

UNESCO-SACEP Cooperation Agreement



**United Nations Educational,
Scientific and Cultural
Organization
UNESCO New Delhi, India**



**South Asia Cooperative
Environment Programme
SACEP Colombo, Sri Lanka**

UNESCO-SACEP Cooperation Agreement (USCA)

This Cooperation Agreement dated 21 March 2007, is made between United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural organization- UNESCO New Delhi, India (hereinafter referred to as UNESCO New Delhi) and South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme-SACEP Colombo, Sri Lanka (hereinafter referred to as SACEP). UNESCO New Delhi and SACEP Colombo will herein be referred to individually as a "Party" and collectively as "Parties".

UNESCO is a specialized United Nations agency, functions as a laboratory of ideas and a standard-setter to forge universal agreements on emerging ethical issues. UNESCO New Delhi, the first decentralized Office in Asia was established in 1948 and is presently designated as a Cluster Office for South Asia and is a platform for delivery of activities in all areas of UNESCO's competence, namely, education, the natural and social sciences, culture, communication and information. It undertakes variety of environment programmes aimed to improve human security through a better management of the environment and with a view to faster sustainable development.

SACEP is an Inter governmental organization, primarily focusing on environmental issues of South Asia. SACEP was set up in 1982 by the governments of South Asia, to promote and support protection, management and enhancement of the environment in the region and to promote regional co-operation in the field of environment, both natural and human in the context of sustainable development. Since its creation, SACEP has implemented a number of projects and programmes in the areas of environment education, environment legislation, biodiversity, air pollution, and the protection and management of the coastal environment. SACEP is also the Secretariat for the South Asian Seas Programme.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The two organizations in recognition of their respective mandate and common objectives, resolve to work together, so as to synergise efforts at the regional level to jointly address environment and development challenges common to the countries of the region.

Article-I

Recognizing the need to develop partnership and synergy in the region in the field of environment and related areas, the two parties hereby agree to:

1. Contribute to sustainable human development and create conditions for dialogue, based upon respect for commonly shared values and the dignity of each civilization and culture, through programmes and projects in their fields of competence;
2. Work closely to develop and reinforce their respective competencies and strengths through a range of partnerships, alliances and other cooperative mechanisms in the region, so as to foster impact of their programme at both regional and national levels;
3. Promote cooperative activities in priority areas of environment of mutual concern;
4. Ensure that these activities are beneficial individually and collectively to the member States of the region;
5. Extend support as needed through exchange of knowledge and expertise available among the member countries;
6. Provide local resources towards implementation of projects and activities; and
7. Maximize the impact of support received from donor countries and other sources;

Article –II

It is being agreed that both the parties will jointly take up the following tasks:

1. Develop extensive networking strategies for the benefit of the environment in the region and disseminate case examples of innovations and augmentation of cleaner and ecologically sound development approaches;
2. Organize series of awareness, training, capacity development programmes in frontier areas of ecological sciences for better environment and sustainable development in the region. Emphasis will be given to the continuation of the capacity building programme on Biodiversity Clearing House Mechanism which SACEP already initiated with the assistance of Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences;
3. Develop frameworks of action to identify opportunities for sharing and strengthening the knowledge and innovation based on already ongoing eco-networking and network of biosphere reserves and world heritage sites;
4. Develop joint proposals for accessing funding from diverse funding sources for taking region specific projects and programmes;
5. Prepare working papers and reports focusing on aspects of preventive environmental management including preparedness to effectively respond to the frameworks of multilateral agreements;

6. Facilitate access of expertise from other relevant agencies, apart from providing its own technical resources in areas of capacity building;
7. Launch pilot environment improvement and biodiversity conservation projects in the region. Emphasis will be given to the establishment of trans-boundary protected areas/peace parks;
8. Develop capacity of students, teachers and professionals in ecological sciences through academic exchanges, internships, distance learning programmes and through designating knowledge centres in the region;
9. Develop programmes for eco-rehabilitation in fragile ecosystems, marine, wetlands, drylands and mountains;
10. Initiate programmes using cultural diversity of the region for the conservation of biological diversity;

Article-III


Both the parties are free to use the outcome of projects and other networking information and shall mention about the collaborative effort appropriately.

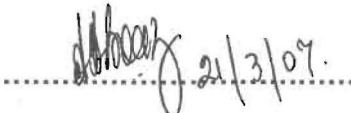
Article-IV

An Advisory Committee consisting of Director General, SACEP and Programme specialist, Ecological Sciences, UNESCO New Delhi with relevant agencies and experts of the region will be constituted to guide on the directions and programme of activities. The Committee will meet annually at a mutually decided location and also interact through other means of communication on a regular basis as and when required.

Article-V

This agreement is presently for a period of five years from the date of signing; extendable by mutual consent. If however, either party would like to modify or terminate this arrangement, it could be done through mutual discussions between the parties, at any point of time, giving a reasonable notice to the other.


..... 21.03.07
Minja Yang
Representative and Director
Signed on behalf of UNESCO


..... 21/3/07
Arvind A. Boaz
Director General
Signed on behalf of SACEP

Place: New Delhi

Date: 21 March, 2007