

Islamic Republic of Iran

National Caspian Action Plan (NCAP)

Executive Summary

According to GEF guidance, the purpose of conducting a Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) is to scale the relative importance of sources and causes, both immediate and root, of transboundary 'waters' problems, and to identify potential preventive and remedial actions. Therefore TDA provided the technical basis for development of both the National Caspian Action Plans (NCAPs) and the Strategic Action Programme (SAP) in the area of International Waters of the GEF.

The TDA, performed by the Caspian Environment (CEP) programme, summarized information available from the region, gathered both as part of ongoing national activities within the littoral states, as well as information made available since the inception of the Caspian Environment Programme (CEP) in May 1998. The CEP established a series of ten Caspian Regional Thematic Centres (CRTCs) throughout the Caspian region to facilitate the acquisition of the information required to produce the TDA report and to support the requirements of the NCAPs and SAP.

The TDA, as the technical basis for the NCAPs and SAP, provided the expert opinion on the various environmental problems and issues of the Caspian Sea. It terminated in a list of actions that were recommended for consideration in the NCAPs and SAP. This list of recommendations was considered in the context of national priorities and regional priorities, and became more refined during the NCAP/SAP process.

On the basis of the knowledge provided by the TDA report, the following Environmental Quality Objectives (EQOs) were recognized as benchmarks of a relatively acceptable ecological status in the Caspian area:

- Sustainable Economic Uses of Natural Resource of the Caspian Sea
- Balanced Caspian Environment including Biodiversity Conservation (species habitat and genetic)
- High Quality of Caspian Sea, Surface and Groundwater.
- Sustainable Multiple Use of the Caspian Coastal Environment.
- Strengthened Civil Society for the Purposes of Environmentally Sustainable Development

Based on those EQOs, the National Caspian Action Plans (NCAPs) were developed for each littoral state. Therefore NCAP for Islamic Republic of Iran has, in fact, been derived from the final Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) report of CEP, and is actually a guideline for development and implementation of series of preventive and remedial plans for rehabilitation, sustainable development/use and preservation of the resources of that part of the Caspian Sea which lies in the territory of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The National Caspian Action Plan for The I.R. of Iran consists of 9 chapters. The titles of the chapters are as follows:

1. Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA)
2. Environmental Setting
3. Socio-Economic and Human Health
4. Biodiversity
5. Fisheries
6. Pollution
7. Institutional and Legal Framework
8. The State of Coastal Planning and Management

And the 9th chapter summarizes the Objectives, Interventions and Targets.

5 main environmental problems and issues that are recognized in the NCAP include:

- Inadequate socio-economic and public health conditions

- Threats to Biodiversity
- Land-Based and Sea-Based Sources of Pollution
- Decline in Commercial Fish Stock, including Sturgeon
- Degradation of Landscapes and Damage to Habitats, infrastructure and Amenities

For each of the above problems and issues a set of targets were defined and the following 26 priority actions were suggested as preventive and remedial measures:

National Priority Actions

1. Improvement of Sanitation Conditions
2. Increased Public Health Care Units
3. Develop Biodiversity Action Plan
4. Establishment of Biodiversity Center
5. Prepare Red Book of I.R.Iran
6. Revise Biodiversity Laws and Regulations
7. Conduct Pilot Project for Combating Mnemiopsis Leidy
8. Develop National Plan of Action for Land-based Activities
9. Establishment of a Contaminants Monitoring Center
10. Implementation of Solid Waste Disposal and Management Programme
11. Implementation of Sewage Treatment Plant
12. Implement Pashakola Integrated Project
13. Implement Watershed Management Project Including Sefid Rood
14. Develop Agrochemical Usage
15. Develop and Implement National Oil Pollution Emergency Plan
16. Develop Navigation Working Group and Navigation Risks Management
17. Establishment of National Fisheries Advisory Committee
18. Establishment Sturgeon Reference Center/Gene Bank
19. Increase Sturgeon Fingerlings Release and Culture
20. Establishment of National Council/Committee for the Planning and Management of the Caspian Coastal Areas
21. Revise National Legislation Pertinent to Coastal Areas
22. Conduct Integrated Coastal Area Planning and Management Pilot Project
23. Implement Protected Area Management Plan
24. Encourage and Collaborate with NGOs and Private Sectors for each of the Environmental Issues/Problems
25. Implementation of Relevant Public Awareness/Participation Programmes
26. Conduction of Different Training Courses for Different Target Groups

Among the priority actions, those which scored highest in an evaluation process that employed criteria such as Tranboundary Effects, National Commitment, Fundability, Country Priority, Health Benefit, Poverty Reduction, Private Sector Participation and Sustainability, were chosen as for further study and planning. As the results, a set of interventions were prescribed for each of the 12 prioritized actions, and the following tables summarize the final outcome as the essence of the NCAP for I.R. of Iran.

Priority Actions	Interventions	Estimated Cost (\$)	Project Duration (Years)
Development and Implementation of Solid Waste Disposal and Management Program	- Implementation of pilot projects on : · Recycling plants · Composting plants · Incineration plant & Power production	7,547,169	1-10
	- Implementation of solid waste Management in major coastal cities	9,433,962	1-5
Development and Implementation of Sewage Treatment Plant	- Conduction of feasibility study for major coastal cities	3,018,867	1-4
	- Establishment of different stages of sewage treatment methods		
Anzali Wetland Management	- Develop and implement new legislation on protected areas	628,930	1-5
	- Develop management plan for Anzali Wetland	150943	1-2
	- Identify potential eco-tourism sites	125,786	1-2
	- In collaboration with private sector, invest in eco-tourism	12,578,616	3-10
	- Improve eco-tourism services and infrastructure	1,257,861	3-6
	- Develop eco-tourism management framework	62,893	1-2
	- Perform a pilot project on eco-tourism	503,144	1-3
	- Establish “Green” areas for eco-tourism		
Establishment of a National Council/Committee for Integrated Coastal Area Planning and Management	- Establish affiliated committees (Natural Resources; Transportation; Shipping and Marine Services; Water Resources and Coastal lands; Coastal Architecture and Urban Development; Training, Recreation , Public Participation and Pollution Control)		
	- Review and revise national Legislation pertinent to coastal areas	37,735	1-2
	- Obtain government adoption of the revised legislation		
	- Prepare GIS maps of coastal areas	37,735	1-2
	- Formulate coastal planning regulatory zones	1,006,286	1-3
	- Develop coastal areas zoning		
	- Develop spatial planning for human settlements	503,144	1-3
	- Perform environmental audit and prepare EIA guidelines for industrials agricultural and urban development	125,786	1-10
	- Identify training needs and conduct training for different target groups	377,358	1-10

Establishment of Sturgeon Reference Center/Gene Bank	- Establishment of a Sturgeon Gene Bank	377,358	2-4
	- Improvement of existing sturgeon fingerlings releasing capabilities	566,037	2-5
	- In Collaboration with private sector invest in sturgeon conservation, fingerlings releasing and culture	1,069,182	2-6
Reforestation Project	- Conduct taxonomic survey	188,679	2-4
	- Assess the reasons, trends and legislation needs for deforestation	50314	1-2
	- Identify alternatives and economic incentives and disincentives	50314	2
	- Perform reforestation programme in affected areas	1,006,289	1-8
	- Public awareness and participation campaigns		1-10
Project on Renewable Energies	- Identifying potential use of Different methods of renewable energy	25,157	1-2
	- Implementing pilot projects	125,786	2-4
	- Conducting public awareness programme	188,679	1-4
	- Implementing appropriate method on selected areas	2,515,723	5-10
Establishment of a National Biodiversity Center	- Establish a Biodiversity Task Force for implementing the following asks : a) Inter-agencies co-ordination		1-2
	b) Development of data & information center	75,471	2-3
	c) Development of GIS and mapping of habitats	628,930	1-3
	d) Develop monitoring programmes	125,786	1-2
	e) Biodiversity valuation	628,930	1-4
	f) Economic evaluation and compensation		
	g) Preparation of draft biodiversity protocol	25,157	1-2
	h) Run public awareness programmes	628,930	1-7
	i) Conduct training courses	314,465	1-5
	j) Biodiversity protection pilot project		
	k) Combat invasive alien species		
	l) Improve the existing natural history museum		
	m) Enhance national biotechnology capabilities	1,257,861	1-5
	n) Apply different genetic preservation methods for selected species including sturgeon	377,358	2-5
	- Review and revise laws and regulations related to: a) Living resources exploitation b) Import and export of species /genes	18,867	1-2

Establishment of Environmental Training Center	c) Gene engineering and propagation		
	- National biodiversity loss (claim and compensation)	503,144	3-6
	- Identify environmental training Needs for different target groups	12,578	1-2
	- Design training programmes		
	- Finalize modern operandi of the center	25,157	2-3
Implementation of Watershed Management Project Including Sefidrood	- Collaborate with other universities and centers in the region	628,930	2-8
	- Establishment of reverine regulations and management system	125,786	1-3
	- Management of land-based activities pertinent to the area	62,893	1-2
	- Plan and control water intake for different consumptions regulations	628,930	2-3
	- Determining contaminant loads Protect and manage natural spawning grounds		
Establishment of a National Contaminants Monitoring Center	- Establish a center of excellence for pollution monitoring in one of the Caspian research institutes	628,930	1-3
	- Develop monitoring plan including: quantification and qualification of contaminants and spatio-temporal distribution of contaminants	226,415	1-2
	- Oil Pollution trajectory models	125,786	2-3
	- Implement solid waste disposal and management programme in major coastal cities		
	- Implement sewage treatment plant in major coastal cities		
Integrated Land & Water Management	Establishment of :		
	- River regulations and management		
	- Land-based activities regulations and management		
	- Dam construction regulations		
	- Development of EIA guidelines for watershed management Implementation of integrated land and water management plan for selected area (e.g. Pashakola)		