

Report of the Survey on How the Recommendations of Leadership Seminar Astrakhan 2003 have been implemented

March – May 2007

Summary

It is almost 5 years ago that the IOI held successfully the Leadership seminar **on Sustainable Development and Regional Security of Caspian Sea and its Deltas Region, May 2003, Astrakhan**. Brilliant recommendations were carried out and suggested to stakeholders at different levels for improving and strengthening the governance of the Caspian Sea and its Deltas region. Since this period, the situation in the Caspian Sea and the coastal communities has changed. Taking into account that the main threats to the Caspian biodiversity were, pollutions, abundance of Ctenophore Mnemiopsis, depletion of main commercial fish species, fluctuation of sea level, poaching and lack in policy management. Nowadays, most of these factors have not been badly managed and well controlled thanks to the development of cooperation, control and assistance of international organizations and finally the good will of policy decision makers from the Caspian littoral countries. If the period of 2003 – 2007 was marked by the exploration of oil in the Northern part of the Caspian Sea, the next coming years will be the wide scale exploitation and development oil industry in this part of the sea. Considering this factor, the IOI in partnership with World Ocean Network, World Aquarium and Climate Crisis Coalition – Conservation for the Oceans Foundation resolved to conduct a survey of the implementation of the Leadership seminar's recommendations held in Astrakhan in May 2003. The aim of this survey is to determine the progress and the agenda for the future. The outcomes of this survey will help to build the final detailed structure of the workshop on "Biodiversity and Environmental Conservation & Oil Resources Development in the Caspian Sea and Coastal Zones". This workshop is expected to be held in August 21 – 24, 2007. For finalization of the survey's results, a round table was held in Astrakhan in May 05, 2007 with the participation of experts from Caspian coastal regions e.g. Atyrau and Kalmikia. Participants agreed that many items of the Leadership recommendations have been implemented. The most important is that the framework Convention for the protection of the Marine Environment of the Caspian Sea has been signed by all parties in Tehran in November 2006. The unique problem of this Convention – it is a Framework Convention and all protocols should be negotiated. This year, in May in Baku will be held a meeting on establishment of executive structure. At present time the situation relatively to pollution and invasive species is more stable. However scientists are wondering what will happen after 2010 when the exploitation of oil will start in the Northern Caspian (Russia and Kazakhstan) and will continue in the Southern part – Azerbaijan ? Regarding Legal issues, many items are still opened and require to be discussed. The idea of starting negotiation for establishment of MPA in the Caspian Sea was accepted by participants. CaspNIRKH already initiated the creation of MPA in the Northern part of Caspian Sea. At present time the most part of the Northern Caspian has a special reserve statute. In summarization all participants agreed with the idea to hold in August a workshop on "Biodiversity and Environmental Conservation & Oil Resources Development in the Caspian Sea and Coastal Zones". Participants only suggested to change Biodiversity by Biological Resources e.g. "Biological Resources and Environmental Conservation & Oil Resources Development in the Caspian Sea and Coastal Zones".

Introduction

The International Ocean Institute OC of Caspian Sea has over the years organized series of conferences, leadership seminars and workshops addressing and analyzing: maritime issues and international cooperation, ocean governance and policy; basin-wide co-development and security; role of ocean resources, products and services for economy and sustainable

development. A certain focus of IOI Caspian Sea has been given to the development of regional and international cooperation. The idea of organizing a Survey on how the Leadership Seminar recommendations are being implemented belongs to the chairperson of the Sustainable Actions Committee of the World Ocean Network, President of World Aquarium and its Conservation for the Oceans Foundation Mr. Leonard Sonnenschein and was brought up in consultations with the Executive Director of IOI, Dr. Iouri Oliouline. The survey was implemented by IOI Caspian Sea in partnership with Astrakhan Technical University. Letters with a special questionnaire was sent to all participants of the Leadership Seminar in April and a reminder in May. However only the CEP provided a detailed answer relatively to work done taking into account of the recommendations of the Leadership Seminar held in 2003. Besides the collection of meanings from participants of the Leadership Seminar letter of invitation were sent to potential participants and partners of the coming workshop in August. To support this workshop letters of interest came from UNDP GEF Project of Lower Volga and OBSCE office from Ashgbad.

The most important of this survey is that we have received the answer from CEP. What kind of recommendations have been implemented and the view of key scientists and other stakeholders who attended the round table meeting. During the period after the Leadership Seminar a great and valuable work has been done by CEP. Many recommendations have been implemented (ref Answer from CEP in attached). The analysis of meaning of different speakers of the roundtable shows that the question on legal statutes of the Caspian Sea is still yet open; a progress has been achieved in biological resources management and environment conservation. The state of exotic species is also well controlled. The idea on creating MPA in the Caspian Sea was been already suggested by CaspNIRKH.

In summarization we can say that the survey was benefic for all, because it was an opportunity to review what was been achieved the last 5 years and to show the way which we must follow for achieving Sustainable development and Regional Security in the Caspian Sea region and its Delta region.

Statement

The objective of the round table is to present an independent expert opinion on possible ways to review address the current situation in the Caspian Sea and deltas, using the recommendation suggested by independent experts during the Leadership Seminar. The expert analysis and assessment of existing problems was based on a comprehensive approach reflecting the fact that conditions in the entire Caspian maritime and deltas region are inter-related and should be considered in a holistic integrated manner; and that most problems have a basin-wide nature.

The overarching goal of governance and natural resource management in the region is understood to be the attainment of sustainable development (political, economic and environmental) for the entire Caspian Sea basin. The Seminar discussions will be organized around three main themes: socio-economic renewal; social and environmental challenges; status, delimitation and distributive justice.

Expectation

After the implementation of the survey we expected to have a concrete responses of things relatively to problems encountered in the Caspian Sea Region taking considering the recommendations made by independent experts during the Leadership Seminar held in Astrakhan in 2003. The second item was that this survey will help interested partners to build the structure and to define the agenda of the coming-up meeting in August. The answer received from CEP and the protocol of the round table show that fantastic results have been achieved and many items of the recommendation have been implemented or considered. However, the participants of the round table expressed they interested to continue to collaborate with CFTO /WON and IOI in solving Caspian Sea problems and in holding the august meeting. They approved the suggested agenda by CFTO /WON and IOI. All participants agreed that creation of MPA is very good idea and we should study an propose a clear mechanism for decision makers

or politician, the problem of protection and preservation of Sturgeon population, development of sustainable aquaculture food and water security are the most valuable issues for this period. Participants also wondering concerning the beginning of scale oil exploitation in the Caspian Sea, special measures should be taken to strength the respect of environmental requirement by oil companies.

**Round table of analysis of result of the Survey how the Recommendations of Leadership Seminar Astrakhan 2003 have been implemented.
Astrakhan May 4, 2007**

List of Participants,

1. Prof. Y. Pimenov* – Rector of ASTU, Astrakhan, Russia
2. Prof. V. Zaitsev* – Director IOI Caspian Sea, Astrakhan, Russia
3. Prof. V. Bukin – Vice Rector on International Relations, ASTU, Astrakhan, Russia
4. Prof. V. Ivanov - Former Director of CaspNIRKH, Astrakhan, Russia
5. Prof. A. Sokolsky* – Head of Ecological Dpt CaspNIRKH, Russia
6. Dr. N. Litvinova* – Director of Astrakhan State Biosphere Reserve , Astrakhan, Russia
7. Dr. L. Djabrueva *– Assistant Professor, State University of Kalmikia, Russia
8. Dr. A. Kurapov *– Head of Environment, Lukoil, Astrakhan, Russia
9. Dr. C. Monakov* – Director of KaspMNITS, Astrakhan, Russia
10. Dr. D. Katunin* – D. General Director of CaspNIRKH, Astrakhan, Russia
11. Representative* from Eco+, Astrakhan, Russia
12. Dr. L. Yarmolenko – Head of PR Component UNDP/GEF LV, Astrakhan, Russia
13. Dr. N. Papova - Manager Ecologist, Caspian Oil Company, Astrakhan, Russia
14. Dr. V. Andrianov – Head of Environment and Ecological Control, ITC Gazprom, Astrakhan, Russia
15. Dr. Andre-Serge Mikouiza – Deputy Director IOI Caspian Sea & WON, Astrakhan, Russia
16. Dr. V. Zagrivchuk – Dean of Fishery Faculty, ASTU, Astrakhan, Russia
17. Dr. A. Kanbetov – Head of Dpt. of Ecology IOG, Atyrau, Kazakhstan
18. Prof. A. Kenzhegaliev* – Director of Monitoring Ltd, Atyrau, Kazakhstan
19. Mr. O. Kolomin – Vice Minister of Ministry of International Cooperation, Astrakhan Region, Astrakhan, Russia
20. Mrs. E. Yukina – Head of International Dpt. ASTU, Astrakhan, Russia
21. Mr. D. Mityakin – Head of Scientific research organization, new technology and information System, Astrakhan Region Government, Astrakhan, Russia
22. Mrs, I. Kurinaya – post graduate student of ASTU, Astrakhan, Russia
23. Mr. Djihinto Gaston – post graduate student of Institute of Marine Technology, ASTU and Universite de Cotonu, Benin
24. L. Pavlova – post graduate student, ASTU, Astrakhan, Russia
25. Mrs. E. Mironova – secretary rapporter, Technical Center, Astrakhan, Russia
26. Mrs. S. Soboleva – secretary rapporter, Technical Center, Astrakhan, Russia

* Participants of Leadership Seminar 2003

Management of Project

The project was managed by Dr. AS Mikouiza and supervised by Prof. Zaitsev. Invitation letters and questionnaires were sent to all independent experts who attended the Leadersshp Seminar in 2003. However we received a valuable answer from CEP- Dr. Hamig Ghaffarzadeh and Igor Mitrofanov. Some of them were invited to attend the round table in Astrakhan unfortunately only

4 experts may attend the meeting on May 4, 2007. As was suggested accommodation, meals and transportation were organized for participants of the round table. The agenda of round table was fully realized. Participants outside from Astrakhan staid in small hotel Delta(ref. contract with Kostelieva) and meals were organized in nice small restaurant (ref. contract with Koluzhnii)

A group of rapporters and translators was established to prepare all documents of the survey. The rapporters were from Technical Center, which whom the IOI Caspian Sea has signed a contract. The names of rapporters are in the list of participants. Other facilitators were from ASTU Mrs. Nathalia Kochegorova and Muratova (teachers of ASTU) and Mr. Andre Grechkina was responsible for printing materials e.g. badges and programmes of the round table meeting.

The results of the survey were showed at the ASTU TV channel and this information may be founded in ASTU URL.

Organizing committees

Prof. V. Zaitsev Supervisor and Chair

Dr. AS Mikouiza, coordinator and Co-Chair

Members

Mrs. E. Yukina

Mrs. I. Kurinaya

Mr. A. Grechkin

Mrs. N. Yerchova

Conclusion and recommendations

We expect that the CFTO will continue to support Caspian Sea activities e.g. the August Workshop and I think it will be best to conduct also a survey for collecting the view of youth concerning the recommendations of Leadership seminar. The results of this survey may be used for preparing the Youth Parliament in Malta.

Prepared by: Dr. Andre-Serge Mikouiza

Approved by: Prof. Viacheslav Zaitsev