



EDITORIAL

Poverty is one of the major challenges being faced by countries of South Asia. Poverty is also the biggest polluter. There exists a vicious circle between Poverty and Environment. Poverty cannot be removed without Sustainable Development and Sustainable Development cannot be achieved where there is poverty.

To break the vicious circle, there has to be clear political will and understanding of Sustainable Development. Rio Conference of 92 gave a new dimension to the understanding of Sustainable Development. AGENDA 21 is the blue print of action by the community of nations for the 21st century recognised poverty as a complex multi-dimensional problem with origins in both the national and international domains. Efforts to achieve Sustainable Development by developing countries is retarded due to lack of resources. The creation of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to help the nations and the regional bodies has been involved in complex debate and the expected flow of funds have not come about. It is therefore, necessary for South to insist that GEF is in fact a global liability fund, set up to compensate the South for its rightful share of the globe's resources and for the North to pay for the damage it has caused. The payment to South should not be considered as charity or aid but be made real and mandatory.

The other important issues which developing countries have to think about are peoples participation in environmental protection and enhancement of their awareness and literacy.

SACEP has embarked upon an ambitious action plan and it is hoped that it will get support and blessings of all concerned in terms of the Resolution of AGENDA 21. This being the only specialised Intergovernmental Agency in South Asian Region, believes in avoidance of multiplicity of agencies and duplication of efforts on this important subject. An integrated co-ordinated approach is the answer to the growing problem of environmental degradation and sagging National and International resources.



SRI LANKA CHAIRS SACEP GOVERNING COUNCIL

At the 5th Governing Council Meeting of SACEP held in September 1992, Sri Lanka assumed Chairmanship of the SACEP Governing Council.

This honour has been bestowed on Sri Lanka's Minister of Environment & Parliamentary Affairs Hon. Dr. Wimal Wickremasinghe.

Dr. Wickremasinghe is a Bachelor of Arts (Economics) Honours Graduate from the University of Ceylon whose Special Subject was Money & Banking. He then proceeded to the University of Exeter, England where he obtained his Doctorate in Economics. He was also successful in his First in Law Examination, University of Sri Lanka and also has a Diploma in Export Financing from ITC (UNCTAD/GATT). He was also a World Bank Specialist Consultant to the Government of Indonesia on Report Guarantee.

He is currently Minister of Environment and Parliamentary Affairs and Minister of State for Policy Planning & Implementation, Member of Parliament and Chief Government Whip.

INDEX

Editorial	1
Sri Lanka Chairs SACEP Governing Council	1
Welcome to SACEP	2
Chairman of SACEP Consultative Committee	2
Country News	2
SACEP's Strategy Programme for 1992 - 1996	9
ESCAP/SACEP - Pilot Phase on Coastal Zone Management	9
Save the Earth	10
South Asian NGO Summit	10
The Multilateral Ozone Fund	10
New Executive Director for UNEP	11
Towards A Global Anti - Poverty Convention	12
UNDP Report	12
Villagers Revive Forests	12





WELCOME TO SACEP

SACEP warmly welcomes Mr. V.P. Jauhari from the Government of India who assumed office as Director SACEP from 20th March 1993.

Mr. V.P. Jauhari born on 23rd September 1949 first obtained a M.Sc. in Physics from the University of Allahabad. He has also obtained later a M.Phil in Environment and a Diploma in Business Administration and Post-graduate Diploma in Public Administration from prestigious National Institutions in India. Later he continued his interests in academics and obtained a M.Sc. (Economics) in Social Planning in Developing Countries from the London School of Economics.

Mr. Jauhari belongs to the premier Indian Administrative Service and has served the Indian Government in many capacities with his last appointment being Additional Commissioner, Institute of Administration, Hyderabad in the rank of Secretary to Government. He has wide experience in Environmental Management at National and International Level. He is a very widely travelled person. He has also been Consultant on Environment to some Bilateral/Multilateral Agencies.

He has presented many papers on varied subjects and was a Co-Editor of the Encyclopedia of Ecology, Environment and Pollution Control published in 1992 which comprises of 20 Volumes. He also edited the book Technological Successes in River Water Cleaning in India - Experience of Ganga Project.(under print)

Mr. Jauhari is married and has one daughter and one son.



His Excellency Mr. Shamsher M. Chowdhury, BB, Bangladesh High Commissioner in Sri Lanka.

CHAIRMAN OF SACEP CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

As per Articles of Association of SACEP H. E. Mr. Shamsher Mobin Chowdhury BB, High Commissioner of Bangladesh in Sri Lanka assumed Chairmanship of the SACEP Consultative Committee for the calendar year 1993.

H. E. Mr. Chowdhury graduated from the Pakistan Military Academy in 1969 and after being commissioned in the Army served in Jessore and Chittagong. In 1971 he was awarded the gallantry award "Bir Bikram" for act of bravery. He then joined the Bangladesh Foreign Service and has held various diplomatic assignments in Rome, Washington and Ottawa. He was also Minister/Deputy Chief of Mission in Bangladesh Embassy in Beijing. He served as Director-General in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs prior to assuming duties as High Commissioner in Sri Lanka.

COUNTRY NEWS BANGLADESH

ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES IN BANGLADESH

- The Ministry of Environment & Forest has been created to oversee all Environmental Matters.
- Ministry of Environment has been made a permanent member of the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council.

- Creation of Department of Environment headed by a Director-General which acts as the professional and technical arm of the Ministry.
- Adoption by the Government an Environment Policy together with an Action Plan.
- Finalisation of a National Environment Management Action Plan (NEMAP) with UNDP Assistance.
- The Ministry of Environment & Forest with collaboration of IUCN has drafted a National Conservation Strategy.
- A Draft Environment Management Legislation has been prepared to replace the Environment Pollution Control Ordinance.
- Approval by Expert Committee of National Environmental Quality Standards for different environmental parameters.
- Ratification of the Vienna Convention on the Protection of Ozone Layer, The Montreal Protocol on the Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer and the Basel Convention on Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes. Bangladesh has also signed the Frame Work Convention on Climate Change and the Convention on Biological Diversity at UNCED and has initiated action for its ratification.
- Preparation of a National Forestry Policy and 20 Year Forestry Master Plan in order to raise the forest cover to around 25% for matching national demands.



REGIONAL TRAINING COURSE ON INTEGRATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS IN AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN BANGLADESH

Environmental issues are often inter related with questions regarding sustainability of projects and the utilisation of available resources with attention to intergenerational equity. Methodologies and Techniques are available for Environmental Resource Assessment and Environmental Impact Analysis. However, unlike the complex analytical techniques that are being used for sophisticated, capital intensive projects, there is the need to apply simple participatory techniques in Agricultural and Rural Development Projects.

The Centre for Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP), realising the need for developing the capabilities of Planners and Project Managers to take into account concerns about the environment in planning such projects conducted an 11 day Training Course in this subject area, in Bangladesh, in collaboration with the Commonwealth Secretariat, London.

There were 16 participants, who were mostly Senior Planners consisted three each from Bangladesh, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, four from India, one each from Malaysia, CARE and CIRDAP.

The general objectives of this training course were to enhance the knowledge and awareness of the trainees about Environmental Concerns related to Agriculture and Rural Development; to initiate them to Methodologies of integrating such concerns into Watershed and Forestry Planning and Management; and to develop their skills in conducting Environmental Impact Assessment. The Resource Persons were drawn from the experts available in this field from the region.

The approach of the training was participatory. The participants interacted freely with the Resource persons, discussed Case Studies, undertook Group Work and made Presentations.

BANGLADESH CELEBRATES WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY

The World Environment Day '93 was observed in Bangladesh on 5th June as elsewhere in the world with a view to creating greater awareness about the importance of a healthy environment.

To uphold this year's theme of "Poverty and the Environment: Breaking the Vicious Circle", different Government, Non government and juvenile Organisations observed the day through conducting Seminars, Discussions, Rallies and Anti-Pollution Programmes throughout the day.

The Prime Minister and the State Minister of Environment and Forest and Fisheries and Livestock gave messages emphasising the significance of the day. Newspapers published special supplements whilst the Radio and Television broadcasted special programmes befitting the occasion.

One of the highlights of the day's programme arranged by the Ministry was a Children's Rally participated by Dignitaries, Diplomats, Government Officials and People from all walks of life joined the Walkathon led by the Minister and the State Minister. They later planted two saplings at the Shishu Academy to commemorate the auspicious day.

BHUTAN

SOCIAL FORESTRY & FORESTRY EXTENSION ACTIVITIES IN BHUTAN

A National Workshop on Social Forestry and Forestry Extension was held in Thimphu recently. At this Workshop, 50 participants reviewed the experiences in Social Forestry and Forestry Extension in Bhutan. Presentation and Discussions focussed on the Draft Forest Policy in Bhutan, the Social Forestry Rules, the Forestry Extension Strategy to be pursued including its Organisational Implications for the Forest Department and the Decentralisation of the Forestry Authority at different levels of Government.

GEF GRANT FOR ENVIRONMENT CONSERVATION IN BHUTAN

A Global Environment Facility Grant of US \$ 10 Million will activate a Bhutan Trust Fund (BTF) for Environmental Conservation to protect the country's rich biodiversity. The grant marks the first time a Trust Fund will be used for environmental protection. The BTF was created by the Royal Government of Bhutan in collaboration with UNDP and the World Wildlife Fund and will reach US \$ 20 million in funds when all donors have made their contributions

INDIA

ENVIRONMENT LAW CENTRE OPENED AT WORLD WIDE FUND FOR NATURE - INDIA HEAD QUARTERS

The Indian Parliament in its next session is expected to pass the Environment Tribunal Bill which seeks to set up Tribunals for expeditious assessment of damage caused by accidents arising out of hazardous substances.

This was disclosed by Minister of Environment and Forests Shri Kamal Nath while inaugurating the Centre for Environmental Law at the World Wide Fund for Nature-India Headquarters. The first of kind in Asia, the Centre has been established by WWF with assistance from the Ministry of Environment and the Ford Foundation.

The Minister said there was a growing need to set up facilities like the tribunals to help people affected by pollution of all kinds. He felt the new centre could study the aspect and recommend appropriate mechanisms.

The objectives of the Centre are to develop a central repository of legal information, monitoring implementation of environmental laws and organising policy research for formulation or amendment of environmental laws at the national, regional and international levels. The Centre is expected to meet the needs of other countries of South Asia.

The Centre will have six units - Education, Networking, Litigation, Publication and Media, Information and Library Units. The Education Unit offers a six month Diploma in Environmental Law, specifically for law students. It also plans to start short term certificate courses catering to the needs of NGOs, Government Officials and Industries.

ENVIRONMENTAL AUDIT

The Government of India has introduced the concept of Environmental Audit. The procedure of an Environmental Statement has been introduced in Local Bodies, Statutory Authorities and Public Ltd. Companies to evaluate the effects & the policies, operative and active on the environment particularly in compliance with the standards and generation and recycling of wastes. A Gazette Notification on Environmental Audit has been issued by the Ministry of Environment & Forests on 13.3.92. This notification applies to every person carrying on an Industry, operating or processing, requiring consent to operate under Section 25 of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act 1974 or Section 21 of the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act 1981 or both or authorisation under the Hazardous Waste (Management & Handling) Rules 1989 issued under Environment (Protection) Act 1986.

In the Environment Statement, every industry will provide information on the Water & Raw Material Consumption, Pollution generated, Information on Hazardous Waste and Solid Wastes along with the Disposal Procedures. The Industries are also required to specify the Impact of Pollution Control Methods on Conservation of Natural Resources. A booklet on Environmental Statement issued by the Ministry of Environment to assist the target audience in preparing the Environmental Statement.

LAUNCHING OF POLLUTION ABATEMENT PLAN FOR RIVER YAMUNA

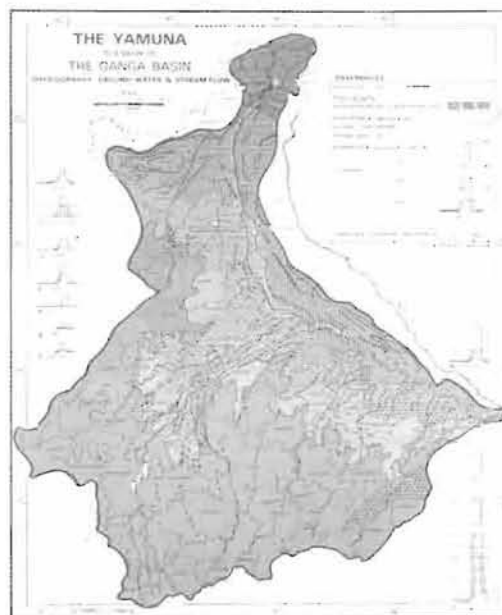
On 5th June 1993, on the occasion of the World Environment Day, Shri Kamal Nath, Indian Minister of Environment and Forests launched the Yamuna Action Plan. The Action Plan aims at Pollution Abatement of the 1,376 kms long river Yamuna which flows through the States of Haryana, Delhi and Uttar Pradesh of India.

Yamuna is the major tributary of Ganga which originates in Uttar Pradesh. After covering 170 kms of mountains, it enters the plains at Tajewal to traverse a distance of 1,200 kms before finally merging into river Ganga at Allahabad. It is observed that due to heavy abstraction from the river system and domestic wastes and industrial effluents reaching the river, there are certain very critical segments between Wazirabad in Delhi to Etawah in Uttar Pradesh which require immediate pollution abatement programmes to improve the water quality.

This scheme will be executed in 15 major towns of Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Delhi at an estimated cost of Indian Rs. 421 Crores. The project will take care of both domestic and industrial pollution caused to these rivers. Under the Yamuna Component, Pollution Abatement works are to be taken up in the towns of Yamunanagar and Jagadhri, Karnal, Panipat, Sonapat, Gurgaon, and Faridabad in Haryana (6 towns), Ghazibad, Noida, Vrindavan, Mathura, Agra, Etawah, Sharanpur and Muzaffarnagar in Uttar Pradesh (8 towns) and the Union Territory of Delhi.

The estimated cost of the Yamuna Component is Indian Rupees 357 Crores, the Government of Japan has agreed a soft loan of Yen 17.77 billion (equivalent to Indian Rupees 401 Crores) for the Yamuna component. The Programme is expected to be completed by the end of 1998-1999.

This is a part of the recently approved National River Action Plan of the Government of India.



YAMUNA SUB-BASIN

INDIA'S MIRACLE TREE READY TO STORM MARKETS

India's miracle *Neem* (*Azadirachta indica*) is moving from the laboratory to the market and many US and Australian Companies are getting involved in manufacturing *Neem*-based pesticides.

Neem extracts have been found to be extremely effective against more than 300 insect species. Primary biologically active ingredients have been isolated and pesticide formulations developed. Efforts to synthesise *Azadirachtin* are also under way and medical use of *Neem* extracts from birth control to diabetes control are being explored. However, research to *Neem*'s medical potential is slow, because of the need for pure and safe drugs.

However some scientists warn against an over emphasis on *Azadirachtin*. Some entomologists have pointed out that insects can easily develop resistance to the pure active compound. The beauty of *Neem* lies in that it is comprised of a mixture of active ingredients that must be exploited by manufacturers.

Neem is no doubt a high value, even a "miracle" tree. But the promoters of *Neem* will have to take care and caution not to peddle the plant as a panacea for all ills.

UASB CONCEPT FOR TANNERY WASTE WATER TREATMENT

Various problems encountered in the treatment of tannery wastes because of its inherent difficult characteristics are:-

- High amount of Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) since the raw water itself contains high TDS
- In spite of segregating soak liquor, the chloride & sulphate content in the treated effluents do not meet the standards
- The toxicity of treated effluents is also not well established

A Modern Anaerobic Treatment System called "Upflow Anaerobic Sludge Blanket" developed at the Agricultural University in Wageningen, which has already been applied for treatment of a large variety of waste waters, has been considered in Jaimai, India. As a first

treatment of tannery waste water. This is also being utilised for domestic sewage.

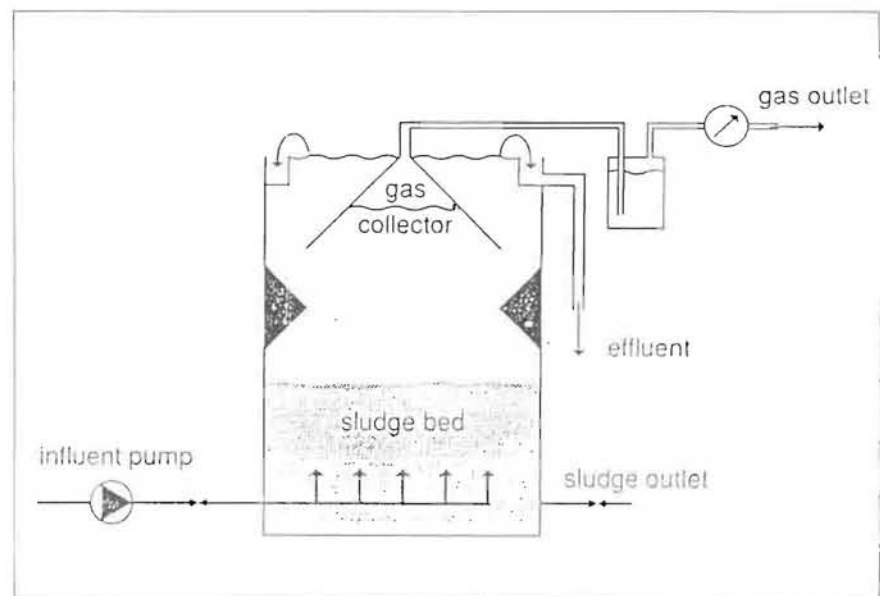
The UASB process is a combination of physical and biological processes. The main feature of the physical process is separation of solids and gases from the liquid and that of the biological process is degradation of decomposable organic matter under anaerobic conditions.

The successful UASB System is based on the upward flow of waste water through a sludge layer of active micro-organisms. The waste water is equally distributed over the bottom of the reactor. The contact between the micro-organisms and the organic material in the waste water is enhanced by the biogas production as this provides gentle mixing. After passing through the sludge bed the mixture of biogas, sludge and water enters a three-phase separator. The biogas is separated in a gas-collector, whilst the sludge-water mixture enters a settling compartment. Here sludge particles can settle and flow back into the digestion compartment, thus providing effective sludge retention in the reactor. The effluent is discharged via an overflow weir.

The demonstration and trial run in India, under the Ganga Action Plan, has been found quite successful.

There are many advantages of the UASB Process over the traditional Aerobic Processes.

- a) A UASB treatment plant has a negligible number of mechanical components and thereby it has a very low degree of maintenance requirements.
- b) Because of its simple nature, the energy requirement of a UASB Reactor are very low. Instead, it produces energy in the form of biogas which is rich in Methane content and has a high calorific value. This could be used to for the production of electricity thereby making the plant a self sufficient system.
- c) One of the most important features of the UASB Process is the retention of 'Active Sludge', thereby, very high loading rates are possible.
- d) The production of excess sludge in a UASB Reactor is very low. This reduces the load on the sludge treatment system. Further, the sludge from a UASB Reactor is highly stabilised and has very good dewatering and drying characteristics. Further it has a very good fertiliser value.



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PAKISTAN

PAKISTAN'S NATIONAL CONSERVATION STRATEGY RECEIVES GREEN SIGNAL

At a Special Session of the Federal Cabinet the National Conservation Strategy (NCS) was approved. With the approval of this Strategy Pakistan became the 23rd country in the world with an explicit National Policy Document for a sustainable future.

The NCS has emerged with a clear set of priorities and 14 core Programme Areas for implementation during the 1990s. These Priority Areas are:

1. Maintaining Soils in Croplands.
2. Increasing Irrigation Efficiency.
3. Protecting Watersheds.
4. Supporting Forestry and Plantations.
5. Restoring Rangelands and Improving Livestock.
6. Protecting water bodies and Sustaining Fisheries.
7. Conserving Biodiversity.
8. Increasing Energy Efficiency.
9. Developing and Deploying Renewables.
10. Preventing/Abating Pollution.
11. Managing Urban Wastes.
12. Supporting Institutions for Common Resources.
13. Integrating Population and Environmental Programmes.
14. Preserving the Cultural Heritage.

An investment portfolio of Rs. 150 Billion has been envisaged to meet the requirements of these urgent investments in the country's future, yet each will pay handsomely in conventional economic terms as well. The Proposed investment is in the order of 1 per cent of GDP over the next ten years.

The Government is implementing the NCS by incorporating its recommendations in the 8th Five Year Plan, in an integral way, into each development sector, in addition to a separate section on the environment.

To follow up, a NCS Co-ordination Unit has been set up in the Environment and Urban Affairs Division, while Provincial Environmental Protection agencies will be strengthened. Also an Environment Section has been set up in the Planning Commission, with similar cells envisaged in Provincial Planning Departments.

PAKISTAN ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION COUNCIL MEETS

The Pakistan Environmental Protection Council (PEPC) under the Chairmanship of Prime Minister met for the first time in May 1993.

At its First Meeting the Council approved the Rules of Procedure of the Council, it also approved the Environmental Quality Standards for Municipal and Industrial Liquid Effluents, Industrial Liquid effluents, Industrial Gases Emissions and Motor Vehicles Exhaust and Noise. The approval of these standards has paved the way for taking punitive action against the individuals and organisations causing industrial, municipal and vehicular pollution. The Council also delegated some of its powers to Federal and Provincial Environment Protection Agencies (EPAs) for taking punitive action.

Representatives of National and International NGOs and Environmentalists have hailed the convening of the First Meeting of PEPC.

RS. 13.5 MILLION APPROVED FOR ENVIRONMENTAL NGOS IN PAKISTAN

At a Meeting of the NGO Fund Management Committee under the Chairmanship of Federal Minister for Environmental, Urban Affairs, Housing

and Works Hon. Anwar Saifulla Khan, financial assistance amounting to Rs. 13.5 Million were approved to the NGOs to initiate and implement environmental related projects.

The NGO Fund Management Committee has been constituted to disburse financial assistance to the NGOs from a fund of Rs. 30 Million allocated to Environment and Urban Affairs Division to encourage and strengthen NGOs in the field of environment.

The Committee in its Meeting considered 147 Projects submitted by 67 NGOs and after technical and financial scrutiny approved projects of 42 NGOs. The Chairman taking note of the fact that no NGO from Balochistan has received financial assistance, directed to reserve an amount of Rs. 1 million for disbursement to NGOs from the Province.

In his address to the Committee he stressed the fact that the role of NGOs is pivotal in the implementation of the National Conservation Strategy (NCS) and it is for this purpose that the Government has allocated a sum of Rs 30 Million to render assistance to NGOs to initiate and implement environment related projects.

NEW DIRECTIONS FOR PAKISTAN FORESTERS & FARMERS

The recently published Pakistan Forestry Sector Master Plan indicates the new directions for forestry development for the coming 25 years. In 20 background documents the various aspects of forestry in Pakistan have been analyzed in depth:

- * The State of Pakistan's forest and related resources, their management and the main issues in their development is presented in great detail,
- * Pakistan's needs for forests products, their level of sustainable production and the way in which forestry can meet these demands are described,
- * Existing policies critically reviewed and strategies for new policies presented,

- * The programmes and investments required to meet forestry needs for the next 25 years identified.

In the drafting of the Forestry Master Plan, other National Plans have been taken into account notably the National Conservation Strategy, the National Commission on Agriculture and the Eighth Five Year Plan (1993 - 1998).

To achieve the National Conservation Strategy's three objectives: Conservation of Natural Resources, Sustainable Development and Improved Efficiency in the Use and Management of Resources, the following operational principles have been proposed:

- * Achieving greater Public Participation in Development and Management of Natural Resources,
- * Merging Environment and Economics in Decision Making,
- * Focus on Long-lasting improvements in Quality of Life.

SRI LANKA

SRI LANKA FORMULATING A NATIONAL AGENDA 21

Two years ago, a year ahead of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) at Rio, Sri Lanka's Ministry of Environment and Parliamentary Affairs produced in consultation with the concerned agencies, the National Environmental Action Plan (NEAP) with the focus on environmental conservation without prejudice to social and economic development. NEAP which may cost Sri Lankan Rupees 4 - 5 billion is now being further developed in collaboration with the World Bank and various implementing agencies. It is expected that the bulk of these projects will be progressively taken up for implementation over the next three or four years.

In the light of UNCED and AGENDA 21 formulated at Rio, the perception of environmental programmes has extended beyond the boundaries of NEAP to cover a wider field of developmental issues. In response, the Ministry of Environment and Parliamentary Affairs are now engaged in formulating



*Mr. Sahibzada Imtiaz Ahmed, Secretary, Environment, & Urban Affairs Pakistan
Addressing on the occasion of World Environment Day.*

a National Agenda 21, based on Sri Lanka's national priorities within the ambit of AGENDA 21 of UNCED, which will supplement national, social and economic development plans on the one hand and NEAP on the other. The Ministry expects to have the National Agenda 21 in place within a year.

BETTER SAFE THAN SORRY

The President of Sri Lanka acting on the advice of the Central Environmental Authority has directed the Board of Investment to reject a Mechanised River bed Gem Mining Project in the Kalu Ganga. This followed the conclusions on an Environmental Assessment Report ordered by the Late President R. Premadasa.

The Government has also decided that it will not permit such mechanised gemming of the river beds in the future too for good reason. Studies related to the Kalu Ganga Project had suggested that such mining can be disastrous to Sri Lanka's fragile riparian ecosystems, particularly in areas with rain forest cover. Other dangers include the likelihood of mechanised gemming causing high turbidity levels down stream adversely affecting aquatic resources.

The Environmental Impact Assessment has also spelled out other hazards. Dredge-mining would lead to natural resource depletion affecting biodiversity, the difficulty to control the depth of mining in operations involving the use of

barge-mounted suction dredgers and heavy separation machinery. Further, villagers dependent on sand mining, small scale gemming, fishing etc. may find their livelihood endangered.

SRI LANKA HOLDS ITS FIRST ENVIRONMENTAL EXHIBITION

Sri Lanka's first Environmental Exhibition was held at the Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference hall in December 1992. It was jointly organised by the Ministry of Environment and Parliamentary Affairs, UNDP/ World Bank funded Metropolitan Environment Improvement Programme (MEIP) Colombo, Central Environmental Authority and the Sri Lanka Association for the Advancement of Science.

The theme of the exhibition was the initiation of Public-Private Partnership for environmental protection. Some of the main objectives of the event were:

- * Promoting Environmental Awareness among the general public.
- * Broadening the Public Participation in Environmental Programmes.
- * Highlighting the advances made in Environmental Protection and Management.

- * Providing business opportunities, in Clean Technologies for Industrial and Energy Production and Transportation Systems, Waste Treatment, Eco-tourism and Nature Tourism etc.

The exhibition also coincided with the Annual Conference of the UNDP/World Bank supported Asian Regional Initiative, the Metropolitan Environmental Improvement Programme.

There were altogether 83 stalls manned by 69 participating agencies of which 11 were from the Non Governmental Organisations, 19 from the Private sector and the balance 39 by the Public Sector.

SRI LANKA TAKES ACTION ON IMPORTANT CONVENTIONS

The Government of Sri Lanka acceded to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that deplete the Ozone layer in December 1989 and Ratified the 1990 Amendments to it in May 1993. A country programme is underway to assess the consumption of the controlled substances in the country and to work out a strategy for their phasing out.

Meanwhile the Government of Sri Lanka having signed the Convention on Climate Change at the Earth Summit Meeting is taking action to formally ratify it.

Sri Lanka also signed the Biological Diversity Convention at the Rio Conference in June 1992. The main objectives of the Convention are the Conservation of Biological Diversity, Sustainable Use of the Components of Biological Diversity and a fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of Genetic Resources. Sri Lanka, though small in size, has the highest biodiversity per unit area. Therefore it is in Sri Lanka's interest to join the international effort to conserve biological diversity.

The Government of Sri Lanka has developed the national position on ratification of the Convention through the National Experts Workshop held earlier this year. A National Experts Committee on Biodiversity has been established and the question of this Convention is being examined.

MEMBERSHIP FOR SRI LANKA IN INTERNATIONAL GEOSPHERE AND BIOSPHERE PROGRAMME

Sri Lanka has been accepted as a member of the International Geosphere Biosphere Programme and a National Committee has been appointed.

SRI LANKA ADOPTS EIA REGULATIONS

The adoption by the Government of Sri Lanka of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulation is an important step towards the Protection and Management of the Environment. The Environment Impact Assessment/Initial Environmental Examination scheme is now integral to the development process and will help to ensure the sustainability of development.

The passage of these regulations were the culmination of an exhaustive and lengthy process of consultation with concerned State and Private sector Agencies and with the non governmental organisations on their structure and contents. The EIA Orders and regulations were published in Gazette No. 772/22 of 24 June 1993. These orders provide a schedule of 14 Project approving Agencies including Eight ministries, one department and Five Corporations/Boards. It further provides lists of 31 categories of projects that are prescribed if located wholly or partly outside the Coastal Zone and 21 Categories of Projects that are prescribed if located wholly or partly within well defined environmentally sensitive areas. Prescribed Projects need to undergo either Environmental Impact Assessment or Initial Environmental Examination.

CEA TO STRENGTHEN PUBLIC LIBRARIES

Several Projects were launched by the Central Environmental Authority (CEA) of Sri Lanka in the recent past with the intention of making the dissemination of environmental information at grass roots level more effective. Nearly 1000 School

Environmental Societies have been formed and Environmental Pioneer Brigades function in 78 schools at present. Nearly 1000 graduates have been trained to serve as Voluntary Environmental Extension Officers. These activities have generated the need for environmental information at the periphery which cannot be met by the CEA operating at the national level.

Access to environmental information at the periphery will receive an impetus with the present moves by the CEA to strengthen public libraries. In addition to the dispatch of environmental publications from the CEA to those libraries, the librarians will also be trained by the CEA in order that they may handle more effectively the storage and retrieval of environmental information.

SRI LANKA SETS NEW STANDARDS FOR PLASTIC MANUFACTURERS

In Sri Lanka the plastic industry is involved only in the processing of imported raw materials. The manufacture of plastic raw materials is not being done at present as it is not feasible to do so. The quantity of plastic raw materials imported by Sri Lanka is over 100,000 tons, which amounts to three to four times the total production of natural rubber in Sri Lanka.

The types of plastics used in Sri Lanka are low density and high density polyethylene, polyvinyl chloride, polystyrene, poly acrylate and poly carbonate. Of these polyvinyl chloride and low density polyethylene have the largest market.

At present the specifications for plastics coming into contact with food items is not strictly regulated. The Sri Lanka Standards Institution (SLSI) is now in the process of formulating standards for different plastic materials commonly used in Sri Lanka. According to SLSI standards all packaging should be clearly marked. For example, a package containing polyvinyl chloride should be clearly marked "PVC", the words "food contact", any restrictions for use, the name and address of the manufacturer and the country of origin, trade mark and/or brand name if any and batch or code number. The "glass and fork" symbol should also be marked to identify their suitability for food contact applications.

SACEP'S STRATEGY AND PROGRAMME FOR 1992-96

The Priority Subject Matter 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. These were adopted at the First Governing Council Meeting of SACEP held in January 1983.

In view of the fact that National, Regional and Global Environmental Problems and Priorities had changed significantly during the last decade, SACEP requested UNEP's Regional Office for Asia and Pacific (UNEP/ROAP) to assist SACEP in reviewing its Programme and formulating a Strategy and Plan of Action for the next five years.

In response a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between UNEP and SACEP in November 1991 for the Preparation of SACEP's Strategy and Programme for 1992-1996. Accordingly, an Action Plan titled 'SACEP's Strategy and Programme' - SSP - I (1992-1996) was prepared and was formally approved for implementation by 5th Governing Council of SACEP, which met in September 1992.

SSP - I 1992-1996 contains 14 Project Concepts which covers 5 key areas of activity namely:

- 1) Capacity Building and Awareness Raising
- 2) Systematic Information Exchange and Intra-Regional Technology Transfers.
- 3) Environmental Management for Training and Institutional Development for Training.
- 4) Regional Co-operation in Management Plans for Montane Ecosystems/Watersheds and Coastal Resources.
- 5) Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat Conservation in the Region.

The Final Report of SSP - I has been released and SACEP and UNEP Regional Office for Asia and Pacific would shortly meet to

- a) Agree on a Common Strategy of Approach to Donors
- b) Develop the Project Concepts into

Project Outlines with assistance of a Consultant or UNEP Staff.

- c) Approach Donors for funding.

Following is the list of the 14 Project Concepts that have been approved.

1. ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF AGENDA 21: CAPACITY BUILDING AND ENHANCEMENT OF AWARENESS AND PRACTICAL IMPLEMENTATION OPTIONS FOR HIGH LEVEL GOVERNMENT POLICY AND DECISION-MAKERS IN THE COUNTRIES PARTICIPATING IN SACEP.
2. ENHANCEMENT OF THE PUBLIC ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS IN CONNECTION WITH EXISTING AS WELL AS EMERGING ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES OF CONCERN IN THE COUNTRIES OF THE REGION.
3. PREPARATION OF GUIDELINES FOR THE ASSESSMENT OF HIGHLY POLLUTING INDUSTRIES; IMPORT OF POTENTIALLY HARMFUL CHEMICALS AND HAZARDOUS WASTES; AND DEALING WITH CHEMICAL DISASTERS.
4. REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL AND NATURAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTRE (RENRIC) - PHASE 2.
5. SHARING OF POLLUTION ABATEMENT TECHNOLOGY THROUGH EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION AND TRAINING PROGRAMMES.
6. REGIONAL AIR QUALITY MONITORING AND MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS.
7. STRENGTHENING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT IN THE SACEP COUNTRIES - PHASE I (TRAINING).
8. ESTABLISHMENT OF A REGIONAL TRAINING AND INFORMATION CENTRE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT.
9. REGIONAL CO-OPERATION IN CONSERVATION OF MONTANE ECOSYSTEMS AND WATERSHEDS.
10. ASSESSMENT OF LAND-BASED SOURCES OF COASTAL AND

MARINE POLLUTION IN THE COUNTRIES OF THE REGION.

11. REGIONAL CO-OPERATION IN CONSERVATION OF MARINE SPECIES (MARINE MAMMALS AND SEA TURTLES).
12. REGIONAL CO-OPERATION FOR STRENGTHENING THE MANAGEMENT OF TERRESTRIAL (WILDLIFE) AND MARINE PARKS.
13. REGIONAL CO-OPERATION IN THE PROTECTION OF SHARED (TRANSBOUNDARY) WILDLIFE HABITATS (CONSERVATION OF MOUNTAIN AND WETLAND ECOSYSTEMS).
14. REGIONAL CO-OPERATION IN CONSERVATION OF THE HABITAT OF THE TERRESTRIAL MIGRATORY SPECIES.

SACEP wishes to recognise the contribution of Dr. Reza Amini of UNEP/ROAP for his most invaluable contribution in finalising the Report.

ESCAP/SACEP CAPACITY BUILDING ACTIVITY ON PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT OF COASTAL AREAS OF SOUTH ASIAN SEAS REGION - A PILOT PHASE

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and SACEP as part of their efforts in promoting environmentally sound development, would shortly implement a Project whereby there will be Capacity Building in the Planning and Management of the Coastal Areas of the South Asian Region. The activities envisage the Preparation of Country Case Studies by National Consultants, Preparation of Overview Regional Study on Analysis of Strategies for the Planning and Management of Coastal Areas, the conducting of a Regional Workshop on Capacity Building in Colombo followed by an Intergovernmental Review Meeting at a later date. By this activity, 20 experts will be trained on strategies on Capacity Building and Planning of Management of Coastal Areas.

The United Nations Environment Programme would be funding this project and according to the work schedule the final Report will be made available by March 1994. The total cost of the Project is US \$ 162,000.

SAVE THE EARTH

- If we all installed "low-flow" shower heads, we could save billions of gallons of water every year .. without ever noticing it!
- The energy saved from one recycled aluminium can will operate a television set for three hours.
- If only 100,000 people stopped their junk mail, we could save about 150,000 trees every year. If a million people did, we could save some 1.5 million trees.
- If you just wet and rinse your toothbrush, rather than letting the water run the whole time you brush, you can save 9 gallons of water each time you brush.
- Over its lifetime, a compact fluorescent light bulb uses about \$ 10 worth electricity; during the same period, equivalent incandescents gobble down \$ 40 of electricity. So you save \$ 30 per bulb, which is like earning 25% to 50% interest on your investment.

SOUTH ASIA NGO SUMMIT

The South Asia NGO Summit was organised by the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) in New Delhi in February 1992 to discuss the Agenda of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED).

The Guest Speakers included Mr. Kamal Nath, Minister of State for Environment & Forests, India, Mr. Erling Dessau, Resident Representative United Nations Development Programme, New Delhi, Mr. K.K. Bhargava, Former Secretary General, South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation and Professor M.G.K. Menon MP, President, International Council of Scientific Unions. There were strong NGO representation from six SACEP Countries namely Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

There were seven resolutions endorsed by this summit.

- THE EARTH CHARTER
 - Both equity and sustainability must be stressed.
- AGENDA 21
 - Action priorities should be set by the poor but only after the rich agree to pay the full costs of their consumption.

- FUNDING MECHANISMS
 - Reject the GEF and develop automatic and democratic mechanism.
- POVERTY AND ENVIRONMENT
 - The South must stress this as a key issue for discussions.
- GLOBAL WARMING
 - The Climate Convention should be signed only when equal rights of all to the atmosphere are accepted.
- BIODIVERSITY CONVENTION
 - Refuse to sign the convention until major contradictions are resolved.
- NGO RELATIONS
 - Northern NGOs must consult Southern NGOs adequately before espousing global causes.

THE MULTILATERAL OZONE FUND

The Multilateral Ozone Fund was created as an outcome of the Fourth Meeting of the Parties held in Copenhagen in March 1992 on Amendments and Adjustments to the Montreal Protocol.

The Fund will finance the transfer of technology to enable developing countries to phase out the controlled substances. The Fund will receive US \$ 113 million in 1993 from the Party

countries and the amount will not be less than this in 1994 budget also. It has also been suggested by Governments that the multilateral Fund will be US \$ 340 to 550 million in the 1994 -1996 budget.

UNEP, UNDP, UNIDO and the World Bank have been identified as the implementing agencies for the Fund. The Procedures for accessing the Fund is given below.

Procedures For Accessing The Multilateral Fund

Institutional Framework: It is essential for the country to have an organizational framework to respond to actions required under the Protocol. A designated focal point helps to facilitate, catalyse and co-ordinate the mix of government and industry actions needed to be taken to phase out the ozone depleting substances in the country.

Country Programme: Country Programme approved by the Executive Committee provides a coherent and co-ordinated framework document for phasing out the ODS. It is important because it indicates the government's commitment and strategy to phase out the ODS. This is an essential step to accessing the Fund.

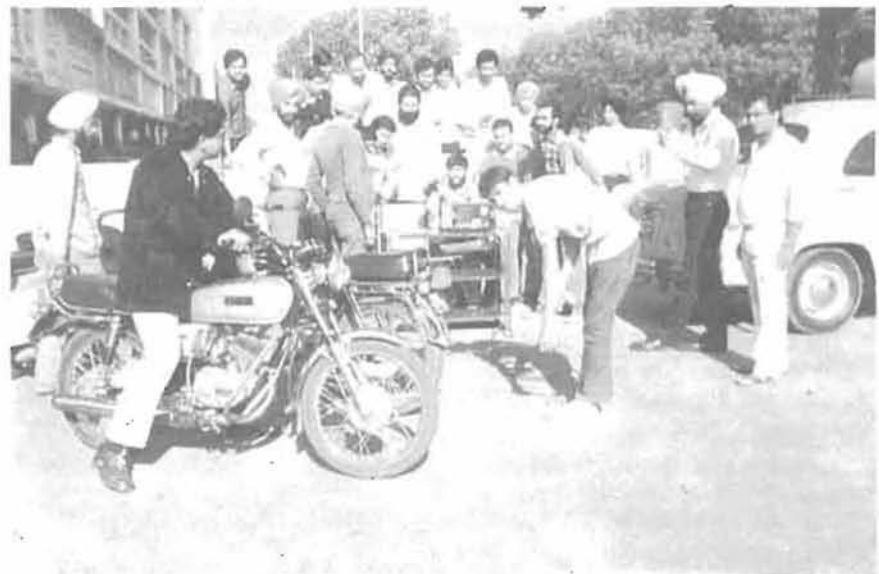
Project Proposals: Assistance for actions to phase out the ODS at the enterprise level can be obtained by submission of project proposals. Projects with incremental costs less than US\$ 500,000 are submitted as part of the Work Programme of an implementing Agency. However, project proposal whose incremental costs exceed US\$ 500,000 should be prepared for approval as stand alone projects. The Guidelines for Presentation of Projects and Criteria for Project Approval provides a guide for preparation of projects.

Project Approval : Project proposals should be submitted to the Fund Secretariat six weeks before the meeting of the Executive Committee at which the proposal is to be considered. Project proposals are approved on the basis of recommendations of the Secretariat, the project document and any appraisal report. Thus close liaison between the national institutions concerned and the Implementing Agency is highly desirable.

Submission Procedures : Projects and other documents such as country programmes submitted to the Secretariat should have the concurrence of the government concerned. This is expressed in an official letter of transmission from the government accompanying the document which indicates actions being requested from the Executive Committee.

Project Implementation : Implementation of the project follows the signing of an agreement between the Implementing Agency and the government. Since each Agency follows its own internal procedures, the procedure and the time it takes to get agreement signed as well as mode of transfer of funds from the Implementing Agency to the government may differ from Agency to Agency. It is essential for these issues to be discussed and resolved at an early stage of development of the project to avoid delays in implementation.

Disbursement of Funds : Funds for projects and activities are disbursed to the Implementing Agency as soon as they are approved by the Executive Committee. The funds are then disbursed to the recipient government in line with financial transfer procedures agreed between the government and the Implementing Agency.



Monitoring of Vehicular pollution



NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR UNEP

On January 1st 1993, Elizabeth Dowdeswell took office Executive Director of United Nations Environment Programme. Ms Dowdeswell was the Canadian Assistant Deputy Minister of Environment responsible for weather and atmospheric issues. She made her international debut as Head of the Canadian Delegation at the climate change negotiations.

TOWARDS A GLOBAL ANTI-POVERTY CONVENTION

One of Bangladesh's leading environmental NGOs, The Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies (BCAS), has taken the lead in rectifying a major lacuna in the Rio Agenda. Dealing with poverty should have been the first item on the global agenda in Rio, but issues such as Global Warming and Biodiversity, supported by the worldwide media and NGO hype around them, diverted the attention of the world leaders away from the central issue of our times.

At a Meeting that brought together environmentalists from all over the world, BCAS called a worldwide campaign for a convention on poverty, just as there have been international treaties to prevent global warming and damage to the ozone layer and for the conservation of biodiversity. Bangladesh Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, as current Head of the South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation (SAARC), rightly reminded the conference that a large proportion of the world's poor, estimate to be one billion live in the countries of South Asia. The proposed worldwide NGO campaign will aim at getting the UN General Assembly to pass a resolution setting up a negotiation process for a global anti-poverty convention.

STORIES OF SUCCESS

SACEP intends to bring out a compendium of Stories of Success in the field of Environmental Management in the South, Asian region. It welcomes informative articles from all interested parties. The Editor reserves the right to edit and publish manuscripts in accordance with the editorial requirements of SACEP's Publications. No honorarium will be paid by SACEP for any articles that will be published.

The Printing of this Newsletter, from its inception in January 1984, has been solely due to the assistance received from the UNEP Regional Office, Bangkok. The SACEP Secretariat wishes to place on record its deep appreciation for this very kind gesture.

UNDP REPORT STRESSES PEOPLE'S PARTICIPATION

The United Nations Development Programme's third and latest report acclaims participation as the cornerstone of human development. It also signifies the fact that UNDP recognises that "People's participation is becoming the central issue of our time".

The emphasis is on people and the report is interspersed with cliches such as "more than one billion of the world's people languish in absolute poverty", "the poorest fifth find that the richest fifth enjoy more than 150 times their income" and "women still earn only half as much as men - and despite constituting more than half the votes, have great difficulty securing even 10 percent representation in parliaments".

The report also expresses concern for the rural people because in developing countries, they "still receive less than half the income opportunities and social services available to their urban counterparts" The report also recognises that "our world is still a world of difference".

JOBLESS GROWTH

Since 1975, employment growth worldwide has consistently lagged behind growth in gross domestic product (GDP). The UNDP report predicts the gap will widen during the 1990s.



Source: Human Development Report 1993.

VILLAGERS REVIVE FORESTS

Forest degradation around a Nepali mountain village has been reversed in a span of 10 years despite an annual population growth rate of 2.5 per cent. In 1980, grazing and fodder collection was a major cause of degradation in Bhogteni, a village in the hills of central Nepal. However, in 1990, a study done by Jefferson Fox published in "Mountain Research and Development" showed the forests were in a much better condition.

The success was due primarily to the introduction of community management

SACEP NEWSLETTER is distributed free of charge to National Environmental Agencies, Non Governmental Organisations, Citizens' Groups and Mass Media. It welcomes News items, short articles, and viewpoints on environmental issues from readers in order to promote environmental awareness in the South Asian Region. The Editor reserves the right to edit and publish manuscripts in accordance with the editorial requirements of the publication.

All enquiries related to SACEP NEWSLETTER should be addressed to SACEP Secretariat, 84 Lorenz Road, Colombo 4, Sri Lanka.

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of forests. In addition, outside agencies promoted enrichment plantings in forest areas, where grazing and collecting of firewood and fodder was prohibited from 1981 to 1985. Farmers increased the number of fodder trees they grew on their land. Besides, the availability of chemical fertilisers enabled farmers to raise crop yields without correspondingly increasing livestock numbers to get more manure, their alternative sources of nutrients.