



South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme



South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP) is an Inter-governmental Organisation, established in 1982 by the Governments of South Asia namely: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

SACEP is registered as a Multilateral Organisation in accordance with Article 102 of the Charter of the United Nations.

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Governing Structure

The Colombo Declaration and the Articles of Association of SACEP constitute the legal base for SACEP. The principal organs of the Governance Structure of SACEP are the Governing Council (GC), Consultative Committee (CC) and the SACEP Secretariat.

The Governing Council is the principal deliberative and review body responsible for determining Policies, Strategies and Programmes/Projects. The GC is represented at the Ministerial Level and periodically meets to take decisions of strategic significance. The Consultative Committee is responsible for facilitating implementation of Policies, Strategies and Programmes/Projects determined by the Governing Council and it consists of representatives of the Diplomatic Missions of member countries residing in Colombo.

The Mission

To promote regional co-operation in South Asia in the field of environment, both natural and human in the context of sustainable development and on issues of economic and social development which also impinge on the environment and vice versa; to support conservation and management of natural resources of the region and to work closely with all national, regional, and international institutions, governmental and non governmental, as well as experts and groups engaged in such co-operation and conservation efforts.



Secretariat

The SACEP Secretariat is hosted by the Government of Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka and is based in Colombo. SACEP is enlisted as a Specialised Agency under the Diplomatic Missions of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Sri Lanka and has been granted privileges, exemptions & benefits in accordance with the Articles of Association of SACEP.

What we do

Since its inception, SACEP has implemented a number of regional programmes and projects in the areas of Environment Education, Environmental Legislation, Biodiversity, Air Pollution and the Protection and Management of the Coastal Environment. SACEP has been working tirelessly to assist member countries for building capacities on areas related to environment management and mediating on transferring new technologies. SACEP also contributes immensely to the Regional and Global efforts for protection and management of the environment by actively participating in regional and global environmental forums and sharing its knowledge and experiences in the fields such as preparation of Regional State of Environment (SoE) Report, preparation of Global Environment Outlook (GEO4) Report, participating at various International Convention Meetings and Expert Groups, etc.

The Malé Declaration on Control and Prevention of Air Pollution and its Likely Transboundary Effects for South Asia is another significant effort which encourages Inter-governmental co-operation to combat the transboundary air pollution problem.

SACEP is also hosting the South Asian Seas Programme which is one of the eighteen Regional Seas Programmes of United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).



International Collaboration

SACEP has long term experience of working collaboratively with many UN Agencies and several other Multilateral and Bilateral Agencies. SACEP has signed a number of MoUs with organizations viz. IMO, NORAD, UNEP, UN-ESCAP, UNEP-GPA, UNESCO, WMO, SAARC, ICRAN, RECOFTC, TRADA, TRAFFIC, etc. on various areas where SACEP and the other organisations could work mutually.



South Asian Seas Programme (SASP)

In order to address the concerns voiced over increased degradation of coastal and marine ecosystems of the region collectively and effectively, the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP) in collaboration with its maritime member states initiated the South Asian Seas Programme (SASP).

South Asian Seas Action Plan was formally adopted in New Delhi, India on 24 March 1995 at a Meeting of Plenipotentiaries for the protection and management of the shared marine waters and associated coastal ecosystems by the five maritime countries of SACEP – Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. SACEP is the Secretariat for the implementation of the Action Plan of the South Asian Seas Programme.

The Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has designated the 'South Asian Seas Programme' as one of its eighteen Regional Seas Programmes where UNEP, in close collaboration with SACEP and the Governments concerned, should assist in implementation of the Plan of Action for the environmental protection of the region within the framework of the Regional Seas Programme, in line with the provisions of Chapter 17 of Agenda 21.

The Governing Structure of SASP includes Inter-governmental Meeting of Ministers (IMM) at the highest level which meets every two years, the Consultative Committee (CC) which meets in parallel with SACEP CC, National Focal Points (NFPs) designated by the member countries and SACEP as the Secretariat.

The South Asian Seas (SAS) Region includes parts of the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea in the northern Indian Ocean, as well as the seas bordering Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka. The region is characterised by an extensive system of river deltas and diverse marine and coastal habitats, encompassing mangroves, sea grass beds and reefs and supporting some of the richest concentrations of biodiversity in the world.

Since its inception, SASP/SACEP has been undertaking a number of projects for the benefit of the member countries to achieve their goal in protection, conservation and management of the marine environment and associated coastal ecosystems of the region in an environmentally sound and sustainable manner. This includes; Preparation of Regional Oil and Chemical Pollution Contingency Plan and a MoU, undertaking various capacity building training workshops, implementing mutually benefitted projects on conservation, management and protection of the coastal and marine environment.

