

SOUTH ASIA CO-OPERATIVE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME



SACEP

SACEP is an inter-governmental organization, established in 1982 by the Governments of South Asia to fulfil the following objectives:

- To promote and support the protection, management and enhancement of the environment of South Asia, individually, collectively and co-operatively
- To encourage the judicious use of the resources of the environment with a view to alleviating poverty, reducing socio-economic disparities and improving the quality of life of the people

Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka have ratified the Articles of Association of SACEP. Since 1995, SACEP has been designated as the Secretariat for implementing the South Asian Seas Action Plan, developed under the UNEP Regional Seas Programme.

Hon. Rukman Senanayake, Minister of Environment and Natural Resources of Sri Lanka is the present Chairman of the Governing Council of SACEP and the South Asian Seas Programme.

Contact details:

#10, Anderson Road, Colombo – 5

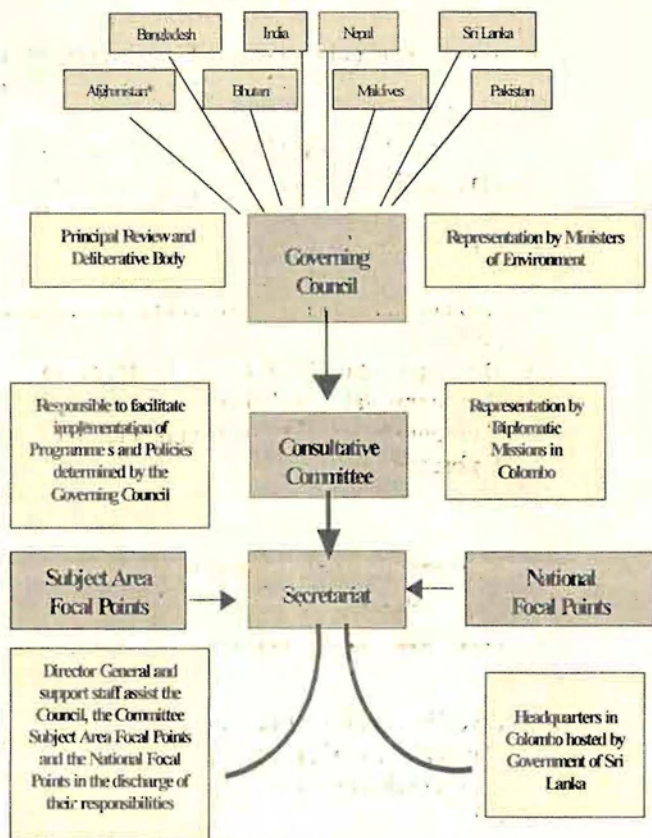
Sri Lanka

Phone: 941 589 787

Fax: 941 589 369

Email: sacep@eureka.lk

Organizational Structure



SACEP currently receives three types of financial assistance for its activities:

1. Annual country contributions from the member countries on a agreed scale of assessment
2. The hosting and support facilities provided from the Government of Sri Lanka as the host country of the Secretariat.
3. Financial assistance from bilateral and multilateral donor agencies to implement projects and programmes .

Milestone Events

1983:

- The first Governing Council Meeting of SACEP approved the 15-priority subject areas identified by SACEP/ UNEP/UNDP mission to be implemented as projects and programmes.
- UNEP's 11th Governing Council designated the South Asian Seas as the 9th member of the UNEP's Regional Seas Programme and SACEP was requested to function as the Secretariat for implementing its activities.

1991:

- Establishment of the SACEP's Regional Environment and Natural Resource Centre (RENRIC) through an initial Technical Assistance grant from ADB.

1993:

- SACEP signed a MoU with the UNEP's Global Resource Information Database, Bangkok for a project titled "Regional Environment Information Network for Asia and the Pacific" to strengthen the RENRIC centre activities by the initiation of South Asia Environment and Natural Resources Information Centre (SENRIC)

1994:

- SACEP secured funding from NORAD, for the implementation of two pilot projects of SSP1, which are now completed; Assessment of Faunal Biodiversity in the Countries of South Asia, and Co-operation in Capacity Building for Environmental Training.

1995:

- The South Asian Seas Action Plan was formally adopted by the maritime nations of SACEP at the Meeting of Plenipotentiaries held in New Delhi.

1998:

- Malé Declaration on Control and Prevention of Air Pollution and its Likely Transboundary Effects for South Asia was adopted by the Environment Ministers of the region at the 7th GC Meeting of SACEP

1999:

- First South Asian Seas Inter Governmental Meeting of Ministers was held in Pakistan, where Priority Projects were identified for the Programme Cycle 1999-2002, based on the current level of environmental problems prevalent in the region

2003:

- SACEP signed a MoU with UNEP for co-operation in environment related activities in the South Asian Region

Project and Programme Activities

SACEP's programme activities are promoted within an agreed framework of Regional Co-operation for Environmentally Sound Sustainable Development. It includes the following subject 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

The project and programme activities implemented by SACEP, since its inception can be broadly grouped in to following time frames; 1983-1991, 1992-1996 (SSP 1) and 1996-2000 (SSP2). Activities under the South Asian Seas Programme are being implemented from 1995. New projects and Programme activities to be implemented were identified under SSP3, which is a follow up of SSP1 and SSP2.

In 2002, an internal review of SACEP was carried out with the assistance from UNEP and the recommendations of this review were endorsed at the Special Session of the Governing Council of SACEP held in January 2003. UNEP and SACEP signed a MoU on Co-operation in the field of Environment in February 2003. The above initiatives are now to be followed up by the preparation of a detailed future Work programme for SACEP.

Activities under implementation

1. South Asian Seas Programme

- National and Regional Oil Spill Contingency Planning
- National and Regional Action Plans for Protecting the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities
- Physical Alteration and Destruction of Habitats
- Municipal Wastewater and Sewage
- State of Marine Assessment
- Coral Reef related activities
- Establishment of Centres of Excellence in the areas of Integrated Coastal Zone Management, Biodiversity and Oil Spill Contingency Planning, Land Based Activities (GPA) and Assessment and Monitoring

Activities under implementation Cont

2. South Asia Environment and Natural Resources Information Centre (SENRIC)

- Assessment and Reporting of the State of Environment
- Tranboundary Air Pollution and its likely Effects for South Asia
- National Council for Sustainable Development
- National Sustainable Development Strategies

3. Other SACEP Programmes

- Implementation of the Environmental Education Action Plan
- Development of South Asian Handbook on Environmental Legislation
- Environment Legislation: Compliance and Enforcement

<p>Recent Publications</p>

- SACEP Newsletter (a quarterly News Bulletin)
- National State of the Environment Reports of Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Pakistan -in print
- State of Environment South Asia 2001
- Children of the Monsoon (A youth perspective of the State of the Environment in the South Asian Region)
- South Asia Environment Education and Training Action Plan 2002-2007
- Overview on Land-based Sources and Activities Affecting the Marine Environment in the South Asian Seas
- South Asia Handbook of Treaties and other Legal Instruments
- Compendium of Summaries of Judicial Decisions in Environment Related Cases

Planned Work Programme for 2003-4

At the recently held Special Session of the Governing Council of SACEP, the following activities were recommended to be taken up as future work programme of the organization.

1. Development of a Regional Strategy for implementation of WSSD outcomes including Plan of Implementation and WEHAB framework in conformity with the National Plans of Implementation.
2. Compliance and Enforcement of Multilateral Environment Agreements (MEAs).
3. Development of common legislative framework and delivery mechanism at regional level relating to following areas;
 - a. Coastal zone management
 - b. Environmental impact assessment
 - c. Assessment and documentation of bio-diversity
4. Establishment of Regional Activity Centres for South Asian Seas Programme's priority areas.
5. Conservation and Management of Water Resources
6. Implementation of programme for Water and Sanitation Delivery and Efficiency including Sewage Management
7. Environment-Energy, Health, Livelihood linkages for the poor who depend mainly on natural resources
8. Initiation of Environmentally sound management programme for dismantling of ships in the South Asian Region



Special Session of the SACEP Governing Council-
January 2003, Colombo, Sri Lanka