



South Asia Co-operative
Environment Programme (SACEP)

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Timber Research and Development
Association (TRADA)

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MoU between SACEP and TRADA International

A. BACKGROUND

1. Timber Research and Development Association (TRADA), is an independent research association in UK established in the year 1934. International division of TRADA has been implementing projects in timber and timber related industries in developing countries for more than two decades and has specialized in bamboo development programmes for sustainable livelihoods.
2. SACEP is an intergovernmental organization established in 1982, with a mission of promoting and supporting the conservation and management of the environment, both natural and human, in the South Asian Region in a co-operative manner to achieve sustainable development. Eight countries, namely Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka have ratified the Articles of Association of SACEP. In SACEP's revised mission statement, development of partnerships is also emphasized as an intrinsic aspect of the organization's mandate.
3. Forest Management has been identified as a key area in the Adaptation to Climate Change issues as its conservation and development not only has a direct impact on Climate Change, but also in the local communities adaptive capacity to the vital aspects related to Climate Change. TRADA and SACEP, both addressing programme activities in the areas of forest management share the focus on community resource management involvement in alternative livelihood management; poverty alleviation, with concerns for sustainable development, and guidance to the policy makers. Under this MoU, both the organisations seek to develop their collaboration in South Asia and to develop a programme of cooperative activities at the sub-regional level. This MoU provides a framework for TRADA and SACEP cooperation to assure that the resources available to each institution for activities in the areas of their mutual interest are used to best advantage for natural resource conservation and management and sustainable development in South Asia.

B. PRINCIPLES OF COLLABORATION

3. Complementary and mutual support. SACEP and TRADA will support one another in fulfilling their respective missions by building on elements of both organisations' programmes, seeking to enhance effectiveness while avoiding duplication of effort.
4. Mutual benefit. The activities on which SACEP and TRADA will collaborate under this MoU will be selected and developed to bring a clear benefit to both organizations and their constituents. Collaborative activities will be undertaken with a clear and mutual understanding of which organisation does what, and how each activity will be funded.
5. Mutual recognition. Public statements and publications regarding activities undertaken jointly under this MoU will acknowledge this collaboration. Neither TRADA nor SACEP shall make any commitments or take any positions on behalf of the other without the other's specific written consent. Each organisation will maintain the right to independent expression on issues related to activities that may be undertaken under this MoU and each will make every effort to notify the other before publicly expressing a position on such issues. Information provided by either partner to the other may be used for any capacity-building or non-commercial purpose.

C. PRINCIPAL AREAS OF COLLABORATION

6. TRADA and SACEP have identified the thematic areas of Access to Community Benefit Sharing, Development, Equitable share, specifically addressing Poverty reduction and livelihoods, Sustainable timber and wood products through demonstrating Best Practices, Sharing skills and knowledge as the substantive fields on which the partnership will begin to

build. This will be a major step to developing the communities adaptive capacity to the impacts of the forest resources because of climate change and consequent effect on productivity of the natural resources on which they are dependent for their livelihood.


7. Within 90 days of the signing of this MoU, SACEP and TRADA will agree on and prioritize activities to be carried out in the first year of the partnership. Annual work plans for collaborative work will be developed as provided in paragraph 12, below. The evolving programmes of each organization will determine issues for future collaboration.
8. TRADA and SACEP will keep each other informed of their respective programmes of assistance and activities through exchange of newsletters, country-specific studies, and other relevant documents. Similarly, SACEP and TRADA will share information on any projects or studies in which the other has expressed special interest.
9. SACEP and TRADA will invite each other to send representatives to meetings, workshops and conferences, convened by them or under their auspices, on topics of mutual interest and application, subject to available budgetary resources within each institution.

D. COORDINATION

10. Director General, SACEP and the Head, TRADA International or their successors, will have overall responsibility for ensuring that the objectives of this MoU are realized. The officials responsible for implementing this MoU will be Mr. Hiran Tillekaratne, Programme Officer of SACEP and Mr. Lionel Jayanetti, Head of TRADA International.
11. SACEP and TRADA staff at the national and regional levels will meet formally and informally, as mutually agreed, to develop concepts and plans for joint work.
12. The working arrangements set forth in this MoU will be reviewed annually by the officials responsible for implementation, who will meet as mutually agreed to assess progress in the agreed areas of cooperation and to discuss future directions for SACEP/TRADA collaboration. They will submit to the Director General of SACEP and the Head of TRADA International a joint written report on progress made, with specific recommendations for implementation for the following year.
13. SACEP and TRADA will jointly carry out a comprehensive review of achievements under this MoU within two (2) years of the date of signing and subsequently as may be agreed.
14. SACEP and TRADA will make every effort to ensure that women and men participate equally in the planning and implementation of projects and activities and that women and men have equal access to the benefits of derived from those projects and activities.

E. GENERAL PROVISIONS

15. This MoU shall come into force on the date it is signed by both SACEP and TRADA.
16. This MoU may at any time be amended, in writing and signed by both SACEP and TRADA.
17. SACEP and TRADA shall give each other six (6) months' prior written notice of intent to suspend or terminate this MoU.
18. Signed by the duly authorized representatives of SACEP and TRADA in two copies, on the dates indicated below:



Dr. Arvind Anil Boaz
Director General SACEP

Date: 17/4/07



Mr. Lionel Jayanetti
Head TRADA International

Date: 17/04/07