



REPORT  
OF THE  
FIFTH GOVERNING COUNCIL MEETING  
OF THE  
South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme

21ST SEPTEMBER 1992  
COLOMBO, SRI LANKA

**Report of the Fifth Meeting of  
The Governing Council of The  
South Asia Co-operative  
Environment Programme ( SACEP )  
21st September 1992, Colombo,  
Sri Lanka.**

**SOUTH ASIA CO-OPERATIVE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME  
( SACEP )  
REPORT OF THE FIFTH MEETING OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL (GC 5)**

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# **SOUTH ASIA CO-OPERATIVE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME**

## **FIFTH MEETING OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL (GC 5)**

**21ST SEPTEMBER 1992**

**COLOMBO, SRI LANKA**

### **REPORT**

#### **1. INTRODUCTION**

The Fifth Meeting of the Governing Council of the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme was held in Colombo, Sri Lanka on the 21st September 1992.

#### **2. ATTENDANCE**

The Governing Council (GC 5) was attended by Representatives from the following Member Countries viz: Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Iran, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

Representatives from the following United Nations Agencies and International Organisations also participated: Asian Development Bank (ADB), Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), Colombo Plan Bureau, Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific (ESCAP), Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO), Japan International Co-operation Agency (JICA), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO), World Bank and World Health Organisation (WHO).

List of Participants is in Annex I.

#### **3. INAUGURATION**

The Fifth Meeting of the Governing Council of the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme, was inaugurated by His Excellency President Ranasinghe Premadasa, President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka. In his Inaugural Address, The President said that SACEP holds a record in South Asia of being the first Inter-governmental Organisation that was set up for South Asian Co-operation and that he was happy to be present on this occasion, as he was personally involved in the forming of SACEP a little over a decade ago. He further went on to say that in the field of environment, South Asia was way ahead of many other regions of the world.

A copy of his Address is at Annex II.

Hon. Mr M. Vincent Perera, Minister of Environment and Parliamentary Affairs, Sri Lanka in his Welcome Address said that he was happy to welcome his fellow Ministers from the South Asian Region, some of whom he had the privilege of meeting in New Delhi in April this year, under the aegis of SAARC. He said that he was glad that they were meeting in Colombo in the broader forum of SACEP, to work out a co-operative programme for the next four years.

A copy of his Address is at Annex III.

In his Address as Acting Chairman, SACEP Governing Council, Hon Lyonpo Om Pradhan, Minister of Trade & Industries, Royal Government of Bhutan, stated that when one looks at South Asia starting from the heights of the great Himalayan Mountains down to the Indian Ocean and extending to the Islands of the Maldives, we confront virtually every conceivable environmental situation. The population of our region exceeds a billion and poverty has been a debilitating scourge in many of our countries. He also said that it is time we took stock of the region's environmental situation and then take more interest to meet the environmental challenges that lie before us.

A copy of his Address is at Annex IV.

In giving the Vote of Thanks, Mr R.K. Midha, Director SACEP, expressed his gratitude to His Excellency President of Sri Lanka for inaugurating the Fifth Governing Council Meeting and recalled that His Excellency, in his Inaugural Address at the First Governing Council Meeting in January 1983, had emphasised that our objectives should be sustainable development and how true this is in the present context, as sustainable development was the central theme at the recently concluded United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. He said that SACEP is grateful to the Government of Sri Lanka for hosting the Fifth Governing Council Meeting and for the excellent arrangements in making this Meeting a success.

A copy of his Address is at Annex V.

#### **4. ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS**

In accordance with the provisions of Articles of Association of SACEP, Hon M. Vincent Perera, Minister of Environment & Parliamentary Affairs, Government of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka was elected Chairman of the Fifth Governing Council of SACEP. Hon Abdullah -al-Noman, Minister of Environment, Forests, Fisheries and Livestock, Bangladesh and Hon Mr Kamal Nath, Minister of Environment & Forests, India were elected as Vice Chairmen of the Meeting. Mr A. Gopinathan, Counsellor (Econ), High Commission of India, Sri Lanka, was elected as Rapporteur.

### **5. AGENDA**

The Governing Council (GC 5) discussed and adopted the Agenda of the Meeting.

A copy of the Adopted Agenda is at Annex VI.

### **6. STATEMENTS OF HEADS OF DELEGATIONS**

The Heads of Delegations from Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka addressed the Governing Council. All the statements reflected the importance of SACEP in the present context of global and regional activity in the field of environment, especially after the recently concluded United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Brazil.

Their statements also emphasised that all countries should endeavour to make SACEP the basis of co-operation in the field of environmental activity in South Asia.

The respective Country Statements are found in Annexes VII to XI.

### **7. OTHER STATEMENTS**

Statements made by the Representatives of the UN Agencies and International Organisations attending the Meeting are found in Annexes XII to XVII.

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia & Pacific (ESCAP), Bangkok, Thailand, circulated a Secretariat Note reflecting the co-operation between ESCAP and SACEP since its establishment, especially in the fields of Desertification Control and Coastal Environmental Management. It also identified areas of future joint co-operation between the two organisations. This Note is found as Annex XVIII.

### **8. INSTITUTIONAL MATTERS**

#### **A. SACEP SECRETARIAT**

The Governing Council considered the Report of the Preparatory Meeting of Senior Officials (Refer Annex XIX - Para 6A) on this item and approved the proposal to create a Project Preparation, Planning and Monitoring Cell within the SACEP Secretariat on the terms recommended by the Senior Officials.

The Council also confirmed the appointment of Mr R.K.Midha as Director of SACEP effective 15th February 1992.

## **B. SUBJECT AREA AND COUNTRY FOCAL POINTS**

The Council approved the decisions taken by the Senior Officials on Subject Area and Country Focal Points (Refer Annex XIX - Para 6B). It also approved the following changes recommended by the Senior Officials in the List of Subject Area Focal Points of SACEP.

Technology for Development for  
Renewable and Reusable Resources.

- SACEP  
in  
co-operation  
with UNIDO.

Regional Seas Programme.

- SACEP  
in  
co-operation  
with UNEP.

Desertification

- Pakistan

## **9. PROGRAMME MATTERS**

### **A. REVIEW OF SACEP'S PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS**

On the South Asian Regional Seas Programme, the Governing Council requested the Member States concerned to consider expediting the approval of :-

i) The Draft Legal Convention, The two Draft Protocols and the Trust Fund Mechanism so that a Meeting of National Focal Points followed by a Meeting of Plenipotentiaries could be convened to formally approve and adopt the South Asian Seas Action Plan; and,

ii) The Draft Operational Regional Contingency Plan for Responding to Marine Pollution Emergencies, prepared by the International Maritime Organisation (IMO), in consultation with the Experts of the concerned Member States.

### **B. SACEP PLAN OF ACTION 1992 - 1996**

The Council considered the Report of the Senior Officials on this item (Refer Annex XIX - Annex 3), and in addition to the projects recommended by the Senior Officials, approved a new project titled 'Sharing of Pollution Abatement Technology through Exchange of Information and Training Programmes'.

The changes approved in respect of Chapters 4.2, 4.3, and Chapter 5 in the Document 'SACEP Strategy and Programme I 1992-1996 (SSP-I) is found in Annex XX.



**C. REVIEW OF INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION**

The Council noted the Report of the Senior Officials on this item (Refer Annex XIX - Para 6E). It expressed appreciation for the support extended by the UN System and other International Agencies to SACEP's activities and hoped that such support would continue.

**D. ESTABLISHMENT OF CLOSE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE SOUTH ASIAN ASSOCIATION FOR REGIONAL CO-OPERATION (SAARC)**

The Governing Council took careful note of the sentiments expressed by H.E. Ranasinghe Premadasa, President of Sri Lanka, of the need for SACEP and SAARC to work closely together and forge mutually reinforcing relations. To this end, the Council directed that the SACEP Secretariat, as a specialised environmental agency, work closely with the SAARC Secretariat. The Director of SACEP was requested to apprise the Consultative Committee of the outcome of his efforts towards this end.

**10. FINANCIAL MATTERS**

**A. COUNTRY CONTRIBUTIONS FROM MEMBER STATES FOR SACEP SECRETARIAT**

The Governing Council considered the Report of the Senior Officials on this Item (Refer Annex XIX - Para 6G). They noted with concern that SACEP's effective functioning had been affected adversely by the non-payment and delay of country contributions in some cases.

The Council urged Member States to make all efforts to effect timely payment of the agreed contributions, in order to ensure smooth functioning of the Secretariat and effective implementation of SACEP's Programme activities, specially in view of the expanded activities envisaged in the medium term Plan of Action (SSP-I 1992 - 1996).

**B. ESTABLISHMENT OF A TRUST FUND FOR SACEP PROGRAMMES**

The Governing Council considered the Report of the Senior Officials on this Item (Refer Annex XIX - Para 6H). It recalled that H.E. Ranasinghe Premadasa, President of Sri Lanka, had attached a great deal of importance to the establishment of a Trust Fund for SACEP, in order to facilitate effective implementation of its Programmes. The Council requested Director of SACEP to take further necessary steps in the matter.

**C. APPROVAL OF AUDIT REPORT FOR 1991**

The Governing Council approved the Annual Audited Report of Accounts of the SACEP Secretariat for 1991.

**D. APPROVAL OF PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR 1992 AND 1993**

The Governing Council gave its approval to the Programme and Secretariat Budget for 1992 and 1993, as recommended by the Senior Officials.

**11. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT**

The Council considered and adopted this Report on the 21st of September 1992.

**12. CONCLUDING SESSION**

Hon Lyonpo Om Pradhan, Minister of Trade and Industries, Bhutan and Mr Moeen Jan Naim, Head of Delegation Pakistan, speaking on behalf of all the Delegates present, thanked the Chairman of the Council and the Government and the people of Sri Lanka for the warm hospitality extended to all the participants and for the excellent arrangements made for the Fifth Session of the Governing Council. They also thanked the Director of SACEP and the Secretariat for the outstanding substantive and logistical support provided by them for the smooth and efficient conduct of the Session.

The Director of SACEP expressed his gratitude to the Chairman and the Government of Sri Lanka for their generosity and unstinted co-operation.

The Chairman thanked all Delegates and the Director and the SACEP Secretariat for their wholehearted co-operation in ensuring the success of the Session. The Council also expressed its appreciation to the Rapporteur for his contribution.

## LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

## SACEP MEMBERS

BANGLADESH

- \* Hon Mr Abdullah-al-Noman      Minister of Environment, Forests, Fisheries and Livestock
- \* Mr Mostafizur Rahman      Counsellor, Bangladesh High Commission, Sri Lanka
- \* Mr Mizanur Rahman      Second Secretary, Bangladesh High Commission, Sri Lanka

BHUTAN

- \* Hon Lyonpo Om Pradhan      Minister of Trade & Industries
- \* Mr Tshering Tashi      Head, National Environmental Secretariat, Planning Commission

INDIA

- \* Hon Mr Kamal Nath      Minister of Environment & Forests
- \* H.E. Shri N.N. Jha      High Commissioner of India to Sri Lanka
- \* Mr Mukul Sanwal      Joint Secretary, Ministry of Environment & Forests
- \* Mr A.Gopinathan      Counsellor (Econ), High Commission of India, Sri Lanka
- \* Mr Antony D'Sa      Private Secretary to Minister for Environment and Forests

#### IRAN

- \* Mr Ebrahimi Khaleghi Deputy Head of Mission,  
Embassy of the Islamic  
Republic of Iran,  
Sri Lanka
- \* Mr E.Khorrami First Secretary, Embassy of  
the Islamic Republic of Iran,  
Sri Lanka

#### PAKISTAN

- \* Mr Moeen Jan Naim Director General, Ministry of  
Foreign Affairs
- \* Mr Q.R.Muttaqi Second Secretary, Pakistan  
High Commission, Sri Lanka

#### SRI LANKA

- \* Hon Mr M.Vincent Perera Minister of Environment &  
Parliamentary Affairs
- \* Hon Dr Wimal Wickremasinghe Minister of Environment and  
State Minister of Policy  
Planning & Implementation
- \* Dr D. Nesiah Secretary, Ministry of  
Environment & Parliamentary  
Affairs
- \* Mr V.K. Nanayakkara State Secretary Ministry of  
Environment
- \* Dr Leslie Herath Honorary Advisor to the  
Minister of Environment
- \* Ms N. Mohottala Director, Planning, Ministry  
of Environment & Parliamentary  
Affairs
- \* Mr L.A.C. Wijesinghe Consultant, Ministry of  
Environment & Parliamentary  
Affairs
- \* Mr Anton Atapattu Director, Department of  
Fisheries

* Mr A.Sivagnanasothy	Deputy Director, Ministry of Policy Planning and Implementation
* Mr S.Baminiwatte	Assistant Director, Department of Forests
* Mr B.S.Kahawita	Director, Coast Conservation Department
* Ms Dianeetha Sadacharan	Manager, Coast Conservation Department
* Ms S.E. Yasaratne	Acting Director, Natural Resources Management Division, Central Environmental Authority
* Mr D.A.U. Daranagama	Assistant Director, Ministry of Power & Energy
* Dr A.P. Mathes	Deputy Director, Ceylon Institute for Scientific & Industrial Research
* Mrs P.G.P. Abeyratne	Deputy Director, Ministry of Industries, Science and Technology
* Mrs Mallika Karunaratne	Deputy Director, Department of National Planning
* Mr O.C. Jayawardena	Project Secretary, Ministry of Lands and Land Alienation

#### UN AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES

##### ADB/AIT

* Dr Kiran Bhattarai	Project Manager, ADB/ENSIC Project
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##### CIDA

* Mr Douglas Henderson	First Secretary (Development), Canadian High Commission, Sri Lanka
* Dr (Ms) Sukanya Devarajan	Science & Technical Advisor, CIDA Programme in Sri Lanka

COLOMBO PLAN BUREAU

\* Mr Rafique Butt                      Adviser on Development  
Co-operation

ESCAP

\* Mr U.Wai Lin                      Environmental Affairs Officer

FAO

\* Ms Joanne Leestemaker              APO/Programme Officer, Sri  
Lanka

JICA

\* Mr G.W.Kaveendrarah              Co-ordinator

UNDP

\* Mr Robert England                  Resident Representative, Sri  
Lanka

\* Ms Manel Jayamanne                  Programme Officer, UNDP  
Office, Colombo

UNEP

\* Mr Y. Hirayama                      Deputy Regional  
Representative, Regional  
Office for Asia and the  
Pacific, Bangkok, Thailand

UNIDO

\* Mr J.M.Bonnamy                      Country Director, Sri Lanka

WHO

\* Dr Aung Myint                      WHO Representative, Sri Lanka

WORLD BANK

\* Dr A.G. Karunasena                  Senior Economic Consultant,  
World Bank, Sri Lanka

SACEP/SSP I PROJECT

\* Mr Syed Ayub Qutub                  Consultant

**SACEP SECRETARIAT**

*	Mr R.K. Midha	Director
*	Mr P.N.Dias Abeyegunawardene	Consultant
*	Ms M.Pereira	Administrative Assistant
*	Ms Shelaan N. De Silva	Secretary
*	Ms F. Doole	Receptionist

**INAUGURAL ADDRESS OF H.E. RANASINGHE PREMADASA  
PRESIDENT  
DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA**

I am happy to state that I was personally involved in the founding of SACEP in 1981. So, it gives me great pleasure to be with you today.

SACEP holds a record in South Asia. It was the first Inter-governmental Organisation that was set up for South Asian Co-operation. It paved the way for the founding of SAARC several years later. In fact, in the field of Environment, South Asia was way ahead of many other regions of the world.

Today, Environment is high on the agenda of almost every Nation, Region and infact the whole World. Sri Lanka's interest in environment related activities dates back to the early 1980's. This is about the time Sri Lanka was also involved in a global shelter initiative. Both Environment and Housing are very high up in Sri Lanka's priorities.

The environment of our home has to be looked after and extended to the neighbourhood, schools and so forth. We live because of the environment. We breathe and we are exposed to the environment. There are people who travel miles and miles to protect environment, when their own environment is unprotected.

Our Development Programmes were planned ensuring environmental protection. Traditionally, we have safeguarded our environment. There are plenty of rivers running across the country where one could bathe, a special emphasis is taken in rural villages to keep the environment clean.

The neglected development process in agriculture and irrigation by colonial rulers were revived by our first Prime Minister, the Late Mr D.S. Senanayake. In that endeavour, he declared certain areas strict National Forest Reserves. We have planted trees to compensate the decrease in forest cover due to our development work. This has resulted in improving the forest cover. In our traditional villages, trees are well looked after.

Our plants and trees help us to live healthy lives. Our indigenous medicine mostly derives from plants and trees. We have to reawaken our indigenous efforts in this respect. I believe the situation is the same in other countries in our region. As far as Sri Lanka was concerned, several steps were taken for the protection of the environment.



A Cabinet Ministry Committee was formed and a Subject Minister was appointed. The creation of a new neighbourhood and upgrading existing traditional villages is necessary. The younger generation should be educated on environment protection devices.

As you know, the countries of South Asia have much in common. From the dawn of history, our societies and our cultures have been closely linked in many ways. Today, we are grouped as developing countries. We are grappling with the problems of poverty and unemployment.

We are in urgent need of economic growth. We are also in need of a more equitable distribution of income. We must develop our industry and agriculture without aggravating our environmental problems. We have much to learn. There is a wealth of knowledge and experience which we can share with each other. SACEP is an important forum through which this can be achieved.

When SACEP was established, problems of environmental degradation had already assumed serious proportions. Since then, certain new environmental concerns came to be focussed sharply. The depletion of the ozone layer, has a damaging effect on human health and agricultural systems. The quantum of waste dumped into the ocean has also grown sharply.

We are holding this Meeting of Ministers of SACEP countries in the wake of an Environmental Conference of unprecedented magnitude. I am referring to the United Nations conference on Environment and Development. It was indeed appropriate that a World Summit was convened to deal with the man-made threat to our Planet's environment.

As you would appreciate, environmental problems cannot be addressed in isolation from the imperatives of development. That is why the Earth Summit considered issues relating to both Environment and Development.

Much documentation emerged from Rio. But a common threat runs through. This common thread is the recognition that all countries should co-operate. There must be co-operation between the rich and the poor countries. There must be co-operation between the developed and the developing countries. There must be intra-regional and inter-regional co-operation. But co-operation alone will not solve our problems. It will need to be augmented by our own indigenous efforts.

During the last decade of its existence, SACEP has taken some important steps forward. The SACEP Governing Council, in 1983, declared 1988 as the Year of Trees for South Asia. We, in Sri Lanka launched a Hundred Million Trees Programme as our part of the regional effort. Eighth of March 1988, was declared a Day of Trees for South Asia.

SACEP has taken the initiative in drafting an Action Plan under the South Asian Regional Seas Programme. What remains to be done is to finalise Legislative and Administrative matters. SACEP has been designated the Focal Point for this Programme. Recently, SACEP, with support from the Asian Development Bank, has set up a Regional Environmental and Natural Resources Information Centre. This Centre, called RENRIC, when fully functional, will serve as a Clearing House for Information on Environmental Matters within the SACEP Region.

SACEP has carried out a review of Environmental Legislation in the countries of South Asia. A Workshop was held, and based on its findings, recommendations were made to the different countries for amending their Environmental Legislation.

The Governing Council is now meeting to finalise the Programme of Work for the next four years. A tentative programme had been prepared by an Expert, through a consultative process with Member Countries. This Programme has been revised at a Meeting of Focal Points held in Colombo last month.

In conclusion, let me compliment the Director and his small group of Support Staff, for their dedicated work in the past few years. A great deal of work remains to be done. Let us develop appropriate, well-formulated, co-operative projects, aimed at addressing specific Environment and Development issues of common concern to us. Let us implement them with a sense of urgency and dedication. It is only then, that we can realise the full potential of our partnership.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, I have great pleasure in declaring open the Fifth Governing Council Meeting of SACEP. I wish you all success in your deliberations.

I thank you.

**ADDRESS OF WELCOME BY HON. M. VINCENT PERERA M.P.  
MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS  
DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA**

Your Excellency President Ranasinghe Premadasa,  
Honourable Ministers of the Environment of South Asia,  
Honourable Ministers,  
Your Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen.

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to the inauguration of the Fifth Meeting of the Governing Council of the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme.

We are especially happy, Your Excellency, that despite the extremely heavy demands on your time, you have accepted our invitation to be present here this morning and to inaugurate this Governing Council Meeting. Your presence here confirms your abiding interest in SACEP - a programme that was born out of your vision that regional co-operation has great potential in enhancing the effectiveness of our individual national efforts in dealing with problems of environment and development. We thank you for your presence and for your support of SACEP activities.

I am happy to welcome my fellow Ministers from the South Asian Region. I had the privilege of meeting with some of you in New Delhi in April this year, under the aegis of SAARC. At that Meeting, we discussed the problems of environment and development that are common to the countries of our region. We set out what we consider to be the critical areas that should receive the attention of the Earth Summit that was to be held two months later.

I am glad that we are meeting here in Colombo, in the broader forum of SACEP, to work out a co-operative programme for the next four years. Much work has preceded this Meeting. Mr Syed Ayub Qutub, an expert selected by UNEP at the request of SACEP, toured the countries of the region and held discussions with concerned institutions in each country. His objective was to identify key environmental issues that could profitably be addressed through regional co-operation. His report was discussed and amended at a Meeting of National Focal Points of SACEP Member Countries, held in Colombo a few weeks ago.

Senior Officials from the SACEP countries have studied these proposals again in the last two days and the results of their deliberations will be placed before the Ministers for their consideration.

The Subjects that have been identified as suitable programme areas for co-operative action, covers a wide spectrum of environmental concerns common to this region. They include Environmental Management Training, Environmental Policy and Decision Making, Coastal Zone Management, and the Preservation of Natural Habitats. These are all areas where our indigenous capability and capacity are weak and require considerable strengthening. These are areas where we are continually facing a dilemma. We need to pursue development to enhance the quality of life of our people. At the same time, we cannot afford to damage the environment, as this will undermine the very resources on which we base our development programmes. Our resources are limited and we cannot follow capital intensive paths in either economic development programmes or environment protection programmes. We need to collaborate with each other and to adapt and innovate technologies suitable for our use. This is where SACEP can play a vital role.

We must thank Mr Midha, the current Director of SACEP, who as soon as he assumed duties, was plunged into the onerous task of organising this Meeting. Our thanks are also due to his predecessor Mr Hoque, who very ably shouldered the work of the SACEP Secretariat for three years.

The Secretariat will face many challenges in the coming months. It will have, through discussion and consultation, to translate the programme that is ratified at this Meeting into an Action Plan that will include definite projects. The Projects must reflect the immediate and urgent concerns of the South Asian countries in the area of Environment and Development. They should cover subjects that will respond well to co-operative action. I am confident that the Secretariat is equal to this task.

My Ministry will give the necessary support to the Secretariat in formulating and pursuing a vigorous programme of activities in the coming years. I am equally confident that my colleagues in the other Member Countries will give their fullest support to SACEP's activities.

I welcome all of you, Your Excellency, Hon. Ministers, Ladies and Gentlemen, and thank you for your presence here today.

ADDRESS BY HON. MR LYONPO OM PRADHAN,  
ACTING CHAIRMAN  
SACEP FIFTH GOVERNING COUNCIL

Your Excellency, President Ranasinghe Premadasa,  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished Delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen.

The distinguished presence of His Excellency the President of Sri Lanka is a great honour that has been bestowed upon this gathering. We thank you, Sir, for having lent such importance to this meeting by gracing this inaugural ceremony.

Mr President, your presence yet again demonstrates your own personal concern for the environmental issues of our region. The very fact that the SACEP Secretariat is located in Colombo is again an indication of Sri Lanka's abiding interest in the environment of our region. We hope that Sri Lanka will continue to play a leading role on environmental issues.

Mr President, ever since we set foot in your beautiful country, we have been received with great warmth and hospitality. I must say we have been deeply touched by the kindness and courtesies extended to us. The arrangements that we have found for our work here are excellent. Please accept, Sir, our heartfelt gratitude.

When one looks at South Asia starting from the heights of the great Himalayan mountains down to the Indian Ocean and extending to the Islands of the Maldives, we confront virtually every conceivable environmental situation. The population of our region exceeds a billion and poverty has been a debilitating scourge in many of our countries. These conditions have put considerable pressure on our environment. The extensive deforestation in the fragile Himalayan mountains and foothills has contributed to flooding in the lower riparian areas. In the latest context, we were deeply distressed to witness the devastating floods in Pakistan. The cost in human lives and properties was immense. Similar situations frequently occur in Bangladesh and other parts of our region.

The world-wide phenomena of the green house effect due to the depletion of the vital and precious ozone layer, is affecting our region in a serious manner. The excessive world-wide emission of Carbon Dioxide and ChloroFluro Carbons or CFC's with consequent adverse effects on the ozone layer will heat the earth's atmosphere. This additional heat would melt the ice on the earth's polar caps. This in turn would raise the level of the oceans and the seas.

When this happens, we can well imagine the consequences in South Asia. We can well imagine the situation that will befall the Islands of South Asia and the coastal regions of the Indian sub-continent.

When it comes to the environment and ecology, Bhutan has been quite fortunate. Our Buddhist traditions, like in Sri Lanka itself, calls upon us to preserve our natural surroundings. It calls upon us to respect both plant and animal life. Nature should be tampered with only to the extent of sustaining one's life and well-being. With a small population of 600,000 and an area of about 46,000 sq. kilometres, we have been able to maintain over 60% of our land area under forest cover. Out of this, we have set aside 20% in a system of protected reserves. These reserves incorporate the full range of Bhutan's rich biological diversity. The Bhutanese situation demonstrates that control on the growth of population is a primary and a key requirement to maintain and sustain our environments.

The ever-expanding population of South Asia needs to be effectively curbed. The pressure of the human population on land including forests, rivers and the seas will have an adverse impact on ecology and the environment. While industrialisation and the production of goods to raise living standards is something that is desirable, the protection of biodiversity, ecology and the environment have to be borne in mind. Pollution of our lands and water needs to be kept under control so that our living conditions do not deteriorate and become serious health hazards.

It is time that we took stock of the region's environmental situation. It is time that we took more interest to meet the environmental challenges that lie before us. Yes, it is time for the countries of South Asia to make a more serious, determined and a concerted approach to confront the deteriorating National, Regional and the World Environment.

The South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme or SACEP was established under a mandate given by the Colombo Declaration of February 1981. The objectives of this Programme was to undertake co-operative activities in priority subject areas in the field of environment. Hence, our governments in South Asia have already set up an organisation to deal with regional environmental issues of concern. In this context, SACEP can play a key role. However, this organisation definitely needs to be strengthened and given a fresh and broader mandate. This would be necessary if the issues that confront us are to be tackled in an effective and meaningful manner.

However, thus far, SACEP's activities have been seriously hindered by a lack of financial resources. This issue needs to be looked into and ways and means found to resolve this problem. In this regard, the question of setting up a Trust Fund deserves serious consideration. I feel that the international situation is ripe to promote such a Fund.

The United Nations Conference for the Environment and Development held this year in Rio de Janeiro brought home to mankind, the havoc that he had been wreaking on the planet that he lived upon. Unless appropriate steps were taken to right the situation, the very survival of mankind would be at stake. In view of such a gloomy picture, the developed countries and concerned International Organisations may be more forthcoming to make contributions to such a Trust Fund for the protection of the environment. I am confident that these aspects will be taken up during the deliberations that are scheduled to take place in the Fifth Governing Council Meeting of SACEP.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, with these words, I now have the great honour and privilege to request His Excellency President Ranasinghe Premadasa to kindly address this distinguished gathering.

VOTE OF THANKS BY MR R.K. MIDHA  
DIRECTOR  
SOUTH ASIA CO-OPERATIVE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

Your Excellency Ranasinghe Premadasa, President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, Hon. Chairman of SACEP Governing Council, Hon. Vincent Perera, Minister of Environment and Parliamentary Affairs, Sri Lanka, Distinguished Delegates, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen.

It is both a pleasure and privilege for me to express my deep gratitude to His Excellency President of Sri Lanka for inaugurating the Fifth Governing Council Meeting of SACEP. It assumes special significance as Your Excellency was instrumental in founding this Organisation and you also happened to inaugurate the First Meeting of the Governing Council at Colombo in January 1983, then in your capacity as Prime Minister of Sri Lanka.

You had then in your Inaugural Address, emphasised that our objective should be sustainable development and SACEP lead the way to the possibilities of modifying the dominant patterns of development and life styles in our countries. How true this is in the present context, as sustainable development was the central theme of Agenda 21 in the UNCED Conference. Your presence today and address is a source of strength to SACEP and also an indication of your deep commitment towards the cause of Environment.

We have varied items of agenda for the Fifth Governing Council Meeting and one of that is to adopt an Action Programme for the next four years for SACEP.

May I dare say that SACEP has come of age and we will infuse more vigour and energy in implementing our programme. It is also my duty to convey my deep appreciation of the presence here of Delegates, particularly Hon. Ministers from the Member Countries, who have come here to participate in the deliberations of the Council Meeting.

I also take this opportunity to acknowledge with thanks the help and assistance accorded to us in our Programmes by the UN and International Organisations and of the presence of their Representatives today.

I am grateful to the Government of Sri Lanka for hosting the Fifth Governing Council and making excellent arrangements and the tireless efforts of all those who were involved in the preparatory work.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, thank you very much for your participation in this function.



**SOUTH ASIA CO-OPERATIVE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME**

**FIFTH MEETING OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL  
COLOMBO, SRI LANKA  
21-22 SEPTEMBER 1992**

**AGENDA**

1. Opening of the Meeting
2. Election of Office Bearers & Country Statements
3. Adoption of Agenda and Organisation of Work
4. Statements by United Nations Agencies, International/Regional Organisations and Aid Consortia
5. INSTITUTIONAL MATTERS
  - a) SACEP Secretariat
  - b) Subject Area and Country Focal Points
6. PROGRAMME MATTERS
  - a) SACEP Plan of Action for 1992 - 1996
  - b) Review of International Co-operation
  - c) Establishment of close relationship with SAARC
7. FINANCIAL MATTERS
  - a) Country Contributions from Member States for SACEP Secretariat
  - b) Establishment of Trust Fund for SACEP Programmes
  - c) Approval of Annual Audited Report of Accounts for 1991
  - d) Approval of Programme and Secretariat Budget for 1992 and 1993
8. Any Other Business
9. Adoption of the Report
10. Closure of Meeting

**STATEMENT BY THE HEAD OF THE BANGLADESH DELEGATION  
HON. ABDULLAH-AL-NOMAN,  
MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS, FISHERIES AND LIVESTOCK,  
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH**

Mr Chairman,  
Hon. Ministers,  
Excellencies,  
Director SACEP,  
Ladies and Gentlemen.

Allow me Mr Chairman to congratulate you on your election to Chair this Governing Council Meeting. Under your able guidance, we look forward to a successful conclusion of this Meeting.

It is a matter of profound joy for me to be here in this lovely city of Colombo. Bangladesh and Sri Lanka are linked by lore and legends. Our bonds emanate from ties rooted in history. I take this opportunity to express my thanks to the Sri Lankan Government for hosting this Meeting and for the warm hospitality extended to us.

Mr Chairman.

A decade ago, late President Ziaur Rahman was inspired by a vision - a vision of stability in our region and well being of our people. He wanted us to build on our shared traditions which can be a source of strength. This vision led to the creation of a regional organisation - The South Asian Association of Regional Countries.

It is in a sense ironic that we the countries of South Asia should be seized with problems of environmental degradation - ironic, because we have a long tradition which we all share - a tradition of harmony with nature, environment friendly frugal life style and respect for plants and animals.

But it is precisely this history and tradition that gives us the strength to solve the problems we are beset with - the problem of breaking the vicious cycle of poverty - the under development and environmental degradation.

The environment links all of creation in its entirety. Therefore, it is only natural that environmental concerns at the National Level, is maturing into regional concerns. All over the world, regional bodies are being formed to reap the benefits of co-operation among neighbouring countries. SACEP should be an outstanding example of co-operation among the South Asian Countries in prudent management of the environment.

With limited resources and institutional capacity, we are sometimes overwhelmed with the magnitude of the problem. Where can one start? For one thing, we can consult among ourselves. SACEP gives us that opportunity of pooling our strength together, and then disseminating it to provide solutions. It is cheaper, faster and more appropriate because solutions are gleaned from actual experiences in the region and not borrowed or transplanted from elsewhere. SACEP gives us a common identity, and a sense of solidarity in our attempts to break through the vicious circle of poverty and non-sustainable exploitation of natural resources.

Mr Chairman.

Environmental issues cannot be confined to national frontiers. Environment unfriendly activities in one country often cause environmental degradation not only in that country but affects the neighbouring countries as well. This necessitates regional co-operation in issues like Deforestation, Coastal Zone Management, utilization of water of common rivers, Wildlife Management and the like. Bangladesh is strongly committed to the concept of regional co-operation and will co-operate in every possible way to revitalize the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme.

Perhaps SACEP as yet, cannot boast of spectacular achievements. But the attempt to review the on-going programmes is very timely and is commendable. I am confident that this exercise will result in the programmes being invested with greater qualitative value, by assigning them into more selective framework, aimed at perceptible tangible benefits. This of course requires moving co-operation to more concrete result oriented programmes, in keeping with real needs and priorities.

Mr Chairman.

- . Bangladesh along with other developing countries has all along maintained that environmental issues cannot be tackled in isolation. In fact, unless the issue of development is satisfactorily resolved, a healthy environment cannot be achieved.

Our first priority is poverty alleviation. Under the dynamic leadership of our Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, we are striving to provide "dal bhat" and the other basic needs of life, such as clothing, shelter, health and primary education to the underprivileged. Alleviation of poverty would obviously reduce the stress on our land, water, forest and other life support systems, thereby leading to a healthier environment.

UNCED is still fresh in our mind. The underlying concept of this conference was that mankind is a family and that certain actions are needed, so that mankind is not threatened with extinction. To ensure that this planet is safe and healthy for our children, all of us will have to work together.

Time and again the developing countries, while re-affirming their commitment to this cause, have maintained that with their limited resources it will be extremely difficult for them to go for costly environment protection measures and that they need additional resources for implementing the programme agreed upon at UNCED. The financial commitment so far made by the developed countries for this purpose unfortunately, is extremely meagre.

The implementation of Agenda 21 is a long drawn process and without adequate financial and technological help, the developing countries will take still longer time to reach the goal. But that should not discourage us from whatever we can do on our own.

In Bangladesh, we have launched a massive tree plantation programme under the personal supervision of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia. Because of her political vision, and charisma, it has gained the dimension of a social movement. This programme will not only contribute to poverty alleviation, but will also lead to a better environment.

SACEP can play a very useful role in the post UNCED scenario, by identifying and drawing up Action Programmes that are of regional nature. It will be useful to keep the channels of communication open, so that, we can benefit from each other's experiences in dealing with post UNCED programmes. The strengthening of the SACEP Regional Environmental and Natural Resources Information Centre (RENRIC), will fulfil a long felt need. It has an enormous potential of disseminating knowledge and experience swiftly throughout the region. This valuable tool, should be fully utilized by encouraging development of information and database management in Member Countries.

Mr Chairman.

It appears that participation in the Fourth Governing Council Meeting was less than expected and consequently, all Member Countries did not get an opportunity to contribute to the decisions that were taken. We believe that as a regional organisation, all decisions of SACEP should be arrived at through consultation.

Bangladesh supports the idea that SACEP may work in close co-operation with SAARC. This will avoid unnecessary duplication of environment related programmes. With limited resources at our disposal, we can hardly afford the luxury of duplication.

Finally Mr Chairman, allow me to add, that shared history and tradition should enable us to speed up the processes of agreement and concerted action. We must be determined to avoid the wasteful and dangerous technologies and practices characteristic of the industrial nations. Let us develop our own blue print for sustainable development based not on creating or pandering to profligate consumerism, but on improving quality of life by eradicating poverty. After all, poverty pollutes.

The Government of Bangladesh is firmly committed to work with South Asian countries to eradicate poverty and halt environmental degradation.

Before I conclude, I must thank the Officials and the Consultants of SACEP who have worked very hard in organising this Meeting. Thanks are also due to the Senior Officials who have made valuable recommendations.

I thank you, Mr Chairman.

**STATEMENT BY THE LEADER OF THE BHUTANESE DELEGATION  
HON. LYONPO OM PRADHAN  
MINISTER FOR TRADE & INDUSTRY  
ROYAL GOVERNMENT OF BHUTAN**

Mr Chairman,  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished Delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen.

Mr Chairman,

May I, first of all, warmly congratulate you on your well deserved election to the Chair of the Governing Council. My delegation is confident that with your able guidance you will lead our work here at Colombo to a successful conclusion.

Ever since my delegation and I arrived in Sri Lanka, we have been deeply touched by the warmth of your friendship and hospitality. Mr Chairman, please convey our thanks to your Government and the people on our behalf.

When SACEP was established by the Governments of South Asia through the 1981 Colombo Declaration, it demonstrated their concern for the environment in this region. This concern, far from diminishing, has today, only heightened with the increasing awareness of the state of the environment in our own countries and the world at large.

The UN Conference for the Environment and Development held earlier this year in Rio de Janeiro was a culmination of sorts for the international community. It drove home the point that environmental degradation and its impact recognizes no national frontiers and threatens one and all with the same consequences. The conference also brought to the fore that unless all countries took concerted and meaningful steps to stem the tide of environmental degradation, this planet of ours would reach a point of nothing less than self-destruction.

There are basically three levels on which our countries can initiate and take action towards fulfilling the objectives of the Rio conference. Action is required at the National, Regional and the International level. Here at SACEP, the Governments of South Asia can take stock of the regional steps that need to be taken. In fact, this political directive has already been given to SACEP and, thereby, enabling this organisation to focus on regional issues.

The SACEP has been able to identify several subject areas of concern to South Asian countries. Some work has also been initiated in these areas. However, this organisation of ours has been facing severe financial problems. The work and the growth of this organisation has been constrained and restricted over the last decade. Despite such a situation, I have been impressed with the volume and quality of work accomplished by the Director and his staff. In this regard, my delegation would also like to thank the Government of Sri Lanka for the consistent and increasing support given to the SACEP Secretariat here in Colombo. Without such support, it would have been difficult to sustain SACEP's activities.

Mr Chairman, I understand that there is some concern being expressed about duplication of the activities of SACEP on the one hand, and the SAARC on the other. Questions have also been raised as to whether these two South Asian organisations can co-exist. In order to overcome this genuine concern, I feel that our views in respect of the two organisations needs to be more clearly defined. My delegation is of the opinion that there is a need for an organisation focussing specifically on environmental issues in our region. Since SACEP already exists, it can fulfill this requirement. However, there needs to be a close association and linkage between SACEP and SAARC. Their activities have to become mutually reinforcing and duplication has to be avoided. We, infact, would prefer SACEP to become a sister organisation of SAARC. In order to examine this proposal, my delegation feels that the Director of SACEP and the Secretary-General of SAARC should be requested to hold dialogues on this matter. Thereafter, they could report back to their respective organisations on the possibilities of this linkage and association.

Among the proposals before us, we have the question of establishing a Trust Fund for SACEP. While I am confident that our Governments will contribute generously to the extent of our individual abilities, if we are to maintain and expand the role of SACEP, additional resources will become inevitable. It is the view of my delegation that the international situation is now quite favourable when it comes to environmental issues. This is especially so after the Rio conference. If SACEP can come up with the right approach and with appropriate proposals, there may be a good possibility to tap the resources needed to set up a viable Trust Fund. In view of such a favourable international situation, my delegation feels that appropriate steps should be initiated to go ahead with the Trust Fund proposal.

As I had mentioned in my Statement at the inaugural ceremony this morning, Bhutan has been fortunate in more ways than one. This is especially so in the case of our natural environment and endowments. We have been able to maintain a forest cover that exceeds 60% of our land area.

Out of this, 20% has been permanently set aside in a system of protected reserves. These reserves incorporate the entire range of Bhutan's rich biological diversity. Now, with the development activities gaining increasing momentum, the country has chosen to exercise more caution in the utilisation of its natural resources. In order to ensure that we do not make any drastic or irreversible errors, the Government has established the National Environment Committee. Further, to ensure that development programmes are in keeping with our environmental objectives, this committee has been placed under the Chairmanship of our Minister for Planning.

Bhutan is also in the process of formulating a National Environment Strategy, which is intended to maintain Bhutan's biological diversity while simultaneously satisfying the basic needs of our people. Such a Strategy would take into account the impact that livestock policies have on forests as well as the impact of the forest cover on monsoon run-off and hydropower potential. It would include such issues as industrial development, health care, family planning, and the role of women. Such a strategy should also ideally extend across national boundaries considering, for example, the effect that denuded watersheds have on downstream countries such as India and Bangladesh. Therefore, a regional perspective would be important. However, all plans, no matter how desirable they may be, would be difficult to achieve without co-operation and the availability of resources.

For a developing country like Bhutan, with severe manpower and resource constraints, it would not be easy to achieve the objectives that we wish to lay down in our environmental strategy. But it may be appropriate to mention here that we have been quite successful in establishing a Trust Fund for environmental conservation with contributions coming in from a number of donors. This Trust Fund, however, still requires further strengthening.

The development planning process in Bhutan is now based on the concept of sustainable development. This would be a path that would allow the country to meet its pressing needs particularly in terms of food, health care and education without unduly undermining the resource base of the economy. Under this sustainable approach, new industries, new agricultural and forestry products will be carefully developed bearing in mind their broader environmental ramifications. Sustainable development, we believe, is a dynamic concept that is in harmony with the cultural and religious traditions of our country.



Mr Chairman,

My delegation is of the view that South Asian countries need to take SACEP's role with greater seriousness and interest. Such an organisation is a necessity in the regional context. The main current problem that we confront in promoting SACEP's activities is financial resources. I am confident that our Governments, represented by our respective delegations, will be able to come up with ideas towards resolving this problem. After all, in the ultimate analysis, the happiness and the quality of human life will be most dependent on the nature of the environment that we create for ourselves.

Thank you.

**ADDRESS BY THE LEADER OF THE INDIAN DELEGATION  
SRI KAMAL NATH  
MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS  
INDIA**

Your Excellency, the President of Sri Lanka,  
Honourable Ministers,  
Distinguished Delegates and Friends.

It is a privilege for me to represent my country at this meeting of the Governing Council of the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme, and an added pleasure that it is being held in this Emerald Isle, famed in history for its beauty and serenity.

It was in Kabul that the Governing Council last met, some four years ago. This long gap is in itself unfortunate. We are friends and neighbours and a small well-knit group. If we are to achieve anything concrete, it must be done at a quickened pace. I suggest that we resume the practice of meeting every two years, as we had been doing earlier on, since the formation of this organisation eleven years ago.

There have been significant developments related to the environment not only in our region but throughout the world since the last meeting. The most momentous of these has undoubtedly been the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, last June. We are, therefore, gathered here not only to take stock of the regional situation but also of the changing international scene.

Our people have been blessed by a conservation ethos, bequeathed to us by our forefathers. The traditions and sustainable modes of life which have for centuries nourished the lives of the people of our South Asian countries seem to have extracted a price in a different time when the race for development overtook us leaving some States like ours behind due to a variety of reasons, political and economic. The result has been creation and perpetuation of poverty and low levels of development, accentuated by social conditions of ill-health, malnutrition and illiteracy, leading to high rates of population growth.

Simultaneously, the technological and industrial modes of the developed North, which hold promise of higher incomes and employment, have descended on us in dazzling array. These have proved a mixed blessing. We have, no doubt, gained ground in the building up of our infrastructure and technical capabilities, but we have also paid dearly in socio-economic terms wherever we had access only to second-rate, waste generating technologies, resulting in heavier drawal of natural resources.

The developed countries went ahead both on the crest of the industrial revolution wave and the gains of colonialism; but like all wheels, the industrial wheel too has turned full circle. Industry, which gave jobs, goods and services, also produced CFC's and greenhouse gases. Technology bridged the economic and social gaps but threatened the air, water, land, flora and fauna and even the high seas and the atmosphere.

An awareness of this scenario led some nations to Stockholm twenty years ago. There they discussed the processes and causes of environmental degradation and raised a powerful voice of caution. Environmental regulations and awareness campaigns followed in many countries, including ours. But the world economic order and the consequent pattern of economic growth continued to be skewed, and the developing South continued to lag way behind. The emergence of global concerns on environment and its degradation did not diminish the worries about the constraints on development in societies still on the lowest rungs of economic development. Clearly, a clarion call for the right to development was overdue.

Rio de Janeiro was the occasion to stress the right to development, whilst also recognising that if development had to have any real meaning, it should be sustainable. Developing countries faced an uphill task - you all know this, because we were there together, striving side by side. But secure our objective, we did. The Rio Declaration squarely placed the eradication of poverty as a goal central to environmental conservation. Agenda 21 is a blueprint which holds out hope to the developing world, promising benefits in many fields like agriculture, literacy, health, technology, combating desertification and deforestation, management of water resources, oceans and so on, accepting that this is the only way to secure the future well-being of our planet, for the good of all peoples, of all continents.

UNCED brought North and South together to discuss other issues, like the two Conventions on Climate Change and Biodiversity, in which the spotlight is on common problems and possible common solutions. Cross-sectoral issues of funding, technology transfer and institutional strengthening were the under-currents in all the discussions, but in many of these there are questions, and questions unanswered.

What are common but differentiated responsibilities?

What is the weightage for problems caused in the past, whether by historical emissions or by depressed transfer prices for primary products like tea or rubber or cotton or jute or spices?

Are these past burdens going to be submerged in fresh burdens masquerading as 'review mechanisms' and linkages between 'trade and environment' as well as 'aid and environment'?

Do we not need effective arrangements for technology transfer through an arrangement like the Planet Protection Fund?

By no means are these questions theoretical or fanciful when we look at the content and structure of the debate which engulfed the discussions on the principles of forest management at Rio and the meetings that preceded it as well as the statements which are being made even now. A natural resource which is regarded as a community resource in our countries, on which lakhs of poor people rely for sustenance in a bio-mass dependent economy, is sought to be globalised in a sudden consciousness of it as a carbon sink! Forests and all they contain are living resources, resources which sustain our agro-climates, our flora, our fauna, and above all, our people who are among the poorest in the world. Shall we see in our forests the hopeful faces of our people or only particles of carbon dust? This is the crux of the matter. The answer is loud and clear: Do not tinker with these on mistaken notions of global integration or questioning of national sovereignty, because they are central to human welfare, not to an imaginary calculus of global authority. Our region, lying in the tropics, has reason to continue echoing this and asking for our right to live, to develop and to co-operate with honour and equity.

Answers to our problems are not easy to come by but have to be sought by South Asia along with the rest of the developing world, indeed the whole world. They have to be placed before, and solved through, a medium like the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development, in which our voices have to be raised with conviction and heard with responsibility. There are some who may wish to frustrate our goals by down-playing the importance and blurring the role of the proposed C.S.D. We must not, and will not, allow this to happen. We, must ensure the establishment of a strong and effective Commission, with equitable representation. Its role should be clearly defined, so as to not duplicate what UNEP is already doing. The two organisations must supplement each other's efforts, under-scoring in an enduring way, so that development and environment, far from contradictory, are indeed two sides of the same coin. We must also endeavour to strengthen the FAO as the appropriate mechanism for dealing with forestry matters. It has served the international community well in the past, and there is no reason why it cannot be used to serve us well in the future.

We have not gathered here to practice polemics or play politics. We have come together to share views on our environmental problems and stress how much we care for each other. When we have regional co-operation on this basis, we can be sure that international co-operation cannot be far behind. How can our voice not be heard when we are travelling on the road to development without endangering the world environment even a fraction of the extent to which the already developed North has jeopardised it?

Our national efforts will and should continue, and blend into a constructive regional co-operation. For countries in the same geographical region, sharing related climatic and social conditions, there are many obvious areas where we can work together.

A number of initiatives for such co-operation have already been taken, but these have to be built upon, strengthened and expanded.

SACEP should harness the enthusiasm of the common man of South Asia. Our populations together constitute one-fourth of humankind. SACEP can arrange for co-operative thinking and action, both through governmental programmes and also through non-governmental action. Grass root workers among our NGO's are a valuable resource whose knowledge and experience can, given our similar socio-economic condition, be transplanted in other situations of the region too. As a first step, SACEP should arrange for publicity to all good efforts at eco-regeneration, environmental awareness promotion, technologically relevant solutions and provide a platform for experience sharing at different levels. India has already offered training facilities in Forest, Environment and Wildlife Management in our various institutes to fellow-members of SAARC. I now extend this invitation to those countries of SACEP, who are not part of the SAARC organisation.

We should, in today's meeting, discuss in earnest how we can better contribute to the organisation and functioning of SACEP. The issue of a formula for regular monetary contribution is still unresolved. We should also lay down a policy by which funding for regional programmes of more urgent impact are taken up. If the voice of South Asia is to be heard in the international debates on the environment, we have to continue to display our willingness, capability and responsibility, in co-operating with each other constructively, and making our region a model of sustainable development. We have the natural resources and we have the strength and abilities and infinite wisdom of our people. It is for us, now, to provide the vision.

I am confident that given the goodwill and determination which we have witnessed here in abundance, we will not fail the trust that has been reposed in us. We have not received this earth from our fore-fathers as a personal inheritance to be squandered away; we are only its custodians, for the earth belongs to our children and our children's children, not just unto the seventh generation, but for eons to come.

Mr President, I thank the Government and the people of Sri Lanka for the warm welcome they have accorded us, and for hosting the Governing Council Meeting. The warmth, affection and efficiency we have experienced here bodes well for the tasks ahead of SACEP.

Thank you.

STATEMENT FROM HON MR ANWAR SAIFULLAH KHAN,  
MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT & URBAN AFFAIRS,  
ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF PAKISTAN

DELIVERED BY THE HEAD OF THE PAKISTAN DELEGATION,  
MR MOHEN JAN NAIM,  
DIRECTOR GENERAL,  
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS,  
ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF PAKISTAN

Mr Chairman,  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen.

First of all, may I offer to you my sincere felicitations on your unanimous election to the Chairmanship of the Fifth Meeting of the Governing Council of the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP). I would like to assure you of the utmost co-operation of the Pakistan Delegation in ensuring the success of this important Meeting.

May I also avail this opportunity to express our sincere thanks to the Government and the people of Sri Lanka for hosting this Meeting. We have been deeply touched by the warm welcome and generous hospitality extended to us since our arrival in your beautiful country.

Mr Chairman,

Pakistan has come to this Meeting in good faith. We are fully cognizant of the unique opportunity that it provides for opening a new chapter in environmental co-operation in our region. We are determined that our economies should develop, our industries to grow, our agriculture to flourish and our people to prosper but not at the expense of the timeless principles of nature. We want to pursue the path of economic development in which the imperative of growth is tempered by the compulsion of environmental preservation.

It goes without saying that successful realisation of this objective at the National Level Mandates concrete co-operation at the International Level and, more importantly, at the Regional Level. It would be unwise to assume that protection of the environment is a purely local responsibility. Obviously each country has a distinct obligation to preserve its own environment. But the commonality of problems faced by the countries of our region, as indeed their enormity, do dictate the need, now more than at any time in the past, for a regional approach and a Programme of Action aimed at arresting environmental degradation and charting for ourselves a course of economic development within environmentally sound and sustainable parameters.

Mr Chairman,

We have travelled far in our partnership within SACEP. I would be remiss if I failed to pay a tribute to the sagacity and far-sightedness of His Excellency President Ranasinghe Premadasa, who, as Prime Minister of Sri Lanka, was the moving spirit behind the historic Colombo Declaration of 1981, which led to the formation of SACEP almost a decade before environment was pushed to the forefront of the International Agenda.

During this time our achievements have been modest. But we have now reached a stage where SACEP must be regarded as having come of age. As we enter the post-UNCED era, we need to strengthen our co-operation and make SACEP more effective and result-oriented. Its information dissemination capabilities need to be strengthened and efforts made to make it a project-oriented institution. We regard the SACEP Strategy and Programme I (SSP-I) for the period 1992-1996, as an important step in the right direction.

Mr Chairman,

Pakistan firmly believes in the protection and preservation of the environment. The Environmental Protection Ordinance of 1983 constitutes a solid institutional foundation for environmental management in the country. We have launched the National Conservation Strategy earlier this year and taken concrete steps towards Environmental Quality Control Standards, Environmental Impact Assessment, Environmental Education Programme and a contingency plan to fight Marine Pollution.

The most important upshot of the growing concern over environmental degradation is the National Conservation Strategy (NCS) which envisages an investment programme in the order of Rs. 150.7 billion spread over ten years. This programme covers fourteen core areas including :-

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 New and Renewable Sources of Energy;
10. Preventing and Abating Pollution;
11. Managing Urban Wastes;
12. Supporting Institutions for Common Resources;
13. Integrating Population and Environment Programmes;
14. Preserving the Cultural Heritage.



Mr Chairman,  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen.

We have gathered today to look beyond tomorrow. We must co-operate with each other to arrest and reverse the insidious decline of our environment, which, if allowed to continue unchecked, will erode nature's equilibrium with disastrous consequences. It is a daunting challenge which we must face individually as well as collectively in order to safeguard our present and our future generations. We must therefore endeavour to make SACEP the basis of our co-operation.

Thank you.

**SRI LANKA COUNTRY STATEMENT BY  
HON. DR WIMAL WICKRAMASINGHE,  
MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE  
FOR POLICY PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION  
DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA**

I consider it an honour that I have been given this opportunity of making a Statement on behalf of the Sri Lanka Delegation at the Fifth Meeting of the Governing Council of South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP).

Since our meeting in Afghanistan in April 1988, I am happy to report the significant progress made in the field of environment in my country. Sri Lanka adopted a National Conservation Strategy in December 1988, as a declaration of the National Policy in relation to the conservation of natural resources of the country. The next logical step in this process, was the transformation of this Strategy from a general statement of principles to a set of policy guidelines and an Action Oriented Plan. Through a mechanism of Steering Committees and Working Groups, a Draft Action Plan was developed by the Central Environmental Authority, in consultation with the concerned agencies. In the meantime, with the assistance of the World Bank, an Environmental Action Plan (EAP) was prepared embodying the major recommendations of the NCS Action Plan, but concentrating on a few major environmental issues. Subsequently, a policy decision was taken for the preparation of a single Action Plan incorporating the recommendations of the NCS and the EAP. Its outcome was the adoption of a National Environmental Action Plan (NEAP) in October 1991 for the period of 1992 - 1996.

The National Environmental Action Plan covering the years 1992 - 1996 is the first comprehensive environmental planning document produced in Sri Lanka. In order to achieve the objective of establishing the Environmental Agenda within the development context, specific actions, implementing priorities and the implementation agencies have been identified for twelve different sectors. These actions include the implementable recommendations in areas such as Land, Water, Mineral, and Coastal Resources; Forestry, Biodiversity and Wildlife; Urban and Industrial Pollution; Energy; Environmental Education; Culture and Institutional Capacity. There are 128 different Actions recommended in this Plan, of which various activities are at different stages of completion.

Distinguished Delegates, let me now briefly refer to some activities of the Government of Sri Lanka in its Focal Point Subject Area, namely; Environment and Development, Cost Benefit Analysis and Environmental Impact Assessment. Controversies over Environmental Impacts of Forestry, Energy and Water Resources Projects highlighted the need for integrated use of environmental resource analysis in decision making in Sri Lanka. With major amendments to the National Environmental Act in 1988, Environmental Impact Assessment was established on a legal basis. Presently we are in the process of finalising the new regulations which will make EIA implementable by specifying the prescribed Projects and the Project approving agencies.

Implementation of the EIA is still at an early stage in Sri Lanka and there is considerable uncertainty with regard to its operational details, the required levels of analysis and the procedures for compliance. Thus there is a need for continued co-operation in this area of activity amongst the SACEP countries through an exchange of information such as documenting the success stories and failures within the sub region.

Let me now refer to a concerted effort made by Sri Lanka to address the major issue of industrial pollution in our country. In 1990, an Environmental Protection Licensing Scheme (EPLS) was established covering the existing industries. Under this Scheme, existing polluting industries are required to obtain a license from the Central Environmental Authority before they are permitted to operate. These regulations specify the environmental standards, parameters etc., and lay down the procedure for licensing. The whole purpose of this exercise is to protect the environment from pollution from hazardous industries.

In the implementation of the Environmental Protection Licensing Scheme, industries have been classified into three categories according to pollution levels as High, Medium and Low. The enforcement of the licensing procedure with respect to low polluting industries will soon be delegated to the Local Authorities, so that the Central Environmental Authority may concentrate on the highly polluting industries. Under this scheme, industries are required to fulfill the requirements through a time bound programme, which will indicate the phasing out of the proposed measures. Updating the existing discharge standards and pollution control guidelines is an urgent need today. Financing pollution abatement through subsidies, loans and tax incentives needs to be further studied. Sharing of pollution abatement technology through exchange of information and training programmes is a recommended area of co-operative action in the SACEP region.

I wish to conclude by wishing the Fifth Meeting of the Governing Council all success and by reiterating our assurance of unstinted support to the SACEP Programmes.

Thank you.

STATEMENT BY DR KIRAN K. BHATTARAI  
PROJECT MANAGER  
ADB/ENSIC PROJECT  
ON BEHALF OF  
THE ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK/ASIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Mr Chairman,  
Honourable Ministers,  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished Delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen.

On behalf of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), I would like to thank the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP) for the invitation to this Fifth Meeting of the SACEP Governing Council.

SACEP's objective of promoting regional co-operation in sound environmental Management is very important and worthwhile and we hope we can co-operate and collaborate in fulfilling this objective.

It has been observed that basic information on water supply and sanitation which engineers, researchers and field workers etc., can make use of, is not available in many developing countries at a time when heavy investments are being made to improve the water supply and sanitation sectors. Before projects commence, it would be worthwhile to know the different available technologies in other countries with similar situations, so that "functional" technology transfers could be made. Most of the time projects fall apart not because of the shortage of funds, but because of the inappropriate technology used. A lot of effort and resources could be saved if "knowledge sharing" is resorted to. To enhance the effectiveness of environmental sanitation development, an adequate information base is essential.

In 1988, the Asian Development Bank provided a technical assistance grant to assist the Environmental Sanitation Information Centre (ENSIC) of the Asian Institute of Technology to share and disseminate the rich experiences of ENSIC to other developing countries.

The objective of the Project was to strengthen information systems and data gathering capabilities and provide training in information management in six developing Member Countries (China, Indonesia, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines and Vietnam), so that they each develop a strong information system for water supply and sanitation in their countries.

Thus a network known as ENSICNET was created with ENSIC as the regional co-ordinator. Training in AIT and within the countries, Equipment, ENSIC's Database and Microfiches and publications were provided to each country which has established Focal Nodes within each country. ENSIC processes and disseminates the information sent by these countries worldwide.

The Project lasted for 3 years and a "Second Phase" has just started with the objectives of further strengthening the existing linkages within the countries and to expand the scope of the networks, by considering wider environmental objectives and that the networks could become self-sustaining after the completion of the Project which is of two years duration.

In addition to the strengthening of the activities that are already being carried out, the Database is now expected to include information on Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Environmental Monitoring, as they are important areas, not only to the Bank, but also to the respective developing Member Countries.

Realising the importance of the environment, ENSIC has retained the acronym but changed its scope. Thus the Environmental Sanitation Information Centre is now the Environmental Systems Information Centre.

AIT and SACEP can share and collaborate in exchanging information related to the environment e.g. Hazardous Waste, EIA, Solid Wastes, Environmental Legislation, Water Quality, Air Pollution etc., For example, in September 1988, ENSIC published a Special Issue on "Hazardous Waste Management" which could be useful to SACEP.

Information is power and becomes useless if not used. Its significance has not been realised in developing countries. Thus an awareness campaign is necessary so that people realise the importance of Information Centres and Networks. This will help Networks in sustaining themselves.

Thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to address the Council Meeting and I wish you all success.

STATEMENT BY MS. JOANNE LEESTEMAKER  
PROGRAMME OFFICER/APO,  
FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANISATION,  
SRI LANKA

Honourable Ministers,  
Distinguished Delegates and Representatives.

On behalf of FAO, I would like to congratulate SACEP with its revised Action Programme for the Years 1992 - 1996. I trust that SACEP countries being FAO Member Countries as well, do not need an invitation to Tap FAO wherever needed and appropriate Information and Technical Expertise in the field of Environmental Management of Forests, Integrated Watershed Management, Management of Living Marine Resources and in the field of Wildlife Conservation and Protection Area Management.

As you may know, FAO has been deeply involved in Regional and National efforts in Asia to tackle the contradiction between Economic Development and Environmental Protection.

Project Experience and Guidelines in the mentioned fields of Expertise could be found in Libraries in every FAO Country Representation and in the Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific in Bangkok.

Thank you.

ANNEX XIV

STATEMENT BY MR G.W. KAVEENDRARAJA,  
CO-ORDINATOR,  
JAPAN INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION AGENCY,  
SRI LANKA

Mr Chairman,  
Honourable Ministers,  
Distinguished Delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen.

First I thank the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP), for giving me an opportunity to address the Meeting of the Governing Council on behalf of the Japan International Co-operation Agency (JICA).

As you are aware, JICA is a Bilateral Agency and its co-operation extends Governmental basis. The prepared Plan of Action aims to improve and protect environment in the region. The Projects identified in the Plan are for the whole region. It is important to have country wide Specific Projects and Time Frame of implementation. If SACEP countries expects to submit their Projects for consideration of JICA's co-operation, the request should be forwarded by the respective Governments of the countries.

In Sri Lanka, JICA has co-operated in many Projects in other Sectors. In the field of environment, JICA has provided equipment to the Institute of Fundamental Studies. Actions are in the process for granting equipment to the Faculty of Science in the University of Colombo, and these equipment can be used for studying the aspects of environment too.

Finally, I thank you for inviting JICA to participate in the Meeting of the Governing Council and wish success for activities of SACEP.



**STATEMENT MADE BY MR J.K. ROBERT ENGLAND,  
RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE,  
UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME,  
SRI LANKA**

Mr Chairman,  
Distinguished Delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen

On behalf of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), it is a pleasure and a privilege to address the Fifth Governing Council of the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme. As one Inter-Governmental Programme to another, we have a special feeling of collegiality.

As stated by Mr William Draper, Administrator, UNDP, in the 1991 Annual Report, "UNDP remains acutely aware of the tension that can exist between environmental preservation and economic progress. But we also believe that a balance can be achieved. For developing countries growth is not an option. It is an imperative. The issue is not limiting the growth, but of achieving it without overburdening future generations."

Development that is sustainable and makes an impact on the quality of people's lives, is more complex than economic growth alone. Moreover, the causes of most environmental problems in the world have their origins in the development process, both its achievements, as well as its failures and inadequacies. Many people throughout the world, particularly in the developing countries, have been affected in recent years by declining or stagnating incomes, increased pollution and health hazards, deteriorating infrastructure and public services. This situation coupled with persisting and debilitating poverty, severely affects more than 1 billion people who live without adequate food, health care, education and housing. Many of these people, perhaps 500 million live in this part of the world.

Therefore, there is a broadbased consensus among the international community today on the importance of combining economic growth and human development concerns and to make people both the end of, and the main actors, in the development process. HD means development of people, by people, and for people. UNDP is committed to assisting the governments and people of developing countries in the process of HD, which means widening the range of people's choices in health, education, income and employment and also promoting human rights and political and economic freedom. We believe this can be reached with environmentally suitable development.

Equally as important as the human development challenges in the 1990's, has been the fear for the future of our Planet Earth. On one side, humanity is confronted with deepening disparities within and between nations and on the other side, ecological consequences of ozone depletion, climate change, soil erosion and land degradation, loss of biodiversity and increasing pollution of air and water, threaten our common and sustainable future. The urgency of these developments and environmental concerns prompted nations to join together in the "Earth Summit" in Rio in June this year. A principal outcome of this Conference, as you all know, was "Agenda 21," an Action Plan for the 21st Century, elaborating strategies and integrated programme measures to halt and reverse the effects of environmental degradation and to promote environmentally sound and sustainable development in all countries. While the transition towards sustainable development will be difficult, it is feasible. It requires a major shift in priorities for Governments and People, incorporating the environmental dimension into economic policies and decision making. It requires global partnerships to get the world community on to a new course for a sustainable, secure and equitable future.

As we move on to the 21st Century, it is evident that only such partnerships will guarantee our common future. In this respect, Local, National, Regional, Inter-regional and ultimately Global relationships will play a substantial role. SACEP fits well within this chain of relationships and responsibilities.

Mr Chairman, the issue of environment in the 1990's is characterised by several features. Firstly, it is not and cannot be a sectoral or a merely National issue - by its nature it is multi-sectoral and multi-national - environment and development are inseparable and indeed holistic. The result, however, is a complex institutional framework which demands flexibility and creativity on the part of all players. As we review the SACEP Work Programme, we are struck by the many ways in which it impinges upon the work of other institutions and/or programmes, whether UN or not. It is essential, therefore, that SACEP take great care to work with and thus to complement other programmes. A clear definition of its comparative advantages, of its market niche, in this crowded field - and of its product line. Such clarity will be essential to resource mobilisation.

Secondly, with regard to resources, it is generally our impression that resources are not the primary constraints - at least in many fields. Post UNCED, there are many different funding sources - in search of good programme ideas and, at least as important, the capacity to implement them. For capacity is often limited and require building. SACEP can contribute to this capacity building in South Asia.

Thirdly, the demand for and supply of resources for environmental programmes are not always well matched. The priorities of donors and recipients do not always coincide. There is a role here for SACEP both as a broker in this process as well as a spokesman for the priorities and needs of the countries of South Asia.

Looking at the "Preview of Programmes and Projects undertaken by SACEP," (Director's Report SACEP/MSO/GV5/WP3), there had been several attempts to address issues of particular importance to the South Asian Region, e.g. South Asian Seas Programme. This seems quite in line with another initiative in this region, namely, the Indian Ocean Marine Affairs Co-operation (IOMAC) which is currently being supported by UNDP. Having completed the first phase of IOMAC, UNDP is currently exploring the feasibility of a Marine Pollution component in the Indian Ocean, in connection with an extended two year period of UNDP assistance to IOMAC. This seems a mutually benefitting area of intervention for both SACEP and IOMAC.

At a National Level, all UNDP Country Programmes in the Fifth Cycle accentuate the issue of environment and sustainable development. Moreover, in the Fifth Cycle of UNDP's Regional Programme for Asia and the Pacific, several new initiatives have been identified in the field of environment. Indeed, environment and Natural Resource Management is one of the three major themes included in the Programme, which the five year period 1992-96. Under this theme, the strategies of intervention will focus on five programme areas, namely,

1. Environmental Policy and Research;
2. Environmental Technology Development and Dissemination;
3. Agriculture Resource Management;
4. Marine Environment;
5. Disaster Mitigation.

While UNDP invites all potential executing agents to respond to these programmes, special attention will be given to specific co-operative initiatives within existing sub-regions. Furthermore, in the interests of sustainability, the implementation of UNDP supported regional programmes will encourage the involvement of Regional and National institutions wherever possible.

Finally, on behalf of the UNDP, may I express our appreciation for the excellent facilities generally provided to SACEP's Secretariat by the Government of Sri Lanka and the highly professional documentation and organisational arrangements done by Mr Midha, Director and his Staff.

We wish the Fifth Governing Council Meeting every success and all the distinguished invitees who came to Sri Lanka, a pleasant stay in this beautiful Island.

Thank you.

STATEMENT BY MR YOSHIYASU HIRAYAMA,  
DEPUTY REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE,  
UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME,  
REGIONAL OFFICE FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC,  
BANGKOK, THAILAND.

Your Excellencies,  
Distinguished Participants,  
Ladies and Gentlemen.

At the outset, I would like to convey to you the most sincere greetings to the Fifth Meeting of the Governing Council of SACEP from Mr Goh Kiam Seng, Director and Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific of the United Nations Environment Programme, who is unfortunately unable to participate in this important Meeting, because of unavoidable Official commitments. I would also like to congratulate that this Meeting is held in the memorable year of 1992, and appreciate to be given the opportunity to speak on this very important occasion.

The year of 1992 proved to be quite an important turning point in the history of environmental protection, because of the UNCED or Rio Summit, which was conceived in commemoration of the twentieth birthday of the Stockholm Conference in 1972. UNEP is one of the outcomes of the Stockholm Conference and it should also be noted that Regional or Sub-Regional Organisations like SACEP which deals with environmental issues had been envisaged as well by the Conference. Our activities have contributed to the solution of diversified environmental issues.

The main issue at the Rio Conference, for example, was how to integrate environmental consideration into our activities for development in order to make our development sustainable. This standpoint is somewhat different from that of 20 years ago, which was centered on protecting our environment like ambient air, water or other natural resources. We have reached a new standpoint after twenty years of discussions on environmental protection which is expressed, as you know, in two words - Sustainable Development.

Through the process of UNCED, it seems to be revealed that all countries want, or rather need, development. It also seems that all people have already recognised that the natural resources on the earth are quite scarce though it appears unlimited, and that, therefore, environmental consideration is one of the most fundamental factors to sustain development activities.

It is without saying, at this very important stage, that the role of Regional Organisations like SACEP, will increase the importance in the field of environment, by implementing agreed activities, or by reviewing its Priority Subject Matter Areas in the light of Agenda 21 and the emerging Global and Regional environmental problems.

As is referred to in the Meeting Documents, UNEP has supported SACEP's activities in the Programme and Project areas like South Asian Seas Programme, Environmental Legislation, The Year of Trees for South Asia, Conservation of Mangrove, Coral and Island Ecosystems, Environmental Impact Assessment, Environmental Education, Desertification, Information Dissemination by means of SACEP Newsletters etc. The assistance to prepare "SACEP's Strategy and Programme I (SSP-I) 1992 - 1996" is one of our most recent projects for the sake of SACEP's important activities. The Strategy is submitted to this Meeting for approval for implementation by the SACEP Secretariat, with assistance of UN Agencies and relevant Donor Agencies.

As is understood, UNEP's function has been decided by UN Member Countries to be catalytic and co-ordinating, rather than funding or implementing. Within the assigned function, UNEP would like to continue to support the SACEP's important activities to protect our environment. Also, UNEP sincerely hopes that funding or implementing agencies inside or outside of the UN System, would extend support to the proposed activities of SACEP, since SACEP seems in need for more support from agencies concerned.

With sincere appreciation to the Host Country of Sri Lanka for arranging this important Meeting and providing us with warm hospitality, I would like to conclude my Statement.

**STATEMENT BY DR AUNG MYINT,  
REPRESENTATIVE OF THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION,  
SRI LANKA**

Mr Chairman,  
Distinguished Delegates from the Member Countries of SACEP,  
Director SACEP,  
Fellow Colleagues from the International Community,  
Ladies and Gentlemen.

Thank you very much for giving the floor to make a Statement on behalf of the World Health Organisation.

First of all, let me congratulate you Mr Chairman, for being elected to the Office of Chairman of the Fifth Meeting of the Governing Council for SACEP. WHO has the mandate to act as the co-ordinating authority on International Health Work and to provide technical co-operation to Member Countries. As the inter-governmental Technical Health Agency, WHO is interested in the health aspects of environment in the context of overall socio-economic development. WHO has functioned as the main agency during the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade. WHO has been working actively in the broad area of Environmental Health.

During 1991, the Director-General of WHO established a Commission on Health and Environment under the Chairmanship of Madame Simone Veil. The Report of the Commission came out and served as WHO's input to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), held this year in Rio.

WHO's present programme in the area of Environmental Health covers the following programmes:

- 1) Water Supply and Sanitation;
- 2) Habitat;
- 3) Chemical Risk Assessment/Chemical Safety;
- 4) Control of Environmental Health Hazards.

WHO provides support to Member Countries from 3 levels, mainly, Head Quarters Level, Regional Level and Country Level. Member States of WHO are divided into 6 Regions. The Member Countries of SACEP will be dealing with the Regional Offices for South East Asia and Eastern Mediterranean.

In each of the Countries of SACEP, WHO has ongoing projects in Environmental Health as the regular programme. In addition, there may be Projects funded by Extra Budgetary Resources with the execution by WHO.

WHO would expect to work closely with the SACEP in the future and would like to wish the Fifth Meeting of the Governing Council of SACEP every success.

Thank you Mr Chairman.



**SECRETARIAT NOTE FROM  
UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION  
FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC,  
BANGKOK, THAILAND.**

ESCAP is privileged to have been closely associated with SACEP since its formal establishment in 1981 and this Fifth Meeting of the Governing Council serves as a benchmark for all of us to look back down the road and review the Decade of Co-operation and collaboration. It will also provide the opportunity to take stock of past activities and provide new directions to the Programmes on Environment and Sustainable Development in the region into the next century.

The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development has placed another milestone after the 1972 Stockholm Conference, and we now have the mandate under Agenda 21. We are enthused that in implementing Agenda 21, we will be guided by the Regional Strategy, which was developed through the determined efforts of Asian and the Pacific Governments.

ESCAP has worked closely with SACEP in a wide range of activities and one major area has been in the field of Desertification Control. SACEP has actively participated and has contributed at Seminars and Workshops of the Regional Network of Research and Training Centres on Desertification Control in Asia and the Pacific (DESCONAP). This network, which was initially funded by UNDP, has provided designated Focal Points with opportunities to participate in Workshops and Seminars, and to exchange experiences and expertise while promoting technical co-operation among developing countries in Desertification Control activities, to cite a few, Arid-Zone Agriculture, Social Forestry, Rangeland Management, Land-Use, Sand Dune Stabilisation, Waterlogging and Salinity Control.

In this regard, ESCAP fully endorses the comment of the SACEP Consultative Committee on the Report of the Panel of Experts on the proposed Five Year Action Plan that Desertification be retained on the List of Priorities of SACEP for the next five years. This is indeed an area of great importance. The current phase of DESCONAP, which is now funded by UNEP, focusses on the arid countries, mainly Members of SACEP, with the exception of China and Mongolia. Our activities in Desertification Control will be mainly, if not all, in the SACEP region, and as such, will require the close co-operation of SACEP.

The First Working Group on the elaboration of a unified methodology on Desertification Assessment and Mapping will be held in Teheran in November. ESCAP will also be working with the DESCONAP Focal Point of Pakistan, the Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC), to work on a Proposal for the development of a National Plan of Action to combat Desertification. In implementing its activities in Desertification Control, ESCAP co-ordinates closely with the DC/PAC of UNEP, and also with WMO, UNESCO, FAO, and UNDP.

It may be recalled that the Interagency Committee for Environment and Development (ICED), was established as an outcome of the 1990 ESCAP Ministerial-Level Conference on Environment and Development. The Director of SACEP is also a Member of ICED, which has already met on three occasions to co-ordinate activities on Sustainable Development. At its last Meeting in early September 1992, the Committee was provided with a compilation of over 700 environmentally related projects being implemented by the agencies in the Asia-Pacific region, to avoid duplication and promote better co-ordination.

ESCAP is also in the process of building up a biodiversity conservation programme in the region. Towards this end, the Regional Commission works jointly with Governmental, Semi-governmental, and Non-governmental Organisations such as the Malaysian Department of Wildlife and National Parks, the Smithsonian Institution and the World Wildlife Fund. This close co-operation has been evident especially in the area of Management and Conservation of Protected Areas. We look forward to SACEP's support and active involvement in this area.

ESCAP has also been providing technical assistance and training to Member Countries through development and application of Environmental Impact Assessment Guidelines to various Projects and Programmes and in strengthening their Institutional and Legislative Framework for Environmental Protection and Management.

Stimulating environmental awareness and its promotion with the public at large is also among the main activities at ESCAP. As a follow up to the World Commission on Environment and Development, ESCAP widely disseminated the objectives, findings and recommendations of the WCED. Currently, we are following up on the outcome of the UNCED with the same vigour and determination.

ESCAP helped establish the Asian Forum of Environmental Journalists (AFEJ) in 1988, made up of national forums of 11 countries (Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Thailand) with the objective of creating public awareness, to promote sustainable development, to strengthen National and Regional capabilities, to create public awareness on Environment and Development and to bring about policy changes at decision-making levels among others.

The Regional Commission has also published and circulated the State of the Environment Report for Asia and the Pacific, which has been well received.

Another Major Programme of activity is Coastal Environment Management, especially with more than 80 per cent of the region's Member Countries being Maritime. ESCAP played a major role in the development of Coastal Environmental Management Plans for Bangladesh, Thailand, Sri Lanka and Tonga and is currently assisting Pakistan in the preparation of CEMP. Effort is being made towards the capacity building in Development and Implementation of CEMP and to harness the potential of the coastal areas.

ESCAP is undergoing restructuring of its Programmes along thematic lines. One of the three themes adopted by the Commission, is on Environment and Sustainable Development, which is an area that has been accorded high priority by Member Countries.

The increased emphasis on Environment and Development activities in the region calls for intensified co-operation between countries. It is in that spirit that ESCAP looks forward to closer co-operation with SACEP on its Programmes in the field of environment.

## **ANNEX XIX**

### **SOUTH ASIA CO-OPERATIVE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME PREPARATORY MEETING OF SENIOR OFFICIALS FOR 5TH GC MEETING 19TH - 20TH SEPTEMBER 1992 COLOMBO, SRI LANKA**

#### **REPORT**

#### **1. INTRODUCTION**

Taking into consideration the fact that a decade has passed since the formation of South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP) and also the fact that new areas of environmental concerns have emerged that have, among other things, led to the Report of the Brundtland Commission and the convening of the UNCED in Rio de Janeiro in June this year, the Consultative Committee of SACEP unanimously agreed at its 47th Meeting held on 12th May 1992, to convene a Preparatory Meeting of Senior Officials prior to the Fifth Governing Council Meeting, in order to discuss all substantive matters concerning the Administrative, Programme and Financial Matters of SACEP. It was also agreed that their Report on the various Agenda Items would form the basis of discussion of the Fifth Governing Council Meeting.

Accordingly, a Preparatory Meeting of Senior Officials for 5th Governing Council Meeting, was held on the 19th and 20th of September 1992 in Colombo.

#### **2. ATTENDANCE**

The Meeting was attended by Representatives from the following Member Countries:- Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Iran, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

Observers from the following UN Agencies and International Organisations also attended:- Asian Development Bank (ADB), Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), Colombo Plan Bureau, Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), Japan International Co-operation Agency (JICA), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO), World Bank and World Health Organisation (WHO).

The List of Participants is in Annex 1.

### 3. OPENING OF MEETING

At this Session, Prof C. Suriyakumaran, former Regional Director of UNEP/ROAP, spoke on the 'Origins of SACEP' and Dr Gamani Corea, former Secretary General of UNCTAD, delivered the Keynote Address on the 'Overview of Global and Regional Environmental and Development Issues'.

### 4. ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS

In conformity with the Rules of Procedure of the Governing Council of SACEP, the following Office Bearers were elected.

Chairman	-	Dr D. Nesiah	-	Sri Lanka
Vice Chairmen	-	Mr Tshering Tashi	-	Bhutan
	-	Mr Moeen Jan Naim	-	Pakistan
Rapporteur	-	Mr A. Gopinathan	-	India

### 5. ORGANISATION OF WORK

The Draft Agenda prepared by the Secretariat for this Meeting was adopted. The adopted Agenda is found in Annex 2.

### 6. DISCUSSIONS

The Meeting discussed the Administrative, Programme and Financial Matters of SACEP based on the following documents provided by the Secretariat.

SACEP/MSO/GC5/WP1	Note from the Secretariat on Institutional Matters of the SACEP Secretariat.
WP2	Note from the Secretariat on Institutional Matters of Subject Area and Country Focal Points.
WP3	Review of Programmes and Projects undertaken by SACEP (Director's Report).
WP4	Report of the Panel of Experts on the Review of SACEP's Activities - 07th July 1989.

- WP5            Note from the Secretariat on  
Review of Activities of Subject  
Area Focal Points - Report by  
Member Countries.
- WP6            Note from the Secretariat on  
Review of International  
Co-operation with SACEP.
- WP7            SACEP Plan of Action for 1992 -  
1996.
- WP8            Note from the Secretariat on the  
Establishment of Close Relationship  
with SAARC.
- WP9            Note from the Secretariat on the  
Country Contributions from the  
Member States for the SACEP  
Secretariat.
- WP10           Note from the Secretariat on the  
Establishment of a Trust Fund for  
SACEP's Programmes.
- WP11           Note from the Secretariat on the  
Financial Position of SACEP.

#### **A) INSTITUTIONAL MATTERS OF THE SACEP SECRETARIAT**

The Meeting considered the Note prepared on this subject by the SACEP Secretariat. The Meeting recognised the need for strengthening the SACEP Secretariat and enhancing its visibility, taking into account at the same time the difficult financial situation of the Member States and also the Secretariat. It was recommended to the Governing Council, that a Project Preparation, Planning and Monitoring Cell within the SACEP Secretariat consisting of one Specialised Technical Officer and one Programme Analyst be created. The Consultative Committee would approve the actual budgetary implications of the Cell. It was further agreed that the functioning of the Cell would be reviewed at the end of a three year period.

The Meeting also recommended to the Governing Council the confirmation of the appointment of Mr R.K. Midha as Director of SACEP effective 15th February 1992.

**B) INSTITUTIONAL MATTERS OF SUBJECT AREA AND COUNTRY FOCAL POINTS.**

The Meeting of Senior Officials considered the Note on this subject prepared by the SACEP Secretariat and took the following decisions.

- i) All Member States would inform the SACEP Secretariat the details of National Focal Points and the Subject Area Focal Points in respect of areas which the Member States have taken responsibility, within a period of two months from the Governing Council.
- ii) All Member States will designate Subject Area Officers in respect of Subject Areas where they have not taken responsibility, but are interested in that specific Subject Area. The details of such Subject Area Officers will be communicated to the SACEP Secretariat within a period of two months from the Governing Council.
- iii) The Subject Area Focal Points will be free to communicate directly with Subject Area Officers designated by other Member States and copies of such correspondence will be addressed to the National Focal Points and the SACEP Secretariat.
- iv) The designation of Subject Area Focal Points and Subject Area Officers will be by virtue of Office (by designation) and not by name of individual Officers.
- v) The SACEP Secretariat, with the approval of the Consultative Committee, will undertake the responsibilities to take the lead in Subject Areas, where there has been little or no activity.

- vi) The Meeting reviewed the list of Subject Area Focal Points and recommended to the Governing Council the following changes:-

Technology for Development of Renewable and Reusable Resources.	- SACEP in co-operation with UNIDO.
Regional Seas Programme	- SACEP in co-operation with UNEP.
Desertification	- Pakistan

#### C) REVIEW OF SACEP'S PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS

The Meeting reviewed SACEP's Programmes and Projects and considered the various Reports under this Agenda Item. On the South Asian Regional Seas Programme, it recommended to the Governing Council that the concerned Member States be requested to consider expediting the approval of:-

- i) The Draft Legal Convention, The Two Draft Protocols and The Trust Fund Mechanism so that a Meeting of National Focal Points, followed by a Meeting of Plenipotentiaries could be convened to formally approve and adopt the South Asian Seas Action Plan; and
- ii) The Draft Operational Regional Contingency Plan for responding to Marine Pollution Emergencies, prepared by the International Maritime Organisation (IMO), in consultation with the Experts of the concerned Member States.

#### D) SACEP PLAN OF ACTION 1992 - 1996

The Senior Officials held detailed discussions on SACEP Strategy and Programme I (SSP-I 1992 - 1996). They made a thorough review of the Draft Report of the Consultant and suggested modifications which are ~~attached~~ to the Draft Report (Annex 3). The Senior Officials recommend to the Governing Council the revised document for their consideration and adoption.



**E) INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION**

The Meeting reviewed the present status of Programme support and assistance received by SACEP from the UN System and other International Agencies. The Meeting expressed its appreciation to them for support of SACEP activities and hoped that such support would continue.

**F) THE ESTABLISHMENT OF CLOSE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE SOUTH ASIAN ASSOCIATION FOR REGIONAL CO-OPERATION (SAARC)**

The Meeting discussed at length the establishment of close linkages between SAARC and SACEP. It recommended to the Governing Council that the SACEP Secretariat, as a specialised environmental agency, work closely with the SAARC Secretariat and forge links in activities of common interest in the field of environment undertaken by both these Organisations, so as to avoid duplication and infructuous use of resources.

**G) FINANCIAL POSITION OF SACEP**

The Meeting reviewed thoroughly the Financial Position of SACEP including the Country Contributions made by the Member States to the SACEP Secretariat. They noted that the effective functioning of SACEP had been affected adversely by the non-payment and delay of Country Contributions in some cases. The Meeting recommended to the Governing Council, in view of the decisions on enhanced country contributions taken at the Fourth Governing Council Meeting and expanded activities envisaged by SACEP, recognition of the need for timely payment of the agreed contributions, in order to ensure the smooth functioning of the Secretariat and the effective implementation of SACEP Programme activities.

The Meeting discussed the Draft Programme and Secretariat Budget for 1992/1993, and recommended certain changes in the Draft Secretariat Budget for 1993. The Budget as revised was recommended for adoption.

The Audit Report of the Secretariat for 1991, was reviewed by the Senior Officers and recommended to the Governing Council for its approval.

#### **H) ESTABLISHMENT OF TRUST FUND FOR SACEP PROGRAMMES**

The Meeting reviewed the background documentation presented by the Secretariat on the establishment of a Trust Fund for SACEP Secretariat. The Secretariat was directed to make further efforts in approaching Bilateral & Multilateral Agencies and Other Institutions/Organisations in the establishment of such a Fund.

#### **7. ADOPTION OF REPORT**

The Meeting considered and adopted the Report on 20th September 1992.

#### **8. CONCLUDING SESSION**

The Head of the Pakistan Delegation Mr Moeen Jan Naim, thanked on behalf of all the delegates present, the Chairman of the Meeting and the Government of Sri Lanka for the warm hospitality extended to all the participants and for the excellent arrangements made for the Meeting. He also thanked the SACEP Secretariat for all the assistance.

**SOUTH ASIA CO-OPERATIVE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME  
PREPARATORY MEETING OF SENIOR OFFICIALS  
FOR FIFTH GOVERNING COUNCIL MEETING**

**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

**SACEP MEMBERS**

**BANGLADESH**

- |   |                      |  |
|---|----------------------|--|
| * | Mr Mostafizur Rahman | Counsellor, Bangladesh High Commission, Sri Lanka.       |
| * | Mr Mizanur Rahman    | Second Secretary, Bangladesh High Commission, Sri Lanka. |

**BHUTAN**

- |   |                   |  |
|---|-------------------|--|
| * | Mr Tshering Tashi | Head, National Environmental Secretariat, Planning Commission. |
|---|-------------------|--|

**INDIA**

- |   |                  |   |
|---|------------------|---|
| * | Mr Mukul Sanwal  | Joint Secretary, Ministry of Environment & Forests. |
| * | Mr A. Gopinathan | Counsellor, Indian High Commission, Sri Lanka.      |

**IRAN**

- |   |                      |  |
|---|----------------------|--|
| * | Mr Ebrahimi Khaleghi | Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran. |
| * | Mr E. Khorrami       | First Secretary, Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran.        |

**PAKISTAN**

- |   |                   |  |
|---|-------------------|--|
| * | Mr Moeen Jan Naim | Director-General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs.         |
| * | Mr Q.R. Muttaqi   | Second Secretary, Pakistan High Commission, Sri Lanka. |

## SRI LANKA

* Dr D. Nesiah	Secretary, Ministry of Environment & Parliamentary Affairs.
* Mr V.K. Nanayakkara	State Secretary, Ministry of Environment.
* Dr Leslie Herath	Honorary Advisor to the Minister of Environment.
* Ms. N. Mohottala	Director Planning, Ministry of Environment & Parliamentary Affairs.
* Mr L.A.C. Wijesinghe	Consultant, Ministry of Environment & Parliamentary Affairs.
* Mr Anton Atapattu	Director, Department of Fisheries.
* Mr A. Sivagnanasothy	Deputy Director, Ministry of Policy Planning and Implementation.
* Mr S. Baminiwatte	Assistant Director, Department of Forests.
* Mr B.S. Kahawita	Director, Coast Conservation Department.
* Ms. Dianeetha Sadacharan	Manager, Coast Conservation Department.
* Mr S.E. Manickavasagar	State Secretary, Ministry of Power & Energy.
* Mr D.A.U. Daranagama	Assistant Director, Ministry of Power & Energy.
* Dr A.P. Matheas	Deputy Director, Ceylon Institute for Scientific and Scientific Research.
* Mrs P.G.P. Abeyratne	Deputy Director, Ministry of Industries, Science and Technology.
* Mrs Mallika Katunaratne	Deputy Director, Department of National Planning.

- \* Mr C.H. De Alwis Jayasinghe      Director Projects, Ministry of  
Agricultural Development and  
Research.

#### UN AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES

##### ADB/AIT

- \* Dr Kiran Bhattarai      Project Manager, ADB/ENSIC  
Project.

##### COLONBO PLAN BUREAU

- \* Mr Rafique Butt      Adviser on Development Co-  
operation.

##### FAO

- \* Ms. Joanne Leestemaker      APO/Programme Officer, Sri  
Lanka.

##### JICA

- \* Mr G.W. Kaveendrarah      Co-ordinator

##### UNDP

- \* Ms. Manel Jayamanne      Programme Officer, UNDP Office,  
Colombo.

##### UNIDO

- \* Mr J.M. Bonnamy      Country Director, Sri Lanka.

##### WHO

- \* Dr Aung Myint      WHO Representative, Sri Lanka

##### WORLD BANK

- \* Dr A.G. Karunasena      Senior Economic Consultant,  
World Bank, Sri Lanka.

**SACEP/SSP-I PROJECT**

\* Mr Syed Ayub Qutub                      Consultant

**SACEP SECRETARIAT**

\* Mr R.K. Midha                              Director

\* Mr P.N. Dias Abeyegunawardene      Consultant

\* Ms. M. Pereira                              Administrative Assistant

\* Miss S.N. De Silva                        Secretary

\* Miss F. Doole                              Receptionist

**PREPARATORY MEETING OF SENIOR OFFICIALS  
FOR FIFTH GOVERNING COUNCIL MEETING  
COLOMBO, SRI LANKA.  
19 - 20 SEPTEMBER 1992**

**AGENDA**

1. Opening of the Meeting
2. Election of Office Bearers
3. Organisation of Work
4. INSTITUTIONAL MATTERS
  - a) SACEP Secretariat
  - b) Subject Area and Country Focal Points
5. PROGRAMME MATTERS
  - a) Review of Programmes and Projects undertaken by SACEP (Director's Report)
  - b) Review of Activities of Subject Area Focal Points (Report by Member Countries)
  - c) Review of International Co-operation
  - d) SACEP Plan of Action for 1992 - 1996
  - e) Establishment of Close Relationship with SAARC
6. FINANCIAL MATTERS
  - a) Country Contributions from Member States for SACEP Secretariat
  - b) Establishment of Trust Fund for SACEP Programmes
  - c) Discussion on Annual Audited Report of Accounts for 1991
  - d) Discussion on Programme & Secretariat Budget for 1992/1993
7. Any Other Business
8. Adoption of Report
9. Closure of Meeting





**SUGGESTED MODIFICATIONS**

**BY**

**PREPARATORY MEETING OF SENIOR OFFICIALS**

**FOR 5TH GOVERNING COUNCIL MEETING**

**ON**

**SACEP STRATEGY AND PROGRAMME 1**

**1992 - 1996**

**(SSP-I)**



**Prepared by**  
**South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme**

**in collaboration with**

**United Nations Environment Programme**  
**Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific**

**SEPTEMBER 1992**

## **PROJECT**

1. **STRENGTHENING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT IN THE SACEP COUNTRIES-PHASE 1 (TRAINING).**

### **DESCRIPTION/COMPONENTS**

This Project is Cross sectoral, covering almost all of the "SACEP Priority Subject Matter Areas (PSMA)".

In the First Phase of this Project only a few of the Priority Subject Areas in the Priority Subject Matter Area (PSMA), are selected for concentrated attention: i.e. (i) Environmental Impact Assessment, (ii) Forestry, (iii) Wildlife Management, (iv) Eco-tourism, and (v) Pollution Control.

The Project envisages a Series of Training Workshops to be held in the Countries of the Region with the involvement of institutions that each have experience in one of the selected areas. The Training Workshops will be preceded by a Meeting of Experts outlining details of the coverage and the needs of each workshop and will end with a meeting, evaluating the results and making recommendations for the Second Phase of the Project.

### **IMPLEMENTATION**

The overall co-ordination and the project will be with the SACEP, with the co-operation of UNEP and the collaboration of relevant institutions in the countries of the region. The co-operation and participation of specific UN, Multi, Bilateral and Other Relevant Organisations will be expected and arranged by SACEP (e.g. ESCAP, FAO, WTO, IUCN, WWF, ADB, etc.).

### **INITIAL BUDGET SUM (US\$)**

380,000

### **DURATION**

Two years.

### **SACEP PRIORITY SUBJECT MATTER AREAS**

1, 6, 7, 10, 14, and 15.

## PROJECT

2. 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.

### DESCRIPTION/COMPONENTS

The purpose of the Project is the introduction of the relevant chapters of Agenda 21, Examination of their practical implications and Discussions on the implementation options aimed at High-Level Government Policy and Decision-Makers in each of the Countries of the Region.

In each of the countries of the SACEP region a number of Workshops will be held for the High-Level Government Policy and Decision-Makers (Afghanistan: 1, Bangladesh: 2, Bhutan: 1, India: 4, Maldives: 1, Pakistan: 2, and Sri Lanka: 1). These Workshops will consider and recommend for implementation Work Programmes and Project Documents for Regional Priorities under Agenda 21.

### IMPLEMENTATION

SACEP in close co-operation with National Focal Points of participating governments as well as UNDP and UNEP.

### INITIAL BUDGET SUM (US\$)

250,000

### DURATION

One year.

### SACEP PRIORITY SUBJECT MATTER AREAS

3 - 15.

## **PROJECT**

3. **ENHANCEMENT OF THE PUBLIC ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS IN CONNECTION WITH EXISTING AS WELL AS EMERGING ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES OF CONCERN IN THE COUNTRIES OF THE REGION.**

### **DESCRIPTION/COMPONENTS**

The Project will be aimed at raising the general public's awareness on general as well as specific environmental issues of regional, national, and local concern. This is essentially envisaged to be achieved through audio-visual channels: Preparation and Dissemination of Printed Material (brochures, posters, booklets, slides and photographs, etc.) as well as Preparation and Broadcasting of Short Films and Videos, basically for Television Broadcasting. Radio Spots will also be prepared and disseminated through the countries of the region for local language broadcasting.

A Meeting of Journalists and Other Media Representatives from the Countries of the Region will first be convened in order to advise and prepare brief guidelines on the preparation of the most effective and appropriate audio-visual material, taking the diverse cultural and traditional values into account. Wherever possible the audio-visual material will be prepared in consultation with relevant governments' department so that they would reflect national and regional policies and programmes.

### **IMPLEMENTATION**

SACEP in close consultation with the Relevant Government Organisations, and in co-operation with UNEP and other concerned UN, Multi and Bilateral and other relevant agencies.

### **INITIAL BUDGET SUM (US\$)**

650,000

### **DURATION**

Three years.

### **SACEP PRIORITY SUBJECT MATTER AREAS**

3 - 15.

## **PROJECT**

4. **ASSESSMENT OF LAND-BASED SOURCES OF COASTAL AND MARINE POLLUTION IN THE COUNTRIES OF THE REGION.**

### **DESCRIPTION/COMPONENTS**

As an adjunct to the Regional Seas Programme, the Project is expected to provide an up-to-date estimate and Assessment of the Land-Based Sources of Coastal and Marine Pollution, originating from both land-locked and coastal countries participating in the SACEP, in the coastal countries of the region.

A simplified and easy to utilise Guidelines for the Assessment of Land-Based Sources of Pollution will be prepared. The techniques outlined will be introduced to Representatives of the relevant Institutions of the countries of the region through a number of short Training Courses/Workshops.

The results will be published in the form of National Reports as well as a Regional Overview.

### **IMPLEMENTATION**

SACEP in close co-operation with National Institutions, UNEP/ROAP, Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC), and other pertinent UN, Multilateral and Bilateral Organisations.

### **INITIAL BUDGET SUM (US\$)**

200,000

### **DURATION**

15 Months.

### **SACEP PRIORITY SUBJECT MATTER AREAS**

7, 8, 9, 10, 12 and 13.

## **PROJECT**

5. **REGIONAL CO-OPERATION IN CONSERVATION OF MARINE SPECIES (MARINE MAMMALS AND SEA TURTLES).**

### **DESCRIPTION/COMPONENTS**

As an adjunct to the UNEP Regional Seas Programme and the UNDP/IOMAC Marine Mammals Programme, the Project will concentrate on collection on available data on Marine Mammals and Sea Turtles within the Coastal Countries of the Region (Species, Types, Extent of habitat, Breeding Grounds, Existing Management Practices, Environmental and Human Pressures, etc.). Based on these information, National and Regional Guidelines for the Coastal Countries of the Region would be developed, and Capacities of National Institutions for Implementation and Regional Co-operation augmented.

### **IMPLEMENTATION**

SACEP in close collaboration with UNEP's Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, IUCN, WWF, National Institutions and relevant UN, Multilateral and Bilateral Organisations. Funding under GEF will be sought for this project.

### **INITIAL BUDGET SUM (US\$)**

200,000

### **DURATION**

30 Months.

### **SACEP PRIORITY SUBJECT MATTER AREAS**

7 and 12.

## **PROJECT**

### **6. REGIONAL CO-OPERATION FOR STRENGTHENING THE MANAGEMENT OF TERRESTRIAL (WILDLIFE) AND MARINE PARKS.**

#### **DESCRIPTION/COMPONENTS**

The Project will have two components: (i) Terrestrial (Wildlife) and (ii) Marine Parks.

Through separate Workshops and/or Seminars, the present status of the Terrestrial and Marine Parks and their management will be assessed and evaluated. Based on the information gathered and exchanged a Report will be prepared with Guidelines on the Ways and Means of Improving and Strengthening of the Management of these Parks. Strong emphasis will be placed on utilization of these Parks as Venues for Eco-tourism.

The Project will be concluded by a series of Training Workshops for the Managers and Staff of the Regions Terrestrial and Marine Parks. As much as possible, existing Management Institutions will be relied on for the exchange of experience and training purposes.

#### **IMPLEMENTATION**

SACEP in close co-operation with National Institutions, IUCN, WWF, UNEP, and other pertinent UN, Multilateral and Bilateral institutions. Funding from GEF will be sought for this project.

#### **INITIAL BUDGET SUM (US\$)**

400,000.

#### **DURATION**

38 Months

#### **SACEP PRIORITY SUBJECT MATTER AREAS**

5, 7, 8, 9, 10, and 15.

## **PROJECT**

7. **REGIONAL CO-OPERATION IN THE PROTECTION OF SHARED (TRANSBOUNDARY) WILDLIFE HABITATS (CONSERVATION OF MOUNTAIN AND WETLAND ECOSYSTEMS).**

### **DESCRIPTION/COMPONENTS**

Due to the high density of human population in most of the countries of the region there is an inevitable pressure on the Wildlife Habitats. The Project is aimed at Regional Co-operation on Shared Habitats which might not enjoy Conservation measures commensurate with their significance. In its First Phase, the Project will concentrate on Shared Mountain and Wetland Habitats.

Through Preparation of an Inventory of Significant Mountain and Wetland Habitats, the Project will attempt in Preparation of Guidelines and Workplans for Joint Activities necessary for the Conservation of these habitats. Conservation measures for two of such shared habitats would be implemented as Case Studies and Models on the experience of which further phases of the Project will be developed.

### **IMPLEMENTATION**

SACEP in close co-operation with IUCN, WWF, and relevant National Institutions and with the co-operation of UNEP, other appropriate UN, Multilateral, Bilateral and other relevant organisations. Funding from GEF may be sought for the project.

### **INITIAL BUDGET SUM (US\$)**

300,000.

### **DURATION**

25 Months.

### **SACEP PRIORITY SUBJECT MATTER AREAS**

5, 7, and 15.



## **PROJECT**

8. REGIONAL CO-OPERATION IN CONSERVATION OF THE HABITAT OF THE TERRESTRIAL MIGRATORY SPECIES.

### **DESCRIPTION/COMPONENTS**

This Project is complementary to Projects 6 and 7. The focus of this Project would be on the Conservation of the Habitat of the Terrestrial Migratory Species.

In the initial stages of the Project, an Inventory of the Terrestrial Migratory Species and their Habitat in the region will be prepared. This would be followed by a number of Workshops/Seminars, relying on the existing and established institutions in the Region, in order to Prepare Guidelines for Co-operative Action in Conservation of the Habitats.

### **IMPLEMENTATION**

SACEP in close co-operation with IUCN, WWF, National Institutions, and pertinent UN, Multilateral, Bilateral and other Relevant Organisations.

### **INITIAL BUDGET SUM (US\$)**

250,000

### **DURATION**

26 Months.

### **SACEP PRIORITY SUBJECT MATTER AREAS**

5, 7, and 15.

## **PROJECT**

9. **PREPARATION OF GUIDELINES FOR THE ASSESSMENT OF HIGHLY POLLUTING INDUSTRIES; IMPORT OF POTENTIALLY HARMFUL CHEMICALS AND HAZARDOUS WASTES; AND DEALING WITH CHEMICAL DISASTERS.**

### **DESCRIPTION/COMPONENTS**

The Project will examine IBRD, ILO, ESCAP and other relevant Guidelines, Regional Training and Workshop Schedules, and Institutional Arrangements, and recommend, if necessary, the Preparation of Region-Specific Guidelines, for (i) Assessment of Existing and Planned Highly Polluting Industries, (ii) Control of Potentially Harmful and Hazardous Chemicals and Hazardous Wastes produced or imported into the countries of the region, and (iii) Dealing with Chemical Disasters.

An initial inventory of the above mentioned will be prepared and this would be followed by Workshops/Seminars which will prepare the Guidelines, Consider Institutional Arrangements, and Develop Project Documents for further regional collaboration in the above areas.

### **IMPLEMENTATION**

SACEP with the co-operation of ILO, WHO, UNEP, IRPTC and other competent International Organisations and with the collaboration of the Relevant Institutions of the Countries of the Region.

### **INITIAL BUDGET SUM (US\$)**

280,000.

### **DURATION**

18 Months

### **SACEP PRIORITY SUBJECT MATTER AREAS**

1 and 2.

## **PROJECT**

### **11. REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL AND NATURAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTRE (RENRIC) - PHASE 2.**

#### **DESCRIPTION/COMPONENTS**

This is the Second Phase of the RENRIC which was completed in 1991 with Asian Development Bank funding.

The Second Phase of the Project was formulated in consultation with participating Member Countries of SACEP at a Meeting held in Colombo. The Project Proposal outlines a detailed workplan, whose salient elements are as follows:

- (a) Establishment of RENRIC Cells in each country;
- (b) Collection, Collation and Dissemination of Relevant Environmental and Natural Resources Information;
- (c) Preparation of a Compendium of All Relevant Seminars, Workshops, Meeting held in each Priority Subject Area in the Region during the last two decades;
- (d) Updating the Regional and National Directories.
- (e) Training of RENRIC Country Cell Officers in the use of Information Technology.

#### **IMPLEMENTATION**

SACEP in close co-operation with National Institutions, relevant UN organisations, and ADB and/or IBRD.

#### **INITIAL BUDGET SUM (US\$)**

850,000

#### **DURATION**

Three years.

#### **SACEP PRIORITY SUBJECT MATTER AREAS**

4 and 14.

**PROJECT****12. REGIONAL CO-OPERATION IN CONSERVATION OF MONTANE ECOSYSTEMS AND WATERSHEDS.****DESCRIPTION/COMPONENTS**

Conservation of the Montane Ecosystem is a high priority issue owing to immediate and long term needs. Present Forestry and other Mountain Resources Management Techniques and Watershed Conservation Practices leave much to be desired. To be successful, an Integrated approach is needed, drawing upon public participation for common social issues.

Under the Project:-

- (a) Management Plans prepared at National and Local Level for Montane Ecosystems and Watersheds will be exchanged, leading towards comprehensive co-operation in Management of the Himalayan Ecosystem;
- (b) The carrying capacity of crucial and representative Montane Ecosystems and Watersheds will be assessed;
- (c) Select Pilot Plans for Watershed Conservation will be implemented, such as Dissemination of Regenerative Agriculture Technologies and Practices, including High Altitude HYV Fodders and Rotational Grazing.
- (d) In Co-operation with Sister Organisations, a Recurrent Manpower Training Programme may be established to ensure the Availability of Expertise in the Region for Sound Montane and Watershed Management.

**IMPLEMENTATION**

National Institutions of participating Member Countries with Montane Ecosystems, WFP, ICIMOD, in close co-operation with the Pakistan Forestry Institute, the SACEP Priority Subject Matter Area Focal Point. New programmes of SACEP should be linked up with existing activities under World Food Programme, ICIMOD, and for Regional Seismological, Meteorological, and Hydrological Studies of the Himalayan Range.

**INITIAL BUDGET SUM (US\$)**

1,000,000

**DURATION**

36 months Institutional Development; followed by continuous operations.

**SACEP PRIORITY SUBJECT MATTER AREA**

5

## PROJECT

13. ESTABLISHMENT OF A REGIONAL TRAINING AND INFORMATION CENTRE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT.

### DESCRIPTION/COMPONENTS

The justification for the Project is the absence of a Regional Centre of Excellence in Environmental Management in South Asia, while there is a well demonstrated need for it to meet the environmental challenges lying ahead. The Centre will create a Regional Database on the Environment and Train Manpower to Understand and Tackle Environmental Problems facing the Region.

### IMPLEMENTATION

SACEP with the co-operation of UN agencies, ADB, World Bank and other agencies.

### INITIAL BUDGET SUM (US\$)

A Capital Investment of 10,000,000 (over 10 years);  
1,000,000 during SSP-1.

### DURATION

Start in year 3 of SSP-1; Establishment period 3 years; Operations - on-going.

### SACEP PRIORITY SUBJECT MATTER AREA

14.

**CHANGES APPROVED**  
**BY**  
**FIFTH GOVERNING COUNCIL MEETING**  
**OF**  
**SOUTH ASIA CO-OPERATIVE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME**  
**ON**  
**SACEP STRATEGY AND PROGRAMME 1**  
**1992 - 1996**  
**(SSP-I)**



**Prepared by**  
**South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme**

**in collaboration with**

**United Nations Environment Programme**  
**Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific**

**SEPTEMBER 1992**

#### **4.2. SELECTION OF SSP-1 PRIORITY PROGRAMME AREAS.**

The selection of the Priority Programme Areas for the SSP-I is based on a number of premises. Foremost among these were the activities already completed, undertaken or under implementation by SACEP. The time constraint for this phase (approximately four years) also limits the number of activities that could realistically be undertaken. Time and effort needed for raising funds for projects also has a confining effect on the number and scope of the project proposals.

In view of the above, this phase of SSP should focus on the four or five of the most significant and relevant areas, where regional environmental cooperation would have the potentiality of the most impact on the environmental issues of the region.

Accordingly, fourteen (14) Project Proposals are selected for implementation during 1992-1996. These cover or touch upon one or more of the Fifteen Priority Subject Matter Areas of SACEP. With such cross-sectoral approach the selected project proposals fall within the following five broad groups:

- a. Capacity Building and Enhancement of Environmental Awareness for Policy and Decision-Makers and the Public in the Region.
- b. Systematic Information Exchange and Intra-Regional Technology Transfers;
- c. Environmental Management Training and Institutional Development for Training;
- d. Regional Co-operation in Management Plans for Montane Ecosystems/Watersheds and Coastal Zones; and
- e. Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat Conservation in the Region.

In the selection of the Project Proposals in addition to the premises already mentioned, the following criteria were also taken into consideration:

- a. Collective Regional Priorities and Interests;
- b. Consistency with Agenda 21;
- c. Current Programmes of International, Other Regional, and National Organisations and Agencies; and
- d. Prospective availability of Donor Funding for various Programmes and Project Packages.

#### **4.3. PRIORITY PROJECT PROPOSALS**

Below is the listing of the Proposed Priority Projects for implementation during the First Phase of SSP (1992-1996):

##### **A. CAPACITY BUILDING AND AWARENESS RAISING.**

- i. Environment and Sustainable Development within the context of Agenda 21: Capacity Building and Enhancement of the Awareness and Practical Implementation Options for High Level Government Policy and Decision-makers in the Member Countries of SACEP;
- ii. Enhancement of the Public Environmental Awareness in connection with existing as well as emerging environmental issues of concern in the Countries of the Region;

##### **B. SYSTEMATIC INFORMATION EXCHANGE AND INTRA-REGIONAL TECHNOLOGY TRANSFERS.**

- i. Preparation of Guidelines for the Assessment of Highly Polluting Industries, for Import of Potentially Harmful Chemicals and Hazardous Wastes, and for dealing with Chemical Disasters;
- ii. Regional Environmental and Natural Resources Information Centre (RENRIC) - Phase 2;
- iii. Sharing of Pollution Abatement Technology through Exchange of Information and Training; and
- iv. Regional Air Quality Monitoring and Management Systems.



- C. ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT FOR TRAINING AND INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR TRAINING.
- i. Strengthening of the Environmental Management in the SACEP Countries-Phase I (Training);
  - ii. Establishment of a Regional Training and Information Centre for Environmental Management;
- D. REGIONAL CO-OPERATION IN MANAGEMENT PLANS FOR MONTANE ECOSYSTEMS/WATERSHEDS AND COASTAL RESOURCES.
- i. Regional Co-operation in Conservation of Montane Ecosystems and Watersheds;
  - ii. Assessment of Land-Based Sources of Coastal and Marine Pollution in the Countries of the Region;
- E. WILDLIFE AND WILDLIFE HABITAT CONSERVATION IN THE REGION.
- i. Regional Co-operation in Conservation of Marine Species (Marine Mammals and Sea Turtles);
  - ii. Regional Co-operation for Strengthening the Management of Terrestrial (Wildlife) and Marine Parks;
  - iii. Regional Co-operation in the Protection of Shared (Transboundary) Wildlife Habitats (Conservation of Mountain and Wetland Ecosystems);
  - iv. Regional Co-operation in Conservation of the Habitat of the Terrestrial Migratory Species;

## CHAPTER 5

### PRIORITY PROJECT OUTLINES

In Chapter 4, the Priority Project Proposals were listed as the components of a feasible programme for the First Phase of SSP-I. This Chapter essentially consists of the Priority Project outlines, where for each of the Project Proposals, additional details are provided. The details consist of institutional arrangements, collaborating agencies, schedules, initially estimated costs, and relationship of the proposed activity to SACEP's Priority Subject Matter Areas.

It is expected that once the SSP-I is adopted by the SACEP's Governing Council, based on the information presented in Chapter 5, brief descriptive Project Concepts will be prepared. These will form the basis for SACEP and/or UNEP on behalf of SACEP to approach potential funding organisations and donors.

## **PROJECT**

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.

### **DESCRIPTION/COMPONENTS**

The purpose of the Project is the introduction of the relevant chapters of Agenda 21, Examination of their practical implications and Discussions on the implementation options aimed at High-Level Government Policy and Decision-Makers in each of the Countries of the Region.

In each of the countries of the SACEP region a number of Workshops will be held for the High-Level Government Policy and Decision-Makers (Afghanistan: 1, Bangladesh: 2, Bhutan: 1, India: 4, Maldives: 1, Pakistan: 2, and Sri Lanka: 1). These Workshops will consider and recommend for implementation Work Programmes and Project Documents for Regional Priorities under Agenda 21.

### **IMPLEMENTATION**

SACEP in close co-operation with National Focal Points of participating governments as well as UNDP and UNEP.

### **INITIAL BUDGET SUM (US\$)**

250,000

### **DURATION**

One year.

### **SACEP PRIORITY SUBJECT MATTER AREAS**

3 - 15.

## PROJECT

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.

### DESCRIPTION/COMPONENTS

The Project will be aimed at raising the general public's awareness on general as well as specific environmental issues of regional, national, and local concern. This is essentially envisaged to be achieved through audio-visual channels: Preparation and Dissemination of Printed Material (brochures, posters, booklets, slides and photographs, etc.) as well as Preparation and Broadcasting of Short Films and Videos, basically for Television Broadcasting. Radio Spots will also be prepared and disseminated through the countries of the region for local language broadcasting.

A Meeting of Journalists and Other Media Representatives from the Countries of the Region will first be convened in order to advise and prepare brief guidelines on the preparation of the most effective and appropriate audio-visual material, taking the diverse cultural and traditional values into account. Wherever possible the audio-visual material will be prepared in consultation with relevant governments' department so that they would reflect national and regional policies and programmes.

### IMPLEMENTATION

SACEP in close consultation with the Relevant Government Organisations, and in co-operation with UNEP and other concerned UN, Multi and Bilateral and other relevant agencies.

### INITIAL BUDGET SUM (US\$)

650,000

### DURATION

Three years.

### SACEP PRIORITY SUBJECT MATTER AREAS

3 - 15.

## **PROJECT**

3. PREPARATION OF GUIDELINES FOR THE ASSESSMENT OF HIGHLY POLLUTING INDUSTRIES; IMPORT OF POTENTIALLY HARMFUL CHEMICALS AND HAZARDOUS WASTES; AND DEALING WITH CHEMICAL DISASTERS.

### **DESCRIPTION/COMPONENTS**

The Project will examine IBRD, ILO, ESCAP and other relevant Guidelines, Regional Training and Workshop Schedules, and Institutional Arrangements, and recommend, if necessary, the Preparation of Region-Specific Guidelines, for (i) Assessment of Existing and Planned Highly Polluting Industries, (ii) Control of Potentially Harmful and Hazardous Chemicals and Hazardous Wastes produced or imported into the countries of the region, and (iii) Dealing with Chemical Disasters.

An initial inventory of the above mentioned will be prepared and this would be followed by Workshops/Seminars which will prepare the Guidelines, Consider Institutional Arrangements, and Develop Project Documents for further regional collaboration in the above areas.

### **IMPLEMENTATION**

SACEP with the co-operation of ILO, WHO, UNEP, IRPTC and other competent International Organisations and with the collaboration of the Relevant Institutions of the Countries of the Region.

### **INITIAL BUDGET SUM (US\$)**

280,000.

### **DURATION**

18 Months

### **SACEP PRIORITY SUBJECT MATTER AREAS**

1 and 2.

## PROJECT

4. REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
INFORMATION CENTRE (RENRIC) - PHASE 2.

### DESCRIPTION/COMPONENTS

This is the Second Phase of the RENRIC which was completed in 1991 with Asian Development Bank funding.

The Second Phase of the Project was formulated in consultation with participating Member Countries of SACEP at a Meeting held in Colombo. The Project Proposal outlines a detailed workplan, whose salient elements are as follows:

- (a) Establishment of RENRIC Cells in each country;
- (b) Collection, Collation and Dissemination of Relevant Environmental and Natural Resources Information;
- (c) Preparation of a Compendium of All Relevant Seminars, Workshops, Meeting held in each Priority Subject Area in the Region during the last two decades;
- (d) Updating the Regional and National Directories.
- (e) Training of RENRIC Country Cell Officers in the use of Information Technology.

### IMPLEMENTATION

SACEP in close co-operation with National Institutions, relevant UN organisations, and ADB and/or IBRD.

### INITIAL BUDGET SUM (US\$)

850,000

### DURATION

Three years.

### SACEP PRIORITY SUBJECT MATTER AREAS

4 and 14.

## **PROJECT**

5. SHARING OF POLLUTION ABATEMENT TECHNOLOGY THROUGH EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION AND TRAINING PROGRAMMES.

### **DESCRIPTION/COMPONENTS**

Efforts to develop Appropriate Technology and Management Systems for Municipal, Industrial and Agricultural Wastes have succeeded to varying degrees in member countries. This Project envisages sharing the most appropriate Pollution Abatement Technologies, and the most successful Technology Development and Management Systems, achieved in any participating Member Country with other countries in the region, through Systematic Exchange of Information and Training Programmes.

### **IMPLEMENTATION**

SACEP in collaboration with UNIDO, and the designated Priority Subject Matter Area Focal Point in India.

### **INITIAL BUDGET SUM (US\$)**

250,000

### **DURATION**

Three years

### **SACEP PRIORITY SUBJECT MATTER AREAS**

2, 3, 13, and 14.

## **PROJECT**

6. REGIONAL AIR QUALITY MONITORING AND MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS.

### **DESCRIPTION/COMPONENTS**

The Project will assess the Coverage and Quality of Air Quality Monitoring in the Main Urban Airsheds of the Region; Collate and Analyse the Data, Develop Comparative Rankings and Appropriate Standards for General and Specific Situations; Evaluate Alternate Mitigation Measures being practised within and outside the region, and Promote the Adoption of the most practical and efficient measures.

### **IMPLEMENTATION**

UNEP, WMO, and other UN agencies; IDRC, Canada; IIEC, Washington DC; and other relevant Multi and Bilateral agencies, in close co-operation with National and City Agencies.

### **INITIAL BUDGET SUM (US\$)**

200,000

### **DURATION**

Two years external support; continuous/on-going with National Agencies thereafter.

### **SACEP PRIORITY SUBJECT MATTER AREAS**

2, 4, 13, 14.



## **PROJECT**

7. **STRENGTHENING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT IN THE SACEP COUNTRIES-PHASE I (TRAINING).**

### **DESCRIPTION/COMPONENTS**

This Project is Cross sectoral, covering almost all of the "SACEP Priority Subject Matter Areas (PSMA)".

In the First Phase of this Project only a few of the Priority Subject Areas in the Priority Subject Matter Area (PSMA), are selected for concentrated attention: i.e. (i) Environmental Impact Assessment, (ii) Forestry, (iii) Wildlife Management, (iv) Eco-tourism, and (v) Pollution Control.

The Project envisages a Series of Training Workshops to be held in the Countries of the Region with the involvement of institutions that each have experience in one of the selected areas. The Training Workshops will be preceded by a Meeting of Experts outlining details of the coverage and the needs of each workshop and will end with a meeting, evaluating the results and making recommendations for the Second Phase of the Project.

### **IMPLEMENTATION**

The overall co-ordination and the project will be with the SACEP, with the co-operation of UNEP and the collaboration of relevant institutions in the countries of the region. The co-operation and participation of specific UN, Multi, Bilateral and Other Relevant Organisations will be expected and arranged by SACEP (e.g. ESCAP, FAO, WTO, IUCN, WWF, ADB, etc.).

### **INITIAL BUDGET SUM (US\$)**

380,000

### **DURATION**

Two years.

### **SACEP PRIORITY SUBJECT MATTER AREAS**

1, 6, 7, 10, 14, and 15.

## **PROJECT**

8. ESTABLISHMENT OF A REGIONAL TRAINING AND INFORMATION CENTRE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT.

### **DESCRIPTION/COMPONENTS**

The justification for the Project is the absence of a Regional Centre of Excellence in Environmental Management in South Asia, while there is a well demonstrated need for it to meet the environmental challenges lying ahead. The Centre will create a Regional Database on the Environment and Train Manpower to Understand and Tackle Environmental Problems facing the Region.

### **IMPLEMENTATION**

SACEP with the co-operation of UN agencies, ADB, World Bank and other agencies.

### **INITIAL BUDGET SUM (US\$)**

A Capital Investment of 10,000,000 (over 10 years);  
1,000,000 during SSP-1.

### **DURATION**

Start in year 3 of SSP-1; Establishment period 3 years; Operations - on-going.

### **SACEP PRIORITY SUBJECT MATTER AREA**

14.

## **PROJECT**

9. REGIONAL CO-OPERATION IN CONSERVATION OF MONTANE ECOSYSTEMS AND WATERSHEDS.

### **DESCRIPTION/COMPONENTS**

Conservation of the Montane Ecosystem is a high priority issue owing to immediate and long term needs. Present Forestry and other Mountain Resources Management Techniques and Watershed Conservation Practices leave much to be desired. To be successful, an Integrated approach is needed, drawing upon public participation for common social issues.

Under the Project:-

- (a) Management Plans prepared at National and Local Level for Montane Ecosystems and Watersheds will be exchanged, leading towards comprehensive co-operation in Management of the Himalayan Ecosystem;
- (b) The carrying capacity of crucial and representative Montane Ecosystems and Watersheds will be assessed;
- (c) Select Pilot Plans for Watershed Conservation will be implemented, such as Dissemination of Regenerative Agriculture Technologies and Practices, including High Altitude HYV Fodders and Rotational Grazing.
- (d) In Co-operation with Sister Organisations, a Recurrent Manpower Training Programme may be established to ensure the Availability of Expertise in the Region for Sound Montane and Watershed Management.

### **IMPLEMENTATION**

National Institutions of participating Member Countries with Montane Ecosystems, WFP, ICIMOD, in close co-operation with the Pakistan Forestry Institute, the SACEP Priority Subject Matter Area Focal Point. New programmes of SACEP should be linked up with existing activities under World Food Programme, ICIMOD, and for Regional Seismological, Meteorological, and Hydrological Studies of the Himalayan Range.

### **INITIAL BUDGET SUM (US\$)**

1,000,000

### **DURATION**

36 months Institutional Development; followed by continuous operations.

### **SACEP PRIORITY SUBJECT MATTER AREA**

5

## **PROJECT**

10. ASSESSMENT OF LAND-BASED SOURCES OF COASTAL AND MARINE POLLUTION IN THE COUNTRIES OF THE REGION.

### **DESCRIPTION/COMPONENTS**

As an adjunct to the Regional Seas Programme, the Project is expected to provide an up-to-date estimate and Assessment of the Land-Based Sources of Coastal and Marine Pollution, originating from both land-locked and coastal countries participating in the SACEP, in the coastal countries of the region.

A simplified and easy to utilise Guidelines for the Assessment of Land-Based Sources of Pollution will be prepared. The techniques outlined will be introduced to Representatives of the relevant Institutions of the countries of the region through a number of short Training Courses/Workshops.

The results will be published in the form of National Reports as well as a Regional Overview.

### **IMPLEMENTATION**

SACEP in close co-operation with National Institutions, UNEP/ROAP, Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC), and other pertinent UN, Multilateral and Bilateral Organisations.

### **INITIAL BUDGET SUM (US\$)**

200,000

### **DURATION**

15 Months.

### **SACEP PRIORITY SUBJECT MATTER AREAS**

7, 8, 9, 10, 12 and 13.

## **PROJECT**

11. REGIONAL CO-OPERATION IN CONSERVATION OF MARINE SPECIES (MARINE MAMMALS AND SEA TURTLES).

### **DESCRIPTION/COMPONENTS**

As an adjunct to the UNEP Regional Seas Programme and the UNDP/IOMAC Marine Mammals Programme, the Project will concentrate on collection on available data on Marine Mammals and Sea Turtles within the Coastal Countries of the Region (Species, Types, Extent of habitat, Breeding Grounds, Existing Management Practices, Environmental and Human Pressures, etc.). Based on these information, National and Regional Guidelines for the Coastal Countries of the Region would be developed, and Capacities of National Institutions for Implementation and Regional Co-operation augmented.

### **IMPLEMENTATION**

SACEP in close collaboration with UNEP's Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, IUCN, WWF, National Institutions and relevant UN, Multilateral and Bilateral Organisations. Funding under GEF will be sought for this project.

### **INITIAL BUDGET SUM (US\$)**

200,000

### **DURATION**

30 Months.

### **SACEP PRIORITY SUBJECT MATTER AREAS**

7 and 12.

## **PROJECT**

### **12. REGIONAL CO-OPERATION FOR STRENGTHENING THE MANAGEMENT OF TERRESTRIAL (WILDLIFE) AND MARINE PARKS.**

#### **DESCRIPTION/COMPONENTS**

The Project will have two components: (i) Terrestrial (Wildlife) and (ii) Marine Parks.

Through separate Workshops and/or Seminars, the present status of the Terrestrial and Marine Parks and their management will be assessed and evaluated. Based on the information gathered and exchanged a Report will be prepared with Guidelines on the Ways and Means of Improving and Strengthening of the Management of these Parks. Strong emphasis will be placed on utilization of these Parks as Venues for Eco-tourism.

The Project will be concluded by a series of Training Workshops for the Managers and Staff of the Regions Terrestrial and Marine Parks. As much as possible, existing Management Institutions will be relied on for the exchange of experience and training purposes.

#### **IMPLEMENTATION**

SACEP in close co-operation with National Institutions, IUCN, WWF, UNEP, and other pertinent UN, Multilateral and Bilateral institutions. Funding from GEF will be sought for this project.

#### **INITIAL BUDGET SUM (US\$).**

400,000.

#### **DURATION**

38 Months

#### **SACEP PRIORITY SUBJECT MATTER AREAS**

5, 7, 8, 9, 10, and 15.

## **PROJECT**

13. REGIONAL CO-OPERATION IN THE PROTECTION OF SHARED (TRANSBOUNDARY) WILDLIFE HABITATS (CONSERVATION OF MOUNTAIN AND WETLAND ECOSYSTEMS).

### **DESCRIPTION/COMPONENTS**

Due to the high density of human population in most of the countries of the region there is an inevitable pressure on the Wildlife Habitats. The Project is aimed at Regional Co-operation on Shared Habitats which might not enjoy Conservation measures commensurate with their significance. In its First Phase, the Project will concentrate on Shared Mountain and Wetland Habitats.

Through Preparation of an Inventory of Significant Mountain and Wetland Habitats, the Project will attempt in Preparation of Guidelines and Workplans for Joint Activities necessary for the Conservation of these habitats. Conservation measures for two of such shared habitats would be implemented as Case Studies and Models on the experience of which further phases of the Project will be developed.

### **IMPLEMENTATION**

SACEP in close co-operation with IUCN, WWF, and relevant National Institutions and with the co-operation of UNEP, other appropriate UN, Multilateral, Bilateral and other relevant organisations. Funding from GEF may be sought for the project.

### **INITIAL BUDGET SUM (US\$)**

300,000.

### **DURATION**

25 Months.

### **SACEP PRIORITY SUBJECT MATTER AREAS**

5, 7, and 15.

## **PROJECT**

14. REGIONAL CO-OPERATION IN CONSERVATION OF THE HABITAT OF THE TERRESTRIAL MIGRATORY SPECIES.

### **DESCRIPTION/COMPONENTS**

This Project is complementary to Projects 12 and 13. The focus of this Project would be on the Conservation of the Habitat of the Terrestrial Migratory Species.

In the initial stages of the Project, an Inventory of the Terrestrial Migratory Species and their Habitat in the region will be prepared. This would be followed by a number of Workshops/Seminars, relying on the existing and established institutions in the Region, in order to Prepare Guidelines for Co-operative Action in Conservation of the Habitats.

### **IMPLEMENTATION**

SACEP in close co-operation with IUCN, WWF, National Institutions, and pertinent UN, Multilateral, Bilateral and other Relevant Organisations.

### **INITIAL BUDGET SUM (US\$)**

250,000

### **DURATION**

26 Months.

### **SACEP PRIORITY SUBJECT MATTER AREAS**

5, 7, and 15.