

## SOUTH ASIAN SEAS PROGRAMME

### Agenda Item 5 (d)

#### PROGRAMME AREA: Coral Reef Conservation

#### OBJECTIVE:

Institutional Strengthening and Capacity Development for the Long-term Management and Conservation of MCPAs encompassing coral reef resources in South Asia

#### Summary Report

#### **FIRST REGIONAL RESOURCE COORDINATION AND MOBILISATION WORKSHOP FOR THE LONG-TERM MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION OF MCPAS IN SOUTH ASIA, COLOMBO, SRI LANKA, 27-28<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2006**

First Regional Resource Co-ordination and Mobilisation workshop for the Long-term Management and Conservation of MCPAs in South Asia was held in Colombo on 27 and 28 September 2006.

The first workshop sought to finalise the focus of site based project activities, and gather critical information in support of future project activities. The following objectives were discussed:

- Identification of 5 sites for the implementation of project activities
- Discussion and review of communication between marine and coastal stakeholders within the region and identification of options and priorities for a unifying communication strategy
- Identification of database needs and scenario development
- Identification of possibilities for an electronic discussion forum
- Elaboration of a draft Terms of Reference for the establishment and mode of operation of a regional Task Force
- Identification of appropriate members and affiliations of the regional Task Force
- Selection of an appropriate date for a second regional workshop to finalise draft outputs resulting from this workshop

#### **2<sup>ND</sup> REGIONAL COORDINATION WORKSHOP FOR THE LONG TERM MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION OF MCPAS IN SOUTH ASIA AND LAUNCH OF SOUTH ASIA CORAL REEF TASK FORCE (SACRTF) COLOMBO, SRI LANKA, 25<sup>th</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup> July 2007**

The Second Regional Resource Coordination and Mobilisation workshop for the Long-term Management and Conservation of MCPAs in South Asia was held in Colombo, Sri Lanka on 25-27 July 2007.

#### **LAUNCH OF \SOUTH ASIA CORAL REEF TASK FORCE (SACRTF)**

The launch ceremony of the SACRTF was inaugurated by the Chief Guest, HE Mr. Ahmad Abdullah, Chairman, South Asia Seas and Minister for Environment, Energy and Water, Republic of Maldives and the Guest of Honour, Justice C.G. Weeramantry, former Vice President, International Court of Justice by lighting the oil-lamp on 27<sup>th</sup> July, 2007 Colombo, Sri Lanka. . The SACRTF is only the second task force to be established in the world for conservation & Development of Coral Reefs.

## **PRESS CONFERENCE:**

A press conference was held to celebrate the launch of the SACRTF to which many national media reporters (press and television) were invited and attended. Printed materials were distributed to the press to raise awareness of the South Asia MCPA project, and the SACRTF launched under the project. The project management team were on hand to field questions from the audience. Dr. Boaz reiterated the significance of the initiative for the region, also highlighting the role of SACEP as a coordinating body for environmental efforts in the region. Dr. Kristian Teleki, and Ms. Nicola Barnard provided the background and rationale behind the South Asia MCPA project, and its significance to the region as a milestone project, and presented information on the importance of the South Asia Coral Reef Task Force in enhancing cooperation and collaboration among stakeholders in the region, and as a mechanism to drive regional coral reef conservation efforts.

## **FIRST MEETING SOUTH ASIA CORAL REEF TASK FORCE (SACRTF) 21 DECEMBER 2007, COLOMBO, SRI LANKA.**

The establishment of the South Asia Coral Reef Task Force (SACRTF) to facilitate the implementation of regional and international initiatives in the management of coral reefs and associated ecosystems, and to promote collaborative action, and transboundary responses to shared environmental challenges, was by endorsed by the country governments of the 5 maritime nations of South Asia, at the SACEP Governing Council Meeting in Nepal, in January 2007.

Through extensive consultation with key regional stakeholders, the role, mandate and structure of the SACRTF was developed, and the resulting constitution document endorsed by the participants of the second regional resource coordination workshop held on the 25-27<sup>th</sup> July 2007, in Colombo, Sri Lanka. SACRTF representatives have been selected in accordance with the constitution document and regional nominations.

This working meeting is the first official meeting of the SACRTF representatives was held on 21<sup>st</sup> December 2007 in Colombo. The Chief Guest on this occasion was Hon. Mr. Ahmed Abdullah, Minister of Environment Minister of Environment, Energy and Water, Republic of Maldives and Hon. Mr. Patali Champika Ranawaka, Minister of Environment & Natural Resources, Government of Sri Lanka was the Guest of Honour. The meeting was attended by the national members of the South Asia Coral Reef Task Force from Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. The International Community represented by IMM and IUCN.

## **Coral Reefs and Livelihoods Initiative Training Workshop – Tuticorin, India January 27 – February 3, 2007**

The World Conservation Union (IUCN), Integrated Marine Management (IMM), International Coral Reef Action Network (ICRAN), Coral Reef Degradation in the Indian Ocean (CORDIO), and the South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme (SACEP), are working together to implement a regional project for the Long Term Management and Conservation of Marine and Coastal Resources in South Asia. A component of this project is focused on Livelihood Enhancement and Diversification within coral reef associated communities.

The first workshop (in a series of three) for the Coral Reefs and Livelihoods Initiative (CORALI) was held in Tuticorin – India - between January 27<sup>th</sup> – February 3<sup>rd</sup> 2007.

A core objective of CORALI was to develop and test a regionally appropriate approach to livelihood development in association with coral reef management. This approach built on best practice from around the world and draw on the rich experiences in the field of livelihood development in South Asia. The process used to develop and test this approach based around:

- 3 training and reflection workshops – held over a period of 8 months - which will provide space for field teams and practitioners to build a regionally appropriate approach for working with coral reef communities to develop sustainable livelihoods.
- Community based field work in order to develop the approach with 4 communities

This first workshop was for 8 days. At this workshop participants built a process for understanding livelihoods and livelihood change within coral reef dependent communities. They also created guidance for effective ways of building working relationships within these communities.

### **Coral Reef Livelihoods Initiative (CORALI)**

One of the major projects under implementation by SACEP is the European Union (EU) funded project, “Long Term Management and Conservation of Marine and Coastal Resources in South Asia”. CORALI (Coral Reef Livelihoods Initiative), a component of the larger EU project, is carried out with the help of IMM and IUCN. The second CORALI workshop was held between 4-10 June 2007 in Sri Lanka to review Phase I of the fieldwork, and to develop phase II for implementation.

The Overall CORALI Pilot Fieldwork Objective is to develop and test a regionally appropriate approach to livelihood development in association with coral reef management.

#### **Outputs:**

- A key output of the first workshop in January/February 2007 was the development of a fieldwork methodology for the first phase of work.
- The first phase of the initiative concentrates on developing participants understanding of the nature of livelihoods in the areas
- To build the relationships and partnerships for sustainable development - understanding livelihoods and livelihood change.
- The fieldwork is being implemented by the participants over a period of 3 months between the periods of March-June 2007 in 6 sites:

### **Field Overview (March-June 2007)**

#### **India – Middle Andaman Island**

Initial community meetings held, literature search been completed and livelihood data gathered from secondary sources. Partnerships forged with village leaders, actively involved with the field team in the collection of household data.

#### **India – Lakshadweep Islands: Minicoy and Agatti**

Review of secondary information and available data completed, field discussions held with fishermen, reef gleaners, construction workers, tourist resorts, youth groups, women’s Self Help Groups in both islands. Assessments of the situation and livelihood aspirations vis a vis the reef conservation and sustainability issues will also be conducted.

#### **India – Gulf of Mannar: 5 Villages including Thirespuram and Inico Nager**

Meetings with partners, unions, CBOs, self-help groups and traditional leaders held. Household surveys and key informant surveys conducted.

#### **Indonesia, Aceh, Weh Island: 3 villages of Le Meulee, Ujong Kareung and Anoi Itam**

First meeting held at the end of April in Sabang, to share the activities and aims with the team. Information collected from the labour department, village offices, family planning department, and consultations held with these institutions.

#### **Sri Lanka – Bar Reef**

First round of field work was carried out and secondary information collected.

First round of assessment carried out in a village called Kudaw located in close proximity to the Bar Reef. 3 focal group discussion sessions and several interviews were conducted.

#### **Maldives – Baa Atoll: Eydhafushi**

Fieldwork initiated with the assistance of Ministry of Planning and National Development and Ministry of Environment Energy and Water.