

RECOMMENDATIONS
of the 7 (27) Session of Coordination Committee on Hydrometeorology
of the Caspian Sea

The 7 (27) Session of Coordination Committee on Hydrometeorology of the Caspian Sea (CASPCOM) was held through videoconference on 22 November 2023.

The Session was attended by representatives of the National Hydrometeorological Organizations (NMHSs) of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Russian Federation, and Turkmenistan.

The main activities of the Coordination Committee on Hydrometeorology of the Caspian Sea in 2023 were as follows:

- progress in the elaboration of CASPCOM organizational documents required to implement Agreement on Co-operation in the Field of Hydrometeorology of the Caspian Sea;
- the updated CASPCOM data catalogues (sea level, air temperature, water temperature and salinity, regional atmospheric circulation and surface runoff to the Caspian Sea);
- CASPCOM bulletins on the state of the Caspian Sea level containing the assessment of actual and expected seasonal changes of the sea level;
- first full version of the CASPCOM climate bulletin;
- national achievements in the field of hydrometeorology and monitoring of the Caspian Sea, which create a framework for expanding of NMHS's co-operation and increasing its efficiency.

1. Implementation of Agreement on Cooperation in the Field of Hydrometeorology of the Caspian Sea

At the 7 (27) CASPCOM Session, the Parties have considered the implementation of the Agreement on Co-operation in the Field of Hydrometeorology of the Caspian Sea and elaboration of Intergovernmental Integrated Programme on Hydrometeorology of the Caspian Sea. Having reviewed the draft of the CASPCOM Rules of Procedure,

the Session recommends as follows:

- CASPAS Coordinator is to forward the CASPCOM Rules of Procedure with the modifications agreed at the 7 (27) Session to the NMHSs within 2 month after the completion of this Session;
- NMHSs are to prepare comments on and proposals to the draft CASPCOM Rules of Procedure and to forward them to CASPAS Coordinator not later than 3 months before the next, 8 (28) CASPCOM Session. In case of no observations by this deadline, the document will be submitted as it was agreed at 7 (27) Session for a further consideration;
- CASPAS Coordinator is to forward a draft document revised in line with the received comments and proposals to the NMHSs one month prior to the 8 (28) CASPCOM Session.

2. CASPCOM activities and national activities in the field of hydrometeorology of the Caspian Sea

Having appreciated the CASPCOM' and the national activities in the field of hydrometeorology of the Caspian Sea in 2023, expressing its intention to deepen cooperation in the field of climate,

the Session recommends as follows:

- NMHSs of Iran and Kazakhstan are to prepare proposals on the composition of the Working Group, including 2 experts from each country – 1 meteorologist and 1 hydrologist. Proposals should be sent to the CASPAS Coordinator no later than 1 month after the completion of the 7(27) CASPCOM Session. The CASPAS Coordinator is to prepare the draft Terms of Reference of the Working Group and to send them to NMHSs for approval within 2 months after the end of the 7 (27) CASPCOM Session;
- CASPCOM is to approve the annual climate bulletin, to express gratitude to NMHSs for their national chapters of the bulletin for 2022 prepared to the 7 (27) Session;
- NMHSs are to complete their national chapters of the climate bulletin for 2022 and submit them to the CASPAS Coordinator until the end of 2023, to use the norms for the period of 1991-2020, which are recommended by WMO;
- The Coordinator of CASPAS is to summarize the national inputs prepared by NMHSs into a single climate bulletin for 2022 no later than 3 months after the end of the Session, and after their approval to publish it on the CASPCOM website;
- NMHSs are to prepare their national chapters of the climate bulletin for 2023 and submit them to the CASPAS Coordinator no later than 1 month prior to the next 8 (28) CASPCOM Session. The CASPAS Coordinator is to summarize all the NMHS inputs and present the bulletin at the next 8(28) CASPCOM Session.

On the issues of the current work of CASPCOM, *the Session recommends as follows:*

- NMHSs, which have gaps in the earlier submitted data for the CASPCOM catalogues, are to submit the missing data before the end of the current year;
- CASPAS Coordinator is to provide the CASPCOM members with the updated versions of the Catalogues by e-mail after completing the data sets;
- NMHSs are to provide data for CASPCOM Catalogues in time, not later than 2 months before the next CASPCOM session;
- CASPAS Coordinator is to continue annual updates of CASPCOM Catalogues with the newly submitted data (on sea level, air and water temperature, seawater salinity, surface runoff and regional atmospheric circulation) and to post the updated catalogues on CASPCOM web-site once in two years;
- CASPAS Coordinator is to continue issuing CASPCOM information bulletins on the state of the Caspian Sea level in 2024;
- CASPAS Coordinator is to prepare a preliminary Agenda for the next Session and to forward it to the NMHSs no less than a month prior to the Session.

3. CASPCOM cooperation with international organizations

Having taken note of the information on the progress of cooperation between CASPCOM and the Tehran Convention, expressed in the participation of a representative of CASPCOM and specialists of NMHSs in the development of a new version of the Caspian Sea Environmental Monitoring Program, including climate change monitoring, and expressing their willingness to continue cooperation with the Convention,

the Session recommends as follows:

- CASPCOM is to expand and strengthen operating contacts with the Tehran Convention on the basis of the Memorandum of Understanding signed between them in 2013, primarily by participating in the development of relevant sections of the Caspian Sea Environmental Monitoring Program;
- CASPCOM is to approve the activities of CASPAS Coordinator for the cooperation with the Tehran Convention and to consider reasonable the participation of CASPAS Coordinator in the side event on the problem of the Caspian Sea level fluctuations, which is planned to be held within the framework of the Azerbaijan Pavilion at the 28th Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC.

4. Date and venue of the next CASPCOM Session

The Session has requested Turkmen Party to consider holding the next, 8 (28), CASPCOM Session offline in Turkmenistan in 2024, and to inform NMHSs in 3 months after the end of the 7(27) Session. If agreed, Turkmenhydromet shall inform NMHSs and CASPAS Coordinator on the actual date and venue of the next Session not later than three months before it.

Otherwise, the Session accepts the proposal of the Iranian Party to hold the 8th (28th) Session via videoconference and recommends to inform the NMHS and the CASPAS Coordinator on the date and venue of the next Session not later than three months before its start.

5. Transfer of powers of the CASPCOM Chair and Deputy Chair

Pursuant to Article 5 of the Agreement, the Session confirmed the powers of the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson of CASPCOM to be passed to the Russian Federation and Turkmenistan, respectively.

6. Adoption of recommendations of the 7 (27) CASPCOM Session

The Parties decided to adopt these recommendations in due course within 1 month after the end of the 7 (27) Session.

The CASPAS Coordinator is to send the NMHSs draft recommendations of the 7 (27) Session not later than 3 weeks after its end.