. Hoesung Lee, Chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

The discussion on theme 1 was moderated by Ms. Svetlana Dolgikh, Candidate of Geographical Sciences, Head of climatic research department of RSE "Kazhydromet" Research Center.

The discussion on theme 2 was moderated by Mr. Mikhail Bolgov, Doctor of Technical Sciences, Head of the Surface Water Modeling Laboratory, Chief Researcher of the Water Problems Institute, Member of the Russian National Committee for the UNESCO Intergovernmental Hydrological Program.

The discussion on theme 3 was moderated by Ms. Natalia Ogar, Doctor of Biological Sciences, Corresponding member of the National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Corresponding member of Russian Academy of Natural Sciences. Director of "Terra-Priroda" Ltd.

The discussion on theme 4 was moderated by Mr. Murad Atadjanov, Director, Institute of the Caspian Sea of Turkmenistan.

In its final plenary session, the Conference reviewed and adopted the compilation of the recommendations prepared at the break-out sessions.

Closing remarks were made by keynote speakers as well as representatives of the Tehran Convention and CASPCOM after which the Chair declared the Conference closed.

A full list of participants to the Conference is attached.

#### **Follow-up**

As discussed and agreed upon by the Conference its full proceedings will be captured and published in a Book of abstracts. The Participants to the Scientific Conference on Climate Change in the Caspian Sea region recommended that, based on the outcome and proceedings of the Conference, a network of scientists be established supported by a thesaurus of climate change related research, to advise and assist the Parties to the Tehran Convention and members of CASPCOM in the development and implementation of their climate change related policies and cooperation.

**Terms of Reference of the Organizing Committee****Scientific Conference on Climate Change in the Caspian Sea region**

The Organizing Committee will be serviced, and its work and operations will be overseen by the Secretariats of the Tehran Convention (interim Secretariat) and CASPCOM. The Committee will ensure that the contributions to and reports of the Conference are science-based and take political sensitivities into account. The decisions of the Committee will be taken by consensus while leaving room for recording dissenting opinions. Members who are not able to attend meetings where decisions are taken will be allowed to join the consensus or register their dissenting opinion through the Secretariats. In cases where no consensus can be reached, the Committee Chair/Co-Chair in consultation with the Secretariats of the Tehran Convention and CASPCOM will decide.

The main functions of the Organizing Committee are to:

1. Organize itself and nominate a Chair, Co-Chair and a rapporteur;
2. Promote the conference among interested parties; members should explore and apply all means to maximize public knowledge and interest in the Conference in their respective countries;
3. Encourage, coordinate and oversee the inputs and participation from the Caspian states, international organizations and audience;
4. Plan and undertake the necessary preparatory activities, both at the regional and national levels;
5. Select the Conference Chair and communicate with him/her during the preparatory process and the conference;
6. Guide the development of the scientific program to ensure the content is relevant and meets the objectives of the Conference;
7. Oversee the call for abstracts as well as the subsequent review and selection of abstracts for inclusion in the Conference program;
8. Monitor the progress of the scientific program at the Conference;
9. Select all session moderators and speakers, to be confirmed by the Conference;
10. Prepare the conference proceedings for decision and adoption by the Conference participants.

The Organizing Committee can perform all these functions itself or nominate a core scientific committee consisting of three members , with the possibility to co-opt additional members (if needed). They will deal with the abstract reviewing, selection of the session speakers, scientific program and preparation of the proceedings as an editorial group (Functions 5-9). While the scientific committee works independently, accountability and feedback to the organizing committee is to be maintained.

## Composition of the Organizing Committee

### Scientific Conference

Country	Name	Position	Email Mobile phone number
Azerbaijan	Mr. Akbar Asgarov,	Head Organization and methodological support of surveillance systems division, National Hydrometeorology Service,	<a href="mailto:akber1@yandex.ru">akber1@yandex.ru</a> <a href="tel:+994553315830">+994553315830</a>
Iran	Dr. Hamid Alizadeh Ketek Lahijani.	Deputy of Research and Technology, Iranian National Institute for Oceanography and Atmospheric Science	<a href="mailto:lahijani@inio.ac.ir">lahijani@inio.ac.ir</a> <a href="mailto:hamidlahijani@gmail.com">hamidlahijani@gmail.com</a> +989121159462
Kazakhstan	Ms. Natalya Ivkina	Head Department of Hydrometeorological research of the Caspian Sea, RSE "Kazhydromet"	<a href="mailto:ivkina_n@meteo.kz">ivkina_n@meteo.kz</a> <a href="tel:+77772734436">+77772734436</a>
Russian Federation	Mr. Igor Shkolnik	Head "Voeikov Main Geophysical Observatory"	<a href="mailto:igor@main.mgo.rssi.ru">igor@main.mgo.rssi.ru</a>
Turkmenistan	Ms. Elena Kamneva -	Engineer-Hydrologist Department of Hydrology Hydrometeorological Service	<a href="mailto:ytwehab93@gmail.com">ytwehab93@gmail.com</a>
TC Secretariat	Mr. Frits Schlingemann	Senior Advisor TC Secretariat	<a href="mailto:schlingemann.frits@gmail.com">schlingemann.frits@gmail.com</a> +41793571414
CASPCOM	Ms. Elena Ostrovskaya	Coordinator CASPCOM	<a href="mailto:eostrovskaya@mail.ru">eostrovskaya@mail.ru</a> <a href="tel:+79064558488">+79064558488</a>

Resource person: Mr. Matthew Billot, UNEP, Science division, [matthew.billot@un.org](mailto:matthew.billot@un.org)

## PROVISIONAL ANNOTATED PROGRAMME

**Wednesday, 27 October 2021 (CET Time)**

(+1h Moscow; +1.5h Tehran; +2h Baku; +3h Ashgabat; +4h Nursultan)

*Please kindly connect 30 minutes before the beginning of the Conference to make sure that everything works correctly.*

*In case of technical issues, please, address to*

**Room 1** - Mr. Daniel Nixdorf; (EN) [danixdo@posteo.org](mailto:danixdo@posteo.org) (+31 6 461 620 96; WhatsApp)

Ms. Kristina Russkikh; (EN&RU) [kristina.russkikh@un.org](mailto:kristina.russkikh@un.org) (+7 985 490 50 30; WhatsApp)

**Room 2** - Mr. Denis Shipilov (RU) [cyberden85@gmail.com](mailto:cyberden85@gmail.com) (+7 960 861 01 90; WhatsApp)

Ms. Julie Nevski (EN&RU) [julie.nevski@un.org](mailto:julie.nevski@un.org) (+41 78 628 80 58; WhatsApp)

**Room 1** (plenary session)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83908334451?pwd=UjRDL0tKRm1pSW81c25pQzJvSHdUdz09>

Meeting ID: 839 0833 4451; Passcode: 696062

- 8:00 – 8:30            -     Opening of the Conference (plenary session)

The Conference will be opened and chaired by **Dr. Sahar Tajbakhsh**, President of the Iranian Metrological Organization.

- Welcome address by the representative of the Tehran Convention Secretariat  
**Mr. Mahir Aliyev**, Coordinator of the Interim Secretariat of the Tehran Convention
  - Welcome address the representative of the CASPCOM  
**Ms. Danara Alimbayeva**, Director General of Kazhydromet
  - Message by UNEP Chief Scientist  
**Ms. Andrea Hinwood**
  - Message by Chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change  
**Mr. Hoesung Lee**
- 8:30 – 8:45            -     Presentation of the Conference objectives (plenary session)  
**Ms. Elena Ostrovskaya**, CASPCOM representative will present the programme of the Conference and outline its objectives.

The Conference has been organized by CASPCOM and the Tehran Convention interim Secretariat (TCIS) through an Organizing Committee consisting of representatives of the two organizations and of the five Caspian States. The Organizing Committee was chaired by Dr. Hamid Alizadeh Ketek Lahijani, Deputy of Research and Technology, Iranian National Institute for Oceanography and Atmospheric Science. The Organizing Committee selected the themes, abstracts and speakers of the Conference, prepared recommendations for each of the themes, and will be responsible for the Report and the Book of Abstracts to be issued after the Conference.

Following the welcome addresses, the four Conference themes will each be introduced by a keynote speaker. The keynote speakers will then each moderate a breakout session with up to 10 presentations, with a short time for Q&A. Each presenter is requested to summarize his/her presentation and ensuing Q&A discussion in one or two paragraphs for inclusion in the report of the Conference. The keynote speakers will be assisted by members of the Secretariat (CASPCOM; TCIS).

The Organizing Committee has prepared a set of recommendations for each of the 4 themes. They will be presented and shown on the screen at the end of each breakout session. Keynote speakers, presenters and participants are invited to consider and submit additional recommendations until a week

after the Conference. The recommendations will be annexed to the Report of the Conference.

The Report of the Conference and the Book of Abstracts will be prepared by the Organizing Committee after the Conference and will be widely distributed. The Report of the Conference will indicate how the Conference was organized and conducted and include summaries of what has been presented and said at the Conference, as prepared and submitted by the speakers and presenters. The list of members of the Organizing Committee, the list of Conference participants and a list of all abstracts submitted with an indication of their selection will be annexed to the Report. The Book of Abstracts will, apart from an introductory part include the abstracts selected by the Organizing Committee for publication, each with a reference to the full article or underlying research.

8:45 – 10:30 - Keynote presentations (plenary session)

1. Climate of the Caspian Sea region and its changes in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

**Ms. Svetlana Dolgikh,**

Candidate of Geographical Sciences, Head of climatic research department of RSE "Kazgidromet"

2. The Caspian Sea level change: analysis, modelling, and long-term projection.

**Mr. Mikhail Bolgov,**

Doctor of Technical Sciences, Chief Researcher of the Water Problems Institute, Member of the Russian National Committee for the UNESCO Intergovernmental Hydrological Program

3. The effects of climate change on the ecosystem and biodiversity of the Caspian Sea.

**Ms. Natalia Ogar,**

Doctor of Biological Sciences, Corresponding member of the National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Kazakhstan and Russian Academy of Natural Sciences. Director of "Terra-Priroda" Ltd.

4. Adaptation to climate change in the Caspian Sea region.

**Mr. Murad Atadjanov**

Director of the Institute of the Caspian Sea, Turkmenistan

10:30 – 11:00 Coffee break

11:00 – 12:00 Breakout sessions

#### Room 1

**Climate of the Caspian Sea region and its changes in the 21st century.**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83908334451?pwd=UjRDL0tKRm1pSW81c25pQzJvSHdUdz09>

Meeting ID: 839 0833 4451; Passcode: 696062

#### Room 2

**The Caspian Sea level change: analysis, modelling, and long-term projection.**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83294910013?pwd=RS9hOULubS9WNmd3UVFDAJJSZVIKdz09>

Meeting ID: 832 9491 0013 Passcode: 248762

Moderator: **Ms. Svetlana Dolgikh,**

10 min for each presentation

5 min for Q&A after each of the presentation

20 min Recommendation

1) Climate research in the Turkmen part of the Caspian Sea

**Ms. Maral Mukhammedova**

Moderator: **Mr. Mikhail Bolgov,**

10 min for each presentation

5 min for Q&A after each of the presentation

20 min Recommendation

1) Effect of Long-Term Variations in Wind Regime over Caspian Sea Region on the Evolution of its Level in 1948–2017

**Mr. Nikolay Dianskiy**

Ms. Tatiana Vyruchalkina  
Mr. Vladimir Fomin

2) Modern Changes in Atmospheric Precipitation  
on the Absheron Peninsula of Azerbaijan  
**Mr. Said Safarov**

Mr. Elnur Safarov,  
Mr. Dzamal Guseynov  
Ms. Naila Ismayilova

3) Storm Surges in the Northern Part of the  
Caspian Sea and Atmospheric Circulation

**Ms. Galina Surkova**

Mr. Viktor Arkhipkin,  
Mr. Ivan Okhlopkov

4) Simulation of Dust Emission in Gorgan Bay  
Area in Semi-Arid Conditions

**Ms. Parvin Ghafarian**

Mr. Hamid A.K. Lahijani  
Mr. Mohammadreza Mohammadpour Penchah

2) Modelling of Projected Caspian Sea Level  
under Increasing Anthropogenic Climate Change  
and Human Water Withdrawals during 21<sup>st</sup>  
Century

**Mr. Sifan A. Koriche**

Ms. Joy S. Singarayer  
Ms. Hannah L. Cloke

3) Future Decline of the Caspian Sea Level: Does  
the North Atlantic Oscillation Matter?

**Mr. Matthias Prange**

Ms. Sri Nandini-Weiss  
Ms. Ute Merkel  
Mr. Klaus Arpe

4) Modeling of the Caspian Sea Level in Various  
Climatic Conditions Using the IVMIO-CICE  
Oceanic Model and the INMCM Climate Model

**Ms. Polina Morozova**

Mr. Konstantin Ushakov  
Mr. Evgeniy Volodin  
Mr. Vladimir Semyonov

12:00 – 13:00 -      Lunch break

13:00– 15:30      *Continued: Breakout sessions*

#### Room 1

**Climate of the Caspian Sea region and its  
changes in the 21st century**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83908334451?pwd=UjRDL0tKRm1pSW81c25pQzJvSHdUdz09>

Meeting ID: 839 0833 4451; Passcode: 696062

5) Volga Delta Hydrological Regime under  
Conditions of Modern Climate Changes

**Ms. Olga Gorelits**

Ms. Galina Ermakova  
Mr. Igor Zemlyanov  
Ms. Anna Sapozhnikova  
Ms. Inga Milutina

6) Evidences of the so-called 4.2 climate event  
observed in the cores collected from the

#### Room 2

**The Caspian Sea level change: analysis,  
modelling, and long-term projection**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83294910013?pwd=RS9hOUIubS9WNmd3UVFDAJJSZVIKdz09>

Meeting ID: 832 9491 0013 Passcode: 248762

5) Modeling of Wind Waves at the Port of Aktau  
**Ms. Aizat Yeltay**

Ms. Natalia Ivkina

6) Numerical Modeling of Physical  
Oceanography Properties in the Southern

southern Caspian Basin  
**Mr. Hadi Gerivani**

Mr. Hamid A.K. Lahijani  
Ms. Victoria Putans

7) Evaluation of Climate Model Simulations of the Caspian Sea Region  
**Ms. Kim Stadelmaier**

Mr. Patrick Ludwig  
Mr. Joaquim Pinto

Caspian Sea  
**Mr. Javad Babagoli Matikolaei**

Mr. Behzad Layeghi

7) Assessment of the Impact of the Caspian Sea Level Falling to the Coastal Zone Geomorphology Characteristics of the Caspian Sea from the Cape Bandovan to Astarachay River of the Azerbaijan Water Basin Based on Satellite Image Processing  
**Ms. Turkan Mamishova**

Mr. Amir Soltan Aliyev  
Mr. Rauf Haji Gardashov

8) Projected Changes in Precipitation Intensity in the Southern Coast of the Caspian Sea Using a CMIP6 Multi-Model Ensemble

**Ms. Azar Zarrin**

Mr. Abbasali Dadashi-Roudbari

8) The Flow of the Volga River with Global Warming by 1.5 and 2 Degrees

**Mr. Andrey Kalugin**

9) Volga Water Flow under Conditions of Holocene Optimum and Scenario Anthropogenic Climate Changes in the 21<sup>st</sup> century

**Mr. Alexander Georgiadi**

Ms. Irina Milyukova

9) A Non-Linear Model of Caspian Sea Level Fluctuations in Paleotime

**Mr. Anatoly Frolov**

10) Assessment of Changes in the Caspian Sea Ice Cover by the End of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century According to Climate Scenarios

**Ms. Zhanar Naurozbaeva**

The breakout session will be concluded by the recommendations prepared by the Organizing Committee followed by a brief Q&A

10) Climate Changes and Fluctuations in the Caspian Sea Level: A Retrospective Analysis for the Last 10,000 Years

**Ms. Tamara Yanina**

Mr. Boris Romanyuk  
Mr. Valentin Sorokin

The breakout session will be concluded by the recommendations prepared by the Organizing Committee followed by a brief Q&A

**Thursday, 28 October 2021 (CET Time)**

9:00 – 10:30 - Breakout sessions

**Room 1**

**The effects of climate change on the ecosystem and biodiversity of the Caspian Sea**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88263227367?pwd=Vi9qOXVjQUdOTWRGOGt2dG5qcXBHQ09>

Meeting ID: 882 6322 7367 Passcode: 106620

Moderator: **Ms. Natalia Ogar**

*10 min for each presentation*

*5 min for Q&A after each of the presentation*

*20 min Recommendation*

1) Projected 2100 Caspian Sea Level Drop Has Devastating Consequences

**Mr. Frank P. Wesselingh**

Mr. Matteo Lattuada

Mr. Thomas Wilke,

Ms. Sri Nandini-Weiss

Mr. Matthias Prange

Mr. Maxim Vinarski

PRIDE Team

2) EMODnet Seabed Habitats – Delivering a Habitat Map for the Caspian Basin

**Mr. Fergal McGrath**

EMODnet Seabed Habitats consortium

3) Assessment of the state of the Caspian Sea ecosystem due to the impact of climate changes in recent years based on the results of studies in the coastal waters of Azerbaijan

**Mr. Elchin Mamedov**

Mr. Mehman Akhundov

Ms. Elnara Jafarova

4) On the dynamics of the biodiversity of the Turkmen sector of the Caspian Sea depending on climate variability

**Mr. Eldar Rustamov**

**Room 2**

**Adaptation to climate change in the Caspian Sea region**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82031123891?pwd=dG5sRU5GcmZiRnJqOEwyKythQjhJZ09>

Meeting ID: 820 3112 3891 Passcode: 709193

Moderator: **Mr. Murad Atadjanov**

*10 min for each presentation*

*5 min for Q&A after each of the presentation*

*20 min Recommendation*

1) Methodological Bases of Strategies for Adaptation to Climate Change in the Regions of Russia

**Ms. Elena Akentieva**

2) Lower Volga Region Water Management under Conditions of Climate Changes

**Mr. Igor Zemlyanov**

Mr. Mikhail Bolgov

Mr. Alexander Buber

Ms. Olga Gorelits

3) Urbanization and Climate Change Adaptation in Coastal area of Caspian Sea; Challenges and Solutions; with focus on Iran and Azerbaijan

**Mr. Mehrdad Rahmani**

Ms. Katja Schaefer

Mr. Mateusz Benko

Ms. Cerin Kizhakkethottam

Mr. Soumyadeep Banerjee

4) Towards the Possibilities of Achieving Land Degradation Neutrality in the Countries of the Caspian Region (on the Example of Russia, Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan)

**Mr. German Kust**

Mr. Alexandr Shcherbina  
 Mr. Sakhmatmurat Mammedov

Ms. Olga Andreeva  
 Ms. Daria Shklyaeva  
 Mr. Vasiliy Lobkovskiy

10:30 – 11:00 - Coffee break

11:00 – 13:00 - *Continued:* Breakout sessions

### **Room 1**

#### **The effects of climate change on the ecosystem and biodiversity of the Caspian Sea**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88263227367?pwd=Vi9qOXVjQUdOTWRGOGt2dG5qcXBHOT09>  
 Meeting ID: 882 6322 7367 Passcode: 106620

5) Changes in the Trophic Capacity and Productivity of the Northern Caspian Sea under the Influence of a Changing Climate

**Ms. Larisa Degtyareva**

Ms. Elena Ostrovskaya  
 Mr. Roman Kashin

6) The Potential Impact of 21st Century Climate Change on Caspian Seals (*Pusa caspica*)

**Mr. Simon Goodman**

Mr. Harrison Tan

7) Impact of the Climate Change and the Regression of the Caspian Sea on the Distribution and Abundance of the Caspian Seal (*Pusa Caspica*)

**Mr. Mirgaliy Baimukanov**

8) The Effects of Climate Change on the Iranian Side of the Caspian Sea Fish Stocks

**Ms. Mahnaz Rabbanipa**

Mr. Fereidoon Owfi

Mr. Hasan Fazli

Mr. Akbar Pourgholami

9) Study of the Flora of the Caspian Desert in the Context of Climate Change

**Ms. Ogulnabat Rakhmanova**

### **Room 2**

#### **Adaptation to climate change in the Caspian Sea region**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82031123891?pwd=d=dG5sRU5GcmZiRnJqOEwvKythQjhJZ09>  
 Meeting ID: 820 3112 3891 Passcode: 709193

5) Modernization of the University Learning Courses on Geospatial Technologies in Order to Ensure the Environmental Safety of Coastal Ecosystems of the Caspian Sea

**Mr. Orazmukhammed Durdyev**

Mr. Govshut Shadurdyyev

6) SOCAR's Proactive Steps in Combating Climate Change

**Ms. Rana Humbatova**

7) Improving the Quality of Climate Services through Automating the Marine Observation Network

**Mr. Denis Shipilov**

Ms. Elena Ostrovskaya

8) Conservation and Effective Management of Biodiversity in the Context of Climate Change

**Ms. Shirin Karryeva**

9) Contribution of International Projects on Climate Change in the Caspian Sea Region to the Tehran Convention Development and Implementation

**Ms. Tatiana Butylina**

Mr. Amirkhan Amirkhanov  
 Ms. Natalia Tretyakova

The breakout session will be concluded by the recommendations prepared by the Organizing Committee followed by a brief Q&A

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13:00 – 14:00 - Lunch break

**Room 1** (Plenary session)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88263227367?pwd=Vi9qQXVjQUdOTWRGOGt2dG5qcXBHQ09>

Meeting ID: 882 6322 7367 Passcode: 106620

14:00 – 15:30 Summary of the breakout sessions (plenary session)

The Chair will invite the keynote speakers to summarize the results of the breakout sessions, inform the Conference about the conclusions of the presentations and recommendations provided by the participants.

The Chair will furthermore inform the meeting about follow up actions as agreed by the Organizing Committee.

15:30 – 16:00 - Closure of the Conference (plenary session)

The Chair will invite the keynote speakers and other Representatives to provide closing remarks and after that close the Conference.

**Научная конференция по изменению климата в  
регионе Каспийского моря**

27–28 октября 2021 года

**Scientific Conference on Climate Change in the  
Caspian Sea region**

October 27-28, 2021

**СПИСОК УЧАСТНИКОВ**

**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

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## ***RECOMMENDATIONS***

Participants of the **International Scientific Conference "Climate Change in the Caspian Sea Region"**, held on October 27-28, 2021 under the auspices of the Coordinating Committee for Hydrometeorology of the Caspian Sea and the Tehran Convention interim Secretariat,

**Taking into account** the climate changes occurring in the Caspian Sea region and expressed in:

- Increase in air temperature,
- Decline in water flow of rivers,
- Increased evaporation from the surface of water bodies in the sea basin,
- Decrease in the sea level,
- Changes of ice regime;

**Recognizing** the need to strengthen international cooperation between the Caspian littoral states in addressing climate variability and change;

**Supporting** the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) – 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development;

**Recognizing** the growing need to study and address the interrelated implications of urbanization and climate change related to sea level fluctuations, drought and water scarcity to ensure long-term economically sustainable and environmentally sound management of the Caspian Sea coastal zones;

**Realizing** that the Caspian Sea is a unique body of water with many inherent features; the most famous is the fluctuation of its level under the impact of changes in natural and anthropogenic processes;

**Recognizing** the need to exchange operational and regime information on the state of the environment to ensure the security and sustainable development of the Caspian region in a changing climate;

**Considering** that the change in the interrelations that make up the water balance, especially river runoff and evaporation, has the greatest impact on long-term sea level fluctuations;

**Noting** that under the impact of climate change, the life cycles and distribution of unique endemic species of the Caspian Sea are altering, trophic networks will be affected and the functioning of ecosystems will be disrupted, what in the worst case will result in the extinction of many species,

Recommend:

***Aimed at adequate assessment and development of climate change forecasting in the Caspian Sea region***

1. To the Caspian littoral states:

- To develop climate services in the region on the basis of the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS), to facilitate the exchange of data on climate and the state of the environment within the framework of WMO, CASPCOM, Tehran Convention, and other interstate agreements;
- To promote regular international complex field studies of the current state and pollution of the marine environment and river deltas, state of biological communities of the Caspian Sea, including the assessment of their dynamics under the impact of climate change;
- To promote the exchange of information and results of scientific climate research among scientists inside and outside the region, to form and maintain a network of interested researchers.

2. To academia:

- To contribute to the development and improvement of the quality of global and regional climate models, including the study and modeling of paleoclimate and individual climatic characteristics, modeling and forecasting of dangerous hydrometeorological phenomena;

- To facilitate the study of impact of hydrometeorological conditions and climate changes in the Caspian region on the state of the marine environment, hydrophysics, hydrogeology, hydrochemistry, hydrology of rivers, and ecology of the sea;
- To develop remote monitoring methods and GIS applications for the study of regional climate, hydrological and ice regimes of the sea and their changes;
- To continue research on long-term changes in the runoff of rivers flowing into the Caspian Sea, including long-term periods of increased/decreased water content, as well as flow of heat, sediment, chemicals runoff, and natural and anthropogenic factors affecting them.

***Aimed at improving the quality of monitoring, modeling and forecasting of the Caspian Sea level***

1. To the Caspian littoral states:

- To monitor changes in the main components of the water balance and hydrometeorological characteristics of the Caspian Sea within the framework of the intergovernmental Agreement on Cooperation in the Field of Hydrometeorology of the Caspian Sea;
- To develop scientific co-operation in the region within the framework of the intergovernmental Agreement on Cooperation in the Field of Scientific Research in the Caspian Sea being developed;
- To promote regular updating of the General Catalogue of the Caspian Sea Level, Catalogues of water and air temperature, surface runoff into the Caspian Sea and salinity, established under the auspices of CASPCOM to assess the dynamics of these parameters under the impact of climate change;
- To develop monitoring networks, especially on the east coast, in coastal and open areas of the Caspian Sea, as well as to encourage shipowners to voluntarily register hydrometeorological parameters in the open part of the Caspian Sea;
- To facilitate the exchange of hydrometeorological and prognostic information to ensure safety at sea in accordance with the international obligations of the Caspian littoral states and the agreements among them.

2. To academia:

- To contribute to the study of impact of fluctuations in the Caspian Sea level on its ecological state and changes in morphometric characteristics;
- To develop remote sensing methods for the study of the sea level regime;
- To develop a scientific project on the diagnosis and long-term forecast of changes in the Caspian Sea level based on the new CMIP results from AR-6, establishing a targeted scientific fund and combining the efforts of the national scientific foundations of the Caspian littoral countries;
- To develop a new generation of interactively linked regional models "atmosphere – land surface – lake" to refine estimates of evaporation and obtain more reliable forecasts.

***Aimed at the conservation and protection of the ecosystem and biodiversity of the Caspian Sea***

1. To the Caspian littoral states:

- To promote ecosystem-based management of biological resources of the Caspian Sea as a strategic tool for marine planning to overcome the social and economic consequences of climate change and sea level decline, the cumulative human impact, and to strengthen efforts on the conservation and restoration of the marine environment on the border between land and sea;
- To reduce, to the extent possible the anthropogenic load on marine and coastal ecosystems, including the reduction of land-based and marine-based pollution, overgrazing, cutting of shrub vegetation, discharge of collector and drainage waters, construction of various structures;
- To ensure the protection of marine and coastal ecosystems, cessation of illegal fishing, as well as support the exchange of experience and lessons learned on their implementation in the Caspian region;
- To support the development and implementation of regional projects on the impact of climate change and adaptation to it on the marine environment and coastal zones of the Caspian Sea under the auspices of the Tehran Convention in close cooperation with international donor organizations (the Green Climate Fund, Adaptation Fund and the GEF);
- To promote regional cooperation of the Caspian littoral countries aimed at the conservation, reproduction, rational use and sustainable management of joint biological resources of the Caspian Sea, such as sturgeon, sprat and Caspian seals, for a better understanding and overcoming the consequences of global warming and climate change in the Caspian Sea;

- To establish a regular (quarterly) meeting of the Working Group on Biodiversity in the Caspian Region, possibly with the involvement of the Tehran Convention interim Secretariat;
- To implement the provisions of the Article 6 of the Part II of the Ashgabat Protocol and, above all, provision (A): provide comprehensive inventories of threatened species of flora and fauna; to develop the Caspian Red Book of the Tehran Convention on the basis of the inventories for its adoption at the Conference of the Contracting Parties;
- To carry out systematic monitoring of the natural flora, regular assessment of the condition of rare species, reproduction in natural conditions and possibility of cultivation in experimental sites;
- To take into account the assessment of environmental and climate risks in all projects for the use of natural resources;
- To provide training for young researchers and to support existing researchers with experience in taxonomy and biodiversity to provide a good scientific basis for addressing the Caspian biodiversity crisis now and in the future by regional scientists;
- To raise public awareness of the local communities of the Caspian region about how to protect the biodiversity of the Caspian Sea in the conditions of climate change.

**2. To academia:**

- To strengthen collective efforts in the framework of regional cooperation among the littoral countries to carry out a large meta-studies covering biodiversity, the temporal and spatial scales of variability, modeling of ecosystems, as well as standardization of future research (taxonomic groups, methods, time horizon, scale, and so on);
- To contribute to the development of information systems on biodiversity of the Caspian Sea through the platform IOC/IODE/OBIS;
- To jointly plan a Coastal Marine Ecological Classification Standard based on the CMECS model for the countries of the Caspian basin to monitor changes in sensitive and vulnerable habitats due to the likely harm from climate change, taking into account the experience of Iranian Fisheries Science Research Institute (IFSRI);
- To use the seabed habitat maps developed with the support of the European Marine Observations and Data Network (EMODnet) to address gaps in research and knowledge about the current and future projected impacts of climate change on the ecosystem and biodiversity and the Caspian Sea, as well as to make informed decisions on climate change issues in the Caspian Sea region;
- To promote cooperation with the portal of the European Marine Observation and Data Network (EMODnet) on seabed habitats in the field of comparison, development and compilation of EUSeaMap in the Caspian Basin, including in the development of a large-scale map of the Caspian Sea habitats (EUSeaMap), being developed for information monitoring of the impact of climate change on the ecosystem and biodiversity of the Caspian Sea;
- To create a centralized library of detailed local maps of communities, biocenoses, biotopes and habitats for the entire Caspian Sea, with the assistance of the EMODnet portal on seabed habitats;
- To establish a catalogue of data on the Caspian basin biodiversity (including wetlands), a catalogue of environmental data, that would facilitate centralized access to data on biodiversity in the Caspian region, as well as the comparison and aggregation of existing environmental aspects of ecological importance for the Caspian Sea;
- To establish a modern and updated library of Caspian species, accessible to everyone, since the correct identification of species is the basis for environmental and biodiversity monitoring;
- To support the study of impact of the new invasive species *Beroe ovata*, which is a natural enemy of *Mnemiopsis leidyi*, on pelagic and benthic communities and fish stocks in the changing environmental conditions of the Caspian Sea;
- To develop indicators of the climate change impact on the Caspian Sea biodiversity, which would summarize empirical data from monitoring programmes for the analysis of relevant loads, conditions, impacts or measures related to biodiversity;
- To develop regional models to assess the impact of climate change on the Caspian Sea biodiversity, primarily the impact of sea level changes.

**Aimed at the conservation of the unique population of the Caspian seal**

**1. To the Caspian littoral states:**

- To give priority attention to the elimination of existing threats, in particular, to reduce the mass mortality of seals during illegal fishing and to develop protected areas, as this will increase the resilience of the population to climatic impacts;

- To promote the establishment of a network of protected areas of the Caspian Sea, such as the Ramsar wetlands under the Tehran Convention, for the conservation and restoration of the Caspian seal population, and to strengthen international co-operation;
- To exclude the Caspian seal from the Agreement on the Conservation and Rational Use of Aquatic Biological Resources of the Caspian Sea, which implies commercial fishing of joint aquatic biological resources, which, according to this document, currently includes the Caspian seal.

2. To academia:

- To study the adaptive responses of the Caspian seal to rapidly changing environmental conditions to predict the future situation, given that global climate warming and sea regression may adversely affect its numbers and distribution;
- To facilitate the modeling of the Caspian seal population to obtain quantitative forecasts of the consequences for its demography under various scenarios and of how climatic processes may interact with other anthropogenic stress factors, such as the mortality of seals associated with fishing;
- To explore the prospects for expanding alternative habitats for breeding, including the establishment of artificial marine substrates for breeding and protected areas on land.

**Aimed at the conservation of the unique avifauna**

1. To the Caspian littoral states:

- To ensure the maximum possible conservation of wetlands that provide a food base for the resources of wetland birds and biodiversity;
- To facilitate the systematic development of Special Protected Areas (SPA) network, including wetlands of international, regional and national importance;
- To restore degraded wetlands, river floodplains and rivers flowing into the Caspian Sea ;
- To initiate the establishment of an international working group of ornithologists from the Caspian region countries to combine efforts to study the wintering of waterfowl in the Caspian and the long-term dynamics of their numbers.

2. To academia:

- To continue accounting and monitoring of waterfowl with the involvement of all countries of the region;
- To assess the contribution of climatic factors to the degradation of habitats of waterbirds in the Caspian region;
- To prepare a collective monograph: "The dynamics of biodiversity (on the example of waterbirds) against the background of climate change in the Caspian region".

**Aimed at minimizing the adverse effects of and adaptation to the climate change in the Caspian Sea region**

1. To the Caspian littoral states:

- To develop national and regional climate change adaptation plans;
- To ensure close interaction of the hydrometeorological services specialists, academic and departmental science and users of climate information in the sectors of economics, nature use and the social sphere, including decision-makers, in the development and implementation of all stages of the adaptation process;
- To strengthen transboundary co-operation within the framework of existing agreements (CBD, Tehran Convention, Ramsar, CMS and other conventions, AEWA, and funds, initiatives);
- To adopt at the regional level the Environmental Monitoring Programme based on generally accepted goals and water quality standards and supported by a well-developed network of marine observations, as a means and tool for policy development and decision-making in relevant regional bodies, in particular at the Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Tehran Convention and CASPCOM;
- To include the impact of climate change on vulnerable ecosystems and biodiversity of the Caspian Sea region in international and national disaster risk reduction plans and programmes such as Global Network of Civil Society Organisations for Disaster Reduction (GNDR);
- To promote the expansion of the network of protected areas and establishment of new marine SPAs;
- To facilitate the strengthening of conservation measures and sustainable management of the nominated EBSA areas (ecologically and/or biologically significant areas) in the Caspian Sea;

- To promote the establishment of spatially dynamic protected areas taking into account changes in important habitats due to climate change and sea level regression;
- To develop appropriate coordinated measures and procedures to mitigate the effects of fluctuations in the Caspian Sea level;
- To assess vulnerability of coastal areas to the instability of the Caspian Sea level to plan adequate adaptation, protective and restoration actions;
- To promote integrated coastal zone management in the Caspian Sea as a tool for addressing increased environmental risks in the conditions of the Caspian Sea level fluctuations on the basis of regional co-operation of the countries of the region;
- To provide, within the framework of the implementation of the main provisions of the Tehran Convention, work on maritime spatial planning – the development and implementation of the state and transboundary Marine Plans (as an example, Directive 2014/89/EU "On establishing a framework for maritime spatial planning" of July 23, 2014);
- To ensure that oil and gas producers in the Caspian Sea region develop low-emission development strategies, using new and innovative measures and technologies to reduce emissions at all stages of the oil and gas production cycle, including with the support of appropriate agreed legislation;
- To reduce dependence on fossil fuels in the oil and gas producing regions of the Caspian Sea and its coastal zones through coordinated research and operation of suitable renewable energy sources and measures to adapt and introduce fully cost-effective industrial and domestic equipment;
- To strengthen regional and international co-operation of the Caspian littoral countries, including the implementation of international projects, joint scientific research in the field of assessing the impact of the Caspian Sea level fluctuations on marine and coastal ecosystems, as well as to mitigate the effects of sea level fluctuations;
- To raise awareness of the coastal population, starting from preschool age, about the Caspian Sea, its wildlife, history, environmental conditions, challenges and threats to the health of the sea and its coastal zones to develop a respectful attitude towards nature and household habits that do not harm the Caspian Sea and its coast.

2. To academia:

- To conduct studies on the dependence of the efficiency of fishing and agriculture on the hydrographs of the catchment basins of rivers flowing into the Caspian Sea to ensure optimal regulation of their operation modes for sustainable development;
- To encourage the updating and introduction of new research and subjects into the curricula of universities, to maximize the human potential in littoral states to eliminate the economic, social and environmental consequences of climate change; to this end, an interstate academic exchange programme and a database could be developed;
- To establish a network of concerned scientists and experts on various aspects of biodiversity, hydrology and climatology of the Caspian Sea (a database of regional experts under the auspices of the Tehran Convention interim Secretariat) to participate in future regional projects.

**Annex VII****Proceedings of the Scientific Conference on the Climate Change in the Caspian Sea region**

<https://tehranconvention.org/en/news/proceedings-scientific-conference-climate-change-caspian-sea-region-are-now-available>

*You can see and download the Proceedings of the Conference by following the link. For practical reasons the content is not copy-pasted below.*