

Progress Report on the implementation of the Regional Seas Strategic Directions 2017 - 2020



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Name of the Region: Caspian Sea (Tehran Convention)

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Guidance: Please provide any updates since the 18th GMRS held in 2016 up to date

I. Progress in the implementation of the Regional Seas Strategic Directions 2017 -2020 since 2017 up to date

1. Reduce marine pollution of all kinds in line with the SDG Goal 14.1.

No	Action by Regional Seas Secretariat	Related action/project	Results	Delivery date
1.1	Enhance data, information management, monitoring and assessment at national and regional level through development of guidelines, baselines, regional indicators, and monitoring programmes as well as identification of region-specific emerging issues through research	3 rounds of negotiations on the Protocol on Monitoring, Assessment and Information Exchange	Protocol adopted at the COP-6, 6-8 November 2019	6-8 November 2019
		Working Group on (Environmental) Monitoring and Assessment (WGMA) work	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Agreed on a set of common Caspian Regional Water Quality Standards based on the list of Maximum Allowable Concentrations of pollutants in the sea water legally established in Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Russian Federation and Turkmenistan complemented with a couple of additional parameters proposed by IR of Iran. 2. Reached a preliminary agreement on using the Probable Effect Levels (PELs) from the Canadian system as Interim Regional 	n/a

			<p>Guidelines for quality of the Caspian Sea bottom sediments. The initial stage will involve only a limited number of parameters to comply with the country's monitoring capabilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reviewed the degree of preparedness of the Caspian littoral states to putting the Caspian Environment Monitoring Program (EMP) into implementation and propose that TCIS undertakes a survey aiming at identifying the country's efforts to start the EMP implementation in the near future. - Reviewed the Table of Contents and the final text of the Second Caspian Sea State of the Marine Environment (SOE2) Report and made recommendations regarding its structure and procedures for drafting the future SOE reports.. - Drafted procedures for initial monitoring data exchange and quality control and addressed 	
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			requirements to the Regional Monitoring Data Centre including its possible establishment as a part of the Caspian Environment Information Centre (CEIC), which development and operation is the responsibility of the designated National Information Officers, co-ordinated by GRID-Arendal.	
1.2	Raise the visibility of relevant pollution issues at all levels and facilitate science-policy interactions emphasizing socio-economic impacts and promoting relevant practices, tools, technologies and measures	Caspian Sea Day 2019	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Roundtable in 5 Caspian countries hold on the subject on the marine litter 2. Holding of a coastal clean-up campaign and awareness raising activities 	
		Marine litter Project	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Promotion of the Trainings on Marine litter: Massive Open Online Course on marine litter (UNEP & Open University) and sustainable tourism strategies (GSTC); 	

			<p>2. Stakeholders identification: five National experts are contracted to facilitate the initial establishment of the Regional network on marine litter;</p> <p>3. Caspian Marine Litter Action Plan: an International Expert is contracted to work on National Survey on Marine Litter, Bibliography relevant to Issue of Marine Litter in Caspian Sea Region; and Preparation, Adoption and development of the Caspian Marine Litter Action Plan.</p>	
1.3	Raise issues at global level and facilitate regionalization of outcomes of the GPA IGR4 and mandated global partnerships			

2. Create increased resilience of people, marine and coastal ecosystems, and their health and productivity, in line with the SDG Goal 13 and decisions made at the UNFCCC COP21.

No	Action by Regional Seas Secretariat	Related action/project	Results	Delivery date
2.1	Support mainstreaming of climate change into regional and national policies and institutional frameworks			
2.2	Assess the impacts of climate change and the resilience of people, society and ecosystems in marine and coastal areas to propose adaptation strategies			
2.3	Create or support climate research, policy networks and inter-regional knowledge exchange towards a better understanding of climate impacts on the marine and coastal environment			
2.4	Facilitate access to instruments for climate financing at national and regional levels	Consultations held to develop GCF project concept note	A GCF concept note developed on Climate Change information and Early Warning System	

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3. Develop integrated, ecosystem-based regional ocean policies and strategies for sustainable use of marine and coastal resources, paying close attention to blue growth.

No	Action by Regional Seas Secretariat	Related action/project	Results	Delivery date
3.1	Promote application of guidelines, rules and regulations for exploitation and exploration of living and non-living resources within Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans and develop such instruments, where necessary, based on the ecosystem approach			

4. Enhance effectiveness of Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans as regional platforms for supporting integrated ocean policies and management.

No	Action by Regional Seas Secretariat	Related action/project	Results	Delivery date
4.1	Support science-policy dialogue, science-based decisions and provision of regional guidelines	Scientific collaboration among five Caspian National Academies of science linked to the environmental protection of the Caspian Sea	5 Caspian National Academies of science embodied in the Tehran Convention	6-8 November 2019
4.2	Support member states with developing integrated ocean policy and improve relevant national legislation to enhance chronological consistency and coherency across sectors			
4.3	Enhance information exchange and interregional cooperation towards common goals			
4.4	Encourage multi-stakeholder participation including NGOs and the private sector to promote compliance with Regional Seas instruments, existing guidelines and regulations of ocean management	Civil society engagement	Astrakhan Statements and Recommendations by the Representatives of Civil Society and other Stakeholders adopted by the COP-6	6-8 November 2019
4.5				

Ensure the highest standards of Secretariat performance in support in administration of the Conventions and Action plan			

II. Challenges with the implementation of the Regional Seas Strategic Directions 2017 – 2020

Matters related to the institutional arrangements of the TC had priorities over matters related to the implementation of substantive provision of TC and its Protocols related to specific measures aiming at improving environmental protection of the Caspian Sea.

III. Lessons learnt (2017 – up to date)

IV. Any other issues / decisions / case studies / experiences to be shared

V Emerging issues that have not been covered in the RSSD 2017-2020 but are proposed to be covered during the next RSSD

*Please submit this report to Nancy Soi at Nancy.soi@un.org by **30 August 2019**