

SACEP

AT A GLANCE



**SOUTH ASIA CO-OPERATIVE
ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME**
NO. 10, ANDERSON ROAD, COLOMBO 5,
SRI LANKA

FOREWORD

I consider SACEP to be a unique Intergovernmental Environmental Organisation for three reasons:

Firstly, it has pioneered the spirit of regional co-operation in South Asia for two decades having come into existence in 1981.

Secondly, it has provided the legal and institutional framework for the harnessing of local resources, expertise and experiences for environmental protection and management; cutting across political, geographical and social boundaries.

Thirdly, it has brought to focus the need to recognise ecological integrity, equitable distribution and economic growth as the three cornerstones of environmentally sound and sustainable development.

The environmental, social and economic challenges of South Asia are not only diverse and enormous but also complex and deep seated. However, they are not insurmountable. They can be overcome through relentless determination and by concerted action by all peoples, institutions and nations of South Asia.

It is hoped that this modest publication would provide an insight into the vision and mission; the strategies and modalities; the powers and functions and the programmes and projects of SACEP.

Last but not the least, I wish to place on record my grateful thanks to Mr. K.H.J. Wijayadasa, for compiling this booklet and to Ms. Chandima Jayasuriya for secretarial assistance.



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INTRODUCTION

Geographical Spread

The South Asian subregion extends from Nepal in the north to the Maldives in the south and from Afghanistan in the west to Bangladesh in the east. It is clearly demarcated geographically by the Indian Ocean and the Himalayan and Hindu Kush mountain ranges. It covers 5.4 percent of the world's land area, 16 percent of all agricultural land, 3.2 percent of the world's forested area and carries 20 percent of its population.

Environmental Concerns

Even though food production has increased dramatically in the last five decades, there has been widespread deforestation, soil erosion, land degradation and depletion and pollution of water resources. Over-cropping, over-irrigation, grazing, wood gathering, timber extraction, marginal and drylands farming have exerted unbearable pressure on fragile terrestrial and marine ecosystems. Environmental concerns resulting from economic growth and urbanisation include traffic congestion and air, water and soil pollution, growth of slums and shanties and the overloading of the basic infrastructure.

Socio-Economic Problems

The social and economic problems of the countries of the South Asian sub region display similar characteristics. In per capita GNP terms all of them belong to the lowest income category. Around 35 percent of the population live below the poverty line. Acute population pressure, abject poverty and development devoid of environmental safeguards have resulted in irreparable environmental degradation and depletion of natural resources. Two of the highest priorities in all these countries are poverty alleviation and environmentally sound and sustainable development.

WHAT IS SACEP ?

SACEP (South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme) is an intergovernmental organisation of 8 states, namely Afghanistan*, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. It came into being with the adoption of the Colombo Declaration and the Articles of Association of SACEP at the meeting of South Asian Environment Ministers held in Colombo in February 1981.

* currently is not an active member

The aims and objectives of SACEP are

- (a) to promote and support the protection, management and enhancement of the environment, both natural and human, of the countries of South Asia, individually, collectively and co-operatively;
- (b) to make judicious use of the resources of the environment towards removal of poverty, reduction of socio-economic disparity, improve the quality of life, and ensure prosperity on a continuing basis;
- (c) for these purposes, to make the fullest use of the organisational arrangements and facilities for co-operation under SACEP.

The functions of SACEP are

- (a) to promote co-operative activities in priority areas of environment of mutual interest;
- (b) to ensure that these activities are beneficial individually or collectively to the member states of the Region;
- (c) to extend support as needed through exchange of knowledge and expertise available among the member countries;
- (d) to provide local resources towards implementation of projects and activities; and
- (e) to encourage maximum constructive and complementary support from interested donor countries and other sources.

THE VISION OF SACEP

The founding fathers of SACEP had a clear vision for this fledgling organisation. It was founded on five fundamental assumptions.

Firstly, there has been a type and scale of environmental degradation in the South Asian Region, which is positively dangerous not only to economic development but also to the very survival of one fifth of mankind inhabiting it.

Secondly, the greed of the rich and the needs of the poor continue to cause irrevocable damage to the fragile ecosystems and their ability to regenerate themselves.

Thirdly, there is an urgent need to reduce environmental degradation and pollution while giving equal emphasis to the elimination of the root causes of environmental degradation such as poverty, over population, over consumption and wasteful production.

Fourthly, environment and development are two sides of the same coin and therefore integration of environment and development should be recognised as an essential prerequisite to sustainable development.

Fifthly, the ecological and developmental problems of the South Asian region transcend national and administrative boundaries, hence co-operative action is needed to effectively deal with them.

Uniting Factors

In South Asia the factors that unite are much more forceful than those that divide.

- For instance, the historical and socio-cultural foundations are strong, deeply rooted and as old as human civilisation.
- The geographical, ecological and ethnological affinities are conducive to fruitful collaboration and co-operation.
- Solutions to environmental and developmental problems of South Asian origin will be more acceptable and cost effective than those borrowed from elsewhere.

Perspectives and Strategies

The following are some excerpts from three leading personalities who addressed the first meeting of ministers for the establishment of SACEP held in Colombo on the 23rd of February 1981.

- Prime Minister Ranasinghe Premadasa of Sri Lanka stated that "the objectives of SACEP should be threefold; namely, integration of environmental concerns with economic goals, adoption of environmentally sound and sustainable policies and spelling out long term perspectives and strategies."
- Dr. Mostafa K. Tolba Executive Director of UNEP said that "the element of self help and the self financing component built into SACEP were noteworthy and should be examples to others."
- Mr. C. Suriyakumaran Director UNEP-ROAP stated that " apart from the importance of the co-operative effort for solving environmental problems, the formation of SACEP was important as a pioneering venture in subregional co-operation itself."

ESTABLISHMENT OF SACEP

Bangalore Meeting

The establishment of SACEP had its beginning at the Inter Governmental Expert Group Meeting held in Bangalore, India, in March 1980 at the initiative of Mr. C. Suriyakumaran, the Regional Director of UNEP – ROAP. In the light of deteriorating environmental conditions in South Asia the meeting unanimously adopted that it would be mutually beneficial to establish a subregional organisation of the member countries enjoying equal status solely devoted to the protection and management of the environment. It was suggested that the headquarters of SACEP be located in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

Colombo Meeting

A little less than a year later in February 1981, UNEP – ROAP convened a high level meeting of officials and ministers of South Asian Countries in Colombo. This meeting reaffirmed the spirit of mutual self help, collaboration and co-operation underlying the establishment of an inter governmental organisation solely devoted to the protection and management of the South Asian Environment and unanimously adopted the Colombo Declaration and the Articles of Association of SACEP.



Colombo Declaration Meeting, 1981

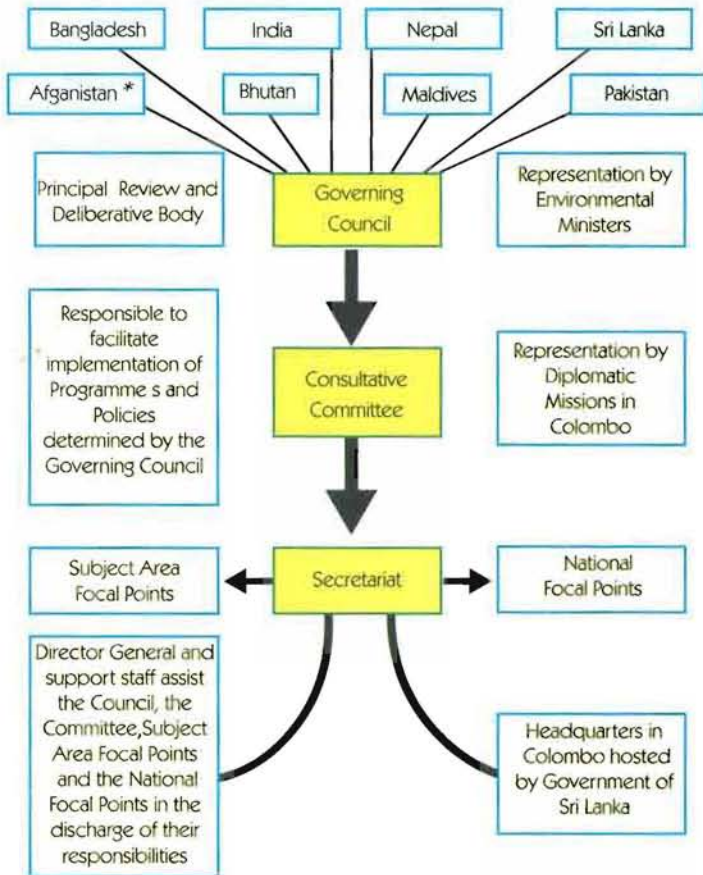
Articles of Association

The decision to set up the SACEP Secretariat in Colombo was ratified and a pro-tem Director was appointed to get down to the task of establishing the Secretariat without delay. SACEP became a legal entity in January 1982, when 3 member countries ratified the Articles of Association.

ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

The Organs of SACEP

The principal organs of SACEP are the Governing Council (GC), Consultative Committee (CC), National Focal Points (NFP), Subject Area Focal Points (SAFP) and the Secretariat. (Fig.2)



Organizational Structure.

The Governing Council (GC)

The Governing Council (GC) is the principal deliberative and review body responsible for determining policies, strategies and programmes. It is represented at ministerial level and meets once in every two years.

* currently is not an active member

The Consultative Committee (CC)

The Consultative Committee (CC) is responsible for facilitating the implementation of policies, strategies and programmes determined by the GC and consists of representatives of diplomatic missions residing in Colombo. The CC is also expected to provide guidance to the Secretariat in the planning, implementation and monitoring of programmes and projects.

National Focal Points (NFP)

It is the responsibility of each member state to designate a National Focal Point to facilitate the work of the Secretariat and to function as the main communication link within the member state and with the Secretariat. National Focal Points are expected to work towards the implementation of the national programmes and co-operate with the Secretariat in programme planning and implementation. The National Focal Points are deemed to be liaison points in their countries for all matters related to SACEP including their own.

Subject Area Focal Points(SAFP)

The Subject Area Focal Points (SAFP) are expected to co-operate with the Secretariat in project identification, formulation, implementation and monitoring. Each country that has assumed responsibility for a particular Subject Area designates a centre of excellence in that subject area as the Subject Area Focal Point and appoints a liaison officer. The modalities of Focal Points laid down by the GC spell out their duties and responsibilities. They are formulation of project documents with CC approval, their submission to donor agencies through the Secretariat, and implementation through national governments with maximum use of national expertise.

The Secretariat

The Secretariat consists of the Director General and professional, administrative and supporting staff. SACEP has established the South Asia Environment and Natural Resources Information Centre (SENRIC) to facilitate Data Management, Assessment and Reporting. The main function of the Secretariat is to assist the Governing Council, the Consultative Committee the NFP and the SAFP in the discharge of their duties and responsibilities. SACEP is also the Secretariat for South Asian Regional Seas Programme.

Funding

SACEP receives three types of funding support:

- Annual country contributions from the member countries.
- The host country, Sri Lanka, provides modest hosting and support facilities in addition to annual country contributions.
- SACEP is dependent on multilateral and bilateral donor agencies for project funding and on member countries for the funding of national components of projects of a regional nature.

These are supplemented by:

- Member countries assuming responsibility for Subject Area Focal Points (SAFP) provide physical and other facilities deemed sufficient and necessary for the discharge of their functions.
- The SACEP Trust Fund has been established which constitutes a capital reserve for institutional and project development and implementation activities.

SACEP'S STRATEGY AND PROGRAMMES

Priority Subject Areas

Fifteen Priority Subject Areas for SACEP activities were identified in consultation with the relevant national institutions of the participating governments by the SACEP/UNEP/UNDP Missions in 1982 (Box I). These were adopted at the First Governing Council Meeting of SACEP held in January 1983.

Box I : List of Priority Subject Areas and Focal Points (1983)

Priority Subject Areas	Focal Points
(i) Environmental Impact Assessment and Cost/Benefit Analysis; Environment and Development	Sri Lanka
(ii) Environmental Quality Standards	Iran
(iii) Technology for Development of Renewable and Reusable Resources	UNIDO
(iv) Environmental Legislation	India
(v) Conservation of Montane Eco-systems and Watersheds	Pakistan
(vi) Social Forestry	Afghanistan with Assistance of India
(vii) Regional Co-operation in Wildlife and Genetic Resources Conservation	Iran
(viii) Conservation of Corals, Mangroves, Deltas and Coastal Areas	Bangladesh
(ix) Island Ecosystems	Bangladesh and Maldives
(x) Tourism & Environment	Nepal
(xi) Desertification	UNEP
(xii) Regional Seas Programme	SACEP
(xiii) Energy and Environment	Iran in Co-operation with India and Pakistan
(xiv) Education and Training	India
(xv) Training in Wildlife Management	India

In 1998, the 7th Governing Council meeting of SACEP revised and updated the Priority Subject Areas and Focal Points on the lines of agenda 21 (Box II).

Box II : List of Priority Subject Areas and Focal Points (1998)

Priority Subject Areas	Focal points
1 Conservation of Biodiversity	India
2 Sustainable Tourism Development	Maldives
3 Management of Coral Island Ecosystems	Maldives
4 Management of Fresh Water Resources	Bangladesh
5 Desertification	Pakistan
6 Environmental Legislation	India
7 Participatory Forest Management	Nepal
8 Sustainable Agriculture and Land Use	Sri Lanka

9	Sustainable Human Settlements Development	Sri Lanka
10	Waste Management	India
11	Science & Technology for Sustainable Development	Pakistan
12	Education & Training	India
13	Energy & Environment	India
14	Air Pollution	Pakistan

SACEP'S Strategy and Programmes

In 1991, SACEP with the assistance of UNEP commissioned a review of its programme which culminated in the formulation of SACEP's Strategy and Programme I (SSP I). SSP I consisted of 5 priority programme areas as follows:

- (a) Capacity Building and Enhancement of Environmental Awareness for Policy and Decision-Makers and the Public;
- (b) Systematic Information Exchange and Intra - Regional Technology Transfers;
- (c) Environmental Management Training and Institutional Development for Training;
- (d) Regional Co-operation in Management Plans for Montane Ecosystems, Watersheds and Coastal Zones; and
- (e) Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat Conservation.

In the identification of projects under the different Programme Areas the following criteria had been employed:

- (a) Collective regional priorities and interests;
- (b) Consistency with Agenda 21;
- (c) Current Programmes of International, Regional, and National Organisations and Agencies; and
- (d) Prospective availability of donor funding for various programmes and project packages.

SSP I listed 14 projects for implementation over a period of 5 years commencing 1992. The List of the projects so identified is contained in Annex I.

At the beginning of 1996, SACEP undertook an internal revision of Phase 1 of SSP I and formulated Phase II of this programme. It was called SACEP's Strategy and Programme II. (SSP II) and consisted of the follow up activities of the projects undertaken during Phase I and also the projects and programmes under SSP I which due to a variety of reasons could not be implemented.

SSP II (1996 – 2000) was made available to the National Focal Points for their information and was forwarded to prospective donor agencies for funding support. The list of projects identified under SSP II is contained in Annex II.

REGIONAL COLLABORATIVE PROGRAMME

Activities to foster sustainable development of the member countries of South Asia are undertaken within an agreed framework of regional co-operation. The overall focus of SACEP's activities is on environmental management and on supporting of sustainable development at a regional level and includes the following areas:

- Institutional Strengthening and Capacity Building
- Conservation and Sustainable Management of Ecosystems
- Pollution Assessment and Control
- Environmental Information, Reporting and Networks
- Environmental Education and Awareness

Institutional Strengthening and Capacity Building

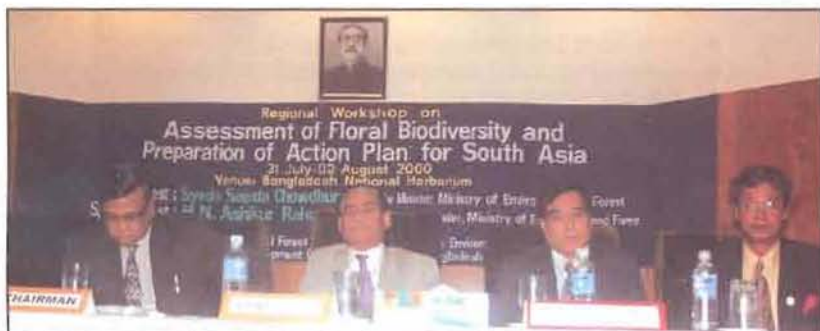
The member countries of SACEP are in need of institutional strengthening and capacity building for assessment, reporting, data management, preparation of plans, programmes and monitoring. To meet these requirements, many activities have been launched within the scope of economic and environmental instruments, technologies, policies, conventions and protocols, and management concepts. Such activities have played catalytic roles in enhancing skills for sound and sustainable management of resources.



Conservation and Sustainable Management of Ecosystems

South Asia has a variety of terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems which display diverse physical, biological and socio-cultural characteristics. They are composed of highly stratified life forms and represented by an equally rich diversity of species. Some of the richest mangroves, coral reef resources and megabiodiversity areas are located in this region. The resources of these ecosystems will continue to play an important role in the economic and social development of South Asia. The ecosystems themselves are facing the threat of environmental degradation from natural and anthropogenic impacts. Land

degradation, depletion of natural resources and rapid loss of species and habitats are increasing due to habitat destruction, deforestation, unscientific land use, over-exploitation, pollution, forest fires and inappropriate introduction of alien species. SACEP has given priority to sustainable development of natural resources and has implemented several programmes and projects which will help to formulate the priority action plans and ensure sustainable management of sensitive areas.



Pollution Assessment and Control

Pollution is an emerging environmental issue in South Asia as everywhere else in the world. Rapid growth of cities, and the associated growth in industry and transport systems, has made the region increasingly vulnerable to emissions and wastes. The Seventh Meeting of the Governing Council of SACEP held on 22 April 1998 in the Maldives approved the "Malé Declaration on Control and Prevention of Air Pollution and its Likely Transboundary Effects for South Asia" (Annex III). The Malé Declaration makes provision for baseline studies and preparation of an action plan for air pollution control.



South Asian Forum on Environmental Cooperation between Government and the Private Sector, New Delhi



Phase I Concluding workshop on implementation of New Declaration on Air Pollution, Nepal

Environmental Information, Reporting and Networks

Environmental assessment and information for environmentally sound and sustainable development planning and management is a major concern for South Asia. SACEP is intensifying efforts to catalyse national and regional action to strengthen assessment, reporting and data management capacities of institutions for undertaking of environmental assessment for state of environment reporting and planning for sustainable development.



National Training - SOE Reporting (I Bhutan)

Environmental Education and Awareness

Environmental education and awareness programmes on integrating environment and development concerns are essential to achieve the expected goals of sustainable development. One of the major pioneering efforts in this direction was the NORAD funded project titled "Co-operation in Environmental Training: A Proposal for Capacity Building in the South Asia Region". This project has identified "Environmental Training Needs and Opportunities in South Asia".

PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED

- Environmental Management Seminar for South Asia
- Assessment of Faunal Biodiversity in South Asia
- Co-operation in Environmental Training: A Proposal for Capacity Building in the South Asia Region
- Workshop on Implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities in the South Asian Seas Region
- Regional Training in Integrated Management of Coastal and Marine Protected Areas
- South Asian Regional Workshop on the Implementation of Environmental Conventions
- Regional Symposium on the Role of the Judiciary in Promoting the Rule of Law in the Area of Sustainable Development
- National Seminar on Environmental Law & Management, Nepal
- Regional Workshop for Establishing the Asia Pacific International Network on Environmental Compliance & Enforcement (ASPA – INECE)
- Inception Workshop for Strengthening the Environment Assessment and Monitoring Capabilities in South Asia and Greater Mekong Sub-region -the Global State of the Environment Report
- Inception Meeting on Implementation of Malé Declaration on Control and Prevention of Air Pollution and likely Transboundary effects for South Asia.
- GIS Training
- Regional Workshop on Institutional Design of the Kyoto Protocol Cooperative Implementation Mechanisms, Bangkok, Thailand.
- National Workshop on Environmental Legislation and Sustainable Development, Bangladesh
- State of Environment (SoE) Training; Regional and National Training
- South Asian Forum on Environmental Cooperation between Government and the Private Sector.

PROJECTS UNDER IMPLEMENTATION

- Assessment of Floral Diversity and Preparation of Regional Strategic Action Plan
- Preparation and Publication of a Handbook of National Legislation & Institutions for Environmental Management in South Asia
- Setting up of a South Asian Network on Environmental Compliance and Enforcement under the Asia Pacific International Network on Environmental Compliance and Enforcement (ASPA-INECE)
- Implementation of the Malé Declaration on the Control and Prevention of Air Pollution and its Likely Transboundary Effects for South Asia
- Strengthening the Environment Assessment and Monitoring Capabilities in South Asia and Greater Mekong Sub-region - the Global State of the Environment Report
- Preparation of the State of Environment (SoE) Report for South Asia
- Strategic Action Plan on Sewage - Inventory of Socio-economic Opportunities and Case Study

- An Overview of socio-economic opportunities related to the protection of coastal and marine environment from land based sources of pollution particularly urban and domestic sewage in the South Asian Seas Region.
- Cost-Benefit Analysis of the proposed sewer Network at Moratuwa / Ratmalana in Sri Lanka as a means to protect Coastal Areas from land-based sources of pollution
- Development of National Programmes of Action, Preparation of Regional Overview on Land-based Activities and Regional Programme of Action.
- High Level Meeting to Approve the Draft Regional Contingency Plan and the Draft MOU on Preparedness and Response for the South Asian Region
- Workshop on Ratification and Implementation of MARPOL 73/78 in the South Asia Region.
- Preparation of Project Proposals under the Project Cycle 2000-2002
- South Asian Environmental Education and Training Action Plan 2000-2005
- Asian Regional Workshop on UNFCCC with Special Reference to the CDM
- Workshop on Integrating Environmental Considerations Into Economic Policy Making Process

PROPOSED PROJECTS

1. Regional Workshops on Contemporary Approaches to Strengthening Environmental Law and Policy
2. Follow-up Workshops on Environmental Law and Policy
3. South Asia Environmental Information Network
4. Legal Aspects of the Integration of Environmental Considerations into Development Decision Making Processes in Countries in South Asia
5. ASPA – INECE Follow up Projects –
 - Activity 1 - Meeting of Senior Government Officials
 - Activity 2 - Exchange Programmes between Environmental Officers
 - Activity 3 - Development of Training Manuals on Environmental Compliance and Enforcement
 - Activity 4 - Training Course for Officials dealing with Policy, Compliance and Enforcement
 - Activity 5 - Training in Environmental Management of Various Stakeholders
 - Activity 6 - Workshop on the Development of Criteria for Promoting Better Compliance and Enforcement in different sectors
 - Activity 7 - Workshop on Strengthening Legal and Institutional Aspects of Compliance and Enforcement
6. Identification of Biodiversity Products and Preparation of "Products Directory" Relevant for the Convention on Biodiversity
7. Development of Policy Guidelines For Inter-Sectoral Co-operation Among the Various Institutional Sectors For The Implementation of Biodiversity Conservation
8. Strengthening Capacity of South Asian Countries in the Conservation and Management of Biodiversity
9. Project for the Establishment of the Institutional Framework for Capacity Building in Environmental Training in South Asia

10. Capacity Building in Energy Technology and Planning for Environmental Management
11. Pilot Project - Rehabilitation of Eroded Mini watersheds using an Integrated Approach in South Asia
12. Formulation of a Sustainable Development Strategy for South Asia
13. Promoting South Asian Co-operation on Disaster Management
14. 2nd Regional Training Course on Management of Protected Areas & Coral Island Ecosystems in the Indian Ocean

PUBLICATIONS

1. Our South Asia - SACEP towards Sustainable Development
2. Harmonising Environment and Development in South Asia
3. Co-operation in Capacity Building for Environmental Training in South Asia
4. Report of Regional Workshop on Implementation of Major Environmental Conventions in South Asia
5. South Asia Handbook of Treaties and other Legal Instruments
6. Report of the Regional Symposium on the Role of the Judiciary in Promoting the Rule of Law in the Area of Sustainable Development
7. Compendium of Summaries of Judicial Decisions in Environment Related Cases
8. An Assessment Manual for Faunal Biodiversity in South Asia
9. SACEP Newsletter
10. SACEP Project Update
11. South Asia Environment-Newsletter of SACEP
12. Report of the National Workshop on Environmental Law and Management, Nepal (in press)
13. South Asian Seas Newsletter (in press)

ANNEX I

LIST OF PROJECTS IDENTIFIED UNDER SSP I (1992 – 1996)

Capacity Building and Awareness Raising

- (i) Environment and Sustainable Development within the context of Agenda 21: Capacity Building and Enhancement of the Awareness and Practical Implementation Options for High Level Government Policy and Decision-makers in the Member Countries of SACEP
- (ii) Enhancement of Public Environmental Awareness in connection with existing as well as emerging environmental issues of concern in the Countries of the Region

Systematic Information Exchange and Intra-Regional Technology Transfers

- (i) Preparation of Guidelines for the Assessment of Highly Polluting Industries, for Import of Potentially Harmful Chemicals and Hazardous Wastes, and for dealing with Chemical Disasters
- (ii) Regional Environmental and Natural Resources Information Centre (RENRIC) – Phase 2

- (iii) Sharing of Pollution Abatement Technology through Exchange of Information and Training and
- (iv) Regional Air Quality Monitoring and Management Systems.

Environmental Management For Training and Institutional Development for Training

- (i) Strengthening of Environmental Management in the SACEP Countries-Phase I (Training);
- (ii) Establishment of a Regional Training and Information Centre for Environmental Management;

Regional Co-operation in Management Plans for Montane Ecosystems / Watersheds and Coastal Resources

- (i) Regional Co-operation in Conservation of Montane Ecosystems and Watersheds;
- (ii) Assessment of Land-Based Sources of Coastal and Marine Pollution in the Countries of the Region;

Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat Conservation in the Region

- (i) Regional Co-operation in Conservation of Marine Species (Marine Mammals and Sea Turtles);
- (ii) Regional Co-operation for Strengthening the Management of Terrestrial (Wildlife) and Marine Parks;
- (iii) Regional Co-operation in the Protection of Shared (Transboundary) Wildlife Habitats (Conservation of Mountain and Wetland Ecosystems);
- (iv) Regional Co-operation in Conservation of the Habitat of the Terrestrial Migratory Species.

ANNEX II

LIST OF PROJECTS IDENTIFIED UNDER SSP II (1996 – 2000)

1. Regional Training for Management of Protected Areas and Coral Island Ecosystems in the Indian Ocean.
2. Regional Training for Management of Protected Areas and Coral Island Ecosystems In the Indian Ocean - Follow Up
3. Strengthening of Framework Legislation for Environmental Management in the New Context of Sustainable Development in South Asian Countries
4. Maldives National Environmental Action Plan: Information Management System
5. Safe Handling of Chemicals
6. Continued Support for Project Recommendations of the project on "Co-operation in Environmental Training"
7. Continued Support for Project Recommendations of the Project on Assessment of Faunal Biodiversity in South Asia

8. Assessment of Land Based Sources of Coastal and Marine Pollution in the Countries of the Region
9. Assessment of Floral Biodiversity in the SACEP Region
10. Promotion of Cleaner Technologies and Waste Minimisation Programmes in the Countries of the SACEP Region - Phase 1 National Database & Regional Workshop
11. Promotion of Cleaner Technologies and Waste Minimisation Programmes in the Countries of the SACEP Region - Phase 2 Regional Referral Centre on Cleaner Technologies and Waste Minimisation Programmes
12. Regional Co-operation for Management and Conservation of Marine Species (Marine Mammals and Sea Turtles) in South Asia
13. Regional Guidelines on Environmentally Sound Management of Toxic Chemicals and Hazardous Wastes including Disaster Prevention in the SACEP Region
14. Preparation of Integrated Coastal Zone Management Plans for Selected Coastal Areas in each of the Marine States Under the South Asian Seas Programme
15. Preparation of National Training and Manpower Development Plans for Marine Environmental Monitoring
16. Training of Personnel Involved In Pilot Projects on Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) Projects in all aspects of Integrated Coastal Zone Management & Preparation of Training Manuals
17. Development of Pilot Activities in Countries of the South Asian Seas to Control the Degradation of the Marine Coastal Environment from Land Based Activities
18. Proposal for Training Programme on Climate Change for South Asian Planners
19. Regional Project for Training and Research on Environmental Impact Assessment in South Asia - Phase 1

ANNEX III



MALE DECLARATION ON CONTROL AND PREVENTION OF AIR POLLUTION AND ITS LIKELY TRANSBOUNDARY EFFECTS FOR SOUTH ASIA

On 22 April 1998, the "Malé Declaration on Control and Prevention of Air Pollution and Its Likely Transboundary Effects for South Asia" was discussed and adopted by Ministers of the Environment at the Seventh Meeting of the Governing Council of SACEP.

- Recognizing the potential for increase in air pollution and consequential phenomena due to concentration of pollutant gases, acid rain or acid deposition as well as the impacts on the health of humans and other living organisms in all our countries due to man made and natural causes; and also
- Recognizing the potential for increase in transboundary air pollution as a corollary of air pollution in each country; and
- Realizing that the potential for air pollution increase and its transboundary effects will accumulate in the absence of national measures to abate and prevent such potential; and

- Reiterating in this context Principle 21 of the UN declaration on the Human Environment in 1972 which stated that States have, in accordance with the charter of the United Nations and the principle of international laws, the sovereign right to exploit their own resources pursuant to their own environmental policies, and the responsibility to ensure that activities within their jurisdiction or control do not cause damage to the environment of other states or of areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction;
- Keeping in mind the need for constant study and monitoring of the trends in air pollution with a view to understand the extent of our potential for damage to the environment and health in the member countries and taking consequential measures to strengthen and build capacity for such activities;
- Stressing the need for development and economic growth that will help build up the quality of life and incomes of all the people of the region, in particular the poorer sections of the population, having due regard to the need to have a clean and healthy environment;

Emphasizing that air pollution issues have to be analyzed and managed in the wider frame-work of human and sustainable development within each country and within the region; and

Drawing from the experience of co-operation in the region in matters like cultural exchange and also from the experience in other regions like Europe and sub-regions of Asia like ASEAN and East Asia. We declare that countries of this region will initiate and/or carry forward programmes in each country to:

1. Assess and analyze the origin and causes, nature, extent and effects of local and regional air pollution, using the in-house in identified institutions, universities, colleges etc., building up or enhancing capacities in them where required;
2. Develop and/or adopt strategies to prevent and minimise air pollution;
3. Work in co-operation with each other to set up monitoring arrangements beginning with the study of sulphur and nitrogen and volatile organic compounds emissions, concentrations and deposition;
4. Co-operate in building up standardized methodologies to monitor phenomena like acid depositions and analyze their impacts without prejudice to the national activities in such fields;
5. Take up the aforesaid programmes and training programmes which involves the transfer of financial resources and technology and work towards securing incremental assistance from bilateral and multilateral sources;
6. Encourage economic analysis that will help arriving at optimal results;
7. Engage other key stakeholders for example industry, academic institutions, NGOs, communities and media etc. in the effort and activities.

We also declare that we shall constantly endeavor to improve national reporting systems and strengthen scientific and academic effort in the understanding and tackling of air pollution issues.

We further declare that we shall continue this process in stages with mutual consultation to draw up and implement national and regional action plans and protocols based on a fuller understanding of transboundary air pollution issues.

We declare that in pursuit of the above, we shall evolve, as appropriate, institutional structures at the national level, including networking, both for the purposes of policy and the technical requirements, and we shall use the good offices of regional, international bilateral and multilateral agencies in this, as appropriate.

