



## **REPORT**

### **THE NINTH MEETING OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL**

### **South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP)**

**26 AUGUST 2005  
THIMPHU, BHUTAN**

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**Report of the Ninth Meeting of the  
Governing Council of  
South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme  
(SACEP)**

**26 August 2005  
Thimphu, Bhutan**

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**SOUTH ASIA CO-OPERATIVE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME**  
**REPORT OF THE 9th MEETING OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL**

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**SOUTH ASIA CO-OPERATIVE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME  
NINTH MEETING OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL (GC9.SACEP)  
26<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2005  
THIMPHU, BHUTAN**

**REPORT**

**1. INTRODUCTION**

The Ninth Meeting of the Governing Council of the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (GC9.SACEP) was held in Thimphu, Bhutan on the 26<sup>th</sup> of August 2005

**2. ATTENDANCE**

The Meeting of the Governing Council (GC9.SACEP) was attended by delegates from the member countries viz: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives and Sri Lanka.

Representatives from the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) and World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC) attended the meeting as Observers.

List of Participants is in **Annex I**

**3. INAUGURATION**

The Inaugural session of the 9<sup>th</sup> Governing Council of SACEP was graced by the Honourable Prime Minister of Bhutan, Mr Lyonpo Yeshey Zimba.

According to the traditions of the Kingdom of Bhutan a *Marchang* Ceremony was conducted. This was followed by a welcome address from Dr. Arvind Anil Boaz, Director General of SACEP (**Annex II**) and an opening address by the current chair of the Governing Council His Excellency Mr.A.H.M. Fowzie, Honourable Minister of Environment and Natural Resources, Government of Sri Lanka. (**Annex III**)

His Excellency Dasho Nado Rinchhen, Honourable Deputy Minister, National Environment Commission (NEC), Royal Government of Bhutan read out the message from the Secretary General of SAARC to the 9<sup>th</sup> Governing Council Meeting conveying his best wishes for a successful deliberation. The message highlighted the MoU with SACEP and a strengthened cooperation between the two organisations. (**Annex IV**)

The Honourable Prime Minister of the Royal Government of Bhutan, His Excellency Mr Lyonpo Yeshey Zimba delivered his welcome address (**Annex V**) which was followed by a vote of thanks by Mr. Sonam Yangle, Director, NEC. (**Annex VI**)

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

In accordance with the provisions of the Articles of Association of SACEP, His Excellency Dasho Nado Rinchen was elected Chairman of the 9<sup>th</sup> Governing Council of SACEP. His Excellency Mr. Ahmed Abdullah, Honourable Minister of Environment, Energy and Water, Republic of Maldives was elected as the Vice Chairman. Mr. W.R.M.S. Wickramasinghe, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, Government of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka was elected as Rapporteur.

#### **5. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

The Agenda of the Meeting adopted by the 9<sup>th</sup> Governing Council appears as **Annex VII**.

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

The Heads of Delegations from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives and Sri Lanka presented statements.

The Country Statements are in **Annexes VIII to XIII**

These statements covered the assurances from the member states to the SACEP Secretariat to be a robust and vibrant organisation to undertake the regional level initiatives in areas of environmental protection, management and sustainable development. The Country Statements clearly highlighted the very crucial and pivotal role to be played by SACEP in the promotion of environmental management in the South Asian region and noted that it needs to be further strengthened.

Honourable Mr Namo Narayan Meena, Minister of State, Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India, in his statement announced that the Government of India will enhance its present annual contribution of US \$ 20,000/- to the original commitment US \$ 31,850/-, agreed at the 7<sup>th</sup> Governing Council in 1997.

#### **7. PRESENTATION OF UNEP'S STRATEGY FOR THE REGION AND SOUTH ASIA**

Mr. Surendra Shrestha, Representative of United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), presented UNEP's strategy for Asia Pacific and to South Asia in particular addressing the challenges of Institutional Framework, Environmental Security, Urbanisation, Regional Treaty, and paths to Sustainable Development. Mr. Shrestha also reaffirmed UNEP's commitment to support the process in strengthening SACEP

Mr. Surendra Shrestha's presentation referring to Environmental Security (**Annex XIV**) includes :

- (a) UNEP South Asia Sub Regional Strategies
- (b) Strategy Paper on Food Security in South Asia
- (c) Strategy Paper on Water Security in South Asia

## **8. PRESENTATION OF THE REPORT OF THE PREPARATORY MEETING OF THE NATIONAL FOCAL POINTS BY THE RAPPORTEUR**

Mr. W.R.M.S. Wickramasinghe, representative of the Government of Sri Lanka, in his capacity as the rapporteur to the meeting of the National Focal Points presented the report of the Meeting of the National Focal Points (NFP) held on 24<sup>th</sup> August 2005 along with the recommendations of the meeting to the Governing Council for its endorsement.

The Decisions for endorsement of recommendations to the 9<sup>th</sup> Governing Council agreed upon at the Preparatory Meeting of the National Focal Points, the Budget for 2005 – 2006 and the Report of the Preparatory Meeting of the National Focal Points held on 24<sup>th</sup> August 2005 are included as **Annex XV to XVII**

## **9. DISCUSSIONS AND ENDORSEMENT OF RECOMMENDATIONS AGREED UPON AT THE PREPARATORY MEETING OF THE NATIONAL FOCAL POINTS**

The 9<sup>th</sup> Governing Council adopted the recommendations from the meeting of the national focal points with amendments. The decisions of the 9<sup>th</sup> Governing Council under various clauses are as below:

### **9.1 INSTITUTIONAL MATTERS**

#### **1. Review of the Articles of Association**

The Articles of Association may be reviewed keeping in mind the changes that had taken place in SACEP over the years and the decisions at various Governing Councils. The Secretariat should undertake this task with prior consultations with the member governments and present its findings to the next Governing Council.

#### **2. SACEP Secretariat**

- a) The National Focal Points to meet twice a year; one, back to back prior to the Governing Council meeting and one half-yearly. The related costs to the delegations attending these meetings will be borne by the respective countries.
- b) The meeting of the Governing Council should be held annually as required by the Articles of Association to strengthen the activities of SACEP.

#### **3. Subject Area and Country Focal Points**

The Secretariat to propose modalities for the strengthening of the Subject Areas and Country Focal Points to be submit for approval by the Countries.

#### **4. Staffing – International / Local**

- a) The creation of posts of one Director of Programmes, one Programme officer, one Personal Secretary to the Director General and one Secretary. The cost of the posts will be met from the country contributions.



- b) The meeting noted that Government of India will be reviewing their original offer to support the post of Director of Programmes.

## 9.2 PROGRAMME MATTERS

### 1. Work Programme (2006-2007)

- a) The Director General will prepare a work programme by December 2005 and circulate it to member countries for endorsement.
- b) The work programme will consist of core activities and projects.
- c) The core programmes will focus on areas of waste, adaptation to climate change, database management / indicators of State of the Environment (SoE)
- d) The Director General will consult the National Focal Points in the preparations of this work programme.
- e) UNEP has agreed to provide assistance to complete the work programme.
- f) The Chairman of the 9<sup>th</sup> Governing Council will consult its members and approve the work programme for implementation.
- g) The Director General will provide regular progress reports through the National Focal Points.

### 2. Guidance to the Director General

- a) The Director General shall complete the detailed work programme for circulation and approval by the Chairman of the 9<sup>th</sup> Governing Council by December 2005.
- b) The Director General shall prepare detailed proposals for implementation on waste, adaptation to climate change and database for the State of Environment report.
- c) Mobilize necessary complementary project resources in close consultations with UNEP and other development partners.

### 3. Operation of SACEP

- a) The Director General shall carry out his challenging duties with existing terms, conditions and remuneration package.
- b) The Governing Council may consider the issue of tenure at future meetings.
- c) The Advisory Body for SACEP proposed by the National Focal Points may not be necessary as this will create another layer of bureaucracy. However, there is a strong need to strengthen the Secretariat. UNEP is requested to assist the Secretariat in its capacity building programme.
- d) One Programme Assistant post shall be based in Thimphu, Bhutan to assist the Chairman of the 9<sup>th</sup> Governing Council.

## 9.3 ON-GOING PROJECT ACTIVITIES

- a) The databases to the Environmental Natural Resources should be updated regularly by South Asia Environment and Natural Resources Information Center (SENRIC) to assist the region in the State of the Environment (SoE) reporting.
- b) The support from UNEP to the on-going activities to be recognized and UNEP is requested to continue its support to SACEP through the SENRIC project implementation.

- c) The governments of India and Nepal are requested to complete the endorsement from the region to the Global Environmental Facility, Project Preparation and Development Facility (GEF PDF-A Grant) project proposal to establish a network of Centres of Excellence within the region.

## **9.4 FINANCIAL MATTERS**

### **1. Budget for SACEP**

- a) The annual core budget approved is US Dollars One hundred and twenty seven thousand four hundred only (US \$ 127,400). The approved budget details are in **Annex XVIII**
- b) The 9<sup>th</sup> Governing Council approved additional allocation of US Dollars One hundred thousand only (US \$ 100,000) for core programme development from recovered arrears.
- c) The Director General shall make efforts to mobilize additional resources in close consultation with UNEP and other development partners.
- d) The auditors to the Secretariat's audit shall observe the following
  - i) The member countries should study the Annual Audited Reports of Accounts for the years 2001, 2002, 2003 and 2004 and any comments on the reports communicated to SACEP within three months. The reports will be adopted thereafter by circulation.
  - ii) The existing external auditors to be changed in 2006 (Audit of year 2005) and every three years thereafter.
  - iii) In future the audited reports of accounts to be sent to the National Focal Points well in advance to the meeting.
- e) The Secretariat shall maintain one single fund for the purpose of Trust fund / Reserve Program development and by laws for the fund to be framed to permit proper utilization of such funds.

## **10. VENUE AND DATE OF THE 10<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL OF SACEP**

The Meeting unanimously welcomed the announcement from the Government of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka to host the 10<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Governing Council in Colombo.

## **11. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT AND CLOSURE OF THE MEETING**

His Excellency Mr Dasho Nado Rinchhen, Deputy Minister, National Environment Commission, Royal Government of Bhutan and the Chairman of the 9<sup>th</sup> Governing Council concluded the meeting following the notes of appreciations from the member states.

The 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Governing Council of SACEP considered and adopted this Report on the 26<sup>th</sup> of August 2005.

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

## **9<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL**

26 August 2005

Thimphu, Bhutan

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SOUTH ASIA CO-OPERATIVE ENVIRONMENT-PROGRAMME  
NINTH MEETING OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL  
(GC9.SACEP)  
26th AUGUST, 2005

**WELCOME ADDRESS BY**

**Dr. ARVIND ANIL BOAZ, DIRECTOR GENERAL,**

*Hon. Prime Minister of Bhutan H.E. Lyonpo Yeshey Zimba, Hon. Cabinet Ministers of the Royal Government of Bhutan H.E. Mr. A.H.M Fowzie, Minister of Environment and Natural Resources, Sri Lanka, the present Chairman of SACEP, H.E. DASHO NADO RINCHHEN, Chairman designate of the 9<sup>th</sup> Governing Council, H.E. Mr. Namo Narayan Meena, Minister of State for Environment and Forests, India, H.E. Mr. Ahmad Abdullah, Minister of Environment, Energy and Water, Maldives, Your Excellencies, the Resident Representatives UNDP, Renata Lok Dessallien, Mr. Surendra Shrestha, Distinguished delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,*

It is a great honour for me to welcome the *Hon. Prime Minister of Bhutan H.E. Lyonpo Yeshey Zimba* for honouring us with his presence here to inaugurate the Ninth Session of the Governing Council of SACEP.

On behalf of the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme, it is indeed an honour for me to extend a heartfelt welcome to Hon. Minister of Environment and Natural Resources, Sri Lanka, the Hon. Minister of State for Environment and Forests, India, the Hon. Minister of Environment, Energy and Water, Maldives and the *Hon. Cabinet Ministers of The Royal Government of Bhutan*, I also extend my welcome to heads of all country delegations and other delegates who have come to Thimpu, the beautiful capital of Bhutan and to the 9<sup>th</sup> Governing Council meeting of SACEP.

It gives me immense pleasure to both welcome and thank, H.E. Mr. DASHO NADO RINCHHEN, the Hon. Deputy Minister of the National Environment Commission, Bhutan and Chairman designate, 9<sup>th</sup> Governing Council.

I am extremely grateful to the present Chairman, H.E. Mr. A.H.M. Fowzie for illuminating the path of recovery for SACEP and initiating long lasting reforms during his illustrious tenure as the Chairman.

I particularly recognize the presence of Mr. Surendra Shrestha, the Regional Director of UNEP-ROAP representing the Executive Director, UNEP, Mr. Caifang Wang, Senior External Relation Officer, WMO and Mr. Kristian Teleki, the Director of ICRAN to represent their organisation at the highest level.

At the outset, I thank the Royal Government of Bhutan for hosting the Ninth Governing



Council Meeting of SACEP and the member countries for their participation at this important juncture for SACEP. As you all know, we are at the crossroads to take appropriate measures and ensure the effective functioning of the regional secretariat. It is my sincere belief that deliberations at this Governing Council will bring a fresh lease of life and impetus to SACEP.

*Hon. Prime Minister, Distinguished Ministers, Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,*

We all know that SACEP has been in existence for more than twenty four years. It is one of the first inter-government institutions created to foster regional cooperation in the field of environment. The creators of SACEP had a clear and long-term vision to transform SACEP into a dynamic, vibrant, effective and credible regional body in the field of environment. But, after more than two decades of its existence, we all have to agree that SACEP was only partially able to fulfil the vision of our founders. We had recognized this fact in the 8<sup>th</sup> Governing Council and established a review panel, with the assistance of UNEP, to evaluate the past performance of SACEP and for identification of bottlenecks in its funding, future work programmes and implementation mechanisms to achieve its objectives.

The review panel had submitted its report in August 2002 and given several recommendations for SACEP to progress towards sustainable development and address the problem of poverty alleviation and socio-economic issues that impinge the environment in this region. The review mission's recommendations were endorsed by the 3<sup>rd</sup> Special Session of the eighth Governing Council on 6<sup>th</sup> November 2003. Following the approved procedures and selection process, I have taken up the Director General's position in April this year. I very much appreciate your immediate responses to my constant queries to present the case to take SACEP ahead addressing the regional issues.

Following the briefings from the Secretariat's senior staff members, my initial interactions with the Regional Director of UNEP ROAP, who took time to visit our office in Colombo and briefed me on the UNEP's regional strategy and its possible collaboration with the regional office, I circulated to the member countries, the draft to the strategy based on the Review Report from Mr. Rajamani. I am again quite delighted to the immediate responses and suggestions from all the member countries.

We have embarked on the path of recovery by initiating some changes suggested by the review panel during the last Special Session. As suggested by the review panel the overall strategy to improve the performance of SACEP could be based on the four pillars of:

- Member Country interest
- Secretariat Efficiency
- Support of Donors
- Help of the people of the region through academic, scientific institutions, NGOs and community groups etc.

It is no doubt that in the near future, all the four pillars will be strengthened to ensure

effective functioning of SACEP for the reasons it was established. Your immediate responses and presence here at this meeting at such a short notice is a clear indication of the immense interest you have, to play a pivotal role in the recovery path of SACEP.

I must acknowledge that my interactions with all of you, during the last 4 months, have been extremely encouraging. I am also thankful to the host government, Sri Lanka, for extending me support in all my endeavours and to responding so positively for confirming a permanent land to host the Secretariat.

My initial interactions with the Hon. Secretary General of SAARC have been convincingly encouraging and I am certain that SACEP, in close collaboration with SAARC, will definitely reach the measures you all have been expecting. Needless to say, the support from UNEP in this process is well recognised and much appreciated.

*Hon. Prime Minister, Distinguished Ministers, Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,*

After active discussions at the Preparatory meeting, the work programme of the Secretariat for the next 2 years, has been put forward for your consideration. While proposing the work programme, we have considered the global trends and at the regional level, the priority issues highlighted through the last five years and also the UNEP's strategy paper prepared for South Asia. Through the years, the programme focus will expand to cover various issues under atmosphere, freshwater resources, land, forests, biodiversity, marine and coastal, urbanisation, and assessments under various areas where immediate attention is still required.

Similarly, steady attention will be given to the issues which require regional cooperation. The collaboration and the MOU with SAARC has been paid much attention and I urge support from all the member countries and UNEP, in particular, in achieving a steady establishment of such institutional linkages.

Further, we have considered the existing support and the additional financial resources required to meet the proposal. Though the Secretariat will strive hard to achieve attention from the donor agencies, it is only appropriate to observe the fact that many of such agencies would like to see the commitment from the region and strengthen the support case by case. For the first time in SACEP history, we have proposed part of the arrears of country contributions to be allocated towards the programme development and I strongly believe that this will go a long way in strengthening the programme base

I wish to pledge to the meeting that my constant efforts with the support from the Secretariat's staff will definitely see the results anticipated by you all.

To Conclude, let me once again thank the Hon. Prime Minister, Your Excellencies, all delegates and guests for being present at this inaugural session. I am particularly thankful to all the staff of the National Environment Commission who have helped me to organise this meeting. My thanks are also due to all my staff, particularly Mr. Prasantha Dias Abeyegunawardene, Mr. Pradyumna Kotta, Ms. Jacintha Tissera and all the young Programme officers who worked extremely hard for this event.

I am confident that this 9<sup>th</sup> Governing Council will serve as a watershed in the new wider horizon that is opening up for SACEP and the important decisions that will be taken here will go a long way in strengthening SACEP and establish it as a vibrant regional organisation.

Thank you.

**Ninth Governing Council Meeting of SACEP**

26.08.2005 - Thimphu, Bhutan

**Address by the Outgoing Chairman of 8<sup>th</sup> GC of SACEP**

**Hon. A.H.M. Fowzie, MP**  
**Minister of Environment & Natural Resources**  
**Government of Sri Lanka**

Honorable Ministers,  
Distinguished Representatives of International Organizations,  
Senior Officials of SACEP, Member States,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me a great pleasure to address this August gathering as the outgoing Chairman of the SACEP Governing Council held by Sri Lanka for over the last four years from 2001 to 2005.

Let me at the out set, thank the Royal Government of Bhutan for its kind gesture in offering to host this event in this beautiful kingdom of Bhutan. I am particularly thankful to His Excellency Dasho Nado Rinchen for his keen interest exhibited in making this event a reality.

On behalf of my colleagues in the Governing Council, please allow me to record our appreciation to the staff of the Environmental Planning Commission of Bhutan for making such excellent arrangements in organizing the ninth Governing Council meeting.

In keeping with the decision of the 8<sup>th</sup> Governing Council meeting held in Sri Lanka in 2001, we have been able to make significant progress in our attempts to revitalize SACEP to a vibrant organization dealing with environmental matters in the region.

Keeping with the recommendations made by the special Independent review of SACEP, a new Director General has been selected on a competitive basis from among a group of highly qualified candidates of the member countries.

On behalf of the members of the Governing Council, I would like to extend a warm welcome to the new Director General, Dr. Boaz on assumption of office few months ago. I am informed that the new DG has already framed an ambitious programme keeping in line with the review recommendations to achieve high grounds towards a betterment of the state of environment in the region.

During the last few years we have been able to further strengthen our existing relationships with leaders in environment development such as the UNEP. I will fail in my duty if do not

propose a vote of appreciation to our good friend Mr. Surendra Shrestha, the Regional director UNEP for his personal commitment in supporting SACEP in various ways.

We have also been receiving unprecedented support from the Executive Director of UNEP Dr. Kalus Töpfer for developing SACEP as the centre of Excellence for environmental development in the region. We have also developed new partnerships with many other agencies including SAARC.

I am confident that, the process we began towards reviving SACEP in order to meet the aspiration of the member states, will bear fruits under the chairmanship of Bhutan. In this regards I wish to appeal to all member States and particularly to my Colleagues in the Governing Council to provide all the necessary support to the new Chairman in achieving our common goal of ensuring environmental sustainability in the region.

Although, I have not been associating with His Excellency Nado Rinchen over a long period of time, my predecessors have apprised me of his wisdom, dynamic leadership qualities and commitment towards regional corporation. Therefore, I am quite confident that SACEP could be raised to new heights with the able guidance and dynamic leadership of our new chairman of the Governing Council, His Excellency Nado Rinchen.

As the host country of SACEP, we will continue to provide our unreserved support for you to function in the capacity of the new chairman of the Governing Council.

Before concluding, I wish to offer our well wishes to the Royal Government of Bhutan, particularly His Excellency Nado Rinchen for success under his stewardship.

I thank you.



**SOUTH ASIAN ASSOCIATION  
FOR REGIONAL  
COOPERATION  
SECRETARIAT**

**MESSAGE**

The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) and the South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme (SACEP) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in July 2004 with a view to promoting regional coordination and cooperation in the agreed areas of mutual interest and to developing mutually supportive arrangements to implement their respective Environmental Programmes and Action Plans. We look forward to sharing our experiences and exchanging information in pursuing the goals set out in the MoU in the days ahead.

It is with a deep sense of regret that I express my inability to attend the Ninth Governing Board Meeting of the South Asia Environment Programme (SACEP) and the Third Intergovernmental Ministerial Meeting of the South Asian Seas Programme (SASP), both of which are to be held back-to-back in Thimphu, Bhutan on 24-26 August 2005, due to my preoccupations at that time.

The two meetings, which are to convene in Thimphu, have important subjects on their agenda. I wish these meetings every success.

**(Chenkyab Dorji)**  
Secretary-General  
South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation

**Inaugural Address by the  
Hon. Prime Minister  
His Excellency Mr Lyonpo Yeshey Zimba  
Royal Government of Bhutan**

Preliminary Remarks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Extend a warm welcome to the Ministers of South Asia, Director General of SACEP, Regional Director of UNEP and distinguished participants.</li> <li>- Great honor for Bhutan to host this ministerial meeting of SACEP.</li> </ul>
SACEP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- I believe is the first joint initiative to protect the environment in our region.</li> <li>- This is an indication of the realization that regional cooperation is necessary to protect the environment.</li> <li>- We live in the region where the environment is fragile and still under great pressure.</li> <li>- Hence SACEP has a difficult but necessary task to save our environment.</li> </ul>
South Asia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Home to nearly 1/5 of humanity</li> <li>- It is also home to a great number of world's poor</li> <li>- People who are deprived of the basic amenities life such as clean drinking water, proper sanitation, health and education and live on less than a \$ a day.</li> <li>- We are home to a lot of people whose basic human dignity has been denied.</li> </ul>
Population Pressure And Poverty	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Have lead to unsustainable exploitation of our nature resources</li> <li>- Most of our forest have been destroyed.</li> <li>- Our rivers and what's left of it, have been polluted.</li> <li>- The flora and fauna are endangered</li> <li>- Cities are over crowded and unhealthy.</li> </ul>
Result of Environmental Degradation is Evident in the	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Recurring natural calamities, the intensity of which is increasing year by year.</li> <li>- Land erosion and flooding are common place as are droughts and Famine</li> <li>- Cold spells and heat waves kill more people.</li> <li>- Rainfall is becoming unpredictable and erratic</li> <li>- Threatening agriculture and in general sources of water</li> <li>- South Asia has not been spared the effect of global climate change and its negative fallout.</li> </ul>

- The scenario of South Asia on the environmental front looks rather bleak

Protection of the environment, however, is indispensable for a future of our region

- we have too much at stake
- Every members country must adopt serious environmental protection measure
- All countries must cooperate- environment knows no national boundary
- What happens in one country effects , what happens in another, e.g. rain and erosion .... Floods in India and Bangladesh
- When it comes to the environment- we all must act as one.
- SACEP must take a leadership role and work closely with SAARC, UNEP and other bodies to coordinate regional and international efforts.
- We must promote curative as well as preventive measure
- Countries must promote environment as well as economic co-operations

Benefit of cooperation Exchange

- Cooperation in hydro power between Bhutan and India has tremendous positive impact in both countries
- reduces – destruction of forest in Bhutan
- generates revenue
- clean energy
- India – clean, reliable energy
- Reduces use of scarce fossil fuel

Bhutan

- A small but proud member of South Asia.
- unlike others –not affected by population pressure
- Also fortunate to have had an enlightened leadership which recognized the importance of environment quite longtime back
- The development philosophy of Gross National Happiness which is the guiding principle of our development-has given high priority to the preservation of the environment, infact is one of the basic pillars of GNP
- Under His Majesty's visionary leadership we have managed to maintain the environment intact
- Our forest more than 72%, provides a pristine environment for flora and fauna
- We have strict environmental regulations and we have sacrificed short term gains in favor of long term sustainability.
- In fact our environment is becoming the most important source of our livelihood – our growth
- eco-tourism – based on nature
- hydro power – based on reliable water flow
- agriculture – depends on nature



- Bhutan is a success story in environmental protection
- And we are grateful for the recognition which we received, namely,
- The 2004 Champions of the Earth
- Award to His Majesty the King and the people of Bhutan – UNEP

Future prospects for the environment in South Asia is, however, quite, bright if we work together.

- After all we are rich in human resources- if people have destroyed the environment, the people can also protect the environment.
- We have skills- people with scientific, literary and intellectual talent
- We have abundant natural resources
- We have a huge market
- South Asia – also among the fastest growing economic regions- will help reduce poverty level

Poverty eradication is a must to protect the environment

- The growth must be sustained by sound policies
- South Asia must cooperate in trade and investment-look for mutual benefit rather than destructive concepts
- Optimize each members comparative advantage and supplement and complement on mutual effect
- South Asia is the huge economic zone , we have a big market and big pool of talent
- Poverty can be removed by sustainable and equitable growth
- Through mutual cooperation
- Poverty, if not removed, could be the greatest threat to our environment, peace and security

I am optimistic that the South Asia family can work together and give all our children a better future

Thanks SACEP

- for holding this meeting in Bhutan
- SACEP to work closely with SAARC and UNEP
- Thank UNEP for extending financial and technical support to SACEP

Finally

- once again I extend a warm welcome to the Hon`ble Ministers and Distinguished delegates
- I wish all of you a successful meeting and a happy stay in the Kingdom of Bhutan

TASHI DELEK

## **Vote of Thanks**

**Mr. Sonam Yangley, Director, National Environmental Commission**

**At the inaugural of the Ministerial Segment of the 9<sup>th</sup> Governing Council, SACEP**

On behalf of SACEP and NEC, I would like to express our gratitude to Honorable Lyonpo Yeshey Zimba, Prime Minister of Bhutan, for gracing the inauguration of the 9<sup>th</sup> Governing Council of SACEP as the Chief Guest. Lyonpo's presence here clearly highlights the importance that the Royal Government of Bhutan gives to SACEP as a nodal regional agency entrusted with the mandate to protect the environment of the South Asian Region. We are also truly encouraged by your Excellency's address.

I would also like to thank our distinguished guests for sparing time to be here with us this morning.

I would like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude to UNEP for supporting the meeting of the 9<sup>th</sup> Governing Council of SACEP. UNEP was responsible for establishing SACEP 20 years ago and continues to play a pivotal role in sustaining the organization. We are particularly grateful to Mr. Surendra Shrestha, Regional Director, UNEP, for his personal interest and dedication to promoting SACEP and helping to shape it into an effective regional organization. We look forward to your continued support in the future also.

I would also like to express word of appreciation to the Director General of SACEP and his staff for their unwavering support and patience while organizing this meeting.

Our thanks and gratitude are also due to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for providing VIP transport and protocol services and the Department of National Properties for the Conference facilities. I would also like to thank the Royal Bhutan Police for arranging security for our distinguished delegates. Lastly, I would like to thank my colleagues at the NECS for their hard work in organizing this important meeting.

Tashi Delek

I would like to invite everyone for refreshments.

**SOUTH ASIA CO-OPERATIVE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME****9<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL OF SACEP  
26 AUGUST 2005, THIMPHU, BHUTAN****AGENDA****1. Opening of the Meeting**

The meeting will be opened by the current Chairman of the Governing Council of SACEP.

**2. Election of Office Bearers and Country Statements**

In accordance with the Rules of Procedure of the Governing Council of SACEP, a new Chairman will be elected in a manner consistent with the Articles of Association of SACEP. One or more Vice Chairmen, a Rapporteur and other officials may also be appointed by the Governing Council. The Director General shall function as the Secretary of the Council during its sessions.

**3. Adoption of Agenda and Organisation of Work**

The Meeting will consider the Provisional Agenda for adoption. Any matter regarding the Organisation of Work and the Sessions may also be considered.

**4. Brief Statements by Member States and UN Agencies**

Under this agenda item, the Heads of Country Delegations and Representatives of UN Agencies may present their brief statements or the statements may be circulated to save time.

**5. Presentation on UNEP Strategy for the Region and South Asia**

The Regional Director and Representative of UNEP Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific would brief the Ministerial Meeting on UNEP's expectations to the collaboration with the regional partners and with emphasis to UNEP's strategy for the Asia Pacific region and in particular South Asia. Specific issues will include Air, National Sustainable Development Strategies, Environmental Security, Regional Environment Treaty, and Eco-housing.

**6. Presentation of Report of the Preparatory Meeting of National Focal Points by the Rapporteur**

The Rapporteur of the National Focal Points Meeting will present the report of the Meeting to the Governing Council.

**7. Decussion and Endorsement of Recommendations agreed upon at the Preparatory Meeting of National Focal Points**

The meeting will be requested for endorsement of the recommendations from the Preparatory Meeting of National Focal Points.

- a) Institutional Matters
- b) Programme Matters
- c) Financial Matters

**8. Venue and Date of the 10<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Governing Council**

Under this Agenda Item, The Ninth Governing Council Meeting may wish to Consider the recommendations of the Preparatory Meeting on the venue and date of the 10<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Governing Council of SACEP

**9. Any Other Business**

Under this Agenda item, the Governing Council will discuss any other relevant matters that may be raised by the representatives participating at the Meeting or by the Secretariat.

**10. Adoption of the Report**

The Rapporteur will present the Draft Report of the Governing Council Meeting for its consideration and adoption.

**11. Closure of the Meeting**

Any representative participating in the Meeting may wish to make concluding statements. The Chairman will finally declare the Meeting closed.

***Statement by***

**Mr. Dost Mohammad Amin  
Deputy Director General  
National Environmental Protection Agency  
Islamic Republic of Afghanistan  
at the  
Ninth Meeting of the Governing Council of  
South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme  
Thimphu, Bhutan**

**26 August 2005**

**Islamic Republic of Afghanistan  
National Environmental Protection Agency**

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**Speaking Notes for Mr. Dost Mohammad Amin  
Deputy Director General- NEPA**

***Excellencies!***

***Distinguished Delegates – Ladies & Gentlemen's!***

On behalf of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, I extend many thanks to His Majesty the King of Bhutan for facilitating this event; His Excellency the Minister for Environment for hosting the Ninth Governing Council Meeting of South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme at the beautiful city of Thimpu, Bhutan, and the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme Secretariat for keeping the impetus of the forum.

Apologies by His Excellency Mr. Mostapha Zaher, Director General, National Environmental Protection Agency, for not attending this important meeting due to official stuck over at other official issues, to all distinguished delegates, and South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme Secretariat authorities and has extended his best wishes to have a successful meeting.

South Asia is one of the most diverse regions in the world. Bordered to North by the Himalayas and to the South by the Indian Ocean, covers a diversity of ecosystem from lush tropical forests to harsh dry desert. Although never remounted as a single country, the movement of the people over thousands years have resulted in strong commonalities between the cultures.

Yet there remains a huge diversity of languages, religions and outlook across the sub-continent. Most of the South Asian Nations shares similar environmental problems, stemming from poverty and its consequences on natural resources.

Afghanistan struggles to recover from decades of war and depravation, many urgent needs are competing for the attention of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and donor communities, while at first thought it might seem that environmental issues are not a top priority, in fact they lie at the heart of current efforts to re-establish the basis for sustainable livelihoods for the country people and sound economic footing for broad based development.

I echo the sayings of the famous poet Mohammad Iqbal:

‘ASIA IS A LIVING BODY. AFGHANISTAN IS ITS HEART  
IN THE RUIN OF THE HEART LIES THE RUIN OF THE BODY  
SO LONG AS THE HEART IS FREE  
THE BODY REMAINS FREE  
IF NOT, ITS BECOMES A STRAW ADRIFT IN THE WIND’

Only working by working together we can all meet the challenges of:  
Environment for Development, People, Planet and Prosperity.

Thank you.

Mr. Dost Mohammad Amin  
Deputy Director General- NEPA

*Statement by*

**Mr. Jafar Ahmed Chowdhury**  
**Secretary, Ministry of Environment & Forests**  
**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
**at the**  
**Ninth Meeting of the Governing Council of**  
**South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme**  
**Thimphu, Bhutan**

**26 August 2005**



**Mr. Chairman,  
Hon'ble Ministers,  
Director General, SACEP  
Participants from South Asian Countries,  
Distinguished Guests,  
Ladies and Gentlemen**

It is indeed a great honour and proud privilege for me to be here in this beautiful city of Thimphu at the ninth meeting of the Governing Council of South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme. I am happy to note that a good number of Ministers, country Focal Points and environmental experts have assembled here to discuss various environmental issues and related co-operation and conservation efforts. On behalf of Bangladesh delegation and on my personal behalf, I extend my sincere gratitude to the people and the Royal Government of Bhutan for hosting such an important meeting. I would take this opportunity to congratulate H.E. Mr. Dasho Nado Rinchhen, Hon'ble Minister on your unanimous election to the Chair of this meeting. I thank the SACEP Secretariat for kindly organizing the meeting. I am sorry to let you know that because of heavy process up actions in Dhaka, our Hon'ble Minister/State Minister could not attend the Governing Council meeting. I convey their support, commitment and best wishes for the meeting and activities of SACEP.

**Mr. Chairman,**

We are all aware that SACEP was established a decade earlier than the Earth Summit of 1992. It is one of the oldest regional environmental organizations in the world. But to speak frankly, we have not yet achieved our expected goals out of this regional organization. We expect proactive role from SACEP in the future. My delegation supports the recent changes brought in the strategy and the work plan of SACEP. I hope this will give the organization, the right impetus. In this context, I would say that future projects should be prioritized considering regional significance and to be implemented with achievable targets. I also want to share that we should have gone further to make SACEP as a united regional voice in the international negotiations on different environmental issues.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Bangladesh welcomes MOU on co-operation in the field of environment between SAARC and SACEP. I hope this initiative will establish close co-operation with SAARC and will strengthen SACEP in implementing its programmes without duplication. SACEP can work as Technical Organ of SAARC for any matters relating to environment under the technical guidance of current Consultative Committee or proposed advisory Committee.

**Mr. Chairman,**

I am pleased to inform the meeting that Bangladesh has made quite a good progress in the implementation of the project entitled "Male' Declaration on Control and Prevention of Air Pollution and its likely Trans-boundry Effects for South Asia" and "Bangladesh National Programme of Action for Protection of the Coastal and Marine Environment from Land-Based Activities" under joint initiative of UNEP and SACEP. As part of the project, a 'Male Monitoring Station' has been established with modern equipments at the border area of Satkhira District in the south-west part of Bangladesh in order to generate data on transboundary air pollution. Very recently, the National Plan of Action (NPA) has been finalized for protection of coastal and marine environment from land-based activities. We have banned polythene shopping bags and two-stroke three wheelers in Bangladesh. We have a smart set of laws, rules and regulations on environment. Bangladesh has prepared National Conservation Strategies, Biodiversity Strategies, National Biotechnological Strategies, Bio-safety Guidelines and etc. Above all, there is a National Environment Council headed by the Hon'ble Prime Minister.

**Mr. Chairman,**

I hope future initiatives, such as Promoting South Asia Co-operation on Efficient Use of Water Resources, Disaster management including Tsunami, Experience sharing in Sustainable Urban Settlements, Preparation of Regional Guidelines on Environmentally Sound Management of Toxic Chemicals and other Hazardous Wastes, Assessment of Areas Vulnerable to Sea Level Rise, Role of Traditional Practice in Sustainable Forest Management and Participatory Forestry, Promotion of Ecotourism, Capacity Building in the Region related to International Conventions and other projects & programmes would significantly contribute to addressing the major environmental issues of our region.

**Mr. Chairman**

I would also like to put emphasis on the decisions adopted in the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Special Sessions of Governing Council. We are yet to see the implementation of these decisions. I consider that Subject Area Focal Points (SAFPs) and National / Country Focal Points (NFPs) of the member countries are required to be strengthened; so that they could discharge their functions effectively. I believe SACEP Secretariat should also be strengthened with additional staffs and logistics.

**Mr. Chairman**

I consider that apart from efficient manpower and able leadership to steer an organization, adequate funding is also a pre-requisite to run the organization efficiently. We are in favour of introducing a suitable funding mechanism. But we should bear in mind that we all are representing poor countries; an ambitious financial support from member countries would not be realistic. It is even not worthwhile to

consider all the member countries would be able to contribute equally at ease. Rather we would expect that economically stronger nations should contribute more. To my understanding regular expenses of SACEP Secretariat should be covered from the member country contribution and donor assistance could be explored for implementing projects and programmes.

**Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen**

Once again, on behalf of Bangladesh delegation and on my personal behalf, I would like to extend our sincere gratitude to the Royal Government of Bhutan for hosting the meeting of the Ninth Governing Council of SACEP. I convey my sincere thanks to the Royal Government of Bhutan and her people for their generous hospitality, warmth and goodwill extended to us. In particular, I would like to thank National Environment Commission Secretariat of the Royal Government of Bhutan for successful preparations leading to this meeting and for the excellent arrangements made. My thanks are also due to the SACEP Secretariat for their secretarial support to the meeting.

I thank you all for your patient hearing.

Jafar Ahmed Chowdhury  
Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests  
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

*Statement by*

**H.E. Daso Nado Rinchhen  
The Hon. Deputy Minister of Environment  
Royal Government of Bhutan  
at the  
9<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Governing Council of  
South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme  
Thimphu, Bhutan**

**26 August 2005**

Honorable Ministers, Leaders and Members of the Delegations of SACEP member countries, Dr. Arvind Anil Boaz, Director General of SACEP, Dr. Surendra Shrestha, Regional Director for UNEP – Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, Representatives of World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and World Conservation Monitoring Center (WCMC), Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentleman.

On behalf of the Royal Government of Bhutan and on my own behalf, I have the honour to welcome you all to the 9<sup>th</sup> Governing Council Meeting of SACEP. We are pleased to be able to host this meeting here in Bhutan and we look forward to a very fruitful meeting. May I also wish you all a pleasant stay in our Kingdom.

At the outset, I would like to extend a very warm welcome to Dr. Arvind Anil Boaz, on assumption of office as the new Director General of SACEP. Hon'ble Ministers may kindly recall that our new Director General has been recruited following the recommendation of the external review and in accordance with the decision of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Special session of the 8<sup>th</sup> Governing Council. I have no doubt that with his vast experience in the field of environment, especially in forestry; SACEP can be re-vitalized into an institution of excellence, and one which will be capable of rendering valuable services to our countries in the field of environment. At the same time, I wish to place on record our deep appreciation to his predecessor, Mr. Mahboob Ellahi for having guided the functioning of SACEP during his tenure as the Director General of SACEP.

Let me also take this opportunity to thank SACEP Secretariat for the excellent support and cooperation extended in organizing this meeting and for the background documentation. Our sincere gratitude and appreciation also goes to UNEP – Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok, for providing the much-needed support for the organization of this meeting.

Honorable Ministers, Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen! During the 3<sup>rd</sup> Special Session of the 8<sup>th</sup> Governing Council of SACEP held at Colombo in November 2003 and in several Governing Council Meetings in the past, one of the most common issue that the member states highlighted was the need to re-vitalize SACEP and transform it into a dynamic organization in our region. Following this recommendation, a new Strategy for SACEP was developed and discussed during the 3<sup>rd</sup> Special Session of the 8<sup>th</sup> Governing Council Meeting. Although, member states agreed, in principle to the strategy, there were a number of issues that remained un-resolved. Most importantly, issues regarding financial and institutional matters remained largely un-resolved. Therefore, the Governing Council may like to re-visit these issues and deliberate on it at this Governing Council meeting.

The discussions on these issues are pertinent, especially because SACEP now has a new Director General. My Delegation hopes that, under the leadership of Dr. Boaz, SACEP will realize its full potential and fulfill the wishes of the member countries by effectively implementing the activities outlined in the programme of work.

I had the privilege of being associated with SACEP for sometime and I am particularly satisfied to see our collective efforts beginning to bear some fruits. As Bhutan takes over

the Chairmanship of the Governing Council of SACEP till the next Governing Council meeting, I am hopeful that all the member states will extend their full support and cooperation to transform SACEP into an effective institution that can fulfill the objectives with which it was established over two decades ago by our Governments. A strong, vibrant and re-vitalized SACEP with full ownership and political support of the Member States is in the interest of the member government and the peoples of our region.

My Delegation has carefully reviewed the background documents prepared by the Secretariat. While the Royal Government of Bhutan is in agreement with the proposed strategy, I would like to highlight a few pertinent issues for consideration by the Governing Council. As agreed in the last Governing Council Meeting, my delegation would like to re-emphasize the need for SACEP to prioritize on issues of regional significance or concerns that are aimed at complementing and supplementing the works being carried out in the member countries. Considering the limited technical and professional capacity of the Secretariat, and the limited financial resources, there is a need to prioritize and focus on fewer issues such as, climate change, waste management, renewable energy, capacity building, biodiversity, land degradation, natural disasters, etc.

I understand that the Secretariat has proposed establishment of an Advisory Body to guide SACEP in both short and long-term planning of programmes and activities. While we agree in principle to this proposal, it is our opinion that this may create another layer of bureaucracy in the system. Moreover, we may also have to consider the financial implications of such an arrangement. My Delegation would therefore like to request other member delegations to consider this matter in the light of the issues that I have just raised.

My delegation fully supports the recommendation to strengthen the Focal Points to implement the programme areas identified. We fully understand the pivotal role played by Subject Area and Country Focal Points in realizing the mission and goals of SACEP. There is also a need to strengthen the linkage between the Consultative Committee and the National Focal Points. However, for countries such as Bhutan, who do not have a diplomatic mission in Colombo, the Governing Council should consider a special arrangement, at least, for the duration when Bhutan is chairing the Governing Council agreed. I am hopeful that the Governing Council will give due consideration to this particular issue so as to facilitate effective functioning of the Secretariat until the next Governing Council meeting.

My Delegation is also supportive of the collaboration between SACEP and SAARC as well as between SACEP and UNEP. We thank UNEP for the generous support provided to SACEP so far and look forward to their continued support in the future. We must all strive to further strengthen such collaboration in order to achieve a common goal of conserving the environment in our region.

The Royal Government of Bhutan has achieved great strides in the field of environment and remains committed to the conservation of our environment. I am happy to inform this august gathering that His Majesty the King and the People of Bhutan were recently

conferred the "Champions of the Earth" award by UNEP. Our draft Constitution also firmly states that Bhutan will strive to maintain 60% of its total area under forest cover for all times to come.

We earnestly hope that SACEP can be re-vitalized and that it can provide useful services to the member countries. We look forward to a meaningful cooperation and collaboration in the near future.

Finally, I hope that the deliberations of our meeting will be fruitful and its outcomes would serve as a road map for SACEP.

Thank you and Tashi Delek.

**Statement by**

**I**

**H.E. Mr Namo Narain Meena  
Minister of State for Environment and Forest  
Government of India  
at the  
9<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Governing Council of  
South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme  
Thimphu, Bhutan**

**26 August 2005**



*Mr. Chairman*

*Hon'ble Environment Ministers of SACEP Countries*

*Distinguished Delegates & Friends*

It is a privilege for me to be present in Thimphu, Bhutan today for the meeting of the 9th Governing Council of SACEP. I thank you for the warm welcome and hospitality as well as the excellent arrangements made.

Our environment, today, is increasingly under stress. Over-exploitation of natural resources, changing monsoon patterns, desertification of vast tracts of land, droughts and floods - sometimes in geographical proximity, rise in sea levels, alarming depletion of atmospheric ozone, rapid urbanization, increase in populations, to name a few, are some of the challenges that we are faced with. As a developing region with a large population living below the poverty line, we also face tensions between the priorities of environment and those of development while trying to strike the right balance between them. Several of our countries share a common past. The challenges of the future require that we cooperate with one another. This is particularly relevant for environmental protection, since we share substantially our oceans, rivers and eco-systems.

India, since Independence, has followed a planned approach to economic development and believes in conservation and sustainability of natural resources. From the very beginning, we have been committed to the goal of providing a better quality of life to our citizens including health care, clean drinking water, housing, education and a cleaner environment, etc. Despite a plethora of problems, we have been able to take very impressive strides in improving the socio-economic conditions of our people. Such progress has, however, had a definite impact on the environment.

This is true for the South Asian region as well. Therefore, the decision of the countries of this region to set up the South Asia Cooperative Environmental Programme as far back as 1982, in recognition of the fact that many ecological and development problems transcend national and administrative boundaries was an extremely far sighted and significant one.

In the initial years, SACEP was quite effective in prompting cooperative activities in the field of environment, beneficial to member countries, though extensive cooperation and exchange of knowledge, skill and expertise. Somewhere along the way however, SACEP became less active and relevant, leaving member countries doubtful about the worth of such an organization, and the usefulness of contributing to it. The Eighth Governing Council recognizing this, decided to set up a committee to examine whether or not the organization still served a useful purpose and if not, what steps should be taken to revive it. The committee made a series of recommendations which all of you are no doubt aware of. A few of those recommendations, principally the appointment of a Director General on merit basis, through selection from among qualified applicants, rather than on rotation

basis, have already been taken. Some other decisions have been posed us here, at today's Governing Council Meeting for approval.

India is firmly of the opinion that the organization is necessary and can serve a very worthwhile purpose. The countries of this region have many common environmental concerns and problems which can be more effectively addressed if efforts are made jointly by some, or all of us. Some of our countries have expertise and experience which can be of use to others in the region, or indeed, to other countries in the world as well. Some of our countries have developed technology, indigenously that can be shared with others needing such technology. India with its wide range of institutions which are involved in research relating to the common concerns of the region, would actively support any collaborate effort in this direction. It is in this context that we feel that SACEP can become an extremely significant organization. I think we need to give it more time, but it should deliver, sooner rather than later. In this context the proposal before us that SACEP should focus on a few selected areas of concern to the whole region for developing work programmes is very welcome. We hope that by the time the next Governing Council meets, we will see considerable progress and will all be convinced that SACEP needs to be supported because it serves our common regional, as well as our individual country interests in environmental matters.

The success of any organization and its work programme will, however, depend on the support received from the members. Conversely, the objective and activities under the programme will need to be tailored to meet the resource commitments available. Earlier India had reservations about paying a country contribution of more than US\$ 20,000/-. To demonstrate our commitment to SACEP and particularly to its revival, we now propose to enhance our contribution from the existing level to US\$20,000/- to US\$31,850/- per year. We will also examine the possibility of making a contribution for the purpose of programme development.

To ensure that the vision of SACEP is achieved and the trust that its member countries have reposed in it for so long is fulfilled, let us work towards making this regional forum effective.

Thank you.



*Statement by*

**Hon. Ahmed Abdullah**  
**Minister for Environment, Energy and Water**  
**Government of Republic of Maldives**  
**at the**  
**9<sup>th</sup> Governing Council Meeting of**  
**South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme**  
**Thimpu, Bhutan**

**26 August 2005**

Mr. Chairman. Distinguished Delegates

First of all, allow me to congratulate you Mr. Chairman on your election to preside over this important meeting and to act as the new chairman of the SACEP Governing Council. Your election, undoubtedly auger well for the decisions and actions we take for our common cause of a safer environment.

Mr. Chairman,

South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme is now a well recognized institution in our region. Since its very modest foundation in 1982, SACEP has over the past 23 has made some significant strides. SACEP's progress in promoting implementation of environmental policies and programmes since the historic Earth Summit in 1992 is praiseworthy.

Mr. Chairman, we recognise the some of the work, South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme is undertaking in the sphere of environmental protection. We are currently implementing an important project with the assistance of the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme. This is the *Implementation of the Malé Declaration on Control and Prevention of Air Pollution and its Likely Transboundary Effects for South Asia*.

I would also like to bring to the attention of the Governing Council the issue of the country contribution to the SACEP. The contribution which we are making to SACEP is one of the largest we make to an international organization. Maldives is committed to the objectives and for the strengthening of the SACEP. Because of our many constrains, such a contribution is a large sacrifice. We hope our collective will and partnership would help to improve the environment conservation work of the region. For the Maldives, increasing the country contribution from existing level would be a huge burden at this time, when we are struggling in a major task of post tsunami recovery and reconstruction. I sincerely request Governing Council, to consider, enhancement of the resource use, at SACEP rather than to increase the mandatory country contribution at the present time.

We believe, all of us has an responsibility in helping to strengthen the SACEP. Afterall, SACEP is an institution which belongs to us. Hence I suggest to the Governing Council, as a measure to strengthen the SACEP and to build our confidence that we start allocating some amount of our contribution to the programme development at the SACEP. As a mechanism to guide the Director General of SACEP in his work, we need to introduce mandatory reporting mechanism for SACEP so that SACEP could report to the member states on a biannual basis. As to enhance transparency and accountability, I suggest that we change the external auditors of SACEP on a regular basis.

Before I conclude, let me thank the Royal Government of Bhutan for the excellent arrangements made for this important meeting. I am also most grateful for this warm hospitality extended to me and my delegation. I am pleased about the most cordial working environment and sense of understanding at the meeting. It has been a very successful meeting. A great opportunity to strengthen the regional solidarity and to bring our best wisdom and collective action in a true spirit of cooperation.

Thank You!

*Statement by*

**Hon. A.H.M. Fowzie**  
**Minister of Environment and Natural Resources**  
**Government of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka**  
**at the**  
**9<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Governing Council of**  
**South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme**  
**Thimphu, Bhutan**

**26 August 2005**

## Ninth Governing Council Meeting of SACEP

26.08.2005 - Thimphu, Bhutan

Statement of

**Hon. A.H.M. Fowzie, MP**

Minister of Environment & Natural Resources,  
Government of Sri Lanka

Honorable Ministers,  
Senior Officials of the SACEP member States,  
Distinguished Invitees,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure for me to address this distinguished gathering today at the 9<sup>th</sup> Governing Council Meeting of the South Asia Cooperative Environment Program, as the Minister in charge of the subject of Environment in Sri Lanka. Sri Lanka has been an active member of SACEP from its inception and we are extremely pleased to provide host government facilities to the functioning of this oldest regional intergovernmental organization in the field of environment.

On behalf of the Government of Sri Lanka, I appreciate the contribution so far made by SACEP for the development of the environmental sector in Sri Lanka and also in the region through mobilizing required resources for the implementation of various projects.

Sri Lanka is fully committed to the obligations of various international environmental conventions and treaties. The Montreal Protocol, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Convention on Bio Diversity, United Nations Convention for Combating Land degradation are to name a few.

While we are committed to the implementation of obligation arising out of these international requirements, we are also committed to implement national programs arising out of our national needs. We are not only concern with the global and national needs but we are also equally concern with the regional requirements.

Sri Lanka believes that SACEP is one of the important vehicles through which the regional environmental concerns can be addressed. It is gratifying to note that countries in the South Asia have taken positive initiatives for the conservation of the environment through the involvement of SACEP and also through national initiatives.

It is our view that the SACEP could work together and blend our respective national efforts into a constructive regional cooperation. We have to identify national and regional priorities to retard further degradation of the ecosystems of south Asia. SACEP has and can play a crucial role in this regard.

It has been recognized world over that people's participation in policy formulation and program implementation is the corner stone to sustainable development. SACEP can highlight such initiatives taken in the region for further replication.

We strongly believe that the environment that we are enjoying now is not something that we have inherited, but it is something that we have borrowed from our future generations. I am proud to inform this gathering that the Government of Sri Lanka has initiated a large number of activities for managing our environment wisely so that the present generations and the generations to come will be benefited.

Please allow me to share some our own experiences in the environmental management in Sri Lanka.

We have launched large scale public education and awareness programs on environmental management in Sri Lanka through the school system. School children are being provided with resources to undertake environment related programmes such as waste management, planting and caring for trees, organic farming etc.

Waste management has already become a major environmental problem in the country. Therefore, we have started working with the local governments and the private sector to find ways and means for environmentally friendly waste disposal systems. I am aware that some countries in the region have already made successful attempts in this regard and we look forward to learn from them through collaborative programmes.

Disposal of polythene is another problem that always comes associated with waste management. We are working towards controlling production of non-biodegradable polythene products. I know that the Government of Bangladesh has successfully banned the production of polythene while offering alternatives. These are some of the best practices that the entire region can benefit by sharing experiences.

The Government of Sri Lanka has recognized the gravity of urban air pollution due to vehicular and industrial emissions. Therefore, recently we have introduced implementation of vehicle emission Standards Island wide. These standards will be strictly enforced from January 2006.

I am happy to inform that we have already made some significant progress in improving the urban air quality by introducing un-leaded petrol and low sulfur diesel. We are also making arrangements to introduce incentive schemes to promote clean energy vehicles.

Three of our countries in the region are now faced with much greater challenges resulting due to the recent tsunami catastrophe. The environmental consequences of the tsunami will be of very greater scale if the reconstruction and recovery programmes are not undertaken systematically.



Sri Lanka is faced with the challenge of managing debris amounting to nearly 500 million kilo grams. Providing safe drinking water to the affected people is another problem we are faced with.

The reconstruction programmes are also posing sever threats to the environment and the natural resources base of the country. Finding ways and means to mange natural disasters has become a greater concern for all of us after the Tsunami. We have seen various country level and regional initiatives in this regard.

We strongly believe that, intergovernmental agencies such as the SACEP could play a vital catalytic role in developing regional partnership for sharing experiences and information. We all agree that SACEP has not been performing to the desired level of our satisfaction.

However, if we all get together and steer and guide the organization towards achieving the goals of our expectation, we will be in a better position to achieve a lot in the field of environmental management in the South Asia region.

Before concluding, I would like to profusely thank the Royal Government of Bhutan for the excellent arrangements made for the meeting and for making our stay here in Bhutan pleasant and memorable one.

I thank you

**Statement of the Regional Director of UNEP at the Governing Council of SACEP,  
26 August 2005**

**1. GLOBAL**

- Economic: Globally, the economic output has increased from \$7 trillion in 1950 to \$46 trillion in 2000. The year 2003 was the 4<sup>th</sup> consecutive year in which the harvest fell short of consumption. Over 100 million tons of grain short fall was recorded in 2003. The world oil reserves are depleting.
- Social: Despite the economic prosperity, poverty and disparity are the greatest hindrance for sustainable development. Consumption at the rate of developed nations will need additional three Earths to meet future demands. Present rate of consumption puts enormous pressure on natural resources and is leading to unsustainable development.
- Environment: While the amount of water on earth has remained the same over the last 3 billion years, water usage has increased six-fold during the last 100 years. Estimates show that more than 50 countries (two-thirds of world's population) will be suffering a severe water crisis by 2025. Respiratory diseases caused by air pollution have been found to be a major cause of death in urban areas. It is estimated that earth is losing 15 million hectares of tropical forests land per year. Over 24% of mammals and 12% of bird species bird species are currently regarded as globally threatened.

**2. ASIA-PACIFIC**

- Economic: Asia-Pacific accounts for 40% of the global economy and is the engine of global economic growth for the next decades. The demand for food grain increases nearly 9 million tons per year while the productivity has remained nearly the same for the past few years for major food crops. The demand for primary energy doubles every 12 years.
- Social: Asia-Pacific is the most populous region in the world with a population of 3.9 billion. With an annual growth rate of 1.1 %, it is predicted to reach 4.69 billion by 2025. In 2004, the urban population was 41% of the total, with the rate of urbanization taking place at the rate of 2.4 % per annum.
- Environment: The region has the lowest per capita availability of freshwater. Water use increased almost 300% between 1950 and 1995, demand will exceed supply in many river basins in the next decade. Air pollution contributes to the death of nearly 0.5 million people annually. People are increasingly becoming victims to ailments like lung cancer, asthma, pneumonia and chronic obstructive pulmonary. More than half of Asia's dryland are affected by desertification.

### 3. SOUTH ASIA

- Social: About 1.33 billion people live there—a third of all Asians and a fifth of all the people in the world. South Asia remains among the world's poorest region, with more than half a billion poor people.
- Economy: The South Asian economy has grown at an average of 5.2 per cent during the 1991–2000 period and is projected to achieve higher economic growth during the 2002–2015 period.
- Environment: According to State of the Environment (SOE) and Global Environment Outlook (GEO) reports,
  - a) South Asia occupies 4.8% of the world's total land area, and land degradation is a major problem in all South Asian countries;
  - b) 18.6% of the land area of South Asia is under forests; arable land per capita is decreasing in South Asia;
  - c) water quality in rivers across South Asia has been consistently deteriorating; water availability per capita has decreased in most of the countries in South Asia except in Nepal and Sri Lanka where it has increased in the past decade;
  - d) air quality in major cities in South Asia has deteriorated in the past decade; and
  - e) South Asia accounts for nearly 15.6% of the global floral and 12% of the faunal diversity.
- The state of the environment report (SoE) 2001 and Global Environment Outlook (GEO 3) 2002 identified the key environmental concerns: ensuring livelihood security ( land, food, water, energy and income security); combating natural disasters; preventing industrial pollution; managing urbanisation; and conserving biodiversity.
- The WSSD process identified four major priorities for actions: eliminating poverty and creating human security; conserving the natural resource endowments; securing the economic base; and strengthening institutional system.

### 4. UNEP STRATEGY

- UNEP is the environment conscience of the UN system with a mission to provide leadership and encourage partnership in caring for the environment by inspiring, informing and enabling nations and peoples to improve their quality of life without compromising that of future generation.
- The overall objectives of the regional strategy of UNEP is to ensure that decisions of the UNEP Governing Council are effectively implemented in the region, and the regional concerns, priorities and perspectives are taken fully into account in developing UNEP policies.
- The focus of UNEP's regional delivery for the Asia and the Pacific is at the subregional level. For this delivery, UNEP will promote subregional

cooperation on environment for sustainable development at the subregional level and strengthening of the environment community at the national level.

- In pursuance of the above outlined strategy, UNEP will implement four programmes in the subregion:
  - Programme 1: Promote subregional cooperation and address national level capacity building needs
  - Programme 2: Assist to enable the environment knowledge hub (eKH)
  - Programme 3: Assist in the response to emerging environmental issues
  - Programme 4: Enhance partnership to maximize effectiveness of delivery
- UNEP will work closely with intergovernmental agencies, environment ministries/agencies, and civil society organisations at the subregional level to strengthen subregional cooperation.
- A strong partnership with SAARC, SACEP and ICIMOD will be forged to strengthen collective environmental management in the subregion. The partnership will assist, facilitate and enable institutions to identify priorities and address the common and transboundary issues.
- Support will be provided to civil society organisations and networks for participation at subregional, regional and global environment and sustainable development forums.
- UNEP will support government, environment agencies and civil society organisations at the national level to strengthen environment community. UNEP will assist governments to build a mechanism for participation of civil society organisations in the decision making process. Support will be provided to civil society groups, including young, private sector, parliamentarians, media and NGOs. UNEP will work closely with Collaborating Centres and Centre of Excellence to prepare the scientific base and address the priorities.
- UNEP's International Environmental Governance process recognized the need to develop a strategic plan for capacity building for the developing countries. To this end, the Bali Strategic Plan (BSP) for Technology Support and Capacity-building was adopted in Bali, Indonesia, on 4 December 2004 by the Intergovernmental Working Group. UNEP will provide support to build capacity of Environment Ministries and civil society under the BSP. Under the BSP, UNEP will work initially with four countries, namely Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka, where specific request has been received.
- The Environment Knowledge Hub (eKH) is proposed to be developed as an integral part of the Regional Strategy of UNEP. It will be a virtual focal point, a decentralized distributed network, a storehouse of knowledge, information and data on the environment and sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific. Establishment of eKH will add value to the process of dissemination of information and raising awareness on environment, making use of state of art technology.

- UNEP will assist countries in building capacity to effectively address the emerging environmental issues, including GLOF, freshwater, waste, and urbanisation issues.
- A new approach to partnerships will underpin this strategy focusing on innovative mechanisms for collaboration to avoid duplication and maximize services to client countries. Initially consultations to build trust and transparency will be initiated with existing partners such as ADB, UNDP, IUCN, SIDA, and NORAD. UNEP will work closely with the UN Resident Coordinator for all the national level delivery.
- UNEP's integrated programme will seek to leverage its scarce resources by mobilizing an additional threefold contribution of resources through its strategic partnerships each year (i.e., on average for every dollar from UNEP, three dollars will be mobilized from strategic partners). In addition, UNEP will seek the contributions to the Environment Fund and Trust Funds by governments on time and explore increase each year.

**DRAFT**

With Annex VII  
contd ..

# UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

## SOUTH ASIA SUBREGIONAL STRATEGIES

2005-07

DRAFT

AUGUST 2005



## ACRONYMS

ABC	Atmospheric Brown Cloud
ADB	Asian Development Bank
AIT	Asian Institute of Technology
BSP	Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building
BCAS	Bangladesh Centre for Advance Studies
CAP	Compliance Assistance Programme for Ozone Action
CLEAN	Community Led Environment Action Network (CLEAN)
CPCB	Central Pollution Control Board
CSO	Civil Society Organization
DA	Development Alternatives
Ekh	Environment Knowledge Hub
Ewaste	Electronic Waste
ESCAP	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
GLOF	Glacier Lake Outburst Floods
GEO 3	Global Environment Outlook
GMEF	Global Ministerial Environment Forum
ICIMOD	International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development

IUCN	World Conservation Union
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
NGO	Non Governmental Organization
NORAD	Norwegian Agency for International Development
NSDS	National Sustainable Development Strategy
SAARC	South Asia Association for Regional Cooperation
SACEP	South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme
SAYEN	South Asia Youth Environment Network
SIDA	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
SEPD	Sub-regional Environmental Policy Dialogue
SENRIC	South Asia Environment and Natural Resources Information Centre
SoE	state of the environment report
SSDS	Subregional Sustainable Development Strategy
TERI	The Energy and Resources Institute
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
WSSD	World Summit on Sustainable Development

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## 1.0 STRATEGIC CONTEXT

### 1.1 SOUTH ASIA

UNEP is the environment conscience of the UN system with a mission to provide leadership and encourage partnership in caring for the environment by inspiring, informing and enabling nations and peoples to improve their quality of life without compromising that of future generation. The overall objectives of the regional strategy of UNEP is the ensure that decisions of the UNEP Governing Council are effectively implemented in the region, and the regional concerns, priorities and perspectives are taken fully into account in developing UNEP policies. The regional strategy has four key goals to provide service in the region:

- assist implementing national, sub-regional and global priority environmental programmes;
- establish and host a Regional Environment Knowledge Centre;
- lead responses to emerging environment issues in the region;
- manage human, financial and physical resources to maximize effectiveness of delivery.

South Asia is home to one of the oldest civilisation in the world, where people from many races and religions have co-existed for many centuries. South Asia subregion consists of Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka. The subregion is bounded in the south by the Indian Ocean, in the south-east by the Bay of Bengal and in the south-west by the Arabian Sea and in the North by the mighty Himalayan Mountains. The key features are:

- it occupies 4.8% of the world's total land, covering an area of about 41,26, 800 sq. km;

- 1.33 billion people live in South Asia—a third of all Asians and a fifth of all the people in the world; and
- the entire coastline runs to about 10,000 km with wetlands area of 1,34,161 sq.km.

South Asia has three intergovernmental organisations, namely South Asia Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme (SACEP) and International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD).

- SAARC: established in 1985, it aims to promote the welfare of the people of South Asia and to improve their quality of life through accelerated economic growth, social progress and cultural development in the region; and the Ministerial Meeting on Environment held annually to discuss the priority issues.
- SACEP: established in 1982, it aims to promote and support protection, management and enhancement of the environment in South Asia; and the Ministerial Forum held annually to determine the policies, strategies and programmes; and
- ICIMOD: established in 1983, it aims to promote the development of the economically and environmentally sound mountain ecosystem and to improve the living standards of mountain population; and Board of Governors is the decision making body.

All the countries in South Asia have established Environment Ministry/agency with a mandate for the environment sector

## 1.2 KEY ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES

South Asia remains among the world's poorest region, with more than half a billion poor people. The South Asian economy has grown at an average of 5.2% from 1991–2000 and is projected to achieve higher economic growth over the 2002–2015. Population growth and rapid economic development are exerting considerable pressure on the environment and natural resource base.

The state of the environment report (SoE) 2001 and Global Environment Outlook (GEO 3) 2002 was prepared in close collaboration with SAARC, SACEP and governments. The key environmental concerns were identified by representatives of governments, civil society and experts from the subregion include:

- Ensuring Livelihood Security: land, food, water, energy and income security;
- Combating Natural Disasters: floods, droughts, cyclones, earthquakes, landslides, forest fires, industrial disasters, and cultural and ethnic conflicts;
- Preventing Industrial Pollution: specific needs of large, medium and small enterprises; impacts of economic restructuring; and relationships with communities;

- Managing Urbanisation: migration, employment opportunities, urban poverty, consumerism, stressed infrastructure and management systems; and
- Conserving Biodiversity: undervaluation of biological wealth; subsistence, commercial and other threats to biodiversity.

The ADB, ESCAP, UNDP and UNEP forged a partnership to assist the preparatory process of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in 2001 for South Asia. The four major priorities for action were identified by the civil society and intergovernmental process include:

- Eliminating poverty and creating human security;
- Conserving the natural resource endowments;
- Securing the economic base; and
- Strengthening institutional system.

The key emerging issues identified include: Atmospheric Brown Cloud (ABC); Glacier Lake Outburst Floods (GLOF); Urbanisation; Nitrogen-Pollution; and Electronic Waste (Ewaste).

## 2.0 STRATEGY

The focus of UNEP's regional delivery for the Asia and the Pacific is at the subregional level. For this delivery, UNEP will promote subregional cooperation on environment for sustainable development at the subregional level and strengthening of the environment community at the national level. Present trends of economic development have put enormous pressure on environment and natural resources. UNEP will work to enable the proactive and preventive measures towards promoting better management of ecosystem services.

UNEP will work closely with intergovernmental agencies, environment ministries/agencies, and civil society organisations at the subregional level to strengthen subregional cooperation. A strong partnership with SAARC, SACEP and ICIMOD will be forged to strengthen collective environmental management in the subregion. The partnership will assist, facilitate and enable institutions to identify priorities and address the common and transboundary issues. Support will be provided to civil society organisations and networks for participation at subregional, regional and global environment and sustainable development forums.

UNEP will support government, environment agencies and civil society organisations at the national level to strengthen environment community. UNEP will assist governments to build a mechanism for participation of

civil society organisations in the decision making process. Support will be provided to civil society groups, including young, private sector, parliamentarians, media and NGOs. UNEP will work closely with Collaborating Centres and Centre of Excellence to prepare the scientific base and address the priorities.

UNEP's International Environmental Governance process recognized the need to develop a strategic plan for capacity building for the developing countries. To this end, the Bali Strategic Plan (BSP) for Technology Support and Capacity-building was adopted in Bali, Indonesia, on 4 December 2004 by the Intergovernmental Working Group. The objective of the BSP is to provide systematic, targeted, long and short-term capacity building measures, taking into account international agreements and based on national or subregional regional priorities and needs. UNEP will provide support to build capacity of Environment Ministries and civil society under the BSP.

In pursuance of the above outlined strategy, UNEP will implement four programmes in the subregion:

- Programme 1: Promote subregional cooperation and address national level capacity building needs
- Programme 2: Assist to enable the environment knowledge hub (eKH)
- Programme 3: Assist in the response to emerging environmental issues
- Programme 4: Enhance partnership to maximize effectiveness of delivery

## 2.1 Programme 1: Promote Subregional Cooperation and address national level capacity building needs

**SEPD:** In response to WSSD outcomes at Johannesburg and the request of the political leadership in the region, UNEP has initiated the Asia-Pacific Sub-regional Environmental Policy Dialogue (SEPD). The SEPD brings together the five sub-regional political groupings: Central Asia, Northeast Asia, South Asia, Southeast Asia and South Pacific, as well as eminent personalities from across the region. The high level forum meets annually to discuss emerging issues and provide guidance to UNEP's programme in the region.

**SAARC:** The 12<sup>th</sup> SAARC Summit Declaration in 2004 called upon countries to expedite the preparation of a SAARC state of the environment report and commissioning of the work on drafting a Regional Environment Treaty. UNEP will assist SAARC in preparation of the state of the environment report and development of Environment Treaty. UNEP will work closely with SAARC to address the capacity building needs in the subregion.

**SACEP:** UNEP will assist SACEP with the Ministerial Forum. This assistance will include assistance with forums for Senior Officials and experts as required. It is envisaged that these forums will address issues of

regional cooperation; identify priorities and emerging issues; and address priorities, emerging issues and capacity building needs.

**ICIMOD:** UNEP will work closely with ICIMOD to address the mountain ecosystem issues including: Glacier Lake Outburst Floods (GLOF); Observatory station for Atmospheric Brown Cloud (ABC); Monitoring of transboundary air pollution for Male Declaration; Environment Knowledge Hub (eKH) and National Sustainable Development Strategy (NSDS).

**CIVIL SOCIETY:** UNEP will support the participation of NGOs in the Global Ministerial Environment Forum (GMEF) consultations. UNEP will assist in organizing the civil society meeting to discuss the priority issues of concern. UNEP will support the South Asia Youth Environment Network (SAYEN) and its activities including annual meeting and internship. UNEP is assisting in organizing Tunja Global Youth Forum to be held in Bangalore (India) in 2005. Media will be actively engaged to promote awareness on environment and sustainable development issues.

**National Strengthening:** Following the Stockholm and Rio Earth Summit countries in the subregion have established environment ministries and agencies. Countries have made commitments to Agenda 21, Millennium Development Goals (MDG) and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation. Despite these promising advances, many environmental agencies need additional capacity and resources to be really effective. Integrated planning and policy setting is needed to achieve sustainable development goals. Nations attending WSSD committed to preparing National Sustainable Development Strategies (NSDS) by 2005. National level capacity building needs to be developed with a strong focus on integration of the planning, finance and environment agencies and to build sustainable development strategy considerations into socio-economic development planning processes.

At the national level, Under the BSP, UNEP will work initially with four countries, namely Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka, where specific request has been received.

**Capacity Building:** UNEP in close consultation with UN Resident Coordinators will provide assistance that includes:

- Science and Assessment: State of the Environment report for national and local levels; database management for simple Indicators on air, water, land, and biodiversity; National Sustainable Development Strategies, early warning and emerging issues;
- Policy development: development of framework legislations; training and awareness of local environmental agencies; training of judges; prepare an Environmental Action Plan; and preventive measures through promoting eco-tourism, eco-transportation, organic farming and renewable energy;
- Technology and Industry: Capacity building on chemicals, POPs, waste management and clean development mechanism; Compliance Assistance Programme(CAP) for Ozone Action; and cleaner production; integrated chemical management; and
- Policy Implementation: Study on linkages of environment and health; Human Resource Development through short-term and formal training; and curriculum development on environment and sustainable development for school and universities.

## 2.2 Programme 2: Assist to enable the Environment Knowledge Hub

The Environment Knowledge Hub (eKH) is proposed to be developed as an integral part of the Regional Strategy of UNEP. It will be a virtual focal point, a decentralized distributed network, a storehouse of knowledge, information and data on the environment and sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific. The eKH will build on and link with diverse knowledge on environment and sustainable development available with individuals, communities, networks, and partners institutions. Establishment of eKH will add value to the process of dissemination of information and raising awareness on environment, making use of state of art technology.

- Database: UNEP will support thematic networks of experts and institutions to enhance data and information sharing on thematic topics such as air, water, land, biodiversity, and coastal and marine environment. UNEP will work closely with Collaborating Centres and Centre of Excellence for preparing database on thematic issues. Database on key environmental indicators and GEO data portal will be key component of eKH.

- Information: Information in eKH will include: subregional, national and city SoEs; subregional and national NSDS; GLOF; Male Declaration; eco-development principles; documents on environment management tools; and curriculum on environment and development. UNEP in collaboration with partners will look to facilitate information sharing and networking among specific stakeholder groups, youths, parliamentarians, business sector, media and NGOs.
- Knowledge: Knowledge in the context of environment includes comprehensive information of best practices. Some of these on the subregion include: clean city drive in New Delhi; plastic ban in Dhaka; electric vehicle in Kathmandu; rainwater harvesting and eco-tourism in Male; Middle Path in Bhutan; and NGO innovation by Sarvodaya in Sri Lanka. UNEP will partner with national institutions to provide eKH access to the comprehensive documentation of best practices.

## 2.3 Programme 3: Assist in the response to emerging environmental issues

UNEP will assist countries in building capacity to effectively address the emerging environmental issues including:

- **Atmospheric Brown Cloud**: During 1990s, the INDOEX experiment identified a layer of brown haze over Indian Ocean. In 2000, UNEP commissioned a report that revealed the potential impacts caused by ABC on human health, food security and the water budget. The proposed activities will include further monitoring, developing comprehensive assessment reports on impacts and establish a programme on policy linkage.
- **Male Declaration**: Air pollution problem and its likely transboundary effects are the emerging environmental issue. The Male Declaration is an intergovernmental agreement to tackle the issues of transboundary air pollution in South Asia. UNEP is coordinating the implementation of the Male Declaration into three Phases. Under the Phase I and Phase II, networking as well as capacity building in each participating country has been completed. In Phase III, activities planned will include: network meetings cum regional coordination meetings; regional and national stakeholder meetings; additional capacity building; and raising awareness through publishing educational material and a book on the Male Declaration.
- **Glacier Lake Outburst Flood**: Climate change is causing the net shrinkage and retreat of glaciers and an increase in size and number of lakes, especially in high mountains. UNEP in collaboration with ICIMOD initiated a study in 1999. Initial studies have been completed for Nepal, Bhutan, Astor basin of Pakistan and Tista Basin in India. The activities planned include: complete inventory of all glacial lakes in Hindu Kush Himalaya, establish an early

warning and monitoring system; and development and pilot testing of adaptation measures.

- **Vulnerability Assessment of Freshwater Resources**: Availability of freshwater will be a critical issue for development. A study will be carried out to assess the vulnerability of freshwater in the subregion. Assessment will include: database on surface, ground and transboundary water quality and quantity; water budget (water supply, demand and availability); Mapping of the sensitive zones; assessment on water security; and linkages of water security with food security.
- **Urbanization Issues**: 50% population of Asia will live in urban by 2030. Preventive measures are needed to overcome the urban problems. The activities planned include: establish and facilitate a partnership between the private sector (technology providers) and governments; compile and disseminate good practices; demonstrate the eco-housing concept in 2 countries; facilitate the introduction of hybrid cars in the subregion; conduct a feasibility study on the hydrogen economy for 2 countries in South Asia; and conduct educational initiatives;
- **Waste management**: Generation of waste from urban, industry and other sources are causing pressure on environment. Electronic waste (Ewaste) is making problem critical. In 2004, an expert group meeting on Ewaste was organised by UNEP to discuss the Ewaste management in the region. Activities planned include: prepare baseline studies and guidelines; establish a knowledge base; provide the capacity building; and policy response.

## 2.4 Programme 4: Enhance Partnership to maximize effectiveness of delivery

**Effective Partnerships:** A new approach to partnerships will underpin this strategy focusing on innovative mechanisms for collaboration with our partners to avoid duplication and maximize services to client countries. Initially consultations to build trust and transparency will be initiated with existing partners such as ADB, UNDP, IUCN, SIDA, and NORAD. This process will be later broadened to develop similar close relationships with the World Bank, other UN agencies and bilateral agencies. UNEP will work closely with the UN Resident Coordinator for all the national level delivery.

**Subregional organisation/agencies:** Programmes will be implemented in partnership with intergovernmental organisations, governments, civil society organisations, Collaborating Centres and Centre of Excellences including:

- SAARC: development of environment treaty, SoE;
- SACEP: Ministerial Forum, South Asia Environment and Natural Resources Information Centre (SENRIC), Male Declaration;
- ICIMOD: ABC, Male Declaration, NSDS, eKH, SoE, GLOF;
- The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI): GEO, SoE, Eco-housing, Master's Programme;

- Development Alternatives (DA): SSDS, Youth, CSO, Community Led Environment Action Network (CLEAN);
- Bangladesh Centre for Advance Studies (BCAS): NSDS, SSDS and CSO;
- Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB): capacity building on environment Management, Male;
- Asian Institute of Technology (AIT): water, Master's Programme;
- IUCN: NSDS, SSDS and eKH
- Sarvodaya: eco-housing, CSO

**In-house Partnerships:** Within UNEP, ROAP will work closely with other outposted divisions to maximize the effectiveness of delivery. Regular interaction with outposted staffs will be made to coordinate the subregional and national delivery.

**Resource Mobilisation:** UNEP's integrated programme will seek to leverage its scarce resources by mobilizing an additional threefold contribution of resources through its strategic partnerships each year (i.e., on average for every dollar from UNEP, three dollars will be mobilized from strategic partners). In addition, UNEP will seek the contributions to the Environment Fund and Trust Funds by governments on time and explore increase each year.



# Strategy Paper on Food Security in South Asia

Draft

August 2005



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## STRATEGY PAPER ON FOOD SECURITY IN SOUTH ASIA

### A. BACKGROUND

- 1.0 South Asia is known for its severe food-insecurity problems and poverty. A majority of the world's food-insecure people live in this region. Agriculture is still the dominant sector in South Asia. Soil degradation, decreasing per capita arable land, and water scarcity are all worrying concerns as South Asian nations hope to find ways of becoming agriculturally self-sufficient. It is clear that in order to increase food production to meet the demands of South Asians, more water will be required. Water used in agriculture will have to increase by an additional 15 to 20% over the next 25 years to meet the growing demand. This is a difficult level to achieve, but it's completely necessary if South Asian countries want to reduce the number of food-insecure people in the region. This report will discuss three important issues: land use, food production, and regional food security.

### B. INDICATORS FOR THE ASSESSMENT

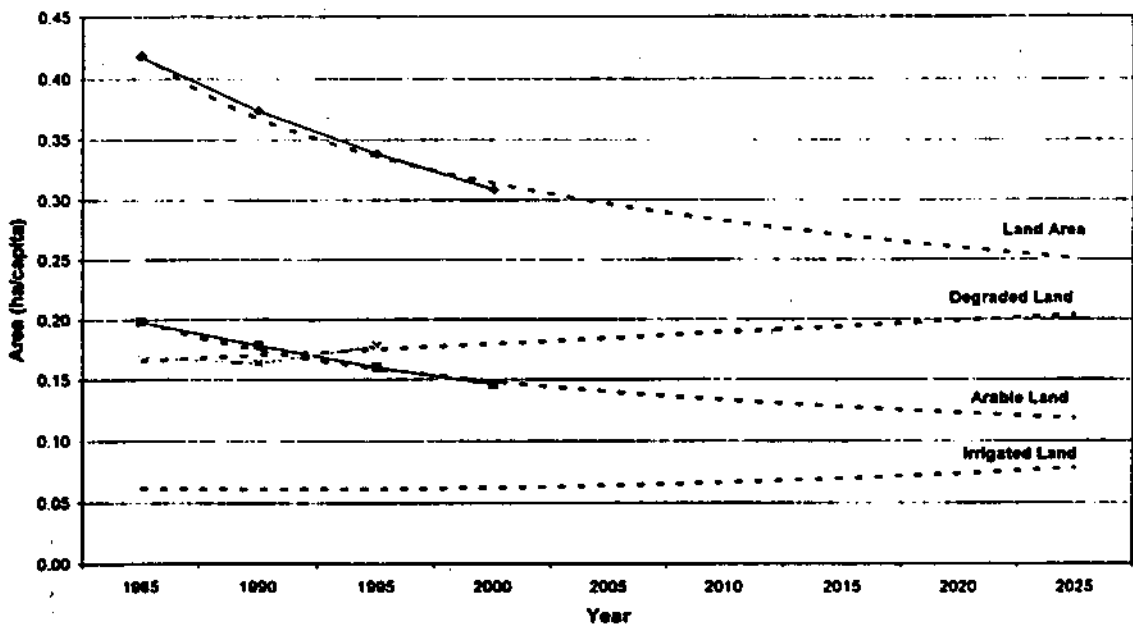
- 2.0 The following indicators were used to complete the assessment of food security in South Asia:

Arable land per capita	Grain/cereal production
Irrigated land per capita	Grain/cereal consumption
Land degradation	Grain/cereal demand
Forest land per capita	Grain/cereal availability
Fertilizer consumption	Grain/cereal imports/exports
Grain/cereal yield	Future grain/cereal demand and supply

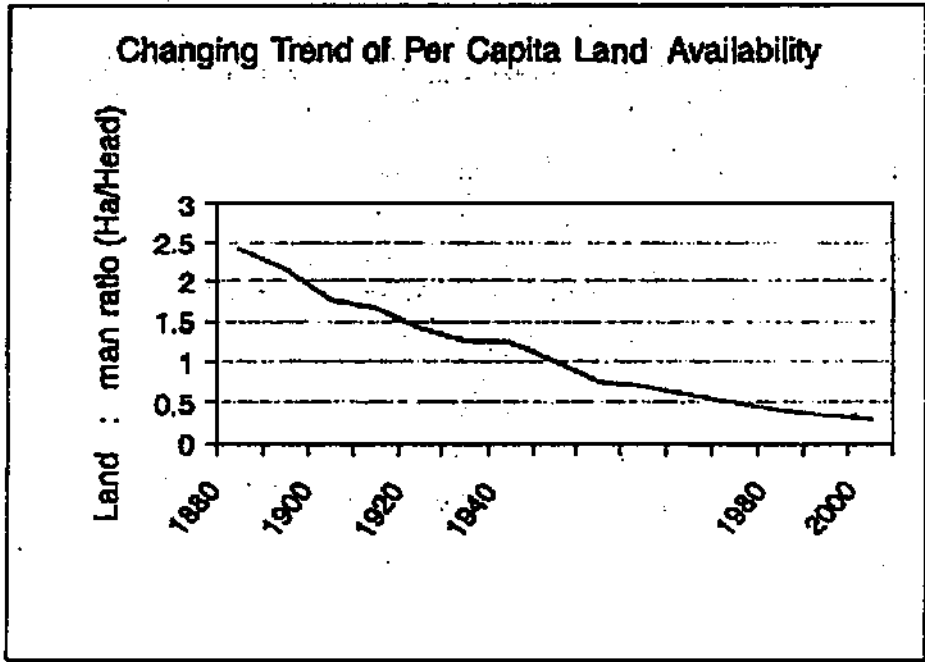
### C. LAND USE

- 3.0 Arable land fell from 0.20 hectares (ha) per capita in 1985 to 0.15 ha in 2000. Irrigated land remained stable at around 0.062 ha/capita, between 1985 and 2000. In 2020, South Asia will lead the world in irrigated area by reaching almost 100 million ha (an increase of about 20% from the 1995 total of 80 million ha). The percentage of land area covered by forests in South Asia will increase from 15.4% in 1990 to 17.0% in 2000.

## PER CAPITA Land Use in South Asia



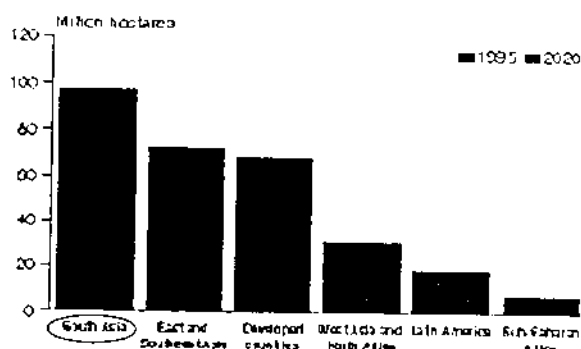
- 10 Per capita land availability in Sri Lanka has reduced drastically over the last 120 years. In 1880, land availability was roughly 2.5 ha/capita and in 2000 that figure almost reached 0.3 ha/capita.



Source: SOE Sri Lanka 2001

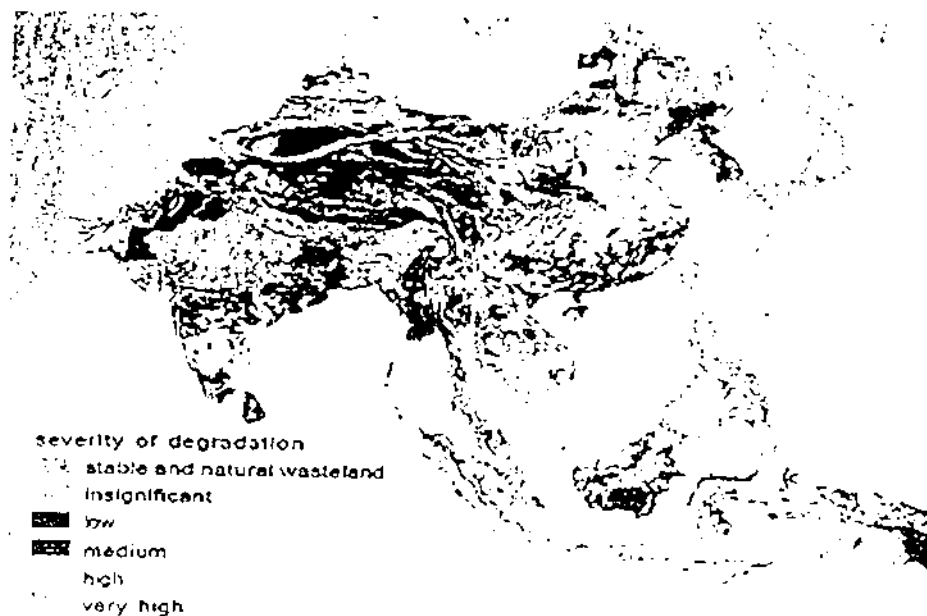
- 5.0 In 2020, South Asia will lead the world in irrigated area by reaching almost 100 million hectares (an increase of about 20% from the 1995 total).

Figure 26—Irrigated area in major regions, 1995 and 2020



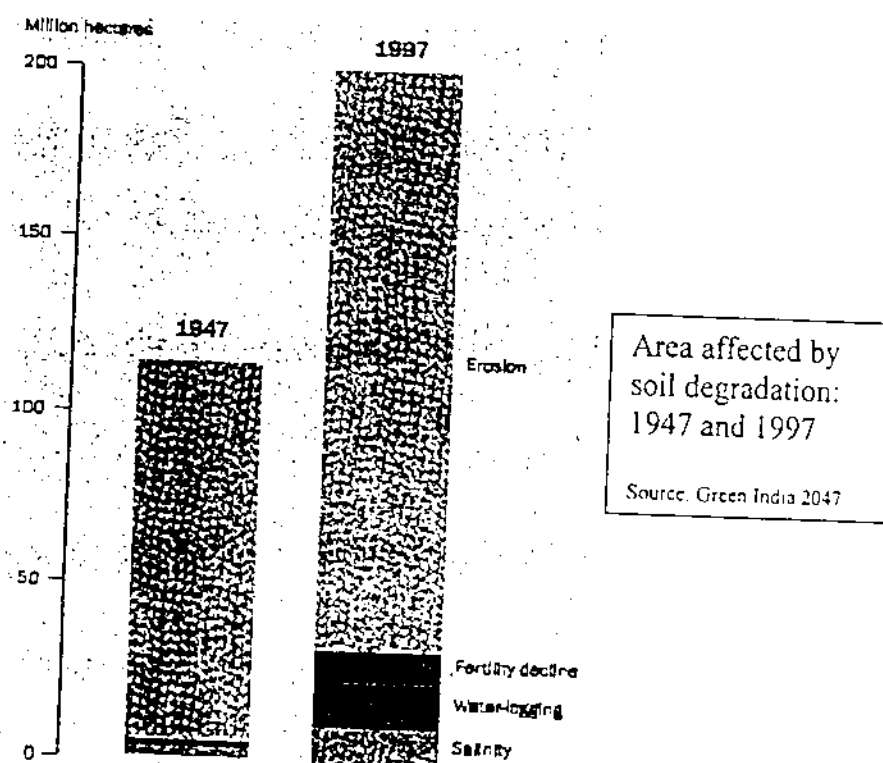
Source: M.W. Rosegrant, C. Ringler, and R.V. Gerpacio, "Water and Land Resources and Global Food Supply," paper prepared for the 23rd International Conference of Agricultural Economists, Sacramento, Calif., August 10-16, 1997.

- 6.0 Total area under land degradation increased from 166.3 million ha in 1985 to 217.1 million ha in 1995 (a 30% rise). In 1993, the total area affected by water erosion in South Asia was 44.2 million hectares (about 11% of the total land area).



Source: Asia-Pacific Environment Outlook 2, UNEP

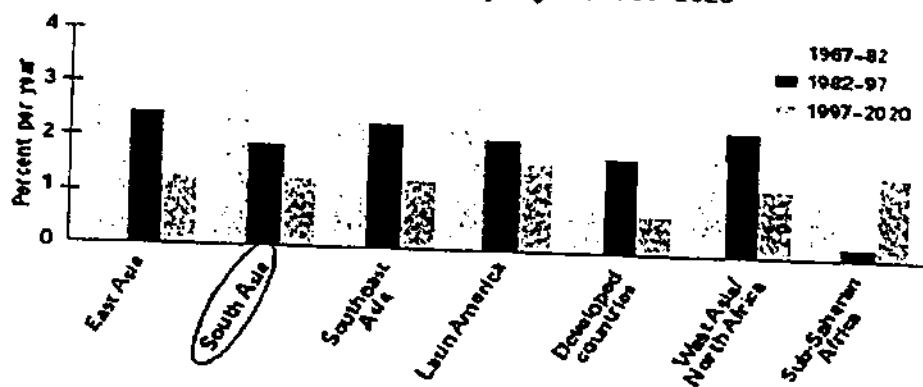
- 7.0 Soil degradation is a huge problem in India. Severely degraded soils are seen in northwestern and eastern India. Salinity of soils is also a huge problem in northwestern and southern India. In 1997, degraded soils covered more than 60% of India's total area. Erosion accounted for most of the degradation, whereas water-logging and salinity played minor roles.



#### D. FOOD PRODUCTION

- 8.0 The amount of fertilizer used per ton of cereal production went from 42 kilograms (kg) in 1985 to 66 kg in 2000 (a 57% increase). Total fertilizer consumption in South Asia went from 9.0 million metric tons (MMT) in 1985 to 20.8 (MMT) in 2000 (a 131% increase). Cereal yield went from 1,764 kg/ha in 1985 to 2,274 kg/ha in 2000 and it is projected to reach 2,500 kg/ha in 2020. Cereal yield growth rates between 1967 and 1982 were roughly 3% per year. Between 1982 and 1997, rates were about 2% per year and between 1997 and 2020, they will be a little above 1% per year.

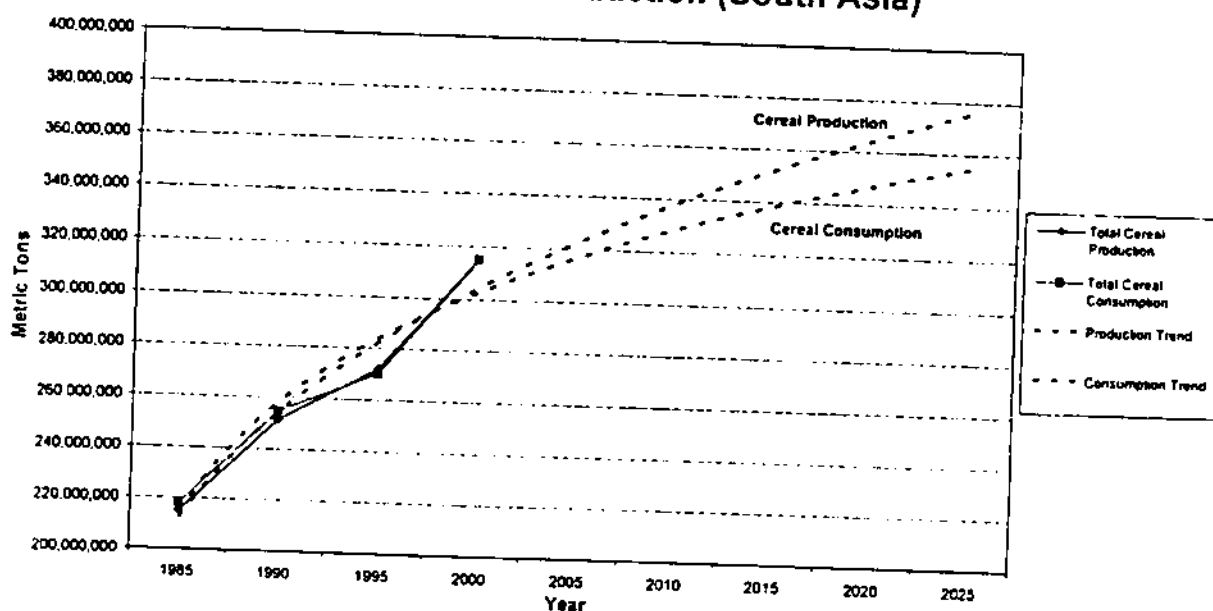
Figure 9 Cereal yield growth rates by region, 1967-2020



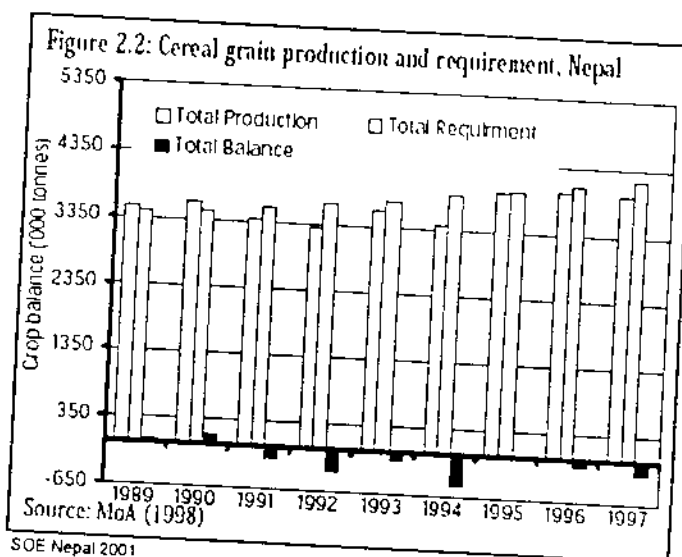
SOURCES: Fig 9 WFP/IMPACT projections, June, 2001, and FAOSTAT future data, crop by land area of data. Fig 10-14 WFP/IMPACT projections, June, 2001. Fig 15 WFP/IMPACT projections, June, 2001. Fig 16 WFP/IMPACT projections, June, 2001.

9.0 Cereal production grew by 47% between 1985 and 2000. In 2000, cereal production reached 315 MMT. Cereal consumption grew at a similar rate of 44% and also reached 315 MMT in 2000.

Total Cereal Production (South Asia)



10.0 In 1994, Nepal experienced its greatest deficit in cereal production ever (by 485,000 tonnes).

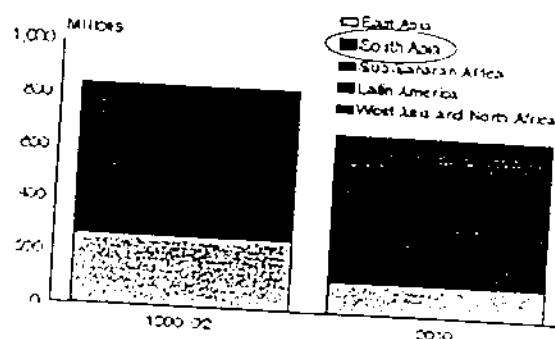


- 11.0 Cereal exports in South Asia grew from 1.5 MMT in 1985 to 12.5 MMT in 2005. Cereal imports were about 4.7 MMT in 1985 and increased slightly to 5.3 MMT in 2005. Net exports in 2005 were 7.2 MMT. However, future projections of cereal trade in South Asia indicate a reversal of trends. In 2020, it is predicted that net exports in South Asia will be about -20 MMT (a turnover of 27.2 MMT in just 15 years).

## E. FOOD SECURITY

- 12.0 Per capita food consumption for South Asia in 2015 is expected to be 2,700 kcal/day and then grow to 2,900 kcal/day in 2030 (a 7% increase). The number of food-insecure people in South Asia will most likely decrease from about 300 to 200 million people between 1990 and 2010.

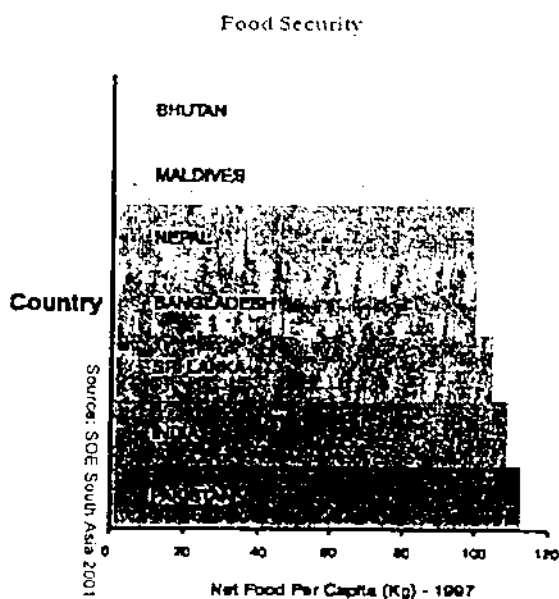
Figure 3—Number of food-insecure people, 1990–92 and 2010



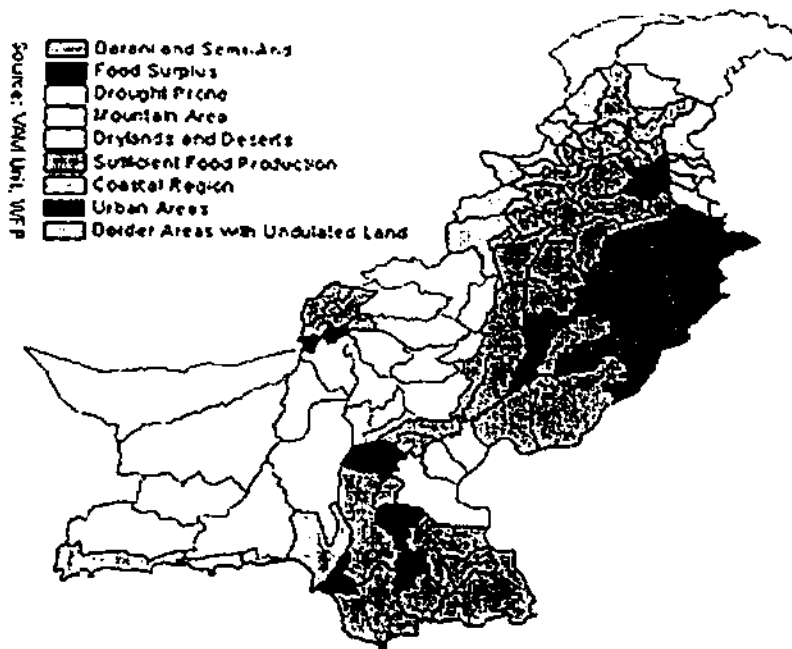
Source: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, *Food, Agriculture, and Food Security: Developments since the World Food Conference and Prospects* World Food Summit Technical Background Document 1 (Rome, 1996)



- 13.0 In 1997, Pakistan led South Asia in net food per capita at roughly 115 kg/yr. Bhutan had the least amount of net food per capita at about 90 kg/yr.

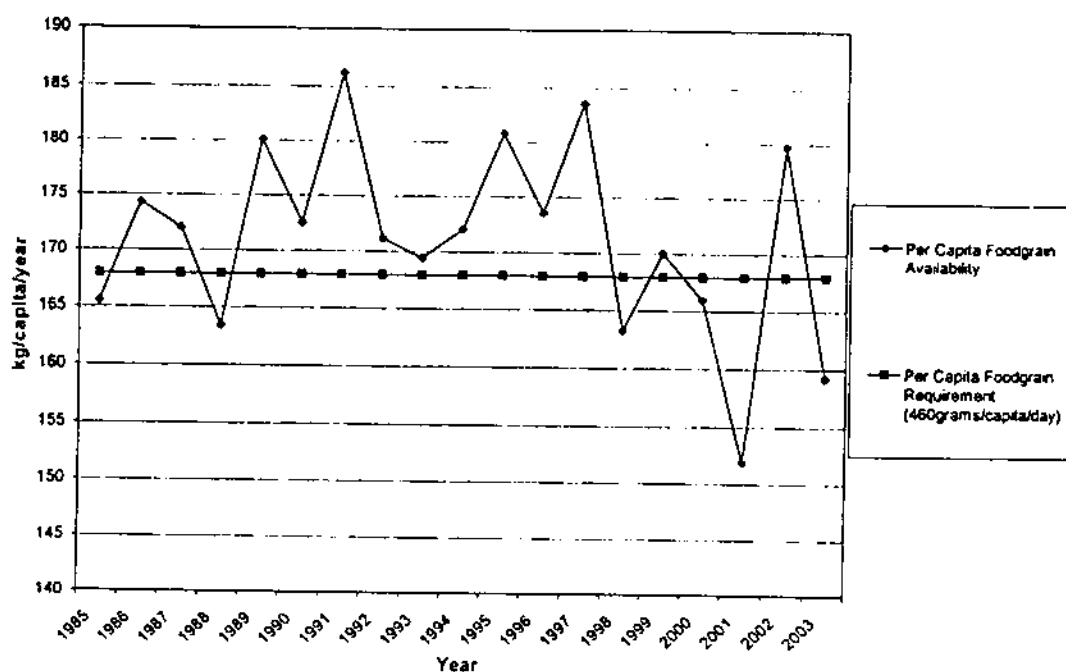


- 14.0 In 2003, 74% of Nepali households had food sufficiency guaranteed for only 1 month, 16% for 1-2 months, and 8% for 2-3 months. In 2004 the situation was worse, while a staggering 82% of Nepali households had food sufficiency guaranteed for only one month, 12% for 1-2 months, and 4% for 2-3 months.
- 15.0 Large areas of southwestern Pakistan are drought-prone. The eastern states of Pakistan, including Punjab, have sufficient food production and in some cases have food surplus.



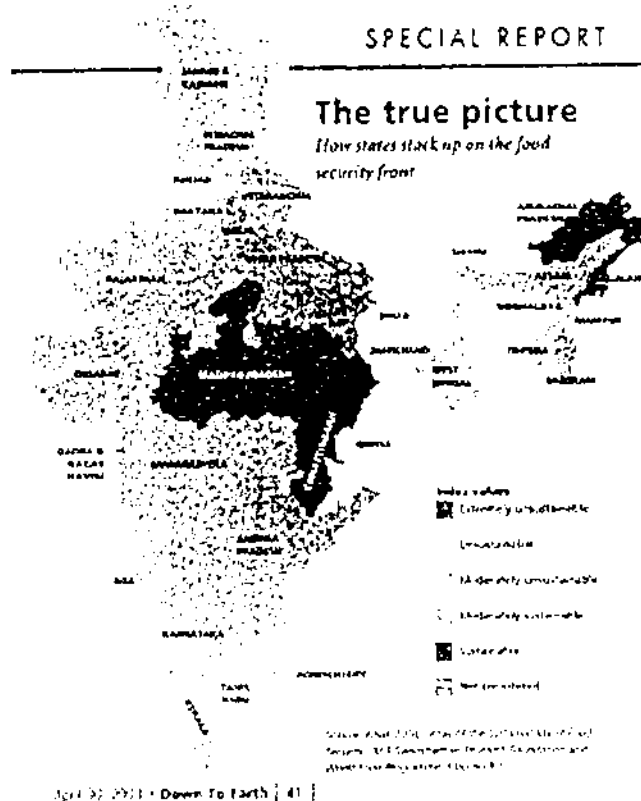
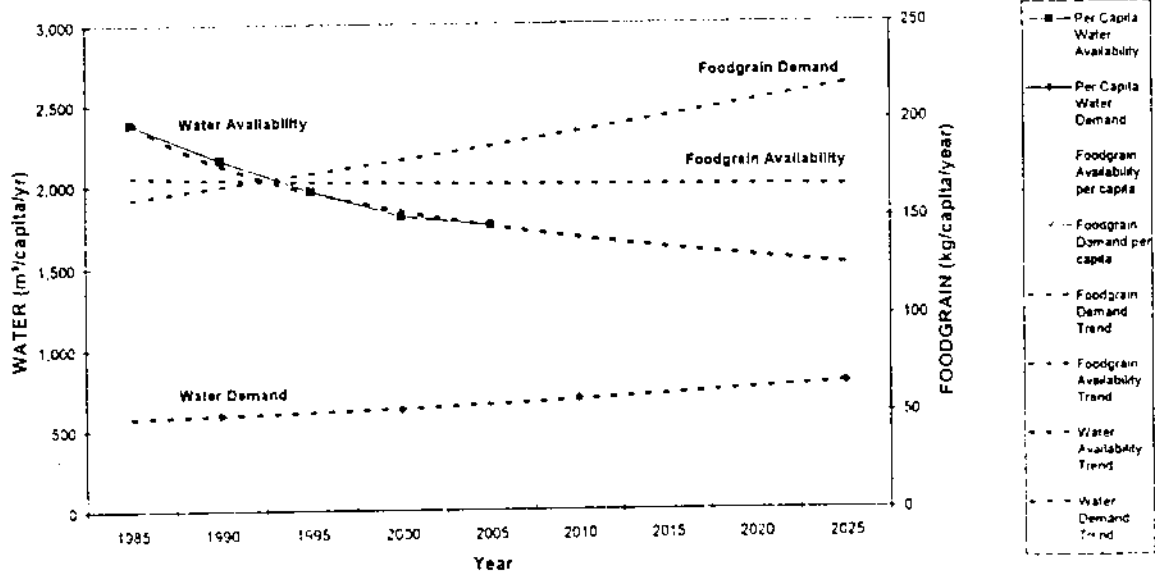
- 16.0 Per capita food grain requirement in India according to the Indian Council for Medical Research (ICMR) is 460 grams/day. This figure is equivalent to 167.9 kg/year. Since 1985, per capita food grain availability has fluctuated above and below the food grain requirement figure. In 2003, per capita food grain availability was 159.2 kg/year, short of the requirement.

**Per Capita Foodgrain Availability vs. Demand (INDIA)**

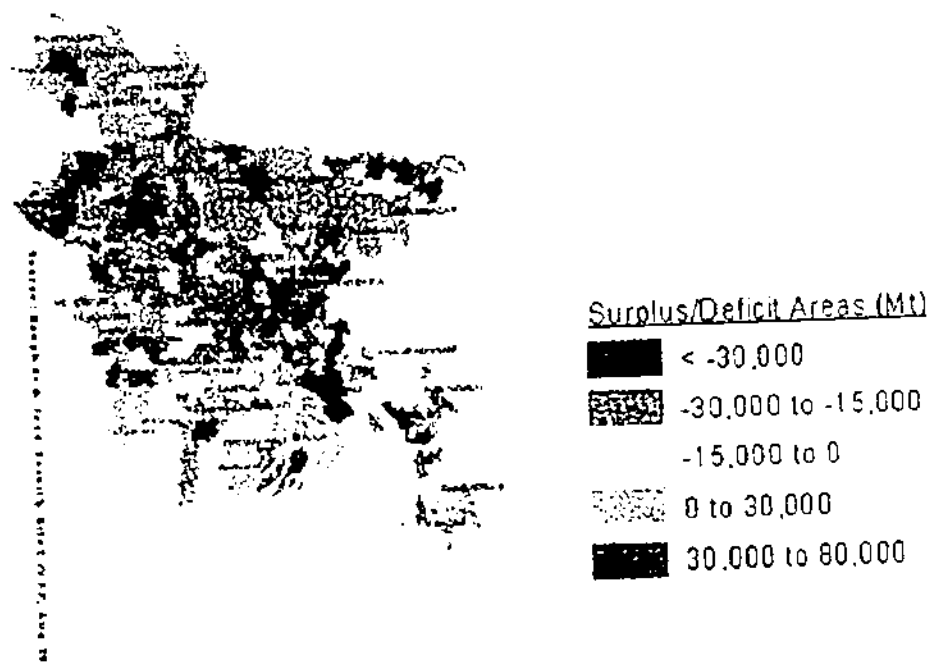


17.0 If projections are drawn out until 2025 for India, it will appear as though water supply will exceed water demand, and that food grain supply will be less than food grain demand. An even scarier thought is that in the 1990s food grain growth rate slowed down to 1.7 % annually falling below the population growth rate of 1.9%.

### Per Capita WATER and FOOD Demand vs. Availability



- 18.0 In Bangladesh, average daily consumption in kilocalories (kcal) per capita has decreased for both urban and rural households between 1991 and 2000. In 1991, rural kcal/capita was 2,267, urban kcal/capita was 2,258 and national kcal/capita was 2,266. In 2000, rural kcal/capita was 2,263, urban kcal/capita was 2,150 and national kcal/capita was 2,240. In 2002, it was estimated that the food gap between food requirement and food availability was 1.8 MMT. Many areas of Bangladesh have food deficits greater than 30,000 metric tons per year.



## F. FUTURE PROSPECTS

19. Food security situation in South Asia might be affected in future due to increasing food demands as well as degradation of environment. The following environmental factors will have implication on the food security: land degradation is increasing; per capita arable land is decreasing; ground water table is going down; water supply is increasing in urban and industrial sectors; water pollution and water scarcity is increasing; and temperature is increasing. The food demand will increase due to population growth and rising of income. Policy interventions and decentralize approach are the must to ensure the availability of water, land and food supply.

# Strategy Paper on Water Security in South Asia

Draft

August 2005



UNEP

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## STRATEGY PAPER ON WATER SECURITY IN SOUTH ASIA

### A. BACKGROUND

- 1.0 Water security in South Asia entails three different scenarios: water for food, water for people, and water for nature. Water scarcity in South Asia is a huge concern. Water demand in the region is extremely high especially due to large areas of irrigated land (the most in the world). South Asia is also experiencing severe water pollution problems. Indian rivers are among the most polluted in the world, Nepali rivers are contaminated with coliform bacteria, arsenic levels in groundwater in Bangladesh are way above the standard and groundwater overdraft has led to water-logging and salinity in many parts of Pakistan. This report will focus on the three most pressing water security issues in South Asia: water demand and supply, water quality, and groundwater tables.

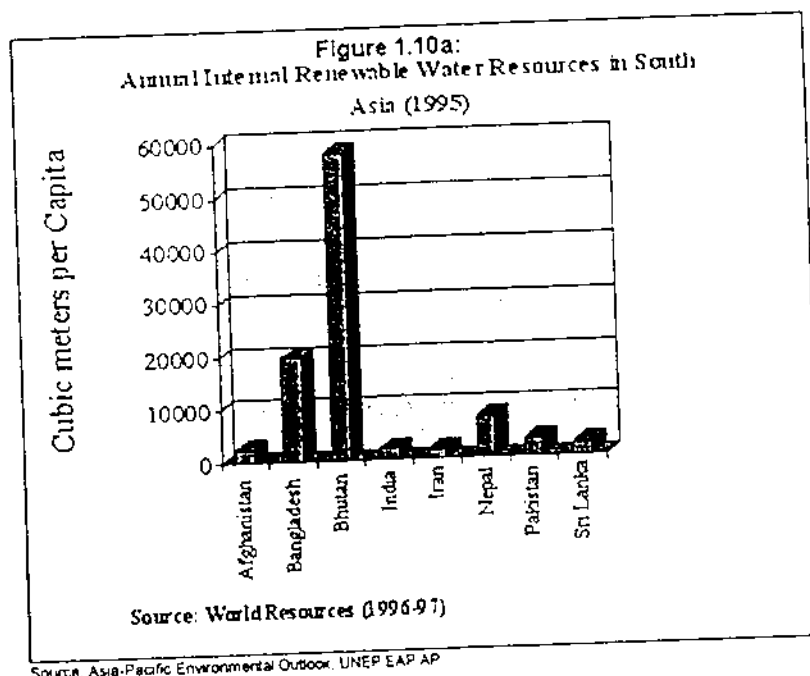
### B. INDICATORS FOR THE ASSESSMENT

- 2.0 The following indicators were used to complete the assessment of water security in South Asia:

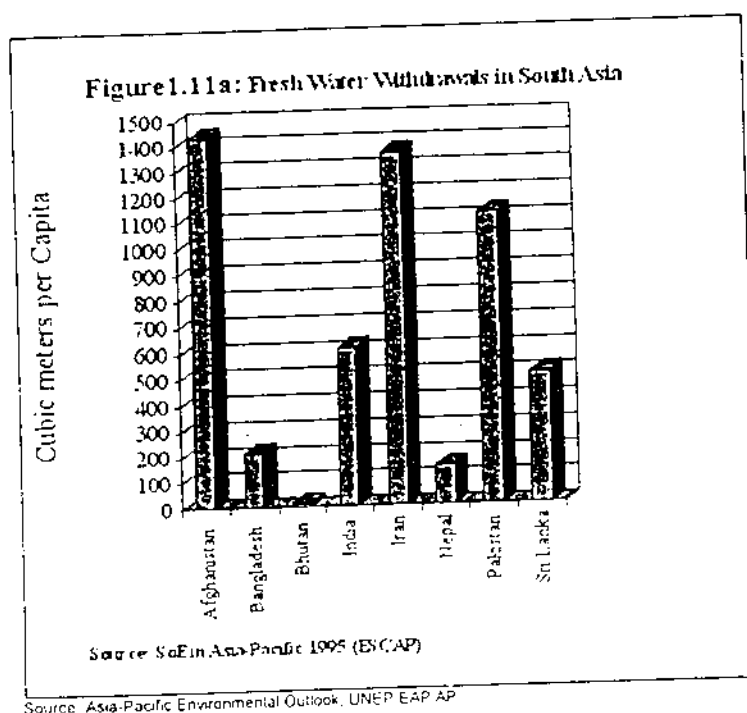
Per capita water availability	Surface and groundwater withdrawal
Water supply coverage (urban and rural)	Water demand by sector
Rainfall	Water demand in cities
Water quality of surface and groundwater	Water demand-supply gaps
Water-logging	Water table levels

### C. WATER DEMAND AND SUPPLY

- 3.0 Bhutan has the highest per capita water resources in South Asia at close to 60,000 cubic meters (m<sup>3</sup>) per year, followed by Bangladesh at 20,000 m<sup>3</sup>/yr (figures for 1995). In 1985, per capita freshwater resources available in South Asia was 3,485 m<sup>3</sup>/yr and it dropped to 2,511 m<sup>3</sup>/yr in 2005 (a 28% decrease).

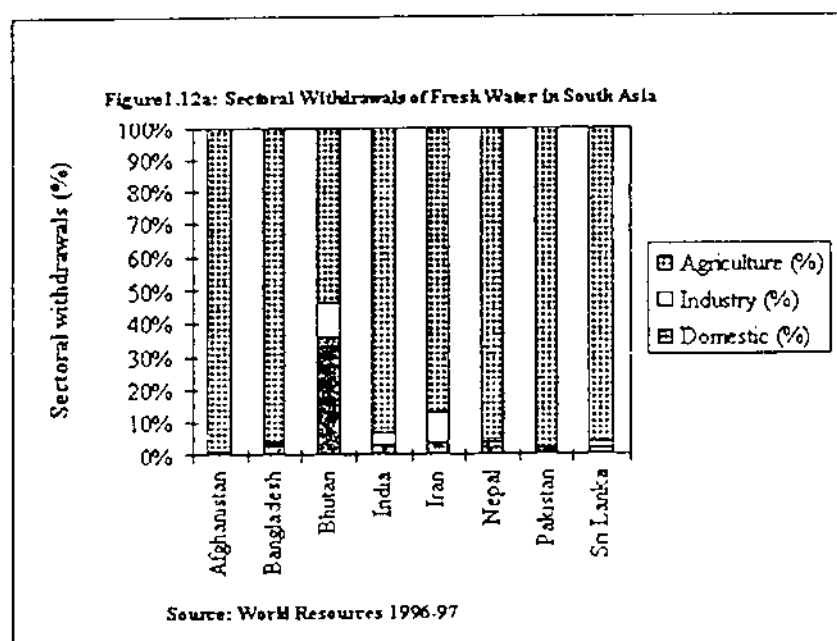


- 4.0 In 2000, total water withdrawal in South Asia was 918 cubic kilometers ( $\text{km}^3$ ) per year. This was an 84% increase from the 1985 figure of 498  $\text{km}^3/\text{yr}$ . In 2000, per capita withdrawal was 686  $\text{m}^3/\text{yr}$  while in 1985 it was 503  $\text{m}^3/\text{yr}$  (an increase of 36%). Pakistan leads South Asia in per capita freshwater withdrawal with more than 1,100  $\text{m}^3/\text{yr}$ . Bhutan, on the other hand, has the lowest per capita freshwater withdrawal (less than 100  $\text{m}^3/\text{yr}$ ).





- 5.0 Agricultural withdrawal in 2000 was 820 km<sup>3</sup>/yr (89.3% of total withdrawal), domestic withdrawal was 59 km<sup>3</sup>/yr (6.4%), and industrial withdrawal was 40 km<sup>3</sup>/yr (4.3%). Bhutan is the most evenly distributed country in terms of sectoral withdrawal, with agricultural withdrawal at 54%, domestic at 36%, and industrial at 10%. In other South Asian countries agricultural withdrawal dominates other uses with percentages up in the 90s.



Source: Asia-Pacific Environmental Outlook, UNEP EAP AP

- 6.0 Surface water availability per capita in Nepal has been decreasing while per capita surface water withdrawal has been increasing steadily.

Table 3.26: Surface water availability and its use in Nepal

	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
Total annual renewable surface water (km <sup>3</sup> /yr)*	224	224	224	224	224
Per capita renewable surface water ('000 m <sup>3</sup> /yr)	11.20	11.00	10.60	10.50	10.30
Total annual withdrawal (km <sup>3</sup> /yr)	12.95	13.97	15.10	16.00	16.70
Per capita annual withdrawal ('000m <sup>3</sup> /yr)	0.65	0.69	0.71	0.75	0.76
Sectoral withdrawal as % of total water withdrawal					
domestic	3.97	3.83	3.68	3.50	3.43
industry	0.34	0.31	0.30	0.28	0.27
agriculture	95.68	95.86	96.02	96.22	96.30

Source: WECS (1999), Yoganathara (1996, 1998), Bhattal (1999)  
\* including outflows outside Nepal

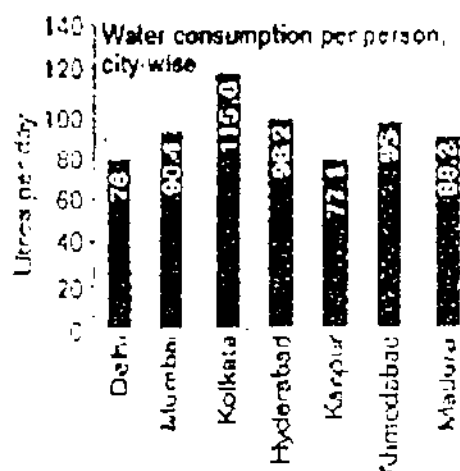
- 7.0 In 1990, 90% of urban South Asia had access to an improved water source compared to 64% of rural South Asia. In 2002, the figures for urban and rural South Asia increased to 94% and 80% respectively. Bhutan's urban and rural water supply coverage also increased dramatically from 1980 to 1990.

Table 11.1 Urban and rural water supply and sanitation

Urban and rural water supply	50	60	107	359
Urban and rural sanitation	NA	NA	143	36

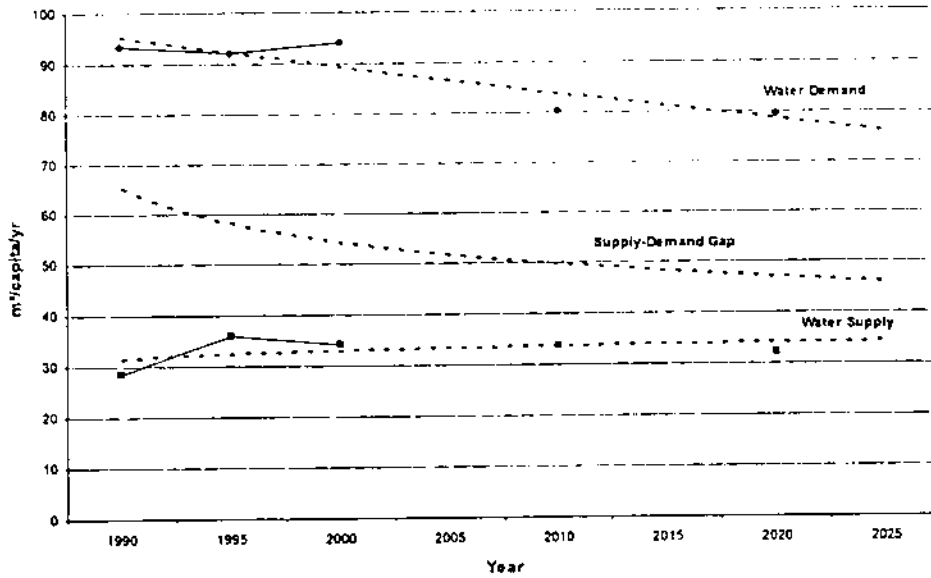
Source: SOE Bhutan, 2001

- 8.0 The average per capita consumption of water in India in 2005 was 91.6 liters per capita per day (lpcd), whereas the Indian standard is 135 lpcd. The highest per capita consumption is in Kolkata at 115.6 lpcd. About 65% of Indian cities are water-deficient. The water demand-supply gap in Chennai will increase significantly over the next 15 years. In 2001, the gap was measured at 296 million liters per day (mlpd). In 2011 the gap will reach its highest peak at 652 mlpd and in 2021 it will drop to 477 mlpd.



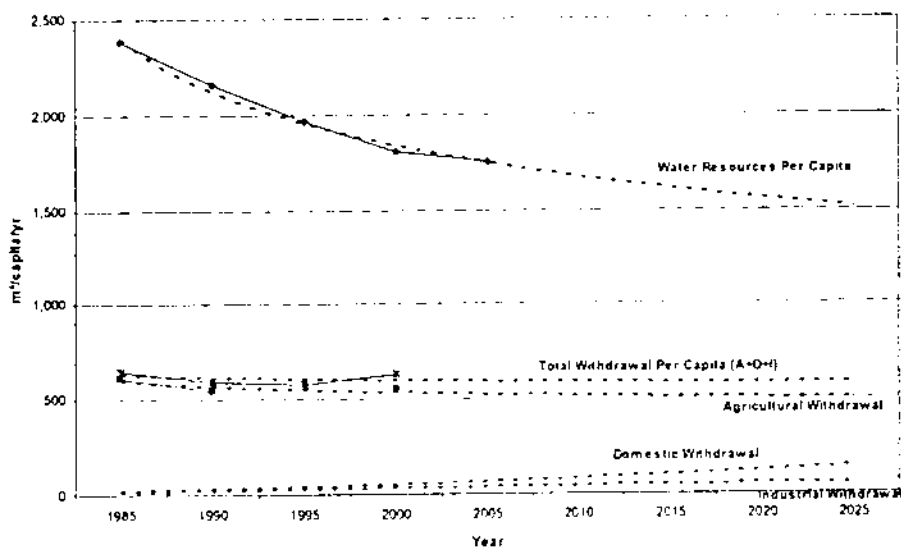
- 9.0 In Dhaka, the capital of Bangladesh, there is a large deficit between water demand and supply. In 2000, the gap between water demand and supply was roughly 60 m<sup>3</sup>/capita/yr. The projections for Dhaka until 2025 do not show a significant improvement in the situation. The deficit will remain around 50 m<sup>3</sup>/capita/yr in 2025.

### Per Capita Water Demand vs. Supply in DHAKA



10.0 In India in 2000, per capita water withdrawal (demand) was 633 cubic meters ( $\text{m}^3$ ) per year. Agricultural water withdrawal per capita was 547  $\text{m}^3/\text{yr}$ , domestic withdrawal was 51  $\text{m}^3/\text{yr}$ , and industrial withdrawal was 34  $\text{m}^3/\text{yr}$ . Since 1985, per capita withdrawal has decreased only for the agricultural sector, while it has increased for both domestic and industrial sectors. Total water withdrawal increased from 496.7  $\text{km}^3/\text{yr}$  in 1985 to 645.8  $\text{km}^3/\text{yr}$  in 2000 (a 30% rise). Another method of measuring demand is through water requirement. Per capita water requirement in 1990 was 591  $\text{m}^3/\text{yr}$  and in 2025 it is projected to be 783  $\text{m}^3/\text{yr}$  (a 32% increase).

### Per Capita Freshwater Withdrawal and Supply in INDIA



#### D. WATER QUALITY

- 11.0 In 1980, the five biggest South Asian nations combined to produce 1,613,180 kilograms (kg) of organic water pollutants per day. In 1997, they produced 2,047,943 kg/day (an increase of 27%).

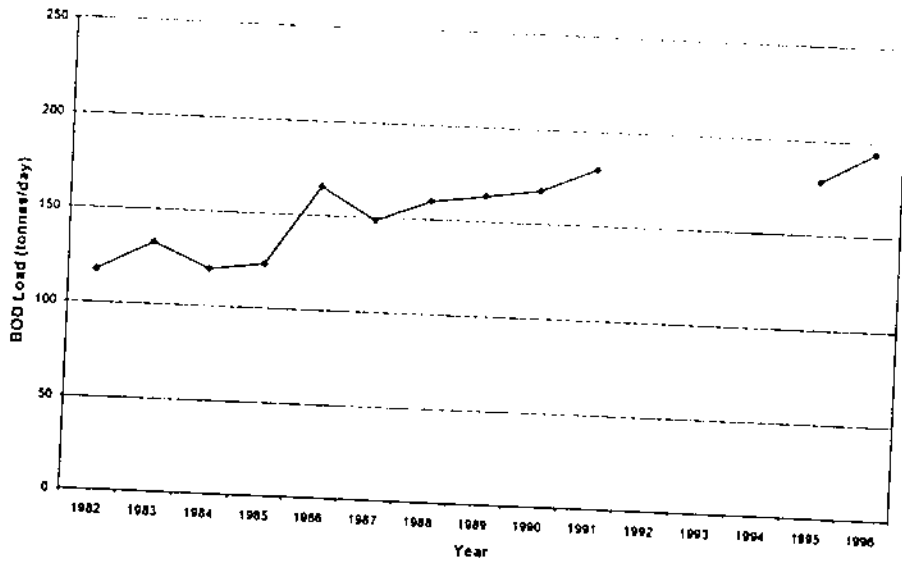
Table 11: Discharge of Organic Water Pollutants

Region	Organic waste pollutants (kg/day)	
	1980	1997
Bangladesh	66,415	86,852
India	14,22,564	16,64,150
Nepal	18,692	26,550
Pakistan	75,125	11,4726
Sri Lanka	30,086	35,665

Source: SOE South Asia 2001

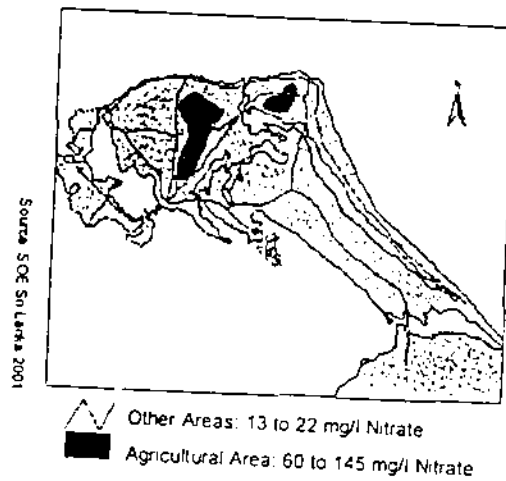
- 12.0 In Bangladesh, arsenic pollution is a big problem. About 19% of tubewells tested contain arsenic levels higher than the Bangladesh limit of 0.05 milligram per liter (mg/l). In Nepal's Bagmati River, biological oxygen demand (BOD) levels have increased from 10 to 60 mg/l in an 11-year span from 1988 to 1999. Nitrate levels in the Jaffna Peninsula of Sri Lanka are as high as 145 mg/l. Chloride, ammonia and hydrogen sulfide levels are all above the WHO standard in the groundwater in the Maldives. Pakistan has high trends of turbidity, arsenic, and dissolves salts in its water resources.
- 13.0 In the Yamuna River in India, signs are pointing towards worsening conditions. Dissolved oxygen levels are extremely low, while organic pollution and coliform count have increased dramatically over the last 40 years. Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD) load in the Yamuna River has increased from roughly 120 tons/day in 1982 to 195 tons/day in 1996 (a 63% increase). There is a strong correlation between investment in Delhi and the BOD load in the Yamuna River.

Pollution Load being discharged into River Yamuna



- 14.0 In the Jaffna Peninsula of Sri Lanka, intense agricultural activity has led to high levels of nitrate in groundwater. In non-agricultural areas, nitrate content in water is around 13 to 22 mg/l, whereas in agricultural areas nitrate levels can range from 60 to 145 mg/l.

Nitrate Pollution in the Jaffna Peninsula.



## E. WATER TABLE

- 15.0 In Pakistan, 89% of the groundwater resources are being exploited. Groundwater usage is 52.7 km<sup>3</sup>/yr in the Punjab, 4.3 km<sup>3</sup>/yr in Sindh, 2.5 km<sup>3</sup>/yr in NWFP, and 0.6 km<sup>3</sup>/yr in Balochistan. In Islamabad groundwater tables dropped from 13 m below ground level (bgl) in 1986 to 31 m bgl in 2003 (a 138% increase).

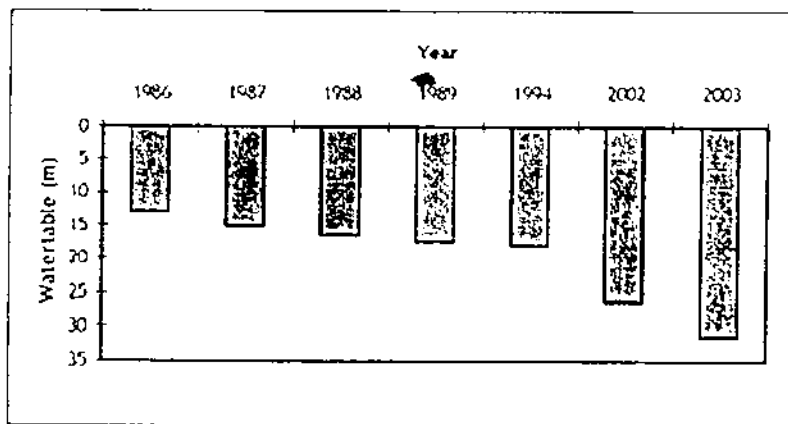
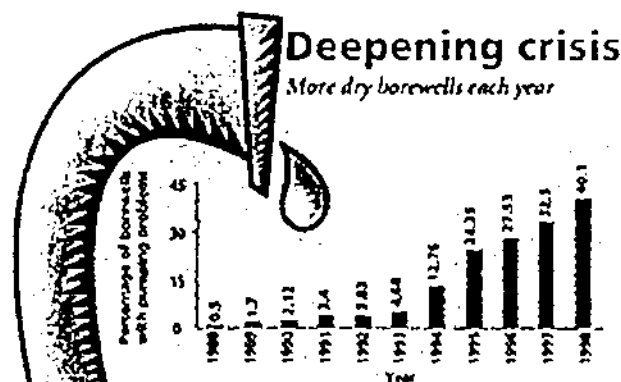


Figure 5.16: Historical Variation in groundwater level of Islamabad (1986-2003)

Source: FAO UN Country Office for Pakistan, *Groundwater Study Report 2002-03*

- 16.0 Groundwater extraction has increased tremendously over the past 50 years in India. This is indicated by the increase in the number of wells since 1947. Dug wells increased from 3.5 million in 1947 to 10.9 million in 1997. In India, an astonishing 32% of utilizable groundwater is exploited. States that supply much of the country's grain, such as Punjab and Haryana, are facing water tables in steep decline. There are more dry wells each year in India due to excessive groundwater pumping. In 1998, 40.1% of borewells faced pumping problems compared to only 0.5% a decade earlier in 1988.



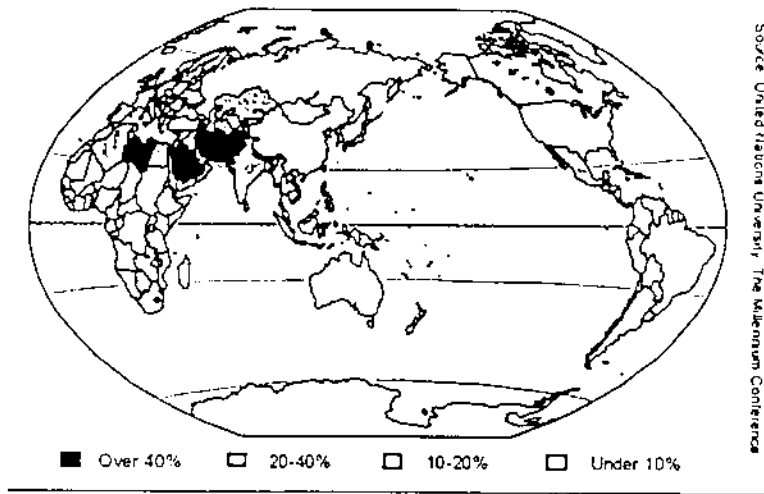
Source: Deepak Chatur 2000, *Groundwater harvesting in India: the suppression of ground water leakage and its impact on environment*, The G.S. Institute of Technology & Science, India

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## F. WATER SECURITY

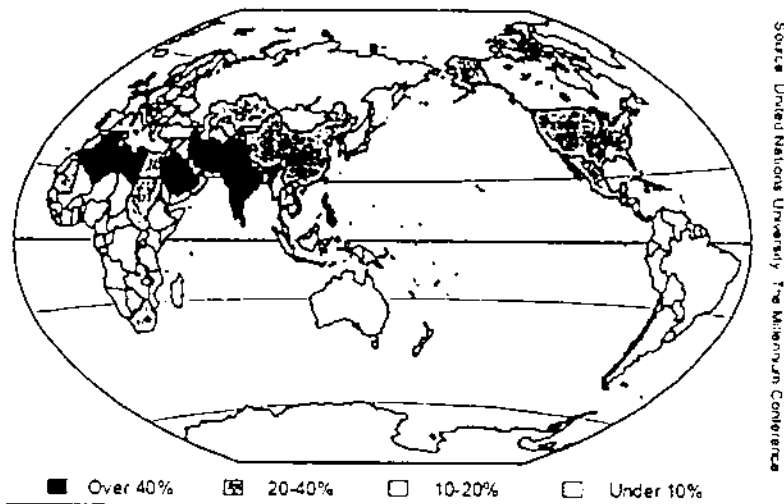
- 17.0 In 1995, India withdrew about 20 to 40% of available water while Pakistan withdrew more than 40% of its available water. Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal and Sri Lanka withdrew less than 10%.

Figure 3 Water withdrawal as a percentage of water availability, 1995



- 18.0 By 2025, most of South Asia will withdraw over 40% of its available water. By 2025, Pakistan will use more water than it has available (over 100%). India and Sri Lanka will use more than 40% of available water, Nepal roughly 20%, and Bangladesh and Bhutan less than 10%.

Figure 4 Water withdrawal as a percentage of water availability, 2025



- 19.0 Pakistan has the highest percentage of population with access to safe drinking water in South Asia (roughly 84%) and Bhutan has the lowest percentage (45%). Over 80% of Sri Lanka and India's population has access to safe drinking water.

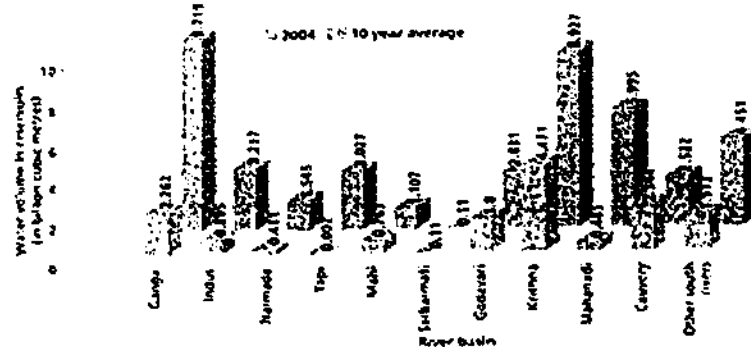




decrease of about 77%). In 2004, there was 4.471 billion m<sup>3</sup> in the Krishna river compared to the 10-year average of 8.927 billion m<sup>3</sup> (a 50% decrease).

### Trickling down

Reservoir levels dip to an all time low



Source: World Resources 2004: Water availability in transition; Business Line, New Delhi, April 6, 2004  
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## G. THE WAY FORWARD

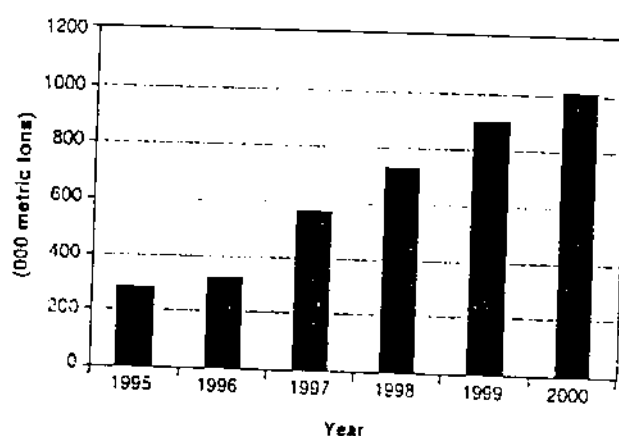
22.0 Efficient water pricing systems are one step towards sustainably managing water resources. Pricing systems that hardly place value on water are hurting South Asia's chances of dealing with water scarcity. Industries pay almost nothing for water and they recognize this by taking advantage of the inefficient system. Consumers are also undercharged, but low-end consumers often pay a higher price for water than high-end consumers.

23.0 Drip irrigation is another solution for the water scarcity problem in South Asia. Drip irrigation provides the potential to enhance food productivity and it prevents overexploitation of resources such as water and soil. It is a proven way of efficient water use in agriculture. The new drip irrigation trend in India focuses on low-cost, simple systems for small farmers instead of big investments and large-scale commercial plots. About 16% of land in the Indian states of Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh is covered by drip irrigation. Yield and water saving have also increased as a result of drip irrigation for a number of crops.

24.0 Rainwater harvesting is a traditional method of recharging groundwater resources. Harvesting rain is ideal for areas with inadequate water supply. It also prevents runoff

from going into sewers or storm drains and reduces urban flooding. Rainwater harvesting improves the quality of groundwater through dilution. Rainwater can either be stored in tanks or recharged directly into the ground. Rainwater harvesting is becoming a common practice in many Indian villages as a solution to the water scarcity problem.

- 25.0 In the Maldives, the country has turned towards desalination as a solution for the country's water scarcity and groundwater pollution problems. Malé, the country's capital, produces about 4,000 tons of desalinated water everyday using reverse osmosis, serving about 74,000 people. In 1999, 28% of the Maldives population had access to desalinated water and over 20% of the population almost entirely depended on desalinated water.



*Figure 3.1: Annual Supply of Desalinated Water in Malé*  
Source: SOE Maldives 2002

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

### **DECISIONS FOR ENDORSEMENT OF RECOMMENDATIONS AGREED UPON AT THE PREPARATORY MEETING OF THE NATIONAL FOCAL POINTS**

**24 August 2005**

#### **INSTITUTIONAL MATTERS**

##### **(i) Review of the Articles of Association**

The Articles of Association may be reviewed keeping in mind the changes that had taken place in SACEP over the years and the decisions at various Governing Councils. The Secretariat should undertake this task with prior consultations with the member governments and present its findings to the next Governing Council.

##### **(ii) SACEP Secretariat**

- a) The National Focal Points to meet twice a year; one, back to back prior to the GC meeting and one half-yearly. The related costs to the delegations attending these meetings will be borne by the respective countries.
- b) The meeting of the GC should be held annually as required by the Articles of Association to strengthen the activities of SACEP.

##### **(iii) Subject Area and Country Focal Points**

The Secretariat to propose modalities for the strengthening of the Subject Area and Country Focal Points and submit for approval by the Countries.

##### **(iv) International Staffing**

- a) The creation of posts of one Director of Programmes, one Programme officer, one Personal Secretary to the DG, and one Secretary. The cost of the posts will be met from the country contributions.
- b) The meeting noted that Government of India will be reviewing their original offer to support the post of Director of Programmes.

#### **PROGRAMME MATTERS**

- a) Two thematic areas, viz., waste management and adaptation to climate change may be approved as focus areas for programme activities by SACEP for the immediate consideration.

- b) An advisory group of two persons to be formed for each of the programme areas identified for the short term implementation. UNEP and other international agencies be requested to participate in the advisory group as special invitees.
- c) The SACEP Secretariat to coordinate with UNEP in mobilizing necessary resources for the above programme areas.

## **ONGOING PROJECT ACTIVITIES**

- a) The databases to the environmental natural resources be updated regularly by SENRIC to assist the region in the State of the Environment (SoE) reporting.
- b) The support from UNEP to the ongoing activities be recognized and UNEP requested to continue its support to SACEP through the SENRIC project implementation.
- c) Governments of India and Nepal are requested to complete the endorsement from the region to the GEF PDF-A Grant project proposal to establish a network of Centres of Excellence within the region.

## **FINANCIAL MATTERS**

### **i. Review of Country Contributions**

- a) Annual country contributions for 2005 and 2006 should continue as per commitments approved at the 7<sup>th</sup> Governing Council Meeting in the year 1998.
- b) All countries who have outstandings with respect to country contributions should clear at the earliest.
- c) Increments to country contributions may be considered at the next GC following an evaluation of the programme output and performance of the Secretariat.

### **ii. Draft Secretariat Budget (2005-6)**

- a) The Secretariat should revise the proposed budget for 2005 and 2006 as per the previous approved budget for the year 2004. The total amount should not exceed US\$127'400.-, i.e., the sum total of the annual country contributions.
- b) The arrears of country contributions may be allocated for program development. 30% of the funds realized from the arrears of country contributions may be utilized for this purpose.

**iii. Presentation of Annual Audited Report of Accounts for the years 2001, 2002, 2003 & 2004**

- a) The member countries should study the Annual Audited Reports of Accounts for the years 2001, 2002, 2003 and 2004 and any comments on the reports communicated to SACEP within three months. The reports will be adopted thereafter by circulation.
- b) The existing external auditors be changed in 2006 and every three years thereafter.
- c) In future the audited reports of accounts to be sent to the focal points well in advance to the meeting.

**iv. Trust Fund / Reserve Fund / Project Development Fund**

One single fund to be maintained for the purpose proposed to be served by the above mentioned funds and by laws for the fund be framed to permit proper utilization of such funds.

**VENUE AND DATE OF THE 10<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL**

- a) The Secretariat to communicate with the governments of Nepal and Afghanistan to decide on the venue and tentative dates of the 10<sup>th</sup> Governing Council meeting. If both the countries agree to the request, Nepal may host the 10<sup>th</sup> Governing Council and Afghanistan the 11<sup>th</sup> Governing Council Meeting.
- b) It is recommended that the 10<sup>th</sup> Governing Council be held by August 2006.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

**a) Salary revision**

The proposal for salary revision of the Director General may be considered at the next Governing Council meeting.

**b) Communication between the Secretariat and the Chairman of the Governing Council and the National Focal Point, Royal Government of Bhutan**

The importance of regular communication from the SACEP Secretariat to the current Chairman, Governing Council and the Focal Point in Bhutan, is underscored in view of the absence of Royal Government of Bhutan's Diplomatic Mission in Colombo.

**c) Selection of the Director General**

The Governing Council may confirm for sake of clarity the following.

*"The country from which the DG was selected would not be eligible to be considered for the post of DG for the next term. Thus there would always be seven countries competing for the post of DG".*

**d) Term of the Director General**

The Governing Council at its 3<sup>rd</sup> Special Session agreed that the term of the DG would be for a non extendable term of five years. Subsequently, a letter was sent to the Chairman of the Governing Council by one of the member states that the term should be for three years. The Governing Council may take a decision on the tenure of the post.

**SOUTH ASIA CO-OPERATIVE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME  
APPROVED SECRETARIAT BUDGET FOR 2005 - 2006**

		<b>INCOME US \$</b>	<b>EXPENDITURE US \$</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>ANTICIPATED INCOME</b>		
1.1	BANGLADESH	21,300.00	
	BHUTAN	3,555.00	
	INDIA	31,850.00	
	MALDIVES	14,575.00	
	NEPAL	8,050.00	
	PAKISTAN	31,850.00	
	SRI LANKA	16,220.00	
	<b>TOTAL COUNTRY CONTRIBUTIONS</b>	<b>127,400.00</b>	
1.2	Interest earned (SACEP-CC)	1,019.00	
1.3	Secretariat Cost from Sri Lanka	30,000.00	
	<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>158,419.00</b>	
<b>2</b>	<b>ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE</b>		
2.1	Salary Director General		41,520.00
2.2	Salaries of Programme Officers (Local)		12,000.00
2.3	Salaries of Local Staff		18,000.00
2.4	International Travel		20,000.00
2.5	Secretariat Cost		58,000.00
	<b>SUB TOTAL</b>		<b>149,520.00</b>
3	Capital Costs		17,500.00
4	<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>		<b>167,020.00</b>
5	<b>DEFICIT</b>		<b>(8,601.00)</b>

## SOUTH ASIA CO-OPERATIVE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

### Report of the Preparatory Meeting of the National Focal Points For the Ninth Meeting of the Governing Council

24 August 2005

Thimphu, Bhutan

#### I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Preparatory Meeting of National Focal Points for the Ninth Governing Council Meeting was held on 24<sup>th</sup> of August 2005 in Thimphu, Bhutan.
2. It was convened in order to discuss all substantive issues concerning the Institutional, Programme and Financial Matters of SACEP. It was also agreed that the Report of the Preparatory Meeting of National Focal Points on the various Agenda items would form the basis of discussion for the Ninth Governing Council Meeting.

#### II. ATTENDANCE

3. The Meeting was attended by representatives from the following Member Countries: - Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives and Sri Lanka.
4. It was also attended by observers from World Meteorological Organisation (WMO), World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC), and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). The List of Participants is in **Annex I**.

#### III. OPENING OF MEETING

5. Inaugural Session: Dr. A. A. Boaz, Director General of SACEP delivered the Welcome Address to the meeting. A statement was delivered by the current Chair, Mr. W. R. M. S. Wickremasinghe, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Environment & Natural Resources, Sri Lanka. The opening remarks from the host country delivered by Dasho Sangay Thinley, Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Royal Government of Bhutan. The texts of the statements are in **Annex II, III, and IV**.

#### IV. ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS

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

Chairman	-	Dasho Sangay Thinley Bhutan
Vice Chairmen	-	Mr. Jafar Ahmed Chowdury, Bangladesh
	-	Mr. Ahmed Jameel, Maldives
Rapporteur	-	Mr. W. R. M. S. Wickremasinghe, Sri Lanka



## **V. ADOPTION OF AGENDA AND ORGANISATION OF WORK**

7. Under this agenda item, the Provisional Agenda for the Meeting was then discussed. The Agenda was adopted with exclusion of Item 9 of the Provisional Agenda. The adopted Agenda is contained in **Annex V**.

## **VI. REPORT FROM THE SECRETARIAT ON THE FOLLOW- UP FROM 3rd SPECIAL SESSION OF THE 8<sup>th</sup> GOVERNING COUNCIL**

8. Under this agenda Item, the DG.SACEP presented the status of the on going activities and follow up from the 3<sup>rd</sup> Special Session of the 8<sup>th</sup> Governing Council and proposed an implementation plan taking into consideration his meetings with several international agencies and national focal points, the report of the review mission commissioned by the 8<sup>th</sup> Governing Council and its decisions at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Special Session (6 November, 2003). The report from the Director General, SACEP is given in **Annex VI**. The meeting suggested the following:

There was a detailed discussions on the "SACEP's Vision and Way Forward" and the decisions to be presented to the Governing Council for endorsement will be reflected in this report under the relevant items in the adopted agenda.

## **VII. INSTITUTIONAL MATTERS**

### **(i) Review of the Articles of Association**

9. The meeting agreed to the necessity of reviewing the Articles of Association. The meeting requested the Secretariat to undertake this task and present its findings to the next Governing Council with prior consultations with the member governments.

### **(ii) SACEP Secretariat**

10. The meeting recognized the necessity for greater interaction among CC and NFPs.
11. The meeting was suggested that the CC meetings be held quarterly and the national focal points' meeting be held twice a year; one back to back prior to the GC meeting and one half-yearly.
12. The meeting recommended that of the GC meeting should be held annually as required by the Articles of Association to strengthen the activities of SACEP.

### **(iii) Subject Area and Country Focal Points**

13. The meeting suggested the Secretariat to propose modalities to strengthen the Subject Area and Country Focal Points.

#### **(iv) International Staffing**

14. The meeting recognized the necessity to strengthen the staffing at the Secretariat. It recommended the creation of posts of one Director of Programmes, one Programme officer, one Personal Secretary to the DG, and one Secretary.
15. The Indian delegate stated that their original offer to support to the post of Director of Programmes will have to be reconsidered by the Government of India.

#### **(v) Advisory Group**

16. The meeting agreed that an advisory group of two persons should be formed for each of the programme areas.
17. Names of one or more experts in each field of area of programme focus will be sent by the countries to the DG. [*The DG may also suggest some experts on his own*] [*In the event that any country does not send nominations, then DG may identify some experts on his own*] and the list with all the names will be sent to each country to rank them on priority basis.
18. On receiving the recommendations from the member countries the DG will compile the information and select the top two persons from each focus area to serve on the advisory groups. The experts selected should not be from the same country. The member country should be informed of the selection and its basis.
19. UNEP and other international agencies may be requested to participate as special invitees.

### **VIII. FUNDING AND FINANCIAL MATTERS**

Under this agenda item, based on the presentation made by SACEP Secretariat, the following suggestions were made:

#### **i. Review of Country Contributions**

20. The meeting agreed for annual country contributions per the existing commitments as approved at the 7<sup>th</sup> Governing Council Meeting in the year 1998, to continue for the years 2005 and 2006 as well.
21. The approved annual budget for the years 2005 and 2006 would be US\$127 400.-
22. The meeting agreed to the clearance of arrears at the earliest.
23. The meeting recommended that increments to the country contributions may be considered at the next GC following an evaluation of the programme output and performance of the Secretariat.

#### **ii. Draft Secretariat Budget (2005-6)**

24. The Secretariat was requested to revise the proposed budget for 2005 and 2006 as per the previous approved budget for the year 2004.
25. The meeting welcomed the proposal to allocate the arrears of country contributions to the program development. The meeting suggested that 30% of the funds realized from the arrears of country contributions may be utilized towards Programme Development.

**iii. Presentation of Annual Audited Report of Accounts for the years  
2001, 2002, 2003 & 2004**

26. The meeting decided to study the submitted Annual Audited Report of Accounts for the years 2001, 2002, 2003 and 2004 and communicate to SACEP within three months with comments. The reports will be adopted by circulation.
27. It is agreed that the existing external auditors be changed in 2006 and every three years thereafter.
28. It is recommended that in future the audited reports of accounts should be sent to the focal points well in advance of the meeting.

**iv. Trust Fund / Reserve Fund / Project Development Fund**

29. The meeting suggested that one single fund should be maintained for the above and bylaws for the trust fund should be framed to permit utilization of such funds.

**IX. PROGRAMME MATTERS**

30. Following the briefing from, Mr. Surendra Shrestha, Representative of UNEP, Regional Director, ROAP, on UNEP's strategy to the region and to South Asia in particular addressing the challenges of Institutional Framework, Environmental Security, Urbanisation, Regional Treaty, and paths to Sustainable Development. His presentation suggested a focus on Program for 2005/6 with a clear budget. Reports on South Asia Strategy, Environmental Security are included (**Annex VII**).
31. The meeting acknowledged that the activities under SENRIC and South Asian Seas Programmes will continue under the framework setup by UNEP (as in the past). In addition the Secretariat will undertake programmes under Waste Management and Adaptation to Climate Change.
32. The meeting requested UNEP to assist in mobilizing necessary resources for the above programme areas.

**X. ONGOING PROJECT ACTIVITIES**

33. Following the briefing from the Secretariat on the ongoing activities, the following were recommended:

34. The meeting recommended that databases related to the environmental natural resources be updated regularly by SENRIC to assist the region in the State of the Environment (SoE) reporting.
35. The meeting recognized the support from UNEP to the ongoing activities and requested UNEP to continue its support to SACEP through SENRIC project implementation.
36. The meeting acknowledged the request from the Secretariat for transmission of concurrence letters from India and Nepal to complete the endorsement from the region to the GEF PDF-A Grant project proposal to establish a network of Centres of Excellence within the region.

## **XI. VENUE AND DATE OF THE 10<sup>TH</sup> GOVERNING COUNCIL MEETING**

37. Under this agenda item, the meeting agreed that the Secretariat would communicate with the governments of Nepal and Afghanistan to decide on the venue and tentative dates of the 10<sup>th</sup> Governing Council meeting.
38. The Secretariat is suggested to seek the responses to decide on the venue and date of the 10<sup>th</sup> Governing Council within the next two months.
39. It is recommended that the 10<sup>th</sup> Governing Council be held by August 2006.

## **XII. ANY OTHER BUSINESS (Working Papers -Annexed VIII and IX**

### **a) Salary revision**

40. The meeting recommended that the proposal for salary revision of the Director General may be considered at the next Governing Council meeting.

### **b) Communication between the Secretariat and the Chairman of the Governing Council and the National Focal Point, Royal Government of Bhutan**

41. The meeting underscored the importance of regular communication from the SACEP Secretariat to the Chairman, Governing Council and the focal point in Bhutan in view of the absence of Royal Government of Bhutan's Diplomatic Mission in Colombo.

### **c) Selection of the Director General**

42. The 8<sup>th</sup> Governing Council at its 3<sup>rd</sup> Special Session agreed that the selection of the DG would be on merit basis.
43. The meeting considered the present status on the recruitment process and for the sake of clarity suggested the following

*"The country from which the DG was selected would not be eligible to be considered for the post of DG for the next term. Thus there would always be seven countries competing for the post of DG".*

The Governing Council may confirm this.

**d) Term of the Director General**

44. The Governing Council at its 3<sup>rd</sup> Special Session agreed that the term of the DG would be for a non extendable term of five years. Subsequently, a letter was sent to the Chairman of the Governing Council by one of the member states that the term should be for three years. The Governing Council may take a decision on the tenure of the post.

**ADOPTION OF THE REPORT AND CLOSURE OF THE MEETING**

45. The Meeting considered the Report on 24<sup>th</sup> August 2005, and adopted the above recommendations for submission to the 9<sup>th</sup> Governing Council for its endorsement.
46. The Chairman Dasho Sangay Thinley, Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Royal Government of Bhutan, thanked all delegates for their co-operation in making the meeting a success.

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

## **PREPARATORY MEETING OF THE NATIONAL FOCAL POINTS FOR THE 9<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL**

24 August 2005

Thimphu, Bhutan

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## **SOUTH ASIA CO-OPERATIVE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME** **10 Anderson Road, Colombo 5, Sri Lanka. Tel +94 11 2589 787 Fax +94 11 2589 369**

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**SOUTH ASIA CO-OPERATIVE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME  
PREPARATORY MEETING OF NATIONAL FOCAL POINTS FOR  
NINTH MEETING OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL (GC9.SACEP)**

**24<sup>th</sup> AUGUST, 2005  
THIMPHU, BHUTAN**

**WELCOME ADDRESS BY**

**Dr. ARVIND ANIL BOAZ, DIRECTOR GENERAL,**

*Hon' Mr Dost Mohammad Amin, Deputy Director General, National Environment Protection Committee, Afghanistan, Mr Jafar Ahmad Chowdhury, Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests, Bangla Desh, Dasho Sangay Thinley, Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Bhutan, Ms Meena Gupta, Special Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India, Mr Ahmad Jameel, Deputy Director, Maldives, Mr. Mahboob Elahi, Director General, Ministry of Environment, Pakistan, Mr. WRMS Wickramasinghe, Additional Secretary, Government of Sri Lanka, Dr. Surendra Shrestha, Distinguished delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,*

It is a great honour for me to welcome you all to the Preparatory Meeting Of National Points for Ninth Meeting Of The Governing Council of South Asia Co-Operative Environment Programme.

I particularly recognize the presence of Dr. Surendra Shrestha, the Regional Director of UNEP-ROAP representing the Executive Director, UNEP and Mr. Carefamg Wang, Senior External Relation Officer, WMO to represent their organisation at the highest level.

At the outset, I thank the Royal Government of Bhutan for hosting the Ninth Governing Council Meeting of SACEP and the member countries for their participation at this important juncture for SACEP. As you all know, we are at the crossroads to take appropriate measures and ensure to the effective functioning of the regional secretariat. It is my sincere belief that deliberations at this Governing Council will bring a fresh lease of life and impetus to SACEP.

*Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen.*

We all know that SACEP has been in existence for more than twenty four years. It is one of the first inter-government institutions created to foster regional co-operation in the field of environment. The creators of SACEP had a clear and long-term vision to transform SACEP into a dynamic, vibrant, effective and credible regional body in the field of environment. But, after more than two decades of its existence, we all have to agree that SACEP was only partially able to fulfil the vision of our founders. We had recognized this fact in the 8<sup>th</sup> Governing Council and established a review panel, with the assistance of UNEP, to evaluate the past performance of SACEP and for identification of bottlenecks in its funding, future work programmes and implementation mechanisms to achieve its objectives.

The review panel had submitted its report in August 2002 and given several recommendations for SACEP to progress towards sustainable development and address the problem of poverty alleviation and socio-economic issues that impinge the environment in this region. The review mission's recommendations were endorsed by the 3<sup>rd</sup> Special Session of the eighth Governing Council on 6<sup>th</sup> November, 2003. Following the approved procedures and selection process. I have taken up the Director General's position in April this year. I

very much appreciate your immediate responses to my constant queries to present the case to take SACEP ahead addressing the regional issues.

Following the briefings from the Secretariat's senior staff members, my initial interactions with the Regional Director of UNEP ROAP, who took time to visit our office in Colombo and briefed me on the UNEP's regional strategy and its possible collaboration with the regional offices, I circulated to the member countries, the draft to the strategy based on the Review Report from Mr. Rajamani. I am again quite delighted to the immediate responses and suggestions from all the member countries.

We have embarked on the path of recovery by initiating some changes suggested by the review panel during the last special session. As suggested by the review panel the overall strategy to improve the performance of SACEP could be based on the four pillars of :

- Member Country interest
- Secretariat Efficiency
- Support of Donors
- Help of the people of the region through academia, scientific institutions, NGOs and community groups etc.

It is no doubt that in the near future, all the four pillars will be strengthened to ensure effective functioning of SACEP for the reasons it was established. Your immediate responses and presence here at this meeting at such a short notice is a clear indication of the immense interest you have to play a pivotal role in the recovery path of SACEP.

I must acknowledge that my interactions with all of you during the last 4-months have been extremely encouraging. I am also thankful to the host government Sri Lanka for extending me support in all my endeavours and to responding so positively for confirming a permanent land to host the Secretariat.

My initial interactions with the Hon' Secretary General of SAARC have been convincingly encouraging and I am certain that SACEP in close collaboration with SAARC will definitely reach the measures you all have been expecting. Needless to say, the support from UNEP in this process is well recognised and much appreciated.

#### *Distinguished Delegates.*

We are at the crossroads to choose the best possible options for the Secretariat and its Programme focus for the years ahead of us to ensure the region is benefited. We have through the last 2-decades addressed several issues especially covering the Environmental Law, Faunal and Floral Biodiversity, Environmental Education, Assessments at various levels, Marine and Coastal related issues, most of all achievement of the "*Malé Declaration on Air Pollution and its Likely Transboundary issues for South Asia*", a well guided programme by the UNEP's regional office with technical and financial support through SEI and SIDA. UNEP's support to SACEP through the SENRIC - an environmental resource information centre - a part of the regional network. The State of the Environmental Reports had been finalised and published in 2001. Under the South Asian Seas programme, we will observe constant capacity building activities and implementation of its Action Plan with support from several agencies including IMO, NORAD.

The list should be considered impressive considering the most minimal resources that are available to the Secretariat. Needless to say, your attention and guidance to the Secretariat's status is most expected at this meeting.

I have put forward the case for your consideration to the work programme of the Secretariat for the next 2-years. I request you all for your keen attention and suggestions under the session "Vision and the Way Forward" and to finalise the work programme.

While proposing the work programme, we have considered the global trends and at the regional level, the priority issues highlighted through the last five years and also the UNEP's strategy paper prepared for South Asia. Through the years, the programme focus will expand to cover various issues under atmosphere, freshwater resources, land, forests, biodiversity, marine and coastal, urbanisation, and assessments under various areas where immediate attention is still required.

Similarly, steady attention will be given to the issues which require regional cooperation. The collaboration and the MoU with SAARC has been paid much attention and I urge support from all the member countries and UNEP, in particular, in achieving a steady establishment of such institutional linkages

Further, we have considered the existing support and the additional financial resources required to meet the proposal. Though the Secretariat will strive hard to achieve attention from the donor agencies, it is only appropriate to observe the fact that many of such agencies would like to see the commitment from the region and strengthen the support case by case. We have proposed part of the country contributions to be allocated towards the programme development and I strongly believe that the member states will sincerely honour this suggestion.

I wish to pledge to the meeting that my constant efforts with the support from the Secretariat's staff will definitely see the results anticipated by you all.

To Conclude, let me once again thank Heads of all Country delegations, delegates and guests for being present at this inaugural session. I am particularly thankful to all the staff of the National Environment Commission who have helped me to organise this meeting. My thanks are also due to all my staff, particularly Mr. Prasantha Dias Abeyegunawardene, Mr. Pradyumna Kotta, Ms J. Tissera and all the young Program officers who worked extremely hard for this event.

I am confident that this 9<sup>th</sup> Governing Council will serve as a watershed in the new wider horizon that is opening up for SACEP and the important decisions that will be taken here will go a long way in strengthening SACEP and establish it as a vibrant regional organisation.

Thank you.

Opening Address by Dasho Sangay Thinley, Secretary, Ministry of  
Agriculture

National Focal Points Meeting  
9<sup>th</sup> Governing Council Meeting of SACEP

24<sup>th</sup> August 2005  
Thimphu, Bhutan

Dr. Arvind Anil Boaz, Director General of SACEP, Mr. Wickramasinghe, Current Chair of the National Focal Points' Meeting, Representatives of UN Agencies, Distinguished Delegates from SACEP Member Countries, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me great pleasure to welcome the Distinguished Delegates from our SACEP family to Thimphu to the 9<sup>th</sup> Governing Council Meeting of the South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme. We are very pleased to be able to host the 9<sup>th</sup> Governing Council meeting here in Thimphu. I hope that your stay in our country, though brief will be a fruitful and enjoyable one.

At the outset, I would like to extend a very warm welcome to Dr. Arvind Anil Boaz, on assumption of office as the new Director General of SACEP. I am confident that with his vast experience in the field of environment; SACEP will achieve high grounds towards a betterment of the state of the environment in the region. At the same time, I wish to place on record our deep appreciation to his predecessor, Mr. Mahboob Ellahi for steering the deliberations of SACEP during his tenure as the Director General of SACEP.

The SACEP Governing Council has been an important forum to enhance sub-regional cooperation in the field of environment. Bhutan would like to continue to work towards strengthening cooperation in the important area of environment and sustainable development. We believe that such cooperation is an important way forward. We must ensure that we conserve our natural resources never forgetting our shared obligation to future generations.

Distinguished Delegates, as we meet here in Thimphu today for the 9<sup>th</sup> Governing Council meeting, the task that we have at hand is enormous. As you are aware, the meeting today will deliberate on pertinent issues with regard to institutional, financial and programmatic areas of SACEP. I would therefore like to call upon all the Delegations from Member States to consider these issues seriously and propose a realistic programme of work for SACEP Secretariat.

We all know that SACEP has been in existence for over two decades now. However, we must accept the fact that it has not been very effective in bringing about the much-needed cooperation in the field of environment. I am hopeful that today's meeting will consider the important matters placed before us and propose viable solutions to re-vitalize SACEP. The Royal Government of Bhutan remains committed to supporting SACEP and its activities. Bhutan has participated actively and benefited from several of SACEP's initiatives. We realize that there is so much potential and expertise in the region to help us confront the challenges and we look towards SACEP as the avenue through which such exchanges can be channeled.

Bhutan, as you all know has a strong national commitment to the principles of sustainable development. However, we also realize that regional cooperation is essential to ensure the success of our endeavors. And in that light, I would like to reaffirm that we are willing to embrace SACEP's initiatives in the spirit of cooperation and good neighborly relations.

Once again, I would like to welcome all the Member Delegations to Bhutan and to the 9<sup>th</sup> Governing Council meeting. I wish you all a very successful and fruitful meeting.

Thank you and Tashi Delek!!!

## SOUTH ASIA CO-OPERATIVE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

**Preparatory Meeting of the National Focal Points for the  
9<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Governing Council of SACEP  
24<sup>th</sup> August 2005  
Thimphu, Bhutan**

### AGENDA

1. Opening of the Meeting
2. Election of Office Bearers
3. Adoption of Agenda and Organisation of Work
4. Report from the Secretariat on the follow up from the 3<sup>rd</sup> Special Session of the 8<sup>th</sup> Governing Council
  - a. Presentation by Director General, SACEP
  - b. Project Status Briefs
    - SENRIC
    - PDF-A proposals to GEF
    - MEA Negotiators training (October 2005)
    - Environmental Law Handbook
5. UNEP's Regional Strategy with focus on South Asia
6. Moderated discussion and agreement on the Vision and Way Forward (2005-2010)
  - Introductory note by the Director General, SACEP
  - Views and Comments by the National Focal Points
  - Agreement on the Way Forward
7. Finalisation of Work Programme (2006-7)
8. Funding and Financial Matters
  - Review of Country Contributions
  - External Funding
  - Draft Secretariat Budget (2005-6)
  - Presentation of Annual Audited Report of Accounts for the years 2001, 2002, 2003 & 2004
9. Venue and Date for the 10<sup>th</sup> Governing Council
10. Any Other Business
11. Adoption of the Meeting Report & Closure of Meeting



**9<sup>th</sup> GOVERNING COUNCIL OF SACEP  
REPORT FROM THE SECRETARIAT**

**FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES FROM THE  
3<sup>rd</sup> SPECIAL SESSION OF THE 8<sup>th</sup> GOVERNING COUNCIL**

### **Introduction**

The 1972 Stockholm Conference had drawn the attention of the world to the environmental issues that would change the lifestyles of the people and in many ways threaten their future well being if the wasteful patterns of resource consumption were not changed to more sustainable patterns.

The warning echoed by the Stockholm Conference resulted in the establishment of the United Nations Environment Programme. Soon, the Environmental Crusade swept across the developed and the developing world including the South Asian nations.

The initiative to establish an organisation for the protection, preservation and management of the South Asian environment was taken on by UNEP in the late seventies and the result was the establishment of the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP). It is pertinent to note that this was the first regional organisation to be established in the South Asian sub region even before the coming into being of the South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation.

All the member countries of SACEP are developing countries and five of them are categorised as “least developed countries”. The decision of the leaders of the SACEP member countries to commit funds from their tight national budgets to an organisation to protect and preserve the environment just nine years after the Stockholm Conference shows their commitment to conserve natural resources and protect the environment for the benefit of present and future generations.

### **The Vision**

The vision of SACEP set by the founding members at its inception was based on

- a) Recognition of environmental degradation caused by factors like poverty, over population, over consumption and wasteful production threatening economic development and human survival,
- b) Integration of environment and development as essential prerequisites to Sustainable Development, and
- c) Importance of co-operative action in the South Asian region where many ecological and development problems transcend national and administrative boundaries.

### **The Mission**

Considering a 2-decadal process had gone through following the establishment of the Secretariat, the 8<sup>th</sup> Governing Council considered the Mission statement at its 3<sup>rd</sup> Special Session held on 6 November 2003 to read as

“The Mission of SACEP is to promote regional co-operation in South Asia in the field of environment, both natural and human in the context of

sustainable development and on issues of economic and social development which also impinge on the environment and vice versa; to support conservation and management of natural resources of the region and to work closely with all national, regional, and international institutions, governmental and non governmental, as well as experts and groups engaged in such co-operation and conservation efforts"

## **Towards the sustainable development**

SACEP by virtue of being a regional intergovernmental organization mandated to work with environmental issues is well placed to build links and cooperation aimed at enhancing management of natural resources and sustainable development. Although SACEP's mandate is to work in environmental issues, this has been done with attention to socio-economic features that are part and parcel of the sustainable development directives gaining impetus in this millennium. Throughout the past few years SACEP has made efforts to support and increase exposure of sustainable development and better environmental management concepts to the governments in the region.

SACEP is uniquely placed in the region to play a supportive role for South Asian countries in terms of:

- Assisting to increased political commitment to sustainable development at a high level within each country and the region.
- Increasing regional initiatives that promote co-management of natural resources of benefit to the whole region. This expansion of regional objective building and cooperation has been advocated for increasing effective sustainable development initiatives.
- Serving as a central node for coordinating the management of transboundary environmental issues.
- Commissioning or supporting assessments, studies etc that add to the overall knowledge base in the region that can be drawn upon for decision making and policy formulation.
- Building partnerships with a range of organisations in order to increase international cooperation to garner the requisite resources and expertise to foster technical and policy development within the region.
- Networking and information sharing to keep stakeholders up-to-date with the latest international, and national initiatives, new thinking, lessons learnt etc.
- Creating awareness and increasing consciousness to new concepts and approaches to integrating human and natural systems.
- Institutional strengthening through building the capacities and skills of manpower in the region to plan, implement and monitor environmental and sustainable development activities.

## **Role in achieving the regional focus**

### ***Hosting***

SACEP hosts two of the UNEP's regional programme activities thereby lending a hand to the South Asian component of UNEP's mandate that has been the major contributors in terms of bringing in expertise to strengthen environmental protection mechanisms in the region.

- Co-ordinating and implementing of the South Asian Seas Programme which is one of the 17 programmes of the UNEP's Regional Seas Programme. This has been a part of SACEP's work since the time SACEP's inception in 1982.
- Host to the information extension arm of UNEP in the Secretariat under the project titled SENRIC since 1994.

### *Awareness Creation and Capacity Building*

SACEP in collaboration with partner organizations has carried out a range of workshops and trainings for awareness creation and capacity building in the region under different project activities. Some significant achievements are given below.

- Over 80 officials in the year 2003 alone, from the region were trained on compliance and enforcement of IMO Conventions (OPRC and MARPOL 73/78) and the Global Programme of Action
- The Asia-Pacific workshop held in September 2003, on Enforcement with and Compliance of Multi-lateral Environmental Agreements hosted with UNEP created an opportunity for countries in the region to share and learn from initiatives taken on this regard while also highlighting issues and areas for further strengthening of better applications in the future.
- Under the project during the period 1998-2002, on Strengthening Environment Assessment Monitoring Capabilities in the region, to the preparation of Global State of the Environment Report 2002, the SENRIC, strengthened the National Focal Points of the South Asian member countries by providing computer hardware and software that allows them to increase data gathering and management activities.
- Environmental Management Seminars held to educate the policy decision makers from the region held in Sri Lanka: 1996 and Pakistan: 1998)
- National level GIS centres at the Ministries and training capacities setup through provision of hardware and software during the period 1994-97. Training programmes were conducted to train the trainers and training lab facilities set up in Sri Lanka and Maldives.
- Provision of training and equipment and setting up of monitoring stations are taking place under the implementation of the Malé Declaration on Control and Prevention of Air Pollution and its Likely Transboundary Effects for South Asia. A compilation of training materials was also prepared for the project period 1998-2003.

- The Programme on Strengthening of Framework Legislation for Environment Management, can be considered one of SACEP's most successful activities. This led to 4 valuable publications, awareness raising among high levels in the judiciary and prominent media coverage.
- SACEP in cooperation with UNEP/GPA has played a key role to the promotion and dissemination of the concept of ICARM, which links the freshwater and the coastal communities.
- SACEP in collaboration with UNEP and UNU has addressed the issue of inter-linkages among MEAs to get the regional consensus to the Integrated Capacity Development initiative.

### *Assessment and Reporting*

Addressing the most pressing issue to aid the decision making process and policy guidance, SACEP achieved a regional consensus to the air pollution and related transboundary issues under the Malé Declaration and carried out a range of assessments and reports. Some of the major outcomes are as follows:

- The five marine member states of SACEP adopted South Asian Seas Action Plan in New Delhi in March 1995. The South Asian Seas falls under the umbrella of UNEP's Regional Seas Programme.
- Malé Declaration on Control and Prevention of Air Pollution and its Likely Transboundary Issues for South Asia at the 7<sup>th</sup> Governing Council in Maldives held in 1997.
- Baseline data for Air Quality Monitoring in collaboration with SEI, UNEP-RRC.AP, the NIAs and SIDA. And the action plans were implemented through the Phase 2 of the project during the period 2001-2003
- Country reports and a regional report on oil spill contingency planning in collaboration with IMO. This led to the preparation of an MoU for cooperation on responding to oil spill incidences in the region.
- Status report on Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities done with the assistance of the UNEP-GPA office.
- South Asia Environmental Education and Training Action Plan for the period 2003-2007 with collaboration from UNEP-ROAP.
- GIWA Assessment Report region 53 – Bay of Bengal

SACEP collaborated with UNEP in preparing the following reports:

- Synthesis Report for South Asia for the 2002 World Summit in Johannesburg.
- Global Environment Outlook –2 and 3, South Asia component during the period 1998-2003.
- Status of Environment Reports for Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka, and the South Asian Regional State of

Environment Report. Youth version of the South Asia Report, namely the Children of Monsoon was also part of this series of reports during the project period 1998-2002.

### ***Building partnerships / Networking***

Partnerships have been established with international organizations to address several priority environmental concerns in the region:

- UNEP ROAP and RRCAP have been constant collaborators in SACEP's activities and have afforded extension of many activities to the region.
- UNEP-GPA (1997) – Protection of Marine Environment from Land-based Activities
- NORAD – for implementation of SACEP's Strategy and Programme 1 and 2 during 1996-2002
- IMO – Development of South Asian Regional Oil Spill Contingency Plan; training activities at regional and national level; development of GLOBALLAST regional action plan
- UNEP-RRCAP / SIDA / SEI-Sweden (1998) – Implementation of Malé Declaration on Control and Prevention of Air Pollution and its Likely Transboundary Effects for South Asia.
- GCRMN (1997), CORDIO (1999) and ICRAN (2002) – Management and Protection of Coral Reef and other Coastal Ecosystems
- GBRMPA – Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, Australia for development of ICZM training course for South Asia
- GIWA (2001) – Water Quality Assessment in the Bay of Bengal Region
- WCMC partnership on regional marine ecosystem management.

There is a strong partnership that exists with the ministries of the region in the form of national focal points who remain the primary drivers and owners of SACEP. Other government bodies dealing with environmental issues and also network with SACEP form a far reaching web of government agencies working to put in place better management practices.

Identified Centres of Excellence are designated for each of the Subject Areas from the countries for the technical and research support to the programme activities. Some of the Centres of Excellence which actively participated in SACEP's programme implementation include: Zoological Survey of India (ZSI), Botanical Survey of India (BSI), Centre for Environment Education (CEE), Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), and Department of Ocean Development (DOD) of India, Marine Research Centre from Maldives, etc.

### **The Way Forward**

Following the 2-decadal process since its inception in 1982, SACEP reached an important juncture in time where it was pertinent to take a step back and to objectively assess performance and to look at how to improve it. With this in mind in September 2001, a review process was put in motion by its 8<sup>th</sup> Governing Council. This entailed

soliciting views, comments, recommendations etc from all the countries of the region as well as donors and partners in order to plan future work geared to address and reflect genuine needs and priorities. Through this process a Strategy and Work Programme for SACEP was approved by the 3<sup>rd</sup> Special Session of SACEP's 8<sup>th</sup> Governing Council. This strategy and work programme are complementary to the UNEP's various strategies for initiating programmes which can bring about a fruitful partnerships that can draw on the expertise, and commitment from the region for sustainable development.

In order to further strengthen and revitalise the organisation the Governing Council recommended that following measures be taken:

*SACEP will concentrate on issues of regional significance that are aimed at complementing and supplementing the work being carried out by the member country governments, with expressed focus in the following work areas:*

- 1) Assessment and Strategy Development
- 2) Experience Sharing and Networking and
- 3) Capacity Building

The work programmes undertaken are reflective of general priorities set by WSSD/MDG/SoE, decisions at various ministerial fora and sub regional environment policy dialogues (SEPD) etc. They do not look to address every detailed suggestion but concentrate mainly on the issues of sustainable development and environmental management with attention to issues of poverty, equity, gender, economic stability, and cultural norms in programmes undertaken. The programmes taken up primarily reflect the needs of the region. The aspect of community participation initiatives will form an integral part of the programme implementation. Some of the additional areas of work for SACEP and the thematic clusters recommended include:

- Achieving MDG goals - Water and Sanitation issues, renewable energy
- Coastal area management inclusive of mangroves/forests
- Waste management issues as relevant to the GPA/LBA priorities
- Adaptation to Climate Change
- Including bio-safety issues in the biodiversity agenda

The work programme considers the existing MoU with UNEP, and framework of UNEP Bali Strategic Plan on technology transfer and capacity building to play an effective role to enhance capacity of the member countries, to enable them to develop, amongst others, environmental profiles for their countries, identifying key environmental issues that impact on economic and social development as an input to PRSP (Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper), UNCCA (United Nations Common Country Assessment) and UNDAF (United Nations Development Assistance Framework). In particular, the work programme for the biennium 2006-7 focus considers project formulation under the areas of EIA, Biodiversity, Energy, Law, Tourism, Wetlands and Water related issues.

The work programme would also look at the possibilities of addressing the Capacity Development aspects in the region, especially towards

- Strategies for Sustainable Development
- Sustainable Development Indicators
- Environmental Databases
- Integrated Environmental Assessment
- Environmental Education and Awareness

- Capacity Building in the region related to Stockholm, Rotterdam, Basel Conventions
- Waste Management
- Environmental Knowledge Hub (eKH)

SACEP is pursuing a stronger collaboration with the Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific to strengthen its base and to the implementation of UNEP's strategy for South Asia under the above areas.

The South Asian Seas programme has the approved programme activities under the support of member governments and related UN agencies towards capacity building issues, strengthening the networking and experience sharing opportunities.

On a long term basis, the SACEP work programme considers areas to strongly implement the Millennium Development Goals with specific emphasis on Biodiversity, Waste Management, Energy related issues. Activities under the South Asian Seas programme activities are formulated under the framework suggested by UNEP's Regional Seas programme and addresses the Action Plan adopted for the region and the strategies adopted at each of the Global Meeting of Regional Seas Meeting.

The work programme formulation takes into consideration the need for packaging/re-packaging of the programmes to cluster some of the elements of the Strategy Matrix under thematic areas to suit donor priorities.

### ***Building Partnerships***

In SACEP's revised mission statement, development of partnerships is also emphasised as an intrinsic aspect of the organisation's mandate: "The Mission of SACEP is to promote regional co-operation in South Asia in the field of environment, both natural and human in the context of sustainable development and on issues of economic and social development which also impinge on the environment and vice versa; to support conservation and management of natural resources of the region and to work closely with all national, regional, and international institutions, governmental and non governmental, as well as experts and groups engaged in such co-operation and conservation efforts"

SACEP is currently taking active measures to expand its partner network. The primary focus is building partnerships with key institutions related to SACEP's priority subject areas and in line with the approved Work Programme. Some of the institutions include GPA, IMO, IOGOOS, WCMC. Further on efforts will be concentrated to strengthen the specifics outlined in the MoU with SAARC addressing implementation of programmes of common attention by both the regional secretariats.

### ***Institutional Arrangements***

The Articles of Association needs a review and suggested amendments incorporated. As such an endorsement from the Governing Council for the task is requested. Furthermore, the Rules and Regulations of the Secretariat and other administrative matters also need revision, which will be undertaken through the implementation process.

## *The Secretariat*

Infrastructure and staff capacity building is one of the major recommendations by the review mission, which was appropriately endorsed by the Governing Council. The proposal considers programme base that needs expansion and constant revision through the years; an information base with library and media facilities to be built-up for proper information dissemination and project development. This needs additional staff besides considerations to improve the local staff capacities.

Immediate need to strengthen the core professional staff of SACEP, SAS and SENRIC in order to meet the programme demands, is identified as the primary issue to be endorsed by the member countries.

The proposal thus considers an estimate to address the immediately needed stability and expansion to the existing infrastructure and part of the contributions from the countries solely committed to the programme development.

### *Premises for the Secretariat*

Hon. Minister of Environment and Natural Resources, Government of Sri Lanka has indicated willingness to pursue the matter with the Government to allocate suitable land for construction of a SACEP Secretariat, including a residence for the Director General. The Secretariat will pursue the matter with various international aid agencies for support to the built up of facilities and the structure

## **Financial Mechanisms**

### *Host facilities*

Government of Sri Lanka generously hosts the Secretariat and expenses towards the rental and utilities of the premises and local staff salaries are considered under the host facilities. Inflation rates and an annual review of the facilities extended under the host facility need consideration.

### *Country Contributions*

The country contributions from the member governments need revision to take into consideration of the proposed work programme and the constant inflation. Thus, consideration to a constant increase of 10% to the revised country contributions is suggested.

There is a large quantum of arrears of country contribution due on both SACEP and SAS. There is an urgent need for immediate clearance of all arrears.

Presently, the country contributions are to the core funds which are utilised for the travel, salary and maintenance costs of the Director General. The contributions are also approved for the hiring of international staff. However, due to non availability of sufficient funds, vacancies were not filled. However about 15% of the received contributions were allocated towards the Secretariat's maintenance in the recent years, since non availability of sufficient funds under appropriate account heads. A review of the past financial status also indicates no funds available to the Secretariat for project development. Delays in receiving annual country contributions also is a main factor to the non-functional aspect of the Secretariat.



As an initial thrust allocation of 30% of the country contributions towards the programme development is suggested. Secretariat will ensure constant efforts to improve on the project funds to achieve a ratio of 1:2 (core vs. project) through the next five years.

Taking year 2000 as the base year, an annual increment of 10% to the country contributions is thus suggested to take into consideration of the inflation and suggested establishment of programme base.

#### *Reserve Funds*

It is envisaged that the Secretariat will focus on services to be rendered to the region and any contributions received to the services will form a reserve fund, which could be utilised for strengthening of SACEP. Further it is suggested that any additional unutilised funds be transferred to the reserve fund to utilise such fund for strengthening the Secretariat.

#### *Trust Fund*

Since the inception of SACEP, its Governing Council has always been alerted to the establishment of a Trust Fund to maintain stability and constant improvement to the Secretariat base. The review recommendations also strongly urge such arrangement considered by the Governing Council for approval under the proposal Corpus Fund. Activation of the already established Trust Fund (in place of a Corpus Fund) is requested and the possible hiring of the international staff under this account incomes be considered

SACEP will look to enacting other institutional mechanisms including governance issues of increasing staff and capabilities; financial mechanisms including building a trust/corpus fund and increasing donor support. These issues are taken on simultaneously with developing the work programme.

## THE PROPOSAL

Following the 2-decadal process, the 8<sup>th</sup> Governing Council suggested for a review and revitalisation of the Secretariat in terms of its functionality, and programme focus. UNEP had readily committed its assistance to conduct a review, which was later endorsed by the Governing Council at its 3<sup>rd</sup> Special Session held in Colombo. During 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> November 2003.

As an initial step ahead, the Secretariat's Director General's position was considered from the region on a merit basis, abandoning the appointments from the member countries on a rotational basis. Discussions were held with Regional Director, UNEP ROAP during the month of May 2005, to consider overall framework to the work programme for the region. The following proposal is being put forward to ensure implementation of the GC decisions in a logical and best possible way.

The proposal addresses issues under

- **Governance Issues:** The Charter (Articles of Association); Terms of references to the GC, CC and the DG; actions to strengthen the role and interaction among GC, CC and DG
- **Programme related issues:** Review regional priorities and to propose immediate work programme
- **Institution and Resources:** Review of Institution with proposed requirements to support the implementation of 2005/7 program.

## GOVERNANCE ISSUES

### [Agenda Item 4(a) : INSTITUTIONAL MATTERS]

#### *(i) Review of the Articles of Association*

- The Articles of Association be reviewed and recommendations to be endorsed by the Governing Council

#### *(ii) The SACEP Secretariat*

##### *The Governing Council*

- Per the Article 4(c) of the Articles of Association, the Governing Council meeting be regularised to be held annually.
- The venue and probable dates of the following meeting be decided at each of the meetings

##### *The Consultative Committee*

- Charge CC with responsibilities to build bridges for SACEP with focal points through functionaries both in focal point ministry and Ministry of External Affairs designated as SACEP in charge.
- Clearly define the functions of CC within and in review of work of SACEP. Quarterly Reports of progress placed by SACEP should be reviewed by CC and course corrections suggested
- The Consultative Committee meetings be considered to include focal points to ensure further strengthening of the DG-CC-GC inter-relations and the programme functionality.
- The CC meetings be held bi-annual
- It is proposed that the country delegations at the above meetings proposed by each of the countries ensure continuity by including the country focal point.
- Costs towards the participation of all participants at the CC meetings be borne by the countries.

##### *Support / Advisory Group*

- A support cum advisory group to be initiated, initially requesting UNEP to chair the committee to evolve group membership into a strong advisory body.

- The Secretariat will make proposals to the members of the advisory group and the Director General should be authorised to finalise the advisory group.
- The meeting of the support/ advisory group be held annually and costs of the meeting be taken into the Secretariat's annual budget under the country contributions.

### *(iii) Subject Area and Country Focal Points*

The issue of strengthening the role of Subject Area and Country Focal Points was considered at each of the earlier meetings. Further, it has also been suggested by the review recommendations that the respective focal points need to be strengthened and be made proactive to suggest programme areas to the Secretariat. Following is requested for consideration by the meeting for suggestions and recommendations.

- i.) Appropriately strengthen the focal points to discharge their functions effectively and to enable them to give priority to SACEP related work. The subject focal points which are not active could be substituted and subjects like bio safety and climate change adaptability added.
- ii.) Proactively interact with partner and donor institutions and other regional institutions once in 2 years to determine any organizational changes required both in SACEP and focal points.
- iii.) Promote projects directly funded by member countries in addition to projects funded by external donors.

### *(iv) Institutional Linkages*

The approved Strategy document for implementation of the review recommendations suggests that SACEP Secretariat should with reference to the projects identified in the strategy matrix and work programme build the specific contacts required not only with donors but also regional and partner institutions as well as experts and NGOs in the field who have specialized in the subject area, depending on the arrangements of funds.

All national focal points are requested for a strong collaboration to assist SACEP develop and establish such network. Further, the focal points are requested to the strong support in communicating to UNEP for the continued support and further to strengthen programme implementation in collaboration with SAARC to the areas of mutual interest.

The Meeting is requested for the approval of initiating concrete MoU with research and support agencies with ADB, Colombo Plan, National and non-governmental Institutions like TERI, EPTRI, SDPI, Development Alternatives (DA-India), Centre for Science and Environment (CSE-India), BCAS will also be explored.

THE PROPOSAL

It is sought for the approval of the meeting that the DG SACEP would meet with all focal points once a year and all donors and partner and regional institutions, as required for the programme development and to promote regional co-operation.

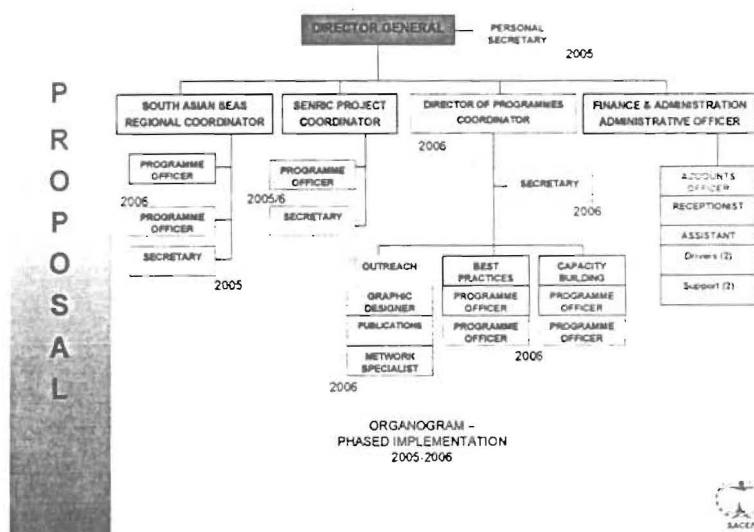
(v) *International Staffing*

Discussions at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Special Session considered support to the Director of Programmes position by the member countries. The meeting is requested for immediate consideration of the below:

The position for the Director of Programmes be filled in immediately (*Government of India has considered support of the position for Director of Programme for an initial 3-year period. 3<sup>rd</sup> Special Session, 8<sup>th</sup> Governing Council, 4 November, 2003*)

- The allocations from the Trust/Corpus fund are considered for the hiring of International staff, as proposed by the review committee, to ensure proper programme functioning and development.
- Proposed work programme entails additional staffing at the Secretariat by the year 2006.
  - 1 Director of Programmes
  - 7 Programme Officers ( 2: core, 5: project)
  - 3 Secretary to the project development staff
  - 1 Personal Secretary for DG

Organogram below is proposed to be implemented through the years 2005-6



## PROGRAMME RELATED ISSUES

### [ Agenda Item 4(b) : PROGRAMME MATTERS ]

#### *(i) Progress of Programme and Project Activities*

The 8<sup>th</sup> Governing Council at its 3<sup>rd</sup> Special Session held during 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> November 2003 in Colombo had endorsed review recommendations to the revitalisation of the Secretariat, which suggested that the recommendations of the report should be considered as a package for it to see the successful results. Since the 3<sup>rd</sup> Special session, the Secretariat had pursued on the recruitment of the Director General from the region on a merit basis, which was complete only during the month of April 2005.

The on-going project activities though limited, continued and details to these are covered separately under the Agenda Item 6.

#### *(ii) Proposed Thematic and Work Programme*

Several of the meetings and Ministerial forums held during the last few years considered the emerging issues and the regional priorities, which have immediate relevance to SACEP's proactive role and consideration of its immediate programme activities. The proposed work programme considers discussions at various levels (sub-regional, regional and global) such as the Millennium Development Goals, the World Summit for Sustainable Development and the South Asia position paper, in particular, the Subregional Environmental Policy Dialogue (SEPD), the Governing Council of UNEP – which indicated the commitment by all the countries to complete the strategies for sustainable development by 2005, the goal to reverse the negative trends on environment by 2015 and development of indicators for land, air, water and biodiversity.

Further to this, the programme and implementation strategy focus also considers the South Asia Priority paper presented at the Special Session of the SACEP's Governing Council and the recommendations of the review mission commissioned by the 8<sup>th</sup> Governing Council.

The proposal to implement objectives of the programme needs a consistent approach and on-going efforts to build the information blocks that would assist member governments, regional institutions and further the convention secretariats in the long run. The proposal also considers necessary attention to a carefully designed clearing house mechanism, proper data collection system and further a mechanism to disseminate the information, properly packaged.

An outreach mechanism would ensure the programme implementation through proper partnerships not only with the governments but also with the civil society, NGO and the linkages with partner institutions at the regional level, such as SAARC. Such system would also ensure proper and constant briefings to the support agencies to keep their attention focused to the sub-regional priorities.

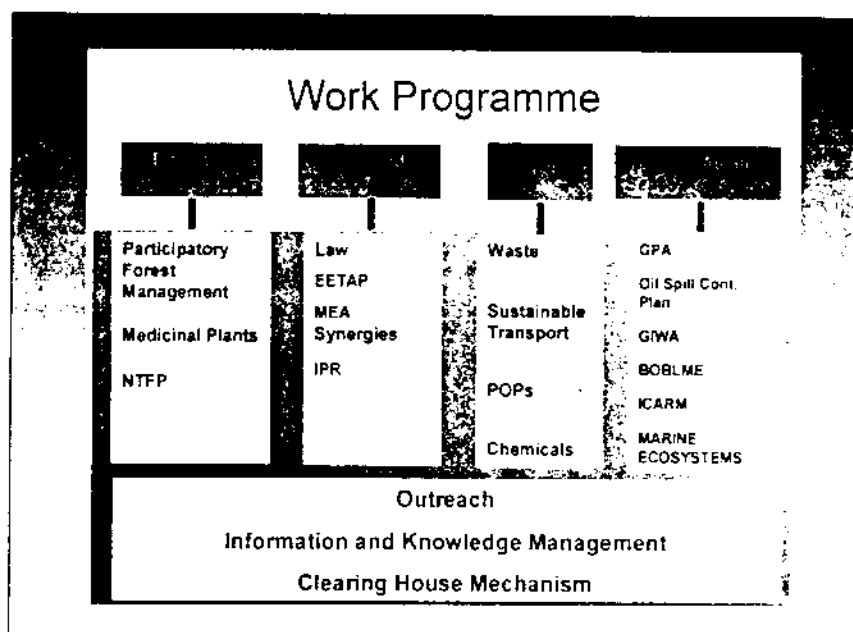
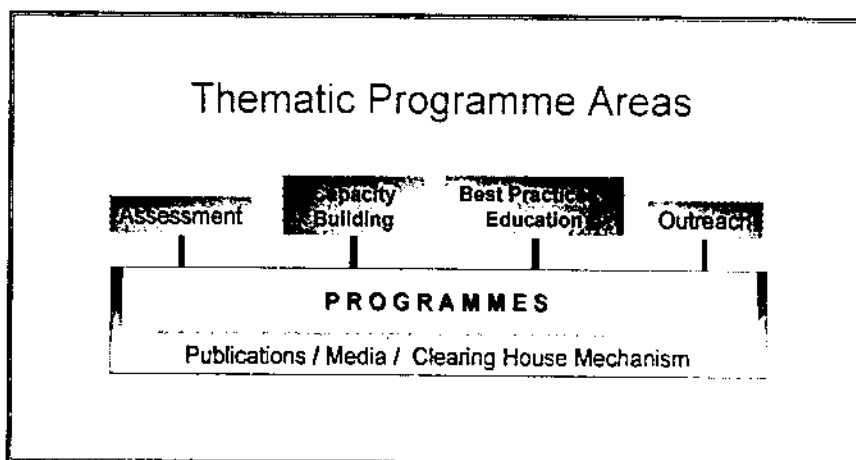
In order to further strengthen and revitalise the organisation the Governing Council recommended that following measures be taken:

SACEP will concentrate on issues of regional significance that are aimed at complementing and supplementing the work being carried out by the member country governments, with expressed focus in the following work areas:

- 1) Assessment and Strategy Development
- 2) Experience Sharing and Networking and
- 3) Capacity Building

Work programme for the biennium 2006-7 focus considers project formulation under the areas of EIA, Biodiversity, Energy, Law, Tourism, Wetlands and Water related issues. The work programme would also look at the possibilities of addressing the Capacity Development aspects in the region, especially towards

- Strategies for Sustainable Development
- Sustainable Development Indicators
- Environmental Databases
- Integrated Environmental Assessment
- Environmental Education and Awareness
- Capacity Building in the region related to  
Stockholm, Rotterdam, Basel Conventions
- Waste Management
- Environmental Knowledge Hub (eKH)





## INSTITUTION AND RESOURCES

### [Agenda Item 4(c) : FINANCIAL MATTERS]

#### *(i) Status of Contributions from the Member Countries*

##### *The Secretariat*

##### *Premises for the Secretariat*

Hon. Minister of Environment and Natural Resources, Government of Sri Lanka has indicated willingness to pursue the matter with the Government to allocate suitable land for construction of a SACEP Secretariat, including residence for the Director General. The Secretariat will pursue the matter with various international aid agencies for support to the facilities and the structure.

- Immediate attention for the GOSL to locate suitable site for the Secretariat.
- Secretariat will source for support to the building infrastructure from the donor agencies and the member countries.

##### *Financial Status*

##### *Host facilities:*

- The Host facility contribution be reviewed to take into consideration of the inflationary costs.
- Annual increment to the host facility contributions be considered.

##### *Country Contributions*

The country contributions have been static almost since 1998 and also need attention to the arrears to be cleared. The funds be allowed for the Project development.

- Immediate clearance of arrears is requested
- Annual 10% increment to the country contributions with year 2000 as the base year be considered
- Considering the necessity to the expansion of the programme base and focus, besides the fact that the existing support to the projects still need to be enhanced, it is proposed that 30% of the country contributions be allocated to the project development.

#### *(ii) Trust Fund*

Since the inception of SACEP, the Governing Council has always been requested to the establishment of a Trust Fund to maintain stability and constant improvement to the Secretariat. The review recommendations also strongly urge such arrangement considered by the Governing Council.

- Consideration from the member countries to the firm establishment of the Trust Fund

***(iii) Reserve Fund***

- It is proposed that the Secretariat focuses on services to be rendered to the region and any contributions received to such activity be maintained under a reserve fund, which could be utilised for the programme development.

***(iv) Project Development Fund***

The proposal considers utilisation of the country contributions towards the project development; which has not been considered in the history of the SACEP Secretariat. Such consideration will boost the possibility of the revitalisation and further expansion of the programme activities.

As an initial thrust allocation of 30% of the country contributions towards the programme development is suggested. Secretariat will ensure constant efforts to improve on the project funds to achieve a ratio of 1:2 (core vs. project) through the next five years.

***(v) Secretariat Budget Proposal for year 2005 & 2006***

SACEP was established in 1982 and similar regional organisations in the region (SAARC, Colombo Plan) have been considered in planning the annual resource requirement for the maintenance of the Secretariat. Based on the initial accepted proposal in the first Governing Council of SACEP, that the facilities and pay structure of the Director General will be at par with the Colombo Plan and also the Review carried out for SACEP in 2002 and the subsequent appointment of the new Director General on a merit basis, from the region, based on its recommendations, it is proposed to bring the salary and other facilities of the Director General of SACEP at par with the Secretary General of Colombo Plan. A review of the regional institutions with the programme focus has been considered, in judging the proposal.

Allocation towards the locally hired staff:

It is proposed for consideration by the meeting that resources be allocated to the hiring of one more programme officer and two secretaries from the host country facility suggested annual budget. This will ensure continuity in the programme planning and development since the posts are considered under staff of the Secretariat.

Maintenance costs of the Secretariat and housing for Director General:

The maintenance costs in the budget need immediate attention and approval.

Programme Development:

To-date the country contributions have been considered to the Director General and partly to the Secretariat maintenance. It is however, proposed that 30% of the country contributions be considered for Programme Development including the outreach operations. Such consideration from the countries would also impress the donor community for the commitment from the region and will certainly see the results immediately.

THE PROPOSAL

Keeping the above proposal considerations in view, the budget to fit programme development, and strengthened Secretariat has been considered. The proposal for the budget allocation as below is requested for approval by the meeting.

## South Asia Co-operative Environment programme Annual Budget : Year 2005

Account Head	CC	Host			
International: Director General	65,000				
Local: Programme Officer (1)		4,200			
Local: Secretary (1)		3,600	<b>Proposed Host &amp; Country Contributions (CC) at 10% annual increment</b>		
Local: Admin Officer, Accounts Officer, Receptionist, Assistant		16,200			
Local: 2 drivers, security, cleaners		7,200			
Furniture, Office Equipment, Consumables, Communications		12,500			
Secretariat: rental & maintenance		13,500			
DG housing, maintenance	30,000				
Meetings, International Travel	33,640				
Project Development : 30% of CC	61,560				
Contingencies	15,000				
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>205,200</b>	<b>57,200</b>			
			<b>Base Year 2000</b>		
			<b>2005</b>		
			BG	34,300	21,300
			BH	5,700	3,555
			IND	51,300	31,850
			MD	23,500	14,575
			NP	13,000	8,050
			PKN	51,300	31,850
			SL	26,100	16,220
			<b>CC:</b>	<b>205,200</b>	<b>127,400</b>
			<b>HOST:</b>	<b>57,200</b>	
			<b>&gt;&gt;&gt;</b>	<b>262,400</b>	

South Asia Co-operative Environment programme  
Annual Budget : Year 2006

Account Head	CC	Host
International: Director General	72,000	
Local: Programme Officer (1)		4,600
Local: Secretary (1)		4,000
Local: Admin Officer, Accounts Officer, Receptionist, Assistant		17,800
Local: 2 drivers, security, cleaners		7,900
Furniture, Office Equipment, Consumables, Communications		13,750
Secretariat: rental & maintenance		14,870
DG housing, maintenance	34,100	
Meetings, International Travel	36,904	
Project Development : 30% of CC	57,716	
Contingencies	15,000	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,25,720</b>	<b>62,920</b>

Proposed Host & Country Contributions (CC) at 10% annual increment		
	2006	Base Year 2000
BG	37,730	21,300
BH	6,270	3,555
IND	56,430	31,850
MD	25,850	14,575
NP	14,300	8,050
PKN	56,430	31,850
SL	28,710	16,220
<b>CC:</b>	<b>225,720</b>	<b>127,400</b>
<b>HOST:</b>	<b>62,920</b>	
<b>&gt;&gt;&gt;</b>	<b>288,640</b>	

**PROPOSED SECRETARIAT BUDGET FOR 2005 - 2006**

	<b>INCOME US \$</b>	<b>EXPENDITURE US \$</b>
<b>1 ANTICIPATED INCOME</b>		
1.1 BANGLADESH	21,300.00	
BHUTAN	3,555.00	
INDIA	31,850.00	
MALDIVES	14,575.00	
NEPAL	8,050.00	
PAKISTAN	31,850.00	
SRI LANKA	16,220.00	
<b>TOTAL COUNTRY CONTRIBUTIONS</b>	<b>127,400.00</b>	
1.2 Interest earned (SACEP-CC)	1,019.00	
1.3 Secretariat Cost from Sri Lanka	30,000.00	
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>158,419.00</b>	
<b>2 ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE</b>		
2.1 Salary Director General		41,520.00
2.2 Salaries of Programme Officers (Local)		12,000.00
2.3 Salaries of Local Staff		18,000.00
2.4 International Travel		20,000.00
2.5 Secretariat Cost		58,000.00
<b>SUB TOTAL</b>		<b>149,520.00</b>
3 Capital Costs		17,500.00
4 <b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>		<b>167,020.00</b>
5 <b>DEFICIT</b>		<b>(8,601.00)</b>

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 10**  
**ANY OTHER BUSINESS:**

**Brief note in the review of Rules of SACEP for International staff**

According to the resolution of the Governing Council, the position of Director SACEP was equated to that of Chief of Colombo Plan Bureau, for purposes of pay and perks. Accordingly, the salary of the First Director, SACEP in 1982 was fixed at US \$ 2,300/ per month. The salary went up in course of time to US \$ 2,910/ in 1988, in accordance with the increase of the salary of Chief of Colombo Plan Bureau.

In 2002, an adhoc increase of US \$ 550 was done in the salary of the seventh Director General SACEP and it was fixed at US \$ 3460/ per month. This is the salary of the present Director General.

Presently if we compare the salary of the Director General SACEP with that of his equivalent head of the Colombo Plan, he is drawing a monthly salary of only US \$ 3460 against the Secretary General, Colombo Plan's salary of US \$ 5350 a difference of US \$ 1890 i.e. 35% less. Even the perks given to him are much less than those available to the head of the Colombo Plan.

Whilst since 1981 the salary of the equivalent post in all similar organizations have gone up, the salary of Director General SACEP has not kept pace and is way below. Today, SACEP's financial position is satisfactory to cover any reasonable increase in the salary. Even Programme matters have also gained momentum in the recent months.

The principle of 20% premium in the salaries and allowances of SAARC Officials over those of corresponding ranks in any SAARC Mission in Kathmandu, was established in line with the current international practice to provide better official incentives in Regional and International Organisations to attract better talent with required broad experience and expertise. Given this practice, Regional bodies and UN Organisations are offering better terms and conditions than those given by the Missions representing individual countries.

The second criterion relates to cost of living in the Host country which is in fact, an over-riding principle being observed by all institutions including the Missions for revising salaries and allowances of their employees. In Colombo, the cost of living index between 1983 -2005 has risen from 474.2 to 4073 a rise of almost 860% .In comparison, the salary of the Director General has increased from US \$ 2300 to only US \$ 3460, an increase of only 50%.

It is also well known that most of the Governments and Organisations stipulate indicative time-frame of three to five years for revising salaries and allowances, which is done on the basis of living index and other economic factors. This time limit, however, is not taken in practice as sacrosanct and a rigid principle to rule out a possibility of earlier

revision of salaries, on account of sudden changes in living index or other factors justifying the need to do so. Similarly, revision may not be justifiable over a longer time, if there are stable factors. Thus, flexibility is the essence of this time-frame.

It is also to be appreciated, that this exercise should not be perceived in purely financial terms. The SACEP process is today, critically poised to break new grounds and enlarge co-operation and activities in the core substantive areas. Its success will depend, inter-alia, on enhanced support from the Secretariat. This will entail more responsibilities and challenges for the present Director General and his team of staff. Therefore, the Secretariat looks forward to receiving greater support and co-operation from the Member States and donor agencies. It may also be pointed out that as a follow up of the review Process, decided at the 8<sup>th</sup> Governing Council, 3<sup>rd</sup> Special Session, it is for the first time that the Director General has been appointed on a Merit basis from amongst the best talent in the region. It is also pertinent to point out that even within the SACEPs team, one Project coordinator is being paid a monthly salary of US \$ 4320, way above the salary of the Director General. It is, thus, necessary to revise the present salary structure of the Director General.

The next question which needs to be considered, is the SACEP's affordability of the higher pay and perks to Director General, SACEP. With the present level of contribution and the interest accrued on it, SACEP earns an annual income of approximately US \$ 127,400 as against the present average annual expenses of SACEP Secretariat (On external Account) of the order of about US \$ 97,000 leaving a balance of US \$ 30,000 every year as savings. In addition, SACEP has accrued savings of the order of about US \$ 2,15,573 at present. There is also an arrears of US \$ 3,48,097 to be recovered as arrears of Country Contributions from Member countries. Project savings are also likely to grow in future. It is therefore possible, for SACEP to afford the rational increase in pay and perks of Director General, SACEP, equivalent to that of the head of the Colombo Plan.

Here, it is not out of place to mention, that the country contribution are primarily meant for the expenses of the Director General and International staff and the Host Facilities for running the Secretariat. The Programme Funding has to come from bilateral / Multilateral sources. Accordingly, SACEP Secretariat has been successful in the last three months in mobilising administrative costs from project funding to the tune of approximately US \$ 8,000 apart from variety of other Programme activities not converted into monetary terms. There exist more possibilities of mobilising further funding from outside. In this background, Secretariat expenses, including any enhanced pay and perks for Director General would be a fraction of total Programme value.

In view of the foregoing, and non-involvement of any additional liability on part of the Member Countries the Secretariat recommends that the salary and perks of the Director General SACEP may be re-fixed at par to the Chief of Colombo Plan as per earlier decision. Benefits for children's education and other perks also may be extended on par to the Secretary-General, Colombo Plan. In addition, a mechanism of periodic review may also be evolved to keep pace with changes in the future.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 10  
ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The third Special Session of the Governing Council held during 4-6 November 2005 approved the recommendations from the review mission to the capacity development within SACEP and approved the post of Director of Programmes (DP) to implement proposed programme establishment subject to the availability of funds.

India, at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Special Session of the 8<sup>th</sup> Governing Council held at Colombo during 4-6 November 2003, had proposed to support this position for the initial period of three years. It is requested that this support be extended immediately to strengthen the programme base for SACEP.