



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
ON COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF ENVIRONMENT

Between

THE SOUTH ASIAN ASSOCIATION FOR REGIONAL COOPERATION
(SAARC)

And

THE SOUTH ASIA COOPERATIVE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME (SACEP)

The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (hereinafter referred to as SAARC) and the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (hereinafter referred to as SACEP);

Inspired by the spirit of cooperation among the Member States, which forms the basis of the foundation and operations of SAARC and SACEP;

Mindful of the commitment of the countries in South Asia to promote sustainable development and environmental protection, including the sustainable use of natural resources in the region;

Recalling the decision of the Twenty-third Session of the SAARC Council of Ministers, held in Kathmandu in August 2002 to pursue the development of modalities of cooperation between SAARC and SACEP while recognizing the merit of such cooperation in the area of environment;

Recalling also the decisions taken by the Ministers of Environment of the South Asian countries at the Seventh Session of the Governing Council of SACEP held in Male' in April 1998, the Eighth Session of the Governing Council held in Colombo in September 2001 and the Eightieth meeting of the Consultative Committee of SACEP held in Colombo in November 2001 to collaborate with and complement the work of SAARC in the area of environment;

Desiring to establish a framework, for cooperation between SAARC and SACEP in the area of environmental protection and the sustainable use of natural resources in the region, consistent with the SAARC Charter and the mandate of SACEP;

Have agreed as follows:

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'S' followed by a vertical line and a horizontal stroke at the bottom.

ARTICLE - I

SAARC and SACEP shall cooperate within the framework of their respective programmes in the area of environmental protection and sustainable use of natural resources, including:

- i. Promoting regional coordination and cooperation in agreed areas of mutual interests;
- ii. Developing mutually supportive arrangements to implement their respective Environmental Programmes and Action Plans;
- iii. Exchange information on the state of the global and regional environment and emerging environmental issues;
- iv. Collaborating in producing studies and reports on priority concerns in the field of environment; and
- v. Strengthening capacity for effectively addressing global, regional and national environmental concerns, including through participation in multilateral environmental negotiations and the environmental agreements;

ARTICLE - II

- i. Designated representatives of SAARC and SACEP shall develop programmes of work pursuant to Article-I and decide on measures for their implementation, including resource mobilization and monitoring the progress of the implementation of the agreed Programmes of Work. These efforts can be carried out either by periodic meetings or through correspondence.
- ii. Designated representatives of SAARC and SACEP shall meet by mutual agreement as and when required to consult on matters relating to the operationalization of an agreed programme of work.

ARTICLE - III

- i. The Memorandum will be operated by the SAARC Secretariat, Kathmandu and the Office of SACEP, Colombo.
- ii. The Reports of the progress in the implementation of this Memorandum shall be drawn up in the periodic meetings or through correspondence pursuant to Article - II above.

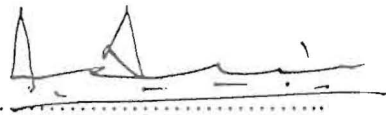


ARTICLE - IV

- i. This Memorandum of Understanding shall come into force upon signature of the Secretary-General of SAARC and Director-General of SACEP and shall remain in force unless terminated by either party upon serving notice of six months.
- ii. Either Party may propose amendments to this Memorandum of Understanding. Any such amendment shall enter into force on the date it is agreed to by signature, by the Parties.

For SAARC

For SACEP



Secretary-General

Director-General

Date :

Date :