

Caspian Regional Marine Litter Action Plan

Draft

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PART I

GENERAL PROVISIONS

The **Caspian Regional Marine Litter Action Plan (CRMLAP)** consists of three Parts, 9 Topics, 24 Sections, 86 Actions and an Annex in tabular form.

Part I - Introduction contains: General provisions; Rationale for the CRMLAP; Area of application; Definition of terms; Principles; Goals and objectives of the CRMLAP.

Part II - Description of Topics and Actions of the CRMLAP.

Part III – Description of Activities supporting the implementation of the CRMLAP.

ANNEX - Actions table of the CRMLAP including implementation timelines; lead authorities and verification indicators of implementation for each of the 86 Actions of the CRMLAP.

SECTION 1

RATIONALE FOR THE CASPIAN REGIONAL MARINE LITTER ACTION PLAN

Marine litter is the result of land-based and sea-based actions. Land-based sources include landfills, rivers and floods, industrial waste, rain drainage discharge, sewers and beach pollution. Sea-based activities are of the fishing industry, shipping, illegal dumping into the sea, discarded fishing gear, etc. It is estimated that approximately 80% of marine litter is caused by land-based activity, whilst sea-based activity accounts for only 20% (Marine Litter, Time to Clean up our Act, European Union, 2010). A separate major issue related to the marine litter problem is plastic, primarily microplastics, pollution.

The marine litter problem is relevant for the Caspian Sea region as well, but there are specifics associated with the peculiarities of the Caspian Sea.

The Caspian Sea is the largest body of water in the world that is not connected to a World Ocean. Due to its size, the uniqueness of its natural conditions and the complexity of its hydrological processes, the Caspian Sea belongs to the class of closed inland seas. At present the Caspian Sea level is 27 meters below the World Ocean level, the Caspian Sea has a surface area of more than 390 000 km², its volume is about 78 000 km³, the average depth is 208 m and its maximum depth is 1025 m. The Caspian Sea spreads out over 1030 km from north to south, with a width ranging from 200 to 400 km.

Due to the closed nature of the reservoir, the common circulation system of the Caspian Sea waters, the seismicity of the region, the current economic practices in the Caspian Sea coastal territories pose a significant risk to the unified ecosystem of the Caspian Sea.

The cumulative effect of shipping, natural resources extraction, the development of tourist and recreational infrastructure, the excessive exploitation of biological resources and other aspects of economic activity affect the coastal marine areas of the Caspian Sea. These factors lead to the destruction of habitats, feeding areas, corridors for migratory fish species and the disruption of biogeochemical cycles.

Addressing the problem of assessing the marine litter impact on the Caspian ecosystem's current status is a rather complicated scientific task because of the multifactor nature of this challenge, especially given the uncertainty regarding the survivability threshold of the Caspian biocenosis and the reduced ability of the Caspian Sea ecosystem to recover.

The Framework Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Caspian Sea (Tehran Convention) notes the deterioration of the marine environment of the Caspian Sea due to its pollution arising from various sources as a result of human activities, including the discharge, emission and disposal of harmful and hazardous substances, wastes and other pollutants, both in the sea and from land-based sources.

The Tehran Convention reaffirms the importance of the protection of the marine environment of the Caspian Sea.

The Tehran Convention states that the Contracting Parties shall individually or jointly take all appropriate measures to prevent, reduce and control pollution of the Caspian Sea and individually or jointly take all appropriate measures to protect, preserve and restore the environment of the Caspian Sea (Article 4).

The Tehran Convention also states that the Contracting Parties shall take all appropriate measures to prevent, reduce and control pollution of the Caspian Sea from land-based sources; states that the Contracting Parties shall take all appropriate measures to prevent, control and reduce pollution of the Caspian Sea resulting from seabed activities; states that the Contracting Parties shall take all appropriate measures to prevent, reduce and control pollution of the Caspian Sea from vessels (Articles 7, 8, 9).

The Tehran Convention stipulates to establish and implement individual and/or joint programmes for monitoring the environmental conditions of the Caspian Sea (Article 19).

The Protocol for the Protection of the Caspian Sea against Pollution from Land-based Sources and Activities to the Tehran Convention (Moscow Protocol) points to the serious danger posed to the marine environment and coastal areas, living resources and human health by pollution from land-based sources and activities.

The purpose of the Moscow Protocol is to prevent, control, reduce and to the maximum extent possible eliminate pollution of the marine environment from land-based sources and activities in order to achieve and maintain an environmentally sound marine environment of the Caspian Sea.

The Moscow Protocol provides that the Contracting Parties shall adopt and implement national action plans with timetables for achieving substantial reductions of inputs of pollutants from point sources on the basis of the list of hot-spots (Point 2, Article 7).

Annex I of the Moscow Protocol lists activities and categories of substances of concern which shall be taken into account by the Contracting Parties in the preparation of action plans, programmes and measures for the prevention, control, reduction and to the maximum extent possible elimination of pollution from land-based sources and activities, including marine litter as "Any persistent, manufactured or processed, solid material which is discarded, disposed of, or abandoned " (Section B, Point 6 of the Moscow Protocol).

The rationale for the preparation of the CRMLAP should note the need to protect, prevent, reduce, and to the extent possible eliminate pollution of the marine environment of the Caspian Sea in order to maintain an ecologically healthy marine environment, preserve its ecosystem and the integrity of biological diversity in accordance with the provisions of the Tehran Convention and its Protocols (Art. 2 of the Tehran Convention, Art. 1 of the Moscow Protocol, Art. 2 of the Ashgabat Protocol).

Marine litter has become a global and regional issue affecting marine and coastal environment quality. There are knowledge gaps on marine litter sources and its impacts on the marine and coastal environment.

In preparing action plans, programmes and measures, the Contracting Parties may take into account the provisions of relevant international instruments.

The implementation of the CRMLAP will assist the Contracting Parties in achieving Sustainable Development Goal 14, especially Target 14.1.

The United Nations General Assembly resolutions A/RES/72/73 (2017), A/RES/70/303 (2015), and A/RES/69/245 (2014) on Oceans and the Law of the Sea are covering the issue of marine litter.

The UN Environment Assembly took decisions and recommendations or measures to reduce marine plastic litter and microplastics in the resolutions UNEP/EA.1/Res.6 (2014); UNEP/EA.2/Res.11 (2016); and UNEP/EA.3/Res.7 (2017).

The UNEP Global Marine Litter Initiative took an active lead in assisting twelve Regional Seas Programmes in organizing and implementing regional activities on marine litter.

The objective of the CRMLAP is to significantly reduce further introduction of marine litter from land-based and sea-based sources into the Caspian Sea and to reduce marine litter already present in the marine environment and hence its potential impact on marine biota, habitats, public health and safety as well as its socioeconomic costs.

The private sector and civil society, including non-governmental organizations and the general public, can contribute significantly to prevent and reduce marine litter through a number of various actions.

All of the Caspian countries have signed and ratified the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL 73/78) and its Annexes and the Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal (Basel Convention).

The commitments endorsed by the Fifth International Marine Debris Conference and the Honolulu Strategy (2011), a global framework strategy to prevent, reduce, and manage marine litter, the UNEP/GPA Programme of Work on marine litter adopted in January 2012, relevant provisions of global and regional international environmental agreements (above mentioned International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL 73/78) and its Annexes and the Basel Convention) are of importance.

Regional action plans for marine litter, such as NOWPAP Action Plan (2008); Mediterranean Action Plan (2013); North-East Atlantic (OSPAR) Action Plan (2014); and Baltic (HELCOM) Action Plan (2015), contribute to solving the problem of marine litter.

A regional approach to marine litter management is very important because of the transboundary nature of the problem. Through a regional approach each of the participating countries can contribute to and benefit from the collective effort resulting in synergistic effects. Exchanging views, approaches and results should help the development and implementation of a coordinated and harmonized regional programme. Surveying, monitoring and reporting all require regionally coherent methods and indicators to be effective.

The CRMLAP is a framework document which is aimed at undertaking appropriate measures to address the marine litter problem by the Caspian Sea littoral countries.

SECTION 2

AREA OF APPLICATION

This CRMLAP applies to the marine and coastal environment of the Caspian Sea, taking into account the fluctuations of its sea level and pollution affecting the marine environment and/or coastal areas of the Caspian Sea¹, including the pollution which damages landscapes or habitats (Art. 3 of the Tehran Convention, item C of Art. 3 of the Moscow Protocol).

SECTION 3

DEFINITION OF TERMS

For the purposes of the CRMLAP, the following terms mean:

Abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded fishing gear or parts thereof (ALDFG) or Derelict fishing gear (DFG) are the collective terms for commercial and recreational fishing gear that has been abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded into the marine environment and causes negative biological impacts through, e.g. unintentional catches of fish (a process which is often referred to as *ghost fishing*), coverage of sensitive habitats and/or fragmentation into micro-particles that could enter the food chain;

Coastal area means terrestrial area bordering the coastline and affected by the proximity to the sea and by the sea level fluctuations (Moscow Protocol);

Conference of the Parties means the body referred to in Article 22 of the Tehran Convention;

Contracting Parties means the Caspian Littoral States: Republic of Azerbaijan, Islamic Republic of Iran, Republic of Kazakhstan, Russian Federation, and Turkmenistan;

CRMLAP means Caspian Regional Marine Litter Action Plan;

Diffuse sources means land-based sources of pollution, other than point sources, from which substances enter the environment as a result of land run-off, precipitation, atmospheric deposition, drainage, seepage or hydrologic modification or destruction of habitats;

Dumping means deliberate disposal into the marine environment of wastes or other matter from vessels, aircraft, platforms, or other man-made structures in the Caspian Sea or deliberate disposal of vessels, aircraft, platforms, or other man-made structures in the Caspian Sea (Tehran Convention);

Emission means any kind of discharges, effluents or releases of polluting substances into the water, air or soil;

Environmental Monitoring Programme means the framework for enabling the measurement of and reporting on the quality and its trends in the marine environment of the Caspian Sea for the purpose of national and regional policy and decision making related to the implementation of the Tehran Convention and its Protocols;

Extended Producer Responsibility means a strategy to add all of the environmental costs associated with a product throughout the product life cycle to the market price of that product;

¹ A strip of coastal territories of up to 100 km wide.

Fishing for litter means the collection of marine litter and its subsequent landing in ports and proper disposal by fishermen, whether passive (litter is collected during their regular fishing activities) or active (litter is collected by fishermen on duty for that specific purpose);

Fishing gear includes all items/elements onboard fishing vessels that are used for fishing purposes, including fish aggregating devices (FADs);

Hot-spot means a limited and definable land area, stretch of surface water or specific aquifer that is subject to excessive pollution and necessitates priority attention in order to prevent or reduce the actual or potential adverse impacts on human health, ecosystems or natural resources and amenities of economic importance;

IUU fishing gear means any fishing gear, marked or not marked, used for the purpose of illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing;

Marine Environment means the complex of elements, comprising marine waters, influx of fresh waters, bottom sediments and air adjacent to the sea surface and land affected by proximity to the Sea, as well as biological organisms resources inhabiting them (draft of the Protocol on Monitoring, Assessment and Information Exchange to the Framework);

Marine litter is any persistent, manufactured or processed, solid material which is discarded, disposed of, or abandoned in the marine and coastal environment (Moscow Protocol);

Marine litter monitoring means surveys of beaches, surface waters, water columns, sea beds and biota to determine litter types and quantities in a representative manner;

Microlitter means the fraction of marine litter of less than 5 mm in size with a further division into *Large Micro Particles* (1-5 mm) and *Small Micro Particles* (<1 mm);

Moscow Protocol means Protocol for the Protection of the Caspian Sea Against Pollution from Land-based Sources and Activities to the Tehran Convention;

Point sources means land-based sources of pollution where emissions are introduced into the environment from any discernible, confined and discrete conveyance, including but not limited to pipes, outfalls, channels, ditches, tunnels, conduits or wells from which pollutants are or may be discharged;

Pollution means the introduction by man, directly or indirectly, of substances or energy into the environment resulting, or likely to result, in such deleterious effects as harm to living resources and marine life, hazards to human health and hindrance to legitimate uses of the Caspian Sea;

Pollution from land-based sources means pollution of the sea from all kinds of point and diffuse sources based on land reaching the marine environment, whether water-borne, air-borne or directly from the coast (Moscow Protocol);

Pollution from sea-based sources means pollution from merchant shipping, ferries and cruise liners; fishing vessels; military fleets and research vessels; pleasure craft; offshore oil and gas platforms; aquaculture installations; and waterway recreational activities (such as diving and marinas);

Primary microplastics means plastics produced in microscopic size either for the direct use in products (such as microbeads used, e.g. in cosmetic peeling products or for cleaning purposes of ship hulks) or indirect use (such as pre-productions pellets or nurdles);

Secondary microplastics means the fraction of microplastics in the marine environment which results from the breakdown of larger items into numerous tiny fragments due to mechanical forces and/or photochemical processes, as well as from other degradation sources such as fibres in wastewater from washing clothes and particles of rubber lost from tyres due to normal wear;

Secretariat means the body referred to in Article 23 of the Tehran Convention;

Tehran Convention means the Framework Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Caspian Sea;

Wastes are substances or objects which are disposed of or are intended to be disposed of or are required to be disposed of by the provisions of national law (Basel Convention); and

Vessel or Ship means a vessel of any kind that operates in the marine environment, including hovercraft, hydrofoil boats, submarines, towed and self-driving boats, as well as platforms and other manmade offshore structures (Tehran Convention).

SECTION 4

PRINCIPLES

In implementing the CRMLAP the participating countries shall be guided by:

The precautionary principle, by virtue of which where there are threats of serious or irreversible damage to the marine environment or to public health, lack of full scientific certainty shall not be used as a reason for postponing cost-effective measures to prevent such damage (Tehran Convention);

The polluter pays principle, by virtue of which, the polluter bears the costs of prevention, control and reduction of the Caspian Sea marine environment pollution (Tehran Convention);

The prevention principle, by virtue of which, any marine litter management measure should aim at addressing the prevention of marine litter generation at the source;

The integration principle, by virtue of which, the marine litter management should be an integral part of the integrated management of the coastal areas, including solid waste management, to reduce the negative impact on the marine and coastal environment of the Caspian Sea (Moscow Protocol);

The sustainable development of the coastal areas principle through the integrated approach to development of coastal areas (Moscow Protocol);

The stakeholders, including the public, participation principle according to which the Contracting Parties, in compliance with their national legislation, facilitate the participation of local authorities and the public in activities necessary to protect the marine environment and coastal areas of the Caspian Sea from pollution;

The accessibility to information on the pollution of the Caspian Sea marine environment principle, by virtue of which, the Contracting Parties exchange on regular basis information on the state of the Caspian Sea marine environment, measures taken or planned to prevent, reduce and control pollution in accordance with their legislation;

The ecosystem approach, by virtue of which the combined impact of marine litter with other pollutants and substances present in the marine environment on the marine and coastal ecosystems, habitats and species should be fully taken into account; and

The intergenerational equity principle, by virtue of which the marine environment of the Caspian Sea will be preserved for the benefit of the present and future generations.

SECTION 5

OBJECTIVE AND GOALS

The objective of the CRMLAP is:

To prevent, control, reduce and to the maximum extent possible eliminate pollution of the marine environment from marine litter in order to achieve and maintain an environmentally sound marine environment of the Caspian Sea.

The goals of the CRMLAP are:

- Assessment of the state of the marine litter problem in the Caspian Sea region;
- Monitoring of the amount and distribution of marine litter in the Caspian Sea region;
- Enhancing knowledge and awareness about marine litter and its impacts amongst all stakeholders in the Caspian Sea region;
- Strengthening national institutional arrangements to prevent and reduce the amount of marine litter effectively;
- Dissemination of experience in the management of marine litter in other regions and its use in the Caspian Sea region, taking into account the physical and geographical features of the region;
- Prevention and reduction of marine litter pollution to a minimum in the marine and coastal environment of the Caspian Sea region and its impact on ecosystem services, habitats and species (in particular the endangered species), economic development, public health and safety and reduction of the socioeconomic costs it causes;
- Removing to the extent possible already existent marine litter by using environmentally acceptable methods; and
- Assisting in the establishment of cross-sectoral cooperation among relevant national and local authorities which are involved in the marine litter issues.

PART II

SECTION 6

TOPICS OF THE CASPIAN REGIONAL MARINE LITTER ACTION PLAN

The Topics of the CRMLAP are:

1. Legal and economic instruments;
2. Integrated waste management, including marine litter;
3. Preventing and reducing marine litter from land-based sources;
4. Preventing and reducing marine litter from sea-based sources;
5. Monitoring and assessment of marine litter;
6. Scientific researches for minimizing pollution by marine litter, including microplastics;
7. Facilitation of sustainable development of coastal areas;
8. Removal of existing litter and its disposal; and
9. Activities supporting the implementation of the CRMLAP.

SECTION 7

TOPIC 1: LEGAL AND ECONOMIC INSTRUMENTS

Preventing and reducing marine litter from land-based and sea-based sources

Actions

- 1.1. Assist countries in developing national legal and economic instruments to regulate and prevent marine pollution from land-based and sea-based sources, including the minimization of pollution from sewage, and from production and consumption waste;
- 1.2. Assist the Caspian littoral states in improving legislation in the field of marine litter including the regulation of microplastics;
- 1.3. Promote the incorporation of legal provisions for marine litter into various sectors of national legislation, such as legislation on fisheries, protected areas, production and consumption waste and solid waste management;
- 1.4. Development of possible prevention measures related to Extended Producer Responsibility by making the producers, manufacturers and first importer responsible for the entire life cycle of the product;
- 1.5. Elaborate recommendations to develop the circular economy on the basis of improving the economic mechanisms and sectoral legislation in the field of waste management;

- 1.6. Develop recommendations on the stimulation for structural economic changes to ensure a reduction in the production and consumption of plastics, to intensify the production of more environmentally friendly materials and also to ensure the extension of recycling and reusing;
- 1.7. Develop measures to reduce plastic bag consumption through the use of fiscal and economic instruments;
- 1.8. Cooperate with national stakeholders on the establishment and/or further development of the Extended Producer Responsibility approach, including deposit refund systems for bottles, containers and cans (e.g. glass, plastic and aluminium);
- 1.9. Develop cooperation under the Tehran Convention in the field of addressing the marine litter problem with international conventions and agreements dealing with marine litter issues, as appropriate, such as the MARPOL Convention and its Annex V, the London Convention and its Protocol, the Basel Convention, the Global Programme of Action (GPA) for the protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities and the FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations) Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries;
- 1.10. Prepare recommendation for applying cost effective measures to prevent any marine littering from dredging activities, in particular maintenance dredging in port areas; and
- 1.11. Evaluate the direct costs and loss of income to tourism and fisheries due to marine litter pollution.

SECTION 8

TOPIC 2: INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT, INCLUDING MARINE LITTER

Actions

- 2.1. Compile information on best waste management practices and disseminate it among industry and business representatives in the Caspian littoral states;
- 2.2. Seek cooperation with river and river basin authorities in order to assess the impacts of litter from riverine inputs on the marine environment;
- 2.3. Promote elaboration and implementation of adequate waste reduction, reuse and recycling measures in order to reduce the amount of litter, particularly the fraction of plastic waste that goes to landfill or incineration without energy recovery;
- 2.4. Elaborate, in accordance with national legislation, proposals for decision-makers to address illegal dumping, including sewage disposal, in coastal zones and rivers, as well as littering beaches;
- 2.5. Promote the development of waste collection, separation and safe disposal systems;
- 2.6. Prepare proposals for the implementation of effective methods for assessing and accounting marine litter including primary and secondary microplastics in national policies for solid waste management; and
- 2.7. Propose the introduction of appropriate measures to minimize the use of microplastics that may affect the marine environment. Examine the possibility of developing and adopting a voluntary agreement on phasing out the use of microplastic and discuss it with relevant sectors.

SECTION 9

TOPIC 3: PREVENTING AND REDUCING MARINE LITTER FROM LAND-BASED SOURCES

Actions

- 3.1. Promote the development of regional sectoral guidelines to prevent and reduce pollution of the marine environment from land-based sources in the context of supporting relevant national measures;
- 3.2. Identify and systematize the major land-based sources of pollution of the marine and coastal environment of the Caspian Sea; and
- 3.3. Implement relevant Actions of all other Sections.

SECTION 10

TOPIC 4: PREVENTING AND REDUCING MARINE LITTER FROM SEA-BASED SOURCES

Actions

- 4.1. In the context of the Tehran Convention provide assistance and collaborate on the implementation of the requirements of Annex V to the MARPOL Convention related to provide and improve the availability of reception facilities for all types of ship-generated waste in their ports, harbours, terminals and marinas;
- 4.2. Collaborate with stakeholders – with the administrations of the Caspian Sea seaports - to prepare a review of the state of port reception facilities in the Caspian Sea region and to develop appropriate recommendations for improving the efficiency of their use, including economic mechanisms;
- 4.3. Prepare a review on the status of marine litter associated with oil and gas production/platforms and carry out an assessment of production and disposal of marine litter;
- 4.4. Under the Tehran Convention, collaborate with relevant international and regional organizations, including the Commission to Preserve, Sustainably Manage Marine Biological Resources and to Manage Joint Resources to explore and implement to the extent possible the “gear marking to indicate ownership” concept aiming to contribute to reduce fisheries-related marine litter;
- 4.5. To contribute to events under the Commission to Preserve, Sustainably Manage Marine Biological Resources and to Manage Joint Resources related to the development and application of operational fishing methods that minimize the loss of fishing gear and ghost fishing effects from lost or abandoned fishing gear in accordance with the FAO technical guidelines for the implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries;
- 4.6. In collaboration with the Commission to Preserve, Sustainably Manage Marine Biological Resources and to Manage Joint Resources, develop recommendations on risk assessment for the conservation of bioresources and their habitat, on the loss of fish stocks resulting from abandoned/lost fishing gear on ghost fishing effects;

4.7. In collaboration with the Commission to Preserve, Sustainably Manage Marine Biological Resources and to Manage Joint Resources, define the main components of fisheries and aquaculture waste that may contribute to the generation of marine litter;

4.8. In collaboration with the Commission to Preserve, Sustainably Manage Marine Biological Resources and to Manage Joint Resources, develop proposals to minimize the amount of marine litter associated with fishing; and

4.9. Collaborate with representatives of the shipping, fishing, and tourism sectors in developing sectoral guidelines for the prevention and reduction of marine pollution from sea-based sources, especially for the shipping and fishing sectors.

SECTION 11

TOPIC 5: MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT OF MARINE LITTER

Actions

5.1. Carry out monitoring of marine litter at selected pilot sites in the Caspian marine zone on the basis of visual observations to estimate the amount of marine litter and to determine the morphological composition of marine litter, including plastic waste;

5.2. Prepare guidelines for the monitoring and assessment of marine litter for the Caspian Sea region;

5.3. Determine technologies for monitoring marine litter and microlitter in the Caspian Sea biota and on the seabed based on available technologies in other marine regions;

5.4. Promote the development of national and regional marine litter assessment and monitoring programmes as well as the introduction of such programmes into existing national programmes;

5.5. Designate national and regional reference laboratories for the analysis of microplastics in the marine environment; and

5.6. Establish a Caspian regional data and information base on marine litter in the Caspian Sea region for the storage, management, analysis and interpretation of the results of the regional and national marine litter assessment and monitoring programmes.

SECTION 12

TOPIC 6: SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH FOR MINIMIZING POLLUTION BY MARINE LITTER, INCLUDING MICROPLASTICS

Actions

6.1. Promote the study of marine litter, including microplastics, as one of the pollutants of the Caspian Sea marine and coastal environment;

6.2. Promote scientific research in the field of the rate of degradation or fragmentation of marine litter in various natural environments;

6.3. Promote scientific research of marine litter as a vector for invasive alien species movement;

6.4. Promote scientific research on the removal of microplastics from the aquatic environment;

- 6.5. Facilitate scientific research on the basis of the Convention on Biological Diversity practical guidance on preventing and mitigating the impacts of marine litter on marine and coastal biodiversity and habitats;
- 6.6. Promote scientific research to determine the degree of adverse impact of microplastics on marine biota;
- 6.7. Promote the organization of scientific research to study the penetration of microplastics through benthic and pelagic food chains of marine biota;
- 6.8. Promote scientific research on the development of environmentally sound production technologies to minimize marine litter;
- 6.9. Promote the application of scientific research results regarding plastic use (e.g. for road construction);
- 6.10. Promote the development of technologies to prevent marine litter from land-based sources;
- 6.11. Support scientific research in the field of technologies to reduce the environmental impact of plastics on the marine environment;
- 6.12. Promote scientific research on the distribution and amount of marine litter in the Caspian Sea which contributes to marine pollution; and
- 6.13. Identify the main sources of litter including microlitter, assess the diverse impact of microplastics on the marine and coastal environment, and develop measures to reduce its impact.

SECTION 13

TOPIC 7: FACILITATION OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF COASTAL AREAS

Actions

- 7.1. Develop regional guidelines for the integrated management of marine and coastal areas, including an assessment of coastal vulnerability, and *inter alia* marine pollution in the context of the sea level fluctuations;
- 7.2. Summarize the marine litter related experience of the Caspian littoral countries in the sustainable development of coastal territories, including in the area of sustainable production and consumption, in order to minimize pollution;
- 7.3. Develop recommendations for an integrated approach to the production and use of plastic waste to ensure the transition to resource-efficient regulation of plastics on the basis of a closed cycle system;
- 7.4. Facilitate the development and implementation of measures to reduce, reuse and recycle waste in order to minimize the amount of waste;
- 7.5. Develop proposals to take necessary measures at the national level to combat illegal landfills, littering beaches and illegal dumping of solid waste or sewage in coastal zones;
- 7.6. Elaborate proposals for national socio-economic development programmes to reduce the discharge of untreated or insufficiently treated wastewater into the Caspian Sea and into water

bodies associated with it; to minimize industrial wastes, including from the oil and gas industry, and other wastes, including marine litter, taking into account the environmental, recreational and fishery related the specifics of the region; and

7.7. Develop and implement, in collaboration with relevant stakeholders, regional and national programmes to locate, remove and dispose of accumulations/hot spots of sea-based marine litter related to marine transport, fisheries, mariculture, aquaculture, tourism and oil/gas production.

SECTION 14

TOPIC 8: REMOVAL OF EXISTING LITTER AND ITS DISPOSAL

Actions

8.1. Enhance cooperation with stakeholders, such as regional authorities, business, industry sectors, public and other civil society groups interested in minimizing the pollution of the marine and coastal environment of the Caspian Sea related to marine litter;

8.2. Develop and promote, together with the Commission to Preserve, Sustainably Manage Marine Biological Resources and to Manage Joint Resources, the fishing industry and other relevant stakeholders, best practices in relation to Abandoned, Lost or otherwise Discarded Fishing Gear (ALDFG);

8.3. Collaborate with the Commission to Preserve, Sustainably Manage Marine Biological Resources and to Manage Joint Resources and promote the implementation of a “fishing for litter” environmentally sound practice, in consultation with competent international and regional organizations and in partnership with fishermen. Facilitate the cleanup of floating litter and the seabed from marine litter caught incidentally as well as generated by fishing vessels in their regular activities, including derelict fishing gear;

8.4. Consider and address potential marine litter arising from ship maintenance and ship dismantling; and

8.5. Establish cooperation with the waste industry in order to ensure the proper operations of solid waste management facilities on shore (waste reception and disposal from all sources, including shipping, fisheries, platforms, marinas, dredging and harbour wastes).

PART III

SECTION 15

TOPIC 9: ACTIVITIES SUPPORTING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CRMLAP

Implementation of the CRMLAP should be carried out within the framework of the topic areas of the articles of the Tehran Convention and its Protocols related to minimizing pollution of the Caspian Sea marine and coastal environment, and through:

- **Organizational mechanisms for the implementation of the CRMLAP**, such as the Regional Coordinating Group of Representatives of the Caspian littoral Countries on the CRMLAP (as proposed in the CRMLAP);
- **National Caspian Action Plans under the Tehran Convention (NCAPs)**, based on national plans and programmes, in which it is possible to envisage appropriate measures to minimize marine litter in the sea and coastal areas in the context of addressing the problem of the Caspian Sea marine and coastal environment pollution; and
- **National reports on the implementation of the Tehran Convention**, which are submitted by countries in accordance with the corresponding decisions of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and with the Unified Reporting Format. In those reports information on national activities to minimize marine litter can be introduced in the section “Prevention, reduction and control of pollution”.

At the national level, responsibility for the implementation of the CRMLAP under the Tehran Convention rests with the national coordinators. At the regional level, coordination of activities of the Regional Coordinating Group on the CRMLAP and of the corresponding work at the national level is attributed to the Secretariat of the Tehran Convention.

Funding mechanisms for the implementation of the CRMLAP can be implemented through international projects to be carried out in cooperation with international organizations, international conventions, private sector and programmes for marine litter.

Activity directions

- 9.1 Regional and international cooperation and reporting on the CRMLAP;**
- 9.2 Involvement of stakeholders, NGOs and civil society;**
- 9.3 Information, education, outreach and public awareness;**
- 9.4 Training and capacity-building; and**
- 9.5 Evaluation of the effectiveness of the implementation of the CRMLAP at the regional level.**

Actions

9.1. Regional and international cooperation and reporting on the CRMLAP

- 9.1.1. Establish a Regional Coordinating Group on the CRMLAP;
- 9.1.2. Establish, within the framework of the Regional Coordinating Group on the CRMLAP, a subgroup of experts for the assessment and monitoring of marine litter. This subgroup shall become a part of the Tehran Convention Environmental Monitoring Program;
- 9.1.3. Establish partnerships with cities to provide effective transfer of knowledge and innovation, and promote collaboration among cities/between countries;
- 9.1.4. Adapt international developments on marine litter to the Caspian Sea region;
- 9.1.5. Enhance interaction under the Tehran Convention and the Moscow Protocol and use the existing cooperation platforms and mechanisms in the field of addressing the marine litter problem (such as the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Pollution from Land-based Activities, the Global Partnership on Marine Litter and Regional Seas Action Plans);
- 9.1.6. Encourage stakeholder engagement in relevant international initiatives, such as the International Coastal Cleanup (ICC) campaigns, Clean Up The World (CUW) campaigns, Green Fins and similar campaigns or programmes, as well as in national or sub-national efforts to educate the public, including school children, on marine litter issues as well as to encourage positive behaviour changes that will help to reduce the generation of litter;
- 9.1.7. Convene regional conferences and stakeholder meetings;
- 9.1.8. Prepare national biennial reports on the implementation of the CRMLAP. Such reports should have a section on national assessment and monitoring programmes which could also be used for reporting to the Tehran Convention; and
- 9.1.9. Prepare a regional biennial report on the implementation of the CRMLAP. Such reports should have a section on national assessment and monitoring programmes.

Actions

9.2. Involvement of stakeholders, NGOs and civil society

- 9.2.1. Support the involvement of various stakeholders including regional, national, and local authorities, NGOs, and the private sector as well as relevant stakeholders to implement the actions of the CRMLAP;
- 9.2.2. Support the implementation of the National Marine Litter Cleanup Campaigns (beaches, riverbanks, storm water drainage) on a regular basis;
- 9.2.3. Collect and organize information, and coordinate the voluntary cleaning of beaches as a tool in educating and involving local communities, stakeholders and media to increase knowledge and awareness of the marine litter problem;
- 9.2.4. Enhance public participation in addressing marine litter through clean-ups, exploring and implementing the Adopt-a-Beach concept, or similar practices;
- 9.2.5. Encourage and assist entities with a particular interest in or responsibility for certain coastal areas, such as tourist resorts and port authorities, to undertake regular clean-ups of their areas;
- 9.2.6. Promote and enhance national stakeholder alliances focusing on marine litter;

9.2.7. Communicate with existing regional, national and local networks of stakeholders on marine litter; and

9.2.8. Convene regional and national stakeholder meetings.

Actions

9.3. Information, education, outreach and public awareness

9.3.1. Develop a booklet on the CRMLAP and translate it into the Caspian states' national languages; and

9.3.2. Formulate and implement awareness-raising campaigns and activities, including the development of materials (e.g., booklets, leaflets, flyers, etc.) and the organization of workshops and forums, for the stakeholders involvement, general public participation, various sectors, municipal authorities, local communities, school children and youth and other groups, in the sphere of sustainable production and consumption as well as the reduction of waste generation and the application of environmentally sound disposal and reuse in order to reduce the amount of marine litter.

Actions

9.4. Training and capacity-building

9.4.1. Develop and implement education and training programmes for different target groups in order to enhance the understanding of the marine litter problem;

9.4.2. Facilitate the application of technical sectoral guidelines for different target groups through regional workshops and training programmes; and

9.4.3. Provide technical training and capacity-building to staff from national and municipal governments, port authorities and the shipping industry on the prevention and reduction of marine litter from land-based and sea-based sources through regional workshops and training courses.

Actions

9.5 Evaluation of the effectiveness of the implementation of the CRMLAP at the regional level

9.5.1. Development of a methodology for the evaluation of the effectiveness of the implementation of the CRMLAP at the national and regional levels;

9.5.2. Evaluation of the effectiveness of the implementation of the CRMLAP at the national level; and

9.5.3. Evaluation of the effectiveness of the implementation of the CRMLAP at the regional level.

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ANNEX

Caspian Regional Marine Litter Action Plan

SECTION 16

TOPIC 1: LEGAL AND ECONOMIC INSTRUMENTS

	Action	Timetable	Lead Authority	Verification indicator	Financial source
	1.1. Assist countries in developing national legal and economic instruments to regulate and prevent marine pollution from land-based and sea-based sources, including the minimization of pollution from sewage, and from production and consumption waste.	2024	Secretariat	Developed	Secretariat
	1.2. Assist the Caspian littoral states in improving legislation in the field of marine litter including the regulation of microplastics.	2022	Countries	Improved	Countries
	1.3. Promote the incorporation of legal provisions for marine litter into various sectors of national legislation, such as legislation on fisheries,	2022	Countries	Promoted	Countries

protected areas, production and consumption waste and solid waste management.				
1.4. Develop possible prevention measures related to Extended Producer Responsibility by making the producers, manufacturers and first importer responsible for the entire life cycle of the product.	2023	Countries	Developed	Countries
1.5. Elaborate recommendations to develop a circular economy approach on the basis of improving the economic mechanisms and sectoral legislation in the field of waste management.	2024	Secretariat and Countries	Developed	Secretariat and Countries
1.6. Develop recommendations on the stimulation for structural economic changes to ensure a reduction in the production and consumption of plastics, to intensify the production of more environmentally friendly materials and also to ensure the extension of recycling and reusing.				
1.7. Develop measures to reduce plastic bag consumption through the use of fiscal and economic instruments.	2021	Countries	Developed	Countries
1.8. Cooperate with national stakeholders on the establishment and/or further development of the Extended Producer Responsibility approach, including deposit refund systems for bottles, containers and cans (e.g. glass, plastic and aluminium).	2022	Countries	Cooperated	Countries
1.9. Develop cooperation under the Tehran Convention in the field of addressing the marine litter problem with international conventions and agreements dealing with marine litter issues, as appropriate, such as the MARPOL Convention and its Annex V, the London Convention and its Protocol, the Basel Convention, the Global Programme of Action (GPA) for the protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities and the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries.	2022	Countries	Developed	Countries
1.10. Prepare recommendations for applying cost effective measures to prevent any marine littering from dredging activities, in particular maintenance dredging in port areas.	2022	Secretariat and Countries	Prepared	Secretariat and Countries

	1.11. Evaluate the direct costs and loss of income to tourism and fisheries due to marine litter pollution.	2023	Secretariat and Countries	Evaluated	Secretariat and Countries
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SECTION 17

TOPIC 2: INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT, INCLUDING MARINE LITTER					
	Action	Timetable	Lead Authority	Verification indicator	Financial source
	2.1. Compile information on best waste management practices and disseminate it among industry and business representatives in the Caspian littoral states.	2022	Secretariat and Countries	Disseminated	Secretariat and Countries
	2.2. Seek cooperation with river and river basin authorities in order to assess the impacts of litter from riverine input on the marine environment.	2021	Secretariat and Countries	Cooperation achieved	Secretariat and Countries
	2.3. Promote elaboration and implementation of adequate waste reduction, reuse and recycling measures in order to reduce the amount of litter, particularly the fraction of plastic waste that goes to landfill or incineration without energy recovery.	2022	Secretariat and Countries	Implemented	Secretariat and Countries
	2.4. Elaborate, in accordance with national legislation, proposals for decision-makers to address illegal dumping, including sewage disposal, in coastal zones and rivers as well as littering beaches.	2022	Secretariat and Countries	Proposals made	Secretariat and Countries
	2.5. Promote the development of waste collection, separation and safe disposal systems.	2023	Secretariat and Countries	Promoted	Secretariat and Countries
	2.6. Prepare proposals for the implementation of effective methods for assessing and accounting marine litter, including primary and secondary microplastics, in national policies for solid waste management.	2023	Countries	Proposals prepared	Countries

	2.7. Propose the introduction of appropriate measures to minimize the use of microplastics that may affect the marine environment. Examine the possibility of developing and adopting a voluntary agreement on phasing out of the use of microplastic and discuss it with relevant sectors.	2024	Countries	Proposed and examined	Countries
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SECTION 18

TOPIC 3: PREVENTING AND REDUCING MARINE LITTER FROM LAND-BASED SOURCES					
	Action	Timetable	Lead Authority	Verification indicator	Financial source
	3.1. Promote the development of regional sectoral guidelines to prevent and reduce pollution of the marine environment from land-based sources in the context of supporting relevant national measures.	2024	Secretariat	Promoted	Secretariat
	3.2. Identify and systematize major land-based sources of pollution of the marine and coastal environment of the Caspian Sea.	2024	Secretariat	Identified and systematize	Secretariat and countries
	3.3. Implement relevant Actions of all other Sections.	As presented	Secretariat and countries	Implemented	

SECTION 19

TOPIC 4: PREVENTING AND REDUCING MARINE LITTER FROM SEA-BASED SOURCES					
	Action	Timetable	Lead Authority	Verification indicator	Financial source

4.1. In the context of the Tehran Convention provide assistance and collaborate on the implementation of the requirements of Annex V to the MARPOL Convention related to provide and improve the availability of reception facilities for all types of ship-generated waste in their ports, harbours, terminals and marinas.				
4.2. Collaborate with stakeholders - with the administrations of the Caspian Sea seaports - to prepare a review of the state of port reception facilities in the Caspian Sea region and to develop appropriate recommendations for improving the efficiency of their use, including economic mechanisms.	2021	Secretariat and Countries	Collaborated	Secretariat and Countries
4.3. Prepare a review on the status of marine litter associated with oil and gas production/platforms and carry out an assessment of production and disposal of marine litter.				
4.4. Under the Tehran Convention, collaborate with relevant international and regional organizations, including the Commission to Preserve, Sustainably Manage Marine Biological Resources and to Manage Joint Resources, to explore and implement to the extent possible the “gear marking to indicate ownership” concept aiming to contribute to reduce fisheries-related marine litter.				
4.5. To contribute to events under the Commission to Preserve, Sustainably Manage Marine Biological Resources and to Manage Joint Resources related to the development and application of operational fishing methods that minimize the loss of fishing gear and ghost fishing effects from lost or abandoned fishing gear in accordance with the FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations) technical guidelines for the implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries.	2022	Countries	Contributed	Countries
4.6. In collaboration with the Commission to Preserve, Sustainably Manage Marine Biological Resources and to Manage Joint Resources, develop recommendations on risk assessment for the conservation of	2022	Secretariat and Countries	Developed	Secretariat and Countries

	bioresources and their habitat, on the loss of fish stocks resulting from abandoned/lost fishing gear and on ghost fishing effects.				
	4.7. In collaboration with the Commission to Preserve, Sustainably Manage Marine Biological Resources and to Manage Joint Resources, define the main components of fisheries and aquaculture waste that may contribute to the generation of marine litter.	2023	Secretariat and Countries	Defined	Secretariat and Countries
	4.8. In collaboration with the Commission to Preserve, Sustainably Manage Marine Biological Resources and to Manage Joint Resources, develop proposals to minimize the amount of marine litter associated with fishing.	2021	Countries	Developed	Countries
	4.9. Collaborate with representatives of the shipping, fishing, and tourism sectors in developing sectoral guidelines for the prevention and reduction of marine pollution from sea-based sources, especially for the shipping and fishing sectors.	2022	Countries	Collaborated	Countries

SECTION 20

TOPIC 5: MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT OF MARINE LITTER					
	Action	Timetable	Lead Authority	Verification indicator	Financial source
	5.1. Carry out monitoring of marine litter at selected pilot sites in the Caspian marine zone on the basis of visual observations to estimate the amount of marine litter and to determine the morphological composition of marine litter, including plastic waste.	2022	Secretariat	Carried out	Secretariat
	5.2. Prepare guidelines for the monitoring and assessment of marine litter for the Caspian Sea region.	2021		Prepared and determined	

	5.3. Determine technologies for monitoring marine litter and microlitter in the Caspian Sea biota and on the seabed based on available technologies in other marine regions.		Secretariat and Countries		Secretariat and Countries
	5.4. Promote the development of national and regional marine litter assessment and monitoring programmes as well as the introduction of such programmes into existing national programmes.	2022	Secretariat and Countries	Developed	Secretariat and Countries
	5.5. Designate national and regional reference laboratories for the analysis of microplastic in the marine environment.	2022	Secretariat and Countries	Designated	Secretariat and Countries
	5.6. Establish a Caspian regional data and information base on marine litter in the Caspian Sea region for the storage, management, analysis and interpretation of the results of the regional and national marine litter assessment and monitoring programmes.	2022	Secretariat and Countries	Established	Secretariat and Countries

SECTION 21

TOPIC 6: SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH FOR MINIMIZING POLLUTION BY MARINE LITTER, INCLUDING MICROPLASTICS					
	Action	Timetable	Lead Authority	Verification indicator	Financial source
	6.1. Promote the study of marine litter, including microplastics, as one of the pollutants of the Caspian Sea marine and coastal environment.	2022	Secretariat and Countries	Promoted	Secretariat and Countries
	6.2. Promote scientific research in the field of the rate of degradation or fragmentation of marine litter in various natural environments.	2022	Secretariat and Countries	Promoted	Secretariat and Countries

6.3. Promote scientific research of marine litter as a vector for invasive alien species movement.	2022	Secretariat and Countries	Promoted	Secretariat and Countries
6.4. Promote scientific research on the removal of microplastics from the aquatic environment.	2022	Secretariat and Countries	Promoted	Secretariat and Countries
6.5. Facilitate scientific research on the basis of the Convention on Biological Diversity practical guidance on preventing and mitigating the impacts of marine litter on marine and coastal biodiversity and habitats.	2022	Secretariat and Countries	Facilitated	Secretariat and Countries
6.6. Promote scientific research to determine the degree of adverse impact of microplastics on marine biota.	2022	Secretariat and Countries	Promoted	Secretariat and Countries
6.7. Promote the organization of scientific research to study the penetration of microplastics through benthic and pelagic food chains of marine biota.	2022	Secretariat and Countries	Promoted	Secretariat and Countries
6.8. Promote scientific research on the development of environmentally sound production technologies to minimize marine litter.	2022	Secretariat and Countries	Promoted	Secretariat and Countries
6.9. Promote the application of scientific research results regarding plastic use (e.g. for road construction).	2022	Secretariat and Countries	Promoted	Secretariat and Countries
6.10. Promote the development technologies to prevent marine litter from land-based sources.	2022	Secretariat and Countries	Promoted	Secretariat and Countries
6.11. Support scientific research in the field of technologies to reduce the environmental impact of plastics on the marine environment.	2022	Secretariat and Countries	Supported	Secretariat and Countries

	6.12. Promote scientific research on the distribution and amount of marine litter in the Caspian Sea which contributes to marine pollution.	2022	Secretariat and Countries	Promoted	Secretariat and Countries
	6.13. Identify the main sources of microlitter, assess the diverse impact of microplastics on the marine and coastal environment, and develop measures to reduce its impact.	2022	Secretariat and Countries	Identified and developed	Secretariat and Countries

SECTION 22

TOPIC 7: FACILITATION OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF COASTAL AREAS					
	Action	Timetable	Lead Authority	Verification indicator	Financial source
	7.1. Develop regional guidelines for the integrated management of marine and coastal areas, including an assessment of coastal vulnerability, and <i>inter alia</i> marine pollution in the context of the sea level fluctuations.	2022	Secretariat	Developed	Secretariat
	7.2. Summarize the marine litter related experience of the Caspian littoral countries in the sustainable development of coastal territories, including in the area of sustainable production and consumption, in order to minimize pollution.	2022	Secretariat	Summarized	Secretariat
	7.3. Develop recommendations for an integrated approach to the production and use of plastic waste to ensure the transition to the resource-efficient regulation of plastics on the basis of a closed cycle system.	2022	Secretariat	Developed	Secretariat

	7.4. Facilitate the development and implementation of measures to reduce, reuse and recycle waste in order to minimize the amount of waste.	2022	Secretariat	Facilitated	Secretariat
	7.5. Develop proposals to take necessary measures at the national level to combat illegal landfills, littering beaches and illegal dumping of solid waste or sewage in coastal zones.	2022	Secretariat and Countries	Developed	Secretariat and Countries
	7.6. Elaborate proposals for national socio-economic development programmes to reduce the discharge of untreated or insufficiently treated wastewater into the Caspian Sea and into water bodies associated with it; to minimize industrial wastes, including from the oil and gas industry, and other wastes, including marine litter, taking into account the environmental, recreational and fishery related specifics of the region.	2022	Secretariat and Countries	Developed	Secretariat and Countries
	7.7. Develop and implement, in collaboration with relevant stakeholders, regional and national programmes to locate, remove and dispose of accumulations/hot spots of sea-based marine litter related to marine transport, fisheries, mariculture, aquaculture, tourism and oil/gas production.	2022	Secretariat and Countries	Developed	Secretariat and Countries

SECTION 23

TOPIC 8: REMOVAL OF EXISTING LITTER AND ITS DISPOSAL					
	Action	Timetable	Lead Authority	Verification indicator	Financial source
	8.1. Enhance cooperation with stakeholders, such as regional authorities, business, industry sectors, public and other civil society groups interested in minimizing the pollution of the marine and coastal environment of the Caspian Sea, related to by marine litter.	2021	Secretariat and Countries	Enhanced	Secretariat and Countries

	8.2. Develop and promote, together with the Commission to Preserve, Sustainably Manage Marine Biological Resources and to Manage Joint Resources, the fishing industry, and other relevant stakeholders, best practices in relation to Abandoned, Lost or otherwise Discarded Fishing Gear (ALDFG).	2022	Secretariat and Countries	Developed and promoted	Secretariat and Countries
	8.3. Collaborate with the Commission to Preserve, Sustainably Manage Marine Biological Resources and to Manage Joint Resources and promote the implementation of a “fishing for litter” environmentally sound practice, in consultation with competent international and regional organizations and in partnership with fishermen. Facilitate the cleanup of floating litter and the seabed from marine litter caught incidentally as well as generated by fishing vessels in their regular activities, including derelict fishing gear.	2022	Secretariat	Promoted	Secretariat
	8.4. Consider and address potential marine litter arising from ship maintenance and ship dismantling.	2022	Secretariat and Countries	Addressed	Secretariat and Countries
	8.5. Establish cooperation with the waste industry in order to ensure the proper operations of solid waste management facilities on shore (waste reception and disposal from all sources, including shipping, fisheries, platforms, marinas and harbour wastes).	2022	Countries	Developed	Countries

SECTION 24

TOPIC 9: ACTIVITIES SUPPORTING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CRMLAP					
Section	Action	Timetable	Lead Authority	Verification indicator	Financial source
	9.1.1. Establish a Regional Coordinating Group on the CRMLAP.	2022	Secretariat	Established	Secretariat

Section 9.1: Regional and international cooperation and reporting on the CRMLAP.	9.1.2. Establish, within the framework of the Regional Coordinating Group on the CRMLAP, a subgroup of experts for the assessment and monitoring of marine litter. This subgroup shall become a part of the Tehran Convention Environmental Monitoring Program.	2022	Secretariat	Established	Secretariat
	9.1.3. Establish partnerships with cities to provide effective transfer of knowledge and innovation, and promote collaboration among cities/between countries.	2021	Secretariat and Countries	Established	Secretariat and Countries
	9.1.4. Adapt international developments on marine litter to the Caspian Sea region.	2021	Secretariat and Countries	Established	Secretariat and Countries
	9.1.5. Enhance interaction under the Tehran Convention and the Moscow Protocol and use the existing cooperation platforms and mechanisms in the field of addressing the marine litter problem (such as the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Pollution from Land-based Activities, the Global Partnership on Marine Litter, and Regional Seas Action Plans).	2023	Secretariat	Enhanced	Secretariat
	9.1.6. Encourage stakeholder engagement in relevant international initiatives, such as the International Coastal Cleanup (ICC) campaigns, Clean Up The World (CUW) campaigns, Green Fins and similar campaigns or programmes, as well as in national or sub-national efforts to educate the public, including school children, on marine litter issues as well as to encourage positive behaviour changes that will help to reduce the generation of litter.	2023	Secretariat	Encouraged	Secretariat
	9.1.7. Convene regional conferences and stakeholder meetings.	2023	Secretariat	Convened	Secretariat
	9.1.8. Prepare national biennial reports on the implementation of the CRMLAP. Such reports should have a section on national assessment and monitoring programmes which could also be used for reporting to the Tehran Convention.	2024	Countries	Prepared	Countries

	9.1.9. Prepare a regional biennial report on the implementation of the CRMLAP. Such reports should have a section on national assessment and monitoring programmes.	2024	Secretariat	Produced	Secretariat
Section 9.2: Involvement of stakeholders, NGOs and civil society.	9.2.1. Support the involvement of various stakeholders including regional, national, and local authorities, NGOs, and the private sector as well as relevant stakeholders to implement the actions of the CRMLAP.	2021	Secretariat	Assisted	Secretariat
	9.2.2. Support the implementation of the National Marine Litter Cleanup Campaigns (beaches, riverbanks, storm water drainage) on a regular basis.	Regularly	Secretariat and Countries	Supported	Secretariat and Countries
	9.2.3. Collect and organize information, and coordinate the voluntary cleaning of beaches as a tool in educating and involving local communities, stakeholders and media to increase knowledge and awareness of the marine litter problem.	Regularly	Secretariat and Countries	Coordinated	Secretariat and Countries
	9.2.4. Enhance public participation in addressing marine litter through clean-ups, exploring and implementing the Adopt-a-Beach concept, or similar practices.	2022	Secretariat and Countries	Enhanced	Secretariat and Countries
	9.2.5. Encourage and assist entities with a particular interest in or responsibility for certain coastal areas, such as tourist resorts and port authorities, to undertake regular clean-ups of their areas.	2022	Secretariat and Countries	Encouraged and assisted	Secretariat and Countries
	9.2.6. Promote and enhance national stakeholder alliances focusing on marine litter.	2021	Secretariat and Countries	Promoted and enhanced	Secretariat and Countries
	9.2.7. Communicate with existing regional, national and local networks of stakeholders on marine litter.	2021	Secretariat and Countries	Communicated	Secretariat and Countries
	9.2.8. Convene regional and national stakeholder meetings.	2022	Secretariat and Countries	Convened	Secretariat and Countries

Section 9.3: Information, education, outreach and public awareness.	9.3.1. Develop a booklet on the CRMLAP and translate it into the Caspian states' national language.	2022	Secretariat	Developed	Secretariat
	9.3.2. Formulate and implement awareness-raising campaigns and activities, including the development of materials (e.g. booklets, leaflets, flyers, etc.) and the organization of workshops and forums, for the stakeholders involvement, general public participation, various sectors, municipal authorities, local communities, school children and youth and other groups, in the sphere of production and consumption as well as the reduction of waste generation and the application of environmentally sound disposal and reuse in order to reduce the amount of the marine litter.	Regularly	Secretariat	Formulated	Secretariat
Section 9.4: Training and capacity- building.	9.4.1. Develop and implement education and training programmes for different target groups in order to enhance the understanding the marine litter problem.	Regularly	Secretariat	Developed	Secretariat
	9.4.2. Facilitate the application of technical sectoral guidelines for different target groups through regional workshops and training programmes.	Regularly	Secretariat	Facilitated	Secretariat
	9.4.3. Provide technical training and capacity-building to staff from national and municipal governments, port authorities and the shipping industry on the prevention and reduction of marine litter from land-based and sea-based sources through regional workshops and training courses.	Regularly	Secretariat	Provided	Secretariat
Section 9.5: Evaluation of effectiveness of the implementation of the CRMLAP at the regional level.	9.5.1. Development of a methodology for the evaluation of the effectiveness of the implementation of the CRMLAP at the national and regional levels.	2022	Secretariat	Developed	Secretariat
	9.5.2. Evaluation of the effectiveness of the implementation of the CRMLAP at the national level.	2024	Countries	Evaluated	Countries
	9.5.3. Evaluation of the effectiveness of the implementation of the CRMLAP at the regional level.	2024	Secretariat	Evaluated	Secretariat

