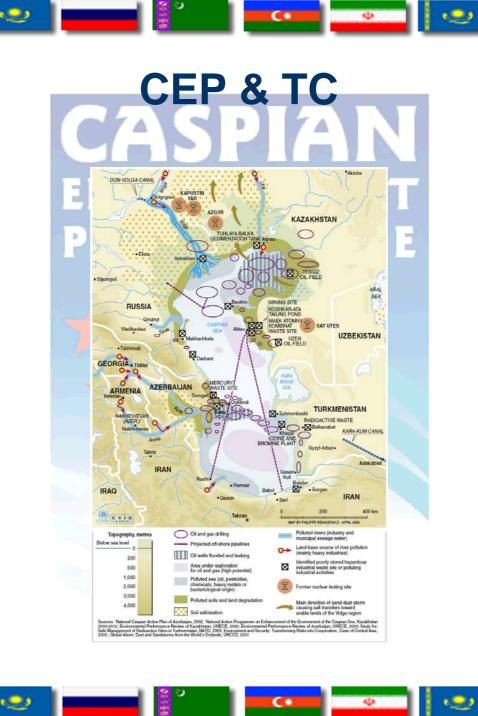




- CEP is an inter- governmental regional environmental programme assisted by GEF and EU; in operation since 1998 with a budget of some \$ 30 since.
- World Bank, UNDP and UNEP are major International Partners .
- Presently based in Tehran with a network in the region.
- It is an engine for regional environmental dialogue; diagnostic work and resource mobilization
- Centre piece of Dialogued is the TC signed in 2003 in Tehran and enforceable since 2006





Why should we be concerned with the Caspian?:

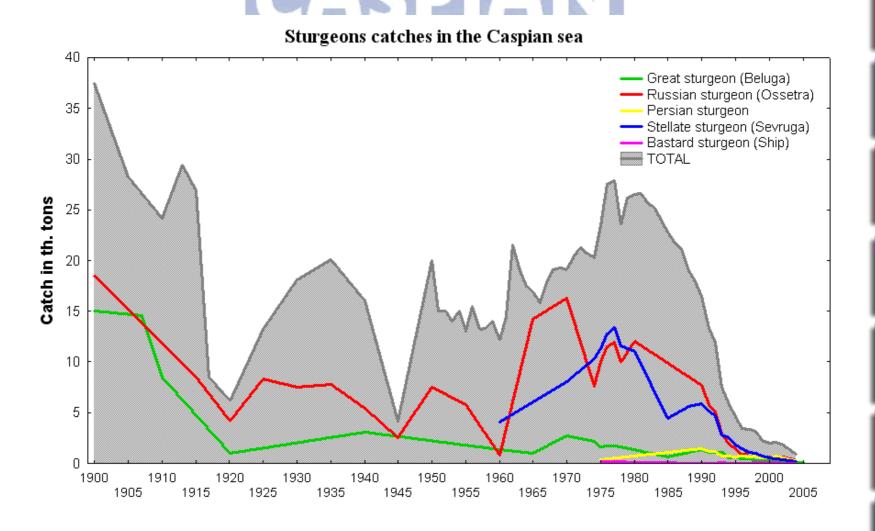
- Not so rich but unique biodiversity due to geographical isolation;
 Caspian Seals and Sturgeon
- Rich commercial bioresources worth \$ 5 billions a year
- Rich Hydrocarbon resources-perhaps third after Middle east and Siberia
- Strategic location & Transport Corridor between expanding EU,
 Russia, Middle east, Central Asia and 'Tiger' economies of Asia
- Huge Eco-tourism potentials

CEP and TC

Why should we be concerned with the Caspian?

- Flashpoint for conflict due to unsettled legal regime impacting access to resources; ethnical differences& political disputes: here environmental dialogue is a conflict prevention activity
- Highly stressed environment with huge decline in fisheries; hugely reduced Seals; invasive species, serious pollution hotspots; big first timer algae blooms; unsustainable coastal development
- •Window for Climate Change impact with water level fluctuations

Caspian Dialogue III



Caspian Dialogue III

Tulka catch by Iran in 1993-2005 (in thousands tons)

