

REPORT

THE TENTH MEETING OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL

South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP)

25 JANUARY 2007 KATHMANDU, NEPAL



South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme No. 10, Anderson Road, Colombo 5, Sri Lanka

CERTIFICATE

The Report of the Tenth Meeting of the Governing Council of South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme held on 25th January 2007 in Kathmandu, Nepal is herewith submitted to the members of the Governing Council and the Consultative Committee, in fulfilment of the financial and administrative procedures of SACEP.

Dr. Arvind Anil Boaz Director General

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

25 January 2007 Kathmandu, Nepal

SOUTH ASIA CO-OPERATIVE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME REPORT OF THE TENTH MEETING OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL

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SOUTH ASIA CO-OPERATIVE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME TENTH MEETING OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL (GC10.SACEP) 25TH JANUARY 2007 KATHMANDU, NEPAL

REPORT

1 INTRODUCTION

The Tenth Meeting of the Governing Council of the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (GC10.SACEP) was held in Kathmandu, Nepal on the 25th January 2007

2. ATTENDANCE

The Meeting of the Governing Council (GC10.SACEP) was attended by delegates from all member countries viz: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

Representatives from the Asian Development Bank (ADB), International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), US Environmental Hub for South Asia, World Meteorology Organization (WMO), and Centre for Environment Education (CEE) India attended the meeting as Observers.

List of Participants is in **Annex I.**

3. INAUGURATION

The Chief Guest for the Inaugural session of the 10th Governing Council of SACEP was H.E. Dr. Ram Sharan Mahat, Minister of Finance, Government of Nepal

The welcome address was delivered by Dr. Arvind Anil Boaz, Director General of SACEP (**Annex II**). The message from H.E Mr. Girija Prasad Koirala, Prime Minister of Nepal was read by Hon Man Bahadur Vishwakarama, Minister of State for Environment, Science and Technology, Government of Nepal (**Annex III**)

This was followed by an address by Hon Man Bahadur Vishwakarama, Minister of State for Environment, Science and Technology, Government of Nepal. (Annex IV)

The Chief Guest H.E. Dr. Ram Sharan Mahat, Minister of Finance, Government of Nepal then delivered his Inaugural Address (**Annex V**)

The meeting was next addressed by the current Chair of the 9th Governing Council of SACEP, His Excellency Dasho Nado Rinchhen, Honourable Deputy Minister, National Environment Commission (NEC), Royal Government of Bhutan. (Annex VI)

The vote of thanks was given by Mr. Bal Krishna Prasai, Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Science and Technology, Government of Nepal.

4. ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS

In accordance with the provisions of the Articles of Association of SACEP, Hon Man Bahadur Vishwakarama, Minister of State for Environment, Science and Technology, Government of Nepal was elected as Chairman of the 10th Governing Council of SACEP. Hon Mr. Malik Amin Aslam Khan, State Minister of Environment, Government of Pakistan was elected as the Vice Chairman. Mr. W.R.M.S. Wickramasinghe, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Government of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka was elected as Rapporteur.

5. ADOPTION OF AGENDA AND ORGANISATION OF WORK - Agenda Item 3 -

The Agenda of the Meeting was discussed and adopted by the 10th Governing Council of SACEP. (**Annex VII**)

6. COUNTRY STATEMENTS / BRIEF OPENING REMARKS BY THE MEMBER STATES

- Agenda Item 5 -

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

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

7. STATEMENTS BY THE OBSERVERS

- Agenda Item 6 -

ADB, ICIMOD, UNCRD, UNEP, US Embassy and WMO presented their statements. (Annexes XIII & XIV)

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

- Agenda Item 7-

Mr. W.R.M.S. Wickramasinghe, Head of Delegation of the Government of Sri Lanka, in his capacity as the rapporteur to the Preparatory Meeting of the National Focal Points presented the Report of the Meeting of the National Focal Points (NFP) held on 23rd January 2007 along with the recommendations of the meeting to the Governing Council for its endorsement. (Annex XVII)

9. DISCUSSIONS AND ENDORSEMENT OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS AGREED UPON AT THE PREPARATORY MEETING OF NATIONAL FOCAL POINTS - Agenda Item 8 -

PRESENTATION OF THE PROGRESS REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR GENERAL, SACEP

- NFP Agenda Item 4 -

Based on the Presentation of the Progress Report by the Director General under the following categories

- 1 Institutional Matters
- 2 Programme Matters
- 3 Financial Matters

And the recommendations of the Preparatory Meeting of the National Focal Points, the 10th Governing Council adopted the recommendations of the Preparatory Meeting of the National Focal Points, with certain amendments. The decisions of the 10th Governing Council, SACEP under various clauses are as below:

9.1 INSTITUTIONAL MATTERS

- NFP Agenda Item 4.1 -
- **9.1.1** The GC, SACEP ensured the recommendation of strengthening the collaboration of SACEP with SAARC and recommends to SAARC Secretariat to consider endorsing the collaboration with SACEP at its next SAARC Summit, as the technical organization for all issues in the field of environment for the Region
- **9.1.2** The meeting considered the request of the secretariat to enhance the core international staff for the priority areas as decided by the 9th GC, SACEP. The meeting recommends, recruiting such staff based on project needs as and when necessary.
- 9.1.3 The Government of Sri Lanka exceeded to the request of the secretariat to deputize their experts from institutions of excellence for ensuring better programme establishment. The Government of India accepted the request and said that such support staff can be considered by them on specific requests by the secretariat.
- **9.1.4** The meeting considered the request for core financing of projects by the secretariat and accepted it in principle. The request for core financing will be dealt on project to project basis in close consultation and consent of the member countries.
- **9.1.5** The meeting considered the request by the secretariat for an independent office and residential complex. Government of Sri Lanka reaffirmed their commitment to provide land for the complex.

9.1.6 The meeting requested the status of the Regional Co-ordinator and progress made by the South Asian Seas Programme.

(NFP/PM Annex VII - GC10.SACEP/NFP/D2/Agenda Item 4 & GC10.SACEP/NFP/D2)

9.1.7 Declaration and Articles of Association of SACEP, adopted at the Ministerial Meeting of South Asian Countries held in Colombo, Sri Lanka on 25th February 1981 and Decisions upto the Ninth Meeting of the Governing Council of SACEP.

(NFP/PM Annex VIII - GC10.SACEP/NFP/D2/Agenda Item 4.1.1)

The meeting requested more time to review by the country governments and suggested to consider at the next GC, SACEP

- **9.1.8** Commend the Government of Sri Lanka for increasing the Host Facility and the Government of India for contributing for the Corpus Fund. The meeting requested the other countries to contribute to the Corpus Fund to strength the programme base of SACEP.
- **9.1.9** SACEP to participate in the Green South Asia 2007 Programme of SAARC

9.2 PROGRAMME MATTERS

- NFP Agenda Item 5 -

9.2.1 Male' Declaration

- NFP Agenda Item 5.1 -

The 10th GC, SACEP endorsed the status and the decisions at the 8th Intergovernmental Meeting of the project, held in Thimphu (September 2006) and observed that the capacity building requirement at SACEP, be ensured during the Phase III implementation.

(NFP/PM Annex IX - GC10.SACEP/NFP/D3/Agenda Item 5.1 & GC10.SACEP/NFP/D3/Agenda Item 5.1 - Annex)

9.2.2 SACEP-UNEP Support for Programme Implementation - NFP Agenda Item 5.2 -

The Governing Council requested UNEP to continue support to the ongoing activities including the SENRIC Project and to strengthen and expand the programme base of SACEP.

It is strongly recommended that the linkages with UNEP be further strengthened and optimum benefits of UNEP collaboration be maintained.

The South Asian Seas Programme should be urgently strengthened and closely monitored in collaboration with UNEP.

(NFP / PM Annex X - GC10.SACEP / NFP / D3 / Agenda Item 5.2 and Annex)

9.2.3 Publishing of a Report on Legislation Frameworks for CZM in South Asia (GC8 Recommendation at it's 2nd Special Session in January 2003)

- NFP Agenda Item 5.3 -

The Meeting noted the publication titled 'Developing a Legal Framework for Managing Land based activities that impact on the Coastal and Marine Environment in South Asia'

(NFP/PM Annex XI - GC10.SACEP/NFP/D3/Agenda Item 5.3)

9.2.4 Adoption of SAICM for South Asia Region

- NFP Agenda Item 5.4 -

The meeting endorsed the draft resolution GC 10.SACEP / NFP / D 3 Agenda 5.4, Annex 2.

(NFP/PM Annex XII - GC10.SACEP/NFP/D3/Agenda Item 5. 4 and Annexes)

9.2.5 Establishment of Basel Convention Regional Centre for South Asia - NFP Agenda Item 5.5 -

The Meeting agreed, for the SACEP Secretariat, Colombo, Sri Lanka to host the Basel Convention Regional Centre for South Asia

(NFP/PM Annex XIII - GC10.SACEP/NFP/D3/Agenda Item 5. 5 and Annexes)

9.2.6 EU supported ICRAN project on MCPAs - NFP Agenda Item 5.6 -

The 10th GC noted the progress of the project and endorsed the establishment of the South Asia Coral Reef Task Force.

(NFP/PM Annex XIV - GC10.SACEP/NFP/D3/Agenda Item 5. 6 and Annex)

9.2.7 Clearing House Mechanism

- NFP Agenda Item 5.7 -

The Governing Council agreed in principle to establish a regional Biodiversity CHM in SACEP. However it noted that except for one country none of the other countries had developed National CHMs and it will be beneficial to develop national CHMs in close co-ordination with the Regional CHM. Therefore the proposal should be amended accordingly to incorporate the country needs.

(NFP/PM Annex XV - GC10.SACEP/NFP/D3/Agenda Item 5. 7 and Annex)

9.2.8 Regional Oil Spill Contingency Plan - NFP Agenda Item 5.8 -

The Governing Council noted, the SACEP Secretariat is awaiting concurrence from the member states for the amendments proposed by the Government of Pakistan and requests the countries to send their concurrence at the earliest and also requests the IMO to do the needful and support SACEP for operationalizing the Regional Oil Spill Contingency Plan for South Asia at the earliest for the benefit of its member countries.

(NFP/PM Annex XVI - GC10.SACEP/NFP/D3/Agenda Item 5. 8 and Annex)

9.2.9 Global Invasive Species Programme

- NFP Agenda Item 5.9 -

The Governing Council recommended to change the title of the programme as 'Marine and Coastal Invasive Species Programme, of the Global Invasive Species Programme' as the programme has relevance only to the Maritime countries

(NFP/PM Annex XVII - GC10.SACEP/NFP/D3/Agenda Item 5. 9 and Annex)

9.2.10 Scoping Exercise: Adaptation to Climate Change - NFP Agenda Item 5.10 -

The secretariat was requested to pursue projects based on the scoping exercise.

(GC10.SACEP/NFP/D3/Agenda Item 5. 10)

9.3 WORK PROGRAMME (2007 - 2008)

- NFP Agenda Item 6.1 - NFP / PM Annex XVII

It was noted that the Work Programme was approved by the Chairman of the 9th GC, SACEP in September 2006.

Since the Work Programme for year 2006 – 2007 is on-going, the same should be carried forward through 2007 – 2008 including any new activities. Implementation of Work Programme should be completed before end of 2008 inline with the recommendations of the National Focal Points.

The GC decided that SACEP should incorporate Work Programme for combating illegal trading in wildlife and its products. This will help strengthening enforcement of CITES in the region and in controlling illegal domestic and international trading wild Fauna and Flora which is seriously impending bio-diversity conservation efforts by all countries.

The Secretariat was requested to send the details of projects being implemented and proposed and their linkages with the following three thematic areas agreed in 9th GC, SACEP to the National Focal Points.

- a) Adaptation to Climate Change
- b) Waste Management
- c) Data and Information Management

9.4 PROPOSED SUPPORT TO THE POST OF DIRECTOR PROGRAMMES FOR THE INITIAL PERIOD OF THREE YEARS

- NFP Agenda Item 6.2 -

The Government of India was of the view that as the DG, SACEP has been appointed on merit basis and that there is no necessity to have the proposed position and they do not intend to pursue on their original offer.

9.5 FUNDING AND FINANCIAL MATTERS

9.5.1 REVIEW OF COUNTRY CONTRIBUTIONS

- NFP Agenda Item 7.1 -

The Government of Bangladesh stated that the payment of the Country Contributions will be decided upon the completion of the on-going governmental review on contribution to international organizations. The Government of Afghanistan conwayed its difficult to contribute to the Country Contributions due its current financial situation.

The increase of Country Contributions not recommended. How ever voluntary increases by the countries are encouraged. Further, SACEP should explore project related funding opportunities through strengthened partnership arrangements.

(NFP/PM Annex XIX - GC10.SACEP / NFP/ D5)

9.5.2 EXTERNAL FUNDING

- NFP Agenda Item 7.2 -

The Governing Council noted the present external funding and recommended SACEP to continue playing its role in securing external financing.

(NFP/PM Annex VII - GC10.SACEP/NFP/D2/Presentation - Annex)

9.5.3 **SECRETARIAT BUDGET (2007-2008)**

- NFP Agenda Item 7.3 -

The meeting reviewed the draft Secretarial Budget for 2007-2008 (NFP / PM Annex XX - GC 10.SACEP / NFP / D5) and approved the Budget with amendments.

(Annex XV)

9.5.4 PRESENTATION OF AUDITED REPORT OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR 2005

- NFP Agenda Item 7.4 -

The meeting approved the Audited Report of Accounts for the year 2005.

The GC, SACEP further stated that the Annual Audit Report should be prepared by a recognized Audit Firm and the Audit should be a complete audit indicating, Auditors observations in regard to correctness and appropriateness of expenses etc

(GC 10.SACEP/NFP/D5 Agenda Item 7.4 titled report of the Auditors of SACEP, for financial year ended 31 December 2005.)

10. STATEMENT ON COUNTRY COMMITMENTS FOR PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION

- NFP Agenda Item 8 -

The Draft Document along with amendments proposed by Bangladesh was presented to the Governing Council.

The Draft document was adopted with the amendments, by the 10th GC-SACEP as the Kathmandu Declaration. (**Annex XVI**)

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

11.1 Review of Salary and Perks of the Director General of SACEP - NFP Agenda Item 10.1 -

The meeting considered information contained in the document NFP / PM Annex XXII - GC10.SACEP/NFP/D6 (Agenda Item 10.1) and noted that the salary of the Director General shall be in par with its counterpart International and Intergovernmental organizations

It was decided that the Salary of DG, SACEP to be increased upto US \$ 4,500 per month with effect from January 2007.

11.2 Appointment of Director General on Merit Basis

- NFP Agenda Item 10.2 (NFP/PM Annex XXIII - GC10.SACEP/NFP/D6)

The meeting considered that an extension of two years may be granted to the current three year term based on a performance appraisal of the Director General. Such performance appraisal shall take place after the end of the second year of the tenure.

The criteria for performance appraisal of the Director General shall be developed by the member states. The performance appraisal shall be

agreed upon by the National Focal Points at a meeting and subsequently sent to the 11th Meeting of the Governing Council of SACEP for information.

In whichever case, it is agreed that no two consecutive terms shall be held by the same country.

11.3 Other Matters

- 11.3.1 The Chairman of 10th GC, SACEP to decided the venue of the 11th GC, SACEP, through consultation with the member states
- 11.3.2 National Focal Points should meet minimum once a year in addition to the Preparatory Meeting of GC.
- 11.3.3 It is agreed that National Focal Points Meeting should be held at SACEP host country.
- 11.3.4 The GC to hold informal meetings on the sidelines of international events to review the activities of SACEP
- 11.3.5 Need to strengthen the Consultative Committee and GC to provide clear guidance to monitor administrative matters of the secretariat.
- 11.3.6 Urge Member States to support establishing a building complex for the SACEP Secretariat in Colombo.

12. ADOPTION OF REPORT

The 10th Meeting of the Governing Council of SACEP considered and adopted this Report on 25th January 2007 in Kathmandu, Nepal.

13. CLOSURE OF MEETING

H.E. Mr. Man Bahadur Vishwakarma, Minister of State for Environment, Science and Technology, Government of Nepal and the Chairman of the 10th Governing Council concluded the meeting following the notes of appreciations from the member states.

SOUTH ASIA CO-OPERATIVE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME 10^{TH} MEETING OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL

25 January 2007 Kathmandu, Nepal LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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Welcome Address by

Dr. Arvind Anil Boaz
Director General, SACEP
at the
Tenth Meeting of the Governing Council of
South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme (SACEP)
Kathmandu, Nepal

25th January 2007

Dr. A. A. Boaz,
Director General
South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme

10th GC, SACEP, 25th January, 2007, Kathmandu, Nepal

Your Excellency Ram Sharan Mahat, Finance Minister of Nepal

H. E. Ahmad Shah Karim Olomi, Hon' Deputy Director General, Afghanistan,

H. E. Imtiaz Ahmad, Ambassador from Bangladesh, H.E. Dasho Nado Rinnchen, Deputy Minister, Environment, Bhutan, H.E. Namo Narain Meena, Minister of State, MoEF, India, H. E. Ahmad Abdullah, Minister of Environment, Maldives, H.E. Man Bahadur Biswokarma, Minister of State for Environment Nepal, H. E. Malik Amin Aslam Khan, Minister of State of Environment, Pakistan Mr Wickramasinghe, Head of Delegation Sri Lanka, Distinguished Delegates from all the member countries of SACEP

Mr Surendra Shreshta, Regional Director, UNEP, Honoured delegates from UN and other International agencies

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As the Director General of SACEP it is a great privilege and honour to welcome you on behalf of SACEP. It is indeed a great opportunity for us to further strengthen our regional cooperation and friendship.

At the very outset, let me thank Government of Nepal for having so graciously agreed to offer host facilities for this meeting. It is the first time in our 25 years of existence that the Government of Nepal is hosting the Governing Council and it is indeed a historic occasion where SACEP is celebrating it Silver Jubilee.

We had very colourful ceremony yesterday to commemorate this occasion and I am thankful to the Government of Nepal for the excellent arrangements made for that ceremony.

I also extend my Thanks to Mr Surendra Shrestha, Regional Director of UNEP, Mr Bindu Lohani from the ADB, Mr. Onogawa fro the UNCRD, Mr. John Aams from the US government and Mr Shida from the WMO for so kindly gracing this occasion

Your Excellencies, Distinguished delegates

This is the 10th Governing Council meeting of SACEP and as we step into the 2nd quarter of our existence, we have many challenges to meet.

During the last 25 years, since its establishment, SACEP has paid attention to the regional needs and found its niche to appropriately address the development goals. We are proud to observe the collaborative efforts from all the agencies around the world to achieve this common goal and the success stories from the region.

Environment is a field where there is constant change and is always in a state of flux. We at SACEP is constantly observing the dynamic changes in the environment and our programme activity for the coming years is not cast in stone but is subject to constant review and change to suit the needs of the member countries.

In the light of the above, the ambitious work programme we have drawn up is based on commitments that we have received from our member countries, UNEP, UN affiliated organisations and other bilateral agencies.

The External Review of SACEP has given a new vision to SACEP and I am pleased to say that SACEP has now embarked on the new focussed approach as proposed by the Review Committee and endorsed by the Governing Council.

I am particularly grateful to the Host government Sri Lanka for their gracious gesture of enhancing the Host facility from 2.5 Million SLR to 5.0 million SLR

I am also extremely grateful to the Government of India for their contribution of 1,91,400 US \$ to kick-start the Trust Fund of SACEP. I request the other countries to kindly consider their contribution to the Trust Fund to strengthen the Programme base of SACEP

I am confident that the Secretariat will play a pivotal role for the region in addressing the common environmental problems and take the lead before they become too big to be dealt with effectively.

I wish to place on record the support we have received from our Focal Points, UNEP and related UN agencies in taking this programme forward and I look forward to their continued support.

I wish today's meeting a great success and I thank each and every one of you for being present here in spite of your busy schedules and other pressing commitments.

Message

H. E. Girija Prasad Koirala
The Prime Minister
Government of Nepal
at the
Tenth Meeting of the Governing Council of
South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme
Kathmandu, Nepal

25th January 2007

The Prime Minister Kathmandu Nepal

Message

Excellencies
Distinguished Delegates
Ladies and Gentlemen

I am delighted to learn that the Hon'ble Ministers and High-level Government Officials of South Asia are attending the Tenth Meeting of the Governing Council of the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP) beginning today in Kathmandu. I was very much looking forward to be with you during the opening Session of this important regional meeting but, unfortunately, I have been unable to do so due to my poor health condition. I accord a very warm welcome to all of you in Nepal and wish you a pleasant stay here.

It is encouraging to note that the SACEP has directed its efforts towards enhancing the environmental quality of South Asia. The SACEP's constant endeavors aimed at translating environmental challenges into opportunities are praiseworthy as they seek to promote our collaborative actions through capacity building and fact- finding studies that are critically important to achieve the goals of sustainable development. It is high time that we build on the experiences and knowledge-base of two and half decades of SACEP's activities and other regional and international initiatives and innovatively guide our future action towards this end.

I am of the view that sound environmental initiatives that we undertake collectively would have far-reaching positive impacts on our joint efforts to reduce poverty in the region. SACEP is uniquely placed to mobilize our commitments to take collective efforts to address the common environmental concerns. I am fully confident that this Tenth Meeting of the Governing Council will prove an important milestone in realizing the objectives of sustainable development based on the common environmental agenda by mustering requisite political will from all member states. I believe that environmental issues are better addressed through co-operative efforts of all stakeholders, the Governments, the private sector and the civil society.

I wish this meeting a grand success!

Thank you all

Girija Prasad Koirala

Statement by

Hon. Man Bahadur Viswokarma
State Minister of Environment, Science and Technology
Government of Nepal and
Incoming Chairman
at the
Tenth Meeting of the Governing Council of
South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme
Kathmandu, Nepal

25th January 2007

Chief Guest
Visiting Ministers
Distinguished Delegates from SACEP Member Countries
Honoured Guests
Your Excellencies
Ladies and Gentlemen

I am honoured to be the Chairman of the 10th Governing Council of SACEP and on behalf of the Government of Nepal, I welcome you all to the deliberations today that will set the pace and direction this august organization to meet its goals.

We all have observed the necessity and the niche of the regional secretariat SACEP and the milestones that it has achieved. I am particularly thankful to the Chairman of the 9th Governing Council for his able guidance extended to SACEP through the last year and the advice to the international organizations and UNEP to ensure proper functioning of this secretariat.

I welcome the discussion held during the last 2-days and the briefing received for us, to suggest you on the course of action. I am aware of the strong initiatives from UNEP for our region under the Regional Seas Programme and the South Asia Environment Natural Resources Information Centre (SENRIC) and I would like to recommend to UNEP that these initiatives should continue to assist the region and welcome the Regional Director of the UNEP-ROAP to extend his close guidance to the successful implementation of these programmes.

The 9th Governing Council had set a focused direction to SACEP and I look forward to this mandate, implemented. My government will extend all the necessary support, and I request the region – my colleagues of the Governing Council to pay attention to ensure proper functioning of this secretariat.

I also call for a proper collaboration between SAARC and SACEP to implement the regional programmes.

I welcome you all our Excellencies to the necessary guidance to steer the much needed focus.

Your excellencies, best wishes to you all and the Secretariat in meeting its goals.

I wish the visiting delegates to this Governing Council a very pleasant stay in Nepal.

Thank you.

Statement by

Hon'ble Dr. Ram Sharan Mahat
Minister for Finance
Government of Nepal
at the
Tenth Meeting of the Governing Council of
South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme
Kathmandu, Nepal

25th January 2007

Opening Session of the 10th Meeting of the Governing Council of South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme Kathmandu, Nepal 25th January 2007

Hon'ble Dr. Ram Sharan Mahat Minister for Finance

Hon'ble Ministers
Your Excellencies
Distinguished Delegates
Representatives of the UN and International Agencies
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am honoured to attend this opening session of the Tenth Meeting of the Governing Council of the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP) this morning. I would like to welcome you all, Hon'ble Ministers, Secretaries, Regional coordinator of United Nations Environment Programme and dignitaries in Katmandu and I hope that your stay will be pleasant and memorable.

At the outset, I am pleased to inform you all that Nepal has brought a peaceful solution to decade long conflict. The Maoists have been brought to the mainstream of democratic political regime. The right Hon'ble Prime Minister of Nepal has been successfully instrumental in uniting all the political parties for peace and creation of new Nepal. The interim constitution and interim parliament are the recent milestones in this direction. Nepal is now moving towards holding the election of the constituent assembly in June 2007 in a free, fair, peaceful and democratic manner. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the friendly countries and international organizations for their cooperation to restore democracy in Nepal. I am also pleased to let you know that our interim constitution has provisioned for clean environment as the right of the people. We hope that conflict-induced environmental issues will no longer remain as a problem in the days to come.

The countries of South Asia face several environmental problems. The magnitude and extend of these problems might vary from countries to countries but their ultimate effects are similar. The environmental problems in the mountains, plains and the coastal areas are different. Soil erosion, landslides and floods are common in the mountain and are related to fragile geology, steep slopes, and rainfall pattern while the people living in the plains and coastal areas suffer from flooding, sedimentation, sea level rise and hazardous wastes. This sub-region is also affected by increasing level of pollution – air, water, soil and

noise pollution. Some of the problems are not country- specific and require extended cooperation of developed countries as well.

Let me cite an example of climate change phenomenon. Nepal shares less than 0.025 percent of the global greenhouse gas emission but effects of climate change have been clearly noticed in our country like other mountainous countires. The accelerated snow and glacial melting process, formation of and increase in the size of glacial lakes with possible glacial lakes outburst floods (GLOFs), rainfall variation, and unexpected droughts are the challenges Nepal has to tackle in the recent years. It has affected agriculture, forest, biodiversity, and human health as well. Impacts of climate change in Nepal will also affect other countries. GLOFs if occurred might have tremendous impacts on downstream. Similarly, small island countries, and countries having sea coasts will continue to be affected by the sea level rise and increased sedimentation. We consider that the climate change phenomenon has and will continue to have multi-fold irreparable impacts to the millions of people living both at the upstream and downstream of this region. It also clearly shows the interrelationships and interdependencies between the uplands and lowlands. We consider climate change and uplandlowland issues as of regional character and we should work together to reduce their impacts. I would like to urge you all to give adequate attention, develop and implement concrete programmes to address these issues of regional significance. Similar attention should be given to areas identified as priority in the previous meetings of SACEP Governing Council.

The nexus between the poverty and environmental degradation is clear. Any change in the environmental quality will continue to affect the poor people. It will also affect the socio-economic development process. Similarly, acute poverty and population growth result pressure on resources. It is, therefore, imperative to link environmental management programmes with the development projects to attain the goals of sustainable development. In this direction, further sharing of knowledge and experience on best and worst practices would benefit all of us and help not to repeat the mistakes. Hence, SACEP could be developed as a knowledge bank to assist member countries. I consider that the guidance of the Ninth Governing Council on data management provides a clear basis for future activities on this matter.

Nepal's environmental problems are deeply rooted in the ecological setting, geological fragility and high dependence on natural resource base. Soil erosion, landslides, floods and sedimentation are natural in character but are accelerated by human activities. In our efforts to environmental management, we have made progress to empower the local people along with the legal provisions for people's participation, benefit sharing, devolution of roles, responsibilities and authorities in natural resource management. We have expanded user-group concept in development programmes and it has contributed to improve the local environmental conditions.

We are also facing urban environmental problems and people's involvement has been promoted. However, our efforts are not sufficient due to inadequate technical capacity, human and financial resources. We expect that our joint and collective efforts and strengthened partnership will provide inputs to make our development, environment – friendly

I believe that the Preparatory Meeting of the National Focal Points held here in Kathmandu on 23 January 2007 has provided practical recommendations for consideration by the Tenth Meeting of the Governing Council. Your wisdom and knowledge will provide clear direction to our future course of actions and contribute for the improvement of the quality of life in this region.

At this point of time, I would like to take this opportunity to thank our development partners for their assistance and hope for continued support to implement the environmental pragrammes at the national and regional levels. At the end, I would like to thank SACEP secretariat, UNEP-ROAP and other organizations for their effort to hold this meeting in Kathmandu.

I wish a grand success of the Tenth Governing Council Meeting.

Thank you all

Statement by

H.E. Dasho Nado Rinchhen
Hon. Deputy Minister of Environment
Royal Government of Bhutan and
Out-going Chairman
at the
Tenth Meeting of the Governing Council of
South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme
Kathmandu, Nepal

H.E. Dasho Nado Rinchhen Deputy Minister of Environment National Environment Commission Royal Government of Bhutan

Mr. Chairman Honorable Ministers Distinguished delegates Ladies and Gentlemen.

First of all, please allow me to congratulate your Excellency on your election as the chairman of this important meeting and as the new Chairman of SACEP Governing Council. We have every confidence that under your able leadership, our meeting will conclude successfully.

Secondly, I on behalf of the Bhutanese delegation and on my own behalf would like to take this opportunity to thank the host country for the warm hospitality and the excellent arrangements made for this meeting.

Mr. Chairman, the 3rd Special Session of the 8th Governing Council of SACEP held at Colombo in November 2003, highlighted the need to re-vitalize SACEP in order to make this organization a dynamic institution.

Furthermore, during the 9th GC and the 3rd Inter Ministerial Meeting held in Bhutan in August, 2005, SACEP adopted a new strategic approach to focus on few priority issues of the region. In line with the new strategic approach; the GC decided that the immediate focus of SACEP would be in three major programme areas namely; Waste Management, Adaptation to Climate Change and Data Management. I am confident that SACEP will face no setbacks in achieving these programmes as per the proposed programme of work. My delegation hopes that SACEP will be able to implement these programmes successfully.

My delegation fully supports the focused programme areas since they are all of utmost importance for Bhutan. I am aware that some countries of the region have already made successful attempts in these priority areas and we look forward to learn from them through collaborative programmes.

Similarly, Bhutan has also completed its National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA). The document identifies priority activities that respond to our urgent and immediate needs with regard to Adaptation to Climate Change. Bhutan would be happy to share our experiences with other member countries.

Bhutan identified priority activities in the areas of agriculture, GLOF, Natural Disaster Management, Human Health and Hydrogen.

Mr. Chairman, as you are aware our leaders during the 13th SAARC Summit held in Dhaka had declared year 2007 as the "Green South Asia Year". We all should include this in our SACEP's Work Programme for the year 2007-2008. I would recommend that SACEP should render assistance to this programme, especially to the least developed countries, as it strives to achieve the common goal of conserving the environment of the region.

My delegation would like to thank UNEP especially Mr. Surendra Shresthra, the Regional Director, UNEP Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific for his unrelenting commitment and support to SACEP.

My delegation would also like to express our appreciation for the initiatives taken by the Director General, Dr. Arvind Boaz in expanding partnerships with various organizations and we sincerely hope that these partnerships will be translated into projects and programmes for the benefit of the member states.

Mr. Chairman, although Bhutan is a small country; we have achieved great strides in the field of environment and will remains committed to the conservation of our environment. Gross National happiness, propounded by His Majesty the Fourth King is the guiding development of Bhutan. Environment is one of the fours pillars identified in the GNH. I am happy to inform this gathering that His Majesty the Fourth King, Jigme Singye Wangchuck was conferred, the J Paul Getty Conservation Leadership Award by the World Wildlife Fund in August 2006.

Lastly, I would like to express my best wish, for the fruitful and productivity outcome.

Thank you and Tashi Delek!

SOUTH ASIA CO-OPERATIVE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

MEETING OF THE TENTH GOVERNING COUNCIL KATHMANDU, NEPAL 25th January 2007

AGENDA

- 1. OPENING OF THE MEETING
- 2. ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS
- 3. ADOPTION OF AGENDA AND ORGANISATION OF WORK
- 4. BRIEF REPORT BY DIRECTOR GENERAL, SACEP
- 5. COUNTRY STATEMENTS/BRIEF OPENING REMARKS BY THE MEMBER STATES (3-5 MINUTES)
- 6. STATEMENTS BY THE OBSERVERS
- 7. PRESENTATION OF THE REPORT OF THE PREPARATORY MEETING OF NATIONAL FOCAL POINTS BY THE RAPPORTEUR
- 8. DISCUSSIONS AND ENDORSEMENT OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS AGREED UPON AT THE PREPARATORY MEETING OF NATIONAL FOCAL POINTS
 - 8.1 INSTITUTIONAL MATTERS
 - 8.2 PROGRAMME MATTERS
 - 8.3 FINANCIAL MATTERS
- 9. APPROVAL OF ANNUAL AUDITED REPORT OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 2005
- 10. ENDORSEMENT OF THE DRAFT MINISTERIAL STATEMENT PROPOSED BY THE PREPARATORY MEETING OF NATIONAL FOCAL POINTS
- 11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS
- 12. ADOPTION OF REPORT
- 13. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

SOUTH ASIA CO-OPERATIVE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

10th Governing Council Meeting of SACEP Kathmandu, Nepal 25h January 2007

ANNOTATED AGENDA

1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

The meeting will be called to order by the current Chairman of the Governing Council

- a. Statement by the current Chairman
- b. Welcome address by the Director General, SACEP
- c. Opening remarks by the host country

2. ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS

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 Chairman, 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 REPORT BY DIRECTOR GENERAL, SACEP

The Director General, SACEP will present a brief report on SACEP's activities and achievements and its future programmes.

5. COUNTRY STATEMENTS / BRIEF OPENING REMARKS BY THE MEMBER STATES (3-5 MINUTES)

The Heads of Country Delegations will present their country statements.

6. STATEMENTS BY OBSERVERS

Under this Agenda Item, the representatives of United Nations Agencies, International / Regional Organisations and Aid Consortia may wish to make Statements on matters relating to the activities of their respective Organisations which may be of interest to the Governing Council regarding the Programme activities of the South Asia region.

7. PRESENTATION OF REPORT OF THE PREPARATORY MEETING OF NATIONAL FOCAL POINTS BY THE RAPPORTEUR

The Rapporteur would present to the meeting the report of the Preparatory Meeting of National Focal Points

8. DISCUSSIONS & 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.

- 8.1 Institutional Matters
- 8.2 Programme Matters
- 8.3 Financial Matters

9. APPROVAL OF THE ANNUAL AUDITED REPORT OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 2005

Under this agenda item, based on the recommendations of the Preparatory Meeting of National Focal Points, the meeting is requested approve the Annual Audited Report of Accounts for the year 2005.

10. ENDORSEMENT OF THE DRAFT MINISTERIAL STATEMENT PROPOSED BY THE PREPARATORY MEETING OF NATIONAL FOCAL POINTS

The Tenth Governing Council Meeting may wish to endorse the draft Ministerial Statement on country commitments for programme implementation by SACEP, recommended by the Preparatory Meeting of the National Focal Points

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Under this Agenda Item, The Tenth Governing Council Meeting may wish to discuss any other relevant matters that may be raised by the representatives participating at the Meeting or by the Secretariat.

12. ADOPTION OF REPORT

The Rapporteur will present the Draft Report of the 10th Governing Council Meeting for its consideration and adoption.

13. CLOSURE OF MEETING

Any representative participating in the Meeting may wish to make concluding statements regarding the deliberations at the Meeting and its achievements. The Chairman will finally declare the Meeting closed.

Statement Delivered by Head of Delegation

H.E Mr. Imtiaz Ahmed
Ambassador of Bangladesh to Nepal
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
at the
Tenth Meeting of the Governing Council of
South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme
Kathmandu, Nepal

Mr. Chairman
Hon'ble Ministers
Director General, SACEP
Excellencies
Distinguished Delegates
Ladies and Gentlemen

Good Afternoon to you all,

It is indeed a great honour and proud privilege for me to participate at the Tenth Meeting of the Governing Council of South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme. I am happy to note that a good number of Hon'ble Ministers, Country Focal Points and environmental experts have assembled here to discuss various environmental issues and related co-operation and conservation efforts in South Asia. On behalf of Bangladesh and on my personal behalf, I extend my sincere gratitude to the people and the Government of Nepal for hosting such an important meeting. I would also take this opportunity to congratulate you H.E. Mr. Man Bahadur Viswokarma on your election to the chair of this meeting. I am confident that under your able leadership we will have a fruitful meeting here in Kathmandu. I thank SACEP secretariat for organizing the meeting. I also thank the donor communities for their continued support towards various projects aiming at the improvement of environment in this region.

Mr. Chairman,

We are all aware that SACEP was established a decade earlier than the 1992 earth summit and is one of the oldest regional environmental organizations in the world. But we have not succeeded in achieving our expected goals out of this regional organization as yet. Therefore, we expect proactive role from SACEP in the future. I support 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 also like to mention that future projects should be prioritized accordingly and implemented with achievable targets.

Mr. Chairman,

I must also reiterate my feeling that we are committed to implement the mission of SACEP; that is to promote regional co-operation in South Asia in the field of environment. As we share our resources among the member countries it is undoubtedly worthwhile to forge strong regional co-operation to solve environmental problems that prevail in our region. We can share our experience and

knowledge among us to solve each others problems. I am happy to note that the Preparatory Meeting of the National Focal Points has stressed upon the coordination between SACEP and SAARC.

Mr. Chairman,

It is widely accepted that without alleviation of poverty, we shall not be able to attain sustainable development in our region. In Bangladesh we have been striving hard for the last few years to alleviate poverty. We are implementing different activities in line with poverty reduction strategy paper (PRSP), in our pursuit towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals. I believe with united efforts, nations in our region will be able to achieve that within the deadline 2015.

Mr. Chairman,

I'm also pleased to inform the meeting that we have already established a transboundary air quality monitoring station at the South-Western part of Bangladesh, between Bangladesh and Indian border, to generate data on trans-boundary air pollution with the joint collaboration of both UNEP and SACEP. This would undoubtedly generate useful data for future usage. I hope future initiatives to establish South Asian Regional Clearing House Mechanism (CHM) in the concept of broader participation and sharing of information among member countries in the field of biodiversity management is of utmost importance for us.

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my expectation that future SACEP would be an effective regional forum to raise our voices on environmental issues for the benefits of the downtrodden people of this universe. Once again, on behalf of Bangladesh and on my personal behalf, I would like to extend our sincere gratitude to the Government of Nepal for hosting the meeting of the Tenth Governing Council of SACEP. I convey my sincere thanks to the Government of Nepal and her people for their generous hospitality, warmth and goodwill extended to us. My thanks are also to SACEP secretariat for their secretarial support to the meeting.

I thank you all for your patient hearing.

Thank you Mr. Chairman

Statement by

H.E. Dasho Nado Rinchhen
The Hon. Deputy Minister of Environment
Royal Government of Bhutan
at the
Tenth Meeting of the Governing Council of
South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme
Kathmandu, Nepal

H.E. Dasho Nado Rinchhen Deputy Minister of Environment National Environment Commission Royal Government of Bhutan

Mr. Chairman Honorable Ministers Distinguished delegates Ladies and Gentlemen.

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Mr. Chairman, the 3rd Special Session of the 8th Governing Council of SACEP held at Colombo in November 2003, highlighted the need to re-vitalize SACEP in order to make this organization a dynamic institution.

Furthermore, during the 9th GC and the 3rd Inter Ministerial Meeting held in Bhutan in August, 2005, SACEP adopted a new strategic approach to focus on few priority issues of the region. In line with the new strategic approach; the GC decided that the immediate focus of SACEP would be in three major programme areas namely; Waste Management, Adaptation to Climate Change and Data Management. I am confident that SACEP will face no setbacks in achieving these programmes as per the proposed programme of work. My delegation hopes that SACEP will be able to implement these programmes successfully.

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Lastly, I would like to express my best wish, for the fruitful and productivity outcome.

Thank you and Tashi Delek!

Statement by

H.E. Mr Namo Narain Meena
Minister of State for Environment and Forest
Government of India
at the
10th Meeting of the Governing Council of
South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme
Kathmandu, Nepal

Mr. Chairman Hon'ble Environmental Ministers of SACEP Countries Distinguished Delegates and Friends

At the outset I would like to congratulate you, Mr. Chairman, for your election as chairman of the 10th Governing Council of SACEP.

It is a privilege for me to be present in Kathmandu, Nepal today for this meeting. On behalf of my delegation I thank the Government of Nepal, for the warm welcome and hospitality, as well as the excellent arrangements made.

It is heartening to note that the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP) is celebrating it's Silver Jubilee this year. It is an opportunity for us in this region to reflect on how far we have been able to fulfill the vision of SACEP in integrating environment with development.

The twentieth century has witnessed major developments which have had momentous impact on the lives of human beings on earth. These include unprecedented growth in population, in consumption, rapidly increasing urbanization, dramatic changes in the global economic system and the revolution in communication technology. However, it is ironic that some of the achievements of twentieth century themselves pose major challenges for conservation of environment.

With this in mind the Indian Government has recently brought out a Comprehensive National Environment policy for India. The policy recognizes that maintaining a healthy environment is not just the state's responsibility, but requires the active participation of every citizen. It seeks to improve the transparency and accountability of governance in environmental management and is also intended to be a statement of India's commitment to make positive contribution to international efforts.

There have been fruitful discussions during the meeting of the Senior Officials on the proposal that SACEP should focus on a few selected areas of concern to the whole region for developing work programmes. These initiatives are in the areas of Waste Management, Adaptation to climate change and Data and Information Management. This may help in drawing a clear programme of action for the year ahead. For successful implementation of these programmes SACEP would need technical and financial support of multilateral and other donor agencies. SACEP secretariat has to make effects to garner such assistance.

I would also like to draw the attention of member countries that SACEP may incorporate work programme for combating illegal trade in wildlife and its products in the coming years. This will help in strengthening enforcement of CITES in the region and in controlling illegal domestic and international trade in wild fauna and flora which is seriously impending biodiversity conservation efforts by all countries.

We in India are of the opinion that 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 useful to others in the region, or indeed, to other countries in the world as well. Among us, we have developed technology indigenously that can be shared with others needing such technology.

As a step to further strengthen SACEP and as a measure of support to the organization, India has also made a one time payment towards SACEP corpus fund of US \$ 200,000/- in 2006.

India is committed to achieving growth in a sustainable manner and to strengthen SACEP through sharing experiences and pooling resources. I am confident that our collective will can make the difference.

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
Tenth Governing Council Meeting of
South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme
Kathmandu, Nepal

Mr. Chairman, Honorable Ministers and Distinguished Delegates,

I would like to warmly congratulate you sir, on your election as chairman to preside over 10th Governing Council of SACEP. I am confident that we are in able hands. Your able leadership will pave our way into important decisions that will make this meeting a success. It is indeed an important meeting, as we celebrate the Silver Jubilee of SACEP, this year. Warmest congratulations on the occasion of the Silver Jubilee.

I would also like to express my sincere gratitude to the Government and people of Nepal, for hosting this important meeting, in this historic and heritage city of Katmandu, where we are feeling at home. We are very touched by the warm and gracious Nepalese hospitality. We are very happy that our meeting is held at a very historic and auspicious time of Nepal's national life. Our best wishes and congratulations.

SACEP's role in promoting environmental stewardship in our region and its achievements over the past 25 years is noteworthy. Despite such challenges such as rapid population growth and its pressure on natural resources, increasing poverty, and dwindling financial resources, SACEP has grown into a dedicated regional entity, working towards common goals.

Mr. Chairman and Distinguished Delegates,

During the past 25 years, SACEP has undertaken a number of programmes in various fields of environment, including environmental law, biological diversity, air pollution and coastal and marine environment. Compilation of environmental law instruments in the region, State of the Environment reporting, Male' Declaration on transboundary air pollution, Oil Spill Contingency Planning, are among them. I would like to congratulate the Director General, Dr. Boaz, SACEP secretariat, member countries for what we have achieved.

But Mr. Chairman, I strongly believe that it is time that we should reform SACEP into a more practical and result-oriented organization. We know very well that our resources are few. It is therefore very important that we in SACEP, streamline its work and programmes to avoid duplication and maximize result. SACEP must also have close collaboration and affiliation with UNEP. There is an urgent need for more engagement and co-ordination between UNEP and SACEP for better results.

Looking more holistically to future, it is indispensable to wisely use SACEP's resources on well planned and selected programmes. We have to be very careful about our spending on consultancies, workshops and seminars as well as to ensure cost effective and environmentally- friendly ways in the organizational work including publication of books, documents and other such material.

Mr. Chairman,

Over the years, SACEP in its programme of activities has been focusing on protection of environment, prevention of air pollution, and coastal zone management. It is a matter of concern that strengthening and developing human resource capacity has been sidelined. There is a vital need for countries like Maldives to strengthen our capacity for environment ministries to function effectively and efficiently. Planning, implementation and monitoring of our work and programmes for protection and preservation of the environment, requires a strong organization with qualified people. We have to become very vocal in highly competition and difficult resource association mechanism.

Environmental challenges and threats are growing every day. Therefore, we must give more priority for capacity building and human resource development. I feel that SACEP could harness resources and opportunities in the region in order to address this critical issue. Member countries would be more than happy to help one another through a good and coordinated programme. Such a programme would be of immense benefit to countries like Maldives, where we do not have our own institutions for training personnel in this important field. It is a highly technical field and only qualified and experienced people can shape the future of the environment. Human resource development is one of the most urgent, rewarding investment for future.

At the same time, we must dedicate ourselves to more environmental education and awareness. Evidence-based information and awareness is vital for increasing love and care for the environment. It is essential for changing habits and behavior of people that are harmful to environment. Information is a key to empowering people and strengthening our common partnership to protect the environment.

Mr. Chairman,

I would like to suggest that SACEP should engage schools and NGOs in our awareness programmes. SACEP's newsletter and publications could promote environmental awareness through school environment clubs, Youth Organizations and NGOs. We can enrich these publications with a lot of innovative ideas and articles from students and young people that will promote

environmental awareness and preventive action. A SACEP annual award to, best school environment programmes would greatly strengthen school environment partnership in our ever increasing works and challenges.

At a time a rapid globalization, it will be worthwhile for SACEP to establish more partnerships with international organizations such as UNEP, WWF, IUCN, and others.

Mr. Chairman and Distinguished Delegates,

We share one world and one common goal. That is to have a safe and healthy planet for a peaceful and prosperous life. It is our duty to look after the planet, and care for the wonderful resources. Allah has bestowed on us. It is our duty to protect and sustain our Natural Resources and deliver it to future generations so that they can enjoy life in the same way, our forefathers and we did. Indeed, we want a better and happier life for the coming generations. I am glad that SACEP has planned some important activities in its work programme for this year. They include Adaptation to Climate Change, Waste Management with specific attention to the emerging issue of 'e-waste', strengthening existing data and information management mechanisms. Activities of South Asian Seas Programme, such as natural disaster management with respect to storms, surges and tsunamis and management of coastal and marine protected areas are also among them.

I welcome the establishment of a regional website on Biodiversity Clearing House Mechanism, sub regional Basel Convention Centre at SACEP secretariat and the training programme on Global Invasive Species. I am sure these would be very useful.

Mr. Chairman and Distinguished Delegates,

In conclusion, I would once again like to thank the Government and people of Nepal for hosting this meeting and for excellent arrangements. I am very grateful for the warm hospitality extended to me and my delegation.

I assure you our full commitment to SACEP and protecting the environment and working closely with the international and regional organizations towards this all important cause.

Thank you.

Statement Delivered by

Mr. W. R. M. S. Wickramasinghe
Additional Secretary
Ministry of Environment
Government of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka at the
Tenth Meeting of the Governing Council of
South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme
Kathmandu, Nepal

10th Governing Council of South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme 25th January 2007 Kathmandu, Nepal

Statement of Government of Sri Lanka

Delivered By:

Mr. W. R. M. S. Wickramasinghe Additional Secretary Ministry of Environment Government of Sri Lanka

Hon. Chairman,
Hon. Ministers of the SACEP Member States,
Excellencies
Director General, SACEP,
Distinguished Delegates
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I consider it an honour and a privilege to deliver this statement on behalf of the Government of Sri Lanka at this 10th Governing Council Meeting of SACEP. I would like to take this opportunity to bring best wishes from the Government of Sri Lanka and the Minister of Environment in particular, who is unable to personally be present here today due to some urgent commitments back at home.

At the outset, I must congratulate the Government of Nepal for the excellent arrangements made for this meeting and for the warmth hospitality offered to us from the time of our arrival in this historic and picturesque city of Kathmandu. We consider this as a testimony for the Government of Nepal's commitment and dynamic leadership for achieving the long term goals of the SACEP charter. The 10th Governing Council Meeting of SACEP also marks an important milestone of the history of this regional organization. The SACEP with its Silver Jubilee celebrations is now been graduated to be an adult from the youth.

Hon Ministers, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Government of Sri Lanka is pleased to host SACEP secretariat in Colombo from its very inception and look forward to continue with our commitment for the generations to come. In recognizing its existence over a period of 25 years and the services to the South Asian family, my government has taken actions to double the Host Facility contribution with effect from this year with the expectation that the SACEP to be a vibrant and dynamic organization.

As we all are aware SACEP has gone through an evolutionary process. Particularly since the 8th and the 9th GC meetings, a new direction and approach for SACEP activities have been set in motion. The 9th GC meeting held in Thimphu, Bhutan has provided very clear directions for taking forward SACEP to enable meeting the aspirations of the member governments.

From its inception, SACEP has been ably supported by the United Nations Environment Programme in various ways. If it is not for this partnership with the UNEP, SACEP would not have been able to achieve what it has achieved so far. Therefore, I will fail in my duty on behalf of the Government of Sri Lanka, if I do not record a word of appreciation to UNEP and particularly to Mr. Shrestha and team of ROAP of Bangkok. Therefore we also look forward for continued support of UNEP in future strengthening SACEP

In view of SACEP completing its 25 years, I would like to urge this august body to take a stock of what it has achieved since its inception, particularly to consider the 9th GC decisions as the baseline. The 9th GC has endorsed the SACEP activities to be based on three thematic areas, namely Adaptation to Climate Change, Waste Management and Data and Information Management.

Hon Ministers, Ladies and Gentlemen,

We are also aware that SACEP being an Inter-governmental Organization, it cannot work in isolation. It should enter into partnership arrangements with agencies with similar mandates in nature as of the SACEP. Such partnership arrangements need to be mutually beneficial and should be able to derive benefits from each others' strengths, experience and expertise. and also such arrangements have to be in line with our identified priorities.

Therefore, we strongly believe that, SACEP's future work programme should reflect a holistic and a comprehensive approach. We also should set short, medium and long term goals and prepare action plans towards achieving such goals. Such a targeted and a comprehensive approach would no doubt pave the way for remarkable successes in the field of environment and natural resource management in the sub region.

Hon Ministers, Ladies and Gentlemen,

We all are aware that, so far SACEP has not been able to deliver results in some areas up to the expectations of the member states. Various reasons have contributed for this state of affairs. I consider that the continuous and regular

involvement of the member governments, in the SACEP activities is of paramount importance in this regard. Therefore, I urge the GC to consider recommending ways and means to maintain such a continuous dialogue, particularly with the National Focal Points.

I look forward for productive deliberations at this meeting and for guidance to the Director General and his staff to perform effectively and efficiently.

I thank you for your attention.

GC 10.SACEP Annex XIII & XIV

Statements Delivered by

The Observers at the Tenth Meeting of the Governing Council of South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme Kathmandu, Nepal

Embassy of the United States of America January 23, 2007

I am pleased to express the support of the U.S. Government for the activities and the objectives of the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme.

I commend SACEP for its steady development as a regional organization and congratulate you on reaching the milestone of 25 years of dedicated service to improving the lives of South Asians. We strongly support your efforts to promote regional strategies to address South Asian Environmental issues.

We know that the issues of environmental degradation and pollution, threats to biodiversity, and the prospect of climate change do not stop at national boundaries. They affect the entire South Asian region and require a coordinated, regional response.

With the strong backing of its member states, I am convinced that SACEP can provide the intellectual and scientific support needed to create the sustainable development policies that will protect South Asia's rich and varied environment for generations to come.

I see a promising future ahead for this organization and wish you a very success.

Sincerely,

James F. Moriarty Ambassador

Statement on the Occasion of the 10th Governing Council of the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP) 25th January 2007 Kathmandu, Nepal

By Mr. Kuniyuki SHIDA **World Meteorological Organization**

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

On behalf of Mr. Michel Jarraud, Secretary – General of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), I wish to express my deep appreciation to the Government of Nepal for hosting the meeting in this beautiful and historical city of Kathmandu. I also would like to express our thanks to Dr. Arvind Boaz, Director General of the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP) inviting WMO to participate in this important meeting. I also wish to express our congratulations on the 25th anniversary of the establishment of SACEP and appreciation for the promotion and support for the conservation and management of the environment, both natural and human, in the member states of the South Asia region in a co-operative manner to achieve sustainable development.

As you are aware, the World Meteorological Organization is an intergovernmental organization established in 1950, and currently it is composed of 187 member states and territories including all member countries of SACEP. WMO is the UN system's authoritative voice on the state and behavior of the earth's atmosphere, its interaction with the oceans, the climate it produces and the resulting distribution of water resources.

WMO acts as a catalyst in improving our understanding of weather, climate and water and the application of derived information to socio-economic development, environment protection and related policy formulation. It provides a unique mechanism for the timely and comprehensive exchange and wide availability of data and specialized products.

WMO regularly alerts the world's attention to the depletion of the ozone layer, climate change and its impacts, status of water resources and to air and water

pollution. WMO, through its members, also monitors and predicts the movement of chemical and oil spills, haze and forest fires. It assists in the formulation of global and regional strategies, conventions and the implementation of action plans.

Among several scientific and technical programmes of WMO, the Atmospheric Research and Environment Programme (AREP) contributes to the advancement of atmospheric sciences in understanding changes of atmospheric composition and consequent effects on climate, urban environment and on marine and terrestrial ecosystems. It assists members in providing improved meteorological and environmental services by fostering research in meteorological and related environmental fields. This programme is involved in monitoring, modeling and assessment activities for long range transboundary air pollution.

Nowadays, National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) throughout the world are broadening their traditional role of meteorological and hydrological monitoring and forecasting to include prediction of other environmental phenomena that substantively affect the health and welfare of their people, e.g., UV radiation, plumes from biomass burning, dust storms, and air quality.

The emergence of air quality forecasting is an illustrative example. Recent developments in atmospheric chemical transport modeling are leading to more effective linkage of air pollution issues on different scales from urban to global. Within the Global Atmosphere Watch (GAW) programme, the Urban Research Meteorology and Environment (GURME) project is dealing with urban air quality issues in WMO. This project bridges over a wide variety of organizations, authorities, and industry that collaborate under the WMO GURME umbrella in order to improve their people's environment. In GURME project, strategic partnerships have been formed to apply the latest research and developments in modeling, forming good collaboration between research and operational communities, and on the other hand to transfer this knowledge to developing countries.

There are new activities related to Sand and Dust Storm (SDS). For regions in the desert neighborhoods, this process represents a serious natural hazard, causing numerous impacts on health, transport, agriculture and environment. An initiative was proposed to create a WMO Sand and Dust Storm warning system, following the interest of more than 40 WMO members to improve their capabilities to monitor sand and dust storm occurrences. The proposed warning system will promote research on operational sand and dust storm forecasts. These areas might be of mutual concern and we would explore the possibility to have any collaboration between WMO and SACEP.

As shown during the presentation of a film entitled "25 years of SACEP" at the 25th Anniversary celebrations last night, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between SACEP and WMO was concluded on 22 November,2005 to cooperate through exchange of information, representation and consultation, and cooperative projects. Since then, mutual visits and participation in the conferences and meetings by officers of SACEP and WMO have been implemented. The exchange of information will be enhanced and cooperative activities including the development of projects have been initiated.

In this regard, it has been proposed that WMO be one of collaborating agencies within the pipeline project on "Networking for greater awareness and understanding of the impacts of Environmental Degradation and Climate Change Adaptation strategies for South Asia". WMO is considering the partial financial support for the participation of Directors of National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) of LDCs in a regional workshop within this project. The final decision on this issue will be notified to the SACEP secretariat in due course.

WMO has the same goals in environment conservation with SACEP. We look forward to enhancement of cooperation and collaboration with SACEP.

I wish a most successful meeting,

Thank you.

APPROVED SECRETARIAT BUDGET FOR 2007 - 2008

			INCOME US \$	EXPENDITURE US \$
1	ANTIC	CIPATED INCOME		
	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	
		TOTAL COUNTRY CONTRIBUTIONS	127,400.00	
	1.2	Interest earned (SACEP-CC)	15,000.00	
	1.3	Secretariat Cost from Sri Lanka	47,000.00	
		TOTAL INCOME	189,400.00	
2	ESTIN	IATED EXPENDITURE		
	2.1	Salary Director General		54,000.00
	2.2	Salaries of Programme Staff (Local)		12,000.00
	2.3	Salaries of Local Staff		25,000.00
	2.4	International Travel		20,000.00
	2.5	Secretaariat Cost		60,000.00
		SUB TOTAL		171,000.00
3		Capital Costs		17,500.00
4		TOTAL EXPENDITURE		188,500.00
5		SURPLUS		900.00

KATHMANDU DECLARATION 10th GOVERNING COUNCIL OF SACEP

We, the Ministers of Environment and the Governing Council of the South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme ,having met in Kathmandu on 25th January 2007 at the Tenth Governing Council of SACEP

- Considering on this historic occasion where we are celebrating 25-years of dedicated commitment towards meeting ever changing environmental demands, both regionally and globally,
- Renewing our commitment to the regional secretariat South Asia Co-operative
 Environment Programme (SACEP) to promote and support protection,
 management and enhancement of the environment in the region, and having
 recommended to the implementation of the reviewed strategy for the
 Secretariat's functional aspects,
- 3. Noting the Agreement reached between the two regional secretariats South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation and SACEP in June 2002, to collaborate in implementing regional programmes,
- 4. Further revisiting commitment at the Global Agreements, to the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and the provisions of Agenda 21, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, which carefully incorporates the priority initiatives the sub-regions and the South Asia in particular; the Millennium Development Goals (2000), the Bali Strategic Plan for Capacity-Building and Technology Support (2005), the Regional Implementation Plan for Sustainable Development (2006-2010) agreed upon at the UNESCAP Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development (MCED 2005) reassuring the commitment for environmental sustainability,
- 5. Readdressing the understanding of the region at various Summits and the Technical Committees of the SAARC highlighting the necessity for the regional understanding and promotion of the South-South cooperation; addressing the necessity to the capacity building for the region through the strengthening of Centres of Excellence; with particular reference to the

KATHMANDU DECLARATION 10th GOVERNING COUNCIL OF SACEP

Islamabad Declaration adopted on January 2004 and to the Dhaka Declaration adopted in 2005,

- 6. Noting in particular the Millennium Development Goal addressing environmental sustainability achieved through poverty alleviation, ensuring appropriate health and sanitation, and gender equality, further by reducing and reversing the rate of degradation of environmental sustainability,
- 7. Reaffirming that South Asia, as the fastest growing region in the world, with the largest part of global population and the largest number of people suffering poverty and hunger, has a critical role to play in promoting global sustainable development,
- 8. Noting the understanding and commitments at the Sub regional Environmental Policy Dialogue (SEPD) that Capacity Building services in the region to address the priority issues will include Science and Assessment, Policy Instruments and Awareness,
- 9. Further noting that the region needs to be prepared in advance to the emerging environmental issues and adopt to the 3-R Concept (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle) to the use of resources and products; to conserve environmental and natural resources,
- 10. Observing the necessity to the well established knowledge base to counter act the ill effects from issues such as e-waste, nitrogen pollution, climate change and the consequences; prepared status for Glacier Lake Outbursts of Floods (GLOF), and sharing of such information,
- 11. Recognising the immediate necessity for the conduct of assessments to the issues of concerns and appropriate institutional mechanisms; establishment of Centres of Excellence, education at various levels of schooling through media,

KATHMANDU DECLARATION 10th GOVERNING COUNCIL OF SACEP

Make the following declaration providing various options and alternatives drawn from earlier multilateral agreements to encourage voluntary implementation, taking into account the diversity in development needs and capabilities of countries.

- A. We shall endeavour to improve environmental performance through mechanisms such as the following:
 - (a) Ensuring the implementation of multilateral environmental agreements at global and regional level to which we are party; and supporting the efforts to such implementation strategies and observing the interlinkages among the agreements
 - (b) Promoting the effective enforcement of national laws, regulations and standards relating to sustainable development, including laws governing environmental impact assessments;
 - (c) Establishing or promoting institutional structures such as national sustainable development mechanisms for the purpose of mainstreaming sustainable development objectives in decision making process
 - (d) Encouraging the sharing of experiences in the use of environmental sustainability and environmental performance indices, and promote through the concepts of an environmental knowledge hub for the region;
 - (e) Encouraging the use of the ecosystem approach to strategic planning and management with regard to natural resources and the environment; and
 - (f) Ensuring better environmental governance through addressing issues such as bio-medicine, bio-Safety, Access and Benefit Sharing of Resources through better regional cooperation
 - (g) Encouraging sustainable development as a component of education at all levels and enhanced public awareness of sustainable development as a follow up to the regional training action plan on education agreed in 2003,

KATHMANDU DECLARATION 10th GOVERNING COUNCIL OF SACEP

- (h) Encouraging further strengthening of collaboration between the two regional secretariats SAARC and SACEP in serving the region to the appropriate implementation of sustainable development strategies,
- (i) Promoting regional cooperation through strengthened institutional understanding between SAARC and SACEP to ensure better institutional linkages and networks at national and regional level to promote and implement the programmes addressing the regional concerns of mutual interest between SAARC and SACEP
- B. We emphasize the importance of regional cooperation at various levels on bilateral and multilateral basis in achieving sustainable development, especially the strengthening of SAARC, SACEP partnership in achieving such goals
- C We reaffirm our commitment to strengthen SACEP by extending co-financing to the project implementation to ensure necessary donor support
- D We urge the donor countries, relevant United Nations bodies and agencies, multilateral financial institutions, other intergovernmental organizations, the private sector, academia, non-governmental organizations and civil society to provide full support, including financial and technical support to the SACEP secretariat in implementing the programme focus approved by the Governing Council.

SOUTH ASIA CO-OPERATIVE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

Report of the Preparatory Meeting of the National Focal Points For the Tenth Meeting of the Governing Council 23rd January 2007 Kathmandu, Nepal

1.1 INTRODUCTION

The Preparatory Meeting of National Focal Points for the Tenth Governing Council Meeting was held on 23rd January 2007 in Kathmandu, Nepal

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 Tenth Governing Council Meeting.

1. 2 ATTENDANCE

The Meeting was attended by representatives from the following Member Countries: - Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

It was also attended by observers from Centre For Environment Education, India (CEE), United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD), ICIMOD, United States Embassy of Nepal and United Nations Environment Programme-Regional Office for Asia and Pacific (UNEP-ROAP) and World Meteorological Organization (WMO). The List of Participants is in **Annex I**.

1.3 INAUGURATION

The Inaugural session of the Preparatory Meeting of the National Focal Points for the 10th Governing Council of SACEP which was chaired by Mr Sangay Thinley, Secretary Ministry of Agriculture, Royal Government of Bhutan and was graced by Hon. Mr Man Bahadur Bishwokarma, Minister of State for Environment, Science and Technology, Government of Nepal.

The welcome Address was delivered by the Dr.A.A.Boaz, Director General, SACEP (**Annex II-I**) and the opening remarks was delivered by Out-going Chairman Mr Sangay Thinley, Secretary Ministry of Agriculture, Royal Government of Bhutan (**Annex II-II**)

Mr Balkrishna Prasai, Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Science and Technology, Government of Nepal addressed the opening session of the Meeting (Annex III)

The key note address was delivered by Hon. Mr Man Bahadur Bishwokarma, Minister of State for Environment, Science and Technology, Government of Nepal.(Annex IV)

Closing remarks was delivered by Out-going Chairman Mr Sangay Thinley, Secretary Ministry of Agriculture, Royal Government of Bhutan (**Annex V**)

2. ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS

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

Chairman - Mr Balkrishna Prasai, Nepal

Vice Chairmen - Mr Mohamed Zuhair, Maldives

Rapporteur - Mr. W. R. M. S. Wickramasinghe, Sri Lanka

3. ADOPTION OF AGENDA AND ORGANISATION OF WORK

Under this agenda item, the Provisional Agenda for the Meeting was then discussed and adopted. (Annex VI - GC.10 SACEP/ NFP/D 1)

4. PRESENTATION OF THE PROGRESS REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR GENERAL, SACEP

The Director General presented the progress report under the following categories

- 4.1 Institutional Matters
- 4.2 Programme Matters
- 4.3 Financial Matters

The noted the importance of SAARC / SACEP collaboration and recommended to the GC to ensure strengthening of collaboration of SAARC and for the next SAARC Summit to consider endorsing the collaboration with SACEP as the supporting technical body to SAARC on environmental issues of the Region

The meeting considered the request of the secretariat to enhance the core international staff for the priority areas as decided by the 9th GC, SACEP. The

meeting recommends, recruiting such staff based on project needs as and when necessary.

The Government of Sri Lanka exceeded to the request of the secretariat to deputize their experts from institutions of excellence for ensuring better programme establishment. The Government of India accepted the request and said that such support staff can be considered by them on specific requests by the secretariat.

The meeting considered the request for core financing of projects by the secretariat and accepted it in principle. The request for core financing will be dealt on project to project basis in close consultation and consent of the member countries.

The meeting considered the request by the secretariat for an independent office and residential complex. Sri Lanka reaffirmed their commitment to provide land for the complex.

The meeting requested the status of the Regional Co-ordinator and progress made by the South Asian Seas Programme.

(Annex VII - GC10.SACEP/NFP/D2/Agenda Item 4 & GC10.SACEP/NFP/D2)

4.1.1 INSTITUTIONAL MATTERS

Declaration and Articles of Association of SACEP, adopted at the Ministerial Meeting of South Asian Countries held in Colombo, Sri Lanka on 25th February 1981 and Decisions upto the Ninth Meeting of the Governing Council of SACEP.

(Annex VIII - GC10.SACEP/ NFP / D2 / Agenda Item 4.1.1)

The meeting requested more time to review by the country governments and suggested to consider at the next GC, SACEP

5. PROGRAMME MATTERS

PRESENTATION OF PROJECT STATUS WAS REPORTED BY THE DIRECTOR GENERAL, SACEP

The Director General presented the project implementation status report under each of the projects listed below:

5.1 Male' Declaration

The Preparatory Meeting of the National Focal Points endorsed the status and the decisions at the 8th Inter-governmental Meeting of the project,

held in Thimphu (September 2006) and observed the capacity building requirement at the SACEP during the Phase III implementation.

(Annex IX - GC10.SACEP/NFP/D3/Agenda Item 5.1 & GC10.SACEP/NFP/D3/Agenda Item 5.1)

5.2 SACEP-UNEP support for programme implementation

The Meeting of the National Focal Points reviewed the collaboration with UNEP and agreed to recommend the Governing Council to the continued support of UNEP to SACEP to continue the on-going activities including the SENRIC Project and to strengthen and expand its programme base

(Annex X - GC10.SACEP/NFP/D3/Agenda Item 5.2 and Annex)

5.3 Publishing of a Report on Legislation Frameworks for CZM in South Asia (GC8 recommendation at it's 2nd Special Session in January 2003)

The Meeting noted the publication titled 'Developing a Legal Framework for Managing Land based activities that impact on the Coastal and Marine Environment in South Asia'

(Annex XI - GC10.SACEP/NFP/D3/Agenda Item 5. 3)

5.4 Adoption of SAICM for South Asia region

The meeting considered the draft resolution GC 10.SACEP / NFP / D 3 Agenda 5.4, Annex 2 and recommended to the GC for endorsement.

(Annex XII - GC10.SACEP/NFP/D3/Agenda Item 5. 4 and Annexes)

5.5 Establishment of BASEL Convention sub-regional centre for South Asia

The Meeting agreed for the SACEP Secretariat to host the Basel Convention Regional Centre for South Asia

(Annex XIII - GC10.SACEP/NFP/D3/Agenda Item 5. 5 and Annexes)

5.6 EU supported ICRAN project on MCPAs

The Meeting recommended to the 10th GC to endorse the establishment of the South Asia Coral Reef Task Force.

(Annex XIV - GC10.SACEP/NFP/D3/Agenda Item 5. 6 and Annex)

5.7 Clearing House Mechanism

The Meeting agreed in principle to establish a regional Biodiversity CHM in SACEP. However the meeting noted that except for one country none of the other countries have developed National CHMs and it will not be practical to have a Regional CHM. Therefore the proposal to be amended according to the country needs.

(Annex XV - GC10.SACEP/NFP/D3/Agenda Item 5. 7 and Annex)

5.8 Regional Oil Spill Contingency Plan

The meeting noted the SACEP Secretariat is awaiting concurrence from the member states for the amendments proposed by the Government of Pakistan.

(Annex XVI - GC10.SACEP/NFP/D3/Agenda Item 5. 8 and Annex)

5.9 Global Invasive Species Programme

The meeting recommended to change title of the programme as "Marine and Coastal Invasive Species Programme, of the Global Invasive Species Programme' as the programme has relevance only to the Maritime countries

(Annex XVII - GC10.SACEP/NFP/D3/Agenda Item 5. 9 and Annex)

5.10 Scoping Exercise: Adaptation to Climate Change

Centre for Environment Education, India (CEE) made a presentation. The secretariat was requested to pursue projects based on the scoping exercise.

(Annex XVIII - GC10.SACEP/NFP/D3/Agenda Item 5. 10)

6.1 WORK PROGRAMME (2007-2008)

Under this Agenda Item, DG, SACEP presented the SACEP Work Programme and Budget, 2006-2007 appearing as GC10.SACEP/NFP/D4/Agenda Item 6. 1

This Work Programme has been approved by the Chairman of the 9th GC, SACEP in June 2006. It was recommended that the GC may consider extending the Work Programme for the year 2008.

It was also noted that the Secretariat will send to the National Focal Points the details of projects being implemented and proposed and their linkages with the following three thematic areas agreed in 9th GC, SACEP.

- a) Adaptation to Climate Change
- b) Waste Management
- c) Data and Information Management

6.2 PROPOSED SUPPORT TO THE POST OF DIRECTOR PROGRAMMES FOR THE INITIAL PERIOD OF THREE YEARS

The Government of India was of the view that as the DG, SACEP has been appointed on merit basis that there is no necessity to have the proposed position and they do not intend to pursue on their original offer.

(GC10.SACEP / NFP / D4)

7. FUNDING AND FINANCIAL MATTERS

7.1 Review Of Country Contributions (GC10.SACEP / NFP/ D5 / Agenda Item 7.1)

The meeting agreed to recommend to the 10GC, SACEP to consider a one time increase of 10% of the current Country Contributions with effect from January 2007. The Government of Bangladesh stated that the payment of the Country Contributions will be decided upon the completion of the on-going governmental review on contribution to international organizations. The Government of Afghanistan conwayed its difficult to contribute to the Country Contributions due its current financial situation.

7.2 External Funding

The meeting noted the Director General's presentation. The meeting recommended SACEP to continue playing its role in securing external financing.

Annex VII - presentation

7.3 DRAFT Secretariat Budget (2007-2008)

The meeting reviewed the draft Secretarial Budget for 2007-2008 (Annex XX / GC 10.SACEP / NFP / D5 / Agenda Item 7.3) and recommended to 10th GC, SACEP for endorsement subject to amendment to Item 2.1 Salary of Director General as no revision of the salary for the period is recommended

7.4 Presentation of Audited Report of Accounts for the year 2005

The meeting recommended to the 10th GC, SACEP, the Audited Report of Accounts for the year 2005 for approval

(GC 10.SACEP/NFP/D5 Agenda Item 7.4 titled report of the Auditors of SACEP, for financial year ended 31 December 2005.)

8. DRAFT STATEMENT ON COUNTRY COMMITMENTS FOR PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION

Document titled 10th Governing Council of SACEP was presented to the meeting (**Annex XXI**)

The member governments agreed to provide written comments on the draft to the secretariat before the 10th GC, SACEP. The Secretariat to incorporate the received comments and present the draft statement. (Comments received from Government of Bangladesh is attached for consideration.)

9. VENUE AND DATE FOR THE 11TH GOVERNING COUNCIL

In keeping with the tradition of hosting Meeting of the Governing Councils in rotation basis and also in view of a beginning of a new cycle Government of Bangladesh was requested to consider hosting the meeting. Owing to the changes of the government in Bangladesh the meeting was informed that Bangladesh would not be able to host the next GC, SACEP. As such the meeting welcomed the offer made by the Governments of India and Sri Lanka to host the next GC, SACEP. The date will be announced later.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Two issues were discussed in a closed meeting.

10.1 Review of Salary and Perks of the Director General of SACEP

The meeting considered information contained in the document GC10.SACEP/NFP/D6 / Agenda Item 10.1 (Annex XXII) and noted that the salary of the Director General shall be in par with its counterpart International and Intergovernmental organisations, and decided that the salary of the post of the Director General of SACEP be raised to US \$ 5,000 per month from the end of the present 3 year tenure of the present Director General. The proposed budget contained in the document

GC10.SACEP/NFP/D5 / Agenda Item 7.3 (**Annex XX**) shall be amended accordingly.

10.2 Appointment of Director General on Merit Basis

The meeting considered the information contained in the document GC10.SACEP/NFP/D6 (Agenda Item 10.2) and noted the Decision taken at the 3rd Special Session of GC with regards to the recruitment of the Director General of SACEP on merit basis from the South Asia Region for a non-renewable term of 5 years and also noted that a written reservation was sent to the Chair of GC, therefore, the recruitment shall be based on the existing procedure which is three years.

However, the meeting further considered that a possible extension of two years may be granted to the 3 year term based on a performance appraisal of the Director General. Such performance appraisal shall take place prior to the end of the 2nd year of the tenure.

The criteria for performance appraisal of the Director General shall be developed by the member states. The performance appraisal shall be agreed upon by the National Focal Points at a meeting and subsequently sent to the 11th Meeting of the Governing Council of SACEP for information.

In whichever case, it is agreed that no two consecutive terms shall be held by the same country.

Other matters Discussed

The meeting retreated the importance of the meeting of National Focal Points for at least twice a year.

It is agreed that National Focal Point Meeting should be held at SACEP host country

11. CLOSURE OF MEETING

The Meeting considered the Report on 23rd January 2007, and adopted the above recommendations for submission to the 10th Governing Council for its endorsement.

The Chairman thanked all delegates for their co-operation and the Secretariat for facilitating, in making the meeting a success.

SOUTH ASIA CO-OPERATIVE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME PREPARATORY MEETING OF NATIONAL FOCAL POINTS FOR 10th MEETING OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL

23 January 2007 Kathmandu, Nepal LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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Welcome Address by

Dr. Arvind Anil Boaz
Director General, SACEP
at the
Preparatory Meeting of the National Focal Points
Tenth Meeting of the Governing Council of
South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme (SACEP)
Kathmandu, Nepal

23rd January 2007

Welcome Address by Dr. A. A. Boaz, Director General South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme

NFP Meeting, 10th GC, SACEP, 23rd January, 2007, Kathmandu, Nepal

Distinguished Delegates from all the member countries of SACEP

Honoured delegates from UN and other International agencies

Ladies and Gentlemen

As the Director General of SACEP it is a great privilege and honour to welcome you on behalf of SACEP for the Preparatory Meeting of National Focal Points for the 10th Meeting of the Governing Council of SACEP.

At the very outset, let me thank Government of Nepal for having so graciously agreed to offer host facilities for this meeting.

I particularly recognise the presence of a strong UNEP delegation at this meeting through Dr. Surendra Shrestha, Regional Director of UNEP ROAP representing the Executive Director of UNEO and Dr. Anjan Datta from GPA Hague representing Dr. Veerle Vanderweerd, Head of GPA and the Regional Seas Programme.

Distinguished delegates

As you are aware, we are in our Silver Jubilee Year and through the past 25 years, SACEP has had many milestones, too numerous to mention.

Environment is a field where there is constant change and is always in a state of flux. The programme of work which are proposing is solely based on the demands of the needs of our member countries which fit into the global scenario.

Our work programme is no doubt ambitious but we are confident that with support of the member countries and the UN and other related agencies we can achieve our targets.

In the light of the above, as I mentioned earlier the Secretariat, the ambitious work programme we have drawn up is based on confirmed commitments that we have received from UNEP, UN affiliated organisations and other bilateral agencies.

At this juncture, may I seek the support of the member countries to strengthen the financial base of SACEP. There has not been any increased country contributions since the 8th Governing Council in 1998, though the workload for the Secretariat has increased almost three fold.

We have proposed a revision in the country contributions to meet this demand. We are confident that member countries would support this recommendation.

I wish to place on record the support we have received from our Focal Points, UNEP and related UN agencies in taking this programme forward and I look forward to their continued support.

I wish today's meeting a great success and I thank each and every one of you for being present here in spite of your busy schedules and other pressing commitments.

South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme

Preparatory meeting of the National Focal Points

Tenth Meeting of the Governing Council SACEP

Kathmandu, NEPAL 23 January 2007

Speech by H.E. Dasho Nado Rinchhen at the Inaugural Function

Honorable Chief Guest His Excellency Mr. Man Bahadur Vishwokarma, Minister of Environment, Science and Technology, Senior Officials of SACEP Member States
Distinguished representatives of International Organizations
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure for me to address this distinguished gathering today. First of all please allow me to thank H. E. Mr. Man Bahadur Vishwokarma, Minister of Environment, Science and Technology, for taking time out of his busy schedule to be here at this meeting today. Your Excellency, Thank you for your inspiring words. I would also like to thank the Host Country for the warm hospitality and the excellent arrangements made

SACEP has completed twenty five years of establishment and has implemented a number of projects and programmes in the areas of environment, education, biodiversity, air pollution and the protection and management of the coastal environment.

In the 9th GC and the 3rd Inter Ministerial Meeting held at Bhutan in August, 2005, SACEP adopted a new strategic approach to focus on the priority issues of the region to look upon SACEP as a dynamic and vibrant organization. In line with the new strategic approach, SACEP decided that the immediate focus of the organization would be in three major programme areas namely: Waste management, Adaptation to Climate Change and Data Management.

The success of any organization and its programme of work will depend on the support received from its member countries. In addition, the objectives and the activities under the work programme should also be proposed as per the resources available. With all this at the back of our minds, I hope this meeting will be successful in all its endeavors.

Once again, I on behalf of my delegation and on my own behalf would like to thank His Excellency Mr. Man Bahadur Vishwokarma, and the members of Ministry of Environment, Science and Technology for the warm welcome and hospitality extended to all of us.

Thank you and Tashi delek

South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme

Preparatory meeting of the National Focal Points

Tenth Meeting of the Governing Council SACEP

Kathmandu, NEPAL 23 January 2007

Mr. Bal Krishna Prasai

Mr. Chairman Chief Guest, Hon'ble Minister of State for Environment, Science and Technology Director General of SACEP, Dr.Boaz Distinguished Delegates Ladies and Gentlemen

We are very much pleased to have this opportunity to host the Tenth Governing Council meeting in Kathmandu. It is indeed a great pleasure for me to welcome you all in the Preparatory Meeting of the National Focal Points for the Tenth Meeting of the Governing Council of SACEP being held in this capital city, Kathmandu.

I am pleased to know that SACEP is completing 25 years of its establishment this month and we are celebrating the Silver Jubilee of SACEP. On this occasion, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you all and extend my best wishes for the bright future of SACEP.

SACEP, perhaps, one of the oldest environmental organizations has been effortful in bringing its member states in the mainstream of environmental management through collaborative programmes. It has so far been instrumental in generating public awareness and in providing platform to exchange ideas and experiences and create conducive environment to work together for the benefits of mankind in South Asia.

Today, we are gearing all of our efforts towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals, reduction of poverty and socio-economic disparity and improving the quality of life and prosperity of millions of people living in our region. However, the geological fragility, unusual weather, discharge of untreated effluents, high dependence on natural resource base and inadequate integration of the environment in socio economic programmes have posed additional environmental challenges. Top soil loss and landslides are the predominant environmental concerns in the mountains while flood and sedimentation along with discharge of untreated toxic effluents are affecting the economic well being of the people living in the plain areas. Every year,

thousands of people, poor people in particular, lose their lives and properties worth millions of Rupees. The climate change has been further emerged as the greatest environmental challenge for SACEP member countries with varying magnitude and extent of effects. If snows of our high mountains are melt due to rise in temperature which is more likely to happen, one can imagine the fate of sea-shore countries. Some of our glacial lakes are very vulnerable and are posing threats to all of us.

As we all know that the South Asian countries have tremendous potentials and experiences in terms of natural resources and human capital and are making sincere efforts to improve the environmental conditions. SACEP member countries have some progress in solving some of the pressing problems jointly or individually. We share common problems and we see greater opportunities for implementation of collaborative mitigation and programmes. In spite of several efforts, the environmental condition is not improved as desired. New sets of environmental problems associated with climate change, electronic and hazardous wastes disposal and increased illegal trade of bio-resources and their products are rapidly cropping up. The environmental problems that we faced in the 1980s differed with those of 1990s and 2000s. However, some of the priority areas that identified in the late 1980s have merit for reconsideration and require continued efforts in the years to come. The climate change and bio-safety areas adopted in 2003 special session of the Governing Council require additional regional cooperation and collaborations to reduce their impacts. Thus, there is an urgent need to respond to the growing environmental problems. If we could not address them, it will out-weight the efforts that we are making for socio-economic development and poverty reduction.

Nepal is fully committed to achieve the goals of SACEP and implement decisions undertaken by the SACEP Governing Council. Nepal underscores the importance of expanding collaborative efforts for the development and implementation of mitigation and adaptation measure areas effectively. In this context, we would like to see SACEP as an effective institution to provide additional technical back-stopping services to member states. It is high time for us that we should take into account our previous efforts, and we now know what worked and what did not during the last two and half-decades. Based on the experience and knowledge, we could develop a mechanism that promotes economic development without adversely affecting the environment on which the survival of human beings and of all life forms depends.

We the member of the respective countries are here today to reassess our priorities and efforts, share knowledge and experiences for the social and environmental welfare of the people of this region. I am hopeful that the threeday deliberations would help us in streamlining our efforts in a responsive and practical manner.

At the end, I would like to appreciate and thank the UNEP-ROAP and SACEP Secretariat for their support and hard work to make this meeting a success. We feel very sorry for any inconvenience due to nationwide transport strike. I welcome you all once again and I hope that stay in Kathmandu will be more enjoyable and memorable.

I wish a grand success of this meeting

Thank you all

South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme Preparatory Meeting of the National Focal Points

Tenth Meeting of the Governing Council SACEP

Kathmandu, NEPAL 23 January 2007

Hon'ble Man Bahadur Vishwokarma Minister of State for Environment, Science and Technology.

Mr. Chairman
Secretaries
Director General of SACEP
Distinguished Delegates
Ladies and Gentlemen

It gives me a great pleasure to be here today with you all in this Opening Session of the Preparatory Meeting of the National Focal Points of the Tenth Meeting of the Governing Council of the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP). I would like to welcome you all in Kathmandu and hope that your stay will be pleasant and memorable.

At the outset, I am pleased to inform you all that a decade long conflict in Nepal has come to an end. We now have the interim constitution and interim parliament has been formed including Maoist Party. The Interim Government will be formed shortly. The main goal of the present government is to hold the election of the constitutional assembly in June this year in a free, fair and peaceful manner. The interim constitution, for the first time, has emphasized on the need for clean environment as the right of the people. We hope that conflict-induced natural resource depletion will not remain as a challenge and will be able to manage the environment to desired extent through joint collective efforts of all political parties.

As you are aware of that the South Asia countries are facing environmental problems of different magnitude and extent..... Low lying SACEP member states are suffering from environmental problems resulting from human activities in the uplands. Marine and coastal areas have been the final destination of agro-chemicals, sewages and industrial toxic effluents along with increased sedimentation of nutrient-rich top soil. Every year, soil erosion, unusual climate, landslides and floods are affecting lives of our millions of people, poor people in particular. It demands us to find out the root causes of environmental degradation and that root causes, we think, are related to unsustainable landbased activities in the mountains. Obviously, there are interrelationships and interdependencies between the uplands and lowlands.

We feel that the environmental challenges we face today are mostly related to under development, increased number of poor people, unsustainable utilization of natural resources, consumption oriented lifestyle and inadequate financial resources for environment management programmes. Similarly, inadequate efforts on human resource development have limited our capacity to address new and emerging environmental problems. The widened gap between the rich and the poor might continue to be a bottleneck.

In Nepal, we are implementing several activities based on our capacity, financial and human resources to conserve natural resources, and improve the living conditions of the people. We have made significant progress in bringing the local people in the mainstream of forests, protected areas and water management. Our policies and legal instruments provide sufficient provisions for people's participation, devolution of authorities, benefit sharing, and enhance community and private sectors' involvement in natural resource management. Our policies and strategies to involve local people in natural resource management and usergroup concept in development programmes have contributed to improve the local environmental conditions. However, our efforts are not sufficient in view of the problems faced, and new sets of problems emerged, and much still remains to make our efforts environment-friendly and sustainable to benefit both upland and lowland inhabitants. In this context, we realize the urgent need for collaborative efforts for handling highland-lowland environmental problems by addressing the needs of the poor people. For this, we can work together in the spirit of regional solidarity and partnership for common cause and benefit with 'common but differentiated responsibilities'. We still need to bolster our partnership and reinforce our implementation capacity to address our common challenges. Obviously, it is necessary to explore new avenues for additional financial resources and technology transfer.

At this point of time, I would like to urge you all to device mechanisms for increasing investments as a perennial source for managing watersheds at national and sub-regional basis, building capacity, and encouraging incentives to upland people to regulate their activities to benefit from perennial environmental goods and services provided by the watersheds.

Nepal would like to see SACEP as an effective organization and express its commitment for its support to promote environmental conservation in the South Asia. Its cooperation and collaboration with SAARC will add value to put in place the environment in the political agenda of the South Asia.

I hope that, this meeting will priorities collaborative actions to address on-going and emerging problems of regional importance for consideration at the Tenth Meeting of the SACEP Governing Council. This meeting will definitely give us additional impetus to undertake appropriate measures and strengthen our development and environmental initiatives. Your wisdom, knowledge and experience will contribute to further help in streamlining national efforts and regional collaboration.

At the end, I would like to take this opportunity to thank SACEP Secretariat and UNEP-ROAP and other organizations and individuals for their efforts to have this meeting happened in Kathmandu.

I wish grand success of this meeting Thank you very much

South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme

Preparatory Meeting of the National Focal Points

Tenth Meeting of the Governing Council SACEP

Kathmandu, NEPAL 23 January 2007

Opening Remarks by the Hon' Chairman (Oct-going) H.E. Dasho Nado Rinchhen

Honorable Secretaries Senior Officials of SACEP Member States Distinguished representatives of International Organizations Ladies and Gentlemen

It is indeed a pleasure for me to address this official gathering, as the outgoing Chairman of the official meeting.

Let me take this opportunity to thank the Government of Nepal for hosting this meeting in the beautiful city of Kathmandu. I would like to also thank the Ministry of Environment, Science and Technology of Government of Nepal for arranging the meeting and extending a warm hospitality to all of us.

In keeping with the decision of the 9th Governing Council Meeting held in Thimphu in August 2005, we have made some progress in our efforts to revitalize SACEP to be a vibrant organization dealing with environmental matters in the region.

We are very happy to see that most of the member states have cleared their outstanding arrears of committed country contributions. It is indeed encouraging to know that the Government of India has contributed to the trust fund as announced at the 9th Governing Council. I am confident that member countries will also contribute to the trust fund to strengthen the programme base SACEP.

I would like to stress the importance of focusing the work programmes to be realistic, manageable and of common priority activities which will benefit all the member states. This is very important since the resources and also in-house capacity at SACEP is limited. As our SAARC leaders during the 13th SAARC Summit held in Dhaka have declared the year 2007 as the Green South Asia, I would like to encourage that we discuss and agree on activities that are common and beneficial to all the member states.

I would like to place on record the decision of the Government of Sri Lanka to increase its Host Contribution to SACEP Secretariat by Sri Lankan Rs.2.50 million. We must all thank the Government of Sri Lanka for their kind gesture.

I would like to acknowledge UNEP for unfailing support to SACEP. I would particularly thank, Mr. Surenda Shesthra, the Regional Director, UNEP Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific for his commitment in supporting SACEP in various ways.

I would like to extend our appreciation to the Director General and the staff of SACEP Secretariat for extending support to the Host Country for this meeting.

Before concluding, I wish to offer our well wishes to the Government of Nepal, for successful deliberation and positive outcome.

Thank you and Tashi delek

GC 10.SACEP/NFP/D1 Agenda Item 3 Page 1

SOUTH ASIA CO-OPERATIVE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

Preparatory Meeting of National Focal Points for 10th Governing Council Meeting of SACEP Kathmandu, Nepal 23rd January 2007

AGENDA

- Opening of the Meeting
- 2. Election of Office Bearers
- 3. Adoption of Agenda and Organisation of Work
- 4. Presentation of the Progress Report by the Director General, SACEP
 - 4.1 Institutional Matters
 - 4.2 Programme Matters
 - 4.3 Financial Matters
- 5. Presentation of Project Status Report by the Director General, SACEP
 - 5.1 Male' Declaration
 - 5.2 SACEP-UNEP support for programme implementation
 - 5.3 Report on Legislation Frameworks for CZM in South Asia (GC8 recommendation at it 2nd Special Session in January 2003)
 - 5.4 Adoption of SAICM for South Asia region
 - 5.5 Establishment of BASEL Convention sub-regional Centre for South Asia
 - 5.6 EU supported ICRAN project on MCPAs
 - 5.7 Clearing House Mechanism
 - 5.8 Regional Oil Spill Contingency Plan
 - 5.9 Global Invasive Species Programme
 - 5.10 Scoping Exercise: Adaptation to Climate Change
- 6. Work Programme (2007-2008)
- 7. Funding and Financial Matters
 - 7.1 Review of Country Contributions
 - 7.2 External Funding
 - 7.3 DRAFT Secretariat Budget (2007-2008)
 - 7.4 Presentation of Audited Report of Accounts for the year 2005
- 8. Draft Statement on Country Commitments for Programme Implementation
- 9. Venue and Date for the 11th Governing Council
- 10. Any Other Business
- 11. Closure of Meeting

PROVISIONAL ANNOTATED AGENDA PREPARATORY MEETING OF THE NATIONAL FOCAL POINTS 10th GOVERNING COUNCIL OF SACEP

23rd January 2007 Kathmandu, NEPAL

ANNOTATED AGENDA

1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

It is expected that a Senior Dignitary from the Government of Nepal will inaugurate the Meeting.

2. ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS

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 Chairman, a Rapporteur and other officials may also be appointed by the Meeting. The Director General shall function as the Secretary of the Governing 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. PRESENTATION OF THE PROGRESS REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR GENERAL, SACEP

The Director General will present the progress report. The meeting will be requested for endorsement of the programme and the progress under the separate headings as below:

- 4.1 Institutional Matters
- 4.2 Programme Matters
- 4.3 Financial Matters

The meeting will consider the report and make suggestions for the report to be submitted to the Governing Council for endorsement of the recommendations for the next biennium.

5. PRESENTATION PROJECT STATUS REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR GENERAL, SACEP

The Director General will present the project implementation status report under each of the projects listed below:

- 5.1 Male' Declaration
- 5.2 SACEP-UNEP support for programme implementation
- 5.3 Publishing of a Report on Legislation Frameworks for CZM in South

 Asia (GC8 recommendation at it 2nd Special Session in January 2003)
- 5.4 Adoption of SAICM for South Asia region
- 5.5 Establishment of BASEL Convention sub-regional centre for South Asia
- 5.6 EU supported ICRAN project on MCPAs
- 5.7 Clearing House Mechanism
- 5.8 Regional Oil Spill Contingency Plan
- 5.9 Global Invasive Species Programme
- 5.10 Scoping Exercise: Adaptation to Climate Change

The meeting will consider the report and make suggestions for the report to be submitted to the Governing Council for endorsement

6. WORK PROGRAMME (2007-2008)

Under this Agenda Item, the meeting will consider the approved work programme for 2006-2007 and make suggestions for its continuance through 2008.

7. FUNDING AND FINANCIAL MATTERS

Under this agenda item, the meeting will consider the review of the country contributions, External funding, the draft Secretarial Budget for 2007-2008. It will also consider the audit report of Accounts for the year 2005 for endorsement.

8. DRAFT STATEMENT ON COUNTRY COMMITMENTS FOR PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION

Under this Agenda Item, the meeting will review the Statement from the region to continuation of programme implementation by the Secretariat, both financial and technical aspects. The meeting will make necessary recommendation to the Governing Council for endorsement.

9. VENUE AND DATE FOR THE 11th GOVERNING COUNCIL

Under this Agenda Item, the meeting will decide on the venue and tentative dates for the 11th Governing Council meeting, which will be submitted to the Ministerial meeting for formal agreement.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Under this Agenda Item, the Preparatory meeting of the National Focal Points may wish to discuss any other relevant matters that may be raised by the representatives participating at the Meeting or by the Secretariat.

11. CLOSURE OF MEETING

Any representative participating in the Meeting may wish to make concluding statements regarding the deliberations at the Meeting and its achievements. The Chairman will finally declare the Meeting closed.

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GC9 Decisions and Recommendations: Status of Implementation

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 	 Consultations with UNEP staff (12-13 September 2005). The Outline and concept for the Programme was prepared during September 2005 (23 September 2005)
	The Programme Concept was circulated to the NFP during January 2006 and received endorsement by June 2006.
	The Chair had subsequently indicated approval to the suggested programme development
b) The work programme will consist of core activities and projects.	The work programme indicated core activities for each of the areas of focus, included in the report. The outline indicates Output, Verifiable Indicators Corresponding to Activities, Specific Activity, and Budget estimate.
c) The core programmes will focus on areas of waste, adaptation to climate change, database management / indicators of State of the Environment (SoE)	The core programmes included all the suggested areas of focus besides programmes under South Asian Seas, with focus on Natural Disaster Management with respect to Storm Surges and Tsunamis and Management of Coastal and Protected Areas
d) The DG will consult the National Focal Points in the preparations of this work programme	All the focal points were briefed and suggestions sought to the programme of work that was circulated in early 2006
e) UNEP has agreed to provide assistance to complete the work programme.	UNEP through a MoU extended support for year 2006 as agreed at GC9
f) The Chairman of the 9th Governing Council will consult its members and approve the work programme for Implementation	Following responses from all the member countries, the Chair had approved the Work Programme (June 2006)
g) The Director General will provide regular progress reports through the National Focal Points	Regular updates to the Focal Points are provided. A six-monthly progress report was sent to all the focal points (April 2006)

- > The Work Programme outline and concept includes the suggested four core programmes: a) Waste Management, b) Adaptation to Climate Change, c)
 Data Management and d) South Asian Seas Programme
- Related project activities with specific output and verifiable indicators and a total budget were indicated under each of the areas of focus
- The member countries and UNEP reviewed the proposal and the Chair approved the Work Programme following the updates to the initial document

PROGRAMME MATTERS

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 9th Governing Council by December 2005.	A detailed work programme was circulated to the member countries. The Chairman had approved the updated report with the suggestions from the focal points,
 b) The Director General shall prepare detailed proposals for implementation on waste, adaptation to climate change and database for the State of Environment report. 	1. The Concept Papers have received suggestions from UNEP-ROAP. Further regional consultations being planned during the early part of January expected to compile the status information and update the proposals to suit regional needs 2. Several proposals as detailed below have bee forwarded to donors. Progress on approvals is given against each
c) Mobilize necessary complementary project resources in close consultations with UNEP and other development partners.	Briefings to Sida highlighted the programme focus and sought assistance to implement the programmes. Several other proposals are being considered with co-financing from different agencies. (Development Alternatives, CEE-India, WMO, BASEL Secretariat, IMO, SAICM Secretariat, Alien Species Network, NORAD, etc.)
	Mobilisation of resources both for projects and programmes has been the main thrust of SACEP in this year. The details of additional resources mobilized is given in Annex.

3. Operation of SACEP

a) The Director General shall carry out his challenging duties with existing terms, conditions and remuneration package	 As per the directions of the Governing Council the DG carried out his challenging duties with existing terms, conditions and remuneration package and has tried his best to make SACEP visible in the environmental arena and has been able to attract attention and mobilize resources for projects that are beneficial to the member countries.
b) The Governing Council may consider the issue of tenure at future meetings	1. The issue of tenure will be considered at the next meeting.
c) UNEP is requested to assist the Secretariat in its capacity building programme	UNEP is constantly being pursued for capacity building at SACEP
One Programme Assistant post shall be based in Thimphu, Bhutan to assist the Chairman of the 9th Governing Council	Efforts were made to recruit one programme assistant to assist the Chairman of GC,



PROGRAMME MATTERS

4. ON-GOING PROJECT ACTIVITIES

 The website of SACEP is being constantly updated and links established to various sites in order to enrich the information base. A scoping exercise on Adaptation to Climate Change is being conducted in close association with CEE-India and country governments. The information gathered will help enrich the database of SACEP and also assist the region in SoE Reporting. It is envisaged that information from the proposed projects under consideration with Sida will also become part of the information base
UNEP-ROAP has extended its support under a MoU for the year 2006. The Governing Council is being requested to recommend for the continued support from UNEP-ROAP
 GEF-PDF grant proposal received approval from the GEF Secretariat. However the RAF-4 framework on budget allocations stalled the process and it is envisaged that the renewed framework for project implementation under support from GEF (coordination from all the three implementing agencies World Bank, UNDP and UNEP) will consider the projects under submission during the early part of the year 2007.

- As a response to the recommendation at the GC's 2nd Special Session (year, 2003) on UNEP/GPA has developed a report "Legal framework for managing land-based activities that impact on the coastal and marine environment in South Asia" It is proposed that UNEP-GPA will present this report at the GC10 with possible further activities
- ➤ Progress has been achieved under the projects for Marine Litter and Market Based Instruments. Regional and National Coordinators have been identified and an initial report on the *Market Based Instruments* is expected by the end of year 2006

- ➤ As mandeated by the 9th GC, Several MoU have been established for institutional collaboration under different aspects with agencies including IMO, WMO, UNEP-GPA, UNEP-ROAP, UNEP-RRCAP, IUCN, etc.
- > SACEP has been made a member of the Asia Forest Partnership
- MoU with agencies RECOFTC, Asia Pacific Forestry Commission (APFC-FAO), CIFOR, IDRC are being pursued
- MoU with UNEP-ROAP for the support under SENRIC project activities for the year 2006
- > MoU for activities under the project for Malé Declaration on Control and Prevention of Air Pollution and its Likely Effects for South Asia
- > After incorporation of the recommendations received from UNEP on the suggested areas of focus, the concept notes will be presented at the 10th Governing Council
- ➤ In collaboration with CEE-India a scoping exercise relating to "Emerging Trends in Understanding Adaptation to Climate Change" has been undertaken. The expert consultation workshop is being planned to be held in January 2007. It is envisaged that the workshop report will reflect the regional status, necessities and available funding mechanisms to take the programme ahead for implementation
- > A statement from the Governing Council to indicate attention from the region with committed funds is requested to enable the project implementation
- Outreach: Constant publication of Newsletter; Promotion of 3R concept at the South Asian Games through introduction of waste segregation process and campaign through a 3R Message printed on waist pouches distributed to the athletes (in collaboration with Abans, a local private company for environmental services, Ministry of Environment, and ART TV).

Collaborative Partners:

> Development Alternatives (DA), TERI, BCAS, APFC, WMO, IMO, IUCN

Regional Workshops:

- > Invasive Species in collaboration with UNEP-GPA (March 2007)
- > SAICM Sub regional workshop to be held during mid 2007
- > Scoping exercise Consultation Workshop January 2007
- > Livelihood Workshop of the EU-MCPA Project in collaboration with ICRAN, IMM, and IUCN January 2007



South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme PROGRESS REPORT April 2005 – November 2006

1 Introduction

- 1.1 Following the 2-decadal process, the 8th Governing Council (GC) suggested a review and revitalization of the Secretariat in terms of its functionality and programmeme focus, UNEP had readily committed its assistance to conduct a review, which was later endorsed by the Governing Council at its 3rd Special Session held in Colombo during 4-6 November 2003.
- 1.2 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. The Governing Council after a long selection process, placed the mantle of guiding SACEP as per the recommendations of the review committee, on my shoulders. After I took over as Director General, SACEP on 20th April 2005, the first task was to revitalize and steer SACEP on a path to strengthen institutional mechanisms including improving its governance and financial resources to implement and expand the work programmes. It is envisioned that this rebuilding and strengthening process undertaken will enable SACEP to become a more effective and useful asset to the region and serve as a vehicle for the integrated and environmentally sound sustainable development of its member countries.
- 1.3 Immediately after I took over as the Director General of SACEP, the first priority before me was to get the 9th Governing Council and the 3rd Inter Ministerial Meeting (IMM) conducted. These meetings had been due for some time and in order to clearly lay down the path ahead, I proposed both the meetings to be held back to back in Bhutan. The Royal Government of Bhutan was gracious enough to accept my request and both the meetings were held in Thimphu, Bhutan from 24th to 26th of August 2005.
- 1.4 The 9th Governing Council and the 3rd Inter Ministerial Meeting at the meetings held in Thimphu, Bhutan on 26th August 2005, reviewed the past strategies and performance of SACEP and adopted a new Strategic approach to focus on the priority issues of the region to reflect greater commitment of the country governments to look upon SACEP as a dynamic and vibrant organisation. It also discussed at length the papers presented by the Secretariat that were a result of intensive introspection, consultations with partner organisations, independent evaluation and the suggestions of the review report of SACEP.
- 1.5 The strategy of SACEP in the next phase of its growth will comprehend these issues and increase its effectiveness as a regional organisation. Looking into the limited resources, both financial and core staff, it was decided that in the immediate future SACEP will focus its attention on the following major programme areas:
 - Waste Management
 - Adaptation to Climate Change
 - Data Management
- 1.6 The 3rd Inter Ministerial Meeting likewise, decided that in the next phase of the growth of the South Asian Seas Programme (SASP), the focus will be on the following two programme areas:
 - Natural Disaster Management with respect to storm surges and Tsunamis
 - Management of Coastal and Marine Protected Areas
- 1.7 It was also decided to continue the ongoing programmes which SACEP / SASP have been implementing in the past. The major programmes that will be carried forward are:
 - Environmental Legislation
 - Malé Declaration
 - Regional Oil Spill Contingency Planning, IMO Conventions-OPRC, MARPOL73/78, AFS, and Globallast
 - Marine Litter
 - Programmes under GPA and ICARM
 - SENRIC under the continued support from UNEP-ROAP.

2 Progress of Work:

2.1 Administrative Matters:

Based on the decisions of the 9th Governing Council and the 3rd Inter Ministerial Meeting, the first task ahead was to revamp the Secretariat to make it into an efficient, task oriented work force to deliver as per the targets set for it by the two ministerial meetings. Great emphasis was laid on the administrative and financial matters and the following was achieved by the Secretariat in a very short period of time i.e. eight months

- 2.1.1 After the successful conduction of the 9th Governing Council of SACEP and 3rd Inter Ministerial Meeting of SAS on 26th August 2005, hosted by the Royal Government of Bhutan, the final reports of both the meetings were finalised and forwarded to the country governments after approval of the respective Chairman.
- 2.1.2 As directed by the 9th Governing Council, all accounts for the year 2001 to 2004 were finalized as per the guidelines given and sent to the Country governments for approval. Approval of Sri Lanka and Maldives has been received. It is requested that the other country governments may kindly send their approval at the earliest.
- 2.1.3 As per decision at the 9th Governing Council, incorporated amendments and additions to the Articles of Association and the Rules and Regulations of SACEP. These have been sent to the NFPs for comments before submission to the 10th Governing Council for approval.
- 2.1.4 We have been able to get the Gazette notification No 1426/17-2006 dated 5th January 2006 published by the Foreign Ministry under the Diplomatic Privileges Act No 1996 that have been granted by the Government of Sri Lanka to SACEP.
- 2.1.5 SACEP has been able to get itself declared by the Ministry of Finance and Planning as a Specified International Organisation under Section 14 of the Financial Act No. 16 of 1995 vide No.FP/06/1.5/02/02 dated 6th April 2006
- 2.1.6 Capacity development of the administrative staff of SACEP has been carried out by establishing role clarity, constant support and guidance. This has enabled them for the first time in the history of SACEP, to write and complete the Annual Accounts for the year 2005. In the past these accounts had been written by an external agency.
- 2.1.7 Appointment of the New Auditor: The external auditors for SACEP ware appointed with the approval of the Consultative Committee.
- 2.1.8 Terms of Reference (ToRs) for Staff: All Staff of SACEP / SASP have been covered by a specific ToR. A ToR has also been given to the Project Coordinator, SENRIC for time bound activities to be carried out by him for the project under SACEP.
- 2.1.9 Financial Matters: Sound financial management has been put into place. Monthly accounts are finalized by the administrative section and reconciliation done with the bankers on a regular basis.
- 2.1.10 All US \$ Short Call Deposit accounts of SACEP have now been put on a fixed deposit scheme for long and short term. This has ensured earning of much higher interest for the money in these accounts.
- 2.1.11 Appointment of Staff:
 - (a) Programme Officer : One new programme officer has been appointed
 - (b) Secretary : One new Secretary has been appointed
 - (c) Regional Coordinator (South Asian Seas Programme): Following interviews of the applicants from the region, the regional coordinator for the SASP was appointed from 1 August 2006 for a period of one year.



- 2.1.12 Improvement and upgradation of facilities for staff have been done to provide the staff with better working environment.
- 2.1.13 Archive Development for SACEP: All Past GC and IMM reports and Minutes of the Consultative Committee Meetings were converted into digital format for easy reference and archive purposes. A complete database of all MoU / LoA / Gazette Notifications has been done right from the inception of SACEP in 1981.
- 2.1.14 All newsletters published so far by SACEP have been collected and work on digitizing them is underway.
- 2.1.15 Steps are being taken to establish an internal library for the secretariat. Nearly 45 Scientific Journals have been subscribed to.
- 2.1.16 SACEP Newsletter obtained an ISSN Number 1815-1167 for print and online version of the news letter. The third newsletter for the current year is now under preparation.
- 2.1.17 A new look of SACEP Website has been developed in-house. Constant efforts are on to make this website interactive and more useful for the member countries. The site is being updated periodically.
- 2.1.18 Programme of Work for SACEP for the years 2006-07:

A detailed Work Programme for 2006 – 2007 with targets and time frames had been submitted to UNEP-ROAP for comments. The comments have been received and incorporated and sent to the NFPs for their comments and approval. Approval of the Work programme has been received from all countries.

The Programme of Work for SACEP for the years 2006-07 describes the strategic approach and the new direction was accepted at the 9th Governing Council at its meeting held in Thimphu, Bhutan on 26th August 2005.

This 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 Sub-regional Environmental Policy Dialogue, 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 bio-diversity.

SACEP has been designated as the Secretariat for the South Asian Seas Prrogramme and has the responsibility to the overall coordination and management of the programme activities for implementation of the Plan of Action and the decisions taken by the Inter Ministerial Meetings (IMM) held regularly to oversee the performance and focus of the programme.

The 3rd Inter Ministerial Meeting held in Thimphu, Bhutan on the 26th August 2005 has also identified new areas of focus for the SASP as an addition to its on-going programme activities.

This programme of work spells out the following four main priority programme areas that the 9th Governing Council and the 3rd Inter Ministerial Meeting have identified:

- P 1: Waste Management with specific attention to the emerging issue "e-waste"
- P 2 : Adaptation to Climate Change
- · P 3: Data and Information Management
- P4: South Asian Seas
 - 4.1 Natural Disaster Management with respect to Storm Surges and Tsunamis
 - 4.2 Management of Coastal and Marine Protected Areas



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The Work Programme also emphasises the continuation of ongoing programmes which SACEP has been implementing in the past. The major programmes that will be carried forward are:

- · Environmental Legislation
- Malé Declaration on Control and Prevention of Air Pollution and its likely Transboundary Effects for South Asia
- Regional Oil Spill Contingency Planning, IMO Conventions-OPRC, MARPOL73/78, AFS, and Globallast
- Marine Litter
- Programmes under GPA and ICARM

3 Programme Activities:

3.1 Completed Activities:

- 3.1.1 EC Proposal titled "Institutional Strengthening and Capacity Development for the Long-term Management and Conservation of MCPAs encompassing Coral Reef Resources in South Asia" that had been prepared in cooperation with UNEP-Coral Reef Unit and ICRAN has been approved by the European Commission and signed on 26th December 2005. The project has been launched on 1st January 2006 and we are in the process of recruiting a Project Coordinator for the project. The EC will provide Euros 748,720 over a three year period and 20% of this amount is expected as co-finance from the participating countries and other sources. Under this MoU, the first workshop titled "Regional Resource Coordination and Mobilsation Workshop for the Long-term Management and Conservation of MCPAs in South Asia" was held in Colombo durng 27th and 28th September 2006.
- 3.1.2 MoU signed with UNEP, Division of Environment Conventions (DEC), Nairobi for Multilateral Environmental Agreements Negotiators Regional Training Workshop (MEA-N). The workshop was held from 5 7 October, 2005 in Colombo, Sri Lanka and 35 participants from 09 countries attended the workshop.
- 3.1.3 The MoU signed with UNEP on Rapid Assessment of the Environmental Damage due to the Tsunami Disaster and the Tsunami Task Force in Sri Lanka was extended up to 31st December 2005. SACEP recovered 10% Administrative Charges for the services rendered by the Secretariat.
- 3.1.4 Signed a MoU with World Meteorological Organization (WMO) on 22nd November, 2005 during the visit of the WMO, Secretary General to the SACEP Secretariat. As a follow-up a proposal titled "Networking for Greater Awareness and Understanding of the Impacts of Environmental Degradation and Climate Change Adaptation Strategies for South Asia" sent to WMO for financial support. WMO has agreed to act as a collaborator and support participants for the activities in this project.
- 3.1.5 A MoU signed with the International Maritime Organization (IMO) for a Regional workshop on AFS Convention. The workshop was held in Chennai, India from 3 6 October 2005. 32 Participants from 14 countries attended from the Asia Pacific region.
- 3.1.6 Signed a MoU with IMO for the conduction of an AFS workshop in Colombo. The workshop was attended by 22 delegates from 5 countries from the South Asia region. International consultants were provided by the IMO and the host facilities were provide by the Government of Sri Lanka.
- 3.1.7 Activities under the MoU with UNEP-GPA for "Strategic Planning and developing Market Based instruments for the medium to long term strategic Planning of the Sri Lankan National Plan of Action on GPA" are being implemented in Sri Lanka. International and National consultants were appointed and their reports were presented



- and discussed at a workshop organized on 28th April 2006. The final report of the consultants is expected by the end of December 2006.
- 3.1.8 In compliance of the 9th Governing Council decision, signing of a Letter of Agreement with International Maritime Organization to facilitate the consultation on matters of common interest to both organizations, with a view to ensure maximum co-ordination of the work and activities of the respective organizations in respect to such matters. The 24th Regular Session of the IMO Assembly had approved the LoA and the signing was completed on 16th December 2005.
- 3.1.9 A MoU with UNEP-ROAP for taking the SENRIC programme forward was finalised and signed with UNEP-ROAP on 12th December 2005. This MoU also includes financial and technical assistance by UNEP-ROAP to develop the work programme and projects under the waste management, adaptation to Climate change and Data and Information Management.
- 3.1.10 A MoU for the implementation of the Malé Declaration with UNEP-ROAP has been signed on 24th April 2006 for the 3rd Phase of the project for the period 2006-08. SACEP is now preparing itself to take up the Secretariat of the Malé Declaration at the end of the 3rd phase.
- 3.1.11 A MoU with UNEP was signed on 16th November 2005 for general SASP coordination, the "Development of a regional activity on Marine Litter for the SAS region, the development of a regional activity on Sustainable and Environmentally sound management of POPs in the South Asian Seas Region and the preparation of a GEF PDF-A proposal on Persistent Toxic substances in SAS region". Under the Marine Litter project, International Beach Cleaning Day was observed on 18th September, in India
- 3.1.12 Published a report on the workshop on Integrated Coastal Area and River Basin Management in South Asia, held in Chennai in 7-10th April, 2003.
- 3.1.13 A MoU with the World Conservation Union (IUCN) has been concluded during the month of August 2006. The MoU outlines the intention to cooperate in the areas of common programmes in South Asia.
- 3.1.14 A MoU with CEE-India (Ahmedabad) has been encluded during October 2006. Under this CEE-SACEP initiative a scoping exercise will consider a regional status of the priorities on adaptation to Climate Change under a consultative process.

3.2 Ongoing Activities

- 3.2.1 SAARC collaboration: Discussions were held with H.E. Mr Chenkyab Dorji, Secretary General of SAARC at Kathmandu, Nepal on 17th March 2006 on taking forward the MoU signed between the two organizations. The Secretary General stressed on the closer cooperation between the two organizations in the field of environment so that the member countries could benefit from the regional approach. He also emphasized on the fact that the year 2007 has been declared by SAARC as the "Green South Asia Year" and that SACEP should play a pivotal role in this year. I reciprocated his feelings and gave a detailed blueprint of the plan of action that could strengthen the MoU.
- 3.2.2 BASEL Convention: In response to the mandate of the Governing Council on Waste Management, efforts are on to set up a sub-regional Centre of the Basel Convention at SACEP. In this rgard, a resolution was adopted at the Basel Convention COP8. The resolution mandates the Open-ended Working Group at its next meeting to consider the proposal for the establishment of the regional centre for South Asia at SACEP.



- 3.2.3 We have held discussions with the NORAD Regional Office, Bangkok for the funding of the Project moved by us to NORAD for the "National Water Quality Criteria for Different Uses of Sea Water in South Asia" in collaboration with NIVA under their regional priority projects. The regional office has indicated that they had earmarked all the regional funds for the biennium 2006-07 for different projects in the region but that we could look for other windows under NORAD for this project. We are in constant touch with NIVA and they are exploring various possibilities for getting funds for his project.
- 3.2.4 I had discussions with Mr. Pasi Rinni, Chairman, UNEP Disaster Management Branch, Post Tsunami Environment Recovery Programme, Geneva on initiating projects in Collaboration with SACEP on the post Tsunami Environment recovery Programme. He acknowledged the help that SACEP had rendered in carrying out the Brown and the Green assessments in Sri Lanka and promised that SACEP will be the collaborating partner in their efforts in the region.
- 3.2.5 Discussions are being carried out with the regional office of IUCN in Colombo and a project proposal titled "Networking for Greater Awareness and Understanding of the Impacts of Environmental Degradation and Climate Change Adaptation Strategies for South Asia" has been developed and sent to WMO for financial support.
- 3.2.6 Discussions are being held with Regional Community Forestry Training Centre for Asia and Pacific (RECOFTC), Bangkok for taking ahead the collaborative approach for Sustainable Development issues in the field of Forestry and Adaptation to Climate Change
- 3.2.7 As a follow-up to the Governing Council directive on taking up "Adaptation to Climate Change" as a priority issue for SACEP, efforts are in full swing for development of partnerships with Asia Pacific Forestry Commission, FAO, Bangkok on forestry issues.
- 3.2.8 Efforts are underway to develop the 3-R (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle) Activity in South Asia with the help of the United Nation Centre for Regional Development, Nagoya, Japan. Mr. Kazunobu Onogawa, Director, UNCRD was on mission to SACEP in June 2006 to discuss further collaboration
- 3.2.9 South Asia Biodiversity Clearing House Mechanism: Efforts have been initiated to establish a "South Asia Biodiversity Clearing House Mechanism" at SACEP with the help of the Institute of Natural Sciences, Brussels, Belgium. This has been sent to the National Focal Points for comments. Comments have been received from Afghanistan, Bhutan, India and Pakistan.
- 3.2.10 Establishment of International Peace Parks: Development of establishment of two Peace Parks are underway with the help of Peace Institute, New Delhi, India. These are in Sunderbans (India and Bangladesh) and Manas (India and Bhutan) Protected areas.
- 3.2.11 Projects under development in co-operation with Partner organizations:
 - GEF PDF A Proposal for the development of Medium Sized Project to establish a network of Centers of Excellence in collaboration with GEIC UNU (Global Environment Information Centre-United Nations University). All countries have endorsed this project and it is submitted to GEF secretariat for approval. The RAF-4 framework now considers an alternative approach to the regional programmes and focus areas for funding. The process needs to be revisited with area of focus considered to match with the GEF framework.
 - GEF PDF-A Proposal for the development of Medium-sized GEF project titled "Improving the viability and Sustainable Management of Marine and Coastal Protected Areas (MCPAs) in South Asia" has been prepared in collaboration with ICRAN.
 - "Planning and Implementation of Coastal Reconstruction in Tsunami affected countries according to the Cairo Guiding Principles within the context of the UNEP-GPA in the South Asian Region" is being prepared. Under this UNEP-GPA project.



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UNEP GPA is assisting India, Maldives and Sri Lanka in the implementation of the Cairo Principles. Each country has been requested to formulate a programme by which the Cairo Principles be incorporated into their development activities. They have also been advised to translate the Cairo Principles to the national languages.

- Development of National Water Quality Criteria for Different Uses of Sea Water with NIVA and SIDA. This will be a three year project. The revised project cost will be US\$ 4 million. SASP is exploring the possibility of linking this project with the Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem GEF Project of the FAO / World Bank. In this context, discussions have already been done with Dr Random du Bois, FAO consultant for the project and also Prof Harsha Ratnaweera of NIVA and Malcolm Jansen of the World Bank. SACEP has also met the officers of the regional office of NORAD in Bangkok to take this project under their regional activities.
- "Practical Action" previously called ITDG (Intermediate Technology Development Group) Partnership: SACEP has agreed to be a partner in EC project titled "A Practical Approach to implement MEAs and Promoting Sustainable Development Planning at Decentralized levels in India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka" in partnership with a regional NGO, Practical Action.

3.2.12 Other partnerships under development:

- After initial discussions with the Regional Director, WHO has expressed an interest
 to collaborate with SACEP in the area of Vector Control of Diseases and Traditional
 Health Medicines. Concept Notes on the projects are being finalized in-house to be
 sent to WHO.
- Collaboration with ADB: During the visit of Director General of SACEP to ADB regional headquarters in Manila, Philippines discussions took place with the Director, South Asia, Mr. Richard Vasko and the Head of the Environmental Wing, Mr. Masiko, A Senior Advisor is expected to visit the South Asia region and SACEP to identify issues for interventions and mutual collaboration.
- Discussion with Coral Reef Degradation in the Indian Ocean Programme (CORDIO) took place to develop a joint proposal on "Coastal livelihoods and their impacts on policy"

4 Financial Matters:

4.1 As per the decisions of the 9th Governing Council and the 3rd Inter Ministerial Meeting, recovery of Country Contributions arrears was taken up as a priority. We were able to realize the following amounts till date.



4.1 As per the decisions of the 9th Governing Council and the 3rd Inter Ministerial Meeting, recovery of Country Contributions arrears was taken up as a priority. We were able to realize the following amounts till date.

Payment of arrears and Country Contributions by the Countries of SACEP

SACEP Country Contribution Status: 30 APRIL 2006

Country	Arrears upto 2004	Received during 2005 against arrears upto 2004	Agreed South Asia for 2005	ReceiveSouth AsiaCC for 2005	Total Arrears upto 2004 + CC of 2005 (2 + 4)	Total Received fman - Dec 2005 (3 + 5)	Total arrears upto Dec 2005 (67)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Bangladesh	84,263.00	-	21,300.00	•	105,563.00	-	105,563.00
Bhutan	3,555.00	3,555.00	3,555.00	3,555.00	7,110.00	7,110.00	-
India	68,971.00	19,980.00	31,850.00	19,980.00	100,821.00	39,960.00	60,861.00
Maldives	34,525.00	-	14,575.00	-	49,100.00	•	49,100.00
Nepal	40,250.00	•	8,050.00	-	48,300.00	-	48,300.00
Pakistan	131,150.00	131,160.00	31,850.00	17,647.00	163,000.00	148,807.00	14,193.00
Sri Lanka	-	-	16,220.00		Paid in 2004		-
TOTAL	362,714.00	154,695.00	127,400.00	41,182.00	473,894.00	195,877.00	278,017.00

Country	Total arrears + Agreed upto 2005	AgrSouth Asiad CC for 2006	RecSouth Asiaved CC for 2006	Arrears todate 30 April 2006
Bangladesh	105,563.00	21,300.00		126,863.00
Bhutan	•	3,555.00		3,555.00
India	60,861.00	31,850.00	23,680.00	69,031.00
Maldives	49,100.00	14,575.00		63,675.00
Nepal	48,300.00	8,050.00		56,350.00
Pakistan	14,193.00	31,850.00		46,043.00
Sri Lanka		16,220.00	1,298.02	14,921.98
TOTAL	278,017.00	127,400.00	24,978.02	380,438.98



Payment of arrears and Country Contributions by the Countries of SACEP SACEP Country Contribution Status as at 31 December 2006

GC 10.SACEP / NFP / D2 Agenda Item 4 Page 13

	· -						
Country	Arrears	Received	Agreed CC	Received	Total	Total	Total
	upto 2004	during 2005	for 2005	CC for 2005	Arrears	Received	arrears upto
		against			upto 2004 +	fm Jan -	Dec 2005
		arrears upto			CC of 2005	Dec 2005	
		2004					
					45 41	<i>(</i>)	44
					(2 + 4)	(3 + 5)	(67)
	US\$	US\$	US\$	US\$	US\$	US\$	US\$
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Bangladesh	84,263.00	J	21,300.00		105,563.00	0	105,563.00
Bhutan	3,555.00	3,555.00	3,555.00	3,555.00	7,110.00	7,110.00	Mile E.J. Chilip (Mile) 3-de for a vest of a color.
Îndia	68,971.00	20,000.00	31,850.00	20,000.00	100,821.00	40,000.00	60,821.00
Maldives	34,525.00	draw makes to the surface of the	14,575.00	professions and a second	49,100.00	0	49,100.00
Nepal	40,250.00		8,050.00	SOMETHING CO. CORRESPONDE	48,300.00	0	48,300.00
Pakistan	131,150.00	131,150.00	31,850.00	17,647.00	163,000.00	148,797.00	14,203.00
Sri Lanka	Annaharan akonora a wa a somo	words dominate contract to the	16,220.00	hand the removation of an order of development of the	Paid in 2004	CONTRACTOR DESCRIPTION OF THE PARTY OF THE P	A since mineral response membrant, franchistoper, commences
TOTAL	362,714.00	154,705.00	127,400.00	41,202.00	473,894.00	195,907.00	277,987.00

Country	Total	Agreed CC	Received	Arrears
	arrears +	for 2006	CC 2006	todate 13
	Agreed			Dec 2006
	upto 2005			
	US\$	US\$	US\$	US\$
Bangladesh	105,563.00	21,300.00		126,863.00
Bhutan	0.00	3,555.00	E OURSE STORE STORE SECTION & THE .	3,555.00
India	60,821.00	31,850.00	55,550.00	37,121.00
Maldives	49,100.00	14,575.00	63,675.00	0.00
Nepal	48,300.00	8,050.00	- 1000000000000000000000000000000000000	56,350.00
Pakistan	14,203.00	31,850.00	31,850.00	14,203.00
Sri Lanka	meet a strategy a managed my	16,220.00	1,298.02	692.70
, was ()	Minue etrupante " edabade	, , , ,,,,	14,229.28	10-00-70-70-31-W073-370-00
TOTAL	277,987.00	127,400.00	166,602.30	238,784.70

Country	Corpus Fund US \$
B / B / F	26,169.51
Bangladesh Bhutan	
India	191,480.00
Maldives	
Nepal Pakistan	,
Sri Lanka	
TOTAL	217,649.51

Payment of arrears and Country Contributions by SASP Country Contribution Status: as at 13 December 2006

Country	Arrears upto 2004	Received during 2005 against arrears upto 2004	Agreed CC for 2005	Received CC for 2005	Total Arrears upto 2004 + CC of 2005 (2 + 4)	Received fm
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	US \$	US \$	US\$	US \$	US \$	US \$
Bangladesh	17,852.40		13,335.00		31,187.40	0
India	64,395.00		32,185.00		96,580.00	0
) 'ildives	24,471.00		5,975.00		30,446.00	0
Pakistan	74,225.50		27,130.00		101,355.50	0
Sri Lanka	17,518.02	17,518.00	13,335.00	13,043.94	30,853.02	30,561.94
TOTAL	198,461.92	17,518.00	91,960.00	13,043.94	290,421.92	30,561.94
•		·				

Country	Total arrears + Agreed upto 2005	Agreed CC for 2006	Received CC for 2006	Arrears todate13 Dec 2006
Bangladesh	31,187.40	13,335.00		44,522.40
lia	96,580.00	32,185.00	96,580.00	32,185.00
Maldives	30,446.00	5,975.00	36,421.00	0.00
Pakistan	101,355.50	27,130.00	54,260.00	74,225.50
Sri Lanka	291.08	13,335.00	12,990.37	635.71
TOTAL	259,859.98	91,960.00	200,251.37	151,568.61

4.2 We have also tried extremely hard to start new activities and get funds from different agencies to carry out activities as directed by the 9th Governing Council and 3rd Inter Ministerial Meeting. We are happy to report that several MoUs and LoAs have been signed and we have been able to attract funds for projects and activities as under:

Activity	Donor	Budget
MoU between SACEP and UNEP on Updating Regional Seas Report / Co-ordination of South Asian Seas Action Plan	UNEP	30,000.00
MoU between SACEP and UNEP on Strategic Planning and Developing Market Based Instruments for the Medium to Long Term Strategic Planning of the Implementation of the Sri Lanka National Programme of Action (MBI/NPA)	UNEP-GPA	64,000.00
MoU between UNEP SACEP for UNEP's Asian Tsunami Disaster Task Force	UNEP	87,050.00
MoU between SACEP and UNEP / DEPI (MEAs) Planning and Convening a South Asia Regional Workshop for MEA Negotiators	UNEP	63,000.00
LoA between IMO and SACEP / Regional Workshop on Measures to Collect, Handle, Treat and Dispose of Waste Generated in Applying the AFS Convention, Chennai, India	IMO	71,998.00
MoU between South Asian Seas Action Plan(SASAP), SACEP and UNEP Regional Seas / co-ordination of SAS Action Plan, Marine Litter Activity & POP's and PDF A Proposal	UNEP	53,400.00
MoU between SACEP and UNEP, Regional Office, Asia and the Pacific (ROAP) / On SACEP and SENRIC Activities	UNEP-ROAP	75,000.00
MoU between SACEP and UNEP, Regional Resource Centre for Asia and the Pacific (ROAP) / On Agreed Programme under Phase III implementation of the Male' Declaration	UNEP-RRC-AP	30,000.00
OPRC-HNS Workshop	IMO	35,000.00
Capacity Building for the CHM of the CBD in South Asia through informing the public and traing Post Graduate Students-A Case Study for Sri Lanka	Royal Belgian Institute for Natural Sciences	7,200.00
South Asian Games Waste Management Project	MoE, Sri Lanka, ABANs, ART TV	15,000.00
TOTAL		531,648.00

Project Sanctioned by European Commission for the SACEP/ICRAN Coral Reef Work in South Asia (Three Year Project)	European Commission	875,907.43Euros = US\$ 1,162,583
GRAND TOTAL	-	US\$ 1,694,231

5 Urgent matters needing attention of the Country Governments:

- 5.1 Land allotment for SACEP Secretariat by Sri Lanka.
 5.2 Support for the post of Director, Programmes by India
 5.3 Payment of arrears by the countries SACEP / SASP

(Dr. A. A. Boaz) Director General

WORK PROGRAMME (2007-08)

PROPOSED SUPPORT TO THE POST OF DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMMES (DP) FOR THE INITIAL PERIOD OF THREE YEARS:

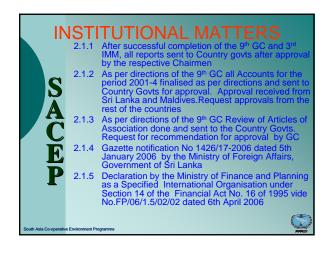
The Third Special Session of the Governing Council of SACEP held during 4-6 November 2003 approved the recommendations from the review mission to the capacity development within SACEP and approved the post of Director of Programmes (DP) to implement proposed programme establishment subject to the availability of funds.

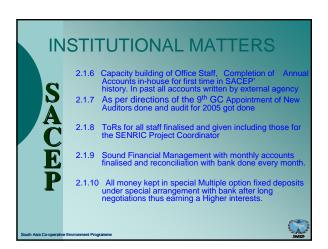
India, at the 3rd Special Session of the Governing Council of SACEP held at Colombo during 4-6 November 2003, had proposed to support this position for the initial period of three years.

At the 9th Governing Council of SACEP held in Thimphu, Bhutan on 26 August 2006, the matter was discussed and the meeting noted that the Government of India will be reviewing their original offer to support the post of Director Programmes.

It is requested that this support be extended by India for the initial period of three years to strengthen the programme base for SACEP.





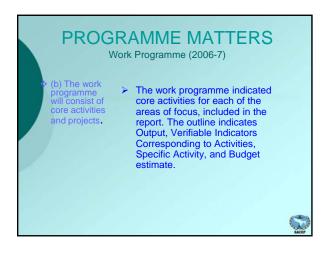


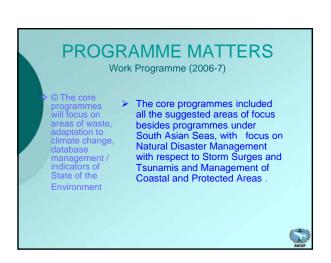


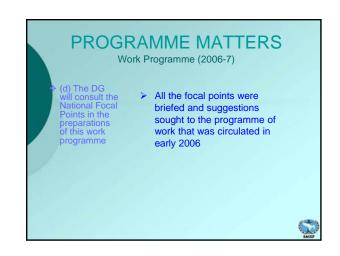


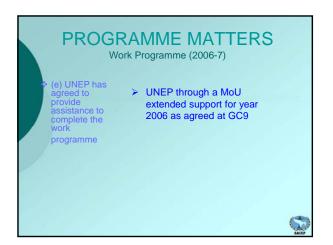


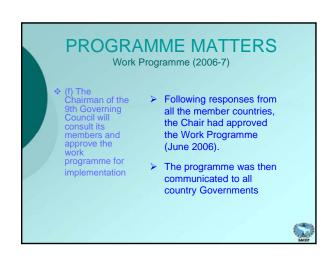
PROGRAMME MATTERS 9.2.1 Work Programme (2006-7) Consultations with UNEP staff (12-13) September 2005). The Outline and eneral will concept for the Programme was prepared during September 2005 (23 repare a September 2005) rogramme by December 2005 and circulate it to The Programme Concept was circulated to the NFP during January member 2006 and received endorsement by countries for June 2006. endorsement The Chair had subsequently indicated approval to the suggested programme development



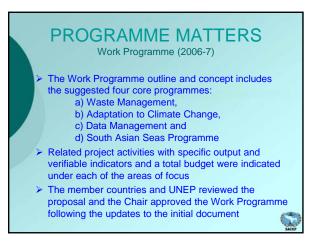




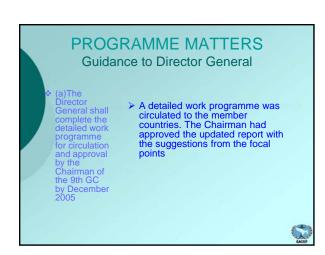


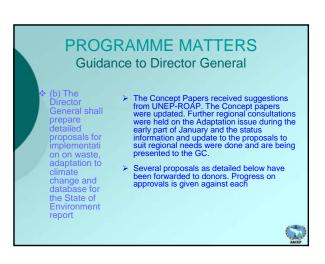


PROGRAMME MATTERS Work Programme (2006-7) * (g) The Director General will provide regular progress reports through the National Focal Points * Regular updates to the Focal Points are provided * A six-monthly progress report was sent to all the focal points (April 2006, November 2006)





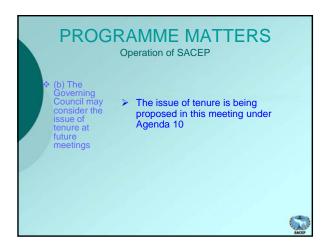


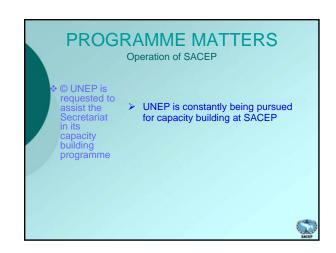


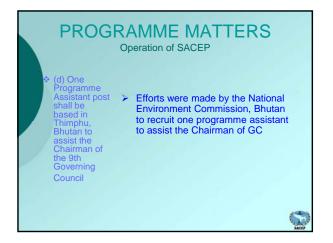














PROGRAMME MATTERS

On-Going Programme Activities

- (a) The databases to nvironmental Resources hould be should be updated regularly by South Asia Environment and Natural Resources Information Center (SENRIC) to assist the region in the SoE reporting
- The website of SACEP is being constantly updated and links established to various sites in order to enrich the information base.
- A scoping exercise on Adaptation to Climate Change is being conducted in close association with CEE-India and country governments. The information gathered will help enrich the database of SACEP and also assist the region in SoE Reporting.
- It is envisaged that information from the proposed projects under consideration with Sida will also become part of the information



- (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 implementation
- UNEP-ROAP has extended its support under a MoU for the year 2006
- The Governing Council is being requested to recommend for the continued support from UNEP-**ROAP**



PROGRAMME MATTERS

On-Going Programme Activities

- 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
- © Governments of India and Nepal are requested to complete the subsequent to the endorsement of all governments. However the RAF-4 framework on budget allocations stalled the process and it is envisaged that the renewed framework for project implementation under support from GEF (coordination from all the three implementing agencies World Bank, UNDP and UNEP) will consider the projects under submission during the early part of the year 2007



PROGRAMME MATTERS

- As a response to the recommendation at the GC's 2nd Special Session (year, 2003) UNEP/GPA has developed a report "Legal framework for managing land-based activities that impact on the coastal and marine environment in South Asia" It is proposed that UNEP-GPA will present this report at the GC10 with possible further activities
- Progress has been achieved under the projects for Marine Litter and Market Based Instruments. Regional and National Coordinators have been identified and an initial report on the Market Based Instruments is expected by the end of year
- As mandated by the 9th GC, Several MoUs have been established for institutional collaboration under different aspects with agencies including IMO, WMO, UNEP-GPA, UNEP-ROAP, UNEP-RRCAP, IUCN, etc.
- SACEP has been made a member of the Asia Forest Partnership



PROGRAMME MATTERS

- MoU with UNEP-ROAP for the support under SENRIC project activities for the year 2006

 MoU for activities under the project for Malé Declaration on Control and Prevention of Air Pollution and its Likely Effects for South Asia
 - After incorporation of the recommendations received from UNEP on the suggested areas of focus, the concept notes will be presented at the 10th Governing Council
- be presented at the 10th Governing Council
 In collaboration with CEE-India a scoping exercise relating to
 "Emerging Trends in Understanding Adaptation to Climate
 Change" has been undertaken. The expert consultation
 workshop is being planned to be held in January 2007. It is
 envisaged that the workshop report will reflect the regional
 status, necessities and available funding mechanisms to take
 the programme ahead for implementation
 MoU with agencies RECOFTC, Asia Pacific Forestry
 Commission (APFC-FAO), CIFOR, IDRC are being pursued



PROGRAMME MATTERS

- A statement from the Governing Council to indicate attention from the region with committed funds is requested to enable the project implementation
- Outreach: Constant publication of Newsletter; Promotion of 3R concept at the South Asian Games through introduction of waste segregation process and campaign through a 3R Message printed on waist pouches distributed to the athletes (in collaboration with Abans, a local private company for environmental services, Ministry of Environment, and ART TV)
- Collaborative Partners: UNEP, SIDA, IMO, US Govt, WMO, UNCRD, APFC, CIFOR, IUCN, CEE, Development Alternatives (DA), TERI, BCAS, NARA, MIND

PROGRAMME MATTERS

PROPOSED Regional Workshops 2007:

- ➤ Scoping exercise Consultation Workshop - January 2007
- ➤Invasive Species in collaboration with UNEP-GPA (March 2007)
- SAICM Sub regional workshop to be held during
- ➤ Livelihood Workshop of the EU-MCPA Project in collaboration with ICRAN, IMM, and IUCN January 2007
- >Oil Spill Contingency Plan endorsed by all South Asian Maritime Countries. The initiation for the signing Ceremony of the MoU done with IMO





PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES

- Institutional Strengthening and Capacity Development for the Long-term Management and Conservation of MCPAs encompassing Coral Reef Resources in South Asia" an MoU
 - First Regional Resource Coordination and Mobilsation workshop Held in Colombo, 27 and 28 Sep., 2006



- 27 and 28 Sep., 2006

 Livelihood Workshop of the EU-MCPA Project in collaboration with ICRAN, IMM, and IUCN January 2007

 MoU with UNEP-Div of Env Conv., for the conduct of MEA Regotiators Training. Workshop during 5-7 October 2005, held in Colombo, Sri Lanka-Report published

 MoU with UNEP: Rapid Assessment of the Environmental Damage due to the Tsunami Disaster and the Tsunami Task Force in Sri Lanka

 MoU with World Meteorological Oscillations (1975)
- MOU with World Meteorological Organization (WMO) on 22nd November, 2005. A project "Networking for Greater Awarenessand understanding of the Impacts of Env Degradationand Climate Change Strategies in SA" developed in collaboration with IUCN has been moved for support to WMO as a follow up to the MoU.

PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES

- MoU with the IMO for a Regional workshop on AFS Convention. The workshop was held in Chennai, India from 3 6 October 2005 This was attended by 32 participants from 14 countries from the Asia Pacific Region.

 MoU with IMO for the conduction of an AFS workshop in Colombo. The workshop was attended by 22 delegates from 5 maritime countries from the South Asia region. Host Facilities were provide by the Govt of Sri Lanka

 MoII with INFP-GP4 for "Strategic Planning and developing."
- 6
- were provide by the Govt of Sri Lanka
 MoU with UNEP-GPA for "Strategic Planning and developing
 Market Based instruments for the medium to long term
 strategic Planning of the Sri Lankan National Plan of Action on
 GPA. Two workshops already held for finalisation of the
 consultants reports and the final report is expected soon.
 In compliance of the decision of the 9th GC and subsequent
 approval by the 24th regular session of the IMO Assembly a
 Letter of Agreement with International Maritime Organization
 signed on 12th Dec, 2005 to facilitate the consultation on
 matters of common interest to both organizations



PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES

- MoU with UNEP-ROAP for taking the SENRIC programme forward signed on 12th Dec 2005. This MoU also includes financial and technical assistance to help develop the Work Programme and Projects on priority areas identified by GC. MoU with UNEP-ROAP for the implementation of the Malé Declaration (3rd Phase)-24-4-2006
- Declaration (3rd Phase)-24-4-2006
 MoU with UNEP was signed on 16th November 2005 for general SASP coordination, the "Development of a regional activity on Marine Litter for the SAS region, the development of a regional activity on Sustainable and Environmentally sound management of POPs in the South Asian Seas Region and the preparation of a GEF PDF-A proposal on Persistent Toxic substances in SAS region". Under the Marine Litter project, International Beach Cleaning Day was observed on 18th September, in India in which nearly 25,000 people participated.
- 12. Published a report on the workshop on Integrated Coastal Area and River Basin Management in South Asia, held in Chennai in 7-10th April, 2003
- 13. MoU with the World Conservation Union (IUCN) August 2006



PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES

- MoU with CEE-India (October 2006):
 Regional status of the priorities on adaptation to Climate Change under a consultative processing the control of the control of
 - A regional Scoping Exercise conducted at Colombo on 10th Jan 2007 in which experts and govt representatives participated. The Workshop outcome to be presented under the next Agenda

- Item

 15. A CoP 8 decision of the Basel Convention to establish a regional centre for the Basel Convention at SACEP Secretariat reached in the CoP 8 Meeting in Nairobi during November 2006

 16. An Project for Capacity development of the PG students for CHM under the CBD sanctioned by the Institute of Natural Sciences, Brussels, Belgium.

 17. The membership of SACEP in the Asia Forest Partnership has been approved by the Steering Committee meeting held at Yogyakarta in September, 2006

 18 A Waste Management Project was introduced in the 10th South Asian Games held in Colombo with the collaboration of the National Olympic Committee of Sri Lanka, the Ministry Of Environment, Sri Lanka, ABANS- a private Company and ART TV



Further Initiatives:



PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES

- Efforts are on to take the MoU between SAARC and SACEP forward with closer cooperation between the two organisations
- Collaboration with ADB: During the visit of Director General of Collaboration with ADB: During the visit of Director General of SACEP to ADB regional headquarters in Manila, Philippines discussions took place with the Director, South Asia, Mr. Richard Vasko and the Head of the Environmental Wing, Mr. Masiko, We are happy to note that Mr Bindu Lohani has kindly consented to be at this GC to express the active support of ADB to SACEP.
- The US Government has expressed its strong support for the activities and the objectives of the SACEP and we are thankful that Mr. John Adams, is attending the GC to express that support for SACEP
- Efforts on to secure funds from UNEP Disaster Management Branch, Post Tsunami Environment Recovery Programme, Geneva for initiating projects in Collaboration with SACEP on the post Tsunami Environment recovery Programme
- Discussions are being held with Regional Community Forestry Training Centre for Asia and Pacific (RECOFTC), Bangkok for taking ahead the collaborative approach for capacity building in Sustainable Development issues in the field of Forestry and Adaptation to Climate Change



PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES

- As a follow-up to the Governing Council directive on taking up "Adaptation to Climate Change" as a priority issue for SACEP, efforts are in full swing for development of partnerships with Asia Pacific Forestry Commission, FAO, Bangkok on forestry issues.
- Bangkok on forestry issues.

 Efforts are underway to develop the 3-R (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle) Activity in South Asia with the help of the United Nation Centre for Regional Development, Nagoya, Japan. Mr. Kazunobu Onogawa, Director, UNCRD was on mission to SACEP in June 2006 to discuss further collaboration and he had honoured us by being present here in this GC.
- in this GC.

 Efforts have been initiated to establish a "South Asia Biodiversity Clearing House Mechanism" at SACEP with the help of the Institute of Natural Sciences, Brussels, Belgium. This has been sent to the National Focal Points for comments. Comments have been received from Afghanistan, Bhutan, India and Pakistan.

 GEF PDF A Proposal for the development of Medium Sized Project to establish a network of Centers of Excellence in collaboration with GEIC UNU (Global Environment Information Centre-United Nations University). All countries have endorsed this project and it is submitted to GEF secretariat for approval. The RAF4 framework now considers an alternative approach to the regional programmes and focus areas for funding. The process needs to be revisited with area of focus considered to match with the GEF framework.



PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES

Further Initiatives (contd...

- GEF PDF-A Proposal for the development of Medium-sized GEF project titled "Improving the viability and Sustainable Management of Marine and Coastal Protected Areas (MCPAs) in South Asia" has been prepared in collaboration with ICRAN.
- with ICRAN.

 "Planning and Implementation of Coastal Reconstruction in Tsunami affected countries according to the Cairo Guiding Principles within the context of the UNEP-GPA in the South Asian Region" is being prepared. Under this UNEP-GPA project. UNEP GPA is assisting India, Maldives and Sri Lanka in the implementation of the Cairo Principles. Each country has been requested to formulate a programme by which the Cairo Principles be incorporated into their development activities. They have also been advised to translate the Cairo Principles to the national languages.

 Discussion with Coral Reef Degradation in the Indian Ocean
- Discussion with Coral Reef Degradation in the Indian Ocean Programme (CORDIO) took place to develop a joint proposal on "Coastal livelihoods and their impacts on policy". Cordio has now entered into a partnership to help SACEP in the EC



PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES

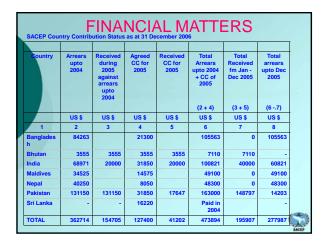
Further Initiatives (contd...):

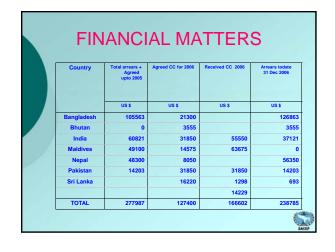
- 13. Efforts on to secure funds for Project moved by us to NORAD for the "National Water Quality Criteria for Different Uses of Sea Water in South Asia" in collaboration with NIVA under their regional priority projects and other funds.
- After initial discussions with the Regional Director, WHO has expressed an interest to collaborate with SACEP in the area of Vector Control of Diseases and Traditional Health Medicines. Concept Notes on the projects are being developed in-house to be sent to WHO.

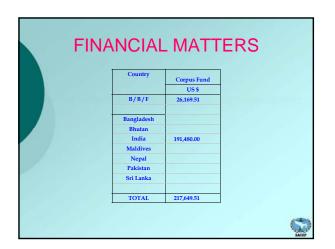


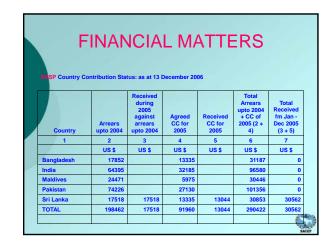


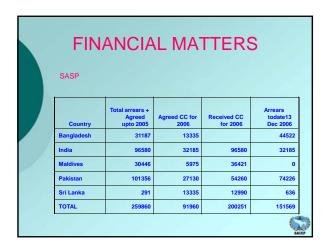


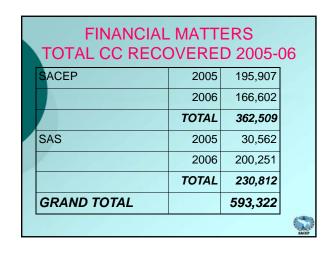


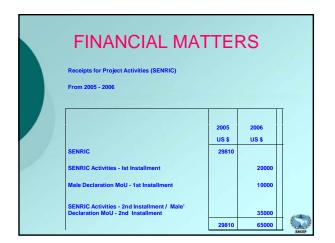


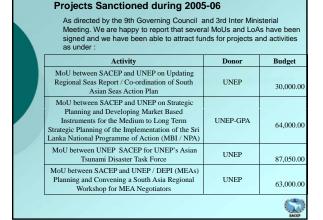












Activity	Donor	Budget
LoA between IMO and SACEP / Regional Workshop on Measures to Collect, Handle, Treat and Dispose of Waste Generated in Applying the AFS Convention, Chennai, India	IMO	71,998.00
MoU between South Asian Seas Action Plan(SASAP), SACEP and UNEP Regional Seas / co-ordination of SAS Action Plan, Marine Litter Activity & POP's and PDF A Proposal	UNEP	53,400.00
MoU between SACEP and UNEP, Regional Office, Asia and the Pacific (ROAP) / On SACEP and SENRIC Activities	UNEP-ROAP	75,000.00
MoU between SACEP and UNEP, Regional Resource Centre for Asia and the Pacific (ROAP) / On Agreed Programme under Phase III implementation of the Male' Declaration	UNEP-RRC-AP	30,000.00
OPRC-HNS Workshop	IMO	35,000.0

Activity	Donor	Bud
Capacity Building for the CHM of the CBD in South Asia through informing the public and traing Post Graduate Students-A Case Study for Sri Lanka	Royal Belgian Institute for Natural Sciences	7,3
South Asian Games Waste Management Project	MoE, Sri Lanka, ABANs, ART TV	15,
TOTAL		531,
Project Sanctioned by European Commission for the SACEP/ICRAN Coral Reef Work in South Asia (Three Year Project)	European Commission	875,907 ros = U 1,162,5
GRAND TOTAL		US\$ 1,694,2



REQUEST TO THE MEETING

- Collaborative Mechanisms with SAARC
 - >The meeting is requested to recommend to the Governing Council to ensure strengthening of collaboration with SAARC
 - >The next SAARC Summit to consider endorsing collaboration with SACEP as the supporting technical body to SAARC on environmental issues for the region



REQUEST TO THE MEETING

- 2. Country contributions and commitments
 - ➤ The meeting is requested to consider the annual increment to the Country contributions by 10%.
 - The countries may also consider deputing supporting staff from their expert institutions for a period 6-months to 1-year to ensure better programme establishment.



REQUEST TO THE MEETING

- Decade of Environmental Education
- The meeting is requested to endorsing a programme under SACEP to support and enhance the educational exchange and development programme within and among the countries to strengthen the capacities of the under-graduate and graduate students from the region.
- Important Universities running Environmental degree courses will be requested to set aside some seats in these courses for the students of the region and to support them through waive of tuition fees etc. State run Universities will be asked to take the lead in this endeavour. SACEP will coordinate this programme.



REQUEST TO THE MEETING

- Secretariat facilities
- In this 25th year of the existence of SACEP, the meeting is requested for considering an independent office and residential complex for the Secretariat. Required resources may please be considered from the countries. The Government of Sri Lanka is once again requested to allot land for the Secretariat in this Silver Jubilee Year.

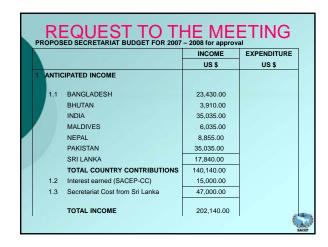


REQUEST TO THE MEETING

- 5. Work Programme
 - Considering the requirements to the implementation of the work programme, the meeting may please request the Government of India to urgently formailise the announced support for the position of a Director of Programmes
 - Additional consideration to the support for core staff at the Secretariat in the priority areas identified by the Governing Council



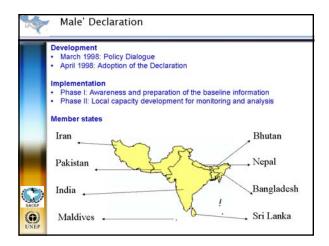
REQUEST TO THE MEETING 6. GC to consider the Kathmandu Declaration 7. The Secretarial Budget may please be approved by the GC.

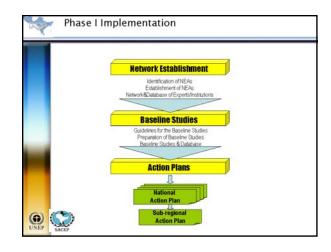


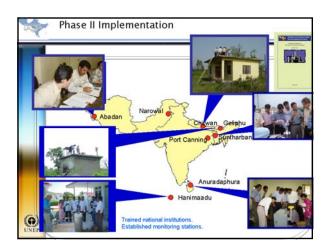
	2	2 ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE EXPENDITURE				
		2.1	Salary Director General			
		2.2	Salaries of Programme Officers (Local)	12,000.00		
		2.3	Salaries of Local Staff	25,000.00		
		2.4	International Travel	20,000.00		
	A	2.5	Secretaariat Cost	60,000.00		
			SUB TOTAL	177,000.00		
	3		Capital Costs	17,500.00		
	4		TOTAL EXPENDITURE	194,500.00		
	5		DEFICIT	(-) 7,640.00		
No.						







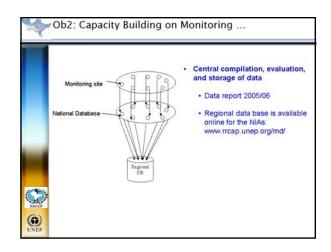


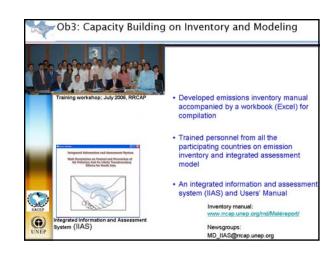


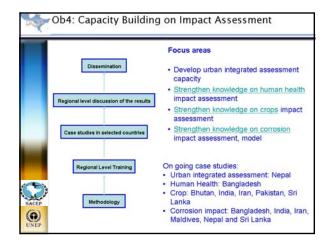


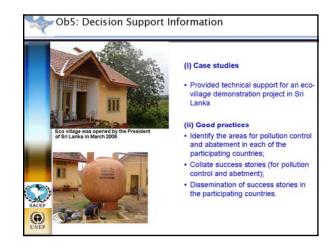


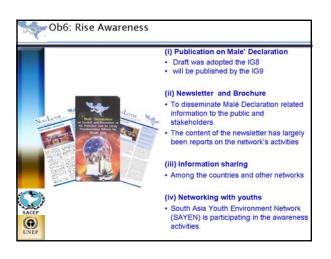












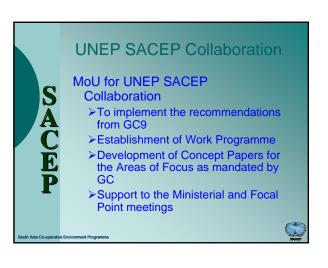


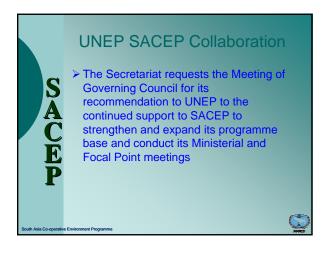




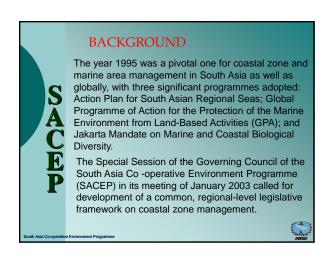




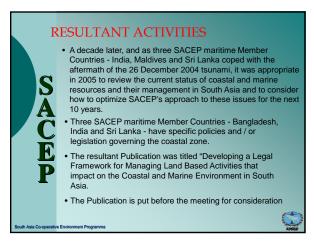










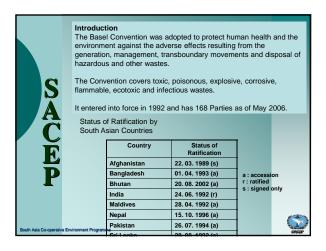






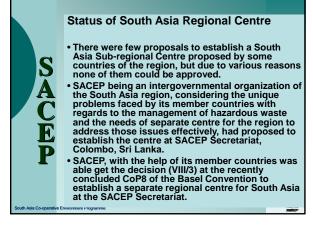


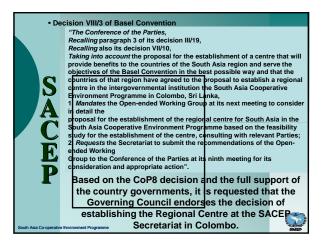














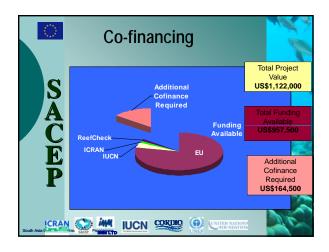
















- Recognizing the importance of biodiversity to our daily lives and the pressure that human activities are placing on living world, governments adopted the Convention on Biological Diversity in 1992 as a framework for action. From the start it was understood that scientific knowledge and technological know-how would have a vital role to play.
- However, expertise in managing information and technology varies enormously from country to country. For this reason, the Convention has established a "Clearing-House Mechanism" to ensure that all governments have access to the information and technologies they need for their work on biodiversity. biodiversity.

The Clearing House

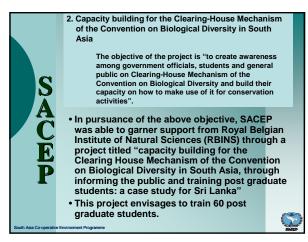
- The Clearing House
 The clearing-house is based on the philosophy that broad participation and easy access must be a top priority.
 The Clearing-House Mechanism seeks to support the Convention's thematic and cross-cutting programmes of work by promoting cooperation in six key areas: tools for decision-making, training and capacity-building, research, funding, technology transfer, and the repatriation of information.



- In line with the objectives of Convention of Biological Diversity and the Clearing House Mechanism, SACEP has initiated a programme to help its member countries to build necessary capacity needs for the management of their rich biological resources. This programme contains two major components:
- Support to Establish National Biodiversity CHM Websites of South Asian Countries and Establish a South Asian Regional CHM

The objectives are:

- To ensure the countries of South Asia have the capacity to develop and maintain national biodiversity CHMs websites that contain national biodiversity-related information that is required to assist policy makers and interested stakeholders to meet obligations under the CBD and to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity. Whenever possible and in order to avoid the multiplication of efforts, links should be made to other existing national websites with relevant information.
- Develop a regional CHM that meets the needs of the region, links together the national CHMs and provides a forum for or promoting regional scientific and technical cooperation

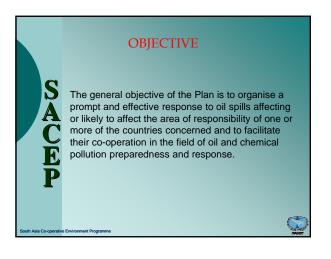




- · South Asia not only imports much of its own consumption of oil but India, Maldives, Pakistan and Sri Lanka lie close to the main shipping route from the Middle East to the Fal East. A total of some 525 million tonnes a year of crude oil pass through the region - about 25% of total world movement of crude oil by sea. Additional maritime oil spill risks arise from non-tanker shipping, carriage of refined products, offshore exploration and production operations, and the transfer of oil cargoes at sea.
- Although there is some capacity within the Region to respond to oil spills in harbour and at sea, and the five countries continue to develop or enlarge their capabilities, the response to a major spill at sea would probably require the co-operation of the other States in the Region, or assistance from further a field. A Regional Plan is an important first step towards supplementing individual States' response capabilities.

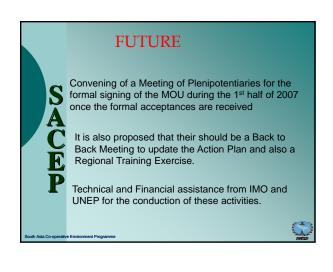
BACKGROUND

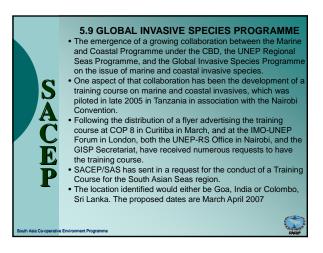
- In order to assist the countries to ratify and implement the OPRC 90 Convention, UNEP in 1995 adopted the project "Development and Implementation of National and Regional Oil Spill Contingency Planning" as one of the six priority projects in its South Asia Regional Seas Action Plan. Prior to the adoption of this Action Plan, a UNEP/UNDP/IMO mission conducted in 1989 & compiled a Draft South Asian Marine
- The purpose of the South Asian Regional Oil Spill Contingency Plan is to establish a mechanism for mutual assistance, under which the competent national Authorities of Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Pakistan and Sri Lanka will co-operate in order to coordinate and integrate their response to marine pollution incidents either affecting or likely to affect the territorial sea, coasts and related interests of one or more of these countries, or to incidents surpassing the available response capacity of each of these countries alone.

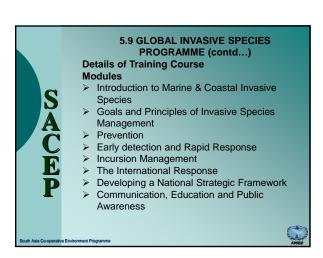














SACEP Internship Programme

- To promote regional cooperation among member states in various environmental related fields e.g. South Asian Seas Programme, Community Forestry, Waste Management, etc.
- To expose the students to the SACEP and its policies and exchange information during and after the internship so as to appreciate cultural diversity amongst different peoples.
- To provide current students with important practical experience which complements their field of study, which at the same time will be benefit to the SACEP Priority Areas to which the intern is assigned.
- To encouraging and facilitating research and studies concerning the various environmental issues and activities in the Region.

South Asia Co-operative Environment Programm



Recent Intern:



Ms. Kanika Vyas, a 3rd year Environmental Engineering student from Nanyang Technological University, Singapore.

- Worked on the various priority areas of SACEP
- Assisted in the designing of a volunteer applicants programme for SACEP
- Helped in finalizing the 25th anniversary
 souvenir



It is requested that the G.C. endorses the above initiative to develop capacities of the Students in South Asian Region.

South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme



Capacity Development in Field of Environment for Undergraduate and Postgraduate Students

- Currently there is no mechanism for students of the smaller countries of South Asia to get undergraduate and Postgraduate education in the Field of Environment in colleges and Universities of other countries of South Asia.
- There is a lot of capacity in some countries for both graduate and post graduate courses in the field of Environment
- Lack of resources in the smaller countries is adversely affecting the development of such capacities and consequently the
- A dire need is felt by these states that such a mechanism should be developed so that the capacities of the students from these countries are raised to take on the growing challenges in the field of Environment.
- SACEP is the appropriate body to coordinate such a programme for development of a South-South Cooperation Model for capacity enhancement for combating environmental degradation

Capacity Development in Field of Environment for Undergraduate and Postgraduate Students KEY OBJECTIVES:

- To Promote Environmental Educational Programme for the South Asia Region
- To Facilitate students from the smaller countries in the region to gain from the established capacities of their neighbouring countries
- To facilitate needy students to continue studies in the Field of Environment without financial burden.
- To improvement of the competence in job market of the Environment Sector.
- To establishment of permanent and sustainable links among the members in terms of Higher studies in Environment Field.
- To boost Academic Courses and Research in the Environment sector.

Establishment of a South Asia Coordinating Centre of Environmental Academic at SACEP

- Liaise with the Universities and the governments of the member countries for Nomination of Students to the Universities for under-graduate and post graduate courses in the field of environmental to improve their capacities and in turn help their country to deal with environmental issues.
- Request Universities and Colleges to extend financial help to the students from the smaller countries through tuition fee waiver stc.
- Provide the institutional linkages required to elevate environmental issues into regional and national agenda
- · Request Donor Support
- Development of a coordinated regional strategy for Higher Studies in the Environmental Sector.

It is requested that the G.C. endorses the above initiative to capacity building for the Undergraduate and Postgraduate students in the Region.

GC 10.SACEP/NFP/D 2 Agenda Item 4 .1 .1



TENTH MEETING OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL OF SOUTH ASIA CO-OPERATIVE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME (SACEP)

Declaration and Articles of Association of SACEP, adopted at the Ministerial Meeting of South Asian Countries held in Colombo, Sri Lanka on 25th February 1981 and Decisions upto the Ninth Meeting of the Governing Council of SACEP.

DECLARATION

AND

ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION

SACEP

ADOPTED AT

THE MINISTERIAL MEETING OF SOUTH ASIAN
COUNTRIES
HELD
COLOMBO, SRI LANKA
25 FEBRUARY 1981

and

Incorporated Decisions upto 9th Meeting of the Governing Council of South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme

THE COLOMBO DECLARATION ON THE SOUTH ASIA CO-OPERATIVE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME (SACEP)

The Meeting of Ministers to Initiate the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP)

At Colombo on 25th February, 1981.

Having considered the report of the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP) Intergovernmental Expert Group Meeting convened at Bangalore, March, 1980,

Having further considered the report and recommendations of the Meeting of Officials to Initiate the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP) held at Colombo, 18-21 February 1981,

Noting the possibilities of the occurrence of severe ecological disequilibrium and the threat of environmental degradation in the Region,

Noting also the warm support of their countries in the aims and aspirations of the proposed Programme, as expressed at the foregoing meetings, in contacts among themselves and with UNEP, and the wealth of capability and expertise available within the Region,

Noting in addition the offer of the Government of Sri Lanka to provide the facilities for the Secretariat of SACEP, the offers of the Governments of Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Iran, Pakistan and Sri Lanka to serve as Focal Points for Programme development and implementation in selected subject areas, and the interest shown by the Governments of Bhutan, Burma, Maldives and Nepal,

Conscious of the readiness of their countries to co-operate and extend mutual assistance to each other in matters of environmental concern, to contribute through the application of their resources, to the work of the Focal Points and, in the case of Sri Lanka, to the Secretariat of SACEP.

Taking note of the active interest and possibilities of support from various donor countries, international financing institutions, agencies and bodies,

Recognising the pioneering nature of the proposed co-operative programme and the organisational arrangements thereto,

Commending the significant contribution and imaginative initiative of the Director of the Regional Office of UNEP as noted by the Bangalore Meeting and the Meeting of Officials at Colombo,

Appreciating the firm support and encouragement extended by the Executive Director of UNEP in this regard,

DECLARES:

- 1 Its *decision* to establish a co-operative programme to be known as the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme;
- 2. Its *endorsement* of the agreed institutional arrangements, the over-all programme content, and technical co-operation and the financing arrangements;
- 3. Its *resolve* to sustain, strengthen, and utilise to the fullest, for the benefit of the peoples of their countries, the agreed programme and the arrangements for its implementation;
- 4. Its *intention* to foster the Programme as essential for the promotion of human welfare, development and amelioration of poverty in the region;
- 5. Its *commitment* to work out a harmonious balance between the process of development and resources of nature;
- 6. Its *conviction* that this Programme and the co-operative arrangements thereto, could provide a valuable basis for mutual cooperation, in the fields of social and economic development;

Calls upon:

- 1. The interested donor states, international financing institutions, agencies and other bodies to extend their support readily and in imaginative and concrete terms, keeping in mind the importance of maintaining the momentum in implementing a Programme of such far-ranging significance;
- 2. The United Nations system, UNDP in particular and UNEP, to assist SACEP, as required, with financial support, technical assistance, information, and guidance in the implementation of the Programme;
- 3. The member states of the SACEP region to see in these a worthy cause with goals and objectives fully capable of attainment through their common perceptions, friendly co-operation and mutual assistance.

ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION OF THE SOUTH ASIA CO-OPERATIVE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

PREAMBLE

The members of the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme;

In pursuance of the Colombo Declaration on the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme adopted by them at the Meeting of Ministers held at Colombo, Sri Lanka, from 23-25 February 1981;

Do hereby agree upon and adopt these Articles of Association for the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme, hereinafter referred to as SACEP.

ARTICLE 1

AIMS AND FUNCTIONS

¹ The aims of SACEP are:

- (a) To promote and support the protection, management and enhancement of the environment, both natural and human, of the countries of South Asia, individually, collectively and co-operatively;
- (b) To make judicious use of the resources of the environment towards removal of poverty, reduction of socio-economic disparity, improve the quality of life, and prosperity on a continuing basis;
- (c) For these purposes, to make the fullest use of the organisational arrangements and facilities for co-operation under SACEP.

(Source: 3rd Special Session GC, 6th November 2003, Colombo, Sri Lanka, Page 3, 5 – A, para 2)
(Refer Annex 1 – Foot Note 1 – page 1 & 2)

 $^{^{}f 1}$ The External Review Committee reformulated the mission Statement of SACEP in terms of this Vision as follows:

[&]quot;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."

² The functions of SACEP are:

- (d) To promote co-operative activities in priority areas of environment of mutual interest;
- (e) To ensure that these activities result in benefit individually or collectively to the Member States of the Region;
- (f) To extend support as needed through exchange of knowledge and expertise available among the member countries;
- (g) To provide local resources towards implementation of projects and activities; and
- (h) To encourage maximum constructive and complementary support from interested donor countries and other sources.

(Source: GC-3: 12-13 January 1987, New Delhi ,India, page 3, No 12, para 2) (Refer Annex 1 – Foot Note 2 – page 1 - 2)

(Source: The Meeting of the Plenipotentiaries: 24th March 1995, New Delhi, India – Annex VI, Final Act – 9, page 2)

((Source: The Meeting of the Plenipotentiaries: 24th March 1995, New Delhi, India – Annex V, Resolution 1. 2a

(Refer Annex 1 - Foot Note 2 - page 3 - 5)

Report of the Meeting of the Plenipotentiaries on the Action Plan for the Protection and Management of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the South Asian Seas Region, 24 March 1995, New Delhi, India (**Refer - Annex 2**)

"SACEP Secretariat should take measures to collect, collate and disseminate all information on environment so that it becomes the storehouse of knowledge in the region."

(Source: GC-8: 29th September 2001, Colombo, Sri Lanka, page 5, No.8c)

(Refer Annex 1 – Foot Note 2 – page 6 & 7)

² "The Director SACEP, also brought to the notice of the Governing Council the decision of SACEP being recommended as the Secretariat for the implementation of the Action Plan in connection with the South Asian Seas Programme."

[&]quot;As a result of the deliberations at the Meeting, the Action Plan for the Protection and Management of the South Asian Seas Region, with Annexes, and the Institutional and Financial Arrangements for the Implementation of the Action Plan were adopted"

[&]quot;Invites the Director of the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP), a) To act as the Secretariat for the South Asian Seas Action Plan and to enhance its capacities for this purpose.

MEMBERSHIP

- (a) The members of SACEP shall be those States of the South Asia region who participated at the Meeting referred to in the Preamble herein before;
- (b) Membership shall remain open to other States of the South Asia region invited to the Meeting, which have not been able to present, but which at any time later may accept these Articles;
- (c) Any application for membership by a State under paragraph (b) above shall be circulated to members of the Governing Council, who shall thereafter notify such State of their admission to membership.

ORGANS

- ³ The principal organs of SACEP are:
 - (a) The Governing Council hereinafter referred to as the Council;
 - (b) The Consultative Committee, hereinafter referred to as the Committee;
 - (c) The Secretariat;
 - (d) Such other subsidiary organs or bodies as may be found necessary at any time in accordance with a decision to such effect of the Governing Council.

(Source: GC-1, 27-29 January 1983, Colombo Sri Lanka, Appendix XVI, Page 2, Resolves No.1) (Refer Annex 1 – Foot Note 3 – page 1 - 3)

"The establishment of the Corpus Fund was accepted in concept. The DG, SACEP was requested to explore modalities including other options in close consultation with member governments / donors by next GC

(Source: 3rd Special Session GC, 6th November 2003, Colombo, Sri Lanka – page 5 – D para 2) (Refer Annex 1 – Foot Note 3 – page 4 & 5)

"The Secretariat shall maintain one single fund for the purpose of Trust Fund / Reserve / Programme development and by laws for the fund to be framed to permit proper utilization of such funds".

(Source: GC-9, 26th August 2003, Thimphu, Bhutan – page 5 –9.4 e) (Refer Annex 1 – Foot Note 3 – page 6 & 7)

- "(a)The present system of Focal Points should remain but mechanisms for intra-country coordination needs to be stimulated and strengthened;
- (b) The Environment Ministries should remain as SACEP's Focal Points and they should in turn co-ordinate with other relevant ministries to bring in greater participation and synergy
- (d) The Secretariat should bring together other line ministries and agencies through the National Focal Points at the National level to SACEP Foras
- (e) The Focal Points may be requested to respond to SACEP's queries in a timely manner."

(Source: GC-8, 29th September 2001, Colombo, Sri Lanka – page 5, No 8)

(Refer Annex 1 - Foot Note 3 - page 8 & 9)

³ Trust Fund: Resolution adopted on 28th January 1983 at the GC-1

[&]quot;that a Trust Fund be established to which the lump-sum contribution from member countries and contributions form other interested donor countries, organizations, financial institutions, international organizations and agencies may be sought for the (above) organizational and programme support costs, (and that this Trust Fund which was earlier envisaged in the thinking of the First Ministerial Meeting in Colombo, in February 1981 to serve as a financial reserve to ensure SACEP's orderly operations)"

GOVERNING COUNCIL

- (a) The Council shall consist of all the members of SACEP;
- Each member shall have one representative on the Council, who will normally be of Ministerial rank;
- Unless otherwise agreed by members, the Council shall normally (c) meet once a year. The quorum for a meeting of the Governing Council shall be a simple majority of the membership. The presidency of the Governing Council shall be by rotation amongst the members in alphabetical order commencing with the host country; the Chairman shall hold office for a period of one year or till such time as the new Chairman takes office in that year. 4
- (d) The Council shall be the principal review and deliberative body of SACEP and shall be responsible for determining policy and programmes;
- The Council may discuss any questions or any matters within the (e) scope of its Articles of Association;
- (f) The meetings of the Council shall proceed in a co-operative spirit, which is the key note of SACEP, and shall endeavour at all times to reach agreement by consensus;
 - The Governing Council may formulate its own rules of procedure ⁵. (g)

(Source: GC-3: 12-13 January 1987, New Delhi, India, page 2, No 4)

(Refer Annex 1 - Foot Note 4 - page 1 & 2)

⁴ In order to conform to accepted international practice and the system followed by all U.N. and affiliated organizations as regards the election of a Chairman to the Governing Council of SACEP, the Article (c) was unanimously amended as follows:

[&]quot;Unless otherwise agreed by members, the Council shall normally meet once a year. The quorum for a Meeting of the Governing Council shall be a simple majority of the membership. The Meetings of the Governing Council shall be hosted by Member States in alphabetical order and the Presidency of the Governing Council shall be offered to the Host Country; the Chairman shall hold office for a period of one year or till such time as a new Chairman takes office in that year."

 $^{^{5}}$ Rules of Procedure of Governing Council of South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (Source: GC 2: 17-18 April 1985, Dhaka, Bangladesh, Annex XVII, page 35) (Refer Annex 1 - Foot Note 5 - page 1 & 2)

CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

- (a) The Committee shall consist of representatives of Member States of SACEP; its headquarters shall be in Colombo where it will normally hold its sessions;
- (b) Each Member State shall meet the expenses of its representative for attendance at Committee sessions;
- (c) It shall be the responsibility of the Committee to facilitate implementation of the programmes and policies as determined by the Council through close informal co-operation and to promote the dissemination of information on the concepts and the operation of SACEP in general;
- (d) At its first session, the Committee will elect a Chairman who will chair its sessions for not more than one term of one year from the date of election. For any period, during which the Chairman is absent from the country, or is otherwise prevented from exercising the functions of Chairman, the Council shall elect an Acting Chairman;

The Committee will submit a report on the action taken by the Committee to the next meeting of the Council;

(e) Six weeks notice shall be given of sessions. The notice shall in every case be accompanied by a provisional agenda. Any documents that may require reference to member Governments before discussion shall be issued not less than six weeks before the date of the session at which they will be discussed;

- (f) A simple majority of the membership of SACEP shall constitute a quorum for the purpose of holding a Committee Session;
- (g) The Committee shall endeavour to reach agreement by consensus after discussion in a co-operative spirit;
- (h) The Committee may make such rules and regulations as it deems necessary in relation to Committee procedures and the operation and administration of the Secretariat, subject to the approval of the Governing Council.

FOCAL POINTS 6

- (a) There shall be Subject Area Focal Points, which shall co-operate with SACEP Secretariat in programme implementation;
- (b) Each country that has accepted responsibility for a particular subject area under this Programme shall identify an office within the country as the designated Focal Point for that subject area;

Where two or more countries are jointly responsible for a subject area, the Focal Point shall be identified in one of the countries concerned by mutual arrangement;

- (c) Each Focal Point shall nominate an official to act as the Liaison Officer with the SACEP Secretariat;
- (d) The Focal Point shall work towards the implementation of its programme and shall be entitled to assistance in such implementation, in its area of responsibility for the SACEP countries as a whole and will discharge this function in co-operation with the Secretariat;
- (e) It shall be entitled to convene working group meetings, if necessary, in any of the co-operating countries to fulfil its obligations.

Revised List of Subject Area Focal Points of SACEP:

	Priority Subject Area	Country
1.	Conservation of Biodiversity & Bio Safety	India
2.	Sustainable Tourism Development	Maldives
3.	Management of Coral Island Ecosystems	Maldives
4.	Management of Fresh Water Resources	Bangladesh
5.	Desertification	Pakistan
6.	Environmental Legislation	India
7.	Participatory Forestry Management	Nepal
8.	Sustainable Agriculture and Land Use	Sri Lanka
9.	Sustainable Human Settlements Development	Sri Lanka
10.	Waste Management	India
11.	Science & Technology for Sustainable Development	Pakistan
12.	Education and Training	India
13.	Energy and Environment	India
14	Air Pollution	Pakistan
15	Climate Change	Bangladesh / India

(Source: GC 7: 22nd April 1998, Male, Republic of Maldives – page 4 - 8B (Refer Annex 1 – Foot Note 6 – page 4 & 5)

(Source: 3rd Special Session GC, 6th November 2003, Colombo, Sri Lanka – page 4 – Bullet 6)

⁶Modalities of Focal Points of South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme
(Source: GC 2: 17-18 April 1985, Dhaka, Bangladesh, Annex XVIII, page 36 & 37)
(Refer Annex 1 – Foot Note 6 – page 1 – 3)

[&]quot;Climate Change and Bio-safety was accepted and respective Subject Area Focal Points were designated"

SECRETARIAT

- (a) The Secretariat shall consist of a Director ⁷ General, appointed for a period of three years ⁸ and who shall be its head and a modest number of other international officers appointed by the Governing Council from among nominees of member Governments, as well as such supporting staff as may be recruited from time to time according to regulations laid down by the Consultative Committee:
- (b) The Secretariat shall assist the Council, the Committee and the Focal Points in the discharge of their duties and responsibilities;
- (c) The paramount consideration in the employment of the staff shall be the necessity to secure the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity. In the case of the international officers, due regard shall be paid to the importance of recruiting them on as wide a geographical basis as possible from among the co-operating countries. The members of the Secretariat staff shall refrain from any action which might reflect on their position as international officials responsible to the SACEP Organisation;

(Source: GC-7, 22nd April 1998, Male, Republic of Maldives, Page 3, No 8 A para 4) (Refer Annex 1 – Foot Note 7 – page 1 & 2)

(Source: High Level Meeting to Initiate the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme, 18 – 25 February 1981, BMICH, Colombo, Sri Lanka – page 6, No 7 para 1) (Refer Annex 1 – Foot Note 8 – page 1 & 2)

"Subject to availability of concurrence in writing within one month, by the member government that expressed its reservation, the Chairman, GC/SACEP was authorised to take necessary steps for the recruitment of DG, SACEP on Merit Basis from the South Asia Region for a non-renewable term of 5 years, following internationally accepted norms and practices and in close consultation with the members of the Governing Council"

Source: 3rd Special Session of GC –SACEP held 6th November 2003, Colombo Sri Lanka – page 6, No 5 E) (Refer Annex 1 – Foot Note 8 – page 3 & 4)

 $^{^{7}}$ "The Governing Council agreed that the Status of the Director of SACEP should be elevated to that of the Director General."

⁸ "The principle was accepted that the Director would be appointed in rotation, from countries in alphabetical order, subject to starting with the host country, Sri Lanka. The appointment would be for a period of three years. In the case of the first one, the term would include the period of tenure of the *pro tem* Director."

[&]quot;The Governing Council may consider the issue of tenure at future meetings"

(Source: GC-9, 26th August 2005, Thimphu, Bhutan, Page 4, 9.2.3 - b)

(Refer Annex 1 – Foot Note 8 – page 5 & 6)

- (d) The Director General shall be the Chief Executive Officer and shall act as Secretary to the meetings of the Council and the Committee and shall be co-ordinator of activities and programmes of SACEP. He shall submit periodic progress reports to the Committee and the Council;
- (e) The Director General of the Secretariat shall maintain close liaison with the United Nations Environment Programme, as well as with other Organisations or countries not members of SACEP which are presently extending assistance within the region, or which may in the future decide to do so.

BUDGET

- (a) The Director General shall submit for consideration and approval by the Council a budget showing estimated receipts and expenditure for every financial year, with an outline of anticipations for the subsequent year;
- (b) Unless otherwise provided, the financial year shall run from 1 January to 31 December of each year;
- (c) The draft annual budget shall be submitted by the Director General for consideration by the Council at a session not later than October of each year. Supplementary estimates of expenditures, when necessary, shall be submitted for Council approval at any other session;
- (d) If by the end of any financial year, the Council shall have failed to pass the budget for the ensuing financial year, the appropriation for the preceding financial year shall be deemed re-voted and shall remain in force and effect until a new budget is adopted by the Council;
- (e) The Director General shall circulate to Council members a statement of income and expenditure and a balance sheet duly certified by the Council's Auditors as soon as possible after the close of every financial year;
- (f) The Council shall make appropriate provision for the maintenance and audit of its accounts.

HOST FACILITIES

- (a) The host country of the Secretariat shall provide such hosting and support facilities for the Secretariat and the Director General of SACEP as are needed, in particular:
 - (i) Separate and distinctive offices for the Secretariat, and official residence for the Director General; and
 - (ii) Such other facilities as may be agreed upon from time to time between the host country and the Council;
- (b) The countries assuming responsibility as Focal Points for subject areas shall provide such physical and other facilities as deemed adequate and necessary for the discharge of their functions;
- (c) The host country of the Secretariat and the countries responsible for Focal Points, in so far as the latter use the services of international staff, shall accord such status, immunities, exemptions and privileges as are in conformity with accepted practice for such organs and as may specifically be agreed upon between the Council and the Member States.

ARTICLE 10

WORKING LANGUAGE

The working language of SACEP shall be English.

ADOPTION AND AMENDMENTS

- (a) These Articles of Association shall be deemed to have come into force once they have been adopted at this meeting and ratified by at least three Member States;
- (b) The original of the Articles of Association in a single copy in the English language shall be kept by the host State, who will act as the Depository;

The Depository shall send certified copies of this document to all member countries that have joined in the adoption of the Articles. The Depository shall also have this document registered with the Secretariat of the United Nations;

- (c) Amendments to the Articles may be proposed by any member of SACEP. Such amendments shall come into force on being approved by a consensus at a meeting of the Governing Council;
- (d) As soon as the Articles of Association have come into force, the Director General of SACEP shall convene a meeting of the Committee which shall proceed forthwith to initiate the necessary Organisational and programme activities envisaged.

DONE AT COLOMBO THIS THE TWENTY-FIFTH DAY OF FEBRUARY ONE THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED AND EIGHTY ONE.

AFGHANISTAN
BANGLADESH
BHUTAN ⁹
INDIA
IRAN¹⁰
MALDIVES
NEPAL ¹¹
PAKISTAN
SRI LANKA

(Refer Annex 1 - Foot Note 9 - page 1)

(Refer Annex 1 - Foot Note 11 - page 1)

 $^{^9}$ "Instrument of Ratification - And whereas the Royal Government of Bhutan had taken a decision, in principle, to join the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme on 4 September 1981"

¹⁰ "Iran has not ratified the Articles of Association of SACEP till date"

¹¹ "Ratification of the SACEP Agreement - SACEP Agreement has been ratified unanimously by the Parliament of Nepal on 24th March 1994".



REPORT

THE THIRD SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL

South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP)

6 NOVEMBER 2603 COLOMBO, SRI LANKA

Ref. Articles of Association / SACEP - Annex 1 Foot Note 1 Page 2

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE 3RD SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL OF SACEP

Mr. Thosapala Hewage, Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, Government of Sri Lanka presented to the SS3.GC/SACEP, the Report of the Meeting of NFP finalised at the Meeting of Heads of the Delegations and UNEP.

The Report of the Meeting of NFP Finalised at Meeting of Heads of Delegations and UNEP is at Annex XII.

The recommendations of the Report of the NFP presented under different categories were approved by the SS3.GC/SACEP as follows:

A. Background and the General Elements of the Strategy

- The SACEP Strategy and Work Programme as well as the proposed governance and financial commitments should be taken as a package in order to revitalise SACEP. The general elements of the report were also agreed.
- The following mission statements for SACEP was adopted:

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 should concentrate on issues of regional significance with expressed focus on the following areas:
 - 1) Assessment and Strategy Development,
 - 2) Experience Sharing and Networking and
 - Capacity Building.
- Establishing closer co-operation with SAARC in the field of environment was recommended.
- It was agreed to organise the Work Programme of SACEP under distinct blocks, covering SAS and SENRIC and other functional sub-headings as may be required. Provision for horizontal and vertical co-ordination to avoid duplication and overlaps and also overall work programme to be integrated for administration and financial purposes.

B. Work Programme

- Work Programme for the period 2004-2005 was approved, subject to availability
 of funds.
- It was agreed that the programme should be indicative of general priorities of WSSD/MDG/SoE etc. and additional topics and programme elements developed, should be consistent with the broad strategy matrix proposed in the report.



SACEP

Report of the

Third Governing Council Meeting of the

SCUTH ASIA CO-OPERATIVE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

12 & 13 January 1987 New Delhi, India. The Governing Council considered the suggestion made by the members regarding the sharing of expenditure by the member states. The suggestion of the members included the sharing of the expenditure on the UN or SAARC pattern. The Governing Council decided that the Consultative Committee must consider thoroughly the formula to be adopted for sharing of the expenditure and circulate their recommendations to all member countries as early as possible before the end of March 1987:

The Governing Council will finalise this matter through circulation or at its next meeting. The member countries will make available their contributions according to the formula to be agreed upon and the Secretariat will be assured of the full money requested in the yearly budget.

The Governing Council considered the Issue of a Trust Fund and decided that the Consultative Committee should also go into this matter thoroughly and submit their recommendation before the end of March 1987.

The Governing Council decided that the budget for each year and the latest audited report of the latest quarter invariably get approval by the Governing Council.

Alternation of the latest audited to the latest audited t

Lists of the Governing Council considered the Agenda Item 6 (c) regarding the Vienna Lists of Governing Council considered the Vienna Lists of Office and its modalities needed to be reviewed in order to bring them in consonance with the objectives of SACEP and decided therefore that a committee comprising representatives from all member states, under the Chairmanship of Sri Lanka should review the issue of the Vienna Liaison Office in totality and report as early as possible to the Governing Council which will take a decision on this issue. The Coverning the issue of the review being undertaken by SACEP Since the issue of the Vienna Liaison Office is under review being undertaken by SACEP. Since the issue of the Vienna Liaison office is under review, the Governing Council decided that it was not necessary to consider the Agenda Item 7 (c).

The delegation from the Vienna Liaison Office was not present when this item was discussed.

1 Ĩ. SUBJECT AREA FOCAL POINTS

The Institutional and Programme Matters listed in Agenda Item 6 (b) and 7 (b) were discussed together.

The Governing Counteil decided that the individual countries should seriously examine the appropriatness of their National and Subject Area Focal Points hitherto designated and should a change be necessary it should be done immediately and the Secretariat be informed accordingly.

REVIEW OF PRIORITY PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS UNDERTAKEN BY 12.

The Director SACEP presented the working paper SACEP/GC 3/WP6 which described in detail the present status of Projects and Programmes undertaken by the SACEP Secretariat.

SACEP sought the support of U.N. and other International Organisations in fulfilling their obligations. The Director SACEP, also brought to the notice of the Governing Council the decision of SACEP being recommended as the Secretariat for the implementation of the Action Plan in connection with the South Asian Regional Seas Programme and that six Priority Projects with collaboration from various International Organisations will be implemented during he year 1987.

The Governing Council expressed their wholehearted appreciation of the SACEP Secretariat for the achievements in this respect.

INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION .3.

The Governing Council conveyed their appreciation to all the International Organiations for the support it has given SACEP and look forward to their continuing support.

UNITED NATIONS





United Nations Environment Programme

Distr. RESTRICTED

UNEP(OCA)SAS IĜ1/REP 16 June 1995

Original; ENGLISH

Meeting of Ptenipotentiaries on the Action Plan for the Protection and Management of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the South Asian Seas Region

New Delhi, 24 March 1995

REPORT OF THE MEETING OF PLENIPOTENTIARIES ON THE ACTION PLAN FOR THE PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT OF THE MARINE AND COASTAL ENVIRONMENT OF THE SOUTH ASIAN SEAS REGION

Ref. Articles of Association / SACEP - Annex 1 Foot Note 2 Page 4

UNEP(OCA)SAS IG1/REP Annex VI Page 2

. Page 2

- 8. The Meeting considered the Report of the Fourth Meeting of National Focal Points, presented as UNEP(DCA)SAS WG3/REP. This document contained the proposed final drafts of the Action Pian with Annexes, institutional and Financial Arrangements, Resolutions and the Final Act to be adopted by the Meeting of Plenipotentiaries.
- 9. As a result of the deliberations at the Meeting, the Action Plan for the Protection and Comment of the South Asian Seas Region, with Annexes, and the Institutional and Financial Arrangements (1) and Implementation of the Action Plan were adopted.
- The Meeting also considered and adopted the Resolutions, the texts of which are appended to this Final Act.

The Action Plan for the Protection and Management of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the South Asian Seas was signed by the representatives of: People's Republic of Bangladesh; Republic of India; Republic of Maldives; Islamic Republic of Pakistan; and Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanke.

In witness whereof the representatives have signed this Final Act.

Done at New Delhi, this 24th day of March, 1995, in a single original copy, to be deposited in the archive of Department of Ocean Development, Government of India, New Delhi.

People's Republic of Bangladesh

Republic of India

Republic of Maldives

islamic Republic of Pakistan

Luinam alluetel Tuesdel - Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

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Page 5

UNEP(OCA)SAS (G1/REP Annex V Page 1

ANNEX V

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION 1: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SOUTH ASIAN SEAS ACTION PLAN

The Meeting of Plenipotentiaries.

Noting that the overall authority for the Action Plan is vested in the Governments of the region and having adopted, on 24 March 1995, the Action Plan for the Protection and Management of the Marine and Coastel Environment of the South Asian Seas Region,

- 1. <u>Decides</u> that, for the period 1995-1996, programme activities should be undertaken in the following areas, subject to the availability of resources:
- Annex 1 Integrated Cosstal Zone Management
- Annex 2 Development and Implementation of National and Regional Oil and Chemical Spik Contingency Planning;
- Annex 3 Human Resource Development through Strengthening Regional Centres of Excellence; and
- Annex 4 Protection of the Marine and Coastal Environment from Land Based Activities.
- 2. Invites the Director of the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP),
 - (a) To act as the Secretariat for the South Asian Seas Action Plan and to enhance its capacities for this purpose.
 - (b) To prepare, with the support of the UNEP's Regional Seas Programme and in co-operation with the other competent international and regional organizations, including ADB, ESCAP, IOC of UNESCO, IMO, UNDP and Governments of the region, detailed documents describing the operational details of projects to be developed on the basis of priorities identified in 1, above.
 - (c) To convene, quarterly at the SACEP Secretarist, meetings of the Consultative Committee to review the progress achieved in implementing the Action Pian and to deliberate on activities which require immediate attention. The Consultative Committee will also advise on financial implications of project implementation and if necessary advise the secretarist on their revision.
 - (d) To co-ordinate the implementation of the projects agreed at the Meeting of Pientpotentiaries, subject to the availability of funds.



REPORT

EIGHTH GOVERNING COUNCIL MEETING

South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme

29 SEPTEMBER, 2001 COLOMBO, SRI LANKA

INSTITUTIONAL MATTERS

SACEP SECRETARIAT & SUBJECT AREA FOCAL POINTS

The Governing Council considered the relevant section of the Report of the Preparatory Meeting of Senior Officials (Annex XVII) on this item.

The Governing Council was fully appreciative of the fact that there is an urgent need to strengthen the SACEP Secretariat in order that they could fulfil its obligations in serving the member countries.

With respect to Institutional Matters, the Governing Council approved the following decisions:

- a) The present system of Focal Points should remain but mechanisms for intracountry co-ordination needs to be stimulated and strengthened.
- b) The Environment Ministries should remain as SACEP's Focal Points and they should in turn co-ordinate with other relevant ministries to bring in greater participation & synergy.
- SACEP Secretarist should take measures to collect, collate and disseminate all information on environment so that it becomes the storehouse of knowledge in the region.
- d) The Secretariat should bring together other line ministries and agencies through the National Focal Points at the National level to SACEP Foras.
- e) The Focal Points may be requested to respond to SACEP's queries in a timely manner.
- f) It was recommended that major donors may be invited as Observers at SACEP Governing Council Meetings and other to recognise their contribution and enhance their role in matters relating to drawing of SACEP work programmes and participate with the Governing Council in the organisation's performance and monitoring.
- g) The need to strengthen the SACEP Secretariat was recognised in terms of staff and other requirements to meet programme needs. Details of these proposals may be discussed and decided in the Consultative Committee Meetings of SACEP.

. PROGRAMME MATTERS

PROGRESS OF PROGRAMME AND PROJECT ACTIVITIES & REVIEW OF INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION

The SACEP Secretariat presented a Review of Programmes and Projects undertaken by SACEP and South Asia Environment and Natural Resources Information Centre (SENRIC). The significance and the importance of the programmes undertaken by SACEP were highlighted. SACEP's Strategy and Programme 3 (SSP 3) prepared by the Secretariat was

Ref. Articles of Association / SACEP - Annex 1
Foot Note 3
Page 1

SOUTH ASIA CO-OPERATIVE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME SACEP

REPORT OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL MEETING

GC-1 27TH - 29TH JANUARY, 1983

COLOMBO - SRI LANKA

Resolution

FIRST SESSION OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL (SACEP)

Administrative matters relating to staffing and Finance

The Governing Council,

- Having considered the Administrative matters relating to staffing and Finance of SACEP.
- Conscious that the maintenance of an efficient Secretariat is vital for the sustenance and continuation of programmes and project activities of SACEP.
 - enable the Secretariat to function smoothly and at a desirable level of efficiency in order to sustain the programme activities.
 - Considering that contributions pledged by the member countries would have helped the Secretariat to meet most of the establishment costs.
- Mindful that the proposed structure of the Secretariat for the year 1983 is just adequate for the maintenance of programme activities for the year and that a conscious effort should be made to structure the Secretariat giving due regard to economy and the circumstances of member countries.
 - Expresses its appreciation of the contributions so far made by member countries including Sri Lanka, which has provided support for the maintenance of the Secretariat of SACEP.

Resolves,

1) That member countries which have pledged country contributions for the years 1981 and 1982 and have so far not paid up these contributions do so at an early date.

- 2) That pledges by member countries for the year 1983 be made contributions made at an early date; and
- 3) That consideration be given in future to making annual pledges by member countries at the ordinary session of the Governing Council which will normally be held at the beginning of each year.

Calls upon member countries,

- 1) To consider making an enhanced country contribution for the year 1983.
- 2) To consider making a lump-sum contribution in order to build up an adequate reserve of funds for SACEP's (basic organisational and programme activities.)

esolves,

- That a Trust Fund be established to which the lump-sum contribution from member countries and contributions from other interested donor countries, organisations, financial institutions, international organisations and agencies may be sought for the (above) organisational and programme support costs, (and that this Trust Fund which was earlier envisaged in the thinking of the first Ministerial Meeting in Colombo, in February 1981 to serve as a financial reserve to ensure SACEP's orderly operations.)
- 2) That the Director of SACEP be authorised to pursue with the prospective donor countries and agencies the possibility of raising resources needed for the Trust Fund, and report on the progress made from time to the Consultative Committee and to the next session of the Governing Council in 1984.

Adopted at Colombo on 28.01.1983.



REPORT

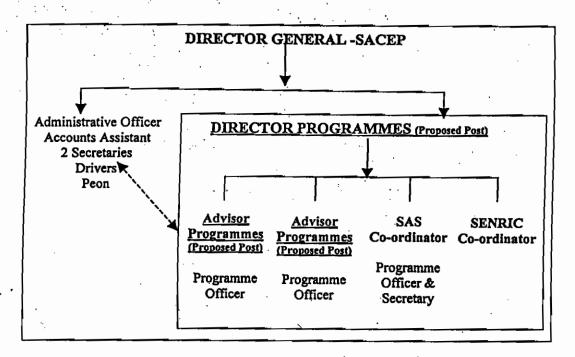
THE THIRD SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL

South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP)

6 NOVEMBER 2003 COLOMBO, SRI LANKA

Page 5

• It was recommended that the proposed organisational chart should be combined with the existing organisational structure. A distinction to be made between the existing regular staff, projects posts and the additional posts to be created and the method of their financing. The adopted organisation structure is given below:



- DG, SACEP was authorised to determined the reporting channels of the different officers within the structure.
- The establishment of an Advisory Committee as proposed by the Consultant was approved. The Advisory Committee would comprise of 2 members of the Consultative Committee of SACEP, appointed for a period of 3 years on rotation.
- It was agreed that the member governments without a diplomatic representation in Sri Lanka also to be included in the above rotation for the Advisory Committee.
- Greater transparency, accountability and clear memory systems for better governance were recommended.
- It was recommended to submit progress reports by Subject Area Focal Points to the SACEP Secretariat on regular basis to be reviewed by the CC.

D. Financial Resources

 It was agreed that additional financial resources are required to strengthen SACEP Secretariat. It was recommended to explore all avenues in this regard and put into effect as soon as possible.



The establishment of the Corpus Fund was accepted in concept. The DG, SACEP was requested to explore modalities including other options in close consultation with member governments/donors by next GC.





REPORT

THE NINTH MEETING OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL

South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP)

26 AUGUST 2005 THIMPHU, BHUTAN

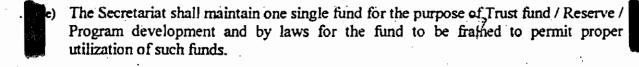


The governments of India and Nepal are requested to complete the endorsement from the region to the Global Environmental Facility, Project Preparation and Development Facility (GEF PDF-A Grant) project proposal to establish a network of Centres of Excellence within the region.

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 9th 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.



VENUE AND DATE OF THE 10^{TH} MEEINF 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 10th Meeting of the Governing Council in Colombo.





REPORT

EIGHTH GOVERNING COUNCIL MEETING

South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme

29 SEPTEMBER, 2001 COLOMBO, SRI LANKA

INSTITUTIONAL MATTERS

SACEP SECRETARIAT & SUBJECT AREA FOCAL POINTS

The Governing Council considered the relevant section of the Report of the Preparatory Meeting of Senior Officials (Annex XVII) on this item.

The Governing Council was fully appreciative of the fact that there is an urgent need to strengthen the SACEP Secretariat in order that they could fulfil its obligations in serving the member countries.

With respect to Institutional Matters, the Governing Council approved the following decisions:

- The present system of Focal Points should remain but mechanisms for intracountry co-ordination needs to be stimulated and strengthened.
- The Environment Ministries should remain as SACEP's Focal Points and they should in turn co-ordinate with other relevant ministries to bring in greater participation & synergy.
- c) SACEP Secretariat should take measures to collect, collate and disseminate all information on environment so that it becomes the storehouse of knowledge in the region.
- The Secretariat should bring together other line ministries and agencies through the National Focal Points at the National level to SACEP Foras.
- e) The Focal Points may be requested to respond to SACEP's queries in a timely manner.
- f) It was recommended that major donors may be invited as Observers at SACEP Governing Council Meetings and other to recognise their contribution and enhance their role in matters relating to drawing of SACEP work programmes and participate with the Governing Council in the organisation's performance and monitoring.
- g) The need to strengthen the SACEP Secretariat was recognised in terms of staff and other requirements to meet programme needs. Details of these proposals may be discussed and decided in the Consultative Committee Meetings of SACEP.

PROGRAMME MATTERS

PROGRESS OF PROGRAMME AND PROJECT ACTIVITIES & REVIEW OF INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION

The SACEP Secretariat presented a Review of Programmes and Projects undertaken by SACEP and South Asia Environment and Natural Resources Information Centre (SENRIC). The significance and the importance of the programmes undertaken by SACEP were highlighted. SACEP's Strategy and Programme 3 (SSP 3) prepared by the Secretariat was



SACEP

Report of the

Third Governing Council Meeting of the

SOUTH ASIA CO-OPERATIVE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

12 & 13 January 1987 New Delhi, India.

true & 13th January, 4884

Mr. M. J. Kazem, Director, South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme deli-bte of thanks. vered the Vote of thanks.

A copy of his address is at Annex VI

AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE 4 (c) ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION OF SACEP

With the Chairman GC 2, Hon. Shah Moazzem Hussain, Minister of Local Government, Rural Development & Co-operatives, Government of People's Republic of Bangladesh in the chair, on a recommendation made by the Consultative Committee of SACEP, Article 4 (c) of the Articles of Association of SACEP was amended unanimously, in order to conform to accepted international practise and the system followed by all U.N. and affiliated organisations as regards the election of a Chairman to the Governing Council of SACEP.

The text of the approved amendment to Article 4 (c) of the Articles of Association of SACEP is as follows:

"Unless otherwise agreed by members, the Council shall normally meet once a year. The quorum for a Meeting of the Governing Council shall be a simple majority of the membership. The Meetings of the Governing Council shall be hosted by Member States in alphabetical order and the Presidency of the Governing Council shall be offered to the Host Country; the Chairman shall hold office for a period of one year or till such time as a new Chairman takes office in that year," a solution another include a clivelist one error and the contract of the

In accordance with the provisions of the Amended Article 4 (c) of the Articles of Association of SACEP, Honourable Bhajan Lal, Minister of Environment and Forests, Government of India was elected Chairman of the Third Governing Council of SACEP.

His Excellency Dr. M. Humayun Khan, Ambassador of Pakistan in New Delhi, India was elected Vice-Chairman.

Hon. Dr. Abdul Ghafar Lakanwal, Minister of Agriculture and Land Reforms of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan was elected Rapporteur.

6. AGENDA

tall online

The Governing Council (GC 3) discussed and adopted the Agenda of the Meeting. A copy of the adopted Agenda is at Annex VII.

7. STATEMENT OF HEADS OF DELEGATION

The Heads of delegations from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Iran, Pakistan and Sri Lanka addressed the Governing Council highlighting the efforts made in their respective countries on matters concerning the environment and also listing critical areas where national and regional programmes will need to be launched as a matter of priority.

The respective country statements are found in Annexes VIII - XIV.

OTHER STATEMENTS

The statements made by U.N. and other Organisations attending this Meeting are in Annexes XV—XX. estant more

INSTITUTIONAL MATTERS OF THE SACEP SECRETARIAT AND FINANCIAL MATTERS

Though the above two items were listed in the Agenda as items 6 (a) and 8 (a) & (b) respectively, due to its close relevance, they were discussed together.

The Director explained in detail the financial constraints faced by the Secretariat. The Governing Council noted that due to financial constraints the Secretariat is inadequately staffed and equipped; that a certain minimum staff and equipment is necessary if SACEP is to function effectively; that the Governing Council must approve every year the budget necessary for this purpose and that the constraint description of the constraint of the for this purpose and that the expenditure approved by the Governing Council must be borne by the member countries in a fair and equitable manner.



SACEP

Report of the

Second Governing Council Meeting of the

SOUTH ASIA CO-OPERATIVE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

17 & 18 April 1985

Dhaka, Bangladesh

ANNEX XVII

RULES OF PROCEDURE OF GOVERNING COUNCIL OF SOUTH ASIA CO-OPERATIVE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

- ule 1 The Governing Council shall normally meet once a year, and in conformity with the provisions of Article 4(c) of the Declaration and Articles of Association of SACEP.
- Rule 2 The date of a Regular Meeting of the Governing Council shall be as fixed by it at the preceding meeting, and if it has not been so fixed, a meeting may be convened on a date fixed by the Consultative Committee.
- Rule 3 The venue of the Regular Meeting of the Governing Council shall be by rotation amongst the members in alphabetical order commencing with the host country or by agreement in the preceding meeting of the Governing Council or as decided by the Consultative Committee.
- ule 4 The Governing Council or the Consultative Committee at any of its meetings, may decide to have one or more Special Sessions of the Governing Council, at venues and dates as decided by them.
- tule 5 The Agenda for a Regular Session, shall be as decided by the Governing Council. Where it has not been so decided or where a Special Session has been convened, the Consultative Committee shall decide upon the Agenda for the Regular or Special Session as the case may be.
- tule 6 The notification for the Regular and/or Special Session(s) of the Governing Council, together with the relevant documents shall be sent, in the case of Regular Sessions, at least twelve weeks in advance and in the case of Special Sessions, at least six weeks in advance of the proposed dates of such meeting.
- tule 7 The Governing Council may decide at any session to amend the Agenda circulated as it deems fit.
- tule 8 Each member State of the Governing Council shall be represented by an accredited representative, who will normally be of Ministerial rank, and may be accompanied by alternates and/or advisers, the credentials of whom shall be scrutinised and confirmed by a Member appointed for such purpose by the Chairman of the session.
- ule 9 At the commencement of each session, the Governing Council shall elect a new Chairman for such session in a manner consistent with the Articles of Association of the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme. One or more Vice-Chairmen, a Rapporteur and other Officers may also be appointed by the Governing Council for such session. The Director shall function as the Secretary to the Council during its sessions.
- ule 10 All Office-bearers shall hold office for a period until their successors are elected at a subsequent session.

 Such Office-bearers, other than the Chairman, would be eligible for re-election to the same office or any other office at such subsequent sessions.
- ule II The Chairman shall preside at all meetings and in his absence a Vice-Chairman shall preside and shall exercise all the functions, duties and powers of the office of the Chairman.
- ule 12 A simple majority of the membership of the Council, shall constitute a quorum.
- ile 13 All decisions of the Governing Council shall be arrived at, by consensus.
- ile 14 Representatives of United Nations Bodies and Specialised Agencies, Non-Governmental Organisations and guests may attend meetings of the Governing Council as observers at the invitation of the Consultative Committee.
- de 15. The Chairman of the session, with the concurrence of the members, may make provisional rules on any matter not specifically provided for by these Rules of Procedure provided, however, that such rules are consistent with the Articles of Association of SACEP. Such rules shall be deemed to be part of the Rules of Procedure of the Governing Council after confirmation by the Council at its subsequent session.



SACEP

Report of the

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Ref. Articles of Association / SACEP - Annex Page 2

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ANNEX XVIII

OF SOUTH ASIA CO-OPERATIVE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

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the city of the decision has a kentolog of Assent when off the

1.1 As provided in Article 6 of the Articles of Association, the Focal Point shall work fowards the implementation of its programmes and shall co-operate with SACEP Secretariat in programme implementation. The National Focal Point shall in consultation with all concerned member countries, identify the priority areas in which project proposals should be initiated and prepare brief project outlines listing the problems, suggested solutions and proposed actions. The Focal Point shall then circulate the brief outline among the member countries and consult with them either directly or through the Secretariat to ascertain the extent of their interest in the project proposals. 化集品 品族人名英巴耳

is the Governing Council or the Consultative Committee at any of its mostlagy map the Le is have als

- 1.2 The matter will then be put before the Consultative Committee, who will authorise the project proposals to be taken up or give other instructions as they deem fit.
- 1.3 In cases where such outlines of project proposals are not prepared by the Focal Point in any subject area, the Secretariat may, after prior consultations with the Focal Points and with the approval of the Consultative Committee, initiate project proposals, prepare brief outlines and consult with the member countries to ascertain the extent of their interest. Further action on the project proposals shall be taken on the sasis of interest shown and with the approval of the Consultative Committee.

 Formulation of the Project Document and action was a solid to the solid to the project Document.

· Teneral con the or more Vice-Chairmen, a character of local to the first control of the contro

2.1 After the outline of the project proposal is approved by the Consultative Committee, the Focal Point shall formulate a detailed project document, including, among other things, budgetary requirements, detailed work plan, project components that could be undertaken at the national and regional level, and modalities of project implementation, particularly institutional arrangements for co-ordination. Any assistance in the formulation of the project document shall be arranged by the Secretariat, if requested by the Focal Points. The Secretariat may also arrange for the formulation of a detailed project document under advice to the Focal Point concerned.

and only accomplishing the first of the first

Submission of Project Document to Funding Agencies

1.1 The Secretariat shall circulate the final project document among prospective Funding Agencies and shall undertake any other action deemed necessary to seek funding for the Projective However, the Secretariat, a before approaching the Funding Agencies, shall obtain the prior approval of the Consultative Committee, in order to ensure that member countries have no objections to any particlar Funding Agency for any reason. professional profession of the second section of the second secon

audagasta (ga maran kanggila) galapkak da da kalabra ay kanggilah kangsi kalabat ing dalah kalabra kan bi seluk Maggilah si kanggilah kanggilah dan kanggilah dan kanggaran kalabra. Danggilabkat ay kanggilabra dan

Ref. Articles of Association / SACEP - Annex 1 Foot Note 6 Page 3

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2.

4. Amplementation of the Project

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- 4.1 The implementation of all components of the projects at the national level shall be the exclusive responsibility 4.1 The implementation of all components of the projects at the national level shall be entirely under its jurisdiction.
- 4.2 Participating countries shall take adequate measures to implement the project(s) using the funds made available from and through the Secretariat and resources allocated in the national programmes. Each participating country shall designate a national authority(ies) or organization(s) who will be responsible for project management and implementation of the national components and overall co-ordination of all activities under the project at the national level.
- 4.3 The designated project management authority(ies) or organization(s) shall follow the budgetary allocations National Expertise and Institutions and work plan incorporated in the project document which constitute the basis for disbursement of funds.
- in a medical distribution of the first of the second state of the barrier of the 5.1 Focal Points shall, on request, identify and suggest national experts and institutions for recruitment and subcontracting for project preparation and implementation. However, the Secretariat will make the final choice of the expert or institution to be recruited. Recruitment from countries other than member countries will be done only as a last resort with specific approval of the Consultative Committee and of the Focal Point for which such recruitment will be made.

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Liaison 'Activities 6.

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- 6. 1 Focal Points shall be the liaison points in their countries for all matters related to SACEP, including those subject areas other than their own.
- 6.2 SACEP Secretariat shall liaise with the Focal Point in each member country for all fifteen Subject Areas. The national Focal Point, in its turn, shall assume the responsibilities to collect and disseminate all relevant information from the various Subject Area Focal Points in different countries to all the interested parties within the country. This will also enable the respective member countries to keep in constant touch with the activities pursued by the various Subject Area Focal Points with the assistance from the SACEP Secretariat.

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REPORT OF THE SEVENTH GOVERNING COUNCIL MEETING OF THE

SOUTH ASIA CO-OPERATIVE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

22™ APRIL 1998 MALE, REPUBLIC OF MALDIVES

Ref. Articles of Association / SACEP - Annex 1 Foot Note 6 Page 5

B. SUBJECT AREA AND COUNTRY FOCAL POINTS

The Governing Council considered the relevant section of the Report of the Preparatory Meeting of Senior Officials on this item.

The Governing Council was in agreement that there was a need to revise the list of Subject Area Focal Points of SACEP and endorsed the revised list of Subject Area Focal Points.

The revised list is given below:

	Priority Subject Area	Country
1.	Conservation of Biodiversity	India
2.	Sustainable Tourism Development	Maldives
3.	Management of Coral Island Ecosystems	Maldives
4.	Management of Fresh Water Resources	Bangladesh
5.	Desertification	Pakistan
6.	Environmental Legislation	India
7.	Participatory Forest Management	Nepal
8.	Sustainable Agriculture and Land Use	Sri Lanka
9.	Sustainable Human Settlements Development	Sri Lanka
10.	Waste Management	India
11.	Science & Technology for Sustainable Development	Pakistan
12,	Education & Training	India
13.	Energy & Environment	India
14.	Air Pollution	Pakistan

The Governing Council agreed that the Subject Area Focal Points be requested by the Ministries of Environment of the respective member countries to formulate Regional Projects on their Subject Area and to make them available to the Secretariat by 1st October 1998.

It was also agreed that Country Focal Points should be called upon to nominate National Level Institutions which would function as the Subject Area Focal Points as soon as possible

. PROGRAMME MATTERS

A. PROGRESS OF PROGRAMME AND PROJECT ACTIVITIES

The Governing Council was appreciative of the fact of the increased Programme Activities of SACEP and that SACEP now has greater visibility in the region in respect of environmental activities.

The delegates expressed their satisfaction that despite constraints in manpower and finances the performance of the Secretariat was satisfactory. They emphasised their appreciation for the work done by the Secretariat in the implementation of programmes between the 6th and 7th Governing Councils and noted that this had been the period in which most number of projects had been implemented by SACEP for the benefit of the member countries as well as the region as a whole.



REPORT

THE THIRD SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL

South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP)

6 NOVEMBER 2003 COLOMBO, SRI LANKA

- 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 has to be recognised.
- It was agreed that regional priorities for South Asia cannot always conform to the priorities determined at the global and/or national level. The Work Programme would reflect the genuine regional needs and priorities.
- It was recommended to incorporate issues relating to gender, equity and poverty as crosscutting issues in all of SACEP's programmes.
- The following additional areas of work for SACEP and the thematic clusters were recommended:
 - > Achieving MDG goals water and sanitation issues and energy, particularly renewable energy etc.
 - > Coastal area management inclusive of mangrove, forests
 - > Waste management issues as relevant to the GPA/LBA priorities
 - > Adaptation to Climate Change
- It was agreed that the Work Programme and other priorities to be addressed by SACEP should complement and supplement (and not duplicate) the work being carried out by the member countries.
 - The recommendation of the NFP to include two additional subject areas namely Climate Change and Bio-safety was accepted and the respective Subject Area Focal Points were designated as follows:
 - Climate Change India and Bangladesh
 - Bio-safety India (to be included within the Bio-diversity Subject Area Focal point)
- It was recommended to the countries concerned to nominate the institutions to function as the Subject Area Focal Points for Climate Change and communicate the same to SACEP secretariat.

C. Governance

- It was agreed to the institutional strengthening of SACEP in order to deliver its service effectively.
- The proposed optimum organisational structure was accepted subject to the availability of financial resources (refer section on Financial Resources).
- Recruitment of additional staff to carry out functions and responsibilities envisaged under the strategy was approved. The actual staffing to be done in a phased manner as the resource position improves.
- In view of the time lag in funding and other limitations, it was approved to recruit the Director Programmes initially. The remaining positions to be filled during the second phase as the project portfolio develops and additional funds are mobilised.



REPORT OF THE

SEVENTH GOVERNING COUNCIL MEETING OF THE

SOUTH ASIA CO-OPERATIVE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

22™ APRIL 1998 MALE, REPUBLIC OF MALDIVES

5. AGENDA

The Governing Council (GC 7) discussed and adopted the Agenda of the Meeting. A copy of the Adopted Agenda is at Annex VIII.

STATEMENTS OF HEADS OF DELEGATIONS

The Heads of Delegations from India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan & Sri Lanka made presentations of their country statements to the Governing Council.

All statements reflected the initiatives taken by the countries in the area of environmental protection and management. The Country Statements clearly recognised the very crucial and pivotal role played by SACEP in the promotion of environmental management in the South Asian region and noted that this area of activity must receive priority attention.

The respective Country Statements are found in Annexes IX to XIII.

7. OTHER STATEMENTS

Representatives of the UN Agencies and International Organisations attending the Meeting also addressed the Governing Council and their statements are found in Annexes XIV & XV.

8. INSTITUTIONAL MATTERS

A. SACEP SECRETARIAT

The Governing Council considered the relevant section of the Report of the Preparatory Meeting of Senior Officials (Annex XVI) on this item. They noted with appreciation the excellent work of the small but highly efficient Secretariat.

The meeting was fully appreciative of the fact that there is an urgent need to strengthen the SACEP Secretariat in order that they could fulfill its obligations in serving the member countries.

The delegate from Sri Lanka agreed that it is a moral obligation on the part of his Government to ensure that they provide adequate host facilities to the Secretariat. He promised to take up this matter with the concerned authorities. On the question of allocating a piece of land for constructing a Secretariat, he said that his hand would be strengthened if SACEP had a definite proposal such as building plan and a strategy for raising funds for construction. The Meeting requested the Director of SACEP to prepare a Project Profile for the new SACEP Headquarters and its plans for financing within 6 months to be submitted to the Government of Sri Lanka.

The Governing Council agreed that the status of the Director of SACEP should be elevated to that of the Director General. Accordingly wherever there is reference made to the Director of SACEP, the Articles of Association of SACEP will be amended to read as Director General.

The host country Representative said that he would like to respond favourably to the request made for granting diplomatic privileges to the Director General of SACEP equivalent to that of Ambassador / High Commissioner and that he would pursue the matter in accordance with the diplomatic procedures.



REPORT

OF THE

HIGH LEVEL MEETING

TO INITIATE THE

SOUTH ASIA CO-OPERATIVE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

18-25 FEBRUARY 1981 BMICH, COLOMBO, SRI LANKA

7. Other matters

Secretariat: Director and staff

The principle was accepted that the Director would be appointed in rotation, from countries in alphabetical order, subject to starting with the host country. Sri Lanka. The appointment would be for a period of three years. In the case of the first one, the term would include the period of tenure of the pro tem Director.

Regarding the other international staff they would be recruited as provided in rules and regulations, which may be framed by the Consultative Committee and on the recommendation of the Director.

The representative of Sri Lanka announced the appointment of of a pro tem Director and introduced the candidate, Dr. Leslie Herath, Chairman of the Water Resources Board to the Meeting.

For purposes of appointing a regular Director, a note setting out the type of background, experience and other broad criteria would be prepared by the SACEP Secretariat and circulated. The country from which the Director was chosen would, in nominating the candidate, furnish his background data, which would be circulated. The Director will be appointed by circulation by the Governing Council. The first regular Director shall be appointed as soon as possible, preferably within three months and within a maximum period of six months from the date of appointment of the pro tem Director.

Financial contributions

It was noted that Sri Lanka would begin to make its contribution to SACEP Secretariat under the suggested provisions as made in background paper UNEP/SACEP/HIM/BP/III, made available to the Officials' Meeting. It was agreed that all countries accept the principles of giving contributory support to SACEP Secretariat and would announce and make contributions as decided upon by their Governments as soon as possible. Such contributions may be without prejudice to the formula for contributions that may be accepted in due course by the Governing Council.

/Focal points



REPORT

THE THIRD SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL

South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP)

6 NOVEMBER 2003 COLOMBO, SRI LANKA

E. Capacity Development in SACEP

- Subject to availability of concurrence in writing by the member government that
 expressed its reservation, the Chairman, GC/SACEP was authorised to take
 necessary steps for the recruitment of DG, SACEP on merit basis from the South
 Asia Region for a non-renewable term of five years, following internationally
 accepted norms and practices and in close consultation with the members of the
 Governing Council.
- In the event the reservation is expressed in writing to the Chair of GC, the recruitment will be made on the existing procedure.
- The capacity building measures for secretariat staff (Para 6.7 of the Report of SACEP Strategy and Work Programme-Annex XIII) was endorsed.

F. Implementation Plan

• It was recommended that SACEP Secretariat should revise the implementation plan based on decisions and guidance of the NFP and GC Meetings.

6. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

The SS3.GC/SACEP approved the SACEP Strategy and Work Programme with the above recommendations.

CONCLUDING SESSION

The Chairman, Hon Mr. Rukman Senanayake, Minister of Environment and Natural Resources, Government of Sri Lanka in his concluding remarks thanked all the Environment Ministers, the country delegations and the Director General and the SACEP Secretariat for their wholehearted co-operation in ensuring the success of this meeting.



REPORT

THE NINTH MEETING OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL

South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP)

26 AUGUST 2005 THIMPHU, BHUTAN

Ref. Articles of Association / SACEP - Annex 1 Foot Note 8 Page 6

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 9th 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 9th 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.
- The Governing Council may consider the issue of tenure at future meetings.

 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 9th 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.



MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS ROYAL GOVERNMENT OF BHUTAN THIMPHU

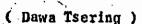
INSTRUMENT OF RATIFICATION

Programme adopted the Articles of Association at Colombo, Sri Lanka, on 25 February, 1981.

AND WHEREAS the Royal Government of Bhutan had taken a decision.
in principle, to join the South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme
on 4 September 1981.

NOW THEREFORE, I. Daws Tsering, Minister for Foreign Affairs, do hereby declare that the Royal Government of Bhutan, having considered the above-mentioned Articles of Association, ratifies the same and undertakes faithfully to perform and carry out all the stipulations therein contained.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have signed these presents and affixed hereunto my seal at Thimphu on 25 December 1981.





His Majesty's Government

Tel. {2-28000 Ext: [315]

Environment Protection Council



³ Singha Durbar Kathmandu, Nepat

Date.....

March 25, 1994

V. P. Jauhari
Director
South Asia Co-operative
Environment Programme
No: 84
Lorensz Road
Colombo-04
Sri Lanka.
Fax: 94-1-589369

Sub: Ratification of the SACER Agreemen

Dear Mr. Jauhari,

I am pleased to inform you that the SACEP Agreement has been ratified unanimously by the Parliament of Nepal on 24th March, 1994 which was presented to the house a couple of days ago. I consider this as a milestone in our future cooperation.

I would like to take this opportunity to invite you to Nepal on your way to India so that we can hold discussions on various matters regarding the future course of action between SACEP and EPC.

With best regards,

Sincerely yours,

Surya Man Shakya

Member Secretary





United Nations Environment Programme



UNEP(OCA)SAS IG1/REP 16 June 1995

Original: ENGLISH

Meeting of Plenipotentiaries on the Action Plan for the Protection and Management of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the South Asian Seas Region

New Delhi, 24 March 1995

REPORT OF THE MEETING OF PLENIPOTENTIARIES ON THE ACTION PLAN FOR THE PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT OF THE MARINE AND COASTAL ENVIRONMENT OF THE SOUTH ASIAN SEAS REGION

INTRODUCTION

- The Executive Director of UNEP, in co-operation with SACEP and the Government of India, convened the Meeting of Plenipotentiaries on the Action Plan for the Protection and Management of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the South Asian Seas Region in order to review and adopt the draft Action Plan, the Institutional and Financial Arrangements for its implementation, and the related Resolutions and Final Act.
- 2. The following organizations were also invited to participate at this meeting: ADB, ESCAP, FAO, IMO, IOC, IUCN, SACEP, UNDP, UNESCO, UNIDO, World Bank, WHO and WMO.
- The meeting was held in New Delhi, India, on 24 March 1995.
- 4. This document is the Report of the Meeting. The complete List of Participants is attached as Annex I of this Report.

Agenda item 1: Opening of the Meeting

- 5. The Representative of the Executive Director of UNEP, Mr Peter Schroder, Director, Ocean and Coastal Areas Programme Activity Centre, UNEP, Nairobi stated in his opening address that it was indeed a historical occasion now that the maritime countries of South Asia have come together in a remarkable spirit of regional co-operation to ensure the protection and management of the regional seas. He went on to add that the commitment shown by the countries augers well for the success of the programme. He complemented the Government of India on the arrangements made for the meeting and warm hospitality extended to all participants.
- 6. The meeting was then addressed by Mr Eduardo Faleiro, Minister of Ocean Development, Government of India. He expressed pleasure in the fact that the meeting was being held in India. He pointed out that India has been committed to the protection of the environment in general, and that of the marine environment in particular. He added that his country had contributed significantly to the process which led to the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (1982). Of prime importance was establishment of a regional cooperative network of concrete projects. These projects would both benefit from and further the cause of people-centred development, and promote an exchange of scientific and technical expertise and sharing of experience for the benefit of all. He concluded by saying that India, as a founding member of UNEP and the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP), was grateful to the support given by the two organizations for the efforts of the South Asian Maritime countries which have led to the finalization and adoption of the Action Plan.
- The meeting was inaugurated by Mr Pranab Mukherjee, Minister of External Affairs, Government of 7. India. In his inaugural address Mr Mukherjee said that the meeting assumed particular significance at a time when issues on the use of oceans, marine resource exploitation and protection of the marine environment were prominent on the international agenda. He noted that the coming into force on 16 November 1994 of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (1982) reflected the fact that problems affecting the use of the seas and the seabed needed to be tackled by all nations, developed and developing alike, if efforts to resolve them are to be effective. Mr Mukherjee further stated that regional co-operation with a view to protecting the marine environment was particular important in the South Asia region as it has a long, highly indented coastline and numerous islands which support very fragile ecosystems. He also drew attention to the fact that major urban and industrial clusters were developing in areas that are located in, or in proximity to, ecologically vulnerable coastal areas. It was therefore necessary for the nations of the South Asian seas to cooperate on the issue of protecting the fragile coastal ecosystems. In conclusion Mr Mukherjee said that he was pleased to note that the meeting was going to finalize and adopt an Action Plan to protect and manage the region's marine environment and related coastal ecosystems.

8. The Vote of Thanks was delivered by Dr B.R.Subramanian, Principle Scientific Officer, Department of Ocean Development, Government of India.

Agenda item 2: Organization of the Meeting.

- 9. The secretariat proposed to apply <u>mutatis mutandis</u> the Rules of Procedure of UNEP Governing Council for the conduct of the Meeting. The Meeting agreed to this proposal.
- 10. The Meeting elected the following officials:

Chair:

Mr Eduardo Faleiro (India)

Vice Chair(s):

Mr Muhammud Abul Quasem (Bangladesh)

Mr Asif Shuja Khan (Pakistan)

Ms Srimani Athulathumudali (Sri Lanka)

Rapporteur:

Mr Hussain Shihab (Maldives)

11. The Provisional Agenda [UNEP(OCA)SAS IG1/1] was introduced by the Secretariat with reference to the Provisional List of Documents [UNEP(OCA)SAS IG1/INF.1]. The meeting considered the proposed Agenda and adopted it with the addition of one item.

The Agenda as it was adopted and the List of Documents are attached respectively as Annex II and Annex III of this Report.

- 14812. The elected officers of the Meeting assumed the responsibilities of the Credentials Committee.
 - 13. The Secretariat proposed, and the meeting agreed, to carry out its work in plenary session.
 - 14. The Meeting was conducted in English.

Agenda item 3: Report of the Executive Director on the preparatory activities leading to the proposed adoption of the Action Plan for the Protection and Management of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the South Asian Seas Region

15. The Report of the Executive Director, giving a summary of the process and the activities that have been undertaken in preparation for the formal adoption of the South Asian Seas Action Plan, was presented by Mr Peter Schroder, Director, Ocean and Coastal Areas Programme Activity Centre, UNEP, Nairobi.

Agenda item 4: Review of the draft Action Plan for the Protection and Management of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the South Asian Seas Region with Annexes, and including the draft Institutional and Financial Arrangements for the implementation of the Action Plan

- 16. The Secretariat introduced the draft Action Plan, including the Institutional and Financial Arrangements for its implementation, as revised and endorsed at the Fourth Meeting of National Focal Points held in New Delhi on 23 March 1995. The Meeting agreed upon the final text of the Action Plan, without amendments. The Action Plan would be formally adopted upon signature of the Final Act.
- 17. The agreed text of the Action Plan for the Protection and Management of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the South Asian Seas Region with Annexes, and including the Institutional and Financial Arrangements for its implementation is attached as Annex IV of this Report.

Agenda item 5: Review of the Resolutions

- 18. The Secretariat introduced the Resolutions as discussed and finalized at the Fourth Meeting of National Focal Points. The Meeting agreed upon the final text of the three resolutions. They would be formally adopted upon signature of the Final Act. The Resolutions are attached as Annex V of this report.
- 19. The delegates from Pakistan and Sri Lanka indicated agreement in principle with the financial arrangements (Resolution 3) pending formal approval by their respective Governments.

Agenda item 6: Consideration of the Report of the Credentials Committee

The Report of the Chairman of the Credentials Committee was accepted by the Meeting.

Agenda item 7: Adoption of the Action Plan, the Institutional and Financial Arrangements, and the Resolutions

21. The Meeting adopted the finalized text of the Action Plan, including the Institutional and Financial Arrangements for its implementation, and the Resolutions.

Agenda item 8: Adoption of the Final Act

22. The Meeting adopted the Final Act.

Agenda item 9: Draft Resolution to the eighteenth session of the Governing Council of UNEP

23. The meeting agreed that a Resolution would be tabled at the eighteenth session of the Governing Council of UNEP. This resolution would seek UNEP's support for the South Asian Regional Seas Programme. The SACEP Secretariat was requested to formulate the resolution and make it available for comments by the concerned member Governments. After taking into consideration their comments, this resolution would be submitted to the eighteenth session of the Governing Council of UNEP by the Government of India on behalf of the member States of the South Asian Regional Seas Programme.

Agenda item 10: Signing of the Final Act

24. A formal ceremony was held for the signing of the Final Act by the Plenipotentiaries. The Final Act is attached as Annex VI of this Report.

Agenda item 11: Closure of the Meeting

25. The Meeting was closed at 1200 hrs by the Chairman.

ANNEX I

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES

BANGLADESH

Mr Muhammud Abul Quasem Joint Secretary (Administration) Ministry of Environment and Forest

Bangladesh

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ANNEX II

AGENDA

- 1. Opening of the Meeting
- 2. Organisation of the Meeting
 - (2.1) adoption of the rules of procedure
 - (2.2) election of officers
 - (2.3) adoption of the agenda
 - (2.4) appointment of Credentials Committee
 - (2.5) organisation of the work
- 3. Report of the Executive Director on the preparatory activities leading to the proposed adoption of the Action Plan for the Protection and Management of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the South Asian Seas Region
- 4. Review of the draft Action Plan for the Protection and Management of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the South Asian Seas Region with Annexes, and including the draft Institutional and Financial Arrangements for the implementation of the Action Plan
- 5. Review of the Resolutions
- 6. Consideration of the report of the Credentials Committee
- 7. Adoption of the Action Plan, the Institutional and Financial Arrangements, and the Resolutions
- Adoption of the Final Act
- Draft Resolution to the eighteenth session of the Governing Council of UNEP
- Signing of the Final Act.
- 11. Closure of the Meeting.

ANNEX III

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

Working documents:

UNEP(OCA)SAS IG1/1 Provisional agenda

UNEP(OCA)SAS IG1/2 Provisional annotated agenda

UNEP(OCA)SAS IG1/3 Draft Action Plan for the Protection and Management of the Marine

and Coastal Environment of the South Asian Seas Region

UNEP(OCA)SAS IG1/4 Draft Resolutions

UNEP(OCA)SAS IG1/5 Final Act

Information Documents:

UNEP(OCA)SAS IG1/INF.1 Provisional list of documents

UNEP(OCA)SAS IG1/INF.2 Provisional list of participants

UNEP(OCA)SAS WG3/Rep Report of the Fourth Meeting of National Focal Points on the

Development of an Action Plan for the Protection and

Management of the South Asian Seas Region

ANNEX IV

ACTION PLAN FOR THE PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT OF THE MARINE AND COASTAL ENVIRONMENT OF THE SOUTH ASIAN SEAS REGION

INTRODUCTION

- 1. With the formation of the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP), the interest of South Asian Coastal States in the Regional Seas Programme of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) was revived and at the request of these States the "South Asian Seas" has been designated by the Governing Council of UNEP 1/2 as an area in which UNEP, in close collaboration with SACEP and the Governments concerned, should assist in the formulation of a Plan of Action for the environmental protection of the region within the framework of the Regional Seas Programme, in line with the provisions of Chapter 17 of Agenda 21.
- The following preparatory work contributed to the development of this action plan:
 - 2.1 A mission to the States of the region in October/November 1982 and February 1983 to ascertain the views of the Governments regarding a Regional Programme in the South Asian Seas
 - 2.2 Meeting of National Focal Points on the Development of an Action Plan for the Protection and Management of the South Asian Seas Region (Bangkok, 19 21 March 1984)
 - 2.3 Meeting of Experts on the South Asian Seas Regional Programme (Bangkok, 2 -5 December 1986)
 - 2.4 Second Meeting of National Focal Points on the Development of an Action Plan for the Protection and Management of the South Asian Seas Region (Bangkok, 7 11 December 1987)
 - 2.5 ESCAP/UNEP/SACEP Workshop on Management Strategies for the Protection of the Coastal and Marine Environment in the South Asian Seas Region (Colombo, 20 23 December 1993)
 - 2.6 ESCAP/UNEP/SACEP Intergovernmental Meeting on Capacity Building in Coastal Environmental Management in the South Asian Seas Region (New Delhi, 17 19 May 1994)
 - 2.7 Third Meeting of National Focal Points on the Development of an Action Plan for the Protection and Management of the South Asian Seas Region (Colombo, 23 25 November 1994)
 - 2.8 Fourth Meeting of National Focal Points on the Development of an Action Plan for the Protection and Management of the South Asian Seas Region (New Delhi, 23 March 1995)
- 3. For the purposes of this Action Plan, the South Asian Seas Region covers the marine and related coastal environment, including international waters adjacent to the following states:

Bangladesh India Maldives Pakistan Sri Lanka



^{1/} Decision 11/7 of 24 May 1983

- 4. All components of the Action Plan are interdependent and provide a framework for comprehensive action which should contribute to both the protection and the continued development of the region. No component is an end in itself. Each activity is intended to assist the Governments of the region to strengthen the process through which environmental management policies are formulated and to improve the quality of the information on which these policies are based.
- 5. The objective of the Action Plan is to protect and manage the marine environment and related coastal ecosystems of the region. This objective includes the promotion of sustainable development and sound management of regional marine and coastal resources by:
 - (a) establishing and enhancing consultations and technical co-operation among States of the region;
 - (b) emphasising the economic and social importance of the resources of the marine and coastal environment; and
 - (c) Establishing a regional co-operative network of activities concerning concrete subjects/projects of mutual interest for the whole region.
- 6. The general goals of the action plan are:
 - (a) to promote policies and management practices for the protection and development of the marine and coastal environment on a national and regional level, including appropriate legislation at the national level;
 - (b) to prevent deterioration of the region's marine and coastal environment originating from activities within and outside the States of the region;
 - (c) to provide for protection and rational development of the marine and coastal resources of the region, which are a natural heritage with important economic and social values and potential, through the preservation of habitats, the protection of species and careful planning and management of human activities that affect them;
 - to strengthen and encourage, through increased regional collaboration, the activities of institutions within the region involved in the study of marine and coastal resources and ecosystems;
 - (e) to improve training, technical assistance and exchange of scientific and statistical data at all levels and in all fields relating to the protection and development of the marine and coastal environment; and
 - (f) to stimulate the growth of public of awareness at all levels of society of the value, interest and vulnerability of the region's marine and coastal environment.
- 7. More specifically, the activities of the Action Plan should aim at:
 - (a) Assessment and evaluation of the causes, magnitude and consequences of environmental problems, in particular the assessment of marine pollution from land and sea based sources, and the study of activities and social and economic factors that may influence or be influenced by environmental degradation;
 - (b) Promotion of methods and practices for the management of social and economic development activities that safeguard environmental quality and utilize resources rationally on a sustainable basis;

- (c) Promotion of national legislation, if necessary, for the protection and development of the marine and coastal environment which will facilitate mutual collaboration and operational efficiency of the Action Plan, having due regard to the need for and suitability of such a framework;
- (d) Promotion of research and development and exchange and sharing of their findings among the member states; and
- (e) Strengthening of institutional machinery and adoption of financial arrangements required for the successful implementation of the Action Plan.
- 8. A general description of the main components of the Action Plan is given below. These components and related activities are not listed in order of priority. Priority activities that have been selected for the implementation by SACEP Member States are presented in Annexes to the Action Plan. They should be considered only as a general description of activities which will have to be refined and elaborated in more detail. All activities will be carried out in close co-operation and in consultation with the National Focal Points.

A. ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

- 9. To ensure the effectiveness of the Action Plan it is necessary to provide for continuous and systematic assessment of the main factors influencing the environmental quality of the region. This is particularly important as the present assessment of the environmental processes in the region is incomplete, and any sound action requires an understanding of the links between development and the environment. Among the tasks that should be carried out are:
 - 9.1 Assessment of national and regional capabilities to investigate and manage environmental problems, including scientific and administrative institutions, manpower, research facilities and equipment together with identification of institutions with potential to serve as "regional activity centres" in particular disciplines, and as regional or subregional activity centres coordinating specific inter-state projects;
 - 9.2 Strengthening of national capabilities in marine science and for monitoring and assessing the state of the marine and coastal environment and the condition of living and non-living resources, including training of scientists and technicians from the region in methods and techniques related to the assessment and evaluation of marine pollution and participation of such scientists in intercalibration exercises:
 - 9.3 Encouragement of collaboration among regional scientists and technicians and their institutions through the establishment of a co-ordinated regional marine pollution monitoring programme, based on intercomparable methods, for the study of the various processes occurring in the coastal areas and open ocean of the region and the assessment of the sources and levels of pollutants and their effects on marine life and human health;
 - 9.4 Survey and assessment of present social and economic activities, including development projects, that may have an impact on the quality of the marine and coastal environment;
 - 9.5 Compilation of an inventory of the sources and amount of pollutants reaching the coastal waters of the region from land-based and maritime sources including dumping of hazardous wastes;
 - 9.6 Collection, analysis and dissemination of data on resource potential and resource utilisation in relation to competing demands for such resources;

- 9.7 Preparation of a comprehensive classification of coastal and marine habitats and mapping of critical habitats:
- 9.8 Establishment of national data bases on the status and trends in the quality of the marine and coastal environment, linked into regionally co-ordinated network, compatible with similar networks in adjacent regions; and
- 9.9 Monitoring of the effects of climate and sea level change on the marine and coastal environment.

B. ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

- 10. Sustainable, environmentally sound development depends upon the rational management of natural resources. Such management should take into account the goals of development as defined by national authorities, the assimilative capacity of the environment, and the economic feasibility of proposed policies. The following activities should serve to strengthen the ability of the Governments to adopt appropriate environmental management policies:
 - 10.1 Strengthening of national and regional capabilities to prevent, control and combat marine pollution from land and sea-based sources and co-operation in implementing and enforcing existing international agreements related thereto:
 - 10.2 Strengthening of national & regional capabilities, co-operation and co-ordination in responding to marine pollution emergencies which pose a threat of pollution to the marine and coastal environment;
 - 10.3 Strengthening of national and regional capabilities and co-operation for the management of coral reefs;
 - 10.4 Promotion and harmonisation of national and regional strategies for preventing and mitigating the damages and adverse impacts caused by natural disasters;
 - 10.5 Formulation of regionally and locally applicable guidelines and standards where ever appropriate, for the management and control of domestic, agricultural, industrial and other wastes, including the developing of principles governing treatment and disposal of such wastes:
 - 10.6 Strengthening or expanding of the relevant on-going development activities that demonstrate sound environmental management practices;
 - 10.7 Development and implementation of integrated coastal environmental management plans for specific coastal areas to serve as models with a view to promoting environmentally sound utilisation of coastal resources and preventing environmental degradation;
 - 10.8 Strengthening national capabilities for the environmental impact assessment of developmental projects and promoting the inclusion of environmental impact assessments and integrated development approaches in the planning stages of all major development activities;
 - 10.9 Studies of the environmental, social and cultural effects of tourism, and elaboration of environmentally sound strategies for tourism development. Particular attention should be given to the health aspects of tourism developments in coastal areas;

- 10.10 Co-operation in devising where necessary, alternatives to present land-use practices, coral and sand mining procedures, waste disposal into coastal waters, other development activities including transportation and disposal of hazardous wastes which may lead to environmental degradation;
- 10.11 Formulation and harmonisation of policies on the management of natural habitats, wildlife and genetic resources;
- 10.12 Co-operation in the establishment and management of national protected coastal and marine habitats, in the establishment of a regional network of protected areas, in joint activities to protect coastal ecosystems and wildlife and in the training of technical and managerial personnel in the conservation of wildlife and habitats; and
- 10.13 Co-operation in conservation and protection of marine living resources from pollution and over-exploitation.

C. ENVIRONMENTAL LEGISLATION

- 11. National legislation and regulations pertaining to the protection and management of the marine and coastal environment, which are at various stages of development, should be reviewed, and when necessary, expanded, updated or strengthened. It is necessary to ensure the effective enforcement of national legislations related to marine and coastal resources.
- 12. National legislations and regulations for the protection and development of marine and coastal resources should be harmonised whenever international uniformity is required to meet the obligations of such legislation; e.g., legislation concerning the protection and management of migratory species of estuarine marine areas within the region.
- 13. An up-to-date compilation of national laws of the states of the region related to the protection of the marine and coastal environment should be maintained.
- 14. The ratification and implementation of existing international agreements concerning the prevention and control of marine pollution and the protection of marine resources should be encouraged.
- Technical assistance and advice on the drafting of national legislation for the effective implementation of relevant international agreements should be provided upon request.

D. INSTITUTIONAL AND FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

- 16. In carrying out the Action Plan, the national capabilities available in the region and the capabilities of regional and international organisations and co-ordinating bodies, as well as their existing programmes, should be used to the greatest possible extent.
- 17. The agreed programme should be executed primarily through existing national institutions and capabilities. Where necessary, they should be strengthened so that they may participate actively and effectively in the various projects. For some of the projects technical assistance and experts from outside the region may be requested whenever such assistance and experts are not available from within the region.



- 18. To ensure the harmonious and integrated evolution of each of the components of the Action Plan, SACEP is designated as the Secretariat of the action plan to assume responsibility for its technical and administrative co-ordination with the support and close co-operation of UNEP, especially during the initial phase of activities. In discharging its functions, SACEP should seek the co-operation and assistance of national, regional and international organisations and institutions; these bodies should also be invited to extend all possible support to SACEP.
- The overall authority over the Action Plan should be vested in the governments of the region.

 Through periodic meetings of their representatives, the governments should review the progress in the implementation of the action plan and decide on the priorities for future activities, as well as on financial and institutional arrangements supporting these activities.
- 20. A National Focal Point should be designated by each Government to facilitate the work of, and communication with, the regional secretariat and to co-ordinate activities within the State concerned related to the Action Plan.
- 21. The activities agreed upon as part of the implementation of the Action Plan should be financed principally by contributions from Governments, international and regional organisations and competent non-governmental organizations. Initially, support may be provided by the United Nations system on the assumption that this financial contribution will progressively decrease as the Governments themselves assume financial responsibility. Noting the need for additional financial resources to support the programme, the United Nations system is requested to assist the Secretariat and the Governments of the region to further develop the priority activities with a view to obtaining financial support from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) as well as other donors.

E. SUPPORTING MEASURES

- 22. The ultimate aim should be to make the proposed regional programme self-supporting, not only by developing institutional capabilities to perform the required tasks, but also by providing training, equipment and other forms of assistance from within the region.
- 23. As support for the activities of the regional co-operative programme:
 - 23.1 Training programmes should be organised for personnel from the region. These programmes should be carried out through existing national, regional or international institutions ready to offer their facilities; and
 - 23.2 Campaigns should be organised on a national and regional basis to create public awareness of national and regional issues relating to the Action Plan. Special efforts should be made to prepare materials which may be used to bring environmental concerns and activities of the regional co-operative programme to the attention of target populations.
- 24. Education in the principles of protection and development of marine and coastal resources should be provided as part of the ordinary educational curricula at primary, secondary and university levels, through training of special instructors or specialised training of educators, and through seminars and courses offered to the general public.

ANNEX I of the Action Plan

Integrated Coastal Zone Management

Introduction

- 1. The ESCAP/UNEP/SACEP Intergovernmental Meeting on Capacity Building in Coastal Environmental Management in the South Asian Seas Region, 17 19 May 1994, New Delhi, endorsed Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) as a priority element for environmentally sound and sustainable development of marine and coastal areas in the region (ENR/CBCEM/REP). This is in harmony with worldwide acknowledgement of the urgent need for Integrated Coastal Resources Management as expressed in Agenda 21, Chapter 17.
- 2. The region as a whole has important assets in terms of human and institutional capacity in relevant scientific, economic, social and technological fields and planning experiences. Therefore, specifically targeted regional co-operation activities could boost the exchange of experiences, information, data and expertise in relevant sectors; promote co-operative research programmes and technology transfer; and support the development of suitable planning guidelines, awareness-raising initiatives, scientific and technological means and capacity -building activities.
- 3. Activities should be carried out through the implementation of pilot projects in ICZM in each country of the region. Guidelines for the development of pilot project activities are presented in document ENR/CBCEM/2/REV.2 Capacity-building requirements: Priority Projects and Strategy for their implementation of the ESCAP/UNEP/SACEP Intergovernmental Meeting on capacity Building in Coastal Environmental management in the South Asian Seas Region.

- 4. The following activities have been selected for staged implementation by South Asian Member States:
 - (a) Preparation of Coastal Profiles, including:
 - project scope, i.e. definitions, geographic boundary;
 - identification of issues and priorities;
 - preparation of development outlooks and strategies for their achievement, and analysis of the social and economic implications of the proposed strategies;
 - identification of information gaps;
 - proposal for the preparation of a comprehensive and integrated management plan;
 - analysis of the legal and financial requirements posed by the ICZM Project Proposal; and
 - proposal for the institutional arrangements needed to support the co-ordination and implementation of the pilot project.
 - (b) Analysis and Forecasting, including:
 - surveys and research on selected issues within sectors of human and economic activities
 - analysis of natural systems, and human and economic activities in the coastal area;
 - assessment of exposure to risks, e.g. sea-level rise, natural hazards; and
 - preparation of resource atlas.

The purpose of this phase is to provide an analytical basis for the establishment of precise goals and objectives, and definition of management strategies for sustainable development in the coastal area.

- (c) Definition of Goals and Strategies, including:
 - refinement and adoption of goals and objectives;
 - preparation of strategies; and
 - evaluation of and decision on the most suitable energy.

Decision-making bodies at the highest level must approve of the goals and strategies of environmentally sustainable development in the coastal area concerned.

- (d) Integration of detailed Plans and Management Policies, including:
 - establishment of procedures for the approval and periodic revision of the plan;
 - identification of those authorities which will adopt the planning policies and introduce the planning controls into their operations;
 - definition of expenditure priorities and the technical personnel required to implement the plan; and
 - specify the instruments to be used in the plan implementation.
- (e) Implementation of Plans

The plan implementation will be most efficient if implemented in well defined phases.

ANNEX II of the Action Plan

Development and Implementation of National and Regional Oil and Chemical Spill Contingency Planning

Introduction

- The ESCAP/UNEP/SACEP Intergovernmental Meeting on Capacity Building in Coastal Environmental Management in the South Asian Seas Region, 17 19 May 1994, New Delhi, endorsed the Development and Implementation of National and Regional Oil and Chemical Spill Contingency Planning as a priority element for environmentally sound and sustainable development of marine and coastal areas in the region (ENR/CBCEM/REP). This is in harmony with worldwide acknowledgement of the urgent need for Integrated Coastal Resources Management as expressed in Agenda 21, Chapter 17.
- 2. The risk associated with oil transportation along the routes of the region is high due to the intensity of oil tanker movements. Therefore, this component builds on earlier studies and regional initiatives in the field and aims at enhancing consultation and technical co-operation among the states of the region. The proposed strategy involves capacity building activities in marine environmental monitoring; marine pollution modelling and impact assessment; information storage and exchange; planning and operational capabilities required for marine pollution emergencies; and development of adequate policies and management practices and appropriate legislation in the field.
- Activities should be carried out through the guidelines for the development of project activities that
 are presented in document ENR/CBCEM/2/REV.2 Capacity-building requirements: Priority
 Projects and Strategy for their Implementation of the ESCAP/UNEP/SACEP Intergovernmental
 Meeting on Capacity Building in Coastal Environmental Management in the South Asian Seas
 Region.

- 4. The following activities have been selected for the implementation by the South Asian Seas member States.
 - (a) Updating the South Asian Marine Pollution Emergency Plan;
 - (b) Risk analysis and assessment of infrastructure requirements for pollution emergencies, and development of mechanisms for implementation of the Plan;
 - (c) Assistance in developing and updating National Marine Pollution Contingency Plans;
 - (d) Preparation of national training and manpower development plans for marine environmental monitoring, response and combat including surveillance of oil spills and information collection and management;
 - (e) Collection, storage and dissemination of data through RENRIC of SACEP;
 - (f) Assistance in the development of national legislation where necessary; and
 - (g) Preparation of technical guidelines and dissemination to member states.

ANNEX III of the Action Plan

Human Resources Development through Strengthening Regional Centres of Excellence

Introduction

- 1. The ESCAP/UNEP/SACEP Intergovernmental Meeting on Capacity Building in Coastal Environmental Management in the South Asian Seas region, 17 19 May 1994, New Delhi, endorsed Human Resources Development through Strengthening Regional Centres of Excellence as a priority element for environmentally sound and sustainable development of marine and coastal areas in the region (ENR/CBCEM/REP). This is in harmony with worldwide acknowledgement of the urgent need for marine environmental protection as expressed in Agenda 21, Chapter 17.
- 2. The region as a whole has important assets in terms of human and institutional capacity in relevant scientific, economic, social and technological fields and planning experiences. The centres of excellence should address the requirements of human resource development in a regional perspective, through training programmes targeted to personnel from the countries of the region, fellowship schemes for enhancing the inter regional sharing of expertise and experiences, and joint research programmes in relevant fields. The centres should serve the main purpose of strengthening the development of human resources within the region in close link with the activities identified in Annexes 1 and 2.
- Activities should be carried out through the guidelines for the development of project activities that
 are presented in document ENR/CBCEM/2/REV.2 Capacity-building requirements: Priority
 Projects and Strategy for their Implementation of the ESCAP/UNEP/SACEP Intergovernmental
 Meeting on Capacity Building in Coastal Environmental Management in the South Asian Seas
 Region.

- 4. The following activities have been selected for the implementation by South Asian member States:
 - (a) Development of research programmes and projects and sharing of experience in the empowerment of local communities;
 - (b) Development of guidelines for multidisciplinary research in Integrated Coastal Zone Management (based on the implementation of the pilot projects) and for the replication of pilot experiences;
 - (c) Training of personnel involved in pilot projects on ICZM in all aspects of ICZM and for future ICZM projects and preparation of training manual; and
 - (d) Refinement and testing of methodologies and techniques for participatory research and for eliciting community participation that would facilitate plan implementation.

ANNEX IV of the Action Plan

Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities

Introduction

- The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea 1982 came into force on November 16, 1994. Its universality has been assured by means of an Implementing Agreement relating to Part XI of the Convention which was opened for signature in July 1994. All the countries of the South Asian region are signatories to this umbrella Convention which regulates the activities of nations in the ocean sector both within and outside national jurisdiction. The Convention has specific provisions relating to the prevention, reduction and control of marine pollution from land-based activities.
- 2. The South Asian Seas region is characterized by the location of some of the largest population concentrations in the world. The cities and urban agglomerations situated on the coast are the single largest polluters of the marine environment. Untreated sewage and industrial effluent, solid waste and agricultural activities are identified as amongst the most significant causes of pollution of coastal waters. Other causes of degradation to coastal ecosystems include the mining of sand and coral, and exploitation of fishery stocks. Coral reefs and mangroves are identified as among the most important ecosystems that are threatened from land-based activities.
- 3. In this context, it should be noted that a Regional Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the South Asian Seas from Land-based Activities was prepared by SACEP for the Meeting of Government-designated Experts to Review and Revise a Global Programme of Action to Protect the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities, Reykjavik, 6-10 March 1995 (document UNEP(OCA)SAS WG3/9). This document will be reviewed and adopted at a later date.

- 4. The following activities have been selected for implementation by South Asian Seas member States:
 - (a) Development of a strategy, including refinement of the Programme of Action, for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the South Asian Seas from Land-based Activities;
 - (b) Development of a regional programme for monitoring of marine pollution in the coastal waters of the South Asian Seas and the regular exchange of relevant data and information:
 - (c) Development of pilot activities in countries of the South Asian Seas to control the degradation of the marine and coastal environment from land-based activities;
 - (d) Training of personnel involved in these pilot projects to control the degradation of the marine and coastal environment from land-based activities, including preparation of a training manual;
 - (e) Development of a regional programme to identify the special problems of the largest coastal cities, each having a population of more than 10 million by the year 2000, and of the island States in the areas of: (i) disposal of domestic effluents; and (ii) collection and disposal of solid wastes;



The programme may also include identification of appropriate technologies from the developed world for disposal of these wastes and their application.

(f) Development of a regional programme for identification of industrial technologies which are clean, environmentally friendly and existing in the countries of the region, and their introduction to ensure minimization of effluent generation and efficient disposal;

The programme may also include strengthening of institutions in the countries of the region for developing these technologies with the support of developed Nations and global funding.

(g) Development of a special programme to address the problems of the island States and territories in terms of regulating use of non-biodegradable and hazardous substances imported from outside.

INSTITUTIONAL AND FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACTION PLAN

The efficient implementation of the Action Plan will be mutually dependent upon action at the national, sub-regional and regional levels. It is therefore, important to identify the lines of authority and communication for both policy and technical working levels and to develop appropriate institutional capabilities and co-operative mechanisms for each. This will contribute to strengthening of the Regional Seas Programme as requested in Agenda 21.

OVERALL AUTHORITY AND POLICY GUIDANCE

2. The regular periodic meeting of the Governments (Intergovernmental Meetings) will be the sole authority in determining the content, review, progress and approval of the workplan of the regional programme. The purview of the Intergovernmental Meeting will also include the financial implications of the regional programme.

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR INTERGOVERNMENTAL MEETINGS

- 3. The meetings of Governments of Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Pakistan and Sri Lanka shall normally be held every two years, or as the need arises.
- 4. The chairmanship of the meeting shall be given to each Member State, in turn, in alphabetical order. The chairmanship shall be for a period of two calendar years.
- 5. It shall be the function of the meetings of the Governments to keep under review the implementation and execution of the Action Plan and should make policy decisions concerning all substantive and financial matters and, in particular, should:
 - (i) review the progress achieved in implementing the programmes since the previous meeting;
 - (ii) careful evaluation of the results achieved;
 - (iii) adopt a workplan for the implementation of the programme in the subsequent two year period;
 - (iv) provide the policy guidance for the procedures to be followed in the implementation of the programme;
 - approve the budgetary resources required to support the workplan and their allocation for a two year period;
 - (vi) agree upon the means for financing activities of the programme, including firm pledges for contributions to be made by Governments; and
- 6. The Rules of Procedure of SACEP Governing Council will be applied <u>mutatis</u> mutandis for the conduct of the Meetings.
- 7. Intergovernmental meetings of participating States will normally be held at Ministerial Level.



- 8. The South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme, which is the Secretariat for the Action Plan, shall make all arrangements for conducting the meetings at a suitable venue as decided by the meeting of Governments. The Director, SACEP, will act as the Secretary to the Meeting.
- A Consultative Committee comprising of the diplomatic representatives of the Member States of the South Asian Seas in Sri Lanka will meet quarterly at the SACEP Secretariat. The Director, SACEP, will act as the Secretary to the Committee.
- 10. The functions of the Consultative Committee will be mainly:
 - (i) to deliberate on the activities which require immediate action; and
 - (ii) to review the progress achieved in implementing the Action Plan.

NATIONAL FOCAL POINTS

- 11. The active participation and co-operation of the South Asian Seas States in the programme are basic prerequisites for its success. In order to achieve efficient and well co-ordinated co-operation at both the national and regional levels, a National Focal Point should be established (or an existing structure should be designated) at a high level in each of the participating Governments to harmonise, on the National level, all matters concerning the regional programme. The involvement of the NGOs in the implementation of the Action Plan will be encouraged.
- 12. The role of the National Focal Point should be:
 - (i) to act as the only official channel of communication with the Member States;
 - (ii) to co-ordinate, as appropriate, the participation of national institutions and agencies through National Project Co-ordinators in the agreed programme; and
 - (iii) to consult with all relevant organisations concerned in their respective Governments on the activities and progress achieved in implementing the Action Plan.

NATIONAL PROJECT CO-ORDINATORS

- 13. The activities identified under the action plan will be implemented by and large on project basis. In order to achieve successful implementation of the projects identified under the action plan through the Government Departments, National and other institutions, National Project Co-ordinators for each project will have to be established by the National Focal Points.
- 14. The role of National Project Co-ordinators should be:
 - (I) to co-ordinate, as appropriate the participation of Government Departments, National and other institutions and agencies in the formulation and implementation of the projects identified; and
 - (ii) to periodically inform the National Focal Point and SACEP about the progress made under the projects identified.

NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

- 15. National institutions to be selected and designated by the National Focal Points (such as Research Centres, Laboratories, Government Institutions and Agencies, Universities) should provide the institutional basis for carrying out the technical work of the programmes's activities. They should be the principal executing or implementing agencies of the project activities and will be under the overall control of National Project Co-ordinators identified by the National Focal Points. The involvement of Non-Government Organizations in the implementation of the Action Plan should be encouraged.
- 16. In order to allow for complete and effective participation in agreed activities, technical and managerial assistance (such as equipment and training) should be provided through the Action Plan to strengthen, when necessary, the capabilities of national institutions participating in the programme.

NATIONAL CO-ORDINATION COMMITTEE

17. Experience has shown that a higher degree of efficiency and mobilisation of National Institutions can be achieved by the establishment, in each of the participating States, of a National Committee for the regional programme composed of representatives of the most important National Institutions (Ministries, Government Institutions and Agencies, Universities, other Research Centres, etc.) Such a committee, to be set up by each country, can play a crucial role in mobilising support within each State, for the activities of the regional programme. In proposing the establishment of such a committee, it is clear that it is left to the discretion of each government to review its national administrative structure and to decide whether such a committee could usefully serve to promote and strengthen its national participation in the regional programme.

NETWORKING

18. A networking system will be established among SACEP, National Focal Points and National Project Co-ordinators. Under the network, SACEP will play the key role of co-ordination in carrying out various activities and projects identified under the Action Plan. The interaction of SACEP will always be with the National Focal Points and the National Project Co-ordinators in carrying out its tasks. Regional institutions participating on a voluntary basis can have interaction both with SACEP as well as well as with the National Project Co-ordinators.

SECRETARIAT

- 19. The foregoing established the need for a Secretariat, which will be responsible for the overall coordination and continuous monitoring of the implementation of the Action Plan.
- 20. Taking into consideration the fact that UNEP's contacts with the Governments concerned during the preparatory stages leading to the adoption of the Action Plan showed a strong support for designating the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP) as responsible for the Secretariat functions of the regional programme. The Second Meeting of National Focal Points on the Development of an Action Plan for the Protection and Management of the South Asian Seas Region held on 7 11 December 1987, recommended that the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP) should be considered as the Secretariat of the Action Plan once it is adopted.

21. It is recommended that the Secretariat be strengthened, but be kept to a minimal size in order to ensure that the maximum amount of available funds may be used to achieve the programme goals, set forth in the Action Plan.

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE SECRETARIAT

- 22. The Secretariat would be responsible for the overall technical management and co-ordination of the activities carried out under the regional programme, including the administration and management of the programme, its project activities and budget as adopted or modified by the Intergovernmental Meeting and Management of the finances of the South Asian Seas Programme.
- 23. The general functions of the Secretariat shall be to:
 - (I) formulate project documents for specific activities agreed upon as part of the regional programme and locate and mobilise funds for the projects from donors;
 - (ii) negotiate and co-ordinate the execution of regional projects through the network of National Focal Points and National Project Co-ordinators as well as international, regional and sub-regional organisations:
 - (iii) collect, collate and analyse results obtained through project activities and disseminate relevant and related information as appropriate;
 - (iv) organise Expert, Focal Point and Intergovernmental Meetings to be held in connection with the regional programme, including preparation of reports and other documents for the meetings;
 - (v) keep the National Focal Points and the Consultative Committee regularly informed of the progress achieved in carrying out the work programme, the results achieved and problems encountered:
 - (vi) manage the financial resources available for the implementation of the Action Plan; and
 - (vii) seek and encourage the involvement of United Nations Organizations, multi-lateral and bilateral donors, and Non-Government Organizations in the implementation of the Programme of Action.
- 24. The Secretariat will not be expected to conduct field research and execute projects, since such research and project execution will have to be undertaken primarily by the National Institutions, if necessary, with the co-operation and assistance of international and regional organisations. The Secretariat would serve as a co-ordinating centre providing information, identifying regional experts and institutions to aid participating States in solving specific environmental problems, facilitating information exchange and co-operation among these experts and institutions and promoting project activities identified by the Governments.

PERSONNEL/STAFF

- 25. The composition and expertise of the staff of the Secretariat will depend upon the activities and the magnitude of the programme adopted by the Governments. It is proposed as a long term objective that the Secretariat for the regional programme should be adequately strengthened.
- 26. For tasks that require specific expertise, the Secretariat will be assisted by consultants recruited from the region as far as possible.



COST OF THE SECRETARIAT

27. The costs of the operation of the Secretariat are related to the co-ordination of the activities agreed within the framework of the adopted programme and includes the servicing the meetings, core staff and the administrative costs. The estimated annual cost for the core staff of the Secretariat of the South Asian Seas Regional Programme is given in Appendix I.

SOUTH ASIAN SEAS ACTION PLAN TRUST FUND

- 28. The Second Meeting of the National Focal Points on the Development of an Action Plan for the Protection and Management of the South Asian Seas Region held on 7 11 December 1987, recommended that a Fund supporting the Action plan should be established and SACEP should be entrusted with its management. The fund is to receive:
 - (i) annual contributions from the Member States to meet the cost of institutional arrangements;
 - (ii) contributions from the Member States as well as from the UN, including catalytic funding from the UNEP Regional Seas Programme and other organisations, agencies etc., to meet the cost of implementation of projects identified under the action plan; and
 - (iii) contributions from any other source agreed to by the Member States. •

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

29. The management of funds contributed by the Members States to meet the institutional costs of the Secretariat will be entrusted to SACEP. With reference to funds required to implement the projects identified under the action plan, the financial contribution by the member states will always be on a project basis. The countries involved in the project would contribute on a mutually agreed basis.

Financial contributions in support of implementation of the Action Plan may also come from, for example, United Nations Organisations, the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the Asian Development Bank (ADB), States supporting the regional programme but not participating in it, and regional and international organisations which are not part of the United Nations System. Funds may also come from any other source agreed to by the Member States. Contribution to the Action Plan activities and projects may be both on a cash or in kind (staff time, experts, training facilities, ship time, services etc) basis.

SCALE OF CONTRIBUTION TO INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS OF THE SECRETARIAT

30. The Third Meeting of National Focal Points on the Development of an Action Plan for the Protection and Management of the South Asian Seas Region, held on 23 - 25 November 1994, considered many possible ways to determine the level of contributions for the institutional arrangements and recommended the South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation (SAARC) Scale of Contribution to meet the institutional arrangements as follows:

All participating States shall on an annual basis, contribute to the South Asian Seas Trust Fund according to the same ratios in the SAARC Scale of Assessment agreed upon by SAARC Member States, where the maximum contribution from a Member State is 35% whilst the minimum contribution is to be 5%.



SAARC SCALE OF ASSESSMENT

CONTRIBUTOR	Α .	В
BANGLADESH	11.35	14.50
INDIA	32.10	35.00
MALDIVES	5.00	6.50
PAKISTAN	23.85	29.50
SRI LANKA	11.35	14.50
TOTAL	83.65	100.00

COLUMN A: Percentage contribution to the SAARC Secretariat

COLUMN B: Contribution to the proposed South Asian Seas Fund based on A with a maximum contribution being 35% and minimum being 5%.

APPENDIX 1: ESTIMATED COST FOR THE SECRETARIAT OF SAS REGIONAL PROGRAMME (Expressed in US \$)

	COST ITEM	FIRST YEAR	SECOND YEAR
1.	PERSONNEL.		
	International		
	Programme Officer(s)	40,000	
	Local		
	1 Secretary	2,500	
2.	OFFICE INFRASTRUCTURE		
	Furniture	1,500	
3.,	RENTAL AND MAINTENANCE	5,000	
4.	ADMINISTRATION COSTS	5,000	
5.	MEETINGS AND INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL	10,000	
6.	DOCUMENTS	2,500	
7.	CONTINGENCIES	5,000	
	TOTAL	71,500	
	RECURRENT	70,000	76,000
	CAPITAL	1,500	

ANNEX V

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION 1: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SOUTH ASIAN SEAS ACTION PLAN

The Meeting of Plenipotentiaries.

Noting that the overall authority for the Action Plan is vested in the Governments of the region and having adopted, on 24 March 1995, the Action Plan for the Protection and Management of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the South Asian Seas Region,

- 1. <u>Decides</u> that, for the period 1995-1996, programme activities should be undertaken in the following areas, subject to the availability of resources:
- Annex 1 Integrated Coastal Zone Management;
- Annex 2 Development and Implementation of National and Regional Oil and Chemical Spill Contingency Planning;
- Annex 3 Human Resource Development through Strengthening Regional Centres of Excellence; and
- Annex 4 Protection of the Marine and Coastal Environment from Land Based Activities.
- Invites the Director of the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP),
 - (a) To act as the Secretariat for the South Asian Seas Action Plan and to enhance its capacities for this purpose.
 - (b) To prepare, with the support of the UNEP's Regional Seas Programme and in co-operation with the other competent international and regional organizations, including ADB, ESCAP, IOC of UNESCO, IMO, UNDP and Governments of the region, detailed documents describing the operational details of projects to be developed on the basis of priorities identified in 1. above.
 - (c) To convene, quarterly at the SACEP Secretariat, meetings of the Consultative Committee to review the progress achieved in implementing the Action Plan and to deliberate on activities which require immediate attention. The Consultative Committee will also advise on financial implications of project implementation and if necessary advise the secretariat on their revision.
 - (d) To co-ordinate the implementation of the projects agreed at the Meeting of Plenipotentiaries, subject to the availability of funds.

RESOLUTION 2: INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SOUTH ASIAN SEAS ACTION PLAN

The Meeting of Plenipotentiaries.

<u>Having adopted</u> the Action Plan for the Protection and Management of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the South Asian Seas Region,

Noting the willingness of SACEP to accept the designation as the organization responsible for the secretariat functions of the South Asian Seas Action Plan (SASAP),

- 1. <u>Calls upon the Director of SACEP</u>, in consultation with the Governments of the South Asian Seas region, with the support of UNEP and in close co-operation with the relevant United Nations bodies and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, to make such arrangements as required to achieve the objectives of the SASAP.
- 2. <u>Also calls upon the Director of SACEP</u> to convene every two years an Intergovernmental meeting of the States of the South Asian Seas region in order to keep under review the implementation and execution of the Action Plan and make policy decisions concerning all substantive and financial matters relating to the SASAP. Specifically, the Intergovernmental meetings should:
 - (a) review the progress achieved in implementing the programmes since the previous meeting;
 - (b) carefully evaluate the results achieved;
 - adopt a workplan for the implementation of the programme in the subsequent two year period;
 - (d) provide the policy guidance for the procedures to be followed in the implementation of the programme;
 - (e) approve the budgetary resources required to support the workplan and their allocation for a two year period; and
 - (f) agree on the means of financing activities of the programme, including firm pledges for contributions to be made by Governments.
- 3. Requests the Director of SACEP to convene in 1997 an Intergovernmental Meeting in order to review the progress achieved in the implementation of the Action Plan and to further consider the institutional and financial arrangements.
- 4. <u>Also requests the Director of SACEP</u> to convene, quarterly at the SACEP Secretariat, a meeting of the Consultative Committee to provide the secretariat with policy guidance on the implementation of the decisions taken at the Meeting of Plenipotentiaries and subsequent Intergovernmental Meetings.



RESOLUTION 3: FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SOUTH ASIAN SEAS ACTION PLAN

The Meeting of Plenipotentiaries.

<u>Having adopted</u> the Action Plan for the Protection and Management of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the South Asian Seas Region,

Noting the willingness of SACEP to be entrusted with the management of the proposed South Asian Seas Action Plan (SASAP)Trust Fund,

Also noting the readiness of the States of the region to contribute to the costs for implementation of the Action Plan through a SASAP Trust Fund,

1. <u>Decides</u> that the SASAP Trust Fund be financed, at least for the initial two year period, by annual contribution according to the ratios in the SAARC Scale of Assessment agreed upon by SAARC member States, where the maximum contribution from a member State is 35% whilst the minimum contribution is 5%. The actual contributions from the states are to be assessed as follows:

COUNTRY	%	1995 US\$	1996 US\$
Bangladesh	14.5	10,367.50	11,020.00
India	35.0	25,025.00	26,600.00
Maldives	6.5	4,647.50	4,940.00
Pakistan	29.5	21,092.50	22,420.00
Sri Lanka	14.5	10,367.50	11,020.00
TOTAL		71,500.00	76,000.00

- Requests the Director of SACEP to assume responsibility for administering the SASAP Trust Fund.
- 3. <u>Urges</u> the States to pay their contributions in equal yearly installments, starting from April 1995.
- 4. <u>Calls upon</u> the Director of SACEP, with support from UNEP's Regional Seas Programme, UNDP, ESCAP, IMO, IOC of UNESCO, Asian Development Bank and other relevant organizations to search for additional financial resources which may be available for the implementation of the SASAP, in particular to approach the Global Environment Facility on behalf of the participating States to seek funds for the implementation of the components of the South Asian Seas Action Plan.
- 5. <u>Undertakes</u> to explore potential international sources of additional financial support for the implementation of the South Asian Seas Action Plan.

ANNEX VI

Meeting of Plenipotentiaries on the Action Plan for the Protection and Management of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the South Asian Seas Region

New Delhi, 24 March 1995

FINAL ACT

- 1. The Meeting of Plenipotentiaries on the Action Plan for the Protection and Management of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the South Asian Seas Region was convened, at the request of the Governments of the region, by the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme pursuant to decision 11/7 of the General Council, adopted 24 May 1983, which requested "...the Executive Director to designate the South Asian Seas as a region to be included in the regional seas programme, in close co-operation with the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme and the Governments of the Region, and to assist in the formulation of a plan of action for the environmental protection of the South Asian Seas."
- 2. The Meeting was held in New Delhi at the invitation of the Government of India on 24 March 1995.
- 3. The States invited to participate at the Meeting of Plenipotentiaries were the: People's Republic of Bangladesh, Republic of India, Republic of Maldives, Islamic Republic of Pakistan and Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.
- All of the afore mentioned states accepted the invitation and participated in the Meeting.
- 5. Representatives of the following Intergovernmental organisations also attended the Meeting: Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP); International Maritime Organization (IMO); Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO; South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP); and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).
- 6. The Meeting was inaugurated on behalf of the Government of India by Hon. Mr Pranab Mukherjee, Minister for External Affairs. The meeting was opened, on behalf of the Executive Director of the United Nation Environment Programme, by Mr Peter Schroder, Director, Oceans and Coastal Areas Programme Activity Centre. An opening statement was also made by Mr Eduardo Faleiro, Minister for Ocean Development, Government of India.
- 7. The Meeting elected Mr Eduardo Faleiro (India) as President of the Meeting, Mr M. Abul Quasem (Bangladesh), Mr Asif Shuja Khan (Pakistan) and Ms S. Athulathmudali (Sri Lanka) as Vice Presidents, and Mr Hussain Shihab (Maldives) as Rapporteur.

- 8. The Meeting considered the Report of the Fourth Meeting of National Focal Points, presented as UNEP(OCA)SAS WG3/REP. This document contained the proposed final drafts of the Action Plan with Annexes, Institutional and Financial Arrangements, Resolutions and the Final Act to be adopted by the Meeting of Plenipotentiaries.
- 9. As a result of the deliberations at the Meeting, the Action Plan for the Protection and Management of the South Asian Seas Region, with Annexes, and the Institutional and Financial Arrangements for the Implementation of the Action Plan were adopted.
- 10. The Meeting also considered and adopted the Resolutions, the texts of which are appended to this Final Act.

The Action Plan for the Protection and Management of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the South Asian Seas was signed by the representatives of: People's Republic of Bangladesh; Republic of India; Republic of Maldives; Islamic Republic of Pakistan; and Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.

In witness whereof the representatives have signed this Final Act.

Done at New Delhi, this 24th day of March, 1995, in a single original copy, to be deposited in the archive of Department of Ocean Development, Government of India, New Delhi.

People's Republic of Bangladesh

Republic of India

Republic of Maldives

Islamic Republic of Pakistan

uinani Ulkukali undel Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

In witness thereof thertherthe

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WORKING PAPER

STATUS REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MALÉ DECLARATION ON CONTROL AND PREVENTION OF AIR POLLUTION AND ITS LIKELY TRANSBOUNDARY EFFECTS FOR SOUTH ASIA

- 1. In March 1998 in a meeting organized by UNEP and Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI), senior officials, experts and SACEP met and agreed on a draft of the above captioned declaration to address the issue of transboundary air pollution in South Asia.
- 2. The Male' Declaration on Transboundary Air Pollution was adopted during the 7th Governing Council of SACEP held in April 1998. The Malé Declaration stated the need for countries to carry forward, or initiate, studies and programmes on air pollution in each of the countries in South Asia. All environmental ministries in South Asia nominated implementing agencies to carryout the national level implementation.
- 3. In May 1998, the implementation details were discussed and agreed the implementing agencies. Implementation is being carried out in phases.

Phase I Implementation

- 4. Activities completed in Phase I (1999-2001) include:
 - **Network**: a network of organizations to implement the declaration was established. The network consists of National Focal Points (NFP), National Implementing Agencies (NIAs), and National advisory committee at the national level. SACEP, UNEP and SEI at the regional level.
 - **Baseline Studies:** Baseline studies provided valuable information on controlling the transboundary air pollution problems in the participating communities and identified gaps in the existing monitoring systems.
 - **Action Plan:** The Action Plan provided the national priorities in the implementation of the Male' Declaration.
- 5. By the time the Phase I ends, a network was established, baseline studies were completed and action plans drawn up. The baseline studies provided valuable information on air pollution management programmes in the participating countries and clearly identified the gaps in the existing monitoring systems to understand transboundary air pollution.

Phase II Implementation

- 6. Activities completed in Phase II (2002-2004) include:
 - **Network:** annual Intergovernmental Meeting of the Malé Declaration network, national and regional level stakeholders' consultations;

- Capacity Building: development of standard guidelines, site selection, procurement and installation of monitoring equipment, training personnel for data collection, air quality monitoring, analysis;
- Parallel studies: improvement on the existing Emission Inventories and development of an Integrated Assessment Model (IAM) for assessment of transboundary air pollution.
- 7. By the time the Phase II ends at national level, each of the participating countries established one transboundary air pollution monitoring station and the required skilled manpower to do the monitoring. Capacity building activities initiated during the implementation of Phase II have made significant impact at the national and regional level. Commitments from the participating countries are encouraging.

Phase III Implementation

- 8. Currently the Declaration is in its Phase III implementation (2005-2008). Major activities of Phase II include:
- **Network:** annual intergovernmental meeting, regional stakeholders cum coordination meetings;
- **Monitoring:** continues monitoring, incorporated addition parameters and additional monitoring stations, annual refresher training and specialized training programmes;
- **Impact assessment:** regional and national level training programmes and demonstration projects;
- Emission Inventory and modeling: development of emission inventory worksheets and Integrated Assessment Modeling, and training programmes;
- Decision support information: guidelines and demonstration on eco-housing;
- 6. Currently, Malé Declaration is being considered as a model for addressing air pollution issues and being replicated in other regions. The Eight Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting of the Malé Declaration, held in September 2006 in Thimbu, Bhutan, agreed on an extended institutional arrangement for further implementation including establishment of specialized centers, sharing of the existing infrastructure, financial and in-kind contribution to facilitate sustainability. The project will be strengthened by agreements to share expertise, and resources for monitoring, analysis of the information, and reduction of air pollution.
- 7. Continued active participation of all the member countries will assure success of the Phase III of the Malé Declaration.

It is requested that the Meeting of the National Focal Points endorses the status and the decisions at the 8th inter-governmental meeting of the project, held in Thimphu (September 2006) and observes the capacity building requirement at the Secretariat during the Phase III implementation.

GC 10.SACEP/NFP/D 3 Agenda Item 5.2

SACEP-UNEP support for programme implementation

Since the time, SACEP was established in the year 1982, UNEP through its Regional Office for Asia and Pacific played a key role. Though UNEP was instrumental in setting the stage to the Secretariat's role for the region, its involvement in strengthening the Secretariat became more prominent during the last decade with specific project support since the year 1994.

UNEP's support initiated the South Asia Environment Natural Information Centre, with the main goal to address the objective *Informed decision making*" (Chapter 40, Agenda 21) and as the main strategy for the region under the UNEP's Environment Assessment Programme (UNEP-EAP), later known as UNEP's Regional Resource Centre for Asia Pacific (UNEP-RRC.AP). Under this collaboration, SACEP addressed three main components, namely a) Capacity Building, b) Data Management, and c) Assessment and Reporting.

Under the collaboration from UNEP, the region benefited through established GIS and IP centres for the governments at the Ministries of Environment and well equipped National Centres to ensure a coordinated mechanism for data management; fully operational GIS labs and trained personnel. GIS based dataset for the region at various degrees of scales were ensured and data with clearance from the governments is accessible through webs site with UNEP-RRC.AP. Assessment and State of the Environment Reports for the region were produced during the years 2000-2001 at national and sub-regional levels. The process of the SoE Reporting ensured enhanced capacities for Environmental Assessment at the Ministries. The collaboration further received guidance and assistance from UNEP to the recommendation from the 8th Governing Council for a review of the Secretariat's programme and management. Details of the programme collaboration and achievements under the SENRIC project is attached.

Following the recommendation from the 9th Governing Council, UNEP extended the support to establish SACEP's work programme base to develop concept papers under the three thematic programmes of focus suggested by the 9th Governing Council. The support under this MoU with UNEP also included support to organize Ministerial and Focal Point meetings.

The Secretariat requests the Meeting of the National Focal Points to review the collaboration and to submit to the Governing Council for its recommendation to UNEP to the continued support to SACEP to strengthen and expand its programme base and conduct its Ministerial and Focal Point meetings.

Attachment: SENRIC [Past-Present-Future]

SOUTH ASIA ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTRE (SENRIC)

1. Background and Establishment

- 1.1 SACEP became a legal entity in 1982 when the minimum required number of countries ratified its Articles of association. Since its formation, the establishment of an Environment Clearing House System has been a priority area for the South Asian region and fully endorsed by its Governing Council at all of its meetings. As a response, the Regional Environmental and Natural Resources Information Centre (RENRIC) was established in SACEP in July 1990 with the support from the Asian Development Bank under the broad objectives indicated below
 - a) Establishment of an environmental and natural resources clearing-house within the SACEP Secretariat;
 - b) Establishment of an environmental and natural resources information network within the SACEP membership utilizing the existing subject matter Focal Points to the extent possible;
 - c) Provision of an information network system including appropriate hardware and software;
 - d) Provision of advisory support and training for member country representatives by presenting a SACEP Workshop
- 1.2 The 5th GC of SACEP in September 1992 approved a SACEP Strategy and Programme (SSP 1) for the period 1992-96. Under SSP 1, continuation of RENRIC was one of the main approvals.
- 1.3 The Environment and Natural Resources Information Networking (ENRIN) activity in Asia and the Pacific Region within a cooperative environment assessment framework is designed to catalyse and facilitate capacity building and servicing of institutions in developing countries and countries with economies in transition in the Asia Pacific Region for improved assessment and reporting on environmental issues. Its long-term goal is to help countries in the Region realise the objectives articulated in Agenda 21, Chapter 40 on Information for Decision-making: (a) enhanced accessibility of integrated environment and development information; and (b) enhanced national capacity to deal with such information for decision-making, priority-setting, policy formulation and planning.
- In association with the Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ROAP), the Asia Pacific ENRIN project is coordinated by UNEP Regional Resource Centre for Asia and the Pacific (UNEP RRC.AP) located at the Asian Institute of Technology, Bangkok, Thailand. Partnerships were forged at the regional and sub-regional levels in executing and implementing the project. Under these partnerships, SENRIC project was initiated in early 1994 in collaboration with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) as a continuation of the RENRIC's establishment to coordinate the activities for the South Asian Region and to be based at SACEP. The Environment Assessment Programme of UNEP (UNEP EAP.AP now known as UNEP RRC.AP) provided necessary backstopping for the related activities since 1995 following the initial establishment support from ADB for the year 1994.
- 1.5 The Governing Council of SACEP at its 3rd Special Session held on 6 November 2003 endorsed the recommendations from a review of the work programme and suggested that the SACEP's management structure to adopt SENRIC and any such projects to form an integral part of the Secretariat.

- 1.6 Implementation of the Sub-Programme in Asia Pacific Region requires coordination and cooperation with existing sub-regional institutions in the Region. Since its inception, SACEP's concern centred on the establishment of a regional cooperation on environment-oriented development activities.
- 1.7 Targeting the environment agency in each country, the activities in the Asia Pacific ENRIN project being implemented include (a) *institutional capacity building activities*, (b) *data and database management support*, and (c) *assessment and reporting*.
- 1.8 Through the initial stages, SENRIC pursued on *Training, Data Management* activities through the years 1994-1997 as a part of Capacity Building operations, in close collaboration with the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), Kathmandu, Nepal.
- 1.9 Project activities under collaboration with UNEP-RRC.AP and ROAP (1994-2002)
 - **a.** Capacity Building (1994-96)
 - ➤ Under the assitsnace from Asian development Bank and the UNEP-EAP.AP GIA and IP capacities at the Ministries were enhanced as a follow up of the activities under the ENRIN setup.
 - ➤ Under this activity National Coordinating Centres in Maldives and Sri Lanka and GIS training facilities in Sri Lanka at the University of Peradeniya were ensured.
 - b. Malé Declaration on Control and Prevention of Air Pollution and its Likely Transboundary Effects for South Asia (Annex: Status Report Submitted to the Governing Council)
 - The Malé Declaration on Transboundary Air Pollution was adopted under the Chairmanship of Hon. Mohammed Abdul Gayoom, President of the Republic of Maldives during the 7th Governing Council of SACEP held in April 1998
 - ➤ Fostering collaboration with the UNEP-RRC.AP, Sida and SEI SACEP participated in ensuring the National Implementation Networks, compilation of the baseline status of the monitoring mechanisms in the region and a regional Action Plan for implementation of the Declaration during Phase 1 (year 1998-2000)
 - ➤ Phase 2 (year 2002-2004) activities of the project established a monitoring network in the region and the strong network of such monitoring assured with the cooperation and collaboration from the member countries to share the existing facilities and capabilities in the region. A Status Report was presented to the 8th Governing Council of SACEP at its 2nd Special Session during January 2003
 - c. Strengthening Environmental Assessment Capabilities (SEAMCAP, 1998-2002)
 - In November 1998, the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD) designated UNEP Environment Assessment Programme for Asia and Pacific (UNEP EAP.AP) to implement a project on *Strengthening National Capabilities on Environment Assessment and Monitoring towards the Preparation of the Global State of the Environment Report 2000*. Specifically, for the South Asian region the following countries are covered: Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal, Sri Lanka. UNEP further assisted towards the preparation of the Reports for India and Pakistan as well.
 - > SENRIC assisted to strengthen the capacities in establishing strong information technology base for data processing, modelling and analysis requirements that

supports SoE assessments and reporting, and improve the basis for decision making in the handling of important/emerging environment problems. The project further assisted in preparing national and regional SoE reports which are a contribution to "2002 Global State of Environment Report" and "2002 Earth Summit". It also set in motion a continuous and regular assessment process in the region to facilitate the decision making process.

- ➤ During the year 2001/2 SENRIC/SACEP participated towards the agreed and assumed activities to implement the SEAMCAP (Phase 1) and successfully coordinated and ensured the completion of the *national level SoE Reports* for *Bangladesh*, *Bhutan*, *India*, *Maldives*, *Nepal*, *Sri Lanka* and a *sub-regional Report*. "*Children of the Monsoon*" a youth version of the sub-regional report, is also one of the main outcomes of this project.
- d. Regional Consultations to support the GEO process (2000-2002)

SENRIC constantly assisted in Regional Consultations to complement UNEP activities in the sub-region for inputs to

> GEO 2002 (June 2001)

South Asia SoE Report (June 2001)

- ➤ WSSD Preparatory and follow-up Activities for the Regional Platform (Sept 2001)
- ➤ Preparation & Consultations of South Asia Position paper for WSSD (June 2002)
- e. Review of the SACEP Work Programme (2001-2003)

SENRIC undertook the conduct of programme review following the suggestion from the GC (September 2001). The Review mission's recommendations were endorsed by the Governing Council (November 2003).

- 1.10 Project achievements under collaboration with UNEP-RRC.AP and ROAP (1994-2003)
 - a) Capacity Building Activities (1994-97)
 - Preparation of GIS Training Manuals with local case studies
 - ➤ Training of Trainers (GIS and Image Processing / Remote Sensing)
 - > Setup of GIS Training Unit (University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka)
 - Setup of National Coordinating Units at the Ministry of Environment (Sri Lanka and Maldives)
 - Provision of Hardware and Software to the member countries
 - Training to the IWMI centres conducted in Colombo
 - Advisory role to set up the GIS system for IWMI units

b) Early Warning and Reporting (1996 - 2004)

Malé Declaration on Control and Prevention of Air Pollution and its Likely Transboundary Effects for South Asia (on-going since 1998)

▶ Phase 1: 1998-2001: National and Regional Baseline Studies and Action Plans

➤ Phase 2: 2001-2003: Implementation of Regional Action Plan

The Declaration was adopted at the 7th Governing Council of SACEP held in 1998. Phase 1 addressed the national regional level baseline studies and formulated an action plan; Phase 2 implemented the action plan to the set up of monitoring stations

and lab facilities in each of the member countries including Iran and conducted training courses to monitor the air pollution data.

Publications / Reports:

Proceedings of the Network Meeting 2001: 29 June 2001, 6-7 October 2003, Colombo Sri Lanka

Proceedings of the Annual Network Meeting 2002: 18-19 July 2002 Kathmandu, Nepal,

National Stakeholders' Meeting: 24 September 2002, New Delhi, India

Proceedings of the Annual Network Meeting: 6-7 October 200,

Dhaka, Bangladesh,

Regional Stakeholders' Forum: 8 October 2003, Dhaka, Bangladesh

National Stakeholders' Meeting: 25 February 2004, Dhaka Bangladesh

Report of the Training Programme on Monitoring Transboundary Air

Pollution, 29-31 May 2002, UNEP-RRC.AP Bangkok, Thailand

Report of the Training Programme on Wet Deposition Monitoring: 4-9 August, 2003: CPCB, New Delhi,India

Report of the in-country Training Programmes: March 2004

Report of the Training Programme and Refresher Course: 8-12 March 2004, CPCB, New Delhi, India

Technical Documents for Wet and Dry Deposition Monitoring: March 2004

Data Reporting: March 2004

Training Materials on Monitoring Transboundary Air Pollution: March 2004 Wet Deposition Monitoring Practical Manual (Water Analysis): March 2004

State of the Environment Reporting (1996-2002)

SoE Database Framework for South Asia (1998)

➤ SoE Reporting through SEAMCAP project (1998-2002)

Regional Consultations for input to the WSSD (2001)

> Integrated Environmental Assessment briefings,

training to the regional partners (2003)

Under the framework guidelines developed by UNEP-RRC.AP, SACEP addressed the capacity building issues through trainings and provision of hardware and software to the Ministries of Environment; coordinated efforts to the development of SoE database which formed the basis for the SoE Reports in the region.

Publications:

State of the Environment Report: Bangladesh

State of the Environment Report: Bhutan

State of the Environment Report: India

State of the Environment Report: Maldives

State of the Environment Report: Nepal

State of the Environment Report: Sri Lanka.

South Asia State of the Environment Report

Children of Monsoon: Youth version of the South Asia State of the Environment

The publications were launched at the SACEP's Special Session of the Governing Council (2002)

Review of SACEP Programme

Successful coordination and conduct of the review of the programme in consultation with all the member countries and presentation to the Governing Council for endorsement.

- 1.11 Currently on-going / anticipated project activities under collaboration with UNEP-ROAP
 - a. Malé Declaration on Control and Prevention of Air Pollution and its Likely Transboundary Effects for South Asia
 - Phase 3: 2005-2008 implementation in collaboration with UNEP-ROAP
 - ➤ Phase 3 (year 2005-2007): the project will continue to address the Capacity Building activities and a strong network through involving wider group of stakeholders. Phase 3 activities aimed at regional and national level capacity building and explore avenues to partnership with agencies for the suggestions from the Regional Stakeholder Forums, for example: Health Impact Studies
 - Falling in line with the Declaration, the region further confirms on the necessity for the Assessment of the impacts on Human Health, Ecosystems, Corrosive Effects to the Monuments, Acidification of Soils etc. and suggests on studies to be initiated.
 - Implementing the "The Declaration", the project presently addresses the statement from the region to "Co-operate in building up standardised methodologies to monitor phenomena like acid depositions and analyse their impacts without prejudice to the national activities in such fields"
 - b. Establishment of Work Programme in accordance with the decisions from GC9
 - ➤ The GC(had recommended for the work programme for the biennium to focus under three main programmes, viz. 1) Waste Management, 2) Adaptation to Climate Change and 3) Data Management.
 - ➤ Under the collaboration from UNEP-ROAP, programme out line and concept papers for each of the three programmes has been developed and received endorsement from UNEP and the regional member countries.
 - > The Concept Papers ae being updated to include further details with appropriate project proposals for the region.

Conclusion:

SACEP has benefited from the collaboration and support from UNEP, especially under the support to SENRIC since the year 1994. It is requested that the focal points weigh the strength to the Secretariat and submit to the Governing Council for its recommendation to UNEP for its continued support to the project

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TENTH MEETING OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL OF SOUTH ASIA CO-OPERATIVE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME (SACEP)

REPORT ON LEGISLATION FRAMEWORK FOR CZM IN SOUTH ASIA

The Special Session of the Governing Council of the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP) in its meeting of January 2003 called for development of a common, regional-level legislative framework on coastal zone management. In response to this, the Coordination Office of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-Based Activities of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP/GPA) entered into an agreement with the Regional Environmental Law Programme, Asia, of the World Conservation Union (IUCN) to provide an up-to-date synthesis of the regulatory issues involved in coastal and marine resources management by reviewing and consolidating at the national level the findings of three different initiatives that examined issues of regulatory frameworks governing the coastal zone in SACEP maritime Member Countries - Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Pakistan and Sri Lanka .

The country reviews and subsequent consultations identified a significant number of issues common to SACEP maritime Member Countries that could become the basic elements of a regional framework.

The year 1995 was a pivotal one for coastal zone and marine area management in South Asia as well as globally, with three significant programmes adopted: Action Plan for South Asian Regional Seas; Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-Based Activities (GPA); and Jakarta Mandate on Marine and Coastal Biological Diversity.

A decade later, and as three SACEP maritime Member Countries - India, Maldives and Sri Lanka coped with the aftermath of the 26 December 2004 tsunami, it was appropriate in 2005 to review the current status of coastal and marine resources and their management in South Asia and to consider how to optimize SACEP's approach to these issues for the next 10 years. This coincided with the inauguration, on 25 June 2005, of the SAARC Coastal Zone Management Centre in Male, Maldives. The Dhaka Declaration of the 13th SAARC Summit (November 2005) endorsed the decision of the Special Session of the SAARC Environment Ministers to further enhance the capacity of the SAARC Coastal Zone Management Centre to carry out its mandated tasks.

Three SACEP maritime Member Countries - Bangladesh, India and Sri Lanka - have specific policies and / or legislation governing the coastal zone.

In Bangladesh and India there were significant developments in 2005: Bangladesh adopted its Coastal Zone Policy and is preparing a Coastal Development Strategy and revising its National

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Programme of Action (NPA) to address land-based sources of coastal and marine pollution; and India completed the process of reviewing its 1991 Coastal Regulation Zone Notification, with significant recommendations for strengthening it. Sri Lanka adopted its Coast Conservation Act in

1981, has amended it since, and has also finalised its NPA to facilitate implementation of the GPA at national level. The entire island nation of Maldives is considered a coastal zone; management issues are addressed through national development plans and national legislation governing fisheries and the environment generally. In Pakistan, the coastal zone and marine area is managed on the basis of national policy and legislation governing ocean resources and fisheries, and provincial legislation governing fisheries and coastal development.

The project was intended to be a desk study, relying primarily on specific outputs from research commissioned by the GPA Coordination Office and from Asian Development Bank (ADB) Regional Technical Assistance (RETA) project on Coastal and Marine Resources Management.

The resources that were used as the basis for the draft brief included:

- ♣ UNEP/GPA. 2003. A Comparative Review of Coastal Legislation in South Asia. Report prepared by Ahana Lakshmi and R. Rajagopalan;
- UNEP/GPA 2003. A Framework for Protection of Marine Environment from Pollution due to Land-based Activities in South Asia. Report prepared by Rajeev Kher;
- 🖶 UNEP Regional Seas Programme. 1995. South Asian Seas Action Plan;
- ♣ The collection of national and regional reports prepared by India, Maldives, Pakistan and Sri Lanka under the 2003 Asian Development Bank Regional Technical Assistance for Coastal and Marine Resources Management and Poverty Reduction in South Asia (ADB RETA 5974); Bangladesh did not participate in that project.

The Publication titled "Developing a Legal Framework for Managing Land Based Activities that impact on the Coastal and Marine Environment in South Asia is attached.

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Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management

The Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) was mandated by the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) and endorsed by the Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002 and the New York World Summit in September 2005. It has been developed by a multi-stakeholder Preparatory Committee, co-convened by UNEP, the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety (IFCS) and the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC).

The Ministers, heads of delegation and representatives of civil society and the private sector assembled at the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM) stated in the Dubai Declaration (Annex1) they "will strive to integrate SAICM into the work programmes of all relevant United Nations organizations, specialized agencies, funds and programmes consistent with their mandates as accorded by their respective governing bodies."

The ICCM in its resolution I/1 on implementation arrangements "commended SAICM to the attention of the governing bodies of relevant intergovernmental organizations and encouraged them to endorse or otherwise appropriately acknowledge the SAICM with a view to incorporating its objectives into their programmes of work within their mandates."

The draft resolution (Annex2) is submitted to the 10th session of the Governing Council of SACEP to consider for endorsement.

Note: Annex 1 can be downloaded from:

http://www.chem.unep.ch/saicm/SAICM%20texts/SAICM%20documents.htm

Tenth Meeting of the Governing Council of the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme

Introduction

Tenth Meeting of the Governing Council of the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (GC10.SACEP) was held in Kathmandu Nepal on 25th of January 2007.

Attendance

The meeting of the GC10.SACEP was attended by Environment Ministers from Afghanistan, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal and Pakistan and the Senior Officers from the eight member countries of SACEP viz. Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

Representatives from Asian Development Bank (ADB), Centre for Environmental Education (CEE) India, International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) United State Embassy in Kathmandu and World Meteorological Organization (WMO) attended the meeting as observers.

Decision 9.2.4: Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management

The Governing Council of SACEP

Recalling Paragraph 23 of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation adopted by the World Summit on Sustainable Development on 4 September 2002, and paragraph 56 of the 2005 World Summit Outcome adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 16 December 2005, in which the development of a strategic approach to chemical management was endorsed by heads of State and Government,

Welcoming the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM), consisting of the Dubai Declaration on International Chemicals Management, the Overarching Policy Strategy and the Global Plan of Action, as adopted by the International Conference on Chemicals Management in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, on 6 February 2006,

Acknowledging the establishment of a "Quick Start Programme" to support initial enabling capacity building and implementation activities for the Strategic Approach in developing countries, least developed countries, small island developing states and countries with economies in transition,

Recalling decision 23/9, adopted by the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on 25 February 2005, at its twenty-third session, held in Nairobi, Kenya, which requested the Executive Director, as a matter of high priority, to make appropriate provision for fulfillment of the organization's responsibilities under the Strategic Approach and to make provision for activities to support developing countries and countries with economies in transition in implementing the Strategic Approach, taking into account the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity building,

- 1. *Endorses* the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management as contained in the Dubai Declaration on International Chemicals Management, the Overarching Policy Strategy and the Global Plan of Action;
- 2. *Urges* member countries to participate in national, sub-regional, regional and international efforts to implement the Strategic Approach;
- 3. *Encourages* the exploration of possible sub-regional approaches to the implementation of the Strategic Approach, holding of sub-regional consultations and the further development of a sub-regional action plan for South Asia;
- 4. *Urges* the participating organizations of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals, the United Nations Development Programme, FAO, the World Bank and the other bilateral and multi-lateral donor agencies to give priority to the needs of South Asian countries, when developing activities to support implementation of the Strategic Approach within the work programmes and mandates of those organizations;
- 5. *Requests* the Director General to incorporate the implementation of Strategic Approach into SACEP's work programme.

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THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE BASEL CONVENTION SUB-REGIONAL CENTRE FOR SOUTH ASIA AT THE SACEP SECRETARIAT IN COLOMBO, SRI LANKA

Under Article 14, paragraph 1, of the Basel Convention, the Parties agreed that, according to specific needs of the different regions and sub-regions, regional or sub-regional centres for training and technology transfer regarding the management of hazardous wastes and other wastes and the minimization of their generation should be established.

At its first meeting, the Conference of the Parties by decision 1/13, paragraph 2, the Conference requested the Open-ended Ad Hoc Committee to consider the interests expressed by a number of countries on the establishment of regional and sub-regional centres and to report to the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties on ways and means for the establishment and functioning of such centres, as well as for the establishment of appropriate funding mechanisms of a voluntary nature for the establishment of such centres.

At its second meeting, the Conference of the Parties by Decision II/19 mandated the Open-ended Ad Hoc Committee to conclude the selection of sites for establishment of such centres based on results of feasibility studies and taking into account the existence of any related regional Centres.

Accordingly, following regional centres have been established so far:

- Basel Convention Regional Centre for the Arab States in Egypt
- Basel Convention Coordinating Centre for the African Region in Nigeria
- Basel Convention Regional Centre for French-speaking Countries in Africa in Senegal
- Basel Convention Regional Centre for English-speaking African Countries in South Africa
- Basel Convention Centre for the Asia and Pacific Region in China
- Basel Convention Regional Centre for South-East Asia in Indonesia
- Basel Convention Regional Centre in Tehran
- Pacific Regional Centre for Training and Technology Transfer for the Joint Implementation of the Basel and Waigani Conventions in the South Pacific region
- Basel Convention Regional Centre for CIS countries in the Russian Federation

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- Basel Convention Regional Centre for Central Europe in Slovakia
- Basel Convention Regional Centre for the South American Region in Argentina
- Basel Convention Regional Centre for Central America and Mexico in El Salvador
- Basel Convention Regional Centre for the Caribbean Region in Trinidad and Tobago
- Basel Convention Coordinating Centre for Training and Technology Transfer for Latin America and Caribbean region in Uruguay

There were few proposals to establish a South Asia Sub-regional Centre proposed by some countries of the region, but due to various reasons none of those could proceed.

South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP) being an intergovernmental organization of the South Asia region, considering the unique problems faced by its member countries with regards to the management of hazardous waste and the needs of separate centre for the region to address those issues effectively, had proposed to establish the centre at SACEP Secretariat, Colombo, Sri Lanka.

SACEP, with the help of its member countries was able get the decision on CRP1/Rev1 (Annex1) at the recently concluded CoP8 of the Basel Convention to establish a separate regional centre for South Asia at the SACEP Secretariat.

The 10th Governing Council fully supports the establishment of the regional centre for Basel Convention at the SACEP Secretariat and reiterates the commitments and support of the country governments for its establishment.

United Nations Environment Programme UNEP/CHW.8/CRP.1/Rev.1 30 November 2006

Original: English

Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal Eighth meeting Nairobi, 27 November-1 December 2006 Agenda item 8 (a) (iii)

Implementation of the decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its seventh meeting: Strategic Plan for the Implementation of the Basel Convention to 2010: work and operation of the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres

Establishment of the Basel Convention Regional Centre for South Asia at the SACEP secretariat in Colombo, Sri Lanka

Draft decision submitted by SACEP and all member countries of SACEP (Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka)

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling paragraph 3 of its decision III/19,

Recalling also its decision VII/10,

Taking into account the proposal for the establishment of a centre that will provide benefits to the countries of the South Asia region and serve the objectives of the Basel Convention in the best possible way and that the countries of that region have agreed to the proposal to establish a regional centre in the intergovernmental institution the South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme in Colombo, Sri Lanka,

Mandates the Open-ended Working Group at its next meeting to consider in detail the proposal for the establishment of the regional centre for South Asia in the South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme based on the feasibility study for the establishment of the centre, consulting with relevant Parties;

Requests the Secretariat to submit the recommendations of the Open-ended Working Group to the Conference of the Parties at its ninth meeting for its consideration and appropriate action.

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EU Supported ICRAN – SACEP Project on MCPAs

The South Asian region was ranked the lowest in the world in terms of declared Marine and Coastal Protected Areas (MCPAs) in the 2003 United Nations List of Protected Areas, making the Indian Ocean with its wealth of coral reefs, seagrasses, and mangrove forest, perhaps the most poorly protected coastline/ocean. As a result, the degradation of coastal and marine resources continues at an unprecedented rate, and despite current protection measures, one third to half of the coral reefs of South Asia are now effectively dead, and a further 30% threatened.

The South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP) in collaboration with the International Coral Reef Action Network (ICRAN) and through funding from the European Union, a three-year project was initiated on January 1, 2006. The aim of which, is to contribute to the reduction in the rates of marine and coastal biodiversity loss within the South Asia region, and protect the natural resources on which the economic and social development of future generations is based, through the establishment of regionally representative networks of marine and coastal protected areas (MCPAs) encompassing coral reefs.

The Actions will include:

- The development of human and technical expertise, the improvement of information and networking services, and the allocation of technical equipment to sites.
- Review and rationalisation of training and management processes across the region to ensure greater consistency and aptitude for management and conservation, and to formulate a transferable resource base.
- Institutional strengthening to mainstream environmental considerations into development policy and readdress the unique situations of poor coastal communities.
- The creation of advisory and coordination capacity through the establishment of the South Asia Coral Reef Task Force, developing linkages between all levels of management, focusing existing regional expertise, facilitating coordinated responses to transboundary management issues and improving the representation of South Asian marine and coastal resource management challenges within global discussion fora (Annex1).

It is requested that the 10th Governing Council fully endorses the establishment of the South Asia Coral Reef Task Force.

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Establishment of the South Asian Coral Reef Task Force Information Document

Background

The South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme (SACEP) in collaboration with the International Coral Reef Action Network (ICRAN) and other partners, is charged with the implementation of the European Union (EU) funded project 'Institutional Strengthening and capacity development for the long-term management of MCPAs encompassing coral reefs in South Asia', which will commence later this year (2006), in the 5 maritime nations of South Asia (Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Pakistan, Sri Lanka). One of the major anticipated outputs of the project will be the establishment of a South Asia Coral Resource Task Force.

SACEP is contacting key stakeholders, and would like to request your review and initial comments on this information document, for incorporation and further discussion. SACEP hope to use the responses to develop a draft Terms of Reference (TOR) for the operation of the Task Force, and its role in the forthcoming EU project activities, and within the region, which will be revised and finalised through two regional workshops and intercessional discussion.

Potential Role of the Task Force

Once in operation it is anticipated that this body will provide guidance to agencies to develop coordinated, science based plans to manage and conserve reefs, and mitigate current and future impacts in South Asia. Comprised of a representative group of policy makers, regional experts and stakeholders, it is anticipated that the Task Force will become a regional driving force relaying site-based realities to policy makers and providing environmental information to support policy makers.

The Task Force will operate as a body of expertise able to be mobilised regionally, nationally and locally, and, in the event of any future natural catastrophes, reducing the reliance on external assistance and providing a well-informed advisory service in the assessment and rehabilitation process.

Developing a role as a leading body for coral reef conservation, the Task Force will advise on strategies in response to the growing global environmental crisis and will support the implementation of policy and its adherence to the objectives of Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs).

The Task Force will initially be financed through EU funds for the first three years of operation, after which point it will be responsible for developing its own fundraising strategies to guarantee the longer-term sustainability. The Task Force will also be available to provide technical assistance in proposal development to other parties undertaking coastal resource activities that will benefit the region or individual participating countries.

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General Requirements of Task Force Members

- Work alongside project personnel and principal stakeholders to define a suitable work plan for each year of project implementation, mindful of the commitments of Task Force members, and the goals of the wider EU project.
- Encourage policy makers and decision makers to develop national coral reef action plans or strategies, where they do not already exist, and to look at the establishment of a regional framework for coral reef management and protection
- Act as a reference body and provide technical advice, where appropriate, on proposals and coral reef related activities in the region
- Explore fundraising options for the long-term sustainability of the Task Force, and provide assistance and advise to organisations developing national or regionally applicable projects
- Facilitate linkages and dialogue between potential collaborators to maximise synergies at all levels of work on coral reefs
- A chairperson will be elected to provide coordination assistance to Task Force outputs. The position will be filled on a rotational basis

Selection of Task Force Members

Stakeholders identified for inclusion in the South Asia Coral Resource Task Force will be allocated tasks in light of their existing work commitments and their area of expertise. While all reasonable costs are covered, the provision of advice and support in some tasks will be on an in-kind contribution basis.

Task Force members will be selected on the grounds that they have adequate skills to provide policy and scientific advice, and conduct capacity building training, and demonstrate commitment and enthusiasm for the objectives of the EU project and the wider role of the Task Force. The Task Force may be strengthened through the inclusion of stakeholders of strategic importance, invited to participate in accordance with the identified operating procedures and project work plan.

Regional Task Force

Draft Terms of Reference

- Assist in the construction of an identity and presence of the TF in the region
- Work alongside Task Force members and principal stakeholders to define a suitable work plan for each year of project implementation, mindful of commitments of task force members, the goals of the EU project, and wider regional needs
- Define the structure and operation of the Task Force through regional consultation and review
- Encourage active participation in international meetings by institutions and relevant parties in order to raise awareness about priority issues relevant to the region
- Facilitate the establishment of national coral reef task forces that support the development of local capacity in research, management and government, coordinate communication at the national level and serve as a platform to local initiatives
- Encourage policy makers and decision makers to develop national coral reef action plans or strategies and to look at the establishment of a regional framework for coral reef management and protection
- Act as a reference body and provide technical advice, where appropriate, on proposals for coral reef projects in the region
- Provide advice to strengthen the legal and institutional framework at all appropriate levels for the conservation and sustainable management of coral reefs
- Facilitate communication and the dissemination of information for scientific and public awareness purposes
- Undertake fundraising activities to support Task Force outputs as well as assisting in fundraising for other coral reefs activities and projects that will benefit the region and individual countries

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CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY AND ITS CLEARING-HOUSE MECHANISM

Introduction

Biological diversity is the variety of life on Earth, from the simplest bacterial gene to the vast, complex rainforests of the Amazon. Human beings are an integral part of this diversity, as is the food, medicine, clothing and other biological resources that sustain us.

Recognizing the importance of biodiversity to our daily lives and the pressure that human activities are placing on our living world, governments adopted the Convention on Biological Diversity in 1992 as a framework for action. From the start it was understood that scientific knowledge and technological know-how would have a vital role to play.

However, expertise in managing information and technology varies enormously from country to country. For this reason, the Convention has established a "Clearing-House Mechanism" to ensure that all governments have access to the information and technologies they need for their work on biodiversity.

The Clearing House

The clearing-house is based on the philosophy that broad participation and easy access must be a top priority. Its database can therefore be tapped through both traditional and electronic means of communication. Special efforts are made to ensure the participation of indigenous communities, whose unique knowledge and expertise are so important.

The Clearing-House is coordinated by the Executive Secretary and overseen and guided by an Informal Advisory Committee (IAC) set up by the Parties to the Convention. The committee works in a transparent and cooperative manner to promote awareness of the multiple needs and concerns facing various communities, countries and regions.

In addition, a network of national focal points for the mechanism is being established to address matters relating to technical and scientific cooperation. The Parties have recently emphasized the need to strengthen the role of these focal points. Building a network of non-governmental organizations and other institutions working on biodiversity could contribute to this goal. Establishing National, Regional, Subregional and Thematic Clearing-House Focal Points for specific topics could also help.

The Clearing-House Mechanism seeks to support the Convention's thematic and cross-cutting programmes of work by promoting cooperation in six key areas: tools

for decision-making, training and capacity-building, research, funding, technology transfer, and the repatriation of information.

SACEP's Activities

In line with the objectives of Convention of Biological Diversity and the Clearing House Mechanism, SACEP has initiated a programme to help its member countries to build necessary capacity needs for the management of their rich biological resources. This programme contains two major components:

1. Support to Establish National Biodiversity CHM Websites of South Asian Countries and Establish a South Asian Regional CHM.

As documented in the *State of the Environment – South Asia* Report (2001), biodiversity is under severe threat in South Asia. This is a particularly critical issue due to the millions of mainly poor people in the region who depend on biological resources for their livelihoods. One of the key barriers to the preservation of biodiversity in the region is the lack of information to allow stakeholders to conserve and use these resources sustainably. National and regional CHM websites are a valuable tool for allowing access to information and for facilitating cooperation.

Despite the low-income levels in the region, the use of the Internet is expanding rapidly and some countries in the region (especially India) are leaders in information technology. This situation provides an opportunity to realize the benefits of CHM websites as an efficient, effective and low cost means of making biodiversity information widely available.

SACEP prepared a project proposal in this regards and sent to the member countries for their endorsement (Annex1). The SACEP Secretariat received endorsements from two countries and the other yet to be sent.

2. Capacity building for the Clearing-House Mechanism of the Convention on Biological Diversity in South Asia

The objective of the project is "to create awareness among government officials, students and general public on Clearing-House Mechanism of the Convention on Biological Diversity and build their capacity on how to make use of it for conservation activities".

As an initial step, a pilot scale case study will undertake in Sri Lanka with the financial assistance from Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Science to create awareness among post graduate students on Clearing-House Mechanism of the Convention on Biological Diversity and build their capacity on how to make use of it for conservation activities. This project aims to train 60 post graduate students who enrolled in local Universities/institutions in the fields related to environment or biodiversity conservation.

It is requested that the 10th Governing Council fully endorses this programme as a whole and directs the SACEP Secretariat to establish South Asia Regional Biodiversity CHM.

"ENHANCING THE CBD CHM IN SOUTH ASIA"

SUPPORT FOR BIODIVERSITY CLEARING HOUSE MECHANISM (CHM) WEBSITES IN SOUTH ASIAN COUNTRIES AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SOUTH ASIAN REGIONAL CHM WEBSITE

DRAFT PROJECT PROPOSAL

INTRODUCTION

Background

This paper presents a project proposal for supporting the development of biodiversity Clearing House Mechanism (CHM) websites in South Asian countries and the establishment of a South Asian regional CHM website.

A CHM was established under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), to promote and facilitate technical and scientific cooperation within and between countries with respect to biological diversity. The objectives of the CHM are identified in the CHM strategic plan (UNEP/CBD/COP/5/INF/3):

- 1) the promotion and facilitation of technical and scientific cooperation;
- 2) the development of a global mechanism for exchanging and integrating information on biodiversity; and,
- 3) the development of the CHM Focal Points and their partners.

The national CHM websites of the signatory countries, administered by the national CHM Focal Point, are an important component of the CHM. National websites contain all national biodiversity-related information that is required to assist policy makers and interested stakeholders to meet obligations under the CBD and to conserve and sustainable use biodiversity.

A regional CHM website is complementary to constituent national CHM sites, concentrating on biodiversity issues of trans-boundary scope and significance. At the recent Conference of Parties of the CBD (COP7), the COP invited parties "...to develop regional clearing-house mechanisms to further promote and facilitate technical and scientific cooperation and the exchange of information on technology transfer at the regional and national levels" (UNEP/CBD/COP/7/21 Page 321).

As documented in the *State of the Environment – South Asia* Report (2001), biodiversity is under severe threat in South Asia. This is a particularly critical issue due to the millions of mainly poor people in the region who depend on biological resources for their livelihoods. One of the key barriers to the preservation of biodiversity in the region is the lack of information to allow stakeholders to conserve and use these resources

sustainably. National and regional CHM websites are a valuable tool for allowing access to information and for facilitating cooperation.

Despite the low-income levels in the region, the use of the Internet is expanding rapidly and some countries in the region (especially India) are leaders in information technology. This situation provides an opportunity to realize the benefits of CHM websites as an efficient, effective and low cost means of making biodiversity information widely available.

All the countries of the South Asia region have ratified the CBD.

SACEP

SACEP is the intergovernmental environment programme for South Asia (Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka). One of SACEP's priority subject areas is conservation of biodiversity. SACEP's organizational mandate is to promote cooperation, networking and information sharing between its member countries in the South Asia region. Through its mandate, SACEP is intent on advancing two interrelated aspects of biodiversity CHM websites in the region:

- Supporting national government efforts in developing and updating national level CHMs.
- Developing a regional CHM that meets the needs of the region, links together the national CHMs and provides a forum for regional cooperation.

Recently, SACEP has redeveloped its organizational website and this would be a logical site to host a regional CHM.

Current Status of CHM Websites in South Asia

SACEP is currently conducting a review of the current status of CHM development in South Asia. A letter has been sent to SACEP and CHM National Focal Points in all eight South Asian countries. This letter has requested information in three main areas:

- National-level CHM Activities Including a description of the structure and operational arrangements for the national CHM such as information on the national CHM steering committee and any CHM-related website arrangements, financial support arrangements, future plans for the development of the national CHM etc..
- *National-level CHM Capacity Building Needs* Especially in terms of infrastructure (especially IT equipment), logistics, human resources, training and development.
- *SACEP Assistance* Areas in which SACEP can provide support to member governments.

India is the only country with a national CHM website in South Asia. There are however a range of important biodiversity and environment-related web resources throughout the region. A summary of these websites is shown in Annex 2 of the letter to National Focal Points.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

This project has two objectives:

- Ensure the countries of South Asia have the capacity to develop and maintain national biodiversity CHMs websites that contain national biodiversity-related information that is required to assist policy makers and interested stakeholders to meet obligations under the CBD and to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity. Whenever possible and in order to avoid the multiplication of efforts, links should be made to other existing national websites with relevant information.
- Develop a regional CHM that meets the needs of the region, links together the national CHMs and provides a forum for or promoting regional scientific and technical cooperation.

The actual development of national CHM websites is the responsibility of the national governments and is outside the scope of this project.

PROJECT ACTIVITIES

The project will involve two stages. The first stage is a detailed assessment of current national level needs to fulfill national CBD CHM obligations, especially with regard development and maintenance of national CHM websites.

After the detailed assessment is completed, the second stage will involve:

- Experience Sharing/Networking Workshop A workshop will be held to promote experience sharing and networking in the region in the area of CHM website development. This workshop would utilize the knowledge of participants to identify key requirements of a Regional CHM and provide the basis for the network of parties that will allow the effective functioning of the website in practice.
- Capacity Building Training/capacity building for national CHM focal points as required to meet project objectives. Key training elements may include website development, content development, national network development etc., and may need to be supported by the mobilization of physical resources. Capacity building activities could be on a national level or regional level depending on the outcomes of the assessment and the workshop.
- Follow-up on the trainees A helpdesk should be available for any question the trainees have while developing and building their national CHM or adding information to the regional CHM. There should also be a follow-up in the different countries to stimulate the CHM on national level (If possible this should be done during a national workshop)

- Organisation of national workshops National workshop for could be organized to promote the use of the CHM in the countries.
- Design of Regional CHM The objectives and structure of the regional CHM will be developed based primarily on the outcomes of the workshop and advice from technical partners.
- Development of Regional CHM Website The regional CHM website will be developed and hosted through the SACEP Secretariat.
- Development of a discussion group on the regional CHM: partners countries will discuss through an E-mail list server the functioning and services provided by the regional CHM.
- Evaluation of the regional CHM: a workshop will be organized one or two years after the start of the project to evaluate the functioning of the regional CHM, to discuss problems and solutions, to provide additional training and to establish the way forward.

It may not be necessary for all countries in the region to participate in the national-level activities. However, involvement of all eight SACEP member countries in the regional elements would be strongly encouraged.

ROLES

There are four key parties in this project – national governments, SACEP, a technical cooperation partner and a funding agency.

National Governments

Internal capacity and development of the National CHM websites are the responsibilities of the respective national governments and their CBD focal points. The governments will be directly involved with the assessment and capacity building elements of the project.

SACEP

SACEP's role in this project is to:

- Develop and manage the project in consultation with national governments.
- Develop and host the Regional CHM Website.
- Support the capacity development of national governments through facilitation of capacity building and coordination of capacity building activities undertaken at a regional level.
- Facilitate the experience sharing and networking aspects of the project.

Technical Cooperation Partner

There is a need for a technical cooperation partner to support this project. The partner will assist with project activities requiring technical expertise including project design, capacity assessment and potentially the delivery of training.

The Belgian CHM team has accepted to work together with SACEP as a technical cooperation partner. The Belgian CHM team has a dedicated partnering role for assisting developing countries in establishing their national CHM websites. They also have facilities to host these websites for an initial period. The Belgian CHM team has already supported the development of many national level CHM sites and has several years' experience in capacity building activities for the CHM in Africa and Asia. The first stage of this cooperation involved a SACEP staff member attending the training course for CBD CHM Webmasters conducted at the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences in September 2004.

SACEP will also explore options to work with other specialist partners such as the Zoological Survey of India (SACEP's biodiversity subject area focal point) International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) and IUCN's Regional Biodiversity Program.

Funding Agency

A detailed budget is attached in annex I. SACEP will need to seek the support of external funding source to implement the project activities.

INITIAL REGIONAL CHM WEBSITE

SACEP is to establish an initial version of a regional CHM website. This initial site is being developed to:

- Provide as soon as possible a basic mechanism for regional cooperation and information sharing.
- Provide the SACEP secretariat an opportunity to expand its knowledge and expertise in CHM website development.
- Give member countries an "example" CHM website to review and discuss in a subsequent formal development process.

PROJECT IMPLIMENTATION

A detail timeframe for project implementation is given in annex II of the proposal.

Annex II

Timeframe for project implementation

Activity	Year 1			Year 2			Year 3					
	1 st	2 nd	3 ^t	4 th	1 st	2 nd	3 ^t	4 th	1 st	2 nd	3 ^t	4 th
	quarter	quarter	quarter	quarter	quarter	quarter	quarter	quarter	quarter	quarter	quarter	quarter
Assessment												
Networking												
Workshop												
Capacity				Nat				Reg. +				Reg. +
building				CHM				Nat CHM				Nat CHM
Follow-up								CITIVI				CITIVI
trainees												
Design of												
regional												
CHM												
Development												
of regional												
CHM												
Evaluation of												
the reg. CHM												

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Detailed Budget

Annex I

	Cost in US\$												
Activity	Year 1				Year 2			Year 3			Total		
	1 st quarter	2 nd quarter	3 rd quarter	4 th quarter	1 st quarter	2 nd quarter	3 rd quarter	4 th quarter	1 st quarter	2 nd quarter	3 rd quarter	4 th quarter	(US\$)
Stage I - assessment													
Assessment of national needs	100	100											200
Stage II – capacity building													
1. Networking workshop (regional)			45,000										45,000
2. Supply of computers			8,000										8,000
3. National capacity building													
Bangladesh				6,990				7,689				8,383	23,067
Bhutan				5,820				6,402				6,984	19,206
Maldives				5,390				5,929				6,468	17,787
Nepal				6,200				6,820				7,440	20,460
Pakistan				7,920				8,712				9,504	26,136
Sri Lanka				2,500				2,750				3,000	8,250
4. Purchase and instalment of web server (in SACEP)					2,500								
5. Follow-up trainees						100	100		100	100	100		500
6. Design of regional CHM			100	100									200
7. Development of regional CHM					100								100
8. Evaluation of regional CHM												54,000	54,000
(regional workshop)													
TOTAL													222,906
10% contingency													22,290
GRAND TOTAL													245,196

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TENTH MEETING OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL OF SOUTH ASIA CO-OPERATIVE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME (SACEP)

SOUTH ASIAN REGIONAL OIL SPILL CONTINGENCY PLAN

South Asia not only imports much of its own consumption of oil but India, Maldives, Pakistan and Sri Lanka lie close to the main shipping route from the Middle East to the Far East. A total of some 525 million tonnes a year of crude oil pass through the region — about 25% of total world movement of crude oil by sea. Additional maritime oil spill risks arise from non-tanker shipping, carriage of refined products, offshore exploration and production operations, and the transfer of oil cargoes at sea.

Although there is some capacity within the Region to respond to oil spills in harbour and at sea, and the five countries continue to develop or enlarge their capabilities, the response to a major spill at sea would probably require the co-operation of the other States in the Region, or assistance from further a field. A Regional Plan is an important first step towards supplementing individual States' response capabilities.

In order to assist the countries to ratify and implement the OPRC 90 Convention, UNEP in 1995 adopted the project "Development and Implementation of National and Regional Oil Spill Contingency Planning" as one of the six priority projects in its South Asia Regional Seas Action Plan. Prior to the adoption of this Action Plan, a UNEP/UNDP/IMO mission conducted in 1989 & compiled a Draft South Asian Marine Pollution Emergency Action Plan.

The purpose of the South Asian Regional Oil Spill Contingency Plan is to establish a mechanism for mutual assistance, under which the competent national Authorities of Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Pakistan and Sri Lanka will co-operate in order to co-ordinate and integrate their response to marine pollution incidents either affecting or likely to affect the territorial sea, coasts and related interests of one or more of these countries, or to incidents surpassing the available response capacity of each of these countries alone.

The general objective of the Plan is to organise a prompt and effective response to oil spills affecting or likely to affect the area of responsibility of one or more of the countries concerned and to facilitate their co-operation in the field of oil and chemical pollution preparedness and response.

The Regional Contingency Plan and the Memorandum of Understanding was approved by the "High Level Meeting to approve the draft Regional Contingency Plan and the draft Memorandum of Understanding for Co-operation on the response to marine oil and chemical spills in the South Asian Region" held in Colombo in December 2000.

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Up to December 2006, SACEP had received concurrences from the Governments of Bangladesh, India, Maldives and Sri Lanka

In December 2006, the Government of Pakistan also agreed to the Action Plan and to sign the MOU subject certain amendments,

The amendments requested by the Government of Pakistan have been sent to the other member countries seeking their concurrence to these amendments.

The Secretariat is awaiting the formal acceptances to these amendments by all the member countries, after which a Meeting of Plenipotentiaries will be convened for the formal signing of the MOU. It is also proposed that their should be a Back to Back Meeting to update the Action Plan and also a Regional Training Exercise. Technical and Financial assistance from IMO and UNEP for the conduct of these activities.

The Draft MOU is given in Annex 1 and amendments requested by the Government of Pakistan is given in Annex 2.

Amendments requested by Government of Pakistan

DRAFT REGIONAL OIL AND CHEMICAL POLLUTION CONTINGENCY PLAN FOR SOUTH ASIA

2.4 JOINT TRAINING AND EXERCISES

ORIGINAL

2.4.1 The Parties shall conduct periodically (preferably once a year) joint training courses and joint exercises.

AMENDMENT

2.4.1 The Parties may conduct joint training exercise. (The joint and training courses need not involve all parties in the - Bay of Bengal it might involve Bangladesh and India, Arabian Sea India and Pakistan, whereas in the southern part of the region only India, Sri Lanka and Maldives). However participation in such exercise shall not be mandatory. The option for not participating in the exercises shall be intimated well in advance}

ORIGINAL

2.4.2 The Parties shall successively host such training courses and exercises. The host country shall organise the training course or exercise and provide necessary logistic support; however, the expenses for the participants and means deployed in joint exercises shall be borne by their respective Parties. Scheduling programmes, duration and other relevant details concerning such training and exercises shall be decided at regular annual meetings of the Parties. The Parties may seek assistance from IMO or other sources in the planning and conduct of joint training and exercises.

AMENDMENT

2.4.2 The Parties may successively host such training courses and exercises. The host country shall organise the training courses or exercises and provide necessary logistic support; however, the expenses for the participants and means deployed in joint exercises shall be borne by their respective Parties. Scheduling programmes, duration and other relevant details concerning such training and exercises shall be decided at regular annual meetings of the Parties. The Parties may seek assistance from IMO or other sources in the planning and conduct of joint training and exercises.

DRAFT MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) FOR CO-OPERATION ON THE RESPONSE TO MARINE OIL AND CHEMICAL SPILLS IN THE SOUTH ASIA REGION

ORIGINAL

- 7 Joint Training and Exercises
- 7.1 The Parties agree to conduct periodically joint training courses and joint exercises as planned under the Regional Plan.

AMENDMENT

7.1 The Parties may conduct and participate in Joint Training Courses and Joint Exercises)

To the Report of the Meeting of Senior Officials to Consider the Draft South Asian Regional Oil Spill Contingency Plan

DRAFT MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) FOR CO-OPERATION ON THE RESPONSE TO MARINE OIL AND CHEMICAL SPILLS IN THE SOUTH ASIA REGION

(As approved by the High Level Meeting held in Colombo, Sri Lanka, 4 to 6 December 2000)

1 INTRODUCTION

The five countries of the South Asia Seas region, Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Pakistan and Sri Lanka:

CONSCIOUS of the need to preserve the human environment in general and the marine environment in particular.

RECOGNISING the serious threat posed to the marine environment by oil pollution incidents involving ships, offshore units, sea ports and oil handling facilities.

MINDFUL OF the importance of precautionary measures and prevention in avoiding oil pollution in the first instance, and the need for strict application of existing international instruments dealing with maritime safety and marine pollution prevention, particularly the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974, as amended, and the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973, as modified by the Protocol of 1978 relating thereto, as amended, and also the speedy development of enhanced standards for the design, operation and maintenance of ships carrying oil, and of offshore units.

MINDFUL ALSO THAT, in the event of an oil pollution incident, prompt and effective action is essential in order to minimise the damage, which may result from such an incident.

EMPHASISING the importance of effective preparation for combating oil pollution incidents and the important role which the oil and shipping industries have in this regard.

RECOGNISING ALSO the importance of mutual assistance and international co-operation relating to matters including the exchange of information respecting the capabilities of States to respond to oil pollution incidents, the preparation of oil pollution contingency plans, the exchange of reports of incidents of significance which may affect the marine environment or the coastline and related interests of States, and research and development respecting means of combating oil pollution in the marine environment.

BEARING IN MIND the relevant provisions of the International Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Co-operation, 1990 (OPRC Convention) and the Protocol on Preparedness, Response and Co-operation to Pollution Incidents by Hazardous and Noxious Substances, 2000 (OPRC-HNS Protocol) in particular article 10 of the OPRC Convention and article 8 of the OPRC-HNS Protocol related to the promotion of bilateral or multilateral agreements for preparedness for and response to pollution incidents.

TAKING ACCOUNT of the "polluter pays" principle as a general principle of international environmental law.

TAKING ACCOUNT ALSO of the importance of international instruments on liability and compensation for oil pollution damage, the International Convention on Civil Liability for Oil Pollution Damage (1969) (CLC Convention 69) and the Protocol of 1992 relating thereto (CLC Protocol 92) and the International Convention on the Establishment of an International Fund for Compensation for Oil Pollution Damage (1971) (FUND Convention 71) and the Protocol relating thereto (FUND Protocol 92).

TAKING ACCOUNT FURTHER of the Action Plan for the South Asia Regional Seas Programme adopted at a meeting of the concerned parties in New Delhi in March 1995, which agreed, inter alia, to develop and implement National and Regional Oil Spill Contingency Plans.

BEING AWARE of the need to promote regional co-operation and to enhance existing national, and regional capabilities concerning preparedness and response to marine pollution incidents, taking into account the special needs of the developing countries and particularly small island States.

RECOGNISING FURTHER that regional oil and chemical pollution contingency plans specifying in advance operational arrangements, administrative modalities and financial conditions related to co-operation in cases of emergency, are necessary for a prompt and efficient response to marine pollution at regional level.

CONSIDERING THAT these objectives may best be achieved by the conclusion of a Memorandum of Understanding.

HAVE AGREED as follows:

1 General Provisions

- 1.1 The Parties agree, subject to their capabilities and availability of resources, to co-operate in responding to major marine pollution incidents occurring in their Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), territorial seas and internal waters which are affected or likely to affect the marine environment, the coast or related interests of one or more of the Parties.
- 1.2 The Parties to this Memorandum of Understanding adopt the "Regional Oil and Chemical Pollution Contingency Plan for South Asia" (hereinafter referred to as "the Regional Plan") attached to this Memorandum and which constitutes an integral part of the Memorandum. Each Party will give effect to the provisions of the Regional Plan. In cases of major marine pollution incidents the Parties will co-operate, in taking individually and jointly, the necessary response measures according to the principles set out in the Regional Plan.
- 1.3 Each Party agrees, in the event of a major marine pollution incident, to inform through its competent authority other Parties whose marine environment or interests are affected or likely to be affected by such pollution incident.
- 1.4 Each Party agrees to establish a national system for responding to marine pollution incidents including:
 - .1 the designation of national competent authority or authorities; and
 - .2 a national contingency plan
- 1.5 The Parties agree to co-operate in keeping updated the Regional Plan.

1.6 The Parties agree to exchange information with other Parties in order to improve the ability to respond to pollution incidents within the Region.

2 Contingency Planning

- 2.1 The Parties should designate:
 - .1 the competent national authority or authorities with responsibility for oil pollution preparedness and response;
 - .2 the national operational contact point or points which shall be responsible for the receipt and transmission of pollution reports; and
 - .3 the competent authorities entitled to act on behalf of the State concerning measures of mutual assistance and co-operation between Parties.
- 2.2 The Parties will use their best endeavours to maintain their ability to respond to pollution incidents threatening the marine environment of the South Asia Seas Area. This would include:
 - .1 making a risk assessment regarding the traffic, offshore units, ports and oil handling facilities;
 - .2 a minimum level of spill response equipment capable of making a first response proportionate to the risk involved;
 - .3 communication capabilities to notify without delay any pollution incidents; and
 - .4 programmes for training and exercises.

3 Reporting Marine Pollution Incidents

- 3.1 The Parties will require masters or other persons having charge of ships flying their flags and persons having charge of offshore units under their jurisdiction to report to the relevant competent national authority without delay any event on their ship or offshore units or any observed event involving a discharge or probable discharge of oil or other harmful substances.
- 3.2 The Parties will require pilots of aircraft registered in their countries to report to the relevant competent national authority without delay significant spillages of oil or other harmful substances observed at sea. Such reports should, as far as possible, contain the following:
 - .1 date, time, position, wind and sea conditions; and
 - .2 probable source of the spill observed
- 3.3 The Parties will require masters of ships flying their flag or persons having charge of offshore units under their jurisdiction in cases of pollution incidents to provide, on request by the respective competent national authorities, detailed information which is relevant to actions for preventing or responding to pollution of the sea such as:
 - .1 the ship and its cargo; or
 - .2 the production in case of offshore units
- 3.4 The Parties whenever receiving a pollution report will:
 - .1 assess the nature, extent and possible consequences of the pollution incident;

- .2 take every practicable measure to prevent, reduce and eliminate the effect of the pollution incident; and
- .3 inform without delay other Parties whose interests are affected or likely to be affected by the pollution incident of this assessment and any action it has taken, or intends to take

4 Assistance and Co-operation in Cases of Emergency

- 4.1 Any Party requiring assistance to deal with a pollution incident may call for assistance from other Parties. Parties so requested shall use their best endeavours to render this assistance.
- 4.2 Assistance and co-operation in cases of emergency amongst the Parties to this Memorandum will be carried out in conformity with and according to the Regional Plan.
- 4.3 Nothing in this Memorandum of Understanding shall inhibit Parties from calling for assistance from outside the region if they judge that to be necessary.
- 4.4 Parties shall take necessary legal or administrative measures to facilitate:
 - .1 the arrival and utilisation in and departure from its territory of ships, aircraft and other modes of transport engaged in responding to a pollution incident or transporting personnel, cargoes, materials and equipment required to deal with such an incident; and
 - .2 the expeditious movement into, through, and out of its territory of such personnel, cargoes, materials and equipment

5 Reimbursement of Cost of Assistance

- 5.1 Unless otherwise agreed between Parties, the Parties shall bear the cost of their respective actions in accordance with subparagraph .1 or .2 below:
 - .1 If the action was taken by one Party at the express request of another Party, the requesting Party shall reimburse to the assisting Party the cost of its action. If the request is cancelled the requesting Party shall bear the costs already incurred or committed by the assisting Party.
 - .2 If the action was taken by a Party on its own initiative, this Party shall bear the costs of its action.
 - .3 The principles laid down above in subparagraph .1 and .2 shall apply unless the Parties concerned otherwise agree in any individual case.
- 5.2 Unless otherwise agreed, the costs of the action taken by a Party at the request of another Party will be calculated and paid on the basis of the arrangements set out in the Regional Contingency Plan.
- 5.3 The provisions of this regulation are without prejudice to the rights of Parties to recover from third Parties the cost of actions taken to deal with pollution incidents under other applicable provisions and rules of national and international law.

6 Exchange of Information

- 6.1 Parties according to the Regional Plan shall keep each other informed at all times on at least those parts of their respective national contingency plan which might be relevant in case of conducting joint response operations, including information on:
 - .1 competent national authorities, responsible at government level for the implementation of the Regional Plan and on responsible officers within these authorities.
 - .2 national operational authorities, responsible at the operational level for the implementation of the Regional Plan and for exercising operational command in case of joint response operations, and on responsible officers within these authorities.
 - .3 national contact points responsible for receiving reports of pollution incidents;
 - .4 designated national emergency response centres;
 - .5 designated national on-scene commanders;
 - .6 designated competent customs officers;
 - .7 inventories of pollution response equipment and products, as well as other means (such as, for example, vessels and aircraft) available in each country for use in joint response operations;
 - .8 directories of experts, trained personnel and strike teams designated by each Party to take part in joint response operations; and
 - .9 the charges for the various services, personnel and equipment.
- 6.2 The Parties will exchange information on relevant research and development programmes.

7 Joint Training and Exercises

7.1 The Parties agree to conduct periodically joint training courses and joint exercises as planned under the Regional Plan.

8 Meetings of the Parties

8.1 Meetings of the Parties to this Memorandum of Understanding and/or meetings of National Operational Authorities responsible for the implementation of the Regional Plan, shall be held at regular intervals, and as a minimum once a year as set out in the Regional Plan.

9 Secretariat

- 9.1 The Parties designate the South Asia Seas Programme (SASP), based in the South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme (SACEP) Secretariat, acting under the guidance of the meeting of the Parties, to provide within the limits of its resources secretariat services, including to:
 - .1 prepare meetings, circulate papers;
 - .2 facilitate the exchange of information; and
 - .3 carry out such other work as may be necessary

10 Relation to Other Conventions and International Agreements

10.1 Nothing in this Memorandum shall be interpreted as in any way prejudicing the rights or obligations of any Party under any other convention or international agreement, especially in the field of prevention and combating of marine pollution.

11 Amendments

- 11.1 Any government authority, which has accepted the Memorandum, may propose amendments to it. The proposed amendment shall be circulated to other Parties through the Secretariat at least six months before a meeting of the Parties.
- 11.2 Amendments will be adopted by the unanimous decision of all Parties and will enter into force 60 days after it has been adopted.

12 Signature, Ratification, Acceptance

- 12.1 Government authorities of Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Pakistan and Sri Lanka may become parties to this Memorandum by:
 - .1 signature without any reservation as to acceptance; or
 - .2 signature subject to acceptance, followed by formal acceptance.

13 Depository

13.1 This Memorandum shall be deposited with the Director General of SACEP which shall inform all Parties of signature and acceptance and the date of entry into force of the Memorandum.

14 Entry into Force and Withdrawal

This Memorandum of Understanding and the Regional Plan will enter into force 3 months after the Secretariat, i.e. the Secretariat of the South Asian Seas Programme (SASP), has been notified by all five countries of their acceptance of this Memorandum of Understanding in accordance with their national legislations.

This Memorandum of Understanding will remain in force for 3 years and will be extended automatically on an annual basis unless one of the Parties notifies the Secretariat that it wishes to withdraw from the co-operation.

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Done at	this	day of	
For the Government of Bangladesh			
For the Government of India			
For the Government of Maldives			
For the Government of Pakistan			
For the Government of Sri Lanka			

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TENTH MEETING OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL OF SOUTH ASIA CO-OPERATIVE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME (SACEP)

GLOBAL INVASIVE SPECIES PROGRAMME

The emergence of a growing collaboration between the Marine and Coastal Programme under the CBD, the UNEP Regional Seas Programme, and the Global Invasive Species Programme on the issue of marine and coastal invasive species. One aspect of that collaboration has been the development of a training course on marine and coastal invasives, which was piloted in late 2005 in Tanzania in association with the Nairobi Convention.

Following the distribution of a flyer advertising the training course at COP 8 in Curitiba in March, and at the IMO-UNEP Forum in London, both the UNEP-RS Office in Nairobi, and the GISP Secretariat, have received numerous requests to have the training course presented in various Regional Seas areas and therefore they are in the process of developing an 18-month programme which would see the delivery of the training course in at least 6 of our regions by the end of 2007.

SAS has sent in a request for the conduct of a Training Course for the South Asian Seas region.

The location identified would either be Goa, India or Colombo, Sri Lanka. The proposed dates are March April 2007

Details of Training Course

Modules

- **↓** Introduction to Marine & Coastal Invasive Species
- Prevention
- ♣ Early detection and Rapid Response
- Incursion Management
- **♣** The International Response
- Developing a National Strategic Framework
- ♣ Communication, Education and Public Awareness

The details of the Modules of the Training Course are given in Annex 1.

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TRAINING COURSE ON THE MANAGEMENT OF MARINE AND COASTAL INVASIVE SPECIES

MODULE 1 - INTRODUCTION TO MARINE AND COASTAL INVASIVE SPECIES

- Definitions and related terminology
- ♣ The invasion process
- **↓** Intentional versus unintentional introductions
- Pathways and vectors
- Impacts of marine and coastal invasive species
- Predicting invasions
- The need for invasive species management

MODULE 2 - GOALS AND PRINCIPLES OF INVASIVE SPECIES MANAGEMENT

- Applying management goals and principles to marine and coastal invasive species
- Management tools
- Legal and institutional issues
- Promoting best practice management
- Awareness-raising

MODULE 3 - PREVENTION

- ♣ The importance of prevention
- Principles of prevention
- Strategies and procedures for marine and coastal invasive species prevention
- The role of risk analysis
- Preventing intentional and unintentional introductions
- The limitations of prevention

MODULE 4 - EARLY DETECTION AND RAPID RESPONSE

- ♣ The importance of early detection and rapid response
- Active and passive surveillance
- Data management and record-keeping
- ♣ Rapid assessment and response
- Contingency planning

MODULE 5 - INCURSION MANAGEMENT

- ♣ Strategies for managing established marine and coastal invasive species
- ♣ Decision-making process for strategy selection
- Containment versus eradication
- Mechanical, chemical and biological control
- Mitigation and monitoring
- Integrated pest management

MODULE 6 - THE INTERNATIONAL RESPONSE

- ♣ The international regulatory framework and invasive species issues
- ♣ International initiatives with relevance to marine and coastal invasive species
- Regional considerations
- Information sharing and support systems

MODULE 7 - DEVELOPING A NATIONAL STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

- ♣ Essential components of national strategies for invasive species management
- Developing and implementing a national strategy
- Legal and institutional frameworks key requirements and common weaknesses

MODULE 8 - COMMUNICATION, EDUCATION AND PUBLIC AWARENESS (CEPA)

- The role of CEPA programmes
- Designing an awareness-raising campaign
- Target groups and communications tools.

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PROGRAMME 2:

ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE

Programme Goals and Objectives:

Adaptation to climate change has risen up the political and scientific agenda in recent years. The issue has received increasing attention within the UNFCCC, and programme activities are expanding through international and national level initiatives such as the creation of a GEF Adaptation Fund, UNDP's Adaptation Policy Framework and the National Adaptation Programme of Action for Least Developing Countries and emphasising Adaptation in the fourth Assessment of IPCC. The Programme will focus to

- Address the regional priorities to the Adaptation to Climate Change (agriculture, coastal & marine, freshwater, biodiversity, preventive measures)
- Establishment of a coordination mechanism for Natural Disaster Management (address issues such as increasing threats from hurricanes / storms, droughts, climatic variations, GLOF, etc)
- Establish a network of institutions with the Centres of Excellence;
 Collaborating Centres, Experts, through a participatory process
- Highlight common/ transboundary issues, document best practices
- Establish baseline data under various related issues
- Policy intervention through provision of regional status

2006-7 Focus:

Establish detailed work programme for each phase

Phase I (year 2006):

- Establish a network of Centres of Excellence, Collaborating Centres, CSO
- Develop baseline data

Phase II & III (year 2006-7):

- Regional Consultations
- Develop detailed project proposals for the following Phases
 - Phase II: Conduct of pilot studiesPhase III: Policy Interventions
- Provide policy briefs to the decision makers on related emerging issues

Personnel:

Director Programmes : To be recruited

Program Coordinator: Pradyumna Kumar Kotta Programme Officer: 2- staff to be recruited

Secretary : To be recruited:

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Output	Verifiable Indicators Corresponding to Activities	Activity	Budget Estimate (US\$)
 Established resources to the data management available Awareness raising in the region South Asia position on Climate Change issues Policy Interventions 	 Established network of CC, CE and CSO Information bulletins and brochures widely circulated Reviewed environmental indicators Policy Briefs to the political leadership within the region 	 Identification resources to establish capacity at the Secretariat Regional Consultations Establish a CHM Establish a network of partners Outreach activity to awareness raising 	Personnel: 85K Capital: 50K Project Development 250K SACEP: 30K Donor: (305+50)K (50K: capital) Total 385K

Adaptation to Climate Change

INTRODUCTION

Climate change looms as a defining issue of the 21st century, because it pits the potential disruption of our global climate system against the future of a fossil fuel based economy. Climate change refers to the response of the planet's climate system to altered concentrations of "greenhouse gases" in the atmosphere. If all else is held constant (e.g., cloud cover, capacity of the oceans to absorb carbon dioxide, etc.), increases in greenhouse gases will lead to "global warming"-an increase in global average temperatures-as well as other changes in the earth's climate patterns.

The expected impacts of climate change-increase in global temperature, a rise in the "energy" of storms, and the consequent sea level rise-could have significant environmental and social ramifications. Weather patterns could become more extreme and unpredictable and the intensity and frequency of floods, as well as the duration and severity of droughts, are expected to increase in many regimes. These conditions, coupled with warmer temperatures, could fan the spread of water and insect borne diseases, such as typhoid, dengue and malaria. Areas currently facing food or water shortages could face increased shortages in the future. Forests and other ecosystems might not be able to adapt to the rate of change in temperature, leading to substantial loss of biodiversity and natural resources. The range of possible impacts is so broad and severe that many observers believe climate change to be the most significant environmental problem facing the planet.

Concern about climate change and calls for international action began in the 1970s and continued throughout the 1980s. In 1990, the United Nations authorized an Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on Climate to begin discussions of a global treaty. These negotiations culminated in the 1992 Framework Convention on Climate Change ("the Climate Change Convention") signed at UNCED. The Climate Change Convention established a general framework, but delineated few specific and substantive obligations to curb climate change. Ongoing scientific research, however, continued to support the need for binding "targets and timetables" for the reduction of greenhouse gases.

Climate change will impose significant stress on resources throughout the region. South Asia has the highest population density; natural resources already are under stress, and the resilience of most sectors in the region to climate change is poor. The region is dependent on natural resources such as water, forests, grassland and rangeland, and fisheries.

Continuing emissions of greenhouse gases from human activities are likely to result on significant changes in mean climate and its intra-seasonal and inter-annual variability in the region. Climate change-induced vulnerabilities in the region have to be understood against the backdrop of the physical, economic and social environment of the countries in the region. They not only provide benchmarks against which vulnerabilities are to be assessed but also the potential for adaptation to them. The socioeconomic environment of many countries in the region is characterized by high population density and relatively low economic growth. Surface water and ground water resources in Asian countries play vital roles in forestry, agriculture, fisheries, livestock production, and industrial activity. The water and agriculture sectors are likely to be most sensitive to climate change-induced impacts.

Although the frequency and severity of floods eventually would increase in the region, arid and semi-arid regions could experience severe water-stress conditions. Many species of mammals and birds and a large population of many other species in the region could be

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exterminated as a result of the synergistic effects of climate change and habitat fragmentation. Glacial melt also is expected to increase under changed climatic conditions, which could lead to increased summer flows in some river systems for a few decades, followed by a reduction in flow as the glaciers disappear.

Current Impacts of Climate Change

The Earth's climate has changed over the past century, because of the increase in atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases. Although some uncertainty remains over climate change, particularly regarding extreme weather conditions, the IPCC's Second Assessment could nonetheless conclude in 1995 that the observed warming trend was "unlikely to be entirely natural in origin" and that the balance of evidence suggested a "discernible human influence" on the Earth's climate. According to the IPCC, failure to mitigate greenhouse gases will result in a projected increase of between 1.4 to 5.8 Celsius by the year 2100. Temperatures are also expected to increase, even after concentrations of greenhouse gases are stabilized (although at a very slow rate).

A. Impact on the Oceans and Sea level

Global sea level has risen by between 10 and 20 cm over the past century, and this rise is very likely (i.e. between 90-99% likely) caused by this century's observed global warming. The primary variable in modeling future sea level rise, at least over the long term, remains the stability of the ice sheets. Ice sheet models project that a local warming of larger than 3 C, if sustained for millennia, would lead to virtually a complete melting of the Greenland ice sheet with a resulting sea level rise of about 7 meters! Some, but not all models also predict that melting from the West Antarctic Ice Sheet could contribute up to 3 meters to sea level rise as well over the next 1000 years.

B. Impact on Coastal and Marine Ecosystems

Coastal systems are expected to vary widely in their response to changes in climate and sea level. Climate change and sea level rise or changes in storms or storm surges could result in the erosion of shores and associated habitat, increased salinity of estuaries and freshwater aquifers, altered tidal ranges in rivers and bays, changes in sediment and nutrient transport, a change in the pattern of chemical and microbiological contamination in coastal areas, and increased coastal flooding. Changes in coastal ecosystems, such as saltwater marshes, mangroves, coral reefs, and river deltas, would harm tourism, freshwater supplies, fisheries and biodiversity.

In addition to sea level rise, climate change may also alter ocean circulation and vertical mixing, as well as reductions in sea ice

cover. As a result, nutrient availability, biological productivity, the structure and functions of marine ecosystems, and heat and carbon storage capacity may be affected.

C. Weather Intensity

Warmer temperatures are very likely to lead to a more vigorous hydrological cycle; this translates into prospects for more severe droughts, floods and heat waves in some places.

D. Public Health Impacts

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The increase in global temperatures may have significant impacts on public health, particularly in developing countries. The World Health Organization identified such health impacts of global warming as increased illnesses and deaths from heat waves and air pollution; increased outbreaks of some insect borne infectious diseases; and increased cases of diarrhea and other water borne diseases that are particularly dangerous in developing countries.

E. Deserts and Desertification

Deserts are likely to become more extreme; with few exceptions, they are projected to become hotter but not significantly wetter. Shifts in temperature and precipitation in temperate rangelands may result in altered growing seasons and boundary shifts between grasslands, forests and shrublands.

F. Water and Ice Resources

Climate change will intensify the global hydrological cycle, which could have major impacts on regional water resources. Changes in the total amount and frequency of precipitation directly affect the magnitude and timing of floods and droughts. Access to adequate water supplies already is a serious problem in many regions, including some low lying coastal areas, deltas and small islands, making countries in these regions particularly vulnerable to any additional reduction in indigenous water supplies. Ultimately, the impacts of climate change will depend in part on the ability of water resource managers to respond not only to climate change but also to population growth and changes in demands, technology, and economic and social conditions.

Major risks from Climate Change

Large deltas and coastal low lying areas could be inundated by sea-level rise; increased vulnerabilities to the extreme climatic events such as droughts and floods; increased precipitation intensity, particularly during summer monsoon; threatened freshwater availability; more intense tropical cyclones, with combined sea-level rise; threatened crop production and aquaculture by a combination on thermal and water stresses; increased potential for higher incidence of heat-related and infectious diseases; threats to biodiversity resulting from land-use/cover change and population pressure.

Specific adaptation strategies for the countries in the region have been identified listed under different sectors, viz., water resources, agriculture and food security, coastal resources, human health, and ecosystems and biodiversity. Food security, disaster preparedness and management, soil conservation, and human health sectors also appear to be crucial for countries with large populations. Adaptations to deal with sea-level rise, potentially more intense cyclones, and threats to ecosystems and biodiversity should be considered high priority. The decision making process for adaptation should consider impact of policies on society in terms of employment generation and opportunities, improved air and water quality, and the impacts of policies on broader concern for equitable and sustainable development.

ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE

Adaptation to climate change has risen up the political and scientific agenda in recent years. The issue has received increasing attention within the UNFCCC, and programme activities are expanding through international and national level initiatives such as the creation of a

GEF Adaptation Fund, UNDP's Adaptation Policy Framework and the National Adaptation Programme of Action for Least Developing Countries and emphasising Adaptation in the fourth Assessment of IPCC. NATCOMs and NAPAs also have indicated the priorities for the region.

The issues of Adaptation to Climate Change prioritized for South Asia

- a) Forestry
- b) Agriculture
- c) Water Resources
- d) Ecosystems and Biodiversity
- e) Coastal Resources
- f) Human Health
- g) Industry, Energy and Transport
- h) Cross-cutting Issues
- i) Urban Management Eco-housing
- j) GLOF, Flashfloods, Landslides, etc.

The region has prioritized above issues as of prime importance. Listed below are some of the possible areas of attention as noted under each issue:

Forestry

Efficiency, Energy Conservation, Vulnerability Assessments; Rehabilitation of degraded areas; Medicinal plants;

Agriculture

Vulnerability assessments and best practices for enhanced yield patterns / crop production; pest control / pesticide management; green farming;

Water Resources

Enhance conservation of fresh water supply as option for extreme water-stress conditions; Develop flood- and drought-control management systems; reduce future development of developments in floodplains; use appropriate measures for protection against soil erosion; conserve ground water supply; water impoundments; and efficient water resource systems.

Ecosystems and Biodiversity

Assess risks to endemic species and ecosystems; Introduce integrated ecosystem planning and management; Reduce habitat fragmentation and promote mitigation corridors and buffer zones; Encourage mixed-use strategies; Prevent deforestation and conserve natural habitats in climatic transition zones inhabited by genetic biodiversity of potential for ecosystem restoration

Coastal Resources

Modify infrastructures to accommodate sea-level rise; develop aquaculture farming techniques; evaluate coastal subsidence rates in sensitive coastal regions; improve emergency preparedness for weather extremes (e.g., cyclones and storm surges); evaluate coastal subsidence rates in sensitive coastal regions; Implement coastal zone management; protect marine resources

Human Health

Build Heat resistant urban infrastructures and take additional measures to reduce air and water pollution; adapt technological / engineering solutions to prevent vector-borne diseases/epidemics; improve health care system, including surveillance, monitoring, and information dissemination; Improve public education and literacy rate in various communities; increase infrastructure for waste disposal; improve sanitation facilities.

Cross-Cutting Issues

Continue monitoring and analysis of variability and trends in key climatic elements; improve weather forecasting systems in the region; improve and implement reforms on landuse planning; improve coordination of climate change adaptation activities among countries; keep the NGO community and public aware of developments on risks of climate change and involve them in planning, adaptation, and mitigation strategies; take advantage of traditional knowledge in planning for the future.

Urban Management

Waste related issues to climate change, Eco-housing, etc.

Mitigation and Adaptation Strategies - Policy Options

A wide range of policy options are available for curbing the impacts of greenhouse gases, although many of them require significant restructuring of our economies, particularly the energy and transportation sectors. The international negotiations have focused on imposing clear national targets and timetables for overall reduction of greenhouse gases, but ultimately left the policy mix of how to achieve the targets and timetables largely to the national governments.

Generally, policymakers have focused on the "no regrets" approach to climate change policy, undertaking measures such as improvements in energy efficiency, forest management, and air pollution control, which provide economic and environmental benefits additional to any climate benefits that may be achieved.

A. Increasing Energy Efficiency

One major policy goal is to increase energy efficiency, so that we get the same amount of "work" from burning less fossil fuels. Energy efficiency technologies provide a growing opportunity for protecting the environment and saving energy costs.

B. Fuel Switching

Another major strategy is fuel switching, moving the economy away from fossil fuels and towards cleaner technologies. Best among these alternatives are solar and wind power, and hydrogen fuel cells, which have limited environmental impacts-but hydroelectric, geothermal and nuclear sources of energy also result in lower GHG emissions than traditional fossil fuel sources.

C. Restructuring Transportation

Transportation accounts for a significant percentage of greenhouse gas emissions. New technologies such as fuel cell, electric or super efficient cars will likely soon be mass produced, offering a major opportunity for reduced greenhouse gas emissions from automobile travel.

D. Expanding Sinks and Reservoirs

CO2 emissions may be offset if the carbon sequestration impacts of forests and other carbon sinks are enhanced. Reforestation and improved control of forest fires are important strategies for responding to climate change.

E. Carbon Taxes

Many analysts have recommended the use of carbon taxes as a way to establish appropriate market incentives for increasing the conservation of energy and encouraging switches away from more polluting fuels. (Note: the carbon tax has proven to be very controversial in the United States, where energy prices are the lowest in the world, but the European Union has endorsed such a tax subject to U.S. adoption.)

SACEP's Programme Development and Implementation

SACEP's programme to address the adaptation issues will also include community based adaptation activities to link climate change into sustainable development. Indeed, there are many examples of projects enhancing the capacity of communities to deal with the effects of climate variability and extreme events, some of which specifically focus on reducing the vulnerability of communities to the adverse effects of climate change.

Initial stage of the programme establishment would consider regional consultations to

- Review the latest state of knowledge, discuss how climate change links to sustainable development and exchange experiences of community-level adaptation practices.
- Raise professional capacity in developing and implementing strategies, programmes and projects for adaptation to climate change.
- Improve existing project activities, and help identify new project ideas, providing a
 basis for a deeper understanding of the mechanisms needed to plan and implement
 adaptation
- Bring together the practitioners, researchers, policy makers, donors and community representatives, etc.

The regional workshops will share the latest developments in adaptation programmes, priorities and solutions, through knowledge dissemination between participants; maximise information sharing between relevant actors and institutions.

The workshop themes will cover emerging issues in community adaptation including international institutions and funding mechanisms, effects of climate change on different sectors, linking climate change adaptation to other development priorities, mainstreaming adaptation, plus methodological issues such as stakeholder engagement and vulnerability assessment and identifying and evaluating adaptation options. Particular attention will be given to lessons relevant to improving the capacity of the most vulnerable groups of people and improving livelihoods in developing countries and integrating these lessons into international programmes and negotiation processes.

Participants to the workshops will include policy-makers, non-government organizations, research and policy institutes, academics, plus practitioners with grassroots experience of adaptation project work.

It is envisaged that the proposed programme under Adaptation to Climate Change would thus address the issues through different phases:

- Review of studies and adaptation measures to the priorities being undertaken and considered at country level in the region;
- Establish a network of experts and institutions within the region;
- Establish a regional level clearing house mechanism and ensure coordination to the awareness raising through well documented best practices
- Ensure the decision making process for adaptation to consider impact of policies on society in terms of employment generation and opportunities, improved air and water quality;

Each of the regional priorities identified under the 3rd Assessment Report of the IPCC in 2001 and the further attention from the countries (Agriculture, Forestry, Water Resources, Industry, Energy and Transport, Human Health, Climate Change Scenarios, Socio-economic Scenarios), focus on the lack of regional capacity to adapt to the future change in climate change. The very basic requirement for the region would be to ensure capacity building to address

- (i) Training and Awareness Raising
- (ii) Technology Transfer
- (iii) Infrastructure Development
- (iv) Exchange of Information
- (v) Scenario Building

It is envisaged that specific activities under the programme will address establishment of a Clearing House Mechanism and a Knowledge Management Centre to the maintenance of a database and analysis of the data for the provision of policy briefs under each of the issues of regional concerns identified. The programme would thus consider timely provision of South Asia position on Climate Change Issues to the policy makers.

The Programme activities will focus to

- Address the regional priorities to the Adaptation to Climate Change (forestry, agriculture, coastal & marine, freshwater, biodiversity, preventive measures)
- Establish a network of institutions with the Centres of Excellence; Collaborating Centres, Experts, through a participatory process
- Document common/ transboundary issues, document best practices
- Establish baseline data under various related issued under the programme objectives
- Policy intervention through provision of regional status
- Proposal for implementation activities for each issue of concern identified through the consultative process.

Budget:

The programme activities will initiate the regional consultations and workshops and further establishment of a clearing house mechanism with provision to the policy decision makers. The project will also develop proposals to the follow up and implementation of the issues prioritized. of the It is envisaged that a programme budget of US\$ 385′000.-

Implementation Plan for the initial phase and anticipated Budget

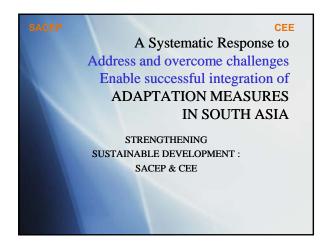
		Month																						
Activity	0	0 2		0 4		0		0		1 0		1 2	1 3	1 4	1 5	1	1 7	1 8	1 9	2	2	2 2	2	2
1. Network establishment			_								_													
2. Regional Workshop																								
2: Guidelines, Baseline studies and Synthesis Report																								
3: Project proposals / Pilot studies																								
4: clearing house mechanism			_		-		-	l		_	_	1	-			-	-	-			-	-	-	
5: Policy guidance through incorporation to the national strategies																								

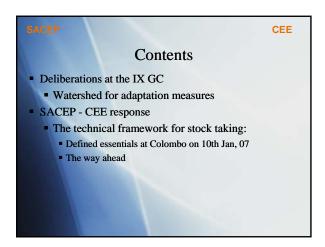
Budget:

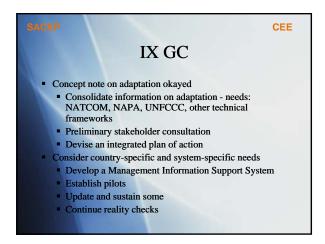
The estimated budget for development of the programme with above mentioned sequence of activities would be US\$ 375'000.-

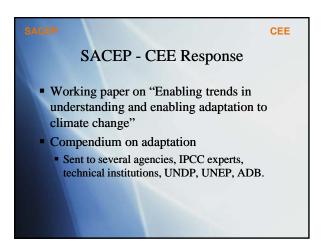
COST ESTIMATES AND FINANCING PLAN (\$'000)

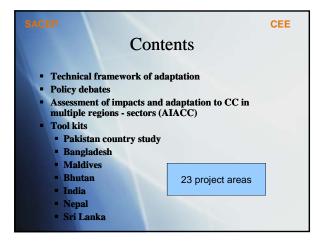
	Total Cost
1. Staff Time	85
2. Travel	25
3. Reports and Communication	50
4. Equipment (HW/SW support)	25
5. Workshops (2)	
a. Facilitators	20
b. Workshop with 2 – 3 participants from each country (experts+govt reps.) 2x 50	100
6. Data Surveys	20
8. Miscellaneous Administration and Support Cost	30
9. Contingencies	30
Grand Total	385













Road Map

Guiding principles
Logical framework of action
Based on salient highlights which emerged through deliberations on issues and opportunities relating to
science,
management including institutional mechanisms, regulatory frameworks, fiscal opportunities
Implementation of interventions

Road Map contd...

Guiding principles
The action plan should be based on the highlights relating to the above stated
Suggest
Preparatory – phase
Delivery – phase activities
Avoid duplication of efforts
Involve locally relevant and established systems of expertise / facilities / practices to strengthen local – relevance and acceptance to ensure that it is an inclusive process and not exclusive

Typology of interventions

- Assessments of
- information needs of all concerned stake holders
- gaps in existing body of information
- infrastructure for collection, expertise for interpretation
- appropriateness of interventions
- Technical capacity building of stakeholders

- Generating and sustaining funding
- Establishment of pilots
- Up-scaling and location – specific adaptation
- FP 7, MSP, bilateral and other opportunities

Deliverable & Time line: Draft

- Establish SACEP - CEE Secretariat to initiate and sustain adaptation
- Provide technical backstopping facility - Feb 2007
- Collate and communicate on technical imperatives
- Strengthen networks
- Identify & link with funding sources
- Complete preparatory tasks in 18 months
- Sustain inputs subsequently
- Form technical core groups with experts from
- The region
- South-South Cooperation
- Feed into UNFCCC - IPCC process more emphatically
- Guide pilots-upscale

April 2007 onwards

Deliverables and time line:
 Draft Contd...

Reality checks
Consultations with government, funding agencies, institutions & community initiatives: technical assistance
Consolidate needs assessment: SWOT
For governments and others
Initiate location specific pilots

Mid 2008

Undertake and sustain assessment inputs
Over 24 - 36 months and beyond

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APPROVED COUNTRY CONTRIBUTION FORMULA

As per the Decision of Seventh Meeting of the Governing Council of SACEP

COUNTRY	PERCENTAGE	RECOMMENDED CONTRIBUTION	ACTUAL CONTRIBUTION RECEIVED	PERCENTAGE RECEIVED AS PER RECOMMENDED CONTRIBUTION
		US\$	US \$	%
BANGLADESH	16.72	21,301	21,300	37
BHUTAN	2.79	3,554	3,555	90
INDIA	25	31,850	31,850	83
MALDIVES	11.44	14,575	14,575	100
NEPAL	6.32	8,052	8,050	26
PAKISTAN	25	31,850	31,850	96
SRI LANKA	12.73	16,218	16,220	100
TOTAL	100	127,400	127,400	80
		-	-	

PROPOSED COUNTRY CONTRIBUTION INCREASE FROM JANUARY 2007

COUNTRY	PERCENTAGE	PRESENT CONTRIBUTION	RECOMMENDED CONTRIBUTION	ACTUAL CONTRIBUTION TO BE RECEIVED
		US\$	US \$	US \$
BANGLADESH	16.72	21,300	23,430	23,430
BHUTAN	2.79	3,555	3,911	3910
INDIA	25	31,850	35,035	35035
MALDIVES	11.44	14,575	16,033	16,035
NEPAL	6.32	8,050	8,855	8,855
PAKISTAN	25	31,850	35,035	35035
SRI LANKA	12.73	16,220	17,842	17,840
TOTAL	100	127,400	140,140	140,140

A 10% Increase in the Annual Country Contribution for SACEP is requested from January year 2007. The Present Country Contribution of SACEP was recommended at the 7th Meeting of the Governing Council of SACEP held on 22nd April 1998 in Male, Republic of Maldives

Please note that the Country Contribution for Afghanistan was decided at the 4th Meeting of the Governing Council of SACEP held on 25 & 26 April 1988, In Afghanistan. Afghanistan has participated in the 9th Governing Council of SACEP and it is proposed that contribution of Afghanistan are fixed for year 2006 at the amount decided in 1988 and subsequent increase of 10% done for 2007.

COUNTRY	CONTRIBUTION FOR 2006	RECOMMENDED CONTRIBUTION
	US\$	US \$
AFGHANISTAN	5,900	6,490

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PROPOSED SECRETARIAT BUDGET FOR 2007 - 2008

			INCOME	EXPENDITURE
			US\$	US\$
1	A NITI	CIPATED INCOME		
1			22 420 00	
	1.1	BANGLADESH	23,430.00	
		BHUTAN	3,910.00	
		INDIA	35,035.00	
		MALDIVES	16,035.00	
		NEPAL	8,855.00	
		PAKISTAN	35,035.00	
		SRI LANKA	17,840.00	
		TOTAL COUNTRY CONTRIBUTIONS	140,140.00	
	1.2	Interest earned (SACEP-CC)	15,000.00	
	1.3	Secretariat Cost from Sri Lanka	47,000.00	
		TOTAL INCOME	202,140.00	
2	ESTIN	MATED EXPENDITURE		
	2.1	Salary Director General		60,000.00
	2.2	Salaries of Programme Staff (Local)		12,000.00
	2.3	Salaries of Local Staff		25,000.00
	2.4	International Travel		20,000.00
	2.5	Secretaariat Cost		60,000.00
		SUB TOTAL		177,000.00
3		Capital Costs		17,500.00
		-		
4		TOTAL EXPENDITURE		194,500.00
5		SURPLUS		7,640.00

We, the Ministers of Environment and the Governing Council of the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme, having met in Kathmandu on 25th January 2007 at the Tenth Governing Council of SACEP

- Considering on this historic occasion where we are celebrating 25-years of dedicated commitment towards meeting ever changing environmental demands, both regionally and globally,
- 2. Renewing our commitment to the regional secretariat South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP) to promote and support protection, management and enhancement of the environment in the region, and having recommended to the implementation of the reviewed strategy for the Secretariat's functional aspects,
- Noting the Agreement reached between the two regional secretariats South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation and SACEP in June 2002, to collaborate in implementing regional programmes,
- 4. Further revisiting commitment at the Global Agreements, to the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and the provisions of Agenda 21, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, which carefully incorporates the priority initiatives the sub-regions and the South Asia in particular; the Millennium Development Goals (2000), the Bali Strategic Plan for Capacity-Building and Technology Support (2005), the Regional Implementation Plan for Sustainable Development (2006-2010) agreed upon at the UNESCAP Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development (MCED 2005) reassuring the commitment for environmental sustainability,
- 5. Readdressing the understanding of the region at various Summits and the Technical Committees of the SAARC highlighting the necessity for the regional understanding and promotion of the South-South cooperation; addressing the necessity to the capacity building for the region through the establishment of Centres of Excellence; with particular reference to the Islamabad Declaration adopted on January 2004 and to the Dhaka Declaration adopted in 2005,
- 6. Noting in particular the Millennium Development Goal addressing environmental sustainability achieved through poverty alleviation, ensuring appropriate health and sanitation, and gender equality, further by reducing and reversing the rate of degradation of environmental sustainability,

- 7. Reaffirming that South Asia, as the fastest growing region in the world, with the largest part of global population and the largest number of people suffering poverty and hunger, has a critical role to play in promoting global sustainable development,
- 8. *Noting* the understanding and commitments at the Sub regional Environmental Policy Dialogue (SEPD) that Capacity Building services in the region to address the priority issues will include Science and Assessment, Policy Instruments and Awareness,
- 9. Further noting that the region needs to be prepared in advance to the emerging environmental issues and adopt to the 3-R Concept (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle) to the use of resources and products; to conserve environmental and natural resources,
- 10. Observing the necessity to the well established knowledge base to counter act the ill effects from issues such as e-waste, nitrogen pollution and the consequences; prepared status for Glacier Lake Outbursts of Floods (GLOF), and sharing of such information,
- 11. Recognising the immediate necessity for the conduct of assessments to the issues of concerns and appropriate institutional mechanisms; establishment of Centres of Excellence, education at various levels of schooling through media,

Make the following declaration providing various options and alternatives drawn from earlier multilateral agreements to encourage voluntary implementation, taking into account the diversity in development needs and capabilities of countries.

- A. We shall endeavour to improve environmental performance through mechanisms such as the following:
 - (a) Ensuring the implementation of multilateral environmental agreements at global and regional level to which we are party; and supporting the efforts to such implementation strategies and observing the inter-linkages among the agreements
 - (b) Promoting the effective enforcement of national laws, regulations and standards relating to sustainable development, including laws governing environmental impact assessments;
 - (c) Establishing or promoting institutional structures such as national sustainable development mechanisms for the purpose of mainstreaming sustainable development objectives in decision making process

- (d) Encouraging the sharing of experiences in the use of environmental sustainability and environmental performance indices, and promote through the concepts of an environmental knowledge hub for the region;
- (e) Encouraging the use of the ecosystem approach to strategic planning and management with regard to natural resources and the environment; and
- (f) Ensuring better environmental governance through addressing issues such as bio-medicine, bio-Safety, Access and Benefit Sharing of Resources through better regional cooperation
- (g) Understanding the immediate necessity for a sub-regional Environmental Treaty and suggest the SACEP Secretariat to immediately ensure on such a treaty in close collaboration with SAARC
- (h) Encouraging sustainable development as a component of education at all levels and enhanced public awareness of sustainable development as a follow up to the regional training action plan on education agreed in 2003,
- (i) Encouraging further strengthening of collaboration between the two regional secretariats SAARC and SACEP in serving the region to the appropriate implementation of sustainable development strategies,
- (j) Promoting regional cooperation through strengthened institutional understanding between SAARC and SACEP to ensure better institutional linkages and networks at national and regional level to promote and implement the programmes addressing the regional concerns of mutual interest between SAARC and SACEP
- B. We emphasize the importance of regional cooperation at various levels on bilateral and multilateral basis in achieving sustainable development, especially the strengthening of SAARC, SACEP partnership in achieving such goals
- C. We agree that an Environmental Treaty for the sub-region be achieved as soon as possible
- **D.** We reaffirm our commitment to strengthen SACEP by extending co-financing to the project implementation to ensure necessary donor support
- E. We urge the donor countries, relevant United Nations bodies and agencies, multilateral financial institutions, other intergovernmental organizations, the private sector, academia, non-governmental organizations and civil society to provide full support, including financial and technical support to the SACEP secretariat in implementing the programme focus approved by the Governing Council.

GC 10.SACEP/NFP/D 6 Agenda Item 10.1 Page 1

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

REVIEW OF SALARY AND PERKS OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL SACEP

On confirmation of the appointment of the first Director of SACEP on 6th January 1983, the Consultative Committee of SACEP fixed his Salary at US \$ 2,300/- per month. As per the Appointment letter it was also specified that 'this Salary will be revised as and when there is a revision in the Salary of the Director of the Colombo Plan.' The salary was subsequently revised in accordance with the increase of the salary of Chief of Colombo Plan Bureau to US \$ 2,910/- in 1988. Later, due to the financial constraints, the regular increase in Salary, to keep at par with the salary of Chief of Colombo Plan Bureau, was not done.

Looking into the disparity of the pay scales between the two organisations, an adhoc increase of US \$ 550/- was done in the salary of the seventh Director General SACEP in 2002 and it was fixed at US \$ 3,460/- per month. This is the salary of the present Director General.

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. Presently the monthly salary of the Secretary General, Colombo Plan is US \$ 5,000.

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 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.

It may also be pointed out that as a follow up of the review process, decided at the 8th Governing Council, 3rd 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.

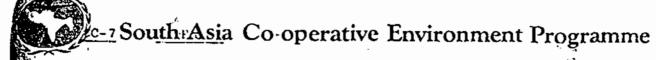
GC 10.SACEP/NFP/D 6 Agenda Item 10.1 Page 2

It is also pertinent to point out that even within the SACEP's team, one Project coordinator is being paid a monthly salary of US \$ 4,320/- way above the salary of the Director General (US \$ 3,460/-). 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. Besides, we have recovered arrears of Country Contributions to the tune of nearly US \$ 72,780/- and have a credit balance of US \$ 444,231 in the SACEP CC Account as of 31st December 2006. 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.

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 reviewed and considered to be put at par to the Chief of Colombo Plan as per earlier decision of the Consultative Committee in 1983.



Ti. 6 January 1983

our Ref.

Dear Dr Herath

14.2 July 1 1

The Consultative Committee is pleased to confirm your appointment as the Director of the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme in accordance with the decision of the Consultative Committee held on the 7th of January 1982.

You are appointed for a period of 3 years effective from the 7th of January 1982.

You will be paid an all inclusive salary of US \$ 2300 per month. This salary will be revised as and when there is a revision in the salary of the Director of the Colombo Plan Bureau.

You will be provided with an official car and furnished accommodation.

In accordance with the host facilities granted to SACEP, your salary will be free of income tax.

Yours sincerely

Chairman

CONSULTATIVE COMMITTED



SOUTH ASIA CO-OPERATIVE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

MINUTES OF 81ST MEETING OF THE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE OF SACEP HELD ON 19TH APRIL 2002, COLOMBO HILTON

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Hon. Mr. Rukman Senanayake, Minister of Environment and Natural Resources, Sri Lanka - Chairman, Governing Council of SACEP

H.E. Mr. Abdul Azeez Yoosuf, High Commissioner, High Commission of Republic of Maldives, Colombo 7-Chairman, Consultative Committee

H.E. Mr. Ashraf-Ud-Doula, High Commissioner, High Commission of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, 47, Sir Ernest de Silva Mawatha, Colombo 7

Mr. V. Ashok, Counsellor-Economic and Commercial, Indian High:
Commission, Colombo 3-Outgoing Chairman, Consultative Committee

Mr. Ashud Ahmed, 1st Secretary, High Commission of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, 47, Sir Ernest de Silva Mawatha, Colombo 7

Mr. Davod Navid Moghadam, Counsellor and Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of Islamic Republic of Iran, Colombo 7 (On invitation)

Mr. Sudhir Bhattarai, 2nd Secretary, Royal Nepalese Embassy, Colombo 7

Mr. Thosapala Hewage, Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, Sampathpaya, Rajamalwatha Road, Battaramulla

Mr. W. R. M. S. Wickramasinghe, Addl. Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, Rajamalwatha Road, Sampathpaya, Battaramulla

Dr. B. M. S. Batagoda, Director, Economic Commercial and Global Affairs, Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, Sampathpaya, Battaramulla

Mrs. M. A. Kumaradasa, Director Planning, Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, Sampathpaya, Rajamalwatha Road, Battaramulla

Dr. R. A. D. B. Samaranayake, Director, Department of Coast Conservation, New Secretariat, Maligawatta, Colombo 10

Mr. Razik Zarook, Chairman, National Aquatic Resources Research and Development Agency (NARA), Crow Island, Colombo 15

Mr. B. Wijeyarathne, Deputy Director (Planning), Ministry of Fisheries and Ocean Resources

Mr. C. M. M. Chandrasekera, Director, Department of National Planning

Mrs. Priyani Manel Wijemanne, General Manager, Marine Pollution Prevention Authority, Apartment 5A, Tower Building, 25 Station Road, Colombo 4

SACEP: Mr. Mahboob Elahi, Director General

Mrs. Jacintha S. Tissera, Administrative Officer

Mr. Pradyumna Kumar Kotta, Project Coordinator, SENRIC

Ms. Nishanthi Perera, Programme Officer, SASP

Page 2

was available. To this end, the instance of organising South Asia Consultations for WSSD held in Colombo Sri Lanka in September 2001 was cited. It was also pointed out that in order to enable SACEP undertake this pioneering role effectively, its financial resources and technical capacity needs to be suitably enhanced. Part of the answer lies in recognition of SACEP's role by the other subregional/regional organisations, such as ESCAP, UNEP-ROAP or SAARC who have greater command of financial resources and political clout by providing due space to organisations such as SACEP to grow and develop. The dilemma of indigenous intergovernmental sub-regional organisations could be overcome only if national governments pursue a deliberate policy with a unified voice in the decision making forums of other sub-regional, regional, global organisations concerned with co-operation in social, economic environment and related areas.

Decision:

All international governmental sub-regional organisations like SACEP should be supported by the National Governments by providing necessary financial resources and political support. This point of view may also be vigorously pursued at the decision-making forums of the other regional and global organisations dealing with co-operation in social, economic and environmental related areas.

Agenda Item 17.1: Purchase of New Vehicles

Ms. Jacintha S. Tissera, Administrative Officer informed the Committee that the two official vehicles currently owned by SACEP were purchased in 1993 and 1994 respectively are very old and depreciated. Their present book value is Rs. 53,707.04 and Rs. 28,183.78 respectively. Since it has become very expensive to maintain these old vehicles the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Sri Lanka Customs has been requested to authorise disposal of these two vehicles. They have concurred with the proposal and have allowed SACEP to dispose these vehicles to the general public after paying custom duty of Rs. 126,336/- and Rs. 53,082/- respectively. In the meantime SACEP has received offer for the purchase of these vehicles much above their present book value and the mandatory payable custom duty. To a point raised by the honourable members of the Committee Ms. Jacintha S. Tissera informed that SACEP's vehicles are exempted from custom duty as admissible to other foreign missions based in Colombo, Sri Lanka. Necessary funds are available to meet this expenditure. The same procedure was followed while purchasing two vehicles referred to above in 1993 and 1994 when the old cars were replaced. The Committee approved the proposal for the purchase of two vehicles for the official use of SACEP.

Decision:

The proposal to purchase two office vehicles in place of two existing office vehicles was approved by the Consultative Committee.

Agenda Item 17.2: Salary of Director General, SACEP

Ms. Jacintha S. Tissera, Administrative Officer, SACEP presented the above working paper proposing an increased in the monthly fixed salary of DG, SACEP by US \$ 550/- with effect from 1st January 2002 to compensate him for the rising cost of living and payment of mandatory contributions to the parent Government of the Director General himself such as payment of pension, benevolent fund and group insurance premium contributions etc. It was pointed out that this increase in salary is been requested for the first time after 1994 in keeping with the decision that the salary of DG, SACEP should be revised as an when these is a revision in the salary of Director of Colombo Plan Bureau.

High Commissioner of Bangladesh inquired as to which was the competent forum to revise the salary of DG, SACEP. Ms. Jacintha S. Tissera informed the Meeting that the salary of the first DG, SACEP was fixed by the Consultative Committee and all subsequent decisions were taken at that level. As per existing rules and procedures, the appointment of DG, SACEP is also approved/confirmed by the CC, SACEP as well as the decision to revise the salary.

Ms. Thosapal Hewage, Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources proposed that since most of these increase in pay was necessitated on account of mandatory contributions to the parent employer of DG, SACEP that is Government of Pakistan, if may perhaps be considered to request the



GC 10.SACEP/NFP/D 6 Agenda Item 10.1 Annex 2 Page 3

Government of Pakistan to make these mandatory contributions in respect of Mr. Elahi from the Government's own resources. It was clarified that as per existing procedures of Government Pakistan which are more or less similar in nature followed by other governments of South Asia, the aforesaid mandatory contributions are either the responsibility of the foreign employer or the individual himself. This being one of the Fundamental Financial Rule in vogue, no dispensation is likely. In view of this clarification, Secretary Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, Government of Sri Lanka endorsed the proposal as presented. It was also supported by High Commissioner of Bangladesh, Chairman, CC, Minister for Environment and Natural Resources and other members of the Consultative Committee.

Mr. V. Ashok, Counsellor-Economic and Commercial, High Commission of India inquired whether the salaries of the other SACEP staff have also been revised. Ms. Jacintha S. Tissera informed the meeting that contrary to the salary of DG, SACEP which is at fixed rate, all SACEP staff are allowed annual increments. Recently, this annual increment was allowed to all the SACEP staff at the beginning of the financial year at the rate varying between 11% to 16% of their gross emoluments, based on the recommendations of the three member committee comprised of Mr. Prasantha Dias Abegunawardena, Mr. P. K. Kotta and Ms. Jacintha S. Tissera duly approved by DG, SACEP. Mr. V. Ashok proposed that restructure of Staff salaries to be presented with working papers at the next meeting of the Consultative Committee. Proposal by Mr. Ashok was agreed by the committee.

Decision:

- Consultative Committee approved an increase in the fixed salary of Director General, SACEP by US \$ 550/-(US \$ five hundred and fifty only) with effect from 1st January 2002.
- 2. The details of restructure of SACEP Staff salaries to be presented in the next Consultative Committee Meeting of SACEP.

The Meeting concluded with note of thanks to and from the Hon. Minister for Environment and Natural Resources, Government of Sri Lanka and the Chairman of the Consultative Committee, SACEP.



for Co-operative Economic and Social Development in Asia and the Pacific

30 August 2005

Dr A A Boaz Director General South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme 10 Anderson Road Colombo 5

Dear Sir,

I refer to your letter of 10 August 2005 and write to advise you that salaries and perks of the Secretary-General and International Officers are determined by the Colombo Plan Council. Following are the particulars:

Secretary-General

The present *salary* of the Secretary-General is US\$.60,000 per annum. The Government of Sri Lanka provides a bungalow for the Secretary-General *Education Allowance* — entitled to receive an allowance for dependent children under 21 years of age, payable for three children. Present allowance US\$ 4,000 per annum.

Official vehicle

International Officers

The present International Offficer's salary is US\$ 30,000 per annum. Rental payment upto Rs.80,000 per mensem Education Allowance – entitled to receive an allowance for dependent children under 21 years of age, payable for three children. Present allowance US\$ 4,000 per annum.

Limits for rental and educational allowances are determined by the Council and fixed from time to time on the recommendation of the Sec. General.

Please note that the Colombo Plan has a total of 25 member governments and the mandatory membership contribution is US\$ 14,500 per government per annum.

O 1 SEP 2005

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ours sincerely

Secretary/Accountant

P.O.Box: 596, 13th Floor Brite H Confon Merchant Tower,

GC 10.SACEP/NFP/D6 Agenda Item 10.2 Page 1

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

SOUTH ASIA CO-OPERATIVE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTOR GENERAL ON MERIT BASIS

- 1. One of the member states has raised the issue of the change in the process of selecting the Director General, SACEP as approved at the 3rd Special Session of the Governing Council held in November 2003 and the subsequent reservation expressed by another member state to consider candidates only from the countries other than the one from which the serving Director General was selected. This means thereby that two successive Director General's cannot be from the same country and each time the selection will be from the remaining countries, excluding the one from which the incumbent Director General is selected. Therefore, there will be only one term bar for the candidates from the member state. The member state has asked for the issue to be clarified at the Governing Council (Annex 1, copy of letter of Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India, Ref. No. D.O. 3(3)/4/2004-IC&SD-II dated 5 August 2005).
- 2. The reference under the recommendations of the Report of the 3rd special Session of the Governing Council of SACEP held on 6th November 2003, Colombo, Sri Lanka (page 6 E) is: (Annex 2)

'Capacity Development of SACEP'

- Subject to availability of concurrence in writing by the member government that expressed its reservation, the Chairman, GC / SACEP was authorized to take necessary steps for the recruitment of DG, SACEP on merit basis from the South Asian Region for a non-renewable term of five years, following internationally accepted norms and practices and in close consultation with the members of the Governing Council.
- In the event the reservation is expressed in writing to the Chair of GC, the recruitment will be made on the existing procedure.'
- 3. A Copy of the letter sent by the member country who expressed reservation to the Chairman Governing Council of SACEP, Ref No SACEP-8/1/03 dated 14th January 2004 is annexed for your information. (Annex 3). The salient points expressed are :
 - (i) After the current term, the post of Director General will be held on merit basis for one tenure of three years after advertisement and selection from amongst the nationals of the member states.

- (ii) 'Once a national of one country has been selected for this post, the subsequent selection process will only be from the nationals of the remaining countries'
- (iii) The tenure will be for only three years as otherwise it will be difficult and embarrassing to remove an incumbent who does not deliver according to expectations of the member states.

The issue was put before the 9th Governing Council of SACEP. It was decided that the issue may be discussed at future meetings. It is, therefore, requested to consider the decision on appointing the Director General of SACEP on Merit Basis from the region for a non-renewal term of five years as decided in the 3rd Special Session of the GC.

The following points may be considered:

- 1. The chairman, GC, SACEP was authorized to take the necessary steps for the recruitment of Director General, SACEP on merit basis from the South Asian region for a non-renewal term of five years in the 3rd Special Session of the GC (6 November, 2003)
- 2. Based on the reservations expressed by one member state (ref. Annex 2) the tenure of the present incumbent was given as three years, which was put up in the 9th Governing Council that decided to consider it at its future meeting. It is proposed that the 10th Governing Council may consider the decision taken at the 3rd Special Session and uphold the decision of having a non-renewable tenure of five years for the Director General. This will ensure a long term strategic approach and strengthen SACEP on its path of recovery that it has embarked upon, as per the recommendations of the external review committee and focus on improving its performance to achieve the objects of the priority areas decided by the Governing Council.
- 3. The issue of only one term bar for candidates from the member states for the post of Director General's needs clarification and it is proposed that there may be only one term bar for the candidates from the member state of whose candidate is serving in the present. The issue needs to be discussed and decided at the 10th Governing Council.

P. Ø1

5-AUG-2005 19:04 S MITT

Sudhir Mital

Loint Secretary
Tel: 24363956
Fax: 24369192

E-mail: is-icsd@nicin

D.O. 3(3)/4/2004-IC&SD-II

भारत सरकार

पर्यावरण एवं वन मंत्रालय GOVERNMENT OF INDIA IINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT & FORES

Date: 05th August 2005

Dear De Book

SACEP was approved at the 3rd Special Session of the Governing Council of SACEP held in November 2003. Rather than appoint a DG, nominated by the member States by rotation, it was decided that the process of recruitment of Director General of SACEP would be through open competition on merit basis for a non-renewable term of three years. It was also agreed that the next recruitment would consider candidates only from the countries other than the one from which the serving DO was selected. In other words two successive DGs cannot be from the same country and each time the selection would be from the remaining member states, excluding the one from which the incumbent DG has been selected. Therefore, there will be only a one term bar for the candidates from a member state. We would very much appreciate if this issue is clarified and reiterated in the agenda under item 9 tany other business: during the upcoming 9th meeting of the Governing Council of SACEP scheduled to be held at Thimpu, Bhutan from 24-26 August 2005.

In so far as the enhancement of the contribution to SACEP, from the existing level of US \$20,800 is concerned, the matter is under the consideration of the Government of India. Please send us a note with the statement of the contribution of all the member countries during the last five years as well as any outstanding dues by return fax.

With regards,

Yours sincerely

(Sudhir Mital)

Dr. A.A. Boaz Director General,

South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP)

No. 10, Anderson Road, Off Dickman?s Road

Colombo 05, Sri Lanka

Fax: 94 11 2589369

E-mail: sacep@curcka.lk

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प्रयोवरण भवन्द्र, सी.जी.ओ. काम्पलैक्स, लोदी रोडे, नई दिल्लीन 10003 PARYAVARAN BHAWAN, C.G.O. COMPLEX, CODHI ROAD, NEW DELHI- 10003

GC 10.SACEP/NFP/D6 Agenda Item 10.2 Annex 2 Page 1



REPORT

THE THIRD SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL

South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP)

6 NOVEMBER 2003 COLOMBO, SRI LANKA



GC 10.SACEP / NFP / D6 Agenda Item 10.2 Annex 2 Page 2

E. Capacity Development in SACEP

- Subject to availability of concurrence in writing by the member government that
 expressed its reservation, the Chairman, GC/SACEP was authorised to take
 necessary steps for the recruitment of DG, SACEP on merit basis from the South
 Asia Region for a non-renewable term of five years, following internationally
 accepted norms and practices and in close consultation with the members of the
 Governing Council.
- In the event the reservation is expressed in writing to the Chair of GC, the recruitment will be made on the existing procedure.
- The capacity building measures for secretariat staff (Para 6.7 of the Report of SACEP Strategy and Work Programme-Annex XIII) was endorsed.

F. Implementation Plan

• It was recommended that SACEP Secretariat should revise the implementation plan based on decisions and guidance of the NFP and GC Meetings.

6. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

The SS3.GC/SACEP approved the SACEP Strategy and Work Programme with the above recommendations.

7. CONCLUDING SESSION

The Chairman, Hon Mr. Rukman Senanayake, Minister of Environment and Natural Resources, Government of Sri Lanka in his concluding remarks thanked all the Environment Ministers, the country delegations and the Director General and the SACEP Secretariat for their wholehearted co-operation in ensuring the success of this meeting.

GC 10.SACEP / NFP / D6 Agenda Item 10.2 Annex 3 Page 1



No.SACEP-8/1/03

HIGH COMMISSION OF PAKIST

211 De Saram Place, Colombo - 10, Sri Lunka.

Tel: 94-1-696301-2, Fax: 94-1-695780

Email: hepakl@sitnet.ik

14th January 2004

Hon. Mr. Rukman Senanayake, Minister for Environment and Natural Resources, Chairman Governing Council of SACEP, 82, Sampathpaya Rajamalwatte Road, Battaramulla

Honourable Minister,

Kindly refer to my letter of even number dated 29th December 2003 regarding comments of the Government of Pakistan on the proposed steps for the recruitment of Director General of SACEP as discussed during Third Special Session of the Governing Council of SACEP held on November 6th, 2003 at Colombo.

- 2. A revised procedure for selection of Director General for SACEP proposed by the Government of Pakistan is given below for Your Excellency's information:
 - (i) After the current term, the post of Director General will be held on ment basis for one tenure of three (3) years after advertisement and selection, from amongst a national from the member states.
 - (ii) Once a national of one country has been selected for this post, the subsequent selection process will only be from the nationals of the remaining countries.
 - (iii) The tenure will be for only three years, as otherwise it will be difficult and embarrassing to remove an incumbent who does not deliver according to the expectations of the member states.

Yours sincerely,

(Tanveer A. Khaskheli)

Acting High Commissioner