



**REPORT**

**THE THIRTEENTH MEETING OF THE  
GOVERNING COUNCIL**

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

**3 – 5 DECEMBER 2013  
ISLAMABAD, PAKISTAN**





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

### **CERTIFICATE**

The Report of the Thirteenth Meeting of the Governing Council of South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme held on 3 – 5 December 2013 in Islamabad, Pakistan is herewith submitted to the members of the Governing Council and the Consultative Committee, in fulfilment of the financial and administrative procedures of SACEP.

S. M. D. P. Anura Jayatilake  
Director General  
30<sup>th</sup> January 2014

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

**3 – 5 December 2014  
Islamabad, Pakistan**

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# SOUTH ASIA CO-OPERATIVE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

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**SOUTH ASIA CO-OPERATIVE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME  
THIRTEENTH MEETING OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL (13GC-SACEP)  
5<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2013  
ISLAMABAD, PAKISTAN**

**1. INTRODUCTION**

The Thirteenth Meeting of the Governing Council of the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (13GC-SACEP) was held on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2013 in Islamabad, Pakistan.

**2. ATTENDANCE**

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

It was also attended by representatives from the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) as observers. List of Participants is at **Annex I**.

**3. INAUGURATION**

A joint inauguration was held for 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Governing Council of South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (13GC-SACEP) and the 5<sup>th</sup> Inter-governmental Meeting of Ministers, SASP (IMM.5-SASP) as both the meetings were held back to back.

The welcome Address was delivered by Mr. S. M. D. P. Anura Jayatilake, Director General, SACEP. (**Annex II**)

This was followed by the Statement of Mr. Raja Hasan Abbas, Additional Secretary In-charge, Climate Change Division, Cabinet Secretariat, Government of Pakistan. (**Annex III**)

The out-going Chairman of GC-SACEP, Hon' Mr. Susil Premajayantha, Minister of Environment & Renewable Energy, Government of Sri Lanka then addressed the august gathering. (**Annex IV**)

On behalf of the out-going Chairman of IMM.5-SASP, the Head of Delegation, Mr. Anand S. Khati, Joint Secretary to the Government of India, Ministry of Earth Sciences, then addressed the gathering.

The Chief Guest for the Inaugural Session of the 13GC-SACEP and IMM.5-SASP, Hon' Mr. Zahid Hamid, Federal Minister, Ministry of Science and Technology, Islamic Republic of Pakistan, then delivered his inaugural address. (**Annex V**)

The vote of thanks was given by Mr. Karma Tshering, Head of Delegation, Royal Government of Bhutan. **(Annex VI)**

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

In accordance with the provisions of the Articles of Association of SACEP, Hon' Mr. Zahid Hamid, Federal Minister, Ministry of Science and Technology, Islamic Republic of Pakistan was elected as Chairman of the 13<sup>th</sup> Governing Council of SACEP. Hon. Thoriq Ibrahim, Minister of Environment and Energy, Maldives was elected as the Vice Chairman. Mr. Raja Hassan Abbas, Additional Secretary In-charge, Climate Change Division, 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 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the 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 and Maldives presented statements.

(The Country Statements are in **Annexes VIII – XII**)

#### **7. STATEMENTS BY THE OBSERVERS**

Dr. Young-Woo Park, Regional Director and the Representative of the United Nations Environment Programme for Asia and the Pacific (UNEP-ROAP) presented his statement. **(Annex XIII)**

#### **8. PRESENTATION OF THE REPORT OF THE PREPARATORY MEETING OF NATIONAL FOCAL POINTS / SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS BY THE RAPPORTEUR**

Mr. M. Irfan Tariq, Director General (Environment & Climate Change), Division of Climate Change, Cabinet Secretariat, Government of Pakistan in his capacity as the Rapporteur, presented the Report of the Preparatory Meeting of the National Focal Points / Senior Government Officials held on 3 – 4 December 2013 along with the recommendations of the meeting to the 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Governing Council for its endorsement. **(Annex XVIII)**

## **9. REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF EARLIER DECISIONS OF SACEP**

Non Paper - Challenges before SACEP and ideas for its revitalisation.

The Meeting endorsed the recommendation of the Preparatory Meeting of the National Focal Points/Senior Government Officials, that the agenda item may be referred to the respective governments for their considered views/feedback to SACEP Secretariat.

## **10. DISCUSSIONS AND ENDORSEMENT OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS AGREED UPON AT THE PREPARATORY MEETING OF NATIONAL FOCAL POINTS / SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS**

Based on the Presentation of the Progress Report made 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/Senior Government Officials, the 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Governing Council of SACEP adopted the Report of the Preparatory Meeting of the National Focal Points / Senior Government Officials. The decisions of the 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Governing Council, SACEP under various clauses are as below :

### **10.1 INSTITUTIONAL MATTERS**

#### **APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTOR GENERAL OF SACEP**

SACEP Secretariat to notify Government of Pakistan by 30<sup>th</sup> April 2014, at the end of the second year tenure of the present Director General, to nominate a suitable candidate for the position in accordance with the approved Criteria for the appointment of the Director General to assume duties by 15<sup>th</sup> April 2015.

### **10.2 PROGRAMME MATTERS**

#### **10.2.1 Capacity Building on Indicators as part of National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) Updating for South Asia and development of Clearing House Mechanism (CHM)**

SACEP to develop Regional CHM with the financial assistance of Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem Project (BoBLME) and other possible funding sources.

#### **10.2.2 Promoting Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) in South Asia**

The Meeting recommended SACEP to come up with concrete proposals through which the concept of Sustainable Consumption and Production can comfortably be dovetailed within the policy making mechanisms of member countries of SACEP.

#### **10.2.3 Waste Management & International Partnership for Expanding Waste Management Services of Local Authorities (IPLA)**

SACEP to continue dialogue with United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD) and other agencies, to seek the possibilities of having International Partnership for Expanding Waste Management Services of Local Authorities (IPLA) forums and activities in South Asia.

SACEP Secretariat requested the member countries to encourage local authorities to become awardees of the IPLA by implementing the Zero Waste Policy at Local Authority levels.

#### **10.2.4 Environmental Data and Information Management System for South Asia**

SACEP Secretariat to implement the project as soon as the funds are available as per the approved proposal on establishment of Environmental Data and Information Management System for South Asia.

#### **10.2.5 Malé Declaration on Control and Prevention of Air Pollution and Its Likely Transboundary Effects for South Asia**

The Meeting commended SACEP Secretariat for the successful implementation of the Malé Declaration Phase I to IV in collaboration with UNEP.

The National Focal Points were requested to provide relevant data and information to SACEP Secretariat to prepare a comprehensive proposal to obtain funds for the next phase of the Malé Declaration.

#### **10.2.6 South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network (SAWEN)**

The Meeting recommended the removal of the Agenda Item from the Work Programme of SACEP related to SAWEN.



#### **10.2.7 Establishment of Basel Convention Regional Centre for South Asia**

The Meeting agreed with the proposal made by SACEP for removal of the Agenda Item on Establishment of Basel Convention Regional Centre for South Asia from its Work Programme.

#### **10.2.8 Environmentally Sustainable Transport (EST)**

The 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Regional EST Forum will be held in Colombo, Sri Lanka in October 2014 and SACEP to support Government of Sri Lanka in organizing the event avoiding financial implications.

#### **10.2.9 Better Air Quality Conference (BAQ 2014)**

The Better Air Quality 2014 (BAQ 2014) Conference would also be held back to back with the 8<sup>th</sup> Regional EST Forum.

It was requested that the National Focal Points to communicate to SACEP Secretariat, the country experiences and best practices in this regard to be presented during the conference.

#### **10.2.10 Preparation of South Asia position paper to reflect the post Rio +20 challenges related to environment sustainability (e.g. green economy, energy, water and sanitation etc.)**

National Focal Points to send the feedback on the Second Draft Report to SACEP Secretariat and the activity to be carried forward.

#### **10.2.11 South Asian Regional Strategy on Mercury and associated impacts focusing on Health Sector**

The Meeting recommended the removal of the Agenda Item from its Work Programme of SACEP.

#### **10.2.12 Proposal for SACEP to be a Global Environment Facility (GEF) Project Agency**

The meeting recommended SACEP to send a reminder to the GEF Secretariat, regarding the application for SACEP to be accredited as a GEF Project Agency which was

submitted on 18<sup>th</sup> June 2012 for consideration, at the beginning of GEF-6 which will commence in July 2014.

The above communication to be intimated to the National Focal Points for further support.

Also to strengthen the proposal of SACEP, the member countries were requested to extend support at the next GEF Constituency Meeting.

Regional proposals on environmental issues to be formulated by SACEP to be submitted for consideration in the GEF-6 Cycle.

#### **10.2.13 Regional Cooperation for the Conservation and Wise-use of Internationally Important Wetlands in South Asia**

The Meeting considered the proposal made by SACEP Secretariat and consented that the Secretariat may sign an MOU with Ramsar Convention for capacity building.

#### **10.2.14 Partnership with Global Water Partnership (GWP) on Adaptation and Resilience to Climate Change.**

The Meeting recommended the activity to be included into the Work Programme of SACEP and the activities on capacity building to be carried out.

#### **10.2.15 South Asian Seas Programme (SASP)**

The activities will be reported at the 5<sup>th</sup> Inter-governmental Meeting of the Ministers of the South Asian Seas Programme which will be held on 5 December 2013.

#### **10.2.16 WORK PROGRAMME (2014-2015) Annex XIV**

The Meeting recommended to continue the on-going activities of SACEP and approved the Work Programme proposed for 2014 – 2015 with the removal of the following Items:

- a) South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network (SAWEN)
- b) Establishment of Basel Convention Regional Centre for South Asia.
- c) South Asian Regional Strategy on Mercury and associated impacts focusing on Health Sector.

## **10.3 FUNDING AND FINANCIAL MATTERS**

### **10.3.1 Country Contributions**

SACEP Secretariat thanked the member countries for clearing the Arrears of the Country Contribution to a commendable rate. Further it was informed by the SACEP Secretariat that it is important to clear the balance arrears of the country contributions for smooth and effective functioning of the secretariat.

### **10.3.2 External Funding**

The Meeting greatly appreciated the efforts of SACEP in generating external funds from several donor agencies. 13GC-SACEP recommended that SACEP should continue to play its role in securing external financing for the benefit of the member countries.

### **10.3.3 Secretariat Budget (2014-2015)**

SACEP Secretariat requested a 10% increase in the Annual Country Contribution for SACEP from January year 2014 as the present agreed country contribution of SACEP was recommended at the 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Governing Council of SACEP held on 22<sup>nd</sup> April 1998 in Malé, Republic of Maldives.

The 13GC-SACEP endorsed the proposal subject to the concurrence of the relevant national authorities of each member country. **(Annex XV)**

The 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Governing Council of SACEP, as recommended by the Preparatory Meeting of National Focal Points / Senior Government Officials approved the Secretariat Budget for the Years 2014 – 2015 with the present agreed annual contributions until such concurrence is obtained. **(Annex XVI)**

## **11. APPROVAL OF THE ANNUAL AUDITED REPORTS OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEARS ENDING 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER, 2009 AND 2010**

The meeting approved the Audited Reports of Accounts for the years 2009 and 2010.

The Meeting reinforced the decision of the 9 GC-SACEP on the appointment of the external auditors to be changed every three years with the provision of the same auditors being eligible for appointment after a gap of three years.

SACEP Secretariat to share the Audit Report with member countries annually.

## **12. MINISTERIAL DECLARATION**

13GC-SACEP agreed upon the Ministerial Declaration. (**Annex XVII**)

It was also endorsed the inclusion of the ‘text of appreciation’ in the Declaration to the host government in future events as an adopted practice.

‘Express our sincere appreciation to the people and the Government of ..... for the warm hospitality and excellent organization of the .....meeting of the Governing Council of SACEP’

## **13. VENUE AND DATE FOR THE 14<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL OF SACEP**

The Meeting unanimously welcomed the announcement from the Government of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to host the 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Governing Council. The dates will be intimated by Government of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to the SACEP Secretariat.

## **14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The 13GC-SACEP endorsed the request made by Government of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan of their willingness to participate at the Inter-governmental Meeting of Ministers of the South Asian Seas Programme (SASP), being a land locked country.

## **15. ADOPTION OF REPORT**

The 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Governing Council of SACEP considered the Report on 5<sup>th</sup> day, of December 2013 and adopted.

## **16. CLOSURE OF MEETING**

The Chairman thanked the Hon’ Ministers and delegates for their valuable support and co-operation, the SACEP Secretariat for their excellent work and the Division of Climate Change, Cabinet Secretariat, Government of Pakistan for all the hard work in making the 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Governing Council of SACEP a success.

He then declared the meeting close.

## SOUTH ASIA CO-OPERATIVE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

### 13<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL

5<sup>th</sup> December 2013

Islamabad, Pakistan

#### LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

#### **AFGHANISTAN**

H. R. H. Prince Mostapha Zaher  
Director General  
National Environmental Protection Agency  
Member of the Council of Ministers  
Adviser to the President on Environment  
Second Parwan Square  
Kabul  
Afghanistan  
Tel: +93 752 017 633  
Mobile: +93 799 400 600  
e-mail: dg.nepa@nepa.gov.af (Official)

Eng. Ezatullah Sediqi  
Chief of Staff  
National Environmental Protection Agency  
Second Parwan Square  
Kabul  
Afghanistan  
Mobile: +93 752 043 173  
Mobile: +93 799 622 517  
e-mail: eng.ezatsediqi@gmail.com  
Sediqi.nepa@gmail.com

dg.nepa@hotmail.com (Operational)  
mostapha\_zaher@hotmail.com (Personal)

#### **BANGLADESH**

H. E. Mr. Suhrab Hossain  
High Commissioner of Bangladesh in Pakistan  
High Commission for the People's Republic of  
Bangladesh  
House No. 1, Street No. 5  
F-6/3, Islamabad  
Pakistan  
Tel: +92 51 227 9267  
Fax: +92 51 227 9266

Mr. Md. Nural Islam  
Counsellor (Pol.)  
High Commission for the People's Republic of  
Bangladesh  
House No. 1, Street No. 5  
F-6/3, Islamabad  
Pakistan  
Tel: +92 51 227 9267  
Fax: +92 51 227 9266  
e-mail: nri002@yahoo.com

#### **BHUTAN**

Mr. Karma Tshering  
Senior Programme Officer  
National Environment Commission  
Royal Government of Bhutan  
Post Box No. 466  
Thimphu  
Bhutan  
Tel: +975 2 323 384  
Mobile: +975 1 711 6505  
Fax: +975 2 323 385  
e-mail: ktshering@nec.gov.bt  
k\_tshering@yahoo.com

## INDIA

Mr. Anand S. Khati  
Joint Secretary to the Govt. of India  
Ministry of Earth Sciences  
Government of India  
Prithvi Bhavan, Lodhi Road  
New Delhi -110 003  
India

Tel: +91 11 2462 9511  
e-mail: a\_Khati@hotmail.com  
JS@moes.gov.in

Dr. K. Somasundar  
Scientist-F  
Ministry of Earth Sciences  
Government of India  
Prithvi Bhavan, Lodhi Road  
New Delhi -110 003  
India

Tel: +91 11 2466 9513  
Mobile: +91 98 6842 5857  
Fax: +91 11 2462 9779  
e-mail: soma-dod@nic.in

## MALDIVES

H. E. Mr. Thoriq Ibrahim  
Minister of Environment and Energy  
Ministry of Environment and Energy  
Green Building, Handhuvaree Hin'gun  
Maafannu  
Male', 20392

Republic of Maldives  
Tel: +960 301 8400 (Direct)  
Tel: +960 301 8300 (PABX)  
Mobile: +960 779 2441  
Fax: +960 301 8301  
e-mail: thoriq.ibrahim@environment.gov.mv

Mr. Midhath Abdul Rasheed  
Environment Analyst  
Ministry of Environment and Energy  
Green Building, Handhuvaree Hin'gun  
Maafannu  
Male', 20392

Republic of Maldives  
Tel: +960 301 8365  
Mobile: +960 794 3822  
Fax: +960 301 8301  
e-mail: midhath.rasheed@environment.gov.mv

## PAKISTAN

Hon. Mr. Zahid Hamid  
Federal Minister  
Ministry of Science and Technology  
Government of Pakistan  
Islamabad

Pakistan  
Tel: +92 51 920 8026  
Mobile: +92 300 847 7181  
Fax: +92 51 920 4541  
e-mail: ZahidHamidKhan@gmail.com

Mr. Raja Hassan Abbas  
Additional Secretary In-charge  
Climate Change Division  
Cabinet Secretariat  
Government of Pakistan  
LG & RD Complex  
G - 5/2, Islamabad  
Pakistan  
Tel: +92-51-9245578  
Fax: +92-51-9245533  
e-mail: secretary@moenv.gov.pk

Mr. Rao Dilshad A. Babar  
Joint Secretary  
Ministry of Climate Change  
Cabinet Secretariat  
Government of Pakistan  
LG & RD Complex  
G - 5/2, Islamabad  
Pakistan  
Tel: +92 51 924 5548  
Mobile: +92 300 554 7722  
Fax: +92 51 924 5549  
e-mail: dilshadbabar@hotmail.com

Mr. Muhammad Khalid Siddiq  
Joint Secretary  
Climate Change Division  
Cabinet Secretariat  
Government of Pakistan  
LG & RD Complex  
G - 5/2, Islamabad  
Pakistan  
Tel: +92 51 924 5531  
Mobile: +92 321 956 1157  
Fax: +92 51 924 5532  
e-mail: makss2000@yahoo.com

## PAKISTAN

Mr. Iftikhar-Ul-Hassan Shah Gilani  
Joint Secretary (IC)  
Climate Change Division  
Cabinet Secretariat  
Government of Pakistan  
LG & RD Complex  
G - 5/2  
Islamabad  
Pakistan  
Tel: +92 51 924 5523  
Mobile: +92 334 442 2250  
Fax: +92 51 924 5524  
e-mail: iftiqrhmi@yahoo.com

Mr. M. Irfan Tariq  
Director General (Env & CC)  
Climate Change Division  
Cabinet Secretariat  
Government of Pakistan  
LG & RD Complex  
G - 5/2  
Islamabad  
Pakistan  
Tel: +92 51 9245545/ 9245528  
Mobile: +92 300 4202554  
e-mail: mirfantariq@gmail.com

Mr. Syed Mahmood Nasir  
Inspector General Forests  
Forestry Wing  
Climate Change Division  
Cabinet Secretariat  
Government of Pakistan  
LG & RD Complex  
G - 5/2  
Islamabad  
Pakistan  
Tel: +92 51 924 5589  
Mobile: +92 307 574 3450  
Fax: +92 51 924 5590  
e-mail: mnasirn@yahoo.com

Mr. Zia Ul Islam  
Director (PEPC)  
Climate Change Division  
Government of Pakistan  
Local Government Building  
Sector G - 5/1  
Islamabad - 44000  
Pakistan  
Tel: +92 51 924 5624  
Mobile: +92 333 510 7422  
Fax: +92 51 924 5533  
e-mail: rmamazia@hotmail.com

Mr. Imran Khan  
Assistant Director (DBM)  
Climate Change Division  
Cabinet Secretariat  
Government of Pakistan  
LG & RD Complex  
G - 5/2  
Islamabad  
Pakistan  
Tel: +92-51-9245534  
Mobile: +92-333-5209637  
e-mail: imran.ad.81@gmail.com

## **SRI LANKA**

Hon. Mr. Susil Premajayantha  
Minister of Environment & Renewable Energy  
Ministry of Environment & Renewable Energy  
'Sampathpaya'  
82, Rajamalwatta Road  
Battaramulla  
Sri Lanka  
Tel: +94 11 286 6617  
Fax: +94 11 287 7288 / 287 7282  
e-mail: susilpremajayantha@hotmail.com

Ms. E. A. S. Wijayanthi Edirisinghe  
Counsellor / Chargé d'affaires  
High Commission of Sri Lanka in Pakistan  
House No. 2-C  
Street No 55  
P. O. Box 1497  
F-6/4  
Islamabad  
Pakistan  
Tel: +92 51 282 8754  
Mobile: +92 331 588 8133  
Fax: +92 51 282 8751  
e-mail: wijayanthi@hotmail.com

## **UN, INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES & OBSERVERS**

### **UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC (UNEP-ROAP)**

Dr. Young-Woo Park  
Regional Director and  
Representative for Asia and the Pacific  
United Nations Environment Programme  
for Asia and the Pacific (UNEP-ROAP)  
United Nations Building  
Rajdamnern Avenue  
Bangkok 10200  
Thailand  
Tel: +66 2 288 1870 / 2 281 6101  
Tel: +66 2 524 5365 / 2 516 2124  
Fax: +66 2 280 3829 / 2 516-2125  
e-mail: young-woo.park@unep.org

Dr. Subrata Sinha  
Environmental Affairs Officer  
United Nations Environment Programme  
for Asia and the Pacific (UNEP-ROAP)  
United Nations Building  
Rajdamnern Avenue  
Bangkok 10200  
Thailand  
Tel: +66 2 288 2259  
Fax: +66 2 280 3829  
e-mail: subrata.sinha@unep.org

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

**10 Anderson Road, Colombo 5, Sri Lanka. Tel +94 11 2589 787 Fax +94 11 2589 369**

Mr. S. M. D. P. Anura Jayatilake  
Director General  
Tel: +94 11 258 9376  
Mobile: +94 77 736 3133  
e-mail: dg\_sacep@eol.lk

Ms. Jacintha S. Tissera  
Administrative Officer  
Tel: +94 11 250 4708  
Mobile: +94 77 311 4362  
e-mail: sacep@eol.lk

Mr. W. K. Rathnadeera  
Senior Programme Officer  
Tel: +94 11 250 0546  
Mobile: +94 71 643 6307  
e-mail: rd\_sacep@eol.lk

Ms. Nishanthi M. P. Perera  
Programme Officer  
Tel: +94 11 536 2851  
e-mail: po\_sacep@eol.lk



***Welcome Address by***

**Mr. S. M. D. P. Anura Jayatilake**  
**Director General, SACEP**  
**at the Inaugural Session of the**

**13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Governing Council of**  
**South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP)**  
**&**  
**5<sup>th</sup> Intergovernmental Meeting of Ministers of**  
**South Asian Seas Programme**

**Islamabad, Pakistan**

**5<sup>th</sup> December 2013**

Distinguished delegates

Ladies and gentlemen,

Welcome to the opening of the 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Governing Council of South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme.

Allow me once again to express my sincere thanks to the Government and the people of Pakistan for hosting this Governing Council Meeting in the lovely and hospitable city of Islamabad.

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 the eight countries of South Asia for mutual co-operation in the field of Environment. As the Director General, I am proud to say that many other organisations established recently followed SACEP as a model. I am sure you can also be proud as owners of this esteemed organization.

During the last 31 years, since its establishment, SACEP has paid attention to the regional needs and found its niche to appropriately address the environmental issues which are regionally important. 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 activities for the coming years are not cast in stone but are 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.

Excellencies, Distinguished delegates,

In this 21<sup>st</sup> century, the whole world is facing a number of environmental challenges which are very common to our region as well. The frequency and the intensity of natural phenomena like typhoons, flash floods, droughts, etc. have been increased as never before. On the other hand, our natural resource base is under tremendous pressure due to, over utilization for meeting the ever increasing demand of food and other essential needs of the increasing population.

Excellencies, Distinguished delegates,

The collective and co-operative approach would simplify the efforts to address these burning issues and therefore, effective regional co-operation is vital. That is the spirit shown by our predecessors when forming SACEP. We have shown it in the past and I am sure that we can do it in present and future as well.

Thank you

***Statement by***

**Mr. Raja Hassan Abbas**  
**Additional Secretary In-charge to the Government of Pakistan**  
**Climate Change Division**  
**at the Inaugural Session of the**

**13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Governing Council of**  
**South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP)**  
**&**  
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**South Asian Seas Programme**

**Islamabad, Pakistan**

**5<sup>th</sup> December 2013**

Honorable Minister from Maldives, Mr. Thoriq Ibrahim,  
Minister from Sri Lanka, Mr. Susil Premajayantha,  
H. R. H. Prince Mostapha Zaher from Afghanistan,  
Parliamentarians, Respectable Heads of Delegations,  
Secretaries, UN Representatives,  
Dr. Young-Woo Park, the Regional Director UNEP,  
Senior Officials representing the South Asian countries, Distinguished Guests,  
Ladies & Gentlemen

1. 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Governing Council of South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme has indeed been a landmark event in the history of the field of Environment in South Asia.
2. The meeting accorded us all a unique opportunity to hold productive discussions related to environmental issues with political leadership of the South Asian countries, senior government officials, UN organization and civil society. Respective country's situations with regard to environment and status of implementation of GC 12 decisions were discussed along with the way forward to address the challenge faced by all of us.
3. The last three days witnessed the ministers and high level officials meetings, networking and intensive discussions over environmental challenges including National Biodiversity Strategy, Promoting Sustainable Consumption and Production in South Asia, Environmental Data and Information Management System, Control and Prevention of Air Pollution, Enhancing Environmentally Sustainable Transport, Impacts of Mercury and other heavy metals on Health Sector, Waste Management, Conservation of Wetlands, Regional Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Strategy, Ocean Governance and most importantly the commitments made by the Governing Council of the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme.
4. Environmental degradation has already become a socio-economic problem and that addressing it would pay economic dividends, strengthening the growth potential and productivity of environmental assets and lowering the incidence of disease. We must be vociferous about the cause of healthy and clean environment and ensure that the governments provide due priority to the cause, not only in policies and strategies, but also in concentrated practical efforts.
5. The Government of Pakistan remains fully committed to the decisions made by Governing Council at this forum and assures to revitalize and intensify our efforts, both as government and sector partners, to meet these commitments and achieve the set goals. We believe that the decisions taken by the Governing Council need to be transformed in the tangible practical actions by all the participating countries as they are of utmost importance and will play a vital role for the sound environmental management of the region.
6. The Government of Pakistan would like to thank the SACEP Secretariat for their phenomenal support in order to make this event successful. I hope that visiting Pakistan to attend 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Governing Council of South

Asia Co-operative Environment Programme & the 5<sup>th</sup> Intergovernmental Meeting of Ministers of South Asian Seas Programme was an enriching experience for all of you both professionally as well as personally.

7. Thank you all for your meaningful participation and I wish you a pleasant journey back home.
8. Thank you.



***Statement by***

**Hon' Mr. Susil Premajayantha**  
**Minister of Environment & Renewable Energy**  
**Government of Sri Lanka and**  
**Out-going Chairman of GC-SACEP**  
**at the Inaugural Session of the**

**13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Governing Council of**  
**South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP)**  
**&**  
**5<sup>th</sup> Intergovernmental Meeting of Ministers of**  
**South Asian Seas Programme**

**Islamabad, Pakistan**

**5<sup>th</sup> December 2013**

Your Excellencies,  
Hon'ble Ministers from Member Countries,  
Distinguished Delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Ayubhowan, Good Morning.

As the outgoing Chair of South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (i.e., SACEP), Sri Lanka is grateful to the Government and People of Pakistan for hosting the 13<sup>th</sup> Governing Council meeting in Islamabad, Pakistan. We are greatly honoured and privileged by the presence of His Excellency, Hon' Mr. Zahid Hamid, Federal Minister of Science and Technology, Islamic Republic of Pakistan during the opening of the Governing Council of SACEP. This commitment and interest will auger well for the environment and ecology of our region and also for the future of SACEP. Thank you, Sir for your valuable time.

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates

Ladies and Gentlemen,

SACEP being an intergovernmental organization, has almost 30 years of history in respect of regional co-operation toward environmental issues. It has a commendable record of achievements. From the date of SACEP being established in 1981 in Colombo, we, the members of SACEP have been able to carry out many programmes for the protection and management of the environment of the South Asian region. However, during the past decade, SACEP has been going through a turbulent period and therefore as the Governing Council, we have had to take strategic decisions for the betterment of SACEP.

In November 2010, during the Governing Council held in Colombo, Sri Lanka took over the Chairmanship of SACEP and I can proudly say that we have been able to streamline the activities of SACEP and its programme of work and I feel it is now a matter of carrying forward the initiatives taken. As the outgoing chair, I would like to highlight a few landmarks or milestones we have achieved.

1. Appointment of a Director General on rotation basis.

As a decision of the 12<sup>th</sup> Governing Council of SACEP, we were able to appoint the new Director General on a rotation basis and Sri Lanka was able to appoint one of its nominees (present DG Mr Jayatilake) to the post in April 2012. It is noted that one of the key recommendations of the SACEP Review in 2003 was the appointment of the Director General on merit basis. However, implementation of this decision created problems within the system and there was a period of three years (2009-2011), where no Director General was there to head the Secretariat and thereby, the implementation of the work programmes were hampered.

2. South Asia Regional Oil and Chemical Spill Contingency Plan and Disaster Response.

This Regional Plan was prepared in 2000. However, the MOU to implement the Action Plan was agreed and signed by only three South Asian Seas Countries, namely Bangladesh, Maldives and Pakistan. I am happy to announce here that the Government of Sri Lanka has also agreed to sign the MOU as per a Cabinet decision taken in last November. I hope that the Government of India will also



follow us and sign the MOU so that SACEP will be able to implement the actions identified within the next few years.

**3 SACEP Host Facility, New Secretariat building for SACEP and Official Residence of the Director General.**

In 2012, The Government of Sri Lanka increased its SACEP Host Facility contribution from Sri Lanka from Rs 5.0 million to Rs 8.0 million. This is given by the host Government to cover local staff salaries, rentals, and other related costs.

It is also noted that the present SACEP Secretariat and the DG's residence are located in rented buildings. In view of the above and after representations made, the Government of Sri Lanka has decided to provide a suitable land to construct the SACEP Secretariat and the DG's residence. The Government has also allocated an initial sum of Sri Lankan Rs 50.0 million for this purpose. Once the locations are finalized, we will be able to begin construction. I request the support of all the SACEP member countries to contribute to this process.

**4 SACEP Annual Work Programme**

I am happy to state here that the annual work programme of SACEP has completed even with the limited capacity and resources at its disposal. I am also happy to state that SACEP has initiated new programmes on Clearing House Mechanism on biodiversity, National Action Plans updating, Environmental Data and Information Management, Marine Biodiversity Strategy Development and Nutrient and Pollution loading in our marine and coastal eco systems etc.

It is also noted that Sri Lanka is hosting the 8<sup>th</sup> EST Forum-Asia and Better Air Quality 2014 in November 2014 in Colombo. These two events highlight the urban air quality issues in Asia and sustainable transport issues related to our region. I therefore request SACEP to support the Government of Sri Lanka in organizing these two major events.

As the outgoing chair of the SACEP Governing Council, I would like to congratulate the incoming chairman of SACEP and finally, I thank all the member countries, their national focal points, who have assisted during my tenure of office as Chairman, SACEP GC and the Director General, as also, the Secretariat for preparing all the necessary documents required to make the meeting a success.

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 for the region. I wish to re-iterate Sri Lanka's commitment to strengthen SACEP as a good example of South-South Cooperation.

Once again, I would like to extend our sincere thanks to the Government and the People of Pakistan for providing us excellent facilities for our stay in your beautiful country.

Thank you.



***Speech by the Chief Guest***

**Hon' Mr. Zahid Hamid**  
**Federal Minister of Science and Technology**  
**Islamic Republic of Pakistan**  
**at the Inaugural Session of the**

**13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Governing Council of**  
**South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP)**  
**&**  
**5<sup>th</sup> Intergovernmental Meeting of Ministers of**  
**South Asian Seas Programme**

**Islamabad, Pakistan**

**5<sup>th</sup> December 2013**

Honorable Minister from Maldives, Mr. Thoriq Ibrahim,  
Honorable Minister from Sri Lanka, Mr. Susil Premajayantha,  
H. R. H. Prince Mostapha Zaher from Afghanistan,  
Parliamentarians, Respectable Heads of Delegations,  
Secretaries, UN Representatives,  
Dr. Young Woo Park, the Regional Director UNEP,  
Senior Officials representing the South Asian countries,  
Distinguished Guests,  
Ladies & Gentlemen

1. I, on behalf of Government of Pakistan thank you all for your participation in this 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Governing Council of South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme & the 5<sup>th</sup> Inter Ministerial Meeting of South Asia Seas Programme.
2. South Asia is home to one of the oldest civilizations of the world. The region includes the countries with 'Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka'. It has a 1.6 billion strong population growing at the rate of 1.8% per annum but has only 4.8 per cent of the world's total land area. South Asia's topography includes an amazing variety of mountains, plateaus, dry regions, intervening structural basins and beaches.
3. As citizens of our respective nations and as collective citizens of South Asia, we are the guardians of these resources. Over 1 billion people depend upon the Himalayas as a source of freshwater through the mighty rivers of Indus, Ganges and Brahmaputra. We are witnessing an unimaginable rise in climate-induced catastrophes. Over the years, climatic disasters have affected the millions of people in our region.
4. Close to half of South Asian population lives below the poverty line and is reliant on the natural environment for subsistence. For this reason, services generated from our shared resources are of much more importance.
5. Strengthened regional efforts need to focus on a range of response options and instruments to address these challenges. The regional partners need to emphasize the realization for increasing responsibilities and greater cooperative efforts by all stakeholders. Increased awareness of ecosystem services should be adopted as important mechanisms to mainstream environment into social and economic development processes in the region.
6. Pakistan is actively developing capabilities to deal with environmental challenges and effects of climate change such as floods and earthquakes. The Government of Pakistan has taken number of sound policy measures such as the National Environment Policy, National Climate Change Policy, and the Draft National Sustainable Development Strategy. The Government of Pakistan realizes its responsibility towards making strong efforts to achieve the Environment related Millennium Development Goals in order to provide healthy living conditions to the inhabitants of this region.

7. I sincerely hope that last three days proved to be a strong step ahead in the direction of achieving the goals of South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme and South Asian Seas Programme. It was indeed our pleasure to host this event.

8. I would specially like to thank the continuous support from SACEP Secretariat and United Nations Environment Programme in achieving the goals of sustainable and environmental friendly development in South Asia. The recently developed Environment and Climate Change Outlook report with assistance of UNEP is an example of the joint efforts for the cause. I appreciate the efforts of Dr. Young Woo Park, the Regional Director of the UNEP and wish him all the best for his future endeavors as he is leaving this position in near future.

9. Once again, thank you all for your participation. I hope you had a pleasant stay in Pakistan and I wish you all safe journey back home.



***Vote of Thanks Delivered by***

**Mr. Karma Tshering**  
**Head of Delegation**  
**Royal Government of Bhutan**  
**at the Inaugural Session of the**

**13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Governing Council of**  
**South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP)**  
**&**  
**5<sup>th</sup> Intergovernmental Meeting of Ministers of**  
**South Asian Seas Programme**

**Islamabad, Pakistan**

**5<sup>th</sup> December 2013**

His Excellency, Mr. Zahid Hamid, Minister of Science and Technology, Chief Guest for this opening segment,

His Excellency, Mr. Susil Premajayantha, Current Chair of the Governing Council of SACEP,

Hon'ble Ministers, Heads of delegations, Senior Government Officials,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my great honour and privilege to offer the vote of thanks at this Opening Session of the 13<sup>th</sup> Governing Council Meeting of SACEP.

Bhutan would like to express our sincere thanks to the people and government of Pakistan for the warm hospitality and excellent arrangements.

Now, Your Excellency, on behalf of SACEP member countries, let me express our appreciation for the wonderful arrangements and the warm hospitality extended to all of us. Thank you very much.

Your Excellency, we have had very active and fruitful deliberations during the last two days. While we did debate on some issues, we resolved the same in a professional manners. Therefore, I am happy to report that the outcome of the two days meeting of SACEP Focal Point/Senior Government Officials was very successful.

Let me thank the Director General of SACEP and his team for the excellent documentations prepared for this meeting. We would also like to thank UNEP, especially, Dr. Young Woo Park and Dr. Subrata Sinha for facilitating support to SACEP.

Finally, once again, let me thank Your Excellency and your team for these wonderful arrangements and hospitality. I would also like to thank and appreciate all the staff of Government of Pakistan for their support with facilitating our logistics.

We hope and wish for successful deliberations at the 13<sup>th</sup> Governing Council Meeting of SACEP and endorsement of the Report of the Senior Government Officials.

Thank you and Tashi Delek.



**SOUTH ASIA CO-OPERATIVE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME**

**THIRTEENTH MEETING OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL**  
**Islamabad, Pakistan**  
**5<sup>th</sup> December 2013**

**AGENDA**

<b>AGENDA ITEM</b>	
Opening Ceremony	
1	Opening of the Meeting
1.1	Welcome address by the Director General, SACEP
1.2	Statement by the current Chairman
1.3	Opening remarks by the the Head of Delegation of the host country
1.4	Address by the Chief Guest
1.5	Vote of Thanks
TEA BREAK	
2	Election of Office Bearers
3	Adoption of Agenda and Organisation of Work
4	Review of the Implementation of earlier Decisions of SACEP
5	Country Statements / Brief Opening Remarks by the Member States (3-5 Minutes)
6	Statements by Observers
7	7.1 Presentation of Report of the Preparatory Meeting of the Senior Officials by the Rapporteur
	7.2 Consideration of Reports of the Consultative Committee
8	Discussions & Endorsement of Recommendations Agreed Upon at the Preparatory Meeting of the Senior Officials
8.1	Institutional Matters
8.2	Programme Matters
8.3	Financial Matters

<b>AGENDA ITEM</b>	
9	Consideration of endorsement of the Draft Ministerial Statement/Resolution/Declaration proposed by the Preparatory Meeting.
10	Approval of the Annual Audited Reports of Accounts for the Financial Year Ending 31 <sup>st</sup> December, 2009 and 2010
11	Any Other Business  Re-invigoration of the SACEP's programme and need for a Special Session of the Governing Council
12	Adoption of Report
13	Closure of Meeting

**SOUTH ASIA CO-OPERATIVE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME**

**THIRTEENTH MEETING OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL**  
**ISLAMABAD, PAKISTAN**

**5<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2013**

**ANNOTATED AGENDA**

**1. OPENING OF THE MEETING**

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

- 1.1 Welcome address by the Director General, SACEP
- 1.2 Statement by the current Chairman
- 1.3 Opening remarks by the Head of Delegation of the host country
- 1.4 Address by the Chief Guest
- 1.5 Vote of Thanks

**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. REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF EARLIER DECISIONS OF SACEP**

Under this Agenda Item, the meeting will consider the status of implementation of the decisions taken at the 11 and 12 Meetings of the Governing Councils as well as by the Consultative Committee of SACEP.

**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. 7.1 PRESENTATION OF REPORT OF THE PREPARATORY MEETING OF SENIOR OFFICIALS BY THE RAPPORTEUR**

The Rapporteur would present to the meeting the report of the Preparatory Meeting of Senior Officials.

**7.2 CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS OF THE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE**

Under this Agenda Item, the reports of the Consultative Committee since 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Governing Council will be presented.

**8. DISCUSSIONS & ENDORSEMENT OF RECOMMENDATIONS AGREED UPON AT THE PREPARATORY MEETING OF THE SENIOR OFFICIALS**

The meeting will be requested for endorsement of the recommendations from the Preparatory Meeting of Senior Officials.

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

**9. CONSIDERATION OF ENDORSEMENT OF THE DRAFT MINISTERIAL STATEMENT /RESOLUTION / DECLARATION PROPOSED BY THE PREPARATORY MEETING.**

Under this agenda item, the national perspectives on the Ministerial Statement will be shared and endorsed.

**10. APPROVAL OF THE ANNUAL AUDITED REPORTS OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEARS ENDING 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER, 2009 AND 2010**

Under this agenda item, based on the recommendations of the Preparatory Meeting of Senior Officials, the meeting is requested to approve the Annual Audited Reports of Accounts for the years 2009 and 2010.

**11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Under this Agenda Item, the 13<sup>th</sup> 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.

Re-invigoration of the SACEP's programme and need for a Special Session of the Governing Council. The non-paper revised by the Consultative Committee at its 122<sup>nd</sup> session will be used as the background document.

**12. ADOPTION OF REPORT**

The Rapporteur will present the Draft Report of the 13<sup>th</sup> 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.





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



***Country Statement by***

**H.R.H Prince Mostapha Zaher  
Director – General  
Member of the Council of Ministers  
Head of Delegation**

**at the**

**13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Governing Council  
South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP)**

**Islamabad, Pakistan**

**5<sup>th</sup> December 2013**

**In the Name of God  
The Merciful The Compassionate**

**Excellencies, Heads of Delegations,**

**United Nations Environment Programme – Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific High Level Delegation,**

**Distinguished Guests,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Please allow me to extend my deepest and most profound thanks to the Government of Pakistan for the warm hospitality extended to the Delegation of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and to my person, in an atmosphere of brotherhood in the beautiful capital of Islamabad, as well as, for the excellent arrangements made to make our stay comfortable and unforgettable by graciously and generously hosting the 13<sup>th</sup> General Council Meeting of SACEP Member States.

My sincere and most heartfelt appreciation is extended to H.E the Director General of SACEP and to the SACEP Secretariat for their super logistical support.

I would like to congratulate H. E the Secretary for Chairing the Meeting.

On behalf of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, I wish to convey our very warmest greetings to you all.

As many of you are aware that Afghanistan has a very strong cultural history, despite more than three decades of war and instability, we still possess very diverse, rich and robust ethnic traditions which we are committed to maintain.

Before placing my propositions relating to the Provisional Agenda of the meeting, I wish to provide you with some information to portray some of our important achievements in the relevant sectors including some contextual information that would be important to consider in devising relevant programmatic endeavors.

I wanted to present this overview before you as we believe that each of the SACEP Member States should take stock of their relevant achievements and explore opportunities to take it further to attain higher level of synergy through regional cooperation among SACEP Member States and beyond.

We have put very high priority to preserve our natural integrity in Afghanistan. Afghanistan has some of the most diverse habitats ranging from high altitude mountainous regions to sandy deserts.

These include Alpine steppes, Alpine meadows, vegetated semi-deserts, rangelands, shrub lands, open woodlands, and wetlands of international importance, containing very rich species diversity.

Since the beginning of the democratization process, we have been able to accomplish some key steps that could be termed as important ‘pre-requisite’ to our journey towards sustainable development. Although this process has been slow, the progress can definitely be termed as ‘steady’.

Environment and sustainable development issues are well acknowledged in our major policies and plans including Article 15 of the Constitution, Afghanistan



National Development Strategy, National Priority Programmes, relevant policies and sectoral strategies.

Institutionally, we have been able to establish and nourish the National Environmental Protection Agency including its provincial presence in all of the country's thirty four Provinces. A number of important legal instruments have been devised to facilitate environmental protection, as well as, sustainable development.

Not only just paper work, but practically we have been able to move forward with a number of programmatic interventions in collaboration with our development partners.

At the moment, a number of projects and programmes are ongoing and some are upcoming in the areas of protected area management, biodiversity, climate change adaptation and land degradation.

Some of the actions and projects have already started yielding, encouraging results. I want to particularly mention that in few weeks, we will initiate a significant project on establishing Integrated Models for Protected Areas and their Co-Management in Afghanistan with funding and technical support from GEF and UNDP.

We have the very first National Park established in Afghanistan. Band-e-Amir National Park is not only the most celebrated natural landscape setting in Afghanistan, but ranks among the most unique and iconic national park landscapes in the world. We highly appreciate the technical assistance of our partners, UNEP and the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS – Afghanistan).

Similar to a number of other SACEP countries, 90% of our rural population depend on common pool resources such as land, water, forest, rangeland, as well as, public land in the mountain ecosystems. The linkage between poverty, environment and natural resources is extremely prominent in Afghanistan.

Ensuring equitable access to natural resources for the poor could take care of hard core poverty and improve social harmony and peace.

Therefore, we recognized that community-based collaborative management of natural resources could be instrumental in poverty reduction, conservation and productive use of our ecosystems. We believe this could be a common approach in most of the SACEP Member States because of the contextual similarities.

Like in other SACEP Member States, many of our ecosystems such as forests, wetlands and rangelands have been depleted which has direct linkage with rural peoples' lives, livelihoods and the local economy.

Similarly, we face acute pollution problems, particularly with air, water, soil and wetlands. Currently, because of environmental pollution, like many other countries, we are also facing the challenge of human health and economic loss.

During the coming years, our major growth engines will be agriculture, NRM and mining. One of the challenges that we would like to address is that the mining is really contributing in local level poverty reduction with transformational change in

local economic conditions, specially when social and environmental sustainability are ensured.

Although we do not have a country-specific robust database, studies and institutional setting to scientifically validate climate change, implications are prominently visible in Afghanistan in the forms of prolonged and severe droughts, erratic temperature and precipitation. This is seriously affecting our agriculture, livelihood and economy like other SACEP Member States.

I am happy to inform you that in collaboration with UNEP, UNDP, WCS, FAO and other partners, we are now in the process of developing a comprehensive Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan that will primarily focus on Adaptation. We would also look at the opportunities in the areas of 'mitigation' and other important aspects such as 'research and development', 'financing', and mutually gainful 'partnership' including the opportunities within the framework of SACEP.

I am also happy to inform you that in collaboration with UNEP, UNDP, WCS and other partners, we would be pursuing an inclusive and comprehensive local and national consultation to determine post 2015 development agenda for Afghanistan. This could be one specific area for SACEP countries to collaborate. Localization of SDGs at the country level and regionalization at the SACEP country level could provide enabling platform for all of us to collaborate.

Against the broader context, in addition to the proposed actions outlined above, I propose the following specific actions for the consideration of other member countries, as well as the Governing Council:

1. South Asia Position on Rio+20 and Post 2015 Development Agenda (this matches with Provisional Agenda item # 6.1.10). Practical areas of collaboration among member countries should be identified
2. Collaboration for energy efficiency and clean energy (this also matches with item # 6.1.10)
3. Practical areas to collaborate on priority areas to pursue sustainable cities concept (this matches with item# 6.1.3, 6.1.4, 6.1.5, 6.1.8, and 6.1.11. Rapid urbanization in SACEP counties particularly in countries like Afghanistan and Bangladesh is an enormous challenge but we have an opportunity now to ensure that our cities have low emissions, and are sustainable and green
4. Proper implementation of current NBSAPS (#6.1.1), NAP and NAPA. It is important to strengthen results and compliance monitoring mechanism
5. I propose to explore a new area to collectively prepare ourselves for the inevitable natural and other disasters that will plague us in the future (both climate change induced and not climatic)

I express my sincere appreciation for your patient hearing and consideration. I would like to conclude my deliberation by conveying the commitment of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to collaborate in pursuing SACEP for our mutual benefits and for the future generations to come.

Thank you.

***Country Statement by***

**His Excellency Mr. Suhrab Hossain  
Bangladesh High Commissioner to Pakistan  
Head of Delegation  
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh  
at the**

**13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Governing Council of  
South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP)  
&  
5<sup>th</sup> Inter-governmental Meeting of Ministers of  
South Asian Seas Programme (SASP)**

**Islamabad, Pakistan**

**5<sup>th</sup> December 2013**

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Minister for Science and Technology of Pakistan,  
Honourable Minister for Sri Lanka,  
Honourable Minister for Maldives,  
Excellencies, distinguished participants,  
Ladies and Gentlemen

Assalamo Alaikum and Good morning

On behalf of the government of Bangladesh, I would like to thank SACEP Secretariat for undertaking programmes which are environmentally and ecologically important for sustainable development in the South Asia Region.

In this regard Bangladesh faces many challenges in its attempt to attain the middle income economy status by 2021 through sustainable development. The challenge to sustainability originates from both domestic source in the form of environmental degradation generated by natural and manmade processes and international source in the form of climate change. A key challenge of sustainable development in Bangladesh is population which is at the center of sustainable development.

While population growth degrades the environment, sustainable development seeks to ensure higher quality of life for population of the present generation as well as future generations. Other challenges with regard to environment for sustainable development include unplanned urbanization, inefficient water resources management, natural disaster and climate change.

We believe all South Asian countries face more or less similar environmental challenges for their sustainable development. These challenges have put us together to face unitedly. I wish SACEP will be successful in its endeavor.

One of the most important challenges for the South Asian environment and ecological system is protection of its common water bodies. No single country can conserve the marine ecology of the common water body. It needs concerted effort of the countries concerned. At this crucial juncture, the role of South Asian Seas Programme (SASP) is every important. Bangladesh adheres to its commitment for the conservation of marine ecology and ready to play a role to meet the challenges. Necessary legal frame works are in place. Bangladesh has enacted a number of laws including marine pollution ordinance, the environment conservation act.

I hope SACEP will undertake programmes prioritizing the evolving challenges which come along with natural disaster.

I wish SACEP all the best and again congratulate the new chairman a successful tenure.

***Country Statement by***

**Mr. Karma Tshering**  
**National Environment Commission**  
**Head of Delegation**  
**Royal Government of Bhutan**

**at the**

**13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Governing Council of**  
**South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP)**  
**Islamabad, Pakistan**

**5<sup>th</sup> December 2013**

His Excellency, Mr. Zahid Hamid, Minister of Science and Technology  
Hon'ble Ministers,  
Head of delegations,  
Senior Government Officials,  
Ladies and Gentlemen

It is my great honour and privilege to speak in this high level segment of 13<sup>th</sup> Governing Council meeting of SACEP.

First of all, let me inform this August gathering that Bhutan attaches great importance to SACEP. Please kindly note that by no means, my representation at this high level segment is lack of our government's interest in SACEP. Due to last minute unforeseen problem, I have been asked to represent Bhutan at the Governing Council meeting. Therefore, on behalf of the Royal Government of Bhutan, I would like to sincerely apologize to the Hon'ble Members of the 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Governing Council of SACEP.

Your Excellency, let me take this opportunity, to extend warmest congratulations to you on your assumption as the current chair of the Governing Council. Through you Mr. Chair, let me express my sincere appreciation to the government and people of Pakistan for their warm hospitality and special appreciation to you and your team for this wonderful warmth, which most of us felt right on arrival in the airport.

Mr. Chairman, please accept Bhutan's full support and we hope, under your able leadership, SACEP will further strengthen and become more vibrant and visible.

We would also like to congratulate the Director General for his successful nomination to this important post. We are happy and very confident since our DG comes with huge experiences in this field. We wish to express our sincere appreciation to him and his able team, for their excellent preparations, indeed for their hard work. Please be assured of our full support to our DG and his team.

Mr. Chairman,

We are all aware of SACEP's history. SACEP has come a long way and has contributed to great extent in the field of environment and its related areas. We are well aware of the limited number of staff in SACEP who has been working very hard to achieve our common goals. Now that we have experienced Director General, we are very confident that under his able leadership guided by Your Excellency, SACEP will become a popular intergovernmental agency that other countries could appreciate and feel proud of, in short, SACEP will become a good example to other regional organization in other countries.

We would like SACEP to play a vital role, focusing and prioritizing in those programmes and activities that will benefit the member countries. We see huge opportunities for SACEP in getting support and funding from donors since SACEP is an intergovernmental agency. So SACEP must take this

opportunity and mobilize funds and try to strive to become an exemplary body.

Mr. Chairman, Hon'ble Members, Ladies and Gentlemen

Bhutan would like to reemphasize that among many issues, most urgent and critical issues that require huge attention are in the areas of; waste, water and pollution and we feel this is where SACEP should focus in fulfilling these mandates.

Mr. Chairman,

Before, I conclude, let me take this opportunity to thank UNEP, especially Dr. Young Woo Park and Dr. Subrata Sinha for facilitating and extending their kind support to SACEP. I would like to request UNEP to continue supporting SACEP and the member countries.

Finally, once again, let me thank Your Excellency and your team for this wonderful arrangement and hospitality. I would also like to thank and appreciate all those staff for their support with our logistics.

In closing Mr. Chair, once again be assured of Bhutan's fullest support to you, the Director General and his team in SACEP. I wish you all the best in your tenure as the current chair of the Governing Council. I would like to wish all the Hon'ble Members and distinguished delegates a safe trip back home and those staying behind a happy and peaceful life always.

Thank you and Tashi Delek.





***Country Statement by***

**Mr. Anand S. Khati**  
**Head of Delegation**  
**Joint Secretary to the Government of India**  
**Ministry of Earth Sciences**  
**at the**

**13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Governing Council of**  
**South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP)**  
**&**  
**5<sup>th</sup> Inter-governmental Meeting of Ministers of**  
**South Asian Seas Programme (SASP)**

**Islamabad, Pakistan**

**5<sup>th</sup> December 2013**

Honourable Chairman, SACEP and Minister for Science and Technology of Pakistan,  
Honourable Minister of Environment and Renewable Energy, Sri Lanka,  
Honourable Minister of Environment and Energy, Maldives and  
Excellencies

India would like to compliment SACEP for making various efforts towards implementation of South Asian Seas Programme. India has been implementing a number of national programmes specifically relating to the activities of South Asian Seas Programme. These include Coastal Monitoring and Prediction System, Oil-spill Modeling System, Coral Reef Bleaching Alert System, Coastal Marine Ecosystem and Modeling, Harmful Algal Bloom Monitoring, Indian Ocean Biogeographic Information System, Tsunami Warning System, Coastal Ocean Observing System, Potential Fishing Zone advisories, Ocean State Forecast, Assessment of Living resources.

On behalf of Indian delegation, I would like to briefly present on some of the activities :

1. **Coastal Pollution Monitoring:** The aims and objective of the Coastal Ocean Monitoring and Prediction System (COMAPS) program is to monitor the health of coastal seas is highly essential to assess the quality of coastal waters and to find suitability for fisheries and other human related uses. The program is under implementation over 20 years. The data on 25 environmental parameters including physical, chemical, biological and microbiological characteristics of water and sediment at selected locations are being collected with the help of seven R&D institutions in the 0 – 5 km sector of the coastline of the country, covering the maritime states and UTs. The objective is to understand the changes in pollution level (ii) to develop possible prediction of pollutions levels in these selected locations to assess the state of marine environment. The data on parameters such as dissolved oxygen (DO), nutrients, pH, Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD), plankton, benthos and pathogenic bacteria, etc., are being monitored covering different seasons at 20 locations. These data is provided to the state pollution control boards to take necessary action.
2. **Oil Spill Modeling:** The Oil spill trajectory modeling and sensitivity mapping is aimed to understand the local habitat specific issues related to oil spill risks and to identify potential sources /areas are at risk and priority identification of most sensitive coastal resources. The local hydrodynamic models were set up for Chennai, Kakinada, Visakhapatnam, Kanyakumari, Kochin, Kavaratti, Goa, Mumbai, Dahanu, Hazira, etc to generate oil spill trajectory scenarios. After successful validation of hydrodynamic models, the same was coupled with the MIKE 21/3 oil spill model to compute oil spill trajectories for different environmental conditions including oil characteristics, bathymetry, oceanographic and meteorological parameters, etc. GIS-based information system with two scenarios for three seasons set in GNOME were used for risk assessment of coastal resources. The oil transport weathering and oil thickness computation provide a way to analyze the environmental risks to the marine as well as coastal ecosystem due to spill. The oil slick movement and areal coverage (km<sup>2</sup>) of the slick were

calculated in GIS to analyze possible impact in each scenario. Oil Spill Sensitivity and Risk Assessment maps of the study areas, have been prepared. The information is provided to Indian Coast Guard to make a contingency plan.

3. **Ocean Observation:** India has a comprehensive ocean observation network for acquisition of real-time data from the seas around India. The observations systems include moored buoys (16), argo floats 165, drafters, tide gauges, HF radars, Current meter arrays, Automatic weather stations, ships, XBT. All the data have been organized and archived at INCOIS Hyderabad. A number of data and data products are being developed and made available to all the user community. This has been recognized by UNESCO, IOC as the regional Data centre for Argo. Besides, a large number of satellite data are also being acquired by this centres in real-time viz., MODIS, OCM, Altimeter/TOPEX, TMI, Quicksat etc., Under RAMA programme pCO<sub>2</sub> sensors is jointly fitted in Buoy deployed in the Bay of Bengal in association with BOBLME. This work is just completed on board India Research vessel Sagar nidhi. India and BOBLME is working together on safe guarding of moored buoy systems deployed for tsunami and coastal hazard warning to bring awareness among fishermen.
4. **Coral Reef Bleach Alert System:** A satellite based Coral Bleaching Alert System is in place. The advisories are generated based on the NOAA-AVHRR night time sea surface temperature data. The advisories comprising the products Hotspot, Degree of heating weeks and time series plots are generated bi-weekly are being disseminated through web. Global Coral Reef Partnership and International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) Activities with Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem project (BOBLME).
5. **Indian Ocean Biogeographic Information System (IndoBIS):** IndOBIS has been established by the Centre for Marine Living Resources and Ecology (CMLRE) at Kochi. IndOBIS allow users to explore data on location of marine animals and plants. It will also supply data tables, maps and predict distribution using environmental information. Currently it has over 75,000 records of marine species.
6. **Indian Tsunami Early Warning Centre (ITEWC)** is equipped with world-class computational, communication and technical support facilities and is considered as one of the most modern tsunami warning centres as on date. The instrumentation of the ITEWC is built in a way to detect tsunamis originating from both identified tsunamigenic sources in the Indian Ocean and to become world class in respect of the quality of the warning service with minimal false alarm scenario generation possibility. Through critical monitoring and performance evaluation of the services provided by the ITEWC over the Indian Ocean, the Intergovernmental Coordination Group for the Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning and Mitigations Systems (ICG/IOTWS) of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Economic Social and Cultural Organization (IOC/UNESCO) has accepted the offer of India to convert/upgrade ITEWC to a status of Regional Tsunami Service Provider (RTSP). Starting from July 2008, India has been providing IOC benchmarked Level-1 tsunami regional service. Subsequently, from May 2011, India started rendering Level-2 tsunami regional service on operational to the entire Indian Ocean rim countries. As a part of “Establishment of National Early Warning System for Tsunamis and Storm

Surges”, the Ministry had taken up development “Coastal Vulnerability Modeling and Inundation Mapping”. Under this endeavor, a wide range of coastal vulnerability maps on different spatial scales ranging 1:100,000 to 1:5,000, are being generated for the entire coast of India by various agencies primarily for use in the forewarning of various ocean hazards viz., Tsunami, Cyclones and Storm Surges.

7. **Ocean Information and Advisory Services to Coastal Community:** The operational Ocean State Forecasting (OSF) service being provided by India includes wave, surface currents, SST etc., and the Potential Fishing Zone, advisories. The expected height of the tides at 178 locations along the coastline of Indian Ocean rim and at 136 locations along the coastline of India covering all major/minor ports. The dissemination of the generated ocean state forecasting system products (in graphical and digital form at each of the locations with details of high/low tide timing) is carried out through all available mechanisms viz. world wide web, emails, short message service (SMS), electronic display boards and radio etc., so as to reach to a maximum number of user groups – fishermen cooperatives, Indian Navy, Indian Coast Guard, Coastal Security Police, non – governmental organizations working with coastal population and ports/ harbor authorities.
8. **Biogeochemical Process of the Indian Ocean:** Towards addressing issues relating to understanding the carbon and nitrogen biogeochemical process and associated trace elements in the seas around India, with a view to increase understanding climate change and marine biogeochemistry, two programs viz., SIBER and GEOTRACES have been launched. The SIBER is a multi-disciplinary and multi-institutional program dealing open ocean biogeochemical studies and estuarine/coastal waters. One of the main objectives of the SIBER programme was to establish the open ocean time series stations in the Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal. GEOTRACES (India) is a network of research projects being executed by a number of research and academic institutions. The objective is to map the distribution of trace elements and isotopes in the Indian Ocean and to identify the factors influencing these distributions.
9. **Capacity Building:** As per India’s commitment to the UNESCO, the International Training Centre of Operational Oceanography was established and made operational for promotion of capacity building and training activities for the countries of the Indian Ocean Region. India is hosting the UN workshop on Assessment of Assessment of Marine Environment in Jan 25-27, 2014.

India is willing to collaborate and extend support in all the above program.



***Country Statement by***

**Hon' Mr. Thoriq Ibrahim**  
**Minister of Environment and Energy**  
**Head of Delegation**  
**Republic of Maldives**  
**at the**

**13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Governing Council of**  
**South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP)**  
**&**  
**5<sup>th</sup> Inter-governmental Meeting of Ministers of**  
**South Asian Seas Programme (SASP)**

**Islamabad, Pakistan**

**5<sup>th</sup> December 2013**

Chairperson of the Governing Council H. E Mr Zahid Hamid, Minister for Science and Technology, Government of Pakistan

Distinguished Ministers

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

Asalamalaikum and a very good morning

Let me first take this opportunity to thank the Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan for the excellent arrangements and hospitality rendered in this beautiful city. I also thank the SACEP Secretariat for organising this important meeting.

Mr Chair

SACEP holds a unique position in the regional co-operation mechanisms in South Asia. It was the first truly regional organisation established in the South Asia region, and in this manner has acted as the catalyst for all other regional co-operation mechanisms. Agenda 21 adopted at the Rio Summit, subsequently reified by the Rio+20 outcome document, recognises the significant role of regional environmental organisations and gave the impetus to developing and strengthening such mechanisms. We have, however, not harnessed the full potential of a platform such as this. There is much work that can be achieved through SACEP and our meeting here should attempt to identify strategies for SACEP to realise these.

Mr Chair

The environmental challenges in our region are many and diverse. They range from air pollution, to water resources management, to biodiversity loss and climate change impacts, amongst many others. However, in all these environmental challenges there is one commonality – these challenges are complex in nature and often transcend national boundaries. It is then only through the strengthening of the regional mechanisms that we can hope to effectively address such challenges.

SACEP can play a key role in this regard. The principles embedded in the SACEP provide a solid basis and framework for the enhancement of collaboration in addressing environmental challenges in the region. To date, however, we have been limited by the lack of a coherent and robust institutional framework and the linking of this with adequate resources. In this regard, I urge all member states to expedite the fulfilment of their financial commitments to SACEP. It is also imperative that SACEP explore strategies to mobilise additional funding from other bilateral and multilateral funding agencies. This should be complemented by increased synergy and co-operation between the other regional mechanisms, such as SAARC, in order to reduce redundancies between the activities across the organisations.

Mr Chair

In 2010, we as a region adopted the SAARC Convention on the Co-operation on Environment. I am happy to note that the Convention came into effect on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of October this year. The Convention provides the guiding principles for environmental co-operation in the region. The comprehensive nature of the Convention creates much space for developing strategic partnerships amongst our countries in the field of environment. SACEP as the premier regional environmental



organisation, is very well poised to play a significant role in the implementation of the Convention and further enhance the principles embedded therein.

Mr Chair

The sustainable management of our oceans is an intrinsically global and critical issue. Our oceans and seas and the biodiversity it supports do not recognise national borders or territorial waters. Developing a regional approach and linking this with co-ordinated global action is then fundamental to the success of our efforts to protect our oceans and seas.

It is important to note that a significant proportion of our populations live in the coastal zones, and depend on the coastal environment for livelihood and food. This region also boast some of the most biologically diverse and rich marine eco-systems in the world. However, these have come under increasing stress and pressure in the recent years, largely owing to human activity.

The South Asian Seas Programme has created a much needed platform for enhanced regional joint and co-ordinated action. There is, however, a critical need to scale up the work of SASP. This will require the commitment of all member countries. There are indeed much challenges that we face as a region in ensuring the sustainable management of our seas. From institutional limitations, regulatory gaps, inadequate communication channels and limited technical capacity, our region faces a difficult task in effectively addressing the issue. However, this is an issue that we cannot disregard.

Mr Chair

Despite these challenges and bleak prospects, we in the Maldives have consistently worked to ensure that the tenets of sustainable development are imbued within our development agenda. We have set ourselves ambitious goals – establish Maldives as a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve by the year 2017 and achieve carbon neutrality by 2020. These goals have wider implications, from the use and management of natural resources, to our fuel usage, amongst others, which will work to drive the country towards the path of sustainable development. Policies towards such effect have also been designed and implemented in other countries in this region. There are lessons we can learn from each other and much experience that can be shared. It is my sincere hope that SACEP will continue its role as a node for knowledge and experience sharing within the region. The sharing of experiences, transfer of technology and know-how should be strengthened. In this regard, it is important to identify and establish various channels of communication to enhance South-South co-operation, with SACEP taking the lead in identifying how co-operation with other regional bodies, both within and outside the South Asia region, can be strengthened.

Mr Chair

As a region, South Asia has come a long way in terms of collaborating to address transnational environmental issues. However, we must do more to take into account the role of women, of the role of decentralised community decision making regarding conservation and resource management and of taking into account the agentival capacity of youth and other major groups. It is indeed time to renew our commitment and political will and ensure that these translate into co-ordinated action.

Mr Chair

I do not intend to take much time. As such, before I conclude, let me once again thank the Government of Pakistan and SACEP for organising this meeting. I look forward to fruitful discussions.

I thank you.



***Statement Delivered by***

**Dr. Young-Woo Park**  
**Regional Director and Representative**  
**United Nations Environment Programme for**  
**Asia and the Pacific (UNEP-ROAP)**  
**at the**  
**13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Governing Council of**  
**South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP)**  
**&**  
**5<sup>th</sup> Inter-governmental Meeting of Ministers of**  
**South Asian Seas Programme (SASP)**  
**Islamabad, Pakistan**

**5<sup>th</sup> December 2013**

Chairperson of the Governing Council  
Distinguished Ministers  
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

- I am delighted to be able to participate in the 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Governing Council of South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP) in Islamabad, Pakistan. I would like to thank the Government of Pakistan and the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP) for the kind invitation.
- World leaders at the 2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) reaffirmed their commitment to sustainable development which embraces economic progress, social development, and environmental protection for the benefit of all.
- The first universal session of the Governing Council (27<sup>th</sup> GC) of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), held in Nairobi, Kenya, in February 2013, represents an historic milestone, furthering the implementation of provisions contained in paragraph 88 of the outcome document of the 2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), “The future we want”. The 27<sup>th</sup> GC of UNEP reaffirmed the need to strengthen international environmental governance within the context of the institutional framework for sustainable development in order to promote a balanced integration of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development, as well as coordination within the United Nations system.
- The 27<sup>th</sup> GC of UNEP recommends to the General Assembly that the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme, an intergovernmental body established pursuant to article 22 of the United Nations Charter, be renamed as the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). The 27<sup>th</sup> GC decided that the UNEA of UNEP will promote a strong science-policy interface by reviewing the state of the environment, by building on existing international instruments, assessments, panels and information networks.
- The final report of the High-Level Panel on the Post-2015 Development Agenda (HLP) was submitted to the UN Secretary-General in May 2013. The report recognizes that the post-2015 development agenda should be universal, applying to North and South Alike, and be infused with a spirit of partnership based on equity, cooperation and mutual accountability. The report recommends SMART (specific, measurable, attainable, relevant and time-bound) development goals in the post-2015 framework. The targets should be set for 2030.
- The Secretary General’s report to the 68<sup>th</sup> session of the General Assembly titled ‘A life of dignity for all: accelerating progress towards the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and advancing the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015’ emphasizes: “that a new post-2015 era demands a new vision and a responsive framework. Sustainable development – enabled by the integration of economic growth, social justice and environmental

stewardship – must become our global guiding principle and operational standard.”

- UNEP has recently launched a Discussion Paper entitled “Embedding environment in sustainable development goals (SDGs)” that recommends an integrated approach to SDGs, where a limited number of fully integrated goals are established at a higher strategic level, balancing the social, economic and environmental dimensions, with each supported by specific targets and indicators that can be either multi-dimensional or reflecting a single dimension.
- The international community cannot afford to backtrack on its agreements to protect biodiversity, mitigate climate change, restore freshwater ecosystems, and otherwise promote environmental sustainability. The existing global environmental goals and targets that have been already agreed to since 1990 can be taken as a “ground floor” for the SDGs. The global environmental goals and the MDGs can be used as a reference point to make sure that the new objectives are stronger and meet the expected level of ambition as set by countries in Rio+20.
- SACEP is one of the foremost intergovernmental agencies committed to promoting environment and sustainable development in the region. UNEP has been supporting the Secretariat since its inception and have implemented many programme in collaboration with SACEP. UNEP has worked closely with SACEP Secretariat to deliver services to countries in South Asia, namely preparation of state of the environment reports, Male’ Declaration on trans-boundary air pollution, environment education, MEAs, etc. We are currently working with SACEP Secretariat on the Post 2015 Development Agenda for South Asia. It intends to provide valuable inputs to the global process.
- I strongly believe that the SACEP-UNEP cooperation is crucial in enhancing environmental sustainability in South Asia. I am hopeful that the 13<sup>th</sup> GC of SACEP will approve a programme of work with financial resources. UNEP remains committed to support the South Asian countries in achieving the sustainable development objectives through partnership. At the end, I would like to thank once again to Excellency Chair and the Secretariat for the invitation and looking forward to the successful deliberation.



**WORK PROGRAMME OF SACEP  
YEAR 2014 - 2015**

		US \$
5.2.1	National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) Updating for South Asia Funds are secured for Marine Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan updating under the South Asian Seas Programme.	
5.2.2	Promoting Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) in South Asia	Completed
5.2.3	Waste Management To Organize a sub-regional meeting in South Asia, to create awareness and disseminate the results of 'converting waste agricultural biomass into energy	55,750.00
5.2.4	Environmental Data and Information Management System for South Asia To establish a Environmental Data Information Management System for South Asia As per the request of UNEP-ROAP, SACEP has submitted a revised budget for the project	1,000,000.00
5.2.5	Malé Declaration on Control and Prevention of Air Pollution and Its Likely Transboundary Effects for South Asia	Discussions on financial mechanism for Phase V is in Progress
5.2.6	Environmentally Sustainable Transport (EST)	
5.2.7	Better Air Quality Conference (BAQ 2014)	Funding through Clean Air Initiative

**WORK PROGRAMME OF SACEP**  
**YEAR 2014 - 2015**

5.2.8	Preparation of South Asia position paper to reflect the post Rio +20 challenges related to environment sustainability (e.g. green economy, energy, water and sanitation etc.).	US \$ <b>50,000.00</b>
5.2.9	Partnership with GWP on Adaptation and Resilience to Climate Change - Phase 1	<b>70,000.00</b>
	Phase 2 - On going negotiations	<b>100,000.00</b>
5.2.10	Proposal for SACEP to be a GEF Project Agency	To be finalized
5.2.11	Regional Cooperation for the Conservation and Wise-use of Internationally Important Wetlands in South Asia	To be finalized
5.2.12	Establishment of Regional Clearing House Mechanism for South Asia	<b>30,000.00</b>
		<b>1,305,750.00</b>

**SOUTH ASIA CO-OPERATIVE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME (SACEP)**  
**APPROVED SECRETARIAT BUDGET FOR 2014 & 2015 WITH PROPOSED INCREASE OF COUNTRY CONTRIBUTIONS**

	ANTICIPATED INCOME WITH 10% INCREASE - 2014 & 2015 US \$	ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE - 2014 US \$	ACTUAL RECEIPTS 2012 US \$	ACTUAL EXPENDITURE - 2012 US \$
<b>1 ANTICIPATED INCOME</b>				
1.1 AFGHANISTAN	8,855.00		16,100.00	
BANGLADESH	23,430.00		20,865.00	
BHUTAN	3,910.00		7,110.00	
INDIA	35,035.00		31,850.00	
MALDIVES	16,033.00		14,575.00	
NEPAL	8,855.00		8,050.00	
PAKISTAN	35,035.00		31,467.14	
SRI LANKA	17,842.00		-	
<b>TOTAL COUNTRY CONTRIBUTIONS</b>	<b>148,995.00</b>		<b>130,017.14</b>	
1.2 Interest earned	10,000.00		8,415.70	
1.3 Secretariat Cost from Sri Lanka	61,500.00		63,627.47	
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>220,495.00</b>		<b>202,060.31</b>	
<b>2 ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE</b>				
2.1 Salary Director General		54,000.00		36,368.78
2.2 Salaries of Local Staff		53,500.00		49,370.10
2.3 International Travel		20,000.00		19,457.49
2.4 Secretariat Cost		75,000.00		56,507.76
<b>SUB TOTAL</b>		202,500.00		161,704.13
3 Capital Costs		17,500.00		1,366.32
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>		<b>220,000.00</b>		<b>163,070.45</b>
<b>INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE</b>		<b>495.00</b>		<b>38,989.86</b>





**SOUTH ASIA CO-OPERATIVE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME (SACEP)  
APPROVED SECRETARIAT BUDGET FOR 2014 & 2015 WITH THE AGREED COUNTRY CONTRIBUTIONS**

	ANTICIPATED INCOME AS AGREED - 2014 & 2015 US \$	ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE - 2014 US \$	ACTUAL RECEIPTS - 2012 US \$	ACTUAL EXPENDITURE - 2012 US \$
<b>1 ANTICIPATED INCOME</b>				
1.1 AFGHANISTAN	8,050.00		16,100.00	
BANGLADESH	21,300.00		20,865.00	
BHUTAN	3,555.00		7,110.00	
INDIA	31,850.00		31,850.00	
MALDIVES	14,575.00		14,575.00	
NEPAL	8,050.00		8,050.00	
PAKISTAN	31,850.00		31,467.14	
SRI LANKA	16,220.00		-	
<b>TOTAL COUNTRY CONTRIBUTIONS</b>	<b>135,450.00</b>		<b>130,017.14</b>	
1.2 Interest earned (SACEP-CC)	10,000.00		8,415.70	
1.3 Secretariat Cost from Sri Lanka	61,500.00		63,627.47	
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>206,950.00</b>		<b>202,060.31</b>	
<b>2 ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE</b>				
2.1 Salary Director General		54,000.00		36,368.78
2.2 Salaries of Local Staff		53,500.00		49,370.10
2.3 International Travel		20,000.00		19,457.49
2.4 Secretariat Cost		75,000.00		56,507.76
<b>SUB TOTAL</b>		202,500.00		161,704.13
Capital Costs		17,500.00		1,366.32
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>		<b>220,000.00</b>		<b>163,070.45</b>
<b>INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE</b>		<b>(13,050.00)</b>		<b>38,989.86</b>



**DECLARATION**  
**by the Environment Ministers of the South Asia Region**  
**at the 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Governing Council of**  
**South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP)**

We, the Environment Ministers and Heads of delegation of the eight countries in the South Asia region viz. Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka met at Islamabad, Pakistan on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2013 at the 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Governing Council of South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP)

*Recalling* the Colombo Declaration of 25<sup>th</sup> February 1981, on initiation of South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme which enabled the establishment of SACEP

*Underlining* the importance of the Regional Co-operation as a tool to promote environmental protection and sustainable development in the region

*Reaffirming* our commitment to SACEP and highlighting our common dedication to co-operate in achieving high standards of environmental protection in the region

*Taking* into account the principles and the decisions that were agreed in previous meetings of the Governing Council

*Taking note* of the rapid political, economic and social changes that have taken place in the region since the establishment of the SACEP in 1982 we emphasize our view that these changes call for efforts to strengthen co-operation within the region

Recognizing that

- A) The region is endowed with rich base of natural resources where the livelihood of majority of the population directly and indirectly depend on
- B) The region's single most burning issue is that a large number of people are living in poverty and the eradication of poverty is the paramount goal in the development agendas of governments of South Asia
- C) South Asia is one of the fastest-growing regions in the world and demand for food, energy, water and natural resources is continuing to grow rapidly by putting ever increasing pressure on the environment
- D) Climate change already has an impact on ecosystems and exacerbates pressures on the marine and coastal environment

Concerned that environmental degradation and the unsustainable use of natural resources may have significant social and economic consequences.

Reaffirmed our commitment to the implementation of;

- A) Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and the provisions of Agenda 21
- B) Outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), in particular the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation
- C) The Millennium Development Goals

- D) Outcome of the Rio+20, United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, 'The future we want'
- E) Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets contained therein

Agreeing to the recommendations and decisions of this 13<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Governing Council of SACEP

SACEP member states to take prompt action to strengthen their efforts to implement recommendations and decisions taken at the 13<sup>th</sup> meeting of Governing Council

Express our sincere appreciation to the people and the Government of Pakistan for the warm hospitality and excellent organization of the 13<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Governing Council of SACEP

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

**Report of the Preparatory Meeting of the National Focal Points/  
Senior Government Officials  
For the Thirteenth Meeting of the Governing Council  
3 – 4 December 2013  
Islamabad, Pakistan**

### **1. 1 INTRODUCTION**

The Preparatory Meeting of National Focal Points/Senior Government Officials for the Thirteen Governing Council Meeting was held on 3 - 4 December 2013 in Islamabad, Pakistan.

It was agreed that the Report of the Preparatory Meeting of National Focal Points/Senior Government Officials on the various Agenda items would form the basis of discussion for the Thirteenth Meeting of the Governing Council.

### **1. 2 ATTENDANCE**

The Meeting was attended by representatives from the following Member Countries: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. Government of Nepal attended the Inaugural Session of the Preparatory Meeting of National Focal Points/Senior Government Officials for the 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Governing Council of SACEP.

It was also attended by a representative from United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

List of Participants is at **Annex 1**.

### **1. 3 INAUGURATION**

The welcome address was delivered by Mr. S. M. D. P. Anura Jayatilake, Director General, SACEP (**Annex 2**)

Opening Remarks were delivered by Ms. E. A. S. Wijayanthi Edirisinghe, Chargé d'affaires, High Commission of Sri Lanka in Pakistan, the Out-going Chairman of the Governing Council of SACEP. (**Annex 3**)

Inaugural Address was delivered by Mr. Raja Hasan Abbas, Secretary Climate Change Division, Government of Pakistan. (**Annex 4**)

## **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. Raja Hasan Abbas, Secretary, Climate Change Division, Government of Pakistan
Vice Chairman	-	Mr. Karma Tshering, Bhutan
Rapporteur	-	Mr. M. Irfan Tariq, Pakistan

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

Mr. Karma Tshering, Bhutan proposed that Agenda Item No 4, to be discussed after Agenda Item No 6 and the title of the meeting to be revised as 'Preparatory Meeting of the National Focal Points/Senior Government Officials for the Thirteenth Meeting of the Governing Council'. **(Annex 5)**

The Agenda of the meeting was adopted with the proposed amendments.

### **4. EFFECTIVE FUNCTIONING OF SACEP**

Non Paper - Challenges before the SACEP and ideas for its revitalisation. The agenda item was discussed after Agenda Item 6. **(Annex 22)**

The Meeting recommended that the agenda item may be referred to the respective governments for their considered views/feedback to SACEP Secretariat.

### **5. INSTITUTIONAL MATTERS**

#### **APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTOR GENERAL OF SACEP**

SACEP will notify Government of Pakistan by 30<sup>th</sup> April 2014, at the end of the second year tenure of the present Director General, to nominate a suitable candidate for the position in accordance with the approved Criteria for the appointment of the Director General to assume duties by 15<sup>th</sup> April 2015. **(Annex 6)**

### **6. PROGRAMME MATTERS**

#### **6.1 PRESENTATION OF PROJECT STATUS REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR GENERAL, SACEP**

The Director General presented the status of activities of SACEP under each Agenda Item. **(Annex 7)**

The Meeting commended the implementation of activities by SACEP and urged the Secretariat to increase visibility of the organization and to focus on priority areas.

##### **6.1.1. Capacity Building on Indicators as part of National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) Updating for South Asia and development of Clearing House Mechanism (CHM)**

SACEP to develop Regional CHM with the financial assistance of Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem Project (BoBLME) and other possible funding sources.  
**(Annex 8)**

### **6.1.2. Promoting Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) in South Asia**

The Meeting recommended SACEP to come up with concrete proposals through which the concept of Sustainable Consumption and Production can comfortably be dovetailed within the policy making mechanisms of member countries of SACEP.

**(Annex 9)**

### **6.1.3. Waste Management & International Partnership for Expanding Waste Management Services of Local Authorities (IPLA)**

SACEP to continue dialogue with United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD) and other agencies, to seek the possibilities of having International Partnership for Expanding Waste Management Services of Local Authorities ( IPLA ) forums and activities in South Asia.

SACEP Secretariat requested the member countries to encourage local authorities to become awardees of the IPLA by implementing the Zero Waste Policy at Local Authority levels.

**(Annex 10)**

### **6.1.4. Environmental Data and Information Management System for South Asia**

SACEP Secretariat to implement the project as soon as the funds are available as per the approved proposal on establishment of Environmental Data and Information Management System for South Asia.

**(Annex 11)**

### **6.1.5. Malé Declaration on Control and Prevention of Air Pollution and Its Likely Transboundary Effects for South Asia**

The Meeting commended SACEP Secretariat for successful implementation of the Malé Declaration Phase 1 to IV in collaboration with UNEP.

The National Focal Points were requested to provide relevant data and information to SACEP Secretariat to prepare a comprehensive proposal to obtain funds for the next phase of the Malé Declaration.

**(Annex 12)**

### **6.1.6. South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network (SAWEN)**

The Meeting recommended the removal of the Agenda Item from the Work Programme of SACEP related to SAWEN.

**(Annex 13)**

### **6.1.7. Establishment of Basel Convention Regional Centre for South Asia**

The Meeting agreed with the proposal made by SACEP for removal of the Agenda Item on Establishment of Basel Convention Regional Centre for South Asia from its Work Programme.

**(Annex 14)**

**6.1.8. Environmentally Sustainable Transport (EST)**

The 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Regional EST Forum will be held in Colombo, Sri Lanka in October 2014 and SACEP to support Government of Sri Lanka in organizing the event avoiding financial implications.

**(Annex 15)**

**6.1.9. Better Air Quality Conference (BAQ 2014)**

The Better Air Quality 2014 (BAQ 2014) Conference would also be held back to back with the 8<sup>th</sup> Regional EST Forum.

It was requested that the National Focal Points to communicate to SACEP Secretariat, the country experiences and best practices in this regard to be presented during the conference.

**(Annex 16)**

**6.1.10 Preparation of South Asia position paper to reflect the post Rio +20 challenges related to environment sustainability (e.g. green economy, energy, water and sanitation etc.).**

National Focal Points to send the feedback on the Second Draft Report to SACEP Secretariat and the activity to be carried forward.

**(Annex 17)**

**6.1.11 South Asian Regional Strategy on Mercury and associated impacts focusing on Health Sector**

The Meeting recommended the removal of the Agenda Item from its Work Programme of SACEP. **(Annex 18)**

**6.1.12 Proposal for SACEP to be a Global Environment Facility (GEF) Project Agency**

The meeting recommended SACEP to send a reminder to the GEF Secretariat, regarding the application for SACEP to be accredited as a GEF Project Agency which was submitted on 18<sup>th</sup> June 2012 for consideration, at the beginning of GEF-6 which will commence in July 2014.

The above communication to be intimated to the National Focal Points for further support.

Also to strengthen the proposal of SACEP, the member countries were requested to extend support at the next GEF Constituency Meeting.

Regional proposals on environmental issues to be formulated by SACEP to be submitted for consideration in the GEF-6 Cycle.

**(Annex 19)**

**6.1.13 Regional Cooperation for the Conservation and Wise-use of Internationally Important Wetlands in South Asia**

The Meeting considered the proposal made by SACEP Secretariat and consented that the Secretariat may sign an MOU with Ramsar Convention for capacity building.

**(Annex 20)**



**6.1.14 South Asian Seas Programme (SASP)**

The activities will be reported at the 5<sup>th</sup> Inter-governmental Meeting of the Ministers of the South Asian Seas Programme which will be held on 4 – 5 December 2013.

**6.2. WORK PROGRAMME (2014-2015) – Annex 21**

The Meeting decided to continue the on-going activities of SACEP and approved the Work Programme proposed for 2014 – 2015 with the removal of the following Items:

- a) 6.1.6. South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network (SAWEN)
- b) 6.1.7. Establishment of Basel Convention Regional Centre for South Asia
- c) 6.1.11. South Asian Regional Strategy on Mercury and associated impacts focusing on Health Sector

**7. FINANCIAL MATTERS**

**7.1 COUNTRY CONTRIBUTIONS**

SACEP Secretariat thanked the member states for clearing the Arrears of the Country Contribution to a commendable rate. Further it was informed by the SACEP Secretariat that it is important to clear the balance arrears of the country contributions for smooth and effective functioning of the secretariat. **(Annex 23)**

**7.2 EXTERNAL FUNDING**  
**Annex 24**

**7.3 DRAFT SECRETARIAT BUDGET (2014-2015)**

SACEP Secretariat requested a 10% increase in the Annual Country Contribution for SACEP from January year 2014 as the present agreed country contribution of SACEP was recommended at the 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Governing Council of SACEP held on 22<sup>nd</sup> April 1998 in Malé, Republic of Maldives. **(Annex 25)**

The member countries agreed to the proposal subject to the concurrence of the relevant national authorities of each member country. **(Annex 26)**

Until such concurrence is obtained, the Draft budget for year 2014-2015, proposed with the present agreed annual contributions to be recommended to the 13GC-SACEP for approval. **(Annex 27)**

**7.4 PRESENTATION OF AUDITED REPORT OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR 2009 / 2010**

The meeting recommended to the 13<sup>th</sup> GC-SACEP, the Audited Report of Accounts for the year 2009 and 2010 for approval.

The Meeting reinforced the decision of the 9 GC-SACEP on the appointment of the external auditors to be changed every three years with the provision of the same auditors being eligible for appointment after a gap of three years. **(Annex 28)**

SACEP Secretariat is to share the Audit Report with member countries annually.

**8. CONSIDERATION OF THE DRAFT MINISTERIAL STATEMENT/ RESOLUTION/ DECLARATION**

The meeting agreed with the text of the Draft Ministerial Declaration to be placed at the 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Governing Council of SACEP. **(Annex 29)**

It was also agreed to include 'text of appreciation' in the Declaration to the host government in future events as an adopted practice.

*'Express our sincere appreciation to the people and the Government of ..... for the warm hospitality and excellent organization of the .....meeting of the Governing Council of SACEP'*

**9. CONSIDERATION OF THE DRAFT PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE 13<sup>TH</sup> GOVERNING COUNCIL**

The Draft Agenda to be taken into consideration for adoption at the Thirteenth Meeting of the Governing Council of SACEP.

**10. VENUE AND DATE FOR THE 14<sup>TH</sup> GOVERNING COUNCIL**

The Meeting unanimously welcomed the announcement from the Government of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to host the 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Governing Council. The dates will be intimated by Government of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to the SACEP Secretariat.

**11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- a) Partnership with Global Water Partnership (GWP) on Adaptation and Resilience to Climate Change. **(Annex 30)**

The Meeting recommended the activity to be included into the Work Programme of SACEP.

The Meeting recommended the activities on capacity to be carried out.

- b) Government of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan informed the meeting of their willingness to participate at the South Asia Seas Meetings, being a land locked country.

**SOUTH ASIA CO-OPERATIVE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME**  
**Preparatory Meeting of**  
**National Focal Points/ Senior Government Officials for**  
**13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Governing Council**

3 - 4 December 2013  
Islamabad, Pakistan

**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

**AFGHANISTAN**

H. R. H. Prince Mostapha Zaher	Eng. Ezatullah Sediqi
Director General	Chief of Staff
National Environmental Protection Agency	National Environmental Protection Agency
Member of the Council of Ministers	Second Parwan Square
Adviser to the President on Environment	Kabul
Second Parwan Square	Afghanistan
Kabul	Mobile: +93 752 043 173
Afghanistan	Mobile: +93 799 622 517
Tel: +93 752 017 633	e-mail: eng.ezatsediqi@gmail.com
Mobile: +93 799 400 600	Sediqi.nepa@gmail.com
e-mail: dg.nepa@nepa.gov.af (Official)	
dg.nepa@hotmail.com (Operational)	
mostapha_zaher@hotmail.com (Personal)	

**BANGLADESH**

Mr. Md. Nural Islam  
Counsellor (Pol.)  
High Commission for the People's Republic of  
Bangladesh  
House No. 1, Street No. 5, F-6/3, Islamabad  
Pakistan  
Tel: +92 51 227 9267  
Fax: +92 51 227 9266  
e-mail: nri002@yahoo.com

**BHUTAN**

Mr. Karma Tshering  
Senior Programme Officer  
National Environment Commission  
Royal Government of Bhutan  
Post Box No. 466  
Thimphu  
Bhutan  
Tel: +975 2 323 384  
Mobile: +975 1 711 6505  
Fax: +975 2 323 385  
e-mail: ktshering@nec.gov.bt  
k\_tshering@yahoo.com

## INDIA

Mr. S. Inbasekar  
First Secretary (Political)  
High Commission of India  
G-5, Diplomatic Enclave  
Islamabad  
Pakistan  
Tel: +92 51 282 8387  
Mobile: +92 300 850 8249  
e-mail: pol2.islamabad@mea.gov.in

Mr. Anand S. Khati  
Joint Secretary to the Govt. of India  
Ministry of Earth Sciences  
Government of India  
Prithvi Bhavan  
Lodhi Road  
New Delhi -110 003  
India  
Tel: +91 11 2462 9511  
e-mail: a\_Khati@hotmail.com  
JS@moes.gov.in

Dr. K. Somasundar  
Scientist-F  
Ministry of Earth Sciences  
Government of India  
Prithvi Bhavan  
Lodhi Road  
New Delhi -110 003  
India  
Tel: +91 11 2466 9513  
Mobile: +91 98 6842 5857  
Fax: +91 11 2462 9779  
e-mail: soma-dod@nic.in

## MALDIVES

Mr. Midhath Abdul Rasheed  
Environment Analyst  
Ministry of Environment and Energy  
Green Building, Handhuvaree Hin'gun  
Maafannu  
Male', 20392  
Republic of Maldives  
Tel: +960 301 8365  
Mobile: +960 794 3822  
Fax: +960 301 8301  
e-mail: midhath.rasheed@environment.gov.mv

## PAKISTAN

Mr. Raja Hassan Abbas  
Additional Secretary In-charge  
Climate Change Division  
Cabinet Secretariat  
Government of Pakistan  
LG & RD Complex  
G - 5/2, Islamabad  
Pakistan  
Tel: +92-51-9245578  
Fax: +92-51-9245533  
e-mail: secretary@moenv.gov.pk

Mr. Muhammad Khalid Siddiq  
Joint Secretary  
Climate Change Division  
Cabinet Secretariat  
Government of Pakistan  
LG & RD Complex  
G - 5/2, Islamabad  
Pakistan  
Tel: +92 51 924 5531  
Mobile: +92 321 956 1157  
Fax: +92 51 924 5532  
e-mail: makss2000@yahoo.com

## PAKISTAN

Mr. Iftikhar-Ul-Hassan Shah Gilani  
Joint Secretary (IC)  
Climate Change Division  
Cabinet Secretariat  
Government of Pakistan  
LG & RD Complex  
G - 5/2, Islamabad  
Pakistan  
Tel: +92 51 924 5523  
Mobile: +92 334 442 2250  
Fax: +92 51 924 5524  
e-mail: iftiqrhmi@yahoo.com

Mr. Asif Shuja Khan  
Director General (Pakistan EPA)  
Climate Change Division  
311 - Margalla Road  
F 11/3, Islamabad Zip 44000  
Pakistan  
Tel: +92 51 926 7621  
Mobile: +92 333 878 7876  
Fax: +92 51 926 7625  
e-mail: dg@environment.gov.pk

Mr. Naeem Ashraf Raja  
Director Biodiversity Programme  
Ministry of Climate Change  
Government of Pakistan  
ENERCON Building, G - 5/2, Islamabad  
Pakistan  
Tel: +92 51 924 5601  
Mobile: +92 333 520 1089  
Fax: +92 51 924 5590  
e-mail: naeemashrafraja@yahoo.com

Mr. Zaigham Abbas  
Deputy Director (Chemical)  
Climate Change Division  
(Cabinet Secretariat)  
Government of Pakistan  
LG & RD Complex  
G - 5/2, Islamabad  
Pakistan  
Tel: +92 51 924 5536  
Fax: +92 51 924 5524  
e-mail: mzaigham75@yahoo.com

Mr. M. Irfan Tariq  
Director General (Env & CC)  
Climate Change Division  
Cabinet Secretariat  
Government of Pakistan  
LG & RD Complex  
G - 5/2, Islamabad  
Pakistan  
Tel: +92 51 9245545/ 9245528  
Mobile: +92 300 4202554  
e-mail: mirfantariq@gmail.com

Mr. Syed Mahmood Nasir  
Inspector General Forests  
Forestry Wing  
Climate Change Division  
Cabinet Secretariat, Government of Pakistan  
LG & RD Complex  
G - 5/2, Islamabad  
Pakistan  
Tel: +92 51 924 5589  
Mobile: +92 307 574 3450  
Fax: +92 51 924 5590  
e-mail: mnasirn@yahoo.com

Mr. Zia Ul Islam  
Director (PEPC)  
Climate Change Division  
Government of Pakistan  
Local Government Building  
Sector G - 5/1, Islamabad - 44000  
Pakistan  
Tel: +92 51 924 5624  
Mobile: +92 333 510 7422  
Fax: +92 51 924 5533  
e-mail: rmamazia@hotmail.com

Mr. Imran Khan  
Assistant Director (DBM)  
Climate Change Division  
Cabinet Secretariat  
Government of Pakistan  
LG & RD Complex  
G - 5/2  
Islamabad  
Pakistan  
Tel: +92-51-9245534  
Mobile: +92-333-5209637  
e-mail: imran.ad.81@gmail.com

## **PAKISTAN**

Mr. Muhammad Fawad Hayat  
Programme Coordinator  
Global Environment Facility  
Ministry of Climate Change  
GEF Cell, 3rd Floor, LG & RD Complex  
G - 5/2, Islamabad, Pakistan  
Tel: +92 51 924 5626  
Mobile: +92 345 894 4449  
Fax: +92 51 924 5627  
e-mail: fawadhayat@gmail.com

Capt. Muzaffar Mahmood (Pakistan Navy)  
Deputy Chief (Maritime Affairs Wing)  
Ministry of Defence, Government of Pakistan  
Pak Sectt - II  
Rawalpindi  
Pakistan  
Tel: +92 51 927 1436  
Mobile: +92 300 244 8991  
Fax: +92 51 927 1119  
e-mail: hafeemahmood@hotmail.com

Mr. Muhammad Razi  
Section Officer  
Ministry of Climate Change  
Government of Pakistan  
Room # 501, LG & RD Complex  
G - 5/2, Islamabad  
Pakistan  
Tel: +92 51 924 5550  
Mobile: +92 333 792 2769  
e-mail: mrzipk@gmail.com

## **SRI LANKA**

Ms. E. A. S. Wijayanthi Edirisinghe  
Counsellor / Chargé d'affaires  
High Commission of Sri Lanka in Pakistan  
House No. 2-C, Street No 55  
P. O. Box 1497, F-6/4  
Islamabad  
Pakistan  
Tel: +92 51 282 8754  
Mobile: +92 331 588 8133  
Fax: +92 51 282 8751  
e-mail: wijayanthi@hotmail.com

## **UN, INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES & OBSERVERS**

### **UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC (UNEP-ROAP)**

Dr. Subrata Sinha  
Environmental Affairs Officer  
United Nations Environment Programme  
for Asia and the Pacific (UNEP-ROAP)  
United Nations Building, Rajdamnern Avenue  
Bangkok 10200  
Thailand  
Tel: +66 2 288 2259  
Fax: +66 2 280 3829  
e-mail: subrata.sinha@unep.org

**SOUTH ASIA CO-OPERATIVE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME**

**10 Anderson Road, Colombo 05, Sri Lanka**

**Tel +94 11 2589 787 Fax +94 11 2589 369**

Mr. S. M. D. P. Anura Jayatilake

Director General

Tel: +94 11 258 9376

Mobile: +94 77 736 3133

e-mail: dg\_sacep@eol.lk

Ms. Jacintha S. Tissera

Administrative Officer

Tel: +94 11 250 4708

Mobile: +94 77 311 4362

e-mail: sacep@eol.lk

Mr. W. K. Rathnadeera

Senior Programme Officer

Tel: +94 11 250 0546

Mobile: +94 71 643 6307

e-mail: rd\_sacep@eol.lk

Ms. Nishanthi M. P. Perera

Programme Officer

Tel: +94 11 536 2851

e-mail: po\_sacep@eol.lk





**Inaugural Session of  
Preparatory Meeting of National Focal Points/Senior Government Officials for**

**13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Governing Council of  
South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP)**

**and**

**5<sup>th</sup> Inter-governmental Meeting of Ministers of  
South Asian Seas Programme (SASP)**

**Islamabad, Pakistan  
3<sup>rd</sup> December 2013**

**Welcome Address by  
Mr. S. M. D. P. Anura Jayatilake  
Director General of SACEP**

Distinguished Delegates from All the Member Countries of SACEP  
Honoured Delegates from UN and other International Agencies  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

As the Director General of SACEP it is a great privilege and honour to welcome you on behalf of SACEP for the Preparatory Meeting of the National Focal Points for the 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Governing Council of SACEP and the 5<sup>th</sup> Inter-governmental Meetings of Ministers of the South Asian Seas Programme.

At the very outset, let me thank Government and people of Pakistan for hosting this Governing Council Meeting in the lovely and hospitable city of Islamabad. This is the second time that government of Pakistan is hosting SACEP Governing Council. In September 1994, the 6<sup>th</sup> Governing Council Meeting of SACEP was held in the same city where we are now being gathered after 19 years to witness the 13<sup>th</sup> Governing Council.

Distinguished delegates,

Since 1994 to date this city has gone through a lot of transformation. You will witness the changes in terms of development taken place during the past years. These developments didn't come through an easy way. To achieve this, the government and people of Pakistan would have gone through many obstacles and made sacrifices as well. Similarly, during the last 31 years since its inception in 1982, SACEP has also gone through a transformation. You may witness the vast difference of SACEP when it was in 80s and 90s and in present days. During last 31 years SACEP has gone through many draw backs and the strong commitment and the co-operative spirit shown by its members made it easy for the Secretariat to overcome the obstacles.

The major task held upon the last Governing Council was the appointment of the Director General. Now it has been fulfilled and we are heading in the right direction in terms of implementing of the work programme.

Distinguished delegates,

As the Director General, I need your fullest support and guidance to take SACEP as from present days to a step forward during my next one and half years of time in office. Regional co-operation is vital when it comes to tackle environmental issues in trans-boundary nature. Two weeks before, we have witnessed the collective commitment at global level when world leaders came to an agreement at the CoP19 of the UNFCCC. I am confident that the 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Governing Council of SACEP will also be a successful one.

I thank each and every one of you for being present here in spite of your busy schedules and other pressing commitments.

**Inaugural Session of  
Preparatory Meeting of National Focal Points/Senior Government Officials for**

**13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Governing Council of  
South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP)**

**and**

**5<sup>th</sup> Inter-governmental Meeting of Ministers of  
South Asian Seas Programme (SASP)**

**Islamabad, Pakistan  
3<sup>rd</sup> December 2013**

**Opening Remarks by  
Ms. E. A. S. Wijayanthi Edirisinghe  
Chargé d'affaires, High Commission of Sri Lanka in Pakistan**

Good Morning.

As the outgoing Chair of South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme ,i.e., SACEP), we are grateful to the Government and People of Pakistan for hosting the 13<sup>th</sup> Governing Council Meeting in Islamabad, Pakistan.

Excellency's, Distinguished Delegates

Ladies and gentlemen,

SACEP being an inter-governmental organization has almost 30 years of history in respect of regional co-operation toward the environmental issues. It has a commendable record of achievements. From the date of SACEP being established in 1981 in Colombo, we, the members of SACEP have been able to carry out many programmes for the protection and management of the environment of the South Asian region. However, during the past decade SACEP has been going through a turbulent periods and hence, as the Governing Council we had to take strategic decisions for the betterment of SACEP.

In November 2010, during the 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Governing Council held in Colombo, Sri Lanka took over the chairmanship of SACEP and we can proudly say that we have been able to streamline the activities of SACEP and its programme of work and I think it is a matter of carrying forward the initiatives taken. I will list out some of the highlights, a few landmarks or milestones we have achieved.

1. Appointment of a Director General on rotation basis.

As a decision of the 12<sup>th</sup> Governing Council of SACEP, we were able to appoint the new Director General on rotation basis and Sri Lanka was able to appoint one of its nominees to the post of Director General in April 2012. It is noted that one of the key recommendations of the SACEP Review in 2003 was the appointment of the Director General on merit basis. However, implementation of this decision created

problems within the system and there was a period of 3 years (2009-2011) where no DG was there to head the Secretariat and thereby implementation of the work programme was hampered to a certain extent.

2. South Asia Regional Oil and Chemical Spill Contingency Plan and Disaster Response.

This Regional Plan was prepared in 2000, however the MOU to implement the Action Plan was agreed and signed by only three South Asian Seas Countries namely Bangladesh, Pakistan and Maldives. I am happy to announce here that Government of Sri Lanka has also agreed to sign the MOU as per the Cabinet decision in November this year. I hope that the Government of India also will follow us and sign the MOU so that SACEP will be able to implement the actions identified within the next few years.

3. SACEP Host Facility, New Secretariat building for SACEP and Official Residence of the Director General

In 2012, The Government of Sri Lanka increased its SACEP host facility contribution from Sri Lanka Rs 5.0 million to Rs 8.0 million. This is given by the host Government to cover local staff salaries, rental and other related costs.

It is also noted that the present SACEP Secretariat and the Director General's residence are located in rented buildings. In view of the above and after representation made, Government has decided to provide a suitable land to construct SACEP Secretariat and the Director General's Residence. Government has also allocated an initial sum of Sri Lankan Rs 50.0 million for this purpose. Once the locations are finalized we will be able to start construction. I request the support of all the SACEP member countries to contribute to this process.

4. SACEP Annual Work Programme

I am happy to state here that annual work programme of SACEP has completed even with the limited capacity and resources. I am also happy to state that SACEP has initiated new programmes on Clearing House Mechanism on biodiversity, National Action Plan updating, Environmental Data and Information Management, Marine Biodiversity Strategy Development and Nutrient and Pollution loading in our marine and coastal eco systems etc.

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 Sri Lanka's commitment to strengthen SACEP as a good example of South-South Cooperation.

Once again on behalf of the Government of Sri Lanka, I would like extend our sincere thanks to Government and the People of Pakistan for providing excellent hosting facilities for our stay in you beautiful country, Pakistan.

Thank you.

**Inaugural Session of  
Preparatory Meeting of National Focal Points/Senior Government Officials for**

**13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Governing Council of  
South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP)**

**And**

**5<sup>th</sup> Inter-governmental Meeting of Ministers  
South Asian Seas Programme (SASP)**

**Islamabad, Pakistan**

**3<sup>rd</sup> December 2013**

**Inaugural Address by  
Mr. Raja Hassan Abbas, Additional Secretary In-charge  
Climate Change Division  
Government of Pakistan**

Honourable Heads of Delegations,  
UN Representatives, Senior Officials representing the South Asian Countries,  
Distinguished Guests,  
Ladies & Gentlemen

1. I welcome you all on behalf of Government of Pakistan in this opening ceremony of the preparatory meeting of the officials for the 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Governing Council of South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme & the 5<sup>th</sup> Intergovernmental Meeting of Ministers of South Asia Seas Programme.
2. Established in 1982, South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP) is an inter-governmental organization. The forum seeks to promote and support the conservation and management of the natural and human environment in the South Asia region with view to achieve sustainable development.
3. The Almighty has blessed South Asia with the highest mountain peaks, the most fertile plains and a unique ecosystem unparalleled in the world. We also share the Himalayas, the Indus and the Monsoon. This endowment is a gift, but it comes with great responsibility. As citizens of our respective nations and as collective citizens of South Asia, we are the guardians of these resources.
4. Since the establishment of SACEP, the member states have continuously worked towards implementation of the SACEP Strategy and Programme which covers the key areas such as capacity building and awareness raising, systematic information exchange, technology transfer, environmental management training, institutional development, regional cooperation in the management of mountain ecosystems, watersheds, and coastal resources, wildlife and habitat conservation. We recognize the importance of SACEP and expect it to be more strengthened and robust platform for projection of

synergized efforts for environmental management and knowledge sharing in the region.

5. The upcoming three days will be important for streamlining the regional efforts to achieve the objective of sustainable and environmental friendly development in the region through SACEP platform. It will also be significant for the development of an action plan along with outlining the strategy for a regionally coordinated programme called South Asia Seas Programme which is aimed at the protection of the common bodies of water based on the region's environmental challenges as well as its socioeconomic and political situation. The South Asian Seas Programme is a co-operative partnership, formally adopted in 1995 for the protection and management of the shared marine waters and associated coastal ecosystems of five maritime SACEP countries – Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.
6. Climate Changes, industrialization, population pressures and a tremendous increase in vehicular traffic have posed serious threats to the environment in the region. In the present century, there is an imperative need to look at our past to set our sustainable priorities for the future. It is high time for us to enhance our efforts for protection of the environment. We need to set realistic goals and then strive to achieve them in a sustainable and cogent manner. There is a need to integrate sustainable development and environmental conservation into our national economic policies. Pakistan has covered a number of milestones already, from preparation of the National Environment Policy in 2005 to the formulation of National Climate Change Policy in 2012. The Government of Pakistan acknowledges the significance of environmental conservation as an important ingredient of economic development and is keen to work towards the cause by joining hand with the regional partners.
7. I hope that the next three days of the conference prove to be a milestone in the history of the region for providing guidelines to achieve the target of sustainable development and a healthy environment for the generations to come.
8. I would like to thank you all for participating in this event and wish you very productive and useful three days ahead.
9. Have a pleasant stay in Islamabad.

Thank you.

## SOUTH ASIA CO-OPERATIVE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

### Preparatory Meeting of National Focal Points/Senior Government Officials for 13<sup>th</sup> Governing Council Meeting of SACEP

**Islamabad, Pakistan**

**3 - 4 December 2013**

### AGENDA

TIME	AGENDA ITEM
9.00 – 9.30	1 Opening of the Meeting
09.30 – 10.00	TEA BREAK
10.00 - 12.00	2 Election of Office Bearers
	3 Adoption of Agenda and Organisation of Work
	4 Effective Functioning of SACEP
	5 Institutional Matters
12.00 – 1.30	LUNCH
1.30 – 3.00	<p>6 Programme Matters</p> <p>6.1 Presentation of Project Status Report by the Director General, SACEP</p> <p>6.1.1 Capacity Building on Indicators as part of National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) Updating for South Asia and development of CHMs</p> <p>6.1.2 Promoting Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) in South Asia</p> <p>6.1.3 Waste Management &amp; IPLA</p> <p>6.1.4 Environmental Data and Information Management System for South Asia</p> <p>6.1.5 Malé Declaration on Control and Prevention of Air Pollution and Its Likely Transboundary Effects for South Asia</p> <p>6.1.6 South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network (SAWEN)</p>

<b>TIME</b>	<b>AGENDA ITEM</b>
	<p>6.1.7 Establishment of Basel Convention Regional Centre for South Asia</p> <p>6.1.8 Environmentally Sustainable Transport (EST)</p> <p>6.1.9 Better Air Quality Conference (BAQ 2014)</p> <p>6.1.10 Preparation of South Asia position paper to reflect the post Rio +20 challenges related to environment sustainability (e.g. green economy, energy, water and sanitation etc.).</p> <p>6.1.11 South Asian Regional Strategy on Mercury and associated impacts focusing on Health Sector</p> <p>6.1.12 Proposal for SACEP to be a GEF Project Agency</p> <p>6.1.13 Regional Cooperation for the Conservation and Wise-use of Internationally Important Wetlands in South Asia</p> <p>6.1.14 South Asian Seas Programme (SASP)</p>
3.00 – 3.30	TEA BREAK
3.30 – 4.00	6.2 Work Programme (2013 - 2015)
4.00 – 4.45	<p>7 Financial Matters</p> <p>7.1 Review of Country Contributions</p> <p>7.2 External Funding</p> <p>7.3 DRAFT Secretariat Budget (2014 and 2015)</p> <p>7.4 Presentation of Audited Report of Accounts for the year 2009 &amp; 2010</p>
4.45 – 5.00	8 Consideration of the Draft Ministerial Statement/ Resolution/ Declaration
5.00 - 5.15	9 Consideration of the Draft Provisional Agenda for the 13 <sup>th</sup> Governing Council
5.15 – 5.30	10 Venue and Date for the Special session of the Governing Council and the 14 <sup>th</sup> Governing Council
5.30 – 5.45	<p>11 Any Other Business</p> <p>Partnership with GWP on Adaptation and Resilience to Climate Change</p>



<b>TIME</b>	<b>AGENDA ITEM</b>
5.45 - 6.00	12 Adoption of Report
6.00	13 Closure of Meeting



## SOUTH ASIA CO-OPERATIVE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

### **Preparatory Meeting of Senior Officials for 13<sup>th</sup> Governing Council Meeting of SACEP**

**Islamabad, Pakistan**  
**3 - 4 December 2013**

### PROVISIONAL AGENDA

<b>TIME</b>	<b>AGENDA ITEM</b>
9.00 – 9.30	1 Opening of the Meeting
09.30 – 10.00	TEA BREAK
10.00 - 12.00	2 Election of Office Bearers
	3 Adoption of Agenda and Organisation of Work
	4 Effective Functioning of SACEP
	5 Institutional Matters
12.00 – 1.30	LUNCH
1.30 – 3.00	<p>6 Programme Matters</p> <p>6.1 Presentation of Project Status Report by the Director General, SACEP</p> <p>6.1.1 Capacity Building on Indicators as part of National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) Updating for South Asia and development of CHMs</p> <p>6.1.2 Promoting Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) in South Asia</p> <p>6.1.3 Waste Management &amp; IPLA</p> <p>6.1.4 Environmental Data and Information Management System for South Asia</p> <p>6.1.5 Malé Declaration on Control and Prevention of Air Pollution and Its Likely Transboundary Effects for South Asia</p> <p>6.1.6 South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network (SAWEN)</p>

<b>TIME</b>	<b>AGENDA ITEM</b>
	<p>6.1.7 Establishment of Basel Convention Regional Centre for South Asia</p> <p>6.1.8 Environmentally Sustainable Transport (EST)</p> <p>6.1.9 Better Air Quality Conference (BAQ 2014)</p> <p>6.1.10 Preparation of South Asia position paper to reflect the post Rio +20 challenges related to environment sustainability (e.g. green economy, energy, water and sanitation etc.).</p> <p>6.1.11 South Asian Regional Strategy on Mercury and associated impacts focusing on Health Sector</p> <p>6.1.12 Proposal for SACEP to be a GEF Project Agency</p> <p>6.1.13 Regional Cooperation for the Conservation and Wise-use of Internationally Important Wetlands in South Asia</p> <p>6.1.14 South Asian Seas Programme (SASP)</p>
3.00 – 3.30	TEA BREAK
3.30 – 4.00	6.2 Work Programme (2013 - 2015)
4.00 – 4.45	<p>7 Financial Matters</p> <p>7.1 Review of Country Contributions</p> <p>7.2 External Funding</p> <p>7.3 DRAFT Secretariat Budget (2014 and 2015)</p> <p>7.4 Presentation of Audited Report of Accounts for the year 2009 &amp; 2010</p>
4.45 – 5.00	8 Consideration of the Draft Ministerial Statement/ Resolution/ Declaration
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5.15 – 5.30	10 Venue and Date for the Special session of the Governing Council and the 14 <sup>th</sup> Governing Council
5.30 – 5.45	<p>11 Any Other Business</p> <p>Partnership with GWP on Adaptation and Resilience to Climate Change</p>

<b>TIME</b>	<b>AGENDA ITEM</b>
5.45 - 6.00	12 Adoption of Report
6.00	13 Closure of Meeting



## SOUTH ASIA CO-OPERATIVE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

### Preparatory Meeting of National Focal Points/Senior Government Officials for 13<sup>th</sup> Governing Council Meeting of SACEP

**Islamabad, Pakistan**

**3 - 4 December 2013**

#### ANNOTATED AGENDA

TIME	AGENDA ITEM
9.00 – 9.30	<p><b>1 OPENING OF THE MEETING</b></p> <p>It is expected that a Senior Dignitary from the Government of Pakistan will inaugurate the Meeting.</p>
9.30 – 10.00	<b>TEA BREAK</b>
10.00 - 12.00	<p><b>2 ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS</b></p> <p>In accordance with the Rules of Procedure of the Governing Council of SACEP, a new Chairman will be elected in a manner consistent with the Articles of Association of SACEP. One or more Vice Chairman, a Rapporteur and other officials may also be appointed by the Meeting. The Director General shall function as the Secretary of the Governing Council during its sessions.</p>
	<p><b>3 ADOPTION OF AGENDA AND ORGANISATION OF WORK</b></p> <p>The Meeting will consider the Provisional Agenda for adoption. Any matter regarding the Organisation of Work and the Sessions may also be considered.</p>
	<p><b>4 EFFECTIVE FUNCTIONING OF SACEP</b></p> <p>Under this agenda Item, the meeting will make a review of the implementation of earlier decisions, quality and effectiveness of SACEP programmes / activities and the imperative for reorientation of focus and transformation of SACEP. The non-paper revised by the Consultative Committee will be used as the background document.</p>
	<p><b>5 INSTITUTIONAL MATTERS</b></p> <p>Under this Agenda Item, the meeting will consider and submit its recommendations to the Governing Council regarding the Institutional Matters</p>

TIME	AGENDA ITEM
12.00 – 1.30	<b>LUNCH</b>
1.30 – 3.00	<p><b>6 PROGRAMME MATTERS</b></p> <p>6.1 Director General will present the project implementation status report under each of the projects listed below:</p> <p><b>Implementation of Biodiversity related activities :</b></p> <p>6.1.1 <b>Capacity Building on Indicators as part of National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) Updating for South Asia and development of Clearing House Mechanisms (CHM)</b></p> <p><i>(Collaborators - UNEP / WCMC / SACEP; Funds received US \$ 37,711.99; Total spent US \$ 37,711.99 + SACEP in kind contribution)</i></p> <p><i>(Ref GC 13.SACEP / SoM; Agenda Item 7.2)</i></p> <p>As of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011 -2020 adopted at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP-10) of Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) held in Nagoya, Japan on 18 - 29 October 2010, Parties have been requested to update their National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans (NBSAP) with the new Aichi Biodiversity Targets and strategies.</p> <p>To support our member countries in this process, SACEP in collaboration with United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and World Conservation Monitoring Center (WCMC) successfully organized a capacity building workshop on “Indicators as part of NBSAP updating for South Asian countries” from 16 to 19 July 2012 in Colombo, Sri Lanka where two representatives of each SACEP member country participated.</p>



TIME	AGENDA ITEM
Contd.....	<p>SACEP has developed its capacity in the areas of Indicators Development in Updating NBSAP and creating CHMs. These technical expertise are available for its member countries.</p> <p><b>Workshop recommendations / output: Capacity of the relevant NBSAP Focal Points developed.</b></p> <p><b><i>It is recommended that SACEP Secretariat :</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) <b><i>to assist the member countries in updating NBSAP with necessary technical support for the development of indicators in the process of NBSAP updating.</i></b></li> <li>b) <b><i>to prepare a Regional Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan for South Asia, taking consideration into the recommendations of NBSAPs of the member countries.</i></b></li> </ul> <p><b><i>The National Focal Points are requested:</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) <b><i>To make use of the opportunity and utilize a part of the GEF funds available for NBSAP updating, to create their own National CHMs</i></b></li> <li>b) <b><i>To contribute a small amount of funds from the secured fund for NBSAP updating towards creating of Regional CHM which will be used as co-funding, as BoBLME will provide apart of the funding needed.</i></b></li> </ul> <p><b>Related Document</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Agenda Item 6.1.1 - Inf. Paper on Implementation of Biodiversity related activities</li> <li>2. Refer enclosed CD titled 'Publications of SACEP - Item 6.1.01.A'</li> <li>3. Refer enclosed CD titled 'Publications of SACEP Item - 6.1.01.B'</li> </ul>
	<p><b>6.1.2 Promoting Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) in South Asia</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(Collaborators - UNEP / SACEP; Funds received US \$ 73,254.48; Total spent US \$ 73,254.48)</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(Ref GC 13.SACEP / SoM; Agenda Item 7.2)</i></p>

TIME	AGENDA ITEM
contd.....	<p>Since 2005, successive Governing Councils of SACEP recommended Waste Management as one of the four broader thematic areas of concern when preparing its work plan. In the context of waste management, concepts of Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) can play a major role.</p> <p>SACEP in collaboration with UNEP organized a SWITCH-Asia Policy Support Component (PSC) Sustainable Consumption and Production Training of Trainers workshop, Negombo, Sri Lanka from 30 October - 1 November 2012.</p> <p><b>Workshop recommendations / output: Officials of member countries were trained as trainers.</b></p> <p><b><i>It is recommended that SACEP Secretariat to:</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>a) <i>develop a regional forum where all member countries can share their experiences and strengths in this area.</i></b></li> <li><b>b) <i>develop a regional strategy on Sustainable Consumption and Production.</i></b></li> </ul> <p>Related Document</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Agenda Item 6.1.2 - Inf. Paper on Promoting Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) in South Asia</li> <li>2. Refer enclosed CD titled 'Publications of SACEP - Item 6.1.02'</li> </ul>
	<p><b>6.1.3 Waste Management &amp; International Partnership for expanding management services of Local Authorities (IPLA)</b></p> <p>IPLA is a dynamic knowledge platform as well as a decentralized network established by United Nations Center for Regional Development (UNCRD) to address the needs of Local Authorities in achieving sustainable waste management. The objective of IPLA is to enable Local Authorities (LAs) to expand their waste management services by accelerating the uptake of waste-related infrastructure and services at various stages of waste management through promotion and facilitation of meaningful collaboration with a wide range of partners such as governments, business and financial sector, and civil society.</p>

TIME	AGENDA ITEM
contd.....	<p>As per the request made by International Environmental Technology Centre (IETC) Division of Technology, Industry &amp; Economics of UNEP, SACEP is currently in the process of organizing a sub-regional meetings in South Asia, to create awareness and disseminate the results of 'converting waste agricultural biomass into energy'.</p> <p><b><i>It is informed that the activity is under discussion and yet to be finalized.</i></b></p> <p><b>Related Document</b></p> <p>Agenda Item 6.1.3 - Inf. Paper on Waste Management &amp; International Partnership for expanding management services of Local Authorities (IPLA)</p>
	<p><b>6.1.4 Environmental Data and Information Management System for South Asia</b></p> <p><i>(Collaborators - UNEP / SACEP; Funds received US \$ 44,000.00; Total spent US \$ 44,000.00 + SACEP in kind contribution)</i></p> <p><i>(Ref GC 13.SACEP / SoM; Agenda Item 7.2)</i></p> <p>The proposal on Establishment of Environmental Data and Information Management System for South Asia was approved by the 11<sup>th</sup> GC of SACEP.</p> <p>SACEP in collaboration with United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) organized a two day Inception and Training Workshop on Establishment of Environmental Data and Information Management System for South Asia in Colombo, Sri Lanka from 9 - 10 February 2012.</p> <p>As of the recommendation of above workshop, a need assessment was undertaken and 1<sup>st</sup> draft was circulated among member countries for their comments.</p> <p>As per the request of UNEP, SACEP has submitted a revised budget amounting to US \$ 1 million, in January 2013.</p>

TIME	AGENDA ITEM
contd.....	<p><b><i>It is requested that the SACEP Secretariat to implement the project as soon as possible and UNEP to expedite the process of providing the funds</i></b></p> <p><b><i>The National Focal Points are requested to come prepared with actions taken and the progress</i></b></p> <p>Related Document</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Agenda Item 6.1.4 - Inf. Paper on Environmental Data and Information Management System for South Asia</li> <li>2. Refer enclosed CD titled 'Publications of SACEP - Item 6.1.04 - Workshop Report'</li> <li>3. Refer enclosed CD titled 'Publications of SACEP - Item 6.1.04 - Draft Need Assessment Report'</li> </ol>
	<p><b>6.1.5 Malé Declaration on Control and Prevention of Air Pollution and Its Likely Transboundary Effects for South Asia</b></p> <p><i>(Collaborators - UNEP / SACEP; Funds received US \$ 13,832.50; Balance to be received US \$ 15,000.00)</i></p> <p><i>(Ref GC 13.SACEP / SoM; Agenda Item 7.2)</i></p> <p>In April 1998, at the GC7-SACEP, the Environment Ministers of the region adopted the Malé Declaration on Control and Prevention of Air Pollution and Its Likely Transboundary Effects for South Asia. The implementation of the Malé Declaration was envisaged to be in phases.</p> <p>The next Phase to be implemented is Phase V (2014- 2016). It aims to promote policy measures to control emissions of Air pollution including short-lived climate forces in South Asia and to ensure the sustainability and ownership of the Malé declaration in the region.</p>

TIME	AGENDA ITEM
contd.....	<p>The Thirteenth Intergovernmental Meeting (IG13) of the Malé Declaration was held in Dhaka, Bangladesh in 20 May 2013 and at the meeting the Draft Plan for Phase V and the Work Programme was presented for further review, guidance and approval. At the meeting it was identified that contribution of the participating countries is crucial for the successful implementation of phase V.</p> <p><b><i>National Focal Points to provide relevant data and information to SACEP Secretariat to prepare a comprehensive proposal to obtain funds to strengthen regional centres.</i></b></p> <p>Agenda Item 6.1.5 - Inf. Paper on Malé Declaration on Control and Prevention of Air Pollution and its likely Trans-boundary Effects for South Asia</p>
	<p><b>6.1.6 South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network (SAWEN)</b></p> <p><i>(Collaborators - TRAFFIC International / SACEP; Funds received US \$ 55,799.11; Total spent US \$ 55,799.11 + SACEP in kind contribution)</i></p> <p><i>(Ref GC 13.SACEP / SoM; Agenda Item 7.2)</i></p> <p>At GC 11-SACEP, through the “JAIPUR DECLARATION” has been agreed to establish South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network (SAWEN). Though the SAWEN was supposed to be established under SACEP, later on it was established as an independent entity and is based in Kathmandu, Nepal.</p> <p>On the invitation of government of Sri Lanka, SACEP agreed to co-organize the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of SAWEN in collaboration with government of Sri Lanka and TRAFFIC International which was held from 3 - 6 June 2012 in Negombo, Sri Lanka.</p> <p>The major point discussed at the meeting was the mechanism of channeling funds to the SAWEN from the possible World Bank project. In that context, SACEP has been suggested as the vehicle for channeling funds.</p>

TIME	AGENDA ITEM
contd.....	<p><b><i>If the World Bank proposal is accepted, SACEP Secretariat requested to facilitate as suggested.</i></b></p> <p><b>Related Document</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Agenda Item 6.1.6 - Inf. Paper on South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network (SAWEN)</li> <li>2. Refer enclosed CD titled 'Publications of SACEP - Item 6.1.06 - Draft Workshop Report'</li> </ol>
	<p><b>6.1.7 Establishment of Basel Convention Regional Centre for South Asia</b></p> <p>As directed by the ninth meeting of the Conference of Parties (CoP IX) of the Basel Convention held in June 2008 SACEP submitted an updated proposal for establishment of a Regional Centre for South Asia, to be located in SACEP Secretariat, Colombo, Sri Lanka. The updated proposal was taken into discussion at the 7<sup>th</sup> Open Ended Working Group (OEWG) meeting held from 10 – 14 May 2010.</p> <p>The issue regarding the overlap with the Iranian Centre was raised and as there was no Iranian delegation, the permanent Representative of Iran to the United Nations (UN) suggested both parties to have more deliberations in this regard.</p> <p>As several attempts to contact either Basel Convention Regional Center (BCRC) Tehran or Basel Convention Focal Point of Iran failed, on the advice of 119 CC-SACEP, SACEP made negotiations through the Embassy of Iran in Sri Lanka which was not a success.</p> <p>Finally SACEP delegation met the Iranian delegation at the Ordinary and simultaneous extraordinary meetings of the Conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions which was held from 28 April - 10 May 2013 in Geneva, Switzerland where Iranian delegation said that they are not willing to discuss the matter.</p>

TIME	AGENDA ITEM
contd.....	<p><b><i>Considering the above developments it is suggested that the continuation of the Agenda Item on Establishment of Basel Convention Regional Centre for South Asia in SACEP work programme is no longer necessary and to be removed from this meeting onwards.</i></b></p> <p><b>Related Document</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Agenda Item 6.1.7 - Inf. Paper on Establishment of Basel Convention Regional Centre for South Asia</li> <li>2. Annex 1 of Inf. Paper</li> <li>3. Annex 2 of Inf. Paper</li> <li>4. Annex 3 of Inf. Paper</li> <li>5. Annex 4 of Inf. Paper</li> <li>6. Annex 5 of Inf. Paper</li> <li>7. Annex 6 of Inf. Paper</li> <li>8. Annex 7 of Inf. Paper</li> </ol>
	<p><b>6.1.8 Environmentally Sustainable Transport (EST)</b></p> <p><i>(Collaborators - UNCRD / SACEP; Funds allocated US \$ 36,479.00 - Funds Physically not received Remitted Direct to Workshop Host - India)</i></p> <p><i>(Ref GC 13.SACEP / SoM; Agenda Item 7.2)</i></p> <p>An MoU was signed between SACEP and the United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD) in March 2008 to promote Environmentally Sustainable Transport in South Asia. As a result, now, all SACEP member countries are actively participating at this platform.</p> <p>The 7<sup>th</sup> Regional Environmentally Sustainable Transport (EST) Forum in Asia, was held in Bali, Indonesia in May 2013. The participants of the Forum adopted the "Bali Declaration on Vision Three Zeros - Zero Congestion, Zero Pollution, and Zero Accidents towards Next Generation Transport Systems in Asia"</p>

TIME	AGENDA ITEM
contd.....	<p>Government of Sri Lanka officially announced to host the Eight Regional EST Forum in Asia 2014 in Sri Lanka and SACEP would support the Government of Sri Lanka in organizing the event next year.</p> <p><b>Related Document</b></p> <p>Agenda Item 6.1.8 - Inf. Paper on Environmentally Sustainable Transport (EST)</p>
	<p><b>6.1.9 Better Air Quality Conference (BAQ 2014)</b></p> <p>The Better Air Quality (BAQ) conference is a leading event on air quality in Asia, covering transport, energy, industry and climate change, with a particular emphasis on government policies and measures. It has become a major regional event through the efforts of the Clean Air Initiative for Asian Cities Center (CAI-Asia) and its partners. The BAQ 2012 was held in December 2012 in Hong Kong.</p> <p>At the 7<sup>th</sup> Regional EST Forum held in Bali, Indonesia, in April 2013, Clean Air Asia announced that the Better Air Quality 2014 (BAQ 2014) Conference would also be held back to back with the 8<sup>th</sup> Regional EST Forum. SACEP will be presenting the work initiated on Air Quality by its member countries during BAQ 2014.</p> <p><b><i>National Focal Points to communicate with SACEP Secretariat regarding presentation of country experiences and best practices during the conference</i></b></p> <p><b>Related Document</b></p> <p>Agenda Item 6.1.9 - Inf. Paper on Better Air Quality Conference (BAQ 2014)</p>
	<p><b>6.1.10 Preparation of South Asia position paper to reflect the post Rio +20 challenges related to environment sustainability (e.g. green economy, energy, water and sanitation etc.).</b></p> <p><i>(Collaborators - UNEP / SACEP; Funds received US \$ 35,000.00; Balance to be received US \$ 15,000.00)</i></p> <p><i>(Ref GC 13.SACEP / SoM; Agenda Item 7.2)</i></p>



TIME	AGENDA ITEM
contd.....	<p>The South Asia position paper was prepared to reflect the post Rio +20 challenges related to environment sustainability (e.g. green economy, energy, water and sanitation etc.).</p> <p>The position paper aimed in supporting the incorporation of Rio+20 related environment and climate change issues in South Asia sub-region post-2015 development agenda consultation processes. A draft was circulated among member countries and finalization workshop was held back to back with the South Asian Environment Outlook – 2013 Consultation in Kathmandu, Nepal on 30<sup>th</sup> May 2013</p> <p>The view of the Consultative Committee of SACEP was to keep the activity on hold after completing the position papers.</p> <p><b><i>National Focal Points to send the feed back on the Second Draft Report to SACEP Secretariat.</i></b></p> <p><b>Related Document</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Agenda Item 6.1.10 - Inf. Paper on Preparation of South Asia position paper to reflect the post Rio +20 challenges related to environment sustainability (e.g. green economy, energy, water and sanitation etc.).</li> <li>2. Refer enclosed CD titled 'Publications of SACEP - Item 6.1.10 - Second Draft Report'</li> </ol>
	<p><b>6.1.11 South Asian Regional Strategy on Mercury and associated impacts focusing on Health Sector</b></p> <p>In October 2013, a new international Convention, Minamata Convention on Mercury will be adopted and open for signature. This Convention will address the issues of mercury usage in various sectors and work towards phasing it out.</p>

TIME	AGENDA ITEM
contd.....	<p>Mercury is widely used in health sector all over the world and the situation is similar in South Asia as well. Lack of proper disposal methods is hampering the individual country's effort to phasing out the mercury contaminated equipment. With the adopting of new Convention, Global Environment Facility (GEF) is proposed as the financial mechanism for developing countries to undertake mercury related activities.</p> <p>SACEP is in the process of collecting baseline data on mercury usage in Health Sector in South Asian countries to develop a regional project for assisting its member countries.</p> <p><b><i>SACEP Secretariat to develop a regional project for assisting the member countries</i></b></p> <p><b><i>National Focal Points to provide baseline data on mercury usage in Health Sector.</i></b></p> <p><b>Related Document</b></p> <p>Agenda Item 6.1.11 - Inf. Paper on South Asian Regional Strategy on Mercury and associated impacts focusing on Health Sector</p>
	<p><b>6.1.12 Proposal for SACEP to be a GEF Project Agency</b></p> <p>SACEP was proposed to be accredited as a Global Environment Facility (GEF) Project Agency at the South Asia GEF constituency meeting held on 15 - 16 May 2012 in Malé, Maldives and also agreed to provide allocation from STAR (GEF Cycle 5) for a GEF Project, by Government of Sri Lanka.</p> <p>As an outcome of the meeting, SACEP forwarded the application to GEF Secretariat and the Chairperson of the GEF responded that 11 applicant agencies are being reviewed by the GEF Accreditation Panel of GEF-5 and if GEF Secretariat decides in broadening the GEF partnership, the Council will consider SACEP's accreditation again at the beginning of GEF-6.</p>

<b>TIME</b>	<b>AGENDA ITEM</b>
contd.....	<p><b><i>National Focal Points to canvas relevant authorities (i.e. GEF Council Member, Alternate Member South Asia and GEF CEO etc) in support of SACEP's application.</i></b></p> <p><b>Related Document</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Agenda Item 6.1.12 - Inf. Paper on Proposal for SACEP to be a GEF Project Agency</li> <li>2. Annex to the Inf. Paper on Proposal for SACEP to be a GEF Project Agency</li> </ol>
	<p><b>6.1.13 Regional Cooperation for the Conservation and Wise-use of Internationally Important Wetlands in South Asia</b></p> <p>Draft document on regional co-operation was prepared in collaboration with Ramsar Secretariat and circulated amongst the SACEP member countries. The paper was presented and discussed at the Ramsar Convention Pre-CoP Asia meeting held in Jakarta, Indonesia from 14 – 18 November 2011.</p> <p>It is now being updated with new information received and is tabled for endorsement of the SACEP member states. Ramsar Secretariat is very much interested in signing an MoU with SACEP for enhancing cooperation amongst the South Asian countries for wise use of the regions wetlands.</p> <p><b><i>Draft document on regional co-operation on wetlands is placed for consideration at the 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the SACEP Governing Council.</i></b></p> <p><b>Related Document</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Agenda Item 6.1.13 - Inf. Paper on Regional Cooperation for the Conservation and Wise-use of Internationally Important Wetlands in South Asia</li> <li>2. Annex to the Inf. Paper on Regional Cooperation for the Conservation and Wise-use of Internationally Important Wetlands in South Asia</li> </ol>
	<p><b>6.1.14 South Asian Seas Programme (SASP)</b></p> <p>The South Asian Seas Programme is one of the 18 such programmes and it was established with the adoption of the South Asian Seas Action Plan in March 1995.</p>

TIME	AGENDA ITEM
contd.....	<p>Out of eight SACEP member countries, 5 maritime countries namely Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Pakistan and Sri Lanka are members of the SASP. SACEP is hosting the South Asian Seas Programme.</p> <p><b><i>Detailed activities of the SASP will be presented to the Fifth Inter-governmental Meeting of Ministers of SASP which will be held right after this meeting.</i></b></p>
3.00 – 3.30	<b>TEA BREAK</b>
3.30 – 4.00	<p><b>6.2 WORK PROGRAMME (2013-2015)</b></p> <p>Under this Agenda Item, the meeting will consider the approved work programme for 2011-2012 and make suggestions for its continuance through 2013-2015</p>
4.00 – 4.45	<p><b>7 FINANCIAL MATTERS</b></p> <p>Under this agenda item, the meeting will consider the review of the Country Contributions, External Funding, the Draft Secretariat Budget for 2014 -2015. It will also consider the Audit Reports of Accounts for the year 2009 and 2010 for endorsement.</p>
4.45 – 5.00	<p><b>8 CONSIDERATION OF THE DRAFT MINISTERIAL STATEMENT/ RESOLUTION / DECLARATION</b></p> <p>Under this agenda item, the meeting will finalize the Ministerial Statement /Resolution/Declaration to be Endorsed at the 13<sup>th</sup> Governing Council of SACEP.</p>
5.00 – 5.15	<p><b>9 CONSIDERATION OF THE DRAFT PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE 13<sup>TH</sup> GOVERNING COUNCIL</b></p> <p>Under this Agenda Item, the meeting will decide on the Draft Provisional Agenda for the 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Governing Council, which will be submitted to the Ministerial meeting for formal agreement.</p>

<b>TIME</b>	<b>AGENDA ITEM</b>
5.15 – 5.30	<p>10 <b>VENUE AND DATE FOR THE SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL AND THE 14<sup>TH</sup> GOVERNING COUNCIL</b></p> <p>Under this Agenda Item, the meeting will decide on the venue and tentative dates for the Special Session of the Governing Council and the 14<sup>th</sup> Governing Council meeting, which will be submitted to the Ministerial meeting for formal agreement.</p>
5.30 – 5.45	<p>11 <b>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</b></p> <p>Under this Agenda Item, the Preparatory Meeting of the Senior Officials may wish to discuss any other relevant matters that may be raised by the representatives participating at the Meeting or by the Secretariat.</p> <p><b>Partnership with Global Water Partnership (GWP) on Adaptation and Resilience to Climate Change</b></p> <p>Adaptation to Climate Change is among the major thematic areas of SACEP since 2005. SACEP developed a partnership with Global Water Partnership South Asia (GWP-SAS) in order to jointly implement the activities related to adaptation and resilience to climate change in the South Asia Region.</p> <p>Initially, it is decided to organize 2 workshops on capacity building and experience sharing. Development of the Regional Disaster Communication Strategy and a Database is expected to be implemented within the next two years.</p> <p><b><i>The Consultative Committee of SACEP was of the view that the activity is of sensitive nature and therefore the National Focal Points to provide observations on this activity to proceed further.</i></b></p> <p>1. Agenda Item 11 - Inf. Paper on Partnership with Global Water Partnership (GWP) on Adaptation and Resilience to Climate Change</p>

<b>TIME</b>	<b>AGENDA ITEM</b>
5.45 – 6.00	<p><b>12 ADOPTION OF REPORT</b></p> <p>Under this Agenda Item the Preparatory Meeting of the Senior Officials will consider and Adopt the Report which will be submitted to the Ministerial meeting</p>
6.00	<p><b>13 CLOSURE OF MEETING</b></p> <p>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.</p>

**SOUTH ASIA CO-OPERATIVE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME**

**Preparatory Meeting of Senior Officials for  
13<sup>th</sup> Governing Council Meeting of SACEP**

**Islamabad, Pakistan**  
**3 - 4 December 2013**

**DRAFT ANNOTATED AGENDA**

<b>TIME</b>	<b>AGENDA ITEM</b>
9.00 – 9.30	<p><b>1 OPENING OF THE MEETING</b></p> <p>It is expected that a Senior Dignitary from the Government of Pakistan will inaugurate the Meeting.</p>
9.30 – 10.00	<b>TEA BREAK</b>
10.00 - 12.00	<p><b>2 ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS</b></p> <p>In accordance with the Rules of Procedure of the Governing Council of SACEP, a new Chairman will be elected in a manner consistent with the Articles of Association of SACEP. One or more Vice Chairman, a Rapporteur and other officials may also be appointed by the Meeting. The Director General shall function as the Secretary of the Governing Council during its sessions.</p>
	<p><b>3 ADOPTION OF AGENDA AND ORGANISATION OF WORK</b></p> <p>The Meeting will consider the Provisional Agenda for adoption. Any matter regarding the Organisation of Work and the Sessions may also be considered.</p>
	<p><b>4 EFFECTIVE FUNCTIONING OF SACEP</b></p> <p>Under this agenda Item, the meeting will make a review of the implementation of earlier decisions, quality and effectiveness of SACEP programmes / activities and the imperative for reorientation of focus and transformation of SACEP. The non-paper revised by the Consultative Committee will be used as the background document.</p>
	<p><b>5 INSTITUTIONAL MATTERS</b></p> <p>Under this Agenda Item, the meeting will consider and submit its recommendations to the Governing Council regarding the Institutional Matters</p>

<b>TIME</b>	<b>AGENDA ITEM</b>
12.00 – 1.30	<b>LUNCH</b>
1.30 – 3.00	<p><b>6 PROGRAMME MATTERS</b></p> <p>6.1 Director General will present the project implementation status report under each of the projects listed below:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Implementation of Biodiversity related activities :</b></p> <p>6.1.1 <b>Capacity Building on Indicators as part of National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) Updating for South Asia and development of Clearing House Mechanisms (CHM)</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(Collaborators - UNEP / WCMC / SACEP; Funds received US \$ 37,711.99; Total spent US \$ 37,711.99 + SACEP in kind contribution)</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(Ref GC 13.SACEP / SoM; Agenda Item 7.2)</i></p> <p>As of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011 -2020 adopted at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP-10) of Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) held in Nagoya, Japan on 18 - 29 October 2010, Parties have been requested to update their National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans (NBSAP) with the new Aichi Biodiversity Targets and strategies.</p> <p>To support our member countries in this process, SACEP in collaboration with United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and World Conservation Monitoring Center (WCMC) successfully organized a capacity building workshop on “Indicators as part of NBSAP updating for South Asian countries” from 16 to 19 July 2012 in Colombo, Sri Lanka where two representatives of each SACEP member country participated.</p>



<b>TIME</b>	<b>AGENDA ITEM</b>
Contd.....	<p>SACEP has developed its capacity in the areas of Indicators Development in Updating NBSAP and creating CHMs. These technical expertise are available for its member countries.</p> <p><b>Workshop recommendations / output: Capacity of the relevant NBSAP Focal Points developed.</b></p> <p><b><i>It is recommended that SACEP Secretariat :</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) <b><i>to assist the member countries in updating NBSAP with necessary technical support for the development of indicators in the process of NBSAP updating.</i></b></li> <li>b) <b><i>to prepare a Regional Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan for South Asia, taking consideration into the recommendations of NBSAPs of the member countries.</i></b></li> </ul> <p><b><i>The National Focal Points are requested:</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) <b><i>To make use of the opportunity and utilize a part of the GEF funds available for NBSAP updating, to create their own National CHMs</i></b></li> <li>b) <b><i>To contribute a small amount of funds from the secured fund for NBSAP updating towards creating of Regional CHM which will be used as co-funding, as BoBLME will provide apart of the funding needed.</i></b></li> </ul> <p><b>Related Document</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Agenda Item 6.1.1 - Inf. Paper on Implementation of Biodiversity related activities</li> <li>2. Refer enclosed CD titled 'Publications of SACEP - Item 6.1.01.A'</li> <li>3. Refer enclosed CD titled 'Publications of SACEP Item - 6.1.01.B'</li> </ul>
	<p><b>6.1.2 Promoting Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) in South Asia</b></p> <p><i>(Collaborators - UNEP / SACEP; Funds received US \$ US \$ 73,254.48; Total spent US \$ 73,254.48)</i></p> <p><i>(Ref GC 13.SACEP / SoM; Agenda Item 7.2)</i></p>

TIME	AGENDA ITEM
contd.....	<p>Since 2005, successive Governing Councils of SACEP recommended Waste Management as one of the four broader thematic areas of concern when preparing its work plan. In the context of waste management, concepts of Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) can play a major role.</p> <p>SACEP in collaboration with UNEP organized a SWITCH-Asia Policy Support Component (PSC) Sustainable Consumption and Production Training of Trainers workshop, Negombo, Sri Lanka from 30 October - 1 November 2012.</p> <p><b>Workshop recommendations / output: Officials of member countries were trained as trainers.</b></p> <p><b><i>It is recommended that SACEP Secretariat to:</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) <b><i>develop a regional forum where all member countries can share their experiences and strengths in this area.</i></b></li> <li>b) <b><i>develop a regional strategy on Sustainable Consumption and Production.</i></b></li> </ul> <p>Related Document</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Agenda Item 6.1.2 - Inf. Paper on Promoting Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) in South Asia</li> <li>2. Refer enclosed CD titled 'Publications of SACEP - Item 6.1.02'</li> </ul>
	<p><b>6.1.3 Waste Management &amp; International Partnership for expanding management services of Local Authorities (IPLA)</b></p> <p>IPLA is a dynamic knowledge platform as well as a decentralized network established by United Nations Center for Regional Development (UNCRD) to address the needs of Local Authorities in achieving sustainable waste management. The objective of IPLA is to enable Local Authorities (LAs) to expand their waste management services by accelerating the uptake of waste-related infrastructure and services at various stages of waste management through promotion and facilitation of meaningful collaboration with a wide range of partners such as governments, business and financial sector, and civil society.</p>

<b>TIME</b>	<b>AGENDA ITEM</b>
contd.....	<p>As per the request made by International Environmental Technology Centre (IETC) Division of Technology, Industry &amp; Economics of UNEP, SACEP is currently in the process of organizing a sub-regional meetings in South Asia, to create awareness and disseminate the results of 'converting waste agricultural biomass into energy'.</p> <p><b><i>It is informed that the activity is under discussion and yet to be finalized.</i></b></p> <p><b>Related Document</b></p> <p>Agenda Item 6.1.3 - Inf. Paper on Waste Management &amp; International Partnership for expanding management services of Local Authorities (IPLA)</p>
	<p><b>6.1.4 Environmental Data and Information Management System for South Asia</b></p> <p><i>(Collaborators - UNEP / SACEP; Funds received US \$ 44,000.00; Total spent US \$ 44,000.00 + SACEP in kind contribution)</i></p> <p><i>(Ref GC 13.SACEP / SoM; Agenda Item 7.2)</i></p> <p>The proposal on Establishment of Environmental Data and Information Management System for South Asia was approved by the 11<sup>th</sup> GC of SACEP.</p> <p>SACEP in collaboration with United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) organized a two day Inception and Training Workshop on Establishment of Environmental Data and Information Management System for South Asia in Colombo, Sri Lanka from 9 - 10 February 2012.</p> <p>As of the recommendation of above workshop, a need assessment was undertaken and 1<sup>st</sup> draft was circulated among member countries for their comments.</p> <p>As per the request of UNEP, SACEP has submitted a revised budget amounting to US \$ 1 million, in January 2013.</p>

TIME	AGENDA ITEM
contd.....	<p><b><i>It is requested that the SACEP Secretariat to implement the project as soon as possible and UNEP to expedite the process of providing the funds</i></b></p> <p><b><i>The National Focal Points are requested to come prepared with actions taken and the progress</i></b></p> <p>Related Document</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Agenda Item 6.1.4 - Inf. Paper on Environmental Data and Information Management System for South Asia</li> <li>2. Refer enclosed CD titled 'Publications of SACEP - Item 6.1.04 - Workshop Report'</li> <li>3. Refer enclosed CD titled 'Publications of SACEP - Item 6.1.04 - Draft Need Assessment Report'</li> </ol>
	<p><b>6.1.5 Malé Declaration on Control and Prevention of Air Pollution and Its Likely Transboundary Effects for South Asia</b></p> <p><i>(Collaborators - UNEP / SACEP; Funds received US \$ 13,832.50; Balance to be received US \$ 15,000.00)</i></p> <p><i>(Ref GC 13.SACEP / SoM; Agenda Item 7.2)</i></p> <p>In April 1998, at the GC7-SACEP, the Environment Ministers of the region adopted the Malé Declaration on Control and Prevention of Air Pollution and Its Likely Transboundary Effects for South Asia. The implementation of the Malé Declaration was envisaged to be in phases.</p> <p>The next Phase to be implemented is Phase V (2014-2016). It aims to promote policy measures to control emissions of Air pollution including short –lived climate forces in South Asia and to ensure the sustainability and ownership of the Malé declaration in the region.</p>

TIME	AGENDA ITEM
contd.....	<p>The Thirteenth Intergovernmental Meeting (IG13) of the Malé Declaration was held in Dhaka, Bangladesh in 20 May 2013 and at the meeting the Draft Plan for Phase V and the Work Programme was presented for further review, guidance and approval. At the meeting it was identified that contribution of the participating countries is crucial for the successful implementation of phase V.</p> <p><b><i>National Focal Points to provide relevant data and information to SACEP Secretariat to prepare a comprehensive proposal to obtain funds to strengthen regional centres.</i></b></p> <p>Agenda Item 6.1.5 - Inf. Paper on Malé Declaration on Control and Prevention of Air Pollution and its likely Trans-boundary Effects for South Asia</p>
	<p><b>6.1.6 South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network (SAWEN)</b></p> <p><i>(Collaborators - TRAFFIC International / SACEP; Funds received US \$ 55,799.11; Total spent US \$ 55,799.11 + SACEP in kind contribution)</i></p> <p><i>(Ref GC 13.SACEP / SoM; Agenda Item 7.2)</i></p> <p>At GC 11-SACEP, through the “JAIPUR DECLARATION” has been agreed to establish South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network (SAWEN). Though the SAWEN was supposed to be established under SACEP, later on it was established as an independent entity and is based in Kathmandu, Nepal.</p> <p>On the invitation of government of Sri Lanka, SACEP agreed to co-organize the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of SAWEN in collaboration with government of Sri Lanka and TRAFFIC International which was held from 3 - 6 June 2012 in Negombo, Sri Lanka.</p> <p>The major point discussed at the meeting was the mechanism of channeling funds to the SAWEN from the possible World Bank project. In that context, SACEP has been suggested as the vehicle for channeling funds.</p>

<b>TIME</b>	<b>AGENDA ITEM</b>
contd.....	<p><b><i>If the World Bank proposal is accepted, SACEP Secretariat requested to facilitate as suggested.</i></b></p> <p><b>Related Document</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Agenda Item 6.1.6 - Inf. Paper on South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network (SAWEN)</li> <li>2. Refer enclosed CD titled 'Publications of SACEP - Item 6.1.06 - Draft Workshop Report'</li> </ol>
	<p><b>6.1.7 Establishment of Basel Convention Regional Centre for South Asia</b></p> <p>As directed by the ninth meeting of the Conference of Parties (CoP IX) of the Basel Convention held in June 2008 SACEP submitted an updated proposal for establishment of a Regional Centre for South Asia, to be located in SACEP Secretariat, Colombo, Sri Lanka. The updated proposal was taken into discussion at the 7<sup>th</sup> Open Ended Working Group (OEWG) meeting held from 10 – 14 May 2010.</p> <p>The issue regarding the overlap with the Iranian Centre was raised and as there was no Iranian delegation, the permanent Representative of Iran to the United Nations (UN) suggested both parties to have more deliberations in this regard.</p> <p>As several attempts to contact either Basel Convention Regional center (BCRC) Tehran or Basel Convention Focal Point of Iran failed, on the advice of 119 CC-SACEP, SACEP made negotiations through the Embassy of Iran in Sri Lanka which was not a success.</p> <p>Finally SACEP delegation met the Iranian delegation at the Ordinary and simultaneous extraordinary meetings of the Conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions which was held from 28 April - 10 May 2013 in Geneva, Switzerland where Iranian delegation said that they are not willing to discuss the matter.</p>

TIME	AGENDA ITEM
contd.....	<p><b><i>Considering the above developments it is suggested that the continuation of the Agenda Item on Establishment of Basel Convention Regional Centre for South Asia in SACEP work programme is no longer necessary and to be removed from this meeting onwards.</i></b></p> <p><b>Related Document</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Agenda Item 6.1.7 - Inf. Paper on Establishment of Basel Convention Regional Centre for South Asia</li> <li>2. Annex 1 of Inf. Paper</li> <li>3. Annex 2 of Inf. Paper</li> <li>4. Annex 3 of Inf. Paper</li> <li>5. Annex 4 of Inf. Paper</li> <li>6. Annex 5 of Inf. Paper</li> <li>7. Annex 6 of Inf. Paper</li> <li>8. Annex 7 of Inf. Paper</li> </ol>
	<p><b>6.1.8 Environmentally Sustainable Transport (EST)</b></p> <p><i>(Collaborators - UNCRD / SACEP; Funds allocated US \$ 36,479.00 - Funds Physically not received Remitted Direct to Workshop Host - India)</i></p> <p><i>(Ref GC 13.SACEP / SoM; Agenda Item 7.2)</i></p> <p>An MoU was signed between SACEP and the United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD) in March 2008 to promote Environmentally Sustainable Transport in South Asia. As a result, now, all SACEP member countries are actively participating at this platform.</p> <p>The 7<sup>th</sup> Regional Environmentally Sustainable Transport (EST) Forum in Asia, was held in Bali, Indonesia in May 2013. The participants of the Forum adopted the "Bali Declaration on Vision Three Zeros - Zero Congestion, Zero Pollution, and Zero Accidents towards Next Generation Transport Systems in Asia"</p>

<b>TIME</b>	<b>AGENDA ITEM</b>
contd.....	<p>Government of Sri Lanka officially announced to host the Eight Regional EST Forum in Asia 2014 in Sri Lanka and SACEP would support the Government of Sri Lanka in organizing the event next year.</p> <p><b>Related Document</b></p> <p>Agenda Item 6.1.8 - Inf. Paper on Environmentally Sustainable Transport (EST)</p>
	<p><b>6.1.9 Better Air Quality Conference (BAQ 2014)</b></p> <p>The Better Air Quality (BAQ) conference is a leading event on air quality in Asia, covering transport, energy, industry and climate change, with a particular emphasis on government policies and measures. It has become a major regional event through the efforts of the Clean Air Initiative for Asian Cities Center (CAI-Asia) and its partners. The BAQ 2012 was held in December 2012 in Hong Kong.</p> <p>At the 7<sup>th</sup> Regional EST Forum held in Bali, Indonesia, in April 2013, Clean Air Asia announced that the Better Air Quality 2014 (BAQ 2014) Conference would also be held back to back with the 8<sup>th</sup> Regional EST Forum. SACEP will be presenting the work initiated on Air Quality by its member countries during BAQ 2014.</p> <p><b><i>National Focal Points to communicate with SACEP Secretariat regarding presentation of country experiences and best practices during the conference</i></b></p> <p><b>Related Document</b></p> <p>Agenda Item 6.1.9 - Inf. Paper on Better Air Quality Conference (BAQ 2014)</p>
	<p><b>6.1.10 Preparation of South Asia position paper to reflect the post Rio +20 challenges related to environment sustainability (e.g. green economy, energy, water and sanitation etc.).</b></p> <p><i>(Collaborators - UNEP / SACEP; Funds received US \$ 35,000.00; Balance to be received US \$ 15,000.00)</i></p> <p><i>(Ref GC 13.SACEP / SoM; Agenda Item 7.2)</i></p>



<b>TIME</b>	<b>AGENDA ITEM</b>
contd.....	<p>The South Asia position paper was prepared to reflect the post Rio +20 challenges related to environment sustainability (e.g. green economy, energy, water and sanitation etc.).</p> <p>The position paper aimed in supporting the incorporation of Rio+20 related environment and climate change issues in South Asia sub-region post-2015 development agenda consultation processes. A draft was circulated among member countries and finalization workshop was held back to back with the South Asian Environment Outlook – 2013 Consultation in Kathmandu, Nepal on 30<sup>th</sup> May 2013</p> <p>The view of the Consultative Committee of SACEP was to keep the activity on hold after completing the position papers.</p> <p><b><i>National Focal Points to send the feed back on the Second Draft Report to SACEP Secretariat.</i></b></p> <p><b>Related Document</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Agenda Item 6.1.10 - Inf. Paper on Preparation of South Asia position paper to reflect the post Rio +20 challenges related to environment sustainability (e.g. green economy, energy, water and sanitation etc.).</li> <li>2. Refer enclosed CD titled 'Publications of SACEP - Item 6.1.10 - Second Draft Report'</li> </ol>
	<p><b>6.1.11 South Asian Regional Strategy on Mercury and associated impacts focusing on Health Sector</b></p> <p>In October 2013, a new international Convention, Minamata Convention on Mercury will be adopted and open for signature. This Convention will address the issues of mercury usage in various sectors and work towards phasing it out.</p>

TIME	AGENDA ITEM
contd.....	<p>Mercury is widely used in health sector all over the world and the situation is similar in South Asia as well. Lack of proper disposal methods is hampering the individual country's effort to phasing out the mercury contaminated equipment. With the adopting of new Convention, Global Environment Facility (GEF) is proposed as the financial mechanism for developing countries to undertake mercury related activities.</p> <p>SACEP is in the process of collecting baseline data on mercury usage in Health Sector in South Asian countries to develop a regional project for assisting its member countries.</p> <p><b><i>SACEP Secretariat to develop a regional project for assisting the member countries</i></b></p> <p><b><i>National Focal Points to provide baseline data on mercury usage in Health Sector.</i></b></p> <p>Related Document</p> <p>Agenda Item 6.1.11 - Inf. Paper on South Asian Regional Strategy on Mercury and associated impacts focusing on Health Sector</p>
	<p><b>6.1.12 Proposal for SACEP to be a GEF Project Agency</b></p> <p>SACEP was proposed to be accredited as a Global Environment Facility (GEF) Project Agency at the South Asia GEF constituency meeting held on 15 -16 May 2012 in Malé, Maldives and also agreed to provide allocation from STAR (GEF Cycle 5) for a GEF Project, by Government of Sri Lanka.</p> <p>As an outcome of the meeting, SACEP forwarded the application to GEF Secretariat and the Chairperson of the GEF responded that 11 applicant agencies are being reviewed by the GEF Accreditation Panel of GEF-5 and if GEF Secretariat decides in broadening the GEF partnership, the Council will consider SACEP's accreditation again at the beginning of GEF-6.</p>

TIME	AGENDA ITEM
	<p><b><i>National Focal Points to canvas relevant authorities (i.e. GEF Council Member, Alternate Member South Asia and GEF CEO etc) in support of SACEP's application.</i></b></p> <p>Related Document</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Agenda Item 6.1.12 - Inf. Paper on Proposal for SACEP to be a GEF Project Agency</li> <li>2. Annex to the Inf. Paper on Proposal for SACEP to be a GEF Project Agency</li> </ol>
	<p><b>6.1.13 Regional Cooperation for the Conservation and Wise-use of Internationally Important Wetlands in South Asia</b></p> <p>Draft document on regional co-operation was prepared in collaboration with Ramsar Secretariat and circulated amongst the SACEP member countries. The paper was presented and discussed at the Ramsar Convention Pre-CoP Asia meeting held in Jakarta, Indonesia from 14 – 18 November 2011.</p> <p>It is now being updated with new information received and is tabled for endorsement of the SACEP member states. Ramsar Secretariat is very much interested in signing an MoU with SACEP for enhancing cooperation amongst the South Asian countries for wise use of the regions wetlands.</p> <p><b><i>Draft document on regional co-operation on wetlands is placed for consideration at the 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the SACEP Governing Council.</i></b></p> <p>Related Document</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Agenda Item 6.1.13 - Inf. Paper on Regional Cooperation for the Conservation and Wise-use of Internationally Important Wetlands in South Asia</li> <li>2. Annex to the Inf. Paper on Regional Cooperation for the Conservation and Wise-use of Internationally Important Wetlands in South Asia</li> </ol>
	<p><b>6.1.14 South Asian Seas Programme (SASP)</b></p> <p>The South Asian Seas Programme is one of the 18 such programmes and it was established with the adoption of the South Asian Seas Action Plan in March 1995.</p>

<b>TIME</b>	<b>AGENDA ITEM</b>
contd.....	<p>Out of eight SACEP member countries, 5 maritime countries namely Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Pakistan and Sri Lanka are members of the SASP. SACEP is hosting the South Asian Seas Programme.</p> <p><b><i>Detailed activities of the SASP will be presented to the Fifth Inter-governmental Meeting of Ministers of SASP which will be held right after this meeting.</i></b></p>
3.00 – 3.30	<b>TEA BREAK</b>
3.30 – 4.00	<p><b>6.2 WORK PROGRAMME (2013-2015)</b></p> <p>Under this Agenda Item, the meeting will consider the approved work programme for 2011-2012 and make suggestions for its continuance through 2013-2015</p>
4.00 – 4.45	<p><b>7 FINANCIAL MATTERS</b></p> <p>Under this agenda item, the meeting will consider the review of the Country Contributions, External Funding, the Draft Secretariat Budget for 2014 -2015. It will also consider the Audit Reports of Accounts for the year 2009 and 2010 for endorsement.</p>
4.45 – 5.00	<p><b>8 CONSIDERATION OF THE DRAFT MINISTERIAL STATEMENT/ RESOLUTION / DECLARATION</b></p> <p>Under this agenda item, the meeting will finalize the Ministerial Statement /Resolution/Declaration to be Endorsed at the 13<sup>th</sup> Governing Council of SACEP.</p>
5.00 – 5.15	<p><b>9 CONSIDERATION OF THE DRAFT PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE 13<sup>TH</sup> GOVERNING COUNCIL</b></p> <p>Under this Agenda Item, the meeting will decide on the Draft Provisional Agenda for the 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Governing Council, which will be submitted to the Ministerial meeting for formal agreement.</p>

<b>TIME</b>	<b>AGENDA ITEM</b>
5.15 – 5.30	<p><b>10 VENUE AND DATE FOR THE SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL AND THE 14<sup>TH</sup> GOVERNING COUNCIL</b></p> <p>Under this Agenda Item, the meeting will decide on the venue and tentative dates for the Special Session of the Governing Council and the 14<sup>th</sup> Governing Council meeting, which will be submitted to the Ministerial meeting for formal agreement.</p>
5.30 – 5.45	<p><b>11 ANY OTHER BUSINESS</b></p> <p>Under this Agenda Item, the Preparatory Meeting of the Senior Officials may wish to discuss any other relevant matters that may be raised by the representatives participating at the Meeting or by the Secretariat.</p> <p><b>Partnership with Global Water Partnership (GWP) on Adaptation and Resilience to Climate Change</b></p> <p>Adaptation to Climate Change is among the major thematic areas of SACEP since 2005. SACEP developed a partnership with Global Water Partnership South Asia (GWP-SAS) in order to jointly implement the activities related to adaptation and resilience to climate change in the South Asia Region.</p> <p>Initially, it is decided to organize 2 workshops on capacity building and experience sharing.  Development of the Regional Disaster Communication Strategy and a Database is expected to be implemented within the next two years.</p> <p><b><i>The Consultative Committee of SACEP was of the view that the activity is of sensitive nature and therefore the National Focal Points to provide observations on this activity to proceed further.</i></b></p> <p>1. Agenda Item 11 - Inf. Paper on Partnership with Global Water Partnership (GWP) on Adaptation and Resilience to Climate Change</p>

<b>TIME</b>	<b>AGENDA ITEM</b>
5.45 – 6.00	<p><b>12 ADOPTION OF REPORT</b></p> <p>Under this Agenda Item the Preparatory Meeting of the Senior Officials will consider and Adopt the Report which will be submitted to the Ministerial meeting</p>
6.00	<p><b>13 CLOSURE OF MEETING</b></p> <p>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.</p>

### **Appointment of Director General of SACEP**

The Preparatory Meeting of the National Focal Points for the 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Governing Council of SACEP appointed a three member committee comprising of Maldives, Pakistan and Sri Lanka to resolve the matter of the Appointment of the Director General of SACEP on merit basis. Bhutan was requested to facilitate the negotiations.

Decision No. 9.1 of 12 GC-SACEP, based on the recommendation of the sub-committee, recommended that first option to propose a candidate as the Director General, SACEP to be given to Sri Lanka for a period of three years followed by Pakistan.

Thereafter, principle of rotation to be followed starting from the alphabetical order beginning from Afghanistan for a period of three years as per the decision of the High Level Meeting to Initiate the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme, 18 – 25 February 1981 in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

The secretariat was entrusted to draft the criteria for the selection of Director General and the Terms of Reference and was circulated to the member countries for comments.

The Chairman of the 12<sup>th</sup> Governing Council of SACEP, endorsed the Criteria for Selection of the Director General on Rotation with his letter ref 04/03//06/962 dated 18<sup>th</sup> January 2011 as per the decision of the 12GC.SACEP held on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2010, the 117<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Consultative Committee of SACEP held on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2010 and the comments/clearances received from SACEP member countries. **(Annex 1 – Approved Criteria)**

As per the approved criteria, government of Sri Lanka nominated Mr. S. M. D. P. Anura Jayatilake as the Director General of SACEP and he assumed duties on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2012 for a fixed term of three years.

The 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Governing Council of SACEP is informed that SACEP will be notifying Government of Pakistan by the end of the second year of the present Director General, to nominate a suitable candidate for the position of the Director General of SACEP as per approved Criteria based on the decision 9.1.2 of 11GC.SACEP. **(Annex 2)**

*“.....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”.*







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சுற்றுடல் அமைச்சு  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT

Annex 6  
GC 13.SACEP / NFP-SGO

GC 13.SACEP / SoM

Agenda Item 5 - Annex 1  
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My No. 04/03//06/962

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Your No.

දිනය  
திகதி  
Date 18<sup>th</sup> Jan. 2011

Ms Jacintha S. Tissera  
Officiating Director General  
South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme  
#10, Anderson Road, Colombo 05



Criteria and Terms of Reference for  
Selection of Director General of SACEP on Rotation

This has reference to your letter dated 12<sup>th</sup> January 2011, on the above subject.

As the Chairman of the Governing Council of the South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme (SACEP), I am pleased to endorse **the Criteria for Selection of the Director General of SACEP on Rotation, referred in Annex 1**, as decided at the 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Governing Council of SACEP (12GC.SACEP) held on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2010, the 117<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Consultative Committee of SACEP (117CC.SACEP) held on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2010 and based on the comments/clearances received from SACEP member countries.

Regards

Anura Priyadarshana Yapa  
Minister of Environment

Anura Priyadarashana Yapa, M.P  
Minister of Environment, Sri Lanka and  
Chairman, Governing Council of SACEP

Encl: **Annex 1** - Criteria for Selection of the Director General of South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme on Rotation and Terms of Reference

Noted  
Jinnas  
20/01/11

"මේ මහලොවේ සහ ගහකොළ මිනිසාට මෙන්ම අහසේ පිහිටි සියලුම සතුන්ට, මිනිසාට සහ සතුන්ටම, සියලු සතුන්ටම එකම අයිතිය."  
"நாம் வாழும் இந்த பூமி மற்றும் மரம் செடி கொடிகள் மனிதனுக்கு மட்டுமன்றி வான் வெளியில் பறந்து திரியும் பறவைகள் மற்றும் பூமியிலுள்ள விலங்குகளுக்கும், ஏனைய அனைத்து விலங்குகளுக்கும் சொந்தமானது"





**CRITERIA FOR SELECTION OF  
DIRECTOR GENERAL, SOUTH ASIA CO-OPERATIVE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME  
ON ROTATION**

**AND**

**TERMS OF REFERENCE**

South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP), based in Colombo, Sri Lanka is an Inter-governmental Organization established in 1982 to promote and support protection, management and enhancement of environment in the region ([www.sacep.org](http://www.sacep.org)). Its member countries are Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. SACEP is also the Secretariat of South Asian Seas Programme (SASP) covering its five marine member states.

As decided at the 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Governing Council of SACEP held on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2010 in Colombo, Sri Lanka, the first option to propose a candidate as the Director General of SACEP will be given to Sri Lanka for a period of three years followed by Pakistan. Thereafter, principle of rotation will be followed starting from the alphabetical order beginning from Afghanistan for a period of three years as per the decision of the High Level Meeting to Initiate the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme from 18 – 25 February 1981 in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

**JOB DESCRIPTION:**

The Director General, SACEP will be the head of the organization and provide leadership in the efficient and effective functioning of the organization and fulfillment of its mandate as contained in the Declaration and Articles of Association of SACEP and the decisions of the Meetings of the Governing Councils and the Consultative Committee of SACEP / SASP.

In particular the incumbent will be responsible for:

- overall administrative and financial control of the organization,
- programme planning, budgeting and resource mobilization, including fund-raising and co-financing,
- building and developing close relationships with the stakeholder bodies, including alliance partners and other organizations,
- performing other functions and responsibilities entrusted by the Governing Council and its Committees.
- Meeting the reporting requirements laid down by the Governing Council and the Consultative Committee



#### QUALIFICATIONS:

- He / She should have an Advanced University Degree (Ph.D. or Post Graduate qualification) in a relevant discipline (Social Sciences, Natural Sciences, Planning, Engineering, Law, Business Management, Environmental Management, Environmental Economics)
- 15 years of professional experience, of which, at least 10 years must be at a senior level with demonstrated planning, managerial and leadership capabilities and sound knowledge of environmental and sustainable development issues at the national, regional, and global levels
- Proven skill in identifying, formulating, planning, operating and monitoring environmental programmes, knowledge and experience of the procedures adopted by the UN Agencies and other technical or financial assistance agencies
- Excellent communication skills
- Good interpersonal skills and the ability to work in a multi-cultural, multi-ethnic environment with sensitivity and respect for diversity
- Age: 40-55 Years

It would also be desirable for the Director General to have an established and good working relationship with governments of SACEP member and non-member countries, international and regional bodies, aide agencies, relevant non-government organizations, senior management in private sector, corporations, companies and foundations, etc.

*(Source : Approved Advertisement and Guidelines & Procedure for the Recruitment of the DG.SACEP by Chairman GC.SACEP dated 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2004 and Offer of Appointment to the Post of Director General dated 1<sup>st</sup> February 2005)*

#### TERMS OF REFERENCE

The post of Director General, SACEP is a statutory appointment, on Contract Basis for a non-renewable term of three years at the Programme's Headquarters at Colombo, Sri Lanka. The appointment as Director General, SACEP will be governed by the following Terms and Conditions:

##### 1. Term of Service

- a) The Director General's appointment shall date from the day on which he / she leaves his / her last duty station to come to Colombo, and his / her salary (including overseas allowance, if any) is payable from that date, provided that salary is not payable for any periods of leave taken in the course of his / her journey to Colombo.
- b) The approved term of service as laid down in the Articles of Association and the Decision of the 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Governing Council of SACEP, will be deemed to commence from the date of the Director General's departure from his / her last duty station or normal place of residence to come to Colombo and will exclude travel time on transfer from Colombo and any accumulated leave taken at the end of his / her term of service.

*(Source : GC 4; page 37; Rule 16 a - b)*



**c) Period of Overlap**

The terms of office of the Director General and his / her successor may overlap for a period not exceeding two weeks plus travel time and accumulated leave: To provide for periods of overlap or to enable the change-over to take place at the most suitable time of year, the Governing Council, Consultative Committee may make small extensions to the terms of contract of the officers concerned subject to the provisions of Article 7 of the Articles of Association.

*(Source : GC 4 / page 37, Rule 16 c)*

**2. Resignation**

In case, if the Director General is withdrawn by his / her government or the Director General resigns, three months written notice shall ordinarily be given to the Chairman of the Consultative Committee. However, the resignation may be accepted on shorter notice. If the Director General stays less than the term of his / her original contract and if he / she has taken advantage of the provision for Home Leave payment of the costs of return travel to the normal place of residence shall be at the discretion of the Consultative Committee.

*(Source : GC 4; page 37; Rule 17)*

**3. Transport of Officer and the Family**

The selected candidate for appointment as Director General will obtain a Diplomatic Passport from the respective country government and other necessary travel documents including valid visa from the High Commission / Embassy of Sri Lanka of the concerning country, before the commencement of the journey.

*(Source : Offer of Appointment to the Post of Director General; 6 dated 1<sup>st</sup> February 2005)*

SACEP will pay the cost of economy class air travel or the equivalent by any other means of transport to Colombo from the normal place of residence or last duty station, and back to his / her normal place of residence for the Director General, spouse and dependent children (including step children and legally adopted children). The term "dependent children" covers those who are under age of 21 on first arrival in Sri Lanka and unmarried, and whom it is intended, will reside in Sri Lanka during the Director General's term of duty. A son or daughter of 21 years of age and above may also be considered a dependent for travel purpose, if physically disabled or mentally retarded.

In the case of a dependent child receiving full-time education outside Sri Lanka, the Secretariat will pay the cost of economy class return air fare between the Director General's normal place of residence and Colombo, once in every twelve months except in the twelve-month period in which the Director General has home leave.

*(Source : GC 4; page 37; Rule 18)*





#### 4. Shipment of Car

The Secretariat will pay the cost of shipment of a Director General's car from his / her normal place of residence or last duty station to Colombo and back to his / her normal place of residence.

(Source : GC 4; page 37; Rule 19)

#### 5. Removal Allowance

On the first appointment of the Director General and on his / her return to his / her normal place of residence, the Secretariat will pay actual removal expenses for household and personal effects up to a maximum stated below by the most economical means of transportation:

Air baggage accompanied:	66 lbs/person
Air Freight :	100 lbs/person
Surface Freight:	3,500 lbs/family
(300 cu. ft. or 8.50 cu. m)	

(Source : GC 4; page 38; Rule 20)

#### 6. Salary

a) The Director General will be given a fixed remuneration of US \$ 4,500/- per month.

(Source : 10 GC.SACEP – 11.1 – page 8, held in Kathmandu, Nepal on 25<sup>th</sup> Jan 2007)

b) Salary is inclusive of all allowances except Travel Allowance, Entertainment Allowance, Medical Expenses, Children's Education Allowance and Furnished Living Accommodation Allowance. The Director General may remit from Sri Lanka amounts up to the total of his / her salary as permitted by the Sri Lanka foreign exchange authorities.

(Source : GC 4; page 38; Rule 21. a)

c) The salary and allowances of the Director General are determined on the assumption that he / she will not be subject to taxation, but the Secretariat has no responsibility on account of any taxation that may, in spite of this assumption, be levied on such officer by his / her national Government.

(Source : GC 4; page 38; Rule 21.b and Gazette Notification (Extraordinary) 1426/17 under Diplomatic Privileges Act No 9 of 1996; (a) dated 5<sup>th</sup> January 2006)

#### 7. Travel Allowance

When absent from Colombo on official visits, the Director General will be entitled in addition to the salary, the Daily Subsistence Allowance applicable to staff members in the Director and the Principal Officer category of the United Nations for each country visited, subject to the fulfillment of administrative and financial instructions. Travel by air will be by economic class.



*Finances.*

In cases, where the per diem rate is not high enough to cover his / her reasonable expenses, he / she may claim actual expenses supported by vouchers. It is expected to travel in such a way as to economise time and expenses

*(Source : GC 4; page 38; Rule 23)*

Overseas travel of the Director General of SACEP should be approved by the Consultative Committee of SACEP and a report on the follow up actions should be submitted to CC-SACEP after attending the Meeting / Conference.

*(Source : 110 CC SACEP held on 30<sup>th</sup> October 2008)*

#### **8. Personal Accident Insurance**

Director General will be provided with insurance cover for capital sums of pounds sterling 10,000/- each, against personal accidents during their terms of office.

*(Source : GC 4; page 38; Rule 24)*

#### **9. Entertainment Allowance**

The Director General shall be entitled to be reimbursed in respect of expenditure incurred on entertainment in pursuance of the official representational functions. Such expenditure shall not in the total exceed the sum set aside for this purpose in the annual budget.

*(Source : GC 4; page 38; Rule 25)*

#### **10. Furnished Living Accommodation**

The Director General will be entitled to per diem allowance in lieu of house rent for the first 14 days in joining the Secretariat. In case of the spouse and maximum of 2 dependent children, the rate of per diem allowance will be 50% of the rate applicable for Colombo.

*(Source : Detailed Terms of Appointment; iii; dated 7<sup>th</sup> March 2005)*

The Director General will be provided a furnished living accommodation with a rental ceiling of Sri Lankan Rupees 65,000/- per month. A 10% increase in the rental ceiling would be permissible during the period of appointment.

*(Source : GC 4; page 38; Rule 26 revised by 96 CC SACEP held on 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2005)*

#### **11. Utility Expenses**

Utility Expenses payable by the Director General for his / her residence supported by vouchers will be borne by the Secretariat with ceilings as indicated below under each item :

- |                        |                 |
|------------------------|-----------------|
| a) Electricity         | - SLR 15,000.00 |
| b) Water               | - SLR 2,000.00  |
| c) Residence Telephone | - SLR 5,000.00  |

*(Source : Offer of Appointment to the Post of Director General; 5 dated 1<sup>st</sup> Feb 2005, revised by 117 CC SACEP held on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2010)*





## 12. Medical and Hospital Charges

Medical expenses payable by the Director General and the family supported by vouchers will be borne by the Secretariat up to a limit of Sri Lankan Rupees 100,000/- per year and pro rata for fractions of a year and if this allowance is not used in full, an entitlement not exceeding Sri Lankan Rupees 200,000/- may be carried over into any following year. The Director General, however, has the option to join SACEP medical insurance scheme to take out surgical and hospital expenses for self and family utilizing part of the medical allowance.

(Source : GC 4; page 38 & 39; Rule 27 revised by Special CC SACEP held on 11<sup>th</sup> Jan 1994)

## 13. Leave

The Director General will be entitled to an **Annual Leave** of 25 working days per annum during the term of appointment, and this may be taken either in or outside Sri Lanka. Leave shall be earned from the date of appointment. Leave for any period of service amounting to less than one complete year will be pro rata.

(Source : GC 4; page 39; Rule 28.a)

**Causal leave** will be fourteen working days per annum, unused casual leave lapses at the end of each calendar year.

(Source: GC 4; page 39; Rule 29)

There is no special provision for **Sick Leave**. The Secretariat may make an ad hoc decision in any case where the Director General is sick and has exhausted his / her leave entitlement.

(Source : GC 4; page 39; Rule 30)

**Home Leave** may be granted after completion of two years of service with the Secretariat to the Director General nominated by a country other than Sri Lanka, provided that he / she spends a substantial part of his / her leave in that country, and subject to his / her assurance in writing that he / she intends to serve the full term on his / her contract. The Secretariat will pay the cost of return passages (economy class for air travel or the equivalent by other means of transport) for the officer, the spouse, and dependent children, by the most direct route to the country by which he / she was nominated.

Except for travel time not exceeding five days each way, the leave involved shall be charged to annual leave. Daily Subsistence Allowance shall not be paid for journeys on home leave.

(Source : GC 4; page 39; Rule 31 & page 37; Rule 18 (a) and 104 CC.SACEP held on 7<sup>th</sup> Dec 2007)

## 14. Encashment of Accumulated Annual Leave

Encashment of Accumulated Annual Leave for the Director General with an upper ceiling of 70% of the Accumulated Annual Leave as a Terminal Benefit at the end of the tenure.

(Source : 105 CC.SACEP held on 19<sup>th</sup> December 2007)



### 15.Children's Education Allowance

Educational Allowance for 2 children upto the age of 21 years is payable.

In case, the children are studying in Sri Lanka / Third Country, 75% of the actual expenses will be reimbursed subject to a ceiling of US \$ 3,000/- per child per annum and where as the children are studying in their home country, a lump sum amount of US \$ 1,500/- per, child per annum.

*(Source : Special CC SACEP held on 6<sup>th</sup> February 1995 and 100 CC SACEP held on 30<sup>th</sup> August 2006)*

When the Director General is from Sri Lanka and his / her children are studying in Sri Lanka 75% of the actual expenses will be reimbursed subject to a ceiling of US \$ 1,500/- per child per annum and where as the children are studying in another country, the expenses will be reimbursed subject to a ceiling of US \$ 3,000/- per child per annum.

*(Source : 117 CC SACEP held on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2010)*

### 16.Official Car

The Director General will be provided an official car for self and family use, which is maintained by SACEP.

*(Source : Detailed Terms of Appointment; vii; dated 7<sup>th</sup> March 2005)*

### 17.Customs Privileges

(a) By arrangement with the Government of Sri Lanka, the Director General is entitled to privileges as contained in Sections 19, 20 and 21 of the Convention on Privileges and Immunities of the Specialized Agencies of the United Nations. "First Entry" is interpreted as including the first six months of their stay for the purpose of importing such durable goods as automobiles and refrigerators, on the understanding that only one of each such article is brought by the Director General.

(b) Items brought to the country duty free should not be sold to private parties but handed over to the Government Supplies Department on Government valuation.

*(Source : GC 4; page 39; Rule 32)*

### 18.Standards of Conduct

The Director General will conduct him/herself at all times with fullest regard for the purpose and principles of SACEP and in a manner befitting his / her relationship with SACEP and shall not engage in any activity that is incompatible with those purposes and principles or the proper discharge of his / her duties with the Programme. He/she will avoid any action and in particular of any kind of public pronouncement, which may adversely reflect on that relationship, or on the integrity, independence and impartiality, which are required by the relationship.

*(Source : Offer of Appointment to the Post of Director General; 8 dated 1<sup>st</sup> February 2005)*





#### **19.Termination of Service**

SACEP reserves the right to terminate the appointment of the Director General, in the event of gross misconduct, default or in some other circumstances, which will render the contract unenforceable. Notice for termination would not be applicable in such cases.

*(Source : Offer of Appointment to the Post of Director General; 12 dated 1<sup>st</sup> February 2005)*

#### **20.Sudden Demise**

Considering the special circumstances, the family of the late Director General will be compensated with an ex-gratia payment of US \$ 8,000/- as a special gesture.

*(Source : 50 CC.SACEP held on 25<sup>th</sup> May 1993)*

#### **21.Rights and Obligations of the Director General, SACEP**

The rights and obligations of the Director General, SACEP are strictly limited to the Terms and Conditions of the Service Contract. Accordingly, he / she shall not be entitled to any benefit, payment, subsidy, compensation or pension from SACEP, except as expressly provided in the contract.

*(Source : 117 CC.SACEP held on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2010)*

#### **22.Use of Name, Emblem or Official Seal of SACEP or SASP**

The Director General shall not use the name, emblem or the official seal of SACEP / SASP or any abbreviation of the name of SACEP and SASP for any purpose except for strict official use.

*(Source : 117 CC.SACEP held on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2010)*

#### **23.Title Rights**

The title rights, copyrights and all other rights of whatsoever nature in any material product under the provisions of this contract shall be vested exclusively in SACEP.

*(Source : 117 CC.SACEP held on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2010)*

#### **General**

24. All disputes arising shall be dealt with in accordance with the relevant laws of Sri Lanka.

*(Source : Offer of Appointment to the Post of Director General; 13 dated 1<sup>st</sup> February 2005)*

25.The Organization reserves the right at its discretion to effect changes in the job description and the duties and tasks to be performed as may be deemed necessary.

*(Source : Offer of Appointment to the Post of Director General; 9 dated 1<sup>st</sup> February 2005)*



*Signature*

**ANNEX 1**

26. The Director General will take reasonable steps to ensure that Programme's assets are adequately safeguarded and optimised.

*(Source : Offer of Appointment to the Post of Director General; 10 dated 1<sup>st</sup> February 2005)*

27. The Director General will be governed by the provisions relating to financial and administrative matters of the secretariat and other such rules as applicable during the period of his / her stay at SACEP.

*(Source : Detailed Terms of Appointment – Last sentence dated 7<sup>th</sup> March 2005)*





## **REPORT**

### **THE ELEVENTH MEETING OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL**

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

**22 MAY 2008  
JAIPUR, INDIA**

## **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 11<sup>th</sup> 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 31<sup>st</sup> 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.

## **Progress Report and Calendar of Activities**

### **South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP)** **December 2010 to date**

#### **Implementation of Biodiversity related activities**

*Ref : GC 13.SACEP / SoM; Agenda Item 6.1.1*

#### **a) Sub-regional Capacity-building Workshop for South Asia on the Clearing-House Mechanism**

SACEP in collaboration with Secretariat of Convention on Biological Diversity and with the generous support of the Governments of Japan and Belgium, organized a Sub-regional Capacity-building Workshop for South Asia on the Clearing-House Mechanism in Dehradun, India from 12 to 16 December 2011. The capacity building workshop consisted of national and technical presentations, questions and answers sessions, and discussions. A full day was devoted to a hands-on training provided by the Belgian CHM focal point. The workshop was attended by 17 government-nominated officials from SACEP member countries involved in the CHM and in the NBSAP process. (Participants included representatives from Bangladesh - 2, Bhutan -2, India -6, Maldives -2, Nepal - 2, Pakistan - 1, and Sri Lanka - 2).

*(Enclosed Digital Copy of the Workshop Report)*

#### **b) Capacity Building on Indicators as part of National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) Updating for South Asia**

The South Asia Capacity Building Workshop on Indicators as part of National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) updating was held from 16 - 19 July 2012 in Sri Lanka. The overall objective of the workshop was to strengthen capacity in the development of indicators as part of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan updating process.

The workshop brought together a total of 28 delegates from the SACEP member countries, which included representatives from government ministries, national environmental agencies, research centers, University academics and NGOs. Representatives from SACEP, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), UNEP Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, also participated at this workshop and contributed their expertise in information sources and monitoring systems.

The workshop was funded by the European Commission through UNEP and organized by SACEP in collaboration with UNEP and UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC).

SACEP look forward to joining with UNEP and WCMC in all their future activities in the field of biodiversity conservation in the South Asia region, as well as promoting



Biodiversity Clearing House Mechanisms and enhancing synergies between biodiversity related Multilateral Environmental Agreements.

SACEP has developed its capacity in the areas of Indicators Development in Updating NBSAP and creating CHMs. These technical expertise are available for its member countries.

*(Enclosed Digital Copy of the Workshop Report)*

**c) 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 11) of the Convention on Biological Diversity  
3 - 18 October 2012, Hyderabad, India**

The Sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties (COP-MOP-6) to the Cartagena Protocol on Biodiversity and the 11<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP-11) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) held in Hyderabad, India from 1 – 19 October 2012.

SACEP organized a side event on “Challenges to Biodiversity of South Asia and Aichi Targets”, on 18 October 2012. The Minister of Environment, Government of Sri Lanka and the Chairman of the 12<sup>th</sup> Governing Council of SACEP was the Chief Guest and the Minister of Environment and Energy, Republic of Maldives participated as the Guest of Honour. Bhutan, Bangladesh, Maldives, Pakistan and Sri Lanka made country presentations at the side event. On behalf of SACEP the Director General made a presentation which was followed by a questions and answers session.

SACEP also organized an Exhibition Stall at the venue of COP-MOP-6 and COP-11 of the CBD from 1 to 19 October 2012 in Hyderabad. During the period, a vast number of Delegates and others visited the SACEP stall which included government officials, representatives of various organizations and students from schools, universities and other education institutes. SACEP publications and Information DVDs were distributed to the visitors.

**Promoting Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) in South Asia**

*Ref: GC 13.SACEP / SoM; Agenda Item 6.1.2*

SWITCH-Asia is a project funded by the European Union (EU) aimed at promoting Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) across the Asian region. It works with both producers and consumers on the ground as well as at the policy-making levels in formulating and implementing of SCP-related policies. A €152 million budget is earmarked for the programme under the Regional Strategy for Asia covering the period 2007-2013. Overall, SWITCH-Asia aims to promote sustainable growth and contribute to economic prosperity and poverty reduction in Asia. At the same time it is mitigating climate change in targeted countries. This is to be achieved through improved understanding and strengthened cooperation between Europe and Asia.

Within South Asia, it intends assist SMEs (Small and Medium Scale Enterprises) in adopting Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) practices and by mobilizing the private sector, retailers, producer and consumer organizations and groups as well as the relevant public sector authorities. Under this project, UNEP is responsible for the Policy Support Component (PSC), working towards incorporation of SCP into national and regional policy.

A three days Training Programme was organized as a collaborative venture between SACEP and UNEP which brought together 25 policy makers from 7 countries. It was held from 30 October – 1 November 2012, in Sri Lanka.

The objective of the training was to build the capacity of policy makers across the South Asian region, in designing and implementing policies that support SCP and a Green Economy. The training covered the fundamentals of SCP policy, identifying key sectors for policy reform, while highlighting case studies and best practices across the Asia-Pacific region. The programme introduced the SCP Policy cycle and focused on thematic SCP policy options and opportunities.

Experts / resource persons delivered the training and facilitated the workshop on the fundamentals of SCP, the SCP policy cycle and identified thematic opportunities for SCP policy development. The training was delivered as a Training of Trainers. Participants were provided with all the material, along with a guide for trainer's booklet, to enable them to facilitate further training within their own countries. The training was a result of an extensive capacity building needs assessment conducted in 2011-12, under the SWITCH-Asia PSC.

*(Digital Copy of the Workshop Report Enclosed)*

SACEP is working towards taking this step forward to develop a regional forum where all member countries can share their experiences and strengths in this area. This will facilitate to development of a regional strategy in future.

## **Waste Management**

### **a) International Partnership for Expanding Waste Management Services of Local Authorities (IPLA).**

*Ref : GC 13.SACEP / SoM; Agenda Item 6.1.3*

The United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), the United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD), and the Ministry of the Environment of Japan (MOEJ) jointly organized the "CSD-19 Inter-sessional Conference on Building Partnerships for Moving towards Zero Waste" from 16 - 18 February 2011 in Tokyo. It was attended by participants including representatives of local and national governments, public waste utilities, the private sector, academia, and NGOs, and international resource persons from Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, North America, and Oceania as well as UN organizations, Development Agencies and Regional organizations.

At this meeting the need to create a new partnership was identified and the meeting unanimously endorsed the establishment of the International Partnership for Expanding Waste Management Services of Local Authorities (IPLA). The objective of IPLA is to enable local authorities (LAs) to expand their waste management services by accelerating the uptake of waste-related infrastructure and services at various stages of waste management through promotion and facilitation of meaningful collaboration with a wide range of partners such as governments, business and financial sector, and civil society. The final goal of IPLA is to help LAs move towards a Zero Waste scenario on a global level.

SACEP became a Sub Regional Secretariat for South Asia to IPLA, of the United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD) along with other International Organizations. IPLA was officially launched during the CSD19 Side Event on Building Partnerships for Moving Towards Zero Waste on 12 May 2011 in New York.

IPLA serves as a moderator for fostering regional cooperation. As the Sub Regional Secretariat for South Asia, SACEP assisted IPLA in identifying two Higher level representatives from the South Asia Region to attend the IPLA Global Forum 2013 on Sustainable Waste Management for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Cities - Building Sustainable and Resilient Cities through Partnership held in the City of Borås, Sweden, from 9 - 11 September 2013.

**b) International Conference on Waste Management: Towards Waste Free Sri Lanka, 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2013, Colombo, Sri Lanka**

SACEP was a partner for an International Conference on Waste Management: Towards Waste Free Sri Lanka. The conference was held on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2013 in Colombo Sri Lanka.

Conference was organized by Geocycles and many eminent resource persons delivered their thoughts on the subject.

Geo-cycle is a business unit of Holcim (Lanka) Limited, a company incorporated in Sri Lanka which provides Sustainable Waste Management Solutions for industrial wastes.

*(Digital Copy of the e-book Enclosed)*

**c) Proposal for SACEP to host a sub-regional meeting on converting waste agricultural biomass into energy**

As per the request made by International Environmental Technology Centre (IETC) Division of Technology, Industry & Economics, United Nations Environment



Programme (UNEP), SACEP is currently in the process of Organizing a sub-regional meeting in South Asia, to create awareness and disseminate the results of the work done in India on the Project on “converting waste agricultural biomass into energy”.

An estimated budget has been submitted by SACEP to UNEP.

#### **d) Project Proposals on Waste Management**

The above proposal was developed under a MoU signed between UNEP-ROAP and SACEP and was approved at the 11GC.SACEP. The project proposal has been submitted to UNEP-ROAP requesting funds for implementation.

A positive feedback has been given by UNEP-ROAP which is yet to be finalized.

#### **Environmental Data and Information Management System for South Asia**

*Ref: GC 13.SACEP / SoM; Agenda Item 6.1.4*

The 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Governing Council of SACEP held in August 2005 in Thimphu, Bhutan identified Data and Information Management as one of the key areas concerned in the region. SACEP Secretariat prepared a detailed project proposal to establish an Environmental Data and Information System for South Asia and was approved by the 11<sup>th</sup> Governing Council of SACEP held in May 2008 at Jaipur, India.

As an initial step, SACEP in collaboration with UNEP organized a two day Inception and Training Workshop on Establishment of Environmental Data and Information Management System for South Asia from 9 – 10 February 2012 in Colombo Sri Lanka.

Secondly, a Need Assessment Study has been entrusted with the Development Alternatives, India. It was funded by the UNEP and first draft was circulated among member countries for their comments.

SACEP is in continuous dialog with UNEP and as per the request of UNEP, SACEP has submitted a revised budget amounting to US \$ 1 million, in January 2013 for establishment of the Data Information System for South Asia.

(Digital Copies enclosed ; a) Workshop Report and b) Draft Need Assessment

#### **Malé Declaration on Control and Prevention of Air Pollution and its likely Trans-boundary Effects for South Asia.**

*Ref: GC 13.SACEP / SoM; Agenda Item 6.1.5*

Phase I, II and III of the Malé Declaration on Control and Prevention of Air Pollution and its likely Trans-boundary Effects for South Asia was implemented successfully by UNEP in partnership with SACEP with the financial support from SIDA.

The 11<sup>th</sup> Intergovernmental Meeting of Malé Declaration (IG-11) held in Bangladesh on 20-21 January 2010, adopted the implementation plan for phase IV (2010-2012).

The Second Meeting of the Task Force was held on 29-30 November 2010 in Colombo, Sri Lanka in collaboration with SACEP to discuss following;

- a) further steps on the establishment of a sustainable financing mechanism for Malé Declaration;
- b) feasibility study for establishing regional technical centres; and strengthening the Regional framework for air pollution reduction in South Asia.

12<sup>th</sup> Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting (IG12) of the Malé Declaration was held in New Delhi, India in June 2011. The below mentioned activities were carried out after the IG12.

1. The First Capacity Building Workshop of the Joint Forum on Atmospheric Environment in Asia and the Pacific, 21-22 July 2011 in Pathumthani, Thailand.
2. National Workshop on Awareness and Education on Air Pollution and Male' Declaration on Transboundary Air Pollution, Phase IV Implementation, 25 July 2011, Sri Lanka
3. Workshop on Health Impact Assessment was held in Dhaka, Bangladesh on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2012.
4. A National "Youth for Clean Air Awareness Workshop" was held in January 2012 in Dhaka, Bangladesh and the Regional Workshop on "Youth for Clean Air " was held in February 2012 in Ahmedabad, India.
5. 5<sup>th</sup> Training on Emission Inventory of the Male' Declaration on Control and Prevention of Air Pollution and Its Likely Transboundary Effects for South Asia, 21 - 25 May 2012, Sri Lanka
6. Third Meeting of the Task Force for Future Development of Male' Declaration on Control and Prevention of Air Pollution and Its Likely Transboundary Effects for South Asia, 09 - 10 August 2012, Chonburi, Thailand
7. The 9<sup>th</sup> Refresher Training on Monitoring Transboundary Air Pollution was held on 10-12th December 2012 in New Delhi, India.

As per recommendations of the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> Governing Councils, SACEP signed a MoU with UNEP in April 2010, to carry out following tasks within the framework of the 'Phase IV of the Malé Declaration on Control and Prevention of Air Pollution and its Likely Trans-boundary Effects for South Asia'.

- Assist in conducting the feasibility study on the establishment of specialized regional centers
- Assist in conducting the feasibility study on developing a regional framework such as convention on air pollution in South Asia
- Compile good practices for the reduction of air pollution in South Asia.

The above tasks were successfully completed with assistance of the Task Force on Future Development of Malé Declaration and the Malé Declaration Secretariat.

The Seventh Regional Stake-Holders Meeting cum Coordination Meeting (RSC7) and the Thirteenth Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting (IG13) of the Malé Declaration on Control and Prevention of Air Pollution and its Likely Transboundary Effects for South Asia was held from 18 – 20 May 2013 in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

The Draft Plan for Phase V (2014 – 2016) and the Work Programme was presented to IG13 for further review, guidance and approval. The Phase V aims to promote policy measures to control Air pollution including short-lived climate forces in South Asia and to ensure the sustainability and ownership of the project of Malé Declaration on Control and Prevention of Air Pollution and its likely Transboundary Effects for South Asia

It was also identified that contribution of the participating countries is crucial for the successful implementation of phase V.

SACEP is now in the process of developing a specific project proposal to secure funding support from SAARC Development Fund (SDF) and funding agencies for implementation of some of the activities of Phase V, specifically strengthening of Regional Centers of Male' Declaration.

*(Digital Copy of the Draft Report on Good Practices for the reduction of air pollution in South Asia Enclosed)*

### **South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network (SAWEN)**

*Ref : GC 13.SACEP / SoM; Agenda Item 6.1.6*

SAWEN which was launched last year, comprises of the eight member countries of SACEP. SAWEN was established as per the decision of the 11 GC-SACEP. Independent SAWEN Secretariat is established in Kathmandu, Nepal.

The First Regional Meeting of the South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network (SAWEN), took place in Negombo, Sri Lanka from 3 - 6 June 2012. Government of Sri Lanka hosted this meeting in collaboration with TRAFFIC International and SACEP to devise operational plans to combat illegal trade affecting some of the region's most threatened wildlife species and also worked on an updated work programme and discussed issues such as intelligence gathering, information sharing, capacity building and law enforcement cooperation.

The meeting was attended by over thirty wildlife and law enforcement officials from all eight South Asian countries. Participants also included experts from INTERPOL, the World Customs Organization's Regional Intelligence Liaison Office for the Asia-Pacific, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, World Bank, the ASEAN Wildlife Enforcement Network, the Global Tiger Forum, SACEP, TRAFFIC and WWF. The

proceedings of the meeting consisted of technical and interactive sessions providing a forum for delegates from all South Asian countries.

Until necessary arrangements are made the funds from the possible World Bank Project to SAWEN will be channeled through SACEP.

In an important effort to address source-to-market law enforcement co-operation, the CITES Management Authority of China also joined the meeting as an observer. China shares terrestrial borders with five South Asian countries, and is a major trade partner with the region.

The meeting identified a number of priorities for enhancing regional co-operation, and it focused on species such as Asian big cats, elephants, freshwater turtles, falcons, rhinos and marine turtles.

*(Digital Copy of the Draft Workshop Report Enclosed)*

### **Establishment of Basel Convention Regional Centre for South Asia**

*Ref: GC 13.SACEP / SoM; Agenda Item 6.1.7*

As directed by the CoP IX of the Basel Convention held in June 2008 SACEP submitted an updated proposal for establishment of a Regional Centre for South Asia, to be located in SACEP Secretariat, Colombo, Sri Lanka. The updated proposal was taken into discussion at the 7th Open Ended Working Group (OEWG) meeting held from 10 – 14 May 2010.

The issue regarding the overlap with the Iranian Centre was raised and as there was no Iranian delegation, the permanent Representative of Iran to the UN suggested both parties to have more deliberations in this regard.

SACEP made several attempts to contact either BCRC Tehran or Basel Convention Focal Point of Iran. As none was successful, on the advice of the 119<sup>th</sup> Consultative Committee, SACEP made negotiations through the Embassy of Iran in Sri Lanka which also was not a success.

Finally SACEP delegation met the Iranian delegation at the Ordinary and simultaneous extraordinary meetings of the Conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions which was held from 28 April - 10 May 2013 in Geneva, Switzerland where Iranian delegation said that they are not willing to discuss the matter.

*(Enclosed Digital Copy of Need Assessment Report – Annex 3)*

### **Environmentally Sustainable Transport (EST)**

*Ref: GC 13.SACEP / SoM; Agenda Item 6.1.8*

This activity was initiated as a result of a MoU signed between SACEP and the United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD) to promote

Environmentally Sustainable Transport in South Asia in March 2008. As a result all SACEP member countries are now actively participating at this platform.

The South Asian countries continue to face vast challenges in realizing safe, secure, people and environment friendly, affordable, and climate resilient transport system. At the same time, the rapid pace of urbanization throughout the region has further compounded these challenges.

SACEP in collaboration with UNCRD, the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation (AMC), and Ministry of Environment of the Government of Japan (MOE-Japan) organized a Sub-Regional EST Training Workshop-cum-Policy Dialogue in South Asia, which was held from 26 - 28 August 2011 in Ahmedabad, India. This workshop was attended by participants from the Ministry of Environment of SACEP member countries along with officials from the Ministry of Transport/Urban Development. The workshop was also attended by participants comprised of other government department representatives from India, resource persons, representatives from various international organizations, and local observers from Ahmadabad, India

The 7<sup>th</sup> EST Forum held in Bali, Indonesia, 23-25 April 2013 provided ample opportunities to discuss and share the progress and achievements made by member countries of the EST Forum towards achieving the goals under the 'Bangkok 2020 Declaration' and also to address EST in the context of Rio+20 Outcomes – 'The Future We Want'. A Global Consultation on Sustainable Transport in the Post 2015 Development Agenda was also held on 25 April 2013 in concurrence with the Seventh Regional EST Forum.

South Asia was represented by the 8 member countries of SACEP and SACEP was a panelist at the Plenary Session 5, on Green Freight Issues – A Framework for a Regional Agreement on Green Freight in Asia.

The 8<sup>th</sup> EST Forum will be held in Colombo, Sri Lanka in October 2014 and SACEP would facilitate this Forum as a co-organizer. The EST Forum 2014 will be held back to back with Better Air Quality (BAQ) 2014, organized by Clean Air Initiative Asia and Government of Sri Lanka.

**Preparation of South Asia position paper to reflect the post Rio +20 challenges related to environment sustainability (e.g. green economy, energy, water and sanitation etc.).**

*Ref: GC 13.SACEP / SoM; Agenda Item 6.1.10*

As a follow up of the Rio+20, 'The Future We Want', SACEP under financial support of UNEP developed a South Asia Position Paper.

The South Asia position paper was prepared to reflect the post Rio +20 challenges related to environment sustainability (e.g. green economy, energy, water and sanitation etc.). The position paper is aimed at supporting the incorporation of

Rio+20 related environment and climate change issues in South Asia sub-region post-2015 development agenda consultation processes.

A Regional Consultation Workshop on Post RIO+20 South Asia Development Agenda was held in Kathmandu, Nepal on 30<sup>th</sup> May 2013. The workshop was organized by UNEP, SACEP and Development Alternatives (DA) India.

The objective of the Consultation Workshop was to review the draft “South Asia Position Paper” on post Rio +20 and provide comments and inputs, with a view to improve and finalize the paper.

The Second Draft with the incorporation of the Suggestions / comments and recommendations of the member states are yet to be circulated.

*(Enclosed Digital Copies of; a) Concept Note and b) Draft Position Paper)*

### **South Asian Regional Strategy on Mercury and associated impacts focusing on Health Sector**

*Ref : GC 13.SACEP / SoM; Agenda Item 6.1.11*

In October 2013, the Minamata Convention on Mercury will be adopted and opened for signature. This Convention will address the issues of mercury usage in various sectors and work towards phasing out it. Mercury is widely used in health sector all over the world and the situation is similar in South Asia as well. Lack of proper disposal methods is hampering the individual country's effort to phasing out the mercury contaminated equipment. With the adopting of new Convention, GEF is proposed as financial mechanism for developing countries to undertake mercury related activities.

SACEP is in the process of collecting baseline data on mercury usage in Health Sector in South Asian countries to develop a regional project for assisting its member countries.

### **Partnership with Global Water Partnership (GWP) on Adaptation and Resilience to Climate Change**

*Ref : GC 13.SACEP / SoM; Agenda Item 11*

Adaptation to Climate Change is among the major thematic areas of SACEP since 2005. SACEP is in the process of developing a partnership with GWP-SAS in order to jointly implement the activities related to adaptation and resilience to climate change in the South Asia Region.

Initially, it is proposed to organize 2 workshops on capacity building and experience sharing. Development of the Regional Disaster Communication Strategy and a Database is expected to be implemented within the next two years.



**Proposal for SACEP to be a GEF Project Agency**

*Ref: GC 13.SACEP / SoM; Agenda Item 6.1.12*

SACEP was proposed to be accredited as a GEF Project Agency at the South Asia GEF constituency meeting held on 15 -16 May 2012 in Male', Maldives. Government of Sri Lanka agreed to provide allocation from STAR (GEF Cycle 5) for a GEF Project in this Registration / Accreditation process.

Thereafter, SACEP forwarded the application to GEF Secretariat on 18<sup>th</sup> June 2012. The GEF has indicated that SACEP application for GEF Partnership will consider for accreditation at the beginning of GEF-6.

**Regional Cooperation for the Conservation and Wise-use of Internationally Important Wetlands in South Asia**

*Ref: GC 13.SACEP / SoM; Agenda Item 6.1.13*

Draft document on regional co-operation was prepared in collaboration with Ramsar Secretariat and circulated amongst the SACEP member countries. The paper was presented and discussed at the Ramsar Convention Pre-CoP Asia meeting held in Jakarta from 14 – 18 November 2011.

It is now being updated with new information received and is tabled for endorsement of the SACEP member states. The updated document will be put into action through a MoU with Ramsar Secretariat and SACEP for enhancing cooperation amongst the South Asian countries for wise use of the regions wetlands.

*(Enclosed Draft Policy Paper)*

**Consultation Workshop on South Asia Environment Outlook (SAEO) – 2013  
28 - 29 May 2013, Kathmandu, Nepal**

The Global Environment Outlook, GEO is the United Nations Environment Programme's (UNEP) flagship assessment to provide comprehensive, science-based, policy-relevant information on the current state and future prospects of the global environment and its interactions with human well-being. Increasingly, the GEO approach also serves as a basis for preparing integrated environmental assessments and outlooks at the sub-global—regional, national, local levels around the world.

To date, UNEP has published five comprehensive GEO reports and many regionally or thematically focused outlook reports are following the same assessment and reporting methodology.

In 1998 SACEP in collaboration with UNEP assisted its member countries to prepare and publish their respective Nation State of Environment (SoE) Reports.

Meantime SACEP published South Asia Regional SOE Report and the Youth Version of it during the period.

Since then SACEP has been a part of the consultation process for preparation of the South Asia Environmental Outlook (SAEO).

The SAEO 2013 aimed to review and analyze the current environmental state and trends, identify emerging issues, and provide policy options for consideration by governments to address the priority environmental issues identified by the 8 South Asian countries, namely Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. This report will be an update of the First SAEO Report which was published in 2009.

A Consultation Workshop on South Asia Environment Outlook (SAEO) – 2013 was organized under the auspices of the Secretariat of the South Asia Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) in collaboration with UNEP, SACEP and Development Alternatives (DA), from 28-29 May 2013 in Kathmandu, Nepal.

The primary objective of this consultation Workshop was to ;

1. review the draft SAEO 2013 report, identify the data and information gaps and sources;
2. review and agree on the content and data for various chapters of the SAEO; and
3. Decide on the activity schedule for completion of the SAEO.

*(Enclosed Digital Copy - First Draft of SAEO 2013)*

### **Library of SACEP**

SACEP has almost completed taking an Inventory of all the publications received by the secretariat since its inception which could be referred easily under specified categories.

SACEP is in the process of scanning its own publications in-house which enables to refer the documents in digital format.

More than 99% of the publications of SACEP since its inception are in digital form now.



## **Index of Digital Reports**

- 6.1.01a - 2011.12.12-16 - Workshop Report - Capacity building for the CHM of CBD in South Asia.pdf
- 6.1.01b - 2012.07.16 - South Asia Biodiversity Indicators Partnership (BIP) Capacity Building Workshop Report.pdf
- 6.1.02 - 2012.10.30 - SWITCH Asia Training of Trainers.pdf
- 6.1.03a - 2011.08 - International Partnership for Expanding Waste Management Services of Local Authorities (IPLA) Brochure.pdf
- 6.1.03b - 2013.03.22 - Geocycle ebook.pdf
- 6.1.04a - 2012.02.09-10 - Report of Establishment of Environmental of Data Information Management System (DIMS) for SA.pdf
- 6.1.04b - 2013.05 - Establishment of Environmental of Data Information Management System (EDIMS) - Need Assessment Report.pdf
- 6.1.05 - 2010.11.29 - Male Declaration Phase IV – 2<sup>nd</sup> Task Force Meeting.pdf
- 6.1.05 - 2013.05 – Draft Report on Good Practices for the reduction of air pollution in South Asia
- 6.1.06 - South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network (SAWEN) Meeting report draft to SAWEN Sect for circulation.pdf
- 6.1.07 - Basel Convention Regional Centre (BCRC) Annex III - SACEP Need Assessment Report.pdf
- 6.1.08 - 2011.08.26-28 - Environmentally Sustainable Transport - PROG-SUB-EST-AMD-0811-EN.pdf
- 6.1.10a - 2013.05.30 - Concept for Rio +20 Development Agenda Position Paper consultation workshop.pdf
- 6.1.10b - 2013.08.23 - Second Draft South Asia Development Agenda (SADA) Report.pdf
- 6.1.10c - 2013.05.28 - First Draft South Asia Environment Outlook (SAEO) 2013.pdf
- SACEP News - 2010.12.pdf
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- 2012.12.20 - SOM17\_Institutional arrangement Annex - Ref of SACEP

- SAS - 2008.05 - Development of Market Based Instruments for Env Management in Sri Lanka.pdf
- SAS - 2010.10.17 - Report of UNU INWEH Second Review Meeting Dec 2010.pdf
- SAS 5.1.02 - 2012.05.29-30 - SA Regional Ballast Water Management Strategy Development Meeting.pdf
- SAS 5.1.06 - 2008.09 - International Coastal Cleanup Day - Chennai - Press brief.pdf
- SAS 5.1.06 - 2009.09.18 - International Coastal Cleanup Day in India.pdf
- SAS 5.1.06 - 2010.09.25 – 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of International Coastal Cleanup Day - Sri Lanka.pdf
- SAS 5.1.06 - 2012.09.15 - Report of the Intl Coastal Cleanup Day.pdf
- SAS 5.1.06 - 2012.09.16 - Chennai \_ Keeping the marine ecosystem clean.pdf
- SAS 5.1.06 - 2012.09.16 - DOWN TOWN \_ Awareness drive to protect marine wildlife.pdf
- SAS 5.1.06 - 2012.09.16 - TAMIL NADU \_ Cleaning up beaches on Coastal Clean Up Day.pdf
- SAS 5.1.06 - 2012.09.16 - TAMIL NADU \_ Initiative to promote clean seas and coast.pdf
- SAS 5.1.06 - 2013.09.23 - Coast Guard gets into clean-up mode - The New Indian Express
- SAS 5.1.08 - 2012.06.04 - BOBLME-2012-Project-09.pdf
- SAS 5.1.09 - 2010.10 - UNEP Global Synthesis Marine Biodiversity Series.pdf
- SAS 5.1.11 - 2010.04 - 30th Annual Symposium on Sea Turtles - Brochure.pdf
- SAS 5.1.11 - 2010.04.24-30 – 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Symposium Report.pdf
- SAS 5.1.12 - 2010.05 - OPRC HNS Workshop Maldives.pdf
- SAS 5.1.13 - 2009.09 - Manual - Marine Resources Sampling and Data Collection and Interpretation for SAS.pdf
- SAS 5.1.13 - 2009.09 - Report - Marine Resources Sampling and Data Collection and Interpretation for SAS.pdf
- SAS 5.1.14 - 2010.03 - Blue Flag Report - South Asia.pdf

- SAS 5.1.15 - 2008 - International Year of Reef (IYOR) Leaflet.pdf
- SAS 5.1.15 - 2008 - MCPA Toolkit for South Asia.pdf
- SAS 5.1.15 - 2008 - SLED Manual Final - CORALI.pdf
- SAS 5.1.15 - 2008 - Systematic approaches to livelihoods ..... - Global Overview Final.pdf
- SAS 5.1.15 - 2008.08 - South Asia Coral Reef Task Force (SACRTF) Second Meeting.pdf
- SAS 5.1.15 - 2008.09 - MCPA - Project Update - September 2008.pdf
- SAS 5.1.15 - 2008.11 - Workshop Report - MCPA Managers Exchange Programme.pdf
- SAS 5.1.15 - 2008.11.25 - IYOR Special Commemorative Cover.pdf
- SAS 5.1.15 - 2008.11.5-8 - Training Workshop on (MCPA) Managers Exchange Programme - Ref Articles.pdf
- SAS 5.1.15 - 2008.12 - Regional Communication Strategy for Coral Reef Management in South Asia.pdf
- SAS 5.1.15 - 2008.12 - Regional Strategy for Coral Reef Management in South Asia.pdf
- SAS 5.1.15 - 2008.12.16 - South Asia Coral Reef Task Force (SACRTF) Third Meeting.pdf



## **Programme Activities Approved by the 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Governing Council**

1. Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM)
2. Capacity building for the Clearing-House Mechanism of the Convention on Biological Diversity in South Asia
3. Establishment of Basel Convention Regional Centre for South Asia
4. Proposal on Environmental Data and Information Management System

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”
6. Establishment of the South Asia Initiative for Combating Illegal Trade in Wildlife
7. Scoping Exercise on E-waste Management in South Asia
8. School Environment Awareness Programme
9. Malé Declaration on Control and Prevention of Air Pollution and Its Likely Trans-boundary Effects for South Asia

10. Waste Management
11. Environmentally Sustainable Transport (EST)
12. State of the Environment Report of South Asia
13. Collaboration with the Regional Community Forestry Training Centre for Asia and the Pacific (RECOFTC) for Capacity Building in the Community Forestry Sector
14. MoU with TRADA (Timber Research and Development Association) to develop Integrated Sustainable Bamboo-based Livelihoods
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
16. Regional Seas Programme

Out of These, some of them are,

- In last phase of implementation
  - In continuation nature
  - In discussion stage with Institutions/Organizations concerned
  - In cross-cutting nature
  - Not materialized due to lose of interest by partnering Institutions/Organizations
- And
- Newly proposed activities

During the past two years, SACEP had faced many draw backs due to :-

- World economic crisis
- Limited human resources

But, yet with all these constrains, we have made a significant progress in following areas

#### **1. Establishment of Basel Convention Regional Centre for South Asia**

- Proposal was discussed at the CoP IX of the Basel Convention held in June 2008 which directed SACEP to update the proposal and submit to the next OEWG meeting
- The updated proposal was submitted to 7<sup>th</sup> OEWG meeting held in May 2010
- The issue regarding the overlap with the Iranian Centre was raised and suggested both parties to have more deliberations in this regard
- SACEP will undertake a mission to Iran in near future and the outcome of the deliberations will be submitted to the next CoP

## 2. Malé Declaration on Control and Prevention of Air Pollution and its likely Trans-boundary Effects for South Asia

- Phase I, II and III were implemented successfully by UNEP in partnership with SACEP with the financial support from SIDA
- Implementation plan for phase IV (2010-2012) was adopted at the 11<sup>th</sup> IG meeting held in January 2010
- As per decisions of GC-SACEP, SACEP signed an MoU with UNEP for implementation of the phase IV
- First meeting of the Task Force on Future Development of Malé Declaration was held in August 2010 which agreed to:
  - develop a mechanism for sustainable financing
  - To Conduct a feasibility study on establishing regional centers in a phased manner
  - To conduct a feasibility study on developing a regional framework on air pollution reduction in South Asia
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Task Force will be held on 29-30 November 2010 in Colombo, Sri Lanka in collaboration with SACEP

## 3. Strategic Approach for International Chemicals Management (SAICM)

- The 10<sup>th</sup> GC-SACEP adopted a resolution on SAICM which requested SACEP secretariat to incorporate the implementation of SAICM into SACEP's work programme
- SACEP has proposed to SAICM Secretariat to hold a Capacity Building Programme, on chemical management for the South Asia region
- SAICM secretariat still searching possible funding



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

- Conducted local capacity building workshops in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, Sri Lanka and UNESCO
- Recently, held bi-lateral discussions with Belgian CHM National Focal Point and CBD secretariat to implement the project proposal on establishment of South Asia regional CHM where both agreed to help in searching for possible donors

#### **5. International Day of Biodiversity**

- A National Symposium on Alien Invasive Species: Strengthening Capacity to Control the Introduction and Spread of Alien Invasive Species in Sri Lanka was organized jointly with the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources of Sri Lanka and UNDP on 21 - 22 May 2009 in Negambo, Sri Lanka
- SACEP jointly with the Ministry of Environment, Sri Lanka and the University of Wayamba, Sri Lanka organized an awareness seminar in various issues of Biodiversity on 21<sup>st</sup> May 2010 at the Wayamba University. A mango festival was also organized to demonstrate the importance of conserving biodiversity towards society's well being

## 6. Marine Biodiversity Assessment and Outlook 2010

- In line with the International Year of Biodiversity and the CBD COP10, UNEP decided to prepare a Marine Biodiversity Outlook Report to cover all 18 Regional Seas Areas
- UNEP entrusted SACEP to prepare the Outlook Report for the South Asian Seas Region
- The Report was launched at the CDB Cop 10, Nagoya, Japan in October 2010

## 7. Partnership for Cleaner Fuels and Vehicles (PCFV)

- Partnership for Clean Fuels and Vehicles was launched at the WSSD in Johannesburg in 2002 by the UNEP
- It aims to encourage countries to adopt overall clean fuel and vehicles strategies, including vehicle and fuel standards, inspection and maintenance, development of public transport systems – including both motorised and non-motorised options – and transportation demand management
- SACEP became a partner of the PCFV in 2008 with the view of assisting the member countries to build their capacity in the area concerned
- For the 1<sup>st</sup> time, SACEP participated at the 7th Global Partnership Meeting of PCFV in April 2009 which was fully funded
- As a result, SACEP secured funds from UNEP to organize a Capacity Building Regional Workshop for Senior Officials of South Asia which was held on 22 – 23 March 2010 at Colombo, Sri Lanka.
- At the end of the workshop, there were a number of recommendations made by the country representatives for SACEP to implement
- These recommendations were considered and incorporated to the work programme of 2010 – 2011 and also incorporated in the ministerial statement of this meeting

## 8. Environmentally Sustainable Transport (EST)

- SACEP and the United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD) signed a MoU to promote Environmentally Sustainable Transport in South Asia in March 2008
- Under the MoU, for the first time, SACEP was able to ensure the participation of all the South Asian Countries in the 3rd Environmentally Sustainable Transport Forum held in Singapore in March 2008
- Since then, SACEP and its member states are participating at the Regional EST Forums regularly
- At the last EST Forum held in August 2010, SACEP proposed to the UNCRD to hold National EST training workshops in its member countries followed by a Regional Workshop to develop a Regional Environmentally Sustainable Transport Strategy and Action Plan for South Asia
- Subsequently, a proposal was submitted and UNCRD agreed to organize a Regional Training Workshop in collaboration with SACEP as the 1<sup>st</sup> phase and in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Phase to assist in organizing National Level Training Programmes

## 9. South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network (SAWEN)

- 10 GC SACEP decided to incorporate combating illegal trade in wildlife and its products in South Asian Region to its work programme with a view to strengthen CITES enforcement and in controlling illegal trade in wild flora and fauna
- SACEP signed a MoU with TRAFFIC International to establish a Wildlife Enforcement Network for the South Asian Region
- SACEP jointly organized the first Regional Workshop on the South Asia Wildlife Trade Initiative in 2008 in Kathmandu, Nepal where participants agreed to the Establishment of a South Asia Expert Group on Wildlife Trade and the development of a South Asia Regional Strategic Plan on Wildlife Trade (2008 – 2013)
- The 11 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"

- It also endorsed the establishment of the South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network (SAWEN) and the South Asia Regional Strategic Plan on Combating Illegal Wildlife Trade (2008 –2013)
- Accordingly, SACEP sent official notifications to all its 8 member countries for requesting nominations for the Expert Group and one member state has expressed reservation
- Meantime, Two workshops in similar line with the proposed SAWEN by SACEP; Kathmandu Global Tiger Workshop in October 2009 and 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the South Asia Experts Group on Illegal Wildlife Trade in March 2010 were held in Kathmandu, Nepal
- SACEP also participated at both workshops as an observer on invitation of the Government of Nepal

## **10. Project Proposals on Environmental Data and Information Management Systems and Waste Management**

- These two proposals were developed under a MoU signed between UNEP-ROAP and SACEP
- 11 GC.SACEP approved them as future programme activities
- SACEP forwarded the approved project proposals to UNEP-ROAP requesting funds for implementation
- UNEP informed SACEP that as an initial step, funds will be allocated to hold a Regional Workshop on Data Information Management by the first quarter of 2011

## **11. South Asian Seas Programme (SASP)**

### **a) UNEP/ EU Funded Project on MCPAs in Coral Reef Ecosystems in South Asia**

Project was successfully completed in December 2008 and SACEP Secretariat is actively searching for possible donors to take the project activities forward

### **b) Endorsement for the Formal Adoption of the Regional Oil and Chemical Pollution Contingency Plan for South Asia**

Three member countries have already signed the MoU and other two are at an advanced stage of getting cabinet sanction

### **c) Regional Workshop on the Implementation & Enforcement of the MARPOL Convention – October 2009 – Malaysia**

Workshop was held in Malaysia in October 2009 and 14 countries including the 5 South Asian Seas Countries participated

### **d) On-board Training Workshop on Marine Resources Sampling, Data Collection and Interpretation for the South Asian Seas**

The training workshop was organized in collaboration with the Ministry of Earth Sciences, Government of India, UNEP, UN Division for Ocean Affairs and Law of Sea and UNEP-GRID Arendal from 18-22 September in India where 10 mid-level managers from the five SAS countries participated

### **e) Regional HNS Operational Level Workshop, May 2010**

Workshop was organised by Ministry of Housing, Transport & Environment, Maldives, IMO and SACEP / SASP. There were 33 participants from countries of Southeast and South Asia.

#### **f) World Ocean Day Activity**

SACEP in collaboration with Sri Lanka Tourist Board organised a mini-workshop for their officials to convey the message on the importance to protect and conserve marine environment in June 2009

#### **g) Blue Flag Beach Certification Programme for South Asia**

SACEP/SASP in collaboration with the Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE) Denmark, and with the financial support of UNEP took the message of “A Clean beach – A Tourist Haven” for promoting sustainable tourism in the SAS region. SACEP organized National Workshops in 4 countries in February – March 2010 in collaboration with the National Focal Points of SAS Member states

#### **h) International Coastal Clean-up day**

- Since 2008, SACEP has been organizing many activities to commemorate the International Coastal Cleanup Day
- In 2009, SACEP and Indian Coast Guard jointly organized the event in Chennai, India
- This year, SACEP in collaboration with US Embassy in Colombo and Ministry of Environment, Government of Sri Lanka organized a beach cleanup programme in Negombo, Sri Lanka in which more than 500 school children participated

#### **i) 30th Annual Symposium on Sea Turtle Biology and Conservation, 24 - 29 April 2010 in Goa, India**

SACEP was a co-partner in organizing the Symposium in collaboration with the International Sea Turtle Society and the Indian Institute of Science in Bangalore

## 12. Lecture Series

SACEP organized a series of lectures by eminent experts on timely topics. Three such lectures were held at the SACEP Secretariat during year 2009.

### 1. New Initiatives in Marine Environment Protection

By Mr. Ranjit Kularatne, Former Chairman, Marine Environment Protection Authority, Sri Lanka

### 2. Climate Change Dialogues

By Dr. W. L. Sumathipala, Director - National Ozone Unit, Ministry Environment & Natural Resources, Sri Lanka

### 3. Fisheries Governance in South Asia

By Prof. Marten Bavinck, Director - Marine Science Department, University of Amsterdam, the Netherlands

## Financial Matters

### Status of Country Contribution from 2008 to Oct 2010

Country	Arrears upto Dec 2008	Agreed CC for 2009	Received CC 2009	Arrears upto Dec 2009	Agreed CC for 2010	Received CC upto Aug 2010	Arrears upto Oct 10
	US \$	US \$	US \$	US \$	US \$	US \$	US \$
Bangladesh	21,300.00	21,300.00	21,300.00	21,300.00	21,300.00		42,600.00
Bhutan	3,555.00	3,555.00	7,110.00	0.00	3,555.00	3,555.00	0.00
India	68,971.00	31,850.00	58,935.00	41,886.00	31,850.00	450.00	73,286.00
Maldives	29,150.00	14,575.00	43,725.00	0.00	14,575.00	14,575.00	0.00
Nepal	24,150.00	8,050.00		32,200.00	8,050.00	40,250.00	0.00
Pakistan	45,966.89	31,850.00	31,810.00	46,006.89	31,850.00	31,889.35	45,967.54
Sri Lanka	16,220.00	16,220.00	16,277.00	16,163.00	16,220.00	32,383.00	0.00
Afghanistan	0.00	8,050.00	0.00	8,050.00	8,050.00		16,100.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>209,312.89</b>	<b>135,450.00</b>	<b>179,157.00</b>	<b>165,605.89</b>	<b>135,450.00</b>	<b>123,102.35</b>	<b>177,953.54</b>

## Financial Matters

Interest Earned	Year 2005	US \$ 237.52
Fixed Deposit Interest Earned	Year 2006	US \$ 3,051.68
Fixed Deposit Interest Earned	Year 2007	US \$ 28,009.92
Fixed Deposit Interest Earned	Year 2008	US \$ 9,425.58
Fixed Deposit Interest Earned	Year 2009	US \$ 13,436.09
Fixed Deposit Interest Earned	Year 2010	US \$ 11,492.15
<b>Total Interest - SACEP CC</b>		<b>US \$ 65,652.94</b>

### PROJECTS SANCTIONED FROM 2009 - 2010

Activity	Donor	Budget US \$
Project Sanctioned by European Commission for the SACEP/ICRAN Coral Reef Work in South Asia	European Commission	24,734.00
MoU between UNEP SACEP for UNEP's Asian Tsunami Disaster Task Force	UNEP	5,000.00
MoU between SACEP and UNEP, Regional Resource Centre for Asia and the Pacific (RRC-AP) / On Agreed Programme under Phase IV implementation of the Male' Declaration	UNEP-RRC-AP	20,000.00
Training Workshop on Marine Resources Sampling, Data Collection & Interpretation for the South Asian Seas, India	UNEP	25,000.00
Same as above	Government of India - In kind Contribution	80,000.00
		(Approx)
National Workshops on Blue Flag Beach Certification Programme for South Asia	UNEP	10,000.00
Regional Workshop on Clean Fuels & Vehicles	UNEP	35,361.00
MoU between SACEP and UNEP - ROAP / Assistance to conduct 12 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Governing Council of SACEP	UNEP	15,000.00
Funds received for Meeting/Conference participation - Year 2009 - 2010	From Donors (UNEP/World Bank)	26,909.73
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>242,004.73</b>



**SACEP**

THANK YOU



## **Implementation of Biodiversity related activities**

### **A. Capacity Building for National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) Updating**

Biological diversity underpins ecosystem functioning and the provision of ecosystem services are essential for human well-being. It provides for food security, human health, the provision of clean air and water; contributes to local livelihoods and economic development and is essential for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, including poverty reduction. In addition it is a central component of many belief systems, worldviews and identities. Yet despite its fundamental importance, biodiversity continues to be lost. It is against this backdrop that the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, in 2010 in Nagoya, Japan, adopted the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 with the purpose of inspiring broad-based action in support of biodiversity over the next decade by all countries and stakeholders. In recognition of the urgent need for action the United Nations General Assembly has also declared 2011-2020 as the United Nations Decade for Biodiversity.

As of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 adopted at the CBD COP-10, Parties to the CBD have been requested to update their NBSAPs with the new Aichi Biodiversity Targets and Strategies. To support our member countries in this process, SACEP in collaboration with UNEP and World Conservation Monitoring Center (WCMC) successfully organized a capacity building workshop on “**Indicators as part of NBSAP updating for South Asian countries**” from 16 to 19 July 2012 in Colombo, Sri Lanka where two representatives of each SACEP member country were participated.

***(Workshop Report – Refer enclosed CD titled ‘Publications of SACEP – Item 6.1.01.b’)***

SACEP has developed its capacity in the areas of Indicators Development in Updating NBSAP and creating CHMs. We understand that all SACEP member countries are in the process of updating their NBSAPs. In this regard, funds are available from GEF for developing countries.

SACEP would like to assist the member countries in updating NBSAP with necessary technical support for the development of indicators in the process of NBSAP updating.

After completion of updating the NBSAPs by SACEP member countries, a **Regional Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan for South Asia** will be prepared by SACEP taking consideration into the recommendations of NBSAPs of the member countries.

### **B. Establishment of South Asia Regional Biodiversity Clearing House Mechanism (CHM)**

One of the globally significant wealth/resource that South Asia possesses is its rich biological diversity. Though this invaluable resource provides tremendous number

of goods and services to the millions of local people and as well as global community, very little amount of funds are invested towards conservation of it. Hence, the condition of this resource is deteriorating day by day. Almost all remaining rich biological diversity belongs to developing countries and developed countries are the major uses of it. The issue of lack of capacity and technology with developing countries, for effective conservation and utilization of biodiversity is being discussed at various biodiversity related international forums and developed countries which are the major uses and inventors of technology are urged in assisting developing countries in this regard.

The Conference of Parties (CoP) of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) introduced Clearing House Mechanism (CHM) to promote and facilitate technical and scientific co-operation and the exchange of information on technology transfer and requested parties to develop their national CHMs. Further, it also requested regional organizations to develop regional CHMs.

At the CoP10 held in Nagoya, Japan, CHM was integrated into the process of National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP). In paragraph 2 (a) of decision X/15 on the CHM, the Conference of the Parties encouraged Parties to continue to take necessary steps to establish, strengthen, and ensure the sustainability of national Clearing House Mechanisms. CHM goal 2 also state that national Clearing House Mechanisms should provide effective information services to facilitate the implementation of the national biodiversity strategies and action plans.

SACEP prepared a project proposal to establish a regional CHM for South Asia. The proposal was presented to the 10 GC-SACEP and the decision adopted was;

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

As per the above decision, the proposal was amended and submitted to the 11 GC-SACEP for adoption. The 11 GC-SACEP adopted the proposal and suggested;

- a) Assist member countries of South Asia to build capacity to develop and maintain National CHMs
- b) Assist member countries to develop and maintain National 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 cooperation

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

The proposal was submitted to selected donor agencies to seek possible funding support. So far, no funding assurance is granted.

In order to take the proposal forward, SACEP, in collaboration with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Wildlife Institute of India organized a **Sub-regional Capacity-Building Workshop for South Asia on Clearing-House Mechanism** in Dehradun, India from 12 - 16 December 2011 with the generous support of the Governments of Japan and Belgium. The objective of the workshop was to build capacity and provide guidance on how to establish and sustain effective national clearing-house mechanisms, in line with decision X/15 of CBD CoP-10 and in support of the NBSAPs. The workshop also discussed possible avenues for taking forward the proposal of establishment of a sub-regional Clearing-house Mechanism for SACEP member countries and to facilitate co-operation among them.

***(Workshop Report – Refer enclosed CD titled ‘Publications of SACEP – Item 6.1.01.a’)***

Recently, SACEP submitted a proposal to Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem (BoBLME) Project seeking funds to establish the regional CHM and received positive response.

Member countries of SACEP are in the process of updating their NBSAPs with the financial assistance from GEF and development of the National CHMs are also a part of it; countries are requested to :-

- a) Make use of the opportunity and utilize a part of the GEF funds available for NBSAP updating to create the own National CHMs
- b) Contribute a small amount of funds from the secured fund for NBSAP updating towards creating of Regional CHM which will use as co-funding, as BoBLME will provide part of the funding need.

**C. 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 11) of the Convention on Biodiversity Convention, 1 - 19 October 2012, Hyderabad, India**

The 12 GC-SACEP adopted a decision; ‘SACEP’s collaboration with government of India was requested as India is hosting CBD CoP11’ under the activity of Capacity building for the CHM of CBD in South Asia.

Sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties (CoP-MOP-6) to the Cartagena Protocol on Biodiversity and the 11<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP-11) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) was held in Hyderabad, India from 1 – 19 October 2012.

SACEP organized a side event on “Challenges to Biodiversity of South Asia and Aichi Targets”, on 18 October 2012. Hon’ Anura Priyadarshana Yapa, Minister of Environment, Government of Sri Lanka and the Chairman of the 12<sup>th</sup> Governing Council of SACEP was the Chief Guest and Hon’ Dr. Mariyam Shakeela, Minister of Environment and Energy, Republic of Maldives participated as the Guest of

Honour. Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Pakistan and Sri Lanka made country presentations at this event. On behalf of SACEP the Director General made a presentation which was followed by a questions and answers session.

SACEP also organized an Exhibition Stall at the venue of CoP-MOP-6 and CoP-11 of the CBD from 1 to 19 October 2012 in Hyderabad. During the period, a vast number of Delegates and others visited the SACEP stall which included government officials, representatives of various organizations and students from schools, universities and other education institutes. SACEP publications and Information DVDs were distributed to the visitors.

***It is recommended that SACEP Secretariat :***

- a) to assist the member countries in updating NBSAP with necessary technical support for the development of indicators in the process of NBSAP updating.*
- b) to prepare a Regional Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan for South Asia, taking consideration into the recommendations of NBSAPs of the member countries.*

***The National Focal Points are requested:***

- a) To make use of the opportunity and utilize a part of the GEF funds available for NBSAP updating, to create their own National CHMs*
- b) To contribute a small amount of funds from the secured fund for NBSAP updating towards creating of Regional CHM which will be used as co-funding, as BoBLME will provide apart of the funding needed.*

### **Promoting Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) in South Asia**

Since 2005, successive Governing Councils of SACEP recommended Waste Management as one of the four broader thematic areas of concern when preparing SACEP's work plan. It is well understood that in the context of waste management, concepts of Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) can play a major role.

SWITCH-Asia is a project funded by the European Union (EU) aimed at promoting Sustainable Consumption and Production across the Asian region covering the period 2007 – 2013. It works with both producers and consumers on the ground as well as at the policy-making levels in formulating and implementing of SCP-related policies. Overall, SWITCH-Asia aims to promote sustainable growth and contribute to economic prosperity and poverty reduction in Asia. At the same time it is mitigating climate change in targeted countries. This is to be achieved through improved understanding and strengthened co-operation between Europe and Asia.

Within South Asia, it intends assisting Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in adopting Sustainable Consumption and Production practices and by mobilizing the private sector, retailers, producer and consumer organizations and groups as well as the relevant public sector authorities. Under this project, UNEP is responsible for the Policy Support Component (PSC), working towards incorporation of SCP into national and regional policies.

SACEP in collaboration with UNEP organized a SWITCH-Asia PSC Sustainable Consumption and Production Training of Trainers workshop. The three days Training workshop was held from 30 October – 1 November 2012, in Negombo, Sri Lanka and brought together 25 policy makers from 7 countries.

The objective of the training was to build the capacity of policy makers across the South Asian region, in designing and implementing policies that support SCP and a Green Economy. The training covered the fundamentals of SCP policy, identifying key sectors for policy reform, while highlighting case studies and best practices across the Asia-Pacific region. The programme introduced the SCP Policy Cycle and focused on thematic SCP policy options and opportunities.

Experts/resource persons delivered the training and facilitated the workshop on the fundamentals of SCP, the SCP policy cycle and identified thematic opportunities for SCP policy development. The training was delivered as a Training of Trainers. Participants were provided with all the material, along with a guide for trainer's booklet, to enable them to facilitate further training within their own countries. The training was a result of an extensive capacity building needs assessment conducted in 2011-2012, under the SWITCH-Asia PSC.

***(Workshop Report – Refer enclosed CD titled 'Publications of SACEP – Item 6.1.02')***

SACEP is working towards taking this step forward to develop a regional forum where all member countries can share their experiences and strengths in this area. This will facilitate to development of a regional strategy in future.

***It is recommended that SACEP Secretariat to:***

- a) develop a regional forum where all member countries can share their experiences and strengths in this area.*
- b) develop a regional strategy on Sustainable Consumption and Production.*



### **International Partnership for Expanding Waste Management Services of Local Authorities ( IPLA )**

Since 2005, with the recommendation No.9.2.2 of 9 GC-SACEP, Waste Management is one of the priority areas of SACEP's work plan. In March 2008 SACEP signed a MoU with United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD) to promote Environmentally Sustainable Transport (EST) in South Asia, collaboratively.

Strengthening further the collaboration with UNCRD, SACEP became the Sub – regional secretariat for International Partnership for Expanding Waste Management Services of Local Authorities (IPLA) in South Asia which is also an initiative of UNCRD.

IPLA is a dynamic knowledge platform as well as a decentralized network established by United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD) to address the needs of Local Authorities in achieving sustainable waste management. IPLA was launched at the Nineteenth session of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD-19) held in New York in May 2011.

The objective of IPLA is to enable local authorities (LAs) to expand their waste management services by accelerating the uptake of waste-related infrastructure and services at various stages of waste management through promotion and facilitation of meaningful collaboration with a wide range of partners such as governments, business and financial sector, and civil society.

Its mission is to share knowledge, communicate across national boundaries, and work to spread best practices in order to accelerate the uptake of waste-related infrastructure and services at various stages of waste management such as avoidance, prevention, minimization, segregation, collection, transport, recycling, recovery, reuse treatment, and disposal.

IPLA is supported by global, regional, and sub-regional Secretariats. UNCRD is serving as the Global Secretariat and the sub-regional secretariats are designated to address waste management issues in their respective regions, strengthen regional networks and partnership, and respond to specific and emerging challenges faced by municipalities in each region.

At the IPLA Global Forum 2012 on Empowering Municipalities in Building a Zero Waste Society - A Vision for the post-Rio+20 Sustainable Urban Development SACEP made a presentation on the current status of Waste Management in South Asia.

The participants of the forum endorsed the idea of launching an IPLA Award for best performing municipalities in advancing zero waste policies and programmes.

As the Sub Regional Secretariat for South Asia, SACEP assisted IPLA in identifying two higher level participants from South Asia Region to attend the IPLA Global Forum 2013.

SACEP is in continuous dialog with UNCRD, seeking the possibilities of having IPLA forums and activities in South Asia in the future.

SACEP encourage its member countries to become awardees of the IPLA by implementing the Zero Waste Policy at Local Authority levels.

### **Environmental Data and Information Management System for South Asia**

The 9 GC-SACEP held in August 2005 in Thimphu, Bhutan identified Data and Information Management as one of the key areas concerned in the region. SACEP Secretariat prepared a detailed project proposal to establish an Environmental Data and Information System for South Asia and was approved by the 11 GC-SACEP held in May 2008 in Jaipur, India.

UNEP was requested to support for the implementation of the proposal at the 12 GC-SACEP held in Colombo, Sri Lanka in November 2010.

As an initial step, SACEP in collaboration with UNEP organized a two day Inception and Training Workshop on Establishment of Environmental Data and Information Management System for South Asia from 9 – 10 February 2012 in Colombo, Sri Lanka. UNEP extended financial assistance to organize the workshop and 27 participants including two delegates from each member country of SACEP, Resource Persons, officials of UNEP and SACEP participated.

***(Workshop Report – Refer enclosed CD titled ‘Publications of SACEP – Item 6.1.04a’)***

As recommended by the above workshop, a Need Assessment Study has been entrusted with the Development Alternatives, India which is funded by UNEP and the first draft has been circulated among the member countries for their comments on 6<sup>th</sup> June 2013 with the request of submission of comments by 30<sup>th</sup> June 2013. So far, three countries have responded with their comments / suggestions to improve the Need Assessment Report.

***(Draft Need Assessment Report – Refer enclosed CD titled ‘Publications of SACEP – Item 6.1.04b’)***

SACEP is in continuous dialog with UNEP to secure funding to implement the project. As per the request of UNEP, SACEP has submitted a revised budget amounting to US \$ 1 million, in January 2013 for establishment of the Data Information System for South Asia.

- a) *It is requested that the **SACEP Secretariat** to implement the project as soon as possible and UNEP to expedite the process of providing the funds*
- b) *The **National Focal Points** are requested to come prepared with actions taken and the progress*



Draft

# ENVIRONMENTAL DATA AND INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (EDIMS) FOR SOUTH ASIA

## - Need Assessment

*Submitted to*

South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP)  
United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

*Submitted by*



Development Alternatives

B-32, Tara Crescent, Qutub Institutional Area  
New Delhi - 110016, INDIA

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**Full text available in Digital Report of 13GC-SACEP**

**Malé Declaration on Control and Prevention of Air Pollution and its likely Trans-boundary Effects for South Asia.**

The Malé Declaration on Control and Prevention of Air Pollution and its likely Trans-boundary Effects for South Asia was adopted in 1998 by the Ministers of the Environment at the 7 GC-SACEP in Male, Republic of Maldives to cope with the issue of transboundary air pollution in South Asia. It is the only Inter-government environmental agreement covering all the countries of South Asia. Participating countries to the above are Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Iran, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

Based on the declaration at the 7GC-SACEP a project was initiated to promote the establishment of a scientific base for prevention and control of transboundary air pollution in South Asia to encourage and facilitate coordinated interventions of all the stakeholders on trans-boundary and shared air pollution problems at national and regional levels.

The project was initially funded by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) as part of the Regional Air Pollution in Developing countries (RAPIDC) programme. The implementation of the Malé Declaration was envisaged to be in phases, and Phase I, II and III were implemented successfully. During the last 14 years of implementation, network of policy makers and stakeholders, network Monitoring and Impact Assessment have been established. Also completed several impact assessment studies and communicated to policy makers and stakeholders, and initiated policy measures to control emissions of air pollutants under these phases.

The implementation of the Phase IV of the Malé Declaration was successfully completed in 2013 . Under implementation of Phase IV the member countries were assisted to strengthen the regional co-operation and monitoring, enhanced the impact assessment capacity of the national institutions, and also strengthened the initiatives started in the first three phases.

The proposal for Phase V (2014-2016) aims to promote policy measures to control emissions of air pollution including short-lived climate forces in South Asia and to ensure the sustainability and ownership of the Malé Declaration in the region. This would be done through the intergovernmental meetings, stakeholders networks, intergovernmental task forces etc. The draft plan for Phase V was presented to both Task Force on Future Development (TFFD3) and to the recently held 13<sup>th</sup> Intergovernmental Meeting of Malé Declaration held in Dhaka, Bangladesh in May, 2013.

The following are the proposed activities for Phase V implementation

- Develop source specific protocols and guidance to control emissions of air pollutants
- Strengthening the impact assessments (Health/Crop/Corrosion)
- Convene meetings of the Task Force on Future Development of Malé Declaration to discuss the future development of Malé Declaration including the source specific protocols and guidelines,
- Convene Intergovernmental Meetings to review the progress and make decisions on further implementation including the source specific protocols and guidelines
- Convene stakeholders meetings to consult on the Implementation of Malé Declaration including the source specific protocols and guidelines.
- Implementation on the activities of the regional technical centers and enable them to conduct studies and communicate the results to policy makers and stakeholders
- Conduct awareness programmes among policy makers, stakeholders, and youths

Further, during the phase V, depending on availability of funding, activities on Malé Declaration will be prioritized in consultation with the member countries.

***National Focal Points to provide relevant data and information to SACEP Secretariat to prepare a comprehensive proposal to obtain funds to strengthen regional centres.***

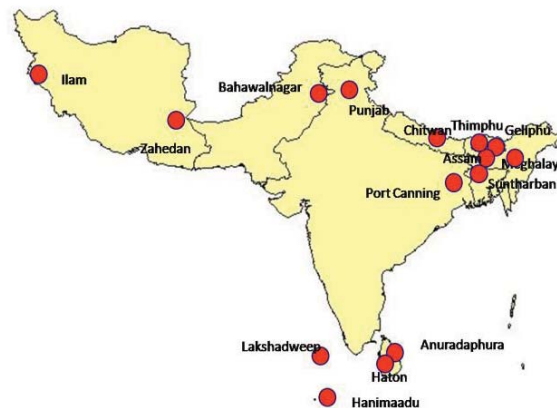




## *Brief on the Malé Declaration on Control and Prevention of Air Pollution and its likely and Transboundary Effects for South Asia*

### Background:

With increasing urbanisation and economic growth, and having a quarter of the world's population, air pollution is an increasing concern in South Asian countries. Understanding the environmental impacts that may be created due to Air Pollution and transboundary effects, the Governing Council of South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP) agreed on a joint programme of work. This initiative led to the adoption of the 'Malé Declaration on Control and Prevention of Air Pollution and Its Likely Transboundary Effects for South Asia (MD)' at the Seventh Governing Council meeting of SACEP held in Male, Maldives in April 1998. Together with UNEP, this initiative was funded by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) as part of the Regional Air Pollution in Developing Countries (RAPIDC) programme. It is the only inter-governmental agreement of its kind covering the eight countries involved and the participating countries in this programme are Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Iran, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. Country Governments nominated National Implementing Agencies (NIAs) for the implementation of the MD. UNEP RRC.AP hosts the Secretariat. The implementation is now in Phase IV.



Transboundary air pollution monitoring network under the Malé Declaration

### Phase I: 1999-2001

An intergovernmental network was established which governs the MD activities. After Phase I, all the participating countries completed baseline studies and action plans. The baseline studies provided valuable information on air pollution management programmes in the participating countries and clearly identified the gaps in the existing monitoring systems to understand transboundary air pollution.

### Phase II: 2001-2004

A capacity building programme was initiated in Phase II which included strengthening the monitoring network and training. National and regional level stakeholders' consultations were also held during this phase. With the completion of Phase II, all the participating countries had established one transboundary air pollution monitoring station and the required skilled manpower to do the monitoring. Also, the institutional structure was developed and local capacities in monitoring local and transboundary air pollution had been increased. Phase II had also helped in developing a common methodology, to train technical staff, strengthen monitoring stations and establish scientific and stakeholder networks.

### Phase III: 2005-2008

Phase III implementation continued the capacity building for monitoring initiated during Phase II. In addition, capacity building for impact assessment and prevention of air pollution was also initiated. The regional network development was strengthened in a number of ways. During Phase III four Intergovernmental Meetings and four Regional Stakeholders cum Regional Coordination meetings and national stakeholder meetings of the MD took place. Capacity on monitoring programme was strengthened through regular regional and national training programme and others activities. A passive sampler Inter-comparison programme and two inter laboratory comparison programmes were conducted for quality

assurance and control. Monitoring of ozone O<sub>3</sub> was included as an additional parameter. The emission inventory manual and workbook were continuously improved during Phase III.

An epidemiological study looking into the impacts of particulate matter on asthmatic schoolchildren was successfully undertaken in Bangladesh. The studies and different training workshops on air pollution impact assessment on crops, health, corrosion and rapid urban assessment also presented opportunities for both technical people and policy makers from the ministries to meet hence strengthening the regional and intergovernmental cooperation. Three publications “Past, Present and Future of Malé Declaration; “Good Practices on Prevention and Control of Air Pollution: A Compendium” and “Youth for Clean Air Compendium” were published. An interactive “Youth for Clean Air” CD for youth which contains 4 modules on understanding atmospheric emissions, their sources, impacts and measures to reduce the atmospheric emissions was developed. Bangladesh NIA developed a DVD on “No to Air Pollution, it’s Time to Go Healthy” as a part of the public awareness campaign. In addition, the countries and their representatives were kept updated through the quarterly newsletters and the development of MD brochures.

#### **Phase IV 2010-2013**

Phase IV continued to assist the member countries enhance their regional cooperation, monitoring, impact assessment; strengthen the initiatives started in the first three phases and to initiate new ones. The implementation followed the institutional arrangement of the MD, which was adopted in IG8 Meeting. A Task Force on Future Development (Task Force) of the MD was established to consider important aspects of the expanding network such as the development of regional technical centres; development of a regional framework agreement between countries regarding atmospheric emissions of air pollutants; and establishment of a Sustainable Financing Mechanism for the MD. The First Meeting of the Task Force held on 2-3 August 2010 in Thailand, agreed that 1) a mechanism for sustainable financing to be developed; 2) a feasibility study on establishing regional centers to be conducted; and 3) a feasibility report on strengthening the regional framework on air pollution reduction in South Asia to be conducted. Progress on the above were reviewed and discussed during the 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Task Force which was held in Colombo, Sri Lanka, on 29-30 November 2010. The Third meeting of the Task Force was held in August 2012 in Chonburi, Thailand.

During the Phase IV, NIAs continued the operation of the monitoring sites through addition of 4 new sites in India and one new site in Iran. The 9<sup>th</sup> Refresher Training on Monitoring Transboundary Air Pollution was held in, New Delhi India in 2012, to provide hands-on training on the use of different monitoring and laboratory equipment and enhanced knowledge on quality assurance / quality control aspects. A workshop on Health Impact Assessment was held in Dhaka, Bangladesh in January 2012 and A National “Youth for Clean Air Awareness Workshop” was held in Dhaka, Bangladesh and the Regional Workshop on “Youth for Clean Air “ was held in February 2012 in Ahmedabad, India.

The 5<sup>th</sup> Training on Emission Inventory and the National Training on Emission Inventory of the Male' Declaration on Control and Prevention of Air Pollution and Its Likely Transboundary Effects for South Asia (Male' Declaration) was held in Colombo, Sri Lanka in May 2012.

And the Seventh Regional Stake-Holders Meeting cum Coordination Meeting (RSC7) and the Thirteenth Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting (IG13) of the Malé Declaration on Control and Prevention of Air Pollution and its Likely Transboundary Effects for South Asia was held in May 2013 in Dhaka, Bangladesh. At the meeting the Draft Plan for Phase V was presented.

#### **Phase V 2014- 2016**

Phase V (2014-2016) aims to promote policy measures to control emissions of air pollution including short-lived climate forces in South Asia and to ensure the sustainability and ownership of the Male Declaration in the region. This would be done through the intergovernmental meetings, stakeholder’s networks, intergovernmental task forces etc.

The following activities will be implemented in Phase V

- Develop source specific protocols and guidance to control emissions of air pollutants
- Strengthening the impact assessments (Health/Crop/Corrosion)
- Convene meetings of the Task Force on Future Development of Male Declaration to discuss the future development of Male Declaration including the source specific protocols and guidelines,
- Convene Intergovernmental Meetings to review the progress and make decisions on further implementation including the source specific protocols and guidelines
- Convene stakeholders meetings to consult on the Implementation of Male Declaration including the source specific protocols and guidelines.
- Implementation on the activities of the regional technical centers and enable them to conduct studies and communicate the results to policy makers and stakeholders
- Conduct awareness programmes among policy makers, stakeholders, and youths

### **Independent Evaluation**

In 2013, an independent evaluation was conducted on the implementation of the Malé Declaration. Following is the summary of the evaluation on the implementation of the Malé Declaration over a period of 1998-2012

Malé Declaration by its evolution path had been serving the purpose of providing the lead at regional level to address the transboundary issue of air pollution in South Asia and hence need to continue in future.

Malé Declaration over its four phases has instated good and workable institutional mechanism for its implementation. While the choice of NIAs and NFPs is apt for the said purpose, this initiative has received an “add-on module/project” treatment from the respective NFP/NIA. This perhaps hindered the process of integration of the same with the national air quality programmes. Therefore, to be successful, Malé Declaration has to further penetrate the national programme of air pollution monitoring and control. While the existing NIAs/NFPs could continue to implement Malé Declaration, there should be a dedicated division (Malé Declaration Division) in the respective NIA. Malé Declaration, in its future years should focus on such institutionalization process.

Another important focus of Malé Declaration in the years to come could be development of regional synergies and identification of strategies that need to be implemented by individual countries but with a concerted regional perspective. Such activities require a more catalyzing role from the secretariat and accordingly the Malé Secretariat should augment their capabilities.

Consistent, comparable and rich data on air quality in South Asia under Malé Declaration is still to be achieved completely. Such data is indispensable to establish the fact that transboundary air pollution exist in this region. Hence, capacity building programme on monitoring should be continued with the focus on improvement of data quality and also conduct studies/analysis to establish the existence of transboundary air pollution in the region.

Dependency of participating countries on Malé Secretariat for the management and maintenance of the monitoring sites coupled with “non-ownership syndrome” is a concern for the success of establishing quality air pollution monitoring program. It is recommended that the participating countries should be made more responsible for the maintenance of the Malé Declaration site and to establish more sites. It is recommended that measures to ensure ownership among NIA be in place in the next phase of the Declaration.

After spending fourteen years in creating regional cooperation for the control of transboundary air pollution, Malé Declaration is not as greatly successful in bringing out initiatives in the region which are “regional” in character. Therefore, the next phase of Malé Declaration should aim to create synergy and combined action plan between nations in fighting the

transboundary air pollution and its impacts. Role of SEI also need to be enhanced in order to achieve such meaningful outcomes. As a logical continuation, Malé Declaration in its future years may focus more on mitigation strategies which are based on regional cooperation.

For such definitive regional and integrated action plan it is necessary to develop a legally binding framework. Deliberations on such a framework have been initiated in Phase IV and the same has to continue further into the next phase with an aim of institutionalizing them.

Malé Declaration should try for such a financial inclusion of Malé Declaration activities in the respective country's annual environmental plans. Public private partnerships may be attempted in order to have long term sustainability.

In a nutshell: As in the case of Climate Change, this problem of trans-boundary air pollution also needs response strategies which are "Inter-governmental" in nature and needs significant cooperation among the source and receptor States. Malé Declaration, for the past fourteen years has been largely successful in instating the needed mechanism and bringing such coordination. There are few gaps that need to be addressed and also some larger operatives to be brought in such as "regional agreement" to address the trans-boundary air pollution. It is also important to have a macro-level assessment, inclusively of such a treaty in order to protect the individual and collective interests of the participating countries. Therefore, it is very important to build on these foundations created by Malé Declaration in order to fulfill the objective of controlling air pollution and its transboundary effects in South Asia. It is highly recommended that Malé Declaration should continue and help the region fight this trans-boundary problem causing serious health and economic losses.

### **South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network (SAWEN)**

South Asia Region covers an area of approximately 42,916,000 km<sup>2</sup> and is home to a diverse network of natural ecosystems and varied biodiversity. Because of this richness in biodiversity, South Asia has been one of the prime targets of internationally organized wildlife crime networks. Illegal wildlife trade is a form of trans-national organized crime that threatens many iconic species across the world. Apart from key species such as tigers, elephants and rhinos, there are a variety of medicinal plants, timber, marine species, birds and reptiles that are threatened by illegal exploitation and trafficking in this Region. To curb this ongoing trend, it became necessary that the existing conservation measures and enforcement strategies are reinforced through regional co-operation.

Decision No.9.3 of 10 GC-SACEP recommended to incorporate combating illegal trade in wildlife and its products in South Asian Region to the Work Programme of SACEP with a view to strengthen CITES enforcement and in controlling illegal trade in wild flora and fauna. To take this decision forward, SACEP signed a MoU with TRAFFIC International to establish a Wildlife Enforcement Network for the South Asian Region in July 2007.

The First Regional Workshop on the South Asia Wildlife Trade Initiative was held in Kathmandu, Nepal from 31<sup>st</sup> January – 1<sup>st</sup> February 2008. The workshop participants agreed to a series of joint actions including the establishment of a South Asia Expert Group on Wildlife Trade.

The 11 GC-SACEP, held on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2008 in Jaipur, India, 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” and also endorsed the establishment of the South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network (SAWEN).

Although the SAWEN was supposed to be established under SACEP, in year 2011 it was launched as an independent entity and is based in Kathmandu, Nepal. On the invitation of government of Sri Lanka, SACEP agreed to co-organize the 1st meeting

of SAWEN in collaboration with government of Sri Lanka and TRAFFIC International which was held in June 2012 in Sri Lanka.

***(Draft Workshop Report – Refer enclosed CD titled ‘Publications of SACEP – Item 6.1.06’)***

The possibility of obtaining World Bank IDA project funding was recommended for SAWEN’s future activities and it was recommended for SACEP to be the facilitator for channeling the funds. SACEP will facilitate this process within the financial Rules & Regulations of SACEP.

***If the World Bank proposal is accepted, SACEP Secretariat requested to facilitate as suggested.***



### **Establishment of Basel Convention Regional Centre for South Asia**

The Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal was ratified by 35 countries and entering into force on 5 May 1992. At present 180 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.

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 (**Annex I**).

The 10 GC-SACEP agreed for the SACEP Secretariat, based in 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 II**) and a report of the feasibility study (**Annex III - Refer enclosed CD titled 'Publications of SACEP – Item 6.1.07'**) and submitted to the Open-ended Working Group (OEWG) of the Basel Convention at its sixth meeting held from 3 - 7 September 2007. As Government of India acceded at the 10GC-SACEP to deputize its experts on various fields on specific requests made by SACEP for 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 many countries including SACEP member countries as well as European Union supported the proposal, whereas Government of Russia kept a 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 6<sup>th</sup> meeting agreed to review both the detailed proposal and the feasibility study report and put up to the CoP9 of the Basel Convention which was held on June 2008 for its consideration (**Annex IV**).

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

The 11 GC-SACEP adopted 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 11<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Governing Council of SACEP and the Environment Ministers of the South Asian countries fully support to the establishment of 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 10<sup>th</sup> Governing Council.’*

The CoP 9 of the Basel Convention held in June 2008, by its decision IX/5, requested SACEP to enter into consultations with the host countries of the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres in China, Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Russian Federation, and also with the related members served by the centres, in order to define the relationship of the proposed centre with the others and its comparative advantage; to update the proposal in the light of the outcome of these consultations and of new information provided in relation to the outstanding issues; and submit an updated proposal to the 7<sup>th</sup> OEWG of Basel Convention **Annex VII**.

As directed by the CoP 9 of the Basel Convention, SACEP submitted an updated proposal for establishment of a Regional Centre for South Asia, to be located in SACEP Secretariat, Colombo, Sri Lanka. The updated proposal was taken into discussion at the 7<sup>th</sup> OEWG meeting held from 10 – 14 May 2010.

The issue regarding the overlap with the Iranian Centre was raised and as there was no Iranian delegation, the permanent Representative of Iran to the UN suggested both parties to have more deliberations in this regard.

As several attempts to contact either BCRC Tehran or Basel Convention Focal Point of Iran failed, on the advice of 119 Consultative Committee, SACEP made negotiations through the Embassy of Iran in Sri Lanka without taking a mission to Iran for this purpose. Those attempts also failed and finally SACEP delegation met the Iranian delegation at the Ordinary and Simultaneous Extraordinary Meetings of the Conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions which was held from 28 April - 10 May 2013 in Geneva, Switzerland where Iranian delegation said that they are not willing to discuss the matter.

Since 2008, synergies between chemical related International Conventions are being discussed and it is now being implemented at the CoP level of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions. By going beyond the synergies at the CoP



level, it applied to the Regional Centers as well. Most of the previously established BCRCs are now working as regional centers for Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions.

It is understood that a Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for South Asia has been established in India. The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research-National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (CSIR-NEERI) was nominated to serve as Stockholm Convention Regional Centre in September 2010 and was endorsed in 2011 as the regional or subregional centre for capacity building and the transfer of technology by CoP 5 of Stockholm Convention for four years.

***Considering the above developments carefully, it is recommended that the continuation of the Agenda Item on Establishment of Basel Convention Regional Centre for South Asia in SACEP work programme is no longer necessary and to be removed from this meeting onwards.***

***Annexes are available in the digital Report of 13GC-SACEP***



### **Environmentally Sustainable Transport (EST)**

Environmentally Sustainable Transport (EST) is an initiative of United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD) introduced as a remedy for the urban transport problem in the Asian Region in collaboration with the Ministry of the Environment, Japan in 2004.

SACEP jointed the initiative in March 2008 by signed of a MoU with UNCRD to promote Environmentally Sustainable Transport (EST) in South Asia.

As a result of the MoU, since the Third Meeting of the Regional EST Forum held from 17 - 19 March 2008 in Singapore, SACEP member countries have been participating annually at the EST forums. The 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Regional EST Forum in Asia was held in Bali, Indonesia from 23-25 April 2013.

SACEP in collaboration with UNCRD, the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation (AMC), and Ministry of Environment of the Government of Japan (MOE-Japan) organized a Sub-Regional EST Training Workshop-cum-Policy Dialogue in South Asia, from 26 - 28 August 2011 in Ahmedabad, India. This workshop was attended by participants from the Ministry of Environment of SACEP member countries along with officials from the Ministry of Transport/Urban Development, resource persons, representatives from various international organizations, and local observers from Ahmadabad, India

The 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Regional EST Forum will be held in Colombo, Sri Lanka in October 2014 in together with the Better Air Quality Conference 2014.

SACEP would be supporting Government of Sri Lanka in organizing the event.



### **Better Air Quality (BAQ) Conference**

The BAQ conference is a leading event on air quality in Asia, covering transport, energy, industry and climate change, with a particular emphasis on government policies and measures. It has become a major regional event through the efforts of the Clean Air Initiative for Asian Cities Center (CAI-Asia) and its partners. The BAQ 2012 was held in December 2012 in Hong Kong.

At the 7<sup>th</sup> Regional EST Forum held in Bali, Indonesia, in April 2013, Clean Air Asia announced that the Better Air Quality 2014 (BAQ 2014) Conference would also be held back to back with the 8<sup>th</sup> Regional EST Forum.

SACEP will be presenting the work initiated on Air Quality by its member countries during BAQ 2014.

***National Focal Points to communicate with SACEP Secretariat regarding presentation of country experiences and best practices during the conference.***



**South Asia position paper to reflect the post Rio +20 challenges related to environment sustainability (e.g. green economy, energy, water and sanitation etc.).**

The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (RIO+20), was held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil from 20 – 22 June 2012.

As a follow-up of the outcome of the above, South Asia position paper is prepared to reflect the post Rio+20 challenges related to environment and climate change (e.g. green economy, energy, water and sanitation). The Position Paper is aimed at supporting the incorporation of Rio+20 related environment and climate change issues in South Asia sub-region post-2015 development agenda consultation processes. The objective of the post-2015 consultations is to garner inputs and ideas for a shared global vision of "The Future We Want".

The consultations in South Asia is expected strengthened by the provision of sound analysis on the Rio+20 priority outcomes related to environment and climate change issues. In addition, the South Asia Position Paper is expected to raise awareness of the key challenges related to implementing the Rio+20 environment and climate change related outcomes.

A Draft Report was prepared by a consultant (Development Alternatives, India) and the consultation workshop was organized by Development Alternatives with the overall guidance and support from SACEP and UNEP. The workshop was held in Kathmandu on 30<sup>th</sup> May 2013. The objective of the consultation was to share and review the 1<sup>st</sup> draft of the Post Rio+20 South Asia Developmental Agenda with the member countries of South Asia including SAARC, UNEP & SACEP and to incorporate the comments and inputs for improvement of the report.

SACEP has received the Second Draft and sent to the member countries for acceptance.

***(Second Draft Report – Refer enclosed CD titled ‘Publications of SACEP – Item 6.1.10’)***

***National Focal Points to send the feed back on the Second Draft Report to SACEP Secretariat.***





# Technology Transfer **Green**

## Poverty Eradication

## Renewable Energy

# Human Security Food Security

## Institutional Framework

# Rapid Urbanization

# Development Goals Millennium

# Food Security

# Water Disaster

# Economic Growth

## Developmental Agenda

# omy Food

# Sustainable Development

# Land

# Regional

## Environmental Goals

# Degradation Poverty

## Sustainability

# Change

# Climate

# South Asia

# Environmental Stockholm

# Post Rio +20 South Asia Development Agenda

# Post Rio +20 South Asia Development Agenda



**Full text available in the digital Report of 13GC-SACEP**

### **South Asian Regional Strategy on Mercury and associated impacts focusing on Health Sector**

Mercury is a highly toxic element that is found both naturally and as an introduced contaminant in the environment. Although its potential for toxicity in highly contaminated areas such as Minamata Bay, Japan, in the 1950's and 1960's, is well documented, research has shown that mercury can be a threat to the health of people and wildlife in many environments that are not obviously polluted. The risk is determined by the likelihood of exposure, the form of mercury present (some forms are more toxic than others), and the geochemical and ecological factors that influence how mercury moves and changes form in the environment. (<http://www.usgs.gov/themes/factsheet/146-00/>)

Mercury is contained in many minerals, including cinnabar, an ore mined to produce mercury. Much of the present day demand for mercury is met by supply from mercury recovered from industrial sources and stockpiles rather than from mercury mining. Mercury is also present as an impurity in many other economically valuable minerals, in particular the non-ferrous metals, and in fossil fuels, coal in particular. Human activity, especially mining and the burning of coal, has increased the mobilization of mercury into the environment, raising the amounts in the atmosphere, soils, fresh waters, and oceans. Anthropogenic sources of mercury emissions account for about 30% of the total amount of mercury entering the atmosphere each year.

Mercury releases to aquatic systems as a result of current human activities arise from many of the same uses which emit to the atmosphere or the presence of mercury in various products and processes that emit mercury to the air. As with emissions to the atmosphere, aquatic releases come from two main sources. First, mercury is released with water effluent from the sites where mercury is used. Second, mercury can leach into water from disposal sites that have mercury in the waste.

Today's anthropogenic emissions continue to load the oceans, and the catchments and sediments of lakes and rivers, with inorganic mercury. This mercury, which is the "feed-stock" for toxic methyl mercury production, is stored and recycled in the bioavailable part of the environment for decades or centuries before it eventually is removed by natural processes. One consequence is that there will likely be a time-lag of years or decades, depending on the part of the water column, before emissions reductions begin to have a demonstrable effect on mercury levels throughout the environment and in the fish and marine mammals which are part of the human food-chain. The majority of human exposure to mercury, and the health risk that comes with mercury exposure, is from consumption of marine foods.

According to the UNEP Global Mercury Assessment 2013, the greatest proportion of anthropogenic mercury emissions to the atmosphere comes from Asia, which contributes about 50% of the global total. Increasing industrialization has made Asia the main source region of mercury emissions to air, with East and Southeast Asia accounting for about 40% of the global total, and South Asia for a further 8%.

High doses of mercury can be fatal to humans, but even relatively low doses of mercury containing compounds can have serious adverse impacts on the developing nervous system, and have recently been linked with possible harmful effects on the cardiovascular, immune and reproductive systems. Mercury and its compounds affect the central nervous system, kidneys, and liver and can disturb immune processes; cause tremors, impaired vision and hearing, paralysis, insomnia and emotional instability. During pregnancy, mercury compounds cross the placental barrier and can interfere with the development of the fetus, and cause attention deficit and developmental delays during childhood

The emerging scientific recognition about the destructive impacts of low doses raises urgent questions about the health risks that have already been and are currently being incurred under the existing safety levels. Given the downward trend of safety levels, precautionary public policy requires that we anticipate the need to build in further safety margins. At the same time, the need to address the source of the mercury problem is therefore becoming more pressing.

In responding to the global threat of Mercury, more than 140 countries have agreed to a legally binding global treaty to curb mercury in the environment. The treaty includes a phased-in ban on the use of mercury in many industrial processes and in products such as thermometers, batteries and lamps. It will introduce a ban on primary mercury mining and mercury emissions from new power plants to take place within 15 years of the treaty coming into effect, as well as measures to reduce mercury releases from existing plants. It also includes controls on the export and import of the heavy metal and measures to ensure the safe storage of waste mercury.

Mercury is widely used in health sector all over the world and the situation is similar in South Asia as well. Lack of proper disposal methods is hampering the individual country's effort to phasing out the mercury contaminated equipment.

In October 2013, the Minamata Convention on Mercury will be adopted and opened for signature. This Convention will address the issues of mercury usage in various sectors and work towards phasing out it. With the adopting of new Convention, GEF is proposed as financial mechanism for developing countries to undertake mercury related activities.

SACEP is in the process of collecting baseline data on mercury usage in Health Sector in South Asian countries to develop a regional project for assisting its member countries. The project will aim to establish a database on existing mercury

usage in health sector in South Asian countries which will give a baseline for future projects to be developed on elimination of mercury for GEF funding. It will also develop a regional strategy on phasing out and disposing existing mercury in South Asia.

- a) SACEP Secretariat to develop a regional project for assisting the member countries***
- b) National Focal Points to provide baseline data on mercury usage in Health Sector.***



### **Proposal for SACEP to be a GEF Project Agency**

The Global Environment Facility (GEF) was established in October 1991 as a \$1 billion pilot program in the World Bank to assist in the protection of the global environment and to promote environmental sustainable development. The GEF would provide new and additional grants and concessional funding to cover the "incremental" or additional costs associated with transforming a project with national benefits into one with global environmental benefits. The United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Bank were the three initial partners implementing GEF projects.

In 1994, at the Rio Earth Summit, the GEF was restructured and moved out of the World Bank system to become a permanent, separate institution. As a part of the restructuring, the GEF was entrusted to become the financial mechanism for both the UN Convention on Biological Diversity and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. In partnership with the Montreal Protocol of the Vienna Convention on Ozone Layer Depleting Substances, the GEF started funding projects that enable the Russian Federation and nations in Eastern Europe and Central Asia to phase out their use of ozone-destroying chemicals. Subsequently, GEF was also selected to serve as the financial mechanism for two more international conventions: The Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (2001) and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (2003).

The GEF provides funds through GEF Agencies to developing countries and countries with economies in transition. GEF Agencies are responsible for creating project proposals and for managing GEF projects. The GEF Agencies play a key role in managing GEF projects on the ground; more specifically, GEF Agencies assist eligible governments and NGOs in the development, implementation, and management of GEF projects.

In May 2011, under the provisions of paragraph 28 of the GEF Instrument, the GEF Council decided to broaden its partnerships by approving the policies, procedures, and criteria for a pilot on accrediting new institutions to serve as GEF Partners for the implementation of GEF projects. The expansion of the GEF Partnership aims at enhancing country ownership within the GEF and to give recipient countries greater choice in terms of agencies with, which they work. Accreditation of national agencies as GEF Project Agencies will also allow them to enhance their capacity in terms of project implementation.

The new agencies to be accredited under this reform will be referred to as GEF Project Agencies. Upon accreditation, GEF Project Agencies will be entitled to work directly with the GEF Secretariat and Trustee to assist recipient countries in the preparation and implementation of GEF-financed projects, which will enable them to access resources from GEF-managed trust funds directly.

Under the GEF-5 pilot, the GEF will be able to accredit up to ten (10) institutions to serve as GEF Project Agencies, with the goal of accrediting at least five national institutions. To ensure that applications from national institutions have priority in terms of accreditation, until at least five applicant national institutions have been approved by the GEF Council (*which will enable them to move forward for review by the GEF Accreditation Panel, or Stage 2 of the Accreditation Procedure*), the GEF secretariat will only review applications from national institutions, regional organizations and civil society organizations/non-governmental organizations.

The GEF Council decided that it will review applications for accreditation at the Spring 2012 and Fall 2012, Council meetings only. The GEF called interested applicants to submit their completed Stage 1 Applications to the GEF secretariat according to the following schedule.

- For Spring 2012: Applications to be submitted by 31<sup>st</sup> December 2011
- For Fall 2012: Applications to be submitted by 30<sup>th</sup> June 2012

SACEP was proposed to be accredited as a GEF Project Agency at the South Asia GEF Constituency Meeting held from 15 -16 May 2012 in Male', Maldives. Government of Sri Lanka agreed to provide allocation from STAR (GEF Cycle 5) for a GEF Project in this Registration / Accreditation process.

Thereafter, SACEP forwarded the application to GEF Secretariat on 18<sup>th</sup> June 2012 to consider at Fall 2012 GEF Council meeting. The GEF has indicated that SACEP application for GEF Partnership will be considered for accreditation at the beginning of GEF-6 (**Annex I**).

***National Focal Points to canvas relevant authorities (i.e. GEF Council Member, Alternate Member South Asia and GEF CEO etc) in support of SACEP's application.***





**MONIQUE BARBUT**

*Chief Executive Officer and Chairperson*

1818 H Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20433 USA  
Tel: 202.473.3202  
Fax: 202.522.3240/3245  
E-mail: mbarbut@TheGEF.org

June 25, 2012

S.M.D.P Anura Jayatilake  
Director General  
South Asia Co-operative Environmental Programme (SACEP)  
Sri Lanka

Dear Anura Jayatilake,

I understand that the South Asia Co-operative Environmental Programme (SACEP) is interested in becoming an accredited GEF Project Agency. Therefore, I would like to inform you of the latest Council decisions on accreditation, which are also listed in the Joint Summary of the Chairs, dated June 7, 2012, available at: [http://www.thegef.org/GEF/sites/thegef.org/files/documents/Joint\\_Summary\\_of\\_the\\_Chairs.pdf](http://www.thegef.org/GEF/sites/thegef.org/files/documents/Joint_Summary_of_the_Chairs.pdf). These decisions impact the ability of the Secretariat to process your application for accreditation.

The GEF Council, having reviewed the document GEF/C.42/09/Rev.01, Secretariat Recommendations of Project Agencies for Accreditation, has approved, at its 42nd meeting, 11 applicant agencies to progress on to Stage II of the accreditation process. These agencies now will be reviewed by the GEF Accreditation Panel for compliance with the GEF fiduciary standards and environmental and social safeguards.

As you know, according to the document GEF/C.40/09, Broadening the GEF Partnership under Paragraph 28 of the Instrument, under the GEF-5 pilot, the GEF will be able to accredit up to 10 institutions to serve as GEF Project Agencies. In the event that all of the 11 agencies that have received Council approval for Stage I also receive Stage II approval from the GEF Accreditation Panel, then the number of agencies to be granted accreditation as a GEF Project Agency will exceed the target of "up to ten institutions" set forth in the document GEF/C.40/09. Given this possibility, at its 42nd meeting, the Council further decided to postpone the consideration of a next round of accreditation until its November 2012 meeting.

Consequently, I regretfully need to inform you that the Secretariat will not be able to undertake any Stage I value-added reviews from additional applicants for Council consideration until November 2012. If, at that time, the Council decides to consider a new round of accreditation, the Secretariat will be ready to process new Stage I applications.

Nevertheless, I would like to emphasize that the Council has indicated its commitment to accreditation and the broadening of the GEF partnership, and therefore, even if there may be no additional applications considered in GEF-5, I am confident that the Council will consider accreditation again at the beginning of GEF-6.

I thank you for your interest in becoming a part of the GEF family. The Secretariat will, of course, keep you informed of the decision that the Council makes on this issue at its November 2012 meeting. In the mean time, please feel free to contact the Secretariat if you have any questions or require clarifications.

Best regards,



Monique Barbut  
CEO and Chairperson  
Global Environment Facility

### **Regional Cooperation for the Conservation and Wise-use of Internationally Important Wetlands in South Asia**

South Asia is home to a large variety of wetlands, ranging from high altitude glacial lakes in the Himalayas to the near shore coral reefs. These habitats are crucial in sustaining the livelihoods and food security of millions of people in the region, while supporting a considerable biological wealth. They also provide invaluable ecosystem services in the form of water purification, coastal protection and flood retention and defense, as well as having great high cultural and religious significance. Yet these important ecosystems are under severe threat due to anthropogenic actions and global climate change issues.

The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands adopted in 1971, promotes the conservation and wise use of all wetlands through local and national actions and international cooperation, as a contribution towards achieving sustainable development throughout the world. It recognizes that wetlands as ecosystems are extremely important for supporting the wellbeing of human societies and for biodiversity conservation. Out of the eight member countries of South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP), six are party to the Ramsar Convention. Although containing globally significant wetlands Afghanistan and Maldives are yet to ratify the Convention

Establishment of regional arrangements for the conservation and wise use of shared wetlands and their resources is considered as an important objective of the Ramsar Strategic Plan and presently there are 16 active regional initiatives under operation. They act as mechanisms designed to strengthen the implementation of the Convention and its Strategic Plan on a regional level. This policy paper highlights the need for a regional arrangement for co-operation and collaboration in the conservation and wise use of wetlands in South Asia. The regional arrangement proposed for South Asia will be a collaborative effort between the governments and other major stakeholders involved in wetland related initiatives and will offer a framework to facilitate co-operation in agreed areas of mutual interest. It will provide additional value to national efforts in wetland conservation and wise use.

Suggested areas for cooperation are:

- Mobilization of regional assistance for non-signatory parties to sign and ratify the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands and to encourage the nomination of new Ramsar sites by the parties to the convention.
- Facilitation of co-operative management of shared wetland systems.
- Sharing information, experiences and best practices for wetland conservation and wise use.

- Developing synergies between Multilateral Environmental Agreements addressing wetland issues.

A comprehensive paper titled 'Regional Cooperation for the Conservation and Wise-use of Internationally Important Wetlands in South Asia' was prepared in collaboration with the Ramsar Secretariat. This draft document was circulated amongst the SACEP member countries and was presented and discussed at the Pre-CoP Asia meeting held in Jakarta from 14 – 18 November 2011.

Ramsar Secretariat is very much interested in signing a MoU with SACEP for enhancing cooperation amongst the South Asian countries for wise use of the regions wetlands and discussions are ongoing in this regard.

It is now being updated with new information received and is tabled for endorsement of the 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the SACEP Governing Council.

***Draft document on regional co-operation on wetlands is placed for consideration at the 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the SACEP Governing Council.***

Revised draft – 28<sup>th</sup> October 2013  
For Discussion Only

## Regional Cooperation for the Conservation and Wise-use of Internationally Important Wetlands in South Asia



South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme





## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

South Asia is endowed with a large variety of wetlands, ranging from high altitude glacial lakes in the Himalayas to the near shore coral reefs. These habitats are crucial in sustaining the livelihoods and food security of millions of people in the region, while supporting a considerable biological wealth. They also provide invaluable ecosystem services in the form of water purification, coastal protection and flood retention and defense, as well as having high cultural and religious significance. Yet these important ecosystems are under severe threat due to land use conversion, damming of rivers, deforestation, lack of awareness and absence of policies as well as global climate change issues leading to floods and droughts.

The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands adopted in 1971, promotes the conservation and wise use of all wetlands through local and national actions and international cooperation, as a contribution towards achieving sustainable development throughout the world. It recognizes that wetlands as ecosystems are extremely important for supporting the well being of human societies and for biodiversity conservation. Out of the eight member countries of South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP), six are party to the Ramsar Convention and up to end of October 2013 have designated 64 wetlands of international importance, covering an area of 2.71 million hectares. Bhutan became a party to the Convention as recently as in May 2012. Although containing globally significant wetlands Afghanistan and, Maldives are yet to ratify the Convention.

Establishment of regional arrangements for the conservation and wise use of shared wetlands and their resources is considered as an important objective of the Ramsar Strategic Plan and presently there are 16 active regional initiatives under operation. They act as mechanisms designed to strengthen the implementation of the Convention and its Strategic Plan on a regional level. This policy paper highlights the need for a regional arrangement for cooperation and collaboration in the conservation and wise use of wetlands in South Asia. The regional arrangement proposed for South Asia will be a collaborative effort between the governments and other major stakeholders involved in wetland related initiatives and will offer a framework to facilitate cooperation in agreed areas of mutual interest. It will provide additional value to national efforts in wetland conservation and wise use. Suggested areas for cooperation are:

- Mobilization of regional assistance for non-signatory parties to become party to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands and to encourage the nomination of new Ramsar sites
- Facilitation of cooperative management of shared wetland systems.
- Sharing information, experiences and best practices for wetland conservation and wise use.
- Developing synergies between Multilateral Environmental Agreements addressing wetland conservation and management issues.

The idea of this arrangement is not to build new institutions, but to enhance communication and collaboration between existing institutions and programmes. It is proposed that the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP), the intergovernmental environment programme for the region, as the appropriate organization to facilitate the development and coordination of this regional arrangement. The structure and modalities of operation needs to be determined through detailed consultation between all stakeholders.

## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 The Wetlands of South Asia

The variability in climatic conditions and changing topography is responsible for significant wetland diversity within South Asia, where natural wetlands range from high altitude Himalayan lakes, followed by wetlands situated in the flood plains of the major river systems, saline and temporary wetlands of the arid and semi-arid regions and coastal wetlands such as lagoons, estuaries, mangrove forests and coral reefs (Refer Box 1 for more information). The Hindu

#### **Box 1: Facts and Figures for Wetlands of South Asia**

- Afghanistan - major river systems rising in the high mountains and freshwater lakes in the Sistan Basin
- Bangladesh – 50% of its territory is covered by wetlands
- Bhutan – due to its extremely mountainous terrain, only river systems and a scattering of small high altitude glacial lakes are present
- India – wetlands occupy 1-5% of geographical area and supports about a fifth of the known biodiversity
- Nepal – 5% of land mass is covered by around 242 wetlands.
- Maldives - made up of 1,190 small islands is home to 3% of the world's warm water coral reefs.
- Pakistan – wetlands accounts for approximately 10% of the total land area including the largest man-made irrigation systems of the world,
- Sri Lanka - wetland accounts for around 15% of the land area.

Kush- Himalayan region is one of the largest storehouses of fresh water in the world, and is the source of major river systems that serve millions of people in South Asia. The region contains the world's largest deltaic system (of the Ganges, Brahmaputra and Meghna rivers) and the single largest continuous mangrove forest in the world; the Sundarbans, which is shared between Bangladesh and India. Further, there is also a tremendous network of man-made wetlands including paddy fields, irrigation structures and hydropower reservoirs.

Wetlands are among the most productive ecosystems in the world and are comparable to rain forests. They play a vital role in providing food security and livelihoods for the people of South Asia. Tremendous economic benefits are provided in the form of water supply services, fisheries, maintenance of water tables and nutrient retention in floodplains, timber production, wildlife resources, transport as well as recreation and tourism opportunities. Wetlands also play an important role in the mitigation and adaptation to the impacts from climate change. In South Asia, more than half a billion people depend on water supplied by rivers including the Indus

and Ganges for their day to day activities. In Bangladesh, 81 per cent of the fish catch comes from wetlands and rivers, while the Chilika Lake of India provides a fish catch of around 700 tonnes per year. Maldives depends on its coral reefs for tourism and fishing industries, which are the main sources of employment for its people. Another important benefit from coastal wetlands,

such as mangroves and coral reefs, are the protection they offer to the coastline from cyclones and storm surges, which was clearly evident during the December 2004 tsunami.

Wetlands in this region also have special attributes as part of the bio-cultural heritage of humanity since they are related to religious and cosmological beliefs; wetlands constitute a source of aesthetic inspiration, and form the basis of important local traditions. For example, in Bhutan high altitude lakes are considered and revered as sacred sites (abode of Gods and Deities) and their conservation is important for the myths and beliefs of traditional people. Wetlands also play an important economic role in supporting tourism. Several wetlands in South Asia are designated as UNESCO World Heritage sites and they attract considerable number of tourists. Further, bird tourism is becoming popular and in this regard, intact wetlands are vital for its further development. Near shore coral reefs are also growing hotspots for tourism industry in the region.

Additionally, wetlands are critical habitats for a multitude of globally threatened species such as the one-horned rhinoceros, Bengal tiger, Asiatic elephants, Gharial and Mugger crocodiles, Gangetic and Indus dolphins as well as large number of water birds. The coastal wetlands of Bangladesh support the largest known concentrations of three globally threatened water birds: Spotted Greenshank, Spoon-billed Sandpiper and Indian Skimmer. Indian wetlands support a considerable number of bird species including the Siberian crane, white-bellied heron and greater adjutant. The largest wintering population of the globally threatened Black necked Crane, outside China, is found in several marshy river valleys in Bhutan, and the country's wetlands are also believed to be important for the threatened Wood Snipe.

Despite their significant contribution to global biological wealth and livelihoods of people, South Asia's wetlands are severely threatened by the impacts of increasing human population and the rapid economic expansion of the region. South Asia is home to nearly one fifth of the global human population and is one of the fastest economically growing regions of the world. As a result, land reclamation, pollution, siltation and unsustainable exploitation of resources have become major threats to the wetlands' survival (see table 1). For example, 2.1 million ha of wetlands along the Ganges-Brahmaputra floodplains have been lost due to flood control, drainage and irrigation development in the upstream regions.

In some instances there are conflicts between development projects and wetland conservation measures. For example the Allahabad High Court in India in March 2002 stopped a World Bank funded wasteland reclamation project, which was draining five wetlands that were crucial for the survival of the endangered Sarus Cranes. Further, political instability in certain parts of the region has also affected sustainable wetland management. Dams on the Gardez and Ghazni Rivers and tube-wells threaten the viability of Ab-i-Estada, a 290km<sup>2</sup> saline wetland in Ghazni Province, Afghanistan. Ab-i-Estada was once a staging area for the Critically Endangered Siberian Crane and also an important breeding area for Greater Flamingos.

On the other side, extreme climatic events can also have serious detrimental impacts on wetlands in the region. Severe drought resulted in drying up of large number of wetlands during the 2001-2002 periods around the region. Satellite imagery shows 99% of the Sistan wetlands of Afghanistan, which stretch over the frontier into Iran, dried out between 1998 and 2002. With the



advent of climate change, as the mean temperature increases, Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOF), a potentially catastrophic release of large amount of stored water from glacial lakes, could become more common in the Himalayan highlands. The most serious consequence of climate change in Bangladesh will be a rise in sea level along the Bay of Bengal coast, potentially causing submergence of 10 to 20 per cent of land including the Sundarbans. The 1998 El Niño related bleaching event seriously damaged most of the near shore reefs in India, Maldives and Sri Lanka, with a loss of around 60-80% of live coral cover having an impact on tourism and fishery industries .

Water security is emerging as an increasingly important and vital issue for the South Asian region. Many South Asian countries are beginning to experience moderate to severe water shortages, brought on by the simultaneous effects of agricultural growth, industrialization and urbanization. Therefore, conservation and management of wetlands calls for a comprehensive strategy, ranging from legal framework and policy support to inventory-taking, institutional mechanism, capacity building, and community participation.

**Table 1: Some of the critically threatened wetland ecosystems in South Asia**

<b>Ecosystem</b>	<b>Significance</b>	<b>Threats</b>
Indus river delta wetlands of Pakistan	Diverse mangrove ecosystem important for fishery. Habitat of Indus river dolphins, marine turtles and migratory birds. Provide protection against storm surges,	Water diversion/drainage. Cutting of mangrove for fuel wood Toxic pollutants and oil spills.
Sundarbans Mangrove Forest, shared by India and Bangladesh	Diverse mangrove habitat with significant biological diversity including the Bengal tiger. Important for fishery and provides protection against storm surges.	Sea level rise, aquaculture expansion
Glacier lakes in Bhutan and Nepal	Important water reservoirs for large number of river basins	Due to increased temperatures lake outbursts cause flooding; Shrinking/shifting of glaciers
Terai wetlands of Nepal	Important waterfowl habitat and a wintering ground for migratory birds. Provide water for agriculture and other human needs	Siltation, eutrophication, over exploitation of wetland resources: encroachment, water pollution, developmental activities in adjoining areas, drainage, introduction of invasive species, and floods.
Sistan wetlands in Afghanistan (partially in Iran)	Important waterfowl habitat including being a winter home for eight globally threatened species. Provides water for agriculture and other human needs.	Reduce input of water due to low rainfall; pesticide accumulation; erosion
Near shore coral reefs (India, Maldives, Sri Lanka)	Important for fishery, tourism and coastal defense. High Biodiversity and a habitat for a significant number of globally threatened species.	Mining, over harvesting, pollution and siltation and climate related bleaching events

## 1.2 The Ramsar Convention

The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands adopted in 1971 is an intergovernmental treaty which provides the framework for national action and international cooperation for the conservation and wise use of wetlands. The Convention came into force in 1975, and by end of October 2013 it had 168 member countries as parties. Originally established to preserve wetlands as a vital habitat for waterfowl, the Ramsar Convention has advanced over the past 42 years to sustain the diverse socio-economic benefits wetlands deliver to people throughout the world. At the centre of the Ramsar philosophy is the “wise use” concept, which is defined as "the maintenance of their ecological character, achieved through the implementation of ecosystem approaches, within the context of sustainable development". The Convention uses a broad definition for the types of wetlands that comes under its aegis as indicated in Box 2.

### **BOX 2: DEFINITION AND TYPES OF WETLANDS ACCORDING TO THE RAMSAR CONVENTION**

As defined by the Convention, wetlands include a wide variety of habitats

**Article 1.1:** “Wetlands are areas of marsh, fen, peatland or water, whether natural or artificial, permanent or temporary, with water that is static or flowing, fresh, brackish or salt, including areas of marine water the depth of which at low tide does not exceed six meters”.

**Article 2.1:** “Wetlands may incorporate riparian and coastal zones adjacent to the wetlands, and islands or bodies of marine water deeper than six meters at low tide lying within the wetlands

42 types of wetlands including natural and man-made wetland types are recognized by the convention. Natural wetlands can be grouped into five categories:

- Marine (coastal lagoons, rocky shores and coral reefs)
- Estuarine (deltas, tidal marshes and mangroves)
- Lacustrine: wetlands associated with lakes)
- Riverrine (wetlands along rivers and streams) and
- Palustrine (marshes, swamps and bogs)

Some examples for man-made wetlands include fish ponds, irrigated agricultural land, salt pans, reservoirs, gravel pits and sewage farms.

*Source: Ramsar Convention Secretariat (2006)*

Strategic direction in the Ramsar Convention is provided by the Strategic Plan, the latest version of which was adopted by COP10 in 2008 for the period 2009-2015. It provides the direction for contracting parties to deliver their commitments to conservation and wise use of wetlands and is based on five “pillars of action”:

- Wise use of wetlands – ensuring that conservation and wise use of wetlands contribute to poverty eradication, mitigation and adaptation to climate change, as well as prevention of disease and of natural disasters;
- Management of the Wetlands of International Importance - develop and maintain an international network of wetlands that are important for sustaining human life, conserve global biological diversity, including waterbird flyways and fish populations;

- International cooperation - enhance the conservation and wise use of wetlands using effective international cooperation, through inter alia the active application of the Guidelines for international cooperation under the Ramsar Convention;
- Institutional capacity and effectiveness - progress towards fulfillment of the Convention's mission by ensuring that it has the required mechanisms, resources, and capacity to do so;
- Membership - progress towards universal membership of the Convention.

The first obligation under the Convention is for a Party to designate at least one wetland at the time of accession for inclusion in the List of Wetlands of International Importance (Article 2.4) and to promote its conservation and wise use, and additionally continue to "designate suitable wetlands within its territory" to the List (Article 2.1). Selection for the Ramsar List is to be based on the wetland's significance in terms of ecology, botany, zoology, limnology, or hydrology. The Contracting Parties have developed nine specific criteria and guidelines for identifying sites that qualify for inclusion in the Ramsar List. At COP7 a Strategic Framework for the List was adopted through Resolution VII.11, identifying a new Vision for the List: "To develop and maintain an international network of wetlands which are important for the conservation of global biological diversity and for sustaining life through the ecological and hydrological functions which they perform". Presently, the Parties have designated for this List more than 2,168 wetlands for special protection as "Ramsar sites", covering 206 million hectares. In the Strategic Framework, the Convention's Contracting Parties established that the international network has to be built from coherent and comprehensive national networks of designated Ramsar sites.

### **1.3 The Status of Ramsar Convention in South Asia**

Of the eight member states of SACEP, six are party to the Ramsar Convention, with Pakistan being the first state by ratifying the convention in 1978 and Bhutan becoming the latest member by becoming a party in May 2012. As of the end of October 2013 these six countries have designated 64 wetlands of international importance, covering an area of approx 2.7 million hectares (Refer to Table 2 and Map1). Afghanistan and Maldives are yet to ratify the Convention. The Directory of Asian Wetlands published in 1989, identified 194 important wetland sites from the countries (other than Maldives) covering an area of over 13 million hectares. Eight wetlands have been identified in Afghanistan under the Directory of Wetlands in the Middle East. Pakistan is the only country in the region that has declared more land area than indicated in the directory and this has been due to incorporation of large areas from the Indus Delta and Rann of Kutch as Ramsar Sites. Most of the Sites fall under Ramsar Criteria 1 and 2 (i.e. it contains a representative, rare, or unique example of a natural or near-natural wetland type found within the appropriate biogeographic region or it supports vulnerable, endangered, or critically endangered species or threatened ecological communities).

Out of the 64 sites, 46 were designated after 2001, while three of them were declared in 2012 (two from Bhutan and one site from India). Willpattu wetland cluster of Sri Lanka was the latest to be added in to the global list. The extent of these Ramsar Sites varies from 20 ha Renuka Wetland of India to 601,700 ha Sundarbans Reserved Forest of Bangladesh. Only six of them are above 100,000 ha in extent, while 16 are below 500 ha. Further, although not mandatory as per Ramsar guidelines, 45 of the sites are protected under National/local legislation. Four of these Ramsar Sites (Sundarbans of Bangladesh, Keoladeo National Park of India and two sites of

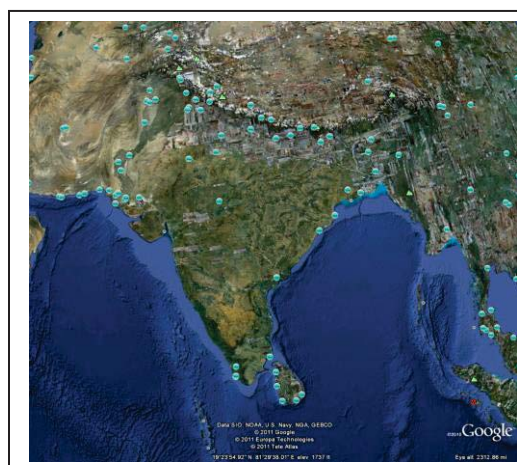
Nepal; Beesazar and Gokyo) are also inscribed on the World Heritage List under the UNESCO Convention concerning the protection of the world cultural and natural heritage, while Bundala Ramsar Site of Sri Lanka is also designated as the core-area of UNESCO- Man and Biosphere site (See Fig.1 - 4 and Annex 1).

**Table 2: Country-wise environmentally important wetlands and the number of designated Ramsar sites**

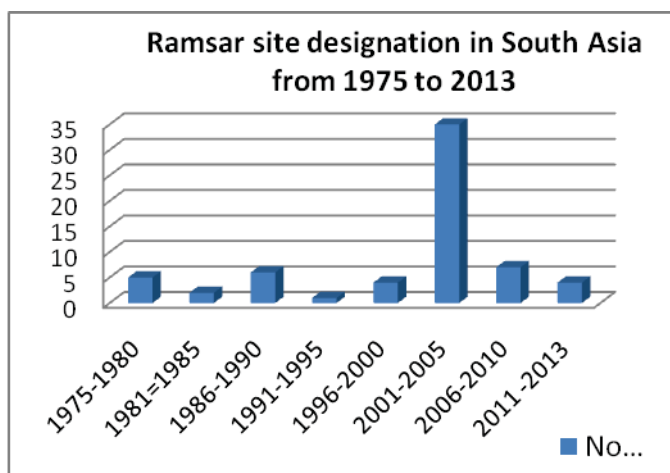
Country	* Important Wetlands sites identified		**Ramsar Sites		Date of entry into the force
	Number	Area (ha)	Number	Area	
Afghanistan	08	100, 491	-	-	-
Bangladesh	12	6,770,000	02	611,200	15/10/90
Bhutan	05	8,500	02	256	07/09/2012
India	93	5,470,000	26	689,131	01/02/82
Maldives	-	-	-	-	-
Nepal	17	35,600	09	34,455	17/04/88
Pakistan	48	858,000	19	1,343,627	23/11/76
Sri Lanka	41	247,000	06	32,372	5/10/90
<b>Regional Total</b>	<b>224</b>	<b>13,389,100</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>2,711,041</b>	
<b>Global Total***</b>			<b>2,168</b>	<b>206,631,105</b>	

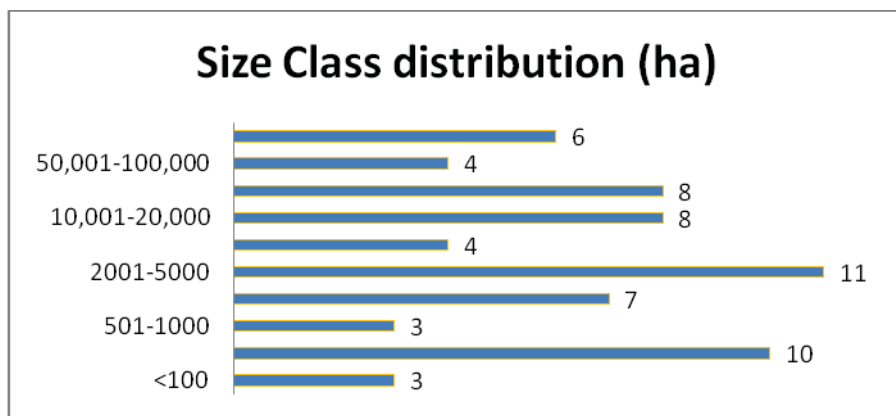
\* Area of wetlands as describe in the Directory of Middle East Wetland for Afghanistan; for other countries it is as described in the Directory of Asian Wetlands, 1989

\*\*Data from [www.ramsar.org](http://www.ramsar.org); \*\*\* As of 28<sup>th</sup> October 2013



Source: [www.wetlands.org](http://www.wetlands.org)





The designated Ramsar Sites include a variety of ecosystems. While the majority comes under natural inland habitats such as wetlands associated with lakes and rivers, man-made reservoirs also make a considerable proportion. A good example in this regard is the East Calcutta Wetlands of India, which can be considered as world-renowned model for a multiple use wetland. The Site's resource recovery systems developed by local people through the ages have saved the city of Calcutta from the costs of constructing and maintaining waste water treatment plants. The wetland forms an urban facility for treating the city's waste water and utilizing the treated water for aquaculture and agriculture, through the recovery of nutrients in an efficient manner.

Similarly, the Annaiwilundawa Tanks Sanctuary of Sri Lanka is an ancient system of human-made cascading tanks or reservoirs, ranging between 12 and 50 hectares each and totaling some 200 ha, dating back to the 12th century, which helps to sustain traditional paddy fields in the area as well as islets of natural vegetation. Coastal wetlands such as estuaries, lagoons, deltas and mangrove forests as well as fresh water lakes are the major natural Ramsar Sites of South Asia. Astola (Haft Talar) Island, of Pakistan is an uninhabited island of about six km in length, located 25 km south of the desert coast of Balochistan. It is the only significant offshore island along the north coast of the Arabian Sea, and as such maintains the genetic and ecological diversity of the area.

The Asian region has also declared few high altitude glacial lakes (Bhutan, India and Nepal). A good example is the Lake Tsomoriri at 4,595 m altitude, which lies in the Changthang Cold Desert Sanctuary of Ladakh in the Jammu and Kashmir state of India.

It is also anticipated that in near future, several additional Ramsar Sites might be designated by the signatory states as per indicative from the national reports submitted to 11<sup>th</sup> COP in 2012. For example, Bangladesh has identified three new sites; Char Kukri Mukri, Sonar Char and Nijhum Dwip for declaration and a fourth site; Hakaluki Haor is under active consideration for inclusion as a Ramsar site (MOEF/GOB, 2012). In India six sites are under the process of designation and hope to designate at least 25 more Ramsar sites during the next triennium (MOEF/GOI, 2012 &



2008). According to a recent study conducted by the Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS), there are around 160 Indian wetland sites, which meet the criteria to qualify as Ramsar Sites. In Pakistan, five potential high altitude or alpine wetlands have been short-listed for future designation as Ramsar Sites (Forestry Wing/GOP, 2012). Sri Lanka plans to declare three more sites from the northern part of the country, which was inaccessible due to civil unrest during the past three decades (DW/GOSL, 2012).

Three Ramsar Sites in India were placed on the Montreux Record in early 1990s due to changes in the ecological characters within these habitats. Chilika Lake was removed from the Record in 2002 due to the effort of the Chilika Lake Development Authority to overcome problems caused by siltation and sedimentation, which was choking the mouth of the lake. Keoladeo National Park was placed on the Montreux Record due to water shortage and an unbalanced grazing regime and the invasive growth of the grass *Paspalum distichum*. This has changed the ecological character of large areas of the site, reducing its suitability for certain water bird species, notably the Siberian crane. Loktak Lake was still placed on the Record as a result of ecological problems such as deforestation in the catchment area, infestation of water hyacinth, and pollution.

After Pakistan suffered one of its most disastrous floods in 2010, on the request of the Ministry of Climate Change, a Ramsar Advisory Mission visited the wetlands along the Indus River floodplains. The visit highlighted the fact that the Indus River is truly the lifeblood for Pakistan, yet there is a lack of an integrated basin approach to the management of the river to maintain the many services and benefits.

Presently there is a gap in declaring wetlands such as near shore coral reefs as Ramsar Sites and there is an urgent need to update the information provided in some of the Ramsar Information Sheets (RIS) for the Ramsar Sites.

#### **1.4 Other National Actions**

Realizing the importance of wetlands, the countries of South Asia has taken various measures to conserve and manage them. Sri Lanka and Nepal have developed exclusive wetland policies, while Bangladesh is in the process of drafting theirs. Further, comprehensive national wetland inventories have been undertaken by India and in Sri Lanka (Refer Table 3). Local and International Non-governmental organizations play a major role in supporting these Government's efforts to conserve wetland resources in the region. Organizations such as The World Wild Fund for Nature, ICIMOD, IWMI and the IUCN country offices are playing a very important role in this regard.

**Table 3: Activities undertaken to address wetland issues**

<b>Afghanistan</b>	
<b>Bangladesh</b>	Draft National wetland policy prepared and to be adopted; A National Ramsar Committee was constituted in 1999 through an official gazette notification; National Water Policy (1999) has strong statement on wetland management. Wetland information centers to be established at Tanguar Haor and at the St. Martin's Island; A legislative review has been made and amendments were made including a new law prohibiting any development changes in Ramsar sites, and other protected areas. Bangladesh 'Haor Unnayan Board' under ministry of water resources identified all wet lands of the country and their management plan is being prepared with the assistance of CEGIS (Centre for Environmental Geographic Information System).
<b>Bhutan</b>	An inventory on High Altitude Wetlands was recently published by WWF Bhutan.
<b>India</b>	Has established a Wetland Committee and a National Wetland Programme; A Management Action Plan for wetlands has been developed and priority areas for conservation identified (including 30 mangrove and 4 coral reef sites); A National Lakes Conservation Plan prepared, and work is in progress on transboundary action plans for rivers; A National Wetland Atlas has been prepared and wetlands mapping and inventory is being undertaken; The government also Notified the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules in 2010 under the Environmental Protection Act and a central wetland regulatory authority have been established,
<b>Maldives</b>	Baa Atoll was recently declared as a UNESCO-MAB and
<b>Nepal</b>	National Wetland Policy 2003 was reviewed, revised and approved by the Government of Nepal in 2012; the GEF funded wetlands project focusing on the wetlands of Terai has ended, but there is a new GEF project looking at the Glacier Lakes Outburst Floods
<b>Pakistan</b>	A draft wetland policy formulated in 2010 and now in the process of formal adoption. National Wetland Action Plan prepared; A comprehensive inventory of all wetlands is being undertaken under a GEF funded wetland project; National Wetlands Management Committee is in place. Provincial and site specific committees are being formed.
<b>Sri Lanka</b>	National Wetland Conservation Committee was established in 1990 with Cabinet approval and was reconstituted in 2003 to integrate plans for wetland areas and to coordinate development and conservation activities. The National Wetland Policy was approved by the Government in May 2004. National Wetland Management Unit is developed at the CEA to facilitate the policy implementation. A comprehensive wetland atlas was prepared in 2006.

## **2 THE NEED FOR REGIONAL COOPERATION IN SOUTH ASIA**

Although a major focus of the Ramsar Convention is on national-level implementation of its activities by the contracting parties, based on the encouraging results from the regional cooperation of the Mediterranean Wetlands Initiative (MedWet), the Secretariat approved guidance for the development of regional initiatives (Resolution VIII.30), whereby groups of Contracting Parties with a common geographical focus and in some cases with a common thematic goal could apply for endorsement as “regional initiatives operating within the framework of the Ramsar Convention”.

Regional initiatives under the Ramsar Convention are intended as operational means to provide effective support for improved implementation of the objectives of the Convention and its Strategic Plan in specific geographical regions, through international cooperation on wetland-related issues of common concern, as outlined in the Operational Guidelines 2004-2012, adopted by COP10 (Resolution X.6). Furthermore, the Convention's Strategic Plan for 2009-2015 highlights the importance of international coordination of national and sub-national efforts to

achieve the objectives of the Convention. Under the Goal three of the Strategic Plan, which address modalities in achieving international cooperation for the wise use of wetlands request to support existing regional arrangements and to promote the establishment of additional arrangements (RCS, 2010).

Table 4: Some examples of ongoing regional initiatives

<b>Initiative</b>	<b>Main Objective</b>	<b>Participatory countries</b>
Ramsar Regional Centre – East Asia (RRC-EA)	The RRC-East Asia aims at advancing the mission of the Ramsar Convention in general and implementing the Ramsar Strategic Plan in particular, through regional cooperation on the conservation and wise use of wetlands in East Asia.	Countries in East Asia
Ramsar Regional Centre – Central and West Asia (RRC-CWA)	The overall Goal of the Centre is to build the capacity of those involved with wetland management in Central and West Asia to enable effective wetland conservation and wise use.	Countries in Central and West Asia
East Asia – Australasian Flyway Partnership (EAAFP)	The Partnership is an informal and voluntary initiative, aimed at protecting migratory waterbirds, their habitat and the livelihoods of people dependent upon them in the EAAF.	Countries within the EAAF, from Australia to Australia, and Bangladesh to Japan
Regional Initiative for the Conservation and Wise Use of Mangroves and Coral Reefs in the Americas		Brazil, Costa Rica, Guatemala, México, Nicaragua, Peru, Ecuador, Honduras and Dominican Republic

With regard to South Asia, there are several areas where regional cooperation is essential or can add value to national efforts in the conservation and wise use of the wetlands resources:

- Mobilization of regional assistance for non-signatory parties to sign and ratify the Ramsar convention as well as to nominate new wetlands of international importance.
- Facilitation of cooperative management of shared wetland systems, including river basins.
- Coordination of activities to conserve migratory and other common flagship species and their wetland habitats.
- Coordination between existing and future multinational and regional wetlands management programmes.
- Sharing of critical information and data, and experience sharing in wetlands management in a South Asian context.
- Interlinkages between Multilateral Environmental Agreements addressing wetland issues.

These areas for cooperation are discussed in the following sections.



## **2.1 Mobilization of regional assistance for non-signatory parties to sign and ratify the Ramsar Convention and to nominate new wetlands of international importance**

Two South Asian Countries that have not yet ratified the Ramsar Convention harbor important high altitude (e.g., Afghanistan) and marine sub-tidal (e.g., Maldives) wetlands. These fit well into Ramsar wetland categories and are presently under-represented in the global network of Ramsar sites. They have expressed their interest to join the Convention and the Ramsar Secretariat has been working with these governments to meet this objective. Bhutan became a party to the Convention in 2012 and in this regard the WWF and the Ramsar Secretariat worked closely with the government for some years and a paper on the benefits of accession to the Convention was prepared by their Department of Forest and Park Services of the Ministry of Agriculture. Designation of Ramsar Sites will not only increase the conservation efforts but also increase the publicity of wetlands in Bhutan and increase possibility of support for conservation in the future (WWF, 2011).

In the National Reports submitted to COPs, the South Asian signatory countries have expressed their willingness to assist their non-signatory neighbors. The six Ramsar Contracting parties could network with the three non- countries and assist them in identifying wetlands to be included in the Ramsar list. The Ramsar Convention itself has identified through the Ramsar Strategic Plan that one method for recruiting new contracting parties is through the organization of sub-regional workshops. Further, undertaking a gap assessment will assist in identifying under-represented wetlands to be nominated as Ramsar sites in the future.

## **2.2 Facilitation of cooperative management of shared wetland systems, including river basins**

Article 5 of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands establishes that " Contracting Parties shall consult with each other about implementing obligations arising from the Convention especially in the case of a wetland extending over the territories of more than one Contracting Party or where a water system is shared by several Contracting Parties. They shall at the same time endeavor to coordinate and support present and future policies and regulations concerning the conservation of wetlands and their flora and fauna." Under the Ramsar Guidelines for International Cooperation, Contracting Parties are urged to identify all their shared wetland systems (including those in the coastal zone) and cooperate in the management of these with the adjoining jurisdiction(s). This cooperation may extend to formal joint management arrangements or collaboration in the development and implementation of a management plan for the site. For shared coastal wetlands, Contracting Parties are urged to develop frameworks of cooperation within existing Regional Seas Programmes and embodying Large Marine Ecosystem (LME) concepts. As at September 2011, a total of 13 Transboundary Ramsar Sites have been notified worldwide, and interest among Parties continues to grow.

With regard to South Asia, although there are several shared wetland systems, limited formal discussion has taken place between the countries concerned for their joined declaration. Few parts of these shared ecosystems have been declared as Ramsar Sites (see table 5), and very few joint management initiatives are active at present. For example, the world's largest continuous mangrove forest, the Sundarbans occur between Bangladesh and India. Only the Bangladesh

mangrove area has been declared as a Ramsar Site. Recently the two countries have initiated joint activities such as the census of the Bengal Tiger. In 2002, Pakistan designated Runn of Kutch as a Ramsar site. It comprises of sand dunes, some more than 170m in height with broad inter-dunal valleys of alluvial soil and is integral with the large Rann of Kutch, which is shared with India. India is yet to designate their part of the habitat and there is a suggestion of making the whole habitat a peace park. There are also other important transboundary habitats such as the Gulf of Mannar between India and Sri Lanka, which are not yet inscribed as Ramsar sites.

*Table 5: Declared and other suitable Ramsar Sites across shared wetland systems.*

Shared resource/No of countries	Existing Ramsar sites	Other important sites
1. Ganges-Brahmaputra River Basin /05	India: Loktak Lake, Sambhar Lake, Koeladeo National Park Nepal: Koshi Tapu Bangladesh: Sundarban Mangrove	Haor Basin wetland and Brahmaputra-Tista rivers wetland between India and Bangladesh Sundarbans in west Bengal (India) Koshi Barrage between India and Nepal
2. Indus River Basin/04	India: Harike Lake, Wular Lake Pakistan: Chashma Barrage, Kinjhar (Kalri) Lake, Taunsa Barrage, Thanedar Wala, Haleji Lake, Uchhali Complex (including Khabbaki, Uchhali and Jahlar Lakes), Tanda Dam, Drigh Lake	Runn of Kutch (India)
3. Gulf of Mannar /02	None	There are numerous coral reefs and sea grass beds which provide a habitat for several globally threatened species
4. Hirman River Basin (Sistan Wetland)/02	The Hamoun wetland in Sistan (Iran)	Afghanistan side of the Sistan
5. Coral atoll system (3)	None	Maldives, India (Lakshadweep) and Chagos island (British OST)

There are a few existing bilateral and multilateral agreements/treaties in the regions to address the issues of these shared resources:

- South Asian Seas Programme* - a co-operative partnership, formally adopted in 1995 for the protection and management of the shared marine waters and associated coastal ecosystems of Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. The programme falls under the UNEP Regional Seas programme umbrella while it is administered by the South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme (SACEP)
- Bay of Bengal Intergovernmental Programme* – mandated to enhance cooperation among member countries, other countries and organizations in the region and provide technical and management advisory services for sustainable coastal fisheries development and management in the Bay of Bengal region.

- c. *Bilateral treaties on river basin management* - i.e. The Indus Basin water sharing accord between India and Pakistan, the acclaimed Water Sharing Treaty between India and Bangladesh, the India-Bhutan cooperation on hydro-power development, and India-Nepal cooperation in harnessing transboundary rivers. There have been also efforts to build partnerships to exchange information and data for flood management between India and Bangladesh and between Nepal and Bhutan. These actions are positive developments that have changed the atmosphere in terms of water sharing and management. Some practitioners and policy makers are of the view that this could be taken a step further to a sub-regional agreement such as that which already exists for the Mekong river system.

### **2.3 Coordination of activities to conserve migratory and common flagship species and their wetland habitats**

The wetland systems in the region function as important wintering sites for a large number of migratory birds and other migratory and flagship species such as Gangetic and Indus blind dolphins, five species of Marine Turtles, Whales, Dugongs, the Gharial and Estuarine Crocodiles as well as various fish species.

#### ***Migratory Birds***

As per the results of the Asian Waterbird Census: 1987 – 2007, a total of 193 species of water birds and 41 species of wetland-dependent birds were recorded from the South Asian countries. 24 of these species are Globally Threatened and 16 are Near Threatened. Throughout the region there are wetland sites, which are classified as internationally important feeding and resting habitats for migrant water birds, especially during the winter season in the northern hemisphere.

Many water birds undertake annual migrations along different flyways spanning the area from its breeding and non-breeding grounds. During this migration, the birds stop for very short period for rest and feed at staging sites that are essential for the migration and their survival. South Asia belongs to the Central Asian-Indian flyway of the Asia Pacific region covering large intra-continental territories of Eurasia between the Arctic and the Indian Ocean. This flyway comprises several important migration routes, most of which extend from Siberia to the Middle East and the Indian subcontinents. Thousands of birds belonging to around 100 different species of ducks, geese, and cranes use the wetland habitats of the region (Table 6). Few of them also host breeding populations of threatened water birds of South Asia.

**Table 6: Key wetland regions in South Asia for migratory birds.**

<b>Area</b>	<b>Species recorded</b>
Indus basin	White-headed Duck and Marbled Teal. Important non-breeding population of Dalmatian Pelican.
North Indian wetlands	Sarus Cranes and Indian Skimmers. Significant numbers of breeding and wintering Pallas's Fish-eagles. The 'central population' of Siberian Crane winters in the region, but has declined to near extinction in recent years. The swampy wetlands of northern India, particularly in Bihar, were once the stronghold for Pink-headed Duck, a species which may now be extinct, although it

Area	Species recorded
	could possibly survive in the more inaccessible parts of its former range.
South Indian and Sri Lankan wetlands	The wetlands of this region support a high proportion of the global population of Spot-billed Pelicans, with many colonies associated with water storage reservoirs or ‘tanks’ on the Deccan plateau in southern India and the dry zone lowlands of Sri Lanka. Lesser Adjutant also occurs, but in relatively low numbers and small numbers of Spoon-billed Sandpiper have been found wintering in coastal wetlands.
Assam and Sylhet plains	This huge lowland area of marshy plains and large lakes is now the global stronghold of Greater Adjutant, following the historical crash of the vast breeding colonies in Myanmar. It also supports important breeding populations of Spot-billed Pelican, Lesser Adjutant and Pallas’s Fish-eagle, and a large non-breeding population of Baer’s Pochard.
Bay of Bengal Coast	The highest known counts of Spotted Greenshank and Spoon-billed Sandpiper are from shifting intertidal mudflats and islands (known as chars) in the outer Ganges–Brahmaputra–Meghna delta in Bangladesh. The coast of Bangladesh also supports an important concentration of non-breeding Indian Skimmers.
Tibetan plateau	Tibetan plateau support one unique waterbird species, Black-necked Crane, which is widely distributed during the breeding season but moves to the relatively low eastern and southern parts of the plateau for the winter. Baer’s Pochard and Pallas’s Fish-eagle also occur on the southern and eastern fringes of the plateau
Afghanistan wetlands	Siberian crane, white-headed duck

(Source: [http://www.birdlife.net/action/science/species/asia\\_strategy/wetlands.html](http://www.birdlife.net/action/science/species/asia_strategy/wetlands.html))

Many of these migratory bird species are globally threatened. Among these are the Siberian crane, which is categorized by the IUCN as Critically Endangered and believed to face an extremely high risk of extinction in the wild in the immediate future. The global population is estimated to contain 2,500-3,000 individuals, some of these use wetlands in Afghanistan as stopover point during migration between the breeding grounds in Russia and the main wintering area in India.

According to the Edinburgh Declaration of 2004, most of the water birds of the Central Asian Flyway appear to be declining, although information on status and trends is generally poor. In most countries there has been little previous investment in conservation and low involvement of local stakeholders in the sustainable management of wetlands. An international framework for the development of conservation initiative for migratory water birds is urgently required to promote co-operative action. Better information is needed to identify priority conservation issues and responses. In this regard, Wetlands International is preparing an Action Plan.

Several of the Ramsar sites also overlap with the Important Bird Areas (IBA) identified by the Birdlife International, while several IBAs also qualified to be designated as Ramsar sites. A publication by Birdlife International in 2005 too has identified several IBA s of the region as potential Ramsar Sites (Refer [http://www.birdlife.org/action/change/ramsar/ibas\\_ramsar\\_asia.html](http://www.birdlife.org/action/change/ramsar/ibas_ramsar_asia.html)).

### ***Marine Turtles***

Marine turtles due to their highly migratory habits they are ideal “Oceans Ambassadors,” perfect for illustrating numerous critical points to a wide range of public and also for motivating them to respond appropriately. They are also among the most endangered species protected under

Convention of International Trade on Endangered Species of Wild fauna and Flora (CITES), and Convention on Migratory species (CMS). Out of the seven species of marine turtles recorded worldwide, five species have been observed within the coastal waters and the beaches of South Asia. Many of these areas are designated or potential Ramsar sites (See table 7).

*Table 7: Major Habitats of Marine Turtles in South Asia*

Species	Recorded Nesting Sites	Designated Ramsar sites
Green turtle	St. Martin's Island - <b>Bangladesh</b> , Gulf of Kutch, Lakshadweep - <b>India</b> ; Uninhabited islands - <b>Maldives</b> , Hawkes Bay, Sandspit - <b>Pakistan</b> , Rekewa, Usangoda – <b>Sri Lanka</b>	Astola (Haft Talar) Island; Jiwani Coastal Wetland; and Ormara Turtle Beaches of Balochistan
Olive Ridley	St. Martin's Island - <b>Bangladesh</b> , Orissa, Sundarbans, Andaman, Nicobar, Lakshadweep - <b>India</b> , Hawkes Bay, Sandspit - <b>Pakistan</b> , Kosgoda - <b>Sri Lanka</b> .	Bhitarkanika Mangroves of Orissa; Jiwani Coastal Wetland and Ormara Turtle Beaches of Balochistan
Hawksbill	St. Martin's Island - <b>Bangladesh</b> , Andamans, Nicobar - <b>India</b> , Uninhabited islands - <b>Maldives</b> .	Astola (Haft Talar) Island and Ormara Turtle Beaches of Balochistan
Leatherback	Andamans and Nicobar – <b>India</b> , Godavaya <b>Sri Lanka</b>	
Loggerhead	Andaman and Nicobar - <b>India</b>	

Green turtles are the most widely distributed species and are found in all five countries. The single most important breeding ground of Olive Ridley is found in Orissa on the east coast of India, where mass breeding occurs in three nesting beaches; Gahirmatha, Deviriver mouth and Rushikulya. The Indian coastal belt harbors around 30-40% of this species and they are also recorded from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka.

### *Other Common Flagship Wetland Species*

Endangered species such as one-horned rhinoceros, Bengal tiger, Asiatic elephants, fishing cat, gharial and mugger crocodiles, Gangetic and Indus dolphins as well as the Dugongs can be considered as important wetland “flagship” species in the region. Out of the four species of river dolphins recorded, two are found in South Asia; the Indus (*Platanista minor*) and Ganges (*Platanista gangetica*), which are among the world's most endangered mammals. The Indus River dolphin is found in the Indus and Chenab rivers of Pakistan (Refer Case study 1). The construction of multiple dams has split their population into several isolates. The Ganges River dolphins are found in the Ganges, Megha, Brahmaputra, and Karnaphuli rivers of India, Nepal, Bhutan and/or Bangladesh. Construction of one dam has split the species into two populations. The Marsh crocodile (*Crocodylus palustris*) and the Gharial (*Gavialis gangeticus*) are now represented in only very few numbers in Bangladesh. The management of these flagship species could greatly benefit from information and data sharing between range states as described in the section below.



## **2.4 Coordination between existing and future multinational and regional wetlands management programmes**

There is significant amount of biological, physical and hydrological data pertaining to wetlands already available within the region, as well as practical knowledge and experience for their conservation and management. However there are no formal or systematic mechanisms for the sharing of this data and experience. Data and experience sharing is crucial for the management of regional wetland issues such as shared wetlands/water resources and migratory species. With respect to conservation and management activities, government agencies and NGOs are undertaking independent activities such as research and surveys on the conditions of wetlands and implementation of various laws and policies. Partner-organizations like Wetland International, Birdlife International and World Wide Fund are already involved in a number of

### **Recovery of Indus Dolphin Population**

The Indus River dolphin is one of the world's rarest mammals and the second most endangered freshwater river dolphin. Approximately 1,275 specimens of this species exist today in a small fraction of their former range, the lower reaches of the Indus River in Pakistan. However, the population of this species has gradually declined because of various factors, including water pollution, poaching, fragmentation of habitat due to barrages, and dolphin standings in the irrigation canals. Although no authentic data are available, it is commonly believed that the numbers have dramatically declined since the construction of irrigation system in the Indus. Most individuals now remain in a 1,200 km stretch of the Indus River.

In addition to efforts to conserve their habitat, including addressing problems such as river pollution, WWF staff has also been involved in rescue missions when individual dolphins become trapped in canals. WWF also coordinated the largest survey of the species ever in 2001 in collaboration with partners. In 2001 the population was estimated at 1100. The dolphin survey was repeated in 2006 using the same methods as in 2001 and estimated population had increased to 1275. This increase is likely due to population recovery following the ban on dolphin hunting implemented since the early 1970's in the Sindh Dolphin Reserve. Conservation activities by Sindh Wildlife Department and WWF - Pakistan, immigration of dolphins through Guddu barrage from Punjab are also likely to have contributed to the increase. In 2006, the overall abundance of the Indus River dolphin was estimated to be 1400 -1600.

Source: MoE.GoP (2009): Fourth National Report

programmes in the region as indicated in Table 8.

**Table 8: Ongoing regional initiatives addressing wetland issues**

<b>Agency/ Initiative</b>	<b>Activities/Objectives</b>
<b>Wetland International</b>	Initiated a project titled "Towards a Strategy for wetland and waterbird conservation in the Central Asian-Indian Highway as a response to implement Asia-Pacific Migratory Waterbird Conservation Strategy: 2001-2005; Report on: Numbers and distribution of Waterbirds and Wetlands in the Asia-Pacific region. Results of the Asian Waterbird Census: 1997-2001

<b>Agency/ Initiative</b>	<b>Activities/Objectives</b>
	Assisting in facilitating the implementation of the Wetland inventory in India.
<b>SACEP</b>	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 nongovernmental, as well as experts and groups engaged in such co-operation and conservation efforts. Act as the secretariat for the South Asian Seas Programme, which comes under the UNEP's Regional Seas Programme
<b>IUCN –Asia regional programme</b>	To develop an IUCN lead mountain programme for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in the Hindukush-Karakorum-Himalayas (Himal) region.
<b>IWMI</b>	Wetlands and Biodiversity Programme A Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) was signed between IWMI and Ramsar in 2004. Research on the relationship between irrigation water management and the environment (especially wetlands) in an integrated manner, focusing on practical solutions to quantify and manage irrigation water flows that can sustain ecosystems while obtaining optimum agricultural production
<b>CMS Secretariat</b>	MoU on Conservation and Management of Marine Turtles, Dugongs, and their habitats of Indian Ocean South-East Asian Conservation and Management Plan prepared
<b>Bay of Bengal Intergovernmental Programme</b>	Enhance cooperation among member countries, other countries and organizations in the region and provide technical and management advisory services for sustainable coastal fisheries development and management in the Bay of Bengal region (present members : Bangladesh, India and Sri Lanka and Maldives)
<b>Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem Project</b>	Coordinated programme of action designed to improve the lives of the coastal populations through improved regional management of the Bay of Bengal environment and its fisheries (Maldives, India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Thailand, Indonesia and Malaysia)
<b>Birdlife International</b>	Important Bird Area Programme (partners: India - Bombay Natural History Society; Nepal - Bird Conservation Nepal; Sri Lanka – Field Ornithology Group) The IBA Programme aims to identify, monitor and protect a global network of IBAs for the conservation of the world's birds and other biodiversity. BirdLife Partners take responsibility for the IBA Programme nationally, with the BirdLife Secretariat taking the lead on international aspects.
<b>Mangroves for the future</b>	MFF is a partnership-based initiative promoting investments in coastal ecosystems that support sustainable development. MFF provides a collaborative platform for the countries, sectors and agencies tackling the challenges to coastal ecosystem conservation and livelihood sustainability and is helping them to work towards a common goal (India, Sri Lanka, Pakistan and Maldives).
<b>SAARC Coastal Zone Management Center</b>	Seeks to promote cooperation in planning, management and sustainable development of the coastal zones, including research, training and promotion of awareness in the region.
<b>ICIMOD - Himalayan Wetland Initiative</b>	The overall goal of the inter-programme initiative is to promote the conservation and sustainable use of Himalayan wetlands in the Hindu Kush Himalayan (HKH) region. Cover all countries sharing the greater Himalayan region including Bhutan, Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Pakistan,

## **2.5 Sharing of critical information and data, and experience sharing in wetlands management in a South Asian context**

There are significant opportunities for experience sharing within the region, given the prevalence of common wetland types and the common threats facing them. Site twinning or the establishment of transboundary Ramsar Sites, a practice advocated in the Ramsar Strategic Plan, would be particularly beneficial for wetlands with shared or migratory species or with common features or management challenges. Some examples of positive case studies that can be shared are:

- The Loktak Lake Ramsar site of India has been identified as one of the three wetlands in Asia to demonstrate implementation of guidelines on integration of conservation and wise use of wetlands in to river basin managements. The results of this study can be beneficial to other member countries.
- The Chilika Lake Development Authority has taken tremendous efforts to rehabilitate the Chilika lake.
- Co-management of inland fishery resources in Bangladesh.
- Crocodile conservation in Nepal.
- Pilot testing case study on Integrated Coastal Area and River Basin Management in Dadugan Oya river basin in Sri Lanka which will study on how the river flows affect the coastal wetlands of Muthurajawella.

Further, in their national report to COP 11, India suggested that Ramsar convention should develop some mechanism to review all activities of the triennium to see, in percentage, their implementation in the field, how many initiatives have proved to be failures and success stories which can be shared with other partners. Even for designation of Ramsar sites, we have a suggestion that some regional mechanism needs to be developed consisting of few experts of both national and International level from the region, who can inspect the newly designated Ramsar sites and see the activities in operation so that appropriate ameliorative measures could be taken well in time to save them for being put under montreaux record (MOE/GOI, 2012).

## **2. 6 Interlinkages between Multilateral Environmental Agreements addressing wetland issues.**

The Ramsar Convention has served as a catalyst for international recognition of wetlands as reservoirs of biological diversity and economically valuable components of inland and coastal water systems. Many environmental agreements contain provisions of direct relevance to wetland conservation and wise use. Where Contracting Parties are party to such treaties, they should ensure that such provisions are implemented consistently with wise use. In this regard the most relevant treaty is the 1992 Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) to which virtually all Contracting Parties to Ramsar are also party. The CBD expressly requires its Parties to promote the integration of conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity (including wetland ecosystems and products) into relevant sectoral or cross-sectoral plans, programmes and policies.



In fact, the Ramsar Convention is CBD's lead partner in the implementation of activities related to wetlands (Decision III/21). The Ramsar Convention works increasingly closely with the CBD through a joint work plan and acts as the CBD's lead implementation partner for wetlands. Implementation of the Ramsar Strategic Plan will also contribute to the achievement of a number of the Aichi Targets established during CBD COP10 in 2010.

Other agreements relevant to Article 5 on transboundary cooperation include:

- the 1979 Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) with regard to multilateral cooperation for the conservation of wetland-reliant migratory species (there is a Memorandum of Understanding in place between the Ramsar Convention and CMS) ; and
- the 1973 Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, to the extent that this applies to wetland-reliant animal and plant species (corals, crocodiles, certain fish).

Further, some Ramsar Sites have also been designated as either UNESCO – World Heritage Sites (Sundarbans Reserve forest of Bangladesh; Keoladeo National Park of India; Beeshazar and Associated Lakes and Gokyo and associated lakes of Nepal) or Man and Biosphere sites (Bundala National Park of Sri Lanka).

Yet much of collaboration to date with CBD, and with other biodiversity and environment conventions and agreements, such as the Convention on Migratory Species and the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), has been through global-scale mechanisms such as secretariats, scientific subsidiary bodies, etc. Therefore there is an urgent need for closer communication and collaboration between convention national focal points to achieve joint on-the-ground implementation.

At national level, either different divisions of the Ministry of Environment or other Ministries (eg. Agriculture) normally carry out the issues pertaining to these conventions. Therefore it is important to develop synergies and inter-linkages of activities undertaken to enforce these MEAs, e.g.: development of a Convention Coordinating Committee within the government.

In addition, at least three Intergovernmental Initiatives (e.g.: SAARC, SACEP, BoBP-IGO) also provide framework for conservation of environment in the region. These forums can also be used to encourage the governments to comply in to various MEAs.

*Table 4: Status of Ratification of Biodiversity- related Multilateral Agreements(as of October 2013) by SACEP member countries*

Convention/ No. of states party to the convention	Status of Participation – Date of Entry in to force							
	Afghanistan	Bangladesh	Bhutan	India	Maldives	Nepal	Pakistan	Sri Lanka
Ramsar (168)	NP	1992	2012	1982	NP	1988	1976	1990
CITES (179)	1986	1982	2002	1976	2013	1975	1976	1979
UNESCO -WH (190)	1979	1983	2001	1977	1986	1978	1976	1980

CMS (119)	NP	2005	NP	1983	NP	NP	1987	1990
- MoU on Marine Turtles of IOSEA, 2001	NRS	S	NRS	S	S	NRS	S	S
- MoU on Dugongs, 2007	NRS	S	NRS	S	NP	NRS	NP	S
- MOU on Siberian Crane, 1993	S	NRS	NRS	S	NRS	NRS	S	NRS
- MoU on Birds of Prey (Raptors), 2008	NRS?	NRS?	NRS?	NRS?	NRS?	S	S	NRS?
- AP Central Asian Flyway, 2008 (30)++	Adopted	Adopted	Adopted	Adopted	Adopted	Adopted		Adopted
CBD (196)	2002	1994	1995	1994	1992	1993	1994	1994
Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, 2000 (156)	2005	2004	2003	2003	2003	NP	2009	2004

NP – Not a Party to the Convention/Initiative; NRS – Not a Range State to the MoU/Agreement;

S- Signatory;

Rtf – Ratified

++ The CAF Action Plan that was officially launched in 2008 has not the status of an agreement or any other type of legal instrument

### 3 A REGIONAL INITIATIVE FOR WETLAND MANAGEMENT IN SOUTH ASIA

Regional cooperation can occur through ad hoc actions between governments and/or non-government stakeholders in the region. However given the socio-economic similarities between South Asia countries and the common threats and issues regarding wetlands conservation and wise use, there is a strong ground for a dedicated regional initiative to facilitate regional cooperation.

The proposed initiative will be a collaborative effort between the governments of South Asia and other major stakeholders in wetlands management. It will provide a framework to facilitate cooperation in agreed areas of mutual interest, and particularly to harness the synergies of regional cooperation. The structure and modalities of operation would be documented in the form of a Memorandum of Understanding or a similar document. The idea of the initiative is not to build new institutions, but to enhance communication and collaboration between existing institutions and programmes. The core of the arrangement would consist of:

- A Regional Committee of stakeholders to guide the development of the arrangement and allow cooperation at a high-level.
- A coordinating unit (preferably an existing regional-level organization) to drive and coordinate collaborative activities and information exchange between stakeholders as well as mobilizing funds and partners to implement projects and programmes.

A regional initiative for South Asia could be modeled on the MedWet Initiative (<http://www.medwet.org/>). The MedWet Initiative, guided by the Mediterranean Wetlands Committee (MedWet/Com) of the Convention on Wetlands is a long-term collaborative effort towards the conservation and wise use of Mediterranean wetlands. All governments of the region

(25), the Palestinian Authority, the UNDP, the European Commission, Barcelona, Bern and Ramsar Conventions, and 8 international NGOs and wetland centers are members of MedWet. The MedWet Initiative mobilizes partners and funds to assist in the implementation of the Ramsar Strategic Plan in the region. It facilitates conservation actions at wetlands of international importance, promotes National Wetland Policies, provides a forum for regional exchange of experience at a technical level and publishes a range of wetland management methodological tools.

These functions performed by the MedWet Initiative – facilitating conservation of important wetlands, promotion of policy, information and experience exchange, development and promotion of management tools – could similarly be performed by a South Asian regional arrangement for the benefit of the Region. The arrangement could also facilitate programmes addressing the region-specific issues highlighted in the previous section. The structure and modalities of operation needs to be determined through detailed consultation between all stakeholders. The emphasis needs to be on making the arrangement workable, effective and efficient, and a measure that adds additional value to governments of the South Asia Region through:

- Supporting and enhancing national level activities.
- Providing formal mechanisms for accessing information, data and management advice.
- Mobilizing additional resources for wetlands conservation and wise use in the region.

It is proposed that a draft framework for the arrangement be developed in consultation with stakeholders (see section 4.4).

Establishment of such regional initiatives is an important objective of the Ramsar Strategic Plan 2009-2015 (12.3.2). The following two sections highlights regional elements of the Ramsar Strategic Plan that could be facilitated through a regional initiative and the actions required to establish such an initiative.

## **4 ACTION TO ESTABLISH A REGIONAL INITIATIVE IN THE SOUTH ASIA**

In the initial instance there are three major actions proposed to initiate the establishment of a draft regional framework:

- Create an environment for regional cooperation through generating a dialogue between key regional stakeholders.
- Develop a draft framework for a South Asian regional arrangement for wetlands conservation and wise use.
- Address priority elements of regional cooperation under the Ramsar Strategic Plan.

### **4.1 Create environment for regional cooperation**

Initiate a dialogue among relevant stakeholders (Contracting parties, Non-contracting parties, Ramsar Convention Secretariat, relevant government agencies, NGOs, community groups) to highlight the need for a regional cooperation to promote conservation and wise use of wetlands in the South Asia region. It is hoped that this paper will provide an initial impetus for this dialogue.

## 4.2 Development of a draft framework for a South Asian Regional Arrangement

To initiate this arrangement, this paper advocates development of a draft framework for a Regional Initiative under the Ramsar Convention. As per 12.3.2 of Ramsar Strategic Plan, a project could assess the feasibility/requirements for a South Asia Regional Initiative under the Ramsar Convention and prepare a draft framework for such an initiative. This framework would provide a mechanism for systematic development of the key aspects of regional cooperation.

The draft framework document would be distributed to all key stakeholders in the Region for comment. Further development of the framework would also probably require regional stakeholders meeting. Ideally this meeting would occur before the 11<sup>th</sup> Conference of Parties of the Ramsar Convention in June 2012, and would be able to make some statement on the advancement of regional cooperation in South Asia potentially through a formalized regional arrangement.

## 4.3 Addressing priority elements of regional cooperation under the Ramsar Strategic Plan

A project or package of projects should be developed to address the priority elements of the regional cooperation. Ideally, this project would be developed as a part of a regional initiative. These projects could serve as positive case studies to development of this regional arrangement.

## 5. COORDINATION OF THE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS AND THE POTENTIAL COLLABORATORS

This paper proposes the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP) as an appropriate organization to facilitate the coordination process together with the Ramsar Secretariat for the establishment of a regional initiative. SACEP is the intergovernmental environment programme for the eight countries of South Asia (Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka), which became a legal entity in 1982. It is headed by a Governing Council (GC), which consists of the Environment Ministers of the member countries. SACEP has the appropriate membership, structure and organizational mandate to perform this role in the initial instance. As part of the development of the draft framework, a more permanent organizational arrangement could be identified including a potential formal role for SACEP secretariat. A list of national level collaborative organization are given in Table 9.

*Table 9 – Potential collaborating organizations*

Country	Designated National Ramsar Administrative Authority/ National Focal Point	Other National Institutions
Afghanistan	Not applicable	National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA)
Bangladesh	Ministry of Environment and Forest	STRP /CEPA– Forest Department NGO for CEPA- IUCN Bangladesh Centre for Advance Studies

Country	Designated National Ramsar Administrative Authority/ National Focal Point	Other National Institutions
Bhutan	Department of Forest and Park Services, Ministry of Agriculture	National Environment Commission
India	Ministry of Environment & Forest	NGO for CEP :Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History, Bombay Natural History Society, Chilika Lake Development Authority,
Maldives	Not applicable	Ministry of Fisheries Agriculture and Marine Resources, Ministry of Home Affairs and Environment
Nepal	Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation, Ministry Forest and Soil Conservation	Ministry of Environment
Pakistan	Conservator Wildlife, Forestry Wing, Planning and Development Division,	Pakistan Forest Institute, WWF-Pakistan
Sri Lanka	Department of Wildlife Conservation, Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources	CEA, Ceylon Birds Club, , Field Ornithology Group

At the International Level potential partners include:

- Ramsar Convention Secretariat
- Convention Secretariats of CBD, CMS, CITES, WHC, and UNFCCC and UNESCO MAB initiatives
- ICIMOD as well as the country and project offices of Birdlife International, International Crane Foundation, IUCN, IWMI, Wetland International and WWF

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**Annex 1: Ramsar Sites of South Asia: As per 28<sup>th</sup> October 2013**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Date and Size (ha)</b>	<b>Main wetland types and Ramsar Criteria</b>	<b>National protection and other international recognition Montreux Record</b>
<b>• Bangladesh</b>			
1. Sundarbans Reserved Forest	21-05-1992 601,700	Intertidal forested wetlands including mangroves 2,3, 4	declared as a Reserved Forest in 1875; Wildlife Sanctuary World Heritage site
2. Tanguar Haor	10-07-2000 9,500	Fresh water wetlands 1 2 3 4 5 7 8	Ecologically critical area
<b>Total</b>	<b>(2) 611,200</b>		
<b>• Bhutan</b>			
1. Bumdeling.	07-05-2012 141.5	Inland, freshwater 2,4	Wildlife Sanctuary
2. Khotokha	07-05-2012 114	Inland, freshwater 2,4	
<b>Total</b>	<b>(2) 256</b>		
<b>• India</b>			
1. Chilika Lake	01-10-1981 116, 500	Coastal lagoon, sand dunes	Declared as a Sanctuary under the Orissa Forest (Shooting) Rules, 1972 (Placed on the Montreux Record in 1993 and removed in 2002 following rehabilitation efforts )
2. Keoladeo National Park	01-10-1981 2,873	Inland freshwater lake	National Park, Bird Sanctuary World Heritage Site (Added to the Montreux Record, 4 July 1990)
3. Wular Lake	23-03-1990 18,900	Man-made inland lake	
4. Harike Lake	23-03-1990 4,100	Man-made freshwater	Bird and wildlife Sanctuary
5. Loktak Lake	23-03-1990 26,600	Man-made freshwater	Partially a National Park
6. Sambhar Lake	23-03-1990 24000	Man-made freshwater, saline lakes	
7. Kanjli	22-01-2002 183	Man-made freshwater 3	
8. Ropar	22-01-2002	Man-made	

	1,365	freshwater 2 3	
9. Ashtamudi Wetland	19-08-2002 61,400	Estuarine and freshwater 1 2 3 8	
10. Bhitarkanika Mangroves	19-08-2002 65,000	Marine & coastal wetlands 2 4 5 8	
11. Bhoj Wetland	19-08-2002 3,201	Inland wetland 1 3 5 8	Protected Area (?)
12. Deepor Beel	19-08-2002 4,000	Inland freshwater 1 2 4 7 8	Sanctuary
13. East Calcutta Wetlands	19-08-2002 12,500	Man-made wetland 1	Protected Area (?)
14. Kolleru Lake	19-08-2002 90,100	Coastal freshwater 1 2 4 5 8	Wildlife Sanctuary
15. Point Calimere Wildlife and Bird Sanctuary	19-08-2002 38,500	Coastal wetland 2 5 6 8	Wildlife and bird sanctuary
16. Pong Dam Lake	19-08-2002 15,662	Man-made inland 5 8	Wildlife Sanctuary
17. Sasthamkotta Lake	19-08-2002 373	Inland freshwater 1 2 7 8	
18. Tsomoriri	19-08-2002 12,000	Inland brackish 1 2 4	Wetland Reserve
19. Vembanad-Kol Wetland	19-08-2002 151250	Estuarine waters 1 2 4 5 8	
20. Chandertal Wetland	08-11-2005 49	Inland tundra 2 3	Nationally important wetland
21. Hokera Wetland	08-11-2005 1,375	Inland swamp 2 4 5 8	Protected Area (?)
22. Renuka Wetland	08-11-2005 20	Inland freshwater 3 4	Wildlife Sanctuary & Reserve Forest
23. Rudrasagar Lake	08-11-2005 240	Freshwater lake 2 3 8	
24. Surinsar-Mansar	08-11-2005 350	Freshwater lake 2 3 4	Wildlife Sanctuary & Hindu Sacred Site
25. Upper Ganga River (Brijghat to Narora Stretch)	08-11-2005 26,590	Inland, freshwater 2 3 4 5 7	
26. Nalsarovar Bird Sanctuary	28-09-2012 12,000	Inland, freshwater	Wildlife Sanctuary
Total	(26) 689, 131		
• Nepal			
1. Koshi Tappu	17-12-1987	Man-made wetland	nature reserve

	17,500		
2. Beeshazar and Associated Lakes	13-08-2003 3,200	Freshwater inland 1 2	National Park Buffer zone World Heritage Site
3. Ghodaghodi Lake Area	13-08-2003 2,563	Freshwater inland 1 2	
4. Jagadishpur Reservoir	13-08-2003 225	Man-made freshwater 2	
5. Gokyo and associated lakes	23-09-2007 7,770	Freshwater marshes 1 2 3 4	National Park World Heritage Site
6. Gosaikunda and Associated Lakes	23-09-2007 1,030	Freshwater marshes 1 2 3	National Park
7. Phoksundo Lake	23-09-2007 494	Freshwater marshes 1 2 4	National Park
8. Rara Lake	23-09-2007 1,583	Freshwater lake 1 2 3 4 7 8	National Park
9. Mai Pokhari	20-10-2008 90	Freshwater marshes 2 3 4	
<b>Total</b>	<b>(9) 34,455</b>		
<b>• Pakistan</b>			
1. Thanedar Wala	23-07-1976 4,047	Seasonal river/lakes 1 3	Game Reserve
2. Tanda Dam	23-07-1976 405	Reservoir	
3. Kinjhar (Kalri) Lake	23-07-1976 13,468	Freshwater Lake 1 3 5	Wildlife Sanctuary
4. Drigh Lake	23-07-1976 164	Brakishwater Lake 1 3 5	Wildlife Sanctuary
5. Haleji Lake	23-07-1976 1,704	Freshwater lake 1 3 5	Wildlife Sanctuary
6. Chashma Barrage	22-03-1996 34,099	Freshwater reservoir 1 2 3 4 5	Wildlife Sanctuary
7. Taunsa Barrage	22-03-1996 6,576	Freshwater reservoir 1 2 3	Wildlife Sanctuary
8. Uchhali Complex (including Khabbaki, Uchhali & Jahlar Lakes)	22-03-1996 1,243	Brackish water Lake 1 2 3 5	Wildlife Sanctuary, Game Reserve
9. Astola (Haft Talar) Island	10-05-2001 5,000	Marine and coastal 1 2 3 4	Wildlife Sanctuary

10. Hub (Hab) Dam	10-05-2001 27,000	Man-made freshwater 5 7 8	Wildlife Sanctuary
11. Indus Dolphin Reserve	10-05-2001 125,000	River, tanks 1 2	Dolphin Reserve
12. Jiwani Coastal Wetland	10-05-2001 4,600	Coastal intertidal 1 2 4	
13. Jubho Lagoon	10-05-2001 706	Coastal 1 5	
14. Miani Hor	10-05-2001 55,000	Estuarine waters 1 4 5	
15. Nurri Lagoon	10-05-2001 2,540	Coastal 1 5	
16. Ormara Turtle Beaches	10-05-2001 2,400	Coastal 2	
17. Deh Akro-II Desert Wetland Complex	05-11-2002 20,500	Inland brackish water/ freshwater lakes 1 2 3 4 5 6 8	Wildlife Sanctuary
18. Indus Delta	05-11-2002 472,800	Coastal 1 2 3 4 5 8	Wildlife Sanctuary partially
19. Runn of Kutch	05-11-2002 566,375	Intertidal marshes 1 2 3 4 5 6	Wildlife Sanctuary
<b>Total</b>	<b>(19) 1,343,627</b>		
<b>• Sri Lanka</b>			
1. Bundala	15-06-1990 6,210	Coastal 1 2 3 5	Partially within a NP MAB site since 2004
2. Annaiwilundawa Tanks Sanctuary	03-08-2001 1,397	Coastal 1 2 3 4 7 8	Sanctuary
3. Maduganga	11-12-2003 770	Coastal 1 2 3 4 6 7 8	Sanctuary
4. Vankalai Sanctuary	12-07-2010 4,839	Coastal 1 2 3 4 5 6 8	Sanctuary
5. Kumana Wetland Cluster	29-10-2010 19,011	Coastal 1 2 3 4 6 8	National Park & Sanctuary
6. Wilpattu Ramsar Wetland Cluster	02-02-2013, 165,800		
<b>Total</b>	<b>(6) 198,172</b>		

**DRAFT WORK PROGRAMME OF SACEP  
YEAR 2014 - 2015**

		US \$
5.2.1	National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) Updating for South Asia	
	Funds are secured for Marine Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan updating under the South Asian Seas Programme.	
5.2.2	Promoting Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) in South Asia	Completed
5.2.3	Waste Management	
	To Organize a sub-regional meeting in South Asia, to create awareness and disseminate the results of 'converting waste agricultural biomass into energy	55,750.00
5.2.4	Environmental Data and Information Management System for South Asia	
	To establish a Environmental Data Information Management System for South Asia	1,000,000.00
	As per the request of UNEP-ROAP, SACEP has submitted a revised budget for the project	
5.2.5	Malé Declaration on Control and Prevention of Air Pollution and Its Likely Transboundary Effects for South Asia	Discussions on financial mechanism for Phase V is in Progress
5.2.6	South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network	On-going negotiations with World Bank
5.2.7	Establishment of Basel Convention Regional Centre for South Asia	Will not be continued
5.2.8	Environmentally Sustainable Transport (EST)	

**DRAFT WORK PROGRAMME OF SACEP**  
**YEAR 2014 - 2015**

		US \$ Funding through Clean Air Initiative
5.2.9	Better Air Quality Conference (BAQ 2014)	
5.2.10	Preparation of South Asia position paper to reflect the post Rio +20 challenges related to environment sustainability (e.g. green economy, energy, water and sanitation etc.).	<b>50,000.00</b>
5.2.11	South Asian Regional Strategy on Mercury and associated impacts focusing on Health Sector	Not Finalized - On-going negotiations with UNIDO & UNEP
5.2.12	Partnership with GWP on Adaptation and Resilience to Climate Change - Phase 1	<b>70,000.00</b>
	Phase 2 - On going negotiations	<b>100,000.00</b>
5.2.13	Proposal for SACEP to be a GEF Project Agency	To be finalized
5.2.14	Regional Cooperation for the Conservation and Wise-use of Internationally Important Wetlands in South Asia	To be finalized
5.2.15	Establishment of Regional Clearing House Mechanism for South Asia	<b>30,000.00</b>
		<b>1,305,750.00</b>

Non-paper (as of 21 Oct 2013)

Challenges before the SACEP and ideas for its revitalisation

In the back drop of the 13th Governing Council meeting from 25-27 November 2013, the 121st Meeting of the Consultative Committee sought to make an in-depth review of the state of affairs of the Programme and examine ways to reinvigorate SACEP, and make its recommendations known to the Governing Council.

2. While doing its works, the Consultative Committee finds that SACEP programmes are mostly not demand-driven and generated outside the SACEP organs. Implementation, being dependent on external funds, is poor<sup>1</sup>. The Secretariat suffers from serious lack of capacity. Linkages between SACEP organs are too loose and in many cases non-existent. The Committee itself needs focus and should meet regularly to ensure effective implementation of SACEP programmes. It ought to act as the repository of the trust of the membership, following the rules and procedures of the Programme. The rules and procedures that clearly delineate mandates, scopes, and responsibilities of all organs including the Secretariat are often ignored. There have been instances of non-adherence to well-established practices and norms<sup>2</sup>, creating confusion.

3. SACEP has so far mostly been implementing decisions of UNEP, International Maritime Organisation (IMO) and other external bodies for South Asia. Regionally developed programmes, outlined based on specificities of South Asia, are almost non-existent. SACEP's existence is meaningful, when it adds value to national actions with complementary regional initiatives to meet environmental challenges for South Asia. Hence, there is an imperative to balance SACEP so that it undertakes demand-driven regional programmes, as it implements programmes originated in external entities.

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<sup>1</sup> An examination reveals that only 7 activities have been completed (2 in 2011, 3 in 2012 and 2 in 2013) in the last 3 years against 20 intended programmes/ decisions.

<sup>2</sup> The Secretariat circulated "**Agenda**" for the 18th September 2013 providing for Opening Remarks by the DG and Welcome Address by the CC Chair, in violation of past practices (example Agenda for CC meetings at its 88th (2004), 115th (2010), 117th (2010), 118th (April, 2012) and 119 (July 2012)). The Secretariat has been found reluctant and non-cooperating in implementing some decisions of the Consultative Committee. Even an important matter like salary enhancement has recently been done without the knowledge of the membership.



4. Here, one needs to be mindful of both regional and global developments so that SACEP programmes can relate to evolving priorities. As an example, progress in the area of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) under the Rio+20 process, and the post-MDG global consensus on development should influence agenda-setting in SACEP. Likewise, developments at the Conference of parties (CoPs)<sup>3</sup> of the UNCBD and UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Agreement on Convention on Climate Change) should help SACEP develop its own regional priorities. Based on these, SACEP should seek to position itself in this evolving global and regional consensus and primarily implement regionally generated decisions, while implementing decisions taken in the UNEP, IMO and other relevant organisations as they fit South Asia's own priorities.

5. Synergies can only be secured if SACEP acts in concert with national authorities and regional mechanisms working with similar purposes. In fact, the Governing Council emphasised this linkage with the SAARC Environment Ministers Forum and the SAARC Technical Committee on Environment many a times (GC.7, Male', 1998 adopted the Declaration on Control and Prevention of Air Pollution ... in South Asia as was adopted by the SAARC Environment Ministers Conference in 1997; GC-12, decision 11 asked SACEP to "forge greater links and interaction with SAARC" in line with the MoU.

6. The imperative to maintain close engagement with SAARC is important given the need to avoid overlaps. Additionally, SACEP should develop collaboration with SAARC as the latter has elaborate mechanisms for decision making, ownership at the highest level and greater access to funds<sup>4</sup>. The

<sup>3</sup> This listing is made as an example and as such not exhaustive.

<sup>4</sup> SAARC has got Regional Centers such as the [SAARC Coastal Zone Management Centre](#) in the Maldives, the [SAARC Forestry Centre in Bhutan](#), the [SAARC Disaster Management Centre](#) in India and the [SAARC Meteorological Research Centre](#) in Bangladesh. SAARC has well developed frameworks such as the 1997 **SAARC Environment Action Plan** (Male Declaration); the Dhaka Declaration and **SAARC Action Plan on Climate Change** (July 2008); and the Comprehensive Framework on Disaster Management (2006-2015). It has **Delhi Statement on Cooperation in Environment** which identifies many critical areas that need to be addressed and reaffirms the commitment of Member States towards enhancing regional cooperation in the area of environment and climate change. A [South Asia Environment Outlook](#) was also finalized with the help of the UNEP that was launched in New Delhi in 2009. The **SAARC Convention on Cooperation on Environment** signed in 2010 provides for cooperation in the field of environment and sustainable development.

question whether SACEP should establish firm linkage with these regional mechanisms and bodies to avail the complementarities and synergies was resolved way back in 2004 when SACEP signed an MoU with SAARC. In fact, SACEP could easily become the implementation organ of many of the SAARC projects and programmes.<sup>5</sup> SACEP needs to activate this linkage, parallel to its existing linkage with UNEP, IMO and others.

7. However, for effective implementation of programmes and maintaining seamless contact and coordination with national and Subject Area Focal Points, the Secretariat requires necessary technical capacity. At present, the Secretariat does not have the required resources at its command. The third Special Session of the GC (Colombo, Nov 2003) adopted its organization structure that includes positions of **Director (Programmes), and 2 Advisors (programmes)**. In the last 10 years these positions mostly remained unfilled, and as such, there is a serious lack of capacity within the Secretariat that needs immediate rectification. This is perhaps the main reason for SACEP only implementing programmes adopted by non-regional bodies (like Conference of parties (CoPs) (such as on biodiversity), UNEP, FAO, IOM, and other UN bodies. SACEP today is too much influenced by external entities on its agenda setting and "centrality of South Asian countries in SACEP matters" is at question.

8. SACEP seldom prepares its own programmes based on demands articulated by national focal points<sup>6</sup>. The programmes in the last few years do not show one single programme that emanated from country Focal Points or originated regionally. As the programmes are not demand-driven, they lack national ownership. As they programmes are mostly dependent on external funds, programmes drag on. In the process implementation suffers. Hence, a major challenge for SACEP is to ensure that its activities are demand-driven

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<sup>5</sup> It is often asked whether SACEP has the reasons to continue as a separate entity, when SAARC has now established its own set of mechanisms on environmental issues. However, SAARC Regional Centres and other environment related fora have their own share of constraints (mandate, governance, funding, institutional) and as such making it an entity similar to a SAARC Regional Centre may create newer problems. Without going into this fundamental question and agreeing on the best possible organisational reorientation and restructuring, SACEP, as it stands today, can easily align its programme with the ones being implemented under SAARC process so as to avoid overlaps and develop synergy.

<sup>6</sup> In fact, there has not been any initiative to get project proposals from the Subject Area focal points and national focal points in the last 3 years.

and time-bound. In order to achieve that an effective interface needs to be developed with the Subject Area Focal Points as well as National Focal Points with the SACEP Secretariat and the Consultative Committee. While these mechanisms are activated, the approved modalities such as **Working Group meetings**<sup>7</sup> (as in Article 6(e)) on thematic areas may be held for programme articulation, and effective implementation of agreed decisions and programmes.

9. SACEP has many areas of works, 15 to be exact. There has been very little progress in the works of these areas<sup>8</sup>. Hence, the subject areas merit a rationalisation, given the resource and capacity constraints at the Secretariat and demands of the member Countries. While the areas are all important, SACEP perhaps need to see whether it can prioritize agreed areas and pursue collaboration in a fewer number of areas at a given time based on: a) the specificities and challenges of the South Asia region; b) comparative advantage; and c) cost and benefit. The prioritisation may be done through a periodic review (say after every 10 years) to find out works to be done by: (a) SACEP itself (Member Countries and the Secretariat); (b) develop collaborative relations and partnerships with relevant UN and international entities; and (c) leave the rest for competent regional bodies (which command greater capacities and resources) and external entities. There may be a merit of laying more emphasis on building on existing programmes, than on expanding to new areas.

10. Though SACEP depends heavily on external funds for its programmes, it also bears huge institutional costs to implement programmes originated beyond SACEP. In the last 3 years (2011-September 2013) it was to receive a total allocation of \$400,000 (approx)<sup>9</sup>, about \$133,000 per year from membership contribution. The Member Countries are to contribute US\$ 207,000 in year 2013 alone. The ratio of programme-to-institutional cost is not healthy and needs improvement. Then, there are expenses on the South Asian Seas Programmes, making the contribution burden even higher for the Member Countries.

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<sup>7</sup> There has not been one single WG meetings in the last decade

<sup>8</sup> 7 activities in the 3 years indicate that there have not been any activities in majority of these areas.

<sup>9</sup> Refer document GC 13.SACEP/SOM agenda item 6.2)

11. The above constitute some of the inadequacies, challenges and issues that merit serious examination of the Governing Council. Given the nature of the questions, it perhaps best be deliberated at a **Special Session of the Council**<sup>10</sup>. This was discussed at the 121st CC where the idea was endorsed by the membership and the Secretariat.

12. The Special session of the Council may *inter alia* focus on the following:

i. Assessment of the programme of work and performance/ effectiveness of SACEP given its present scope and mandate, and identification of the constraints in terms of capacities and resources;

iii. Relook at the existing challenges of South Asia and the changing global scenario and based on regional needs examine whether SACEP needs a major programmatic reorientation, balance between regional and external linkages, and necessary structural change to realise the objectives in the changed circumstances<sup>11</sup>.

iii. Develop a long-term vision and road-map for SACEP as a transformed entity, based on a greater clarity on objectives and direction

iv. Review and rationalise the priority subject areas and develop indicative bench-marks for priorities areas for the next few years (say for 5 years);

v. Linkages with national, regional and international levels for demand-driven programme generation and their effective implementation and monitoring, availing the expertise with NFPs;

vi. Ways and means for the strengthening of SACEP organs (national focal points, subject area focal points, the Secretariat, the Consultative Committee and the Governing Council) and their mutual inter-relationship; and

vii. Review the rules and regulations as well as procedures and resolve related administrative and financial question

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<sup>10</sup> A Special Session of the GC was held in 2003 in Colombo

<sup>11</sup> Overlap with SAARC entities and programmes, linkages or lack of it, inadequacies of and challenges confronted by SAARC environment related entities may be duly factored in while seeking to develop synergy with SAARC and balancing existing relations with UNEP, IMO and others.

13. The Consultative Committee may meet as required to prepare for the Special Session<sup>12</sup>. Preparatory works for the Special Session may be done in many ways. As one of the many options the following may merit consideration:

a) Engage an **independent entity or (entities) or a panel of independent experts** having understanding and expertise on environmental issues and obtain inputs based on a study on the performance of the SACEP in the past decades, and the need for reorientation of focus and strengthening of SACEP institutions to accomplish the mandated works. Exercise may duly factor in the recommendations/decisions made at the 3<sup>rd</sup> special session of the Governing Council in 2003.

b) Parallel to this, Member Countries (national focal points and subject area focal points) could articulate their own views on their expectations from SACEP, priorities for regional actions keeping in mind decisions and programmes under SAARC, and demands for specific programmes, if any.

c) Then a **joint session of the Consultative Committee and National Focal Points** may be held just prior to the Special Session to finalise recommendations on programme and institutional and financial matters.

d) The Director General may be tasked to help identify a few independent entities, both regional and external, for selection by the Consultative Committee by the first quarter of 2014. The Committee may decide on the mobilisation of resources for this exercise.

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<sup>12</sup> The Special session Of the GC may be held before September 2014.



GC 11 – Programme Matters (Refer Item 9.2; page 7 - 10, 77 - 82, 137 - 355; 2008.05.22

GC 12 – Programme Matters (Refer Item 9.2; page 3 - 7, 83 - 85, 147 - 188; 2010.11.06

Programme Matters

<b>GC Decision</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Status of Implementation</b>	<b>Remarks</b>
GC 11 - 9.2.1	<b>Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM)</b> 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.	Funds could not be secured	Included in 13GC-SACEP / SoM Agenda Item 6.1.11
GC 12 - 9.2.3	10GC-SACEP adopted a resolution on SAICM and based on the decision a Capacity Building Programme on chemical management for South Asia region was proposed. The SAICM Secretariat is still searching possible funding.	Baseline study on initial assessment of Mercury and associated impacts focusing on Health Sector – Negotiating with UNIDO & UNEP	
GC 11 - 9.2.2	<b>Capacity building for the Clearing-House Mechanism of the Convention on Biological Diversity in South Asia</b> The 11GC-SACEP 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.	Technical expertise are available for its member countries.  Sub-regional Capacity-building Workshop for South Asia on the Clearing-House Mechanism in Dehradun, India from 12 to 16 December 2011	Included in 13GC-SACEP / SoM Agenda Item 6.1.01

<b>GC Decision</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Status of Implementation</b>	<b>Remarks</b>
GC 12 - 9.2.4	<p>The meeting was informed that the SACEP Secretariat has already undertaken three local- level capacity building initiatives in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment, Government of Sri Lanka and discussions had been held with the Royal Belgium Institute of Natural Sciences and the CBD Secretariat in which they agreed to assist in mobilizing funds.</p> <p>Delegates while complimenting Government of Sri Lanka for the collaborative efforts with SACEP to organize three national workshops stressed the need for extending this activity to the rest of the region.</p> <p>SACEP's collaboration with Government of India was requested as India is hosting CBD CoP11.</p>	<p>Capacity Building Workshop on Indicators as part of National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) updating was held from 16 - 19 July 2012 in Sri Lanka</p> <p>Organized an Exhibition Stall at the venue of COP-6 and COP-11 of the CBD from 1 to 19 October 2012 and also a side event on "Challenges to Biodiversity of South Asia and Aichi Targets", on 18 October 2012</p>	Contd.....



<b>GC Decision</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Status of Implementation</b>	<b>Remarks</b>
GC 11 - 9.2.3	<p><b>Establishment of Basel Convention Regional Centre for South Asia</b></p> <p>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.</p> <p>The SACEP Secretariat was requested to look into the modalities of mobilizing Finances and other Resources.</p>	Agenda Item to be dropped as the negotiations with the Iranian BCRC was not successful regarding the membership overlap	Included in 13GC-SACEP / SoM; Agenda Item 6.1.07
GC 12 - 9.2.1	<p>The meeting was informed by the SACEP Secretariat that an updated proposal on Establishment of Basel Convention Regional Centre for South Asia was submitted and was taken into discussion at the 7th Open Ended Working Group meeting of the Basel Convention held in May 2010.</p> <p>In-house capacity building needs of SACEP and financial implications to establish such a center was discussed under the agenda Item.</p> <p>SACEP Secretariat will continue to have deliberations with the Basel Regional Center established in Iran in this regard.</p>		

<b>GC Decision</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Status of Implementation</b>	<b>Remarks</b>
GC 11 - 9.2.4	<p><b>Proposal on Environmental Data and Information Management System</b></p> <p>The Meeting endorsed the proposal It has been informed by UNEP-ROAP that as an initial step funds will be allocated to hold a Regional Workshop for the South Asian Region on Data Information Management in 2011.</p> <p>The above two proposals developed under a MoU signed between UNEP-ROAP and SACEP were approved at the 11GC-SACEP. SACEP forwarded the approved project proposals to UNEP-ROAP requesting funds for implementation.</p> <p>It has been informed by UNEP-ROAP that as an initial step funds will be allocated to hold a Regional Workshop for the South Asian Region on Data Information Management in 2011.</p>	Inception Training Workshop was held and the Need Assessment Report has been sent for comments from the member states	Included in 13GC-SACEP / SoM; Agenda Item 6.1.04
GC 12 - 9.2.10			
GC 11 - 9.2.6	<p><b>Establishment of the South Asia Initiative for Combating Illegal Trade in Wildlife</b></p> <p>The 11GC.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)</p> <p>The Meeting was informed by the SACEP Secretariat that under the "Jaipur Declaration" adopted at the 11GC-SACEP, it was agreed to establish a South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network and a Regional Strategic Plan on combatting wildlife trade in the region.</p> <p>Due to unavoidable circumstance, the establishment of the expert group is pending.</p>	<p>1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of SAWEN was held in June 2012.</p> <p>SACEP has been suggested as the vehicle for channeling funds</p>	Included in 13GC-SACEP/SoM; Agenda Item 6.1.06
GC 12 - 9.2.9			

<b>GC Decision</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Status of Implementation</b>	<b>Remarks</b>
GC 11 - 9.2.7	<p><b>Scoping Exercise on E-waste Management in South Asia</b>  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.</p>	Not submitted	
GC 11 - 9.2.8	<p><b>School Environment Awareness Programme</b>  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.</p>	A Beach Clean-up Programme was organized in 2010 with participation of school children	Included in IMM 5.SASP/ SoM; Agenda Item 5.1.6
GC 11 - 9.2.9	<p><b>Malé Declaration on Control and Prevention of Air Pollution and Its Likely Trans-boundary Effects for South Asia</b>  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 Male 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</p>	Phase I – IV are implemented. Phase V is the next to be implemented (2014 – 2016)	Included in 13GC-SACEP/SoM; Agenda Item 6.1.05
GC 12 - 9.2.2	<p>The Meeting was informed by the SACEP Secretariat that as per the recommendations of the 10th and 11th GC-SACEP, a MoU was signed with UNEP Regional Resource Center for Asia and the Pacific for the implementation of the Phase IV of the Malé Declaration on Control and Prevention of Air Pollution and Its Likely Trans-boundary Effects for South Asia.</p>		

<b>GC Decision</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Status of Implementation</b>	<b>Remarks</b>
GC 11 - 9.2.10	<b>Waste Management</b> The 11GC-SACEP endorsed the Proposal on Waste Management.	Funding not secured  Sustainable Consumption and Production Training of Trainers, Oct – Nov 2013, Sri Lanka  SACEP was a partner International Conference on Waste Management: Towards Waste Free Sri Lanka was held on 22 March 2013 in Colombo Sri Lanka.	Included in 13GC-SACEP/SoM; Agenda Item 6.1.03
GC 11 - 9.2.11	<b>Environmentally Sustainable Transport (EST)</b> 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	Regional / National workshops were concluded successfully.	Included in 13GC-SACEP/SoM; Agenda Item 6.1.08

<b>GC Decision</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Status of Implementation</b>	<b>Remarks</b>
GC 12 - 9.2.8	The meeting was informed that the above activity was initiated as a result of a MoU signed between SACEP and the United Nations Center for Regional Development (UNCRD) to promote Environmentally Sustainable Transport in South Asia in 2008 and was approved by the 11GC-SACEP. SACEP in collaboration with UNCRD will be carrying out regional and national level workshops.		Contd.....
GC 11 - 9.2.12	<b>State of the Environment Report of South Asia</b> 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.	Activity in progress	Included in 13GC-SACEP; Agenda Item 6.1 – Progress Report
GC 11 - 9.2.13	<b>Collaboration with the Regional Community Forestry Training Centre for Asia and the Pacific (RECOTC) for Capacity Building in the Community Forestry Sector</b> The Meeting approved the proposal and further requested SACEP to develop collaborative arrangements with institutions of South Asia under south-south collaboration.	Not implemented	
GC 11 - 9.2.14	<b>MoU with TRADA (Timber Research and Development Association) to develop Integrated Sustainable Bamboo-based Livelihoods</b> The Meeting approved the proposal to conduct a Pilot Project in Sri Lanka.	Not implemented	
GC 11 - 9.2.15	<b>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</b> The Meeting while approving the Project Proposal in principle subject to specific commitment from respective countries, did not endorse the Lucknow Declaration.	Funding not secured	

<b>GC Decision</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Status of Implementation</b>	<b>Remarks</b>
GC 12 - 9.2.6	<p><b>Marine Biodiversity Assessment and Outlook 2010</b></p> <p>SACEP Secretariat informed the Meeting that this activity was undertaken on the request of UNEP-GPA Office and that the Global Report was launched at the CBD COP 10 held in Nagoya, Japan in October 2010.</p> <p>Negotiations are underway to ensure funds to prepare a separate report for the South Asian Region.</p> <p>The importance of this was highlighted as the region is needed to do more work on marine environmental issues.</p>	Developing a Regional Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Strategy for the South Asian Seas Region	Included in IMM5.SASP / SoM; Agenda Item 5.1.9
GC 12 - 9.2.7	<p><b>Partnership for Cleaner Fuels and Vehicles (PCFV)</b></p> <p>The meeting was informed that SACEP Secretariat became a partner of the PCFV initiative of UNEP in 2008, which resulted in signing of an MoU to conduct a capacity building workshop for high-level officials in the member countries. The recommendations made by the country representatives were to be implemented by SACEP. These recommendations were incorporated to the work programme 2011 – 2012 which is also incorporated in the Ministerial Statement.</p> <p>12GC-SACEP agreed upon the wording on the Declaration on Cleaner Fuel and Vehicles prepared by the SACEP Secretariat based on the recommendations of the regional meeting.</p>	Funding not secured for continuation of the activity	

## 6 Financial Matters :

- 6.1 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 2008 to November 2013

Country	Arrears upto Dec 2008	Agreed CC 2009	Received CC 2009	Arrears upto Dec 2009	Agreed CC for 2010	Received CC 2010	Arrears upto Dec 2010
	US \$	US \$	US \$	US \$	US \$	US \$	US \$
Afghanistan		8,050.00	0.00	8,050.00	8,050.00	16,100.00	-
Bangladesh	21,300.00	21,300.00	21,300.00	21,300.00	21,300.00	0.00	42,600.00
Bhutan	3,555.00	3,555.00	7,110.00	0.00	3,555.00	3,555.00	0.00
India	68,971.00	31,850.00	58,935.00	41,886.00	31,850.00	450.00	73,286.00
Maldives	29,150.00	14,575.00	43,725.00	0.00	14,575.00	14,575.00	0.00
Nepal	24,150.00	8,050.00		32,200.00	8,050.00	40,250.00	0.00
Pakistan	45,966.89	31,850.00	31,810.00	46,006.89	31,850.00	31,889.35	45,967.54
Sri Lanka	16,220.00	16,220.00	16,277.00	16,163.00	16,220.00	32,440.86	-57.86
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>209,312.89</b>	<b>135,450.00</b>	<b>179,157.00</b>	<b>165,605.89</b>	<b>135,450.00</b>	<b>139,260.21</b>	<b>161,795.68</b>

Country	Arrears upto Dec 2010	Agreed CC for 2011	Received CC 2011	Arrears upto Dec 2011	Agreed CC for 2012	Received CC Dec 2012	Arrears upto Dec 2012
	US \$	US \$	US \$	US \$	US \$	US \$	US \$
Afghanistan	0.00	8,050.00		8,050.00	8,050.00	16,100.00	-
Bangladesh	42,600.00	21,300.00		63,900.00	21,300.00	20,865.00	64,335.00
Bhutan	0.00	3,555.00		3,555.00	3,555.00	7,110.00	0.00
India	73,286.00	31,850.00	68,015.00	37,121.00	31,850.00	31,850.00	37,121.00
Maldives	0.00	14,575.00	14,575.00	0.00	14,575.00	14,575.00	0.00
Nepal	0.00	8,050.00		8,050.00	8,050.00	8,050.00	8,050.00
Pakistan	45,967.54	31,850.00	31,767.96	46,049.58	31,850.00	31,467.14	46,432.44
Sri Lanka	-57.86	16,220.00		16,162.14	16,220.00		32,382.14
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>161,795.68</b>	<b>135,450.00</b>	<b>114,357.96</b>	<b>182,887.72</b>	<b>135,450.00</b>	<b>130,017.14</b>	<b>188,320.58</b>

Country	Arrears upto Dec 2012	Agreed CC for 2013	Received CC upto Nov 2013	Arrears upto Nov 2013	Host Facility Balance for 2013
	US \$	US \$	US \$	US \$	LKR
Afghanistan	0.00	8,050.00	8,050.00	0.00	
Bangladesh	64,335.00	21,300.00	21,735.00	63,900.00	
Bhutan	0.00	3,555.00	3,555.00	0.00	
India	37,121.00	31,850.00		68,971.00	
Maldives	0.00	14,575.00	14,575.00	0.00	
Nepal	8,050.00	8,050.00		16,100.00	
Pakistan	46,432.44	31,850.00	31,466.40	46,816.04	
Sri Lanka	32,382.14	16,220.00		48,602.14	6,000,000.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>188,320.58</b>	<b>135,450.00</b>	<b>79,381.40</b>	<b>244,389.18</b>	





**PROJECTS SANCTIONED FROM 2011 - OCTOBER 2013**

Ref No	Activity	GC Decision	Donor	Funds Allocated US \$	Funds Remitted to SACEP / Utilized US \$	Remarks
6.1.1	Capacity Building on Indicators as part of National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) Updating for South Asia and development of CHMs	10GC.SACEP Decision 9.2.7				
	South Asia Capacity Building Workshop on Indicators as part of National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) updating held from 16 - 19 July 2012 in Sri Lanka	11GC.SACEP Decision 9.2.2	UNEP - WCMC	37,711.99	37,711.99	Activities Completed - Report Published
	Sub-regional Capacity-building Workshop for South Asia on the Clearing-House Mechanism in Dehradun, India from 12 to 16 December 2011	11GC.SACEP Decision 9.3.2	CBD Secretariat	68,406.13	Funds Physically not received Remitted direct to Workshop Host - India	Activities Completed - Report Published
		12GC.SACEP 9.2.4				
		12GC.SACEP Decision 11				
6.1.2	Promoting Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) in South Asia	3SS GC.SACEP Decision 5A - Mission Statement of SACEP				
	Three days Training Programme brought together 25 policy makers from 7 countries held from 30 October - 1 November 2012, in Sri Lanka	11GC.SACEP Decision 9.3.2	UNEP	73,254.48	73,254.48	Activity Completed - Report Published Allocation as per MoU - US \$ 77,000/-; Remittance on actual expenditure

**PROJECTS SANCTIONED FROM 2011 - OCTOBER 2013**

Ref No	Activity	GC Decision	Donor	Funds Allocated US \$	Funds Remitted to SACEP / Utilized US \$	Remarks
6.1.4	Data and Information Management System for South Asia	9GC.SACEP Decision 9.2.1.c 10GC.SACEP Decision 9.3 11GC.SACEP Decision 9.2.4 11GC.SACEP Decision 9.3.2 12GC.SACEP Decision 9.2.10	UNEP	44,000.00	44,000.00	Activity Completed - Report Published
	A two day Inception and Training Workshop on Establishment of Environmental Data and Information Management System for South Asia from 9 - 10 February 2012 in Colombo Sri Lanka.		UNEP			First draft circulated among member countries for their comments.
6.1.5	MoU between SACEP and UNEP, Regional Resource Centre for Asia and the Pacific (RRC-AP) / On Agreed Programme under Phase IV implementation of the Male' Declaration (Balance Payment) Series of Activities	7GC.SACEP Decision 9A and all successive GC-SACEP	UNEP-RR- AP	28,832.50	13,832.50	Phase IV Completed

**PROJECTS SANCTIONED FROM 2011 - OCTOBER 2013**

Ref No	Activity	GC Decision	Donor	Funds Allocated US \$	Funds Remitted to SACEP / Utilized US \$	Remarks
6.1.6	South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network (SAWEN) The First Regional Meeting of the South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network (SAWEN), held in Negombo, Sri Lanka from 3 - 6 June 2012	11GC.SACEP Decision 9.2.6  11GC.SACEP Decision 9.3.2  12GC.SACEP Decision 9.2.9	TRAFFIC INT'L	55,799.11	55,799.11	Activity Completed - Report Published
6.1.8	To Organized a Sub-Regional EST Training Workshop-cum-Policy Dialogue in South Asia, Ahmedabad, India  Sub-Regional EST Training Workshop-cum-Policy Dialogue in South Asia, 26-28 August 2011, Ahmedabad, India	9GC.SACEP Decision 9.2.1.c  10GC.SACEP Decision 9.3  12GC.SACEP Decision 9.2.12	UNCRD	36,479.00	Funds Physically not received Remitted Direct to Workshop Host - India	Activity Completed
6.1.10	Preparation of South Asia position paper to reflect the post Rio +20 challenges related to environment sustainability (e.g. green economy, energy, water and sanitation etc.). Regional Consultation Workshop on Post RIO+20 South Asia Development Agenda held in Kathmandu, Nepal on 30 May 2013	3SS GC.SACEP Decision 5A  11GC.SACEP Decision 9.3.2	UNEP	50,000.00	35,000.00	On-going Activity - Second Draft Circulated among member states

**PROJECTS SANCTIONED FROM 2011 - OCTOBER 2013**

Ref No	Activity	GC Decision	Donor	Funds Allocated US \$	Funds Remitted to SACEP / Utilized US \$	Remarks
	MoU between SACEP and UNEP - ROAP / Assistance to conduct 12 <sup>th</sup> & 13 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Governing Council of SACEP	Declaration and Articles of Association of SACEP adopted at the High Level Meeting to Initiate SACEP, 25 February 1981				
	12GC-SACEP held on 1 - 3 November 2010, Colombo, Sri Lanka	11GC.SACEP Decision 9.3.2	UNEP			US \$ 12,000/- received in 2010
	13GC-SACEP, 25 - 27 November 2013, Islamabad, Pakistan		UNEP	3,000.00	3,000.00	Activity Completed
			UNEP	20,000.00	15,000.00	In progress
	To Organize a sub-regional meeting in South Asia, to create awareness and disseminate the results of 'converting waste agricultural biomass into energy	9GC.SACEP Decision 9.2.1.c				
		10GC.SACEP Decision 9.3	UNEP	55,750.00		Funds not received; Concept Paper to be finalized
		12GC.SACEP Decision 9.2.12		(Budget for workshop)		
	Funds received for Meeting/Conference participation of SACEP - Year 2011 - Sep 2013		From Meeting Organizers	39,307.49	39,307.49	
	<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>512,540.70</b>	<b>316,905.57</b>	

**APPROVED COUNTRY CONTRIBUTION FORMULA**

As per the Decision of Seventh Meeting of the Governing Council of SACEP held on 22 April 1998.

COUNTRY	%	CONTRIBUTION	ROUNDED OFF
		US \$	US \$
AFGANISTAN		Not Included	
BANGLADESH	16.72	21,301	21,300
BHUTAN	2.79	3,554	3,555
INDIA	25	31,850	31,850
MALDIVES	11.44	14,575	14,575
NEPAL	6.32	8,052	8,050
PAKISTAN	25	31,850	31,850
SRI LANKA	12.73	16,218	16,220
<b>T O T A L</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>127,400</b>	<b>127,400</b>

**PROPOSED 10% INCREASE OF THE COUNTRY CONTRIBUTION FROM JANUARY 2014**

COUNTRY	PRESENT CONTRIBUTION	%	RECOMMENDED CONTRIBUTION	ROUNDED OFF	INCREASE OF COUNTRY CONTRIBUTION
	US \$		US \$	US \$	US \$
AFGANISTAN	8,050.00	5.94	8,855.00	8,855.00	805.00
BANGLADESH	21,300.00	15.73	23,430.00	23,430.00	2,130.00
BHUTAN	3,555.00	2.62	3,910.50	3,910.00	355.00
INDIA	31,850.00	23.51	35,035.00	35,035.00	3,185.00
MALDIVES	14,575.00	10.76	16,032.50	16,033.00	1,458.00
NEPAL	8,050.00	5.94	8,855.00	8,855.00	805.00
PAKISTAN	31,850.00	23.51	35,035.00	35,035.00	3,185.00
SRI LANKA	16,220.00	11.97	17,842.00	17,842.00	1,622.00
<b>T O T A L</b>	<b>135,450.00</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>148,995.00</b>	<b>148,995.00</b>	<b>13,545.00</b>

A 10% Increase in the Annual Country Contribution for SACEP is requested from January year 2014. The Present Country Contribution of SACEP was recommended at the 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Governing Council of SACEP held on 22<sup>nd</sup> April 1998 in Male, Republic of Maldives **(Annex 1)**

Please note that the Country Contribution for Afghanistan was decided at the 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Governing Council of SACEP held on 25 & 26 April 1988, In Afghanistan. After a lapse of period Afghanistan participated at the 9<sup>th</sup> Governing Council of SACEP and recommenced payment of country contributions from year 2008 at the rate of US \$ 8,050/-. This amount was decided as Nepal and Afghanistan was the same amount as decided at the 4<sup>th</sup> GC-SACEP. **(Annex 2)**

The proposal to increase the Country Contribution was agreed in principle at the 11GC-SACEP held on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2008 and SACEP was requested to forward the request with more justification to the Country Governments immediately so that a decision on the increase of the Country Contribution could be taken at the earliest.

*13 GC.SACEP is requested to consider increasing the Country Contributions of SACEP as the agreed Country Contributions of SACEP is stagnant since 1999 January as decided at the 7 GC.SACEP held on 25-26 April 1998*





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

**22<sup>ND</sup> APRIL 1998  
MALE, REPUBLIC OF MALDIVES**

The meeting also noted that the programmes formulated for the future and projects currently being implemented were in line with Agenda 21 and the felt needs of the member countries. It was also noted that the projects that are being implemented have been determined at the request of the member countries.

The Head of the Indian Delegation in deference to the suggestion made by His Excellency President of Maldives and keeping in view the decisions taken in the SAARC Environment Conference agreed to the Draft Resolution on Control and Prevention of Air Pollution and its likely Transboundary Effects in South Asia. Thereafter the Governing Council decided to adopt it as the Male Declaration as presented by the Secretariat. The Male Declaration is given in Annex XVI.

## **B. REVIEW OF INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION**

The meeting was specially appreciative of UNEP and UNEP/ EAP/ AP and the Norwegian Agency for Development Co-operation (NORAD) for their generous programme support both financially and technically. It also noted the assistance and support given by ADB and ESCAP.

## **10. FINANCIAL MATTERS**

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

The meeting agreed on the need to strengthen the Secretariat and that a fully operational Secretariat with the full complement of professional staff would be beneficial to the member countries in the long term.

The Representative of Sri Lanka appreciated the need to enhance its host facilities, which in 1998 amounted to SL Rs 2.1 million or US \$ 35,000. He said that he would take up this matter with the concerned authorities and request that in the future the yearly increase in host facilities should at least be in line with the rate of inflation so that no additional burden will be placed on the Secretariat. He also said that they would look very favourably at the revised country contributions suggested by the Secretariat and would also take this matter up with the concerned authorities.

The other delegates too agreed to take up the matter of the revised country contributions with the concerned authorities. It was agreed that the countries who were not yet contributing at the pledged level would report to the Secretariat by 1<sup>st</sup> August 1998 on the question of its arrears in respect of the amounts pledged and that all countries would respond by 1<sup>st</sup> of November 1998 to the request for enhanced contributions from 1<sup>st</sup> January 1999.

**REVISED COUNTRY CONTRIBUTION CHART**

MEMBER STATE	PERCENTAGE	CONTRIBUTION IN US \$	ROUNDED OFF TO IN US \$
BANGLADESH	16.72	21,301	21,300
BHUTAN	2.79	3,554	3,555
INDIA	25.00	31,850	31,850
MALDIVES	11.44	14,575	14,575
NEPAL	6.32	8,052	8,050
PAKISTAN	25.00	31,850	31,850
SRI LANKA	12.73	16,218	16,220
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>127,400</b>	<b>127,400</b>



**SACEP**

**S A C E P**

*Report of the  
Fourth Governing Council Meeting of the*

**SOUTH ASIA CO-OPERATIVE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME**

*25 & 26 April 1988*

*Kabul, Afghanistan*

- ii. identify projects and programmes and go through the procedures laid down in the Modalities of Focal Points, and
- iii. initiate Projects through the SACEP Secretariat.

#### C. Review on Co-operation with International Organisations

Under this Agenda item the Governing Council conveyed its appreciation to all International Organisations for the support they have given SACEP and requested them for their continued support in the future activities of the SACEP Secretariat.

The Governing Council authorised the Director of SACEP to write to the Secretary General of the South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation (SAARC) regarding the role SACEP can play as a specialised agency on environmental matters in co-operation with SAARC so as to avoid duplication of work.

The Governing Council also approved the Proposal for entering into a relationship agreement with UNIDO subject to the concurrence of the Government of Pakistan.

### 10. FINANCIAL MATTERS

#### A. Report of the Consultative Committee of SACEP on the Formula to be Adopted for the Sharing of the Annual Expenditure of the SACEP Secretariat

After the consideration of the Report of the Consultative Committee on this matter, the Governing Council accepted the formula as contained in Annexure 2 of the working document SACEP/GC4/WP7 which is quoted below:

COUNTRY	PERCENTAGE	CONTRIBUTION	ROUNDED OFF TO
1	2	3	5
		US \$	US \$
Afghanistan	4.17	5,880	5,900
Bangladesh	10.42	14,692	14,700
Bhutan	2.08	2,933	2,900
India	25.00	35,250	35,250
Iran	25.00	35,250	35,250
Maldives	6.25	8,812	8,800
Nepal	4.17	5,880	5,900
Pakistan	16.66	23,491	23,500
Sri Lanka	6.25	8,812	8,800
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>1,41,000</b>	<b>1,41,000</b>

The Governing Council welcomed the decision of the Governments of India, Iran and Sri Lanka to give their full share of their contribution as per agreed scale.

In view of their least developed status, the Government's of Afghanistan and Bhutan agreed to pay 50% of the agreed scale.

The Governing Council recommended that the Governments of Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives and Nepal should pay at least 50% of the agreed scale and that other countries should pay their full share.

#### B. Report of the Consultative Committee of SACEP on the Establishment of a Trust Fund

The Governing Council approved in principle the establishment of a fund for financing projects and programmes of SACEP on the basis of voluntary contributions of member countries and other donors. The SACEP Secretariat should on the basis of approved projects and programmes seek additional contributions from other sources.

**SOUTH ASIA CO-OPERATIVE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME (SACEP)  
PROPOSED SECRETARIAT BUDGET FOR 2014 & 2015 WITH PROPOSED INCREASE OF COUNTRY CONTRIBUTIONS**

	ANTICIPATED INCOME WITH 10% INCREASE - 2014 & 2015 US \$	ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE - 2014 US \$	ACTUAL RECEIPTS 2012 US \$	ACTUAL EXPENDITURE - 2012 US \$
<b>1 ANTICIPATED INCOME</b>				
1.1 AFGHANISTAN	8,855.00		16,100.00	
BANGLADESH	23,430.00		20,865.00	
BHUTAN	3,910.00		7,110.00	
INDIA	35,035.00		31,850.00	
MALDIVES	16,033.00		14,575.00	
NEPAL	8,855.00		8,050.00	
PAKISTAN	35,035.00		31,467.14	
SRI LANKA	17,842.00		-	
<b>TOTAL COUNTRY CONTRIBUTIONS</b>	<b>148,995.00</b>		<b>130,017.14</b>	
1.2 Interest earned	10,000.00		8,415.70	
1.3 Secretariat Cost from Sri Lanka	61,500.00		63,627.47	
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>220,495.00</b>		<b>202,060.31</b>	
<b>2 ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE</b>				
2.1 Salary Director General		54,000.00		36,368.78
2.2 Salaries of Local Staff		53,500.00		49,370.10
2.3 International Travel		20,000.00		19,457.49
2.4 Secretariat Cost		75,000.00		56,507.76
<b>SUB TOTAL</b>		202,500.00		161,704.13
3 Capital Costs		17,500.00		1,366.32
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>		<b>220,000.00</b>		<b>163,070.45</b>
<b>INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE</b>		<b>495.00</b>		<b>38,989.86</b>



**SOUTH ASIA CO-OPERATIVE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME (SACEP)  
PROPOSED SECRETARIAT BUDGET FOR 2014 & 2015 WITH THE AGREED COUNTRY CONTRIBUTIONS**

	ANTICIPATED INCOME AS AGREED - 2014 & 2015 US \$	ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE - 2014 US \$	ACTUAL RECEIPTS - 2012 US \$	ACTUAL EXPENDITURE - 2012 US \$
<b>1 ANTICIPATED INCOME</b>				
1.1 AFGHANISTAN	8,050.00		16,100.00	
BANGLADESH	21,300.00		20,865.00	
BHUTAN	3,555.00		7,110.00	
INDIA	31,850.00		31,850.00	
MALDIVES	14,575.00		14,575.00	
NEPAL	8,050.00		8,050.00	
PAKISTAN	31,850.00		31,467.14	
SRI LANKA	16,220.00		-	
<b>TOTAL COUNTRY CONTRIBUTIONS</b>	<b>135,450.00</b>		<b>130,017.14</b>	
1.2 Interest earned (SACEP-CC)	10,000.00		8,415.70	
1.3 Secretariat Cost from Sri Lanka	61,500.00		63,627.47	
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>206,950.00</b>		<b>202,060.31</b>	
<b>2 ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE</b>				
2.1 Salary Director General		54,000.00		36,368.78
2.2 Salaries of Local Staff		53,500.00		49,370.10
2.3 International Travel		20,000.00		19,457.49
2.4 Secretariat Cost		75,000.00		56,507.76
<b>SUB TOTAL</b>		202,500.00		161,704.13
Capital Costs		17,500.00		1,366.32
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>		<b>220,000.00</b>		<b>163,070.45</b>
<b>INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE</b>		<b>(13,050.00)</b>		<b>38,989.86</b>







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

Reports of the Auditors of South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme,  
Financial Years ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2009 and 2010.

Amalgamated Balance Sheets as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2009 and 2010.

Annexure 1. SACEP CC Financial Statements

Annexure 2. SACEP Host Facility Financial Statements

Annexure 3. SACEP NORAD / UNEP Project Financial Statements

Annexure 4. SACEP – SENRIC Project Financial Statements

The 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Governing Council held in 25-26 April 1988 decided that the appointment of the Auditors would be reviewed once a year with the provision to reappoint the same auditor if it be necessary. (GC 4; page 37; Rule 13)

The 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Governing Council of SACEP held on 26<sup>th</sup> August 2005 recommended that the existing External Auditors to be changed every three. GC 9 – page 5, 9.4, No 1 d .ii)

The External Auditors are appointed by calling quotations and as the appointment of Auditors of SACEP is too often in selection of a reputed External Auditor it is suggest that the decision of the 9GC.SACEP to be amended to be :-

‘The External Auditors to be changed every five years’



**DRAFT**  
**DECLARATION**  
**by the Environment Ministers of the South Asia Region**  
**at the 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Governing Council of SACEP**

1. We, the Environment Ministers and Heads of delegation of the eight countries in the South Asia region viz. Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka met at Islamabad, Pakistan on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2013 at the 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Governing Council of South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP)
2. *Recalling* the Colombo Declaration of 25<sup>th</sup> February 1981, on initiation of South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme which enabled the establishment of SACEP
3. *Underlining* the importance of the Regional Co-operation as a tool to promote environmental protection and sustainable development in the region
4. *Reaffirming* our commitment to SACEP and highlighting our common dedication to co-operate in achieving high standards of environmental protection in the region
5. *Taking* into account the principles and the decisions that were agreed in previous meetings of the Governing Council
6. *Taking note* of the rapid political, economic and social changes that have taken place in the region since the establishment of the SACEP in 1982 we emphasize our view that these changes call for efforts to strengthen co-operation within the region
7. Recognizing that
  - A) The region is endowed with rich base of natural resources where the livelihood of majority of the population directly and indirectly depend on
  - B) The region's single most burning issue is that a large number of people are living in poverty and the eradication of poverty is the paramount goal in the development agendas of governments of South Asia
  - C) South Asia is one of the fastest-growing regions in the world and demand for food, energy, water and natural resources is continuing to grow rapidly by putting ever increasing pressure on the environment
  - D) Climate change already has an impact on ecosystems and exacerbates pressures on the marine and coastal environment
8. Concerned that environmental degradation and the unsustainable use of natural resources may have significant social and economic consequences.
9. Reaffirmed our commitment to the implementation of;
  - A) Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and the provisions of Agenda 21

- B) Outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), in particular the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation
  - C) The Millennium Development Goals
  - D) Outcome of the Rio+20, United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, 'The future we want'
  - E) Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets contained therein
10. Agreeing to the recommendations and decisions of this 13<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Governing Council of SACEP
11. SACEP member states to take prompt action to strengthen their efforts to implement recommendations and decisions taken at the 13<sup>th</sup> meeting of Governing Council
12. Express our sincere appreciation to the people and the Government of Pakistan for the warm hospitality and excellent organization of the 13<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Governing Council of SACEP

### **Partnership with Global Water Partnership (GWP) on Adaptation and Resilience to Climate Change**

The Asia and Pacific region is the world's most disaster prone and within that, South Asia Sub-region can be considered, highly vulnerable to the effects of climate change. There are a number of disaster risk hotspots in the sub-region, and it is expected that existing risk patterns will intensify as a result of climate change. As all eight countries of South Asia are agro-economic countries, climate resiliency and water security are at the priority areas of concern at national and sub-regional levels.

Adaptation to Climate Change is among the major thematic areas of SACEP since 2005. SACEP is in the process of developing a partnership with Global Water Partnership South Asia (GWP SAS) in order to jointly implement the activities related to adaptation and resilience to climate change in the South Asia Region.

The aim of GWP SAS is to support South Asian countries in sustainable development and management of their water resources and to fully promote and apply an Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) approach at the community, national and regional levels.

In this collaboration with GWP SAS, it is intended to organize 2 workshops on capacity building and experience sharing and development of the Regional Disaster Communication Strategy and a Database. These activities will be implemented in two phases and under Phase 1, a regional capacity building workshop for water resource managers on possible climate change adaptation strategies is proposed to be organized. A database on the information of good practices, resources available in the region, etc. is also to be created under Phase 1.

During the Phase 2, it will further facilitate to the sharing of lessons learnt and good practices of climate change adaptation among the South Asian countries by organizing an Experience Sharing Workshop.

It also intends to develop a Regional Disaster Communication Strategy focusing on floods and droughts, a Regional Communication Network and a webpage.

