

Information on the measures taken in Azerbaijan towards mitigation of climate change impact to the Caspian Sea as a possible contribution to the report on the topic "The impact of climate change on oceans of the world" to be prepared by the Secretary General of the United Nations

The Caspian Sea is the world's largest indoor water reservoir-lake with the unique and rich natural resources which is covered by five Caspian Sea littoral countries (Azerbaijan, Iran, Russian Federation, Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan). The Caspian Sea as a closed water basin is more vulnerable to anthropogenic impacts, as well as to climate change.

Fluctuation level on different scenarios of climate change of the Caspian Sea, flooded areas, dynamics of change of salt-ridden lands and flows, pollution of the Caspian Sea, climate change impacts on biological resources, the problems of hydrology regime changes as a result of climate change were complexly investigated and a perennial database was created on the basis of scientific-researches results.

In 2016, the Framework Convention on "Protection of the Marine Environment of the Caspian Sea" entered into force with the aim of preservation and protection of Caspian Sea environment, restoration and sustainable use of natural resources. The Strategic Action Programme has been adopted in order to implement the Convention and its protocols. One of the goals of the program is to develop and implement national strategies and plans, to develop relevant scenarios related to Caspian Sea level fluctuations taking into account climate changes, and sustainable management of coastal ecosystems with the aim of adaptation to climate changes.

In the framework of the "Azerbaijan 2020: Vision to the future" Development Concept comprehensive measures are implemented towards elimination and protection of pollution of the sea and its basin, and to adapt to climate change.

The State Programme "On the use of alternative and renewable energy sources", National Programme "On development and restoration of Forests", "Environmentally sustainable socio-economic development program" and State Programme "On development of hydrometeorology" has been adopted by the Government of Azerbaijan in order to reduce the impact of greenhouse gases on climate change.

"Increasing representation of effectively managed marine ecosystems in the protected area system of Azerbaijan" project is implemented with the support of UNDP to establish Gizilagach Coastal National Park, which is located on the south-west coast of the Caspian Sea and considered one of the most important wetland basins for wintering and nesting of waterfowls in order to sustainable management of coastal ecosystems within the specially protected natural areas of Azerbaijan and ensure adaptation to climate changes.

Regular promotion activities are implemented by the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Azerbaijan towards public education and awareness raising related to resolving environmental problems of Caspian Sea, including reduction of climate change impact, as well as communication programmes are executed for informing the people inhabited in Caspian littoral areas on the use of alternative energy. For this purpose traditionally every year "Caspian day" and "World Maritime Day" are celebrated in 12th of

August and the last week of September, respectively with the participation of the relevant authorities, NGO's as well as youth. Regular public education and awareness raising activities are implemented by the IDEA Public Union in order to reduce the impacts of climate changes to the Caspian Sea, as well.