



SACEP NEWS

Newsletter of the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme

NO.1: Issue 1

March 2002

21 years after the Colombo Declaration

February 2002 marks the 21st anniversary of signing the Colombo declaration, the blue print for the formation of South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme by high level officials of the member countries. Since its inception, SACEP has been implementing the programmes and policies approved by its Governing Council at the Ministerial level. At the recently held 8th Governing Council Meeting of SACEP, the member countries took the following decisions:

- The Environment Ministries should remain as SACEP's Focal Points and they in turn should co-ordinate with other relevant ministries to bring in greater participation & synergy;
- SACEP Secretariat should be strengthened in terms of staff and other requirements;
- The State of Environment Reports prepared by the member countries to be the basis in formulating new programme activities;
- To select few priority issues related to the whole region and develop programme activities to be implemented during a specific time period;
- As much as possible projects to be implemented in the region should be demand driven. Some Supply- driven catalyst projects in support of global initiatives are also required and
- SACEP Secretariat should take measures to collect, collate and disseminate all information on environment, so that it becomes the storehouse of knowledge in the region.

Her Excellency Chandrika Bandaranayake Kumaratunga, President of Sri Lanka in her message at this occasion reaffirmed the continued commitment of the Government Sri Lanka, to work together with the member countries of the South Asia for environment protection and sustainable development. Hon Dinesh Gunawardena, then Minister of Transport and Environment, Sri Lanka inaugu-

rated the meeting and stressed the importance of regional co-operation for achieving environmental goals at national and regional level, for the benefit of the present population but also for the future generations. Mr. Shafqat S. Kakakhel Deputy Executive Director, UNEP, in his statement assured UNEP's continued support and assistance in the work of SACEP in achieving the goals of environment protection and sustainable development in the region.



Inauguration Session of the 8th GCM

Mr. Mahboob Elahi, Director General, SACEP proposed the following three-pronged approach to guide the future work programme and priorities of SACEP at the sub regional level:

1. **Least cost activities:**
Networking and linkages, environmental awards, mapping/GIS databases
2. **Modest cost activities:**
Catalyst to national actions, environment education & training, inventory of environmentally friendly technologies and their transfer mechanisms
3. **Medium and long range activities:**
Development of regional legal instruments as basis of co-operation, joint thematic reviews, common position on the negotiation & implementation of multilateral environment agreements, effective committees/Task forces on different priority subjects.

As a follow up to the GC 8 Meeting, SACEP is now in the process of obtaining UNEP's assistance to constitute a panel of experts for formulate a priority programme activities and its implementation mechanism for the Organization. SACEP hopes to revitalize the participation of Islamic Republic of Iran in the future activities of the region.

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Project and Programme Activities

- **SAS is included in the GPAs Habitat Alternation Project**

The Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land based Activities (GPA) Coordination Office has informed the SACEP secretariat that the South Asian Seas region has been selected for the implementation of Physical Alternations and Destruction of Habitat Project, together with Eastern African and Wider Caribbean regions.

The project aims at supporting the efforts of stakeholders in protecting coastal and marine habitats against physical alterations and destruction. It will focus on sediment mobilization effects by four economic sectors that pose a threat to such habitats: tourism, ports, aquaculture, and mining.

The project will attempt to assist these sectors through the development of checklists and guidance. Case studies and examples illustrating the environmental, social and economic benefits of positive action will be documented and disseminated through the GPA Clearing House. Regional stakeholder meetings will be held to develop regional and sector specific checklist and initiate actions such as pilot project.

The first South Asian Seas Regional meeting was held in India, between 27-28th February 2002, with the participation of several stakeholders from the five maritime countries of the South Asian Region. Dr Vaerle Vandeweerd, Co-ordinator/GPA together with Mr P.V. Jyayakrishnan, Secretary/Ministry of Forest and Environment, India chaired the meeting.

Mr Khan, MP Government of India

- **Global International Water Assessment (GIWA) – Bay of Bengal Sub Region assessment is now underway**

GIWA a GEF/UNEP Strategic Assessment which includes 66 subregional international water bodies, initiated its programme activities in the Bay of Bengal region in October 2001. Both marine and freshwater system assessment will be undertaken taking into account different future scenarios based on projection of demographic, economic and social changes associated with the process of development.

The first phase of the assessment is a 3 year project, comprising of three stages: scaling/scoping, detailed impact assessment and the causal chain analysis. A standard methodology for each step is provided by GIWA to ensure that the results from all the 66 subregions are comparable. The scaling part will check the accuracy of geographic boundaries of the subregion and the scoping part will prioritize the water related major concerns such as freshwater shortage, pollution, aquatic habitat loss and modification, overexploitation of living resources and climate change.

An Assessment Task Team has been formed for the Bay of Bengal region and the initial workshop was held during November last year to apply the GIWA methodology, where SACEP secretariat and experts from India and Sri Lanka participated.

As the next step, the definitive Bay of Bengal Scaling and Scoping Workshop is due to be convened from 28-30th March 2002, in Chennai India. The purpose of this meeting is to bring together the gap-filling information that has been collected since the last meeting and to establish the foundation for proceeding to the next stage of GIWA assessment process. If you need more information, please refer www.giwa.net.

- **Senior officials of SACEP member countries to meet in Katmandu to finalize the draft South Asian Environmental Education and Training Action Plan: 2002-2007**



23 officials from the member countries of SACEP, representatives from DANIDA, SAARC, UNEP, UNDP, UNESCO, and the US South Asian Regional Environment Hub met in Kathmandu between 27-28th February to discuss the draft action plan on Environment Education and Training.

Hon. P.L. Singh, Minister for population and Environment of Nepal, inaugurating the meeting stated that environmental education and training has been recognized as an essential element in the sustainable development process.

The action plan will be revised on the basis of the recommendations received from the member governments and will be endorsed at the environmental ministers meeting scheduled for later this year. In the meantime UNEP and SACEP is to identify a few pilot projects for immediate implementation.

The preparation of the Action Plan was initiated as result of recommendations issued at the 7th Meeting of the Governing Council of SACEP, and with the financial assistance provided by UNEP-ROAP. The primary objective of the Action Plan is to present an overall regional framework to educate and train people to deal with major environmental issues such as degradation of ecosystems and depletion of natural resources, as well as sensitizing them on the need to eliminate the root causes for above activities.



• Strengthening National Capabilities on Environment Assessment and Monitoring (SEAMCAP)

The Project, initiated in 1998, with the financial support from the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD) and technical assistance from UNEP EAP.AP (now referred to as the Regional Resource Centre for Asia Pacific, UNEP-RRC.AP) is in its last stage of its Phase I activities.

Preparation of State of the Environment Reports for the countries have been the main target. So far the reports for Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal and Sri Lanka has been completed under this project and can be downloaded from the web site <http://www.rrcap.unep.org/>

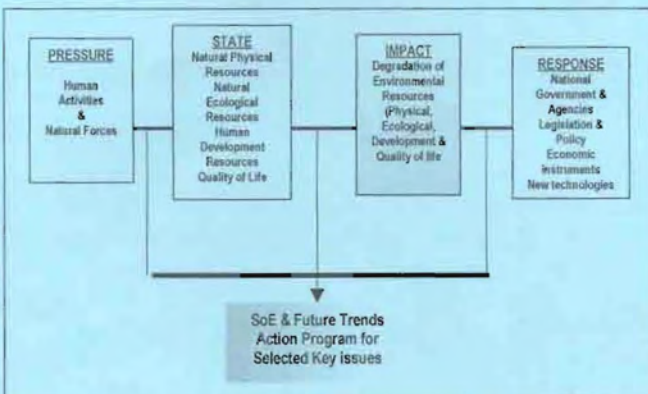
The report for Maldives is expected to be ready by March and will be posted on web site there after. Hard copies of the reports can be obtained from the Project Coordinator, SENRIC, SACEP.

The Reports highlight chosen 5 critical issues of concern for each of the countries and is presented in a Pressure-State-Impact-Response approach and suggest on the recommendations on the existing Policies. These recommendations will be the basis for the preparation of Action Plans and the National Strategies for Sustainable Development which are being aimed at through the second phase of this Project.

The project has assisted and strengthen the capacities of national governments in establishing strong information technology base for data processing, modeling and analysis requirements that supports SoE assessments and reporting, and improve the basis for decision making in the handling of important/emerging environment problems.

South Asia SoE Report

The South Asia SoE report is under preparation and scheduled for publishing in March, 2002.



Basic P-S-I-R Concepts for National SoE Reporting

Implementation of the Malé Declaration on the control & prevention of air pollution and its likely transboundary effects enters into the second phase

The phase I of the implementation of the Malé Declaration on the Control and Prevention of Air Pollution and its Likely Transboundary Effects for South Asia was completed in 2000, with the finalisation of baseline studies and the compilation of national action plans by the National Implementing Agencies. The final workshop for phase I was held in Kathmandu during March 2000.

Implementation of the Phase II of this project will be action oriented through establishing the monitoring stations and ensuring the data collection, and will be implemented during 2002-2004. In preparation for Phase II activities, a monitoring manual to support the establishment of monitoring network has been developed and a monitoring committee meeting was held on 27-28th February 2002 at the UNEP RRC.AP to discuss the technical details for the monitoring network.

This project is implemented by UNEP.RRC.AP in collaboration with the Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI) and SACEP with the financial support from Sida and aims to achieve intergovernmental cooperation to address the increasing threat to transboundary air pollution and consequential impacts. Please visit the website www.rrcap.unep.org/issues/air/Maledec for more information.

• IMM of SASP is scheduled for mid 2002

SACEP as the Secretariat for the implementation of South Asian Seas Action plan is in the process of arranging the 2nd Inter Ministerial Meeting (IMM), which is the principal deliberative and review body responsible for determining policies, programmes and projects and modalities and methodologies for implementation under the action plan.

During this meeting, the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) will also be signed by the five member countries (Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Pakistan and Sri Lanka) on the Regional Oil Spill Contingency Plan. The Government of Pakistan hosted the previous IMM in March 1999 where major decisions on the institutional, organisational and financial aspects as well as policy and programme priorities for the implementation of the SAS Action Plan took place.



Updates form Conventions and other International Agreements

• New Technical Guidelines for Plastic wastes

Under the auspicious of Basel Convention, a set of technical guidelines for environmentally sound management of plastic wastes and their disposal was adopted by the Conventions Technical Working Group Meeting held in Geneva from 14-15th January 2002.

These guidelines respond to growing concern of the lack of necessary legislation and facilities for coping with the dramatic growth of plastic wastes in many developing countries and addresses a range of waste management issues such as sorting for mechanical recycling, health and safety, shipping and transport, feedstock recycling, compaction, energy recovery and final disposal.

The guidelines will go forward for final adoption to the COP 6 meeting, tentatively scheduled for December 2002. (<http://www.unep.ch/basel/meetings>)

• Sri Lanka is the first South Asian nation to sign the MoU on Marine Turtles

Sri Lanka along with other eight states has already signed the MoU on Indian Ocean and South-East Asia Marine Turtles, which is the second of its kind to be concluded the auspices of the Convention on Migratory Species. The Conservation and Management Plan, which was adopted in an Intergovernmental Meeting held in July 2001 in Malaysia, contains 24 programmes and 105 activities aiming to reverse the decline of marine turtle population throughout the region. The conference approved the establishment of small secretariat to co-ordinate the activities under the MoU and will be housed with an existing UNEP Regional office in Bangkok. Governments of Australia, United Arab Emirates and United States of America together with UNEP will provide the financial support for the implementation of the MoU.

The signatory states are expected to hold their first formal meeting in the second quarter of 2002. (<http://www.wcmc.org.uk>)

Ramsar West & Central Asian Sub regional Meeting

The above meeting held between 3-5th February in Islamic Republic of Iran was organized to bring together the parties to the wetland convention, countries preparing for accession, NGOs and representatives of international organizations to review progress in wetland conservation, wise use and to identify common issues for future priority in preparation for consideration of issues at COP8, scheduled for later this year.

During the meeting there was lively discussions and strong consensus on matters of common concern throughout the region, notably the severe impact on many wetlands of the persistent drought in the region, and the priority for international cooperation throughout the region, especially in relation to action on transboundary wetlands and river basins and on capacity-building. The important role of NGOs in working with governments to assist in their delivery of commitments to the convention was also highlighted.

The meeting also issued the Tehran communique for the world wetland day emphasizing the importance of addressing naturally induced changes in the ecological character of wetlands and the need to develop monitoring and assessment of such changes. This is important to the region as most of the countries are facing severe droughts for the past few years. More Information is available in http://www.ramsar.org/mtg_reg_westasia_2002_rpt.htm

First TPN2 - Workshop to combat desertification in Asia

Desertification takes many different forms across the vast Asian continent, as 1.7 billion hectares out of 4.3 billion ha of land falls under dry sub-humid, semi arid and arid land. In this region the implementation of the Convention on Combating Desertification (CCD) is being done through six Thematic Programme Networks (TPNs): Desertification monitoring and assessment, agroforestry and soil conservation; rangeland management and fixation of shifting sand dunes; water resources management for arid-land agriculture; strengthening capacities for drought impact mitigation and combating desertification; and assistance for the implementation of integrated local area development programmes.

The first ever TPN2 (agroforestry and soil conservation) Workshop was held in Hyderabad, India last December with the participation of member countries, regional and national institutes and NGOs. The participants had intensive discussion on the overall framework of the TPN2, regional and country case studies on agroforestry, and soil conservation practices and techniques in dryland and/or degraded land areas. They also deliberated on the policy and research gaps in such areas, resource mobilization and partnership building and the TPN2 information network development.

If you wish to see the full report of the workshop, please visit <http://www.unccd.int/actionprogrammes/asia>



From the UNEP's Press Room (www.unep.org)

- **UNEP launches the largest ever world wide project to promote Biosafety:** A three year, \$38.4 million project, financed by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), will help up to 100 countries to develop the scientific and legal skills for evaluating the health and environmental issues surrounding imports of so called Living Modified Organisms (LMOs).
- **A Hand book to assist SMEs of Developing Countries to protect the ozone layer:** The phase out of ozone depleting substances in small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) is one of the remaining challenges facing developing countries in complying with the Montreal Protocol. Large numbers of SMEs are found in most developing countries, and because of their size and the nature of their business, they are often very difficult to reach and are hard to locate. To help these SMEs complying with the control measures of the treaty, the UNEP DTIE Ozone Action Programme has released a new publication entitled How small and medium-sized enterprises in developing countries can protect the ozone layer.

The Road to Johannesburg

Preparations for the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), to be held in Johannesburg from 26th August to 4th September 2002, are underway across the world. The Summit marks the tenth anniversary of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) held in Rio in 1992. The issues for the Summit are now clearly in focus. It initiated with building on a process that began at the country and regional levels, there after dialogues among all the major groups at the global level. Preparatory Committee Chairman, Emil Salim issued a summary identifying key topics to be addressed in Johannesburg. The topics are clustered under the foci of poverty eradication, unsustainable patterns of consumption and production, sustainable management of natural resources, and the underpinning need to make globalization work to promote sustainable development. For each broad topic, there are several dozen recommendations for immediate action.

systems, decentralization of power, indicator systems and targets for monitoring sustainable development. At the regional/sub-regional level, the Platform recognized the importance of ESCAP in implementation, coordination and monitoring of Agenda 21. Among implementation mechanisms at the global level the Platform stressed; the fulfillment of global commitments made at UNCED; better utilization of MEAs; improved efforts towards reaching ODA targets; enhanced capacity for effective debt management; good governance at the international level; and elimination of trade barriers in order to improve market access for developing countries.

India's National Preparatory activities

The Ministry of Environment and Forests has initiated several activities to make an objective assessment of India's performance on the benchmark of Agenda 21 and to learn from its appraisal.

The activities undertaken by the Ministry range from gathering different perspectives and involving various stakeholders for inputs into WSSD to create awareness about the summit and sustainable development as a whole. More details are available on the website www.wssdindia.org.

WSSD Preparatory Committee Meetings

The tenth session of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD10) is functioning. CSD10 is having four preparatory meetings for the Summit during 2001-2002, known as PrepComs. Two of these meetings were already held: Prep Com 1: 30 April - 2 May 2001, New York and Prep Com 2: 28 January - 8 February 2002, New York

The schedule for the next two meetings are:

Prep Com 3: 25 March - 4 April 2002, New York and
Prep Com 4: 27 May - 7 June 2002, Bali Indonesia.
For more information please refer <http://www.johannesburgsummit.org/html>.



Prof. Emil Salim, speaking at the Intergovernmental Meeting for the South Asia in preparation for WSSD held in last September in Colombo, Sri Lanka

Phnom Penh Regional Platform on Sustainable Development for the Asia Pacific Region

Major outcomes of the Asia Pacific Regional Preparatory Committee, meeting held in Phnom Penh, Cambodia on 27-29 November 2001, was the *Phnom Penh Regional Platform on Sustainable Development for Asia and the Pacific* which includes key issues and priorities for sustainable development in the region, many which are multi-sectoral and crosscutting, focusing on the environmental, economic and social spheres. The Platform also reflected the results of the regional round-table and sub-regional meetings.

The Platform stressed the importance of countries in the region strengthening their economies, reforming their public sectors and enhancing good governance, including education and healthcare



Coral Reef Activities

1. Maputo Meeting

SACEP as the regional focal point for International Coral Reef Initiation (ICRI) and Coral Reef Degradation of the Indian Ocean (CORDIO) Programme, participated at the following meetings/workshop held between 26-30th November 2001, in Maputo Mozambique: Indian Ocean Regional Workshop, CORDIO Annual Meeting and ICRI Co-ordinating and Planning Committee (CPC) Meeting. The South Asian region was also represented by India and Sri Lanka.

The goal of Indian Ocean Regional Workshop was to outline appropriate steps to be taken by ICRI for the next two years in addressing priority needs for coral reef conservation and research in the region. During the CORDIO annual meeting, attention was given to discuss the work programme for the year 2002.

Two project proposals jointly prepared by SACEP and CORDIO was presented at the meeting by the South Asian Regional representative, Mr Dan Wilhelmson for future funding.

During the ICIRI CPC Meeting, SACEP made a presentation on the South Asian Seas Regional initiatives on coral reefs and stressed the importance of establishing ICRI activities in our region. If you need more information visit the following web-sites: www.cordio.org and www.icri.org

Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network- South Asia

SACEP welcome Mr. Ben Cattermoul, who replaces Emma Whittingham, as the new regional co-ordinator, of the South Asian GCRMN node. The following article was supplied by Ben to the SACEP secretariat, outlining his future plans:

In December 2001 I arrived in Colombo to start work as the new South Asia Regional Node Co-ordinator and since then I have been working hard to build upon the successes of the project to date. For the final year of our work the consultancy group Integrated Marine Management (IMM) have been recruited, by the UK Department for International Development (DFID), to provide management support for the project and an expertise in the field of socio economics and policy. At the end of 2002 this phase of funding for the GCRMN South Asia will come to an end, my work this year will therefore be largely focused on ensuring the long-term sustainability of the GCRMN within South Asia, promoting the use of the monitoring information for effective coral reef management and policy, and building a network of coral reef specialists within each country.

The first year of GCRMN monitoring data has now been collected and the results will be presented in a series of workshops within the region in April and May 2002. The Sri Lankan workshop is scheduled to take place between 22-24th April.

For details of our work, or advice on how you could contribute to this network please contact me at the address below. Over the past 4 years we have also accumulated a large amount of information relating to coral reef initiatives across South Asia, which I am more than happy to share with anyone who would find it of use.

Ben Cattermoul
Regional Co-ordinator
53 Horton Place, Colombo 7
Sri Lanka
Tel: 00 94 1 682 478
Email: reefmonitor@eureka.lk



Participants at GCRMN data base Training workshop—July 2001

The World Atlas of Coral Reefs: A New release from UNEPs World Conservation Monitoring Centre:

The world atlas of coral reefs provides the first detailed and definitive account of the state of our planet's coral reefs. The publication provide a wealth of information on the geography, biodiversity, and human use of coral reefs as well as details about the threats to their existence. The 428 page document reveals the following significant factors:

- World-wide, coral reef occupies 284, 300 sq km, an area about half a size of Madagascar.
- Indonesia is the world's largest coral reef nation, with 19% of the world's coral reefs, while Maldives and several small nations are also high up the list.
- Only 100,000 species have been described from coral reefs, however there may be anywhere between 1 - 3 million still awaiting discovery.
- Reef tourism is now a major global industry. Visitors to the Grate Barrier Reef of Australia in 1995 exceeded 10 million. In 1998 alone ,four hundred thousand visitors came to Maldives and diving and snorkelling were the major attractions.
- In 1998 coral bleaching lead to the loss of 90% of the living corals in the central Indian Ocean (Including reefs of Sri Lanka, Maldives and India), decimating over 5% of the world's coral reefs in the space of few months.
- There are over 660 marine protected areas world-wide, but unfortunately most of these protected areas exist on paper only.

	Reef Area (sq.km)	Reefs at risk (%)
Bangladesh	<50	100
India	5,790	61
Maldives	8,920	11
Pakistan	<50	not ac
Sri Lanka	680	86



News from the National Focal Points

A New Mandate for Sri Lanka's Environment Ministry

The importance of an overarching mandate for effective and efficient management of the environment and natural resources has now being finally recognized with the creation of a Ministry on the subject concerned. This is a clear indicator, that policy makers of this country have finally recognized the fact that environment and natural resources are essential elements in sustainable development.

The present Ministerial set up includes several environmentally crucial implementing agencies such as the Department of Wildlife Conservation, Forest Department, Central Environment Authority, Geological Survey and Mines Bureau and the State Timber Corporation. This new set up will enable the Ministry to broaden scope of management to a more integrated approach.

As the well being of the nation and future generations, depend on sound use and management of our natural resources. Hence, the Ministry will have to take over the challenge of adopting broad based applicable principles relating to natural resource management that would lead towards sustainability of the resources and at the same time contribute towards socio-economic development. The new Ministry has also recognized that acceptance of natural resources policies by the other sectors will depend on mainstreaming these policies into a common national agenda of the country and if, sustainable development is to be

achieved it will require a new recognition that continuous economic growth must be accompanied by minimal stress to the environment.

The *draft National Environmental Policy* has been developed giving due consideration to this aspect, where the main emphasis of the policy is to provide direction towards *achieving a healthy and pleasant environment sustaining nature for the well-being of the people and the economy*. The guiding principles of the policy highlights the need for applying an eco-systems approach towards environment and natural resources management, building of partnerships and devolving (within limits) environmental management, application of precautionary principles in uncertain situations, equitable sharing of benefits etc., that will form the essential elements in sustainable development. In order to achieve performance in environmental management, it is equally important that natural resource management goals and objectives are to have clear and measurable outcomes, requiring comprehensive monitoring and assessment to evaluate progress and identify areas for improvement and refinement.

Environmental management should be a collective effort of all people of this country. It is necessary that the stakeholders are aware of their role and responsibilities in this regard and have the capacity to participate actively and effectively. The greatest challenge lies in obtaining the total and genuine commitment of all those concerned.

(Mrs. M.A. Kumaradasa, Director/Policy Planning, M/EN, Sri Lanka)

National Forestry Action Programme of India

Having about 2.5% of the world's geographic area, India is one of the 12 mega diversity region and supports 7% of the world's biodiversity. The country at presently has only 19.27% of land under forest cover, while 70% of the forests have no natural regeneration and 55% of them are prone to fire. The use of forests beyond its carrying capacity and encroachments are the main cause of continuous degradation of present.

To reserve the process of degradation and for sustainable development of forests, the Government of India has prepared the National Forestry Action Plan (NFAP), a comprehensive strategic long term plan for the next 20 years to address the issue underlying the major problems in the forestry sector of the country in line the National Forestry Policy of 1988. The objective

Pakistan:

A new publication titled "Environmental Challenges and Responses" have been launched by the Ministry of Environment, Local Government and Rural Development on 8 October 2001. Environmental issues being faced in Pakistan, responses by the government and non-governmental organizations have been covered. Future plan of action to improve environmental conditions in the country has also been elaborated. Please visit website <http://www.environment.gov.pk> for more information.



SACEP NEWS

The mission of SACEP is to promote and support protection, management, and enhancement of the environment of the countries of South Asia, collectively and co-operatively.

For further information of this intergovernmental organization, please visit our website www.sacep.org

Share your news with us

Please feel free to submit articles or letters to the editor for consideration for publication in the upcoming issues.

To include your name on our mailing list send a request to:

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The Newsletter does not necessarily reflect the official views of the contributing organizations.

The sad story of the Mermaids



Findings from the first ever global study of dugong (*Dugong dugon*), the animal considered as the inspiration for fishery tales of mermaids made up by old seafarers, indicates that they appear to have disappeared or become extinct in several countries, including the

territorial waters of India, Maldives and Sri Lanka.

The above findings published under the title of Dugong: Status Report and Action Plans for Countries and territories, was released at the seventh special session of Governing Council of the UNEP and the Global Ministerial Environment Forum in Cartagena, Colombia. It highlights the importance of protecting the seagrass beds upon which these herbivorous animals are almost totally depended. Seagrass require sunlight to thrive and in many regions they are smothered by silt and mud as a result of run off due to overgrazing, intensive agriculture and deforestation. Port developments and dredging are causing similar impacts. The full report can be downloaded from www.unep.org/dewa

Report Conclusions on India and Sri Lanka

1. *There are no quantitative data on the status of dugongs or the extent or nature of sea grass communities along the coast of the Indian sub-continent or the associated offshore islands*
2. *The absence of conservation measures to reduce the high mortality rate in the wild, there is a danger that dugongs will become locally extinct in the region*

UPCOMING IMPORTANT CALENDER OF EVENTS (March – June 2002)

DATES AND VENUE	TITLE	ORGANIZED BY
March		
2-8, Beijing, China	Asia and Pacific Regional Meeting on the Biosafety Clearing-house	CBD
5-6 ,Osaka, Japan	International Seminar on Environmentally Sound Technologies (ESTs) for Energy and Land-based Transmutations.	
13-15, India	South Asia Canada Regional Initiative on Climate Change	Development Alternatives, India
28-30, Chennai, India	GIWA Bay of Bengal Scaling and Scoping Workshop I	
18-20, Bremen, Germany	Technical Workshop on the Feasibility Study for Establishing a Regular Process for the Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment.	UNEP- Regional Seas
22 –Global	World day for Water	UNEP
28-30, Chennai, India	Bay of Bengal Scaling and Scoping Workshop	GIWA
April		
4-8, Netherlands	6th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties - Convention of Biodiversity	CBD Secretariat
	1st Meeting of the parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety.	CBD Secretariat
8-9, China	Asia-Pacific Conference on Information Technology in Tourism.	WTO
15-19, Costa Rica	6 th International Conference on Environmental Compliance and Enforcement-INECE Secretariat	
22, Global	Earth Day (Theme: Who says you can't change the world?)	Earth Day Network
22-24	GCRMN/CORDIO/SACEP Sri Lanka National workshop on Coral reefs	GCRMN-SA/SACEP/CORDIO
May		
13-24, India.	CITIES Tiger Enforcement Task Force Training	CITIES
22 –Global	International Day for Biological Diversity	CBD Secretariat
June		
5, Global	World Environment Day (Theme: Gives earth a chance)	UNEP
10-13, Rome	World Food Summit	FAO
17, Global	World Day to combat Desertification	CCD Secretariat