



REPORT

THE ELEVENTH MEETING OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL

South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP)


**22 MAY 2008
JAIPUR, INDIA**



South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme
No. 10, Anderson Road, Off Dickman's Road
Colombo 05
Sri Lanka

CERTIFICATE

The Report of the Eleventh Meeting of the Governing Council of South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme held on 22nd May 2008 in Jaipur, India is herewith submitted to the members of the Governing Council and the Consultative Committee, in fulfilment of the financial and administrative procedures of SACEP.

 24/9/08
Dr. Arvind Anil Boaz
Director General

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

**22 May 2008
Jaipur, India**

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

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**SOUTH ASIA CO-OPERATIVE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME
ELEVENTH MEETING OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL (GC11.SACEP)
22nd MAY 2008
JAIPUR, INDIA**

1. INTRODUCTION

The Eleventh Meeting of the Governing Council of the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (GC11.SACEP) was held on 22nd May 2008 at Jaipur, India.

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 representatives from TRAFFIC International, United States Embassy of Kathmandu, United States Embassy of Delhi and United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD). The List of Participants is in **Annex I**.

3. INAUGURATION

The Chief Guest for the Inaugural Session of the 11th Governing Council of SACEP was His Excellency, the Governor of Rajasthan Shri S. K. Singh, Government of India.

The welcome address was delivered by Dr. Arvind Anil Boaz, Director General of SACEP (**Annex II**). In his address, he emphasized that SACEP had worked towards the satisfaction of regional needs and found its niche to appropriately address the development goals. He said he was proud to observe the collaborative efforts from all the agencies around the world to achieve this common goal. Though Environment is a field where there is constant change and is always in a state of flux, SACEP has been constantly observing the dynamic changes in the environment and the programme activities for the coming years were not cast in stone but were subject to constant review and change to suit the needs of the member countries. The ambitious Work Programme drawn up is based on commitments that SACEP had received from its member countries, UNEP, UN affiliated organizations and other bilateral and multi-lateral agencies. He further stated that *'in recent years South Asia has seen intense suffering caused by major Natural Disasters. These disasters make us aware of the susceptibility of our South*

Asian region to such disasters and the need to respond collectively to mitigate the sufferings of our people. Most of our countries have meager resources and therefore there is a dire need for forging even more closer ties to respond. 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.'

On behalf of the out-going Chairman, and Head of Delegation Mr. Narayan Prasad Silwal, Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Science & Technology, Government of Nepal then addressed the august gathering (**Annex III**) . In his speech, he stated that he was aware that since his country took over the Chairmanship in the year 2007, SACEP has been successful in initiating many important programme activities and has signed many MoUs with both regional and international agencies. All important initiatives would not have happened without the active support of the member countries. While expressing his thanks to all, he requested the member countries to continue support for their mutual benefit. He said that he would fail in his duty if he does not recognize the proactive role and dynamism exhibited by the secretariat in taking SACEP to greater heights.

Hon' Namo Narian Meena, Minister of State for Environment & Forests, Government of India and the incoming Chair, then addressed the august gathering (**Annex IV**). In his address, while thanking His Excellency the Governor of Rajasthan Shri S. K. Singh ji, for coming all the way from his summer camp at Mt. Abu to specially inaugurate the meeting and the Honourable Chief Minister for taking time out of her busy schedule to be here with us, he took this opportunity, on behalf of all member countries, to express his appreciation to the excellent leadership that the Honourable Minister of Environment, Nepal had provided to SACEP during his chairmanship over the last one year.

He further stated that *'the countries of South Asia region, with common cultural heritage and similar geo-physical and natural resources endowments, face common environmental problems and challenges, some of which transcend the political boundaries and need to be addressed bi-laterally and regionally in order to meet the overarching goal of sustainable development and environmental sustainability, as envisaged in the Millennium Development Goals. We, thus, need to find common options and solutions for environmental protection and management in the region.*

'We firmly believe that a regional environmental organization like SACEP, set-up in 1982 and comprising of Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and India is best placed for promoting cooperative activities, which would be beneficial to member countries in the areas of common interest through extensive cooperation and exchange of technology, knowledge, skills and expertise. India on its part is ready to share the technology and processes developed indigenously by us as well as assist in building capacities of the countries in the region to address their environmental concerns'.

'At this stage, we must accept that the tasks before us are quite challenging and we need to make concerted efforts on a regional basis for a harmonious and coherent environmental management. I wish to re-iterate India's commitment to strengthen SACEP as a good example of South- South Cooperation.'

The meeting was next addressed by the Chief Minister, Government of Rajasthan, Hon' Ms. Vasundhra Raje (**Annex V**). In her speech, she said that she was truly delighted to have this opportunity to address the inaugural session of the 11th Governing Council of South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme (SACEP) at the historic city of Jaipur and that she was extremely thankful to SACEP for opting to hold their deliberations here at Jaipur, even when the ominous forces of terrorism have attempted to impair peace and tranquility of the city last week.

She said that she was happy to note that SACEP was focusing on achieving regional strategy for waste management including municipal solid waste, hazardous waste, bio medical waste and e-waste and it was encouraging that SACEP is already collaborating with UNCRD to develop 3-R (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle) Activity in South Asia.

She further stated that *'Creation of South Asia Wildlife Trade Initiative (SAWTI) in collaboration with TRAFFIC, WWF etc is indeed a very welcome step towards controlling and preventing illegal domestic and international trade in wild flora and fauna. Collaborative capacity building initiatives in the field of forestry and adaptations to Climate Change in South Asian region is the need of the hour. It is heartening to note that SACEP is already seized with the issue.*

Establishment of Basel Convention Regional Centre for South Asia is another laudable achievement of SACEP for which it deserves appreciation as it will help in imparting training and facilitating transfer of environmentally sound technologies in the areas of hazardous waste management.'

She concluded by saying that, *'Our presence here demonstrates our common commitment and resolve to cooperate and move forward towards sustainable development and a clean environment in our region. I hope that the resolutions adopted at this 11th Governing Council would further strengthen SACEP and would provide newer direction to this vital Inter Governmental Organization of our region'*

The Chief Guest His Excellency, Shri S. K. Singh, the Governor of Rajasthan then delivered his Inaugural Address (**Annex VI**). He stated that *'everybody gathered here are committed to the vision of South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme meant specially to integrate environmental concerns with quickening the pace of development. Let us reason together, discuss and assess as to how far we have succeeded in fulfilling – or at least marching together – towards achieving this.*

*Our region must face the question: What is the nexus of environmental degradation, with poverty in its many dimensions, and economic growth. At the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment in Stockholm, in 1972, our late Prime Minister, Indira Gandhi had reflected the anxiety of many developing countries when she said **"How can we speak to those who live in villages and in slums, about keeping the oceans, the rivers and the air clean when their own lives are contaminated at the very source? The environment cannot be improved in conditions of poverty"**. We in South Asia are, and have been, working in this direction. However, much more needs to be achieved, in areas where ecological and developmental concerns transcend administrative and national boundaries. India is committed to achieving growth in a sustainable manner, and therefore to strengthening SACEP through sharing experiences and pooling resources. It is our hope that we must demonstrate our collective will for attaining this: and that demonstration of our joint will, shall make the difference.*

This forum, the SACEP, strives to provide an opportunity to forge together a set of initiatives for conservation of environmental resources with a regional perspective. We have no option but to try to be cohesive in this effort. Our initiatives need to be premised on a set of unambiguously stated principles; and these principles need to be relevant, feasible in terms of costs, and in their application becoming technically and administratively, also not too difficult to attain.'

To conclude, he said that 'Let us improve our comprehensive environment together and in cooperation and coordination with one another.'

The vote of thanks was given by Mr. Sudhir Mital, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forest, Government of India.

4. ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS

In accordance with the provisions of the Articles of Association of SACEP, Hon' Namo Narian Meena, Minister of State for Environment & Forests, Government of India was elected as Chairman of the 11th Governing Council of SACEP. Hon. Patali Champika Ranawaka, Minister of Environment and Natural Resources, Government of Sri Lanka was elected as the Vice Chairman. Mr. Ishtiaq Ahmad Khan, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Government of Pakistan was elected as Rapporteur.

5. ADOPTION OF AGENDA AND ORGANISATION OF WORK

The Agenda of the Meeting was discussed and adopted by the 11th Governing Council of SACEP. (Annex VII)

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

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

(The Country Statements are in **Annexes VIII - XIII**)

7. STATEMENTS BY THE OBSERVERS

UNCRD, TRAFFIC International and US Embassy in Nepal presented their statements. (**Annexes XIV - XVI**)

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

Mr. S. M. D. P. Anura Jayatilake, Director (Climate Change & Global Affairs), Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, 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 20th May 2008 along with the recommendations of the meeting to the Governing Council for its endorsement. (**Annex XX**)

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

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, of the 11th Meeting of the Governing Council of SACEP adopted the recommendations of the Preparatory Meeting of the National Focal Points, with certain amendments. The decisions of the 11th Governing Council, SACEP under various clauses are as below :

9.1 INSTITUTIONAL MATTERS

9.1.1 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 Tenth Meeting of the Governing Council of SACEP.

It was agreed that the countries should send in their comments, if any, within three months. If the country consents are not forwarded on or before end of December 2008, it will be considered as approved.

9.1.2 'Status of the implementation of Decision No 11.2 of 10-GC/SACEP on appointment of Director General on Merit Basis'.

The Governing Council reconsidered its decision of the Agenda Item 11.2 of 10-GC/SACEP and decided that the term of Director General of SACEP should be for a fixed period of three years without any provision for extension.

It also decided not to grant any extension to the present incumbent and that the process for selection of the new Director General should start immediately after the 11th Meeting of the Governing Council of SACEP. However, since this process is likely to take some time, the term of present Director General be extended, as an interim measure, only upto 31st December 2008, to enable completing selection process of the new Director General, or till such time as the new Director General is selected, whichever is earlier.

Also in future selection process of the new Director General should start at the end of two years of the term of the Director General so that selection is completed well before the completion of the stipulated / fixed three year term.

9.1.3 Compensation for fall in US \$ against other currencies for Salary of the Director General

The proposal on compensation for fall in US \$ against other currencies for Salary of the Director General was not agreed to.

9.2 PROGRAMME MATTERS

9.2.1 Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM)

The proposal was agreed to in principle and the member countries requested SACEP to conduct awareness programme on SAICM Global Action Plan at National and Regional Levels.

9.2.2 Capacity building for the Clearing-House Mechanism of the Convention on Biological Diversity in South Asia

The 11th Meeting of the Governing Council endorsed the recommendation of the National Focal Points and decided that SACEP should :

- a) Assist member countries of South Asia to build capacity to develop and maintain National Biodiversity CHMs
- b) Assist member countries to develop and maintain National Biodiversity CHMs
- c) Develop a regional CHM that meets the needs of the region, links together the national CHMs and provides a forum for promoting Regional Scientific and Technical co-operation.

It also decided that activity (c) should be taken up only after completion of (a) and (b) when developing and implementing the project.

9.2.3 Establishment of Basel Convention Regional Centre for South Asia

Pakistan pointed out that a similar centre already exists in Iran and that four of SACEP member states are members of this centre. Therefore, Pakistan proposed that it would be appropriate to set-up a sub-centre at Colombo, Sri Lanka.

However, after detailed discussion, the Meeting agreed to support the establishment of the Basel Convention Regional Centre for South Asia at the SACEP Secretariat, Colombo, Sri Lanka, comprising of all South Asian Countries as its members as decided by the 10th Meeting of the Governing Council of SACEP.

The SACEP Secretariat was requested to look into the modalities of mobilizing Finances and other Resources.

9.2.4 Proposal on Environmental Data and Information Management System

The Meeting endorsed the proposal.

9.2.5 EC Supported Project on “Institutional Strengthening and Capacity Development for the Long-term Management and Conservation of MCPAs encompassing Coral Reef Resources in South Asia”

The Meeting decided to refer the Agenda Item to the Fourth Inter-Ministerial Meeting of the South Asian Seas Programme

9.2.6 Establishment of the South Asia Initiative for Combating Illegal Trade in Wildlife

The 11th GC.SACEP endorsed the Statement on South Asia Wildlife Trade Initiative as the ‘South Asia Initiative for Combating Illegal Trade in Wildlife’, and unanimously adopted it as the “JAIPUR DECLARATION”. The meeting agreed to the establishment of the South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network (SAWEN) and the South Asia Regional Strategic Plan on Combating Illegal Wildlife Trade (2008 – 2013) subject to dropping all references to Sustainable Livelihood Security, Market, Trade Mechanisms etc to bring it in line with the CITES. (Annex XVII)

9.2.7 Scoping Exercise on E-waste Management in South Asia

The Meeting noted that most of the countries in the Region are in the process of preparing their own Rules and Regulations on e-waste Management. SACEP Secretariat was requested to assist member countries to undertake risk assessment at National Levels and based on the above to prepare a proposal on establishing a central e-waste Management facility for South Asia for the next GC/SACEP.

9.2.8 School Environment Awareness Programme

The Meeting noted the Environment Awareness Programme conducted by SACEP with appreciation and resolved that such programmes should be held periodically by SACEP in the South Asia Region with the help of the member countries.

9.2.9 Malé Declaration on Control and Prevention of Air Pollution and Its Likely Trans-boundary Effects for South Asia

The Meeting stated that the Agenda Item has been endorsed at the 10 / GC.SACEP and further action should be taken for building the capacity of SACEP Secretariat to undertake greater role in the implementation of the Malé Declaration implementation. The 11th GC-SACEP requested SACEP to inform the Member States regarding the status of support from UNEP and donors for continuation of the project.

9.2.10 Waste Management

The 11th Meeting of the Governing Council of SACEP endorsed the Proposal on Waste Management.

9.2.11 Environmentally Sustainable Transport (EST)

While appreciating the proposed initiative in collaboration with UNCRD, the members of the National Focal Points decided that the endorsement of the Extended Aichi Statement by the balance countries of South Asia would be considered only after consultation with their respective Ministries of Transport and Urban Development. The 11th GC/SACEP endorsed the recommendation of the National Focal Points.

9.2.12 State of the Environment Report of South Asia

The Meeting appreciated the collaboration developed between SACEP and SAARC for development of the State of Environment Report for South Asia and requested SACEP to ensure incorporation of the most recent information in these areas.

9.2.13 Collaboration with the Regional Community Forestry Training Centre for Asia and the Pacific (RECOFTC) for Capacity Building in the Community Forestry Sector

The Meeting approved the proposal and further requested SACEP to develop collaborative arrangements with institutions of South Asia under south-south collaboration.

9.2.14 MoU with TRADA (Timber Research and Development Association) to develop Integrated Sustainable Bamboo-based Livelihoods

The Meeting approved the proposal to conduct a Pilot Project in Sri Lanka.

9.2.15 Collaboration with National Botanical Research Institute (NBRI), Lucknow to Develop Programme on Climate Change and it's Impact on the Flora of the South Asia

The Meeting while approving the Project Proposal in principle subject to specific commitment from respective countries, did not endorse the Lucknow Declaration.

9.2.16 WORK PROGRAMME (2009-2010)

The Meeting decided to continue on-going activities of SACEP and approved the Work Programme 2009 - 2010 with amendments as at **Annex XVIII**. The Meeting decided that the source of funding should be shown against each project and all those projects for which no funding is available should be dropped.

The meeting also recommended that all Projects and MoUs/Agreements should be duly endorsed by the country governments before SACEP enters into them.

9.3 FUNDING AND FINANCIAL MATTERS

9.3.1 Review of Country Contributions

The proposal to increase the Country Contribution was agreed in principle and SACEP was requested to forward the request with more justification to the Country Governments immediately so that decision on the increase of the Country Contribution could be taken at the earliest.

The Meeting appreciated the Secretariat's efforts in recovery of the arrears of the Country Contribution. It also urged the Member Countries to Clear the Arrears of the Country

Contribution for SACEP, for smooth functioning of the SACEP Secretariat.

The meeting also appreciated the efforts of the Secretariat in starting the Corpus Fund for SACEP and the contribution of the Government of India to kick start the fund. It requested the member countries to make generous contributions to the fund.

9.3.2 External Funding

The Meeting greatly appreciated the efforts of SACEP in generating external funds from several agencies. It recommended that SACEP should continue to play its role in securing external financing for the benefit of the member countries.

9.3.3 Secretariat Budget (2009-2010)

The Meeting endorsed the existing rate of Country Contribution as the Revenue of SACEP and approved only the increase of the Local Staff Salaries under the estimated Expenditure of the Secretariat against the approved budget of 10.GC-SACEP. (Annex XIX)

10. APPROVAL OF THE ANNUAL AUDITED REPORT OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 2006

The meeting approved the Audited Report of Accounts for the year 2006.

11. STATEMENT ON COUNTRY COMMITMENTS FOR PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION / CORPUS FUND

This matter was discussed under Agenda Items 9.3.1.

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Venue and Date for the 12th Meeting of the Governing Council of SACEP

The Meetings of the Governing Council are held in alphabetical order. In keeping with the tradition of hosting the Meeting of the Governing

Councils on rotation basis, the Government of Maldives was requested to consider hosting the meeting. As the Government of Maldives could not confirm hosting the 12th GC.SACEP and as Nepal had hosted the 10th GC.SACEP recently, Pakistan offered to hold the 12th Meeting of the Governing Council of SACEP. The meeting accepted the offer and thanked the Government of Pakistan for their kind gesture.

13. ADOPTION OF REPORT

The 11th Meeting of the Governing Council of SACEP considered the Report on 22nd day, of May 2008 and adopted the above recommendations.

14. CLOSURE OF MEETING

The Chairman thanked all the Hon' Ministers and delegates for their valuable support and co-operation and the Secretariat for all the hard work in making the meeting a success. He then declared the meeting close.

SOUTH ASIA CO-OPERATIVE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME
11TH MEETING OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL

22nd May 2008
Jaipur, India

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SOUTH ASIA CO-OPERATIVE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

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Welcome Address by

**Dr. Arvind Anil Boaz
Director General, SACEP
at the
Eleventh Meeting of the Governing Council of
South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme (SACEP)
Jaipur, India**

22nd May 2008

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

11th GC, SACEP, 22nd May 2008, Jaipur, India

Excellency Mr. Namo Narian Meena, Minister of State for Environment and Forest, Government of India, Mr. Narayan Prasad Silwal, Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Nepal, H. E. Ahmad Shan Karim Olomi, Hon' Deputy Director General Afghanistan,

Mr. Ruhul Alam Siddique, Head of delegation from Bangladesh, H. E. Dasho Nado Rinnchen, Deputy Minister, Environment, Bhutan, H.E. Ahmad Abdullah, Minister of Environment, Maldives, Mr. Ishtiaq Ahmad Khan, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Pakistan, H. E. Patali Champika Ranawake, Minister of Environment and Natural Resources, Sri Lanka, Distinguished Delegates from all the member countries of SACEP,

Mr. Onogawa, Director, UNCRD, Nagoya, Japan, Mr. John Adams from the US, Mr. Sabri Zain and James Compton from TRAFFIC, Distinguished member of the audience,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the very outset, let me express my heartfelt thanks to His Excellency the Governor for so kindly consenting to be the Chief Guest at this inaugural function of the 11th GC of SACEP. It is indeed a great honour for SACEP. I am indebted to the Hon' Chief Minister to grace this occasion inspite of her busy schedule.

I extend my deep and sincere appreciation to H. E. Mr. Namo Narian Meena for being kind enough to accept the request of SACEP to host this meeting in India in this beautiful city of Jaipur. On behalf of SACEP, I thank the Government of India for the excellent arrangements made here. We have been overwhelmed by the warm and friendly hospitality extended to us since our arrival.

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

I also extend my thanks to Mr. Onogawa from the UNCRD, Mr. John Adams from the US government, Ms Pamposh Bhat from the GTZ, Mr. Sabri Zain and James Compton from TRAFFIC and other representatives from the International Community for so kindly accepting our invitation and being present here to express their support.

Your Excellencies, Distinguished delegates,

This is the 11th Governing Council Meeting of SACEP and as we step into the 27th year of our existence, it will be fair to ask whether SACEP has done justice to the initial vision for regional cooperation.

SACEP, as we all know, is the first regional inter-government body established in the field of environment in 1982. It was the vision of the environment ministers of eight countries of South Asia for mutual cooperation in the field of Environment.

During the last 26 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.

Environment is a field where there is constant change and is always in a state of flux. We at SACEP are 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 organizations and other bilateral and multi-lateral 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 focused approach as proposed by the Review Committee and endorsed by the Governing Council.

In recent years South Asia has seen intense suffering caused by major Natural Disasters. These disasters make us aware of the susceptibility of our South Asian region to such disasters and the need to respond collectively to mitigate the sufferings of our people. Most of our countries have meager resources and therefore there is a dire need for forging even more closer ties to respond. 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.

In the end, I again thank His Excellency the Governor for gracing this occasion and Her Excellency the Chief Minister for sparing her time. I am confident that the guidance that they will give us here will go a long way in building a strong collaborative partnership in the field of environment. I once again thank the Hon Ministers of my member countries who have taken the trouble to travel long distances to be present at this meeting.

Inaugural Address by

Mr. Narayan Prasad Silwal
Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Science & Technology
Government of Nepal
Head of Delegation
and
Out-going Chairman
at the
Eleventh Meeting of the Governing Council of
South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme
Jaipur, India

22nd May 2008

His Excellency Hon Governor of Rajasthan,
Her Excellency Hon Chief Minister of Rajasthan
His Excellency Hon Minister Environment India,

Hon' Ministers and Senior Officials of SACEP Countries
Distinguished Invitees,

I consider it a privilege for me to address this august gathering of the Ministers and Senior Officials of the SACEP member countries on behalf of the outgoing Chairman of the 10th Governing Council of SACEP.

On behalf of the member governments of the SACEP, I extend my sincere gratitude to the Government of India, for agreeing to host 11th Governing Council Meeting of SACEP in this beautiful and historic city of Jaipur, India.

I am aware that since my country took over the Chairmanship in the year 2007, SACEP has been successful in initiating many important programme activities and has signed many MoUs with both regional and international agencies. The details about those have been placed before you. You can look into it.

Your Excellencies,
SACEP, though being the oldest regional forum in this region, needs face lifting innovation and dynamism to sustain and survive and the onus is upon our shoulder that how we steer and guide.

Climate Change has no boundary. The glazer lakes outburst flooding and Ice Mountain receding are the two typical phenomenon that is going to affect the billions of people in this region. Fresh water crisis is likely to emerge soon apart from these climate led disaster. Environmental refugee is an imminent threat. SACEP with the support of other international donors has to come out with adaptation and mitigation measures.

All important initiatives would not happen without the active support of the member countries. I am thankful to all and request the member countries to continue support for our mutual benefit.

I will fail in my duty if I do not recognize the proactive role and dynamism exhibited by the secretariat in taking SACEP to greater heights.
On behalf my government I would like to extend well wishes to the Government of India for the success in carrying out the responsibilities of the Chair.

I thank you.

Inaugural Address by

**Hon. Mr. Namo Narian Meena
Minister of State for Environment and Forests
Government of India and
Incoming Chairman
at the
Eleventh Meeting of the Governing Council of
South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme
Jaipur, India**

22nd May 2008

Excellency the Governor of Rajasthan, Shri S. K. Singh Jee
Hon'ble Chief Minister Rajasthan, Smt. Vasundhara Raje Jee
Hon'ble Environment Ministers' of Member Countries,
Distinguished delegates, Friends from the media,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good Morning.

I am greatly indebted to His Excellency the Governor Shri S. K. Singh ji for coming all the way from his summer camp at Mt. Abu to specially inaugurate this meeting. Thank you, sir.

I am also grateful to the Hon'ble Chief Minister for taking time out of her busy schedule to be here with us. Thank you, madam.

It is a great honor and privilege for me to welcome the distinguished delegates to the 11th Governing Council Meeting of SACEP being held in the pink city of Jaipur, which besides being known internationally for its history, architectural layout and tourist attractions, is also the administrative, political, cultural and socio-economic hub of Rajasthan.

As all of you are aware, the city of Jaipur has very recently suffered from bomb blasts, which have led to extensive loss of life and property. This heinous act has left deep scars and I wish to use this forum to reiterate our firm commitment to fight against the menace of terrorism.

I take this opportunity, on behalf of all member countries, to express my appreciation to the excellent leadership that the Honourable Minister of Environment, Nepal has provided to SACEP during his chairmanship over the last one year.

Sustainable development concerns in the sense of enhancement of human well-being, broadly conceived, are a recurring theme in India's development philosophy. The present day consensus reflects three foundational aspirations: **First**, that human beings should be able to enjoy a decent quality of life; **second**, that humanity should become capable of respecting the finiteness of the biosphere; and **third**, that neither the aspiration for the good life, nor the recognition of biophysical limits should preclude the search for greater justice in the world. For this to occur there is a need for balance and harmony between economic, social and environmental needs of the country.

India also plays an important role in several significant international initiatives concerned with the environment. It is a party to the key multilateral agreements and recognizes the inter dependencies among, and trans-boundary character of, several environmental problems.

The countries of South Asia region, with common cultural heritage and similar geo-physical and natural resources endowments, face common environmental problems and challenges, some of which transcend the political boundaries and need to be addressed bi-laterally and regionally in order to meet the overarching goal of sustainable development and environmental sustainability, as envisaged in the

Millennium Development Goals. We thus need to find common options and solutions for environmental protection and management in the region.

We firmly believe that a regional environmental organization like SACEP, set-up in 1982 and comprising of Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and India is best placed for promoting cooperative activities, which would be beneficial to member countries in the areas of common interest through extensive cooperation and exchange of technology, knowledge, skills and expertise. India on its part is ready to share the technology and processes developed indigenously by us as well as assist in building capacities of the countries in the region to address their environmental concerns.

At this stage, we must accept that the tasks before us are quite challenging and we need to make concerted efforts on a regional basis for a harmonious and coherent environmental management. I wish to re-iterate India's commitment to strengthen SACEP as a good example of South- South Cooperation.

Jai Hind

Address by

**Hon'ble Chief Minister Rajasthan
Smt. Vasundhra Raje Jee
at the
Inaugural Session of the
Eleventh Meeting of the Governing Council of
South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme
Jaipur, India**

22nd May 2008

His Excellency, The Governor of Rajasthan
Shri Namo Narayan Meena, Minister of State for Environment and Forests, Government of India
Distinguished Ministers and Representatives from member countries of SACEP
Dr. Arvind A. Boaz, Director General, SACEP
Distinguished delegates and guests from India and abroad
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am truly delighted to have this opportunity to address the inaugural session of the 11th Governing Council of South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme (SACEP) at the historic city of Jaipur. On behalf of the Government of Rajasthan, I would like to warmly welcome distinguished Ministers, Representatives, Members and Delegates from member countries of SACEP, delegates from UN organizations, NGO communities, and all those present here, to Rajasthan, the land of valour and hospitality resplendent with rich historical traditions.

I am extremely thankful to SACEP for opting to hold their deliberations here at Jaipur, even when the ominous forces of terrorism have attempted to impair peace and tranquility of the city last week. The manner in which residents of Rajasthan in general and those of Jaipur in particular, have risen to occasion by not only foiling the evil designs of those attempting to disturb communal amity but also by showing remarkable spirit of camaraderie in helping the victims and their families, beyond considerations of caste, creed or religion, is by all means highly commendable. I take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to the courage and character of people of Rajasthan.

Last two hundred years have witnessed manifold increase in the scale of economic activity, rapid advancement of technology and unprecedented rate of extension of social organizations. Along with this expansion also dawned a realization of the limit of the earth's tolerance towards intensive and extensive human activity. Periods of persistent drought, unexpected variations in climate, Tsunami of 2004 and the more recent-cyclone Nargis and devastating earthquake in China, are all stark reminders of what lie in store for us if we remain complacent towards environmental issues. We have to listen when Shri R. K. Pachauri says "*Neglect in protecting our heritage of natural resources could prove extremely harmful for the human race and for all species that share common space on planet earth*"

Last twenty five years have revealed hitherto unforeseen consequences of human activities which have strong bearing on the future sustenance of the planet. Global warming and its projected aftermath have virtually brought us to the edge of our seats. The Inter Governmental panel on Climate Change (IPCC)² in one of its reports says that "*Eleven of the last twelve years (1995-2006) rank among the twelve warmest years in the Instrumental record of global surface temperature (since 1850). Global average sea level has risen since 1961 at an average rate of 1.8 millimeter per year and since 1993 at 3.1 millimeter per year, with contributions from thermal expansion, melting glaciers and ice caps, and the polar ice sheets. By the 2050s, freshwater availability in Central, South, East and South-East Asia, particularly in large river basins, is projected to decrease. Coastal areas, especially heavily populated megadelta regions in South, East and South-East Asia, will be at greatest risk due to increased flooding from the sea and, in some megadeltas, flooding from the rivers.*" Strangely enough, the possibility of losing one of our own member countries due to possible rise in ocean levels, has become real.

The region of South Asia is beset with many environmental problems that transcend national boundaries asking for transnational solutions. Besides atmospheric pollution and global warming, degradation of land through factors such as salinity and erosion, scarcity of water with rapidly depleting groundwater and fresh water aquifers, deforestation and loss of biodiversity, pollution of marine environment and coastal zones, deficient urban infrastructure, and recurring natural disasters are some areas which warrant cooperative and collaborative efforts. In this context the role of SACEP becomes important in promotion of regional cooperation in combating such issues.

Unscientific and uneconomical management of waste remains one of the principle causes of environmental problems of the region. The concept and practice of recycling is still to take roots in our societies. I am happy to note that SACEP is focusing on achieving regional strategy for waste management including municipal solid waste, hazardous waste, bio medical waste and e-waste. I am sure that this will help in promotion of recycling of waste and development of environmentally sound disposal methods.

It is also encouraging that SACEP is already collaborating with UNCRD to develop 3-R (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle) Activity in South Asia. The South Asian Games Waste Management Programme undertaken during the South Asian Games held in Colombo in August 2006, was truly a innovative and laudable initiative aimed at raising awareness about managing waste, among participating athletes, audience and through the media among the masses of the countries.

Conserving the rich biodiversity of the region is another major challenge. Protecting and nurturing indigenous traditional knowledge such as the use of medicinal plants, organic farming, traditional arts and crafts, which are fast losing out to the quickening pace of development, industrialization, urbanization and population growth, need to be taken up on priority. Immense biological diversity also provide an opportunity to realize the value of our natural wealth and accordingly set its price. That SACEP intends to establish a “ *South Asia Biodiversity Clearing House Mechanism*” with the help of the Institute of Natural Science, Brussels, Belgium is a welcome initiative which shall be immensely helpful in facilitating scientific and technical cooperation in managing the rich biological diversity of the South Asian region.

Creation of South Asia Wildlife Trade Initiative (SAWTI) in collaboration with TRAFFIC, WWF etc is indeed a very welcome step towards controlling and preventing illegal domestic and international trade in wild flora and fauna. Collaborative capacity building initiatives in the field of forestry and adaptations to Climate Change in South Asian region is the need of the hour. It is heartening to note that SACEP is already seized with the issue.

Establishment of Basel Convention Regional Centre for South Asia is another laudable achievement of SACEP for which it deserves appreciation as it will help in imparting training and facilitate transfer of environmentally sound technologies in the areas of hazardous waste management. Male declaration on control and prevention of air pollution and its likely transboundary effect will boost intergovernmental cooperation in addressing the problem of air pollution and its consequential impacts.

Improving energy efficiency and proper energy governance is another very important component of environmental management for achieving sustainable development. We have to look at using the mechanism provided by the UNFCCC for getting technologies and funds for adopting means of Carbon Emission Reduction.

Non-availability of necessary data required to make correct policy interventions at the national and regional level for desirable natural resource management has been an area of concern for those involved in policy planning. In this backdrop, the decision to establish Environmental Data and Information Management System for South Asia is a very important and timely step. This would greatly assist in building suitable capacities at national and sub-regional level.

Women play a critical role in determining factors that affect sustainable development. In almost all daily household activities ranging from use of energy in cooking to maintaining clean hygienic conditions and education of children, women are significant contributors. Despite this, access to informal environmental education for women is relatively low. Therefore, we need better opportunities for women to translate their knowledge into initiatives and concrete action. By ensuring their rightful place in social, economic and political spheres and by involving them in the key decision making process, we can vastly improve the management of natural resources and environment.

Raising environmental consciousness is another aspect which should be addressed. A sense of dedication and commitment of all stake holders is essential for building systems and institutions that can monitor and take timely action for preventing degradation of the of the region's environment. Fortunately, environmental reporting has substantially increased and improved over the last few years. We now have much more diversified, focused and proactive coverage of larger environmental issues of local as well as global significance.

Having said all these, we do realize that inclusive economic growth and conservation of environment, both are equally important for long term sustainable development. The major challenge therefore, is to have environmentally sustainable economies. Environmental concerns need to be embedded in all our activities and policies, in our process of growth itself. This can only happen when, with the rise in income levels, people tend to place priority on environmental quality resulting in shift in social preferences and political priorities. Better understanding of the environmental consequences trigger technological changes and the market starts reflecting the environmental costs thereby creating a virtuous cycle. Slowly but surely, we are seeing that happening around us. Markets now, are more receptive and responsive to environmental concerns, than they were in the past.

Marinating environmental sustainability is intricately linked with globalization and multilateral trade. Its security is as important as economical and political security. We all share the responsibility of being a trustee of wealth of mother nature, for the present as well as the future generation. In the words of Mahatma Gandhi- *"we have to be the change we want to see in this world."*

Our presence here demonstrates our common commitment and resolve to cooperate and move forward towards sustainable development and a clean environment in our region. I hope that the resolutions adopted at this 11th Governing Council would further strengthen SACEP and would provide newer direction to this vital Inter Governmental Organization of our region.

Once again, let me thank you all for your attention. I wish you all success in your deliberations.

I hope all of you would have a pleasant and memorable stay in this wonderful city of Jaipur. I encourage you to avail this opportunity to visit and enjoy the many places of historical and touristic importance as also the local markets of Jaipur.

Thank you very much.

Address by

**H.E. Shri S. K. Singh
The Governor of Rajasthan
at the
Inaugural Session of the
Eleventh Meeting of the Governing Council of
South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme
Jaipur, India**

22nd May 2008

Excellency Chairman, Hon'ble Chief Minister, Rajasthan, Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Environment and Forests,
Hon'ble Ministers of SACEP Member Countries,

Distinguished guests, Ladies and Gentlemen we are happy to be able to host the 11th Governing Council of the South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme (SACEP) in Jaipur, the Capital of Rajasthan.

All of us here are committed to the vision of South Asian Cooperation in Environment Programme meant specially to integrate environmental concerns with quickening the pace of development. Let us reason together, discuss and assess as to how far we have succeeded in fulfilling – or at least marching together – towards achieving this.

Our region must face the question: What is the nexus of environmental degradation, with poverty in its many dimensions, and economic growth. At the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment in Stockholm, in 1972, our late Prime Minister, Indira Gandhi had reflected the anxiety of many developing countries when she said *“How can we speak to those who live in villages and in slums, about keeping the oceans, the rivers and the air clean when their own lives are contaminated at the very source? The environment cannot be improved in conditions of poverty”*.

We in South Asia are, and have been, working in this direction. However, much more needs to be achieved, in areas where ecological and developmental concerns transcend administrative and national boundaries. India is committed to achieving growth in a sustainable manner, and therefore to strengthening SACEP through sharing experiences and pooling resources. It is our hope that we must demonstrate our collective will for attaining this: and that demonstration of our join will, shall make the difference.

We have always recognized that an environmentally sustainable development at the national level cannot be pursued in isolation. Quality of life and in the nations today, and in the future, depends largely on the policies and actions that the fellow nations of the world, especially, all of our neighbours in South Asia pursue. Against this background, new partnerships have to be established for conservation and sustainable development, while ensuring equitable distribution of technology and economic space. Promoting these partnerships requires making the most of the diverse repertoire of knowledge, skills, perceptions and assets belonging to a wide cross-section of nations and societies.

This forum, the SACEP, strives to provide an opportunity to forge together a set of initiatives for conservation of environmental resources with a regional perspective. We have no option but to try to be cohesive in this effort. Our initiatives need to be premised on a set of unambiguously stated principles; and these principles need to be relevant, feasible in terms of costs, and in their application becoming technically and administratively, also not too difficult to attain.

We need to ensure that the right to development is pursued in an equitable manner, keeping in view not only the developmental and environmental needs of the present generation, but also of future generations in our societies. For this we must remain conscious that sustainable development depends on the protection of our environment. Development in our societies cannot be divorced from the concrete and demonstrated protection of environment. If poverty is the most major pollutant in our developing

societies, we have all to cooperate and coordinate our policies, and unitedly abolish poverty in all our societies, with one another's help and willing cooperation.

Integration of environmental concerns in all relevant processes needs to be seen as one major objective of all our National Environment Policies. Given the need to enhance our own capacities to comply with our commitments and ensure sustained flow of resources for environmental management, we need to avail of the multi-lateral and bilateral cooperation programmes for capacity building in the arena of environmental management. For this we need to participate in mechanisms and arrangements under multi-lateral agreements for enhancing flow of resources to achieve these objectives that have been under discussion for some years we need to learn that our operations and process in the field of scientific research, also our organizations in this field and how to quicken the pace of implementation processes in this context.

Before attempting anything else in the context of either sustainable development, or environmental protection let us pledge that we shall all make our respective citizens aware of healthy environmental practices, and understand and accept that their nation expects each citizen to adopt these. A clear awareness of what environment stands for, and what we may lose unless each citizen is on board to protect it must be structured in each of our societies. In this direction all our societies, and our respective medias – both electronic, and print, and our school – teachers and University professors need repeatedly to be urged to make their pupils aware of what is at stake in this effort we demand of them. For this purpose first of all they must all be clear about what Global Warming means, and what the meaning of Climate Change is, and provide examples of the dangers and possible irretrievable damage that could result from this. Each of us also has the duty to insist that the concept of due diligence in solving our own local problems and for setting example for our neighbours and others. In Rajasthan we are trying, in a pragmatic manner to provide solutions. One major example is that we are moving towards research, out of our deeply felt anxiety, on this issue and are moving to making an outlay of resources for our lakes in Rajasthan—all of which used to be brimful and beautiful until recent years but are dwindling and drying up today.

All of us here understand the word 'Environment' in its technical sense: which is concern regarding bio-diversity, flora and fauna, forest, river-flows, natural water bodies and underground water levels, eroding and eroding all kinds of pollution, greenery, trees, mountains, earth quakes, shifting tectonic-plates, lava spewing, volcanoes and craters, oceans, tsunamis, hurricanes etc.

However let us remind ourselves that in earlier eras this world used in a more philosophic and intellectually comprehensive sense. Social environment; environment for research and academic achievement in academia and Universities; political environment; environment in which terrorism and terrorists find it easier to carry out their deadly business whether in the name of ideology or that of faith. Since all of us here, are facing this jointly and severally, let me with all humility and respect mention as a Rajasthani that two of our neighbours seem presently to feel the sharp bites from the same poisonous insects that in earlier year they had attempted to unleash on others.

With these words, ideas, suggestions verging on some anguish, I am happy to inaugurate this Ministerial Conference of the SACEP. All of us in Rajasthan have the hope that your labours here will bring us all great results – by way of producing pragmatic ideas and

suggestions regarding implementation, so that we can all help one another in the fields of environmental protection, and societal development.

Let us improve our comprehensive environment together and in cooperation and coordination with one another. And let us recall all of us here, what Sir Muhammad Iqbal the poet – philosopher and visionary of pre – Independence South Asia had written.

SOUTH ASIA CO-OPERATIVE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

MEETING OF THE ELEVENTH GOVERNING COUNCIL

JAIPUR, INDIA

22 May 2008

AGENDA

TIME	Agenda Item
9.00 – 9.40	Opening Ceremony 1. Opening of the Meeting a. Statement by the current Chairman b. Welcome address by the Director General, SACEP c. Opening remarks by the host country d. Address by the Chief Guest
9.40 – 10.00	TEA BREAK
10.00 – 10.10	2. Election of Office Bearers
10.10 – 10.20	3. Adoption of Agenda and Organisation of Work
10.20 – 10.40	4. Brief Report by Director General
10.40 – 11.00	5. Country Statements / Brief Opening Remarks by the Member States (3-5 Minutes)
11.00 – 11.30	6. Statements by Observers
11.30 – 11.45	7. Presentation of Report of the Preparatory Meeting of National Focal Points by The Rapporteur
11.45 – 12.15	8. Discussions & Endorsement of Recommendations Agreed Upon at the Preparatory Meeting of National Focal Points 8.1 Institutional Matters 8.2 Programme Matters 8.3 Financial Matters
12.15 – 12.30	9. Approval of The Annual Audited Report of Accounts for the Financial Year Ending 31st December, 2006
12.15 – 12.30	10. Statement on Country Commitments for Programme Implementation / Corpus Fund
12.40 – 12.50	11. Any Other Business
12.50	12. Adoption of Report
13.00	13. Closure of Meeting

SOUTH ASIA CO-OPERATIVE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

**MEETING OF THE ELEVENTH GOVERNING COUNCIL
JAIPUR, INDIA
22nd May 2008**

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, 2006

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 2006.

10. STATEMENT ON COUNTRY COMMITMENTS FOR PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION / CORPUS FUND

The Eleventh Governing Council Meeting may wish to endorse the draft Ministerial Statement on country commitments for programme implementation and Corpus Fund recommended by the Preparatory Meeting of the National Focal Points

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Under this Agenda Item, The Eleventh 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 11th 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

Mr. Ruhul Alam Siddique
Minister (POL) of Embassy Bangladesh to India
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
at the
Eleventh Meeting of the Governing Council of
South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme
Jaipur, India

22nd May 2008

Hon'ble Chairman H. E. Mr. Namo Narian Meena
Hon'ble Ministers and Senior Officials of the SACEP member countries
Ladies and Gentlemen

It is indeed a privilege for me to represent Bangladesh in the 11th Meeting of the Governing Council of the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP).

First of all I would like to extend our sincere appreciation to the Government of India for hosting the Meeting in this beautiful and historic city of Jaipur. I would also like to express our gratitude for the warm hospitality extended to us during the meetings.

We have learnt from our experience that if we want to ensure the security and prosperity of our countries we cannot take the environmental issues lightly. We need to confront the compelling environmental challenges facing us with all seriousness. It is now well recognized that maintaining the delicate ecological balance of our planet and our natural habitat is critically important for all of us. We have also learnt from the South Asian experience that we need to take initiatives in a whole range of areas to secure our region from the severe consequences of unchecked environmental degradation.

If we look back to the decisions of the 10th Governing Council of SACEP, two new areas e.g Disaster Management and Coastal and Marine Protected Areas were identified in addition to the three priority areas of critical importance i.e. Waste Management, Adaptation to Climate Change and Data and Information Management. We fully agree with the priorities set in our initiatives.

I will here just mention about the gravity of the adverse impact of Climate Change or Global Warming for Bangladesh, which we fear is not a distant reality. If the trends in the global warming can not be reversed, as much as one fifth of Bangladesh will disappear in the Bay of Bengal. Along with it, 30 million people will perish. In sheer numbers, our losses would far exceed the combination of losses of all small island developing states. I would also like to share our fear that the frequency and the gravity of the natural calamities are in the rise to make our countries in the region more vulnerable. I would like to quote here from the speech of the Hon'ble Adviser for Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh at a Climate Change Conference in Dhaka last March, "Three times last year, we encountered the wrath of nature. Cyclone Sidr was a wake up call for all of us. It confirmed our worst fear- rather painfully, that global warming and climatic shifts would only render natural disaster more intense, more destructive and more frequent."

We are doing our utmost to address these environmental issues nationally. At the same time, we are also conscious of the importance of the initiatives at regional and global levels to address these environmental challenges. We believe that SACEP has an important role to play in these initiatives.

I would like to acknowledge with deep appreciation the invaluable contributions made by the out going Chairman to the initiatives of SACEP. We are confident that the new Chairman with his vast experience and visionary leadership will steer and guide SACEP further ahead. We also put on records that the hard

work put in by the Director General and the members of the Staff of the SACEP Secretariat was also commendable.

When we reaffirm Bangladesh's commitment to face the environmental issues with other countries in the region, we also believe that together we will be able to mitigate the severe adverse effects of the environmental degradation in our region to make it a safe place for the future.

Thank you.

Statement by

His Excellency Dasho Nado Rinchen
Deputy Minister of Environment
Royal Government of Bhutan
at the
Eleventh Meeting of the Governing Council of
South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme
Jaipur, India

22nd May 2008

Hon'ble 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 SACEP Governing Council.

I and my delegation consider it a privilege to be here in the historic city of Jaipur for the 11th Governing Council Meeting of South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme. I on behalf of the Bhutanese Delegation and on my own behalf would like to thank the Government of India and in particular the Ministry of Environment and Forests for the warm and generous hospitality and the excellent arrangements made for our meeting.

Mr. Chairman, if we refresh our memories, based on recommendations from the 3rd Special Session of the SACEP Governing Council held at Colombo in November 2003 and the strategic approach adopted during the 9th GC held in Bhutan in August, 2005, SACEP decided that the immediate focus of the organization would be in three major programme areas namely; Waste management, Adaptation to Climate Change, Information Data Management.

The Programme of Work 2006-2007 was endorsed in the 10th Governing Council held in January 2007 in Kathmandu, Nepal. We sincerely appreciate the efforts made by the Director General and the SACEP Secretariat in taking the work programme forward and we hope see continued progress. As we are all aware that climate change is the biggest challenge the world is facing today and all of our countries are vulnerable to its impacts. Therefore, I would strongly urge the Secretariat to give due consideration to the issues of climate change and suggest adaptation and mitigation programmes in which member states of SACEP can cooperate collaborate and learn from each others experiences in addressing the impacts of climate change.

Some of the other proposals made by the Director General on the capacity building for the Clearing House Mechanism of the Convention on Biological Diversity in South Asia, the Strategic approach to international chemicals management and the establishment of Basel Convention Regional Centre for South Asia, are all indeed very good initiatives. However, keeping in mind the financial constraints and the in house expertise or capacity of the Secretariat, we should be more realistic and focus on the priority areas that were identified earlier. This does not mean that my delegation does not recognize these as important issues. If resources are available, we can certainly work on these proposals, they are all very relevant.

Going through the progress report, several Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) have been signed with various International Organizations. While appreciating the initiatives of the Director General to expand SACEP's cooperation and interaction with environment related international organizations such as Regional Community Forestry Training Centre for Asia and the Pacific (RECOFTC) and Timber Research and Development Association (TRADA), we would like to suggest that signing of MoUs to be limited to those organizations can provide both technical expertise and financial support to our prioritized programme of work.

Mr. Chairman, last year the Secretariat approved 30% of the Country contribution (CC) to be used for developing the work programme. This endearing commitment

should be further enhanced to take the work programme forward. The Director General of SACEP has proposed an increase in the Country Contributions and Corpus Fund. We have proposed a modest increase in our country contributions to the Ministry of Finance and it is currently under consideration of the Royal Government.

Mr. Chairman, regarding Corpus Fund, if we have any good regional or sub-regional project or programme covering 2-3 or more member states, it may be possible to find donors whether bilateral or multilateral including financial institutions like Asian Development Bank. In this regard, we would like to urge the Secretariat to explore potential partners or donors.

Mr. Chairman, we have to remember that SACEP is one of the oldest regional institutions on environment. In fact an older institution than the SAARC. It is now time to review to see whether SACEP has lived to the aspirations envisaged by the member states while establishing this august institution. Member countries in a collective spirit need to seriously consider strengthening this institution to achieve the objectives for which it was established.

I wish the SACEP every success in all its future endeavors.

Tashi Delek!!

Statement by

**Hon. Mr. Namo Narian Meena
Minister of State for Environment and Forests
Government of India and
Incoming Chairman
at the
Eleventh Meeting of the Governing Council of
South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme
Jaipur, India**

22nd May 2008

Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I once again take this opportunity to welcome you all to the 11th Governing Council Meeting of SACEP.

As a member country, India has a vision of an inclusive, plural and rapidly developing South Asia, playing its role in an interdependent world's economic development and peaceful evolution. Physical and economic connectivity has enabled us to use our geographical and resource endowments fully and at the same time, been the key to our region's peace and prosperity. South Asia has flourished most when connected to itself and the rest of the world.

The SACEP process is an excellent way to reaffirm our commitment to South-South cooperation where it could reinforce the technical capacities of member countries by working as a platform for sharing of knowledge and best practices within the region. It should provide a forum for regional environmental cooperation by conceiving and operationalising good programmes.

I am informed that the meeting of the National Focal Points has discussed the institutional, financial and programmatic issues at great length in an extremely cordial and constrictive manner and a consensus reached on all issues. The 9th and the 10th Governing Council Meetings of SACEP had set the priority areas such as Waste Management including e-waste, Data Information Management System, Climate Change issues, etc. as core future activities of SACEP. I believe that SACEP, in its work programme, needs to focus its activities in these prioritized areas and try to achieve tangible results. The limited resources and capacity of the organization further necessitate this.

In order to realize the potentials of the organization as a catalyst for regional environmental cooperation, the financial position of the organization needs to be further augmented. There are arrears of country contributions by some countries. Additionally, there appears to be a need for enhancing annual country contributions so that the corpus SACEP is strengthened. Further, SACEP should also look for innovative ways to augment resources besides mobilizing financial support from international donor agencies.

So far as India is concerned, the National Environment Policy adopted by the Government of India in 2006 has provided the guidelines for environmental management in the country. The Policy is intended to be a statement of India's commitment to making a positive contribution to international affairs.

The National Environment Policy furthers this goal by committing us to multilateral and bilateral cooperation programmes for capacity building in environmental management, participate in mechanisms and arrangements under multilateral agreements for enhancing flows of resources for sustainable development and

provide assistance to other developing countries, in particular for scientific and technical capacity building for environmental management.

I hope and wish that SACEP strengthens the South Asian Regional Environmental Cooperation in accordance with the decisions taken in this Governing Council Meeting showing desired results before the next Governing Council Meeting.

Lastly, I express my appreciation to the excellent efforts made by Dr. A. A. Boaz, DG SACEP in taking up various activities under the aegis of SACEP and expansion of its work portfolio.

Thank you.

Statement by

Hon. Mr. Ahmed Abdullah
Minister of Environment, Energy and Water
Republic of Maldives
at the
Eleventh Meeting of the Governing Council of
South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme
Jaipur, India

22nd May 2008

**Mr. Chairman, Honourable Ministers,
Director-General of SACEP
Distinguished Delegates, and
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

At the outset, please allow me to congratulate you, Mr. Chairman, on your election as the new Chairman to preside over this 11th Governing Council Meeting of SACEP. I am confident that your able leadership will undoubtedly pave our way into a very successful meeting.

At this juncture, also allow me to express my heartfelt gratitude to the Government and people of India, for hosting this important meeting, in this beautiful city of Jaipur, most famously known to us as the “Pink City”. I am also extending before us, your hospitality to ensure that our stay here is memorable and comfortable. I am indeed deeply honoured to be here.

Mr. Chairman,

Last year in 2007 in Kathmandu, we celebrated SACEP’s Silver Jubilee, 25 years of long and untiring service to the region on various environmental matters. SACEP achievements in terms of promoting environmental stewardship and sustainability in our region over the last 25 years, despite regional challenges such as, rapid population growth and its pressure on natural resources, increasing poverty, and limited financial resources, are recognizable and highly commendable.

SACEP’s involvement over the years in Environmental Legislation, Male’ Declaration, Regional Oil Spill Contingency Planning, Marine Litter, Waste Management, Adaptation to Climate Change, Natural Disaster Management, Management of Marine and Coastal Protected Areas and Data and Information Management have demonstrated to be highly recognizable.

Mr. Chairman and Distinguished Delegates,

As we all agree, today, we are faced with numerous environmental challenges. These challenges range from daunting global climate change, sea-level rise, melting of glaciers, loss of biological diversity, issues of freshwater shortages, pollution, generation of waste and above all rapid increase in population and poverty in the region exerts tremendous pressure on environment and natural resources. Such challenges often do not recognize our national and administrative boundaries, neither do it recognize any ecological and biological boundaries. Thus, in order to address such challenges, partnerships, collaborative efforts and shared responsibilities are much needed.

However, this does not mean that our countries by ourselves cannot do much. Efforts however big or small can greatly contribute and also can make a big difference. For instance, simple efforts for saving energy from a single institution can bring about important results such as cost savings on power.

As mentioned before, environmental issues does not respect any boundaries, so as they cannot save themselves, so as they cannot retaliate themselves, it is us who have

to save and retaliate on behalf of the environment if we want a sustainable environment. When we talk about environmental management, are we really talking about environmental management? or management of human activities? As we all know, actions of humans have the greatest threat and implication on environment. Thus, our actions and deeds need to be controlled in order to safeguard the environment. There has to be a paradigm shift, a change in behavior, a change in attitude.

Mr. Chairman,

The Maldives, this year will be undertaking a number of important efforts towards sustaining our vulnerable and fragile environment. Of these efforts include;

1. A full review of existing Environmental Protection and Preservation Act, to address various environmental issues from an integrated and holistic manner. This includes incorporation of integrated coastal zone management, prevention of pollution and management of hazardous waste and chemicals, biosafety, etc.
2. Formulation of our Third National Environmental Action Plan (NEAP), to address key areas that require development such as capacity building in the field of environment, strengthening environmental governance and advocacy as well as focus on environmental stewardship and community empowerment.
3. Formulation of our National Sustainable Development Strategy (NSDS), to guide our economic and social development activities to be environmentally sustainable and environmentally-friendly.
4. Finalization of our National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA), to address susceptibility of Maldives to climate change and sea-level rise and safeguard our environment, our economic base and critical infrastructure against climate change and climate-related disasters.

Mr. Chairman and Distinguished Delegates,

As we all know, SACEP has very limited technical and financial resources, yet it has to operate in a highly dynamic and vast region with one of the biggest populations in the world. This limited resources, as we all agree, have to be carefully and wisely utilized.

In the way forward for SACEP's future, it should focus on fewer projects that are result-oriented as well as its results should be greatly based on scientific evidence and formation. We can try and expand in implementing our programmes and projects based on financial availability and technical support availability.

SACEP should also embark on its future with a focus on establishing new partnerships as well as strengthening existing partnerships with international and regional organizations to get the much needed financial and technical support. SACEP should also focus on exploring new mechanisms for finance and technical support as well as centering its efforts on cross-cutting themes such as climate change as well as energy efficient economies.

Mr. Chairman,

Tomorrow's future is our children and tomorrow's future cannot be sustained unless we plant seeds of environmental sustainability in our children. We need to build the necessary capacity in our children to change their behavior and to change their attitude and perception for a better environment and a better region as it will have a greater impact for the generations to come.

In this regard and to initiate such an activity, I would like to propose SACEP to explore possibilities of organizing a "*South Asia Students Conference*", to enlighten them on environmental concerns, to build their capacity to address the challenges we have in the region as well as to advocate for a better future for our children for the betterment of generations to come. With change in perception comes change in behavior!

Also, focus on strengthening environmental awareness, capacity building as well as partnerships and empowerment of the local communities and involvement of them in decision making processes in the region would indeed contribute to addressing various issues that is already challenged in the environment of South Asia Region.

Mr. Chairman and Ladies and Gentlemen,

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

I believe, Mr. Chairman, with your able leadership, SACEP will reach new heights in terms of its achievement and accomplishments.

I thank you all.

*Statement by
Head of Delegation*

Mr. Ishtiak Ahmad Khan
Additional Secretary, Ministry of Environment
Pakistan
at the
Eleventh Meeting of the Governing Council of
South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme
Jaipur, India

22nd May 2008

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Ministers, Director General, SACEP
Distinguished Colleagues,
Ladies and Gentlemen

It is indeed a great honor and privilege for me to be here in this beautiful city of Jaipur at the 11th Meeting of the Governing Council of South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme. On behalf of my Government and on my personal behalf, I extend my sincere gratitude to the people and the Government of India for hosting such an important meeting and for their warm hospitality which made our stay comfortable and memorable and I would also like to congratulate the new Chairman of this august body.

South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme is now a well recognized institution in our region. Since its very modest foundation in 1982, SACEP has made significant progress in promoting implementation of environmental policies and programmes.

As you all are well aware rising environmental issues are now a global concern of Governments all over the world, and above in South Asian countries. Over-exploitation of natural resources, changing monsoon patterns, desertification of vast tracts of land, droughts and floods, rise in sea levels, alarming depletion of atmospheric ozone, rapid urbanization, increase in populations, to name a few, are some of the challenges that we are faced with. As a developing region with a large population living below the poverty line, we also face tensions between the priorities of environment and those of development while trying to strike the right balance between them. Several of our countries share a common past. The challenges of the future require that we cooperate with one another. This is particularly relevant for environmental protection, since we share our oceans, rivers and eco-systems.

Mr. Chairman

Government of Pakistan attaches great importance to the Environment. Pakistan is party to a number of International Conventions/Protocols and Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs). Being a progressive nation, Pakistan is streamlining its environmental policies in accordance with the international obligations, since integration of environmental concerns in sectoral policies is important for sustainable development. In the light of Pakistan Environment Protection act (PEPA) 1997, Pakistan has formulated the following major policies:

- National Environment Policy
- National Sanitation Policy
- Energy Conservation Policy
- National Environmental Quality Standards (Self- monitoring and Reporting by Industries) Rules, 2001
- Environmental Samples Rules, 2001
- Provincial Sustainable Development Fund Board (Procedure) Rules, 2001
- Pollution Charge for Industry (Calculation and Collection) Rules, 2001
- National Environmental Quality Standards (Environmental Laboratories Certification) Regulations, 2000

- Pakistan Environmental Protection Agency (Review of IEE/EIA) Regulation, 2000
- Pakistan Bio-Safety Rules, 2005
- National Bio-Safety Guidelines, 2005
- Hospital Waste Management Rules, 2005

The Government of Pakistan attaches great importance to the environment sector and has allocated 21 billion rupees (about 350 million US Dollars) for the Environment sector under the Mid- Term Development Framework (MTDF) – 2005-2010.

Under a special initiative, the Government of Pakistan has undertaken a project “ Safe Drinking Water for All” under which by 2008, safe drinking water will be provided to all big cities and 28,000 villages in the country.

It is also true that environmental problems are often regional or sub-regional in scale requiring regional-level solutions taking into account factors such as geography, natural resources endowment, cultural heritage, traditions and practices. It is heartening to note that regional cooperation movement has grown considerably in Asia that started with the establishment of SACEP and was followed by the establishment of South Asia Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC). The focus of SAARC on broader socio-economic development issues like trade, poverty alleviation and people to people contact, has helped integrate environmental agenda into broader socio-economic agenda in South Asia. The mature leadership of South Asia is now also dealing with territorial and other disputes to gradually find solutions in order to maximize benefits associated with regional cooperation.

SACEP and SAARC working together on a common strategy with an overarching goal of poverty reduction has great potential for benefit to the people of South Asia through greater political connectivity; expansion of trade and investment; development of financial systems, and improved environmental health and social conditions. We need to maintain this momentum by using the opportunities created by the presence of SACEP and SAARC.

The success of any organization and its work programme will, however, depend on the support received from the members. Conversely, the objective and activities under the programme will need to be tailored to meet the resource commitments available. We earnestly hope that SACEP can be re-vitalized and that it can provide useful services to the member countries. We look forward to meaningful cooperation and collaboration in the days to come.

Finally, our deliberations at the forum of SACEP and SASP at Jaipur have indeed been very productive in terms of useful exchange of views, finding common grounds for further actions, taking necessary decisions, and commitments shown to continue working toward achievement of common goals for creating a better environment for people of South Asia.

Thank You.

Statement by

Hon' Mr.Patali Champika Ranawaka
Minister of Environment & Natural Resources
Government of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka
at the
Eleventh Meeting of the Governing Council of
South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme
Jaipur, India

22nd May 2008

Auybowan, Namaskar, and Good Morning,

His Excellency, Hon Minister of Environment and Forests of India and Chairman of SACEP,

Excellencies,

Senior Officials of the SACEP member countries,

Director General of SACEP,

Members of the donor communities,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Firstly I would like to congratulate the Government of India for providing arrangements to hold this Meeting in the beautiful city of Jaipur, the capital of Rajasthan and providing excellent arrangements for our stay comfortable and enjoyable.

Secondly, please accept the sympathies of the President and the Government of Sri Lanka to the victims of the recent tragic happenings in Jaipur, and furthermore we salute the Government of India for the courage and commitment you have shown to continue with this meeting unchanged in spite of all those tragic happenings due to terrorist attacks.

Mr. Chairman, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Today, my statement mainly focuses on climate change, which is the fundamental human development challenge that looms above the global community, while the poorest countries are the most vulnerable to threats posed by global warming. World's two most vulnerable countries to climate change - Bangladesh and Maldives, are in our Region. Most of other SAARC countries - India, Sri Lanka, Pakistan have populated coastlines, with extremely high productivity, which are highly susceptible to sea level rise. On the other hand Nepal and Bhutan are threatened by melting of ice caps, which threaten freshwater resources almost in the entirety of the SAARC region.

The SAARC region having a population of nearly 1/6th of global population has a total CO₂ emission level of around 1330 million tons per year, which is only 3.7% of the total global emissions. According to the available data for 2007 the per capita tCO₂ in the SAARC countries range from 0.25-1.3 where, as the global average is 4.22.tCO₂.

Several studies in this regard suggests that to some extent, the rich countries have developed at the expense of poor countries. The high living standards of the population in the west have been maintained by drawing from the ecological resources of the developing countries and this fact of "environmental debt" has been largely unrecognized or has not been researched up to now.

In line with the Human Development Report (UNDP, 2007-2008) if the global accepted per capita emission level of tCO₂ is 2.1 the countries that exceed this acceptable level are depriving the opportunities of the low emitting countries as well as the rights of the future generation.

Mr. Chairman,

Considering the above, Sri Lanka would like to submit the following proposals for the consideration of the member countries;

1 Assessing the cost either in terms of monetary values or as an index to measure past accumulated "Environmental Debt" owed by the developed countries to the developing countries. This index could be used to estimate past environmental impacts of development activities of developed nations that have already caused natural resource depletion and environmental degradation in terms of an environmental debt to future generations, of both developing and developed countries.

2 The Human Development Index (HDI), which now comprises of an average of three independent indices be enlarged to include a few more indices to take into account, ecological or environmental concerns, poverty and climate change factors. The new index may be termed Sustainable Human Development Index (SHDI).

3 We have identified that SAARC countries are entitled to a large amount of Carbon stocks by way of an environmental capital, which have been used by developed countries, infringing the rights of the present and future generations of our countries. These Carbon stocks together with Carbon credits from CDM process can be pooled together to form a Carbon cartel similar to the rice cartel proposed by Thailand or to the OPEC of oil producing countries. Such a mechanism will allow us to price our Carbon stocks/ credits in a manner that will benefit the developmental activities of our country.

4 It is a fact that SAARC countries are paying large debts to developed countries, at the cost of their own developmental activities, and hence it is necessary to look in to the possibilities of setting off the existing financial debts with Carbon credits available in SAARC countries.

Mr. Chairman, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen

I have put forward some of our thinking regarding climate change, carbon emission and environmental debt concepts and we like to have consultations in these issues and to develop a suitable implementation mechanism.

While thanking again the Government of India for providing excellent hosting facilities and we look forward to your valuable responses to our proposals.

Thank you for your attention

*Statements
Delivered by*

**The Observers
at the
Eleventh Meeting of the Governing Council of
South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme
Jaipur, India**

22nd May 2008

Statement Delivered by
Mr. Kazunobu Onogawa, Director
United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD)

Thank you Mr. Chairman,
Excellencies, distinguished participants, guests, ladies and gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure and privilege for me to be invited to this SACEP Governing Council, which is also a good opportunity for the United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD) to introduce member countries of SACEP our activities in the field of the environment.

Ladies and gentlemen,
Please allow me to go to the points of discussion directly.

Asia is achieving most rapid economic growth in the world and the South Asia is not the exception of this. Reflecting such economic situation, South Asia is now becoming a target of car industries with the new production of 2 to 3 thousand dollars economical models of private cars. In addition to own national industry, foreign industries are flooding into this market with production of similarly priced models.

It would lead the South Asia to face much more numbers of private cars running in the city with amplified problems which we have now as is observed in China, recently. Traffic jam, air pollution, accidents, noise, loss of time, abuse of oil, all of which will be escalated further if we fail to take some appropriate actions.

This is why UNCRD is working on the concept of EST, Environmentally Sustainable Transport, inviting both environment and transport ministries to tackle on this subject in a comprehensive manner. While this activity was initiated by 14 countries in the South East and North East Asia several years ago, I am pleased to report to this meeting that Ministry of Environment and Ministry of Transport, both ministries of all member countries of SACEP, were invited to this activity and started to join us since its 3rd EST Regional Forum organized in Singapore in this March 2008.

Simple construction of new highways does not solve this problem as is proved in many cities in the world. It requires comprehensive approach combined with the regulatory measures for ownership and operation of individual cars, the promotion of well planed mass transit system, etc. Not all the bilateral and international donors and organizations are familiar with good ideas and solutions for this problem, and that is why they are interested in joining the UNCRD EST activity.

I am not optimistic to be able to say that we can avoid occurrence of such a situation in the cities of this region. Anticipated increase of the number of cars will be coming soon, without waiting we will have to take counter measures. However, there are some success - stories in the world from which we can learn. It is available in newly developed counties such as some Latin American countries or some South East Asia countries, rather than in old developed countries. I am looking forward to having continued opportunities to collaborate with members of SACEP to work on this problem.

Further, I would like to mention that the issue of waste management is also a subject which requires some modified approach. All of us know the issue of waste management is a common problem in all the countries in the world, regardless they are developed or developing countries.

However, in addition to the conventional way of understandings for this waste management, new approach of 3R is being highlighted in these years. This concept should be understood not only as the down stream approach which is management of generated wastes, but rather, should be understood as an approach to upper stream subjects. The concept of reduction of waste generation leads to the more efficient use of our limited resources in all the stage of our life.

We are experiencing the sharp increase of the prices of all resources now, including those of oil, food, timbers and mineral resources. That is why we have to consider this subject as the concept to lead our society and economy to more sustainable one. We should not wait till such time we will eventually face the serious difficulty because of the shortage and extremely high price of the resources.

After the ending of the cold war between the East and the West in 1980s, the issue in the international community has shifted to the problems between the North and the

South, discussing the responsibility of global scale of environmental and economical problems.

Since the preparatory stage for UNCED, organized in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, G77 started to raise the voice requesting technology transfer and new and additional fundings for developing countries. However, it is not easy to achieve these by just requesting those and raising the voice in the international discussions.

Fortunately, discussions in the world ever since the UNCED have developed some useful tools such as Kyoto Mechanism under which CDM (Clean Development Mechanism) is prepared. The concept of Co-benefit is also trying to combine the environmental benefit with the economic achievement. Such tools and concepts should be studied more to get full advantage of those mechanisms and ideas.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Spiritual approach is essential, of course. However, at the same time, we know also the necessity of adding economic motivations to our spiritual approach to mobilize the people in our society, nationally and internationally, to achieve our goal.

UNCRD is interested in utilizing the discussion on climate change as a tool to achieve our own interested subjects, which are EST and waste management, or 3R in a more pragmatic way.

I sincerely hope UNCRD can be of some assistance for the achievement of these goals in the SACEP region, in future.

Thank you.

Statement Delivered by
Mr. Sabri Zain, Director of Advocacy
Traffic International

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

On behalf of TRAFFIC, I would like to thank SACEP member Countries and the Secretariat for inviting us to participate in this Governing Council Meeting as observers, and we would like to commend governments in this region for taking so many bold steps at addressing the pressing environmental and conservation issues facing the region.

The South Asia region is a storehouse of biological diversity and rich terrestrial, freshwater and marine resources. It is home to 15.5 percent of the world's flora and 12 per cent of the world's fauna, including many critically endangered species such as tigers, elephants, rhinos and marine turtles. However, illegal trade and over-exploitation of wild animals and plants poses a major challenge to the conservation of biodiversity in South Asia.

Recognising this challenge, TRAFFIC has always felt that a regional approach is the best way to tackle the issue of illegal wildlife trade – a trade that recognises no national borders and affects all countries in the region and countries beyond.

In 2004, TRAFFIC helped organise the South Asia Wildlife Trade Diagnostic and Law Enforcement Workshops held in Nepal, which identified key solutions needed, such as regional cooperation, strong law enforcement and effective implementation of the UN Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, CITES. TRAFFIC is happy to see that many of the recommendations of that workshop are now reflected in actions being discussed at this meeting.

We have been honoured to assist the countries of South Asia in moving forward their regional priorities for combating illegal and unsustainable wildlife trade, a collaboration which has been enabled by a strategic MoU between SACEP and TRAFFIC.

This led to the very successful workshop on the South Asia Wildlife Trade Initiative hosted by the Government of Nepal in Kathmandu in January 2008, the outcomes of which have been presented to this meeting of the Governing Council.

TRAFFIC has ongoing involvement in a number of similar regional efforts worldwide and can attest to their effectiveness in curtailing illegal wildlife trade: for example, the European Community's Action Plan on CITES Enforcement and the inter-governmental Regional Action Plan and Wildlife Enforcement Network that has been established by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, ASEAN.

The ASEAN Wildlife Enforcement Network has already led to several high-profile wildlife seizures involving protected species such as tiger products, Shahtoosh, freshwater turtles and tortoises and other reptiles. ASEAN-WEN has also established close external links with enforcement agencies in China, USA, the European Union and Australia, and with the Secretariats of CITES, Interpol and the World Customs Organization. We are confident that initiatives taken by the South Asia region will result in similar successes and international connectivity in the near future. Such imperatives for regional co-operation have been echoed by the CITES Secretariat and CITES Parties, recognising the crucial importance of these multilateral efforts.

TRAFFIC is certainly committed to assisting SACEP Member Countries in ensuring that joint regional efforts agreed today at addressing wildlife trade problems are successful. TRAFFIC is an international wildlife trade monitoring network with staff based in nearly 30 countries worldwide, and we work in close co-operation with the Secretariat of the UN Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora. Our commitment is extended through our worldwide network of expertise and knowledge being made available to the countries of South Asia. We are also committed to support and assist SACEP Member countries, when invited, in research and analysis, enforcement assistance, capacity building, public awareness, CITES implementation and, in particular, implementation of the South Asia Wildlife Trade Initiative, including the priority identified to establish a South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network.

As with last year, TRAFFIC will also encourage and mobilize technical and financial support for this work from TRAFFIC partners - such as WWF and IUCN - as well as other international organizations, governments and donor agencies.

We would like to commend you for the bold efforts you are undertaking and we look forward to working closely with you in ensuring their success.

Thank you.

Statement Delivered by
Mr. John Q. Adams
US Embassy

Mr. Chairman
Honorable Ministers
Senior Officials of SACEP countries,
Ladies and gentlemen

Thank you for your generous invitation to the SACEP Governing Council meeting and the opportunity to address this body.

I would also like to congratulate the new Chairman of SACEP on his election.

My comments relate to wildlife trafficking and item number 5.6 on today's agenda.

Wildlife trafficking, The illegal trade in wildlife and wildlife parts, is an estimated \$ 10 billion black market driving many species to the brink of extinction and contributing to the spread of diseases, such as avian influenza and SARS.

The United States has a long history of cooperation on wildlife issues in the South Asian region.

The National Wildlife Experts Meeting in Kathmandu in January, as a part of the SACEP pre-ministerial workshop, agreed that the illegal trade in wildlife is a serious problem and agreed to take measures to address this illegal trade.

The United States helped to fund the Kathmandu Workshop because we are committed to this region and to helping you address this problem. In particular we believe that a regional enforcement network is essential to this effort.

We have supported a similar arrangement among the ASEAN countries. We have supported the ASEAN Wildlife Enforcement Network, or 'ASEAN-WEN', from its inception and have arranged for funding and technical expertise to support ASEAN-WEN. All participants agree that ASEAN-WEN has been a tremendous success in improving law enforcement in ASEAN nations.

We hope SACEP will support the formal endorsement of a South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network today.

If SACEP ministers agree to establish such a network, the United States is prepared to commit political and financial support to establish the network and to ensure its success.

‘THE JAIPUR DECLARATION’

11th Meeting of the Governing Council of SACEP
Jaipur, India
22 May 2008

Declaration on
South Asia Initiative for Combating Illegal Trade in Wildlife

Aware that the countries in the South Asia region are very rich in terrestrial and marine natural resources which are storehouse of unique biodiversity as well as many endangered species and that there is rapid growing demand both locally and globally for wildlife products.

Acknowledging that while legal trade can be monitored and managed, illegal trade in wild animals and plants poses a major challenge to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in South Asia.

Recalling that all the countries in the region are presently having various laws and regulations to prevent illegal trade but still are subject to large scale illegal trade in wildlife and it's derivatives by a well organized local and international illegal trade network.

Realizing that despite concerns of overexploitation of wildlife by the civil society and efforts of the enforcement agencies it is unlikely that the on going trend of increased illegal trade by the strong international illegal wildlife crime nexus can be tackled without new enforcement strategies and through regional cooperation and networking.

Recognizing that countries in the region have committed for wildlife conservation and to regulate illegal trade under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) through its various resolutions, or implement related National Laws and Policies.

Recalling the South Asia Wildlife Trade Diagnostic Workshop held in Kathmandu in April 2004, and the priorities identified for improved regional co-operation to address Illegal wildlife trade challenges in South Asia.

Recalling the decision taken in the Tenth Governing Council Meeting of SACEP on 25th January 2007 to incorporate a Work Programme (2007-2008) for Combating Illegal Trade in Wildlife products and to help strengthening of enforcement of CITES in the region.

Aware of CITES Resolution 11.3 ‘Compliance and Enforcement’ revised at the 14th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES in July 2007 urging parties to consider formulating regional action plans, incorporating timetables, targets and provisions for funding, designed to enhance enforcement of CITES, achieve compliance with its provisions, and support wildlife-law enforcement agencies;

Acknowledging the Memorandum of Understanding signed by SACEP and TRAFFIC International on 20/07/07 to jointly take forward the initiative of regional co-operation for Combating Illegal Trade and the joint efforts initiated by them.

Recalling the endorsement of the South Asia Regional Strategic Plan on Illegal Wildlife Trade (2008-2013) by the Senior Officers of the Member Countries at the First Regional Workshop on the South Asia Wildlife Trade Initiative in Kathmandu from 31st January and 1st February 2008.

Stressing the importance of mutual networking and technical support as well as financial and technical support from the international community for building expertise, resources, and capacity to address the needs of the region for combating the illegal wildlife trade; and

Believing that regional cooperation can provide the best solution for regional problems;

We the Environment Ministers constituting the 11th Meeting of the Governing Council of SACEP,

Support the South Asia Initiative for Combating Illegal Trade in Wildlife and Regional Action Plan and the Formation of South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network (SAWEN)

Urge to establish the South Asia Experts Group on Illegal Wildlife Trade, consisting of relevant technical representatives from the eight member countries, which would meet periodically to provide a forum for the development of regional programmes through networking, sharing and effective dissemination of knowledge and information;

Mandate the expert group to develop a detailed work programme for implementing the South Asia Regional Strategic Plan on Illegal Wildlife Trade with the assistance of SACEP and other relevant partners; and

Request Countries, donors and other organizations to provide financial and technical support to assist in the implementation of the approved Work Programme.

SACEP WORK PROGRAMME

FOR YEAR 2009 – 2010

The 9th Meeting of the Governing Council and the 3rd Meeting of the Inter-Ministerial Meeting of the South Asian Seas Programme held in August 2005 at Thimphu, Bhutan reviewed the past Programmes and Projects of SACEP and adopted a new Work Programme for the year 2006 – 2007. The adopted Work Programme included 3 major areas viz. Waste Management, Adaptation to Climate Change, and Data and Information Management. The two other areas; Natural Disaster Management with respect to Storm Surges and Tsunamis and Management of Coastal and Marine Protected Areas were added to the Work Programme of the South Asian Seas Programme and it also recommended, continuation of the ongoing programmes of the SACEP.

The 10th Meeting of the Governing Council of SACEP held in January 2007 in Kathmandu, Nepal discussed the progress of the Work Programme recommended by the 9th GC-SACEP and decided to continue the same programme for the year 2007 – 2008. It also recommended new programme areas such as;

- Combating Illegal Trade in Wildlife and its Products
- Global Invasive Species Programme
- Implementing SAICM
- Establishment of Basel Convention Regional Centre
- Capacity building on Clearing House Mechanism of the Convention on Biological Diversity, assisting to develop national CHMs and establishment of regional CHM

Therefore SACEP Work Programme for year 2009 – 2010 is based on the continuation of the current Projects and Programmes as approved by the 10 GC-SACEP and new Programmes initiated by SACEP in response to the recent environmental concerns of the Member Countries.

The finances for the projects under the programme activities will be raised from donor agencies. Some donor agencies expect host agency / country contributions upto 20% in cash and kind. This will be dealt on a project to project basis as per the requirement of the donor agency and as per the decision of the 10 GC.SACEP for co-financing.

Programme 1: Waste Management

Project	Activities	Source of funding	Estimated Budget (USD)
1. Establishment of Basel Convention Regional Centre for South Asia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physically establishment of BCRC at SACEP • Setting up of Advisory Committee • Training Programs, Seminars and Workshops on Hazardous Wastes Management and Minimization • Database and Exchange of Information on HWM Techniques and Technologies • Marketing • Advisory/Consulting Services 	Basel Convention Sec., GTZ, JICA	100,000.00
2. Urban Waste Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity Building and Awareness Raising • Waste Separation and Disposal : Domestic Waste • Paper Recycling Project Managed by Local Community 	SIDA, GTZ, UNDP	340,000.00

Programme 2: Adaptation to Climate Change

Project	Activities	Estimated Budget (USD)
1. Study of impact of climate change on flora	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhancing Capacity Building • Floral Vulnerability Assessment • Adaptation and Mitigation Strategies 	To be determined
2. Collaboration for the Capacity Building of the Community Forestry Sector with the Regional Community Forestry Training Centre for Asia and the Pacific (RECOFTC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rural Livelihoods and Poverty Reduction: This will include activities to develop pro-poor markets and enterprises, integrated development planning to address social development in an integrated way (e.g. across health, education, agriculture, humanitarian assistance); analyzing the impact of Community Forestry on livelihoods and the local environment. • Forest Governance: supporting the development and implementation of sound <i>policies and laws</i> that support rights of access and use are fundamentals of poverty reducing Community Forestry, as well as robust and supportive local CF institutions that enable equitable sharing of benefits from CF. 	To be determined

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Productive and Sustainable Forest Management: Community Forestry often occurs in degraded areas rather than high value areas. However, the scope to extend the principles and methods of CF to high value areas needs to be supported if the livelihood needs of communities in such areas are to be secured. Such areas range from conservation areas, where more restricted modes of forest use are in place, to high value timber resources in production forest areas. Fruitful areas to explore include landscape approaches to sustainable forest management, and forest management systems for multiple use including both timber and Non Timber Forest Products. 	
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Programme 3: Data and Information Management

Project	Activities	Source of funding	Estimated Budget (USD)
1. Establishment of Environmental Data and Information Management System for South Asia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment of Needs and the Resources available at National and Regional Level • Provide assistance in the Development and Operation of National Environmental Data and Information management Centres in member countries of SACEP • Provide Training in Data and Information Management applying Standard Formats and Methodologies • Establishment of Regional Environmental Data and Information Centre and Networking of Regional Centre with the National Centres • Provision of Hardware and Software Packages • Provision of Support for Operational Expenses - Data and Information Centre • Development of National and Regional Meta Databases • Data and Information Dissemination 	GTZ, UNDP, UNEP	2,847,000.00

Programme 4: Implementation of SAICM

Project	Activities	Source of Funding	Estimated Budget (USD)
1. South Asia Sub-regional Meeting on Implementation of SAICM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updates on activities of Governments, Intergovernmental and Non-governmental Organizations in the sub-region • Sub-regional coordination mechanisms • National implementation of SAICM • Identification of the priorities of the sub-region and preparation of sub-regional action plan • Engagement of Sub-regional/Regional organizations in SAICM implementation 	SAICM Sec.	60,200.00

Programme 5: Capacity building on Clearing House Mechanism of the Convention on Biological Diversity, assisting to develop national CHMs and establishment of regional CHM

Project	Activities	Source of funding	Estimated Budget (USD)
1. Establishment of National CHMs and Regional CHM on CBD (when implementing the project, should be in line with 11 Decision no. 5.2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience Sharing/Networking Workshop • Capacity Building Workshop • Follow-up on the Trainees • Organisation of National Training Workshops • Designing and Development of National CHMs • Design of Regional CHM • Development of a discussion group on the regional CHM 	GTZ, UNDP	559,350.00
2. Capacity building training programmes on Biodiversity conservation and its related Conventions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Training for Sri Lanka • National Training for Bhutan • National Training for Nepal 	UNESCO, RBINS	18,000.00

Programme 6: South Asia Initiative for Combating Illegal Trade in Wildlife

Project	Activities	Source of funding	Estimated Budget (USD)
1. South Asia Initiative for Combating Illegal Trade in Wildlife	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intergovernmental Meeting • Establishment of South Asia Initiative for Combating Illegal Trade in Wildlife • Regional Strategic Plan on Illegal Wildlife Trade • Establishment of South Asia Expert Group on Illegal Wildlife Trade • Development of detailed work programme for implementing the regional strategic plan 	US Gov., WWF, TRAFFIC	200,000.00

Programme 7: SAARC Collaboration

Project	Activities	Estimated Budget (USD)
1. Preparation of South Asia State of the Environment Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion among SACEP, SAARC and UNEP-ROAP • Preparation of ToR for the SoE Report • Stakeholders meeting • Preparation/ updating of national SoEs • Preparation of South Asia Regional SoE 	To be determined

Programme 8: Malé Declaration

Project	Activities	Source of funding	Estimated Budget (USD)
1. Malé Declaration Phase III	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue Capacity Building of the Member Countries, Regional and National Level • Regional Stakeholders Workshop • Intergovernmental Meetings • National Stakeholders Meetings • Programme Management Committee Meeting of RAPIDC project 	SIDA, UNEP	20,000.00 To be determined

<p>2. Malé Declaration Phase IV</p> <p>(need to be finalized after consultation with UNEP)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen Air Pollution Monitoring Network and conduct Regular Monitoring • Enhance the Impact Assessment Capacity of the National Institutions and Assesses the Impacts of Air Pollution in the participating countries • Enhance the capacity of NIAs on Emission Inventory Development and Integrated Assessment Modeling and Compilation of Emission Inventories • Air Pollution Reduction Policies and Strategies • Raise Awareness for action through Targeted Dissemination 		
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Programme 9: EST

Project	Activities	Source of funding	Estimated Budget (USD)
<p>1. Environmentally sustainable transport (deferred to be taken up at 12th GC)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional EST forum • Development of Ministerial statement for South Asia • Launch a South Asia Forum on EST with UNCRD • Development of in-country training needs and Assessment with National Dialogue • Development of an Inter-country Institutional Co-operation Mechanism for Formulation of a South Asia Regional EST Strategy cum Action Plan • Introduction of “car free days” in South Asian Cities • Establishment of SACEP working group on EST 	UNCRD, Japan Gov.	71,500.00

Programme 10: South Asian Seas Programme (SASP)

The Work Programme for the South Asian Seas Programme will be put before the 4th Inter-Ministerial Meeting of the South Asian Sea Programme (4th IMM / SASP) which will meet immediately after this GC meeting.

APPROVED SECRETARIAT BUDGET FOR 2009 - 2010

	INCOME US \$	EXPENDITURE US \$
1 ANTICIPATED 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 ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE		
2.1 Salary Director General		54,000.00
2.2 Salaries of Local Staff		45,000.00
2.3 International Travel		20,000.00
2.4 Secretariat Cost		60,000.00
SUB TOTAL		179,000.00
3 CAPITAL COST		17,500.00
5 TOTAL EXPENDITURE		196,500.00
6 EXPENDITURE OVER INCOME		(7,100.00)

SOUTH ASIA CO-OPERATIVE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

Report of the Preparatory Meeting of the National Focal Points For the Eleventh Meeting of the Governing Council 20th May 2008 Jaipur, India

1.1 INTRODUCTION

The Preparatory Meeting of National Focal Points for the Eleventh Governing Council Meeting was held on 20th May 2008 in Jaipur, India.

It was 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 Eleventh 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 representatives from United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD), United States Embassy of Kathmandu, United States Embassy of Delhi, TRAFFIC International and GTZ. The List of Participants is in **Annex 1**.

The Director General, SACEP informed that invitations for the meeting had also been sent to UNEP, UNESCAP, IMO, WMO, ICRAN, Secretariat of the Basel Convention (SBC), ADB, IUCN, UNESCO, SIDA, UNDP Regional Centre for Asia and Pacific, SAARC, and other partner agencies

1.3 INAUGURATION

The welcome Address was delivered by Dr.A.A.Boaz, Director General, SACEP (**Annex 2**)

The Inaugural address of the Preparatory Meeting of the National Focal Points for the 11th Governing Council of SACEP was delivered by the outgoing chair, Mr. Narayan Prasad Silwal, Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Science & Technology, Government of Nepal. (**Annex 3**)

This was followed by an address by Mr. Sudhir Mital, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India

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. Sudhir Mital, India
Vice Chairman	-	Mr Mohamed Zuhair, Maldives
Vice Chairman	-	Mr. Ishtiak Ahmad Khan, Pakistan
Rapporteur	-	Mr. S. M. D. P. A. Jayatilake, 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 4 - GC.11 SACEP/ NFP / Agenda Item 3)

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

(Annex 5 - GC11.SACEP/NFP/Agenda Item 4)

5. PROGRAMME MATTERS

PRESENTATION OF PROJECT STATUS REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR GENERAL, SACEP

The Director General presented the project implementation status report under each Agenda Item:

5.1 Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM)

The proposal was agreed to in principle and the member countries requested SACEP to conduct awareness programme on SAICM Global Action Plan at National and Regional Levels.

(Annex 6 - GC11.SACEP/NFP/Agenda Item 5.1)

5.2 Capacity building for the Clearing-House Mechanism of the Convention on Biological Diversity in South Asia

- a) Assist countries of South Asia to build capacity and to develop and maintain National Biodiversity CHMs
- b) Assist to develop national CHMs of member countries
- c) Develop a regional CHM that meets the needs of the region, links together the national CHMs and provides a forum for promoting Regional Scientific and Technical co-operation.

The National Focal Points while approving the above decided that activity (c) should be taken up only after completion of (a) and (b) when implementing the project.

(Annex 7 - GC11.SACEP/NFP /Agenda Item 5.2)

5.3 Establishment of Basel Convention Regional Centre for South Asia

The Meeting agreed to support the establishment of the Basel Convention Regional Centre for South Asia at the SACEP Secretariat, Colombo, Sri Lanka, comprising of all South Asian countries as its members as decided by the 10th Meeting of the Governing Council of SACEP.

The SACEP Secretariat was requested to look into the modalities of the mobilizing Finances and other Resources.

(Annex 8 - GC11.SACEP/NFP/Agenda Item 5. 3)

5.4 Proposal on Environmental Data and Information Management System

The Meeting endorsed the proposal.

(Annex 9 - GC11.SACEP/NFP/Agenda Item 5. 4)

5.5 EC Supported Project on “Institutional Strengthening and Capacity Development for the Long-term Management and Conservation of MCPAs encompassing Coral Reef Resources in South Asia”

The Meeting decided to refer the Agenda Item to the Preparatory Meeting of the Fourth Inter-Ministerial Meeting of the South Asian Seas Programme

(Annex 10 - GC11.SACEP/NFP/ Agenda Item 5. 5)

5.6 Establishment of the South Asia Wildlife Initiative for Combating Illegal Trade in Wildlife and Strengthening Enforcement of CITES in the Region

The Meeting recommended to the 11th GC.SACEP to endorse the Statement on South Asia Wildlife Trade Initiative as the ‘South Asia Initiative on Combating Illegal Trade in Wildlife and its products’ and agreed to the South Asia Regional Strategic Plan on Wildlife Trade (2008 – 2013) subject to dropping all references to Sustainable Livelihood Security, Market, Trade Mechanisms etc to bring it in line with the CITES.

(Annex 11 - GC11.SACEP/NFP/ Agenda Item 5. 6)

5.7 Scoping Exercise on E-waste Management in South Asia

The Meeting noted that most of the countries in the Region are in the process of preparing their own Rules and Regulations on e-waste Management. SACEP Secretariat was requested to assist member countries to under take risk assessment at National Levels and based on the above to prepare a proposal on establishing a central e-waste Management facility for South Asia for the next GC.

(Annex 12 - GC11.SACEP/NFP/ Agenda Item 5. 7)

5.8 School Environment Awareness Programme

The Meeting noted the Environment Awareness Programme conducted by SACEP with appreciation and resolved that such programmes should be held periodically by SACEP in the South Asia Region with the help of the member countries.

(Annex 13 - GC11.SACEP/NFP/ Agenda Item 5. 8)

5.9 Malé Declaration on Control and Prevention of Air Pollution and Its Likely Trans-boundary Effects for South Asia

The Meeting stated that the Agenda Item has been endorsed at the 10 / GC.SACEP and further action should be taken for building the capacity of SACEP Secretariat to under take greater role in the implementation of the Malé Declaration implementation. The 11th GC-SACEP requested SACEP to inform the Member States regarding the status of support from UNEP for continuation of the project.

(Annex 14 - GC11.SACEP/NFP/ Agenda Item 5. 9)

5.10 Waste Management

The Preparatory Meeting for the 11th Meeting of the Governing Council of SACEP endorsed the Proposal on Waste Management.

(Annex 15 - GC11.SACEP/NFP/ Agenda Item 5. 10)

5.11 Environmentally Sustainable Transport (EST)

While appreciating the proposed initiative in collaboration with UNCRD, the members of the National Focal Points decided that the endorsement of the Extended Aichi Statement by the balance countries of South Asia would be considered only after consultation with their respective Ministries of Transport and Urban Development.

(Annex 16 - GC11.SACEP/NFP/ Agenda Item 5. 11)

5.12 State of the Environment Report of South Asia

The Meeting appreciated the collaboration developed between SACEP and SAARC for development of the State of Environment Report for South Asia and requested SACEP to ensure incorporation of the most recent information in these.

(Annex 17 - GC11.SACEP/NFP/ Agenda Item 5. 12)

5.13 Collaboration with the Regional Community Forestry Training Centre for Asia and the Pacific (RECOFTC) for Capacity Building in the Community Forestry Sector

The Meeting approved the proposal and further requested SACEP to develop collaborative arrangements with institutions of South Asia under south-south collaboration.

(Annex 18 - GC11.SACEP/NFP / Agenda Item 5. 13)

5.14 MoU with TRADA (Timber Research and Development Association) to develop Integrated Sustainable Bamboo-based Livelihoods

The Meeting approved the proposal to conduct a Pilot Project in Sri Lanka.

(Annex 19 - GC11.SACEP/NFP/ Agenda Item 5. 14)

5.15 Collaboration with National Botanical Research Institute (NBRI), Lucknow to Develop Programme on Climate Change and it's Impact on the Flora of the South Asia

The Meeting while approving the Project Proposal in principle subject to specific commitment from respective countries, did not agree for recommending endorsement of the Lucknow Declaration by the 11 GC.SACEP.

(Annex 20 - GC11.SACEP/NFP/ Agenda Item 5. 15)

6. INSTITUTIONAL MATTERS

6.1 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 Tenth Meeting of the Governing Council of SACEP.

The meeting requested more time to review by the country governments. It was agreed that the countries should send in their comments if any, within three months. If the country consents are not forwarded on or before end of August 2008, it will be considered as approved.

(Annex 21 - GC11.SACEP/NFP/ Agenda Item 6.1)

6.2 Extension of Tenure of Director General

The National Focal Points on appraising the performance of Dr. A. A. Boaz were of the consensus, that (a) Not to grant any extension to the present incumbent and (b) the process for selection of the new Director General should start immediately after the 11th Meeting of the Governing Council of SACEP. However, since this process is likely to take some time, the term of present Director General be extended, as an interim measure, only upto 31st December 2008, to enable completing selection process of the new Director General, or till such time as the new Director General is selected, which ever is earlier.

The National Focal Points were also of the view that the term of Director General of SACEP should be for a fixed period of three years without any provision for extension and that the Governing Council be requested to reconsider its decision of the Agenda Item 11.2 of 10-GC/SACEP accordingly.

Also in future selection process of the new Director General should start at the end of two years of the term of the Director General so that selection is completed well before the completion of the stipulated / fixed three year term.

The Agenda Item should be reworded as 'Status of the implementation of Decision No 11.2 of 10-GC/SACEP on appointment of Director General on Merit Basis'.

(Annex 22 - GC11.SACEP/NFP/Agenda Item 6.2)

6.3 Compensation for fall in US \$ against other currencies for Salary of the Director General

The proposal on compensation for fall in US \$ against other currencies for Salary of the Director General was not agreed to.

(Annex 23 - GC11.SACEP/NFP/Agenda Item 6.3)

7. WORK PROGRAMME (2009-2010)

The Meeting decided to continue on-going activities of SACEP and approved the Work Programme 2009 - 2010 with amendments as at Annex 24.

8. FUNDING AND FINANCIAL MATTERS

8.1 REVIEW OF COUNTRY CONTRIBUTIONS

The proposal to increase the Country Contribution was agreed on principle and requested SACEP to forward the request with more justification to the country governments immediately so that decision on the increase of the Country Contribution could be taken at the earliest.

The Meeting urged the Member Countries to Clear the Arrears of the Country Contribution for SACEP smooth functioning of the SACEP Secretariat.

(Annex 25 - GC11.SACEP / NFP/ Agenda Item 8.1)

8.2 External Funding

The meeting noted the Director General's presentation. The Meeting recommended that SACEP should continue to play its role in securing external financing for the benefit of the member countries and appreciated the efforts taken by SACEP.

(Annex 26 - GC11.SACEP / NFP/ Agenda Item 8.2)

8.3 DRAFT Secretariat Budget (2009-2010)

The meeting reviewed the Draft Secretarial Budget for 2009-2010 and recommended to 11th GC, SACEP for endorsement with the existing rate of Country Contribution as the Revenue of SACEP and approved only the Increase of the Local Staff Salaries under the Estimated Expenditure of the Secretariat against the approved budget of 10.GC-SACEP.

(Annex 27 - GC11.SACEP/NFP/ Agenda Item 8.3)

8.4 Presentation of Audited Report of Accounts for the year 2006

The meeting recommended to the 11th GC, SACEP, that the Audited Report of Accounts for the year 2006 for approval

(GC 11.SACEP/NFP/ Agenda Item 8.4)

9. VENUE AND DATE FOR THE 12TH GOVERNING COUNCIL

In keeping with the tradition of hosting Meeting of the Governing Councils in rotation basis Government of Maldives was requested to consider hosting the meeting. As the Government of Maldives could not confirm regarding the venue for 12th GC.SACEP, it will be decided through consultation with the member states.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No matter was discussed under this Agenda Item.

11. CLOSURE OF MEETING

The Meeting considered the Report on 20th day of May, 2008 and adopted the above recommendations for submission to the 11th 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 11th MEETING OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL

20th May 2008
Jaipur, India

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SOUTH ASIA CO-OPERATIVE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

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Welcome Address by

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

20th May 2008

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

Senior Officials of the Member States of the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme,
Distinguished Invitees, Ladies and Gentlemen

Welcome Ladies and Gentlemen to Focal Point Meeting of the 11th Governing Council of SACEP.

I consider it my privilege for me to address this meeting of Senior Officials of the SACEP member countries in my capacity as the Director General SACEP.

Let me initially thank the Government of India, for readily agreeing to host both the 11th Governing Council Meeting of SACEP and the 4th Inter Ministerial Meeting of the South Asian Seas Programme in this beautiful and historic city of Jaipur, India.

During the last 26 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.

This is the 3rd Governing Council Meeting of my tenure and I would on behalf of SACEP be placing before all of you later during the meeting our programme achievements and also our projected programmes for the period 2009-2010.

Since we last met in Kathmandu in January 2007, SACEP has been able to achieve much progress based on the mandate we received both in Thimpu in 2005 and in Kathmandu in 2007.

I would now like to briefly touch upon some of the main programme achievements during the last 14 months.

One of the main programmes worked upon is that in the area of **WASTE MANAGEMENT**. SACEP organized a "South Asian Games Waste Management Programme" during the South Asian Games held in Colombo during 18th -28th August, 2006. This was organized to take the 9th GC decision to take up Waste Management as one of priority issues of SACEP. This helped SACEP not only to raise awareness in the participating athletes and audience but also the message was carried through media and the sportspersons from the eight countries of South Asia to the masses in these countries.

It also incorporated the concept of 3-R which was adopted for waste segregation and disposal.

Also under Waste Management, “ A Scoping Exercise on E-waste Management in South Asia” was conducted in New Delhi in September, 2007, under a MoU between Society for Development Alternatives, India and SACEP which was signed to facilitate the development of need based responses in the region. I am happy to announce that Development Alternatives have committed US \$ 10,000 for this project. A report on the Scoping exercise is under publication.

Much work has been done on **CLIMATE CHANGE**. Professor Mohan Munasinghe, Vice Chair of the IPCC was the Chief Guest at “Scoping Exercise on Adaptation to Climate Change” conducted under a MoU entered into with CEE- India (Ahmedabad). Under this CEE-SACEP initiative Government representatives and experts participated to deliberate on the regional status of the priorities on Adaptation to Climate Change under a consultative process.

I am happy to place on record that two National Training Programmes were held with the support of the Royal Belgium Institute and the Secretariat of the CBD on **CLEARING HOUSE MECHANISM FOR DEVELOPING CAPACITIES OF POST GRADUATE STUDENTS AND RESEARCHERS WITH RESPECT TO CHM**. Each was for four days and was conducted successfully in Colombo, Sri Lanka in March 2007. Other donors were contacted and UNESCO came forward to support one such programme that was conducted on 28 - 30 April 2008 at Colombo in which may government officials participated. This programme was jointly supported by the Government of Sri Lanka under their UNEP Programme.

Another significant achievement has been the **SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT AWARENESS PROGRAMME** on SACEP's priority areas, which was conducted in Sri Lanka in collaboration with the CEE, with the participation of the several schools. The award function was graced by the Hon Minister of Environment, Nepal and the Chairman of SACEP. It is envisaged that similar awareness programmes will be conducted in other member countries in the near future.

Under the MoU with UNEP-ROAP for taking the **SENRIC PROGRAMME** forward, three Projects on Waste Management, Climate Change and Data and Information Management have been developed in-house and sent to UNEP for comments. SACEP will be placing before 11th Governing Council for its formal endorsement of these 3 projects.

Also under this MoU for the **IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MALE DECLARATION** with UNEP-ROAP which was signed on 24th April 2006 included the 3rd phase of the project for the period 2006-2008. SACEP is now preparing itself to take up an enhanced role in the Male' Declaration at the end of the 3rd phase.

Another major activity was in the area of **COMBATING ILLEGAL TRADE IN WILDLIFE AND ITS PRODUCTS** - Strengthening CITES enforcement through initiation of **SAWEN (SOUTH ASIA WILDLIFE ENFORCEMENT NETWORK AND CAWT (COALITION AGAINST WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING))** : The 10th Governing

Council of SACEP had decided that it should incorporate combating illegal trade in Wildlife and its products in its Work Programme. This will help strengthening enforcement of CITES in the region and in controlling illegal domestic and international trade in wild fauna and flora which is seriously impeding biodiversity conservation efforts by all countries.

After much deliberation, first Inter-government meeting of the **SAWTI (THE SOUTH ASIA WILDLIFE TRADE INITIATIVE)** was held in Nepal on 31st January to 1st February, 2007 under the joint collaboration of the Government of Nepal, TRAFFIC, WWF, Nepal and SACEP and with the financial support of the Government of US, WWF-UK, WWF-Nepal and SACEP.

Senior wildlife officials from the eight member countries of SACEP agreed to a series of joint actions as part of a South Asia Wildlife Trade Initiative (SAWTI), including the establishment of a “South Asia Experts Group on Wildlife Trade and the development of a South Asia Regional Strategic Plan on Wildlife Trade (2008 – 2013).” The Draft Ministerial Statement was also finalized by them at the meeting to be endorsed at the next Governing Council of SACEP. They also called upon the international community to support action in South Asia by providing financial and technical assistance in the implementation of the regional plan.

The South Asia Regional Strategic Plan on Wildlife Trade will focus on a number of key areas of work. These include co-operation and co-ordination; effective legislation, policies and law enforcement through establishment of the South Asia Wildlife enforcement Network; sharing knowledge and effective dissemination of information; sustainability of legal trade and livelihoods security; intelligence networks and early warning systems; and capacity building.

SACEP has also held discussion 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**. A MoU for the collaboration has been finalized and was signed in August 2007. This will pave the way for taking collaborative capacity building initiatives in the field of forestry in the South Asia Region that is a major component of the adaptation strategies to Climate Change. Currently, efforts are on to develop a joint Work Programme for Capacity Building in Community based Natural Resource Management for South Asia.

SACEP has also entered into discussions for possible collaboration with **ASIA PACIFIC FORESTRY COMMISSION, FAO**, which is a follow-up to the Governing Council directive on taking up “Adaptation to Climate Change” as a priority issue for SACEP and efforts are underway for development of partnerships with Asia Pacific Forestry Commission, FAO, Bangkok on forestry issues.

There has also been collaboration with **UNCRD FOR 3R AND EST** in South Asia and efforts are underway to develop the 3-R (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle) activity in South Asia with the help of the United Nations Centre for Regional Development, Nagoya, Japan. Following the mission of Mr. Kazunobu Onogawa, Director, UNCRD to SACEP in June

2006, collaboration between the two organizations has been taken ahead with SACEP being taken as a partner in all 3-R activities of UNCRD in the region.

The partnership between the two organizations culminated with the UNCRD with the signing of a MoU between UNCRD and SACEP on 5th March 2008 to take this initiative forward and all South Asian Countries participated in the 3rd EST Forum in Singapore.

A MOU WITH THE WORLD CONSERVATION UNION (IUCN) has also been concluded during the month of August 2006. The MoU outlines the intention to cooperate in the areas of common programmes in South Asia. Several collaborations have been developed with IUCN under this MoU including the SLED approach in the EU Project, the help of IUCN in the SAWTI initiative and the collaboration between SACEP and IUCN in the Mangroves for the Future Programme.

UNESCO, INDIA REGIONAL OFFICE and SACEP signed a co-operation Agreement (USCA) on 21st March 2007 to undertake joint activities in many areas of Environmental management. A proposal to hold a “National Training Programme on biodiversity management and the CHM” was prepared and submitted to the UNESCO for funding. Subsequently, UNESCO signed an agreement for co-funding of 5000 USD for the project and efforts are underway for concluding the exercise. The Training Programme was conducted from 28th -30th April 2008 in Colombo with the Ministry of Environment, who has agreed to contribute SLR 2,50,000 for the project.

Similar proposals are being prepared for other countries of the region. Several other programmes have been developed and implemented under this MoU. An International Workshop on “**GULF OF MANNAR BIOSPHERE RESERVE: AN ECOLOGICAL MODEL FOR BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION, LIVELIHOOD AND SUSTAINABILITY**” was also held under the joint collaboration of the Govt. of India (NBA), UNESCO and SACEP in Chennai on September 20-21, 2007. This was inaugurated by the Hon’ Minister of State for Environment, India.

Another major programme was the organization of the “**INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION**” with UNESCO and CEE and the government of India in which the special Address was given by the DG SACEP, the Valedictory speech by Dr. M.S. Swaminathan and the Director General of UNESCO, Mr. Masahiro Kochiro gave the Closing Speech.

There has also been collaboration with **NATIONAL BOTANICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE, LUCKNOW** to develop programme on Climate Change and its Impact on the Flora of the South Asia. As a first step “A Regional Workshop on Climate Change and its Impact on Flora of the South Asia Region” was conducted collaboratively with National Botanical Institute (NBRI) of India from 9 - 12 March 2008 at Lucknow, India. The workshop was funded by the Ministry of Environment, the Ministry of Science and Technology, the Ministry of Earth Sciences, India and SACEP.

A proposal on adaptation to Climate Change developed by SACEP and NBRI was discussed and finalized during the workshop. The participants of the workshop also prepared and adapted a **LUCKNOW DECLARATION ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND ITS IMPACT ON FLORA IN THE SOUTH ASIAN REGION**.

It is envisaged that the 11th Meeting of the Governing Council of SACEP endorses the proposal and extends its support to the Lucknow Declaration.

Another significant achievement has been the COP 8 decision of the Basel Convention to **ESTABLISH THE BASEL CONVENTION REGIONAL CENTRE AT SACEP** in December 2006. I am thankful to all countries for supporting the proposal. The establishment of the Centre at SACEP will be extremely helpful to its member countries. This will help the countries to manage the transboundary movement of hazardous waste and build their capacities to handle hazardous waste in an environmentally sound manner, as the centre will deliver training, dissemination of information, awareness raising and technology transfer on matters relevant to the implementation of the Basel Convention to the environmentally sound management of hazardous and other wastes.

SACEP is also the Secretariat for the implementation of the **SOUTH ASIAN SEAS PROGRAMME** and many initiatives under the South Asian Seas Programme have been undertaken and these will be discussed at 4th IMM of SAS which is being held back to back with this meeting.

All important initiatives would not have happened without the active support of the member countries of SACEP. I am thankful to all of them and I'm confident that such support will continue in the future for our mutual benefit.

I will fail in my duty if I do not recognize support given to me by my staff for their hard work and dedication.

It is my fervent hope that the deliberations and outcome of this meeting will take SACEP forward to realize the goals and expectations of the member countries.

I Thank You

South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme

Preparatory Meeting of the National Focal Points Eleventh Meeting of the Governing Council SACEP

Jaipur, India
20th May 2008

Speech Delivered by
Mr. Narayan Prasad Silwal
Secretary
Ministry of Environment, Science & Technology
Nepal

Senior Officials of the Member States of the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme,

Distinguished Invitees,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am addressing you as outgoing Chairman of the Meeting of National Focal Points of the 10th Governing Council of SACEP.

On behalf of the member governments of SACEP, I extend my sincere gratitude to the Government of India, for agreeing to hold this 11th Meeting of the Governing Council in Jaipur, India

I am aware that since Nepal took over the Chairmanship in the year 2007, SACEP under a MoU with CEE-India (Ahmedabad) conducted a CEE-SACEP initiative called “A Scoping Exercise on Adaptation to Climate Change” in January 2007 and the Report on the Scoping exercise has been published.

Also MoU between Society for Development Alternatives, India and SACEP was signed to facilitate the development of need based responses in the region. Under the MoU, “**A Scoping Exercise on E-waste Management in South Asia**” was conducted in New Delhi on 21st September, 2007 and the report on the Scoping exercise is under publication.

Other major activities were in the area of Combating Illegal Trade in Wildlife and its Products-Strengthening CITES enforcement through initiation of SAWTI (South Asian Wildlife Trade Initiative) and **the development of a South Asia Regional Strategic Plan on Wildlife Trade (2008-2013)**. The South Asia Regional Strategic Plan on Wildlife Trade will focus on a number of key areas of work. These include co-operation and co-ordination; effective legislation, policies and law enforcement; sharing knowledge and effective dissemination of information; sustainability of legal trade and livelihoods security; intelligence networks and early warning systems; and capacity building. I am happy to report that the first workshop on SAWTI was hosted by my Government and

very important decisions were reached in the meeting. A draft statement on the initiative was also finalised at this Inter-governmental Meeting and is being proposed to be endorsed at the GC. This meeting is requested to recommend the formation of a South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network so that the long awaited co-operation amongst the member countries is formed to combat illegal trade in Wildlife and its products in South Asia. My country strongly supports the setting up a South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network.

Development of a Joint Work Programme for Capacity building in Community based Natural Resource Management for South Asia with Regional Community Forestry Training Centre for Asia and Pacific (RECOFTC), Bangkok has also been developed.

SACEP has also entered into discussions for possible collaboration with Asia Pacific Forestry Commission, FAO, which is a follow-up to the Governing Council directive on taking up “Adaptation to Climate Change” as a priority issue for SACEP and efforts are underway for development of partnerships with Asia Pacific Forestry Commission, FAO, Bangkok on forestry issues.

There has also been collaboration with UNCRD for 3R and EST in South Asia and 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.

A MoU with the World Conservation Union (IUCN) has also been concluded. The MoU outlines the intention to cooperate in the areas of common programmes in South Asia. Several collaborations have been developed with IUCN under this MoU including the SLED approach in the EU Project, the help of IUCN in the SAWTI initiative and the collaboration between SACEP and IUCN in the Mangroves for the Future Programme.

With UNESCO, India Regional Office SACEP signed a co-operation Agreement (USCA) on 21st March 2007 to undertake joint activities in many areas of environmental management.

Two National Training Programmes on CHM for developing capacities of Post Graduate Students and Researchers with respect to CHM were conducted successfully in Colombo, Sri Lanka in March 2007. Funding was obtained for this activity from the Royal Belgium Institute. We have been made to understand that similar programmes will be conducted in other member countries through the assistance of Belgium Institute and other donors such as UNESCO.

One of highlights of the past 2 years has been the highly successful School Environment Awareness Programme conducted by SACEP in Sri Lanka in collaboration with the CEE, with the participation of several schools in the Colombo Municipal area. Our Minister Hon. Mr. Mahanth Thakur, Chairman of SACEP and Minister of Environment, Science and Technology was the Chief Guest. Upon return from his courtesy visit the Minister wrote back letters to his counterparts stating conclusion of his visit. Apart from other things he drew the attention towards slow progress in finalizing programmes of work of GC 9th and 10th agreed programme. We are concerned about it.

Under the MOU with UNEP ROAP in taking the SENRIC programme forward three Projects on Waste Management, Climate Change and Data and Information Management

have been developed in-house. The projects have been put up before this meeting for endorsement before forwarding them to donors.

An Exchange Programme on Malé Declaration on Control and Prevention of Air Pollution and Its Likely Transboundary Effects was held in Bangkok, Thailand from 22 - 31 May 2007. A Joint regional proposal has been prepared along with the individual National Reports for the phase IV implementation of the project. In the upcoming phase IV, SACEP has requested UNEP to give it a very active role in the implementation of the project.

SACEP is also the Secretariat for the implementation of the South Asian Seas Programme and many initiatives under the South Asian Seas Programme have been undertaken.

These projects will be adequately dealt at the 4th IMM which is being held back to back to this meeting.

Another significant achievement has been the COP 8 decision of the Basel Convention to establish the Basel Convention Regional Centre at SACEP in December 2006. I am thankful to all countries for supporting the proposal. The establishment of the Centre at SACEP will be extremely helpful to its member countries.

All important initiatives would not have happened without the active support of the member countries of SACEP. I am thankful to all of them and request them to continue such a support for our mutual benefit.

I will fail in my duty if I do not recognise the proactive role and dynamism exhibited by the Secretariat in taking SACEP to greater heights.

Now I am honoured to invite my honourable colleague, from India to take over the Chairmanship of the National Focal Point Meeting of 11th Governing Council Meeting of SACEP.

Knowing the dynamism of the Government of India, I am quite confident that your able guidance and dynamic leadership will take the SACEP to new heights.

At the end let me extend my well wishes to the Government of India for success in carrying out the responsibilities of the Chair.

I thank you.

SOUTH ASIA CO-OPERATIVE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

Preparatory Meeting of National Focal Points for 11th Governing Council Meeting of SACEP

**Jaipur, India
20 May 2008**

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

TIME	Agenda Item	Presentation
9.00 – 9.30	1. Opening of the Meeting	
9.30 – 9.40	2. Election of Office Bearers	
9.40 – 10.00	3. Adoption of Agenda and Organisation of Work	
10.00 – 10.30	TEA BREAK	
10.30 – 12.00	4. Presentation of the Progress Report by the Director General, SACEP 4.1 Institutional Matters 4.2 Programme Matters 4.3 Financial Matters	
12.00 – 1.30	LUNCH	
1.30 – 3.00	5. Presentation of Project Status Report by the Director General, SACEP	
	5.1 Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM)	
	5.2 Capacity building for the Clearing-House Mechanism of the Convention on Biological Diversity in South Asia	
	5.3 Establishment of Basel Convention Regional Centre for South Asia	
	5.4 Proposal on Environmental Data and Information Management System	
	5.5 EU supported ICRAN project on MCPAs	

	5.6 Establishment of the South Asia Wildlife Trade Initiative (SAWTI) for Combating Illegal Trade in Wildlife and Strengthening Enforcement of CITES in the Region	
	5.7 Scoping Exercise on E-waste Management in South Asia	
	5.8 Environment Awareness Programme	
	5.9 Malé Declaration on Control and Prevention of Air Pollution and Its Likely Transboundary Effects for South Asia	
	5.10 Waste Management Proposals	
	5.11 Environmentally Sustainable Transport (EST)	
	5.12 State of the Environment Report of South Asia	
	5.13 Development of Regional Community Forestry Training Programme with RECOFTC. (Regional Community Forestry Training Centre for Asia and the Pacific)	
	5.14 Collaboration between TRADA International - Creation of sustainable bamboo-based livelihoods	
	5.15 Project on Climate change and it's Impact on the Flora of South Asia	
	5.16 South Asian Seas Programme	
3.00 – 3.30	TEA BREAK	
3.30 – 3.45	<p>6. Institutional Matters</p> <p>6.1 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 Tenth Meeting of the Governing Council of SACEP.</p>	

	<p>6.2 Extension of Tenure of Director General</p> <p>6.3 Compensation for fall in US \$ against other currencies for Salary of the Director General</p>	
3.45 – 4.00	7. Work Programme (2008-2010)	
4.00 – 4.45	<p>8. Funding and Financial Matters</p> <p>8.1 Review of Country Contributions</p> <p>8.2 External Funding</p> <p>8.3 DRAFT Secretariat Budget (2008 -2010)</p> <p>8.4 Presentation of Audited Report of Accounts for the year 2006</p>	
4.45 – 5.00	9. Draft Statement on Country Commitments for Programme Implementation / Corpus Fund	
5.00 – 5.15	10. Venue and Date for the 12th Governing Council	
5.15 – 5.30	11. Any Other Business	
5.30	12. Closure of Meeting	

South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme
PROGRESS REPORT
April 2005 – 15 April 2008

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Following the 2-decadal process, the 8th Governing Council (GC), 29.9.2001 suggested a review and revitalization of the Secretariat in terms of its functionality and programme focus, UNEP had readily committed its assistance to conduct a review, which was later endorsed by the Governing Council at its 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 through nominations 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 of SACEP and the 3rd Inter Ministerial Meeting (IMM) of SASP conducted. These meetings had been due for some time as the 8th Governing Council was held on 29.9.2001 and the 2nd IMM on 1.7.2002. 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 held in Thimphu, Bhutan on 24th-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 member countries, 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 was to 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.

The 10th Meeting of the Governing Council of SACEP was held in Kathmandu, Nepal on 25th January 2007. While appreciating the commendable work done by SACEP over the past year, it approved the continuation of the 2006 – 2007 Work Programme of SACEP and to extend it to 2008.

The 25th Year Silver Jubilee Celebrations were held in Kathmandu on 24th January 2007 amidst much fanfare. The Hon' Finance Minister of Nepal was the Chief Guest and he released a Souvenir that contained a detailed report of the achievements of SACEP over the past 25 years, messages from heads of states and ministers from the member countries and several UN and partner organisations, a DVD titled "25 years of SACEP", a 25th Anniversary Ceramic Plate and Table Calendars specially printed for the Occasion. Environment Ministers, Secretaries to the Ministries of Environment of the member Countries of SACEP, High level Bureaucrats and heads and delegates from several International agencies attended the occasion.

2 Progress of Work:

2.1 Administrative Matters :

Based on the decisions of the 9th Governing Council and the 3rd Inter Ministerial Meeting and the 10th Governing Council of SACEP August 2005 and January 2007 respectively 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 three ministerial meetings. Great emphasis was laid on the administrative and financial matters and the following was achieved by the Secretariat.

- 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 the two meetings were finalised and forwarded to the country governments after approval of the respective Chairman.

After the successful completion of the 10th Meeting of the Governing Council of SACEP held on 25th January 2007, hosted by the Government of Nepal, the final report has been sent to the country governments after approval of the Chairman of the Governing Council.

- 2.1.2 As per the Articles of Association, the Accounts of SACEP had to be audited every year and put before the Governing Council for approval. The accounts for the year 2001 to 2004 were audited and put before the 9th Governing Council which said it needed more time to go through the accounts for 4 years and also gave guidelines to give more details in the accounts. 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.

The 10th Meeting of the Governing Council of SACEP approved the Final Accounts and the Audit Report of SACEP.

For the first time in the history of SACEP, writing and completing the Annual Final Accounts for the year 2005 was done in-house. In the past these accounts were written by the same external agency that was doing the Audit. This led not only to a greater control on the accounts but also led to satisfaction of the financial principal that the same agency should not do both the accounting and the Audit of the accounts. Thus, greater transparency and correctness of the financial accounts was established. This process also led to a large financial saving as the amount paid to the external agency for accounting was saved.

- 2.1.3 As per decision at the 9th Governing Council, incorporation of all amendments and additions to the Articles of Association and the Rules and Regulations of SACEP was done. These were sent to the NFPs for comments before submission to the 10th Governing Council for approval.

The 10 GC-SACEP requested more time to review by the country governments and suggested to consider them at the next GC, SACEP. The new additions based on decisions

taken at the 9th Governing Council were also done and forwarded to the Country governments for consideration.

- 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. This was done after 24 years of the foundation of SACEP in 1982.
- 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. This was also a major step in the 24th year of its existence.
- 2.1.6 Capacity development of the administrative staff of SACEP has been carried out by establishing role clarity, constant support and guidance. The staff has also been encouraged to write scientific papers which have been selected in prestigious International Conferences. Senior officers and Programme Officers at SACEP have also been fully funded by organizers of such conferences to attend several conferences, meetings and training camps in Palau, Seychelles, UK, Stockholm, Bhutan, Thailand, Indonesia and Kenya.
- 2.1.7 Terms of Reference (ToRs) for Staff : All Staff of SACEP / SASP have been covered by a specific ToR for Year 2007. 2008 based on the approved Work Programme of SACEP.
- 2.1.8 Appointment of the New Auditor : External Audit of SACEP had been carried out by the same auditors since its inception. This was brought before the 9th Governing Council who directed the Director General to change the Auditors every three years as per Auditing principles. The external auditors for SACEP were appointed with the approval of the Consultative Committee, as recommended by the 9 GC-SACEP, immediately and the audits for year 2005 were got done by the new auditors.
- 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. These accounts are then regularly audited by the external auditors and now we are up-to-date with all audit reports till the year 2006.
- 2.1.10 All US \$ Deposit accounts of SACEP have now been put on a fixed deposit scheme. This has ensured earning of much higher interest for the money in these accounts. The Earned Interest upto 10 April 2008, to US \$ 82708
- 2.1.11 Appointment of Staff :
 - (a) Programme Officer : Two new programme officer has been appointed
 - (b) Junior Programme Officer : One new programme officer has been appointed
 - (c) Secretary : Two new Secretaries has been appointed
 - (d) ICRAN-SACEP South Asia Project Officer : For the 'Institutional Strengthening and Capacity Development for the Long-term Management and Conservation of MCPAs' Project
 - (e) SASP Co-ordinator (South Asian Seas Programme) : SACEP is in the process of reappointing the SASP Coordinator as per the directions of the Consultative Committee of SACEP on the existing procedure as the Service Contract of the Regional Co-ordinator, South Asian Seas Programme was terminated with effect from 31st January 2007 due to gross misconduct.
 - (f) One Data Manager and one Asstt Data Manager are being recruited to manage the growing amount of Data and the Web Server that is being installed.

- 2.1.12 Improvement and upgradation of facilities for staff have been done to provide the staff with better working environment. These include Dual Core and Core Duo desktops computers with LCD screens, Laptops, LCD Projector, Centralised double sided printing facility, LAN and wireless networking, air-conditioning in all rooms, refrigerator, microwave oven, development of front Office, lounge, Central PBX systems, Individual cubicles, etc.
- 2.1.13 Archive Development for SACEP : At the time of my joining the SACEP, no records or archives was available in a systematic manner. This led to great difficulty in not only day to day work but also in referencing past activities. I have now established a regular archive in SACEP. All Past GC and IMM reports and Minutes of the Consultative Committee Meetings were collected and archived both in Hard copies and 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 1982. A photographic and movie archive has also been established for maintaining a photo and movie record of the activities of SACEP.
- 2.1.14 All newsletters published so far by SACEP have been collected and digitized. The current newsletters have been published in 8-page full four Colours focused on SACEP activities. An ISSN Number 1815-1167 has been obtained for SACEP Newsletter since July 2005, both for print and online version of the news letter.
- 2.1.15 Steps have being taken to establish an internal library with Journals and Reference Books for the secretariat. Nearly 50 Scientific Journals have been subscribed to and several important publications on current environmental issues added to enrich the Library. Three separate rooms have been refurbished and a reading room equipped with computers has been established. A DVD/CD Library has also been established. Besides our staff, Local students and researchers are encouraged to make use of this Library.
- 2.1.16 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.
- 2.1.17 Programme of Work for SACEP for the years 2006-07 has been extended upto Year 2008 as per the decision of the 10 GC-SACEP :
A detailed Work Programme for 2006 – 2007 with targets and time frames had been developed with the help of NFPs and UNEP-ROAP. The 10th Governing Council decided to extend the Work Programme upto the Year 2008.

The Programme of Work for SACEP for the years 2006-07 describes the strategic approach and the new direction 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 Programme 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. The GC decided that SACEP should incorporate work programme for combating illegal trade in Wildlife and its products. This will help strengthening enforcement of CITES in the region and in controlling illegal domestic and international trade in wild fauna and flora

which is seriously impeding biodiversity conservation efforts by all countries. SACEP has embarked on a major initiative of establishing the SAWTI (South Asia Wildlife Trade Initiative) in collaboration of the TRAFFIC International, on lines of the ASEAN-WEN. Under this SACEP and TRAFFIC have developed a South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Strategy that was sent to all government and other stakeholders for comments and was finalized at the first Intergovernment meeting held from 31st January to 1st February 2008 in Kathmandu, Nepal.

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
- P 4 : South Asian Seas

4.1 Natural Disaster Management with respect to Storm Surges and Tsunamis

4.2 Management of Coastal and Marine Protected Areas

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 Trans-boundary 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 A MoU was 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. The Report of this workshop was released at the 10 GC-SACEP.
- 3.1.2 A MoU signed with UNEP for ***“Rapid Assessment of the Environmental Damage due to the Tsunami Disaster in Sri Lanka”***. The Tsunami Task Force was established in Sri Lanka which submitted its report to the Government on both the Brown and Green Assessment of the damage. The MoU culminated on 31st December 2005. SACEP recovered 10% Administrative Charges for the services rendered by the Secretariat under the MoU.
- 3.1.3 A MoU signed with the International Maritime Organization (IMO) for a ***“Regional workshop on Anti Fouling System of Ships (AFS) Convention.”*** The workshop was held in Chennai, India from 3 – 6 October 2005. 32 Participants from 14 countries from the Asia Pacific region attended.
- 3.1.4 A MoU was signed with IMO for the conduction of ***“Workshop on Anti Fouling System of Ships (AFS)”*** 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.

- 3.1.5 A report was published on the “*Workshop on Integrated Coastal Area and River Basin Management in South Asia*,” held in Chennai in 7-10th April, 2003.
- 3.1.6 SACEP organised a “*South Asian Games Waste Management Programme*” during the South Asian Games held in Colombo during 18th-28th August, 2006. This was organised to take the 9th GC decision to take up Waste Management as one of the Priority Issues of SACEP. This helped SACEP not only to raise awareness in the participating athletes and audience but also the message was carried through media and the sportspersons from the eight countries of South Asia to the masses in these countries. It also ensured cleanliness in the Games as the concept of 3-R was adopted for waste segregation and disposal. The collaborators were the Ministry of Environment, Sri Lanka, the Olympic Committee, Sri Lanka, Abans Environmental Services and ART TV. This was the first time that SACEP was able to get financial and technical help from the private sector (ABANS and ART TV) for conducting its programmes. A seven minutes film was made by ART TV and broadcast on its channel during the games.
- 3.1.7 A MoU with CEE-India (Ahmedabad) has been concluded during October 2006. Under this CEE-SACEP initiative “*A Scoping Exercise on Adaptation to Climate Change*” was conducted on 10th January 2007 in which government representatives and experts participated to consider a regional status of the priorities on adaptation to Climate Change under a consultative process. The report was finalised and submitted to the 10th GC. The report was greatly appreciated and the 10th GC directed the DG to take action on the recommendations of the report. The CEE committed US \$ 10,000 for this project. A Report on the Scoping exercise has been published.
- 3.1.8 MoU between Society for Development Alternatives, India and SACEP was signed for the period 26th February 2007 to 31 July 2007 to facilitate the development of need based responses in the region . Under the MoU, “*A Scoping Exercise on E-waste Management in South Asia*” was conducted in New Delhi on 21st September, 2007. DA and SACEP are working together to implement the above stated scoping exercise in countries associated with SACEP. The DA had committed US \$ 10,000 for this project. A report on the Scoping exercise is under publication.
- 3.1.9 “Two national training programmes on CHM for developing capacities of Post Graduate students and researchers with respect to CHM.” Each was for 4 days and were conducted successfully in Colombo, Sri Lanka in March 2007 There were attended by 49 trainees from 8 Universities of Sri Lanka . The programme was well appreciated and there was heavy demand for similar programmes not only for postgraduate students but also for Government officials. Request for the same has been sent to the Royal Belgium Institute to include more programmes in their activities. Other donors were contacted and UNESCO came forward to support one such program that will be conducted shortly.
- 3.1.10 School Environment Awareness Programme
- The School Environment Awareness Programme on SACEP’s priority areas is being conducted in Sri Lanka in collaboration with the CEE, with the participation of the several schools in the Colombo municipal area. The response has been extremely good in the Painting, Essay and Poster competitions held in various categories. SACEP has organised the Award ceremony on 16th of July, 2007 at the Mahaweli Center Auditorium, Colombo 07. Chief Guest Hon. Mr. Mahanth Thakur, Chairman of SACEP and Minister of Environment, Science and Technology, Government of Nepal will grace the occasion. A Panel discussion on “Adaptation Strategies to Sea Level Rise in South Asia” and a Video presentation on Sea Level Rise will be screened to show the global picture followed by a awards ceremony to the winners of the School Environment competition. A representative of the Best and most active winning School will be fully sponsored to participate the 4th International Conference on Environmental Education 26-28 November, Ahmedabad, India. The Standard Charter Bank has been gracious enough to sponsor the other awards for this function.

3.2 Ongoing Activities

- 3.2.1 The European Commission (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. 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.

Completed Activities :

Under the Project, the first workshop titled *“Regional Resource Coordination and Mobilisation Workshop for the Long-term Management and Conservation of MCPAs in South Asia”* was held in Colombo during 27th and 28th September 2006. This was attended by 27 delegates from the five member countries and International Organisations like ICRAN, IMM, CORDIO, IUCN

Two workshops on the livelihood component of the project have been held with the help of IMM and IUCN. The first workshop was attended by 17 practitioners from 16 organisations involved in Coastal Livelihood work in 5 countries across South Asia as well as Indonesia and representatives from IMM and IUCN. The Second Workshop was held from 4-10th June 2007, at Negombo, Sri Lanka. This was attended by 11 participants from the region along with IMM and IUCN.

The 10-GC SACEP endorsed the establishment of South Asia Coral Reef Task Force. SACEP with help from ICRAN then made the proposed structure and ToR for the Task Force members and circulated it to a group of experts and country governments for review and suggestions. The suggestions received have been compiled and will be put before the Second Regional Workshop that was held from 25 – 27 July 2007. The workshop officially endorsed and launched the South Asian Coral Reef Task Force (SACRTF).

The Launch Ceremony of the SACRTF was held on the 27th July 2007 under the distinguished Patronage of HE Judge C. G. Weeramantry, the former Vice President of the International Court of Justice. H. E. Mr Ahmed Abdullah, Minister of Environment, Water and Energy, Government of Maldives and current Chairman, South Asian Seas Programme was the Chief Guest on the occasion.

The First meeting of the SACRTF was held in Colombo on the 21st December 2007. This was attended by officials and experts from all five member countries and took important decisions on the establishment and consolidation of this initiative that is the first in Asia and only the 3rd in the world. Efforts were also made to get experts from the Coral Reef Crime Scene Investigation (CAFTA) Project in USA and Mexico to initiate action in South Asia for Coral reef enforcement and investigation issues and build the capacity of local resource Managers. A Representative from the East African Coral Reef Task Force was also present at this meeting to make the delegates aware of the actions taken by the African Task Force for its establishment and smooth functioning.

Future Activities :

The following activities are planned in the balance period of the project :

- a) Development and production of an interactive regional communication strategy
- b) Development and production of training curricula for optimised MCPA management
- c) Implementation of training for staff at MCPA sites
- d) Implementation of maritime law enforcement training with staff from existing MCPAs
- e) Implementation of environmental education programs with coastal communities in the vicinity of existing MCPA sites
- f) Development of South Asia Coastal Resource Task Force (SACRTF)

- g) Development of accessible centralised information conduit and resource base
- h) Development of interactive coral reef stakeholder network
- i) Strengthened capacity of policy makers, planners and managers to design and implement livelihood enhancement and diversification for poor reef users
- j) Long-term coral reef management in South Asia

A logo competition is being held among the regional stakeholders and entries will be reviewed and the best logo will be selected as the official logo for the SACRTF.

- 3.2.2 A MOU was signed with the 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”*** was sent to WMO for financial support. WMO has agreed to act as a collaborator and support participants from LDCs for the activities in this project.

- 3.2.3 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 in Colombo. Another workshop was held in March 2007 to finalise the reports presented by the consultants. This was attended by nearly 50 experts from various ministries, NGOs and Institutions. The report ***“Development of Market Based Instruments for Environmental Management in Sri Lanka”*** has been formally approved by the Government of Sri Lanka and recently it has approved the levy of Environmental Cess in the country.

Under the same MoU, the following two Draft Reports have also been prepared by the Coast Conservation Department in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment & Natural Resources through the employment of External Consultants

A. The Study of Economic Significance of Coastal Region of Sri Lanka in the Context of Environmental Changes of Pre and Post Tsunami

B. Report of the Study of Socio-Economic Aspects of Coastal Regions and Squatters with Special Reference to the Western Province

Based on the findings of the above three reports efforts are underway to provide recommendations for policy actions to be incorporated into the next Five Year Implementation Plan (2008-2012) of the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, including the potential entry points and opportunities for mainstreaming coastal and marine issues into relevant national development processes.

- 3.2.4 A ***“Letter of Agreement with International Maritime Organization”*** has been signed in compliance of the 9th Governing Council decision, 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.

- 3.2.5 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. The Meeting of the National Focal Points held in January 2007 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 extend its programme base. Under the MOU, three Projects on Waste Management, Climate Change and Data and Information Management have been developed in-house and sent to UNEP for comments. UNEP had sent comments on the Data and Information Management Project which were incorporated in the Project and sent to the country governments for endorsement. Endorsement of 4 countries-Afghanistan, Maldives, Bhutan and Pakistan, have been received and SACEP is awaiting the response of the other countries before forwarding the project to donors. ***It is requested that the proposal be endorsed at the 11th Governing Council***

- 3.2.6 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 an enhanced role in the Malé Declaration at the end of the 3rd phase.

Under this SIDA funded UNEP-SACEP Malé Declaration Project, the National Stakeholders forum of Sri Lanka was held on 12th June 2007 at the Auditorium of the Central Environmental Authority of Sri Lanka. The event was inaugurated by the Minister of Environment & Natural Resources Hon. Patali Champika Ranawake and Welcome Address was given by Dr. A.A. Boaz Director General of SACEP. Mr. Iyngararasm of UNEP RRCP, Bangkok in his address elaborated on the achievements of the project during the current phase. The forum was jointly organized by UNEP-RRC, SACEP, SEI (Stockholm Environment Institute), Ministry of Environment & Natural Resources , Sri Lanka and the Central Environmental Authority of Sri Lanka. The Forum was attended by the representatives of the above organizations and also by more than 50 key stakeholders and experts. It provided a good platform for the stakeholders to exchange their views and comments.

The Programme Management Committee (PMC) and the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting of the SIDA (Swedish International Development Co-operation Agency) funded RAPIDC (Regional Air Pollution in Developing Countries) Project was held in Stockholm, Sweden from 15 – 16th May 2007. Dr. A. A. Boaz, Director General of SACEP, being a member of both the committees attended the meetings. The PMC consisting of all core collaborators within RAPIDC programme meet periodically to report on progress and to advise SEI & SIDA as the efficient management of the programme. During the PMC meeting it was pointed out by SACEP that it was still awaiting to play a greater role in the implementation of the IIIrd phase. It was decided that UNEP will ensure a clear role for SACEP to build its capacity during the balance phase and that the role clarity will be discussed and finalized during the Inter-government meeting to be held in September 2007.

An Exchange Programme on Malé Declaration on Control and Prevention of Air Pollution and Its Likely Transboundary Effects was held in Bangkok , Thailand from 22 -31st May 2007. A Joint regional proposal was prepared along with the individual National reports for the phase IV implementation of the project. In the upcoming phase IV, SACEP has requested UNEP to give it a very active role in the implementation of the project.

In the Inter-government Meeting held in Male, the Director General again reiterated that SACEP should be given a greater and active role in the project during the IVth Phase and due capacity building of SACEP should be done for taking up this role during the balance 3rd Phase of the project.

In spite of all the above repeated requests to UNEP and the directions of the Governing Council of SACEP and the PMC, no action has been taken by UNEP to develop the capacity of SACEP Secretariat and no active role to implement the IVth Phase has been proposed. SACEP requests the Governing Council to ensure that the Male Project, being implemented in the South Asian countries be done through SACEP as it was envisaged right in the beginning when the Hon' Ministers adopted the Male Declaration at the 7th GC of SACEP. It is also requested that the stand of the representatives attending the Intergovernment meetings of the Male Declaration may not be contrary to the decisions of the Governing Council and that they should be clear that Male declaration should be implemented by the regional inter-government body of SACEP.

- 3.2.7 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, 2006 and 2007 in India with the help of the Indian Coast Guard, who have been designated as the nodal agency by the Ministry of Defence, several Indian Universities and colleges, the NIOT, Chennai and several NGOs. The programme was observed in several places along the Indian Coastline and more than 30,000 people participated in the programme every year. In 2007, the main function was held in Chennai where it was graced by the Hon’ Governor of Tamilnadu.

With the assistance of the member governments and through a Regional Consultant and National Consultants from each of the member countries, the above activities were successfully concluded. The reports were published by SACEP in a publication titled ***“Marine Litter in the South Asian Seas Region”*** were printed. This document is in two parts. Part one contains a ***“Review of Marine Litter in the SAS Region”*** whilst part two spells out ***“the Framework for Marine Litter Management in the SAS Region.”*** The printed report has been widely distributed in the region and to all relevant agencies, including other Regional Seas Secretariats.

The SAS Secretariat will formally present as envisaged, the Framework Document ‘Regional Activity on Marine Litter in the South Asian Seas’ for consideration and adoption by the 4th Intergovernmental Ministerial Meeting.

Pending formal approval SAS Secretariat has identified 4 project areas, namely,

- a) Capacity Building (Training and Awareness);***
- b) Beach Clean Up – An Approach to Control and Manage Coastal Litter in the SAS Region;***
- c) Creation of Port Reception Facilities;***
- d) Solid Waste Management in the SAS Region for Marine Litter Management,***

to develop specific project proposals based on the framework document and seeks the support from United Nations Organisations and donor communities for support in the implementation of the same.

The outline of these project proposals is spelt out in the envisaged work programme for 2008 – 2009 for the approval of the 4th IMM.

- 3.2.8 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. Several collaborations have been developed with IUCN under this MoU including the SLED approach in the EU Project, the help of IUCN in the SAWTI initiative and the collaboration between SACEP and IUCN in the Mangroves for the Future Programme.
- 3.2.9 UNESCO, India Regional Office and SACEP signed a co-operation Agreement (USCA) on 21st March 2007 to undertake joint activities in many areas of environmental management. A proposal to hold a ***“National training programme on biodiversity management and the CHM”*** was prepared and submitted to the UNESCO for funding. Subsequently, UNESCO signed an agreement for co-funding of 5000 USD for the project and efforts are underway for conducting the exercise. The training Programme has been finalized to be conducted from 28th-30th April 2008 in Colombo with the help of the Ministry of Environment, who have agreed to contribute SLR 2,50,000 for the Project. The occasion will be graced by the Hon’ Patali Champika Ranawake, the Minister of Environment, Government of Sri Lanka and Ms Minja Yang, the Director, UNESCO regional office, New Delhi. Similar proposals are being prepared for other countries of the region. Several other programmes have been developed and implemented under this MoU. An International Workshop on ***“Gulf of***

Mannar Biosphere Reserve: an ecological model for Biodiversity Conservation, Livelihood and Sustainability” was held under the joint collaboration of the Govt. of India (NBA), UNESCO and SACEP in Chennai on September 20-21, 2007. This was inaugurated by the Hon’ Minister of State for Environment, India and the Director General, SACEP, Dr Boaz, gave the keynote address. Another major programme was the organization of the ***“International Workshop on Environmental Education”*** with UNESCO and CEE and the Government of India in which the Director General, SACEP gave the Special Valedictory address along with the Valedictory by Dr M.S. Swaminathan and the Director General of UNESCO, Mr Masahiro Kochiro who gave the Closing Speech.

- 3.2.10 A MoU between Timber Research and Development Association (TRADA) United Kingdom and SACEP , was signed during April, 2007. Under the MoU, the thematic areas of Access to Benefit Sharing, Community Development, Equitable sharing and specifically addressing Poverty reduction and livelihoods issues, Sustainable timber and wood products production through demonstrating Best Practices, Sharing skills and knowledge have been identified. A ***“Project on Development of Bamboo based industry in South Asia”*** is being developed for support.
- 3.2.11 **Combating Illegal Trade in Wildlife and its Products-Strengthening CITES enforcement through initiation of SAWEN (South Asian Wildlife Enforcement Network) and CAWT (Coalition Against Wildlife Trafficking) :** The 10th Governing Council of SACEP had decided that it should incorporate combating illegal trade in Wildlife and its products in its work programme. This will help strengthening enforcement of CITES in the region and in controlling illegal domestic and international trade in wild fauna and flora which is seriously impeding biodiversity conservation efforts by all countries. SACEP made efforts at the CoP to take this initiative forward and proposed to become part of the CAWT (Coalition Against Wildlife Trafficking) and also proposed to establish a regional network similar to the ASEAN-WEN Initiative with the help of TRAFFIC International and other key partners and donors. After discussions of the Director General, SACEP with the Executive Director, TRAFFIC International, Mr. Steven Broad it was agreed to sign an MoU between the two organizations for establishing such a network. This MoU has been signed on 12.07.07. Discussions were also held with Hilary Thompson, Head of Wildlife Species Conservation Division of DEFRA (Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs), United Kingdom, to garner support for the network.

After much deliberations, the effort saw the light of day with the holding of the first Inter-government meeting of the SAWTI (the South Asia wildlife Trade Initiative) in Nepal on 31st January to 1st February, 2007 under the joint collaboration of the Government of Nepal, TRAFFIC, WWF, Nepal and SACEP and with the financial support of the Govt. of US, WWF, UK, WWF, Nepal and SACEP.

Senior wildlife officials from the eight member countries of SACEP agreed to a series of joint actions as part of a South Asia Wildlife Trade Initiative (SAWTI), including the establishment of a ***“South Asia Experts Group on Wildlife Trade and the development of a South Asia Regional Strategic Plan on Wildlife Trade (2008-2013).”*** The Draft Ministerial Statement was also finalized by them at the meeting to be endorsed at the next Governing Council of SACEP. They also called upon the international community to support action in South Asia by providing financial and technical assistance in the implementation of the regional plan.

The South Asia Regional Strategic Plan on Wildlife Trade will focus on a number of key areas of work. These include co-operation and co-ordination; effective legislation, policies and law enforcement; sharing knowledge and effective dissemination of information; sustainability of legal trade and livelihoods security; intelligence networks and early warning systems; and capacity building.

Nepal’s Honourable Minister for Environment, Science and Technology, Farmullah Mansoor and the current chair of SACEP’s Governing Council graced the occasion and confirmed the Government of Nepal’s commitment towards combating the illegal wildlife trade in the region.

3.2.12 **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. The Hon’ Secretary General has recently intimated that the Second meeting of the Technical committee on Environment and forestry held in Dhaka on 22 May 2006 had recommended that the task of follow-up action and Preparation of the South Asia State of Environment Report be entrusted to SACEP with necessary assistance from external sources. This was endorsed by the Seventh Meeting of the SAARC Environment Ministers in Dhaka on 24th May 2006 and also by the Thirty-second Session of the Standing Committee held at Dhaka on 31st July-1st August, 2006. SACEP, while thanking the Hon’ Ministers and Committee Members and the Secretary General for the trust placed in SACEP, has made a proposal to SAARC to conduct a regional stakeholder meeting at the earliest to review the needs and prepare a detailed proposal for updating the national SoE reports which will help to update the regional report. SACEP has also requested the UNEP Regional Office for necessary support to take this initiative forward.

3.2.13 **Establishment of the BASEL Convention Regional Center at SACEP:**

In response to the mandate of the Governing Council on Waste Management, South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP), with the help of its member countries was able to get the decision at the CoP8 of the Basel Convention to establish a Basel Convention Regional Centre for South Asia at the SACEP Secretariat.

The 10th Governing Council of SACEP agreed for the SACEP Secretariat, Colombo, Sri Lanka to host the Basel Convention Regional Centre for South Asia.

As per the CoP decision VIII/3 of the Basel Convention, SACEP prepared a detailed proposal (Annex I) and a report of the feasibility study (Annex II) and submitted to the Open-ended Working Group (OWWG) of the Basel Convention at its sixth meeting held from 3 to 7 September 2007. As the Government of India acceded the request of the SACEP at the 10th GC to deputize its experts on various fields on specific requests by SACEP to better programme establishment, the Ministry of Environment and Forest, Government of India was kind enough to provide the services of its expert to prepare the two documents.

It was discussed at the OWWG meeting and the many countries including SACEP member countries as well as European Union supported to the proposal. Government of Russia kept the reservation saying that there are many BCRCs already established. SACEP countered the argument and said that South Asia has its unique problems of managing hazardous waste and the region is having one fifth of world’s population. BCRC at Iran also raised some concerns regarding the participating countries.

The OWWG of the Basel Convention at its 6th meeting agreed to review both the detailed proposal and the feasibility study report and put up to the CoP9 of the Basel Convention which will be held on June 2008 for its consideration.

After the OWWG meeting, SACEP have communicated with the concerned parties who raised some concerns at the OWWG meeting and received replies from two BCRCs, Iran and Indonesia.

It is requested that the 11th meeting of the Governing Council of SACEP adopt the following decision on establishment of Basel Convention Regional Centre for South Asia at the SACEP Secretariat, Colombo, Sri Lanka.

“We the members of the 11th meeting of the Governing Council of SACEP and the Environment Ministers of the South Asian countries fully support to the establishment Basel Convention Regional Centre for South Asia at the SACEP Secretariat, Colombo, Sri Lanka and decided that all South Asian countries are members of the Centre as decided by the 10th Governing Council.”

- 3.2.14 **Collaboration with RECOFTC** : 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. An MoU for the collaboration has been finalized and was signed in August 2007. This will pave the way for taking collaborative capacity building initiatives in the field of forestry in the South Asia region that is a major component of the adaptations strategies to climate change. Currently, efforts are on to develop a Joint work Programme for Capacity building in Community based Natural resource Management for South Asia.
- 3.2.15 **Collaboration with Asia Pacific Forestry Commission, FAO** : 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.
- 3.2.16 **Collaboration with UNCRD for 3R and EST in South Asia** : 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. Following the mission of Mr. Kazunobu Onogawa, Director, UNCRD to SACEP in June 2006, collaboration between the two organizations has been taken ahead with SACEP being taken as a partner in all 3-R activities of UNCRD in the region. SACEP also was a partner organization in the first ever workshop held by UNCRD in the South Asia region in Dhaka, Bangladesh in 27th-28th February, 2007 and also invited to participate in the EST Mayors Workshop held in OSAKA, Japan in 23rd-24th April, 2007.

The partnership between the two organizations culminated with the UNCRD acceding to SACEP's request to ensure participation of its member countries to the EST Forum being held in March in Singapore. It was for the first time that based on this collaborative effort, a joint Press release was issued by the Govt. of Singapore, the govt. of Japan, UNCRD and SACEP on 1st November 2007 for this EST Forum. An MoU has also been signed between UNCRD and SACEP on 5th March 2008 to take this initiative forward. The forum was successfully held on 17-19th March 2008 in which 22 delegates from all 8 South Asian countries attended from the Ministries of Environment, Urban Development and Transport. Three Ministers from South Asia HE Ahmad Shah Karim Olomi, Afghanistan, HE Mr Rohana Kumara Dissanayake, Minister of Urban Development, Sri Lanka, HE Ibrahim Zuhair, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Transport and Communications, Maldives graced the Forum. SACEP was represented by the Director General, Dr Arvind Boaz who chaired the Final Plenary Session.

- 3.2.17 **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. Establishment of regional CHM was approved by the 10 GC-SACEP which also requested SACEP to assist to develop national CHMs which will facilitate the development of regional CHM. Accordingly, the earlier proposal has being revised to incorporate the country needs.
- 3.2.18 **Mangroves for the Future** : Discussions are being carried out with the regional office of IUCN in Bangkok for SACEP to become a collaborator in the Mangroves for the Future Project being undertaken by IUCN. During the course of the Mangroves For the Future (MFF) consultations, SACEP expressed an interest in collaborating as partners in the implementation of this programme of work. This includes interests in developing and partnering in new projects, as well as the existence of ongoing or planned projects and

programmes which contribute towards MFF results and objectives. SACEP has identified the key areas to be engaged in the activities for 2007, and proposed different approaches that SACEP would be interested in undertaking, in collaboration with the IUCN (for the year 2007). These come under six, out of the fifteen broad programmes of work mentioned in the action plan and they cover the principal areas of collaboration included in the MoU. Discussions were held with IUCN in the way that SACEP and IUCN could collaborate in the implementation of MFF.

- 3.2.19 **Collaboration with UN DAOLOS :** A meeting was organized with the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Laws of the Sea (DOALOS), Office of Legal Affairs during the 8th Meeting of the Consultative Process was held during 25-29 at the UN Head-Quarters, New York. During this meeting between Mr. Vaclav Mikulka, Director, DOALOS and Dr Arvind Boaz, Director General, SACEP, discussions were held on collaboration between SACEP and DOALOS on the delivery of a number of capacity building activities that DOALOS is presently engaged in. The SAS and DOALOS Secretariat are now finalising arrangements for the implementation of 2 major activities. The first is the conduct of a “**Regional Training Course on the Development, Implementation and Management of Marine Protected Areas in the South Asian Seas Region**” and the second is the conduct of a “**Two Week Scanning Phase Workshop in connection with the UNEP Shelf Programme.**” The first of these activities is planned for the 2nd half of 2008. The total budget for the Regional Training Course is estimated at US \$ 97,000 of which UN-DOALOS has committed US \$ 33,500. SAS and UN-DOALOS is expected to raise the balance funding through partners, national governments and other funding agencies. SAS Secretariat requests the member countries to pledge support for this programme.

3.2.20 **Collaboration with National Botanical Research Institute, Lucknow to develop Programme on Climate Change and it's Impact on the Flora of the South Asia**

The 9th Governing Council of SACEP held in August 2005 at Thimphu, Bhutan identified the adaptations to climate change as one of the key areas concerned in the region and SECEP Secretariat was asked to incorporate it into its work programme. Subsequently, the 10th Governing Council of SACEP held in January, 2007 in Kathmandu, Nepal also recommended carrying forward the work programme recommended by the 9th GC.

In order to carry forward the above decision SACEP entered into a collaboration with NBRI, Lucknow, a premier CSIR research Institute of India and a Centre of Excellence for the South Asian region to develop a programme on Adaptation issues related to Climate change. As a first step “**A regional workshop on climate change and its impact on flora of the South Asia region**” was conducted collaboratively with National Botanical Research Institute (NBRI) of India from 9 to 12 March 2008 at Lucknow, India. The workshop was funded by the Ministry of Environment, the Ministry of Science and Technology, the Ministry of Earth Sciences, India and SACEP. There were 53 participants, mainly senior level government officials from 8 member countries of SACEP who participated at the workshop.

A proposal on adaptation to climate change developed by the SACEP and the NBRI was discussed and finalized during the workshop (Annex I).

The participants of the workshop also prepared and adopted a Lucknow Declaration on climate change and its impact on flora in the South Asian region (Annex II).

It is requested that the 11th meeting of the Governing Council of SACEP endorses the proposal and extends its support to the Lucknow Declaration.

4. **Major Milestones during 2005-2008:**

- 4.1 It was for the first time in the 24 years History of SACEP that the Chairman of SACEP Governing Council visited the SACEP Secretariat during the years 2006. H E Dasho Nado Rinchhen, Minister of Environment, Bhutan visited the SACEP Secretariat on the 14-15th December, 2006.

- 4.2 Similarly, the current Chairman, SACEP Governing Council, H E Mahant Thakur, Minister of Environment and Forests Nepal, visited SACEP Secretariat with his Secretary, Joint Secretary and other officers on 16-19th July 2007.
- 4.3 The South Asian Seas Programme Chairman, H E Ahmad Abdullah, Minister of Environment, Energy and Water, Government of Maldives graced the SACEP activities in Colombo twice- Once at the Launch of the SACRTF on 27th July 2007 and then again on the occasion of the First meeting of the SACRTF on 21st December 2007.
- 4.4 Three Ministers from South Asia, HE Ahmad Shah Karim Olomi, Afghanistan, HE Mr Rohana Kumara Dissanayake, Minister of Urban Development, Sri Lanka, HE Ibrahim Zuhair, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Transport and Communications, Maldives graced the EST Forum jointly organized by the SACEP, UNCRD and Govt of Singapore and Japan.
- 4.5 The Hon' Minister of Environment, Government of Nepal, HE Farmullah Mansoor graced the SACEP –TRAFFIC-WWF-MOEN Workshop on SAWTI in Kathmandu on 1st Feb 2008
- 4.6 SACEP also had the privilege of H. E Mr. Patali Champika Ranawake, Minister of Environment, Government of Sri Lanka gracing some of the major activities of SACEP like the First Meeting of the Coral Reef Task Force on 21.12.07, the Training Programme on CHM on 19th March 2007 and the Male Declaration National Stakeholders Meeting on 12th June 2007.
- 4.7 The Hon' Minister of State for Environment, India, HE Mr Namo Narayan Meena attended the Male Declaration Regional Stakeholders Meeting at new Delhi on 11th October 2005.
- 4.8 The Hon' Minister of State for Environment, India, HE Thirumigu S. Raghupati Avl graced the opening ceremony of the SACEP-UNESCO-NBA Workshop on the Gulf of Mannar Biosphere reserve in Chennai on 20th September 2007
- 4.9 HE Mr A H M Fowzie, Minister of Environment and Natural Resources, Government of Sri Lanka, graced the South Asia Training Workshop on MEAs on 5th October 2005
- 4.10 The Director General of SACEP has presented more than 50 Papers and Presentations at International Meetings and Workshops to spread the word about the various activities of SACEP and the SASP during the period 2005-2007. He has also been invited to deliver Key Note Address and Valedictory Address at various International meetings.

5 Request the 11th Meeting of the Governing Council of SACEP to :

- 5.1 (a) Endorse the South Asia Regional Strategic Plan on Wildlife Trade

(b) Adopt the “*Statement on the South Asia Wildlife Trade Initiative.*”

as approved at the Inter-government Meeting on SAWTI at Kathmandu in
- 5.2 Endorse the “*Extended Aichi Statement*” on Environmentally Sustainable Transport (EST)
- 5.3 Express support to the “*Lucknow Declaration*” on climate change and its impact on flora in the South Asian region as approved by the inter-government meeting at Lucknow
- 5.4 Fully support to the establishment Basel Convention Regional Centre for South Asia at the SACEP Secretariat, Colombo, Sri Lanka and decided that all South Asian countries will be members of this Centre at SACEP as decided by the 10th Governing Council.
- 5.5 Endorse the following project proposals for donor support
 - a) Establishment of Environmental Data and Information Management System for South Asia
 - b) Solid Waste Management in South Asia
 - c) Sustainable regional Fuelwood Policy to address Climate change issues in South Asia
 - d) Climate change and it's Impact on the Flora of South Asia
- 5.6 Endorse the SACEP's Work Programme 2009 – 2010.

- 5.7 Enhancement of
 - a) SACEP Country Contributions
 - b) Commitment for SACEP Corpus Fund
 - c) Commitment of Country Governments for suitable Building Complex of SACEP in Colombo as the allotment of Land by Sri Lankan Government to SACEP is in a very advanced stage.
- 5.8 Endorse the updating of the SACEP Articles of Association with all decisions of the Governing Councils
- 5.9 Decision on extension of tenure of the D.G.
- 5.10 Setup possible dates and country for the 12th GC meeting

6. Financial Matters :

6.1 The 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 from 2001 to 10th April 2008

Country	Arrears upto 2004	Agreed CC 2005	Received CC 2005	Total arrears pto Dec 2005	Agreed CC for 2006	Received CC 2006	Arrears upto Dec 2006
	US \$	US \$	US \$	US \$	US \$	US \$	US \$
Bangladesh	84,263.00	21,300.00		105,563.00	21,300.00		126,863.00
Bhutan	3,555.00	3,555.00	7,110.00	0.00	3,555.00		3,555.00
India	68,971.00	31,850.00	40,000.00	60,821.00	31,850.00	55,550.00	37,121.00
Maldives	34,525.00	14,575.00		49,100.00	14,575.00	63,675.00	0.00
Nepal	40,250.00	8,050.00		48,300.00	8,050.00		56,350.00
Pakistan	131,150.00	31,850.00	148,807.32	14,192.68	31,850.00	31,850.00	14,192.68
Sri Lanka	-	16,220.00	Paid in 2004	0.00	16,220.00	1,298.02	692.70
						14,229.28	
TOTAL	362,714.00	127,400.00	195,917.32	277,976.68	127,400.00	166,602.30	238,774.38
Country	Arrears upto Dec 2006	Agreed CC for 2007	Received CC 2007	Arrears upto Dec 2007	Agreed CC for 2008	Received CC 2008	Arrears from 2001 - 10 Apr 08
	US \$	US \$	US \$	US \$	US \$	US \$	US \$
Bangladesh	126,863.00	21,300.00		148,163.00	21,300.00		169,463.00
Bhutan	3,555.00	3,555.00	7,110.00	0.00	3,555.00		3,555.00
India	37,121.00	31,850.00	31,850.00	37,121.00	31,850.00		68,971.00
Maldives	0.00	14,575.00		14,575.00	14,575.00		29,150.00
Nepal	56,350.00	8,050.00	48,300.00	16,100.00	8,050.00		24,150.00
Pakistan	14,192.68	31,850.00		46,042.68	31,850.00	31,925.79	45,966.89
Sri Lanka	692.70	16,220.00		16,912.70	16,220.00	16,912.70	16,220.00
TOTAL	238,774.38	127,400.00	87,260.00	278,914.38	127,400.00	48,838.49	357,475.89
Interest Earned			Year 2005	US \$ 237.52			
Fixed Deposit Interest Earned			Year 2006	US \$ 3,051.68			
Fixed Deposit Interest Earned			Year 2007	US \$ 14,750.21			
Fixed Deposit Interest Earned			Year 2008	US \$ 1,703.03			
Total Interest - SACEP CC				US \$ 19,742.44			

Host Facility Contribution from Government of Sri Lanka

Year 2004- 2008

Year	SLR	Exchange Rate	US \$
2004	2,500,000.00	104.05	24,027
2005	2,500,000.00	100.80	24,802
2006	2,500,000.00	106.50	23,474
2007	5,000,000.00	109.20	45,788
2008	5,000,000.00	106.75	46,838

Fixed Deposit Interest Earned - HF	Year 2007	US \$	669.13
Fixed Deposit Interest Earned - HF	Year 2008	US \$	152.57
Total Interest - Host Facility		US \$	821.70

CORPUS FUND :

The Corpus Fund was started in SACEP in response to the recommendations of the External review committee. All the member countries were requested to make contributions to this fund for the development of the programme base of SACEP. The fund was kick started with India making the first contribution in the year 2006. It is requested that all countries may make similar contributions to strengthen the financial and programme base of SACEP.

Country	Corpus Fund
	US \$
B / B / F	27,467.51
Bangladesh	
Bhutan	
India	191,480.00
Maldives	
Nepal	
Pakistan	
Sri Lanka	
TOTAL	218,947.51

Fixed Deposit Interest Earned	Year 2007	13,254.80
Fixed Deposit Interest Earned	Year 2008	3,192.21
Total Interest - SACEP Trust Fund		16,447.01

Payment of arrears and Country Contributions by the Countries of SASP

SASP Country Contribution Status: From 2002 - 10th April 2008

Country	Arrears upto 2004	Agreed CC for 2005	Received CC for 2005	Total Arrears upto 2005	Agreed CC for 2006	Received CC 2006	Arrears upto Dec 2006
	US \$	US \$	US \$	US \$	US \$	US \$	US \$
Bangladesh	17,852.40	13,335.00		31,187.40	13,335.00		44,522.40
India	64,395.00	32,185.00		96,580.00	32,185.00	96,580.00	32,185.00
Maldives	24,471.00	5,975.00		30,446.00	5,975.00	36,421.00	0.00
Pakistan	74,225.50	27,130.00		101,355.50	27,130.00	54,260.00	74,225.50
Sri Lanka	17,518.02	13,335.00	30,561.94	291.08	13,335.00	12,990.37	635.71
TOTAL	198,461.92	91,960.00	30,561.94	259,859.98	91,960.00	200,251.37	151,568.61

Country	Arrears as at Dec 2006	Agreed CC 2007	Received CC 2007	Arrears upto Dec 07	Agreed CC for 2008	Received CC 2008	Arrears from 2002 - 10 Apr 08
	US \$	US \$	US \$	US \$	US \$	US \$	US \$
Bangladesh	44,522.40	13,335.00		57,857.40	13,335.00		71,192.40
India	32,185.00	32,185.00	32,185.00	32,185.00	32,185.00		64,370.00
Maldives	0.00	5,975.00		5,975.00	5,975.00	5,975.00	5,975.00
Pakistan	74,225.50	27,130.00	27,157.10	74,198.40	27,130.00		101,328.40
Sri Lanka	635.71	13,335.00		13,970.71	13,335.00	8,469.08	18,836.63
TOTAL	151,568.61	91,960.00	59,342.10	184,186.51	91,960.00	14,444.08	261,702.43

Interest Earned	Year 2005	237.52
Fixed Deposit Interest Earned	Year 2006	3,051.68
Fixed Deposit Interest Earned	Year 2007	24,356.95
Fixed Deposit Interest Earned	Year 2008	4,100.37
Total Interest - SASP		31,746.52

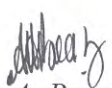
Interest Earned From year 2005 - to 10th April 2008

Source of Interest Earned	2005	2006	2007	2008
SACEP CC	237.52	3,051.68	14,750.21	1,703.03
SASP	237.52	3,051.68	24,356.95	4,100.37
HOST FACILTY			669.13	152.57
NORAD / UNEP Accounts	465.15	1,895.87	9,997.49	594.62
SENRIC	315.14	670.55	11.62	3,192.21
SACEP TRUST FUND / CORPUS FUND			13,254.80	
Total	1,255.33	8,669.78	63,040.20	9,742.80
Grand Total	82,708.11			

6.2 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 for support to the SENRIC Programme (2005)	UNEP-ROAP	93,000.00
SACEP-UNESCAP Collaboration	UN ESCAP	4440.00
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 (2006-07)	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 training 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		6,29,088.00

Project Sanctioned by European Commission for the SACEP/ICRAN Coral Reef Work in South Asia (Three Year Project)	European Commission 875,907.43Euros	1,162,583.00
MoU SACEP-CEE, Scoping Exercise on Climate Change	CEE, Ahmedabad	10,000.00
MoU SACEP-DA, Scoping Exercise on E-Waste Management	Development Alternatives, New Delhi	10,000.00
MoU SACEP-TRAFFIC-SAWTI Workshop, Nepal	US Govt, WWF GBP 46,000	88,780.00
MoU SACEP- UNCRD, Environment Sustainable Transport Forum, Singapore	UNCRD, Govt of Japan	92,000.00
Workshop on Climate Change and its Impact on Flora in South Asia, Lucknow, India	NBRI, Govt of India, SACEP	25,000.00
UNESCO-Govt of Sri Lanka CHM training	UNESCO, Govt of SL	7000.00
School Awareness Programme	Government of Sri Lanka, Standard Charter Bank, CEE, SAYEN	5000.00
“Regional Training Course on the Development, Implementation and Management of Marine Protected Areas in the South Asian Seas Region”	UN DAOLOS, SACEP,	33,500.00
Support for SACEP to attend International Meetings (2005-2007)	Various Organisation	65,238.00
Interest to date on Project account (2006-2008)	-	14256.80
GRAND TOTAL		US\$ 21,42,445.80


 (Dr. A. A. Boaz)
 Director General

Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM)

The 10th meeting of the Governing Council of SACEP passed a resolution by re-iterating their commitments towards implementing the SAICM in South Asia region. Further, the 10th GC,

- *Endorsed* 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;
- *Urged* member countries to participate in national, sub-regional, regional and international efforts to implement the Strategic Approach;
- *Encouraged* 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;
- *Urged* 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 and
- *Requested* the Director General to incorporate the implementation of Strategic Approach into SACEP's work programme.

As to implement the above decision, considering the specific needs and sub-regional priorities in chemical management of South Asia, following actions are being undertaken;

- SACEP proposed to the SAICM Secretariat to organize a sub-regional meeting on implementation of SAICM in South Asia
- As we are working on implementing SAICM in the South Asia, SACEP was invited to the Asia-Pacific Regional meeting of the SAICM held in May 2007
- SACEP delegation re-iterated the needs of holding a South Asia meeting on SAICM at the Asia-Pacific regional meeting on SAICM held in Bangkok, Thailand during 21 – 23 May 2007
- As requested by the Executive Director of UNEP, a detailed proposal on SAICM sub-regional meeting for South Asia was prepared and sent to the UNEP
- SAICM Secretariat informed us that SACEP's proposal for a South Asian regional meeting on SAICM has been included in the financial paper prepared for the SAICM donors' meeting scheduled in early 2008

At the Asia-Pacific regional meeting on SAICM held in Bangkok, Thailand during 21 – 23 May 2007, SACEP successfully negotiated to include regional priorities in SAICM implementation which include;

- Organization of a sub-regional meeting to prioritize the sub-regional issues and preparation of a sub-regional action plan to implement the SAICM
- Assist to member countries in building their capacity on chemical management
- Raising awareness on SAICM and generally on chemical management on sub-regional and national levels
- Assisting in preparing/updating national chemical profiles
- Strengthening SAICM national focal points
- Regional or sub-regional harmonization of chemical assessment and management

South Asia Sub-regional Meeting on Implementation of SAICM

Background

South Asia comprises the countries of Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka. The economies of these countries are still depending on the agriculture. In order to get high rate of yield, vast amount of fertilizer and pesticides are used. Since 1970, use of fertilizers in the region has increased almost by 500 percent

From recent past, there has been a region-wide structural shift towards increased industrialization; industry has increased its share of total output from 21 to 26 percent in South Asia and this structural shift is expected to continue into the future. The Small and Medium Enterprise sector (SME) account for 40% of industrial output in South Asia. It is estimated that there are six million small-scale industrial units, employing a significant component of the total labour force in the region. These SMEs are often involved in activities that use significant quantities of chemicals. These chemicals vary from the absolutely harmless to the highly dangerous and include the whole range of chemical substances and mixtures.

The South Asia Sub-region has a vast differences in stages of development, geographically, and the priorities of the chemical management among the other sub-regions of the Asia-Pacific region. Therefore, it is more practical to adopt a sub-regional approach in implementing the SAICM.

The paragraph 81 of the report of Asia-Pacific regional meeting on SAICM states that “In the ensuing discussion some representatives said that while regional cooperation and coordination were important, the approach adopted by other regions was not practical for the Asia-Pacific region owing to the diversity and the differing stages of development of the countries in the region which would result in different priorities. It was suggested that initially, sub-regional information exchange on sound management of chemicals was a good starting point and subsequently consideration could be given to the potential for a regional action plan. With that in mind it was suggested that, funds permitting, a workshop should be convened to facilitate identification of regional priorities and possibly development of such a regional action plan”.

Sub-regional meeting for South Asia

Considering the specific needs and sub-regional priorities in chemical management of South Asia, SACEP proposed to the SAICM Secretariat in 2006 to organize a sub-regional meeting on implementation of SAICM in South Asia.

In response to the resolution I/1 of ICCM that “commended SAICM to the attention of the governing bodies of relevant intergovernmental organizations and encouraged them to endorse or otherwise appropriately acknowledge the Strategic Approach with a view to incorporating its objectives into their programmes of work within their mandates”, the 10th Governing Council of SACEP held in January 2007 at Kathmandu, Nepal passed a resolution by re-iterating their commitments towards implementing the SAICM in the South Asia (Annex 1). Further the 10th GC of SACEP by its decision No. 9.2.4 has requested the Director General of SACEP to incorporate the SAICM into the SACEP’s work programme.

Further SACEP delegation had clearly proposed to conduct the above sub-regional meeting with support from the SAICM Secretariat at the Asia-Pacific regional meeting on SAICM held in Bangkok, Thailand during 21 – 23 May 2007. This was included in the paragraphs 21 and 97 of the meeting report.

Subsequently, the Executive Director of UNEP by his letter No. DTIE/SL/0809/1132-07/aa of 18 June 2007 requested SACEP to send a detailed proposal on SAICM sub-regional meeting for South Asia.

The objective of the proposed South Asia Sub-regional meeting is to prioritize the sub-regional issues and prepare a sub-regional action plan to implement the SAICM in the sub-region.

The meeting is to be held on last week of October in Colombo, Sri Lanka. It will be a three day meeting.

Budget

Item	# countries	Participants/ country	Total	# days	CMB DSA** US\$	TOTAL US\$
Government participants	8	3	24	4*	110	10,560
NGOs and other sub-regional organizations	8	2	16	4*	110	7,040
Provision for extra days (flight)			35	1	110	3,850
Airfares	7		35			23,000
Inaugural function with tea break and reception			100		20	2,000
Conference facilities						
Morning and afternoon tea and lunch			50	3	25	450
Secretariat, 3 computers, Board room				3		1,000
Internet connections				3		300
Secretariat facilities						3,000
Recording of proceedings						500
Stationery, Document holders, badges, etc						1,500
Airport transfers						2,000
Administration / logistical arrangements, etc						1,500
Communication						1,000
Report preparation, printing, dissemination, etc						1,000
Miscellaneous						1,500
					TOTAL	US\$ 60,200

*including one day for terminal

** DSA rates as at present, indicated by UNDP Colombo

Note: This budget does not include the cost of participation of experts and delegates from UNEP who will help conducting the meeting.

Provisional agenda

1. Opening of the meeting.
2. Organizational matters.
 - (a) Election of officers;
 - (b) Adoption of the agenda;
 - (c) Organization of work.
3. Implementation of SAICM in South Asian countries.
 - (a) Updates on activities of Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations in the sub-region.
 - (b) Sub-regional coordination mechanisms.
 - (i) The role and responsibilities of the South Asia sub-regional focal point;
 - (ii) The role and responsibilities of the South Asia coordination unit;
 - (iii) Terms of reference for national focal points;
 - (iv) SAICM Quick Start Programme at the South Asia sub-regional level;
 - (v) Establishment of a Steering Committee to support national focal points;
 - (vi) Means of providing support to governments of South Asia to develop a sub-regional action plan for the implementation of SAICM;
 - (vii) Synergies with and between other relevant MEAs and other processes.
 - (c) National implementation of SAICM.
 - (i) Initial planning for national implementation of SAICM;
 - (ii) Guidance materials for developing national implementation of SAICM.
4. Possible sub-regional activities in implementing SAICM
 - (a) Identification of the priorities of the sub-region and preparation of sub-regional action plan.
 - (b) Engagement of Sub-regional/regional organizations in SAICM implementation.
5. SAICM Quick Start Programme.
 - (a) The Quick Start Programme trust fund;

- (b) The broader Quick Start Programme and other contributions to SAICM implementation;
 - (c) Possible sub-regional projects.
- 6. Preparation for the second session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management.
 - (a) Reporting to the International Conference on Chemicals Management;
 - (b) Rules of procedure for the ICCM.
- 7. Financial considerations.
- 8. Future South Asia sub-regional meetings during the intersessional period.
- 9. Other business.
- 10. Adoption of the report.
- 11. Closure of the meeting.



SAICM/RM/AP.1/3



Strategic Approach
to International
Chemicals Management

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**Asia-Pacific regional meeting on the Strategic Approach
to International Chemicals Management**
Bangkok, 21-23 May 2007

Report of the Asia-Pacific regional meeting on the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management

Introduction

1. At its first session, which took place in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, from 4 to 6 February 2006, the International Conference on Chemicals Management adopted the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM), comprising the Dubai Declaration on International Chemicals Management, the Overarching Policy Strategy and the Global Plan of Action (GPA).¹ The Conference also adopted a number of resolutions, including resolution I/1 on arrangements for the implementation of SAICM.² In the Overarching Policy Strategy and resolution I/1, it was recommended that work on implementation of SAICM between sessions of the Conference be undertaken through regional meetings. The current meeting, held in Bangkok, from 21-23 May 2007, hosted by the Pollution Control Department (PCD), Thailand, and convened in collaboration with the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES), Japan, was the first such meeting for the Asia-Pacific region. Its purpose, as envisaged in paragraph 26 of the Overarching Policy Strategy, was to review progress on implementation of SAICM in the region, to provide guidance on implementation to regional stakeholders and to provide a forum for technical and strategic discussions and the exchange of information.

I. Opening of the meeting

2. The meeting was opened at 10.00 a.m. on Monday 21 May 2007 by Mr. Matthew Gubb, Coordinator, SAICM Secretariat who welcomed the participants and introduced the speakers who were to make opening statements.

3. Opening statements were made by Mr. Supat Wangwongwatana, Director-General, Pollution Control Department (Thailand) and Mr. Eisaku Toda, SAICM regional focal point for Asia-Pacific (Japan). Mr. Wangwongwatana welcomed the participants to Thailand and recalled the background leading to the adoption of SAICM in Dubai including the convening of the first preparatory meeting of SAICM held in Bangkok in November 2003. He said SAICM was now entering the first phase of

¹ Report of the International Conference on Chemicals Management on the work of its first session (SAICM/International Conference on Chemicals Management.1/7), annexes I–III. The Conference adopted the Dubai Declaration and the Overarching Policy Strategy and recommended the use and further development of the Global Plan of Action as a working tool and guidance document.

² Ibid, annex IV.

implementation and countries at different stages of development of their national programmes for sound management of chemicals had different priorities and demands for strengthening their capacities. The current regional meeting would establish priorities and key approaches as well as the way forward for implementation of SAICM in the Asia-Pacific region. It would also provide a forum for information exchange on how to deal with the adverse effects of hazardous chemicals with limited resources, and guidance on SAICM implementation to all stakeholders at the regional level. He briefly described the imminent implementation of the national master plan on chemicals safety in Thailand. He concluded by wishing the participants a successful meeting.

4. Mr. Toda voiced his gratitude to the Government of Thailand for its hospitality and efficient organization of the meeting and thanked members of the extended planning committee for their assistance in preparing for the meeting. He welcomed the efforts at synergies that had permitted back to back meetings of a workshop to reduce mercury use and release in products for the Asia-Pacific region 17-19 May, the current meeting and the forthcoming workshop on development of legal and institutional infrastructures on sound management of chemicals from 24 to 25 May, all in Bangkok, and expressed his appreciation to the Governments of Sweden and the United States of America for their contribution to those meetings. He concluded by noting the importance of the Asia-Pacific region in particular owing to its extremely large population and its vast diversity from developed states of economic strength to small island developing states.

5. Mr. Gubb expressed his appreciation to the Government of Thailand for hosting the meeting and to the Governments of Japan, Sweden and Switzerland for their financial contribution.

II. Organizational matters

A. Election of officers

6. Mr. Supat Wangwongwatana (Thailand) and Mr. Eisaku Toda (Japan) were elected to serve as Co-Chairs for the current meeting. Ms. Chandani Panditharatne (Sri Lanka) was elected to serve as rapporteur.

B. Adoption of the agenda

7. The meeting adopted the following agenda as set out in SAICM/RM/AP.1/1:

1. Opening of the meeting.
2. Organizational matters:
 - (a) Election of officers;
 - (b) Adoption of the agenda;
 - (c) Organization of work.
3. Updates on activities of other regional groups.
4. Updates on activities of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.
5. Implementation of SAICM in the Asia-Pacific region:
 - (a) Regional coordination mechanisms:
 - (i) Role and responsibilities of the regional focal point;
 - (ii) Role and responsibilities of regional representatives serving on the Quick Start Programme Executive Board;
 - (iii) Synergies with and between other relevant processes.
 - (b) National implementation of SAICM:
 - (i) Initial planning for national implementation of SAICM;
 - (ii) Guidance materials for implementation of SAICM;
 - (iii) Roles and responsibilities of SAICM national focal points.
 - (c) Regional implementation of SAICM:

- (i) Possible activities on SAICM implementation at the regional level, including possible sub-regional approaches and cooperation among Asia-Pacific countries;
 - (ii) Engagement of regional organizations, including regional development banks.
6. SAICM Quick Start Programme:
 - (a) The Quick Start Programme trust fund;
 - (b) The broader Quick Start Programme;
 - (c) Possible regional projects.
7. Financial considerations.
8. Preparation for the second session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management:
 - (a) Reporting to the International Conference on Chemicals Management on progress in the implementation of SAICM;
 - (b) Further development of the SAICM Global Plan of Action;
 - (c) Rules of procedure for the International Conference on Chemicals Management;
 - (d) Possible scientific workshop;
 - (e) Other intersessional work in preparation for the second session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management.
9. Establishment of the SAICM secretariat and its budget outlook.
10. Future Asia-Pacific regional meetings during the intersessional period.
11. Other business.
12. Adoption of the report.
13. Closure of the meeting.

C. Organization of work

8. The participants agreed to meet in plenary from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. each day.

D. Attendance

9. The meeting was attended by representatives of the following countries: Bahrain, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, , Iraq, Islamic Republic of Iran, Japan, Kiribati, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Marshall Islands, Mongolia, Nauru, Nepal, Oman, Pakistan, People's Republic of China, Philippines, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Tuvalu, United Arab Emirates and Yemen.
10. The meeting was also attended by a representative from the Palestinian Authority.
11. The meeting was also attended by representatives of the following intergovernmental organizations: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Secretariat of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal , **South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP)**, Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) and World Health Organization (WHO).
12. The meeting was also attended by representatives of the following non-governmental organizations: Associated Labor Unions – Trade Union Congress of the Philippines (ALU-TUCP), Basel Action Network – Asia-Pacific, Basel Convention Regional Centre for South-East Asia, Campaign for Alternative Industry Network (CAIN), CropLife International, Environmental Health Fund (EHF), General Directorate of Environment and Wildlife Protection, Global Alliance for

Incinerator Alternatives (GAIA), Greenpeace Southeast Asia, International Council of Chemical Associations (ICCA), International Council on Mining and Metals (ICMM), Kanto-Gakuin University, Kuwait Society for Environment Protection, Pesticide Action Network Asia and the Pacific (PAN AP), Pesticide Action Network Japan (PAN-Japan), Singapore Chemical Industry Council, South East Asia Urban Environment Management (SEA UEMA Project), Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), Thanal, Toxics Link and World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) Japan.

13. In addition, a number of individuals attended as observers: Sweden, United States of America, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) GmbH, National Project Coordination on Persistent Organic Pollutants and University of Sains Malaysia.

III. Updates on activities of other regional groups

14. In considering the item, the meeting had before it the report of the African regional meeting on SAICM held in Cairo, Egypt, from 11 to 14 September 2006 (SAICM/RM/AP.1/INF/2), the report of the meeting of the European Union-JUSSCANNZ (Japan, United States, Switzerland, Canada, Australia, Norway, New Zealand) countries on SAICM held in Barcelona, Spain, from 20 to 22 November 2006 (SAICM/RM/AP.1/INF/16), the report of the Central and Eastern European regional meeting on SAICM held in Riga, Latvia, from 4 to 6 December 2006 (SAICM/RM/AP.1/INF/19) and the report of the meeting of Arab countries held in Cairo, Egypt, from 1 to 2 April 2007 (SAICM/RM/AP.1/INF/20). The secretariat noted that there would be a second meeting of the European Union – JUSSCANNZ countries on 12 June 2007 in Paris, France, and that the regional meeting for Latin America and the Caribbean would be convened in the second half of 2007.

15. The observer from Sweden recalled that the European Union – JUSSCANNZ countries had decided that even though there would be no need for further full meetings of European Union – JUSSCANNZ countries before the second session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management, it had been agreed that informal meetings would be held in the margins of upcoming sessions of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Joint Meeting of the Chemicals Committee and Working Party on Chemicals, Pesticides and Biotechnology, the next one being in Paris on 12 June 2007, and would be open to all stakeholders. She said that the new European Union regulatory framework for the Registration, Evaluation and Authorization of Chemicals (REACH), would come into force on 1 June 2007 on the same date that the new European Chemicals Agency would be established in Helsinki, Finland. Both were expected to be fully operational within one year. The European Union was also close to finalizing a proposal for the implementation of the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals. She concluded by summarizing the current activities in Sweden related to chemicals management and the implementation of SAICM. The observer from the United States of America described on-going cooperation and activities through a programme for sound management of chemicals in Canada, Mexico and the United States of America and said the programme afforded an opportunity to implement SAICM through country focus on risk reduction, capacity building and information sharing. Regional and national efforts to complement SAICM would be undertaken through national programmes and technical assistance was being provided to Mexico.

IV. Updates on activities of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations

16. The Co-Chair invited representatives of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations present at the meeting to inform the meeting of their on-going or planned activities supporting the implementation of SAICM. The meeting had before it document SAICM/RM/AP.1/INF/11 containing information submitted by those organizations.

17. The representatives of the Chemicals Branch of UNEP, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Basel Convention Regional Centre for South-East Asia briefed the meeting on their activities as set out in the above-mentioned document. The representative of the Basel Convention Regional Centre for South-East Asia added that the Centre sought cooperation with participants at the meeting, countries in the region and relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organization, particularly in the area of mercury waste and illegal traffic of hazardous waste.

18. The representative of the UNEP Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific provided brief information on work being undertaken through the regional office on SAICM activities, implementation of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes and their

Disposal, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, the Montreal Protocol on Substances that deplete the Ozone Layer, and on the Green Customs Initiative. He said that the regional office could help countries in the implementation of SAICM through assistance for national focal point nominations, convention ratification and compliance, national capacity building, establishment of networks and regional hubs for SAICM and public awareness-raising on chemicals management.

19. The representative of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), noting the importance of pesticides in the region for pest and disease control, said that concern revolved around the problem of pesticide residues and poisoning incidences. Following the endorsement of SAICM by the FAO Council, all FAO members were committed to implementation and support of SAICM and FAO was willing to assist, through its national and regional offices to support sound management of chemicals in particular pesticides. He said that a comparison of the SAICM Global Plan of Action and the FAO International Code of Conduct on the Use and Distribution of Pesticides showed many linkages and provided useful guidance for coordinated action at the national, regional and international level. He also noted the importance of the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals and of effective labelling of pesticides.

20. The representative of the Basel Convention Secretariat, said assistance was being provided to countries in submitting their proposals to the Quick Start Programme trust fund. The eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention had adopted many decisions relevant to SAICM implementation, including decision VIII/2 and the Nairobi declaration which referred to e-wastes (electronic and electrical wastes). He said there were currently several projects being undertaken in cooperation with SPREP and there were pilot projects in 11 countries in Asia on e-wastes. That activity would shortly be expanded to Africa and Latin America. A new programme area was also being established on mercury and asbestos as part of the Strategic Plan of the Basel Convention.

21. The representative of the South Asian Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP) said that the SACEP Governing Council had passed a resolution endorsing SAICM and SAICM was currently being incorporated into the programme of SACEP. He suggested that there would be some value in holding sub-regional meetings on the implementation of SAICM.

22. The representative of the International POPs Elimination Network (IPEN) provided a detailed description of work being undertaken in support of SAICM implementation. IPEN recently completed a two-year project that enabled and empowered 350 non-governmental and civil society organizations from 65 countries, including many from Asia-Pacific to initiate research, raise awareness and action on POPs and to contribute to local processes of developing National Implementation Plans for the Stockholm Convention on POPs. He said that participating groups carried out a variety of projects and activities that responded to many of the goals of the SAICM including education of the most vulnerable populations, information dissemination in local languages, community mobilization, policies on waste management and zero waste projects.

23. The representative of the International Council of Chemical Associations (ICCA) made a presentation on progress made by the chemical industry in implementing SAICM since its adoption in Dubai. He referred to the Responsible Care Global Charter and the Global Product Strategy, and, as part of those two voluntary activities, to the Global Product Stewardship Guidelines which could assist small and medium size enterprises, in developing countries in particular, to strengthen product stewardship across the value chain and to improve chemical safety. He also made reference to capacity building activities on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals and the support of intergovernmental organization projects on training and education in health, safety and environment issues.

24. The representative of the Japan Chemical Industry Association referred to the Responsible Care Programme, noting activities resulting in communication with society throughout the life-cycle of the chemical. He noted the high contribution of industry to the percentage of chemicals reviewed under the OECD High Production Volume Programme and briefly described the OECD eChemPortal Information System. Finally he referred to the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals training support scheme as a contribution to capacity building in the region.

25. The representative of Basel Action Network noted that, with other non-governmental organizations, work had been undertaken on linkages between the Basel Convention and SAICM. Referring to some regional and bilateral trade agreements he noted some discords between those agreements and the objectives of the Basel Convention. He urged a coordinated approach among trade and environmental agreements also taking into account labour issues..

26. The representative of the Asia-Pacific regional centre of Pesticide Action Network International said that the main area of its focus was on the community and raising public awareness on highly hazardous pesticides, in particular with regard to agricultural workers. She said the regional centre had been documenting the health and environmental impacts of pesticides especially on poor communities, and that had been used to create awareness for banning and restricting particular pesticides as well as for stronger regulations. She noted that the community monitoring methodology provided useful experience in using the precautionary approach and was based on community participatory action. She said that the regional centre was actively involved in the implementation of the Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions and she highlighted the SAICM provisions for alternatives particularly alternatives to highly hazardous pesticides as well as sound agricultural practices as crucial to meeting the goals of SAICM in particular with an emphasis on food security and given that alternatives and sound agricultural practices exist and are successfully implemented by non-governmental organizations.

27. The representative of CropLife International noted his organization's goal to combat insects, pests and weeds in the agriculture sector and for disease vector control. He said the products they used were extensively researched to allow for maximum efficiency and took into account safe use under local geographic, climatic and cultural conditions. He advocated strong chemical regulations based on sound science and including the benefits associated with the use of chemicals. He noted that CropLife International was providing technical support to assist countries to implement the FAO Code of Conduct and was working in developing countries and countries with economies in transition to promote the safe use of pesticides.

28. The representative of the Sustainable Development Policy Institute described the role of his organization in the SAICM process and highlighted the role played by non-governmental and civil society organizations in meeting the objectives of the SAICM Global Plan of Action. He also described his institute's involvement in activities for chemicals control and noted the changing roles of stakeholders saying that in the future governments, businesses and civil society should act as partners.

29. The representative of Toxics Link noted several issues relevant to the implementation of SAICM including generation of primary data and the convening of workshops on chemicals production. He said other issues covered by the group were lead in paints, mercury, solid waste management and electronic waste. He concluded by noting joint work with IPEN and other non-governmental organization on persistent organic pollutants and pesticides.

30. The representative of WWF Japan noted that a group of non-governmental organizations had together adopted, in 2004, the Tokyo declaration for a toxics free earth. He hoped that there would be opportunities for non-governmental participation in national implementation of SAICM. He reiterated the need to raise public awareness and to explore partnerships with non-governmental organizations in the Asia-Pacific region.

C. Regional implementation of SAICM

1. Possible activities on SAICM implementation at the regional level, including possible sub-regional approaches and cooperation among Asia-Pacific countries

31. The Co-Chair drew attention to the relevant documents under this item, in particular the African regional action plan on SAICM implementation contained in the report of the African regional meeting, document SAICM/RM/AP.1/INF/2. As indicated in the meeting report of the European Union-JUSSCANNZ countries contained in document SAICM/RM/AP.1/INF/16, those countries had concluded that it was not necessary to develop a regional action plan. Similarly the Central and Eastern European region, as indicated in the report of their meeting SAICM/RM/AP.1/INF/19 did not consider it necessary to develop a regional action plan. He also noted that the meeting of Arab countries had agreed to use the SAICM Arab Action Plan that had been endorsed by the Council of Arab Ministers responsible for Environmental Affairs at its 17th session held in Cairo in December 2005 (SAICM/RM/AP.1/INF/20).

32. In the ensuing discussion some representatives said that while regional cooperation and coordination were important, the approach adopted by other regions was not practical for the Asia-Pacific region owing to the diversity and the differing stages of development of the countries in the region which would result in different priorities. It was suggested that initially, sub-regional information exchange on sound management of chemicals was a good starting point and subsequently consideration could be given to the potential for a regional action plan. With that in mind it was suggested that, funds permitting, a workshop should be convened to facilitate identification of regional priorities and possibly development of such a regional action plan.

2. Engagement of regional organizations, including regional development banks

33. Introducing the sub-item, the Co-Chair said that a number of regional organizations and centres with responsibilities and expertise were potentially relevant to the implementation of SAICM, including organizations with region-wide responsibilities such as the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and the regional offices of IOMC participating organizations, centres associated with international agreements such as the Basel Convention, financial institutions such as the Asian Development Bank and networks of national entities such as the cleaner production centres. A draft directory of intergovernmental and other organizations at the global and regional levels of relevance to the implementation of SAICM in the Asia-Pacific region was contained in document SAICM/RM/AP.1/INF/4. He said that the meeting might wish to assess the completeness and potential usefulness of the draft directory.

34. The meeting acknowledged the efforts of sub-regional organizations to assist countries to implement SAICM. It was noted that the governing bodies of the intergovernmental organization had already been urged to acknowledge SAICM also at the regional level.

35. Following a discussion in which representatives suggested minor amendments and additions to the draft directory, the meeting agreed that the draft directory was a useful document that should be continuously updated and placed on the SAICM website.

VI. SAICM Quick Start Programme

A. The Quick Start Programme trust fund

36. The secretariat introduced the sub-item, outlining the establishment of the trust fund, the outcome of the first round of applications to the trust fund for project funding and progress in the second round. The meeting had before it documents SAICM/RM/AP.1/INF/5 (report of the first meeting of the Quick Start Programme Executive Board), SAICM/RM/AP.1/INF/15 (report of the second meeting of the Quick Start Programme Executive Board), SAICM/RM/AP.1/INF/6 (report of the first meeting of the Quick Start Programme Trust Fund Implementation Committee), SAICM/RM/AP.1/INF/16 (report of the second meeting of the Quick Start Programme Trust Fund Implementation Committee), SAICM/RM/AP.1/INF/7 (report of the second meeting of the Quick Start Programme Trust Fund Implementation Committee), SAICM/RM/AP.1/INF/8 (application materials for the Quick Start Programme trust fund), SAICM/RM/AP.1/INF/9 (guidelines for applications to the Quick Start Programme trust fund) and SAICM/RM/AP.1/INF/14 (report of the secretariat on the status of the Quick Start Programme trust fund). He added that the Quick Start Programme business plan was contained in document SAICM/RM/AP.1/INF/15 and the results of the first round of applications to the trust fund could be found in document SAICM/RM/AP.1/INF/7.

37. He said that the trust fund had been established on 1 December 2006 and was open to contributions for 5 years and to disbursement for a further 2 years. Agreements had been signed for most approved projects and others would be signed shortly. Fifteen governments, including India from the Asia-Pacific region, had contributed \$6 million dollars in 2006 and another \$500,000 had already been committed in 2007 by Australia, Austria, Finland, Madagascar, Netherlands and Slovenia. Noting the business plan objective of securing at least 10 new donors to the trust fund by the second session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management, the secretariat observed that two new donors, Australia and Madagascar had already come forward and other stakeholders in a position to do so were encouraged to consider supporting the trust fund. He concluded by noting the business plan had set a fundraising target in the range of \$ 6.3 to \$6.6 million for 2007.

38. The representative from Thailand as one of the regional representatives on the Quick Start Programme Executive Board provided a summary of the outcome of the second meeting that had taken place in Geneva, 23-24 April 2007. The representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran as the second regional representative said the most important issue had been the development of the draft business plan for the Quick Start Programme.

39. In response to a question on the possible limits to contributions the secretariat said that contributions had been received in the range of \$ 5,000 to \$ 3.5 million and that all contributions were welcome. In response to a second question on whether it was possible to and how to revise the business plan, the secretariat said the document was adopted as a living document and would be updated every year by the Executive Board.

40. The meeting welcomed the establishment of the trust fund, noting its time-limited nature, took note of the secretariat report and requested the regional representatives to participate in effective deliberation at meetings of the Quick Start Programme Executive Board.

B. The broader Quick Start Programme

41. The secretariat recalled that in its resolution I/4, International Conference on Chemicals Management also urged Governments in a position to do so, regional economic integration organizations, intergovernmental organizations, the private sector, including industry, foundations, non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders, to contribute to the Quick Start Programme. At its first meeting, the Quick Start Programme Executive Board agreed that the secretariat should develop, in consultation with the co-chairs, a draft a reporting form for contribution to the broader, i.e. non-trust fund Quick Start Programme for consideration by the Board at its next meeting on 23 and 24 April 2007. The secretariat invited Quick Start Programme contributors to declare their contributions using the draft reporting form, for use on an interim basis pending consideration by the Board. The meeting had before it document SAICM/RM/AP.1/INF/17 containing declarations of contributions to the Quick Start Programme. Such reporting would enable the secretariat to prepare a summary report on Quick Start Programme contributions for International Conference on Chemicals Management and has also been relevant in determining participation in the Quick Start Programme Executive Board in accordance with its rules of procedure. He also noted that, among several contributing Governments, Switzerland had been a major donor to the Quick Start Programme and several intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations had provided in-kind contributions.

42. Several representatives expressed their appreciation to Switzerland for its contribution to the Quick Start Programme. The representative from UNEP Chemicals informed the meeting of support provided by Norway and Sweden to its Quick Start Programme activities. In response to a question on obtaining updated information the meeting was informed that the contributor declaration was provided on the SAICM website. One significant factor of a declaration to contribute was that once that declaration was considered and accepted, the declarer became a member of the Executive Board. The representative of Japan said that its Government had started a \$50,000 project as its contribution to the Quick Start Programme to facilitate enabling activities in Asia-Pacific countries. The representative of FAO said that in addition to intergovernmental organizations listed in document SAICM/RM/AP.1/INF/17, FAO would shortly be providing its Quick Start Programme declaration form. The representative of the ICCA noted that his association could not provide financial resources to a trust fund but could offer support on concrete projects.

43. The meeting took note of the opportunity for reporting on contributions to the (non-trust fund) Quick Start Programme.

C. Possible regional projects

44. The Co-Chair noted that from the analysis presented in the draft Quick Start Programme business plan (SAICM/RM/AP.1/INF/15), it appeared that relatively few Quick Start Programme trust fund applications from the Asia-Pacific meeting had been submitted however the positive trend of increased Government applications from the Asia-Pacific region from 3 in the first round of applications to 9 in the second was a good sign. The meeting might consider an initial discussion to identify some potential priority regional projects that could be developed as proposals for funding under the Quick Start Programme.

45. In the ensuing discussion, suggestions for possible regional projects were made including on illegal trafficking, waste minimization, alternatives, sound agricultural practices, capacity building initiatives, packaging and labelling of products (implementation of the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals) and foundation chemical management for least developed countries and small island developing states in the region. One representative, supported by another, suggested a project proposal on contaminated sites using specialized expertise. However caution was urged on undertaking projects on the same issue under different international instruments.

46. It was noted that regional projects could be funded by the Quick Start Programme trust fund but the Quick Start Programme could not undertake a project to clean up the site but can provide funding to develop an inventory of contaminated sites programme was limited to enabling activities. This meant that, for example, support could be provided for inventories and assessment of contaminated sites but not for actual remediation work.

47. The meeting noted the mentioned priority areas and agreed that suggestions for regional projects, including those from non-governmental organizations, could be placed on the SAICM website and appropriate organizations could be contacted if one of the proposals was to be developed. In addition, a statement of Pacific regional needs submitted by the Pacific Island countries and the Secretariat for the Pacific Regional Environment Programme is attached as annex III to the current report.

48. Furthermore, the Co-Chair listed several possible elements for the regional priorities in SAICM implementation, based on a submission he received from the SACEP Secretariat. These elements were: organization of sub-regional meetings to prioritize the sub-regional issues and prepare sub-regional action plans to implement SAICM; assistance to member countries in building their capacity on chemical management; awareness raising on SAICM and generally chemical management at regional, sub-regional and national levels; assistance in preparing/updating national chemical profiles; strengthening of SAICM national focal points; and regional or sub-regional harmonization of chemical assessment and management. Although time was not sufficient for the meeting to elaborate on this list, the meeting took note of the contribution by SACEP.

49. The Co-Chair concluded that possible regional projects could start with an analysis of regional needs. Such analysis may include: identification of national priorities; assessment of existing capacities; review of national profiles including their elements and development process; review of laws and regulations for chemical management; review of action plans including national implementation plans under conventions; review of capacity in terms of government agencies and institutions; review of scientific and technical capacities; and consideration of the needs for further capacity building.

Capacity building for the Clearing-House Mechanism of the Convention on Biological Diversity in South Asia

As per the decision of the 10th GC of SACEP, the initial proposal has been revised with the technical assistance of Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences to incorporate the needs of the member countries such as more national trainings and assistance to develop national CHMs.

Two 4 day national training programmes for post graduate students of Sri Lanka on access to information on biological diversity related conventions were successfully completed in March 2007. There were 50 post graduate students trained in these two programmes. The program was conducted with the financial assistance of the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences and support from the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources of Sri Lanka and CBD Secretariat.

A MoU was signed with the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to jointly undertake the activities common to both organizations in the region. One of the tasks agreed under this MoU is to 'organize series of awareness, training, capacity development programmes of frontier areas of ecological science for better environment and sustainable development in the region by giving emphasis to the continuation of the capacity building programme on biodiversity CHM which SACEP already initiated'. As an initial step, two national training programmes for Bhutan and Sri Lanka on Biological Diversity CHM and biodiversity management in general were planned. The training for Bhutan was planned to be held in August 2007, but due to the ongoing sessions of the National Assembly, it had to be postponed. It will be re-arranged with the help of UNESCO in due course.

The national training for Sri Lanka was held from 28 – 30 April 2008. Thirty three participants comprising of Senior Level Government Officials participated at the 3 day Non Residential Training Programme. The programme was funded by UNESCO and UNEP-GEF Project for Building Capacity for Effective Participation in the Bio-safety Clearing House of the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, Government of Sri Lanka. There were three international resources persons from UNEP and four local resource persons who contributed to the programme. The topics included in the training programme were; Introduction to biological diversity: Convention on Biological Diversity and importance of its CHM, Biodiversity Clearing House Mechanism (CHM), Introduction to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (CPB), Bio-safety, Bio-technology, and Cartagena Protocol and Technology Transfer: present status, Introduction to the BCH, & Benefits and Obligations of the Country, Introduction to Interactive Modules, Information Requirements for the BCH, Surfing the BCH Central Portal, Finding Information on the BCH Central Portal, Hands-On Exercises No. 1 & 2 (Finding Information on the BCH Central Portal), Registering BCH Information, Biodiversity and Bio-safety CHMs and the

private sector: importance for the private sector, *and* Information exchange in Crop Wild Relatives. Addl. Secretary of the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, Director General, SACEP, Programme Specialists and other representatives from UNESCO, UNEP-GEF, and Secretary General of Sri Lanka National Commission of UNESCO attended the inauguration of the programme. Secretary of the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, Government of Sri Lanka was the Chief Guest at the closing ceremony which was held on 30th afternoon.

Similar programmes are also being planned for the other member countries.

A two day international workshop on “Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Reserve: an ecological model for biodiversity conservation, livelihood and sustainability” was conducted collaboration with UNESCO and National Biodiversity Authority of India from 20 to 21 September 2007 in Chennai. This programme was inaugurated by Mr. S. Ragupathi, Hon’ Minister of State for Environment and Forests, Government of India. Ms. Minja Yang, Director, UNESCO, New Delhi, Prof. S. Kannaiya, Chairman, NBA, India and Dr. A.A. Boaz, DG, SACEP were also present at the inauguration.

“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**

PROJECT PROPOSAL

INTRODUCTION

Background

This project proposal proposes 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 transboundary scope and significance. At the seventh 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 directly 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

All countries of South Asia have become parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity. Up to now, India is the only country with a national CHM website in South Asia. None of the other South Asian Countries developed their national CHMs yet. However, there are a range of important biodiversity and environment-related web resources throughout the region.

With understanding the needs of the member countries, SACEP initiated a process to develop a project proposal with the support of Royal Belgian CHM Focal Point. Subsequently, the proposal was adopted by the 10th Governing Council of SACEP where environmental ministers of all member countries are members held on January 2007 at Kathmandu, Nepal.

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 sustainable use biodiversity. Whenever possible and in order to avoid the multiplication of efforts, links should be made to other existing national websites and networks with relevant information.
- Assist to develop national CHMs of member countries
- 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.

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 workshop* – 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 back to back with a national workshop)
- *Organisation of national workshops* – A first 2 day national workshop will be organized in each country to promote the use of the CHM in the countries.
- *Organisation of national training workshops* – In each country that has not as yet a national CHM a training workshop should be organised to ensure that participants to the national CHM network can add information to the national CHM. This training workshop will be a follow up to the first national workshop.
- *Designing and development of national CHMs* – The designing of the national CHMs will be done with the full participation of national CHM focal points. People who received training will assigned to develop respective national CHMs.
- *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 as at least one country is already having its national CHM. 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

The governments will be directly involved in the every steps of the project from planning to implementation.

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) and IUCN's Regional Biodiversity Program.

Funding Agency

A detailed budget is attached in Annex III of the proposal. 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 IMPLEMENTATION

A detail timeframe for project implementation is given in Annex II of the proposal.

National Links

Bangladesh

1. **Sustainable Development Network Programme** – Bangladesh: <http://www.sdnbd.org/>
2. **Department of Environment:** <http://www.doe-bd.org/>
3. **Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies:** <http://www.bcas.net/>
Interdependent, non-profit, non government, policy, research and implementation institute working on sustainable development at local, national, regional and global levels
4. **Conservation of biodiversity, Marine Park Establishment and Ecotourism development project at St Martins Island:** <http://www.stmartinsbd.org/>
5. **Bangladesh Environment Network:** <http://www.ben-center.org/>

Bhutan

1. **World Wildlife Fund-** Bhutan: <http://www.wwfbhutan.org.bt/>
2. **Bhutan Trust Fund for Environmental Conservation:** <http://www.bhutantrustfund.org/>
collaborative venture between the Royal Government of Bhutan, United Nations Development Program, and World Wildlife Fund. An endowment of US\$20 million was set up as an innovative mechanism to finance conservation programs over the long term in Bhutan.
3. **National Environment Commission:** <http://www.nec.gov.bt/>
The NEC serves as an environmental adviser to the government on matters related to sustainable development
4. **Royal Society for Protection of Nature:** <http://www.rspn-bhutan.org/>
RSPN was founded as a citizen based non-profit environment organization in 1987 and in 1997 the organization gained a legal-status of a non-profit NGO, under the company act of Bhutan.

India

1. **Ministry of Forestry and Environment, Government of India:** <http://envfor.nic.in/welcome.html>
2. **Environmental Information System (ENVIS):** <http://www.envis.nic.in/>

A website developed with the assistance of the World Bank to give an impetus to local, national and world environmental information.

3. **Department of Biotechnology:** <http://www.dbtindia.org/>:
Initiated in 1986, under the Ministry of Science and Technology.
4. **Sustainable Development – A gateway:** <http://sdnp.delhi.nic.in/>
A site developed during UNDP sponsored Sustainable Development Networking Programme - India. It is now being maintained by the ENVIS Secretariat, Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India, New Delhi, under the Environmental Management Capacity Building Technical Assistance Project
5. **Indian Institute of Forest Management** - <http://www.iifm.org/html>:
A sectoral management institute, which constantly endeavors to evolve knowledge useful for the managers in the area of Forest, Environment and Natural Resources Management and allied sectors. It is a registered society under Societies Registration Act at Bhopal. The Honorable Minister for Forests and Environment, Government of India is the President of the society
6. **Central Zoo Authority** - <http://www.cza.nic.in/> - A Statutory body under the Ministry of Forestry and Environment, created under the Wildlife (Protection) Act.
7. **Reef India** - <http://www.reefindia.org/aboutus.html> : This site, designed and hosted by the National Institute of Oceanography, is the gateway for coral reef research in India.
8. **Project Tiger-** <http://projecttiger.nic.in/>: The project aims at tiger conservation in specially constituted 'tiger reserves', which are representative of various bio-geographical regions falling within India.
9. **State Forest Departments**
 - a. **Tamil Nadu Forest Department:**
<http://www.forests.tn.nic.in/>: The Tamil Nadu Forest department is the custodian of 22,865 sq. kms. of forest land in the state of Tamil Nadu.
 - b. **Department of Environment, Government of Tamil Nadu:**
<http://www.environment.tn.nic.in/ENVIS.htm>
 - c. **Wildlife wing, Directorate of Wildlife, Govt. of West Bengal**
<http://www.westbengal.com/wildlife/>
 - d. **Arunachal Pradesh Forest Department :**
<http://arunachalpradesh.nic.in/bio.htm>
 - e. **Goa Forest Department:** <http://www.goaforest.com/>
 - f. **Gujarat Forest Department:** <http://gujaratforest.gov.in/>
 - g. **Himachal Pradesh Forest Department:**
<http://www.hpforest.nic.in/>

- h. **Chhattisgarh Forest Department:** <http://cgforest.nic.in/>
 - i. **Madhya Pradesh Forest Department:**
<http://www.forest.mp.gov.in/>
 - j. **Uttar Pradesh Forest Department:** <http://forest.up.nic.in/>
 - k. **Andhra Pradesh Forest Department:** <http://forest.ap.nic.in/>
 - l. **Karnataka Forest Department:**
<http://karnatakaforest.gov.in/English/index.html>
 - m. **Rajasthan Forest Department:** <http://rajforest.nic.in/>
10. **Wildlife Trust of India:** <http://www.wildlifetrustofindia.org/->
was formed in November 1998 in response to the rapidly deteriorating condition of wildlife in India. WTI is a registered charity in India (under Section 12A of the Income Tax Act, 1961). It has as its express purpose the provision of rapid aid to wildlife in times of crisis.
11. **World Wildlife Fund- India:** <http://www.wwfindia.org/>
The promotion of nature conservation and environmental protection as the basis for sustainable and equitable development."
12. **Chilika Lake Development Authority (CDA):**
<http://www.chilika.com/>
CDA is mandated to protect the Lagoon ecosystem, which is an important Ramsar site in India.
13. **Salim Ali centre for Ornithology and Natural History (SACON)** is one of the Centres for excellence of the Ministry of Environment and Forest ([MOEn&F](#)) Govt. of India:
<http://www.wetlandsofindia.org/aboutus.htm>
14. **Bombay Natural History Society:** The Bombay Natural History Society is today the largest non-government organisation (NGO) in the Indian sub-continent engaged in nature conservation research. In the 120 years of its existence, its commitment has been, and continues to be, the conservation of India's natural wealth, protection of the environment and sustainable use of natural resources for a balanced and healthy development for future generations.
<http://www.bnhs.org/>
15. **Sanctuary Asia:** Sanctuary Asia, India's leading wildlife, conservation and environment magazine and aims to communicate the rationale for wildlife conservation and environmental protection. Our focus is the Indian subcontinent and Asia, but our horizon spans the globe. Sanctuary is a privately-owned, self-supporting venture and does not accept any donations. Its funding sources are advertisements, subscriptions and content provision.
<http://www.sanctuaryasia.com/>

16. **Indira Gandhi Conservation Monitoring Centre (IGCMC)-**
<http://www.wcmc.org.uk/igcmc/> - With the full support of the Government of India, the Indira Gandhi Conservation Monitoring Centre (IGCMC) has been established as a major national facility by WWF-India. The aim of the Centre is to support conservation and sustainable development by providing information to government agencies and NGOs, thereby assisting in the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity.
17. **Nature Conservation Foundation-** <http://www.ncf-india.org/> : Non-profitable organization devoted to scientific study and action for conservation of India's wildlife and natural ecosystems.
18. **Indian Environment online:**
<http://indianenvironmentonline.net/default.asp>
19. **Coastal and Marine Biodiversity , East coast of India:**
<http://www.indiancoastalmarinebiodiversity.org/>: A web-based database on the coastal and marine biodiversity of the east coast of India as a part of the all India co-ordinated project on coastal and marine biodiversity, operated in the Centre of Advanced Study in Marine Biology, Annamalai University

Nepal

1. **Ministry of Population and Environment**
2. **Environment Nepal :**
<http://www.environmentnepal.com/default.asp>: NGO in Nepal addressing environmental issues
3. **The King Mahendra Trust for Nature Conservation (KMTNC):**
<http://www.panasia.org.sg/nepalnet/kmtnc/index.html>. Established in 1982 by a Legislative Act, mandated as an autonomous, non-profit and non-governmental organization, to work in the field of nature conservation
4. **International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD):** <http://www.icimod.org.np/>; The primary objectives of the Centre is to promote the development of an economically and environmentally sound mountain ecosystem and to improve the living standards of mountain populations, especially in the HKH Region. In pursuing its mandate, ICIMOD works mainly at the interface between research and development and acts as a facilitator for generating new mountain-specific knowledge of relevance to mountain development.
5. **National Biodiversity Unit of Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation:** <http://www.biodiv-nepal.gov.np/>: Facilitate and implement the CBD under the guidance of the National Biodiversity Steering Committee.
6. **Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation:**
<http://www.dnpwc.gov.np/>

7. **IUCN- Nepal** : <http://www.iucnnepal.org/>

Pakistan

1. **Biodiversity Action Plan of Pakistan** : <http://www.macp-pk.org/bap.pdf>
2. **Environment Protection Agency of Pakistan**:
<http://www.pakepa.org/>
3. **Ministry of Environment**:
<http://www.pakistan.gov.pk/environment-ministry/>
4. **Green Library- EPA** : <http://www.environment.gov.pk/>: Green Library has technical material on Air, water and soil pollution. The basic theme to support the research programme of Pak-EPA by making available the latest environmental literature and research information its Central Laboratory for Environmental Analysis (CLEAN). And also a resource center for Ministry of Environment, Pakistan.
5. **Mountain Area Conservation Project**: <http://www.macp-pk.org/>: The goal of MACP is to protect biodiversity and ensure its sustainable use in Pakistan's Karakorum, Hindu Kush, and Western Himalayas mountain ranges through community-based conservation approach. The project is funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the United Nations Development Program, and the Government of Pakistan (GoP), the total budget being \$10.35M for 7 years.
6. **Wildlife of Pakistan**: <http://www.wildlifeofpakistan.com/>
7. **Environmental Protection Department- Punjab**:
<http://www.punjab.gov.pk/epa/>
8. **IUCN- Sindh Programme** : <http://www.sindh.iucnp.org/>
9. **WWF-Pakistan** : <http://www.wwfpak.org/> and
<http://wwfpak.org/v2/index.htm>

Sri Lanka

1. **Department of Wildlife Conservation**,: <http://www.dwlc.lk/>
2. **Wildlife Heritage Trust of Sri Lanka**: <http://www.wht.org/index.htm>
Non-profit organization dedicated to the scientific exploration and documentation of Sri Lanka's biodiversity. Established in 1989
3. **National Science Foundation, Sri Lanka**: <http://www.nsf.ac.lk/>
4. **Sri Lanka Wildlife Conservation Society**:
<http://www.slwcs.org/index.html>
It is the first organization to be established outside Sri Lanka for the sole purpose of helping to conserve and preserve the dwindling biodiversity of Sri Lanka. The society is a non-profit, tax exempt organization based in the U.S.A., dedicated to the conservation and

preservation of the important and endangered flora and fauna of Sri Lanka.

Other Links in the Region

Turtles

1. **IOSEA Marine Turtles:** <http://www.ioseaturtles.org/>
Website of the Indian Ocean – South-East Asian Marine Turtle Memorandum of Understanding (IOSEA MoU). The site aims to facilitate and promote the exchange of information needed to conserve marine turtles and the habitats on which they depend, throughout the countries of the Indian Ocean and South-East Asia.
2. **Operation Kachhapa :** <http://www.kachhapa.org/>
A site serving as a node for information and activity on sea turtle conservation and management in south Asia and the Indian Ocean

Birds

1. **Bird life International :** A global alliance of conservation organizations working together for people, bird, and other wildlife: Included within the Asia partnership are India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. <http://www.birdlife.net/index.html>

General

1. **Surf South and West Asia :** <http://www.surfsouthasia.org/>: A site designed to assist people associated with or interested in UNDP and its activities in South Asia sub-region.
2. **IUCN Regional Biodiversity Programme – Asia:** <http://www.rbp-iucn.lk/index.html>:
Established in 1996, the IUCN Regional Biodiversity Programme, Asia aims to help countries in the region effectively implement the provisions of Convention on Biological Diversity(CBD) in addition to supporting national and regional initiatives on securing community and household livelihood securities

International Organizations working in the region

1. **Ramsar site Database services:** provides information on wetlands designated as internationally important under the Ramsar Convention of 1971. <http://www.wetlands.org/RSDB/default.htm>
2. **Rain Forest Rescue International:** To promote the conservation of tropical rainforest in a manner that will lead to long lasting social, economical and environmental benefits to the people of the Tropical

Rainforests by undertaking appropriate environmental action on matters including: research; education; certification and development of natural products and markets.

<http://www.rain4est.org/>

3. **Asian Bio-net:** The official website of the FAO regional office for Asia Pacific project on capacity building on Biosafety of GM crops in Asia.
<http://asiabionet.org/index.htm>
4. **Millennium Ecosystem Assessment:**
<http://www.millenniumassessment.org/en/index.aspx>
The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA) is an international work program designed to meet the needs of decision makers and the public for scientific information concerning the consequences of ecosystem change for human well-being and options for responding to those changes. The MA was launched by U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan in June 2001 and it will help to meet assessment needs of the Convention on Biological Diversity, Convention to Combat Desertification, the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, and the Convention on Migratory Species, as well as needs of other users in the private sector and civil society.
5. **Genetic Resources Action International (GRAIN):**
<http://www.grain.org/>
Genetic Resources Action International (GRAIN) is an international non-governmental organisation which promotes the sustainable management and use of agricultural biodiversity based on people's control over genetic resources and local knowledge.
6. **Reefbase:** <http://www.reefbase.org/>: A global information system on coral reefs
7. **Reefnet:** <http://www.reefnet.org/>: Internet information service designed to increase the understanding of coral reef ecosystems worldwide.
8. **Reef relief :** <http://www.reefrelief.org/>: Non-profit membership organization, dedicated to preserve and protecting living coral reef ecosystems through local regional and global efforts
9. **Wetland International:** <http://www.wetlands.org/>
It is a leading global non-profit organisation dedicated solely to the crucial work of wetland conservation and sustainable management
10. **Wildlife Management International -**
<http://www.wmi.com.au/> : a widely established company with over 30 years of experience in wildlife research, population biology, ecology, conservation and sustainable use of crocodiles and other animals.

11. **The Global Invasive Species Programme (GIS) :**

<http://www.gisp.org/>

GIS Programme, was established in 1997 to address global threats caused by Invasive Alien Species (IAS), and to provide support to the implementation of Article 8(h) of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the CBD.

Training

1. The 6- month Training Programme on Biological Diversity organized in cooperation between UNU Centre and the University of Ghent offers professionals in the fields of monitoring, conservation and management of biological diversity in developing countries in-depth training to broaden their theoretical knowledge and practical capabilities. More information:

<http://allserv.rug.ac.be/~peewee/welcome.html>

Annex II

Timeframe for project implementation

Activity	Year 1				Year 2				Year 3			
	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
Assessment												
Networking Workshop								Reg Meeting				Reg Meeting
Capacity building												During Reg Meeting
National workshops			Nat CHM			Nat CHM						
Follow-up in country												
Follow-up trainees (helpdesk)												
Design and development of Nat. CHMs												
Design of regional CHM												
Development of regional CHM												
Evaluation of the nat. & reg CHM												During Reg Meeting

UNESCO-SACEP Cooperation Agreement



**United Nations Educational,
Scientific and Cultural
Organization
UNESCO New Delhi, India**



**South Asia Cooperative
Environment Programme
SACEP Colombo, Sri Lanka**

UNESCO-SACEP Cooperation Agreement (USCA)

This Cooperation Agreement dated 21 March 2007, is made between United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural organization- UNESCO New Delhi, India (hereinafter referred to as UNESCO New Delhi) and South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme-SACEP Colombo, Sri Lanka (hereinafter referred to as SACEP). UNESCO New Delhi and SACEP Colombo will herein be referred to individually as a "Party" and collectively as "Parties".

UNESCO is a specialized United Nations agency, functions as a laboratory of ideas and a standard-setter to forge universal agreements on emerging ethical issues. UNESCO New Delhi, the first decentralized Office in Asia was established in 1948 and is presently designated as a Cluster Office for South Asia and is a platform for delivery of activities in all areas of UNESCO's competence, namely, education, the natural and social sciences, culture, communication and information. It undertakes variety of environment programmes aimed to improve human security through a better management of the environment and with a view to faster sustainable development.

SACEP is an Inter governmental organization, primarily focusing on environmental issues of South Asia. SACEP was set up in 1982 by the governments of South Asia, to promote and support protection, management and enhancement of the environment in the region and to promote regional co-operation in the field of environment, both natural and human in the context of sustainable development. Since its creation, SACEP has implemented a number of projects and programmes in the areas of environment education, environment legislation, biodiversity, air pollution, and the protection and management of the coastal environment. SACEP is also the Secretariat for the South Asian Seas Programme.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The two organizations in recognition of their respective mandate and common objectives, resolve to work together, so as to synergise efforts at the regional level to jointly address environment and development challenges common to the countries of the region.

Article-I

Recognizing the need to develop partnership and synergy in the region in the field of environment and related areas, the two parties hereby agree to:

1. Contribute to sustainable human development and create conditions for dialogue, based upon respect for commonly shared values and the dignity of each civilization and culture, through programmes and projects in their fields of competence;
2. Work closely to develop and reinforce their respective competencies and strengths through a range of partnerships, alliances and other cooperative mechanisms in the region, so as to foster impact of their programme at both regional and national levels;
3. Promote cooperative activities in priority areas of environment of mutual concern;
4. Ensure that these activities are beneficial individually and collectively to the member States of the region;
5. Extend support as needed through exchange of knowledge and expertise available among the member countries;
6. Provide local resources towards implementation of projects and activities; and
7. Maximize the impact of support received from donor countries and other sources;

Article –II

It is being agreed that both the parties will jointly take up the following tasks:

1. Develop extensive networking strategies for the benefit of the environment in the region and disseminate case examples of innovations and augmentation of cleaner and ecologically sound development approaches;
2. Organize series of awareness, training, capacity development programmes in frontier areas of ecological sciences for better environment and sustainable development in the region. Emphasis will be given to the continuation of the capacity building programme on Biodiversity Clearing House Mechanism which SACEP already initiated with the assistance of Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences;
3. Develop frameworks of action to identify opportunities for sharing and strengthening the knowledge and innovation based on already ongoing eco-networking and network of biosphere reserves and world heritage sites;
4. Develop joint proposals for accessing funding from diverse funding sources for taking region specific projects and programmes;
5. Prepare working papers and reports focusing on aspects of preventive environmental management including preparedness to effectively respond to the frameworks of multilateral agreements;

6. Facilitate access of expertise from other relevant agencies, apart from providing its own technical resources in areas of capacity building;
7. Launch pilot environment improvement and biodiversity conservation projects in the region. Emphasis will be given to the establishment of trans-boundary protected areas/peace parks;
8. Develop capacity of students, teachers and professionals in ecological sciences through academic exchanges, internships, distance learning programmes and through designating knowledge centres in the region;
9. Develop programmes for eco-rehabilitation in fragile ecosystems, marine, wetlands, drylands and mountains;
10. Initiate programmes using cultural diversity of the region for the conservation of biological diversity;

Article-III

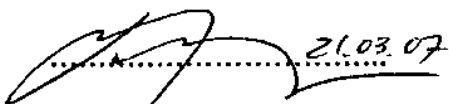
Both the parties are free to use the outcome of projects and other networking information and shall mention about the collaborative effort appropriately.

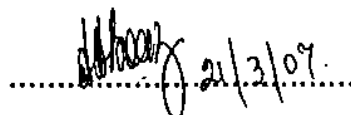
Article-IV

An Advisory Committee consisting of Director General, SACEP and Programme specialist, Ecological Sciences, UNESCO New Delhi with relevant agencies and experts of the region will be constituted to guide on the directions and programme of activities. The Committee will meet annually at a mutually decided location and also interact through other means of communication on a regular basis as and when required.

Article-V

This agreement is presently for a period of five years from the date of signing; extendable by mutual consent. If however, either party would like to modify or terminate this arrangement, it could be done through mutual discussions between the parties, at any point of time, giving a reasonable notice to the other.


Minja Yang
Representative and Director
Signed on behalf of UNESCO


Arvind A. Boaz
Director General
Signed on behalf of SACEP

Place: New Delhi

Date: 21 March, 2007

Establishment of Basel Convention Regional Centre for South Asia

South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP), with the help of its member countries was able to get the decision at the CoP8 of the Basel Convention to establish a Basel Convention Regional Centre for South Asia at the SACEP Secretariat.

The 10th Governing Council of SACEP agreed for the SACEP Secretariat, Colombo, Sri Lanka to host the Basel Convention Regional Centre for South Asia.

As per the CoP decision VIII/3 of the Basel Convention, SACEP prepared a detailed proposal (Annex I) and a report of the feasibility study (Annex II) and submitted to the Open-ended Working Group (OEWG) of the Basel Convention at its sixth meeting held from 3 to 7 September 2007. As the Government of India acceded the request of the SACEP at the 10th GC to deputize its experts on various fields on specific requests by SACEP to better programme establishment, the Ministry of Environment and Forest, Government of India was kind enough to provide the services of its expert to prepare the two documents.

It was discussed at the OEWG meeting and the many countries including SACEP member countries as well as European Union supported to the proposal. Government of Russia kept the reservation saying that there are many BCRCs already established. SACEP countered the argument and said that South Asia has its unique problems of managing hazardous waste and the region is having one fifth of world's population. BCRC at Iran also raised some concerns regarding the participating countries.

The OEWG of the Basel Convention at its 6th meeting agreed to review both the detailed proposal and the feasibility study report and put up to the CoP9 of the Basel Convention which will be held on June 2008 for its consideration. (Annex III)

After the OEWG meeting, SACEP have communicated with the concerned parties who raised some concerns at the OEWG meeting and received replies from two BCRCs, Indonesia (Annex IV) and Iran (Annex V).

It is requested that the 11th meeting of the Governing⁷ Council of SACEP adopt the following decision on establishment of Basel Convention Regional Centre for South Asia at the SACEP Secretariat, Colombo, Sri Lanka.

“We the members of the 11th meeting of the Governing Council of SACEP and the Environment Ministers of the South Asian countries fully support to the establishment Basel Convention Regional Centre for South Asia at the SACEP Secretariat, Colombo, Sri Lanka and decided that all South Asian countries will be members of this Centre at SACEP as decided by the 10th Meeting of the Governing Council.”

**PROPOSAL
FOR
ESTABLISHMENT OF THE BASEL CONVENTION REGIONAL CENTRE
FOR SOUTH ASIA
AT THE
SOUTH ASIA CO-OPERATIVE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME (SACEP)
COLOMBO, SRI LANKA**

Submitted by



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PROPOSAL FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF THE BASEL CONVENTION REGIONAL CENTRE FOR SOUTH ASIA AT THE SOUTH ASIA CO-OPERATIVE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME (SACEP), COLOMBO, SRI LANKA

1. BACKGROUND

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) sponsored a Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, which was unanimously adopted in Basel, Switzerland by 126 Governments on 22nd March, 1989. The Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal was ratified by 35 countries by 5 May 1992 entering into force. At present 170 Parties have ratified the Convention. The main objective of the Basel Convention is to regulate the transboundary movement of hazardous wastes and to minimize the generation of such wastes thus reducing its harmful impact on human health and environment.

Article 14 of the Convention provides for setting up of the Regional or Sub-regional Centres for Training and Technology Transfer on the management of hazardous wastes and minimization in their generation. These Centres are intended to cater to the specific needs of the regions for the implementation of the provisions of the Basel Convention. The mechanisms for setting up of the Regional Centres were discussed from the First Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP). A number of Basel Convention Regional Centres were planned to be located in various regions of the world and many countries expressed their interest in hosting the Regional Centres. Decision III/19 of the Third Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP3) to the Basel Convention identified the host countries for establishment of the Regional Centres. So far 14 Regional and Sub-regional Centres have been established (Annex-1).

2. THE PROPOSAL

South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP) expressed its interest to the Secretariat of the Basel Convention (SBC) to host the Regional Centre for the region comprising the countries of South Asia under Article 14 of the Basel Convention in June 2005. Subsequently, discussions were held between SACEP and the SBC on the requirements to setup the

Regional Centre. SBC, then, requested the SACEP obtain the consent of the member countries and formulate a proposal for the setting up of the BCRC.

After obtaining the consent of the member countries, SACEP placed a proposal for establishing the Regional Centre for South Asia at SACEP, Colombo, Sri Lanka to the Eighth Meeting of the Conference Of the Parties to the Basel Convention (COP8) in November/December 2006. The COP 8 by its Decision VIII/3 has requested SACEP to submit a detailed proposal and the report on the feasibility study carried out for the region to the Open Ended Working Group in its Sixth Meeting (OEWG 6).

2.1 JUSTIFICATION

SACEP proposes to setup the BCRC as an Intergovernmental Agency. The Centre hosted by SACEP shall cater to the requirements of all the member countries in the Region.

A needs assessment study has been carried out for the member countries based on the meetings and discussions with the representatives of the government of member countries and the information provided by them. The study findings revealed that there was a need for imparting training and facilitating technology transfer for Environmentally Sound Technologies in the areas of hazardous waste management and minimization. (Annex-2)

SACEP proposed to the COP 8 of the Basel Convention 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.

The COP Mandated 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 SACEP based on the feasibility study for the establishment of the centre and consulting the relevant parties. (Annex-3)

During the Tenth Meeting of the Governing Council of SACEP held in January 2007 the member countries of the region agreed to the proposal to establish a regional centre in the intergovernmental institution of the South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme in Colombo, Sri Lanka. (Annex-4)

2.2 THE HOST

South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP) is an inter-governmental organization, established in 1982 by the governments of South Asia namely: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. It is a multilateral organization registered with the UN Secretariat in accordance with article 102 of the charter of the United Nations (Annex-5). Its mission is to promote and support protection, management and enhancement of the environment in the region. The Secretariat is based in Colombo, Sri Lanka. Colombo Declaration and Articles of Association of SACEP constitute the legal basis for SACEP. The principle organs of the governance structure (organization structure) of SACEP are the Governing Council (GC), Consultative Committee (CC), National Focal Points (NFP), Subject Area Focal Points and the SACEP Secretariat.

The Governing Council (GC) is the principal deliberative and review body responsible for determining policies, strategies and programmes. It is represented at the ministerial level and periodically meets to take decisions of strategic significance. The consultative committee is responsible for facilitating implementation of policies, strategies and programmes determined by the governing council and it consists of representatives of diplomatic missions of member countries residing in Colombo.

Since its creation, SACEP has implemented a number of regional projects and programmes in the areas of environment education, environment legislation, biodiversity, air pollution, and the protection and management of the coastal environment. SACEP is hosting the South Asian Seas Programme which is one of the eighteen regional seas programmes of the UNEP. The Malé Declaration on control and prevention of air pollution and its likely transboundary effects for South Asia is another significant effort which encourages intergovernmental cooperation to combat the transboundary air pollution problem. SACEP has long term experience of working in collaboratively with several multilateral and bilateral agencies and number of MoUs signed with organizations viz. UNEP, WMO, UNESCO, IUCN, IMO, ICRAN, UNEP-GPA, SAARC, TRAFFIC, RECOFTC, TRADA, etc.

SACEP has already an established institutional structure and this will be an advantage to establish the proposed Basel Convention Regional Centre for Training and Technology transfer at SACEP, Colombo, Sri Lanka.

2.3 OBJECTIVES

The main objectives of establishing BCRC in SACEP are:

- ◆ To establish a functional and effective Basel Convention Regional Centre for Training and Technology Transfer in the area of Hazardous Waste Management in SACEP under Article 14 of the Basel Convention.
- ◆ To provide services to the countries of the SAARC Region.
- ◆ To strengthen the institutional capacity of the countries in the region to address the national and global environmental issues pertaining to handling of hazardous waste.
- ◆ To provide linkages with SBC and other Regional and Sub-regional Centres.
- ◆ To Coordinate and cooperate with other related Multi-lateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) to establish synergies in the region.
- ◆ To facilitate in tracking the transboundary movement of hazardous wastes within the region.

2.4 LEGAL STATUS

In accordance with Option A of the Draft Framework Agreement for the Basel Convention Regional Centres to be established as an Intergovernmental Agency with a Regional Role, it is proposed to set up the Basel Convention Regional Centre for the South Asia Region in SACEP, Colombo, Sri Lanka.

2.5 ACTIVITIES

The activities of the BCRC envisaged under the following major heads and shall be executed in accordance with the work Plan and schedule presented in Table 2.

2.5.1 Establishment of BCRC

The objective of this component is to physically establish the BCRC vide **CODE-2100**.

- A needs analysis for establishment of Regional Centre has already been completed highlighting the requirements of all the participating countries. (Recommendations at Annex-2)

- Proposal for establishing the Basel Convention Regional Centre is being submitted to Secretariat of the Basel Convention (SBC).
- Establishment of the Basel Convention Regional Centre at SACEP has already been conveyed in decision VIII/3 of the Eighth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP-8).
- The BCRC, SACEP to be officially established as a legal entity under the SACEP, Colombo, Sri Lanka.
- Launching of the BCRC through a regional meeting/seminar and signing of the MoU with all the participating countries.
- A business plans to be prepared for assessing the requirement of BCRC services and funding mechanisms to sustain the activities of BCRC.

2.5.2 Constitution of Advisory Committee

An Advisory Committee will be established for providing guidance on the formulation of the work programs and on other technical matters concerning the operation of the BCRC. The committee shall comprise of the following members:

- Director General of SACEP,
- Director/Coordinator of BCRC,
- Representatives of participating countries on rotation basis:
 - 2 from Ministry of Environment
 - 2 from Department of Customs
 - 2 from Regional Industry Associations,
 - 2 from NGOs
- one representative from other Regional Centres (rotating basis) and
- One representative from Secretariat of the Basel Convention.

The Committee shall meet at least once a year and shall be convened by the Director/Coordinator of the BCRC. The Chair of the Advisory Committee shall be elected by the Committee itself at each meeting.

2.5.3 Training Programs, Seminars and Workshops on hazardous wastes management and minimization - Code - 2200.

One of the major activities of the Basel Convention Regional Centre is to organize training courses, seminars and workshops on environmentally sound management for hazardous waste for effective implementation of the Basel Convention. The Main objective is to impart effective programmes according to the requirements of the Region and to cater to the Government, Private

Sector, Academia, Industry, NGO and other stakeholders in the South Asia region.

- A needs assessment has to be done to determine and establish the priorities (Annex 2).
- Major hazardous waste generators within the region include the petrochemical, pharmaceutical, pesticide, pulp and paper, paint and dye, petroleum, fertilizer, asbestos, caustic soda, inorganic chemicals and general engineering sectors and others.
- The Technical and non-technical key issues on hazardous waste, which have to be addressed in the training course, seminars and workshops are given at Annex-6.
- Subjects for the Seminar and Training Course to be selected based on the requirements of the countries in the region expressed by them from time to time.
- The target group for training courses, seminars and workshops would comprise of Government, Private Sector, Academia and other stakeholders and will be trained in accordance to the requirements of the Basel Convention.
- Trainers and resource persons will be identified from both within the region and outside the region including the international experts.
- The trainers and resource persons will design the training manuals and documents and deliver the training courses, seminars and workshops, etc.
- A mechanism for evolving training of trainers should be worked out in order to spread the activities within the region.
- Continuous evaluation and review of these programs will be necessary for taking follow up actions to improve the programs.

2.5.4 Database and Exchange of Information on HWM techniques and technologies

The objective is to identify, collect, promote, disseminate and exchange information on hazardous waste management techniques and waste minimization technologies and information from within the South Asian region and other regions. Availability of information from a database on all aspects of hazardous waste is considered essential for implementation of the Basel Convention.

- The database shall include technologies relating to hazardous waste management, information on training courses, research and development issues with regard to hazardous waste and successful case studies of

implemented projects within the region.

- Data-base on institutions, consultants and experts in the area of hazardous waste management shall be developed.
- The target user group for database management shall comprise of technology users such as industries, government planners, policy makers and project developers and intermediaries who assist technology users with needs assessment, database searches, analysis and assessment of technological options.
- The activities under this component will include the following:
 - (a) Setting up Hardware and Software
 - (b) Web designing, launching and updating
 - (c) Database development relating to hazardous waste management, information on technologies and techniques, training courses, research and development issues and case studies and updation.
 - (d) Networking and information exchange with other relevant agencies

2.5.5 Marketing

The main objective is to devise an effective marketing mechanism for database and other services.

- (a) Incorporating Tech services & updating
- (b) Propagating the database and information service to relevant parties
- (c) Marketing of advisory services

2.5.6 Advisory/Consulting Services

The objective is to render advisory / consulting services on hazardous waste management to the parties, in the region to deal with problems related to hazardous wastes.

- The type of advisory services may be as follows:
 - (a) Provision of customized information for requesting Parties on technologies, experts, demonstration facilities and institutions.
 - (b) Provision of consultancy on hazardous waste management.
 - (c) Facilitating assistance in finance syndication, feasibility studies and contract negotiation.
 - (d) Inter-linking requests with relevant agencies and information services in the field of hazardous waste management in the region.
 - (e) Facilitate technology transfer

- A portfolio for advisory services to be rendered is to be established and a roster of available and accessible experts, in the areas will be maintained.
- Aggressive marketing would be necessary to promote the advisory services of the Regional Centre.

2.6 EXPECTED OUTCOME

The desired outcome is to have fully functional, self-sustaining and efficiently operating BCRC for Hazardous Waste Management and Technology Transfer in the region hosted by SACEP and serving the member countries. It will also provide a means for collaboration and cooperation between the member countries of SACEP and facilitate to draw resources from other BCRCs.

3. MANAGEMENT

3.1 MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

The establishment and administration of the BCRC shall be the responsibility of SACEP. The duration of the initial phase of the programme shall be for a period of five years from 2008 to 2012.

As the BCRC is a part of the Basel Convention system and will report to the Secretariat for the Basel Convention (SBC) in Geneva, an agreement shall be signed between SACEP and SBC.

The Centre will be established under SACEP. The core staff shall consist of a Director with supporting office staff. Additional help will be provided by SACEP technical and administrative staff and by engaging consultants on a short-term basis.

An Advisory Committee will be constituted for providing guidance on the formulation of the work programs and other technical and financial matters concerning the operation of the BCRC.

The project will be managed through an approved Five-Year Work Program supplemented by detailed Annual Work Plans. The first year annual work plan will include detailed work plan and budget for the period from the signing of the Agreement till 31 December 2008. Annual work plans shall be developed

for each additional year till the end of the five year period.

3.2 ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

3.2.1 South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP)

SACEP being the host organization for the BCRC for South Asia will provide the BCRC the status of a UN organization and will provide it necessary organizational support.

As the Executing Agency of the Programme, SACEP will be responsible for achieving the objectives based on the guidelines issued for the Basel Convention Regional Centres. SACEP will help BCRC in training and technology transfer, technical assistance and advisory services on hazardous waste issues, information exchange, and promotion of awareness, carrying out need analysis, promotion of cleaner production and waste minimization and establishment of networks in the region, etc. SACEP will provide all necessary help to BCRC to:

- Organize meetings (advisory committee and others), seminar, workshops, and training programs.
- Provide stakeholders technical advice and guidance for specific technology transfers.
- Provide assistance to set up database and international network in Asia-Pacific for environmentally sound technology transfer.
- Disseminate information.
- Ensure coordination with the focal points in member countries, other regional and sub-regional centres and Secretariat of Basel Convention
- Help to develop country wise strategic plan for the region.
- Provide institutional framework for co-ordination and implementation of programs on waste minimization, treatment, recovery, recycling and the final disposal of wastes.
- Ensure that the activities are tailored to the needs of the countries covered in the development of knowledge and awareness.
- Provide a forum to address issues pertaining to hazardous waste management and to exchange experience and develop knowledge and technical expertise.

3.2.2 Secretariat for the Basel Convention (SBC)

SBC will be responsible for signing the agreement with SACEP for the establishment of the Basel Convention Regional Centre in SACEP, Colombo, Sri Lanka and provide all guidance as necessary with respect to the successful establishment and operation of the BCRC.

3.2.3 Advisory Committee

An Advisory Committee will be established for providing guidance on the formulation of the work programs and on other technical matters concerning the operation of the BCRC. The Committee shall meet at least once a year and shall be convened by the Director/Coordinator of the BCRC. The Chair of the Advisory Committee shall be elected by the Committee itself at each meeting.

3.3 PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT

A result-based approach will be taken to establish a Logical Framework (Table-1) and a performance measurement framework in which the desired results and indicators will be deliberated. The progress of the project will be monitored and will be reported in the annual progress report, reviewed by the advisory committee.

3.4 REPORTS

Annual progress report of the activities of the BCRC should be prepared and submitted to the advisory committee and forwarded to the Governing Council of SACEP and SBC.

This report shall provide a brief accounting on the progress made in terms of accomplishments and costs of the Programme. They will include:

- (a) Status of the Programme at the end of the reporting period;
- (b) activities undertaken, in progress, or completed during the reporting period;
- (c) progress achieved towards realizing the Programme's outputs, outcomes and impact;
- (d) results achieved (with particular emphasis on outcomes) including any unanticipated achievements;
- (e) linkages, spin-offs or other benefits accrued to SACEP member

- countries;
- (f) problems (if any) anticipated and recommendations on how they might be overcome;
 - (g) an update on the status of contributions made towards BCRC by SBC, donors and member countries;
 - (h) activities planned for the next reporting period.

3.5 Annual Financial Report

This report should provide the details of fund flow describe actual expenses incurred against what was originally budgeted. The report should provide financial forecasts for the remaining period. The finances of BCRC shall be managed as per established financial and audit procedures of SACEP.

3.6. Budget

- (a) SACEP and the SBC undertake to contribute to the operations of the BCRC.
- (b) Pursuant to the relevant decisions of the parties to the Basel Convention, activities of the BCRC shall be financed through voluntary contributions and other sources of financing
- (c) SACEP will contribute US\$ 100,000 to establishment and running the centre

The schedule of activity is shown in Table 1 – Work Plan is summarized in the following paragraphs.

TABLE 1 – LOGICAL FRAMEWORK ANALYSIS

NARRATIVE SUMMARY	EXPECTED RESULTS	PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT	ASSUMPTIONS/RISK INDICATORS
<p>Goal: To strengthen the institutional capacity of South Asian countries to address such national and global environmental issues on hazardous wastes management</p> <p>Purpose: To establish a functional and effective Basel Convention Regional Centre for Hazardous Waste Management and Technology Transfer in SACEP, Colombo, Sri Lanka under the Article 14 of the Basel Convention.</p> <p>Resources: BCRC furnishings and office equipment Staff salary Technical assistance Training</p>	<p>Impact: Enhanced capacity of South Asian Countries to address issues related to Basel Convention</p> <p>Outcome: A fully functional and effective BCRC in SACEP, Colombo, Sri Lanka conforming to Article 14 of Basel Convention</p>	<p>Performance Indicators: 1. Implementation of the MEAs 2. Active participation of South Asia countries at various meetings related to hazardous waste management</p> <p>Performance Indicators: 1.1 Physical existence of BCRC in SACEP</p>	
	<p>Outputs: 1. BCRC established</p> <p>2. BCRC training programs for parties in the South Asia region</p> <p>3. BCRC database on HWM techniques and technologies utilized by parties in the South Asia region</p> <p>4. BCRC advisory services provided to the parties in the South Asia region</p>	<p>Performance Indicators: 1.1 Certificate of registration 1.2 Office established with facilities and made functional</p> <p>2.1 Number of training programs on HWM 2.2 Number and geographical spread (regional) of participants 2.3 Number of participants active in HWM in their own countries</p> <p>3.1 Computer hardware and software installed at BCRC 3.2 Number of hits on BCRC web site</p> <p>4.1 Number and type of expertise available through BCRC 4.2 Number and geographical spread of requests received by BCRC for services 4.3 Number of problems solved by BCRC</p>	<p>Assumptions/Risk Indicators</p>

Annex 8
GC 11.SACEP/NFP
Agenda Item 5.3 - Annex 1

BASEL CONVENTION REGIONAL CENTRE FOR SOUTH ASIA

4. IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE

TABLE 2 – WORK PLAN SCHEDULE

TIME SCHEDULE	2008				2009				2010				2011				2012			
	1. Qtr	2. Qtr	3. Qtr	4. Qtr	1. Qtr	2. Qtr	3. Qtr	4. Qtr	1. Qtr	2. Qtr	3. Qtr	4. Qtr	1. Qtr	2. Qtr	3. Qtr	4. Qtr	1. Qtr	2. Qtr	3. Qtr	4. Qtr
1. BCRC established	x	x																		
2. Constitution of Advisory Committee		x	x																	
3. Training programmes, seminars/workshops on hazardous waste management																				
3(a) Identifying trainers/resource persons		x	x																	
3(b) Designing training manuals & documents			x	x																
3(c) Training programmes						x		x						x				x		x
3(d) Seminars/Workshops							x								x				x	
3(e) Follow-up and review				x				x												x
4. Database and exchange of information on hazardous waste management																				
4(a) Setting up hardware and software		x	x																	
4(b) Website design launching & updating		x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
4(c) Database development & updating				x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
4(d) Networking and information exchange with other relevant bodies			x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
5. Marketing of the database through special feature in the Tech Monitor on hazardous waste management																				
5(a) Incorporating Tech services & updating					x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
5(b) Propagating the database and information service to relevant parties					x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
5(c) Marketing of Advisory Services					x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
6. Advisory Services																				
6(a) Provision of customized information					x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
6(b) Provision of consultancy on hazardous waste management					x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
6(c) Facilitating assistance in finance, syndication, feasibility studies and contract negotiations					x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
6(d) Inter-linking requests with relevant agencies					x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
6(e) Facilitate Technology Transfer					x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x

Annex-2

Recommendations of needs Assessment

1. The proposed BCRC for Hazardous Waste Management for the South Asian Region should be established under SACEP, with the aim of ultimately becoming autonomous and self-supporting.
2. The main focus of the centre should be on capacity building in the South Asian region for the implementation of the Basel Convention on Hazardous Waste Management.
3. The Centre should have the flexibility to build regional capacity for the implementation of other Multilateral Environmental Agreements such as Stockholm (POPs) and Rotterdam (PICs) conventions and facilitating in creating the synergy in the region.
4. On the basis of the needs assessment carried out for the region and the Expert Group Meeting's deliberations, and drawing upon the recommendations of the Basel Convention seminar held in Colombo in March 1999, a work plan has been drawn for five years which will be carried out by the proposed Centre, i.e. SACEP, Colombo, Sri Lanka.
5. Priority should be given to addressing common needs of the region.
6. . Priority needs identified by the needs assessment study and the Expert . Group Meeting include collection and sharing of information, conducting seminars, workshops and training sessions to build capacity for identification, characterization and classification of Hazardous Wastes, preparing inventories and conducting baseline studies.
7. Technical assistance and advice should be provided by the proposed Centre to assist in the adoption and ratification of the Basel Convention and its implementation through legislation, regulation and enforcement as appropriate for each member country.
8. Periodic updating of inventories/statistics should be carried out by each member country and the information provided to the BCRC.
9. Identification of stake holders including industries, NGOs, media, other Government departments and other agencies in each country should be carried out and made available by the proposed Centre. Strong links should be established with stake holders and their participation encouraged.
10. The proposed Centre should facilitate information sharing and dissemination on technologies, processes and methods available internationally, in the South Asia region and in other Regional Centres of Basel Convention.

11. The proposed center should create a waste exchange bank so that waste generated by one industry can be posted for possible use/recycling by other industries to promote recycling in accordance with the Basel Convention.

12. A data bank of experts of the South Asia region should be created and made available for advisory services and technical assistance, to facilitate technical exchanges among the SACEP member countries.

13. The Centre should have the freedom to accept in-kind and financial assistance from partners who share common goals.

14. The proposed Centre should provide a forum for the exchange of information related to the management of hazardous wastes among the SACEP member countries.

15. The proposed Centre should create strong functional linkages with all Basel Convention Regional Centres especially in China, Indonesia and Iran, and the Basel Convention Secretariat in Geneva.

Annex-6

The Technical and Non-technical key issues on hazardous wastes which have to be addressed in the Seminars, Training Courses and Workshops include the following:

- Seminar related subject areas:
 - (a) Provision on information on quality and risks
 - (b) Enforcement of existing and pending regulations
 - (c) Increase awareness on health risks
 - (d) Institutional awareness of Basel Convention
 - (e) The concept of environmentally sound management for hazardous waste
 - (f) Needs of the regions in compliance with the Basel Convention
- Training course related subject areas:
 - (a) Management of hazardous waste streams (waste minimization, reuse and recycling; advances in hazardous waste management and treatment technologies)
 - (b) Management of residuals from waste treatment and processing technologies
 - (c) Hazardous waste combustion (incineration/pyrolysis)
 - (d) Provision of information on infrastructure for safe storage or disposal
 - (e) Design, operation and maintenance of Hazardous waste disposal facilities
 - (f) Management of hazardous waste from ship breaking
 - (g) Hazardous waste treatment technologies for specific waste streams
 - i. Cyanide waste
 - ii. Waste containing water soluble chemical compounds of lead, copper, zinc, chromium, nickel, selenium, barium and antimony
 - iii. Halogenated/Non-halogenated hydrocarbons including solvents
 - iv. Wastes from paints, pigments, glue, varnish and printing ink

- v. Wastes from dyes and dye intermediate
- vi. Phenolic waste
- vii. Tary waste from refining and tar residues from distillation
- viii. Waste from pharmaceutical, pesticides, leather, chemical, paper and pulp industries
- ix. Hospital wastes

- (h) Solidification/stabilization of hazardous waste
- (i) Physio-chemical/biological treatment technologies for hazardous waste
- (j) Biofiltration/oxidation technologies

- Workshop related subject areas:
 - (a) Technology Transfer business meeting and events relating to environmentally sound management of hazardous waste.
 - (b) Awareness programs on technology transfer issues like networking, databases, role of Intermediaries, finance syndication relating to hazardous waste management.

Establishment of the Basel Convention Regional Centre for South Asia at the SACEP, Colombo, Sri Lanka

Needs Assessment Report



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Executive Summary

The South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP) has been nominated as the host institution for a proposed Basel Convention Regional Centre for Training and Technology Transfer (BCRC). The main goal and objective of the centre is to strengthen the capacity of the governments of the South Asia region to implement the Basel Convention on Control of Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal both in terms of complying with the legal and institutional aspects of implementation of the convention and technical requirements for the environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes.

One of the most important factors in the management of hazardous wastes is the awareness and fear of the legislative and enforcement mechanism. Alongside of this there is a need for the development of adequate infrastructure for testing, storing, handling and monitoring of hazardous wastes to address enforcement. The need for the training of personnel in different departments and organisations is of utmost necessity to update them of the latest trends and understandings of issues related to hazardous wastes.

Under the first phase of this initiative, a needs assessment for training in environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes in countries of South Asia region was carried out and the findings of the needs assessment study were facilitated in developing a comprehensive program to address these needs. The needs assessment study was carried out for the countries Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. This task was accomplished by liasoning with the respective countries and contacting the Basel convention focal points, appropriate government, industry representatives and NGOs to collect the relevant information and compiling that information through the assistance of local and regional experts.

The data was collected on the country's economy, environmental regulatory regime, legislative framework, status of hazardous waste generation and management and specific needs with respect to policy development, development of legislation, enforcement of legislation, training needs and the prioritisation of these needs. Conclusions and recommendations were formulated for each country. The reports were prepared for each member country.

Afghanistan

Afghanistan lies between 29°35' and 38°40' northern latitude and between 60°31' and 75°00' eastern longitude on the mountainous and desert areas where the Iranian Plateau borders with the mountainous systems of Central Asia. Afghanistan is bound on the north by Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan, on the northeast by China, on the south and east by Pakistan

and on the west by Iran. The country's area is 653000 sq. km. Till December 2005, Afghanistan did not have a single environmental protecting legislation in place. On the eighteenth of December 2005, the cabinet approved the legislation, the Environment Act that for the first time gives Afghanistan the legal power it needs to begin bettering its environment.

Afghanistan is not a party to the Basel Convention, therefore, the regulatory regime does not address any of the articles of the convention. There is a need for policy development starting from signing/ ratification of Basel Convention, definition of hazardous waste, development of legislation & guidelines, notification and consent procedures to penal provisions. Capacity building and awareness creation for Policy makers, implementers, industry and public are important activities to initiate the process of hazardous waste management.

Bangladesh

Bangladesh is one of the youngest countries, born only in 1971. With an area of about 144,000 sq. km, Bangladesh is situated between latitudes 20 degrees 34' and 26 degree 38' north and longitudes 88 degree 01' and 92 degree 41' east. It shares almost all of it's land boundaries with India and a little with Burma. Bangladesh signed the Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal (Basel Convention) on the 22nd of March 1989 but there has been limited progress towards the implementation of the mandate of the convention. As per the available information the environment related legislation is still not comprehensive and there is no specific legislation on hazardous wastes. The industry groups were owners of their operations and its impact on environment and human health.

The essential steps required for the country in it's efforts to strengthen the management and monitoring of hazardous wastes would be to develop a comprehensive policy and regulation on hazardous wastes. The capacity building of the enforcement authorities would be required in several areas such as policy, technical and administrative.

Bhutan

Bhutan is a landlocked country in Indian subcontinent located between latitudes 26°45'N and 28°10'N and between longitudes 88°45'E and 92°10'E. The total land area of the country is 46,500 square kilometers with maximum latitudinal and longitudinal distance of 170 and 300 kilometers respectively. The Bhutanese economy is based on agriculture, forests and mineral resources. Industrial Development has been one of the major possibilities of the Royal Government of Bhutan, due to the availability of low-cost energy from hydropower and natural raw material resources. The most important industrial activities in Bhutan can be classified into three categories: wood-based, mineral-based (often also energy-based) and service industries.

Bhutan has ratified the Basel Convention, however, the regulatory regime does not address any of the articles of the Convention. The environmental guidelines mention about hazardous waste from industries. There is lack of systematic collection, treatment and disposal system of this waste. Bhutan has basic testing facilities for waste water which needs to be upgraded and strengthened to address hazardous waste. Bhutan has banned import of all kinds of scrap, plastic waste, second-hand equipment and reconditioned cars.

There is a need for development of a policy, legislation & guidelines for hazardous wastes. The hazardous waste management needs include need for inventorization and identification of technology options for disposal of hazardous wastes, training and awareness programmes for policy makers and all stakeholders.

India

India is located in Southern Asia, bordering the Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal, between Burma and Pakistan and has a total area of 3,287,590 sq. km with a land area of 2,973,190 sq. kms, and a water surface of 314,400 sq. km. India's economy encompasses traditional village farming, modern agriculture, handicrafts, a wide range of modern industries, and a multitude of support services. According to the estimates made about 4.4 million tons of hazardous waste is generated within the country.

The policies and legislations in the area of hazardous wastes are in place. However, there is a need to strengthen the implementation agencies through capacity building and technology support. There is a strong need to strengthen the industrial capacity to minimise and efficiently manage their hazardous wastes and the non-government machinery including the awareness of the public since they play an important role in the monitoring and public awareness in sensitive issues like hazardous wastes.

Maldives

Republic of Maldives is an archipelago situated in the Indian Ocean between South of the equator and 8° North latitudes. The country stretches 823 km north to south and 130 km east to west. The country is surrounded by Sri Lanka on the East and India on the North. There are 1,190 islands in Maldives out of which only 200 islands are inhabited. The wastes generated are broadly classified into four kinds, i.e. residential, commercial, business and construction waste. Batteries and Other Hazardous Waste (OHW) containing waste oil, medical waste, Insecticides, Pesticides and waste chemicals comprise the hazardous waste.

The needs of the country in the areas of hazardous waste management covers a broad spectrum of activities such as policy development, Implementation, compliance and monitoring. There is also a need for building capacity to ensure compliance and establish a system of waste

separation, collection, transportation and disposal in Maldives. Training and awareness creation emerged as an important activity to initiate the process of hazardous waste management.

Nepal

Nepal is roughly rectangular in shape. The country's landmass stretches 885 km from east to west and has a non-uniform width of 193 km north to south. It has a total land area of 147,181sq. km and an estimated population of 21.84 million as in 1998. The recyclable wastes such as non-ferrous metal scrap, used lead-acid batteries, used oil etc. were taken illegally into India for recycling. However, these wastes being hazardous and covered under the Basel Convention, transboundary movement is not permitted even for recycling.

The environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes is sought to be regulated through various provisions of the EPA, 1997. Specific standards, authorisation for management and handling and requirements of environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes are not yet put in place. Recyclable hazardous wastes such as lead-acid batteries, non-ferrous metallic scrap, waste oil/used oil etc. may be going illegally to India for recycling. This is not allowed under the Basel Convention and MoPE do not permit import or export of hazardous wastes. Several areas were identified for training needs in the country.

Pakistan

Islamic Republic of Pakistan lies between 23-35 to 37- 05 north latitude and 60-50 to 77- 50 east longitude touching the Hindukush Mountains in the north and extending from the Pamirs to the Arabian Sea. Pakistan extends along either side of the historic Indus River, bordering on India, China, Afghanistan and Iran. Pakistan's 796,095 square kilometers of territory include a wide variety of landscapes, from arid deserts to lush, green valleys to stark mountain peaks. The country has an expanding industry. Cotton, Textiles, sugar, cement, and chemicals play an important role in its economy. Solid waste in Pakistan is generally composed of plastic and rubber, metal, paper and cardboard, textile waste, glass, food waste, animal waste etc. Hazardous hospital and industrial waste are being simply treated as ordinary waste.

The National Environmental Policy of 2005 provides an overarching framework for addressing the environmental issues facing Pakistan. The need of the country in the areas of hazardous waste management covers the activities such as policy development, Implementation, compliance and monitoring. There is also a need for building capacity to ensure compliance and establish a system of waste separation, collection, transportation and disposal in Pakistan. Training and awareness creation were also identified as important activities to manage the hazardous waste in the country.

Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka is an island strategically located in Indian Ocean between 6°-10° N Latitude and 80°-82° East longitude. The maximum length from North to South is 432 Kilometers while maximum breadth from East to West is 224 Kilometers. Sri Lanka has diverse group of industries, which have been classified, into micro, small, medium and large-scale industries. These include sectors like food & beverage, textile, apparel & leather products, wood & wood products, pulp, paper and paper products, chemical, petroleum, plastic and rubber, non metallic products, basic products and fabricated metal products.

Though the hazardous waste management law is presently enforceable in Sri Lanka, the lack of implementation is on account of absence of the basic treatment and disposal facilities. The regulatory regime makes it mandatory that all industries having pollution potential must have the necessary approval license from the CEA or designated body (i.e. local councils for low polluting industries, BOI for BOI industries). There is a need to raise awareness of industry to ensure compliance and capacity building of all regulatory agencies in terms of infrastructure development mainly related to identification and testing of hazardous waste. It was also revealed that there is a need for developing a system of hazardous waste separation, collection, transportation and disposal in Sri Lanka.



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**Open-ended Working Group of the Basel Convention
on the Control of Transboundary Movements of
Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal**
Sixth session
Geneva, 3–7 September 2007

Report of the Open-ended Working Group of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal on the work of its sixth session

I. Opening of the session

1. The sixth session of the Open-ended Working Group was opened at 10.10 a.m. on Monday, 3 September 2007, by Mr. Peeter Eek (Estonia), Co-Chair (technical) of the Working Group.
2. Following the opening of the session, Ms. Katharina Kummer Peiry, Executive Secretary of the Convention Secretariat, welcomed participants and thanked them for the messages of support that she had received following her recent appointment to her post. She also thanked the Secretariat staff for their hard work in the period between the departure of her predecessor, Ms. Sachiko Kuwabara-Yamamoto, and her own appointment.
3. Ms. Kummer Peiry said that the fifteenth anniversary of the entry into force of the Convention provided the opportunity to take stock of achievements to date and identify future challenges to implementation. The Convention was now a mature legal instrument, she said, with mechanisms in place to meet the needs of its 170 Parties, addressing the mutual concerns of both North and South. In the past 15 years, significant progress had been made in implementing the Convention at the national level, through the development of infrastructure projects for the environmentally sound management of hazardous waste. She noted that the tragic incident of dumping of toxic wastes in Côte d'Ivoire in 2006 demonstrated the existing problems with enforcement of the Convention and she affirmed the need to focus efforts in that area.
4. She went on to outline the main issues on the agenda at the current session and noted that, given the heavy workload, the Working Group might wish to consider mandating the continuation of some work intersessionally to ensure that all tasks were completed in time for the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. She stressed the need for adequate financing and concrete action at the national level to implement the Nairobi ministerial declaration on the environmentally sound management of electronic and electrical waste, and the importance of mobilizing resources to ensure that the regional centres realized their potential.
5. She welcomed the progress being made in the establishment of public-private partnerships, including under the new partnership initiative on the environmentally sound management of used and end-of-life computing equipment. On the issue of resource mobilization and sustainable financing, she pointed out that contributions for the current biennium were insufficient to fund implementation of all mandated activities and therefore appealed to all Parties and other stakeholders to make the necessary contributions as a matter of urgency. She suggested that in its discussions on that issue and in its

recommendations to the Conference of the Parties, the Working Group should consider the financial resources that would be required to make implementation of the Convention more effective.

6. She reported that consultations on the arrangements for the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties were proceeding satisfactorily and thanked the Government of Indonesia for its efforts in that regard. Concluding, she endorsed the view expressed by the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Mr. Achim Steiner, that rather than being a phase of environmental crisis and doom, the twenty-first century would provide a new window of opportunity.

7. Following her opening remarks, many participants congratulated Ms. Kummer Peiry on her appointment to the post of Executive Secretary.

II. Adoption of the agenda

8. The Working Group adopted the following agenda, on the basis of the provisional agenda (UNEP/CHW/OEWG/6/1/Rev.1), as amended at the current session:

1. Opening of the session.
2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Organization of the session.
4. Admission of observers.
5. Dumping of toxic wastes in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire.
6. Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres:
 - (a) Review of the operation of the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres;
 - (b) Consideration of the proposal for the establishment of a regional centre for South Asia in the South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme.
7. Technical matters:
 - (a) Technical guidelines on environmentally sound management:
 - (i) Revised technical guidelines on environmentally sound management of used tyres;
 - (ii) Review of other selected technical guidelines pursuant to decision VIII/17, e.g., on incineration on land (D10), specially engineered landfill (D5), and wastes collected from households (Y46);
 - (iii) Persistent organic pollutants;
 - (iv) Stockholm Convention revised draft guidelines on best available techniques and provisional guidance on best environmental practices;
 - (b) Classification and hazard characterization of wastes:
 - (i) Review of work on the guidance papers on H10 and H11 pursuant to decision VIII/21;
 - (ii) Review of cooperation with the World Customs Organization and its Harmonized System Committee pursuant to decision VIII/20;
 - (iii) Amendments of entries related to persistent organic pollutants;
 - (c) Review or adjustment of the lists of wastes contained in Annexes VIII and IX of the Basel Convention;
 - (d) Harmonization and coordination;
 - (e) National classification and control procedures for the import of wastes contained in Annex IX.
8. Legal and compliance matters:
 - (a) Illegal traffic: review of the outline of an instruction manual for the legal profession;

- (b) Review of the implementation of decision V/32 on enlargement of the scope of the Trust Fund to Assist Developing and Other Countries in Need of Assistance in the Implementation of the Basel Convention;
 - (c) Protocol on liability and compensation: review of options for meeting the requirement of insurance, bonds or other financial guarantees;
 - (d) Addressing the interpretation of paragraph 5 of Article 17 of the Convention.
- 9. Dismantling of ships:
 - (a) Environmentally sound management of ship dismantling;
 - (b) Abandonment of ships on land or in ports.
- 10. Cooperation and coordination:
 - (a) Cooperation and coordination between the Basel Convention, Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants;
 - (b) Cooperation between the Basel Convention and the International Maritime Organization;
 - (c) Cooperation with the World Trade Organization.
- 11. Strategic partnerships:
 - (a) Basel Convention Partnership Programme: progress on the implementation of the 2007–2008 workplan;
 - (b) Mercury;
 - (c) Asbestos.
- 12. E-waste:
 - (a) Review of the guidance document on environmentally sound management of used and end-of-life mobile phones;
 - (b) Mobile Phone Partnership Initiative;
 - (c) Partnership on used and end-of-life computing equipment and regional partnerships on e-waste;
 - (d) Workplan for 2009–2010.
- 13. Resource mobilization and sustainable financing: review of the implementation of decision VIII/34.
- 14. Financial matters.
- 15. Work programme of the Open-ended Working Group for 2009–2010.
- 16. Preparation of draft decisions for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its ninth meeting.
- 17. Organization of the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
- 18. Other matters.
- 19. Adoption of the draft decisions and the report of the session.
- 20. Closure of the session.

III. Organization of the session

9. The session was attended by representatives of the following Parties to the Convention: Albania, Algeria, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belgium, Benin, Bolivia, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, Ethiopia, European Community, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Latvia, Lebanon, Libyan Arab

Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Malta, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Serbia (Republic of), Singapore, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Trinidad and Tobago, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Yemen.

10. The following States not party to the Convention were represented: Iraq, Suriname and United States of America.

11. Observers from the following United Nations bodies, specialized agencies and intergovernmental organizations were also present: International Atomic Energy Agency, International Labour Organization, International Maritime Organization, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, United Nations Environment Programme, United Nations Industrial Development Organization, United Nations University and World Trade Organization.

12. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented: Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, Permanent Delegation of the League of Arab States, South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme.

13. The following non-governmental organizations, private sector organizations and others were represented: Asociacion de Industriales de Fibro Cemento, Basel Action Network, Beveridge and Diamond, Bureau of International Recycling, Cembureau, Community Police Initiative, Electronic Industries Alliance, EMPA Research Institute, Ex Corporation, Greenpeace International, IMPEL-TFS, Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries, International Company for Petroleum Waste, International POPs Elimination Network, International Precious Metals Institute, Japanese Ship Owner's Association, Japan Ship Centre (JETRO), Mercury Policy Project, NGO Platform on Shipbreaking, North American Ship Dismantling Association, Tosoh Corporation, Umicore Precious Metals Refining, Veolia, WE2C – Waste and Environment Cooperation Centre and World Chlorine Council.

14. Representatives of the Basel Convention regional centres located in the following countries also attended: Argentina, China, Egypt, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Nigeria, Senegal, Slovak Republic, Trinidad and Tobago and Uruguay.

15. The Bureau, as appointed at the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, was constituted as follows:

- Co-Chairs: Mr. Peeter Eek (Estonia) (technical)
Mr. Abdul Mohsin Mahmood al-Mahmood (Bahrain) (legal)
- Vice-Chairs: Ms. Consolata Kiragu (Kenya) (legal)
Ms. Kerstin Stendahl-Rechardt (Finland) (technical)
- Rapporteur: Ms. Alexandra Segura (Costa Rica)

16. The Working Group decided to meet in plenary from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. each day and to establish such drafting and other subsidiary groups as it deemed necessary. In the light of the heavy workload at the current session, the Working Group agreed to establish contact groups on the following themes:

- (a) Basel Convention regional centres (chaired by Mr. Mohsen Esperri (Islamic Republic of Iran) and Mr. Nicholas Kiddle (New Zealand))
- (b) Legal matters (chaired by Ms. Consolata Kiragu (Kenya));
- (c) Ships (chaired by Mr. Roy Watkinson (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland));
- (d) Technical matters (chaired by Mr. Mohammed Khashashneh (Jordan) and Ms. Stendahl-Rechardt (Finland));
- (e) Review of the implementation of decision V/32 (chaired by Ms. Gordana Petkovic (Republic of Serbia)).

17. The Working Group also agreed that it would not meet in plenary on the afternoon of Tuesday, 4 September, in order to give the contact groups sufficient time to achieve their objectives.

18. There was general support for the notion that, in order to strengthen the brand of the public-private partnerships operating under the Convention and to facilitate Internet searches for them, it was useful to refer to them by their acronyms. The Working Group therefore agreed that, it would refer to the partnerships by their acronyms, as appropriate, in its official documents, including the reports of its sessions.

IV. Admission of observers

19. The Working Group took up the item at its 1st plenary meeting, on the morning of Monday, 3 September 2007. The representative of a group of Parties noted that United Nations security personnel had denied several representatives of a non-governmental organization entry to the Working Group's current session. He requested an explanation for that prohibition, noting that, in his view, the rules of procedure provided that it was for the Parties to the Convention to decide on the participation of observers at its sessions. He added that it was particularly unfortunate that the representatives in question had not been informed in advance that they would be denied entry.

20. The representative of the Secretariat explained that the United Nations Security and Safety Section in Geneva had advised the Secretariat that the members of the non-governmental organization in question could not be accredited to participate at the current session because their accreditation documents had not been issued by a Member State of the United Nations. She said that the Secretariat had been surprised by that decision, as that rule had never been applied previously and the non-governmental organization had made useful contributions at earlier meetings on the issue of e-waste. She added that the rules of procedure did not specifically deal with the matter of accreditation and that United Nations practice therefore applied. She explained that the Secretariat would follow up on the matter with the competent entities of the United Nations.

21. One representative said that because UNEP was a specialized agency of the United Nations, the United Nations rules concerning accreditation should be followed.

V. Dumping of toxic wastes in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire

22. The Working Group took up the item at its 1st plenary meeting, on the morning of Monday, 3 September 2007. In considering the item, the Working Group had before it a note by the Secretariat on decision VIII/1 (UNEP/CHW/OEWG/6/2), which contained in its annex a report on the Secretariat's technical mission to Côte d'Ivoire in November 2006, and a report on the joint mission of the Secretariat and UNEP to Abidjan in August 2007 (UNEP/CHW/OEWG/6/INF/25).

23. The representative of the Secretariat introduced the item, summarizing the reports on the two missions to Côte d'Ivoire. He said that in partnership with UNEP and in consultation with the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the Secretariat was now preparing a first group of activities to start in early 2008, focusing on development of a hazardous waste management plan in the district of Abidjan, strengthening the port of Abidjan's capacity to manage waste generated at sea in accordance with the provision and standards of the Basel Convention, and development of a regional capacity-building programme. Responding, the representative of Côte d'Ivoire thanked the international community for its help in the aftermath of such a terrible ecological crime, urging it to contribute generously to the special trust fund for Côte d'Ivoire established by the Executive Director of UNEP.

24. In the ensuing discussion, several representatives emphasized the need for the establishment of an efficient financial mechanism to respond to such disasters, rather than relying on voluntary contributions. Some representatives urged that the proposed capacity-building programme should be extended to landlocked countries, not just to those with a sea coast, and emphasized that enhanced training for customs officials was crucial. Several representatives stressed the need to clarify the relevant legal authority applicable to the issue. Other representatives called for an examination of which of the Convention's provisions had worked and which had not. The incident had also highlighted the need for closer surveillance and enhanced enforcement efforts, as well as for coordinated implementation among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions. One representative noted that the report of the Secretariat's technical assistance mission to the district of Abidjan indicated that those involved in the mission could only access second-hand information on the chemical composition of the waste and its environmental and health impact. Another noted that while decision VIII/1 had invited the

Executive Director of UNEP to keep Parties informed of progress in the mobilization of resources, the Working Group had not, at the current session, been presented a report on the amount in the trust fund or on which countries had contributed.

25. The representative of the Netherlands gave an update on his Government's intensive investigations into the disaster, which had revealed inconsistency in the definitions used in the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL 73/78) and in the European Union directive on port reception facilities. The Netherlands had requested the European Commission to react on legal imperfections and stressed the need for clarification. The Netherlands made a donation of one million euros to the UNEP trust fund. The representative of France reported that the waste had been shipped from Côte d'Ivoire to France, where it was currently being incinerated.

26. The representative of a non-governmental organization expressed great disappointment with the Basel Convention response to the tragedy in Côte d'Ivoire. He said that the financial contributions called for at the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties had been insufficient to remediate the damage done and to assist Côte d'Ivoire in building capacity to manage waste. He stated that the shipment had been illegal under the Convention and should never have left the Netherlands because the European Union had ratified the amendment contained in decision III/1 and had implemented it within its jurisdiction. The disaster showed that customs officials and operators of port facilities needed greater training in order to understand international controls on waste better. He expressed disappointment that only one country had ratified the amendment since the tragedy had occurred, noting that 40 Parties from Africa, 19 from Asia and 21 from Latin America and the Caribbean had not yet done so. Finally, he called for increased financial assistance and urgent ratifications to achieve the earliest possible entry into force of the amendment.

27. The representative of the Secretariat clarified that the purpose of the technical assistance mission in Abidjan in November 2006 had been to look into medium-term measures to ensure that such a disaster never happened again. It would be beyond the remit of the Secretariat to determine the legality or illegality of the importation, which was a matter for the Parties and not for that mission.

28. At its 7th plenary meeting, on the afternoon of Thursday, 7 September 2007, the Working Group considered and adopted a draft decision that had been prepared by the European Union and Côte d'Ivoire and circulated in a conference room paper. Decision OEWG-VI/1 on Côte d'Ivoire, as adopted, is contained in annex I to the present report.

29. The representative of Côte d'Ivoire reiterated his country's thanks for the support and assistance that his country had received.

VI. Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres

A. Review of the operation of the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres

30. The Working Group took up the sub-item at its 2nd plenary meeting, on the afternoon of Monday, 3 September 2007. It had before it a note by the Secretariat on the issue (UNEP/CHW/OEWG/6/3); a compilation of views on the objectives and scope of the review (UNEP/CHW/OEWG/6/INF/2) and a status report by the regional and coordinating centres themselves (UNEP/CHW/OEWG/6/INF/3). The representative of the Secretariat introduced the sub-item, summarizing the information set out in document UNEP/CHW/OEWG/6/3.

31. In the ensuing discussion, there was general agreement that the regional and coordinating centres made a vital contribution to the implementation of the Convention and its Strategic Plan and that any review of their operation, therefore, should seek to strengthen the centres. Some representatives urged that any review of the centres should aim, in the words of decision VIII/4, "to enhance the combined effectiveness and capacity of the Basel Convention centres and the Secretariat". Several representatives suggested, however, that the regional centres' work might need to be more strategically structured in order to match Parties' priorities. The review, therefore, should aim to set the parameters for the future work of the regional and coordinating centres and their financial sustainability.

32. One representative noted that the issues set out in paragraph 7 of UNEP/CHW/OEWG/6/3 only partially reflected the views compiled in document UNEP/CHW/OEWG/6/INF/2. Notably, several of the points made by developing countries seemed to have been omitted. Other representatives affirmed the need for enhanced financial resources to support the centres, particularly because many were located

in developing countries or countries with economies in transition, which were facing increasing difficulty in bearing the cost of the centres. It was also suggested that synergies might be achieved through the establishment of joint centres, sharing their activities and resources with other multilateral environmental agreements.

33. The Working Group resumed its consideration of the sub-item at its 3rd plenary meeting, on the morning of Tuesday, 4 September 2007. One representative expressed concern that the centres generally were operational only when working on a specific project and were less active in between projects. A vision and strategy were therefore required to ensure the long-term sustainability of the centres and the network. On that basis, the possibility of Basel Convention centres also becoming regional Stockholm Convention centres was welcomed. One representative also highlighted the positive step taken by one centre in implementing a Global Environment Facility project. Several representatives stressed that capacity-building and the successful transfer of technology were also crucial for ensuring the sustainability and for enhancing the effectiveness of the network.

34. One representatives of a group of Parties said that, given the work involved in reviewing the operation of the centres and compiling a comprehensive report, it was important that the objectives and scope of the review be agreed on at the current session to enable the Secretariat to conduct the review in time to submit it to the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. It was suggested that the outcome of discussions of the ad hoc joint working group on enhanced cooperation and coordination among the Basel Stockholm and Rotterdam Conventions should be taken into account when preparing the review.

35. Following the initial discussion, the Working Group agreed to refer the issues under the present sub-item to the contact group on the Basel Convention regional centres for further consideration.

36. The co-chairs of the contact group reported back to the Working Group at its 5th plenary meeting, on the afternoon of Wednesday, 5 September 2007. They said that the contact group had worked constructively and had reached agreement on all elements of the debate. The Parties had agreed on the important role of the centres in implementing the Convention. They had noted the work under way in the ad hoc joint working group on cooperation and coordination among the Stockholm, Rotterdam and Basel Conventions. They had also discussed guidance to the Secretariat on its report on the functioning of the centres to the Conference of the Parties at its ninth meeting, emphasizing their desire for that report to respond to the overarching objectives contained in decision VI/3, particularly those on the enhancement, strengthening and financial sustainability of the centres. A key message was the distinction between the report that was to be written by the Secretariat and the subsequent review, which was rightfully the responsibility of the Conference of the Parties.

37. The co-chairs stressed that adoption of a draft decision on the matter would enable the Secretariat to begin the task of preparing the report and make it available on the Convention website on 15 December 2007. Parties, signatories and regional centres would then have the opportunity to comment on it until 31 January 2008. Any comments received would be forwarded, together with the report itself, to the Conference of the Parties for consideration at its ninth meeting.

38. At its 6th plenary meeting, on the morning of Thursday, 6 September 2007, the Working Group adopted the draft decision on the review of the operation of the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres, as proposed in a conference room paper submitted by the contact group on Basel Convention regional centres. Decision OEWG-VI/2 is contained in annex I to the present report.

B. Consideration of the proposal for the establishment of a regional centre for South Asia in the South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme

39. The Working Group took up the sub-item at its 4th plenary meeting on the morning of Wednesday, 5 September 2007. The Working Group had before it a note by the Secretariat on the progress to date (UNEP/CHW/OEWG/6/4) and the executive summary of the South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme's proposal (UNEP/CHW/OEWG/6/INF/24). The representative of the Secretariat said that by decision VIII/3, the Conference of the Parties had mandated the Working Group to consider, on the basis of a feasibility study, a proposal for the establishment of a regional centre for South Asia at the secretariat of the South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme in Colombo. The Secretariat had received the full proposal on 17 August 2007 and the feasibility study had not yet been carried out. Owing to its late submission, the proposal had not been reviewed by the Secretariat.

40. The representative of the South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme introduced the proposal, stressing the importance of such a centre for the South Asia region in the light of the region's booming economies and rapidly growing shipping activity. If it was not possible to consider the matter

at the current session, the representative asked for the matter to be forwarded to the Conference of the Parties for consideration at its ninth meeting. The representative of Sri Lanka emphasized the value of establishing the centre at the secretariat of the South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme, noting that, as an intergovernmental organization, it already had many of the necessary structures and mechanisms in place. He said that his Government would do all that it could to support the new centre.

41. While some representatives expressed support for the establishment of the centre, others suggested that enough centres already existed in the region. One speaker said that she considered that the Conference of the Parties at its seventh meeting had concluded that the network would not be expanded any further. Several representatives said that owing to the proposal's late submission, more time was needed before deciding on the establishment of a new centre. Some preferred to wait for the results of the feasibility study. Others argued that it was not a matter for the Working Group to discuss and that the Secretariat should merely review the proposal and feasibility study for submission to the Conference of the Parties. The representative of the Secretariat confirmed that such a review would be prepared and submitted to the Conference of the Parties at its ninth meeting.

VII. Technical matters

A. Technical guidelines on environmentally sound management

1. Revised technical guidelines on environmentally sound management of used tyres

42. The Working Group took up the sub-item at its 2nd plenary meeting, on the afternoon of Monday, 3 September 2007. In considering the sub-item, the Group had before it notes by the Secretariat on technical guidelines on environmentally sound management (UNEP/CHW/OEWG/6/5) and revised technical guidelines on environmentally sound management of used tyres (UNEP/CHW/OEWG/6/INF/6).

43. The representative of the Secretariat said that although the first draft of the revised technical guidelines on environmentally sound management of used tyres prepared by Brazil had been posted for comment on the Convention website, no feedback had been received to date from any stakeholders. The representative of Brazil also gave a brief introduction of the draft revised guidelines.

44. Several representatives thanked Brazil for leading the review of the guidelines and said that their failure to submit comments was due not to a lack of interest in the document but rather to insufficient time to analyse it in detail. The representative of a group of Parties said that further consideration was needed of what activities constituted environmentally sound management for the purposes of the guidelines and suggested that the title of the document should be amended to "technical guidelines on the environmentally sound use of waste pneumatic tyres", in order to reflect the language used in the Convention. He said that it was not realistic to expect the guidelines to be adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its ninth meeting and that the preparation of a draft decision on the matter would therefore be premature.

45. The Working Group agreed to refer the issues arising under the present sub-item to the contact group on technical matters for further consideration.

46. At its 6th plenary meeting, on the morning of Thursday, 6 September 2007, the Working Group adopted the draft decision on the revision of the technical guidelines on environmentally sound management of used tyres, based on the text proposed by the contact group on technical matters, as orally amended. Decision OEWG-VI/3 is contained in annex I to the present report.

2. Review of other selected technical guidelines pursuant to decision VIII/17, e.g., on incineration on land (D10), specially engineered landfill (D5), and wastes collected from households (Y46)

47. The Working Group took up the sub-item at its 2nd plenary meeting, on the afternoon of Monday, 3 September 2007. In considering the sub-item, the Group had before it a note by the Secretariat on technical guidelines on environmentally sound management (UNEP/CHW/OEWG/6/5).

48. The representative of the Secretariat said that no comments or proposals had been received from Parties or other stakeholders on the review of other selected technical guidelines pursuant to decision VIII/17. He therefore invited comments from those Parties and stakeholders that had indicated at the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties that further review should be conducted. The representative of a group of Parties said that developing countries' level of interest in the guidelines would be a key determinant of the way forward.



Basel Convention Regional Center for Southeast Asia

Ref : 07/BCRC-SEA/03/2008

Jakarta, 6 March 2008

Dr. A.A. Boaz
Director General
South-Asia Cooperative Environment Programme
#10 Anderson Road, Colombo 5
Sri Lanka

Subject : Establishment of Basel Convention Regional Centre (BCRC) for South Asia at SACEP, Colombo, Sri Lanka

Dear Dr. A.A Boaz

With refer to your letter No. 01/PO/05/02/Lt26/085, I herewith acknowledge receipt of the detailed proposal you sent me by e-mail last year.

Regarding the establishment of BCRC at SACEP, Colombo, Srilanka, until now I am still questioning the service area (countries served) of the BCRC, since BCRC-SEA serves the 10 countries in South-East Asia and BCRC in Beijing claimed to serve the countries in Asia Pacific. This matter should lie in the authority of the COP to clarify and hopefully it can be settled during the COP 9 in Bali, Indonesia.

Thank you for your kind invitation to visit SACEP Secretariat at Colombo, Srilanka, however I would like to regretfully inform you that until June we are very occupied with assisting the preparation for the COP 9 in Bali, Indonesia, and therefore will not be able to fulfill your invitation.

Yours sincerely,

Aboejoewono Aboeprajitno
Director

From: soroush modabberi [mailto:s_modabberi@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 04, 2008 8:38 PM
To: sacep@eureka.lk
Cc: Nelson SABOGAL; Ibrahim Shafii; Mohsen Esperi; Saeid Zahedi; fereshteh zakery
Subject: SACEP proposal on establishment of BCRC

Dear Mr. Boaz,

I would like to thank you sincerely for your communication and kind attention to Basel Convention Regional Center in Tehran (Islamic Republic of Iran) regarding the proposal of establishing Basel Convention Regional Centre for South Asia .

As you are aware of, with regard to responding your proposal, BCRC Tehran center needs to do further coordination with relevant sectors that the mains are as follows:

- Local organizations, entities and all relevant stakeholders that have direct cooperation with the Center,
- All Basel Convention Regional Center member states and non- member states which participate in the Center Meeting,
- Other Basel Convention Regional Centers in Asia ,

This Center will continue this coordination with above-mentioned in due time and will communicate with you in this regard.

In brief it should be mentioned that Basel Convention Regional Center in Tehran has many real concerns regarding your esteemed proposal for possibility of establishment of another Basel Convention Regional Centre in the region.

Finally, we are afraid we can not go along with this proposal.

Best regard,
Soroush Modabberi, Ph.D.
Director of Basel Convention Regional Center in Tehran (Tehran-BCRC)
Department of Environment
Pardisan EcoPark
West Hakim Highway
Tehran, Iran
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Proposal on Environmental Data and Information Management System

The 9th Governing Council of SACEP held in August 2005 at Thimphu, Bhutan identified the data and information management as one of the key areas concerned in the region. Subsequently, the 10th Governing Council of SACEP held in January, 2007 in Kathmandu, Nepal recommended carrying forward the work programme recommended by the 9th GC.

In order to take forward the decision of the Governing Council, SACEP Secretariat has prepared a detailed project proposal to establish an environmental data and information system for South Asia (Annex 1). The initial draft was sent to the UNEP-ROAP for their comments. The comments received from UNEP-ROAP were analyzed and incorporated. The final proposal had been sent to the member countries for their comments and endorsement. So far, the proposal was highly appreciated and endorsed by 4 member countries Afghanistan, Pakistan, Bhutan, Maldives and endorsement from the others is awaited.

The Secretariat requests the 11th Meeting of the Governing Council of SACEP to endorse the proposal so that it can be moved to donors for necessary support.

**Proposal on
Establishment of Environmental Data and Information
Management System for South Asia**



**South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme
No. 10, Anderson Road
Colombo 05
Sri Lanka**

Establishment of Environmental Data and Information Management System for South Asia

1. Introduction

Accurate, reliable and timely information is vital to effective decision-making in almost every aspect of human endeavour, whether it be undertaken by individuals, an organizations or governments. It is an essential component of any effort to persuade individuals, organizations or governments to make different decisions from the ones which they might make in the absence of particular pieces of information. And it is an integral part of any attempt to hold those who make decisions accountable for the consequences of the decisions which they make. In the absence of accurate, reliable and timely information, people, organizations and governments make bad decisions; they will be unable to help or persuade others to make better decisions; and no-one will be able to ascertain whether the decision made by particular individuals, organizations or governments were the best one that could have been made at the time.

The Agenda 21 says that “in sustainable development, everyone is a user and provider of information considered in the broad sense. That includes data, information, appropriately packaged experience and knowledge. The need for information arises at all levels, from that of senior decision makers at the national and international levels to the grass-roots and individual levels”. The Agenda 21 in its chapter 40 highlights two major areas of concerned, the data gaps and the availability of the information. The gap in the availability, quality, coherence, standardization and accessibility of data is common problem found in developing countries.

The South Asia State of Environment Report 2001 and National SoE Reports of South Asian countries clearly pointed out lacking of necessary data and the gaps of the data that available hampered the making correct policy decisions on natural resource management in the national and regional level.

The 9th Governing Council of SACEP held in August 2005 at Thimphu, Bhutan identified the data and information management as one of the key areas concerned in the region. Subsequently, the 10th Governing Council of SACEP held in January, 2007 in Kathmandu, Nepal recommended carrying forward the work programme recommended by the 9th GC.

Scattered information and data, lack of tools, technical expertise and resources, etc have been the issues to the management and analysis of data and processing techniques to provide proper information or to provide policy briefs to the decision makers.

2. Priority

The 9th GC of SACEP identified the data and information management as one of the priorities in the region. It was re-iterated by the 10th GC.

The SoE reports have identified the data and information management as key priority for environmental management and sustainable development of the countries and the region as well.

The work programme for 2007-8 will focus on establishing and building on the existing resources to a fully functional database management system. The unit will aim at providing updated information to SoE Reporting; preparation of regional Sustainable Development Strategies; Environmental and Sustainable Development indicators under various themes such as air, water, land, biodiversity and issues such as waste management; act as the sub-regional hub to the e-KH (environmental knowledge hub) for the Asia Pacific region under the guidance from UNEP ROAP for operational management.

For a proper functioning of the Secretariat in providing status to the convention secretariats, national technical agencies and relevant government departments, a properly designed clearing house mechanism with appropriate links to the existing network of databases at various agencies is a necessity. Such a facility would ensure proper dissemination and regular monitoring of the regional status and provide timely information to the policy makers. Such an activity would be an on- going process at the Secretariat and would also be the back-bone to the Secretariat's operations.

Overall Objective

To strengthen the environmental data and information base in South Asia for improved decision making for sustainable development

Specific Objectives

OBJECTIVE 1: To assist in the development and operation of National Environmental Data and Information Centres, establish a Regional Environmental Data and information Centre and their networking in the South Asia Region;

OBJECTIVE 2: To build capacity of national and sub-regional organizations on environmental data and information management applying standard formats and methodologies, who are involved and contributed to data and information reporting;

OBJECTIVE 3: To harmonize the data and information reporting system at sub-regional and national level;

OBJECTIVE 4: To assist in the development and maintenance of national and regional metadata, information and data holding databases;

OBJECTIVE 5: To assist in the development and dissemination of environmental data and information products responding to the needs of a wide variety of user groups using national and regional networks;

3. Current Status

This project will involve all countries of South Asia Namely; Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. All these countries are members of the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP) which is an intergovernmental organization established in 1982 by the countries of South Asia.

The countries of South Asia endowed with natural resources and the economies are directly depending on these natural resources. Yet, there is no complete data and information about these resources. Properly organized data and information on country's natural resources and its use would contribute significantly to International initiatives such as poverty eradication and protection of the environment spelt in the Millennium Development Goals as well as to National Development Plans and visions of the countries within South Asia emphasizing on sustainable development. This is a key factor to achieving sustainable development in the region.

There were several projects carried out by many international and national agencies in these countries with regards to natural resources management. During those projects, vast amount of data and information which are really important for development of these resources sustainably in future collected and store in various government and non-government agencies. There is no proper system established to interlink these scattered data and information within the countries as well as within the region.

South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP)

South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP) is an inter-governmental organization, established in 1982 by the governments of South Asia namely: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. It is a multilateral organization registered with the UN Secretariat in accordance with article 102 of the charter of the United Nations (Annex-5). Its mission is to promote and support protection, management and enhancement of the environment in the region. The Secretariat is based in Colombo, Sri Lanka. Colombo Declaration and Articles of Association of SACEP constitute the legal basis for SACEP. The principle organs of the governance structure (organization structure) of SACEP are the Governing Council (GC), Consultative Committee (CC), National Focal Points (NFP), Subject Area Focal Points and the SACEP Secretariat.

Since its creation, SACEP has implemented a number of regional projects and programmes in the areas of environment education, environment legislation, biodiversity, air pollution, and the protection and management of the coastal environment. SACEP is hosting the South Asian Seas Programme which is one of the eighteen regional seas programmes of the UNEP. The Malé Declaration on control and prevention of air pollution and its likely transboundary effects for South Asia is another significant effort which encourages intergovernmental cooperation to combat the transboundary air pollution problem. SACEP has long term experience of working in collaboratively with several multilateral and bilateral agencies and number of MoUs signed with organizations viz. UNEP, WMO, UNESCO, IUCN, IMO, ICRAN, UNEP-GPA, SAARC, TRAFFIC, RECOFTC, TRADA, etc.

4. Project Activities

4.1 Assessment of needs and the resources available at national and regional level

A detailed assessment will be undertaken on national and regional level needs to achieve more cost-effective and relevant data collection and assessment by better identification of users and of their information needs at the local, national and regional levels. This will also include identification of institutions which are having related data and information, resources available, existing methods of access, form of data, etc. in each country. The national and regional level assessment will be done through a series of national and regional workshops.

4.2. Provide assistance in the development and operation of National Environmental Data and Information management Centres in member countries of SACEP

4.2.1. Organization of national coordination meetings to identify suitable host institutions for National Environmental Data and Information management Centre

After the identification of existing networks, mechanisms and institutions at national and regional level, a best possible way would suggest to strengthen and incorporate them into the proposed network. In order to fully benefit from the project Member States will be requested to formally establish a national environmental data and information management centre and a person to coordinate national level activities. Financial assistance and expertise, where required will be provided for the organization of national coordination.

4.3. Provide training in data and information management applying standard formats and methodologies

Considering the existing scattered data and information among several agencies and multidimensional nature of the environmental data, training programme will be organized on the method of data harmonization including data monitoring, metadata, quality control, reporting, etc at national and regional level.

4.3.1. National Data and Information Management Training Course

Three national training courses in each country, two in data management and one in information management will be organized to facilitate the establishment and operation of the national centres. These courses will train government officials and other relevant stakeholders on various aspects of data and information management including methods of data gathering, analyzing, interpreting, database management, etc.

4.3.2. Regional Data Management Training Course

Three regional data management training courses will be organized covering all responsibilities and their technical aspects.

4.3.2. Regional Information Management Training Course

Three regional information management training courses will be organized covering all responsibilities of cooperating institutions, as well as library management and library services.

4.3.2. Preparation of national and regional training manuals on environmental data handling sharing and reporting

National and regional training manuals will be prepared to facilitate the training causes and for the purpose of continuation of training requirements in future.

4.4. Establishment of Regional Environmental Data and information Centre and Networking of Regional Centre with the National Centres

A Regional Environmental Data and information Centre will be established at the SACEP Secretariat, Colombo, Sri Lanka and establish network with the all designated national centres as well as other institutions who are managing environment related data and information in the region. The regional Centre will also be networked with other regional and international information centre to bring the maximum benefit to the region.

4.5. Provision of Hardware and Software Packages

In order to ensure that the data and information centres can fully participate in the technical aspects of the project in a harmonized way, a standard hardware and software package will be provided and install. The people who are operating this hardware will be given a full training on how to operate them and software usage. It will be a regional training. This will also facilitate problem solving. Hardware and software will be provided for both national centres and a regional centre.

4.6. Provision of support for operational expenses data and information centre

Support will be provided for day-to-day operational expenses required to operate the data and information centres (telecom, Internet access, office supplies, overtime,...). Emphasis will be placed on development of products and services leading to self-support of the data and information centres.

4.7. Development of national and regional meta databases

A large amount of data relevant to South Asia is archived throughout the world but is not available to South Asian countries. This activity will assist in the identification, repatriation and digitization of these data, within the framework of the project. A suitable format and software will be used to develop national and regional metadata bases covering national data holdings. The regional centre established in SACEP will host the regional metadata base on the SACEP's website.

4.8. Data and Information Dissemination

A comprehensive and fully operational regional clearing house mechanism that would provide information layers under various areas like Land, Water, Air and Biodiversity will be establish to disseminate the data and information.

Support will be extended for specific activities by the data and information centres to publicize the products and services provided/developed by the project and the centres. Emphasis will be placed on development of products and services leading to self-support of the data and information centres.

4.9. Project Management

4.9.1. Project Management structure and workshops

In order to ensure the effective implementation of the project, an appropriate project management structure will be established which will not only ensure that the project is implemented in-line with the main objectives and within the available budget, but which will

also ensure that national and regional priorities identified by the Member States are fully taken into consideration in the work plan.

A project coordinating committee which include person in-charge of national centres, senior officer from environment ministry of each country, SACEP, donor and regional project coordinator will be establish to facilitate the smooth run of the project. The coordinating committee will meet twice a year and evaluate the progress of the project and suggest way forward.

4.1.2. Project Staffing

A regional project coordinator, two database assistants and a secretarial assistant will be recruited and will be based in SACEP Secretariat, Colombo Sri Lanka. Eight national consultants will also be recruited and will be based in their respective countries.

5. Work Plan and Timing (2008-2010)

Activity	Year 2008				Year 2009				Year 2010			
	1 st qtr	2 nd qtr	3 rd qtr	4 th qtr	1 st qtr	2 nd qtr	3 rd qtr	4 th qtr	1 st qtr	2 nd qtr	3 rd qtr	4 th qtr
4.1 Assessment of needs and the resources available at national and regional level												
National needs assessment workshops												
Regional level needs assessment workshop												
4.2. Provide assistance in the development and operation of National Environmental Data and Information management Centres in member countries of SACEP												
National coordination meetings to identify suitable host institutions for National Environmental Data and Information management Centre												
4.3. Provide training in data and information management applying standard formats and methodologies												
Preparation of National and Regional Training Manuals												
National Data and Information Management Training Course												
Regional Data Management Training Course												
Regional Information Management Training Course												
4.4. Establishment of Regional Environmental Data and information Centre and Networking of Regional Centre with the National Centres												

[illegible]

6. Budget

Item	No.	Cost (USD)	Total (USD)
1. National needs assessment workshops	8	20,000	160,000
2. Regional level needs assessment workshop	1	50,000	50,000
3. National coordination meetings to identify suitable host institutions for National Environmental Data and Information management Centre	8	10,000	80,000
4. National Data and Information Management Training Course	3 x 8	20,000	480,000
5. Regional Data Management Training Course	3	50,000	150,000
6. Regional Information Management Training Course	3	50,000	150,000
7. Provision of Hardware and Software Packages for national centres	8	50,000	400,000
8. Provision of Hardware and Software Packages for regional centre	1	100,000	100,000
9. Provision of support for operational expenses data and information centre	9	50,000	450,000
10. Preparation of National and Regional Training Manuals		20,000	20,000
11. Data and Information Dissemination	9	20,000	180,000
12. Coordinating committee meeting	6	40,000	240,000
13. Regional Project coordinator	36 months	2,000	72,000
14. Database Assistants at regional centre	2 x 18 months	500	18,000
15. Secretarial assistant to regional coordinator	36 month	250	9,000
16. National consultants	8 x 36 months	1,000	288,000
GRAND TOTAL			2,847,000

7. Project Partners

There are two key parties in this project; funding agency and South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP).

Roles of Different Partners

SACEP

SACEP is the main executing agency for this project and will be responsible for the implementation of the project throughout the period. All the financial management and administrative works including recruitment of project personnel will be done by the SACEP. SACEP will work through the local Ministry of Environment of member countries to implement the project activities. The local ministry will assist in selecting a national institute as a national centre and nominating officials to coordinate with SACEP for effective implementation of the project.

Technical Partners

The National Information Center of India and the Central Environmental Authority of Sri Lanka will be participated as a technical partner to the project.

Other Collaborative Partners

The Environment ministries of member countries of SACEP and UNEP-RRC.AP will be the other collaborative partners for the implementation of the project.

EC Supported Project on “Institutional Strengthening and Capacity Development for the Long-term Management and Conservation of MCPAs encompassing Coral Reef Resources in South Asia”

BACKGROUND :

OBJECTIVE:

Institutional Strengthening and Capacity Development for the Long-term Management and Conservation of MCPAs encompassing coral reef resources in South Asia

The European Commission (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. The Total 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.

COMPLETED ACTIVITIES :

FIRST REGIONAL RESOURCE COORDINATION AND MOBILISATION WORKSHOP FOR THE LONG-TERM MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION OF MCPAS IN SOUTH ASIA, COLOMBO, SRI LANKA, 27-28th SEPTEMBER 2006

First Regional Resource Co-ordination and Mobilisation workshop for the Long-term Management and Conservation of MCPAs in South Asia was held in Colombo on 27 and 28 September 2006.

The first workshop sought to finalise the focus of site based project activities,

and gather critical information in support of future project activities. The following objectives were discussed:

- Identification of 5 sites for the implementation of project activities
- Discussion and review of communication between marine and coastal stakeholders within the region and identification of options and priorities for a unifying communication strategy
- Identification of database needs and scenario development
- Identification of possibilities for an electronic discussion forum
- Elaboration of a draft Terms of Reference for the establishment and mode of operation of a regional Task Force
- Identification of appropriate members and affiliations of the regional Task Force
- Selection of an appropriate date for a second regional workshop to finalise draft outputs resulting from this workshop

2ND REGIONAL COORDINATION WORKSHOP FOR THE LONG TERM MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION OF MCPAS IN SOUTH ASIA AND LAUNCH OF SOUTH ASIA CORAL REEF TASK FORCE (SACRTF) COLOMBO, SRI LANKA, 25th - 27th July 2007

The Second Regional Resource Coordination and Mobilisation workshop for the Long-term Management and Conservation of MCPAs in South Asia was held in Colombo, Sri Lanka on 25-27 July 2007.

WORKSHOPS ON THE SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOOD ENHANCEMENT COMPONENT :

Two workshops on the livelihood component of the project have been held with the help of IMM and IUCN. The first workshop held in India was attended by 17 practitioners from 16 organisations involved in Coastal Livelihood work in 5 countries across South Asia as well as Indonesia and representatives from IMM and IUCN. The Second Workshop was held from 4-10th June 2007, at Negombo, Sri Lanka. This was attended by 11 participants from the region along with IMM and IUCN.

LAUNCH OF SOUTH ASIA CORAL REEF TASK FORCE (SACRTF)

The 10-GC SACEP endorsed the establishment of South Asia Coral Reef Task Force. SACEP with help from ICRAN then made the proposed structure and ToR for the Task Force members and circulated it to a group of experts and country governments for review and suggestions. The suggestions received have been compiled and will be put before the Second Regional Workshop that was held from 25 – 27 July 2007. The workshop officially endorsed and launched the South Asian Coral Reef Task Force (SACRTF).

The launch ceremony of the SACRTF was inaugurated by the Chief Guest, HE Mr. Ahmad Abdullah, Chairman, South Asia Seas and Minister for Environment, Energy and Water, Republic of Maldives and the Guest of Honour, Justice C.G. Weeramantry, former Vice President, International Court of Justice by lighting the oil-lamp on 27th July, 2007 Colombo, Sri Lanka. . The SACRTF is the first Coral reef Task Force to be established in

Asia and only the third in the world for conservation & Development of Coral Reefs.

PRESS CONFERENCE:

A press conference was held to celebrate the launch of the SACRTF to which many national media reporters (press and television) were invited and attended. Printed materials were distributed to the press to raise awareness of the South Asia MCPA project, and the SACRTF launched under the project. The project management team were on hand to field questions from the audience. Dr. Boaz reiterated the significance of the initiative for the region, also highlighting the role of SACEP as a coordinating body for environmental efforts in the region. Dr. Kristian Teleki, and Ms. Nicola Barnard provided the background and rationale behind the South Asia MCPA project, and its significance to the region as a milestone project, and presented information on the importance of the South Asia Coral Reef Task Force in enhancing cooperation and collaboration among stakeholders in the region, and as a mechanism to drive regional coral reef conservation efforts.

**FIRST MEETING SOUTH ASIA CORAL REEF TASK FORCE (SACRTF) 21
DECEMBER 2007, COLOMBO, SRI LANKA.**

The establishment of the South Asia Coral Reef Task Force (SACRTF) to facilitate the implementation of regional and international initiatives in the management of coral reefs and associated ecosystems, and to promote collaborative action, and transboundary responses to shared environmental challenges, was by endorsed by the country governments of the 5 maritime nations of South Asia, at the SACEP Governing Council Meeting in Nepal, in January 2007.

Through extensive consultation with key regional stakeholders, the role, mandate and structure of the SACRTF was developed, and the resulting constitution document endorsed by the participants of the second regional resource coordination workshop held on the 25-27th July 2007, in Colombo, Sri Lanka. SACRTF representatives have been selected in accordance with the constitution document and regional nominations.

This working meeting was the first official meeting of the SACRTF representatives and was held on 21st December 2007 in Colombo. The Chief Guest on this occasion was Hon. Mr. Ahmed Abdullah, Minister of Environment Minister of Environment, Energy and Water,

Republic of Maldives and Hon. Mr. Patali Champika Ranawaka, Minister of Environment & Natural Resources, Government of Sri Lanka was the Guest of Honour. The meeting was

attended by the national members of the South Asia Coral Reef Task Force from Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. The International Community represented by IMM and IUCN.

Efforts were also made to get experts from the Coral Reef Crime Scene Investigation (CAFTA) Project in USA and Mexico to initiate action in South Asia for Coral reef enforcement and investigation issues and build the capacity of local resource Managers. A Representative from the East African Coral Reef Task Force was also present at this meeting to make the delegates

aware of the actions taken by the African Task Force for its establishment and smooth functioning.

Future Activities :

The following activities are planned in the balance period of the project :

- a) Development and production of an interactive regional communication strategy
- b) Development and production of training curricula for optimised MCPA management
- c) Implementation of training for staff at MCPA sites
- d) Implementation of maritime law enforcement training with staff from existing MCPAs
- e) Implementation of environmental education programs with coastal communities in the vicinity of existing MCPA sites*
- f) Development of South Asia Coastal Resource Task Force (SACRTF)*
- g) Development of accessible centralised information conduit and resource base*
- h) Development of interactive coral reef stakeholder network*
- i) Strengthened capacity of policy makers, planners and managers to design and implement livelihood enhancement and diversification for poor reef users*
- j) Long-term coral reef management in South Asia*

(A detailed SACRTF Implementation Plan is Attached as Annex 1)

A logo competition is being held among the regional stakeholders and entries will be reviewed and the best logo will be selected as the official logo for the SACRTF.

Annex 1 : SACRTF Implementation Plan

SACRTF Activities	2008												Partners	Comments
	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec				
Coordination														
National Coral Reef Focal Points Appointed in each country													SACEP, Country Governments	Institutions designated as focal points for coral reefs to increase coordination potential
Build SACRTF Network - Formal introductions of members to focal points													SACEP	Develop a short-list of focal point contacts within international and regional bodies of relevance. Contacts made available on the SACEP, ICRAN and project websites
Examine national capacity needs, evaluate and review existing mechanisms for coral reef management													SACRTF, SACEP to lead	Produce a summary brief with a view to using this information to develop a comprehensive regional action strategy development
Prepare a regional coral reef action strategy													SACRTF- lead by SACEP	Strategy will incorporate key findings on the development and implementation of a networked system of MCPAs and identify supporting frameworks for effective implementation
Selection of Environmental Education Proposals for implementation at 5 project sites													SACRTF, SACEP, with support from ICRAN	Contracts to be developed between SACEP and successful recipients and SACEP to expedite funds to site level. UNEP to facilitate fund to SACEP.
Meetings - Different SACRTF Members will participate in the following meetings to raise the profile of the SACRTF and coral reefs														
Regional Training – Toolkit for MPA Managers in South Asia													SACEP	Trainers to be develop by the SACRTF in coordination with SACEP and local experts,
Sustainable Livelihoods Enhancement and Diversification Policy Forum (linked to May SACRTF Meeting)													IMM, IUCN-ELG	SACRTF Representatives to attend, and facilitate the attendance of target constituents (where appropriate e.g. visa etc)
COP 9 - Bonn, Germany													SACEP/SACRTF	SACRTF Representative to attend and present information on the objectives and activities of the SACRTF
SACRTF Members Meeting													SACEP , SACRTF	Quorum of SACRTF Representatives to attend to review progress of the work plan and sustainable financing strategy
ICRI General Meeting - Florida, USA													SACEP/SACRTF	Presentation on SACRTF activities and progress since January
East Africa Coral Reef Task Force Meeting (date tbc)													SACEP/SACRTF	Share experiences with EACRTF, and learn about the regional action strategy being released in WIO

Fundraising												
Preparation of a challenge grant for launch at the SACEP GC											SACEP, SACRTF Chair, ICRAN	Sustainable financing is critical for the continued operation of the SACRTF beyond 2008. The challenge grant will request and match financial commitments from all participating countries.
Preparation of key materials (e.g. annual budget projection for the maintenance of the SACRTF) for country governments											SACEP, SACRTF Chair, ICRAN	
Policy												
Review existing policy, and gaps in coral reef management and preparatory materials generated for SACEP GC											SACRTF	
SACEP Governing Council Meeting -										20-22	SACEP, SACRTF, ICRAN	Presentation on session on the SACRTF done and challenge grant launched. Members of GC, SACP, updated on progress of SACRTF.
Position Papers generated building on recommendations from SACEP GC											SACEP, SACRTF, IMM, IUCN	Statement on the importance of coral reefs and need for improved management Statement on coral reefs and livelihoods generated and disseminated
Raise the profile of coral reefs among country governments and lobby for enhanced support for their effective management											SACRTF, SACEP, National Coral Reef Focal Points	Dissemination of SACRTF briefs and position statements generated.
Communication												
Participants for MCPA Managers Exchange Programme Selected											SACRTF Members & SACEP	
Knowledge Exchange - create opportunities for knowledge exchange between MCPA managers/practitioners through site exposure visits (US\$8,000)											SACRTF, lead by India	Increase awareness of environmental conservation and management issues among decision makers and practitioners through lobbying and exposure visits at 5 project sites
Raising Awareness - Generation of awareness raising materials for dissemination to the general public											SACRTF, with support from ICRAN	All outputs and materials from the SACRTF will be disseminated through member networks and the ICRAN network
Lead a regional response to mass environmental awareness raising campaigns (Earth Day, IYOR, World Environment Day (WED))										Earth Day	SACRTF	SACRTF to support and showcase the regional activities underway through these campaigns

Establish a SACRTF Profile on the IYOR website to showcase the efforts of the region																		SACRTF Member Secretary	www.iyor.org
Develop an action plan for engaging with education and community outreach efforts to raise the profile of coral reefs																		National Coral Reef Focal Points, SACRTF	
Research & Monitoring																			
Identify the strengths of each participating country related to research and monitoring. Prepare a summary for dissemination																		SACRTF	Summary report to be showcased on SACEP, ICRAN and project websites
Develop and promote a mechanism to ensure knowledge and training is shared and exchanged																		SACRTF	SACRTF actions must build on the past efforts and experiences within the region
Develop linkages with national, regional and international research agencies and monitoring programmes																		SACRTF	showcase recent reports related to the SA region on the SACEP, ICRAN and project websites
SACRTF Administration																			
Standardised Reporting Format developed																		SACRTF Member Secretary, with support from ICRAN	Format to include performance indicators to demonstrate the impact and success of the SACRTF
Progress Reports Submitted to SACRTF Members and ICU																		SACRTF Member Secretary	Copy of report to be shared with ICRAN and other project partners
Finalise MCPA Representatives to participate on the SACRTF																		SACEP with country government support	MCPA Representatives shall be requested to attend the 2nd SACRTF Meeting
Finalise the logo and branding of the SACRTF to use in future publications																		SACRTF	Standardised presentations for SACRTF members, and logos of all sponsors and contributors referenced on materials
Project Coordination																		SACEP	Staff and liaison with stakeholders with office supplies and SACEP Staff local travel

Establishment of the South Asia Wildlife Trade Initiative (SAWTI) for Combating Illegal Trade in Wildlife and Strengthening Enforcement of CITES in the Region

At the 10th Meeting of the Governing Council of the SACEP on 25th January 2007, the Environment Ministers of the eight countries in the South Asia region expressed serious concerns at the growing threat of poaching and illegal trade of wild species of flora and fauna, which is seriously impeding biodiversity conservation efforts by all countries. The Governing Council decided that SACEP should incorporate a work programme for combating illegal trade in wildlife and its products, and strengthen enforcement of CITES in the region (see GC10 SACEP report, Section 9.3).

In order to take this important decision of the Governing Council forward, on 20th July 2007, SACEP entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with TRAFFIC, the wildlife trade monitoring network and a joint programme of IUCN and WWF. Under the MOU, both parties agreed to develop a South Asia Wildlife Trade Initiative (SAWTI); develop and implement a South Asia Regional Strategy for combating illegal trade in wild flora and fauna and to ensure that wildlife trade is maintained at sustainable levels in South Asia; establishment of a South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network; and hold consultations on these topics.

The First Regional Workshop on the South Asia Wildlife Trade Initiative was held in Kathmandu, Nepal, from 31st January - 1st February 2008. Organized by the Nepal Ministry of Environment, Science and Technology; SACEP; WWF Nepal; and TRAFFIC, the aims of the workshop were to follow-up on the earlier 2004 Kathmandu Wildlife Trade Workshop and the SACEP Governing Council's decision for development of a work programme for combating illegal trade in wildlife and its products and strengthen enforcement of CITES in the region.

The workshop included participants from all eight South Asian countries - Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. In addition, participants included representatives from the CITES Secretariat, ASEAN-WEN Programme Coordination Unit, TRAFFIC, IUCN and WWF. Observers were also invited from relevant inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations, as well as foreign governments. The Workshop was made possible with funding from the US Department of State, SACEP and WWF.

The Workshop participants agreed to a series of joint actions as part of a South Asia Wildlife Trade Initiative, including the establishment of a South Asia Experts Group on Wildlife Trade and the development of a South Asia Regional Strategic Plan on Wildlife Trade (2008-2013). They also called upon the international community to support action in South Asia by providing financial and technical assistance in the implementation of the regional plan.

A draft of a South Asia Regional Strategic Plan on Wildlife Trade was agreed to at the meeting, focusing on a number of key areas of work. These include co-operation and co-ordination (including discussion on the establishment of a South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network); effective legislation, policies and law enforcement; sharing knowledge and effective dissemination of information; sustainability of legal trade and livelihoods security; intelligence networks and early warning systems; and capacity building.

Regional co-operation can provide the best solution for regional problems and SAWTI is the first wildlife trade initiative of its kind in South Asia. The agreement reached on SAWTI puts in place the foundations for a co-operative effort to crack down on illegal trade and to improve the management of wild species that can be legally traded under national laws in the region. SAWTI will lead to further commitment in the region, and closer engagement among neighbours to effectively address wildlife trade problems.

However, the success of this regional initiative depends greatly upon strong political commitment at the national level. Participants at the workshop are therefore requesting Ministers constituting the Eleventh Meeting of the Governing Council to give their full support, in the form of a Ministerial Statement (Annex 1), to the South Asia Wildlife Trade Initiative and Regional Strategic Plan (Annex 2) endorsed at the workshop.

It is hoped that the Governing Council will call for the rapid establishment of a South Asia Experts Group on Wildlife Trade, consisting of relevant technical representatives from the eight member countries, which would meet periodically to provide a forum for the development of regional programmes through networking, sharing and effective dissemination of knowledge and information.

It is also hoped that the Governing Council will instruct the Experts Group above to develop a detailed work programme for implementing the South Asia Regional Strategic Plan on Wildlife Trade, with the assistance of the SACEP Secretariat, TRAFFIC and other relevant partners.

The Governing Council is also requested to urge other countries, donors and organizations to provide financial and technical support to assist in the implementation of this work programme.

The 11th Meeting of the Governing Council of SACEP

Declaration on South Asia Initiative for Combating Illegal Trade in Wildlife

Aware that the countries in the South Asia region are very rich in terrestrial and marine natural resources which are storehouse of unique biodiversity as well as many endangered species and that there is rapid growing demand both locally and globally for wildlife products.

Acknowledging that while legal trade can be monitored and managed, illegal trade in wild animals and plants poses a major challenge to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in South Asia.

Recalling that all the countries in the region are presently having various laws and regulations to prevent illegal trade but still are subject to large scale illegal trade in wildlife and it's derivatives by a well organized local and international illegal trade network.

Realizing that despite concerns of overexploitation of wildlife by the civil society and efforts of the enforcement agencies it is unlikely that the on going trend of increased illegal trade by the strong international illegal wildlife crime nexus can be tackled without new enforcement strategies and through regional cooperation and networking.

Recognizing that countries in the region have committed for wildlife conservation and to regulate illegal trade under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) through its various resolutions, or implement related National Laws and Policies.

Recalling the South Asia Wildlife Trade Diagnostic Workshop held in Kathmandu in April 2004, and the priorities identified for improved regional co-operation to address Illegal wildlife trade challenges in South Asia.

Recalling the decision taken in the Tenth Governing Council Meeting of SACEP on 25th January 2007 to incorporate a Work Programme (2007-2008) for Combating Illegal Trade in Wildlife products and to help strengthening of enforcement of CITES in the region.

Aware of CITES Resolution 11.3 'Compliance and Enforcement' revised at the 14th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES in July 2007 urging parties to consider formulating regional action plans, incorporating timetables, targets and provisions for funding, designed to enhance enforcement of CITES, achieve compliance with its provisions, and support wildlife-law enforcement agencies;

Acknowledging the Memorandum of Understanding signed by SACEP and TRAFFIC International on 20/07/07 to jointly take forward the initiative of regional co-operation for Combating Illegal Trade and the joint efforts initiated by them.

Recalling the endorsement of the South Asia Regional Strategic Plan on Illegal Wildlife Trade (2008-2013) by the Senior Officers of the Member Countries at the First Regional Workshop on the South Asia Wildlife Trade Initiative in Kathmandu from 31st January and 1st February 2008.

Stressing the importance of mutual networking and technical support as well as financial and technical support from the international community for building expertise, resources, and capacity to address the needs of the region for combating the illegal wildlife trade; and

Believing that regional cooperation can provide the best solution for regional problems;

We the Environment Ministers constituting the 11th Meeting of the Governing Council of SACEP,

Support the South Asia Initiative for Combating Illegal Trade in Wildlife and Regional Action Plan and the Formation of South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network (SAWEN)

Urge to establish the South Asia Experts Group on Illegal Wildlife Trade, consisting of relevant technical representatives from the eight member countries, which would meet periodically to provide a forum for the development of regional programmes through networking, sharing and effective dissemination of knowledge and information;

Mandate the expert group to develop a detailed work programme for implementing the South Asia Regional Strategic Plan on Illegal Wildlife Trade with the assistance of SACEP and other relevant partners; and

Request Countries, donors and other organizations to provide financial and technical support to assist in the implementation of the approved Work Programme.

South Asia Regional Strategic Plan on Wildlife Trade (2008-2013)

The Context

South Asia region covers an area of approximately 42,916,000 km². Comprising of **Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka**, the region has over 15% of the world's flora and 12% of its fauna (UNEP, 2001). It encompasses 16 of the 238 globally important eco-regions (WWF Global 2000), notably the Terai-Duar Savannah and Grassland eco-region across Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal, the Sundarbans Mangroves of Bangladesh and India, Indus River Delta of India and Pakistan, the Andaman Sea and the Maldives and Lakshadweep Atolls. These eco-regions support exceptionally rich biodiversity and a huge array of unique, threatened and endangered species (e.g. the Asiatic lion, tiger, snow leopard, Asian elephant, one-horned rhinoceros, and eight of the world's 15 crane species). Within South Asia, India and Nepal together contribute nearly 10% of the global biodiversity while occupying merely 2.5% of the global land area.

Because of this richness in biodiversity, South Asia has been one of the prime targets of international organized wildlife crime networks taking advantage of poverty-related conflicts and instigating people to commit wildlife crimes for the ultimate benefit of rich international consumers. During the past two decades, there has been a sudden increase in the demand for wild animal and plants from South Asia. Seizures in many countries of the region, of parts and derivatives from wildlife - including **tiger, leopard, elephant, ornamental fish, birds**, and rare **medicinal plants** - are a pointer to the fact that rare and endangered fauna and flora of the region are in great demand locally as well as globally leading to unsustainable harvest and trade. The trade is diverse, ranging from live animals and plants to a vast array of wildlife products derived from them, including **food, medicines, trophies, skin and hide, exotic leather goods, wooden musical instruments, timber and tourist curios**.

While legal trade can be monitored and managed, illegal trade in wild animals and plants poses a major challenge to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in South Asia. Although confirmed statistics are unavailable, yet analysts believe that the quantum of illegal trade in wildlife and their parts and products is second to narcotic trade. Investigations have also revealed that illegal hunting and trade is accomplished through a deep-rooted and well-established clandestine chain of operators who have developed strong nexus with international wildlife crime network. Despite concerns from the conservation community, enforcement agencies and civil society about the overexploitation and resultant decline in wildlife, it is unlikely that the ongoing trend will be stopped unless existing conservation measures and enforcement strategies are reinforced through regional cooperation.

Besides illegal trade, the legal harvesting and trade in wild species is an important and sustainable source of income to many rural communities in South Asia. Experience gained in the region indicates that adequate protection, sustainable harvest and wise use of wild animals and plants can play vital role in conservation of species and their habitats as well as in lifting people out of poverty and securing their future. It is, therefore, important that the use of natural biological resources is brought

within sustainable limits to maintain biodiversity's "*potential to meet the needs and aspirations of present and future generations*". The concept of sustainability can also lead to "*incentive-driven conservation*" where wise use of a resource can create positive incentives to conserve biological resources

Controlling the illegal trade and managing legal harvest at sustainable levels will not only help in ensuring livelihoods security to the ecosystem dependant communities but will also pave the way for biodiversity conservation. Most of the countries in South Asia are parties to international conventions concerned with the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. These instruments echo joint commitment by international organizations, national governments, non governmental organizations and the civil society. Concerted efforts are now urgently needed by all South Asian countries to fulfil their international obligations through effective enforcement, greater political commitment, improved intelligence sharing, sustainable harvest and trade mechanism and strengthen capacity of the agencies engaged in managing wildlife.

Rationale

The wildlife trade and its impact is an important challenge to achieving CITES and CBD objectives particularly for those species which are on the verge of extinction due to overexploitation for human consumption. With rapid transformation in the consumption pattern and globalization of economy, it is physically impossible for any country to prevent wildlife exploitation irrespective of the quality of legislation, conservation management and enforcement. Such measures are unlikely to succeed unless supported by local communities, producer and consumer countries. Cooperation and coordination from local to global level is, therefore, essential to manage the ongoing wildlife trade in South Asia.

Experience gained during the past forty years shows that the trade in wildlife has grown disproportionately high and is currently expected to be worth billions of dollars involving thousands of animal and plant species. A significant proportion of this trade is illegal and the quantum is growing as new laws and policies are made and old laws are amended to prevent or regulate it. The organized networks of wildlife criminals have developed innovative mechanisms to continue their clandestine operation. It is, therefore, necessary that suitable changes in the national and international legal framework are made from time to time to counter the evolving strategies of organized criminal network.

Growing poverty and deprivation in and around the natural ecosystems enhances the dependence of inhabitants on the forest resources and international instruments, national laws, policies or regulations matter little to them as they struggle everyday for survival. Their livelihood strategies are precarious and vary from region to region but are mostly exploitative in nature with low opportunity costs and financial returns. Countries in South Asia generally recognize the need for sustainable livelihoods for forest dwellers and have initiated far reaching policy and institutional reforms adopting participatory approaches. At the same time there is an urgent need to support the ongoing poverty alleviation and sustainable development efforts with experiences and success stories in other parts of the world.

In April 2004, TRAFFIC, the wildlife trade monitoring and a joint programme of IUCN and WWF that works in close cooperation with CITES Secretariat, brought together 70 representatives from government departments, law enforcement and non-governmental organisations from South Asia (Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka) and key neighbouring countries of China and Myanmar. The participants appreciated each other's concerns, needs and constraints and agreed to find ways that the region can move forward through collaborative efforts towards a common set of goals. The key areas that emerged from the workshop were **co-ordination, co-operation and communication** between countries in South Asia and the region's neighbours. It was agreed that efforts were required for fostering broader awareness on the issues and implications of wildlife trade across countries, sharing information on common problems and developing response strategies. Explicit attention was needed for building capacity of enforcement staff, sharing information and experiences on mechanisms for setting in place enabling frameworks for conservation of species in trade in order to support sustainable development and poverty alleviation goals. In this context, it is important to highlight that member countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) adopted an ASEAN Regional Action Plan on Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora (2005-2010) at the special meeting of the ASEAN experts group on CITES on May 3, 2005 in Jakarta. The plan aims to promote regional cooperation and networking amongst the enforcement authorities to curb illegal trade in wildlife. Subsequently, a special meeting of the ASEAN Ministers responsible for the implementation of CITES was held in Bangkok on 1 December 2005. The Ministers decided to launch the ASEAN Wildlife Enforcement Network (ASEAN-WEN) with the support and participation of CITES Authorities, Customs, Police, Prosecutors, Specialized Governmental Wildlife Law Enforcement Organizations and other relevant national law enforcement agencies. Considering the growing threat of poaching and illegal trade to wild species, and the ever growing demand for wildlife products, both flora and fauna, for medicinal and cosmetic use. It has now become imperative to formalize a South Asian Wildlife Trade Initiative (SAWTI) for South Asia.

The Minister of State for Environment and Forests, Government of India, during his inaugural address at the 10th Governing Council of SACEP on 25th January, 2007 drew the attention of member countries on the need for strengthening the CITES regulations for combating illegal trade in wildlife and its products. He also highlighted the need for addressing common environmental concerns and problems through cooperative efforts. The Ministers of the eight member countries agreed that SACEP should incorporate specific work programme to achieve this objective in the region. It is in this context that a long term strategy is proposed for regional cooperation in regulating trans-boundary wildlife trade and for managing the legal trade effectively and efficiently.

The Strategy

The South Asian regional strategy is an attempt to respond to two major challenges facing trade in wild species today. The **first** is to develop practical ways to support governments, non government organizations and individuals and civil society in ensuring the effective implementation of national laws, policies and programmes that leverage real and meaningful change in combating illegal trade. The **second** is to

strengthen the relationship between conservation and poverty reduction in such a way that wildlife consumption is maintained at sustainable levels. These two challenges are inextricably linked and will be pursued through a leverage programme built upon extensive experience in some of the countries of the region.

The strategy will be based on **SIX** programme elements which will be addressed in an integrated manner and appropriate interventions as and when required to ensure that these are not treated as stand alone issues. For this purpose, full and unhindered support of the national governments, Inter-Governmental Organizations, NGO's and civil society will be crucial. The programme elements mentioned below are not in order of priority for the reason that these will operate within the context of national priorities and the harmonized approaches between and among the stakeholders in each country.

- 1. Cooperation and Coordination***
- 2. Effective laws and policies***
- 3. Sharing knowledge and effective dissemination***
- 4. Species Conservation, Sustainable trade and livelihoods security.***
- 5. Risk assessment and early warning***
- 6. Capacity building***

Purpose and scope

1. To assist South Asian countries in combating and eventually eliminating illegal trade in wildlife.
2. To assist and support South Asian countries in achieving strategic goals as outlined in CITES Strategic Vision 2008-2013.
3. To support South Asian countries in managing the legal trade at sustainable levels.

Programme Element 1: Cooperation and Coordination

Goal 1.1 – Situation analysis in which the South Asia Wildlife Trade Initiative (SAWTI) will operate in the region.

Objective 1.1.1 - Support South Asian countries in achieving the relevant programme objectives of the CITES Strategic Vision 2008-2013

Objective 1.1.2 – Under this the countries discussed the establishment of a South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Strategy supported by the CITES Secretariat.

Programme Element 2: Effective laws policies, and enforcement

Goal 2.1 – Improved law enforcement and protection at local, national and regional level.

Objective 2.1.1 - Review national laws and policies and their impact on species harvest and trade

Objective 2.1.2 - Support harmonization of laws at national level and their consistency with CITES, CBD and other relevant multi-lateral environmental agreements

Objective 2.1.3 - Assess the feasibility of mutual legal and administrative assistance among SA countries

Objective 2.1.4 - Promote law enforcement and provide techno-legal support

Programme Element 3: Sharing knowledge and effective dissemination

Goal 3.1 – To increase information exchange, communication, public education, participation, and awareness

Objective 3.1.1 - Improved information exchange, understanding and support for combating illegal trade and sustaining legal trade

Goal 3.1.2 – To implement the active knowledge management and trade action learning concept between the parties and partners to this Strategy

Programme Element 4: Species Conservation, Sustainable trade and livelihoods security

Goal 4.1 – Protect species affected by trade, now or in future and promote sustainable harvest

Objective 4.1.1 - Develop sustainable harvest models to enhance species conservation

Goal 4.2 – Improved understanding of species trade dynamics

Objective 4.2.1 - Develop and support focussed research programme to improve understanding of markets, trade mechanisms, routes, economics and motivation

Objective 4.2.2 - Enhance technical capacity at the national levels to accurately assess and monitor trade and species status

Objective 4.2.3 - Encourage approaches for management decisions to be based on sound knowledge and precaution

Goal 4.3 – Address livelihoods issue in a pragmatic manner.

Objective 4.3.1 Build capacity of local communities to develop and implement adaptive community management systems sustainable harvest and use of species in trade

Objective 4.3.2 - Support the development of country specific and realistic projects to address trade related livelihoods issues

Objective 4.3.3 - Facilitate funding support for implementation of rehabilitation programme

Objective 4.3.4 - Strengthen the linkage between livelihoods strategy and wildlife trade regulations

Programme Element 5: Risk assessment and early warning

Goal 5.1– Streamline intelligence network and developing proactive approaches for advance warning

Objective 5.1.1 - Harmonize data collection and streamline reporting process

Objective 5.1.2 – Establish early-warning mechanisms to enable proactive approaches

Programme Element 6: Capacity building

Goal 6.1 – Enhance the capability of enforcement agencies

Objective 6.1.1 - Develop new tools to assist enforcement agencies

Objective 6.1.2 – Strengthen the capacity of enforcement authorities

Goal 6.2 – Enhanced country capability to maintain trade at sustainable levels

Objective 6.2.1 – Strengthen the capacity for scientific authorities to conduct Non-detriment Findings and the capacity for management authorities to manage trade at sustainable levels, and improve coordination between and among them

Scoping Exercise on E-waste Management in South Asia

Introduction

Waste Management was identified as a priority issue in the work programme of SACEP by the 9th Governing Council meeting held in August 2005 at Thimphu, Bhutan and also at the 10th Governing Council of SACEP held in January 2007 in Kathmandu, Nepal.

Electronic products nearing the end of their useful life are called as e-waste. They mostly contain non-degradable components and chemicals that are harmful to the environment and contribute largely in pollution of air, water and land.

South Asia faces major difficulties in recycling this e-waste and finding dumping sites for such waste. Countries in this region also have the problem of becoming dumping sites of such waste for the developed countries.

SACEP's Activities

SACEP signed a MoU with Development Alternatives for a Scoping Exercise on E-waste management in South Asia in February 2007. The objective of this MoU is to develop a strategy to reduce environmental and health impacts through scientific e-waste management in South Asia while demonstrating benefits and ensuring multi stakeholder participation.

A position paper based on current status of e-waste management in the computer and mobile phone industry in South Asia was drafted and circulated to all the Focal Points for the comments (Annex I).

SACEP in collaboration with the Development Alternative (DA) organized a workshop for E-waste Management in South Asia in September 2007 at New Delhi, India. The main objectives of this workshop were to establish contacts with stakeholders, including governments and private sector, finalize the position paper which included the on going practices and status of the initiatives at various levels (regional, national and local) under taken by the different agencies and to develop project proposals in consultation with stakeholders for the consideration of funding agencies, for promoting environmentally sound management of e-waste in South Asia.

The Workshop was attended by representatives from India, Nepal and Sri Lanka. Representatives from the leading manufactures and also the representatives from the international organizations were also present.

A Panel discussion was held on the aspect of e-waste management at the workshop.

It was identified that capacity building in areas like Coordination for a better technology transfer, exchange of information and for the legal and policy development are needed both at the country and the regional levels.

More awareness is needed for the region on e-waste management and its best practices and enhancement of technology. The draft position paper on e-waste management in South Asia was reviewed the comments from the member countries were incorporated.

SACEP in collaboration with DA will identify the main issues from the position paper and develop an action plan including some project proposals in consultation with stakeholders for the consideration of funding agencies for promoting environmentally sound management of e-waste in South Asia.

Task Force for E-waste management

It was discussed to formulate a Task Force comprising a forum of regional experts on e-waste management to meet periodically to exchange views and to update knowledge (i.e. training projects, overseas exchange visits, etc). SACEP will act as the secretariat for this Task Force. Procedure to formulate this Task Force has been discussed with DA.

Promotion of collaborative actions at the sub-regional level

With the growing demand for the electronic products and materials in the region e-waste generation is increasing rapidly. Collaborative programmes within the region to control imports and exports of e-waste and also for the information and technology transfer to be developed.

POSITION PAPER ON e-WASTE MANAGEMENT IN SOUTH ASIA



DRAFT FOR REVIEW
September-2007

Prepared by



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ABBREVIATIONS USED

ASEM – Advisory Services in Environment Management
BAN – Basel Action Network
BCRC – Basel Convention Regional Centre
COP – Conference of Parties
CPCB – Central Pollution Control Board, Government of India
CRT – Cathode Ray Tube
DA – Development Alternatives, India
DGFT – Directorate General for Foreign Trade, Government of India
EEE – Electrical & Electronic Equipment
EMPA – Swiss Federal Laboratories for Materials Testing and Research
EMS – Environment Management System
EPR – Extended Producer Responsibility
ESM – Environmentally Sound Management
EU – European Union
EWA – e-waste Agency
EXIM – Export & Import
GoI – Government of India
GTZ – German Technical Cooperation
ICT – Information Communication Technology
IFC – International Finance Corporation
IT – Information Technology
PCBs – Printed Circuit Boards
PCs – Personal Computers
PIC – Prior Informed Consent
PRF – Prepaid Recycling Fee
MoEF – Ministry of Environment & Forests, Government of India
MPCB – Maharashtra State Pollution Control Board, Government of India
MPPI – Mobile Phone Partnership Initiative
NASSCOM – National Association of Software & Services Companies, India
NGOs – Non-governmental Organizations
RoHS – Directive on Restriction of the use of certain Hazardous Substances
SAARC – South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation
SACEP – South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme
SBC – Secretariat for Basel Convention
SCOPE – Society for Conversation & Protection of the Environment, Karachi, Pakistan

seco – Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs
SEPD – Sub-regional Environmental Policy Dialogue
SPCBs – State Pollution Control Boards, Government of India
SteP – Solving the e-waste Problem project
SVTC – Silicon Valley Toxics Coalition
T/month – Tons per month
TNSPCB – Tamil Nadu state Pollution Control Board, India
TVs – Televisions
UNEP – United Nations Environment Programme
US – United States
US\$ - US Dollars
OECD – Organization for Economic Cooperation & Development
WEEE – Waste Electrical & Electronic Equipment
WTO – World Trade Organization

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1.0 Overview of the e-waste Problem

1.1 Background

The advancement of science and technology has made an array of electrical and electronic goods affordable to people, both in the developed and developing countries. The manufacture of electronic equipment has emerged to be one of the fastest growing industries. The industry thrives on rapid technology change leading to accelerated discards of the older models, since it is often cheaper to buy new equipments rather than to repair or upgrade the broken or obsolete products. Hence the proper management of the equipments at the end of their useful life has posed to be a growing challenge. The OECD as well as UNEP's Expert Advisory Group meeting on the 10-year Framework on Sustainable Consumption & Production (The Marrakech Process) has identified e-waste as a priority waste stream. Mr Achim Steiner, Under-Secretary of UNEP, reiterated the challenges of managing e-waste (see Box 1).

Electronic waste or e-waste, for short, is a generic term embracing various forms of electric and electronic equipment that have ceased to be of any value to their owners. There is, as yet, no standard definition of e-waste. *Table 1* below lists a few accepted definitions.

Table 1: Definitions of e-waste¹

EU WEEE Directive (EU, 2002a)	Electrical or electronic equipment which is waste... including all components, sub-assemblies and consumables, which are part of the product at the time of discarding. Directive 75/442/EEC, Article 1(a) defines waste as any substance or object which the holder disposes of or is required to dispose of pursuant to the provisions of national law in force.
Basel Action Network (Puckett and Smith, 2002)	e-waste encompasses a broad and growing range of electronic devices ranging from large household devices such as refrigerators, air conditioners, cell phones, personal stereos, and consumer electronics to computers which have been discarded by their users.
OECD (2001)	Any appliance using an electric power supply that has reached its end-of-life.
SINHA (2004)	An electrically powered appliance that no longer satisfies the current owner for its original purpose.
StEP (2005)	e-waste refers to... the reverse supply chain which collects products no longer desired by a given consumer and refurbishes for other consumers, recycles, or otherwise processes wastes.

¹ Global Perspectives of e-waste. R. Widmer et al. / Environmental Impact Assessment Review 25 (2005) 436–458

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As e-waste comprises of diverse type of materials, it is difficult to generalize the material composition of the entire waste stream. However, examinations of the contents have revealed presence of 5 broad categories of materials: ferrous metals, non-ferrous metals, glass, plastics and others. An estimate of the composition of waste electrical and electronic equipments (WEEE) conducted by the European Topic Centre on Resource and Waste Management² is shown in Figure 1. Iron and steel are the most common

Box 1: Challenges of e-waste management

In the opening speech of the 8th Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention in November 2006 Mr Achim Steiner, UN Under-Secretary General and Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) reiterated that

- ❖ Accelerating trade in goods and materials across borders and across continents is one of the defining features of the early 21st century.
- ❖ The globalized phenomenon of consumerism and what one might call 'built in obsolescence'—the relative cheapness of high technology products like mobile phones and computers—the way fashion is driving the purchasing and discarding of products in a way unknown a generation ago.
- ❖ Consumerism is driving economies but also drives a growing mountain of e-waste not only from North to the South but South—South waste with a wide range of pollutants from heavy metals to chlorine compounds.
- ❖ One of the great challenges of our time is to collectively agree on what is waste and what are second-hand products—this question extends to end-of-life ships as much as to electronic goods.
- ❖ Europe once talked about the 'cradle to grave' approach for handling consumer goods. But we know that we have to look beyond this. Japan is pioneering the 3R's—reduce, reuse and recycle. China is pioneering the Circular Economy—a concept that at its centre hold that nothing is waste, everything is a raw material for another process be it the by-products of a chemical factory or the heat from a power station.

materials found in electrical and electronic equipment (EEE) and account for almost half of the total weight of WEEE. Plastics are the second largest component by weight representing approximately 21% of WEEE. Non-ferrous metals including precious metals represent approximately 13% of the total weight of WEEE and glass around 5%. Recovering these metals and valuables from e-waste has emerged to be a profitable business, resulting in global transboundary trade in e-waste.

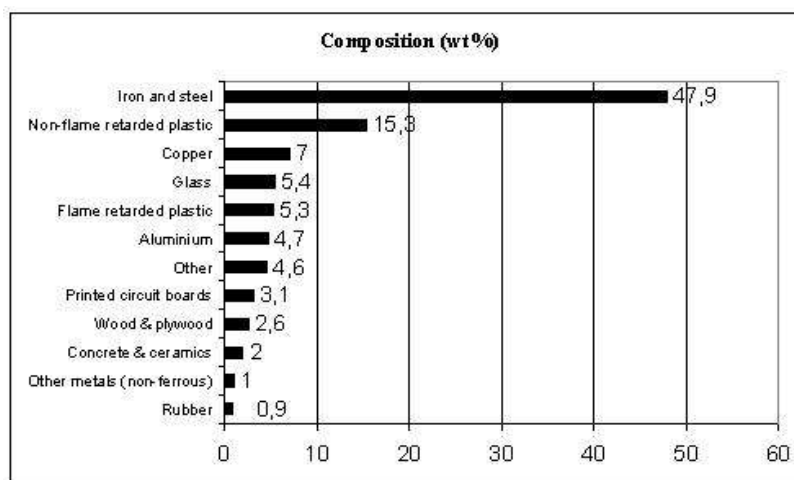


Fig 1. Composition of WFFF in weight %

² European Topic Centre on Resource & Waste Management <http://waste.eionet.europa.eu/waste/6>

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1.2 Concerns of e-Waste Management in South-Asia

Uncontrolled movement of e-waste

Strict domestic laws and higher recycling and/or disposal costs has resulted in transportation of the e-waste from the developed nations to the developing countries in Asia and Africa. Till 1992, Africa was the favourite dumping ground for the Western world. However with the enforcement of the Basel Convention³ by all the African countries, South Asia has become the favorite dumping ground, despite all South Asian countries being signatories to the Convention. Investigations by UNEP and Basel Action Network (BAN)⁴ confirm that trade and dumping of e-waste occurs.

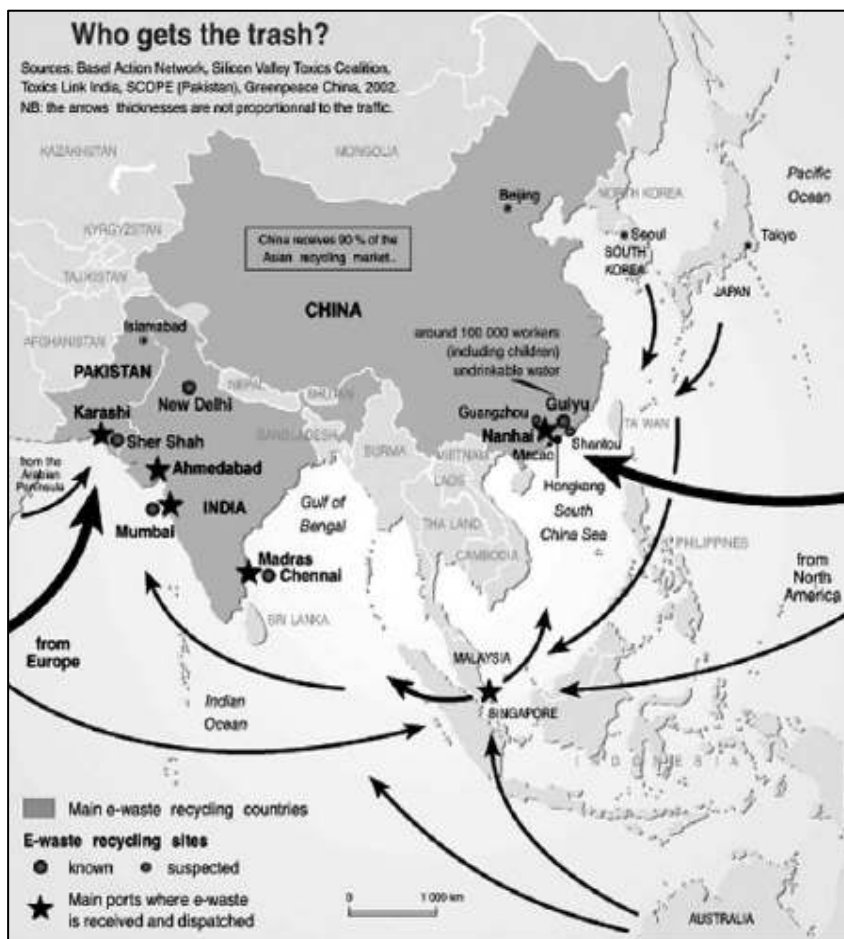


Fig. 2. Asian e-waste traffic (Schwarzer et al., 2005).

Fig 2 depicts the main traffic routes in Asia. Government records suggest that from January to July, 1993 waste dumping increased by 97.3% in India, 125% in Pakistan and 37% in Bangladesh. Today India, Philippines, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Malaysia are among the favourite global destinations of waste products.

In 2002, the Basel Action Network (BAN) along with the SVTC found that 50 to 80 percent of e-waste collected in the western U.S. for recycling is actually exported to countries like China, India, and Pakistan. Transboundary movement still occurs due to economic profits on both sides of developed and developing countries; while the developed countries escape from the strict regulations on the disposal of hazardous waste in domestic area and increase its economic profits, the developing countries create more job opportunities for their working population though it may entail a poor work environment.

³ Refer Section 2.1 for more details

⁴ Schwarzer S, et al. e-waste, The Hidden Side of IT equipment's manufacturing and use. Available on: http://www.grid.unep.ch/product/publication/download/ew_e-waste.pdf

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Increased consumption in developing countries

The South Asian countries are also emerging as generators of e-waste in their own right. The growing consumption rates of EEE in the developing countries make it obvious that large quantities of domestically generated e-waste will become part of their waste streams in near future.

Lack of regulatory mechanisms

The lack of national regulation and/or lax enforcement of existing laws are promoting the growth of an informal economy in the developing countries. An entire new economic sector is evolving around trading, repairing and recovering materials from redundant electronic devices. While it is a source of livelihood for the urban and rural poor, it often causes severe risks to humans and the local environment. Most of the participants in this sector are not aware of the risks, do not know of better practices, or have no access to investment capital to finance profitable improvements. As the informal sector plays a major role in recycling activities, there is a definite challenge to evaluate the role of informal recycling and determine modes to collaborate with these activities.

Methods of recycling & recovery

One major problem related to e-waste is that of disposal and recycling. Importing countries try to earn significant income from refurbishing used PCs and disassembling obsolete PCs, monitors, and circuit boards and then recovering the gold, copper and other precious metals.

Parts of EEE such as the CRTs, printer circuit boards, printer wire boards, semiconductors, transistors etc. contain precious materials viz. gold, silver, copper, platinum, lead, cadmium and mercury. Recovery of these valuables from the electronic scrap involves use of acids and other hazardous chemicals often accompanied with methods, without protection to the environment or health.

Though the waste imports offer a business opportunity to retrieve valuable metals and supply cheaper second-hand EEE for the emerging economies in Asia, the negative impacts on the environment and the human health due to disposal or recycling of e-waste without safeguards should be considered.

Huge amounts of wastes, both hazardous and solid, are burned or dumped in the rice fields, irrigation canals and along waterways. The open burning and toxic dumping not only pollute the land, air and water but also exposes men, women and children to poisonous emissions and effluents. The health and economic costs of this trade are neither borne by the developed countries nor by the waste brokers who benefit from the transaction.

2.0 Endeavours to tackle the e-waste Problem

2.1 Global Initiatives

Mandatory measures: International Agreements

The most prominent initiative to tackle the concerns of e-waste management is the 1989 Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal (in force since 1992). Apart from Afghanistan, Haiti, and the United States of America all 164 signatory countries have ratified the Convention.

The most obvious “trade barrier” to the international flow in “goods and materials for recycling” (known as “wastes” in international law) is the Basel Convention. The so-called “trade barriers” found in the Basel Convention and the Basel Ban Amendment were agreed by the international community, despite the strong opposition of the United States and Japan. The barriers were erected intentionally to protect developing countries

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from the free market's propensity to exploit weaker economies, desperate laborers, and disproportionately burden the global poor with pollution and poison⁵. The Convention puts an onus on exporting countries to ensure that hazardous wastes are managed in an environmentally sound manner in the country of import (see box 2).

Mandatory measures: Legislative Frameworks

In 2002 the European Union (EU) drafted two Directives viz. Waste from Electrical and Electronic Equipment (the WEEE Directive) based on the concept of Extended Producer Responsibility and the Directive on Restriction of the use of certain Hazardous

Box 2. Provisions of e-Waste in Basel Convention

At the international level activities has been initiated under the Basel Convention, which deals with hazardous wastes. Most of the countries in the region have ratified the convention. Some kinds of e-waste or some substances in e-waste are subject to control under the Basel Convention. e-waste related substances covered under the convention include:

- ❖ Annex I: Y45, organohalogen compounds e.g. CFCs.
- ❖ Annex III:
 - A1010: Metal wastes and waste consisting of alloys of specific metals e.g. Cd, Pb, Hg, etc.
 - A1170: Unsorted waste batteries
 - A1180 waste electrical and electronic assemblies or scrap containing components such as accumulators and other batteries included on list A (A1170), mercury switches, glass from CRTs and other activated glass and PCB-capacitors, or contaminated with Annex I constituents(e.g. Cd, Hg, Pb, PCB)
 - A2010: Glass waste from CRTs and other activated glasses.

Substances (RoHS Directive). These are good examples of legal measures at international level.

The WEEE Directive is mainly concerned with the collection and treatment of EEE by introducing the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR). The principle of EPR consists in attributing the physical or financial responsibility for the environmental impact of a product to its producer. The RoHS Directive aims at reducing the environmental impact of EEE, by forbidding certain quantities of specified hazardous material in certain products. By doing so, the European legislator is applying the precautionary principle. It is important to note, that especially the RoHS Directive has a remarkable impact on European and Non-European industry, since the products, even when produced in a Non-EU country, must be conform to it, thus impeding their access to the European market.

Countries such as California and Switzerland have established good systems for e-waste management. California is implementing a landmark legislation Electronic Waste Recycling Act of 2003, some of the key elements includes:

- ❖ Reduction in hazardous substances used in certain electronic products sold in California
- ❖ Collection of an electronic waste recycling fee at the point of sale of certain products.

⁵ Briefing Paper 9. BAN April 2006. The 3R Initiative: A Mask for Toxic Trade

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- ❖ Distribution of recovery and recycling payments to qualified entities covering the cost of electronic waste collection and recycling.
- ❖ Directive to establish environmentally preferred purchasing criteria for state agency purchases of certain electronic equipment.

The Swiss Ordinance on the return, taking back and the disposal of electrical and electronic equipment ORDEE is in force since 1998 which lists the appliances covered, sets the obligation to give back and take back WEEE and requires environmentally sound disposal, including recycling and final disposal. The ORDEE prescribes that the obligation to take back rests with the retailers and traders, independent from the brand and also if no new equipment is bought and the manufacturers and importers with the brand manufactured or imported by them. It also lays down that recycling and final disposal of WEEE must follow state of the art technology. In this system the municipalities are not involved in collection and transportation of WEEE. The collection and recycling of WEEE is financed by a voluntary financing system established by the industry and commerce. The funds are raised through a *Prepaid Recycling Fee* (PRF). At the point of sale the customer is charged a PRF, imposed on new equipment. The PRF is used to finance the collection, transportation and recycling of *end-of-life* equipments including electronics bought before introduction of PRF. Based on this system, WEEE collection in Switzerland during 2004 was reported to be 10.2 kg per inhabitant as compared to the EU-WEEE Directive target of 4 kg per inhabitant for 2006⁶.

The **Home Appliance Recycling Law (HARL)** of Japan distinguishes three phases in the management of WEEE, these being the disposal, the collection and transport and the recycling. Once a product is to be discarded, the end-user has to bring it to either the retailer who has sold the appliance or one who sells the same type of appliances or to a municipal collection site. For the collection, the disposer has to pay a collection and recycling fee. Manufacturers and importers are obliged to take back the appliances which they have produced and ensure their recycling. They ensure this by setting up take-in points, to which the retailers and the municipalities may bring the collected WEEE. For the collection and the recycling, the manufacturers/importers may charge a fee. Should the manufacturer be unknown, the collected WEEE has to be transferred to an officially authorized recycler by the municipality. The **Law for the promotion of Effective Utilization of Resources** is part of a plan of the Japanese government to introduce the plan for establishing a sound material cycle society. This plan includes several acts which shall promote a recycling based society. Law on Eco-friendly Procurement by State Agencies prescribes public entities on the procurement of eco-friendly appliances. Whenever replacing old appliances, any public entity shall choose a product according to a set of environmental criteria, determined by the competent authority.

The Ordinance on the Management of Waste Electric and Electronic Equipments Reclamation and Disposal⁷ of China focuses on the collection and treatment of WEEE. WEEE will be collected by registered/authorized enterprises, be it appliance distributors, after-sales service organizations or reclamation enterprises. It will be treated by accredited treatment facilities. Second hand products must pass a test and may only be sold by registered second hand dealers. The regulation does not contain provisions concerning the financing of the system set up. The National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) is competent for the organization, coordination and monitoring of WEEE collection and disposal. The Ministry of Science and Technology, the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Construction, the Ministry of Information Industry, the Ministry of

⁶ WEEE Disposal System in Switzerland. Presentation by Dr Marco Buletti. Swiss Agency for the environment, Forests and Landscape. Asia-Pacific Regional Workshop on ESM of e-Waste. Tokyo. Nov 2005.

⁷ National Compendium of National WEEE Legislations. United Nations University & UNEP. 2006

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Commerce, the Customs General Administration, the State Administration of Taxation, the State Administration for Industry and Commerce, the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine and the State Environmental Protection Administration are responsible for relevant monitoring and management tasks within the scope of their respective offices. The local governments have the obligation to implement the collection and disposal of WEEE in accordance with this ordinance and to qualify and accredit disposal enterprises in their administrative areas.

Policy on Technologies for the Prevention of Pollution Caused by Waste Electrical and Electronic Products of China introduces the principle of Extended Producer Responsibility for this sector. WEEE has to be collected by a system set up by manufacturers/importers. Appliances then have to be tested on whether they are still functional or not. Should this be the case, they shall be reintroduced to the market by an authorized second hand dealer; otherwise, they shall be recycled. The scope of this ordinance covers the whole life-cycle of Waste Electrical & Electronic Products (WEEP), with an emphasis on its recycling. The aim of this ordinance is the establishing of WEEP recovery systems and regional factories engaged in the utilization of WEEP resources and in the treatment and disposal of WEEP.

Other measures: Research, Partnerships & Voluntary Initiatives

In Europe, the main research project addressing e-waste is based at EMPA in Switzerland⁸. The project *Knowledge Partnerships with Developing and Transition Countries in e-waste Recycling*, launched in 2003, involves undertaking case studies in India, China and South Africa to characterize e-waste processing practices and conditions in these areas. The conceptual framework of the project is that enhanced knowledge and management can improve environmental and economic performance simultaneously. Thus major goals are to do to identify best practices and to communicate this knowledge and train practitioners.

Table 2 enumerates the focus of the Swiss e-waste programme in the three countries are: *Technologies and Skills* in India, *Policies and Legislation* in China and *Businesses and Financing* in South Africa.

Table 2. Initiatives of the Swiss e-waste Program⁹

India	The work is concentrated on the 'Cyber City' Bangalore and supports the establishment of a "Clean e-waste Channel", starting with safe and controlled recycling of corporate e-waste. Linked to this initiative, is the forming of an e-Waste Agency and the organization and participation of the informal sector. Important is the diversion of hazardous fractions and processes to the formal industry. The activities are part of an "Indo-German-Swiss WEEE Project".
South Africa	The work will facilitate the development of "Clean e-waste Channels" for Cape Town, and possibly, Durban and Johannesburg, guaranteeing safe and controlled disposal of e-waste. Financial sustainability will be achieved through adequate financing schemes. The work focusses to obtain a maximum value added, to allow for the creation of jobs.
China	The work provides technical assistance and training in the design and implementation of a pilot e-waste Management System in Zhe Jiang Province, which could serve as a model for other provinces in China or elsewhere. This pilot e-waste management system will put into practice the Chinese e-waste legislation, currently under development.

⁸ www.e-waste.ch

⁹ Source: http://e-wasteguide.info/current_status . Last accessed on 20 July 2007.

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Responding to the challenges of e-waste management several initiatives took shape across the globe. A few major initiatives tackling WEEE issues from various perspectives are enlisted in Table 3 below.

Launched in 2002, the Mobile Phone Partnership Initiative (MPPI) is currently the Basel Convention's most advanced public-partnership programme. Participants in this Initiative include representatives from mobile phone manufacturers, telecom operators, national governments, the Basel Convention Regional Centres, refurbishing and recycling companies and environmental, industrial and development NGOs. The MPPI aims to make mobile phones more environmentally friendly, influence consumer behaviour and promote the environmentally sound management of used and end-of-life mobile phones. A guidance document has been prepared which is being forwarded to COP8 in November 2006 to be considered for adoption. The guidelines will then be tested through several pilot projects.

The Secretariat of Basel Convention has also commenced development of a partnership in the computing industry under the working title of "e2e: The Global Partnership on Computing and the Environment"¹⁰. The initiative will build upon other initiatives under the Basel Convention such as the High Level Roundtable held during the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties on the environmentally sound management of e-waste and work on e-waste undertaken through the Basel Convention Regional Centre in Beijing, China.

The activities of the Secretariat of Basel Convention at the international level are mainly focused on awareness and promotion of response measures. The activities of the Seattle based Basel Action Network (BAN) for example, created huge awareness on the issue of e-waste.

¹⁰ Report on the implementation of the decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its sixth meeting. Basel Convention Partnership Programme. October 2004.

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Table 3. Initiatives tackling the WEEE issues from various perspectives¹¹

Initiatives	Description
Basel Convention and Basel Ban	A global agreement regulating movements of hazardous wastes, including WEEE, between countries, in force since 1992. However, an Amendment to the Convention, commonly known as the Basel Ban, which calls for prohibiting the export of hazardous waste from OECD to non-OECD countries, is still to come into force.
StEP initiative (Solving The e-waste Problem)	An UN-led initiative started in 2004 at the “Electronic Goes Green” Conference in Berlin to build an international platform to exchange and develop knowledge on WEEE systems among countries to enhance and coordinate various efforts around the world on the reverse supply chain.
Basel Action Network (BAN), Silicon Valley Toxics Coalition (SVTC) and computer take back campaign	A network of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in the US working together on WEEE issues, including international advocacy for the Basel Ban, domestic collection and recycling events as well as investigative research to promote national solutions for hazardous waste management.
WEEE Forum Founded in 2002	The WEEE Forum is a group of representatives of voluntary collective WEEE take-back systems in Europe, taking care of individual producers' responsibility in Europe.
National Electronics Product Stewardship Initiative (NEPSI)	A multi-stakeholder dialogue to develop the framework of a national WEEE management system in the USA. The NEPSI dialogue includes representatives from electronics manufacturers, retailers, state and local governments, recyclers, environmental groups, and others.
Electronics Product Stewardship Canada (EPS Canada)	EPS Canada was created to work with both industry and government to develop a flexible, workable Canadian solution. An industry-led organization, the founding members are 16 leading electronics manufacturers.
ERP (European Recycling Platform)	Set up at the end of 2002 by Hewlett Packard, Sony, Braun and Electrolux to enable the producers to comply with the WEEE directive. It aims to evaluate, plan and operate a pan-European platform for recycling and waste management services.
seco/EMPA e-waste programme	A project set up in 2003 by seco (Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs) and implemented by EMPA (Swiss Federal Laboratories for Materials Testing and Research) in cooperation with a number of local partners and authorities, to assess and improve WEEE recycling systems in different parts of the world by analysing the systems and by exchanging knowledge on recycling techniques and frameworks.

Apart from these international initiatives there are also initiatives at the national level by various countries and NGOs highlighting the issues involved and possible solutions.

¹¹ Global Perspectives of e-waste. R. Widmer et al. / Environmental Impact Assessment Review 25 (2005) 436–458

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2.2 Efforts by South Asian Countries

South Asian countries viz. India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, Sri Lanka and Maldives are all signatories to the Basel Convention prohibiting transboundary movement of hazardous waste. Amongst all India has played a lead role to address the e-waste issue. The waste electrical and electronic assemblies are covered under category B-1110 of Schedule 3 of the Hazardous Waste (Management & Handling) Rules 2003 of India. Several studies by research institutes and NGOs have been done to understand the extent and dynamics of the e-waste problem in India¹². The Indian government has authorized 6 e-waste recycling units viz. 4 located in the state of Tamil Nadu and 2 in Karnataka, operated by private entrepreneurs.

There have been several consultations carried out in South Asia to address the concerns and device response measures for management of e-waste.

The Asia-Pacific Regional Scoping Workshop on the Environmentally Sound Management of Electronic Wastes in November 2002 was the first intergovernmental meeting to be held on the “e-waste” problem in Asia. The workshop was organized by the Basel Convention Regional Centre in Beijing and the Secretariat of Basel Convention, Geneva. The major findings of the workshop were

1. That the scope of and definition of e-waste should include electrical and electronic equipments including PCs and electrical equipment.
2. That it is a problem serious enough that need to be managed, whether in developed or developing countries.
3. That e-wastes contain valuable resources which should be reused and recovered as much as possible.
4. Clear legal definitions and material specifications are required for e-waste. In addition, prior informed consent (PIC) and environmentally sound management (ESM) for export and import of hazardous e-waste are also required.
5. Technical assistance to upgrade capacity of developing countries is urgently needed. The Basel Convention Regional Centres can play an active role in this aspect e.g. increasing awareness and education, technical transfer etc.
6. Manufacturers and consumers must participate in solving this problem such as participating in product stewardship programme and life cycle management.

The workshop also recommended activities to be taken up concurrently to address the issue of e-waste. These are:

- ❖ Legal and regulatory framework
- ❖ Waste management infrastructure
- ❖ Capacity building, training and awareness raising

The other major consultation was a three day SAARC workshop organized by the Ministry of Environment and Forest, Government of Bangladesh with sponsorship from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the SAARC Secretariat during 10 – 12 October 2004 in Dhaka. The recommendations of the workshop, based on discussions in each technical sessions as well as group meetings among SAARC delegates and unanimous consensus among the participating countries, are considered as “Dhaka

¹² For details refer section 3.2.2.2.A

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Recommendation on Waste Management 2004”. On the issue of waste management the workshop recommended that all SAARC countries should establish a SAARC network on waste management with the objectives of sharing information and technology transfer on municipal solid waste, BMW and hazardous waste management among SAARC countries.

The recently organized 3R workshop in Katmandu, Nepal dealt with the issue of e-waste management and its relevance in South Asia¹³. The workshop with experts from across Asia pointed out the needs for South Asia – technology transfer and adaptation, 3R to be used in e-waste management in applying EMS and ISO 14000 and an environmental fee-based financial model.

The Secretariat of Basel Convention adopted the Work Programme on Partnership for 2005-06 in COP7 which included e-waste as a priority. This 4-Year program will be carried out through concrete and well-targeted national and regional efforts by SBC and other partners (governments, IGOs, UNEP, NGOs and industry) based on needs. The project on Environmentally Sound Management of e-waste for Asia Pacific, launched under this program, is supporting 10 Asian countries viz. Cambodia, China, India, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam. The objectives of the Asia-Pacific project includes providing information on-line to countries and other stakeholders; establishment of partnerships between governments, industries, municipalities and NGOs to promote ESM of e-waste; conducting pilot schemes on identification, collection and segregation for reuse, refurbishment, recycling, material recovery and disposal; conducting pilot schemes for recycling PCs and mobile phones.

3.0 Environmentally Sound Management of e-Waste – Relevance in South Asia

3.1 Need and pre-requisites for ESM of e-Waste

The growing concerns of e-waste management are evident in the South Asian countries. With the fastest growing markets of tele-communications and mobile telephony and increasing investments in the IT and IT-enabled sectors on one hand and growth of the informal sector handling e-waste on the other, the South Asian region is poised with increased use of e-appliances and challenges of properly managing the e-waste. This calls for promotion of the *environmentally sound management* principles in managing e-waste.

Under the Basel Convention *environmentally sound management* (ESM) means taking all practicable steps to ensure that hazardous wastes or other wastes are managed in a manner, which will protect human health and the environment against the adverse effects, which may result from such wastes¹⁴.

The environmentally sound management of used or end-of-life equipment needs to be viewed in the context of integrated waste management and life cycle approach to products. It is important to develop policy and economic tools that aim at reducing the amount of hazardous wastes being dumped or finding its way into landfills. Many actions are required in this regard, including establishing collection systems, sorting the waste at source, and promoting good practices in dismantling, recycling, recovery and collection.

¹³ Report of 3R South Asia Expert Workshop, August 2006, Katmandu, Nepal

¹⁴ United Nations Environment Programme 2000. *Report of the Seventeenth Session of the Technical Working Group*. Technical Working Group of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Waste of Their Disposal. October.
<http://www.basel.int/meetings.TWG/twg17FINAL.html>.

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The OECD Council for Environmentally Sound Management of Wastes recommends six core performance elements of ESM¹⁵ applicable to evaluation, dismantling, refurbishment, pre-treatment, treatment and disposal of wastes. The following core performance elements apply to all waste management facilities:

- ❖ The Facility should have an applicable Environmental Management System (EMS) in place
- ❖ The Facility should take sufficient measures to safeguard Occupational and Environmental Health and Safety
- ❖ The Facility should have an adequate Monitoring, Recording and Reporting Programme
- ❖ The Facility should have an appropriate and adequate Training Programme for the personnel
- ❖ The Facility should have an adequate Emergency Plan
- ❖ The Facility should have an adequate Plan for Closure and After-care

The Secretariat of Basel Convention points out the following as pre-requisites¹⁶ for sound management of e-waste:

- ❖ An appropriate legislative framework;
- ❖ Sustainable development policies, including policies on the collection, recycling and recovery of electronic and electrical wastes and ones that address the transboundary movements of such wastes;
- ❖ Economic incentives for environmentally sound practices and technologies;
- ❖ Green design aimed at reducing the use of hazardous materials in electrical and electronic products and enhancing their recyclability;
- ❖ Closing the loop for recyclables;
- ❖ Extending the life of products through reuse, refurbishment or repair;
- ❖ Elimination of hazardous constituents in products;
- ❖ Worldwide environmentally sound management standards or criteria for recycling and final disposal of electronic wastes;
- ❖ Action to prevent illegal traffic;
- ❖ Broad public awareness;
- ❖ Public-private partnerships to engage all stakeholders;
- ❖ Regional level playing field on how to deal with export and import of electronic and electrical wastes;

Efforts to adopt the ESM principles for e-waste management in South Asia have been sporadic or even absent. The following section assesses the current scenario in South Asia and individual countries and identifies the bottlenecks in implementing the ESM principles for e-waste management.

¹⁵ [http://webdomino1.oecd.org/horizontal/oecdacts.nsf/linkto/C\(2004\)100](http://webdomino1.oecd.org/horizontal/oecdacts.nsf/linkto/C(2004)100)

¹⁶ The Secretariat of Basel Convention, Geneva, Switzerland www.basel.int

3.2 Detailed Situation Analysis – the Current Context

3.2.1 Of South Asia

The South Asia sub region includes Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka. It occupies 4.8% of the world's total land area. Approximately 1.33 billion people live in South Asia. The South Asian economy has grown at an average of 5.3% during the period 1990–2000 and is projected to grow at a similar rate in 2000–2015¹⁷. IFC observes that in the year 2005, South Asia remained one of the world's fastest growing regions, with particularly strong growth in India¹⁸. Many companies in the region are striving for international competitiveness and pursuing new investment opportunities in South Asia. Since early 1990s, the region has also moved ahead with reforms and integration of its economies with the global economy and also has begun to liberalise intra-regional trade.

Intraregional trade in South Asia is relatively low compared with other regions in Asia. Intraregional trade as a ratio of South Asia's total foreign trade was only 5.3% in 2004, compared with 22.4% for Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) member countries. For individual countries, the intraregional trade ratio varies from a low of 3.0% for India and 5.0% for Pakistan to a high of 47.2% for Nepal and 35.3% for Afghanistan.

The South Asian region has witnessed wide-ranging regional economic integration efforts over time. SAARC as an institutional framework was formed with the signing of its Charter by the Heads of Governments/States at Dhaka in December 1985. It was set up with an objective to accelerate the process of economic, social and cultural development, promote and strengthen collective self-reliance through joint action in certain agreed areas of cooperation. The growing popularity of RTAs has ignited South Asian countries to create SAPTA (SAARC Preferential Trade Arrangement) in 1993 as the first step towards higher levels of trade and economic cooperation in the region. SAPTA contains provisions granting "Special and Favourable or Preferential Treatment" to the least developed countries in the SAARC region. These initiatives have lead to increased trade and investment in the region¹⁹.

Because regional economic development in South Asia has stimulated production and consumption of electronic and electrical products and home appliances, quantities of e-waste are expected to increase rapidly.

Despite its low telephone penetration, when compared with the rest of the world, South Asia is one of the fastest growing markets. In the year 2001 there were a total of 43.7 million fixed telephone lines (4 per cent of the world) in operation and 8.5 million mobile subscribers (less than 1 per cent of the world) in South Asia. The average fixed-line teledensity was 3.2 and the mobile teledensity was 0.63²⁰. A multi-country survey, conducted by Learning Initiatives on Reforms for Network Economies, Sri Lanka, on the use of telecommunications among low-income groups shows that the poor in South Asia are already accessing telecommunications²¹.

e-Waste generated by discarded computers, mobile phones, batteries, and other electronic goods is a growing concern in South Asia, and no specific laws and

¹⁷ Report of 3R South Asia Expert Workshop, August 2006, Katmandu, Nepal

¹⁸ <http://www.ifc.org/southasia/> Last Accessed on 20 July 2007

¹⁹ Regional Cooperation Strategy Program – South Asia (2006-08). ADB.
<http://www.adb.org/Documents/CSPs/South-Asia/2006/CSP-SA-2006.pdf>

²⁰ Report, International Telecommunication Union, 2002

²¹ The Straits Times, June 2007

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guidelines presently deal with these wastes. In the near future, this issue will be aggravated due to continuing economic progress that will bring higher consumption and production of waste, making waste disposal problems steadily worse. The above growth suggests that South Asia would soon face the issue of managing the e-waste generated domestically, apart from imports. Despite being signatories to the Basel Convention, there is no legal framework to deal with the issues of e-waste management in the South Asian countries.

e-Waste contains many toxic chemicals and these harmful substances can be released easily if precautions are not taken to handle them carefully. The principles of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), though made mandatory in EU and countries like Japan, China etc., is not applied in South Asian countries, except for a few voluntary initiatives of product take-back by industries. The analysis of e-waste trade value chain in South Asian countries shows that e-waste material flows from the formal sector to the informal sector.

Old or used electronic and electrical goods/wastes from the domestic sector, offices, manufacturers/industrial etc goes in as exchange schemes or discarded to the primary level where the market is the formal sector. The e-waste then goes to the second level where the main stakeholders are dismantlers and scrap dealers. The market between the primary and secondary level is semi-organised i.e. both formal and informal sector. This level stakeholder has lesser financial capacity and is thus involved in segregation of the e-waste into various components like PCB's, plastic, CRT etc. Such segregated waste goes to the third level where in the market is completely informal. These stakeholders buy the items from for extraction of various valuable metals. This material flow intensifies interaction with environment leading to environmental and health impacts.

In the South Asian countries there are no standard practices for collection and recycling of e-waste at present. The e-waste finds its way to the informal sector through scrap dealers who buy the waste through auctions and from waste collectors. Waste is also imported from developed countries. Some of this e-waste is used as secondhand products, while some are dismantled for the recovery of precious/valuable metals. However, the rest of the e-waste, which are not recycled and reused, is thrown in open dumpsite. The e-waste disposal/recycling usually start from the formal dismantlers to the informal recyclers.

The informal e-waste recycling process in the South Asian region is more or less similar. The e-waste is first dismantled, sorted and sold for further processing to recyclers or exported. No occupational safety measures are followed in the informal sector and very often children are involved in the process of dismantling and sorting. Recovery of precious metal is another important activity in e-waste management. Here too the waste is segregated with emphasis on retrieval of components, which have precious metals like gold, silver, palladium and platinum embedded in its components. Hazardous chemicals like nitric acid, mercury etc. are used for leaching the precious metals.

No study has been conducted in the South Asia region to establish the extent of impact of e-waste on human and the environmental quality.

Donating second-hand equipment or selling it at low cost, in addition to donating new equipment, can be considered as a transboundary reuse activity. In this case, one should ensure that used equipment is sufficiently durable. Also, cooperation to exchange know-how on providing collection and maintenance systems is desirable.

3.2.2 Of Each Country

3.2.2.1 GROWTH OF THE COMPUTER AND MOBILE PHONE INDUSTRY

A. Information Technology

The Information Technology industry in all South Asian countries has witnessed rapid growth over the last few years not only because of the increasing demand but also conducive government policies. Moreover with major European and US-based organizations outsourcing software development in the developing countries, including South Asia, software exports and associated use of hardware is definitely expected to rise.

In recent years the electronic industry in **India** is growing at a fast pace. It is currently worth \$10 Billion but according to estimates, has the potential to reach \$ 40 billion by 2010²². The electronic industry in India constitutes just 0.7 % of the global electronic industry. Hence it is miniscule by international comparison. However the demand in the Indian market is growing rapidly and investments are flowing in to augment manufacturing capacity.

The Indian software industry has grown from a mere US \$ 150 million in 1991-92 to a staggering US \$ 5.7 billion (including over \$4 billion worth of software exports) in 1999-2000. No other Indian industry has performed so well against the global competition.

The annual growth rate of India's software exports has been consistently over 50 percent since 1991. Today, India exports software and services to nearly 95 countries around the world. India is also an exporter of a vast range of electronic components and products for various segments including display technologies, entertainment electronics, optical storage devices, passive components, electromechanical components, telecom equipment, transmission & signaling equipment, semiconductor designing and electronic manufacturing services²³. India however remains a major importer of electronic materials, components and finished equipment.

According to a NASSCOM-McKinsey report 2005, annual revenue projections for India's IT industry in 2008 are US \$ 87 billion and market openings are emerging across four broad sectors, IT services, software products, IT enabled services, and e-businesses thus creating a number of opportunities for Indian companies. In addition to the export market, all of these segments have a domestic market component as well.

Electronics is one of a cluster of high-priority industries identified by **Sri Lanka's** Board of Investment (BOI) that could help the government achieve its ambitious aim to make Sri Lanka a Newly Industrialized Country (NIC) by the next century. There are over 160 electronics, computers and communications vendors in the country. Seven of Sri Lanka's 30 software companies are exporters. Export Development Board officials report that Sri Lanka now earns about Rs.100 million (\$2 million)

²² Electronic Industries Association of India formerly Electronic Component Industries Association
www.elcina.com

²³ Electronic Industries Association of India, formerly Electronic Component Industries Association
www.elcina.com

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annually from computer software exports. Government incentives for investors setting up electronics export industries include up to 10 year's tax holiday, duty free imports and venture capital financing.

The size/turnover of the software segment of the industry in **Pakistan** is about US\$ 25 million in the domestic segment and US\$ 15 million worth of export²⁴. The software segment of the IT industry has about 500 players/companies.

Bangladesh is one of the poorest, most densely populated, and least developed countries in the world. The size of the information technology industry in Bangladesh is \$170 million. Local software companies cater to the customized software development and maintenance segment of the market. Though software exports have grown rapidly in Bangladesh, contribution to overall exports remains insignificant.

The ICT industry of **Nepal** is still at a nascent stage, though it faces a bright future. The structure of the ICT industry in Nepal includes a mix of hardware, software, training and telecom firms. The industry largely comprises small and medium companies that are developing software, trading ICT solutions or focusing on systems integration. IT-Enabled Services is an emerging industry in Nepal and 29 firms are active in this domain.

The ICT sector itself is poised for a major jump. The ICT industry of Nepal recorded revenues of US\$35 million in 2002, up from US\$ 18 million in 2000. While ICT hardware was the largest seller, accounting 7% for 70 percent of the industry revenues in 2002, education and training accounted for 17 percent of sales during that period²⁵.

In **Maldives** the use of Information Technology is mainly within the Government offices, which have basic computer facilities. Some organizations are fully modern in their office automation others remain mainly manual²⁶.

B. Telecommunications

Like elsewhere in the world, South Asia is experiencing an enormous expansion of the telecom sector, particularly with the liberalization of the telecommunications sector and participation of the private operators. Added to this has been the growing demand for mobile telephony.

The number of mobile subscribers in **India** have increased more than 179 times from 1997 (678460) to June 2007 (121431166)²⁷. India has become the second largest mobile handset market in the world and the Indian market could soon become a global hub for mobile handset manufacturers. According to a study by Research and Markets, Ireland the Indian mobile handset market is worth about US\$ 2 billion. Major handset manufacturers like Nokia, Samsung, Motorola, Sony Ericsson, LG etc. are currently operating in Indian market for cellular handsets. However, their business mainly comprise of imports of readymade handsets or importing the components and ressembling and selling the same in India. Initiatives to start manufacturing in the country are coming up. Nokia has already established a manufacturing plant of

²⁴ ASTINFO 2001 (Website of Science and Technology Information Institute- www.stii.dost.gov.ph)
www.stii.dost.gov.ph/astinfo/frame/jan_to_mar_

²⁵ Asian –Oceanian Computing Industry Organization, 2005 www.asocio.org/member/CAN/nepal-industry.pdf

²⁶ Ministry of Communications, Science and Technology, Maldives, 2005 www.mcst.gov.mv

²⁷ Quarterly Statistics of Subscribers, Cellular Operators Association of India www.coai.com

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cellular handsets at Chennai, while rest of the companies like Motorola, Samsung, Sony Ericsson and LG will soon start making mobile handsets in India. It is expected that domestic manufacturing will ultimately replace imports and cellular handset industry will turn in to an export oriented industry²⁸.

According to a recent report in 2006 cellular services in **Sri Lanka** has grown by 61%. The number of cellular phone users grew to 5.4 million in 2006 from 3.4 million a year earlier. Teledensity touched 36.7, while mobile density was 27.1.

According to the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority total teledensity of **Pakistan** reached 11.9% in June 2005 while the total number of mobile subscribers reached 12.5 million and the total fixed line working connections reached 5.2 million during the same time. This year the annual growth rate of mobile telephony segment was astounding 278%, taking the total number of subscribers to 48,289,100. With the entry of two new telecom players in 2004, mobile telephony is seeing intense competition and as a result prices have fallen substantially. Cellular penetration in the country grew from mere 14% in December 2005 to 31.07% in December 2006.

The overall situation in **Bangladesh's** telecom sector has been improved to some extent in recent times by a rapidly expanding mobile market. After a number of years of strong growth, mobile penetration was a little over 14% at end of the year 2006. Telecom services used to be provided exclusively by Bangladesh Telephone and Telegraph Board (BTTB) - a government functionary. The recent revolution in information technology has opened up a new area for private investment in the telecom sector.

The telecom sector in **Nepal** has seen a good growth rate. The fixed line penetration is still low at 2.46%. The gap between fixed line penetration and mobile penetration is still getting wider with mobile penetration jumping to 4.03%. Mobile services saw a whopping growth of 167% in last nine months in terms of net subscriber addition.

Telecom density in **Maldives** is highest in South Asia at 98.76%, while the fixed line penetration is low at 10.88%.

The telecom sector in **Bhutan** has come a long way. Fixed-line teledensity has increased from 2.8% in 2002 to 5.3% in 2006 and mobile teledensity, as of December 2006, has reached 12.3%.

3.2.2.2 INITIATIVES & CURRENT PRACTICES FOR e-WASTE MANAGEMENT

Given the growth in both the sectors of ICT and mobile telephony and the rapid obsolescence of the products, the South Asian countries are confronted with the challenge of managing the generated e-waste. The major sources of e-waste can be divided into:

- a. Domestic (within the country): end-of-life products, post-usage, manufacturing etc.
- b. Imported (from other countries): donation, scrap for dismantling, second-hand equipments

Though there are no confirmed figures available on how the transboundary movements of these wastes occur, the fact that such movements take place is evident in several reports.

²⁸ India Brand Equity Foundation, 2006 www.ibef.org

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As mentioned in the earlier section, management of the e-waste is still in the preliminary stages in South Asia. Majority of the activities are carried out by the informal sectors. Based on the findings of previously conducted studies the current scenario of e-waste management and initiatives in individual South Asian countries are enumerated below:

A. India

Published reports in 2003–2004 indicated that e-waste is becoming an important issue in India. A pilot assessment on the existence of e-waste and its recycling for the region of greater Delhi was carried out under the guidance of the Central Pollution Control Board/Ministry of Environment and Forests. This study focused on e-waste generation from personal computers, the economics of its recycling and environmental, health, and social issues associated with its rapid growth in Delhi region. The study indicated that the estimated e-waste in Delhi alone from personal computers during 2003–2004 was 6,803t, with 7 years obsolescence rate. The pilot assessment also reported that personal computers dismantled in the national capital region might reach 700,000 to 800,000 per annum by 2010.

As a follow-up to the pilot study, a national-level desk study was carried out in 2004–2005 under the guidance of CPCB/ASEM program of GTZ, to assess the quantum of e-waste being generated at the national level and to identify states and cities requiring rapid assessment²⁹. The report indicates that computers, TVs (brown goods), refrigerators, and washing machines (white goods) will drive the future growth of the electronics hardware industry in India. The data captured through Market Supply Method show that the estimated market size of personal computers (15,464,637), colored and black and white TVs (11,750,000), refrigerators (4,800,000), and washing machines (1,700,000). The growth rate of computers has been estimated to be 25%, while it varies from 15–20% annually for all other items. The obsolescence rate of computers has been established at 7 years for TVs, washing machines, and refrigerators, 15 years. The e-waste inventory based on this obsolescence rate and installed base in India for 2004–2005 has been estimated to be 14,618,000t. This is expected to exceed 16,000,000 tons by 2012.

Ten states generate 70% of the total e-waste in India. Maharashtra ranks first, followed by Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Delhi, Karnataka, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, and Punjab. Among the top 10 cities generating e-waste, Mumbai ranks first, followed by Delhi, Bangalore, Chennai, Kolkata, Ahmedabad, Hyderabad, Pune, Surat, and Nagpur³⁰.

Box 3. Recycling by the Formal sector in India

There are a total of six Formal recyclers in India – 2 in Karnataka and 4 in Tamil Nadu:

- ❖ Ash Recyclers, Thimmaiah Road, Bangalore.
- ❖ e-Parisara Private Limited, Dobaspet Industrial Area, Bangalore.
- ❖ M/s. TES-AMM recyclers (India) Pvt Ltd – Tondiarpet village, Fort-Tondiarpet taluk, Chennai.
- ❖ M/s. Trishiraya Recycling India Private Ltd – MEPZ-SEZ, Kancheepuram district
- ❖ M/s. AER Worldwide (India) Pvt Ltd - Thiruvellur district
- ❖ M/s. INAA Enterprises – SIDCO Industrial Area, Kancheepuram district

²⁹ Country Level WEEE Study, IRGSSA, CPCB/ASEM, 2004–2005

³⁰ Summary Report of 3R South Asia Expert Workshop –chapter 2.5 Perspective of Electronic Waste Management in South Asia: Current Status, Issues and Application of 3Rs
<http://enviroscope.iges.or.jp/modules/envirolib/upload/750/attach/content.pdf>

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Recently some private entrepreneurs have been authorized by Gol to set up e-waste recycling units (see Box 3) in India. However, the bulk e-waste recycling facility in India exists in the informal sector, which operates without occupational and environmental safety measures.

The Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes and Disposal was signed by India on 15th March 1990 ratified and acceded to in 1992. A ratification of this Convention obliges India to address the problem of transboundary movement and disposal of dangerous hazardous wastes through international cooperation. As per the Basel Convention, India cannot export hazardous wastes listed in Annex VIII of the Convention from countries that have ratified the Ban Agreement. However, the Convention agreement does not restrict the import of such wastes from countries that have not ratified the Basel Convention. It is through the orders of the Honourable Supreme Court that the import of such wastes is now banned in the country.³¹

In India however, electrical and electronic assemblies are covered under category B-1110 of Schedule 3 of the Hazardous Waste Management and Handling Rules, 2003. Import of these wastes in India for recycling or final disposal is not permitted. The MoEF/CPCB established a national-level task force to steer the e-waste initiatives in the country. e-Waste manuals describing approach and methodology for inventorization of e-waste and its updating have been prepared. CPCB is preparing guidelines for environmentally sound management of e-waste in India. This includes development of guidelines for dismantling and recycling.

Under the Foreign Trade (Development and Regulation) Act of 1992, the Central Government has provided for donations of computers and peripherals from zones, which have been set up primarily for EOUs (Export Oriented Units), EPZ (Exports Processing Zones), STP (Software Technology Parks) and EHTP (Electronics Hardware Technology Parks), at a zero custom duty.

There is a provision for two years of import and use, to recognized non-commercial educational institutions, registered charitable hospitals, public libraries, public-funded research and development establishments, organizations of the Government of India, or Government of State or Union Territory. Import of old PCs requires a special license from the concerned authority, under an “actual user condition.” The receivers of old PCs are not to act as de-canalising channels and traders.

There is no EXIM code for trade in second-hand computers for donation purposes or for resale. They have the same EXIM code as new computers under chapter 84 of the Indian Customs Tariff Act 1975. The exporters sometimes club old and junk computers along with new ones. The flexibility in the interpretation of rules makes a distinction between capital goods and non-capital goods. Capital goods are under the free list and have various tax benefits.

The e-waste management initiatives taken in India include:

- ❖ UNEP, in partnership with the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board (MPCB), conducted a rapid assessment of the e-waste that is generated in the Mumbai-Pune region in 2006.
- ❖ National WEEE Legislation Workshops were held in New Delhi in September 2005 and in Bangalore in May 2006, by the Ministry of Environment & Forests, India to a formulate national WEEE legislation

³¹ 3R Gap Analysis – India. 3R Knowledge Hub – ADB.

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- ❖ The Indo-German-Swiss Initiative for e-waste management has an overall vision to reduce environmental degradation and to extend income generation opportunities through improved e-waste management (installation of suitable collection, recycling and disposal systems, substitution or minimization of toxic substances in production and product design, development and enforcement of adequate policies and regulatory systems) while strengthening links between partners globally to exchange best practices, policies and technologies.
 - The project's purpose is to provide improved technologies and skills for e-waste recycling systems in India and improve working and living environment of urban dwellers working in the (informal) e-waste recycling sector through identifying and presenting sustainable alternatives to “backyard” e-waste recycling.
 - Rapid assessments were carried out in Delhi and Bangalore to understand the quantities being generated, and identification of the e-waste recycling areas have been carried out along with a National level desk study to assess e-waste quantities.
 - An e- Waste Guide has been developed under the aegis of the partnership. The online guide was designed to serve as a current and definitive information resource on the issues, problems and opportunities created by e-waste, focusing on the present scenario in India.
 - An e-Waste Agency (EWA) was formed to bring together industry, government and NGO to work on a sustainable e-waste management strategy for Bangalore.
- ❖ A National WEEE Task Force was formed in July 2004, headed by Chairman CPCB and consists of officials/ representatives of MoEF, CPCB, Ministry of IT, regulatory agencies (representatives of SPCBs), NGOs, Industry Associations/Industry, experts in the field and producers both formal & informal. The mandate of national task force is to identify, plan and implement all issues related to e-waste in India. The National WEEE Task force focuses on five thrust areas - Policy & Legislation, Baseline Study (database and developing a National Register / Clearing House), Restructuring Recycling, EPR and Awareness Building.
- ❖ Toxics Link, UNEP and MPCB jointly conducted over a four-month period an awareness campaign in schools & colleges in Mumbai. The campaign aimed to create awareness on the hazards of e-waste, the importance of safe and environmentally friendly management. It highlighted the critical role of different stakeholders, especially household consumers as well as stimulates greater efforts of the government in environmentally friendly e-waste management.
- ❖ Several manufacturers such as Wipro, Acer, HCL, WeP Peripherals etc have initiated take back options and awareness programmes on e-waste.

B. Sri Lanka

The country report for Sri Lanka, prepared by the Basel Convention Regional Centre, China³² states that e-waste dismantling and reselling is a widespread business in Colombo. In Sri Lanka, no e-waste dismantling facility exists in the formal sector. e-Waste joins the existing general metal and plastic scrap stream, which is further, dismantled and sent to domestic dismantlers and finally exported. According to the

³² 3R Gap Analysis – Bangladesh. 3R Knowledge Hub – ADB

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spokesperson for the scrap export association, their industry gives an income of about 1.5 billion Sri Lankan rupees (SLRs) per annum.

Some well-known markets are mainly Pettah, Panchikawatta, Wallewaththa, and Armer Street in Colombo. Further, there are vendors who collect discarded e-equipment from domestic users in repair shops and sell these to dismantlers and resellers. Dealers also import used computers and sell them to several resellers scattered all over the island.

In Sri Lanka, e-waste generation has been reported from domestic sources and imports. The country has prepared a preliminary inventory to highlight the extent of problem. An activity plan has been prepared for tackling e-waste issues in the country.

The salient features of this plan are:

- a. Formation of task force at ministry for planning and implementation of e-waste action plan.
- b. Control import of selected e-items such as computers and mobile phones, which have been used for three years to reduce potential waste generation.
- c. Develop e-waste policy for providing framework for its management
- d. Introduce EPR for selected items
- e. Establish efficient collection system for electronic waste
- f. Streamlining e-waste recycling infrastructure by bringing them in formal sector and building their capacity.
- g. Formulation and institutionalizing e-waste tracking mechanism in order to update the inventory

C. Pakistan

e-Waste generation has been reported from domestic sources as well as imports in Pakistan. As per the Basel Action Network (BAN) report, preliminary investigations in Pakistan reveal that it is receiving and processing western-originated e-waste. Preliminary estimates show that the penetration rate of personal computers in Pakistan is less than 10 per thousand people (World Bank 2002). However, no inventory of e-waste has been prepared or reported so far. The major e-waste market has been reported to be Sher Shah in Karachi, where electronic, electrical, spare parts and computers from countries including Australia, Japan, England, the United States, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, and the United Arab Emirates is routed via the sea route for subsequent recycling and disposal³³. Only 2% out of the total e-waste available in open markets is re-used with slight repair, while the rest is used for extraction of metals and plastics. Products extracted from the computers include copper, gold, platinum, plastics, lead, and glass. No special equipment or protective clothing of any kind is used during dismantling. The methods by which precious metals are extracted from the e-waste are very harmful to the workforce due to the fumes emitted during their burning and melting. There is no proper regulatory authority to oversee or control neither the pollution nor the occupational exposures to the toxins in the waste³⁴.

³³ Basel Action Network, Silicon Valley Toxics Coalition, SCOPE, Greenpeace China and Toxics Link India, 2002

³⁴ Asia Pacific Network Information Centre www.apnic.net

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D. Bangladesh

Like other developing Asian countries, Bangladesh also imports tons of e-waste every year. The recent ban on importing e-waste to China has diverted much of it to Bangladesh and other neighboring countries due to cheap labor and recycling businesses. This e-waste recycling or computer recycling has been a lucrative, with much money to be made. It involves employing people to strip down the computers and extract parts that can be used again in machines to be sold on the high street. The rest is then burned or dumped, both of which are potentially highly hazardous to the environment. The process of extraction uses all kinds of chemicals, like acids - which then get dumped into the soil and go into the groundwater. Currently there is not much data available on e-waste management in Bangladesh but it does not reflect the absence of any backyard smelting of circuit boards and manual dismantling of computer parts³⁵. The analysis also identifies that material recovery, sorting and pulverization of e-waste is dealt with the informal sector and the execution is weak.

E. Bhutan

According to the National Environment Commission of the Government of Bhutan the growing population and developmental activities are increasing the pressure on Bhutan's clean and intact environment. The Sub-regional Environmental Policy Dialogue (SEPD) meeting for South-Pacific region in Thimphu, 2005 highlights that disposal of unwanted electronic products, or e-waste, is becoming a problem in this region. The Deputy Minister of Environment of Bhutan had pointed out that e-waste could become an unmanageable problem in the future, though it is not of much consequence at the moment.

The country has to be prepared to deal with this before it becomes an issue. This is especially important considering that Bhutan has always prided itself for its pristine environment. The country's environment will continue to be a selling point when it markets itself as a special tourist destination.

A consultant will need to be recruited to undertake an in-depth study and recommend a viable strategy and programme of action for the Bhutanese context. Given the importance, the government has reflected e-waste impact study as one priority program in the 10th FYP (2008-2013), under the Ministry of Information & Communications (MoIC). The Ministry being the overall coordinating body for ICT development and taking into account the associated impacts of e-waste, a strategy to "develop a national e-waste management system for sustainable environment" has been incorporated under Bhutan ICT Policy & Strategy Update 1 (BIPS-1).

F. Nepal & Maldives

No documented reports were available on e- waste management in Nepal and Maldives.

3.3 Bottlenecks in adopting ESM of e-Waste in South Asia

From the situation analysis it is evident that practices employed for managing e-waste in South Asia do not harmonize to the principles of ESM. Only India and Sri Lanka have done some preliminary inventory of e-waste. Moreover, except for India e-waste is not

³⁵ 3R Gap Analysis – Bangladesh. 3R Knowledge Hub – ADB.

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covered in the regulatory/legal framework of South Asian countries³⁶. Numerous obstacles have been identified by the South Asian countries in regard to their ability to manage e-waste in an environmentally sound manner³⁷. These include:

- ❖ **Lack of easily accessible information** on flows, quantities, available technology and legislative/trade requirements of countries importing new products that will require increasingly strict standards for minimization, re-use, recycling and recovery.
- ❖ **Lack of trained personnel** both in the public and private sectors leading to weak or insufficient enforcement and unsound management of e-waste. Overall there is a lack of awareness and technical capacity for environmentally sound management of e-waste.
- ❖ **Lack of legislation including** lack of clarity regarding export/import rules for e-wastes and of regional level-playing field.
- ❖ **Inadequate infrastructure** for collection, recycling and recovery and lack of sound handling and processing during sorting, repair, and refurbishment, recycling for material recovery operations to prevent risks to workers, general public and the environment.
- ❖ **Lack of awareness** in all sectors of society on the potential harmful effects of substances in these equipment and unsound management of e-wastes leading to unsustainable patterns of consumption and production. There is also a lack of economic alternatives to activities carried out by the informal sector and small repair shops.

4.0 Proposed strategies and way forward

4.1 Emerging Priority Areas for e-waste Management in South Asia

The management of e-waste in South Asia should not be isolated but the relationship with trade, regional cooperation and economic integration should be distinctly revealed. The options for e-waste management unfolds two contradictory observations i.e. international trade of e-waste with improper recycling and state-of-the-art recycling with transboundary movement.

Moreover, the issues of policy harmonization, sharing of experiences, training and technology transfer need to be addressed to facilitate international collaboration to manage the transboundary movement of e-waste.

The 3R South Asia Expert Workshop³⁸ observed that the rapid economic growth in South Asia and the increasing trans-boundary movement of secondary resources will increasingly require both 3R endeavors (reduce, reuse, recycle) in each country and appropriate control of international material cycles. The UNEP Regional Strategy for Asia and the Pacific³⁹ has identified e-waste as an emerging environmental issue for the region. The Indo-German-Swiss joint research and action program⁴⁰ on e-waste in India confirms the burning issue of e-waste.

³⁶ Report of 3R South Asia Expert Workshop, August 2006, Katmandu, Nepal

³⁷ The Secretariat of Basel Convention, Geneva, Switzerland www.basel.int

³⁸ Report of 3R South Asia Expert Workshop, August 2006, Katmandu, Nepal

³⁹ Expert group meeting on 'e-waste management in Asia and the Pacific' June 2004, Bangkok, Thailand

⁴⁰ http://e-wasteguide.info/current_status . Last accessed on 20 July 2007.

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Despite the initiatives by some of the countries, agencies with the mandate of waste management in the region lack specific knowledge of composition of e-wastes and their management. These countries have emphasized the need to obtain the latest and relevant information on environmentally sound management of e-waste, including cleaner technologies or processes used in the repair, refurbishment, recycling or recovery of used or end-of-life electrical and electronic equipment. Private enterprises have started to establish international networks of remanufacturing for their used, exported products collected from various countries through their international supply chains. Also, in Asia some recycling businesses have state-of-the-art advanced technologies for the recovery and remediation of hard-to-manage materials. Therefore, one of the major issues for the international promotion of the 3Rs must be how to extend the potential contribution of private enterprises.

BAN⁴¹ recommends that in waste management programs based on the 3R Principles adequate emphasis should be laid on the “reduce” and “reuse” components, rather than focusing only on the “recycle” component. For post-consumer wastes reduction and re-use work directly against the economic bottom-line, as profits are maximized through rapid obsolescence and new sales. It has become clear that the 3Rs are not adequate as a basis for a government or corporate policy. They are strictly technological notions devoid of meaning without the essential 4th R – Responsibility.⁴²

This calls for sub-regional cooperation amongst South Asian countries and constructive multistakeholder dialogues.

4.2 The Scoping Initiative

Development Alternatives (DA) has initiated a project ***Facilitating Partnerships for Environmentally Sound Management of e-waste in India*** with support from the Secretariat of Basel Convention. The efforts have led to a partnership of DA with **South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP)** the intergovernmental environmental organization for the South Asian region.

DA and SACEP is jointly organizing a scoping exercise to facilitate the development of need-based responses in South Asia. DA and SACEP are working together to reduce environmental and health impacts through scientific e-waste management while demonstrating benefits and ensuring multistakeholder participation in the South Asia region. The focus is on the two fast growing industry sectors of computer and mobile phones.

SACEP focuses to achieve a regional strategy to assist, enable and facilitate the South Asian countries to address the waste related issues. SACEP seeks to work in areas where regional cooperation and collective action can add value to member countries and produce better outcomes. SACEP has an objective to establish a network of institutes, stakeholders and identify centers of excellence in the region for waste management.

For over twenty years, DA has focused on its principal objective of empowerment - challenging poverty and environmental degradation with solutions for the poor to live with dignity – making a difference by generating sustainable livelihoods while driving innovation and forging partnerships. DA has been playing a key role in South Asia through its Centre for Sustainability Management in Businesses (CSMB). The Centre facilitates internalisation of sustainability management by corporations and SMEs

⁴¹ Briefing Paper 9. BAN April 2006. The 3R Initiative: A Mask for Toxic Trade

⁴² Briefing Paper 9. BAN April 2006. The 3R Initiative: A Mask for Toxic Trade

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through Participatory Planning and Management, Capacity Building, Research and Outreach.

This scoping exercise is intended to help understand issues, articulate concerns and develop action plans for promoting ESM of e-waste in South Asia, involving both the government and private sector. The initiative will integrate on-going efforts and instigate a process for information sharing amongst the South Asian countries to enable dissemination of good practices and strengthen regional policies and capacities.

A brief outline of the issues for further discussions is enumerated below:

A. Promotion of collaborative actions at the sub-regional level

Establishing a Task Force for South Asia which would report and analyze on the status of existing approaches and particular policies for electronic products and based on this explore recommendations for future developments to solve the e-waste problem.

B. Improvement of management systems at the country level

- Development of guidelines for inventorisation of e-waste
- Models for stakeholder engagement
- Awareness for all stakeholders
- Technology for recycling
- Controlled movement of used electronic goods
- Policy and regulation
- Integration of 5Rs into e-waste management system

School Environment Awareness Programme

Introduction

Adaptation to Climate Change and Waste Management were identified as priority issues in the work programme of SACEP by the 9th Governing council meeting held in August 2005 at Thimphu, Bhutan and also at the 10th Governing Council of SACEP held in January 2007 in Kathmandu, Nepal.

An important component of this priority area is the development of a regional strategy for Solid Waste Management in particular to municipal, medical, industrial, hazardous and e-waste and to facilitate South Asian Countries to address these waste issues.

The lack of awareness among the general public on proper waste separation and handling leads to large scale accumulation of waste. This is a common phenomenon in almost all the urban areas of the South Asian Region.

The Slogan for the world environmental day, year 2007 was 'Melting ice – Hot Topic?'

Sea Level rise due to increasing temperature greatly affects the island countries like Sri Lanka and Maldives. So far no adaptation strategy to minimise the environmental damage by such issues were designed in these countries. Awareness should be created among the countries for a better understanding on adverse impacts of climate change.

SACEP decided to conduct a School Environment Awareness Programme giving special attention to the younger generation.

SACEP with Centre for Environment Education in India and with both Ministry of Education and Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources of Sri Lanka and with the assistance of South Asia Youth Network organized a series of School Competitions (Essay, Drawing and Painting, Posters and Photography) from January to July 2007 for different age categories. The main theme of these competitions was Adaptation to Climate Change and Waste Management.

A total of 35 schools from Colombo Zone were participated and a total of 3522 entries were submitted.

On 16th July 2007, Soba Sankalpana programme was organized. Chief Guest for the occasion was Hon Mr Mahanth Thakur, Chairman of SACEP Governing Council and Minister of Environment, Science and Technology, Government of Nepal. Mr Laxman Prasad Mainali, Secretary, from the same Ministry of Nepal and Mr Udaya Gammanpila, Chairman, Central Environment Authority of Sri Lanka was also present. Winners of the School

Competitions, Parents, School Teachers, University Lectures and the delegates from both the Government and non government organizations were present.

The programme started with a video presentation on sea level rise.

Panel Discussion on Adaptation Strategies for the Sea Level Rise in South Asia was the next item of the programme. The panel represented experts from National Aquatic Resources Research and Development Agency, Sri Lanka, Department of Meteorology, Sri Lanka, Centre for Environment Education, India and Local University Lecturers. Prof. Sarath Kotagama, Department of Zoology, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka was the Moderator for the discussion.

Following recommendations were gathered during the discussion.

Adaptation Methods to be improved by,

- Raising awareness of adaptation
 - Facilitating the strengthening capacity for coordinated action on adaptation
 - Incorporating adaptation into policy and operations
 - Promoting and coordinating research on impacts and adaptation
 - Support knowledge – sharing networks
-
- Mainstreaming adaptation to sea level rise into policies and programmes in different sectors vulnerable to climate change impacts and need to include such potential impacts in their sectoral design and investments.
 - Development of eco-specific adaptive knowledge on adaptation to climate change variability and sea level rise to enhance adaptive capacity for future climate change and sea level rise.

Award ceremony was held for the winners of school competitions. First, Second and Third places were selected for each age category. Awards were presented by the Chief Guest Hon Mr Mahanth Thakur, Chairman of SACEP and Minister of Environment, Science and Technology, Government of Nepal.

Taking into consideration the total winning entries and the environmental related activities carried out in the school, the best school was selected to award a representative from the school with a scholarship to attend in the 4th International Conference on Environmental Education which was held in November 2007, in India. This award was sponsored by South Asia Youth Network.

All the participants were also presented with a certificate of participation.

Poster and Painting Exhibition was held on the same day where all the winning entries and 150 selected posters and drawings were exhibited. Exhibition was opened by Hon Mr Mahanth Thakur, Chairman of SACEP and Minister of Environment, Science and Technology, Government of Nepal.

SACEP intend to develop and conduct more environmental educational programmes within the region, in collaboration with partners to raise awareness among school children on issues of concern in the field of Environment in this region.

Malé Declaration on Control and Prevention of Air Pollution and Its Likely Transboundary Effects for South Asia

Introduction & Background to the project

Air pollution is an emerging environmental issue in Asia as it is in other parts of the developing world. In particular, emissions of sulphur dioxide and nitrogen oxides have been rising steadily over the past few decades. In addition, rapid growth of cities, together with associated expansion of industry and transport systems, has made the Asian region increasingly concerned with these emissions.

On 19 and 20 March 1998 senior government officials and experts on air pollution met at the Asian Institute of Technology, Bangkok, Thailand, and agreed on a draft Declaration. **On 22 April 1998 the Malé Declaration on Control and Prevention of Air Pollution and Its Likely Transboundary Effects for South Asia was discussed and signed by Ministers of the Environment at the seventh meeting of the Governing Council of South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme (SACEP) in Malé, Republic of Maldives. The Governing Council meeting was inaugurated by his Excellency Hon.Mr.Maumoon Abdul Gayoom, president of the Republic of Maldives and attended by Ministers of Environment and High level policy makers of countries in South Asian region. This was the first regional agreement of its kind not only in the South Asia but also in the developing world. The initiative was funded by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, SIDA , as a part of the Regional Air pollution in Developing Countries (RAPIDC) programme.**

The aim of the Declaration is to achieve intergovernmental Cooperation to address the increasing threat of transboundary air pollution and consequential impacts. The Declaration also calls for the continuation of this process with mutual consultation, to draw up and implement national and regional action plans and protocols based on a fuller understanding of transboundary air pollution issues. The implementation of the Malé Declaration was envisaged to be in phases.

SACEP's Activities

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 regional action plan for implementation of the Declaration during the phase 1 (year 1998- 2000)

Phase 2 (year 2002 – 2004) activities of the project established a monitoring network in the region and 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.

Phase 3 of the project (year 2005- up to date) continued to address the Capacity Building activities and a strong network through involving wider group of stakeholders. These activities aimed at regional and national level capacity building and explore venues to partnership with agencies for the suggestions from the Regional Stakeholders Forums.

The 9th Intergovernmental Meeting (IG) and The Fourth Regional Stakeholders cum Coordination meeting of the project was held in Bandos, Maldives from 1- 3 October 2007. The meeting was attended by the Ministries of Environment (NFP) and National Implementing Agencies (NIA) of the participating countries, members of Monitoring Committee (MoC), South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP), Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI), Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and an independent facilitator. At the meeting the need for better networking and improved awareness building about air pollution related issues was identified . It was also expressed that the participating countries have to take greater ownership of the project, especially in terms of financial support for the implementation of Malé Declaration

The draft proposal for implementing Phase IV of the Malé Declaration was presented at the meeting .The proposal was developed based on a series of consultations with the participating countries, culminating in a final consultation at an Exchange programme with the Project Managers of the Malé Declaration. Proposed Phase IV activities include 3 key components: (i) continuation of the capacity building activities initiated thus far; (ii) conduct an assessment of the impact of air pollution; and (iii) policy developments for control and prevention.

The draft Work Programme in 2008 for Malé Declaration (Malé Declaration/IG 9/6) was also presented The meeting suggested that in the next 2 years more focus might be given to air pollution prevention.It was agreed that the Secretariat will develop a calendar of events under the Malé Declaration and share with the NFPs and NIAs.

ROLE OF SACEP AND SOME CRITICAL ISSUES

Right from the very start it was envisaged that the capacity building of SACEP to handle the Malé declaration would be undertaken, but over the years no such initiatives were taken up by UNEP that was initially made the secretariat of Malé Declaration. This serious concern was raised by SACEP at the Programme Management Committee Meeting (PMC) of Malé Declaration held in Stockholm on 22nd May 2006. SACEP had informed the Programme Management Committee (PMC) that it requires capacity building in the remaining period of phase III in order not only to play an active and meaningful role in the Malé Declaration but also to take up the role of Secretariat in the next phase. SIDA the sole funding agency of Malé Declaration also expressed deep concern about the present role of SACEP at the Malé Declaration and expressed its clear views that they will prefer SACEP as their preferred contractual partner in Phase IV as SACEP is seen by SIDA as being a regional body in South Asia . The 8th Intergovernmental Meeting held on September 13th 2006 at Thimpu, Bhutan, though agreeing on UNEP carrying out as the Secretariat in the balance IIIrd phase, again emphasized that the Capacity Building of SACEP should be undertaken in the balance period of the IIIrd phase and that Phase III should be a transitional Phase and regional partners should take a coordination role in order to enhance the ownership in the region. However at the PMC meeting held in Stockholm, Sweden in May 2007, the UNEP representative made it clear that

they will not ensure capacity building of SACEP as they do not want to duplicate the secretariat.

ROLE OF SACEP REINFORCED

The Honorable Ministers of the member countries of SACEP expressed their concern at the 10th Governing Council of SACEP held in Katmandu, Nepal on 25th January 2007 and observed that “ Capacity Building of SACEP” should be ensured during the phase III. Further the “Kathmandu Declaration” adopted at the 10th Governing Council of SACEP also urged UNEP and other International agencies to provide full support, including financial and technical support to the SACEP secretariat.

Inspite of all the emphasis during all the above meetings and constant persuasion by SACEP, no initiatives have been undertaken by UNEP that is the present secretariat of Malé Declaration project towards capacity building of SACEP. Therefore, it is requested to enable SACEP to deliver an effective co-ordination role in the implementation of the Malé Declaration, since it is basically an initiative taken by the Honorable Ministers of the member countries of SACEP at the 7th Governing Council of SACEP. we need an effective capacity building initiative by UNEP immediately in the balance period of the IIIrd phase so that the SACEP is fully geared to take up the role of the Secretariat in the phase IV of the Malé Declaration and be an agreement partner with SIDA as desired by the donor.

SACEP requests the Governing Council to ensure that the Male Project, being implemented in the South Asian countries be done through SACEP as it was envisaged right in the beginning when the Hon’ Ministers adopted the Male Declaration at the 7th GC of SACEP. It is also requested that the stand of the representatives attending the Inter-government meetings of the Male Declaration may not be contrary to the decisions of the Governing Council and that they should be clear that Male declaration should be implemented by the Regional Inter-government body of SACEP

Waste Management

The 9th Governing Council of SACEP held in August 2005 at Thimphu, Bhutan identified the waste management as one of the key areas concerned in the region. Subsequently, the 10th Governing Council of SACEP held in January, 2007 in Kathmandu, Nepal recommended carrying forward the work programme recommended by the 9th GC.

In order to take forward the decision of the Governing Council, following activities have been carried out;

1. Project Proposal on Solid Waste Management in South Asia

SACEP Secretariat has prepared a detailed project proposal on solid waste management in South Asia and sent to the UNEP-ROAP for their comments (Annex I). We request the 11th Meeting of the Governing Council of SACEP to endorse this proposal.

2. National 3R Workshop

A national 3R workshop for Bangladesh organized by the Department of Environment/Ministry of Environment and Forest-Bangladesh, United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD), Waste Concern Bangladesh was held from 27 to 28 February 2007 in Dhaka. South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP), Ministry of Environment-Japan, Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES), and United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) extended the necessary support to conduct this two day workshop. The objectives of the workshop was to increase awareness and foster knowledge of 3R related principles, policies, tools and technologies among key government agencies and other stakeholders in Bangladesh, and to facilitate discussion on the possible formulation of a National 3 R strategy for Bangladesh through a participatory process involving all stakeholders concerned.

3. Project Proposal on Urban Waste Management

SACEP prepared a project proposal to address the growing problems of urban waste management in the region. The proposal proposes to address three areas viz a) capacity building and awareness raising through involvement of NGOs within the region, b) initiate the process in collaboration with a local agency to address the issue of separation and disposal and c) paper recycling project managed by local community. The proposal has been sent to the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) for funding.

4. International Coastal Cleanup Day 2007 (ICC Day 2007)

The International Coastal Cleanup Day 2007 (ICC Day 2007) jointly organized by the SACEP/SAS, Indian Coast Guard and National Institute of Ocean Technology, Chennai was successfully conducted in all coastal areas of India. As part of the programme, the message of the coastal cleanup campaign was communicated through email, letter, pamphlet, banner, radio, television, and

through official orders issued by the government to their regional/district offices.

A large representation of volunteers / participants from the Indian Army, Navy, Coast Guard, Air Force, Central Industrial Security Force, Police, various government organizations, non-governmental organizations, large number of corporate companies and educational institutions participated on that day. Representatives from two major ports - Chennai Port and Ennore Port, actively participated in this event. A detailed report is given in Annex 2.

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT IN THE SOUTH ASIA

1.0. INTRODUCTION

Rapid population growth and uncontrolled industrial development are seriously degrading the urban environment in many countries in the South Asia. One of the most serious environmental consequences of the process of urbanization is the ever- growing amount of solid and liquid wastes generated by cities in the countries of South Asia.

In many cities in the South Asia solid waste collection is inadequate and poor. Significant amount of the solid waste generated in urban centers is left uncollected in streets, dumped in vacant lands, drains, surface water, and marshy areas and burnt in the open air. Waste that is collected is mainly disposed off in open dump sites, many of which are not properly operated & maintained, there by posing a serious threat to public health. Inadequate sanitation is also quite common in low-income urban rural areas in the South Asia, posing threats to public health.

The major types of MSW are food wastes, paper, plastic, metal and glass, with some hazardous household wastes such as electric light bulbs, batteries, discarded medicines and automotive parts.

2.0 WASTE MANAGEMENT IN AGENDA 21

Waste is an underlying issue throughout most of the Chapters of Agenda 21 - either as a cause of a number of environmental problems, or a result/output of human activities. While Chapters 20, 21 and 22 deals specifically and directly with waste issues, other chapters deal with the impact and effect of waste on other environmental issues.

Solid wastes, as defined in the Chapter 21, includes all domestic refuse and non-hazardous wastes such as commercial and institutional wastes, street sweepings and construction debris. In some countries, the solid wastes management system also handles human wastes such as

night-soil, ashes from incinerators, septic tank sludge and sludge from sewage treatment plants.

It also mention that evironmentally sound waste management must go beyond the mere safe disposal or recovery of wastes that are generated and seek to address the root cause of the problem by attempting to change unsustainable patterns of production and consumption. This implies the application of the integrated life cycle management concept, which presents a unique opportunity to reconcile development with environmental protection.

3.0 PRIORITY

The 9th Governing council of SACEP held in August 2005 at Thimphu , Bhtan and the 10th Governing Councils of SACEP held in January 2007 in Kathmandu, Nepal identified “Waste Management” as one of the priority thematic areas and currently SACEP is focusing on achieving regional strategy for Solid Waste Management and addresses, in particular, municipal, medical, industrial, hazardous and e-waste.

The region-wide studies indicate an effective, efficient and sustainable waste management System is still lacking in the region’s urban areas.

Thus a programme needs to be designed to identify to prioritize waste avoidance over recycling, over the other forms of environmentally sound disposal methods; reduce non-avoidable wastes as far as possible; maintain the content of hazardous substances in wastes as low a level as possible; guarantee environmentally sound residual waste treatment and disposal as basic requirements for human existence; etc.

The programme would need to consider draft generic guidelines to the waste management already prepared by UNEP to adopt the regional status addressing issues under urban waste, solid waste, hospital waste, industrial waste and specifically the fast emerging issue e-waste.

4.0 SOLID WASTE PROBLEM IN SOUTH ASIA

INDUSTRIAL SOLID WASTE

The non-toxic or non-hazardous waste generated by various industries is normally not identified as different from municipal solid waste coming from domestic and commercial activities. In many South Asian countries, it has been included as part of municipal solid waste. As a result, there is an absence of a systematic database on industrial solid waste and the exact rates of industrial waste generation are not known. The lack of information on industrial solid waste is lamentable because it can actually include a wide range of materials that may have different levels of impact on the environment.

The types of industrial solid waste would include packaging materials, paper, housekeeping wastes, food wastes, scrap materials such as glass and ceramics, resins, plastics, metal and plastic scraps, stones, cloth, rubber, straw, wood waste, products which are off-specification and a variety of materials not officially specified as or are known to be hazardous/toxic.

Nevertheless; most hazardous wastes are recognized as coming from industrial, agricultural and manufacturing processes, as well as from hospital and health-care facilities. The high volume generators are the chemical, petrochemical, petroleum, metals, wood treatment, pulp & paper, leather, textiles and energy production industries.

HAZARDOUS WASTE

About 98% of the world's hazardous wastes are produced in the industrialized countries, and for years, international waste traders have been able to send industrial waste from the developed countries to the developing countries.

Today, because of increasing restrictions elsewhere, South Asia has become the favorite dumping ground for the waste exporters. And as a result Plastic waste exports to South Asia have skyrocketed in the last two years. Bangladesh, India, and Pakistan received 53% of the total US plastic waste in January, 1993, excluding waste sent to China. In many developing countries, including Bhutan, Bangladesh, Nepal, and India, increased economic activity has negative impacts on the environment. Economic activities associated with industry, agriculture, health services, and other service sectors generate chemical and

hazardous wastes, which if left unmanaged, can lead to serious environmental problems that threaten public health and endanger economic sustainability.

At the regional, international and national level, the Multilateral Environmental Agreements, namely the Basel Convention on the Control of the Trans boundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal; the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants; the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, and the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer have addressed the issue under various different aspects

MEDICAL WASTE

The improper management of bio-medical waste causes serious environmental problems in terms of air, water and land pollution. The nature of pollutants can be classified into biological, chemical and radioactive.

A study conducted by the WHO in 1996, reveals that more than 50,000 people die everyday from infectious diseases. One of the causes for the increase in infectious diseases is improper waste management. Blood, body fluids and body secretions which are constituents of bio-medical waste harbour most of the viruses, bacteria and parasites that cause infection.

Occupational health hazards: The health hazards due to improper medical waste management can not only affect the occupants in institutions, but also spread in the vicinity of the institutions. Occupational health concerns exist for janitorial and laundry workers, nurses, emergency medical personnel, and refuse workers. Injuries from sharps and exposure to harmful chemical waste and radioactive waste also causes health hazards to employees in institutions generating bio-medical waste. Proper management of waste can solve the problem of occupational hazards to a large extent.

Hazards to the general public: The general public's health can also be adversely affected by bio-medical waste. Improper practices such as dumping of bio-medical waste in municipal dustbins, open spaces, water bodies etc leads to the spread of diseases.

Many hospitals in developing countries dump all waste streams together, from reception-area trash to operating-room waste, and burn them in incinerators. There are even reports of body parts being dumped on the streets because some hospitals do not have disposal facilities. This way of simply discarding their medical waste with regular trash risks the spread of diseases among scavenger populations. Emissions from incinerators and open burning also leads to exposure to harmful gases which can cause cancer and respiratory diseases. Street children and women are especially vulnerable because they go through the waste with their bare hands in the hope of finding needles, syringes and other equipment they can re-sell.

E-WASTE

Computers and electronic equipment which are discarded in the west have started arriving in India and the entire South Asian market in huge quantities and, following China's ban on imported electronic waste last year, India has emerged as the largest dumping ground of e-waste for the developed world.

It isn't difficult to gauge the increasing magnitude of the electronic-waste problem threatening South Asia. In many South Asian countries people tear apart personal computers, monitors and other electronic hardware with their bare hands, sifting through the components. Here the reusable parts are segregated, and the rest is sent for extraction.

The remaining waste is broken down and incinerated. Whatever can't be incinerated is broken down with chisels and hammers and dumped into the nearest sewer or garbage bins, from where it goes to the landfills. Unlike the developed countries, there are no set norms for handling of electronic waste, and secondly cheap labor not only makes disposal cost-effective and profitable for local traders but also encourages the developed countries to push electronic wastes to the countries

Other than the Computers, televisions, mobile phones, refrigerators etc too contains many hazardous constituents. The hazardous substances found in electronic waste have been linked to human health effects like cancer, birth defects, and hormone disruption.

5.0 CONSTRAINTS FACED BY SOUTH ASIAN COUNTRIES

(a) Technical Constraints

In most developing countries, there typically is a lack of human resources at both the national and local levels with technical expertise necessary for solid waste management planning and operation. Many officers in charge of solid waste management, particularly at the local level, have little or no technical background or training in engineering or management. Without adequately trained personnel, a project initiated by external consultants could not be continued. Therefore, the development of human resources in the recipient country of external support is essential for the sustainability of the collaborative project.

Another technical constraint in developing countries is the lack of overall plans for solid waste management at the local and national levels. As a result, a solid waste technology is often selected without due consideration to its appropriateness in the overall solid waste management system. In some cases, foreign assistance is given to a component of a solid waste management system for which the use of resources may not be most cost-effective.

Research and development activities in solid waste management are often a low priority in developing countries. The lack of research and development activities in developing countries leads to the selection of inappropriate technology in terms of the local climatic and physical conditions, financial and human resource capabilities, and social or cultural acceptability. As a result, the technology selected can never be used, wasting the resources spent and making the project unsustainable. Several guides/manuals on appropriate solid waste management technologies in developing countries are available in the literature, and the selection of technology could be made sometimes based on these guides/manuals. However, in most cases, these guides/manuals must be modified to the local conditions prevailing in the country, and therefore local studies are normally still needed. Such studies can be relatively easily incorporated into a collaborative project and, to the extent possible, should involve local research institutions.

(b) Financial Constraints

In general, solid waste management is given a very low priority in developing countries, except perhaps in capital and large cities. As a result, very limited funds are provided to the solid waste management sector by the governments, and the levels of services required for protection of public health and the environment are not attained.

The problem is acute at the local government level where the local taxation system is inadequately developed and, therefore, the financial basis for public services, including solid waste management, is weak. This weak financial basis of local governments can be supplemented by the collection of user service charges. However, users' ability to pay for the services is very limited in poorer developing countries, and their willingness to pay for the services which are irregular and ineffective is not high either. An effective strategy for raising funds needs to be searched in any collaborative project to ensure its sustainability.

In addition to the limited funds, many local governments in developing countries lack good financial management and planning. For instance, in a town in a developing country, over 90% of the annual budget provided for solid waste management was used up within the first six months. The lack of financial management and planning, particularly cost accounting, depletes the limited resources available for the sector even more quickly, and causes the solid waste management services to halt for some periods, thus losing the trust of service users.

(c) Institutional Constraints

Several agencies at the national level are usually involved at least partially in solid waste management. However, there are often no clear roles/functions of the various national agencies defined in relation to solid waste management and also no single agency or committee designated to coordinate their projects and activities. The lack of coordination among the relevant agencies often results in different agencies becoming the national counterpart to different external support agencies for different solid waste management collaborative projects without being aware of what other national agencies are doing. This leads to duplication of efforts, wasting of resources, and unsustainability of overall solid waste management programmes.

The lack of effective legislation for solid waste management, which is a norm in most developing countries, is partially responsible for the roles/functions of the relevant national agencies not being clearly defined and the lack of coordination among them. Legislation related to solid waste management in developing countries is usually fragmented, and several laws (e.g., Public Health Act, Local Government Act, Environmental Protection Act, etc.) include some clauses on rules/regulations regarding solid waste management. The rules and regulations are enforced by the different agencies. However, there are often duplication of responsibilities of the agencies involved and gaps/missing elements in the regulatory provisions for the development of effective solid waste management systems. It should be also noted that legislation is only effective if it is enforced. Therefore, comprehensive legislation, which avoids the duplication of responsibilities, fills in the gaps of important regulatory functions, and is enforceable is required for sustainable development of solid waste management systems.

Because of a low priority given to the sector, the institutional capacity of local government agencies involved in solid waste management is generally weak, particularly in small cities and towns. Local ordinance/by-laws on solid waste management is not also well developed. These weak local government institutions are not provided with clear mandates and sufficient resources to fulfill the mandates. In large metropolitan areas where there are more than one local government, coordination among the local governments is critical to achieve the most cost-effective alternatives for solid waste management in the area. For instance, the siting of a solid waste transfer station or disposal facility for use by more than one local governments is cost-effective due to its economy of scale. However, as these facilities are usually considered unwanted installations and create not-in-my-backyard (NIMBY) syndromes among the residents, no local government is willing to locate them within its boundary. The lack of a coordinating body among the local governments often leads to disintegrated and unsustainable programmes for solid waste management.

(d) Economic Constraints

Economic and industrial development plays key roles in solid waste management. Obviously, an enhanced economy enables more funds to be allocated for solid waste management, providing a more sustainable financial basis. However, by definition, developing countries have weak economic bases and, hence, insufficient funds for sustainable development of solid waste management systems.

Local industry which produces relatively inexpensive solid waste equipment and vehicles will reduce, or in some cases could eliminate totally, the need for importing expensive foreign equipment/vehicles and therefore foreign exchange. Such local industry can also supply associated spare parts, lack of which is often responsible for irregular and insufficient solid waste collection and disposal services. However, the lack of industry manufacturing solid waste equipment and spare parts and a limited foreign exchange for importing such equipment/spare parts are the rule rather than exception in developing countries.

Also in small developing countries, waste recycling activities are affected by the availability of industry to receive and process recycled materials. For instance, the recycling of waste paper is possible only when there is a paper mill within a distance for which the transportation of waste paper is economical. The weak industry base for recycling activities is a common constraint for the improvement of solid waste management in developing countries, such as those in the Pacific region where a large volume of package waste is generated.

(e) Social Constraints

The social status of solid waste management workers is generally low in both developed and developing countries, but more so in developing countries than developed countries. This owes much to a negative perception of people regarding the work which involves the handling of waste or unwanted material. Such people's perception leads to the disrespect for the work and in turn produces low working ethics of laborers and poor quality of their work.

Because of insufficient resources available in the government sector, collaborative projects often have attempted to mobilize community resources and develop community self-help

activities. Results are a mixture of success and failures. Failed projects with inactive communities usually did not provide people in the community with economic as well as social incentives to participate in activities. The social incentive is based on the responsibility of individuals as part of the community for the improvement of the community, and is created by public awareness and school education programmes. The lack of public awareness and school education about the importance of proper solid waste management for health and well-being of people severely restricts the use of community-based approaches in developing countries.

At dump sites, transfer stations, and street refuse bins, waste picking or scavenging activities are common scenes in developing countries. People involved have not received school education and vocational training to obtain knowledge and skills required for other jobs. They are also affected by limited employment opportunity available in the formal sector. The existence of waste pickers/scavengers creates often an obstacle to the operation of solid waste collection and disposal services. However, if organized properly, their activities can be effectively incorporated into a waste recycling system. Such an opportunistic approach is required for sustainable development of solid waste management programmes in developing countries.

6.0 PROGRAMME FOCUS AND OBJECTIVES

The Work Programme for SACEP will focus on achieving a regional strategy for Solid Waste Management and addresses, in particular, municipal, medical, industrial, hazardous, and e-waste.

The programme objectives will consider to achieve a regional strategy to assist, enable, and facilitate the South Asian Countries to address the waste issues; bring together all major stakeholders; networking, institutional linkages, identification of the Centers of Excellence and Collaborating Centers to link Science and Policy issues through related research; thus

ensuring policy intervention through timely briefs to the policy makers and the leadership within the region.

- Long-term Objectives
 - To set up a highly effective MSW management system and information system and select the technologies and equipment that meet the Region's circumstances to properly treat MSW, so as to improve environmental quality and to promote the construction and sustainable development of society in urban and rural areas.
- Immediate Objectives
 - Establish MSW expert and decision-making systems for the efficient use of manpower, material and financial resources
 - Set up management systems and information systems at different levels and the technical standards and specifications systems regarding the production, collection, transportation and treatment of MSW

6.1 PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION

Programme implementation thus will ensure to establish a network of experts and institutions ; strengthen the collaborating centers and the civil society organizations; bring together all major stakeholders; establish institutional linkages, identification of the Centers of Excellence and Collaborating Centers to link Science and Policy issues through related research and outreach operations. A regional consensus to the waste management policies and strategies will also be addressed.

The programme implementation is proposed to be done in Phases, with the initial phase Identifying the regional status and development of an implementation plan through a Participatory approach.

7.0 PROPOSED SOLUTIONS

Technological Dimension

- National government should provide a policy framework conducive to technology development and effective project implementation.
- Raise the awareness of local governments to technological options for waste management and build a supporting local-level institutional framework.
- Establish channels for exchange of information from existing users in the region.
- Establish local level multi-stakeholders groups for advising and monitoring local government Performance

Economic and Financial Dimension

- National level policy is needed to support recycling technology (possibly subsidizing it but only in the short-run), encouraging private sector investment, and transforming the informal sector to safe and stable employment.
- Entrepreneurship in waste management should be developed and supported. Financing mechanisms are needed,
- Government should provide policy support for financing the entrepreneurs, research and development (R&D) from government institutions, and access to public land for composting and sorting.
- Establish deposit refund systems on reusable items like bottle containers of beverages.
- Establish “green customs charges” on items which will have high disposal costs, especially used products.
- Compost and other recycling products need to be marketed through well-established commercial, private-sector marketing channels.
- Government must regulate, but, may also subsidize costs of separation and proper disposal for the hazardous components of wastes.

Social Dimension -

- The informal sector, sweepers, waste collectors, and pickers provide important employment and handle a significant portion of municipal waste, However they are generally not integrated into the mainstream economic benefit system. They need access to various benefits and support such as loans, health protection,
- Community-based recycling of household wastes is a multi-stakeholder process that can benefit the community as a whole and formalizes involvement of the informal sector while reducing demand on the municipality.
- Informal waste workers are often children, and child labor should be eliminated or reduced and in order to achieve this education opportunities should be provided for children in the informal waste management sector.
- Formalizing relationships and access to micro-loans can help women maintain access to employment in the waste management and recycling sector.
- Municipalities should promote community composting or biogas generation for local income, or methane production from landfill.
- Town planning and municipal resources should be committed to provide land for composting and separation.
- Source separation and proper disposal of medical wastes and hazardous post consumer wastes is needed.
- Enforcement of transboundary regulations and standardized labeling of wastes and used products can help protect recyclers in developing countries.
- Some form of environmental reporting should be required to make the community aware of the risks they incur from industrial and medical wastes. NGOs can play a key role in enforcing reporting requirements.
- Public-private partnership relationships should be developed between industry and community for better understanding of respective problems and possibilities for cooperation.

8.0 PROGRAMME DEVELOPMENT

The initial stage of the programme development would establish a strong network of all the stakeholders through a participatory process in reviewing the status and adopting the guidelines for the region. Conduct and follow up to the pilot projects with observations to the cases of success status from the other regions would establish the programme's continuity and provide policy guidance through fact sheets, etc.

THE PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION

STEP 1 - MOBILIZING THE PLANNING PROCESS

Waste management involves a wide range of stakeholders, each with their own professional backgrounds and priorities. Therefore it is important for the Strategic Planning initiative to be as inclusive as possible, involving all those likely to be involved in securing real improvements to waste management practices.

1.1 Establishing the Steering Committee

A Steering Committee should be assembled for the strategic planning process, comprising members who have the position, experience and authority to direct the overall initiative. The Committee should include the authorities and institutions involved in decision-making for MSWM, together with a selection of other key stakeholders. Members can include:

- A senior political figure as chair
- Representatives of participating municipalities
- Local government department officials
- Municipal waste managers
- Representatives of community organisations
- Women leaders in MSWM
- Private sector representatives
- Selected specialists

Preparing a Workplan

The final stage of the mobilization process is to develop a Work plan

STEP 2- Defining the Baseline

A Baseline study should be carried out to identify waste quantities and composition, and understand existing waste management practices. This Baseline Study needs to address comprehensively the range of areas of importance to waste management services, including institutional, operational and financial aspects.

Outline Contents of a Baseline Study should contain Data and Information on

- Waste quantities and composition
- Existing MSWM Operations
- Institutional/financial framework
- Prediction of future waste quantities
- Analysis of shortfalls and constraints

Data Collection

Data and information will need to be collected in a broad range of areas: covering socio economic, housing, health, land use, environmental and political/institutional issues.

Community organizers should visit the area for a series of time till they have to consult about community people's interest regarding the program, their felt need and problems in the community. The mass meeting should be held where decision should be made on whether or not to implement the program. Ward level office person , municipality representatives, youths of the community and other influential persons of the community who are interested about the programme should present at the meeting

Preparing the Baseline Study

A report on the Baseline Study should be prepared at an early stage in the planning process to feed into early decision-making on key issues and strategic priorities. The objective should

be present an initial understanding of existing MSWM practices and shortfalls and constraints and, where possible, provide this study as a briefing document (or summary) at the Inception Workshop.

A summary of the report should be prepared and be used as a briefing document for the Inception Workshop.

STEP 3 - ESTABLISHING THE STRATEGIC PLANNING FRAMEWORK

An Inception Workshop involving all key stakeholders provides a valuable opportunity for open discussion and debate of all aspects of waste management, define key issues and establish the strategic planning framework.

Workgroup leaders should be given the responsibility of ensuring that all members have their say. Rapporteurs can be assigned the role of presenting findings of each Workgroup to all participants. A briefing meeting in advance of the Workshop can provide a valuable opportunity for discussing objectives and structure, as well as their key responsibilities. Workgroup leaders and rapporteurs can be retained through later planning stages to ensure consistency and direction.

Defining the Scope of the Plan

The boundaries of the plan need to clearly define. This will involve making decisions on the planning area, period and types of waste to be covered by the plan The planning area needs to be broad enough to capture both the major centers of waste generation and the area of search for disposal sites. A time horizon of 5 years can be established for the Action Plan, with an Immediate Action Plan detailing requirements over the first 1-2 years. Planners will also have to decide which types of waste to include in their Plan

STEP 4 - IDENTIFYING AND EVALUATING OPTIONS

This includes Identifying and evaluating the practical *options* available for addressing each of the component parts of the overall MSWM system.

4.1 Waste Collection and Recycling

A successful and sustainable operation for waste collection and street sweeping requires close liaison and cooperation between the responsible management, the supervisors and the local community. This is particularly the case if community based organizations (CBOs) are to be involved in some parts of the service. For this reason, waste collection is often best organized at the lowest institutional level, probably districts and zones within a city or municipality.

In many countries an informal (or semi-formal) materials recovery and recycling system operates alongside the waste collection service, driven by the market demand for materials extracted from the waste stream, and managed by an interconnected chain of suppliers, dealers and re-processors. Therefore care needs to be taken to ensure that the growth of the existing recycling system is not hindered. The aim should be to play a supporting role, devising ways of working with the informal sector so that it is able to achieve higher rates of recycling and receive a fair share of the economic benefits, while at the same time improving occupational health and safety conditions of waste pickers and recyclers.

- a) Reduce the quantity of waste generated at source.
- b) Explore the potential for the reuse of waste.

The public are the major customers of the MSWM service. In implementing new waste collection methods, the community to be served should first be consulted about the type of system planned to be introduced. This can be carried out using a 'willingness to pay survey' designed to reflect the preferences of the community in terms of service type, level and cost.

Willingness to pay surveys

- c) Remove solid waste accumulations at main informal dumping locations.

Many of the most effective primary collection systems have been developed by communities themselves with limited or no involvement from municipal authorities. In these cases it is often beneficial for the linkage between the community-organised primary collection system

and municipality-organised secondary collection system to be clearly set out. A well-located and designed transfer station will allow service coverage areas to be increased and reduce traffic congestion along haulage routes

- d) Design a continuous removal system managed at the community level.
- e) Mobilize local administrations, community leaders, and residents to act on the solid waste problem.
- f) Establishment of networks at various levels (government, NGO, business, stakeholders)

h) Developing a Public Awareness & Education Programme

Public awareness and education campaigns are tools used to increase public support and participation for a particular course of action. The main objectives of a PA&E campaign are to provide information, gain public support, build the profile of SWM and reduce quantities of waste. There are a wide range of media available around which to develop a campaign. The impact will be dependent on how well the campaign is targeted and the promotional messages adopted.

i) Finalizing the Strategy

A Strategy Workshop should be held to provide an opportunity for full discussion of the draft Strategy amongst the wider consultative group. The Workshop can be structured round a similar format to the Inception Workshop, with the aim being to maximise the time for discussion, debate and refinement of strategy proposals.

J) Finalizing the Strategic MSWM Plan

Further consultations and participatory workshops will need to be held during the Action Planning stage to ensure continued consensus and ownership of the Strategic MSWM Plan.

9.0 PARTNERS AND THE KEY PLAYERS

While the mandate and implementation strategies will be considered in close collaboration with the UNEP, the main key players and the partners in the programme implementation would include the Governments, expert institutions, private sector, NGO, CBO and the youth forums. The programme will heavily draw upon the networks, knowledge and procedures that are already existing and seek support from various other support agencies like FAO, WHO, ADB, WB, SIDA, CIDA, etc.

COMMUNITY BASED INTEGRATED SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PILOT PROJECT COSTING SHEDULE

TASK DESCRIPTION	YEAR 1 (US\$)	YEAR 2 (US\$)	YEAR 3 (US\$)
1. Mobilizing the Planning Process & Establishing the strategic planning framework			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Organizing “ inception Work shops” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Baseline study and Data Survey - Travel - Reports and Communication - Administrative and support cost 	15,000	-	-
2. Public Awareness Campaign			
➤ Training programmes for the Environmental health officers, Community health nurses, Teachers etc.	10,000	10,000	10,000
➤ training on separation and waste reduction to the female members of the households	5,000	5,000	5,000
➤ Conduct house to house visit by the community facilitator of the NGO	5,000	5,000	5,000
➤ Organize Area cleaning programmes, Photographic Exhibitions	10,000	10,000	10,000
➤ Establish distributor network of shop retailers of & alternatives to plastic bags	5,000	5,000	5,000
3. Implementing the Strategic Plan			
➤ Distribution four colored bags	5,000	10,000	10,000
➤ Establish Door to Door primary Collection of non bio degradable waste	5,000	5,000	5,000
➤ Distribution of compost bins.	2,000	2,000	2,000
➤ Cost for the compost bins	10,000	10,000	10,000
➤ Establish Community drop off centers at Curbsides or other convenient places	20,000	20,000	20,000
➤ Establishment of Community sorting center	20,000	10,000	10,000
➤ Training of community leader	5,000	5,000	5,000
6. others	10,000	10,000	10,000
TOTAL	117,000	107,000	107,000
Grand total for three years	331,000		

INTEGRATED SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PROJECT
Time frame

TASK DESCRIPTION			Year 1				Year 2				Year 3			
TASK NO														
1. Mobilizing the Planning Process														
1.1	Establishment of Steering Committee													
1.2	Preparing a work Plan													
2. Defining the Baseline														
2.1	Data Collection													
2.2	Baseline Report Preparation													
3. Establishing the strategic Planning framework														
3.1	Inception work shop													
4. Public Awareness Campaign														
4.1	Training programmes for the Environmental health officers, Community health nurses, Councillors, Teachers, Hotel owners, street vendors													
	training on separation and waste reduction should be given to the female members of the households													

Annex 15
GC 11.SACEP/NFP
Agenda Item 5.10 - Annex 1

4.1	Preparation of the Action Plan															
5.	Implementing the Strategic Plan															
5.1	Establishment of Community recycling center															
5.2	Training of community leader															
5.3	Establish Community drop off centers at Curbsides or other convenient places															
5.4	Hand over four colored bags properly labeled to the households															
5.5	Establish Door to Door primary Collection of non bio degradable waste															
5.6	Distribution of compost bins.															
5.7	Monitoring and Follow-up activities															

REPORT ON

INTERNATIONAL COASTAL CLEANUP DAY (SEPTEMBER 16, 2007)

JOINTLY ORGANISED BY

SOUTH ASIA COOPERATIVE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME / SOUTH ASIAN SEAS,
INDIAN COAST GUARD & NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF OCEAN TECHNOLOGY CHENNAI

The International Coastal Cleanup Day 2007 (ICC Day 2007) was successfully organized in all coastal areas of India. The event was a grand success.

The Government of India has appointed Dr. R. Venkatesan, Group Head, Ocean Science and Technology for Islands, National Institute of Ocean Technology, Chennai, as the national consultant for the UNEP-SACEP/SAS. The Ministry of Defence on the other hand has appointed the Indian Coast Guard as the coordinating agency for the event since environment protection is one of the statutory duties of the Coast Guard. These two agencies coordinated the programme at the national level. At the local level, Prof. D. Sudarsanam of Loyola College, Chennai coordinated the educational institutions in the coastal cleanup and other related activities. The Tree Foundation is the other coordinating organisation in Chennai, which is actively involved in the protection and conservation of marine mammals and turtles along the south Chennai beaches. The four organizations have been active in the conduct of the programme.

The SACEP Indian consultant had sent nearly 7000 letters and emails to many central and state governmental departments and non-governmental organizations to support this event in their respective coastal areas. The Indian Coast Guard organized a national level coordination meeting at Chennai on 6 September wherein the national level coordination of the ICC day activities were finalized.

In addition, Indian Coast Guard communicated to various governmental departments to issue official circulars asking the respective coastal district administration to organize this event. Hence, complete micro level planning and initiatives were taken. The press and media covered this event and requested the public to come together for this national and international cause. This has motivated many citizens to come forward on their own to join hands with the coordinating agencies.

As part of the programme, the message of the coastal cleanup campaign was communicated through email, letter, pamphlet, banner, radio, television, and through official orders issued by the government to their regional/district offices.

A large representation of volunteers / participants from the Indian Army, Navy, Coast Guard, Air Force, Central Industrial Security Force, Police, various government organizations, non-governmental organizations, large number of corporate companies and educational institutions participated on that day. Representatives from two major ports - Chennai Port and Ennore Port, actively participated in this event.

The details of the participants and the particulars of debris collected by the participants are pouring in from various locations of the country.

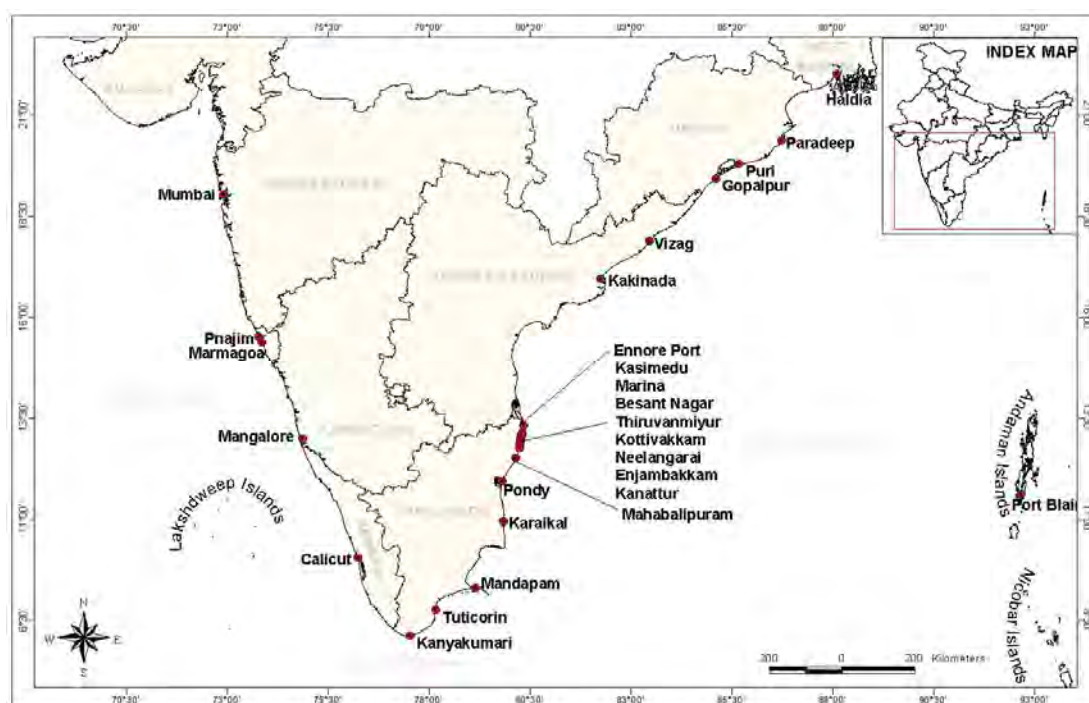


Fig.: Map showing locations of coastal cleanup activity along the coast of India

Chennai:

According to the available data, about 7000 participants were on the beaches clearing and segregating the litter. About 68 tonnes of garbage was picked up.

In addition an inter village cleanup competition was also held in the three fishing villages along the East Coast Road - Injambakkam, Pannaiyur and Nainar Kuppam. Over 200 children and 45 youth from these fishing communities worked together to collect 125 bags of trash from the local beaches. The judges for the competition were Mr. Ashish, Mr. K. Srivastav, IFS – Wildlife

Warden, Ms. Rebecca Green – Roots & Shoots Member (University Of California Berkeley), Mr. S. Govind, Technology Lead (Up Star Technologies) and Mr. Arun Krishnamurthy – Advertising Lead (Google India - Hyderabad). The children separated the trash into waste nets, rope, plastics, slippers, thermocol, etc., and learned why it is important to keep their beaches litter-free. A documentary film on the hazards of marine debris and their impact on the life forms in the ocean were played in all these fishing villages in and around Chennai on 22nd and 23rd September 2007.

The participants were educated on the need of the cleanup which has to be taken up as a daily event and not just a one-day act, since they live by the ocean and their livelihoods depend on it.

Royapuram Fishing Harbour

At Kasimedu - Royapuram Fishing Harbour, the Chennai Port Trust in collaboration with NIOT, Coast Guard and Tree foundation arranged a massive cleanup. Using earthmovers and trucks, tonnes of debris accumulated over the years - mainly decaying organic matter, fish waste, broken fishing gears, old plastic items, etc. were removed. The local fishers joined them in this exercise and an awareness initiative was made to educate them on the need of a clean marine environment.

In addition, the Fishery Survey of India also conducted a cleanup campaign in the same harbour with 50 participants and distributed pamphlets on the importance of keeping the harbour clean to the local fishermen.

Volunteers involved in the cleanup activity at Royapuram Fishing Harbour reported that the situation at the site (adjoining the fishing harbour) is so worse that some urgent measures has to be taken to avoid dumping of waste fish and packing material at the site. Some of the observations made by them are:

1. Fish waste like heads and tails of large fishes are being dumped along with plastic bags, sheets, fishing nets, broken pieces of FRP boats, etc.
2. The dumped waste fishes were in decaying state and the entire area was covered by wriggling maggots.
3. Added to this, as there was continues drizzling for the last one month the entire area became unapproachable due to foul smell.
4. As the entire area was wet and surrounded by plastic sheets and rocks it formed an ideal breeding ground for scorpions – plenty of scorpions were observed while clearing the garbage.
5. The most pathetic situation is that the dried fish are stored amongst this waste dump and fisher folk were found drying fish just bordering this polluted area.
6. The seawater in the fishing harbour area was turbid and lots of fish-waste is being thrown into it.

7. Sunken fishing vessels were found in the waters and discarded boats were seen on the shore.

Ennore Port

The Ennore Port Trust had taken the initiative to organize cleanup of the port premises and 145 people including schoolchildren participated in the 16th morning cleanup exercise. The Port Trust officials have reported the data collected in the prescribed format.

Mahabalipuram

A NGO called SOHES (East Coast Open Scouts & Guides Group) took the initiative at Mahabalipuram, which has seashore temples and is one of the important tourist destinations of the country. Since tourism is the main activity of this small town, accumulation of plastic and other tourism related debris is found to be more along this beach. More than 100 people participated in the exercise.

Student Competitions

An inter-school and inter-college contest on "cleanup" was conducted. About 1500 students participated in the event. The inter-school contest was judged by Ms. Jaya, Collector of Chennai and Deputy Inspector General Abu Thala, Commander CG District No. 5 (TN) and the inter-college contest was adjudged by Dr. S. Kathioli, Director, NIOT, Dr P. Iyyamperumal, Director, Birla Planetarium and Deputy Inspector General B. K. Pattashani of CG RHQ (East).

In the inter-school contest, Sishya School Team-1 bagged the first prize with the second by the Hindu Higher Secondary School and the third by Sishya School Team-2. In the inter-college contest, the first prize went to Guru Nanak College Rotaract club, with a tie for the second place between Vaishnava College and New College.

Flipper Fest 2007

As a prelude to the International Coastal Cleanup Day, the TREE Foundation, Chennai, organized the "Flipper Fest 2007" at Loyola College in Chennai. The program consisted of painting, poster, quiz and junk art competitions, which were held on 8th and 9th of September 2007. During the two-day sessions, about 7 documentary movies, viz., Blue Planet – Open Ocean, Ambassadors of the Ocean, Last Journey of Leatherback, Frozen World, Dolphins, Ocean World and Declining Coral Reefs of India, were played to create awareness to the public especially to the student community on the wealth, importance and the dangers faced by the marine environment.

An 18 min documentary on the International Coastal Cleanup Day 2007 has been prepared, which focuses attention on the state of the coastal areas and the measures that can be taken by each individual, both at the government and public level.

Mandapam:

The India Coast Guard along with district administration and officials from Gulf of Mannar Trust, GEF and Ministry of Environment and Forests jointly organised this event. A human chain was formed in the religious tourist destination on the importance of marine debris and protection biodiversity. The Gulf of Mannar is one of the important marine bio reserves and this awareness has kindled the minds of people on the importance of rich marine biodiversity unique to this area.

Tuticorin:

The Indian Coast Guard with support of governmental and nongovernmental organizations worked together for organising the cleanup. Thousand people – mainly school and college students participated in the cleanup and the data collected was reported.

Kanyakumari:

The Manonmaniam Sundaranar University played a key role in organizing the event in Kanyakumari on the request of SACEP and students volunteered to clean up the coastal areas.

Karaikal:

The staff and students of Annamalai University along with other organisations joined to organize this event in different places along the seashore of Karaikal. More than 1000 students participated along with local fishers on this day. The data collected were properly recorded and reported.

Town Panchayat Department, Govt. of Tamilnadu:

The Town Panchayat Department, Govt. of Tamilnadu on the request of SACEP, requested many coastal town panchayats to organize this event in the respective coastal areas. This is one of the important initiatives, as these activities are very much required to bring awareness to the rural coastal villages, in particular fishers. More than 600 people participated in town panchayats of Kanyakumari, Nagapattinam and Kanchipuram districts.

Pondicherry:

The Indian Coast Guard took major efforts to bring awareness among the people with support of local administration and 1000 people gathered along the beaches. This coastal city is one of the hotspots of tourism and hence may be considered for long term efforts on coastal cleanup activity. On 16th September, 1000 people including school and college students joined hands with governmental and nongovernmental organizations to clean the beaches. Also in villages, fisher folk took part in this activity very enthusiastically.

Visakhapatnam:

The initiative was taken by the Indian Coast Guard with participation of governmental and nongovernmental organisations at the Visakhapatnam Beach. Nearly 1000 people joined to bring awareness among the public and involved in this cleanup exercise.

In addition, the Regional Centre of the National Institute of Oceanography led by Dr. K. S. R. Murthy, Scientist-in-charge, led a scientific team to bring awareness on the marine litter and their effects on the marine environment. 1500 people gathered on the beach that morning to participate in the international coastal cleanup day.

The Hindustan Shipyard Ltd. at Visakhapatnam organised the international coastal cleanup day in their premises both on land and underwater.

Kakinada:

This industrial town witnessed a gathering of 500 people in their coast with participation of college and schoolchildren and collected data on marine debris.

Kozhikode:

In Kozhikode (Calicut), Kerala the Coast Guard organised this campaign with the participation of 1000 volunteers comprising of Coast Guard staff and 600 schoolchildren. They cleaned the coastal area and collected information of marine debris in this region. Since the coast has a scenic view with coconut trees being its specialty, it is obvious that marine debris consisted mainly of coconut shells and fibres along with other debris.

Orissa:

The Action for Food Production (AFPRO), a socio-technical non-governmental organization, in collaboration with United Artists' Association (UAA), a part of Orissa Marine Resources Conservation Consortium (OMRCC) network had successfully carried out the coastal

cleanup Day programme on September 16 at Gopalpur beach, by generating local resources through the network. Water aid, Greenpeace, local government, educational institutions have supported for the greater cause. About 1000 people participated in this event. As Ganjam District being one of the poorer districts in terms of Sanitation, a Hand Wash Campaign was also conducted/clubbed along with the thematic workshop for keeping up the personal hygiene of the community and to make them aware of and to safeguard them from diarrhoeal diseases to at least 47% by the mere act of hand washing.

The clean up at the Puri Beach was covered by the WWF-India foundation, which organised the coastal cleanup campaign with other volunteers on 16-09-2007.

Paradip Port Trust organised the International Coastal Cleanup Day in their port premises with 15 of their staff and collected marine litter.

Gujarat:

The Gujarat Ecological Society on request from the SACEP organised the international coastal cleanup day on 19 September 2007 at Sakriyapura Village, the confluence of River Mahi with the Gulf of Khambat. Twenty students participated in the cleanup and collected 1272 pieces of debris. These students were also educated on the problems of marine and coastal pollution during an interactive session on the same day.

Daman:

In Daman, situated in the west coast of India, the Indian Coast Guard organized to bring together people from different occupations to clean up the Daman beach and collect data on marine litter. Nearly 1000 people including 300 children participated in this exercise.

Mumbai:

The Indian Coast Guard organised the international coastal cleanup day campaign on 29-09-2007 in Mumbai along with people from different occupations and students. Over 2000 people participated in the campaign and collected data on marine litter.

The Mumbai Port Trust organised the cleanup in their port premises using the contractors regularly cleaning the port and submitted the data on marine litter.

Mangalore and Suratkal:

In the areas of Mangalore and Suratkal, Karnataka, Indian Coast Guard along with participation from the public and students organised the event on 29-09-2007. Nearly 1000 people participated in this exercise.

Ratnagiri:

Ratnagiri, situated in Maharashtra has a long coastline and convenient harbours and is an integral part of the Konkan Coast. The Indian Coast Guard organised this event in Ratnagiri and Dabhole with the participation of public and students. Over 100 people participated and cleaned the beach as part of the campaign.

Lakshadweep and Andaman & Nicobar Islands:

In the tropical coral islands of Lakshadweep, around 50 people participated in the cleanup organised by the Indian Coast Guard. Most of the debris collected consisted of coconuts and plastics.

In Port Blair, Andaman Islands, 1000 people participated in the coastal cleanup organised by the Indian Coast Guard. In the other parts of the island archipelago over 500 people participated in the cleanup campaign and cleared the beaches of debris.

Marine Litter Data:

The data on marine litter received so far from different parts of Chennai and other adjoining areas shows that the major part (more than 50%) of the debris is related to the activities of shoreline and recreation, followed by ocean/waterway, smoking-related, dumping and medical /personal hygiene related. The total number of litter collected on International Coastal Cleanup Day 2007 in these areas amount to more than 1.4 lakhs.

ICC Day 2007 Highlights - India

No. of participants = 19,398

No. of litter collected = 1,49,730 *

(*The total weight of this litter along with the non-segregated marine litter was estimated to be about 71 tonnes)

Sources of Debris (in percentage)

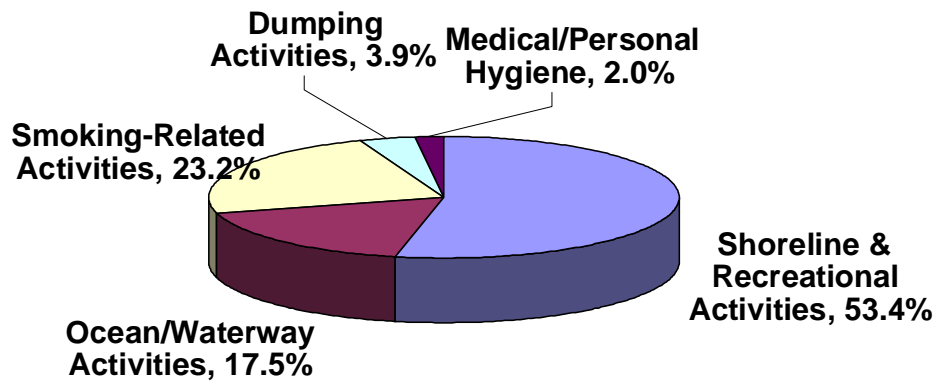


Fig.: Pie chart showing the sources of debris

Table: Top ten items collected during the International Coastal Cleanup Day 2007

Top Ten List - 10/11/2007		
Debris Item	Amount	Percent of Total
1. Bags	22,877	15.3%
2. Tobacco Packaging/Wrappers	12,935	8.6%
3. Cigar Tips	11,081	7.4%
4. Cups/Plates/Forks/Knives/Spoons	10,353	6.9%
5. Food Wrappers and Containers	9,167	6.1%
6. Balloons	8,103	5.4%
7. Cigarettes/Cigarette Filters	6,368	4.3%
8. Rope	5,354	3.6%
9. Straws/Stirrers	5,262	3.5%
10. Caps/Lids	4,974	3.3%
Totals	96,474	64.4%

LIST OF SPONSORS

1. ELECTRONICS CORPORATION OF TAMILNADU LTD (ELCOT)
2. NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY AUTHORITY
3. DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT
4. AIG SYSTEMS AND SOLUTIONS
5. INDIAN OIL CORPORATION LTD.
6. TATA CONSULTANCY SERVICES
7. AIRTEL
8. STATE BANK OF INDIA
9. AS SHIPPING
10. INDIA CEMENTS
11. ELEKTRONIC LAB
12. ABN AMRO BANK
13. RHR
14. TAMIL NADU SAILING ASSOCIATION (TNSA)
15. NESTLE INDIA LTD.
16. LIONS CLUB
17. CANARA BANK
18. RAMADA RAJPARK
19. SRI KRISHNA SWEETS
20. BROWN STAR
21. SOUTHERN CREST HOTEL
22. LR INFRASTRUCTURE

Table 1: DATA ON LITTER COLLECTED

S. No.	Date	Place	No. of people participated	Approx. weight of marine litter collected (kg)	Approx. number of items collected
Gujarat					
1.	16-09-2007	Jakhau	800		
2.	19-09-2007	Sakriyapura Village	20		1272
Goa					
3.	16-09-2007	Goa	1500		
Maharashtra					
4.	18-09-2007	FSI, Sassoon Dock, Mumbai	16	250	695
5.	16-09-2007	J N Port, Mumbai	15		44
6.	16-09-2007	Mumbai Port Trust	-		147
7.	29-09-2007	Mumbai Beaches	2000	4000	
Daman					
8.	29-09-2007	Daman	1000		
Karnataka					
9.	16-09-2007	Mangalore, Suratkal	1000	3000	
10.	16-09-2007	New Mangalore Port Trust	20		174
Kerala					
11.	16-09-2007	Thiruvananthapuram	20	100	517
12.	16-09-2007	Kozhikode	1000		
Lakshadweep Islands					
13.	16-09-2007	Kavaratti beach	30		
Pondicherry					
14.	16-09-2007	Pondicherry	1000		
Tamilnadu					
15.	16-09-2007	Tuticorin	1100		
16.	16-09-2007	Mandapam	1000		
17.	16-09-2007	Karaikal	1000		
18.	16-09-2007	Kollemcode Town Panchayat	10	2000	
19.	16-09-2007	Edaikkazhinadu Town Panchayat	20	2	675
20.	16-09-2007	Mahabalipuram	100		
21.	16-09-2007	Injambakkam Beach, Chennai	10	112	4420

S. No.	Date	Place	No. of people participated	Approx. weight of marine litter collected (kg)	Approx. number of items collected
22.	16-09-2007	Nainarkuppam Beach, Chennai	36	797	
23.	16-09-2007	Panaiyur Beach, Chennai	280	2263	
24.	16-09-2007	Kottivakkam Beach, Chennai	84	448	8666
25.	16-09-2007	Thiruvanniyur Beach, Chennai	430	1430.2	14596
26.	16-09-2007	Besant Nagar Beach, Chennai	910	1294	54824
27.	02-10-2007	Besant Nagar Beach, Chennai	750	4000	
28.	16-09-2007	Marina Beach, Chennai	953	3311	56917
29.	16-09-2007	Indian Coast Guard, RHQ Beach	1500		
30.	16-09-2007	Ennore Port, Chennai	75	50	130
31.	16-09-2007	FSI, Royapuram Fishing Harbour, Chennai	50		175
32.	16-09-2007	Kasimedu, Chennai	289	44000	
Andhra Pradesh					
33.	16-09-2007	Visakhapatnam	1500	4000	5608
34.	16-09-2007	Hindustan Shipyard Ltd., Visakhapatnam	50		164
35.	16-09-2007	Kakinada	500		
Orissa					
36.	16-09-2007	Gopalpur Beach	350	100	
37.	16-09-2007	Puri Beach	50		143
38.	16-09-2007	Paradip Port Trust			77
Andaman & Nicobar Islands					
39.	16-09-2007	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	500		
40.	16-09-2007	Corbyn's Cove, Port Blair	1000		
41.	16-09-2007	FSI, Mazar Pahar, Port Blair	20		486
TOTAL			19398	71157.2	149730

ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT (EST)

The rapid urban population growth in many cities has strained existing public transit networks and made walking and cycling increasingly difficult, prompting many to acquire and use personal motorized vehicles for their daily transport needs. While urban population has expanded dramatically across the developing world, motorization has exploded, which has led to increasing traffic congestion, decreasing road safety, and increasing emissions of air pollution and greenhouse gasses. Current trends in Asia show that cars and motorcycles are increasingly becoming dominant in nearly every city of the region and by the year 2045, there will be more motorized vehicles in Asia than there will be in Europe and North America. The advance of motorisation in many large cities in the developing countries of Asia is creating traffic congestion and air pollution that are growing more serious year-by-year. The problems are so bad that they are affecting economic and social functions, and the people face an urgent need to improve their urban transportation systems. Large cities in South Asia have their own unique transport problems but there are not many guided transit systems, and even when they do exist, they are not used to their fullest extent for urban transportation.

However, Environmentally Sustainable Transport offers an alternative to uncontrolled motorization and its related problems and represents a collection of best practice measures that can help to transform transport and the very urban structure of cities towards a more sustainable model.

Co-operation between SACEP & UNCRD

With an aims to provide a strategic/ knowledge platform for sharing experiences and disseminating among Asian Countries best practices, policy instruments, tools, technologies, in relation to various aspects of EST, the UNCRD in close co-operation with the Ministry of Environment, Government of Japan has launched an initiative to promote environmentally sustainable transport (EST) in Asia, by carrying out range of activities. Based on the above, UNCRD and SACEP propose working together to promote Environmentally Sustainable

Transport (EST) in Asia and further signed a MOU between the two organizations (Annex I).

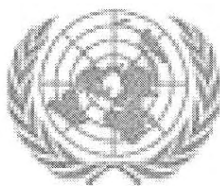
Under this MoU, SACEP was able to ensure the participation of representatives from the Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Transport and Ministry of Urban Development its member countries at the 3rd Regional Environmentally Sustainable Transport (EST) Forum held on 17-19 March 2008 in Singapore. Two Ministers, Minister of Urban Development, Government of Sri Lanka and Minister of Transport and Communication, Government of Maldives also attended the forum. This is the 1st time that the South Asian countries (Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka) participated in the Asia EST forum. In order to facilitate this event UNCRD, Ministry of the Environment, Japan and SACEP released a Joint press release on 1st of November 2007.

At the meeting, it was decided to include the SACEP member countries in all future activities of the EST forum and in the session on the way forward for 2008 – 2009, chaired by Dr. A.A. Boaz, DG, SACEP was decided to;

- a) Hold in-country EST training workshops in 1- 2 SACEP member countries
- b) Develop national EST strategy and action plans
- c) Promote EST in South Asia with help of UNCRD and Government of Japan

Further three South Asian countries, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Afghanistan adopted the Aichi Statement for the promotion of EST in their countries (Annex 11). The Governing council is kindly requested to extend their full support for the Extended Aichi Statement and to ensure that all countries of the South Asia region participate in all future activities undertaken by SACEP and UNCRD.

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN
UNITED NATIONS CENTRE FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT (UNCRD)
AND
THE SOUTH ASIA COOPERATIVE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME
(SACEP)**



*United Nations
Centre for Regional Development
(UNCRD)*



*South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme
(SACEP)*

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MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

This Memorandum of Understanding (herein after referred to as the Memorandum) is concluded between the:

United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD)
Nagono 1-47-1, Nakamura-ku
Nagoya, 450-0001,
Japan.

&

South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme
#10, Anderson Road, Colombo 05,
Sri Lanka

1. **The United Nations Centre for Regional Development**, hereinafter referred to as UNCRD, was created by an agreement between the United Nation and the Government of Japan and was established in 1971 as a United Nations organization promoting regional development in developing and transitional economies in Asia-Pacific, Africa, and Latin America. The Centre targets its programmes towards socially and environmentally sustainable development, focusing on the three key components of Human Security, Environment, and Disaster Management. The Centre in close cooperation with United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN/DESA) - (a) serves as a training and research centre in regional development and planning and related fields for developing countries which may wish to avail themselves of its services, (b) provides advisory services in regional development and planning and related fields at the request of developing countries, (c) assists developing countries in promoting the exchange of data on research, practical experience, teaching and other relevant subjects in regional development and planning and related field, and (d) assists and cooperates with other organizations, national or international, concerned with regional development and planning and related fields."
2. **South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme**, hereinafter referred to as SACEP, is an inter-governmental organization, established in 1982 by the governments of South Asia to promote and support protection, management and enhancement of the environment in the region. SACEP, as in the programme objectives, focuses to achieve a regional strategy to assist, enable and facilitate the South Asian countries to address the waste management related issues. SACEP seeks to work in areas where regional cooperation and collective action can add value to member countries and produce better outcomes.

UNCRD, in close co-operation with the Ministry of Environment Government of Japan has launched an initiative to promote environmentally sustainable transport (EST) in Asia, by



carrying out range of activities and based on the above UNCRD and SACEP propose working together to promote Environmentally Sustainable Transport (EST) in South Asia

3. Under the Memorandum , it is agreed that the both parties should;

Under Long Term Cooperation:

➤ Exchange of information, representation and consultation

1. The two organizations shall, as needed, exchange information and document concerning matters of joint interest;
2. Each organization should invite the other to attend as an observer, in accordance with its existing procedures and practices, any relevant conferences and meetings of joint interest; and
3. Wherever desirable and useful, the parties shall hold consultations on matters of joint interest and on topics relating to their collaboration;

➤ Cooperation arrangement

1. Within the framework of their respective activities, both parties may agree to design and implement joint cooperation projects, which may take the form of technical meetings, public seminars, thematic projects and support actions aimed at particular region or countries;
2. Such projects shall be designed and implemented in accordance with specific arrangements to be determined jointly by the relevant organizations of both the parties, setting the practical, technical and financial conditions for the participation of the parties, whose availability shall be duly ensured; and
3. The Director of UNCRD and the Director General of SACEP shall adopt appropriate administrative measures to ensure effective cooperation and liaison between the Secretariats of both parties.

➤ Publications

1. Both parties should recognize the desirability of cooperation with regard to exchange of relevant publications and proceedings with a view to promoting optimum use thereof in the context of the work of the other party.

5/3/08

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Under short Term Cooperation:

The United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD), National Environment Agency (NEA) of the Ministry of the Environment and Water Resources of Singapore, Land Transport Authority (LTA) of the Ministry of Transport of Singapore, and the Ministry of the Environment - Government of Japan, will be hosting the **Third Regional Environmentally Sustainable Transport (EST) Forum on 17-19 March 2008 in Singapore**. The regional EST forum aims to provide a strategic/ knowledge platform for sharing experiences and disseminating among Asian Countries best practices, policy instruments, tools, technologies, in relation to various aspects of EST. The primary objectives of the Regional EST Forum are to –

- Facilitate policy dialogues organized on a periodical basis and further exchange of opinions, ideas and information on best practices among participating countries on environment and transport related issues in the Asian region;
- Facilitate and provide necessary advisory support for the formulation of national strategies and action plans on environmentally sustainable transport for selected countries; and
- Help establish linkages with other on going regional and international activities/ initiatives in promoting environmentally sustainable transport.

With an objective to further strengthen and expand the above scope and coverage, the 3rd Regional EST Forum is expected to have for the first time the participation of South Asian Countries under the financial support of UNCRD, and UNCRD and SACEP will jointly work to move this initiative forward in the South Asian Region.

And in this regard it is agreed that two organizations have agreed to pursue the following tasks

UNCRD

- Prepare the joint press release;
- Prepare and disseminate the joint invitation letters to the South Asian countries (Both Ministry of Environment & Ministry of Transport);
- Coordinate with SACEP for the smooth participation of the South Asian Countries and subsequent follow-up activities; and
- Facilitate policy dialogues on a periodical basis and further exchange of opinions ideas and information on best practices on various aspects of EST.

SACEP

- Act as a nodal agency for facilitating the required inter-governmental support for the UNCRD initiative on the promotion of EST in Asia, in particular South Asia;

- Release and disseminate the "joint Press Release" and proceedings of the EST Forum on the SACEP web site;
 - Follow up with SACEP's National Focal Points requesting them to send the nominations and facilitate participation in the Forum; and
 - Follow-up to facilitate sharing of experiences and disseminating EST knowledge amongst member countries and help facilitation of policy dialogues on a periodical basis.
4. All day-to-day correspondences regarding this Memorandum between the UNCRD and SACEP should be addressed to:

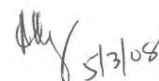
At UNCRD:

Choudhury Rudra Charan Mohanty,
Coordinator of Environment Unit,
United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD)
Nagoo 1-47-1, Nakamura-ku
Nagoya, 450-0001,
Japan.

At SACEP:

Ms. Priyankari Alexander,
Programme Officer,
South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP)
#10, Anderson Road, Colombo 05,
Sri Lanka

5. Entry into force, amendments and duration of this memorandum of Understanding
1. This memorandum of understanding shall enter into force upon the signature by the duly authorized representatives of both parties.
 2. This memorandum of Understanding may be amended by mutual agreement of both the parties.
 3. This memorandum of understanding may be terminated by either party provided that 3 (three) Month's notice is given to the other party. Termination of this Memorandum of Understanding by either party shall in no way affect previous obligations.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned have signed of this memorandum of understanding in four original, authentic copies in English.

Signed on behalf of

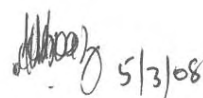
*United Nations Centre for Regional
Development
(UNCRD)*



Mr. Kazunobu Onogawa
Director
Date:

Signed on behalf of

*South Asia Cooperative
Environment Programme
(SACEP)*



5/3/08

Dr. Arvind Anil Boaz
Director General
Date:



AICHI STATEMENT (EXTENDED) ~ 2008

The eight South Asian Countries (Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka), having met in Jaipur, Rajasthan, India from 20-22 May 2008, for the 10th SACEP Governing Council Meeting,

Recognizing the full support of the countries, including the South Asian countries, participated in the 3rd Regional EST Forum held in Singapore on 17-19 March 2008, for the Aichi Statement originally adopted by the fourteen countries (ASEAN, China, Japan, Republic of Korea and Mongolia) in the First Regional EST Forum held in Nagoya City of Aichi Prefecture in Japan on 1-2 August 2005,

Unanimously endorsed the key elements of environmentally sustainable transport (EST) together with the recommendations contained in the Aichi Statement (2005), below, towards the promotion of EST in Asia.

Aichi Statement (2005)

~ Towards establishment of the Regional Forum for the promotion of environmentally sustainable transport (EST) in Asia ~

The participants, having met in Nagoya City, Aichi Prefecture, Japan from 1-2 August 2005, for the International Conference on Environment and Transport, to draw up and adopt a statement on the establishment of a Regional EST Forum for the promotion of environmentally sustainable transport in Asia,

Reaffirming and building upon the ‘Manila Statement’ agreed upon by the participants at the intergovernmental Manila Policy Dialogue on Environment and Transport in the Asian Region, held in Manila, the Philippines, from 16-17 January 2004,

Reaffirming and building upon the ‘Framework for Environmentally Sustainable Cities in ASEAN’, agreed upon by the ASEAN Working Group on Environmentally Sustainable Cities (AWGESC) and officially endorsed by the ASEAN Environment Ministers in December 2003,

*Regional EST Forum, 1-2 August 2005,
Nagoya, Japan*

Reaffirming and building upon the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPOI) adopted in the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) which underlines the importance of environmentally sustainable transport and the required actions to be taken at national and international level,

Noting the important contribution sustainable transport systems can make towards realizing the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) set by the United Nations, through improving access to education, employment opportunities, and health care,

Noting the importance of achieving greater synergies among the various efforts to promote environmentally sustainable transport in Asia, at the regional, national and local level,

Acknowledging that continued economic growth in Asian countries will result in significant further growth in transport demand, which will require a wide range of effective measures at the national and local level to prevent or minimize negative environmental and social impacts associated with the rapid growth in motorization,

Considering that efforts to promote environmentally sustainable transport will result not only in the improvement of human health through the reduction of urban air pollution but will also have important complimentary benefits, including the reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, the reduction of deaths and injuries from road accidents, the reduction of harmful noise levels, and the reduction of traffic congestion levels,

Recognizing the need for both national and local level governments to develop and adopt integrated policies, strategies, and programmes incorporating key elements of environmentally sustainable transport such as:

a. Public health

- *Promoting integrated transport policies that mitigate the negative human health impacts of motorized transport*
- *Recognizing the high costs incurred to the national health system due to non-sustainable transport modes*
- *Strengthening the coordination and cooperation among health and transport agencies*

b .Land-use planning

- *Accepting a vision of cities for people rather than for cars, with a focus on the movement of people and goods rather than vehicles*
- *Supporting urban planning with a particular emphasis on public transport, non-motorized transport, traffic safety and environmental control*
- *Encouraging the integration of both land-use and transport planning to reduce the unplanned, low-density expansion of urban areas*
- *Promoting urban revitalization through mixed-use development, favouring concentrated development around public transport nodes*

c. Environment and people friendly urban transport infrastructures

- *Providing affordable and socially acceptable transport infrastructure and facilities in urban areas*
- *Recognizing that overprovision of infrastructure can induce additional travel by private motorized vehicles and result in increased pollution and congestion, unless appropriate consideration is made*
- *Acknowledging the importance of mass transit systems in meeting the needs for increased mobility in an environment friendly manner*

d. Public transport planning and transport demand management (TDM)

- *Maintaining or increasing the share of public transport by improving the quality of such services*
- *Controlling the demand for private motorized travel through a combination of policies, such as regulatory measures (manage demand for road space), fiscal policies (such as parking fees, vehicle taxes, road or congestion charging, and fuel taxes, etc.), and infrastructure design measures*
- *Recognizing Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) as a low-cost mass transit option which can be implemented quickly to meet the growing demand for mobility*
- *Recognizing Mass Rapid Transit (MRT) as a mass transit option which can be implemented to meet the growing demand for mobility, where appropriate*

e. Non-motorized transport (NMT)

- *Acknowledging the dependence of all-income groups on non-motorized transport and its importance as an environmentally sustainable mode of transport*
- *Aiming to maintain or enhance the existing role of non-motorized transport, especially in dense urban areas, especially for short trips*
- *Encouraging the provision of higher-quality infrastructure and the development of city-level master plans for footpaths and cycle ways*

- *Increasing safety for non-motorized transport*

f. Social equity and gender perspectives

- *Acknowledging the need for, and contribution of, safe and affordable urban transport systems to the alleviation of poverty and the promotion of social development*
- *Recognizing that public transport has to address the conditions of women and the need to build the institutional capacity to better include gender aspects in urban transport planning*
- *Providing infrastructure that particularly caters to the needs of the most vulnerable users, including children, the elderly, and the physically disabled*

g. Road safety and maintenance

- *Creating appropriate inter-agency coordination and management mechanism to address the road safety in transport policies and programmes*
- *Acknowledging road safety as a primary guiding principle for transport planning*
- *Mobilizing resources for formulation and implementation of multi-stakeholder integrated road safety action plans*

h. Strengthening road side air quality monitoring and assessment

- *Improving road side air quality monitoring in urban city centres to better understand the impacts of road side pollution on people travelling on the roads and people working or living close to the roads*
- *Improving and harmonizing road side monitoring methodologies in line with the internationally standardized methodologies for ambient air quality monitoring*

i. Traffic noise management

- *Improving traffic noise monitoring in urban city centres to better understand the impacts of road side noise on people travelling on the roads and people working or living close to the roads*
- *Acknowledging the need for standards on noise levels and the enforcement of such standards by establishing management mechanisms*
- *Promoting the prevention of excessive noise through the promotion of non-motorized modes and high-quality public transport*

j. Cleaner fuel

- *Phasing out leaded gasoline as rapidly as possible, and phasing down sulphur levels in gasoline and diesel as required to achieve advanced vehicle emission standards*
- *Acknowledging the contribution of alternative fuels such as Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) and biomass-derived ethanol and biodiesel as a means to reduce vehicle emissions*
- *Planning for an eventual transition to renewable fuels*

k. Vehicle emission control, standards, and inspection and maintenance (I/M)

- *Rapidly phasing-in strict emission standards for new vehicles, with due regard to manufacturing lead times and to the provision of compatible fuels*
- *Adopting and enforcing vehicle inspection and maintenance programmes for vehicle emissions and safety, based on high-volume, test-only inspection centres with stringent quality control*
- *Reducing emissions from in-use vehicles by retro-fitting of emission control devices and/or the conversion to lower-emitting fuels*

l. Strengthening knowledge base, awareness, and public participation

- *Promoting coordination and cooperation among groups collecting or managing information on EST through a decentralized network of knowledge providers*
- *Developing and disseminating best practice on EST*
- *Increasing the understanding and awareness of the civil society and decision-makers on the beneficial aspects of EST with the aim to accomplish changes in policies, investment decisions, and personal behaviour*

Noting the best practice principles presented in this document, the participants are thus called upon to:

1. unanimously endorse the Regional EST Forum and welcome the contribution by its expert members to conduct periodic high-level policy dialogues and expert consultations to share opinions, ideas, and information on best practices and effective policy instruments among the participating countries on environment and transport related issues in the Asian Region;
2. welcome the initiatives of UNCRD in extending assistance to the countries of the region, especially the developing countries, in preparing national EST strategies, and request the expert

members of the Forum to play a catalytic role by providing substantial input and strategic feedback towards the formulation of such strategies;

3. welcome the involvement of all groups including international organizations, bilateral organizations, nongovernmental organizations and civil society, academic institutions, foundations, private enterprises, and others, in developing and promoting a decentralized cooperation network to contribute to activities undertaken in support of the Forum such as knowledge management, capacity-building, and the formulation on integrated action plans;
4. request UNCRD to cooperate with other related organizations and initiatives both at the national and international levels in identifying and exploring sources of potential assistance and collaboration for capacity-building activities, including demonstration and pilot projects, as well as for the implementation of policies, strategies, and action plans developed by the participants of the Forum; such efforts may include providing assistance to the Forum participants in utilizing the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), and financing from the bilateral and international organizations to implement EST measures.

State of the Environment Report of South Asia

The 10th Governing Council of SACEP held in January 2007 at Kathmandu recommended greater cooperation between SACEP and SAARC in the field of environment management of the region. It also requested UNEP to extend its continuous support to the SACEP's programmes in the region.

In order to fulfill the above decisions, SACEP Secretariat has sent a detailed plan of cooperation to the SAARC Secretariat under the MoU signed between the two organizations.

The 2nd meeting of the Technical committee on environment and forestry of SAARC held in May 2006 at Dhaka, Bangladesh recommended that the task of follow-up and preparation of South Asia State of the Environment report be entrusted to the SACEP. It was endorsed by the 7th meeting of SAARC environment ministers in May 2006 and 32nd session of the standing committee of the SAARC in August 2006.

Subsequently, SACEP initiated discussions to carry forward the above decisions and SACEP prepared a draft Terms of Reference for preparing South Asia State of the Environment Report and sent it to the SAARC and UNEP for their comments (Annex 1). The Director (Environment) of SAARC has informed SACEP that he will arrange a meeting between the three organizations shortly to finalize the above.

Draft Terms of Reference for Preparing South Asia State of the Environment Report 2008

Introduction

State of the Environment (SoE) reporting at the national, regional and global level is now a well-recognized activity. It is also a legislative requirement in many countries. SoEs have a great value for the decision-making in the government and participation of civil society organizations and the public in formulating policies and programmes for environmental protection and sustainable development. The 1st report of State of the Environment of South Asia was prepared in 2001. Therefore it is highly recommended by many regional forums that the new SoE report should be prepared to facilitate the sustainable development activities of the region.

The Second Meeting of the Technical Committee on Environment and Forestry of SAARC held in 22 May 2006 at Dhaka, Bangladesh recommended that the task of follow-up and preparation of South Asia State of Environment Report be entrusted to the SACEP. It was endorsed by the Seventh Meeting of the SAARC Environment Ministers in 24 May 2006 at Dhaka and also the Thirty-second Session of the Standing Committee of SAARC in August 2006.

SACEP had been actively collaborated with UNEP and the National Governments in preparing National and South Asia Regional SoE reports in 2001. SACEP also feel that it is an urgent need for the updating of the South Asia Regional and National SoE reports.

Objectives

The purpose and objectives of the preparation of South Asia State of the Environment Report are to:

- Provide objective, accurate and scientifically credible information about the condition and prospects of the South Asian environment;
- Increase governments, international and national agencies, and public understanding of these issues;
- Provide an early warning of potential problems;
- Report on the effectiveness of policies and programs designed to respond to environmental change, including progress toward achieving environmental standards and targets;
- Make recommendations for strengthening policies and programmes; and
- Help development of a long-term strategy for integrated management of environmental issues in the region.

The report should be contained following categories:

Executive summary

Part I Regional overview

1. Background

In this chapter, information on Geographical location, population, land area and history of formation, Biophysical zoning and Climate of the region should be given.

2. Resources and its usage

The natural resource base like land, inland water, biological resources minerals, coastal and marine resources of the region and its current usage need to be highlighted here. It should also give the potential of future usage in a manner of sustainability.

3. Socio-economic and culture

Different religions, traditions and beliefs, cultural heritage, demography and its trends, health and epidemic aspects, and livelihood aspect of the people have to be discussed

4. Political and governance structure

5. Economies

6. International and regional commitments

Status of participation in international environmental conventions and the regional agreements and cooperation should be highlighted

Part II Key environmental concerns of the region

Under this part, all key environmental issues in the region should be identified. Each issue would be discussed in detailed and each issue will be in a separate chapter.

General terms of reference for all chapters of environmental issues

The chapter should begin with an introduction explaining why the issue is important in South Asia and how it relates to global issues. Thereafter, chapter should proceed to describe issue concisely in terms of Driving force, Pressures, State, Impact and Responses (DPSIR)

Driving forces

These are the human influences and activities which, when combined with environmental conditions, underpin environmental change (positively or negatively). For example, the driving forces behind climatic and atmospheric change include increased burning of fossil fuels for transport, and industrial and domestic energy production.

This category should include:

- past driving forces, which still exert influence on the current state
- present driving forces

- predicted future trend in driving forces, in the short term (1-2 years), medium term (2-10 years), and long term (10+ years) . The trend in driving forces must be reported in terms of its direction (i.e. will the force increase or decrease) and by how much (e.g. will it be a linear increase/ decrease, exponential increase/ decrease?)
- the geographic location, and extent of influence of driving forces
- the nature of the influence of the driving force (e.g. is it a linear relationship between force and impact?)

Pressures

These are the pressures on the functionality and quality of the system or resource, resulting from the driving forces mentioned above. For example, in the chapter on Climatic & Atmospheric Change, increased emissions of SO₂, NO_x, CO₂, and CH₄ constitute pressures on the natural system.

This category should explain:

- synergistic or cumulative pressures resulting from diverse driving forces, where applicable
- the spatial scale of the pressure
- the expected future trend in pressures, in the short, medium and long term, in terms of direction, and magnitude

State:

This refers to the current status of the system or resource, in terms of quality of the environment, and quantity and quality of natural resources. In the chapter on Climatic & Atmospheric Change, for example, current gaseous and particulate concentrations in the atmosphere may be used to describe the state, together with current climatic variables such as minimum, mean, and maximum temperatures, mean annual precipitation and precipitation distribution.

This category should include:

- a description of the current state
- recent trends in resource or system health, for as long as data are available
- the geographic extent of the problem

Impacts:

Impacts are environmental responses to pressures on the current state. Impacts of climatic and atmospheric change, for example, include human health impacts, changes in agricultural productivity and quality of yield, and higher incidence of corrosion of infrastructure.

Impacts should be reported in terms of:

- changes in quantity and/or quality of the resource or system
- changes in functionality of systems
- knock-on effects on other systems or resources (including social and economic systems)
- synergistic or cumulative environmental impacts
- the time frame of the impacts (i.e. short, medium & long term)
- the time required to repair any environmental damage, reverse negative trends, or improve environmental quality should be reported
- the spatial extent of the impacts

Responses:

These are society's responses to environmental changes and concerns. Responses include actions (a) to mitigate, adapt to, or protect human induced negative impacts on the environment, (b) to halt or reverse environmental damage already inflicted, and (c) to preserve and conserve natural resources. Responses to climatic and atmospheric change include ratification of the UNFCCC, drafting of a white paper on climate change, formation of the National Committee on Climate Change, etc.

This category should include:

- international agreements signed by countries of South Asia
- national laws
- management strategies required by law (such as EIAs, IEEs)
- recommendations for sustainable policies and strategies
- levels of compliance and enforcement

Reference should be made to national and international standards, laws, treaties, and agreements wherever applicable, particularly when reporting on the current state and recent trends in environmental quality, and human responses to environmental change.

Outcomes

Each chapter must contain a section on the consequences or outcomes of the current situation. This will describe the effectiveness of the responses and the sustainability of the system. In the chapter on Climatic & Atmospheric Change, for example, outcomes may include reductions in emissions, a shift towards greater use of renewable energy sources, stimulation of research and development of cleaner technologies, etc.

Linkages

The DPSIR categories must follow through logically, making explicit the linkages between causes and effects. The purpose of using DPSIR categories

is to make the information interpretive, not merely descriptive, and linkages between these categories must be explained. In addition each chapter must contain a section which lists linkages to related issues in other chapters, and cross references with other driving forces, sources, impacts and responses. This is required to assist in compiling the chapters into an integrated report, which will provide information for practical decision making.

Data Issues

The current situation with regard to data availability and quality should be reported here. For example, if critical data sets are unavailable, inaccurate, or out-of-date, this should be noted. Recommendations should be made for future data collection exercises.

Conclusion

Each chapter must conclude with a summary of the main points, and recommendations for the way forward. This may include mitigatory actions, further research, increased awareness of environmental issues, etc. It is important to highlight positive aspects, as well as concerns.

Part III Challenges and recommendations

- This part of the report should clearly identify the present and future challenges faced by the individual countries as well as the region as a whole in managing the environment sustainably and achieving globally set targets like Millennium Development Goals and the targets of WSSD. It should make recommendations to overcome these challenges in the country level and regional level.
- Identify the areas where the regional cooperation is necessary
- Role of the regional and international agencies to address the issues effectively should identify
- The role of the SACEP should also identify and make recommendations on way forward.
- If there was any problems faced during getting the information and data like availability, reliability, accessibility, gaps, etc. has to be describe and make suggestions to overcome those in future.
- Special attention should be made to identify the areas where the countries of the region can present common position in international forums. A mechanism should be suggested for it.

Collaboration with the Regional Community Forestry Training Centre for Asia and the Pacific (RECOFTC) for Capacity Building in the Community Forestry Sector

Introduction

RECOFTC is an autonomous, not-for-profit international organization that works closely with partners to design and facilitate learning processes and systems to support community forestry and natural resource management. The institution has the mission to enhance capacities at all levels to assist people of the Asia-Pacific region to develop community forestry and manage forest resources for optimum social, economic and environmental benefits. RECOFTC's scope will cover a range of ecological systems (e.g., mountain, arid and semi-arid areas, coastal zones); landscapes (e.g., all types of forests - natural and planted, watershed areas, protected areas, villages, agricultural land); and tenurial systems (e.g., legal and customary/de facto management and ownership arrangements).

Over the last four years, RECOFTC field activities have focused in selected areas, especially countries of the Greater Mekong Sub Region and Indonesia, but its international training courses, workshops and conferences have attracted participants from across the region and beyond. It has proactively contributed to various regional and global level forestry initiatives/forums. RECOFTC is now a member / partner of other regional and global forestry initiatives/forums, including Rights and Resources Initiative, Civil Society Advisory Group of the ITTO, ASEAN's Social Forestry Network, Asia Pacific Forestry Commission, Asia Forest Partnership and South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP).

MoU RECOFTC- SACEP

Dr. Yam Malla, Executive Director of RECOFTC, and Dr. A. A. Boaz, Director General of SACEP, signed the MoU on behalf of the two organizations in August 2007. SACEP and RECOFTC intend to cooperate in the areas common to their programmes in South Asia in accordance to the signed MoU. Both addressing programme activities in the areas of forest management share the focus on community resource management; forest communities' involvement in forest management; poverty alleviation, poverty and rights with concerns for sustainable development and guidance to the policy makers.

The 10th Governing Council (GC) of SACEP, had decided to make adaptation to climatic change issues as one of the priority areas of the work programme of SACEP. This issue is also being addressed by RECOFTC. The Regional Analysis and Representation Program of RECPFTC, which is responsible for this partnership, is currently ongoing.

Suggested collaborative programme activities for SACEP and RECOFTC

1. Research in community-based natural resource management through the provision of cost-effective capacity building products and services addressing i) conservation, ii) management and ii) equitable sharing.

2. Training in the identified areas (from the above) relating to Forestry Management under i) conservation, ii) management and iii) equitable sharing

Development of RECOFTC-SACEP work plan

Regional analysis and synthesis on aspects addressing of i) Poverty reduction and livelihoods, ii) Rural livelihoods and poverty reduction, iii) Forest governance and iv) Productive and sustainable forest management The above broad areas of combined interest will be developed based on RECOFTC's focus thematic issues in community based natural resource management as given below.

- A. Rural Livelihoods and Poverty Reduction:** mechanisms to achieve poverty reduction through sustainable, forest related, economic development. This will include activities to develop pro-poor markets and enterprises, integrated development planning to address social development in an integrated way (e.g. across health, education, agriculture, humanitarian assistance); analyzing the impact of Community Forestry on livelihoods and the local environment.
- B. Forest Governance:** supporting the development and implementation of sound *policies and laws* that support rights of access and use are fundamentals of poverty reducing Community Forestry, as well as robust and supportive local CF institutions that enable equitable sharing of benefits from CF.
- C. Productive and Sustainable Forest Management:** Community Forestry often occurs in degraded areas rather than high value areas. However, the scope to extend the principles and methods of CF to high value areas needs to be supported if the livelihood needs of communities in such areas are to be secured. Such areas range from conservation areas, where more restricted modes of forest use are in place, to high value timber resources in production forest areas. Fruitful areas to explore include landscape approaches to sustainable forest management, and forest management systems for multiple use including both timber and Non Timber Forest Products

Actions taken to develop a Specific Work Plan.

- **RECOFTC 2008 – 2013 Strategic Planning Consultative Meeting**

RECOFTC is currently embarking on a strategic planning process for the next program cycle, beyond Sep 2008. As an integral part of this process, RECOFTC held a one day stakeholder consultative workshop on the 19th of February at RECOFTC Secretariat, Kasetsart University, Pahonyothin Road Bangkok. As a Key Partner of the RECOFTC, SACEP was invited to this consultation to express its views on the partnership and how to incorporate it in the Planning process.

Discussed Points:

1. Emerging trends and drivers in forests/ natural resources in the region that RECOFTC –SACEP should consider as important to address in our strategic planning and future programming. Key opportunities for which we should position itself.

2. RECOFTC's core functions to address the trends and drivers in the region
3. Promote a package that is about a particular form of forest or resource management – community forestry or CBNRM, and skills for communities to represent their interests, and promote governance for effective forest/NRM management
4. Geographic focus of RECOFTC-intense engagement in a few countries to develop good understanding and linkage as a basis to share lessons more widely outside those countries. A more opportunistic approach throughout the region in countries that express need with more on regional networks and regional approaches.
5. The target audiences we should be reaching and pathways to influence and building understanding to affect positive change in the livelihoods of forest communities.
6. The type and range of information needed to make a difference and the most effective combinations of products/services/processes to reach the target audiences. (Networking, conferences, demonstration, research, convening different groups of stakeholders, advocacy, training courses, etc).

RECOFTC would like to attend the next GC meeting to outline RECOFTC-SACEP specific activities on the following: The SACEP-RECOFTC MOU (with possible amendments – e.g. communication protocol between RECOFTC and individual countries).

MoU with TRADA (Timber Research and Development Association) to develop Integrated Sustainable Bamboo-based Livelihoods

Background

Timber Research and Development Association (TRADA), is an independent research association in UK established in the year 1934. International division of TRADA has been implementing projects in timber and timber related industries in developing countries for more than two decades and has specialized in bamboo development programmes for sustainable livelihoods. TRADA has worked in collaboration with the South Asian Cooperative Environment Programme (SACEP) to develop an inclusive project focusing on the South Asia region. A primary objective of the project is to build the capacity on the ground, and institutionally, for the sustainable management of bamboo, emphasizing the role of engaging local communities. In the case of the proposed pilot activities in Sri Lanka, SACEP will work in close coordination and collaboration with TRADA, local and regional agencies, international non-governmental organisations, and existing donor programmes that share common objectives.

SACEP and TRADA intend to cooperate in the areas common to their programmes in South Asia according to the signed MoU at the SACEP Secretariat on 21st April 2007. Mr. Lionel Jayanetti, Head of TRADA and Dr. A. A. Boaz, Director General of SACEP signed the MoU on behalf of the two organizations. TRADA and SACEP have identified the thematic areas of Access to CPR, Benefit Sharing, Community Development, Equitable sharing of resources. The main thrust will be to specifically address Poverty reduction and livelihoods issues, sustainable timber and wood production through demonstrating Best Practices, sharing skills and knowledge as the substantive fields on which the partnership will be built. This will be a major step to developing the community's adaptive capacity to the impacts on the forest resources because of climate change and consequent effect on productivity of the natural resources on which the local communities are dependent for their livelihood.

Concept :

The concept presented here is for an integrated development programme to create sustainable livelihood opportunities for the rural poor of Sri Lanka. The core activity would be the cultivation of bamboo under plantation conditions and the complete utilisation of bamboo using both traditional methods and, where appropriate, high technology processes. The production and processing effort would be first and foremost of direct benefit to the local community, but with the possibility of sustainable expansion focusing on the export market. The design and implementation of the programme would focus on the support required by the beneficiaries to achieve their livelihood goals, within an overall framework of environmental and economic sustainability.

Adaptation to Climate Change and Waste Management issues will be addressed in the project. Similarly, strong community participation will be ensuring through the project activities as a new livelihood option and a sector for Non Timber Forest Product (NTFP).

Resource

The diminishing wood resource and restrictions imposed on felling in natural forests have focused world attention on the need to identify a substitute material which should be renewable, environmentally friendly and widely available. In view of its rapid growth, a ready adaptability to most climatic and soil conditions and properties comparable with many fast growing woods, bamboo emerges as a very

suitable alternative. Bamboo is a versatile material which already has a long and well established tradition in areas as diverse as construction and handicrafts. For example, it can be used to build a house, furnish it and provide many of the basic tools and utensils. Increasingly, it is finding applications in high quality panel materials and laminated flooring through the development of high technology manufacturing processes.

There are over 1250 species of bamboo, many identified as suitable for cultivation, and tolerant of extremes of precipitation - from 0.8 to 6m of rain annually. Bamboo can be grown on deforested or degraded land and is effective in reducing soil erosion. As a crop, bamboo has a short rotation period (3 to 5 years) and substantial harvesting is possible on a sustainable basis.

The Complex

In view of the ease with which bamboo can be grown, and the number of uses to which it can be put, it is envisaged that a holistic or integrated approach to cultivation and utilisation could be adopted. This could be realised by the establishment of plantation co-operatives, where, subject to technical support from local specialists, the stakeholders would be responsible for the planting, harvesting and management of the bamboo crop. The bamboo produced would be used to construct dwellings and community buildings, using improved technologies, together with other manufactured items for community use. In some cases, the bamboo could also provide a source of food.

The Complex would provide vertically integrated livelihood opportunities, with capacity in all areas for women to play an active role. As the complex develops, bamboo products could be sold locally and regionally. Ultimately, the aim would be to provide for manufacturing capabilities for high value-added products, such as laminated flooring, for the export market. This would provide a much needed source of foreign exchange and guarantee the future economic security of the village community.

Proposed Strategy

It is suggested that initially a study be undertaken in Sri Lanka with a view to the establishment of a Integrated Community Bamboo Complex (ICBC). A participatory appraisal approach to test the concept at local level would involve discussions with target groups and key informants. As part of this study, suitable areas and communities would be identified. The possibility for technical support from local or regional research and development organisations would also be explored. In this context, a couple of International bamboo organisations, the Forest Department, Ministry of Science and Technology, University of Moratuwa and the NGOs LEADS, NEF, Habitat for Humanity, who have expressed their willingness to participate at all levels in such an initiative.

Industrial Technology Institute (ITI), Sri Lanka has just commenced a project to cultivate and process bamboo shoots for export in collaboration with the Chinese Government and sponsored by Common Fund for commodities (CFC).

Action Taken:

SACEP has initiated a project to seek funding from the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Cooperation (CFTC) for the preparation of preliminary study report on "Integrated Community Bamboo Complex (SACEP-TRADA) Project". A detailed Project is being developed with the help of TRADA for the donors support.

ANNEX I

Terms of Reference and Scope of Service Preparation of Preliminary Study Report Integrated Community Bamboo Complex (SACEP-TRADA) Project

Name of Post: SACEP-TRADA Project Consultant

Agency: South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP)

Location of Project: Colombo, Sri Lanka (Located at premises of SACEP)

Background

Timber Research and Development Association (TRADA), is an independent research association in UK established in the year 1934. International division of TRADA has been implementing projects in timber and timber related industries in developing countries for more than two decades and has specialized in bamboo development programmes for sustainable livelihoods. The TRADA partnership is formed by the South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme (SACEP).

With oversight from TRADA has worked in collaboration with the South Asian Cooperative Environment Programme (SACEP) to develop an inclusive project focusing of the South Asia region. A primary objective of the project is to build the capacity on the ground, and institutionally, for the sustainable management of bamboo, emphasizing the role of engaging local communities. In the case of the proposed activities in Sri Lanka, TRADA will work in close coordination and collaboration with local and regional agencies, international non-governmental organisations, and existing donor programmes that share common objectives with TRADA and are key stakeholders in South Asia.

The South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP) is an inter-governmental organization, established in 1982 by the Governments of South Asia to promote and support protection, management and enhancement of the environment in the region. Eight countries, namely; Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, have ratified the Articles of Association of SACEP. The SACEP was created to fulfill a vision based on the following three assumptions

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

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.

Project Scope and Functions:

Under the overall supervision of the Director General of SACEP, TRADA and SACEP will be responsible for the preparation of pre-study report and development of the Project 'Integrated Bamboo Complex (IBC) on the creation of sustainable bamboo-based livelihoods which must be the close coordination mechanism with relevant government agencies, organizations, existing National Bamboo Network and the Steering Committee (SC) established under the project.

TRADA will appoint a consultant with relevant qualifications to carry out the work with a SACEP representative nominated by the Director General of SACEP as the counterpart :

1. Review locally available situation on livelihood dependence in Bamboo utilisation and prepare the timely and effective development of all activities in the Project and in the specific work plans.
2. Identify the potential Bamboo related activities for Handicraft, Furniture, Construction Energy, Charcoal, Food and other usages and possible livelihood diversification activities.
3. Identify and propose the suitable mechanism and pivotal focal point for project partners (eg. National Design Center) and relevant organizations to implement the project in sustainable fashion.
4. Identify the collaborative opportunities within the South Asia Region in support of the Project objectives as appropriate among governments, donors and other organisations.
5. Prepare pre-study report including conclusion, and recommendations.
6. Prepare the Project Proposal, depend on the above pre-study report with estimated cost, for the possible national or international funding. In the Project Proposal,
 - Identify resource development (access to land, nursery development, planting techniques etc.)
 - Technology transfer
 - Capacity building at all levels
 - Market identification and promotion
 - Private sector participation
7. Organise /conduct a meeting to present the Pre-study report to the identified key stakeholders of the project. With support from SACEP assist in the administration and preparation of terms of reference and project contracts with consultants and partners as per the proposed work plan of the Project.



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Timber Research and Development
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MoU between SACEP and TRADA International

A. BACKGROUND

1. Timber Research and Development Association (TRADA), is an independent research association in UK established in the year 1934. International division of TRADA has been implementing projects in timber and timber related industries in developing countries for more than two decades and has specialized in bamboo development programmes for sustainable livelihoods.
2. SACEP is an intergovernmental organization established in 1982, with a mission of promoting and supporting the conservation and management of the environment, both natural and human, in the South Asian Region in a co-operative manner to achieve sustainable development. Eight countries, namely Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka have ratified the Articles of Association of SACEP. In SACEP's revised mission statement, development of partnerships is also emphasized as an intrinsic aspect of the organization's mandate.
3. Forest Management has been identified as a key area in the Adaptation to Climate Change issues as its conservation and development not only has a direct impact on Climate Change, but also in the local communities adaptive capacity to the vital aspects related to Climate Change. TRADA and SACEP, both addressing programme activities in the areas of forest management share the focus on community resource management involvement in alternative livelihood management; poverty alleviation, with concerns for sustainable development, and guidance to the policy makers. Under this MoU, both the organisations seek to develop their collaboration in South Asia and to develop a programme of cooperative activities at the sub-regional level. This MoU provides a framework for TRADA and SACEP cooperation to assure that the resources available to each institution for activities in the areas of their mutual interest are used to best advantage for natural resource conservation and management and sustainable development in South Asia.

B. PRINCIPLES OF COLLABORATION

3. Complementary and mutual support. SACEP and TRADA will support one another in fulfilling their respective missions by building on elements of both organisations' programmes, seeking to enhance effectiveness while avoiding duplication of effort.
4. Mutual benefit. The activities on which SACEP and TRADA will collaborate under this MoU will be selected and developed to bring a clear benefit to both organizations and their constituents. Collaborative activities will be undertaken with a clear and mutual understanding of which organisation does what, and how each activity will be funded.
5. Mutual recognition. Public statements and publications regarding activities undertaken jointly under this MoU will acknowledge this collaboration. Neither TRADA nor SACEP shall make any commitments or take any positions on behalf of the other without the other's specific written consent. Each organisation will maintain the right to independent expression on issues related to activities that may be undertaken under this MoU and each will make every effort to notify the other before publicly expressing a position on such issues. Information provided by either partner to the other may be used for any capacity-building or non-commercial purpose.

C. PRINCIPAL AREAS OF COLLABORATION

6. TRADA and SACEP have identified the thematic areas of Access to Community Benefit Sharing, Development, Equitable share, specifically addressing Poverty reduction and livelihoods, Sustainable timber and wood products through demonstrating Best Practices, Sharing skills and knowledge as the substantive fields on which the partnership will begin to

build. This will be a major step to developing the communities adaptive capacity to the impacts of the forest resources because of climate change and consequent effect on productivity of the natural resources on which they are dependent for their livelihood.

7. Within 90 days of the signing of this MoU, SACEP and TRADA will agree on and prioritize activities to be carried out in the first year of the partnership. Annual work plans for collaborative work will be developed as provided in paragraph 12, below. The evolving programmes of each organization will determine issues for future collaboration.
8. TRADA and SACEP will keep each other informed of their respective programmes of assistance and activities through exchange of newsletters, country-specific studies, and other relevant documents. Similarly, SACEP and TRADA will share information on any projects or studies in which the other has expressed special interest.
9. SACEP and TRADA will invite each other to send representatives to meetings, workshops and conferences, convened by them or under their auspices, on topics of mutual interest and application, subject to available budgetary resources within each institution.

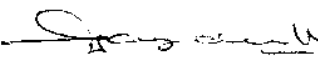
D. COORDINATION

10. Director General, SACEP and the Head, TRADA International or their successors, will have overall responsibility for ensuring that the objectives of this MoU are realized. The officials responsible for implementing this MoU will be Mr. Hiran Tillekaratne, Programme Officer of SACEP and Mr. Lionel Jayanetti, Head of TRADA International.
11. SACEP and TRADA staff at the national and regional levels will meet formally and informally, as mutually agreed, to develop concepts and plans for joint work.
12. The working arrangements set forth in this MoU will be reviewed annually by the officials responsible for implementation, who will meet as mutually agreed to assess progress in the agreed areas of cooperation and to discuss future directions for SACEP/TRADA collaboration. They will submit to the Director General of SACEP and the Head of TRADA International a joint written report on progress made, with specific recommendations for implementation for the following year.
13. SACEP and TRADA will jointly carry out a comprehensive review of achievements under this MoU within two (2) years of the date of signing and subsequently as may be agreed.
14. SACEP and TRADA will make every effort to ensure that women and men participate equally in the planning and implementation of projects and activities and that women and men have equal access to the benefits of derived from those projects and activities.

E. GENERAL PROVISIONS

15. This MoU shall come into force on the date it is signed by both SACEP and TRADA.
16. This MoU may at any time be amended, in writing and signed by both SACEP and TRADA.
17. SACEP and TRADA shall give each other six (6) months' prior written notice of intent to suspend or terminate this MoU.
18. Signed by the duly authorized representatives of SACEP and TRADA in two copies, on the dates indicated below:


 Dr. Arvind Anil Boaz
 Director General SACEP


 Mr. Lionel Jayanetti
 Head TRADA International

Date: 17/4/07

Date: 17/04/07

**Collaboration with National Botanical Research Institute (NBRI),
Lucknow to Develop Programme on Climate Change and it's Impact on
the Flora of the South Asia**

The 9th Governing Council of SACEP held in August 2005 at Thimphu, Bhutan identified the adaptations to Climate Change as one of the key areas concerned in the region and SACEP Secretariat was asked to incorporate it into its Work Programme. Subsequently, the 10th Governing Council of SACEP held in January, 2007 in Kathmandu, Nepal also recommended carrying forward the Work Programme recommended by the 9th GC.

In order to carry forward the above decision SACEP entered into a collaboration with NBRI, Lucknow, a premier CSIR Research Institute of India and a Centre of Excellence for the South Asian Region to develop a programme on adaptation issues related to Climate Change. As a first step a 'Regional Workshop on Climate Change and its impact on Flora of the South Asia Region', was conducted collaboratively with NBRI of India from 9 to 12 March 2008 at Lucknow, India. The Workshop was funded by the Ministry of Environment and Forests, the Ministry of Science and Technology, The Ministry of Earth Sciences of India and SACEP. There were 53 participants, mainly senior level government officials from 8 member countries of SACEP who participated at the workshop.

A proposal on adaptation to Climate Change developed by SACEP and NBRI, was discussed and finalized during the workshop (Annex I).

The participants of the workshop also prepared an adopted a Draft Declaration (Lucknow Declaration) on Climate Change and its Impact on Flora in the South Asian region (Annex II) to be endorsed at the 11th Meeting of the Governing Council of SACEP.

It is requested that the 11th Meeting of the Governing Council of SACEP endorses the Proposal and Adopts the Draft Declaration.

Impact of Climate Change on Flora: A South Asian Initiative

**(Proposal for a coordinated action programme developed at the
NBRI-SACEP International Workshop on “Climate Change and
its Impact on Flora in the South Asia Region”, NBRI, Lucknow,
India, March, 09-12, 2008)**

Impact of Climate Change on Flora:

A South Asian Initiative

Preamble:

The reports of Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC 2007) have highlighted the gravity of consequences that the life on earth, including mankind, is to face in coming times. IPCC report predicts that global warming is likely to increase mean temperature up to 5.8°C over the next 100 years, and that it could lead to melting of glaciers, polar ice caps and rise in sea levels. This may also affect species reproductive cycles, growing seasons, and species interaction to impact agricultural productivity, besides changing the natural course of many species, and drive many taxa to the verge of extinction. It is projected that 20-30% of the plants and animal species assessed by IPCC are at increased risk of extinction, if global average temperature exceeds 1.5 to 2.5°C. Impact of climate change on plants are manifested mostly by the upward migration / range shifts of species along temperature-altitudinal-latitudinal gradients, reduction in population size, structure and dynamics of species vulnerable to climate change, changes in phenology and reproductive cycle, range expansion of invasive species, etc. Thus, global climate change poses a serious threat to living organisms and support systems.

Climate change will give rise to environmental pollution and abnormal weather which may lead to decrease in overall growth and productivity of plants. There have been studies to understand plants behaviors to such environmental changes. Predicting the responses of ecosystems to climate change requires scaling up from key mechanisms, such as photosynthesis or growth that are best understood at the organism level. These mechanisms are fundamentally linked to genes, gene networks, and their interplay with the environment.

Despite the remedial measures taken such as cutting the emissions of greenhouse gases by the industrialized Nations, some recent emerging evidence suggests that the heat-trapping gases like carbon dioxide, produced mainly from the burning of fossil fuels, continue to raise temperatures, change the global climate, and affect ecosystems around the World.

South Asia (SA), the most populated continent, is the home for about 50% of the world's terrestrial plants and animal species, is also one of the rapidly growing economies of the world.

Climate change issues in SA region assume different dimensions in accordance with the changing patterns of ecology, environment, biodiversity, socio-economic settings and anthropogenic interventions. The flora and associated ecosystems/biomes in SA countries are likely to experience different impacts through retreat of glaciers in the Himalayan high ranges (e.g. India, Pakistan, Bhutan and Nepal) or sea level rise and associated floods and salinity intrusion in low lying region and islands (e.g., Bangladesh, peninsular India, Maldives, Sri Lanka). Furthermore, biodiversity in the SA region has already been experiencing unprecedented threats from increased human activities. This is evident from the fact that three out of thirty four global biodiversity hot spots are located in the SA region in the Indian subcontinent: i) Himalayas, ii) Indo-Burma, iii) Western Ghats and Sri Lanka.

Threats to the loss of floral and faunal species, especially endemics, and their habitats in these biodiversity hot spots are looming large and expected to increase at an unprecedented rate as the global temperature continues to rise. Urgent strategic initiatives are therefore required to respond to the challenges of climate change and its most disruptive impacts on floral diversity in SA region. Such initiative should include actions that are necessary to develop adaptive conservation management of plant diversity and associated resource systems through vulnerability assessment, integrated with adaptation and mitigation strategies against climate change.

Development of a realistic and regional specific data base and network on climate change-floral diversity in SA region, and creation of appropriate infrastructure and building enhanced institutional, technological and human resources for addressing climate change issues within and among each SA country are also important elements to be included in the action plan. Education, training and awareness building on climate – plant diversity changes and their impacts to flora and associated resources systems, including forestry, agriculture, health, etc. also assume great importance in the SA region-specific agenda on climate change. The priority ecosystems/biomes demanding immediate attention are the coastal lands, mountainous regions, and wetlands. These are the regions where species, particularly endemic species often have no alternative habitats to migrate to, and thus, the species of these ecosystems are under immediate threat due to climate change. The strategy, therefore, calls for appropriate action to address the issues across the diversity of resilient / sensitive ecosystems, encompassing plant species and populations vulnerable to climate change.

For addressing the modern technological and social issues concerning climate change, it is important that people are familiar with the subject. Scientific knowledge base generated by academicians and scientists should be disseminated for public awareness on the emerging issues. The programme will focus on imparting training, education and awareness to researchers, administrators, policy -decision makers, industry and other stakeholders on global warming and climate change.

With the availability of data sets for the analysis on climate change through the summary for policy makers of IPCC, climate change studies in SA countries have caught attention of researchers and voluntary organizations. Diverse issues such as greenhouse gas emissions, sea level changes along the coast, its relationship with forests and hydrology of river basins, and sustainable development are being addressed in the SA context.

Studies, targeting natural vegetation in diverse ecosystems/biomes within the SA countries over a considerable period of time are lacking and need urgent attention in terms of compiling relevant data sets from existing information sources as also establishing long-term monitoring mechanism for generating data sets for policy formulations in the region.

Therefore, it is proposed to develop a common programme entitled “**Impact of climate change on Flora: A South Asian Initiative**” for all the eight SA countries, with the following objectives and activities.

Objectives:

1. **Enhancing Capacity Building**
2. **Floral Vulnerability Assessment**
3. **Adaptation and Mitigation Strategies**

Objective 1: Enhancing Capacity Building

Activities:

1. To organize workshops and training program (short and long term) for researchers, administrators, policy / decision makers, industry and other stake holders.
2. To sponsor candidates from SA countries for post graduate diploma / degree courses on climate change in alliance with universities.
3. To organize public awareness programmes through various media.
4. To develop and exchange educational and public awareness materials on climate change.
5. To develop a South Asia Institute for implementation of education and training programmes.

Objective 2: Floral Vulnerability Assessment

Activities:

1. To develop baseline data on climate parameters and floral diversity from existing sources.
2. To assess the present status and distribution pattern of floral diversity at specific study sites.
3. To study the impact of climate change on phenology/reproductive traits.
4. To study vulnerability and adaptive responses of plants to climate change.
5. To prioritize threat -prone and indicator taxa and critical habitats for *in situ* conservation.

Criteria for site selection:

- Unique biomes of different SA countries
- Availability of past floristic and climatic data
- No or minimum anthropogenic disturbance
- Topographic/Altitudinal gradients

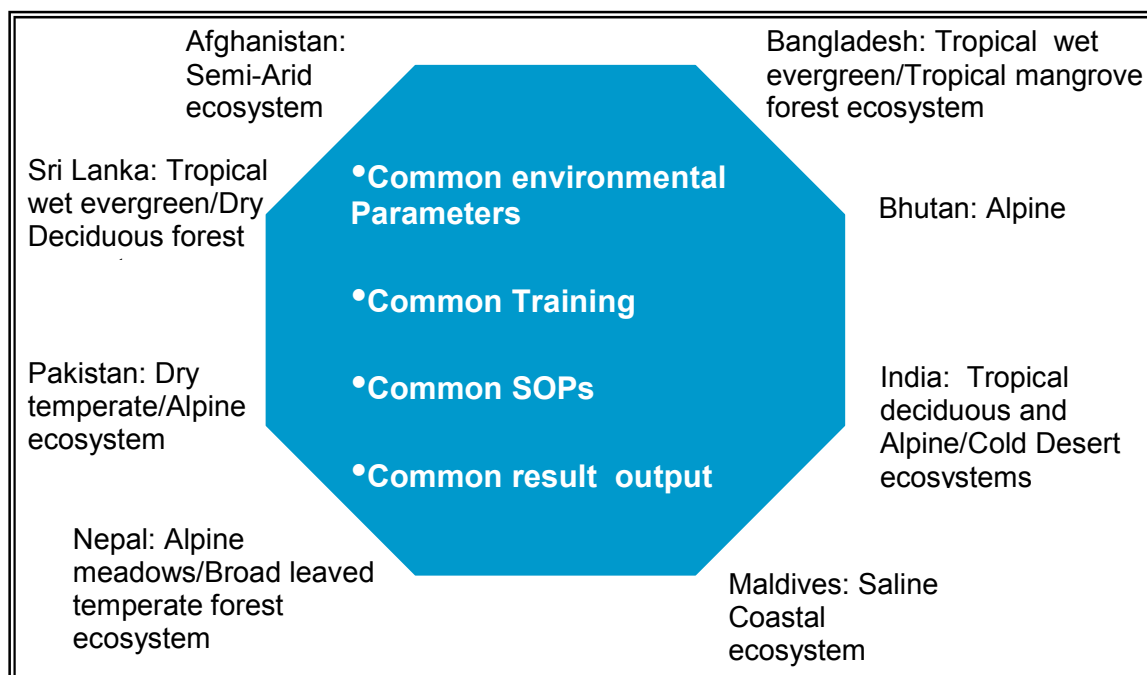


Fig. 1. Proposed Ecosystems/Biomes for identification of specific study sites

Objective 3. Adaptation and Mitigation Strategies

(A) Adaptation

Identification of economically important crop germplasm (rice) for adaptability to climatic change

Activities:

1. Screening of germplasm
2. Analysis of stress related enzymes/genes
3. Studying responses of targeted species under field conditions using appropriate technologies simulating climate change

(B) Mitigation

Identification of tree species having high carbon sequestration potential

Activities:

1. To study the carbon sequestration potentials of tree species in targeted ecosystems/biomes under different climatic conditions in SA countries
2. To estimate the net biome production / net ecosystem exchange (NEE) patterns in different ecosystems/biomes in SA countries with Eddy Covariance Flux Tower (carbon flux tower observations)
3. To develop strategies for CO₂ mitigation through afforestation / reforestation with selected species

Note: Study sites will be selected in Ecosystem/biome as proposed in Fig.1.

Approaches

1. Identification of unique ecosystem/biome for each of the SACEP countries. Ecosystem will be identified depending upon the importance of the ecosystem services and/or vulnerability of the ecosystem towards climate change
2. Development of long -term study plots.
3. Development of capacity among different SACEP countries by
 - a. Constituting key faculty team for imparting training,
 - b. Imparting common training to all the involved partners,
 - c. Developing common SOPs,
 - d. Generating all the results to common output platform for simulation modelling.
4. Development of infrastructure for SACEP partners
5. Implementation of the proposal
6. Prioritization of the activities
7. Activity phasing
8. Imparting awareness and education among masses and educating policy makers.
9. Setting up a Forum for Climate Change Challenge to Flora in South Asia
FC3F-SA web portal for member countries for data base development, project implementation and information exchange.

Strategy

For implementing such an interknit programme, it is proposed to develop an appropriate implementation structure as shown in Fig. 2.

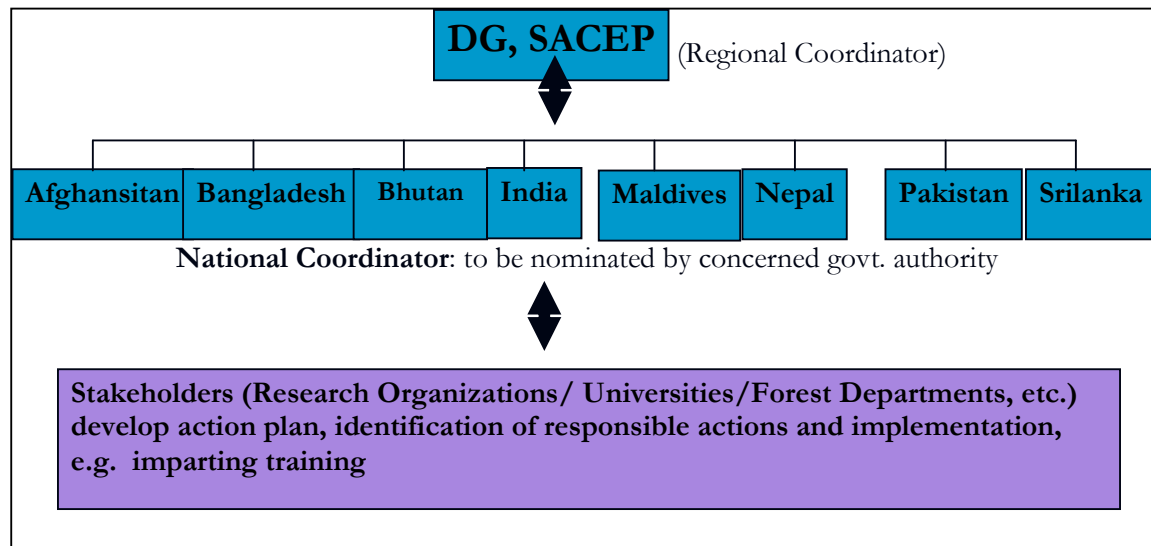


Fig.2. Proposed implementation structure for the proposed programme

In order to develop a common system for collection of relevant environmental parameter relevant to climate change, it is proposed to install Eddy Covariance Flux Stations to monitor climate variables viz. fluxes of PAR, heat, water, CO₂, evapotranspiration and other trace gases. One Eddy Covariance Flux Tower is proposed to be established in each representative ecosystem in each SA country.

Partners will be trained by competent regional and international experts to collect common ecological and physiological parameters, which include:

- ✓ community structure,
- ✓ population abundance,
- ✓ plant phenology,
- ✓ mortality and natality,
- ✓ species recruitment and replacement,
- ✓ invasion pattern,
- ✓ root/shoot partitioning,
- ✓ carbon/nitrogen analysis in both plant and soil,
- ✓ estimation of carbon sequestration (SLA, LAI, gas exchange)
- ✓ water relation parameters.

The following presents a larger scope to be adopted by the partners:

- Collection of previous data from protected areas (National parks/BR/sanctuary) on species composition, population dynamics and the environmental variables to develop time series models.
- Past satellite vegetation maps, if available, can be used in simulation modeling.
- Past meteorological data sets need to be collected.
- Climate simulation studies using appropriate technologies, like FACE and FATI

The Lucknow Declaration 2008

This consensus document was prepared under the auspices of the National Botanical Research Institute, Lucknow and South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP) International Workshop on Climate Change and its Impact on Flora in the South Asian Region held in the background of increasing global concerns related to climate change at National Botanical Research Institute, Lucknow from March 9 to 12, 2008

Aware that the countries in the South Asia region are very rich in terrestrial and marine Flora which are storehouse of global Carbon as well as source the rapidly growing regional demand of food.

Acknowledging that climate change poses a major threat to the conservation and long term survival of biodiversity in South Asia. Recalling that all the countries in the region are presently engaged in research and studies on the impact of climate change on flora particularly food and forestry crops in the region.

Recognizing that cultivation and the legal harvesting and trade in wild species is an important and sustainable source of livelihood and income to many rural communities and that adequate protection, sustainable harvest and wise use of wild plants can play vital role in conservation of species and their habitats as well as in lifting people out of poverty and securing their future and that it is clear now as per the recent IPCC report that Climate Change is having an adverse effect on the productivity of plants.

Recognizing that all the countries in the region have committed themselves to the UNFCCC Convention and are actively associated in various activities related to both mitigation and adaptation to climate change.

Recalling the decision taken in the Tenth Governing Council meeting of SACEP on 25th January 2007 make to Climate Change a priority issue in the work programme (2007-2008). Stressing the importance of mutual networking and technical support as well as financial and technical support from the international community for building expertise, resources, and capacity to address the needs of studying the impact of Climate Change in the SA Region.

Realising the need for collaborative research on the effect of global climate change on South Asian flora and the need for urgent action for enhancing regional preparedness for sustainability.

Acknowledging that the Lucknow meet recommended and to take immediate steps to create a South Asian forum for enhancing the preparedness to face the challenges posed by the global climate change to regional flora and ecosystems.

Believing that regional cooperation can provide the best solution for regional problems, we the delegates at the NBRI – SACEP International Workshop on Climate Change and its Impact on Flora in the South Asian Region, hereby support the Lucknow Statement on the effect of global climate change on South Asian flora and regional action plan, and urge for;

- i. Establish of a South Asia Forum for Climate Change Challenges to Flora in South Asia (FC3F-SA) to support and guide the development of regional and local strategic plans by working closely with global, regional and local governmental and non-governmental partners. This Strategic Plan will be developed for promoting education, research and extension, for knowledge-based assessment, monitoring, preparedness and mitigation of climate change effects on flora in South Asian countries.
- ii. Setting up a FC3F-SA web portal of member countries for communication, creation of database on regional floral diversity, ecosystems, climate change indicators and projects in progress.
- iii. Generate multidisciplinary climate change information to supplement existing educational materials, textbooks and publications in member countries.
- iv. Coordinate with Donor agencies to generate Fund for regional projects to evolve standard operative procedures to collect data, monitor, quantify and analyse climate change impact on agriculture, forestry and wild flora.
- v. Enhance focus on strategies for responding to climate change vulnerability of flora through adaptation and mitigation research on trees, higher and lower plants.
- vi. Evolve strategies to minimize climate change impacts on agriculture and minimize agricultural impacts on climate change. Promote the development of stress tolerant varieties and management practices to cope with climate stress on agriculture and forestry systems.
- vii. Integrate biofuel policy in a comprehensive energy, agriculture, climate, population, social and ecosystem sustainability model.

Research on models for scale up of carbon balance from experiments to ecosystems, life cycle green house gas analysis of biofuel and crop production systems, climate stress response of plant growth and development, ecosystem dynamics and climate impact modeling in hot spots to prioritize adaptation opportunities to meet the challenges of climate change.



ELEVENTH 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 Tenth Meeting of the Governing Council of SACEP.

**DECLARATION
AND
ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION
S A C E P**

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

and

Incorporated Decisions upto
10th 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.

¹ The External Review Committee reformulated the mission Statement of SACEP in terms of this Vision as follows:

"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."

(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)

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.

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."

(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)

"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"

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

((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)

ARTICLE 2

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.

ARTICLE 3

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.

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

“that a Trust Fund be established to which the lump-sum contribution from member countries and contributions from 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)”

(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)

**Year to be
corrected to
read as 2005**

“(a)The present system of Focal Points should remain but mechanisms for intra-country 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 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)

**To be included
in Article 6
also - Focal
Points**

ARTICLE 4

GOVERNING COUNCIL

- (a) The Council shall consist of all the members of SACEP;
- (b) Each member shall have one representative on the Council, who will normally be of Ministerial rank;
- (c) 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 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;
- (e) The Council may discuss any questions or any matters within the 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;
- (g) The Governing Council may formulate its own rules of procedure ⁵.

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:

“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.”

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

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

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)

SOM prior to GC to be included - GC 5 decision

ARTICLE 5

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.

ARTICLE 6

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.

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)

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)

“Climate Change and Bio-safety was accepted and respective Subject Area Focal Points were designated”

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

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

ARTICLE 7

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;

⁷ “The Governing Council agreed that the Status of the Director of SACEP should be elevated to that of the Director General.”

(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)

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.”

(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)

“ 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)

“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.”

(Source: GC-10, 25th January 2007, Kathmandu, Nepal Page 8, 11.2)
(Refer Annex 1 – Foot Note 8 – page 7 - 9)

(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.

ARTICLE 8

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.

ARTICLE 9

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.

ARTICLE 11

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
BHUTAN⁹
INDIA
IRAN¹⁰
MALDIVES
NEPAL¹¹
PAKISTAN
SRI LANKA

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"

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

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".

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



ELEVENTH 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 Tenth Meeting of the Governing Council of SACEP.



REPORT

THE THIRD SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL

South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP)

**6 NOVEMBER 2003
COLOMBO, SRI LANKA**

5. 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
- 3) 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
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SOUTH 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 Secretariat must invariably get approval by the Governing Council.

10. VIENNA LIAISON OFFICE

The Governing Council considered the Agenda Item 6 (c) regarding the Vienna Liaison Office. It was decided that the question of the Vienna Liaison 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 Government of Austria may be informed in suitable terms of the 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.

11. SUBJECT AREA FOCAL POINTS

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

The Governing Council decided that the individual countries should seriously examine the appropriateness 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.

12. REVIEW OF PRIORITY PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS UNDERTAKEN BY SACEP

The Director SACEP presented the working paper SACEP/GO 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 the year 1987.

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

13. INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION

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

UNITED
NATIONS

EP



**United Nations
Environment
Programme**

Distr.
RESTRICTED

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**

UNEP(OCA)SAS IG1/REP

Annex VI

Page 2

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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, 1985, 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



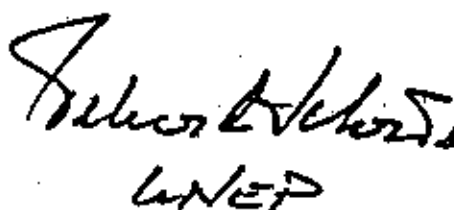
Republic of Maldives



Islamic Republic of Pakistan



Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

In witness whereof 
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UNEP

- UNEP(OCA)SAS IG1/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 Coastal Environment of the South Asian Seas Region,

1. Decides 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.

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 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.



REPORT

EIGHTH GOVERNING COUNCIL MEETING

South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme

**29 SEPTEMBER, 2001
COLOMBO, SRI LANKA**

8. 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 intra-country 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.
- 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.
- 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.

9. 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

SOUTH ASIA CO-OPERATIVE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

S A C E P

REPORT OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL MEETING

GC-1 27TH - 29TH JANUARY, 1983

COLOMBO - SRI LANKA

ResolutionFIRST 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.
- Noting that the SACEP's financial situation has not improved so as to 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

- 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.)

resolves,

- 1) 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 time to the Consultative Committee and to the next session of the Governing Council in 1984.

Adopted at Colombo
on 28.01.1983.



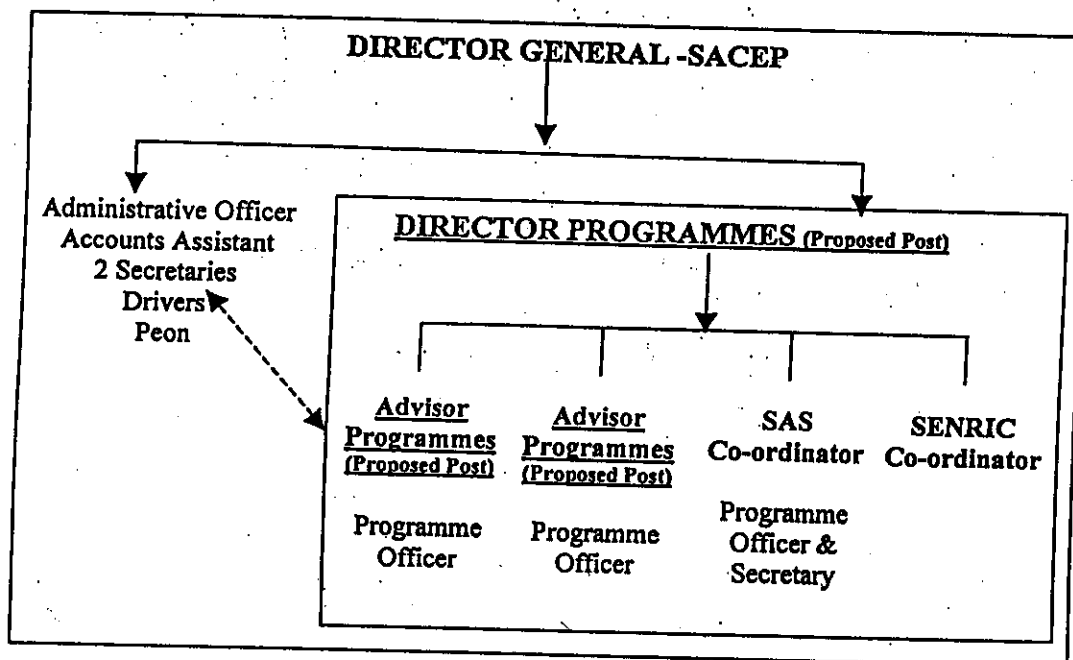
REPORT

THE THIRD SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL

South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP)

**6 NOVEMBER 2003
COLOMBO, SRI LANKA**

- 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 determine 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**

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

4. FINANCIAL MATTERS

1. Budget for SACEP

- a) The annual core budget approved is US Dollars One hundred and twenty seven thousand four hundred only (US \$ 127,400). The approved budget details are in Annex XVIII
- b) The 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.
- e) The Secretariat shall maintain one single fund for the purpose of Trust fund / Reserve / Program development and by laws for the fund to be framed to permit proper utilization of such funds.

VENUE AND DATE OF THE 10TH MEETING OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL OF SACEP

The Meeting unanimously welcomed the announcement from the Government of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka to host the 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**

8. 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 intra-country 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.
- 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.
- 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.

9. 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

SACEP

Report of the
Third Governing Council Meeting of the
SOUTH ASIA CO-OPERATIVE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

12 & 13 January 1987

New Delhi, India.

A copy of his address is at Annex V

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

A copy of his address is at Annex VI

4. 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."

5. ELECTION OF OFFICE-BEARERS

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

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.

8. OTHER STATEMENTS

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

9. 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 expenditure approved by the Governing Council must be borne by the member countries in a fair and equitable manner.



SACEP

S A C E P

*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**

- Rule 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.
- Rule 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.
- Rule 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.
- Rule 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.
- Rule 7 - The Governing Council may decide at any session to amend the Agenda circulated as it deems fit.
- Rule 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.
- Rule 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.
- Rule 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.
- Rule 11 - 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.
- Rule 12 - A simple majority of the membership of the Council, shall constitute a quorum.
- Rule 13 - All decisions of the Governing Council shall be arrived at, by consensus.
- Rule 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.
- Rule 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

S A C E P

*Report of the
Second Governing Council Meeting of the*

SOUTH ASIA CO-OPERATIVE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

17 & 18 April 1985

Dhaka, Bangladesh

ANNEX XVIII

MODALITIES OF FOCAL POINTS OF SOUTH ASIA CO-OPERATIVE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

Initiation of Project Proposals

- 1.1 As provided in Article 6 of the Articles of Association, the Focal Point shall work towards 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.
- 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 basis of interest shown and with the approval of the Consultative Committee.

Formulation of the Project Document

- 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.

Submission of Project Document to Funding Agencies

- 3.1 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 Project. However, the Secretariat, 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 particular Funding Agency for any reason.

4.2 Implementation of the Project

- 4.1 The implementation of all components of the projects at the national level shall be the exclusive responsibility of each participating country and 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 and work plan incorporated in the project document which constitute the basis for disbursement of funds.

5. National Expertise and Institutions

- 5.1 Focal Points shall, on request, identify and suggest national experts and institutions for recruitment and sub-contracting 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.

6. Liaison Activities

- 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.



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

**22ND APRIL 1998
MALE, REPUBLIC OF MALDIVES**

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

9. 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**

**22ND 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.

6. 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/HLM/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.

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.



REPORT

THE NINTH MEETING OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL

South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP)

**26 AUGUST 2005
THIMPHU, BHUTAN**

- 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.
- b) The Governing Council may consider the issue of tenure at future meetings.
- c) The Advisory Body for SACEP proposed by the National Focal Points may not be necessary as this will create another layer of bureaucracy. However, there is a strong need to strengthen the Secretariat. UNEP is requested to assist the Secretariat in its capacity building programme.
- d) One Programme Assistant post shall be based in Thimphu, Bhutan to assist the Chairman of the 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.



REPORT

THE TENTH MEETING OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL

South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP)

**25 JANUARY 2007
KATHMANDU, NEPAL**

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.

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
ROYAL GOVERNMENT OF BHUTAN
THIMPHU

MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS

INSTRUMENT OF RATIFICATION

WHEREAS the members of the South Asia Cooperative Environment 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, Dawa 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.

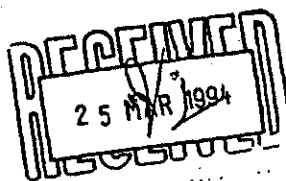
(Dawa Tsering)





His Majesty's Government
Environment Protection Council

Tel. { 2-28000 Ext: 315
2-28200 335



all
c.c. number
3

Singha Durbar
Kathmandu, Nepal

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 SACEP Agreement

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



ELEVENTH 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 Tenth Meeting of the Governing Council of SACEP.



United Nations
Environment
Programme



Distr.
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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

1. 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.
3. 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 augurs 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.
7. The meeting was inaugurated by Mr Pranab Mukherjee, Minister of External Affairs, Government of 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 *mutatis mutandis* 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 Muhammad 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.
12. 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

20. 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

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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
8. Adoption of the Final Act
9. Draft Resolution to the eighteenth session of the Governing Council of UNEP
10. 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/} 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.
2. 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;
 - (d) 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 co-ordinating 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.
- 15. 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.
19. 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.

Activities

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

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 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.
3. 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.

Activities

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.
3. 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.

Activities

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

1. 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.

Activities

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

1. 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;
 - (v) 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 mutatis 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.
9. 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 with the National Project Co-ordinators.

SECRETARIAT

19. The foregoing established the need for a Secretariat, which will be responsible for the overall co-ordination 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 bi-lateral 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	A	B
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. Decides 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.

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 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.

Having adopted 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. Calls upon the Director of SACEP, 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. Also calls upon the Director of SACEP 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;
 - (c) 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. Also requests the Director of SACEP 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.

Having adopted 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. Decides 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

2. Requests the Director of SACEP to assume responsibility for administering the SASAP Trust Fund.

3. Urges the States to pay their contributions in equal yearly installments, starting from April 1995.

4. Calls upon 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. Undertakes 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.
4. 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 Nations 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.

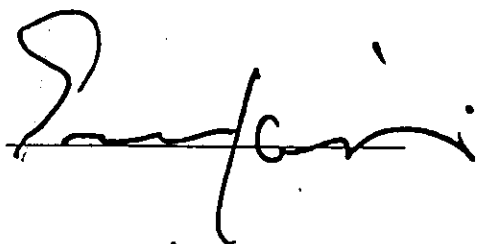
10. The Meeting also considered and adopted the Resolutions, the texts of which are appended to this Final Act.

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.

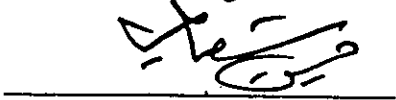
In witness whereof the representatives have signed this Final Act.

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



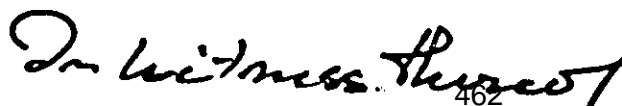
Republic of Maldives



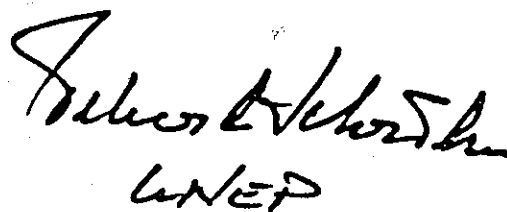
Islamic Republic of Pakistan



Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka



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UNEP

Extension of Tenure of the Director General

As per the decision 11.2 of the 10th Meeting of the Governing Council of SACEP it was recommended that :

'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.'

(The decision of 10 GC-SACEP is attached as Annex 1).

The Director General completed two years of service on 20th April 2007 and the recommended Performance Appraisal had to be carried out. As per the decision of the 10th GC, the SACEP Secretariat discussed this matter with the Hon' Chairman of SACEP on his visit to the Secretariat on 16.07.07. Subsequently, vide our letter dated 24th August, 2007, we requested the Hon' Chairman of SACEP to finalise the date of the National Focal Points Meeting. Later the matter was put before the 103rd Meeting of the Consultative Committee on 30.11.2007 and on their approval the SACEP Secretariat proposed to hold a National Focal Point Meeting on 25th February 2008 in Colombo and requested the National Focal Points vide their letter dated 3rd January 2008 to which the Draft Agenda was attached and this item was included as Agenda Item 9. The Government of Sri Lanka, the host country, recommended to all the member countries through their letter No. 04/01/08/01-ii dated 7-1-08 that the National Focal Point Meeting should be held immediately, prior to the GC Meeting. Therefore, the matter was included as an agenda item 6.2 in the Preparatory Meeting of the National Focal Points scheduled to be held on 20th May 2008 prior to the 11th Governing Council.

As directed by the 10 GC-SACEP, criteria for the performance appraisal should be developed by the Member States. To facilitate the Performance Appraisal, SACEP Secretariat drafted a Performance Appraisal Form for the Director General based on an Assessment Form of UNDP, Regional Office in Sri Lanka and other International Organisations and put it up for approval to the 104th Consultative Committee Meeting of SACEP held on 07.12.2007. The Consultative Committee decided that they will send the form to their country governments for comments. The Government of India has sent their suggestions to be included in the Performance Appraisal and the 105th and the 106th CC Meeting suggested that other countries should expedite sending their suggestions, if any, considering the urgency of the matter. The other countries have not yet sent in their comments.

The Secretariat, therefore, finalized a draft Performance Appraisal Form for the Director General, after incorporating the suggestions received from India and forwarded same to the National Focal Points through the Director General's letter dated 7th May 2008, for their comments and approval.

As decided by the 10th GC.SACEP, this Performance Appraisal should be agreed upon at the National Focal Point meeting of 20th May 2008 at Jaipur, India and subsequently sent to the 11th Meeting of the Governing Council of SACEP on 22nd May 2008 for information.

The National Focal Point Meeting is requested to take suitable decision.



REPORT

THE TENTH MEETING OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL

South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP)

**25 JANUARY 2007
KATHMANDU, NEPAL**

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.

(DRAFT)

**PERFORMANCE APPRAISAL OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL,
SOUTH ASIA COOPERATIVE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME**

A. PROFILE OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL

NAME :
REVIEW PERIOD

B. DIRECTOR GENERAL'S SELF ASSESSMENT : (To be given by the Director General)

C. COMPETENCY SCORES

COMPETENCY SCORES		Needs Development	Fully Satisfactory	Exceeds expectations	Outstanding
		1	2	3	4
1. CORE VALUES AND COMMITMENTS :					
a) Integrity and fairness :					
b) Cultural Sensitivity and Adaptability					
c) Commitments to the Organisation					
2. LEADERSHIP :					
a) Initiative and drive					
b) Ability to take Calculated Risks					
c) Focused on results					
d) Takes decisions expeditiously					
e) Has Positive attitude And enthusiasm					
3. MANAGING OF CONFLICTS :					
a) Composed and manages Stress well					
b) Communicates clearly and Convincingly					
c) Builds strong relationships					

	1	2	3	4
4. PROMOTING COOPERATIVE ACTIVITIES AMONGST MEMBER COUNTRIES :				
a) Develops innovative cooperative Projects				
b) Facilitates Inter-government Dialogue and consensus building				
c) Manages cooperative Activities effectively for Mutual benefit and ensures they are beneficial both individually and collectively to member states				
5. SUPPORTING BUILDING AND SHARING OF KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERTISE :				
a) Facilitates building of capacities of the Member Countries through organization of Trainings and Workshops with both National and International Experts				
b) Ensures Mutual Support of local expertise for development of Projects for benefit of member countries				
c) Actively supports sharing of Knowledge and expertise amongst member countries				

6. NETWORKING :

- a) Extension of SACEP's links
With international, regional
And National organizations
-New MoUs and agreements
- b) New Projects and Initiatives

7. FINANCIAL :

- a) Recovery of Arrears of Country
Contributions
- b) Starting of Corpus Fund,
- c) Increase in Host Country
Contribution
- d) Increase in International
Donor, NGOs/Private Sector
Support
- e) Initiation of better financial
Management strategies and
Conduction of regular Audits
- f) Harnessing local resources-
Increase in financial Support by
Member countries towards
Implementation of Projects
- g) Facilitating maximum impact
of Support received from
donors and other resources

1	2	3	4

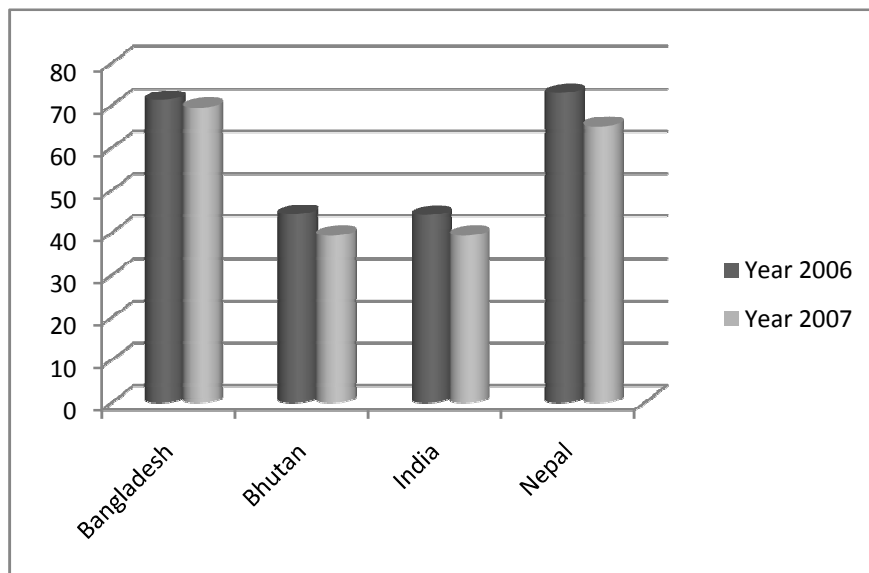
OVERALL RECOMMENDATIONS :

- 1. OUTSTANDING
- 2. EXCEEDS EXPECTATIONS
- 3. FULLY MET EXPECTATIONS
- 4. NEEDS DEVELOPMENT

Signature of the Review Group :

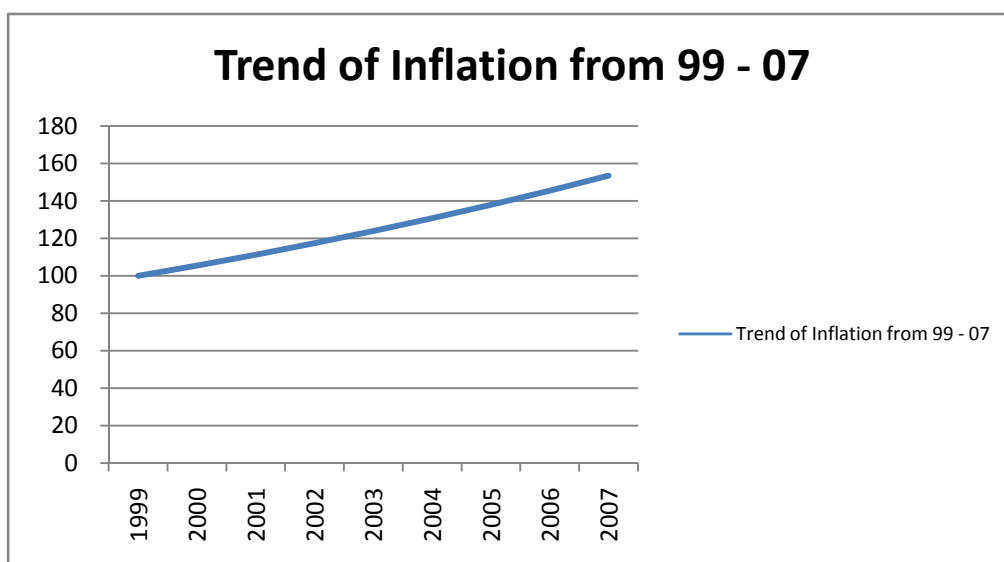
Compensation for fall in US \$ against other currencies for Salary of the Director General

During the past two year the US Dollar has been depreciating against the other currencies, which has affected the Salary of the Director General, SACEP.



The graph shows the depreciation of the US \$ against the currencies of Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal in year 2006 and 2007.

The below graph shows the trend of inflation of the South Asian region from 1999 to 2007, considering the inflation rate as 5.50% per annum which is the lowest rate of 1999 / 2007



Due to inflation and drastic fall in US \$ rates as cited above, there has been a rapid fall in the net Salary of the Director General, SACEP in real terms.

The 11GC.SACEP is requested to consider a suitable Salary Increase for the Director General.

SACEP WORK PROGRAMME FOR YEAR 2009 – 2010

The 9th Meeting of the Governing Council and the 3rd Meeting of the Inter-Ministerial Meeting of the South Asian Seas Programme held in August 2005 at Thimphu, Bhutan reviewed the past Programmes and Projects of SACEP and adopted a new Work Programme for the year 2006 – 2007. The adopted Work Programme included 3 major areas viz. Waste Management, Adaptation to Climate Change, and Data and Information Management. The two other areas; Natural Disaster Management with respect to Storm Surges and Tsunamis and Management of Coastal and Marine Protected Areas were added to the Work Programme of the South Asian Seas Programme and it also recommended, continuation of the ongoing programmes of the SACEP.

The 10th Meeting of the Governing Council of SACEP held in January 2007 in Kathmandu, Nepal discussed the progress of the Work Programme recommended by the 9th GC-SACEP and decided to continue the same programme for the year 2007 – 2008. It also recommended new programme areas such as;

- Combating Illegal Trade in Wildlife and its Products
- Global Invasive Species Programme
- Implementing SAICM
- Establishment of Basel Convention Regional Centre
- Capacity building on Clearing House Mechanism of the Convention on Biological Diversity, assisting to develop national CHMs and establishment of regional CHM

Therefore SACEP Work Programme for year 2009 – 2010 is based on the continuation of the current Projects and Programmes as approved by the 10 GC-SACEP and new Programmes initiated by SACEP in response to the recent environmental concerns of the Member Countries.

The finances for the projects under the programme activities will be raised from donor agencies. Some donor agencies expect host agency / country contributions upto 20% in cash and kind. This will be dealt on a project to project basis as per the requirement of the donor agency and as per the decision of the 10 GC.SACEP for co-financing.

Programme 1: Waste Management

Project	Activities	Source of funding	Estimated Budget (USD)
1. Establishment of Basel Convention Regional Centre for South Asia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physically establishment of BCRC at SACEP • Setting up of Advisory Committee • Training Programs, Seminars and Workshops on Hazardous Wastes Management and Minimization • Database and Exchange of Information on HWM Techniques and Technologies • Marketing • Advisory/Consulting Services 	Basel Convention Sec., GTZ, JICA	100,000.00
2. Urban Waste Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity Building and Awareness Raising • Waste Separation and Disposal : Domestic Waste • Paper Recycling Project Managed by Local Community 	SIDA, GTZ, UNDP	340,000.00

Programme 2: Adaptation to Climate Change

Project	Activities	Estimated Budget (USD)
1. Study of impact of climate change on flora	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhancing Capacity Building • Floral Vulnerability Assessment • Adaptation and Mitigation Strategies 	To be determined

<p>2. Collaboration for the Capacity Building of the Community Forestry Sector with the Regional Community Forestry Training Centre for Asia and the Pacific (RECOFTC)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rural Livelihoods and Poverty Reduction: This will include activities to develop pro-poor markets and enterprises, integrated development planning to address social development in an integrated way (e.g. across health, education, agriculture, humanitarian assistance); analyzing the impact of Community Forestry on livelihoods and the local environment. • Forest Governance: supporting the development and implementation of sound <i>policies and laws</i> that support rights of access and use are fundamentals of poverty reducing Community Forestry, as well as robust and supportive local CF institutions that enable equitable sharing of benefits from CF. • Productive and Sustainable Forest Management: Community Forestry often occurs in degraded areas rather than high value areas. However, the scope to extend the principles and methods of CF to high value areas needs to be supported if the livelihood needs of communities in such areas are to be secured. Such areas range from conservation areas, where more restricted modes of forest use are in place, to high value timber resources in production forest areas. Fruitful areas to explore include landscape approaches to sustainable forest management, and forest management systems for multiple use including both timber and Non Timber Forest Products. 	<p>To be determined</p>
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Programme 3: Data and Information Management

Project	Activities	Source of funding	Estimated Budget (USD)
<p>1. Establishment of Environmental Data and Information Management System for South Asia</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment of Needs and the Resources available at National and Regional Level • Provide assistance in the Development and Operation of National Environmental Data and Information management Centres in member countries of SACEP 	<p>GTZ, UNDP, UNEP</p>	<p>2,847,000.00</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide Training in Data and Information Management applying Standard Formats and Methodologies • Establishment of Regional Environmental Data and Information Centre and Networking of Regional Centre with the National Centres • Provision of Hardware and Software Packages • Provision of Support for Operational Expenses - Data and Information Centre • Development of National and Regional Meta Databases • Data and Information Dissemination 		
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Programme 4: Implementation of SAICM

Project	Activities	Source of Funding	Estimated Budget (USD)
1. South Asia Sub-regional Meeting on Implementation of SAICM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updates on activities of Governments, Intergovernmental and Non-governmental Organizations in the sub-region • Sub-regional coordination mechanisms • National implementation of SAICM • Identification of the priorities of the sub-region and preparation of sub-regional action plan • Engagement of Sub-regional/Regional organizations in SAICM implementation 	SAICM Sec.	60,200.00

Programme 5: Capacity building on Clearing House Mechanism of the Convention on Biological Diversity, assisting to develop national CHMs and establishment of regional CHM

Project	Activities	Source of funding	Estimated Budget (USD)
1. Establishment of National CHMs and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience Sharing/Networking Workshop 	GTZ, UNDP	559,350.00

Regional CHM on CBD (when implementing the project, should be in line with 11 Decision no. 5.2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity Building Workshop • Follow-up on the Trainees • Organisation of National Training Workshops • Designing and Development of National CHMs • Design of Regional CHM • Development of a discussion group on the regional CHM 		
2. Capacity building training programmes on Biodiversity conservation and its related Conventions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Training for Sri Lanka • National Training for Bhutan • National Training for Nepal 	UNESCO, RBINS	18,000.00

Programme 6: South Asia Wildlife Trade Initiative

Project	Activities	Source of funding	Estimated Budget (USD)
1. South Asia Wildlife Trade Initiative (SAWTI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intergovernmental Meeting • Establishment of SAWTI • Regional Strategic Plan on Wildlife Trade • Establishment of South Asia Expert Group on Wildlife Trade • Development of detailed work programme for implementing the regional strategic plan 	US Gov., WWF, TRAFFIC	200,000.00

Programme 7: SAARC Collaboration

Project	Activities	Estimated Budget (USD)
1. Preparation of South Asia State of the Environment Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion among SACEP, SAARC and UNEP_ROAP • Preparation of ToR for the SoE Report • Stakeholders meeting 	To be determined

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparation/ updating of national SoEs • Preparation of South Asia Regional SoE 	
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Programme 8: Malé Declaration

Project	Activities	Source of funding	Estimated Budget (USD)
1. Malé Declaration – Phase III	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue Capacity Building of the Member Countries, Regional and National Level • Regional Stakeholders Workshop • Intergovernmental Meetings • National Stakeholders Meetings • Programme Management Committee Meeting of RAPIDC project 	SIDA, UNEP	20,000.00
2. Malé Declaration – Phase IV (need to be finalized after consultation with UNEP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen Air Pollution Monitoring Network and conduct Regular Monitoring • Enhance the Impact Assessment Capacity of the National Institutions and Assesses the Impacts of Air Pollution in the participating countries • Enhance the capacity of NIAs on Emission Inventory Development and Integrated Assessment Modeling and Compilation of Emission Inventories • Air Pollution Reduction Policies and Strategies • Raise Awareness for action through Targeted Dissemination 		To be determined

Programme 9: EST

Project	Activities	Source of funding	Estimated Budget (USD)
1. Environmentally sustainable transport (deferred to be taken up at 12 th GC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional EST forum • Development of Ministerial statement for South Asia • Launch a South Asia Forum on EST with UNCRD 	UNCRD, Japan Gov.	71,500.00

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of in-country training needs and Assessment with National Dialogue • Development of an Inter-country Institutional Co-operation Mechanism for Formulation of a South Asia Regional EST Strategy cum Action Plan • Introduction of “car free days” in South Asian Cities • Establishment of SACEP working group on EST 		
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Programme 10: South Asian Seas Programme (SASP)

The Work Programme for the South Asian Seas Programme will be put before the 4th Inter-Ministerial Meeting of the South Asian Sea Programme (4th IMM / SASP) which will meet immediately after this GC meeting.

4 Financial Matters :

- 4.1 The recovery of Country Contribution 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 from 2001 to 10th April 2008

Country	Arrears upto 2004	Agreed CC 2005	Received CC 2005	Total arrears upto Dec 2005	Agreed CC for 2006	Received CC 2006	Arrears upto Dec 2006
	US \$	US \$	US \$	US \$	US \$	US \$	US \$
Bangladesh	84,263.00	21,300.00		105,563.00	21,300.00		126,863.00
Bhutan	3,555.00	3,555.00	7,110.00	0.00	3,555.00		3,555.00
India	68,971.00	31,850.00	40,000.00	60,821.00	31,850.00	55,550.00	37,121.00
Maldives	34,525.00	14,575.00		49,100.00	14,575.00	63,675.00	0.00
Nepal	40,250.00	8,050.00		48,300.00	8,050.00		56,350.00
Pakistan	131,150.00	31,850.00	148,807.32	14,192.68	31,850.00	31,850.00	14,192.68
Sri Lanka	-	16,220.00	Paid in 2004	0.00	16,220.00	1,298.02	692.70
						14,229.28	
TOTAL	362,714.00	127,400.00	195,917.32	277,976.68	127,400.00	166,602.30	238,774.38

Country	Arrears upto Dec 2006	Agreed CC for 2007	Received CC 2007	Arrears upto Dec 2007	Agreed CC for 2008	Received CC 2008	Arrears from 2001 - 15 May 08
	US \$	US \$	US \$	US \$	US \$	US \$	US \$
Bangladesh	126,863.00	21,300.00		148,163.00	21,300.00		169,463.00
Bhutan	3,555.00	3,555.00	7,110.00	0.00	3,555.00		3,555.00
India	37,121.00	31,850.00	31,850.00	37,121.00	31,850.00		68,971.00
Maldives	0.00	14,575.00		14,575.00	14,575.00		29,150.00
Nepal	56,350.00	8,050.00	48,300.00	16,100.00	8,050.00		24,150.00
Pakistan	14,192.68	31,850.00		46,042.68	31,850.00	31,925.79	45,966.89
Sri Lanka	692.70	16,220.00		16,912.70	16,220.00	16,912.70	16,220.00
TOTAL	238,774.38	127,400.00	87,260.00	278,914.38	127,400.00	48,838.49	357,475.89

Interest Earned	Year 2005	US \$	237.52
Fixed Deposit Interest Earned	Year 2006	US \$	3,051.68
Fixed Deposit Interest Earned	Year 2007	US \$	14,750.21
Fixed Deposit Interest Earned	Year 2008	US \$	1,703.03
Total Interest - SACEP CC		US \$	19,742.44

Fixed Deposit Interest Earned - HF	Year 2007	US \$	669.13
Fixed Deposit Interest Earned - HF	Year 2008	US \$	152.57
Total Interest - Host Facility		US \$	821.70

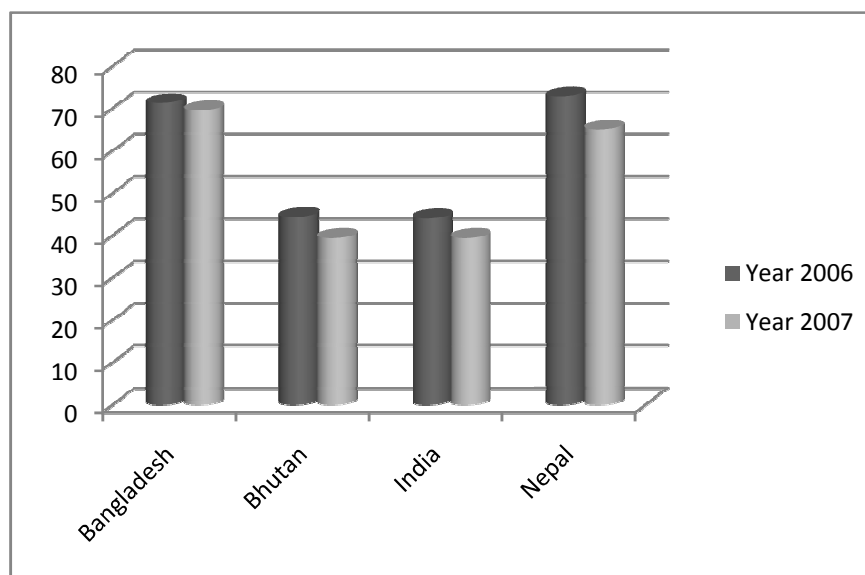
APPROVED COUNTRY CONTRIBUTION FORMULA

(As per the Decision of Seventh Meeting of the Governing Council of SACEP)

COUNTRY	PERCENTAGE	RECOMMENDED CONTRIBUTION	RECOMMENDED CONTRIBUTION (ROUNDED)	PERCENTAGE RECEIVED AS PER RECOMMENDED CONTRIBUTION from 2001 - 2007
		US \$	US \$	%
BANGLADESH	16.72	21,301	21,300	32.99
BHUTAN	2.79	3,554	3,555	100.00
INDIA	25	31,850	31,850	91.32
MALDIVES	11.44	14,575	14,575	90.31
NEPAL	6.32	8,052	8,050	80.89
PAKISTAN	25	31,850	31,850	87.90
SRI LANKA	12.73	16,218	16,220	90.67
T O T A L	100	127,400	127,400	81.19

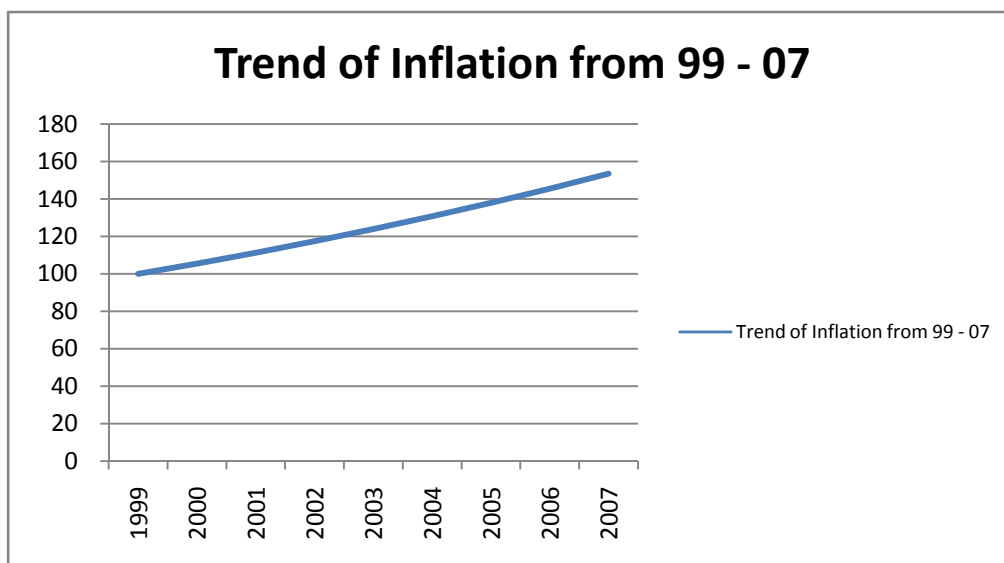
Government of Afghanistan has expressed the willingness to contribute to the Country Contribution of SACEP in January 2008, the Invoice was sent accordingly. Please note that the Country Contribution for Afghanistan was decided at the 4th Meeting of the Governing Council of SACEP held on 25 & 26 April 1988, in Afghanistan and the Country Contribution Rate was revised to US \$ 8,050/-, at 7th Meeting of the Governing Council of SACEP.

During the past two year the US Dollar has been depreciating against the other currencies, which has affected the revenue of SACEP



The graph shows the depreciation of the US \$ against the currencies of Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal in year 2006 and 2007.

The below graph shows the trend of inflation of the South Asian region from 1999 to 2007, considering the inflation rate as 5.50% per annum which is the lowest rate of 1999 / 2007



Due to inflation and drastic fall in US \$ rates as cited above, there has been a rapid fall in the net revenue of SACEP in real terms. This is reflected in the proposed budget for 2008. Since the countries had agreed to a percentage basis of financial support to SACEP the following Country Contributions are being proposed for 2008 - 2010 with a 10% increase each year.

PROPOSED INCREASE OF THE COUNTRY CONTRIBUTION FOR SACEP FOR YEAR 2008

COUNTRY	PERCENTAGE	PRESENT CONTRIBUTION	RECOMMENDED CONTRIBUTION	RECOMMENDED CONTRIBUTION (ROUNDED)
		US \$	US \$	US \$
BANGLADESH	16.72	21,300	26,625	26,625
BHUTAN	2.79	3,555	4,444	4,445
INDIA	25.00	31,850	39,813	39,810
MALDIVES	11.44	14,575	18,219	18,220
NEPAL	6.32	8,050	10,063	10,065
PAKISTAN	25.00	31,850	39,813	39,810
SRI LANKA	12.73	16,220	20,275	20,275
TOTAL	100.00	127,400	159,250	159,250

PROJECTS SANCTIONED FROM 2004 - 2008

Activity	Donor	Budget US \$
MoU between SACEP and UNEP for support to the SENRIC Programme (2005)	UNEP-ROAP	93,000.00
SACEP-UNESCAP Collaboration	UN ESCAP	4440.00
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 (2006-07)	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 training 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		6,29,088.00

Activity	Donor	Budget US \$
Project Sanctioned by European Commission for the SACEP/ICRAN Coral Reef Work in South Asia (Three Year Project)	European Commission 875,907.43Euros	1,162,583.00
MoU SACEP-CEE, Scoping Exercise on Climate Change	CEE, Ahmedabad	10,000.00
MoU SACEP-DA, Scoping Exercise on E-Waste Management	Development Alternatives, New Delhi	10,000.00
MoU SACEP-TRAFFIC-SAWTI Workshop, Nepal	US Govt, WWF GBP 46,000	88,780.00
MoU SACEP- UNCRD, Environment Sustainable Transport Forum, Singapore	UNCRD, Govt of Japan	92,000.00
Workshop on Climate Change and its Impact on Flora in South Asia, Lucknow, India	NBRI, Govt of India, SACEP	25,000.00
UNESCO-Govt of Sri Lanka CHM training	UNESCO, Govt of SL	7000.00
School Awareness Programme	Government of Sri Lanka, Standard Charter Bank,CEE, SAYEN	5000.00
“Regional Training Course on the Development, Implementation and Management of Marine Protected Areas in the South Asian Seas Region”	UN DAOLOS, SACEP,	33,500.00
Support for SACEP to attend International Meetings (2005-2007)	Various Organisation	65,238.00
Interest to date on Project account (2006-2008)	-	14256.80
GRAND TOTAL		US\$ 21,42,445.80

REVISED PROPOSED SECRETARIAT BUDGET FOR 2009 - 2010

	INCOME US \$	EXPENDITURE US \$
1 ANTICIPATED 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 ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE		
2.1 Salary Director General		54,000.00
2.2 Salaries of Local Staff		45,000.00
2.3 International Travel		20,000.00
2.4 Secretariat Cost		60,000.00
SUB TOTAL		179,000.00
3 CAPITAL COST		17,500.00
5 TOTAL EXPENDITURE		196,500.00
6 EXPENDITURE OVER INCOME		(7,100.00)

PROPOSED SECRETARIAT BUDGET FOR 2008

	US \$	US \$
1 ANTICIPATED INCOME		
1.1 BANGLADESH	26,625.00	
BHUTAN	4,445.00	
INDIA	39,810.00	
MALDIVES	18,220.00	
NEPAL	10,065.00	
PAKISTAN	39,810.00	
SRI LANKA	20,275.00	
TOTAL COUNTRY CONTRIBUTIONS	159,250.00	
1.2 Interest earned (SACEP-CC)	25,000.00	
1.3 Secretariat Cost from Sri Lanka	47,000.00	
TOTAL INCOME	231,250.00	
2 ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE		
2.1 Salary Director General		64,800.00
2.2 Salaries of Local Staff		45,000.00
2.3 International Travel		30,000.00
2.4 Secretariat Cost		80,000.00
SUB TOTAL		219,800.00
3 Capital Costs		17,500.00
4 TOTAL EXPENDITURE		237,300.00
5 INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE		(6,050.00)

PROPOSED SECRETARIAT BUDGET FOR 2009

	US \$	US \$
1 ANTICIPATED INCOME		
1.1 BANGLADESH	29,287.50	
BHUTAN	4,889.50	
INDIA	43,791.00	
MALDIVES	20,042.00	
NEPAL	11,071.50	
PAKISTAN	43,791.00	
SRI LANKA	22,302.50	
TOTAL COUNTRY CONTRIBUTIONS	175,175.00	
1.2 Interest earned (SACEP-CC)	25,000.00	
1.3 Secretariat Cost from Sri Lanka	51,700.00	
TOTAL INCOME	251,875.00	
2 ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE		
2.1 Salary Director General		64,800.00
2.2 Salaries of Local Staff		49,500.00
2.3 International Travel		33,000.00
2.4 Secretariat Cost		88,000.00
SUB TOTAL		235,300.00
3 Capital Costs		19,250.00
4 TOTAL EXPENDITURE		254,550.00
5 INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE		(2,675.00)

PROPOSED SECRETARIAT BUDGET FOR 2010

	US \$	US \$
1 ANTICIPATED INCOME		
1.1 BANGLADESH	32,216.25	
BHUTAN	5,378.45	
INDIA	48,170.10	
MALDIVES	22,046.20	
NEPAL	12,178.65	
PAKISTAN	48,170.10	
SRI LANKA	24,532.75	
TOTAL COUNTRY CONTRIBUTIONS	192,692.50	
1.2 Interest earned (SACEP-CC)	25,000.00	
1.3 Secretariat Cost from Sri Lanka	56,870.00	
TOTAL INCOME	274,562.50	
2 ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE		
2.1 Salary Director General		64,800.00
2.2 Salaries of Local Staff		54,450.00
2.3 International Travel		36,300.00
2.4 Secretariat Cost		96,800.00
SUB TOTAL		252,350.00
3 Capital Costs		21,175.00
4 TOTAL EXPENDITURE		273,525.00
5 INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE		1,037.50