



REPORT

**THE FOURTEENTH MEETING OF THE
GOVERNING COUNCIL**

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

**26 – 28 MARCH 2018
HELD IN COLOMBO, SRI LANKA
HOSTED BY THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF AFGHANISTAN**



South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme
No. 69/4, Maya Avenue
Colombo 06
Sri Lanka

CERTIFICATE

The Report of the Fourteenth Meeting of the Governing Council of South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme held from 26 – 28 March 2018 in Colombo, Sri Lanka hosted by the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, is herewith submitted to the members of the Governing Council and the Consultative Committee, in fulfilment of the financial and administrative procedures of SACEP.


Dr. Muhammad Khurshid
Director General
11th June 2018

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

**26 – 28 March 2018
held in Colombo, Sri Lanka
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SOUTH ASIA CO-OPERATIVE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

REPORT OF THE FOURTEENTH MEETING OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL

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**SOUTH ASIA CO-OPERATIVE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME
FOURTEENTH MEETING OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL (14GC-SACEP)
26 - 28 MARCH 2018**

**HOSTED BY GOVERNMENT OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF AFGHANISTAN
HELD IN COLOMBO, SRI LANKA**

1. INTRODUCTION

The Fourteenth Meeting of the Governing Council of the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (14GC-SACEP) was held on 28th March 2018 in Colombo, Sri Lanka hosted by the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.

2. ATTENDANCE

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

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

3. INAUGURATION

The welcome Address was delivered by Dr. Muhammad Khurshid, Director General, SACEP. **(Annex II)**

This was followed by the Statement of the current Chairman, Mr. Khizar Hayat Khan, Secretary, Ministry of Climate Change, Government of Pakistan and Head of Delegation. **(Annex III)**

The Opening Remarks were delivered by H. E. Mr. Schah Zaman Maiwandi, Director General, National Environment Protection Agency, Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, the host of the 14GC-SACEP. **(Annex IV)**

The host country of SACEP represented by Hon' Anuradha Jayarathne, Deputy Minister of Environment, Government of Sri Lanka, awarded a land of 57 perches situated at D. M. Colombage Mawatha, Colombo to establish SACEP Secretariat and the Residence of the Director General to the Chair of the Thirteenth Governing Council of SACEP, Mr. Khizar Hayat Khan, Secretary, Ministry of Climate Change, Government of Pakistan and Head of Delegation **(Annex V)**. A presentation was made by the Central Engineering Consultancy Bureau of Sri Lanka on the proposed building to be constructed. **(Annex VI)**

At this historic moment Mr. Khizar Hayat Khan, Secretary, Ministry of Climate Change, Government of Pakistan and Head of Delegation, the Current Chair, then handed over the award to Dr. Muhammad Khurshid, Director General, SACEP.

Dr. Isabelle Louis, Deputy Regional Director, United Nations Environment, Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, Thailand addressed the gathering after the awarding ceremony.

The Inaugural Session of the 14GC-SACEP was then addressed by Hon' Anuradha Jayarathne, Deputy Minister of Environment, Government of Sri Lanka as the facilitator of the 14th Meeting of the Governing Council of SACEP, hosted by the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. On behalf of Government of Sri Lanka Hon' Anuradha Jayarathne extended appreciation to SACEP and all the member states for the continuous effort on safeguarding the environment. **(Annex VII)**

The vote of thanks was given by Mr. Ghulam Mohd Malikyar, Deputy Director General (Scientific and Technical Affairs), National Environmental Protection Agency, Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.

4. ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS

In accordance with the provisions of the Articles of Association of SACEP, H. E. Mr. Schah Zaman Maiwandi, Director General, National Environmental Protection Agency, Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan was elected as Chairman of the 14th Meeting of the Governing Council of SACEP. Hon' Mr. Abdullah Al Islam Jakob, Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Bangladesh was elected as the Vice Chairman. Hon' Mr. Abdullahi Majeed, Minister of State for Environment and Energy, Ministry of Environment and Energy, Republic of Maldives, was elected as Rapporteur.

5. ADOPTION OF AGENDA AND ORGANISATION OF WORK

The Agenda of the Meeting was discussed and adopted by the 14th Meeting of the Governing Council of SACEP. **(Annex VIII)**

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

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

(The Country Statements are in **Annexes IX – XIV**)

7. STATEMENTS BY THE OBSERVERS

Dr. Isabelle Louis, Deputy Regional Director of United Nations Environment Programme, Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, Thailand presented her statement. **(Annex XV)**

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

Mr. Midhath Abdul Rasheed, Assistant Director, Ministry of Environment and Energy, Republic of Maldives, in his capacity as the Rapporteur, presented the Report of the Preparatory Meeting of the National Focal Points from on 26 – 27 March 2018 along with the recommendations of the meeting to the 14th Meeting of the Governing Council for its endorsement. **(Annex XVIII)**

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

Based on the presentation of the Progress Report 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, the 14th Meeting of the Governing Council of SACEP adopted the Report of the Preparatory Meeting of the National Focal Points. The decisions of the 14th Meeting of the Governing Council, SACEP under various clauses are as below :

The meeting was of the view that the inclusion to the Progress Report referred to as Agenda Item No 6.1 with reference to sub heading 6.1.18 on the 'Initial thoughts toward SACEP's Strategy 2016 – 2030' would not be discussed at this meeting given the limited time for the National Focal Points to review the document. In response to a query raised by Government of Afghanistan, the Secretariat informed the 14GC-SACEP that, a review of SACEP was done by a panel of three eminent professionals of South Asia and that the 3rd Special Session of the Governing Council approved the recommendations of the Review Panel as SACEP's Strategy and Work Programme, in November 2003 with funding support of US\$ 100,000/- (approx) from UNEP. The 14GC-SACEP informed the Secretariat to circulate the updated draft of the document as per the prevailing procedure followed, to all Member States for comments and consent prior to the 15th Meeting of the Governing Council of SACEP for consideration of the proposal.

Under presentation of the institutional matters a query was raised by Government of India regarding the salaries of the Local Staff of SACEP and the 14GC-SACEP was informed by the secretariat that as per the laid down procedure the Local Staff Salaries are revised once in five years and the latest revision was done in October 2017.

The Meeting commended the implementation of activities by SACEP and urged the Secretariat to increase visibility and continue to take a proactive role.

9.1 INSTITUTIONAL MATTERS

9.1.1 APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTOR GENERAL OF SACEP

SACEP Secretariat informed the meeting that the present Director General will be completing his tenure on 20th July 2018 and as per the approved criteria, government of Afghanistan has nominated Dr. Abas Basir for the post of the next Director General of SACEP. According to the procedure laid down, the 129th Meeting of the Consultative Committee of SACEP endorsed the nomination prior to issuance of the Offer of Appointment and the Service Contract of Dr. Abas Basir.

The nominated candidate is expected to assume duties by 5th July 2018 as the term of office of the Director General and his successor will have an overlap of a period not exceeding two weeks.

9.1.2 INCREASE OF THE SALARY OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL SACEP

The 14GC-SACEP approved the increase of the Salary of the Director General, by US \$ 500/- amounting to a total monthly salary of US \$ 5,000/- with immediate effect.

9.2 PROGRAMME MATTERS

9.2.1 Biodiversity for Food and Nutrition (BFN) project in South Asia beyond 2018.

The 14GC-SACEP agreed in principle to participate in BFN project and recommend SACEP Secretariat to prepare a complete project proposal including possible funding mechanisms on promoting BFN approach in South Asian countries beyond 2018.

9.2.2 Strengthening Sustainable Consumption and Production in South Asia

The 14GC-SACEP appreciated the Secretariat's efforts in implementing activities in relation to the Sustainable Consumption and Production in South Asia and the support extended by UNEP, and recommended SACEP Secretariat to take necessary steps to implement following activities apart from other ongoing and new SCP activities:

1. Convene the South Asia Forum on SCP on regular intervals as stipulated in the approved modalities.
2. Sub-regional policy dialogue on Sustainable Public Procurement (SPP) to exchange experiences to date, necessary training and industry roundtable.
3. Sustainable buildings policy dialogue, training and industry roundtable.
4. Sustainable Consumption Week in South Asia

Members of the 14GC-SACEP recommended to invite UNEP to be a partner with SACEP and assist in accessing financial and technical resources in implementing these activities and also to facilitate dialogues with other bilateral and multilateral donors to support these important activities.

9.2.3 Waste Management

The 14GC-SACEP approved the proposal made by the Secretariat to secure funds from UNCRD under the International Partnership for Expanding Waste Management Services of Local Authorities (IPLA) /3R initiative and other potential donors to support the capacity development for solid waste management in South Asian countries.

9.2.4 Environmental Data and Information Management System for South Asia

The 14GC-SACEP approved that SACEP may work with the member countries in exploring the possibility of developing environment data and information management system for South Asia on the basis of latest developments and availability of such information.

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

Member States noted that air pollution constitutes an important issue for the South Asia region, and that countries in the region are severely affected by increased levels of air pollution.

The members of the 14GC-SACEP decided to further review at the national level regarding the role of SACEP in the implementation of the Male' Declaration.

9.2.6 Air Quality

14GC-SACEP emphasised the need to facilitate a common platform for all member countries to get together to discuss, share experiences and develop a common strategy to overcome the prevailing air pollution in the South Asian region and requested SACEP Secretariat to convene a meeting of the member countries, UNEP and other stakeholders soon in this regard.

9.2.7 Workshop on Capacity building of public sector, private sector and civil society stakeholder in SACEP member countries for Sustainable Energy and Road Transport policy, planning and implementation.

SACEP Secretariat to implement the activity as soon as the funds are available.

9.2.8 Post Rio +20 challenges related to environment sustainability

Members recommended that the work of SACEP should also focus on the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement.

9.2.9 Adaptation to Climate Change

14GC-SACEP approved the implementation of the following activities:

- Workshop on Capacity Building, Awareness and Database Development on Adaptation to Climate Change in South Asia

- Regional Knowledge Exchange Programme on Measurement Reporting and Verification of Nationally Determined Contributions to Adaptation
- Regional training programme on Capacity Development for Adaptation to Climate Change through Climate-sensitive flood management in south Asia

9.2.10 (i) Proposal for SACEP to be a GEF Project Agency

Given the current status of the GEF Agencies accreditation process, the 14GC-SACEP agreed that the proposal under this agenda item should be discontinued.

9.2.10 (ii) Accreditation to other Global Funding Mechanisms

14GC-SACEP noted that SACEP should explore other possibilities of accreditation to other global funding mechanisms such as Green Climate Fund (GCF) with the support of the member countries.

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

14GC-SACEP agreed the as recommended by the 13GC-SACEP.

9.2.12 Assistance for Developing Bio-diversity Clearing House Mechanisms

Members appreciated the SACEP Secretariat's effort in assisting the development of the Bio-diversity Clearing House Mechanism in Sri Lanka and requested to extend the services to other member states when requested.

9.2.13 South Asian Seas Programme (SASP)

The Secretariat informed the Member States regarding SACEP's engagement with UNEP and other partners on the development of the Marine Litter Action Plan for South Asia and the Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Strategy for South Asia. The 14GC-SACEP was also informed about UNEP-GEF and Centre for Ecology & Hydrology (CEH), UK support to SACEP in establishing a regional hub for Nitrogen Management for South Asia.

The activities will be reported at the 6th Inter-governmental Meeting of the Ministers of the South Asian Seas Programme. (IMM6-SASP)

9.2.14 WORK PROGRAMME (2018-2019) **Annex XVI**

The Meeting recommended to continue the on-going activities of SACEP and approved the Work Programme proposed for 2018 – 2019.

9.3 FUNDING AND FINANCIAL MATTERS

9.3.1 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.

9.3.2 EXTERNAL FUNDING

The Meeting greatly appreciated the efforts of SACEP in generating external funds from several donor agencies. 14GC-SACEP recommended that SACEP should continue to play its role in securing external financing for the benefit of the member countries and that the member countries will support such initiatives in accessing the funding sources.

9.3.3(i) INCREASE OF COUNTRY CONTRIBUTION OF SACEP

13GC-SACEP agreed in principle, a 10% increase of the Country Contributions.

The SACEP Secretariat informed the 14GC-SACEP that accordingly, Government of Bangladesh and the Government of Sri Lanka agreed to the 10% increase and have been contributing since year 2014.

Government of Maldives informed the 14GC-SACEP of the difficulty in contributing to the increased level of Country Contributions at present, but that Maldives will consider the increase in the future.

However, the Secretariat has not yet received the concurrence to the increase from the other Member States.

9.3.3(ii) SEPARATE AND DISTINCTIVE OFFICE FOR THE SACEP SECRETARIAT AND OFFICIAL RESIDENCE FOR THE DIRECTOR GENERAL

14GC-SACEP noted with appreciation the awarding of the land of 57 perches situated at D. M. Colombage Mawatha, Colombo 06 to establish the SACEP Secretariat and the Residence of the Director General by Government of Sri Lanka, the host of the organization.

The Member States of the 14GC-SACEP agreed in principle to a 'One-time voluntary contribution' for the construction of the building of the SACEP Secretariat to support the effort made by Government of Sri Lanka. SACEP Secretariat informed that the estimated construction cost of the first phase is USD 400, 000 (approx).

Government of India informed the 14GC-SACEP the willingness to contribute for construction of one floor with recognition to the member state and for SACEP Secretariat to send a formal request in this regard. SACEP will use its savings for the initial cost for the architectural design in support to the contributions of the host country and its member states

9.3.3(iii) SECRETARIAT BUDGET (2018-2019)

The 14th Meeting of the Governing Council of SACEP, as recommended by the Preparatory Meeting of National Focal Points approved the Secretariat Budget for the Years 2018 – 2019 with the present agreed annual contributions until such concurrence is obtained. **(Annex XVII)**

10. APPROVAL OF THE ANNUAL AUDITED REPORTS OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEARS ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 2011 TO 31ST DECEMBER, 2015

The meeting approved the Audited Reports of Accounts for the years 2011 to 2015.

11. RESOLUTION ON SUSTAINABLE NITROGEN MANAGEMENT FOR UNEA-4.

14GC-SACEP requested SACEP Secretariat to redraft the Resolution according to the theme of the UNEA-4 and with

reference to other resolutions already adopted at previous UNEA. The Secretariat was informed to coordinate with the Member States in submitting the amended resolution to the UNEA-4.

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

12.1 SECONDMENT OF AN OFFICER FROM EACH SACEP MEMBER COUNTRY TO BE BASED AT SACEP ON A VOLUNTARY BASIS

SACEP requested Member States to consider secondment of officers to the Secretariat with emoluments of the officer to be borne by the respective Member State.

Members of the 14GC-SACEP noted the need to further consult their respective government on the matter.

12.2 SAARC VISA STICKER FOR SACEP OFFICIAL MEETINGS

The meeting requested SACEP Secretariat to communicate formally with SAARC Secretariat on the matter.

12.3 INTRODUCTION OF DR. ABAS BASIR, THE NEXT DIRECTOR GENERAL OF SACEP, NOMINEE OF GOVERNMENT OF AFGHANISTAN

SACEP Secretariat introduced Dr. Abas Basir to the 14GC-SACEP who was a member of the Afghanistan Country Delegation of the 14GC-SACEP. Dr. Abas Basir delivered a short speech and the members of the 14GC-SACEP congratulated him on his new assignment.

13. VENUE AND DATE FOR THE 15TH MEETING OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL OF SACEP

As per the Articles of Association, the 15th Meeting of the Governing Council of SACEP will be hosted by Government of Bangladesh. The dates of the meeting will be finalized by the Secretariat in consultation with the Government of Bangladesh.

14. ADOPTION OF REPORT

The 14th Meeting of the Governing Council of SACEP considered the Report on 28th day of March 2018 and adopted.

15. CLOSURE OF MEETING

Hon' Mr. Abdullah Al Islam Jakob, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of Bangladesh thanked the members for electing him as the Vice Chairman of the 14GC-SACEP.

Mr. Ghulam Mohd Malikyar, Deputy Director General (Scientific and Technical Affairs), National Environmental Protection Agency, Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan thanked the Director General and the Secretariat for their excellent work in making the 14th Meeting of the Governing Council of SACEP a success and placed on record the generous hospitality and co-operation extended by Government of Sri Lanka.

The Chairman thanked the Hon' Ministers and delegates for their valuable support and co-operation, in making the 14th Meeting of the Governing Council of SACEP a success.

He then declared the meeting close.

SOUTH ASIA CO-OPERATIVE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

14TH MEETING OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL

28th March 2018

held in Colombo, Sri Lanka

hosted by Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

AFGHANISTAN

H. E. Mr. Schah Zaman Maiwandi
Director General
National Environmental Protection Agency
Darrulaman Road
School Street
Kabul
Afghanistan
Tel: +93 (0) 74 988 0025
Mobile: +93 (0) 74 949 9999
e-mail: dg.nepa@nepa.gov.af (Official)
schah-zaman@gmx.com

Mr. Ghulam Mohd Malikyar
Deputy Director General
(Scientific and Technical Affairs)
National Environmental Protection Agency
Darrulaman Road
School Street
Kabul
Afghanistan
Tel: +93 (0) 74 988 0025
Mobile: +93 700 202 7193
e-mail: malikyargh@gmail.com

Dr. Abas Basir
Senior Advisor to the President
(Environment and Natural Resources)
President Office
Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
Tel: +93 74 440 4944
Mobile: +93 778 07 1057
e-mail: Abas.basir@gmail.com

Mr. Zolfaqar Karimi Baloch
Director of International Relations Division
National Environmental Protection Agency
Darrulaman Road
School Street
Kabul
Afghanistan
Tel: +93 (0) 74 988 0025
Mobile: +93 79 802 4623
e-mail: zolfaqarb@gmail.com

Ms. Tamana Dawi
Ozone Expert
National Environmental Protection Agency
Darrulaman Road
School Street
Kabul
Afghanistan
Tel: +93 (0) 74 988 0025
Mobile: +93 70 826 7960
e-mail: tmndawi@gmail.com

Mr. Mohammad Tawab Anwari
Secretary to Director General
National Environmental Protection Agency
Darrulaman Road
School Street
Kabul
Afghanistan
Tel: +93 (0) 74 988 0025
Mobile: +93 (0) 79 658 1984
e-mail: tawab.anwari555@yahoo.com

BANGLADESH

Hon. Mr. Abdullah Al Islam Jakob M.P.
Deputy Minister
Ministry of Environment and Forests
Building-06, 13th Floor
Bangladesh Secretariat
Dhaka-1000
Bangladesh
Tel: +880 2957 7007
Mobile: +880 17 1152 6238
e-mail: jakob.mp118@yahoo.com

Mr. Md. Mustafizur Rahman Akhand
Deputy Director (Dhaka Lab)
Department of Environment
Paribesh Bhaban
E/16 Agargoan Sher-e-bangla Road
Dhaka-1207
Bangladesh
Tel: +880 2818 1796
Mobile: +880 18 1941 1925
Fax: +880 2818 1183 / 2818 1772
e-mail: mrakhand001@yahoo.com

BHUTAN

H.E. Dasho Paljor J. Dorji
Deputy Minister and Special Advisor to
National Environment Commission
Post Box No. 466
Thimphu
Royal Government of Bhutan
Tel: +975 2 333 254
Mobile: +975 1 711 0213
Fax: +975 2 333 475
e-mail: paljordorji@gmail.com
paljordorji@nec.gov.bt

Ms. Tshewang Zangmo
Senior Programme Officer
National Environment Commission
Post Box No. 466
Thimphu
Royal Government of Bhutan
Tel: +975 2 323 384
Mobile: +975 1 779 4586
Fax: +975 2 323 385
e-mail: tshewangzam@nec.gov.bt

INDIA

Mr. Anil Kumar Jain
Additional Secretary
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate
Change
Indira Parayavaran Bhawan, 3rd Floor
Jal Block, Jorbagh, Aliganj
New Delhi-110003
India
Tel: +91 11 2469 5266
Mobile: +91 98 9931 3027
Fax: +91 11 2469 5276
e-mail: asaj.moefcc@gov.in

Mr. Prashant Kumar Srivastava
Scientist-F
Ministry of Earth Sciences, Prithvi Bhawan,
Lodhi Road
New Delhi
India
Mobile: +91 98 1077 7248
e-mail: srivastava.pks@gov.in

MALDIVES

Hon. Mr. Abdullahi Majeed
State Minister
Ministry of Environment and Energy
Green Building, Handhuvaree Hin'gun
Maafannu
Male', 20392
Republic of Maldives
Tel: +960 301 8403
Mobile: +960 777 3980
Fax: +960 301 8301
abdullahi.majeed@environment.gov.mv
e-mail: v

Mr. Midhath Abdul Rasheed
Assistant Director
Ministry of Environment and Energy
Green Building, Handhuvaree Hin'gun
Maafannu
Male', 20392
Republic of Maldives
Tel: +960 301 8355
Mobile: +960 794 3822
Fax: +960 301 8301
e-mail: midhath.rasheed@environment.gov.mv

NEPAL

H. E. Dr. Bishwambher Pyakuryal
Ambassador and Chairman of the
Consultative Committee of SACEP
Nepalese Embassy in Colombo
15/3, Guildford Crescent, Colombo 07
Sri Lanka
Tel: +94 11 268 9656 / 7
Mobile: +94 77 767 0980
Fax: +94 11 268 9655
e-mail: eoncolombo@mofa.gov.np
nepalembassy@eureka.lk

PAKISTAN

Mr. Khizar Hayat Khan
Secretary
Ministry of Climate Change
3rd Floor, LG & RD Complex
G-5/2, Islamabad-44000
Pakistan
Tel: +92 51 922 4579
Mobile: +92 33 2888 7145
Fax: +92 51 920 4126
e-mail: secretarymocc@gmail.com;
khizarkhan7@gmail.com

SRI LANKA

Hon' Mr. Anuradha Jayaratne
Deputy Minister
Ministry of Mahaweli Development and
Environment
Sobadam Piyasa', 416/C/1
Robert Gunawardana Mawatha
Battaramulla
Sri Lanka
Tel: +94-11-203 4141
Fax: +94-11-287 9956

Mr. Anura Dissanayake
Secretary
Ministry of Mahaweli Development and
Environment
No. 500, T B Jayah Mawatha
Colombo 10
Sri Lanka
Tel: +94 11 2034121 / 2676844
Mobile: +94 77 757 1304
Fax: +94 11 2879944 / 2676846
e-mail: sec@mahaweli.gov.lk

Ms. Deepa Liyanage
Director (International Relations)
Ministry of Mahaweli Development and
Environment
Sobadam Piyasa, 416/C/1
Robert Gunawardana Mawatha
Battaramulla
Sri Lanka
Tel: +94 11 203 4182
Mobile: +94 71 439 7050
Fax: +94 11 287 9965
e-mail: liyanagedeepa@gmail.com

Dr. P. B. Terney Pradeep Kumara
General Manager / CEO
Marine Environment Protection Authority
No.758, 2nd Floor
Baseline Road
Colombo 09
Sri Lanka
Tel: +94 11 461 5960
Mobile: +94 71 516 9820
Fax: +94 11 461 5960
e-mail: gm@mepa.gov.lk
terneypradeep@yahoo.co.uk

INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES & OBSERVERS

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

Dr. Isabelle Louis
Deputy Regional Director
United Nations Environment Programme
for Asia and the Pacific (UNEP-ROAP)
United Nations Building
Rajdamnern Avenue
Bangkok 10200
Thailand
Tel: +66 2 288 1604
Mobile: +65 9338 2966
e-mail: louis@un.org

SOUTH ASIA CO-OPERATIVE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

69/4, Maya Avenue, Colombo 6, Sri Lanka

Tel +94 11 2596 443; Fax +94 11 2589 369

Dr. Muhammad Khurshid

Director General

Tel: +94 11 258 9376

Mobile: +94 77 736 3133

e-mail: khurshid@sacep.org

Ms. Jacintha S. Tissera

Administrative Officer

Tel: +94 11 250 4708

Mobile: +94 77 311 4362

e-mail: jacintha.tissera@sacep.org

Mr. W. K. Rathnadeera

Senior Programme Officer

Tel: +94 11 250 0546

Mobile: +94 71 643 6307

e-mail: rathnadeera.wk@sacep.org

Dr. Sivaji Patra

Senior Programme Officer-Regional

South Asian Seas Programme (SASP)

Tel: +94 11 562 1320

e-mail: spor_sasp@sacep.org

Ms. Chamina Priyankari Alexander

Programme Officer

Tel: +94 11 255 2761

e-mail: priyankari.alexander@sacep.org

Welcome Address by

Dr. Muhammad Khurshid
Director General, SACEP
at the Inaugural Session of the

14th Meeting of the Governing Council of
South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP)

held in Colombo, Sri Lanka
hosted by the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

28th March 2018

H. E. Mr. Schah Zaman Maiwandi, Director General, National Environment Protection Agency, Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

Mr. Khizar Hayat Khan current chair of the SACEP GC.

Hon. Anuradha Jayarathne, Deputy Minister of Environment, Government of Sri Lanka

Hon' Ministers, Leaders and Members of the Delegations of the SACEP Member countries

Dr. Isabelle Louis, Deputy Regional Director, UN Environment, Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, Thailand

Excellency's, High Commissioners, Ambassadors and Representatives of the Embassies and UN system in Colombo

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen

On behalf of SACEP, I am honoured to be here today to welcome you all to this very important event hosted by the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and held in the commercial capital of the pearl of the Indian Ocean, Sri Lanka.

Almost four years back many of us met in Islamabad, Pakistan where several important decisions were taken and now we are here today again to show our willingness as a region to address existing and emerging environment issues at a common platform.

I feel that, this is indeed a great opportunity for us to further strengthen our regional co-operation and friendship.

We owe special thanks to Government of Afghanistan who graciously offered to provide host facilities for this meeting. Afghanistan has hosted the 4th Meeting of the Governing Council of SACEP far back in April 1988 in the city of Kabul.

Excellency's and Distinguished delegates

The 21st century economic development has posed a number of environmental challenges all over the world which are very common to our region as well. The Glaciers of Himalayas are melting faster than anyone of us thought, due to climate change. Vast land areas of our maritime member countries and entire Maldives are facing the threat of sub-merging due to sea level rise. Our natural wealth, Biological diversity is degrading at an unprecedented rate, the atmosphere of our major cities are becoming un-breathable due to air pollution, Natural disasters like flash floods, landslides, and storms have become very frequent

On the other hand, due to serious draughts and desertification, limited arable land resources for agriculture are becoming un-arable by placing millions of people in hunger

Excellency's and Distinguished delegates

South Asia a region is facing unprecedented environmental challenges to protect our prestigious environment for the benefit of our own future generations.

As a pioneer regional organization SACEP is ready to play a pivotal role in addressing these environmental challenges and with the support of its member countries we can jointly make a difference in tackling them effectively.

Excellency's and Distinguished delegates

You are the leaders of this region

You are the pioneers in policy making

More importantly, you are the governors of this organization

We are confident that SACEP can deliver its mission and obligations to the region with your eminent guidance and leadership

In conclusion, I wish the meeting a complete success and pray that this partnership may grow ore stronger and continue forever.

Thank you,

Statement by

**Mr. Khizar Hayat Khan
Secretary
Ministry of Climate Change and
Out-going Chairman of GC-SACEP**

**at the Inaugural Session of the
14th Meeting of the Governing Council
South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP)
held in Colombo, Sri Lanka
hosted by the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan**

28th March 2018

Heads of delegations of SACEP member countries
Excellences
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Good morning and Assalam-o-Alikum

First of all, I would like to thank the Government of Afghanistan for inviting Government of Pakistan to participate in the 14th meeting of the SACEP Governing Council of SACEP.

I am grateful to the Government of Sri Lanka for the excellent arrangements made for the conference and the fabulous hospitality extended to me in this beautiful city of Colombo.

Pakistan being a pioneer member and out-going chair of the SACEP, Governing Council is very much glad to see SACEP growing.

I am delighted to welcome Government of Afghanistan for taking over the chairmanship of the SACEP Governing Council and would like to wish them all the best in providing dynamic leadership to SACEP.

Excellences;

Presently, climate change is one of the most important issues faced by the international community.

I believe that there is an urgent need for a paradigm shift in the direction and policies of the SACEP in order to effectively deal with the issue of climate change. I think there is a lot which the member states can share with each other.

Pakistan believes that all member countries have a role to play in addressing this critically important issue. Pakistan will continue to push for enhancement of cooperation and knowledge sharing in the South Asian region.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Pakistan would like SACEP to reinitiate work on the Male' Declaration on the trans-boundary monitoring of air quality in the region.

Major cities in South Asia are facing acute air pollution and smog during winter months. Lahore and New Delhi have faced severe smog during last winter.

I take this opportunity to inform that SAARC Energy and Environment Center has recently been established in Islamabad. This Institution can help in enhancing cooperation on Environmental issues in the region.

I will be failing in my duty if I don't express my special thanks to the Government of Sri Lanka for allotting land for construction of SACEP Secretariat in Colombo.

Pakistan is thankful to the SACEP member countries, Government of Sri Lanka and SACEP secretariat for their support during the period of Pakistan's chairmanship.

Thank you.

Opening Remarks by

H. E. Mr. Schah Zaman Maiwandi
Director General
National Environment Protection Agency
Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
Head of Delegation

at the

14th Meeting of the Governing Council
South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP)

held in Colombo, Sri Lanka
hosted by the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

28th March 2018

In the name of God, most Gracious, most Compassionate

You're Excellences

Distinguished Delegates

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the National Unity Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, I would like to welcome you all, and to thank you for your participation in this 14th Meeting of the Governing Council of South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme. Moreover, I would express our sincere thanks to the Government of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka for their excellent arrangements and kind support in facilitation of Afghanistan's hosting of this meeting in their beautiful country.

It has often been said that the damage that the environment is currently sustaining is the most serious problem facing this or any other generation. Anthropogenic pressures on the earth and its complex network of biotic and abiotic systems have made the risk of potentially irreversible global environmental change a very real threat. Planetary boundaries, those thresholds within which humanity can safely survive and thrive, are in danger of being breached, most especially boundaries related to biodiversity loss, biogeochemical flows, and climate change. The evidence of these impacts is clearly seen across our beautiful and diverse region, from the highest mountains in the world, down through deserts, jungles and plains, all the way to mangroves, beaches and coral reefs.

In addition to great biological diversity, our shared legacy across South Asia also includes some of the oldest civilizations in the world. However, despite our rich cultural and environmental heritage, close to half of the population of the region lives below the poverty line. Our region is one of the most densely populated regions of the world, which has led to fragile and excessively exploited ecosystems. With great foresight, and recognizing that our region and people are amongst those most vulnerable to environmental degradation, our predecessors established this organization three and a half decades ago to strengthen regional efforts focused on a range of response options and instruments to address these challenges. Since then, our determination to address environmental issues and to ensure a better future for our children has only grown more resolute.

Distinguished Colleagues,

I'm sure that there is no need for an in depth review of the litany of environmental challenges that we are facing, nor to spend much time detailing the resultant social, cultural and economic consequences thereof. We are all acutely aware of the scourge of climate change – induced disasters such as tropical storms, flash flooding, droughts and sea-level rise. We know how pollution, waste and hazardous chemicals are affecting our lives and the ecosystems which we inhabit and upon which we depend. And we are also familiar with how the degradation of these ecosystems is undermining the very means by which millions of our brothers and sisters cope with disasters, food insecurity and a multitude of other threats to their welfare, well-being and happiness.

Excellences, Ladies and Gentlemen,

We are gathered here at a critical juncture in the history of humankind, and undeniably the world as a whole. For despite the seeming despair of the scenarios I have just described, we are not without hope. Indeed, as regional partners we have gathered here precisely because we recognize that, through strong cooperative efforts by all stakeholders, there is a light at the end of the proverbial tunnel. A greater realization of the importance of nature, and increased awareness across all facets of society of the irreplaceability of ecosystem services, should be adopted as important mechanisms to mainstream environmental concerns into social and economic development processes in the region.

We do not deny that this will be difficult, but we refuse to accept that it is impossible. The Herculean task that stands before this and coming generations is to ensure that human development is not realized at the cost of ecological integrity, for our world will be a poor one indeed without the bounty of its natural environment. And I have no doubt that, through the regional cooperation in the area of sharing knowledge, experiences and environmental good practices represented by this 14th Meeting of the Governing Council of the South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme, we will be equal to this task.

Thank you for your kind attention.



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மகாவலி அபிவிருத்தி மற்றும் சுற்றாடல் அமைச்சு
Ministry of Mahaweli Development and Environment

"සොබාදම් පියස", අංක 416/සී/1, රොබට් ගුනවර්ධන මාවත, බත්තරමුල්ල, ශ්‍රී ලංකාව.
"சொபாதம் பியச", இல. 416/சீ/1, ரொபர்ட் குணவர்தன மாவத்தை, பத்தரமுல்லை, இலங்கை.
"Sobadam Piyasa", No. 416/C/1, Robert Gunawardana Mawatha, Battaramulla, Sri Lanka.
Gen. Tel. + 94-11-2034100

දේශීය
செயலாளர்
Secretary
+ 94-11-2034121

ෆැක්ස්
தொலை நகல்
Fax
+ 94-11-2879945

මගේ අංකය
எனது இல.
My No.

MMDE/07/INT/02/06-
SACEP-Land

ඔබේ අංකය
உமது இல.
Your No.

දිනය
திகதி
Date } 28 March, 2018

**Director General
South Asia Co-Operative Environment**

Dear Dr Khurshid,


**Allocation of Land for the Establishment of South Asia Co-Operative Environment
Programme (SACEP) Secretariat**

This has reference to the letter No. 10/8/3350 dated 09 February 2018 sent by Urban Development Authority regarding the above.

On behalf of the Government of Sri Lanka, I am pleased to inform you that a 57 perches land situated at D.M. Colombage Mawatha will be allocated to establish SACEP Secretariat and the Residence of the Director General.

We look forward to work closely with SACEP in sustainably managing our environment.

Yours sincerely,


Anura Dissanayake
Secretary

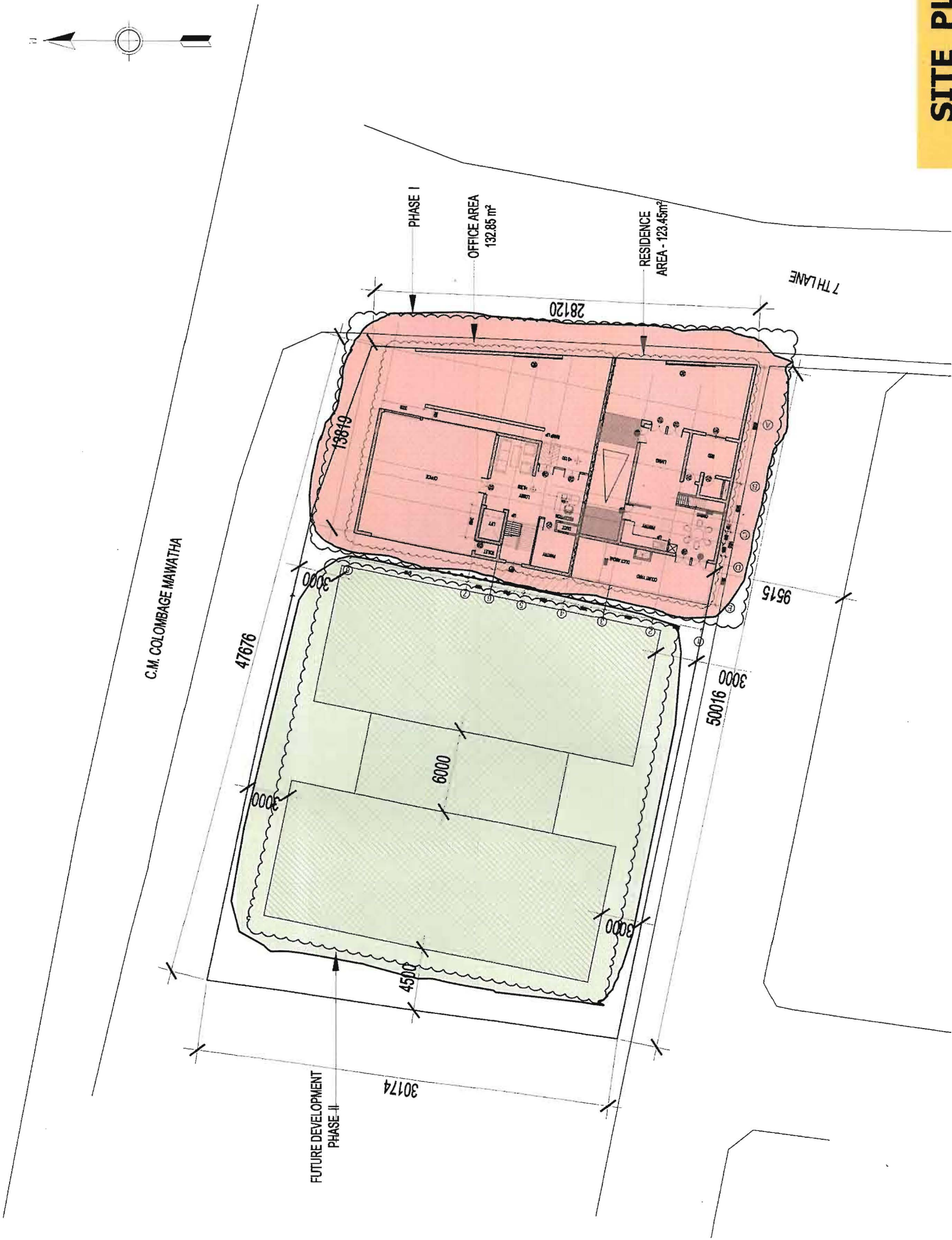
"මේ මහවෙලට සහ ගහකොළ මිනිසාට මෙන් ම අඟසේ පියාසරන සියොනුවන්ට ද, මීගිමන සරන සිවුපාවන්ට ද, සියලු සතුන්ට ද එකසේ අයිති ය."
"இப் பூமியும், மரஞ் செடி கொடிகளும் மனிதனுக்குப் போன்றே வானில் பறந்து திரியும் பறவைகளுக்கும் பூமியில் வாழும் உயிரினங்களுக்கும், அனைத்து விலங்குகளுக்கும் ஒருமித்துச் சொந்தமானது"
"This great earth and the flora on it equally belong to the man and the birds flying in the sky, the quadrupeds and all creatures living on earth"

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Annex VI
GC 14.SACEP

**PROPOSED HEAD OFFICE BUILDING FOR
SOUTH ASIA CO-OPERATIVE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME**

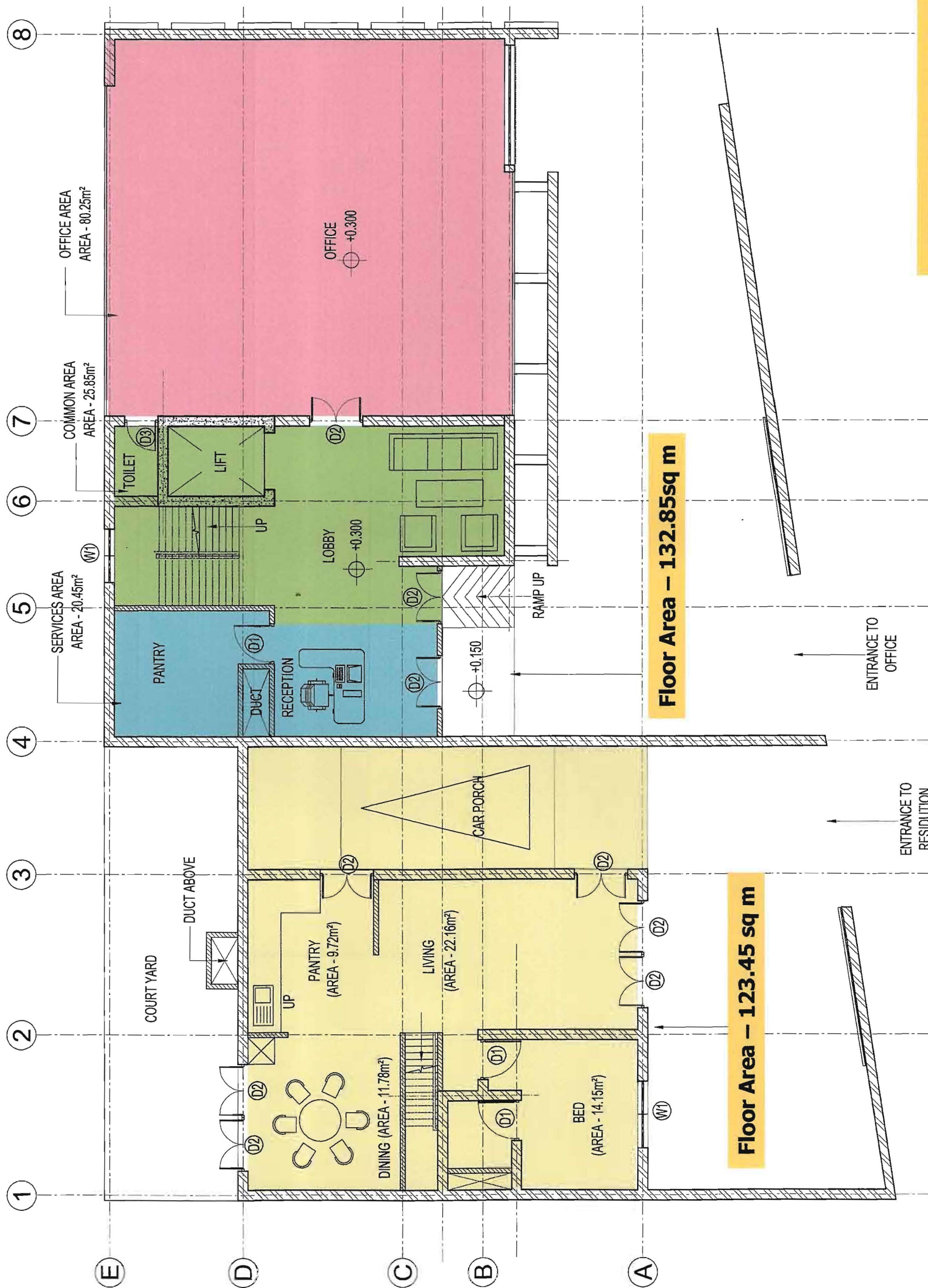


SITE PLAN

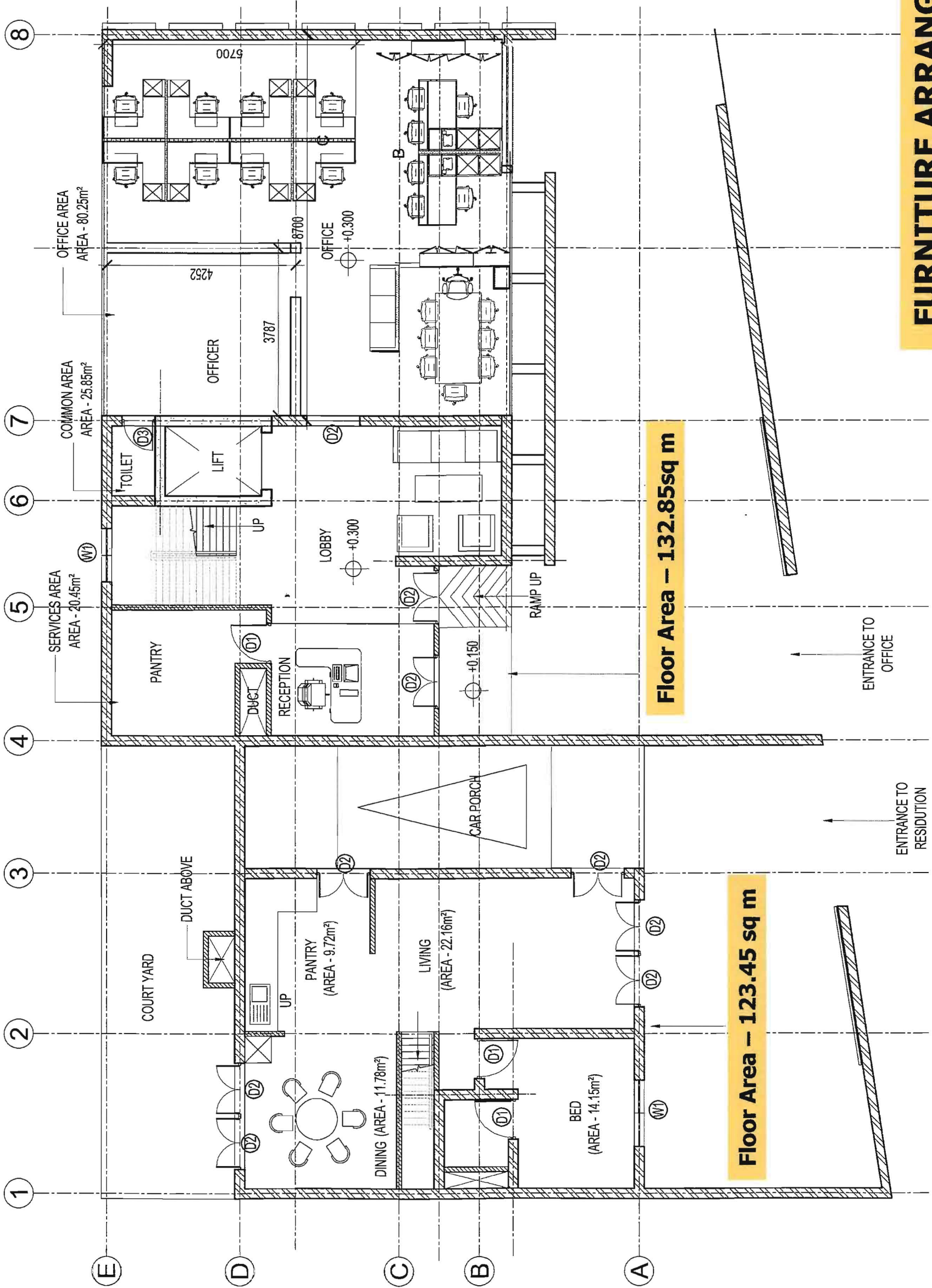
2018-03-28

PROPOSED HEAD OFFICE BUILDING FOR SOUTH ASIA CO-OPERATIVE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

GROUND FLOOR PLAN





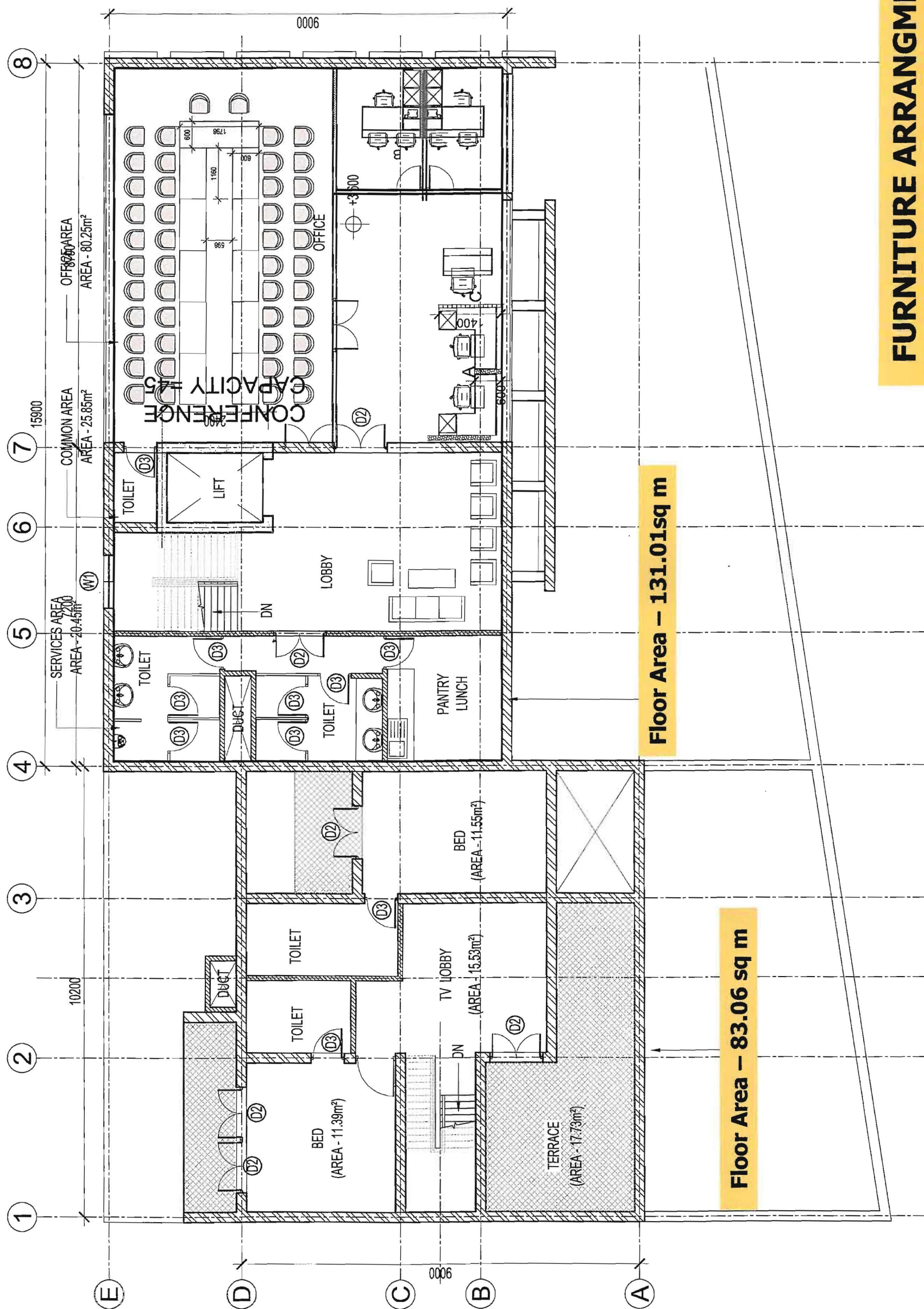


**FURNITURE ARRANGMENT
GROUND FLOOR PLAN**

2018-03-28

PROPOSED HEAD OFFICE BUILDING FOR SOUTH ASIA CO-OPERATIVE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME





Floor Area – 131.01sq m

Floor Area – 83.06 sq m

FURNITURE ARRANGMENT FIRST FLOOR PLAN

Green Features

Efficient Energy

01. Natural Lights & Ventilation
02. Direction of windows
03. Material - wall - recycling
Glass - Lowe value
Light fittings – LED
04. Solar panels
05. Building management system for A/C management

Efficient water consume

01. Rain water harvesting
02. Selection of accessories & fitting(with LEED certificate)
03. Bio gas (from waste)

Natural air

01. green walls to emission O₂ & consume CO₂

Recycling partitioning Boards

Paving Type

Total Area :- 5041.17 sq ft

Residential unit Area :- 2 floors 2201.14 sq ft

Office Area :- 2 floors 2743.6 sq ft

Cost for office – Area x unit cost :- 2743.6 X 10000 Rs

Cost for residential – Area x unit cost :- 2201.14 X 10000 Rs

Total cost – 50.417 Million

Assume the foundation type is raff foundation – Unit price may increase according to the soil condition



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3D VIEW 02

3D VIEW 03

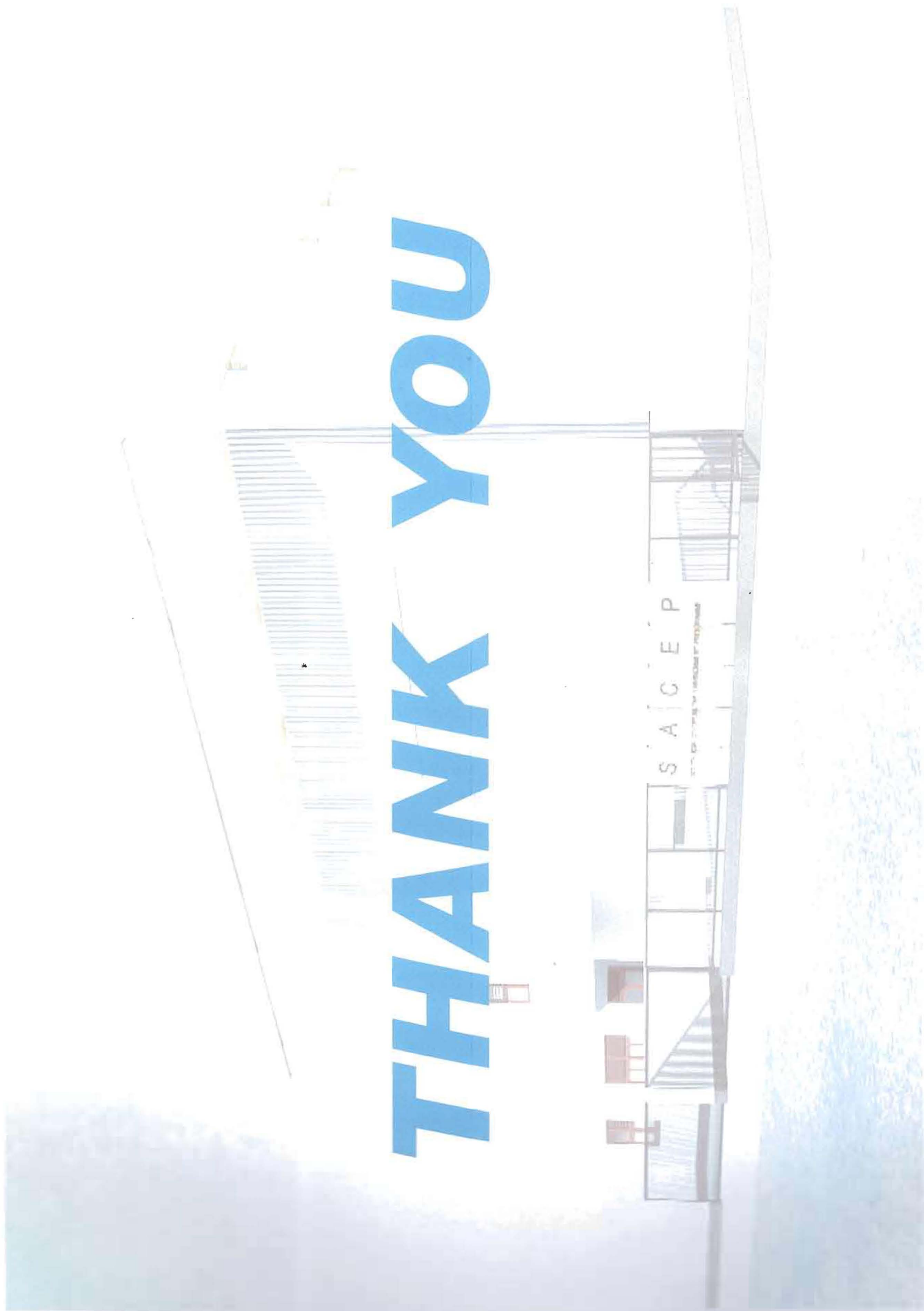


PROPOSED HEAD OFFICE BUILDING FOR SOUTH ASIA CO-OPERATIVE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

2018-03-28

Architectural Unit





Inaugural Address by

**Hon' Mr. Anuradha Jayarathne
Deputy Minister of Environment
Government of Sri Lanka
Head of Delegation**

at the

**14th Meeting of the Governing Council
South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP)**

**held in Colombo, Sri Lanka
hosted by the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan**

28th March 2018

Ayubowan, Good Morning,

You're Excellences,

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset, I wish to take this opportunity to welcome the Hon. Ministers in charge of the subject of Environment in South Asian Region and distinguished delegates to Sri Lanka for the 14th Governing Council Meeting of the South Asian Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP). I must extend sincere appreciation to the Government of Afghanistan for hosting this Governing Council Meeting in Sri Lanka. This event will strengthen the cooperation among our member countries and would help to achieve sustainable development while safeguarding the environment.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The SACEP, being an intergovernmental organization, has more than 35 years of experience in regional cooperation in addressing environmental issues. From the inception, as we all aware, SACEP carried out many programmes for conservation and management of the environment.

In this context, we have recognized climate change, biodiversity conservation, sustainable consumption and production and waste management as some of the thematic areas which SACEP promote and is actively engaged in. Further, Post 2015 South Asia Development Agenda and South Asian Seas Programme (SASP) could be highlighted as some of the programmes organized by the SACEP.

I strongly believe that the proceeding of preparatory meeting has produced successful outcomes and recommendations targeting environment conservation of member states.

I would like to propose SACEP, in consultation with the member countries, to take the leadership in conducting research on unique renewable energy sources, endemic oceanic biodiversity in the region, and transboundary pollution.

Your Excellences and distinguished delegates,

Following good governing principles, His Excellency Maithripala Sirisena, the President of Sri Lanka, and the Minister in charge of the subject of Environment is very keen on sustainable environment management. It is indeed a great pleasure and privileged to announce, that, under the guidance of his Excellency the President, we have allocated a land in the vicinity of Colombo to establish SACEP Secretariat and Residence of the Director General. I hope the member countries would definitely extend their fullest support and will contribute to the construction of the SACEP Secretariat.

On behalf of the Government of Sri Lanka, I wish to extend my appreciation to SACEP and all Member States for the continuous effort on safeguarding the environment. Hope you all enjoy your stay in Sri Lanka.

Thank you.

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

Hosted by Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

Held in Colombo, Sri Lanka

March 28, 2018

AGENDA

AGENDA ITEM		
Opening Ceremony		
9:00 - 10:00	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 host country
		1.4 Remarks by UN Environment Representative
		1.5 Ground Breaking Ceremony of the SACEP Secretariat Plot
		1.6 Vote of Thanks by the host country
10:00 - 10:30		TEA BREAK
10:30 - 10:40	2	Election of Office Bearers
10:40 - 10:50	3	Adoption of Agenda and Organisation of Work
10:50 - 11:10	4	Country Statements / Brief Opening Remarks by the Member States (3-5 Minutes)
11:10 - 11:30	5	Statements by Observers
11:30 - 12:00	6	Presentation of Report of the Preparatory Meeting of the National Focal Points by the Rapporteur
12:00 - 12:30	7	Discussions & Endorsement of Recommendations Agreed Upon at the Preparatory Meeting of the National Focal Points
		Institutional Matters
		Programme Matters
		Financial Matters

AGENDA ITEM		
12:30 - 13:30		LUNCH
13:30 - 13:45	8	Approval of the Annual Audited Reports of Accounts for the Financial Years Ending 31 st December 2011 to 31 st December 2015
14:00 - 14:10	9	Any Other Business
14:10 - 14:20	10	Adoption of Report
14:20 - 14:30	11	Closure of Meeting

SOUTH ASIA CO-OPERATIVE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

MEETING OF THE FOURTEENTH GOVERNING COUNCIL HOSTED BY ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF AFGHANISTAN HELD IN COLOMBO, SRI LANKA 28TH MARCH 2018

DRAFT ANNOTATED AGENDA

1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

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

- a. Welcome address by the Director General, SACEP
- b. Statement by the current Chairman
- c. Opening remarks by the Host Country
- d. Remarks by UN Environment Representative
- e. Ground Breaking Ceremony of the SACEP Secretariat Plot
- f. Vote of Thanks by the Host Country

2. ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS

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

3. ADOPTION OF AGENDA AND ORGANISATION OF WORK

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

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

The Heads of Country Delegations will present their country statements.

5. 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.

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

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

7. DISCUSSIONS & ENDORSEMENT OF RECOMMENDATIONS AGREED UPON AT THE PREPARATORY MEETING OF THE NATIONAL FOCAL POINTS

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

Institutional Matters
Programme Matters
Financial Matters

8. APPROVAL OF THE ANNUAL AUDITED REPORTS OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEARS ENDING 31ST DECEMBER 2011 TO 31ST DECEMBER 2015

Under this agenda item, based on the recommendations of the Preparatory Meeting of the National Focal Points, the meeting is requested to approve the Annual Audited Reports of Accounts for the years 2011 to 2015.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Under this Agenda Item, the Fourteenth 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.

11. ADOPTION OF REPORT

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

12. 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.

Country Statement by

H. E. Mr. Schah Zaman Maiwandi
Director General
National Environment Protection Agency
Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
Head of Delegation

at the

14th Meeting of the Governing Council
South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP)

held in Colombo, Sri Lanka
hosted by the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

28th March 2018

In the name of God, most Gracious, most Compassionate

You're Excellences,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, our warmest greetings and our thanks for your participation in this 14th meeting of the Governing Council of SACEP. I would like to begin by extending my heartfelt gratitude to the Government of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka and its people for the gracious hospitality that they have afforded to all delegations. In particular, Sri Lanka's excellent support to Afghanistan as we host this meeting has been beyond measure. Our sincerest thanks for that.

Like all auspicious member states represented here, Afghanistan possesses a rich and historic cultural heritage, as well as bountiful ecological diversity. Despite a multitude of threats such as insecurity, challenging socio – economic circumstances, and detrimental environmental practices, we remain committed to our efforts to ensure that human development occurs within a culturally and environmentally sustainable framework. To this end, environmental and sustainable development issues are well acknowledged in our major policies, legal frameworks and plans. The obligation of the Afghan State to protect the natural environment is enshrined within Article 15 of our Constitution, while targets for addressing environmental concerns are outlined within the Afghanistan National Peace and Development Framework 2017-2021, the National Priority Programs, the Environmental Act of 2007, and other policies, strategies and regulations relevant to biodiversity, climate change, desertification, and chemicals and waste management.

I ask that you permit me to share some of Afghanistan's recent achievements in this regard, as a context for our joint deliberations on the work of this organization. Since the last meeting of the Governing Council of SACEP, Afghanistan has completed its Second National Communication, as part of its obligations under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. This report details a variety of issues related to climate change mitigation and adaptation for the country, and contains a national inventory of greenhouse gas emissions. Following on from this, we have also initiated our first ever Biennial Update Report under the same convention, to be completed over the coming two years. At the end of 2017, Afghanistan also finalized its first National

Implementation Plan for the limitation and elimination of hazardous chemicals under the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants. Over the last five years, we have submitted our Fifth National Report to the Convention on Biological Diversity as well our National Biodiversity Strategy and Action plan, acceded to the Mina Mata Convention, became a party to the Convention on Migratory Species, and have ratified the Paris Accord. Afghanistan's Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan as well as its National Adaption Plan have also recently been developed.

However, our work has not merely remained on paper, but has been coupled with practical action. With the support of development partners, Afghanistan has achieved significant progress on on-the-ground interventions for environmental protection and sustainability. At the last SACEP meeting, we were pleased to announce the establishment of the Band-e-Amir National Park. We have now expanded our protected areas network with three additional areas, namely the Wakhan National Park, the Shah Foladi Protected Area and the Kol-e-Hashmat Khan Waterfowl Sanctuary. Management plans for all of these are in advanced stages of development, with many protection measures already being undertaken. In addition, the implementation of several environmental projects in various areas of Afghanistan is continuing to protect, preserve and rehabilitate the environment. Of course, a focus on environmental sustainability cannot come at the cost of human welfare and well-being. The extent and nature of environmental problems inside Afghanistan vary by region, by relative vulnerability of our diverse population groups, and by society's ability to adapt to or cope with global environmental changes. As is the case for all SACEP Member States, agriculture is vital for our country, especially for poor rural and urban populations that depend on natural resources and ecosystem services.

The most obvious environmental problems currently facing Afghanistan and indeed, the whole SACEP region – are weather and climate change related issues, with the associated threats of desertification and land degradation. Floods caused by extreme rainfall and excessive snowmelt are leading to losses and damages to human lives and livelihoods. Similarly, extended and recurring droughts, coupled with rising temperatures, are presenting hazards to ecosystems and people alike, and further undermine the natural resource base of the country. Within our fragile security context, such factors often also exacerbate social and other forms of conflict. In fact, the links between security, poverty and the natural environment are clearly evident in Afghanistan and across the SACEP Member States.

However, recognizing these links paves the way for prioritizing equitable access to and benefit - sharing of the proceeds of natural resources for the poor. Afghanistan recognizes that community - based and participatory management of natural resources

is critical to both reduction of poverty and conservation of biological diversity. This underpins a number of our policies and strategies related to management of forests, rangelands, water and other natural resources, and we strongly advocate for the adoption of similar approaches within other Member States with similar socio- ecological contexts.

Naturally, environmental protection is not exclusively a rural issue. With a population growth rate of 2.9% per year, and an increasing trend of urbanization, we must also give greater consideration to major urban and industrial environmental issues such as pollution and waste management. Mining, manufacturing and energy production are becoming increasingly important as our country move towards a more industrialized economy. Of course, along with the socio-economic gains realized by such a shift, we remain aware of the potentially negative environmental consequences, and will continue to implement measures to address these as they arise.

In light of the above, those regional partners represented here in this 14th meeting of the Governing Council of SACEP need to emphasize the need for increasing responsibilities and greater cooperative efforts by all stakeholders. The Government and the people of Afghanistan have made remarkable efforts in the past years, whilst struggling with our own security and development challenges to achieve adequate and sustainable environmental protection. However, we cannot work alone. All countries in this region remain interdependent on our neighbors, and Afghanistan looks forward to ongoing regional co-operation, especially through the sharing of knowledge, experiences and good practices on environmental protection.

Thank you for your kind attention

Country Statement by

**Hon' Mr. Abdullah Al Islam Jakob, MP
Deputy Minister
Ministry of Environment and Forests
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Head of Delegation**

at the

**14th Meeting of the Governing Council
South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP)**

**held in Colombo, Sri Lanka
hosted by the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan**

28th March 2018

Mr Chairman

Hon'ble Ministers

Director General, SACEP

Excellences

Distinguished Delegates

Ladies and Gentlemen

Assalamualaikum and a very good morning

I am greatly honored and privileged to be here to participate in the **14th Governing Council Meeting of SACEP** in this beautiful city of Colombo, the capital of Sri Lanka. I extended my sincere gratitude to the people and the Government of Sri Lanka and Government of Afghanistan for hosting this meeting and also for the warm and generous hospitality extended to us.

I also take this opportunity in congratulating you, Mr. Chairman on your election. I am confident that under your able leadership we will have a fruitful meeting here in Colombo.

Mr. Chairman

We are committed to implement the mission of SACEP; that is to promote regional co-operation in South Asia in the field of environment. As we share our resources among the member countries it is undoubtedly worthwhile to forge stronger regional co-operation to solve environmental problems that prevail in our region. We can share our experience and knowledge among us to solve each other's problems.

Distinguished Delegates

As you are aware, under Male Declaration on Control and Prevention of Air Pollution and Its Likely Trans-boundary Effects for South Asia we have established a Trans-boundary Air Quality Monitoring Station in Bangladesh. Most of the countries have taken similar initiatives; I consider we need to forward this good initiative further.

Hon'ble Ministers,

South Asia has unique geographical and rich biological diversity. We have to take initiative for conservation of our natural resources. I believe initiatives to establish Regional Clearing House Mechanism (CHM) in the context of broader participation and sharing of information among member countries in the field of Biodiversity management is utmost importance for us.

In this respect let me inform you that Department of Environment under the Ministry of Environment and Forests has already developed a web based platform for Bangladesh Clearing House Mechanism (BCHM), which will be officially launched soon to provide update on the biodiversity related information of the country.

Distinguished Delegates

It is my expectation that future SACEP would be an effective regional forum to raise our voices on environmental issues for the benefits of the downtrodden people of this universe. Before I conclude once again I convey my sincere thanks to the organizers and the people of Sri Lanka and Afghanistan for organizing this important meeting.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Country Statement by

H.E. Dasho Paljor J. Dorji
Advisor
National Environment Commission
Royal Government of Bhutan Thimphu
Head of Delegation

at the

14th Meeting of the Governing Council
South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP)

held in Colombo, Sri Lanka
hosted by the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

28th March 2018

His Excellency, Mr. Schah Zaman Maiwandi, Director General, National Environment Protection Agency, Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, Chairman of 14th Governing Council
Honorable Ministers and Head of delegations
Deputy Resident Representative, United Nations Environment Programme
Distinguished delegates
Ladies and Gentlemen

I on behalf of my delegation would like to convey warm greetings from His Majesty the King of Bhutan, the Government and people of Bhutan.

At the outset, my delegation would like to thank the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka for the warm welcome and generous hospitality and facilitating Islamic Republic of Afghanistan in hosting the 14th Governing Council meeting.

Let me also take this opportunity to congratulate Mr. Chairman on your election as a Chair for the 14th Governing Council of SACEP. Under your guidance and leadership, we hope to make good strides and achieve outcomes under the mandates of SACEP. This 14th Governing Council has been long overdue and we are happy that it is finally taking place in this beautiful city of Colombo.

Please accept our delegation's support for successful deliberation of 14th GC meeting.
Mr. Chairman

Environment degradation is one of the greatest challenges facing humanity and the urgency for action is being felt in all corners of the globe. Our region with high population density, low level of economic development with most of the world poor and the wide range of geographical hazards are all conditions that expose our people to increasing levels of environmental risks and hazards. We are one of the most vulnerable in the world therefore actions to address these challenges must be implemented in an accelerated manner as the impacts are now becoming more and more apparent and alarming.

As the region, we must fully understand the challenges and opportunities and lay out clear steps on how we can proceed to take action. Therefore I would like to call towards fostering greater sense of regional co-operation and brotherhood to further strengthen

the existing relations towards collective action to address this issue of environmental degradation.

It is very important that we have open discussion and make some strong decisions to transform words into actions. The member states understand the challenges faced by SACEP Secretariat in terms of both financial and human resource constraints which has hampered in delivering outcomes. And this is the right forum for a dialogue to address these challenges.

There is a need for a review of SACEP where we can engage experts to provide recommendation towards strengthening SACEP.

Bhutan would like to bring to the kind attention of the Hon'ble Members that, at the 9th GC held in Bhutan, we agreed to focus on major programme areas: Waste Management, Adaption to Climate Change and Data Management which are common areas of concern.

At this 14th GC of SACEP, I would like to re-emphasize on need to direct SACEP Secretariat to re-focus and prioritize on few activities and programs, which will have huge benefits and impacts to the member countries. Secretariat needs to look at those areas where funds can be mobilized from developed partners, international bodies, UN agencies and even private sectors. We must be creative and proactive. We cannot afford to depend on country contributions only.

I want to recall my statement at 10th GC meeting on aligning SACEP work programme with SAARC decisions and outcome from SAARC Summit, especially on climate change and environment. I strongly urge the Secretariat to give due importance and special attention on this matter.

The other important area is Sustainable Development Goals and SACEP should look at those related Sustainable Development Goals, especially, Goal 6: Clean Water and Sanitation, Goal 12: Responsible Consumption and Production and Goal 13: Climate Action.

Within this goal, I understand that SACEP has been appointed as the regional partner of 10 year Framework Programme (10YFP) of Sustainable Consumption and Production funded by European Union.

I would strongly urge SACEP to work closely with member countries to strengthen capacities of countries in Sustainable Consumption and Production and implementation of common regional programmes. The Sustainable Consumption and Production winter school programme organized by UNEP and recently by SACEP has received positive feedback. Therefore, I would like to UNEP to kindly support this programme.

Mr. Chairman

Bhutan is strongly committed to meeting the objectives of SACEP. As a member state, we fully extend our support to SACEP's priority areas that are aimed at enhancing sustainable development for its members. It is therefore, in our hands to steer the progress of SACEP.

With this, I am confident that our deliberations on the proposed agendas will be concluded successfully with prioritized programmes for SACEP to implement.

Before, I conclude, let me convey my appreciation for the hard work done by the Director General, SACEP and the Secretariat in organizing this important meeting.

Lastly, I would once again like to thank the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka for their warm hospitality and finally thank the Chair of the 14th GC of SACEP for convening this important meeting.

Let us all hope for successful and fruitful deliberations and pleasant stay.

Thank you and Tashi Delek

Country Statement by

Mr. Anil Kumar Jain
Additional Secretary
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
Government of India
Head of Delegation

at the

14th Meeting of the Governing Council
South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP)

held in Colombo, Sri Lanka
hosted by the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

28th March 2018

Excellences,
distinguished delegates from SACEP countries,
ladies and gentlemen good morning to all.

At the outset I would like to congratulate Afghanistan for taking over the Chairmanship of SACEP and with them a very successful innings. I am also grateful to Govt. of Sri Lanka for hosting us and for their generous hospitality during the stay at Colombo. I would also like to place on record the contribution of the outgoing DG Dr. Muhammad Khurshid for his valuable contribution towards highlighting the programmes and works being undertaken by SACEP.

Protection of environment is not just a technical issue it is a moral responsibility, creating awareness among the people can reduce its intensity. India has a long history and tradition of harmonious co-existence between man and nature. Human beings here have regarded fauna and flora as part of their family. This is part of our heritage and manifest in our lifestyle and traditional practices.

The current problem of environment, air pollution and climate change has been precipitated by over excessive consumption patterns. As Mahatma Gandhi said, “the Earth has enough for everyone’s need but not for everyone’s greed”. Overconsumption has been depleting our natural resources and is damaging our planet’s life and life support systems. We need to contain the overconsumption before it reaches a point of no return.

India is creating environment awareness among the people. India has launched an app which focuses on social & public activities and involvement of citizens in **“Green Good Deeds”** movement, which urges people to perform at least one Green Good Deed every day. Some of the 500 Green Good Deeds listed in the Mobile App include – planting trees, saving energy, conserving water, use of public transport and promoting carpool etc.

I am very happy to announce that India is hosting the World Environment Day-2018 in capital of India, New Delhi. Environment is very important issue for India and our Honourable Prime Minister Shri. Narendra Modi is taking various initiatives to combat environment issue.

This Year theme of World Environment Day – 2018 is “Plastic Pollution”. India is emerging as a leader, with recycling rate in India which is considerably higher than the global average of 14%. By hosting World Environment Day 2018, the India government is accelerating its leadership on an issue of tremendous magnitude. World Environment Day celebrations this year are a committee by the Government to the task of sustainable development.

We as global citizens are equally responsible for environment degradation. We are central to the problem as well as to the solution. We often feel that individual actions are just a drop in the ocean and do not make an appreciable difference. But the truth is, every drop counts.

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 Modelling System etc. As per India’s commitment to the UNESCO, the International Training Centre of Operational Oceanography (ITCOcean) has been established and made operational at INCOIS Hyderabad for promotion of capacity building and training activities for the countries of the Indian Ocean Region.

India has also taken note of the SACEP Strategy 2016-2030 paper prepared by the SACEP Secretariat and we would be sending our inputs on the same at the earliest.

We as global citizens are equally responsible for environment degradation. We are central to the problem as well as to the solution. We often feel that individual action are just a drop in the ocean and do not make an appreciable difference. But the truth is, every drop counts

In conclusion I would like to thank the Govt. of Afghanistan for inviting us for the 14th GC meeting of SACEP and to Govt. of Sri Lanka including the SACEP staff for all their support.

Country Statement by

**Hon' Mr. Abdullahi Majeed
State Minister
Ministry of Environment and Energy
Republic of Maldives
Head of Delegation**

at the

**14th Meeting of the Governing Council
South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP)**

**held in Colombo, Sri Lanka
hosted by the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan**

28th March 2018

Excellences,
distinguished delegates from SACEP countries,
ladies and gentlemen good morning to all.

Initially, I would like to this opportunity to appreciatively thank the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan for graciously hosting this important meeting. On behalf of Maldives and indeed in my own capacity, I thank the Government of Sri Lanka and SACEP for the excellent arrangements made, the warm hospitality and the excellent traditions of a clearing house mechanism.

I would also like thank the Government of Sri Lanka and SACEP Secretariat for facilitating the meeting.

SACEP holds a unique position and a long history in this region. Nearly for four decades, SACEP has played an important role in facilitating dialogue and co-operation in addressing environmental challenges at a regional level. We now, however, face even greater challenges than we did in 1982. It is then imperative that SACEP evolves and take a forward looking, strategic approach to better position the organisation to respond to these emerging needs and challenges.

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 and facilitate dialogue with other regional bodies, both within and outside the South Asia region.

The environmental challenges in our region are myriad and diverse. However, in all these challenges there is one commonality – the impacts often transcends national borders. 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.

However, the limitations in resources have always been a recurring issue for SACEP. I would urge the Secretariat to explore, within its mandate, possibilities to mobilise additional funding from bilateral and multi-lateral sources. 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.

I would like to take the opportunity to commend the efforts of Dr Muhammad Khurshid and his team in the past few years in initiating important changes in SACEP. I thank the DG for his services and take this opportunity to congratulate and welcome the incoming DG Dr Abbas Basir of Afghanistan. I have every confidence that Dr Basir will do an excellent job in leading the organisation. Before I conclude, let me once again thank the Government of Afghanistan and SACEP for organising this meeting. I look forward to fruitful discussions. I thank you.

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Country Statement by

**Hon' Mr. Anuradha Jayarathne
Deputy Minister of Environment
Government of Sri Lanka
Head of Delegation**

at the

**14th Meeting of the Governing Council
South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP)**

**held in Colombo, Sri Lanka
hosted by the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan**

28th March 2018

Your Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Mr. Chair,

Let me extend my sincere appreciation to all the delegates of our member countries for your active and constructive engagement for the success this event. As host country of the SACEP, we are privileged to work with your governments to further strengthen the regional cooperation aiming to improve the mechanism for environment protection and management.

We believe that the 14th Governing Council Meeting of SACEP would produce fruitful outcomes to achieve the desired objectives.

Let me highlight some of the initiatives undertaken with the support of SACEP during the recent past.

National Biodiversity Clearing Housing Mechanism (CHM) has already been developed with the support of SACEP under GEF funded project for “National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plan (NBSAP)” and it has already been completed.

Successfully conducted the “Air that We Breathe - 2016”, the sixth National Symposium on Air Quality Management in Sri Lanka focusing on identification and promotion of the best practices in air resource management. We are thankful to SACEP for its assistance which provided a great opportunity to open the forum to discuss Regional perspective in Air Quality Management. In the same way, Sri Lanka expects to work with SACEP and to secure assistance for traffic management research regarding air quality management and monitoring.

Mr. Chair, further, we would like to receive assistance of SACEP to establish a regional cooperation to streamline and share biodiversity policies and tools among member states and also to prepare regional mechanism to prevent bio-piracy through regional cooperation to prevent loss of endemic as well as natural resources from the member countries.

In light of the above, I am pleased to mention that under the guidance of H.E. the President, as the Minister in charge for the subject of Environment, our government has proposed its annual Budget on the theme “Blue Green Enterprise Sri Lanka for year 2018”. Some of the highlights in this budget are to impose carbon tax with the view to establish the Environmental Protection Fund, encourage importation of electric vehicles, replace polythene with biodegradable materials, and introduce ecofriendly parks.

Sri Lanka has also started the formal adoption of the oil and chemical pollution contingency plan. I propose to formulate Regional Contingency Plan through SACEP.

In addition to above, I would like to articulate the necessity of preparing a “Regional Contingency Plan” to address transboundary pollution, contamination of foreign organisms through discharge of ballast water, loss of endemic ocean biodiversity, coral reefs whales and mammals in our oceans.

I would like to highlight that our ministry is implementing the Sustainable Consumption and Production Project aiming to support the Sri Lankan Government in selecting, adapting and implementing suitable economic and regulatory policy instruments to promote sustainable consumption and production, thereby enhancing the long-term sustainability of consumption and production pattern. Under this project, it has developed the draft National Sustainable Consumption and Production Policy Coordination Mechanism and National SCP Education Plan. We expect regional stakeholders’ support to continue the initiatives which were introduced during the project implementation period.

In conclusion, on behalf of the Government of Sri Lanka, I wish to extend our appreciation to SACEP for the continuous effort for regional cooperation to manage and protect environment and natural resources.

Thank you.

Statement Delivered by

Dr. Isabelle Louis
Deputy Regional Director
United Nations Environment Programme for
Asia and the Pacific (UNEP-ROAP)

at the

14th Meeting of the Governing Council
South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP)

held in Colombo, Sri Lanka
hosted by the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

28th March 2018

Excellencies,
Distinguished Senior Officials,
ladies and gentlemen,

I am delighted, on behalf of UN Environment, to be able to participate in the 14th Meeting of the Governing Council of South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme (SACEP) in Colombo, Sri Lanka. I would like to thank the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, the Government of Sri Lanka and the South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme (SACEP) for the kind invitation.

South Asia countries are committed to two important global agendas. World leaders including South Asian leaders, at the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit in 2015, adopted the 2030 sustainable development agenda and the sustainable development goals to reaffirm their commitment on integrated development which embraces economic progress, social development, and environmental protection for the benefit of all. In December 2015, World leaders including South Asian leaders also adopted the Paris Agreement, a new legally-binding framework for an internationally coordinated effort to tackle climate change.

An issue now receiving increasing global attention and here in the South Asia region is pollution. At the third session of the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA-3) held in Dec 2017, in Nairobi, more than 170 Member States adopted 11 resolutions and a negotiated Ministerial Declaration, through which it was agreed to address the pollution of air, land and soil, freshwater, and oceans. The overarching theme of UNEA-3 was 'Towards a Pollution-Free Planet,' and nearly 2.4 million pledges were made for the #BeatPollution campaign from individuals across the world. The resolutions and decisions called for accelerated action and strengthened partnerships to, inter alia: combat the spread of marine plastic litter and microplastics; eliminate exposure to lead paint and promote sound management of used lead-acid batteries; improve air quality globally; address water pollution; and manage soil pollution.

SACEP is one of the foremost intergovernmental agencies committed to promoting environment and sustainable development across the South Asia region. UN Environment has been very privileged to supporting the South Asia countries since its inception and has facilitated the implementation of many programme in collaboration

with SACEP. These included capacity building on data and information management, preparation of state of the environment reports, Male' Declaration on transboundary air pollution, environment education, and capacity building on Multilateral Environment Agreements. More recently, we worked with Member States of SACEP to develop a roadmap on sustainable consumption and production for South Asia. The theme of the United Nations Assembly 4 (UNEA 4) in 2019 is Environmental Challenges and Sustainable Consumption and Production, and we look forward to working with SACEP to support South Asia countries. We are also currently working closely with SACEP Secretariat to develop a marine biodiversity strategy and a Marine Litter Plan for South Asian Seas to protect marine and coastal resources, including coral reefs and the livelihoods that depend on the seas and oceans.

With pollution as a critical issue to be addressed, the theme of the 2018 World Environment Day is on plastic pollution. This global event will be hosted by India. We invite all South Asia Member States to celebrate this Day. We shall invite all Member States to join the UN Environment's Clean Seas campaign and the BeartheLife campaign. UN Environment launched #CleanSeas in February 2017, with the aim of engaging governments, the general public, civil society and the private sector in the fight against marine plastic litter. The BreatheLife Campaign is a Climate and Clean Air Coalition initiative led by the WHO and UN Environment. This global campaign aims to mobilize cities and individuals to protect our health and our planet from the effects of air pollution.

UN Environment is confident that the SACEP-UN Environment cooperation will strengthen to enhance environmental sustainability in South Asia. I am hopeful that the 14th GC of SACEP will approve a programme of work with adequate financial resources and the increased exchange and cooperation of technical expertise across South Asia nations. UN Environment remains committed to support the South Asian countries in achieving the 2030 sustainable development agenda in partnership with government, civil society organizations, and business.

In conclusion, I would like to thank once again to Excellency Chair, South Asian Member States, and the SACEP Secretariat for the kind invitation and hospitality, and look forward to the successful deliberations.

**WORK PROGRAMME OF SACEP
YEAR 2018 - 2019**

		Action and Funding Source
6.2.1	Bio-diversity	
6.2.1-i	National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) Updating for South Asia Funds are to be secured for Marine Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan updating under the South Asian Seas Programme to finalize the strategy.	UNEP
6.2.1-ii	Biodiversity for Food and Nutrition (BFN)	Proposal to be developed to promote BFN approaches in South Asia
6.2.2	Promoting Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) in South Asia South Asia Forum on SCP Sustainable Public Procurement Sustainable buildings policy dialogue Sustainable Consumption Week in South Asia	On-going (UNEP) Funds expected from UNEP to carryout activities Funds expected from UNEP & other donors SACEP to facilitate dialogues with other bilateral and multilateral donors to support the activities
6.2.3	Waste Management Side Event and an Exhibit booth at the 3R Forum in Asia and the Pacific Workshop on Supporting Capacity Development for Solid Waste Management in South Asian Countries	SACEP Proposal to be submitted to UNCRD or any other potential donors
6.2.4	Environmental Data and Information Management System for South Asia Explore the possibility of developing a environment data and information management system for South Asia on the basis of latest developments and availability of such information.	Possible funding sources to be approached

WORK PROGRAMME OF SACEP

YEAR 2018 - 2019

		Action and Funding Source
6.2.5	Malé Declaration on Control and Prevention of Air Pollution and Its Likely Transboundary Effects for South Asia Focal Points of Male' Declaration of the member states to express their views regarding the role of SACEP in the implementation of the Male' Declaration.	SACEP to follow up the progress
6.2.6	Air Quality Facilitate a common platform for all member countries to get together to discuss, share experiences and develop a common strategy to overcome the prevailing air pollution in the South Asian region and convene a meeting.	Funding support from UNEP and other partner organizations
6.2.7	Environmentally Sustainable Transport (EST) Workshop on Capacity building of public sector, private sector and civil society stakeholder in SACEP member countries for sustainable energy and road transport policy, planning and implementation.	Funds to be secured from UNCRD or anyother potential donors
6.2.8	Post Rio +20 challenges related to environment sustainability Focus on the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement while achieving Post Rio+20 challenges.	In progress

**WORK PROGRAMME OF SACEP
YEAR 2018 - 2019**

		Action and Funding Source
6.2.9	Adaptation to Climate Change	
	Workshop on Capacity Building, Awareness and Database Development on Adaptation to Climate Change in South Asia	Funds to be secured from Oxford Policy Management (OPM), along with Action on Climate Today (ACT)
	Regional Knowledge Exchange Programme on Measurement Reporting and Verification of Nationally Determined Contributions To Adaptation	Funds to be secured from ACT/UNEP
	Regional training programme on Capacity Development for Adaptation to Climate Change through Climate-sensitive flood management in south Asia	Funds to be secured from International Climate Initiative (IKI) / UNEP
6.2.10-i	Proposal for SACEP to be a GEF Project Agency	
	GEF is evaluating the selected 11 agencies of the first call of applications and has not considered any agency from the Second call as decided originally.	Agenda Item to be removed
6.2.10-ii	Accreditation to other Global Funding Mechanisms	
	Accreditation to other global funding mechanisms such as Green Climate Fund (GCF) with the support of the member countries.	SACEP to explore other possibilities in this regard
6.2.11	Regional Cooperation for the Conservation and Wise-use of Internationally Important Wetlands in South Asia	
	MoU has been developed by SACEP and Ramsar Secretariat as directed by 13GC-SACEP	Parties are yet to sign the MoU
6.2.12	Establishment of Regional Clearing House Mechanism (CHM) for South Asia	Continuity of the activity
	Extend the services to other member states on request to develop National CHMs	Successfully concluded
		To be continued

WORK PROGRAMME OF SACEP

YEAR 2018 - 2019

6.1.13	South Asian Seas Programme (SASP)	<p>Action and Funding Source</p> <p>The on-going activities are presented in the Progress Report</p>
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SECRETARIAT BUDGET FOR 2018 - 2019

	PRESENT AGREED INCOME	EXPENDITURE
	US \$	US \$
1 ANTICIPATED INCOME		
1.1 AFGHANISTAN	8,050.00	
BANGLADESH	23,430.00	
BHUTAN	3,555.00	
INDIA	31,850.00	
MALDIVES	14,575.00	
NEPAL	8,050.00	
PAKISTAN	31,850.00	
SRI LANKA	17,842.00	
TOTAL COUNTRY CONTRIBUTIONS	139,202.00	
1.2 Interest earned	35,000.00	
1.3 Secretariat Cost from Sri Lanka	53,000.00	
TOTAL INCOME	227,202.00	
2 ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE		
2.1 Salary Director General		60,000.00
2.2 Salaries of Local Staff		68,500.00
2.3 International Travel		20,000.00
2.4 Secretariat Cost		79,000.00
SUB TOTAL		227,500.00
3 Capital Costs		17,500.00
4 TOTAL EXPENDITURE		245,000.00
5 INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE		(17,798.00)

SOUTH ASIA CO-OPERATIVE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

Report of the Preparatory Meeting of the National Focal Points For the 14th Meeting of the Governing Council of SACEP

Hosted by Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

Held in Colombo, Sri Lanka

26 – 27 March 2018

1. 1 INTRODUCTION

The Preparatory Meeting of National Focal Points for the Fourteenth Meeting of the Governing Council of South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP) was held on 26 – 27 March 2018 in Colombo, Sri Lanka hosted by Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.

It was agreed that the Report of the Preparatory Meeting of National Focal Points on the various Agenda items would form the basis of discussion for the Fourteenth 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. Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal attended the Inaugural Session of the Preparatory Meeting of National Focal Points for the 14th 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 Dr. Muhammad Khurshid, Director General, SACEP (**Annex 2**)

Opening Remarks were delivered by H. E. Mr. Schah Zaman Maiwandi, Director General, National Environment Protection Agency, Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, the host of the 14th Meeting of the Governing Council of SACEP.

The gathering was addressed by Mr. Anura Dissanayake, Secretary, Ministry of Mahaweli Development and Environment, Government of Sri Lanka as the facilitator of the 14th Meeting of the Governing Council of SACEP. **(Annex 3)**

Closing Remarks was delivered by the out-going Chairman, Mr. Khizar Hayat Khan, Secretary, Ministry of Climate Change, Government of Pakistan.

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. Ghulam Mohd Malikyar, Deputy Director General (Scientific and Technical Affairs), National Environment Protection Agency, Afghanistan
Rapporteur	Mr. Midhath Abdul Rasheed, Assistant Director, Ministry of Environment and Energy, Republic of Maldives

4. ADOPTION OF AGENDA AND ORGANISATION OF WORK

Dr. Muhammad Khurshid, Director General, SACEP proposed two additions to Agenda: inclusion of Item 6.1.18, and Item No 10.3.

The Agenda of the meeting was adopted with the proposed amendment. **(Annex 4)**

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

The Director General presented the status of programme activities of SACEP from January 2014 to March 2018 **(Annex 5)**

- The meeting was of the view that the inclusion to the Progress Report referred to as Agenda Item No 6.1 with reference to sub heading 6.1.18 on the 'Initial thoughts toward SACEP's Strategy 2016 – 2030' would not be discussed at this meeting given the limited time for the National Focal Points to review the document. The Secretariat was informed to circulate the updated draft of the document as per the prevailing procedure to all Member States for comments and consent prior to the 15th Meeting of the Governing Council of SACEP for consideration.

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

6.2. WORK PROGRAMME (2018-2019)

The Meeting decided to continue the on-going activities of SACEP and approve the Work Programme 2018-2019 as proposed by SACEP Secretariat. **(Annex 6)**

6.2.1 Biodiversity for Food and Nutrition (BFN) project in South Asia beyond 2018.

The 14th Meeting of the Governing Council of SACEP is requested to agree in principle to participate in BFN project and recommend SACEP Secretariat to prepare a complete project proposal including possible funding mechanisms on promoting BFN approach in South Asian countries beyond 2018. **(Annex 7)**

6.2.2 Strengthening Sustainable Consumption and Production in South Asia

The 14th Meeting of the Governing Council of SACEP is requested to, appreciate the SACEP Secretariat's efforts in implementing activities in relation to the Sustainable Consumption and Production in South Asia and the support extended by the UNEP, and to recommend SACEP Secretariat to take necessary steps to implement following activities apart from other ongoing and new SCP activities:

1. Convene the South Asia Forum on SCP on regular intervals as stipulated in the approved modalities.
2. Sub-regional policy dialogue on Sustainable Public Procurement (SPP) to exchange experiences to date, necessary training and industry roundtable.
3. Sustainable buildings policy dialogue, training and industry roundtable.
4. Sustainable Consumption Week in South Asia

(Annex 8)

Members recommended to invite UNEP to be a partner with SACEP and assist with accessing financial and technical resources in implementing these activities and also facilitate dialogue with other bilateral and multilateral donors to support these important activities.

6.2.3 Waste Management

The 14th Meeting of the Governing Council of SACEP is requested to adopt:

SACEP Secretariat to secure funds from UNCRD under the International Partnership for Expanding Waste Management Services of Local Authorities (IPLA) /3R initiative) and other potential donor to support the capacity development for solid waste management in South Asian countries. **(Annex 9)**

6.2.4 Environmental Data and Information Management System for South Asia

The 14th Meeting of the Governing Council of SACEP is requested to adopt: SACEP may work with the member countries in exploring the possibility of developing environment data and information management system for South Asia on the basis of latest developments and availability of such information.

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

Members noted that air pollution constitutes an important issue for the South Asia region, and that countries in the region were severely affected by increased levels of air pollution.

The members of the meeting will consult their Focal Points of Male' Declaration of their respective countries to obtain their views the role of SACEP in the implementation of the Male' Declaration. **(Annex 10)**

6.2.6. Workshop on Capacity building of public sector, private sector and civil society stakeholder in SACEP member countries for Sustainable Energy and Road Transport policy, planning and implementation.

SACEP Secretariat to implement the activity as soon as the funds are available. **(Annex 11)**

6.2.7. Air Quality

The 14th Meeting of the Governing Council of SACEP is requested to adopt:

SACEP Secretariat to facilitate a common platform for all member countries to get together to discuss, share experiences and develop a common strategy to overcome the prevailing air pollution in the South Asian region.

6.2.8. Post Rio +20 challenges related to environment sustainability

Members recommended that the work of SACEP should also focus on the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement.

6.2.9. Adaptation to Climate Change

The 14th Meeting of the Governing Council of SACEP is requested to adopt implementation of the following activities:

- Workshop on Capacity Building, Awareness and Database Development on Adaptation to Climate Change in South Asia
- Regional Knowledge Exchange Programme on Measurement Reporting and Verification of Nationally Determined Contributions To Adaptation
- Regional training programme on Capacity Development for Adaptation to Climate Change through Climate-sensitive flood management in south Asia

(Annex 12)

6.2.10. Proposal for SACEP to be a GEF Project Agency

Given the current status of the GEF Agencies accreditation process, Members agreed that the proposal under this agenda item should be discontinued and recommended the 14th Governing Council to adopt as such.

Members also noted that SACEP should explore other possibilities of accreditation to other global funding mechanisms such as GCF.

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

As recommended by the 13th Meeting of the Governing Council of SACEP the activity to be continued.

6.2.12. Assistance for Developing Bio-diversity Clearing House Mechanisms

Members appreciated the SACEP Secretariat's effort in assisting the development of the Bio-diversity Clearing House Mechanism in Sri Lanka and requested to extend the services to other member states when requested.

6.2.13. South Asian Seas Programme (SASP)

The Members were informed of SACEP's engagement with UNEP and other partners on the development of marine litter action plan for South Asia and the Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Strategy for South Asia.

The activities will also be reported at the 6th Inter-governmental Meeting of the Ministers of the South Asian Seas Programme.

7. INSTITUTIONAL MATTERS

7.1 APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTOR GENERAL OF SACEP

SACEP Secretariat informed the meeting that the present Director General will be completing his tenure on 20th July 2018 and as per the approved criteria, government of Afghanistan has nominated Dr. Abas Basir for the post of the next Director General of SACEP. According to the procedure laid down, the 129th Meeting of the Consultative Committee of SACEP endorsed the nomination prior to issuance of the Offer of Appointment and the Service Contract of Dr. Abas Basir.

The nominated candidate is expected to assume duties by 5th July 2018 as the term of office of the Director General and his successor will have an overlap of a period not exceeding two weeks.

7.2 INCREASE OF THE SALARY OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL SACEP

The 14th Meeting of the Governing Council of SACEP is requested to approve the increase of the Salary of the Director General, by US \$ 500/- amounting to a total monthly salary of US \$ 5,000/- with immediate effect. **(Annex 13)**

8. FINANCIAL MATTERS

8.1 COUNTRY CONTRIBUTIONS

SACEP Secretariat thanked the member states for clearing the arrears of the Country Contribution to a commendable rate. SACEP Secretariat further noted it is important to clear the balance arrears for smooth and effective functioning of the Secretariat. **(Annex 14)**

8.2 EXTERNAL FUNDING

Annexed **(Annex 15)**

8.3.1 INCREASE OF COUNTRY CONTRIBUTION OF SACEP

The 13th Meeting of the Governing Council of SACEP agreed in principle, a 10% increase of the Country Contributions.

Accordingly, Government of Bangladesh and the Government of Sri Lanka agreed to the 10% increase and has been contributing accordingly since 2014. However, the Secretariat has not yet received the concurrence to the increase from other Member States. **(Annex 16)**

Government of Maldives informed of the difficulty in contributing to the increased level of Country Contributions at present, but that Maldives will consider the increase in the future.

8.3.2 SEPARATE AND DISTINCTIVE OFFICE FOR THE SACEP SECRETARIAT AND OFFICIAL RESIDENCE FOR THE DIRECTOR GENERAL

SACEP Secretariat informed the meeting that Government of Sri Lanka, as the host of the organization will be awarding the land for the Secretariat building and the official residence of the Director General of SACEP during the 14th Meeting of the Governing Council of South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme.

Members thanked the Government of Sri Lanka for the allocation of land to SACEP.

The Member States of SACEP agreed in principle to a 'Onetime voluntary contribution' for the construction of the building of the SACEP Secretariat to support the effort made by Government of Sri Lanka, the host country of South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP). The Secretariat noted that the estimated construction cost of the first phase is USD 400, 000.

8.4 DRAFT SECRETARIAT BUDGET (2018-2019)

Draft budget for year 2018-2019, proposed with the currently agreed annual contributions to be recommended to the 14th Meeting of the Governing Council of SACEP for approval. **(Annex 17)**

8.5 PRESENTATION OF AUDITED REPORT OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEARS 2011 - 2015

The meeting recommended the 14th Meeting of the Governing Council of SACEP to approve the Audited Report of Accounts for the years 2011 to 2015.

9. VENUE AND DATE FOR THE 15TH GOVERNING COUNCIL

As per SACEP Articles of Association, the next meeting of the SACEP Governing Council will be hosted by Government of Bangladesh. The dates of the meeting will be finalized by the Secretariat in consultation with the Government of Bangladesh.

10. ANY OTHER MATTERS

10.1 RESOLUTION ON SUSTAINABLE NITROGEN MANAGEMENT FOR UNEA-4.

SACEP Secretariat was requested to redraft the Resolution according to the theme of the UNEA-4 and with reference to other resolutions already adopted at previous UNEA. The Secretariat was requested to coordinate with Member States in submitting the amended resolution to the UNEA-4.

10.2 SECONDMENT OF AN OFFICER FROM EACH SACEP MEMBER COUNTRY TO BE BASED AT SACEP ON A VOLUNTARY BASIS

The SACEP Secretariat requested Member States to consider secondment of officers to the SACEP Secretariat with emoluments of the officer borne by the respective Member State.

Members noted the need to further consult their respective government on the matter.

10.3 SAARC VISA STICKER FOR SACEP OFFICIAL MEETINGS

The meeting requested SACEP Secretariat to communicate formally with SAARC Secretariat on the matter.

11. ADOPTION OF REPORT

Report of the Preparatory Meeting of the National Focal Points for the 14th Meeting of the Governing Council of SACEP was adopted.

12. CLOSURE OF MEETING

The Meeting adopted the above recommendations for submission to the 14th Governing Council for its adoption.

SOUTH ASIA CO-OPERATIVE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

Preparatory Meeting of National Focal Points

14th Meeting of the Governing Council

26 - 27 March 2018

Hosted by Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

Held in Colombo, Sri Lanka

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

AFGHANISTAN

Mr. Ghulam Mohd Malikyar
Deputy Director General
(Scientific and Technical Affairs)
National Environmental Protection Agency
Darrulaman Road
School Street
Kabul
Afghanistan
Tel: +93 (0) 74 988 0025
Mobile: +93 700 202 7193
e-mail: malikyargh@gmail.com

Dr. Abas Basir
Senior Advisor to the President
(Environment and Natural Resources)
President Office
Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
Tel: +93 74 440 4944
Mobile: +93 778 07 1057
e-mail: Abas.basir@gmail.com

Mr. Zolfaqar Karimi Baloch
Director of International Relations Div.
National Environmental Protection Agency
Darrulaman Road
School Street
Kabul
Afghanistan
Tel: +93 (0) 74 988 0025
Mobile: +93 79 802 4623
e-mail: zolfaqarb@gmail.com

Ms. Tamana Dawi
Ozone Expert
National Environmental Protection Agency
Darrulaman Road
School Street
Kabul
Afghanistan
Tel: +93 (0) 74 988 0025
Mobile: +93 70 826 7960
e-mail: tmndawi@gmail.com

Mr. Mohammad Tawab Anwari
Secretary to Director General
National Environmental Protection Agency
Darrulaman Road
School Street
Kabul
Afghanistan
Tel: +93 (0) 74 988 0025
Mobile: +93 (0) 79 658 1984
e-mail: tawab.anwari555@yahoo.com

BANGLADESH

Mr. Md. Mustafizur Rahman Akhand
Deputy Director (Dhaka Lab)
Department of Environment
Paribesh Bhaban
E/16 Agargoan Sher-e-bangla Road
Dhaka-1207
Bangladesh
Tel: +880 2818 1796
Mobile: +880 18 1941 1925
Fax: +880 2818 1183 / 2818 1772
e-mail: mrakhand001@yahoo.com

BHUTAN

Ms. Tshewang Zangmo
Senior Programme Officer
National Environment Commission
Post Box No. 466
Thimphu
Royal Government of Bhutan
Tel: +975 2 323 384
Mobile: +975 1 779 4586
Fax: +975 2 323 385
e-mail: tshewangzam@nec.gov.bt

INDIA

Mr. Anil Kumar Jain
Additional Secretary
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate
Indira Parayavaran Bhawan, 3rd Floor
Jal Block, Jorbagh, Aliganj
New Delhi-110003
India
Tel: +91 11 2469 5266
Mobile: +91 98 9931 3027
Fax: +91 11 2469 5276
e-mail: asaj.moefcc@gov.in

Mr. Prashant Kumar Srivastava
Scientist-F
Ministry of Earth Sciences, Prithvi Bhawan, Lodhi
New Delhi
India
Mobile: +91 98 1077 7248
e-mail: srivastava.pks@gov.in

MALDIVES

Mr. Midhath Abdul Rasheed
Assistant Director
Ministry of Environment and Energy
Green Building, Handhuvaree Hin'gun
Maafannu
Male', 20392
Republic of Maldives
Tel: +960 301 8355
Mobile: +960 794 3822
Fax: +960 301 8301
e-mail: midhath.rasheed@environment.gov.mv

NEPAL

H. E. Dr. Bishwambher Pyakuryal
Ambassador and Chairman of the
Consultative Committee of SACEP
Nepalese Embassy in Colombo
15/3, Guildford Crescent, Colombo 07
Sri Lanka

Tel: +94 11 268 9656 / 7
Mobile: +94 77 767 0980
Fax: +94 11 268 9655
e-mail: eoncolombo@mofa.gov.np
nepalembassy@eureka.lk

PAKISTAN

Mr. Khizar Hayat Khan
Secretary
Ministry of Climate Change
3rd Floor, LG & RD Complex
G-5/2, Islamabad-44000
Pakistan

Tel: +92 51 922 4579
Mobile: +92 33 2888 7145
Fax: +92 51 920 4126
e-mail: secretarymocc@gmail.com;
khizarkhan7@gmail.com

Mr. Hasnain Yousaf
First Secretary
High Commission of the Islamic Republic of
Pakistan
53/6, Gregory's Road
Colombo 7

Tel: +94 11 2055681/2;
Fax: +94 11 2055697
e-mail: parepcolombo@pakistanhc.lk

SRI LANKA

Mr. Anura Dissanayake
Secretary
Ministry of Mahaweli Development and
Environment
No. 500, T B Jayah Mawatha
Colombo 10
Sri Lanka

Tel: +94 11 2034121 / 2676844
Mobile: +94 77 757 1304
Fax: +94 11 2879944 / 2676846
e-mail: sec@mahaweli.gov.lk

Ms. Deepa Liyanage
Director (International Relations)
Ministry of Mahaweli Development and
Environment
Sobadam Piyasa, 416/C/1
Robert Gunawardana Mawatha
Battaramulla
Sri Lanka

Tel: +94 11 203 4182
Mobile: +94 71 439 7050
Fax: +94 11 287 9965
e-mail: liyanagedeepa@gmail.com

Dr. P. B. Terney Pradeep Kumara
General Manager / CEO
Marine Environment Protection Authority
Baseline Road
Colombo 09
Sri Lanka

Tel: +94 11 461 5960
Mobile: +94 71 516 9820
Fax: +94 11 461 5960
e-mail: gm@mepa.gov.lk
terneypradeep@yahoo.co.uk

Mr. A.W.M. Rifa Wadood
Assistant Director (International Relations)
Ministry of Mahaweli Development and
Environment
Sobadam Piyasa, 416/C/1
Robert Gunawardana Mawatha
Battaramulla
Sri Lanka

Tel: +94 11 2034182
Mobile: +94 71 8127263
e-mail: rifagee@gmail.com

UN, INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES & OBSERVERS

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

Dr. Isabelle Louis
Deputy Regional Director
United Nations Environment Programme
for Asia and the Pacific (UNEP-ROAP)
United Nations Building
Rajdamnern Avenue
Bangkok 10200
Thailand
Tel: +66 2 288 1604
Mobile: +65 9338 2966
e-mail: louisi@un.org

SOUTH ASIA CO-OPERATIVE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

69/4, Maya Avenue, Colombo 6, Sri Lanka
Tel +94 11 2596 443; Fax +94 11 2589 369

Dr. Muhammad Khurshid
Director General
Tel: +94 11 258 9376
Mobile: +94 77 736 3133
e-mail: khurshid@sacep.org

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

Mr. W. K. Rathnadeera
Senior Programme Officer
Tel: +94 11 250 0546
Mobile: +94 71 643 6307

Dr. Sivaji Patra
Senior Programme Officer-Regional
South Asian Seas Programme (SASP)
Tel: +94 11 562 1320

**Inaugural Session of
Preparatory Meeting of National Focal Points for
14th Meeting of the Governing Council of
South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP)
held in Colombo, Sri Lanka
hosted by the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
26 March 2018**

**Welcome Address by
Dr. Muhammad Khurshid
Director General of SACEP**

H. E. Mr. Schah Zaman Maiwandi, Director General, National Environment Protection Agency, Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.

Mr. Khizar Hayat Khan, Secretary, Climate Change, Pakistan representing the current chair of the SACEP GC.

Distinguished Delegates from All the Member Countries of SACEP

Excellency's, High Commissioners, Ambassadors and Representatives of the Embassies and UN system in Colombo

Honoured Delegates from UN and other International Agencies

Ladies and Gentlemen, very good morning,

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 14th Meeting of the Governing Council of SACEP.

At the very outset, let me thank Government and people of Afghanistan for hosting this Governing Council Meeting with the kind courtesy of Government of Sri Lanka the host of SACEP for all the support.

This is the second time that government of Afghanistan is hosting a Governing Council of SACEP. The 4th Governing Council of SACEP was held in Kabul, Afghanistan in April

1988 and we are gather here after 20 years to witness the 13th Governing Council of SACEP.

Distinguished delegates,

As you are aware, we are in our 37th Year of existence and throughout the past 37 years, SACEP has had many milestones and I am sure this meeting of the GC and the leadership of Afghanistan will also prove highly supportive to SACEP.

Incorporating environmental concerns to the sustainable development agenda is a challenge we are facing today as a region, especially at a time when our governments are striving to accelerate economic growth to meet the needs of the growing population. Our region has many goals to meet, including eliminating extreme poverty to be on par with the developed world but are also facing a variety of environmental challenges.

On the other hand, our natural environment provides us with the basics of survival – the air we breathe, the food we eat, the water we drink, and the fuels we use. The natural environment plays an important role in regulating climate, flood and disease. It also contributes to the cultural, educational and recreational aspects of our lives.

As we are well aware the current impacts of environmental degradation are not only felt locally. The effects of climate change, depletion of the ozone layer, acid rain and transboundary air pollution have all increasingly been felt on a more global scale.

Further, countries need to join hands to protect migratory species such as turtles, birds, dolphins and whales. Some of our countries also share important habitats such as mangroves and coral reefs, where intergovernmental conservation efforts are needed to safeguard these biodiversity repositories for our future generations.

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

In conclusion I must say that only with the collaborative efforts of the Governments and every individual in society in the SACEP member countries, we can implement the necessary measures to tackle environment challenges we face in our region today.

I wish today's meeting a great success

As the pioneer Inter-governmental organization, we need your fullest support and guidance to take SACEP from present days to a step forward.

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 for
14th Meeting of the Governing Council of
South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP)**

**held in Colombo, Sri Lanka
hosted by the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
26 March 2018**

**Opening Speech by
Mr. Anura Dissanayake
Secretary
Ministry of Mahaweli Development and Environment
Government of Sri Lanka**

Ayubowan, Good Morning,

**Your Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentleman,**

First of all, I wish to take this opportunity to welcome the distinguished delegates to Sri Lanka for the 14th Governing Council meeting of the South Asian Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP). We are privileged to facilitate this regional meeting, hosted by Afghanistan, held in Colombo and I hope that we will be able to gain successful outcome for regional corporation in protecting our environment.

South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP) is a pioneer Inter-Governmental organization established in 1982, under an Articles of Association by the Governments of South Asia, to promote and support protection, management and enhancement of the environment in the region. The Government of Sri Lanka, being the host country of SACEP agreed to provide required logistics facilities for the Secretariat.

Distinguishes Delegates,

We, in Sri Lanka are moving towards achieving a sustainable living and development with our national commitments under the leadership of His Excellency Maithripala Sirisena, President of Sri Lanka and also the Minister of Mahaweli Development & Environment.

After signing the Paris Agreement, our Government has introduced progressive environmental policies in each successive year culminating in incorporating Blue Green Enterprises Sri Lanka as a major theme in the National Budget of 2018.

Furthermore, our National Climate Change Adaptation Plan for 2016-2025 has been developed in line with the guidelines set forth by the UNFCCC and it is a major step towards achieving national objectives by minimizing impacts of climate change on human life, ecosystems, natural assets and the economy. In line with the commitment to save the environment, our ministry is now engaged in developing an integrated watershed management master plan for restoration of degraded lands in central highlands of the country. It is therefore, noteworthy that we are in the process of exploring the possibilities of creating collaborations and exchange scientific and best practice experiences in the field of soil management to increase soil fertility and land productivity in Upper Catchment and Agricultural areas in the country.

Distinguishes Delegates,

I am happy to announce that Sri Lanka has decided to ban the use of polythene products including oxo-biodegradable plastic and extended poly-styrene since September last year. Further, we have joined the clean seas campaign, implemented under the United Nations Environment Programme in December last year to coincide with UNEA 3 in Nairobi, showcasing our commitment to protect the Ocean.

I wish to reiterate that as an intergovernmental body, our deliberations should focus on regional environmental issues such as biodiversity, climate change, air pollution, chemical and hazardous waste management, marine pollution, etc. Historically our region has progressed well with minimum damage to the environment and as such I am confident that we will be able show the world how we face these problems with sustainable solutions. I hope this preparatory meeting of the Senior Officers of the National Focal Points of SACEP would be able to make valuable recommendations to be considered at the Governing Council meeting.

Finally, I wish to extend our appreciation to the Government of Afghanistan, being the host country, and the Director General of SACEP for organizing this event in a commendable manner.

Wish all visiting foreign delegates a joyful stay in Sri Lanka.

Thank you

SOUTH ASIA CO-OPERATIVE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

Preparatory Meeting of National Focal Points for 14th Governing Council Meeting of SACEP

Hosted by Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
Held in Colombo, Sri Lanka
26 - 27 March 2018

DRAFT PROVISIONAL AGENDA

TIME	AGENDA ITEM
9:00 - 9:30	1 Opening of the Meeting
9:30 - 10:00	2 TEA BREAK
10:00 - 10:10	3 Election of Office Bearers
10:10 - 10:30	4 Adoption of Agenda and Organisation of Work
10:30 - 12:00	5 Presentation of the Progress Report by the Director General, SACEP Programme Matters Institutional Matters Financial Matters
12:00 - 13:00	LUNCH
13:00 - 14:30	6.1 Programme Matters Presentation of Project Status Report by the Director General, SACEP 6.1.1 National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) Updating for South Asia 6.1.2 Promoting Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) in South Asia 6.1.3 Waste Management 6.1.4 Environmental Data and Information Management System for South Asia

TIME	AGENDA ITEM
	<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 Environmentally Sustainable Transport (EST)</p> <p>6.1.7 Better Air Quality Conference (BAQ 2014)</p> <p>6.1.8 Post Rio +20 challenges related to environment sustainability (e.g. green economy, energy, water and sanitation etc.).</p> <p>6.1.9 Partnership with Global Water Partnership (GWP) on Adaptation and Resilience to Climate Change and Activities related to Climate Change</p> <p>6.1.10 Proposal for SACEP to be a GEF Project Agency</p> <p>6.1.11 Regional Cooperation for the Conservation and Wise-use of Internationally Important Wetlands in South Asia</p> <p>6.1.12 Establishment of Regional Clearing House Mechanism for South Asia</p> <p>6.1.13 South Asian Seas Programme (SASP)</p>
14:30 - 15:00	TEA BREAK
15:00 - 15:30	6.2 Work Programme (2018 - 2019)
15:30 - 15:45	7 Institutional Matters
15:45 - 16:15	<p>8 Financial Matters</p> <p>8.1 Review of Country Contributions</p> <p>8.2 External Funding</p> <p>8.3 DRAFT Secretariat Budget (2018 - 2019)</p> <p>8.4 Presentation of Audited Report of Accounts for the year 2011 - 2015</p>
16:15 - 16:30	9 Venue and Date for the 15 th Governing Council
16:30 - 16:45	10 Any Other Business
16:45 - 17:00	11 Adoption of Report
17:00	12 Closure of Meeting

SOUTH ASIA CO-OPERATIVE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

Preparatory Meeting of National Focal Points for 14th Governing Council Meeting of SACEP

Hosted by Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

Held in Colombo, Sri Lanka

26 - 27 March 2018

DRAFT ANNOTATED AGENDA

TIME	AGENDA ITEM
09:00 - 9:30	<p>1 OPENING OF THE MEETING</p> <p>It is expected that a Senior Dignitary from the Government of Afghanistan will inaugurate the Meeting.</p>
09:30 - 10:00	<p>2 TEA BREAK</p>
10:00 - 10:10	<p>3 ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS</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>
10:10 - 10:30	<p>4 ADOPTION OF AGENDA AND ORGANISATION OF WORK</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>

TIME	AGENDA ITEM
10:30 - 12:00	<p>5 PRESENTATION OF THE PROGRESS REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR GENERAL, SACEP</p> <p>The Director General will present the progress report under the following areas.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Programme Matters</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Institutional Matters</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Financial Matters</p> <p>The meeting will be requested for endorsement of the programme and the progress under the separate headings as above:</p>
12:00 - 13:00	LUNCH
13:00 - 14:30	<p>6.1 PROGRAMME MATTERS</p> <p>Director General will present the project implementation status report under each of the projects listed below:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">6.1.1 National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) Updating for South Asia</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">6.1.2 Promoting Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) in South Asia</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">6.1.3 Waste Management</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">6.1.4 Environmental Data and Information Management System for South Asia</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">6.1.5 Malé Declaration on Control and Prevention of Air Pollution and Its Likely Transboundary Effects for South Asia</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">6.1.6 Environmentally Sustainable Transport (EST)</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">6.1.7 Better Air Quality Conference (BAQ)</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">6.1.8 Post Rio +20 challenges related to environment sustainability (e.g. green economy, energy, water and sanitation etc.).</p>

TIME	AGENDA ITEM
	<p>6.1.9 Partnership with Global Water Partnership (GWP) on Adaptation and Resilience to Climate Change and Activities related to Climate Change</p> <p>6.1.10 Proposal for SACEP to be a GEF Project Agency</p> <p>6.1.11 Regional Cooperation for the Conservation and Wise-use of Internationally Important Wetlands in South Asia</p> <p>6.1.12 Establishment of Regional Clearing House Mechanism for South Asia</p> <p>6.1.13 South Asian Seas Programme (SASP)</p>
14:30 - 15:00	TEA BREAK
15:00 - 15:30	<p>6.2 WORK PROGRAMME (2018-2019)</p> <p>Under this Agenda Item, the meeting will consider the approved work programme for 2014-2017 and make suggestions for its continuance through 2018-2019</p>
15:30 – 15:45	<p>7 INSTITUTIONAL MATTERS</p> <p>Under this agenda item, the meeting will consider the Appointment of the Next Director General of SACEP nominated by Government of Afghanistan</p>
15:45 – 16:15	<p>8 FINANCIAL MATTERS</p> <p>Under this agenda item, the meeting will consider the review of the Country Contributions, External Funding, the Draft Secretarial Budget for 2018-2019. It will also consider the Audit Reports of Accounts for the year 2011 - 2015 for endorsement.</p>
16:15 – 16:30	<p>9 VENUE AND DATE FOR THE 15th GOVERNING COUNCIL</p> <p>Under this Agenda Item, the meeting will decide on the venue and tentative dates for the 15th Governing Council meeting, which will be submitted to the Ministerial meeting for formal agreement.</p>

TIME	AGENDA ITEM
16:30 – 16:45	<p>10 ANY OTHER BUSINESS</p> <p>Under this Agenda Item, the Preparatory Meeting of the National Focal Points may wish to discuss any other relevant matters that may be raised by the representatives participating at the Meeting or by the Secretariat.</p>
16:45 – 17:00	<p>11 ADOPTION OF REPORT</p> <p>Under this Agenda Item the Preparatory Meeting of the National Focal Points will consider and Adopt the Report which will be submitted to the Ministerial meeting</p>
17:00	<p>12 CLOSURE OF MEETING</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>

PROGRESS REPORT

South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP) Year 2014 – March 2018

1 Bio-Diversity

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)

- **Development of South Asia Regional Biodiversity Clearing House Mechanism (CHM)**

A CHM was established under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), to promote and facilitate technical and scientific co-operation within and between countries with respect to biological diversity. The objectives of the CHM are identified in the CHM strategic plan (UNEP/CBD/COP/5/INF/3):

- 1) Promotion and facilitation of technical and scientific cooperation;
- 2) Development of a global mechanism for exchanging and integrating information on biodiversity; and,
- 3) Development of the CHM Focal Points and their partners.

The national CHM websites of the signatory countries, administered by the national CHM Focal Points, are an important component of the CHM. National websites contain all national biodiversity-related information that is required to assist policy makers and interested stakeholders to meet obligations under the CBD and to conserve and sustainable use biodiversity.

A regional CHM website is complementary to constituent national CHM sites, concentrating on biodiversity issues of transboundary scope and significance. At the Seventh Conference of Parties of the CBD (COP7), the COP invited parties “...to develop Regional Clearing-house Mechanisms to further promote and facilitate technical and scientific cooperation and the exchange of information on technology transfer at the regional and national levels” (UNEP/CBD/COP/7/21 Page 321).

At the COP10 of the CBD 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 the necessary steps to establish, strengthen, and ensure the sustainability of, national clearing house mechanisms. CHM goal 2 also states that national clearing house mechanisms should provide effective information services to facilitate the implementation of the national biodiversity strategies and action plans. Decision X/15 of CBD COP also states that ‘Contribute, whenever possible, to cooperation initiatives aiming at developing regional, subregional, thematic, or national clearing-house mechanisms’.

SACEP Governing Council (GC) has made following decisions on development of Regional Biodiversity CHM;

GC10 – ‘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.’

GC11 - The GC 11 adopted the proposal on establishment of Regional Biodiversity CHM and suggested:

- a) To assist member countries of South Asia to build capacity to develop and maintain National CHMs
- b) To assist member countries to develop and maintain National CHMs
- c) To 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.

GC 13 – ‘SACEP to develop Regional CHM with the financial assistance of Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem Project (BoBLME) and other possible funding sources’.

As per the decision of GC13, South Asia regional biodiversity CHM was developed with the financial assistance from BoBLME project and was launched in August 2014 **and regularly being updated**. <http://chm-sacep.org>. Under this project, SACEP was able to establish its own web and mail servers which enable SACEP to provide free hosting services for national CHMs of member countries as per the decision adopted by the GC.

- **Development of National Biodiversity CHM for Sri Lanka**

As per the Governing Council decision, on request of the Ministry of Mahaweli Development and Environment, Government of Sri Lanka which is the National Focal Point of SACEP for Sri Lanka, assistance was offered to develop their National CHM. Necessary funds have been provided by the Ministry of Mahaweli Development through its GEF project. The project was completed successfully and national CHM was launched in December 2016.

- **A pilot project to promote synergies among the biodiversity conventions and linking SDGs in Sri Lanka**

Based on the outcomes of UNEA 2 meeting, calling UNEP to further facilitate actions related to enhancing cooperation and synergies among the biodiversity related conventions (namely CBD, CMS, CITES, WHC, Ramsar Convention, ITPGRFA and the IPPC) and suggesting the need to link actions between multilateral environmental agreements and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development including the seventeen globally agreed Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and considering the Programme

of Work of UNEP 2016-2018, UNEP considered providing support to a selected number of countries to deal with issues of synergies among the biodiversity conventions and linking biodiversity conventions with SDGs during 2016/2017.

As a pilot exercise Sri Lanka was selected to be supported, based on their written expression of interest to implement activities related to synergies and SDGs, through UNEP regional office. The objective of the project was to enhance the capacity of Sri Lanka to finalize and effectively implement the NBSAPs considering issues of promoting synergies and cooperation among the biodiversity related conventions (CBD, CITES, CMS, Ramsar, WHC, ITPGRFA and the IPPC) and to promote linkages between SDGs and MEAs using NBSAPs as the entry point.

SACEP in collaboration with UNEP assisted Government of Sri Lanka in the implementation process. A National workshop on promoting synergies among the biodiversity conventions and linking SDGs was held in Colombo, Sri Lanka from 8 to 9 August 2016. Three national experts were assigned to draft three chapters viz. Synergies among the biodiversity conventions and implementation plans, SDG related linkages to NBSAPs and related implementation plans and Assessment of Financing options to Implement NBSAP. The final report has been compiled and submitted to UNEP. SACEP is looking forward to replicate similar activity in other member countries with the partnership of UNEP in future.

2. Promoting Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) in South Asia

- **Preparatory Meeting for the Establishment of the South Asia Forum on Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP), 26-27 February 2015, Negombo, Sri Lanka**

Following on the implementation of the Asia-Pacific Roadmap of the Rio+20 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production (10YFP) as well as the 13GC-SACEP decision No.10.2.2 to promote SCP within policymaking mechanisms of South Asian countries, SACEP organized a 'Preparatory Meeting for the establishment of the South Asia Forum on SCP'. This preparatory meeting was convened by the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) serving as the 10YFP Secretariat and implementing organisation of the SWITCH-Asia Regional Policy Support Component with the financial support of the European Union.

The aim of this preparatory meeting was to establish an annual policy platform while building knowledge and networks for South Asian policy makers and stakeholders on how SCP policies can support sustainable development and continued growth for the expanding consumer and producer base in South Asian countries.

Following were the specific objectives of the meeting :

- I. To provide a venue for policy dialogue and collaboration on SCP national, regional, and sub-regional strategies, planning and implementation including technical support to countries in South Asia
- II. To provide a venue for discussion on research and innovation for SCP patterns that can support tailored, effective policy design and actions.

- III. To develop a resource pool and to explore opportunity for capacity building to support governments and other stakeholders at national and regional level in a transition to SCP, and to support public awareness campaigns on SCP
- IV. To encourage discussion on emerging issues on SCP including alignment with the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) and other regional bodies to promote cooperation on SCP.

The meeting was held on 26 – 27 February and representatives from SACEP member countries participated and necessary technical assistance was provided by UNEP. At the end of the meeting, country representatives agreed to the followings:

1. The representatives of the member states agreed to establish the South Asia Forum on SCP and requested for SACEP to come up with the proposal based on the suggestions on the modalities of the forums and possible priority areas as discussed.
 2. To get started, SACEP will lead to develop the proposal on the establishment of the South Asia Forum based on suggestions in the meeting and through a consultative process following government protocol before submission to the next SACEP Governing Council.
 3. The meeting report was circulated for feedback and comments and the proposal was also drafted by SACEP incorporating what has been discussed in the meeting and then will be put forward to SACEP Governing Council for final decision-making.
 4. The current funding is available from the EU-funded SWITCH-Asia Programme until 2020 and afterwards as well through future funding possibilities from SDG Goal 12 framework.
 5. UNEP and other possible UN and regional agencies/organizations in consultation with SACEP agreed to provide Technical Support Services to the forum with specific consideration to be defined.
- **Consultation of the South Asia Forum on Sustainable Consumption and Production, 3 November 2015, New Delhi, India**

A consultation meeting of the South Asia Forum on Sustainable Consumption and Production was held on 3 November 2015 in Delhi, India, with the participation of representatives of member countries, SACEP and UNEP. The objectives of this meeting was to:

- Update members on the background of the Forum
- Provide an update of global SCP policy frameworks and processes
- Provide feedback on a draft work plan for the Forum in 2015-2017, focusing on the SDGs.

The consultation meeting was held back to back with the ASEAN Forum on SCP to support linkages between the two sub-regional fora and held a common opening session.

- **Policy Dialogue on Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) in Tertiary Curriculum, 20th October 2016 at Chilaw, Sri Lanka**

SACEP, in collaboration with United Nations Environment Programme (UN Environment), through the support of the EU SWITCH-Asia Regional Policy Support Component, organized a regional Policy Dialogue meeting on Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) in Tertiary Curriculum on 20th October 2016 in Chilaw, Sri Lanka. The Objectives of the SCP Policy Dialogue was:

- To assist in developing SCP materials to be introduced into academic syllabus at tertiary and possibly also for civil servants and secondary level **officers** with South Asian Education institution to be identified by countries
- To share experiences on best practices and knowledge exchange among Ministries to strengthen capacities to move towards more sustainable patterns of consumption and production

- **Regional Training on Mainstreaming SCP in Policies, 21st October 2016 in Chilaw, Sri Lanka**

A regional training on mainstreaming SCP in policies was held on 21st October 2016 with the following objectives:

- To share experiences on SCP best practices and knowledge exchange on SCP mainstreaming in policies and implementation among Ministries
- To build and strengthen capacity on the use of SCP Tools and Methodologies
- To provide support on the development of National SCP Action Plan

This training was held back to back with Policy Dialogue on Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) in Tertiary Curriculum and the First Meeting on South Asia Forum on SCP. All participants who took part in policy dialogue in tertiary curriculum also participated in this training as well.

- **First meeting of the South Asia Forum on SCP, 22nd October 2016 at Chilaw, Sri Lanka**

The First meeting of the South Asia Forum on SCP was held on 22nd October with the participation of nominated members by countries/their representatives, SACEP and UNEP. Based on the agreed procedures of the preparatory meeting held on 26 – 27 February 2015, Director General of SACEP invited member countries to nominate their focal persons/representatives for the regional forum and all countries responded well in time. Those nominated focal persons were invited for the 1st meeting and in their absence, representatives were participated. In this regional forum, SACEP is acting as the facilitator and co-chair. UNEP participates as technical experts.

- **SACEP/UN Winter School on Sustainable Consumption and Production in South Asia**

SACEP and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), in collaboration with University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka and SCP NPSC Sri Lanka Project with the financial assistance of UNEP managed and EU funded SWITCH-Asia Regional Policy Support Component, successfully organized an intensive two week (7-18 November 2016) Winter School programme on Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) **for the South Asian Region**. A total of 34 participants from SACEP member countries participated in the training. Majority of participants were mid-to-higher level professionals who were working in their respective government agencies and the others were from universities, private sector, and NGOs. This Winter School programme was able to improve the knowledge of future decision makers in the area of Sustainable Consumption and Production and thus contribute to the design and implementation of policies, business models and practices that can promote sustainable resource management in a life cycle perspective for goods and services produced and used by governments, business and civil society.

- **Policy Dialogue and Workshop on Sustainable Tourism: Mainstreaming Sustainable Consumption and Production in Tourism Policies in South Asia and Maldives National Dialogue on Sustainable Consumption and Production**

The Regional Policy Dialogue on Sustainable Tourism and Maldives National Dialogue were held back to back from 22 to 24 November 2016 in Male', Maldives. The main objective of the Dialogue and Workshop on Tourism in South Asia was to promote dissemination of good practices and **implementation of** successful sustainable tourism projects through sustainable consumption and production (SCP) in other parts of South Asia through adaptation, scaling up and replication. This effort will provide the platform for knowledge sharing and capacity building in sustainable tourism policy development and implementation tools including areas of specific interest such as green hotel guidelines and awareness raising campaigns.

- Under the SSFA signed between SACEP and UNEP for the aforesaid activities, a Consultant was appointed for development of a Strategy for Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) Business and Marketing. During the assignment, a Work Plan for SACEP Strategy was developed by the consultant which is attached as Annex 1 of the Progress Report. The Emergency Meeting of the Consultative Committee held on 27th October 2016 directed SACEP to limit the 'Scope of Work' and 'Tasks and Duties' to Sustainable Consumption and Production related activities and to revise the ToR issued to the Consultant accordingly.

3. Proposal for SACEP to be a GEF Project Agency

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 and also agreed to provide allocation from STAR (GEF Cycle V) for a GEF Project by Government of Sri Lanka

As an outcome of the meeting, SACEP forwarded the application to GEF Secretariat on 18th June 2012. The Chairperson of the GEF responded that 11 applicant agencies have being reviewed by the GEF Accreditation Panel of GEF-5 and if GEF Secretariat decides in broadening the GEF partnership further, the Council would consider SACEP's accreditation again at the beginning of GEF-6.

As reported to the 13GC-SACEP though GEF was to call applications in two stages, the GEF Council had selected only the 11 agencies from the applicant list of the 1st call for further evaluation. Still, GEF is evaluating the selected 11 agencies and has not considered any agency from the Second call. Considering the evaluation time taken for the 1st set of possible agencies, the possibility to consider any of the application from the 2nd call is very less. Therefore, is it no longer worthwhile to continue as an agenda item.

4. Adaptation to Climate Change

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

The 13th Meeting of the Governing Council of SACEP held on 3 – 5 December 2013 in Islamabad, Pakistan by its decision 10.2.14, approved the inclusion of 'Partnership with Global Water Partnership (GWP) on Adaptation and Resilience to Climate Change' into the work programme of SACEP and directed SACEP Secretariat to carry out capacity building programmes on the issues of Adaptation and Resilience to Climate Change.

As per the direction of the Governing Council, South Asia Regional Workshop on Lessons Learnt in Strategy Implementation on Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) in Water Sector was organized on 9 to 10 September 2014 at Galadari Hotel, Colombo, Sri Lanka.

The workshop was organised by SACEP in partnership with GWP SAS and technical collaboration with National Adaptation Plan (NAP)-Global Support Programme (GSP) Team, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

The workshop gathered policy makers, researchers and practitioners of seven countries of the South Asian region together and provided a platform to share and to learn from each other on Strategy Implementation on Climate Change Adaptation in Water Sector. Approximately 30 participants representing Ministries of Environment, Water Resources and Climate Change of SACEP member countries and GWPO, GWP SAS, CEA, UNDP, IWMI and Sri Lanka Water Partnership (SLWP) attended the workshop.

Scope and focus of the workshop was:

- Showcase the strength & weakness of strategy implementation in South Asian Countries
- Highlight the institutional mechanisms in strategy implementation
- How robust adaptation decision making can proceed in the face of uncertainty about climate change and its impacts.
- Explore practical adaptation policies and approaches, and share strategies for decision making from the international to the local scale.

- Introduce and examine new tools and methodologies for adaptation.

The workshop helped in cross learning on strategy implementation in country level and regional co-operation on climate change with respect of water. It was also expected to make connections between lessons learnt with broader processes such as the NAP process.

- **Parallel Session on ‘Climate Change Adaptation Challenges in South Asia’ at the 5th Asia Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Forum held on 17th October 2016, Colombo Sri Lanka.**

SACEP organized a Parallel Session on ‘Climate Change Adaptation Challenges in South Asia’ during the 5th Asia Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Forum which was held from 17- 19 October 2016 in Colombo Sri Lanka.

The overview of the Session was to;

- Review how climate change is affecting the overall development of South Asia Region,
- Presenting and showcasing adaptation related case studies and Success stories by the member countries of SACEP namely Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.
- Sharing recommendations important for Adaptation to Climate Change and implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Agenda in South Asia.

The session was chaired by the Hon’ Minister of Sustainable Development and Wildlife, Government of Sri Lanka and was attended by participants include High-level officials from eight South Asian member countries, policy and planning professionals, practitioners and Representatives of Public sector, private sector and research & academia from South Asian countries and other global stakeholders.

A summary report comprising the recommendations received from the participants in addressing the adaptation issues in the context of Goal 13 of the 2030 Agenda of Sustainable Development was launched at the SACEP Side Event at the 22nd Conference of the Parties (COP22) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Marrakesh, Morocco on 17th November 2016.

- **SACEP Side Event at the 22nd Conference of the Parties (COP22) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Marrakesh, Morocco on 17th November 2016.**

On 17th November 2016, SACEP together with the Brussels based Network of Regional Governments for Sustainable Development (nrg4SD) organized a Side Event titled ‘Adaptation to Climate Change: National & Sub-National Coherence, Co-ordination and Co-operation at Regional Level’ at the 22nd Conference of the Parties (COP22) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Marrakesh, Morocco. This Side-Event provided fruitful discussions and thought dialogue of the role of coordination and cooperation among national and subnational governments towards efficient and coherent climate change adaptation.

- **SACEP Side Event at the 23rd Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC (COP 23) 'Implementing NDCs: Planning and coordination at the regional, national and subnational level' in Bonn, Germany on 14th Nov 2017**

For the second consecutive year SACEP together with Network of Regional Governments for Sustainable Development (nrg4SD) and Ministry of Climate Change, Pakistan organized a Side Event titled 'Implementing NDCs: Planning and coordination at the regional, national and subnational level'.

This side event provided fruitful discussions and thought dialogues on the role of alignment between national and subnational governments in effective NDC planning and implementation.

The panelists also shared experiences and ideas for improving coordination and vertical integration of effective climate policies into NDCs. The importance of global and regional cooperation, enhancing multi-level governance in order to raise ambition on climate action, as well as transnational initiatives and organizations was highlighted within the event. High-level representatives from countries and subnational governments worldwide also discussed their mitigation and adaptation approaches and challenges, as well as successful experiences of cooperation in the preparation and implementation of NDCs.

SACEP also established an Exhibit Booth at UNFCCC COP 23 from 06 to 17 November 2017 in Bonn, Germany in collaboration with Ministry of Environment, Bangladesh to showcase Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and Paris Agreement Implementation in the SACEP member countries in South Asia.

- **SACEP Accreditation to Green Climate Fund and the Adaptation fund**

To utilize the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and Adaptation Fund (AF) facilities and resources in the best interest of the SACEP member countries, SACEP initiated the process in February 2017 to apply for accreditation to GCF under the Direct Access accreditation process and the accreditation by the Adaptation Fund as a Regional Implementing Entity (RIE) and is still under review.

5. Partnership with Basel Convention Regional Centre for Asia and Pacific based in Beijing, China

SACEP signed a MoU with the Basel Convention Regional Centre in China in March 2017 to corporate in activities in the field of environmentally sound management of waste and chemicals by organizing trainings, conferences, workshops and other activities for the benefit of the South Asian Region. Activities are yet to be finalized.

6. Waste Management

The International Partnership for Expanding Waste Management Services of Local Authorities (IPLA)

SACEP became the Sub Regional Secretariat for South Asia to International Partnership for Expanding Waste Management Services of Local Authorities (IPLA), of the United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD) which is a Rio+20 partnership, launched during the 19th Session of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) held in May 2011 in New York with an aim, to address various needs of local authorities and municipalities, particularly in least developed and developing countries, by fostering partnerships among a wide range of stakeholders, including public and private sectors.

SACEP with UNCRD promoted the IPLA Concept during the Mayor's Forum held on 20 November 2014 back to back with the Better Air Quality (BAQ) 2014 and the Intergovernmental Eighth Regional EST Forum in Asia.

With the overarching theme of 'Next Generation Solutions for Clean Air and Sustainable Transport – Towards a Livable Society in Asia', the '**Integrated Conference of Better Air Quality (BAQ) 2014 and the Intergovernmental Eighth Regional EST Forum in Asia**' was held from 19 to 21 November 2014 in Colombo, Sri Lanka and SACEP was a collaborator of this event.

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

Phase I, II III and IV 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.

At 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 held in Dhaka, Bangladesh on 20 May 2013 approved Phase V (2014-2016) and the Work Programme for 2013 along with the estimated Country Contributions for Regional Level Activities for year 2014-2016 for implementation. Phase V aimed 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.

The Fourth Meeting of the Task Force on Future Development of Malé Declaration was held from 26-27 May 2015 in Pathumthani, Thailand. The meeting discussed the progress of the Malé Declaration including implementation and operation of the regional centers, current situation of financial contributions of its member countries, work programme in 2015-2016 and ToR of the Expert group on strengthening the Malé Declaration. During the meeting SACEP noted that the Malé Secretariat is now functioning under RRC-AP which is affiliated under Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) and is not under UNEP Regional office in Bangkok, Thailand.

As a follow up of the meeting SACEP has informed its member countries of the status and has request their opinion and suggestions to bringing back Malé Declaration to SACEP for effective implementation and coordination through the Intergovernmental arrangements that SACEP enjoys with support of its member countries. During the 4th Task Force Meeting it was highlighted by the member countries including Bangladesh, Nepal and Pakistan that SACEP being the regional organization in South Asia, the implementing role of the Malé

Declaration Programme should be given to SACEP, while AIT should work on the Academic work.

Fourteenth and the Fifteenth Sessions of the Intergovernmental Meeting of Malé Declaration were held in November 2015 and October 2016 respectively.

The Second Meeting of the Expert Group on Strengthening the Framework of Malé Declaration (EG2) and the Sixth Meeting of the Task Force was held in Katmandu, Nepal on 28 November 2017 and 30 November 2017, respectively.

Activities under South Asian Seas Programme (SASP)

8. A Scoping Study of Nutrient Pollution on the Coastal and Marine Systems of South Asia

SACEP/SASP participated in a Regional meeting in June 2012, in Phuket, Thailand to share experiences in addressing Land-based sources of Marine Pollution, in relation to development of a Regional Strategic Action Plan for the countries along the Bay of Bengal.

At this meeting SACEP/SASP was requested to develop and submit a project proposal to the Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem Project (BOBLME) to address the mitigating nutrient loading to the marine environment.

In this regard SACEP developed a project concept titled 'Controlling Nutrient Loading and Eutrophication of Coastal Waters of the South Asian Seas Region' with the inputs from UNEP-GPNM (Global Partnership on Nutrient Management). The main objective of the project is to reduce and control of nutrient loading into the coastal waters of the South Asian Seas Region through development of a Regional Action Plan and Policy Forum/Framework.

The activities included ;

- An inventory of point/non - point sources of nutrients that end up in the coastal waters
- Estimating the impact of nutrient enrichment on coastal water, especially through regular observations in potential hotspots at fixed coastal sites;
- Develop and undertake actions to reduce nutrient inputs to agriculture as well as remedial measures for over eutrophication/hypoxia conditions in identified sites.
- Development of a Regional Action Plan and establishment of a Regional Policy Forum to monitor progress of action and define corrective actions to be pursued by member countries.

FAO funded the project and SACEP Secretariat administered the project activities, while national level activities were carried out by the respective National Focal Points of the South Asian Seas Programme.

This activity was presented and approved at the 5-IMM of SASP held in Islamabad, Pakistan in December 2013.

A draft report on Scoping Study of Nutrient Pollution on the Coastal and Marine Systems of South Asia was prepared by a group of consultants (Indian Nitrogen Group). This report was validated during the two day regional workshop held from 20 to 21 May 2014 in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

Twenty-six participants representing government agencies and international/regional organizations participated at this important event. The workshop agenda included presentations from collaborative institutions, national governments and resource persons. The draft scoping study on nutrient loading was placed on the table by the consultants, which was followed by group activities. The ecosystem approach to pollution management was tested in the workshop which proved to be an excellent approach to managing the nutrient pollution in the region and the participants agreed on a vision 'South Asian Seas free of nutrient pollution by 2020'. This vision was further supported by setting targets, hence opportunities for technical and financial support from multi-stake holders are highlighted.

The draft report was updated with comments received during and after the workshop and then yet again circulated among the member countries for any concerns. The workshop report and the updated scoping study report then were submitted to BOBP-IGO/FAO and were further revised with the inputs received from them.

The report is now finalized and its findings will be presented at the 6-IMM-SASP. SACEP is working closely with BoBLME - Phase 2 to incorporate some of the actions identified in this report.

As a further follow up SACEP is working with UNEP-GEF on a global project titled 'Targeted Research on the Global Nitrogen Cycle, towards the Establishment of an International Nitrogen Management System (Towards INMS)' and SACEP acts as the South Asian collaborating partner. This activity was initiated during the UNEP/GEF Global Nutrient Cycle Project First Steering Committee Meeting held in Bhubaneswar (Orissa), India in March 2014. The First Plenary in Preparation for the Global Project 'Targeted Research on the Global Nitrogen Cycle, towards the Establishment of an International Nitrogen Management System' (Towards INMS') was held in Lisbon, Portugal from 27 – 30 April 2015 and SACEP could not attend the meeting but made the presentation through the web link. SACEP became a partner of International Nitrogen Management System (INMS) to work as regional partner in South Asian region.

SACEP with the assistance of INMS organized a regional meeting in Maldives on Nitrogen Management from 12-14 September, 2017. The report was finalized and prepared a Draft Resolution on nitrogen for submission to the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-3) which was adopted unanimously.

9. Development of a Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Strategy for the South Asian Seas Region

In order to strengthen the updating of the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) process, foster collaboration, and help identifying and addressing challenges that require regional solutions, South Asian Seas Programme together with UNEP have initiated an activity to develop a South Asia Regional Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Strategy in partnership with various other stakeholders.

The Strategy was prepared, in parallel with the NBSAPs and it will assist the five maritime countries of South Asia to achieve Aichi Biodiversity targets relevant to coastal and marine biodiversity on national as well as regional level. This process will support and guide future revision of the South Asian Seas Action Plan.

The following activities were carried out:

1. Conducted a desk review to provide a knowledge base for the Regional Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Strategy;
2. Prepared draft Strategy based on desk review and consultation with countries;
3. Organized regional workshop to validate and fine-tune the Strategy;
4. Finalize Strategy to be presented for endorsement at the next IMM-SASP.

Out of the 6 desk reviews covering the marine and coastal biodiversity strategy, 2 were undertaken by SACEP (Species and Marine Protected Areas) while UNEP undertook the Alien invasive and fishery. The report on ecosystem services was undertaken by a consultant of IUCN Sri Lanka.

Based on these desk reviews the Initial draft of the First Order Draft of the Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Strategy for the South Asian Seas Region was prepared. The draft was discussed and further developed during the First Regional Workshop that took place in Colombo, Sri Lanka on 8-10 July 2014. It brought together 52 participants including national experts from the key relevant competent national authorities of the project's beneficiary countries (India, Bangladesh, Maldives, Pakistan and Sri Lanka), regional partner organizations, academia and other relevant stakeholders. This enabled the sharing of experiences from on-going regional process.

Additional financial support secured from the Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem Project was vital for ensuring the participation of all relevant stakeholders at the meeting.

The Initially amended Draft, incorporated the feedbacks of the workshop participants from SACEP/SASP member countries, international and regional organizations, and other relevant stakeholders.

This report has been circulated among the member countries and the 2nd workshop scheduled to be arranged to finalize the report prior to its adoption at the 6-IMM/SASP. SACEP is in touch with UNEP to get budget to organize the final workshop as soon as possible.

10. SACEP/SASP to develop a Regional Strategy and to set up a Task force to address Ballast Water Management

South Asian Seas region lies within one of the busiest shipping lanes globally as it falls within the oil conveyor belt from the Gulf to East Asia. Therefore, ballast water can pose serious economical and ecological damage through introduction of invasive alien species to our coastal and marine waters. The International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments (BWM) contains measures to prevent the potentially devastating effects of the spread of harmful aquatic organisms carried by ships' ballast water. It requires all ships in international traffic to implement a Ballast Water and Sediments Management Plan, to carry a Ballast Water Record Book, and an international ballast water management certificate. All ships will have to undertake ballast water management procedures to a given standard. Existing ships will be required to do the same, but after a phase-in period. The BWM Convention was adopted on 13 February 2004 and is not yet in force. Presently out of five maritime countries of South Asia, only Maldives is signatory to the BWM Convention.

The International Maritime Organization (IMO) organized the South Asia Regional Ballast Water Management Strategy Development Meeting in Mumbai, India in May 2012 and it was decided that SACEP, as the Secretariat for the South Asian Seas Programme, would be the

Institutional Framework to support and finalize the Draft Regional BWM Strategy and to ensure the execution of the Action Plan.

It was also agreed to establish a Regional Task Force to facilitate the process. This activity was presented and approved at the 5-IMM of SASP held in Islamabad in December 2013. With the financial and technical support from the International Maritime Organisation (IMO), through the GEF-UNDP-IMO GloBallast Partnerships Programme Coordination Unit, a two-day regional workshop was held in order to discuss the development of a Regional strategy for Ballast Water Management (BWM), from 24 to 25 February 2014 in Colombo, Sri Lanka. 30 participants attended the meeting.

Following documents were sent to the National Focal Points of SASP as per the recommendations of the regional workshop.

1. Terms of Reference for the Regional Task Force on Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments in the South Asian Region
2. Workshop Resolutions
3. Work plan and implementation timetable

All five maritime countries in SACEP region namely Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Pakistan and Sri Lanka have nominated their Focal Contact person to facilitate their national Ballast water strategic plan. Sri Lanka has already prepared the 'National Ballast water management strategy plan'.

Another Regional Workshop is proposed to be held after receiving the progress of achievements of the five maritime countries. SACEP has requested IMO to allocate some funds to organize another regional meeting in view to formulate Regional Ballast Water Management Strategy.

11. GloFouling Project

SACEP joins the GloFouling Project of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) as a Regional Coordinating Organization (RCO). This is a sub- activity of the Ballast Water Management strategy. This strategy played an instrumental role in the establishment of two significant events in the ballast water calendar: the IMO-GloBallast Research and Development (R&D) Forum and the International Conference on Ballast Water Management (ICBWM). These events were well-informed, highly-regarded and attracted multi-stakeholder gatherings on the subject and were pivotal in driving innovation-innovation in treatment systems, transparency in testing those systems, sampling and monitoring technologies and contingency-based measures amongst others.

The overall objectives of the Convention were not in any doubt, but progress was hindered by indecision over standards. It was proved difficult in reaching agreement on what extent organisms residing in ballast water should be removed so that discharges would no longer pose a significant risk to new marine habitats.

SACEP partnerships will play an instrumental role for South Asian Seas Region in facilitating the development of new solutions for treating ballast water on board ships, as well as techniques and methodologies for ensuring ships met the requirements of the Convention.

12. Endorsement for the Formal Adoption of the Regional Oil and Chemical Pollution Contingency Plan for South Asia

A Regional Oil and Chemical Pollution Spill Contingency Plan and associated MoU were developed in association with the International Maritime Organization (IMO) for enhanced cooperation in the event of an Oil or Chemical spill in South Asian Seas region. The final adaptation of the same has been pending since the year 2000. The 4th Inter-governmental Meeting of Ministers (IMM) held in Jaipur, India on 22nd May 2008, requested SACEP to finalize the Regional Plan and MoU as a matter of High Priority.

Four member countries viz. Bangladesh, Maldives, Pakistan and Sri Lanka have signed the MoU. Status with respect to the signing of MOU by India is at an advanced stage though its not signed yet. SACEP Secretariat is in the process of expediting the process.

The International Maritime Organization (IMO) has indicated that the South Asia Region will get much more benefits once all the members of the South Asian Seas Programme (SASP) signs the MOU for collaborative activities.

SACEP and IMO signed an MOU to collaborate in the above activity in 2012 for the implementation of a NORAD funded project titled 'Enhancing regional co-operation mechanisms on marine pollution preparedness and response in the SACEP region'. One of the specific projects under this IMO/NORAD Cooperation Programme is aimed at assisting the South Asian Seas (SAS) region to develop a regional cooperation mechanism for marine pollution preparedness and response. The long-term objective of the project is the effective implementation of the OPRC Convention and the OPRC-HNS Protocol in South Asia region. The following activities have been carried out continuously since year 2012 under the MoU between IMO and SACEP.

The First Regional Meeting of the National Authorities Responsible for Oil Spill Preparedness and Response, was held in Colombo, Sri Lanka from 26-28 February 2014. Each of the five countries involved in the project were represented by a delegation comprising a minimum of three persons. These country delegations included key personnel from those Ministries or governmental agencies involved in oil spill preparedness and response issues i.e. the competent national authorities. In addition to the SACEP Secretariat, a number of international organizations, including the private sector, were represented at the meeting. This enabled the sharing of experiences from other regions, particularly during the technical symposium. 40 Participants were present in this meeting.

As per the recommendation of the Regional Meeting held in February 2014, the National Workshops were held in the five SASP member states during year 2014-2015. These national workshops were held with the objective of updating and finalizing the national oil and chemical spill contingency plan together with further recommendations for updating the SACEP Regional Oil and Chemical Spill Contingency Plan

The Regional Training & Exercise for Oil Spill Preparedness and Response under 'Enhancing Regional Co-operation Mechanisms on Marine Pollution Preparedness and Response in the SACEP Region' was held from 02 - 06 November 2015 in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

Regional Workshop for updating the Regional Oil and Chemical Spill Contingency Plan and its Annexes for South Asian Seas Region was held in Male', Maldives from 22-25 August, 2016 to finalize and consolidate the updates to the Regional Contingency Plan. The workshop also identified future training activities and developed a three-year programme of trainings and exercises to enhance regional capacity building in spill preparedness and response.

13. International Coastal Clean-up day

In the International Environment Calendar for each year, Saturday of 3rd week of September marks the International Coastal Cleanup Day, where events are organized to make the public aware of the growing problem of debris accumulated in coastal areas. Litter such as plastic bags, soda cans and broken glass are slow to degrade. Studies have shown that marine debris threatens over 265 different species of marine and coastal wildlife through entanglement, smothering, and interference with digestive systems. It is a problem that not only damages our marine and coastal ecosystems, but also affects the coastal tourism and public health.

In 1986, the Ocean Conservancy, an NGO ran its first Coastal Cleanup event in Texas, USA and in later years became the coordinating agency for the International Coastal Cleanup, helping to spread the concept to nations around the world. In year 2010 it celebrated the 25th year of the International Coastal Cleanup Day.

The International Coastal Cleanup engages people to remove trash and debris from the world's beaches and waterways, to identify the sources of debris and to change the behaviours that cause pollution.

Since 2006, SACEP has been organizing many activities to commemorate the Coastal Cleanup Day and informs the SASP member states regarding the activity which is held in the third week of September each year.

Also as decided at the 18th Global Meeting of the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans held in Seoul, Korea in October, 2016 and according to general circular of UNEP (UNEP/EA.2/Res.11; dated-4 August, 2016), Government of Sri Lanka has requested SACEP to prepare a joint project to implement UNEA resolution 2. Accordingly, SACEP prepared a project concept on '*Capacity Development for Marine Litters Management at National Level of South Asian Seas (SAS) Region*' which will be implemented jointly by the two island nations namely; Sri Lanka and Maldives by the coordination of SACEP.

14. National and a Regional Policy/Action Plan on Marine Litter

As a component of the Project entitled 'Global partnership on Marine Litter' of the UN Environment, under the Ecosystem Management Sub-programme SACEP has agreed to partnership to develop National and a Regional Policy/Action Plan on Marine Litter for the South Asian Seas Region. Under this activity at present the National status reports have been developed by the SAS member states and submitted to the Regional Consultant to develop the Regional Policy/Action Plan on Marine Litter. The objective of development of these National and the Regional Policy/Action Plan is to encourage member states to take appropriate measures to reduce volume of litter in the marine environment and to minimize at maximum level entering the marine environment, from sea and land-based sources in the South Asian Seas region.

Commemoration of the International Coastal Cleanup day of September 2017 was organized by SACEP in the SAS member states under this project. SACEP also has been encouraging the member states to adopt 3R Initiative to manage plastic litter through plastic re-cycling. In this regard, a Plastic Crusher Machine was displayed and demonstrated during the 'Beach Clean-up Day' organized by Government of Sri Lanka in September 2017. SACEP handover

the Plastic Crusher Machine to the Marine Environment Protection Authority (MEPA), Government of Sri Lanka.

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

As decided by the 13GC-SACEP a draft MoU has been exchanged between SACEP Secretariat and the Ramsar Secretariat to carry out capacity building activities among the South Asian countries for wise use of the regions wetlands. The MoU is yet to be finalized.

16. Institutional Matters

- Appointment of the Next Director General of SACEP
The matter is placed in detail under 'Agenda Item 07'.
- Appointment of the Senior Programme Officer – Regional of the South Asian Seas Programme (SASP)
Dr. Sivaji Patra, nominee of Government of India assumed duties as the Senior Programme Officer – Regional of the South Asian Seas Programme (SASP) on 1st October 2017 with an overlap of 14 days, in place of Mr. Pulakesh Mondal, nominee of Government of Bangladesh who completed his tenure of three years in October 2017.

For information.

17. Financial Matters

- Country Contributions of SACEP and SASP
 - a) Detailed information of the receipt and arrears of Country Contributions of South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP) from Year 2013 to 15 January 2018
Reference Document under Agenda Item 08
 - b) Detailed information of the receipt and arrears of Country Contributions South Asian Seas Programme (SASP) from Year 2012 to 15 January 2018
Reference Document under Agenda Item 08 – For information
- As per Article 9 (i) of the Articles of Association of South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP) the Host Country should provide 'Separate and distinctive offices for the Secretariat, and official residence for the Director General'.

In this regard under the direction of the Hon' President, H.E. Mr. Maithripala Sirisena, the Urban Development Authority informed SACEP Secretariat that a land has been allocated to SACEP in D. M. Colombage Mawatha, Colombo 06 and is in the process of finalizing the formalities.

The National Focal Point of SACEP of Government of Sri Lanka has intimated SACEP that during the 14th Meeting of the Governing Council of SACEP which is scheduled to

be held from 26 – 28 March 2018 will have the ‘Ground Breaking Ceremony of awarding the land to SACEP.

Reference Document under Agenda Item 08

DRAFT WORK PROGRAMME OF SACEP**YEAR 2018 - 2019**

		Funding Source
6.2.1	National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) Updating for South Asia	
	Funds are to be secured for Marine Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan updating under the South Asian Seas Programme to finalize the strategy.	UNEP
	Biodiversity for Food and Nutrition (BFN)	Proposal to be developed for GEF
6.2.2	Promoting Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) in South Asia	
	South Asia Forum on SCP	On-going (UNEP)
	Sustainable Public Procurement	Funds expected from UNEP to carryout activities
	Sustainable buildings policy dialogue	Funds expected from UNEP & other donors
	Sustainable Consumption Week in South Asia	
6.2.3	Waste Management	SACEP
	Side event and an Exhibit booth at the 3R Forum	
	Workshop on Supporting Capacity Development for Solid Waste Management in South Asian Countries	Proposal to be submitted to UNCRD or any other potential donors
6.2.4	Environmental Data and Information Management System for South Asia	With latest developments of such information systems by other organizations like "UNEP Live" which is available universally, it is not feasible to establish a new one
	To establish an Environmental Data Information Management System for South Asia	
	As per the request of UNEP-ROAP, SACEP has submitted a revised budget for the project. Pending since 10GC-SACEP	

DRAFT WORK PROGRAMME OF SACEP

YEAR 2018 - 2019

		Funding Source
6.2.5	<p>Malé Declaration on Control and Prevention of Air Pollution and Its Likely Transboundary Effects for South Asia</p> <p>To enable SACEP to deliver an effective co-ordination role in the implementation of the Malé Declaration, by becoming the secretariat of the Male Declaration and work with its member countries and donors to mobilize resources and make functional the monitoring center as well as thematic areas for action.</p>	Decision expected from 14GC-SACEP
6.2.6	<p>Environmentally Sustainable Transport (EST)</p> <p>Workshop on Capacity building of public sector, private sector and civil society stakeholder in SACEP member countries for sustainable energy and road transport policy, planning and implementation.</p>	Funds to be secured from UNCRD or anyother potential donors
6.2.7	Better Air Quality Conference (BAQ 2014)	Successfully Concluded
6.2.9	<p>Adaptation to Climate Change</p> <p>Workshop on Capacity Building, Awareness and Database Development on Adaptation to Climate Change in South Asia</p>	Funds to be secured from OPM, ACT
	Regional Knowledge Exchange Programme on Measurement Reporting and Verification of Nationally Determined Contributions To Adaptation	Funds to be secured from ACT/UNEP
	Regional training programme on Capacity Development for Adaptation to Climate Change through Climate-sensitive flood management in south Asia	Funds to be secured from IKI,UNEP

DRAFT WORK PROGRAMME OF SACEP**YEAR 2018 - 2019**

		Funding Source
6.2.10	Proposal for SACEP to be a GEF Project Agency GEF is evaluating the selected 11 agencies of the first call of applications and has not considered any agency from the Second call as decided originally.	Agenda Item to be removed
6.2.11	Regional Cooperation for the Conservation and Wise-use of Internationally Important Wetlands in South Asia MoU has been developed by SACEP and Ramsar Secretariat as directed by 13GC-SACEP	Parties are yet to sign the MoU
6.2.12	Establishment of Regional Clearing House Mechanism for South Asia	Successfully concluded
6.1.13	South Asian Seas Programme (SASP)	The on-going activities are presented in the Progress Report

The Biodiversity for Food and Nutrition (BFN) project in South Asia beyond 2018

The promise of biodiversity to improve diets and nutrition cannot be overstated, yet as its role is often neglected. The Biodiversity for Food and Nutrition Project—officially the *Mainstreaming Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Use for Improved Human Nutrition and Well-being* project, or *BFN project*, is a multi-country initiative with an ambitious goal to address this neglect, and to mainstream biodiversity conservation and use to improve nutrition in four countries: Kenya, Sri Lanka, Turkey, and Brazil. The Global Environment Facility (GEF), the world's largest public funder of international environmental projects supports the BFN project, which is executed and coordinated by Bioversity International, with implementation support from UN Environment and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. Since 2012, the project has made significant impacts in participating countries. BFN has established a substantial platform of knowledge, partnerships and capacity in each country to better promote biodiversity for improved diets and nutrition. The BFN project has also been instrumental in leading the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity's (CBD) *Cross-Cutting Initiative on Biodiversity for Food and Nutrition*.

BFN project outputs include the establishment of strong national research partnerships that have strengthened the evidence base for the value of edible biodiversity by generating nutritional information for 154 priority species, now available through national information systems. Using this knowledge base, the project has made good progress revising relevant national policies and developing national and international guidelines to support the mainstreaming of food biodiversity into nutrition, health and education programmes. Marketing opportunities for BFN have been developed, by promoting social entrepreneurs at the grassroots level (Sri Lanka), at the private sector level (Turkey) and by strengthening links with institutional markets including school meals programmes (Brazil, Kenya, Turkey). The engagement of the national projects in school programmes in particular is a very exciting development and has huge potential for scaling-up and replication.

This work is only the tip of the iceberg, there is much food biodiversity yet to be explored and evaluated. This current BFN project is due to finish in 2018. Given the ongoing diet-related public health and environmental problems the world faces and particularly the South Asia, there has never been a more critical time to continue these pilot efforts to mainstream biodiversity into national food security and nutrition efforts in other South Asian countries on a more regional scale.

SACEP recently sought partnership with Bioversity International to use the outcomes of the BFN project as hubs for replication and scaling up in other South Asian Countries. Both, SACEP and Bioversity International will work jointly to develop a full scale project to seek funding for implementation in other SACEP member countries.

Further Information:

- Flyer on Biodiversity for Food and Nutrition (Annex 1)
- Biodiversity for Food and Nutrition (BFN) Project: <http://www.b4fn.org/>

- CBD Cross Cutting Initiative on Biodiversity for Food and Nutrition: <https://www.cbd.int/agro/food-nutrition/default.shtml>
- Bioversity International: <https://www.bioversityinternational.org/>

Decision to be adopted

The 14th Meeting of the Governing Council of SACEP is requested to,

'Agree in principle to participate in BFN project and recommend SACEP Secretariat to prepare a complete project proposal including possible funding mechanism on promoting BFN approach in South Asian countries beyond 2018'.

Biodiversity for Food and Nutrition Initiative

Harnessing agricultural biodiversity to reduce hunger and malnutrition



Agricultural biodiversity, health and nutrition are vitally connected. The biological variety that exists among crops, animals and other organisms used for food and agriculture plays an important role in providing the diversity of nutrients needed for healthy growth and living. It can also provide a local solution to diet-related nutrition and health conditions, such as nutrient deficiencies and obesity, which are becoming a growing burden on already stretched health budgets and economies. Yet much of this diversity and traditional knowledge associated with it is disappearing.

The Global Environment Facility (GEF), the world's largest public funder of international environmental projects, is supporting the *Mainstreaming Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Use for Improved Nutrition and Well-Being** initiative led by Brazil, Kenya, Sri Lanka and Turkey. Bioversity International is coordinating the project with implementation support from the United Nations Environment Programme and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. Working in the four partner countries the project addresses declining diversity by:

1. PROVIDING EVIDENCE

Demonstrating the nutritional value of agricultural biodiversity and the role it plays in promoting healthy diets and strengthening livelihoods.

2. INFLUENCING POLICIES

Using the evidence generated from the project to influence policies, programmes and markets that support the conservation and sustainable use of agricultural biodiversity with nutrition potential for improved human nutrition and wellbeing.

3. RAISING AWARENESS

Developing tools, knowledge and best practices for scaling up the use of biodiversity for food and nutrition in development programmes, value chains and local community initiatives.

Main beneficiaries

Individuals, households and communities, especially women and children, will benefit from:

- improved nutrition
- improved linkages to markets and the contribution this will make to their livelihoods
- increased resilience of their farming systems and the sustainable utilization of agricultural biodiversity

Turkey

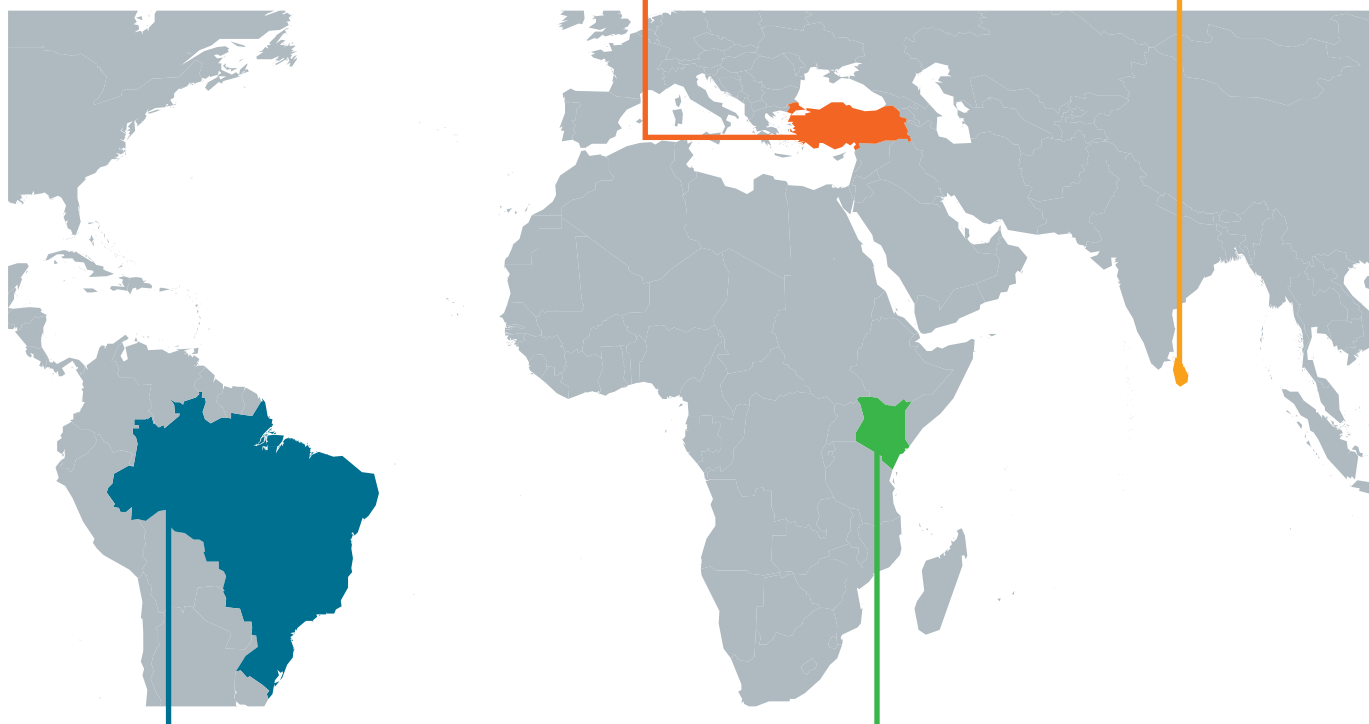
GATHERING EVIDENCE

- Nutrient composition of 40 wild edible greens from the Aegean, Black Sea and Mediterranean regions established.
- Extensive market surveys carried out in these areas confirm the consumption of wild edible plants, fruits and landraces still important in Turkish diets.
- Exploration of ways to scale out domestication and marketing of wild edibles.

Sri Lanka

RAISING AWARENESS OF TRADITIONAL VARIETIES:

- Food outlets opened in Kandy and Colombo promoting traditional foods
- First Traditional Food Fair held in Colombo in 2014.
- First International Symposium on Biodiversity, Food and Nutrition held in Colombo in 2014 to establish the links between agricultural biodiversity and dietary diversity.



Brazil

INFLUENCING POLICIES:

- Ministry of the Environment and Ministry of Planning engaged 32 government agencies and identified 23 priority actions to reverse biodiversity loss now embedded in the revision of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP).
- As a result, USD \$60 million pledged to protect biodiversity for food and nutrition in 2015.
- A target indicator on the 'number of species of Brazilian native biodiversity, included in food and nutritional security policies'.
- Scientific knowledge on the nutritional value of 70 native fruit species now informing public policies on nutrition, school feeding, family farming, food security and sustainable use of biodiversity.

Kenya

SCALING OUT BEST PRACTICES:

- Identification of best practices to promote biodiversity for food and nutrition. These include studying the effectiveness of home gardens, school gardens, school feeding programmes, food fairs and value addition as ways to promote traditional, nutrient-dense foods.
- Work carried out so far in Busia County, Western Kenya with potential to scale out identified best practices throughout the country.

Additional funds are being received from the four countries and from the international partners below to facilitate implementation and scaling up of activities.

For more information

Danny Hunter
d.hunter@cgiar.org
Tel. (39) 06 61181228
Fax. (39) 06 61979661
www.b4fn.org

Bioversity International

Via dei Tre Denari 472/a
00057 Maccarese (Fiumicino),
Rome - Italy
Tel. (39) 06 61181
Fax. (39) 06 6118402
www.biodiversityinternational.org



Convention on
Biological Diversity

The BFN Project contributes to the implementation of the
Convention on Biological Diversity's (CBD) Cross-Cutting Initiative
on Biodiversity for Food and Nutrition

Report of the 4th Meeting of the Governing Council of
South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme
26 – 28 March 2018, hosted by the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, held in Colombo, Sri Lanka



Strengthening of the South Asia Forum on SCP

Background

The 13th Governing Council of SACEP adopted decision No. 10.2.2 to promote Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) within policy-making mechanisms of the South Asian countries and 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.

1. South Asia Forum on SCP

Following on the implementation of the Decision 10.2.2 of 13th Governing Council of SACEP, as well as the Asia-Pacific Road map on SCP 2016-2018, the South Asia Forum on SCP was established jointly by SACEP and UN Environment with the financial support from SWITCH-Asia Regional Policy Support Component.

To discuss the preparation of the proposal for the South Asia Forum on Sustainable Consumption and Production, a sub-regional preparatory meeting was convened on 26 – 27 March 2015 in Negombo, Sri Lanka. The meeting was organized by SACEP Secretariat with the support of the UN Environment (UNEP), serving as the Secretariat of the Rio+20 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production (10YFP) and the EU funded and UNEP managed SWITCH-Asia Regional Policy Support Component. The country representatives discussed lengthy and agreed upon to establish the South Asia Forum with stipulated Goal, Objectives, Structure, Coordination Principles and Activities presented in the draft proposal (Annex 1). The draft proposal was approved by the 125th Meeting of the Consultative Committee SACEP on 17th July 2015 (Annex 2).

After a number of preparatory meetings and capacity building workshops organized jointly by SACEP and UN Environment, South Asia Forum on SCP was formally launched in 22 October 2016.

The objectives of the South Asia Forum on SCP are:

- a) To provide a venue for policy dialogue and collaboration on SCP national, sub-regional, and regional strategies, planning, and implementation, increasing the profile of SCP in national development planning and policymaking, in the context of the Post-2015 Sustainable Development Agenda;
- b) To meet annually to assess progress towards SCP and resource efficiency in South Asia, and propose policy priorities to address under the specific working groups of the forum in line with an annual prioritization exercise;
- c) To provide a venue for discussion on research and innovation for SCP that can support tailored, effective policy design and actions to effectively embed SCP in national and sub-regional governance and sharing of the experiences;
- d) To develop a South Asian resource pool and explore technical support services for governments and other stakeholders at national and regional level in a transition to SCP patterns;

- e) To encourage discussion on emerging issues on SCP, including the development of links with the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) and other regional bodies, to develop a South Asian community of practice on SCP in policymaking;

Since its formal launch on 22 October 2016, South Asia Forum on SCP has not been able to convene due to lack of funds as SWITCH-Asia Regional Policy Support Component 1 of UN Environment ended. Therefore, to keep this very important initiative alive, it is proposed to provide necessary fund from the SWITCH-Asia Regional Policy Support Component 2 of UN Environment.

2. Sustainable Public Procurement

Public procurement is the process of purchasing goods, services or works by the public sector from the private sector. The range of economic sectors concerned by public procurement is as wide as the needs of a government to properly function and deliver services to its citizens. Governments turn to the private sector to supply goods and services for the construction of schools, to purchase hospital supplies, to secure computer services in public buildings, renew a fleet of city buses, or construct a new road as it's indicated in the World Bank Doing Business 2017 report.

The World Trade Organization estimates the share of public procurement in GDP, globally to be between 10% and 15%, implying that public procurement is as used in middle-income and poor countries as in high-income ones. The high-income countries like the European Union calculates the average share of public procurement in the GDP of its 28 member states to be 16%. The OECD calculates share of public procurement in its 35 member countries as average 12% of GDP in 2015. Across regions, South Asia has the highest share of public procurement in GDP, at 19.3%.

(<http://blogs.worldbank.org/governance/public-procurement-rich-country-s-policy>).

Sustainable Public Procurement (SPP) is a process by which public authorities seek to achieve the appropriate balance between the three pillars of sustainable development - economic, social and environmental - when procuring goods, services or works at all stages of the project.

At present in the South Asian countries, the acquisition of works, goods and services has mostly been based on two criteria, price and quality, with a view to maximising economic benefits for the procuring organization.

The South Asia Forum on SCP which was launched in 22 October 2016 identified SPP as one of the priority areas needs to include into the work plan of the South Asia Forum on SCP for coming years.

3. Sustainable Buildings Policy dialogue

The building sector has a major impact on the economic and social aspects of human activities, providing shelter, work places, and spaces for commerce and

leisure. However, buildings also put a tremendous strain on our environment. Globally, buildings are responsible for approximately 40% of energy use, more than 30% of materials use and 20% of water use. In addition, 30% of solid waste and 20% of wastewater are generated by buildings.

With regard to material use, material flow analyses for some countries show that the construction sector accounts for between one-third and one-half of commodity flows when expressed in terms of weight. Consequently, there has been a considerable amount of construction and demolition waste generated from building activities. In addition to the impacts associated with the construction of buildings, there are also social and environmental impacts from building use. The building sector is also the source of more than 30% of global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, being therefore a crucial sector to address to combat climate change. Health problems resulting from indoor air pollution have become one of the most acute environmental problems related to building activities.

Sustainable buildings have a reduced or positive impact on the natural environment, and can deliver important social benefits as well. In addition to improving human well-being, comfort and health, sustainable buildings can generate new economic opportunities, support the creation of green jobs, and promote innovation in the sector.

Under such circumstances, the impact of the building sector on environment could be reduced significantly by improving the design of environmental policies for the sector. The aim of this activity is to establish a dialogue among countries to discuss policy design for the construction sector by identifying the scope for improvement in the sector's environmental performance and barriers to such improvements.

4. Sustainable Consumption week for low carbon lifestyles in South Asia

Sustainable Consumption and Production is about promoting resource and energy efficiency, sustainable infrastructure, and providing access to basic services, green and decent jobs and a better quality of life for all. Its implementation helps to achieve overall development plans, reduce future economic, environmental and social costs, strengthen economic competitiveness and reduce poverty.

Promoting sustainable consumption and production are important aspects of sustainable development, which depends on achieving long-term economic growth that is consistent with environmental and social needs. Most government policies in this area focus on stemming the environmental impacts of unsustainable industrial production practices, primarily through regulations and taxes. Promoting sustainable consumption is equally important to limit negative environmental and social externalities as well as to provide markets for sustainable products.

Declaring a Sustainable Consumption Week annually in South Asia would facilitate the creation of awareness among wider spectrum of society in a coordinated and effective manner using several tools to reach to the all levels.

Recently, UN Environment also proposed to have a Sustainable Consumption Week in Asia and also a number of individual countries have implemented it as a single event, but not declared as an annual event. This proposed Sustainable Consumption Week would consist a number of activities such as school programmes, poster and essay competitions, consumer awareness programmes with the participation of government, private sector and civil society organizations. Main function will be held in each country with the partnership and participation of Ministry of Environment of each country, annually to mark the importance of Sustainable Consumption and production.

Exact week of the year and the modalities to organize such event will be worked out in consultation of the member countries of SACEP. Currently, South Asian Seas Programme which is under the umbrella of SACEP is implementing similar activity to celebrate the International Coastal Cleanup Day and the experience gained and lessons learned from that activity could be made use of in developing the modalities to hold a Sustainable Consumption Week.

Decision to be adopted

14th Meeting of the Governing Council of SACEP is requested to,

‘Appreciate the SACEP Secretariat’s efforts in implementing activities in relation to the Sustainable Consumption and Production in South Asia and the support extended by the UN Environment, and to recommend SACEP Secretariat to take necessary steps to implement following activities:

- 1. Convene the South Asia Forum on SCP on regular intervals as stipulated in the approved modalities.*
- 2. Sub-regional policy dialogue on Sustainable Public Procurement (SPP) to exchange experiences to date, necessary training and industry roundtable.*
- 3. Sustainable buildings policy dialogue, training and industry roundtable.*
- 4. Sustainable Consumption Week in South Asia*

Invite UN Environment to be a partner with SACEP and assist with financial and technical resources in implementing these activities.

Also request other bilateral and multilateral donors to support these important activities’

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GC Decision No	Description	Actions Taken	Status
10.2.2	<p>Promoting Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) in South Asia</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>UNEP agreed with SACEP's proposal to Establish a South Asia Forum on SCP; organize a SCP policy dialogue; training on SCP indicators; organize SCP leadership programme; and training on, on-line tool on SCP.</p> <p>The Forum was scheduled to be held from 30 - 31 October 2014. As confirmation of participation of some of the member states were not received on time, the Forum was postponed.</p> <p>It was held from 26-27 February 2015 and Rio+20 10-Year Framework of Programmes on SCP (10YFP) Training for South Asia was held from 27-28 February 2015 in Negombo, Sri Lanka</p> <p>The proposal on modalities for establishment of the South Asia Forum on SCP is concluded.</p>	<p>Considering the decision No. 10.2.2 of 13th Meeting of the Governing Council of SACEP that 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 and the recommendation of the Regional Meeting on South Asia Forum on Sustainable Consumption and Production held in 26 - 27 February 2015 at Negombo, Sri Lanka, the 125th Meeting of the Consultative Committee of SACEP approved the proposal on modalities for establishment of the South Asia Forum on SCP.</p>



Secretariat

switchasia
POLICY SUPPORT

Establishment of the South Asia Forum on Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP)

PROPOSAL

I. Overview

South Asia, home to a quarter of the world's middle-class consumers, has experienced a long period of robust economic growth, averaging 6 per cent over the past 20 years.¹ This strong growth has translated into declining poverty and sustainable development gains. South Asia is a diverse region home to about 1.64 billion people (24% of the world's population) experiencing a demographic dividend.² While the sub-region is expected to reach its population peak by 2030, continued population growth, paired with increases in production and household consumption from increasing economic prosperity will also place increased pressure on the environment, making the need to shift towards resource efficiency and SCP an imperative for South Asia's Post-2015 Sustainable Development Agenda (SADA).

Today, the region is at a crossroads, poised to integrate sustainability to ensure a more resource efficient growth path for its countries. In accordance with the 2013 SACEP Governing Council Decision 10.2.2 to promote SCP within policymaking mechanisms of South Asian countries, a proposal is put forward to the SACEP Governing Council for the establishment of a South Asia Forum on SCP to serve as a regional policy platform.

There is a need to strengthen regional cooperation to promote SCP within policymaking mechanisms of South Asian countries by developing a strategy on SCP forwarded by SACEP secretariat through the establishment of the South Asia Forum on SCP.

To discuss the preparation of the proposal for a South Asia Forum on Sustainable Consumption and Production, a sub-regional preparatory meeting was convened last 26 – 27 March 2015 in Negombo, Sri Lanka. The meeting was organized by SACEP Secretariat with the support of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), serving as the Secretariat of the Rio+20 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production (10YFP) and the EU funded and UNEP managed SWITCH-Asia Regional Policy Support Component. The objective of establishing the policy platform is to build knowledge and networks for South Asian policy makers and stakeholders on how SCP policies can support sustainable development and continued growth for the expanding consumer and producer base in South Asian countries. This is also in line with the implementation of the Asia-Pacific Roadmap of the 10YFP on SCP.³

¹ World Bank. South Asia Overview, 2014. Online at: <http://www.worldbank.org/en/region/sar/overview#1>

² *The Future of South Asia: Population Dynamics, Economic Prospects, and Regional Coherence*. Harvard University PGDA Working Paper Series No. 68, Bloom & Rosenberg. Feb. 2011. Online at: http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/program-on-the-global-demography-of-aging/WorkingPapers/2011/PGDA_WP_68.pdf

³ The 2014-2015 10YFP Roadmap for the Asia-Pacific Region states the following as one of the agreed priority activities for SCP in the region: "Establish a South-Asia Forum on SCP: Develop a roadmap for the establishment of the South Asia Forum on SCP, organise a launching workshop and prepared a PoW for the Forum." (Page 20, Online at: <http://www.unep.org/10yfp/Activities/RegionalActivities/AsiaandthePacific/tabid/106473/Default.aspx>)

II. Proposed South Asia SCP Cooperation Mechanism: Goal, Objectives, Structure and Activities of the South Asia Forum on SCP

The preparatory meeting with SACEP member states representatives, partners such as SAARC and supporting institutions such as UNEP agreed to establish the South Asia Forum on SCP and agreed for SACEP to come up with the proposal based on the suggestions in the meeting on the modalities of the Forum and possible priority areas as discussed.

To get started, SACEP led the development of the proposal on the establishment of the South Asia Forum based on suggestions in the meeting and through a consultative process.

The meeting report that was circulated for feedback and comments is basis of this proposal put forward to the SACEP Governing Council for final decision-making.

UNEP and other possible UN and regional agencies/organizations in consultation with SACEP agree to provide Technical Support Services to the forum with specific consideration to be defined. The current funding is available from the EU-funded SWITCH-Asia Programme until 2020 and afterwards as well through future funding possibilities from SDG Goal 12 framework.

A. Objectives of the South Asia Forum on SCP

1. Proposed Goal

To become a sub – regional network and partnership in providing leadership and strengthen partnerships to stimulate the promotion and implementation of sustainable consumption and production policies, strategies and technologies in the region.

2. Proposed objectives

- a. To provide a venue for policy dialogue and collaboration on SCP national, sub-regional, and regional strategies, planning, and implementation, increasing the profile of SCP in national development planning and policymaking, in the context of the Post-2015 Sustainable Development Agenda;
- b. To meet annually to assess progress towards SCP and resource efficiency in South Asia, and propose policy priorities to address under the specific working groups of the forum in line with an annual prioritization exercise;
- c. To provide a venue for discussion on research and innovation for SCP that can support tailored, effective policy design and actions to effectively embed SCP in national and sub-regional governance and sharing of the experiences;
- d. To develop a South Asian resource pool and explore technical support services for governments and other stakeholders at national and regional level in a transition to SCP patterns;
- e. To encourage discussion on emerging issues on SCP, including the development of links with the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) and other regional bodies, to develop a South Asian community of practice on SCP in policymaking;

3. Proposed Coordination Principles

The Governing Council of SACEP adopted the decision to come up with SCP principles in the region. This is the basis in the policy level and for the forum to be the platform to accomplish this. SWITCH



Asia also established the needs assessment for the countries where some country work programs were based on but not yet done in South Asia.

The proposed coordination principles and mechanisms of the South Asia Forum on SCP are as follows:

- a. The Forum will be a voluntary initiative.
- b. The Forum will consist of government representatives as members of the forum with engagement from relevant non-governmental stakeholders and international institutions as advisers of the forum.
- c. With the SACEP Governing Council providing the mandate on establishing the South Asia Forum, the Forum will be led by the SACEP Secretariat with the support consist of government participation and with engagement from relevant non-governmental stakeholders. The Forum will report to the Governing Council the progress of the forum.
- d. UNEP in consultation with SACEP agree to provide Technical Support Services to the Forum, with specific considerations to be defined.

Further consultation will be conducted regarding the operational mechanism of the Forum with members of the Forum as there is a need to further discuss the structure and scope of the Forum and to ensure that there is proper engagement of stakeholders through a consultative process approach and through access to participation. Further consultation will also be conducted to determine mechanisms on strengthening SACEP to facilitate the South Asia Forum on SCP in terms of human resource and resource mobilization, collaboration between SACEP and SAARC to avoid overlap of activities.

4. Identified SCP Policy Priorities and Programs

a. Policy Dialogue

Suggestions include an annual meeting of Forum members and a Policy Dialogue under SACEP (annual or bi-annual). This will be organized in consultation with countries, SAARC, and other partners. This is a process to get feedback from member states as well as to create greater knowledge networking on country activities for SCP. This can be done through the EU Funded and UNEP managed SWITCH Asia RPSC and the 10YFP Global SCP Clearinghouse to learn and exchange practices through a working group for South Asia managed by SACEP and the 10YFP. Suggestion for SACEP to Co-Chair the Forum with its member countries. Co-Chair from member country will be on a rotation basis and to host the forum annually, giving a member state the host role to lead the forum during that year

b. Research

The priority research and topics identified for further study to advance SCP in South Asia and knowledge sharing activities in collaboration with SACEP member states and prospective partners such as SAARC are as follows:

- National factsheets on SCP, including review of the status on consumption and production patterns, in line with UNEP South Asia State of the Environment Reports and the Sustainable Development Goals. National Assessments can contribute to the objectives of the Forum. Studies can be conducted on how the concept of SCP is aligned with their national development strategy and how to be able to influence sectors.
- Development and Publishing of Studies on Policy Priorities as expressed by member



countries and policy priority areas in the Post 2015 South Asia Development Agenda Report. Priority topics also requested are as follows: research on indigenous practices and SCP, climate change impacts including vulnerability assessments, and SCP Indicator Data Sets.

c. Capacity building and Technical Assistance

The South Asia Forum on SCP could be the platform for capacity building and technical assistance, providing policy support on mainstreaming SCP in national policies, and dovetailing these activities in the main processes of the government. Training programs are suggested for government decision makers on line function and from national, provincial and local level.

Engagement of government with the private sector and NGOs in the national and local level in these activities was emphasized such as involvement with the National Cleaner Production Centre to institutionalize knowledge to the private sector. It is important to have access to the network for expertise for these trainings.

Consensus on common issues will be addressed in the South Asia Forum collaboratively. Topics for the proposed training programs will be submitted in consultation with member states and partners. Specific recommendations were suggested particularly:

- Capacity building on the use of SCP tools and platforms to share experiences and knowledge exchange on best practices;
- Technical assistance such as providing comprehensive guidelines on mainstreaming SCP in national policies, strengthening national and regional SCP indicator system, and providing strategic environmental assessment and policy support for National SCP plan;

d. Awareness Raising, Communication, and Education on SCP

Awareness-raising for the youth on SCP is important for behavioral change thus, suggestions were put forward as follows:

- SCP to be introduced in academic syllabus
- Online courses for South Asia can be explored and conducting the Winter/Summer School on SCP in the sub-regional level;

e. Cooperation

There was recommendation to share and participate in key activities of SACEP, SAARC, National Focal points and other partners in the region. Information sharing was also recommended to share best practices on SCP from public and private sectors. Specific events to for South Asia Forum on SCP to have a back to back event are as follows:

- 12th Asia Pacific Roundtable on SCP (APRSCP) could be a platform for engagement of key stakeholders (Policy makers, academics, private sector and NGOs) for information exchange, sharing of best practices, and collaboration opportunities from the sub-regional level through the collaboration of South Asia Forum and ASEAN Forum on SCP;
- Involvement of youth and students in key activities (school engagement);
- Important to have coordination in the national level within and between each member state and also coordination between SAARC and SACEP to factor in SCP in key activities;
- Side event during SACEP conference/Governing Council.



Secretariat



Further discussion will be conducted on modalities of the South Asia Forum on SCP among SACEP member states and partners.

f. Key Sector Priorities identified

- Green/Sustainable Public Procurement
- Sustainable Tourism
- Sustainable Transport
- Sustainable Building and Construction
- Improving Land use policies and Zoning Urban Policies
- 3Rs and waste management
- Cleaner Production
- Green labelling
- Consumer awareness / education
- Agriculture
- Private sector practices enhancement

Proposed Partners of South Asia Forum on SCP:

Sub-regional cooperation could be pursued such as policy dialogues and capacity building on priority areas in the Region and how financial and technical support can be mobilized.

Engagement of other partners and key stakeholders are welcome in the process to give a good structure on that. UNEP, in collaboration with UN Agencies, are willing to provide support to the sub-region to fill the basic gaps, share best practices and provide the building blocks on SCP. The EU-funded and UNEP managed SWITCH-Asia Regional Policy Support Component (RPSC) Programme together with the 10 Year Framework of Programme (10YFP) on SCP through its Secretariat under UNEP could provide sub-regional support on the establishment of the South Asia Forum on SCP.



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Annex 2

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Annex 8
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Annex 1: The following were identified as SCP Policy Priorities and Programs for Cooperation in South Asia by Country representatives during Session 5 of the meeting and follow up with countries for further deliberation.

*** FOR FURTHER CONSULTATIONS WITH COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVES TO IDENTIFY MAIN PRIORITIES AND PROGRAMS.**

	Afghanistan	Bangladesh	Bhutan	Maldives	Nepal	Pakistan	Sri Lanka	India (TBD)	Observers
1. Organizational Structure <i>Strengthening support for regional implementation of the South Asia forum on SCP.</i>									
• Strengthening SACEP to facilitate the South Asia Forum on SCP in terms of human resource and resource mobilization				X	X	X			
• Ensure collaboration between SACEP and SAARC to avoid overlap of activities					X	X			
• To formalize the South Asia Forum, decision to go through SACEP's governing council.			X						
• SACEP to provide proposals on key priorities.			X						
• Role of SACEP to provide a regional program with a programmatic approach supporting SCP		X	X			X			
Identified SCP Policy Priorities and Programs	Afghanistan	Bangladesh	Bhutan	Maldives	Nepal	Pakistan	Sri Lanka	Observers	Observers
2. Capacity Building and Policy Dialogue									
• Policy Support to provide comprehensive guidelines on mainstreaming SCP in national policies			X	X					
• Consensus on common issues that has to be addressed in South Asia collaboratively					X				
• Technology Transfer					X				
• Capacity Building on use of SCP Tools					X				
• Strengthened the national and regional SCP indicator system							X		
• Strategic environmental assessment						X			
• Policy support for National SCP plan		X							



3. Research and Knowledge Sharing	Afghanistan	Bangladesh	Bhutan	Maldives	Nepal	Pakistan	Sri Lanka	Observers
• SACEP to develop a tool or lens to facilitate a concept paper to review policies with SCP perspective					X			
• Collaboration between SACEP and SAARC for information sharing taking it down on the national level.			X					
4. Awareness Raising, Communication, and Education on SCP								
• Increased awareness for government decision-makers			X			X		
• SCP to be introduced in academic syllabus				X	X			
• Sharing experience, and networking among Ministries to increase Public Awareness and for knowledge exchange – best practice sharing	X				X			
5. Key Sector Priorities								
• Green/Sustainable Public Procurement		X	X	X	X			
• Sustainable Tourism			X	X	X			
• Sustainable Transport							X	
• Sustainable Building and Construction							X	
• Improving Land use policies and Zoning Urban Policies							X	
• 3Rs and waste management	X				X		X	
• Cleaner Production	X			X				
• Consumer awareness / education					X	X		
• Agriculture					X			
• Private sector practices enhancement						X		
6. Other Issues								
• Gender Mainstreaming in key SCP areas (Agriculture and Tourism)								X
• Resource mobilization for SCP work				X				

Waste Management

Rapid population growth and uncontrolled industrial development are seriously degrading the urban environment in many countries in South Asia. One of the most serious environmental consequences of the process of urbanization is the ever-growing amount of solid and liquid wastes generated by cities in the countries of South Asia.

In many cities in the region, solid waste collection is inadequate and poor. Significant amount of solid waste generated in urban centers are left uncollected in streets, dumped in vacant lands, drains, surface water and marshy areas and burnt in the open air. Waste that is collected is mainly disposed off, in open dump sites, many of which are not properly operated & maintained, thereby has become a serious threat to public health.

The countries of South Asian Region generates approximately 70 million tonnes of waste per year with an average per capita waste generation values ranging from 0.12 to 5.1 kg per person per day and 70% of this waste is biodegradable and is characterized by high density and a low caloric values.

Even though the local authorities in South-Asia spend an estimated 50-70% of their revenues on waste management, the waste collection rates in the region is typically low (50%-60%).

Programme Activates

- **SACEP would be organizing a Side Event and an Exhibit booth during the 3R Forum on 10th April 2018, in Indore, Madhya Pradesh, India, on the topic: 'Recycling of land based Marine Litter: Challenges and Opportunities in South Asia Region'.**

The scheduled side event will broadly discuss the Challenges and Opportunities the SACEP/SASP member countries of South Asia are facing with regard to recycling of land based Marine Litter in a panel discussion. In particular, panelists will showcase successful stories and case studies where the Governments of South Asia have worked together in achieving the international objectives of 3R practices by embedding the circular economy thinking to recycling waste to overhaul of the linear, take-make-waste patterns of production and consumption in their countries.

- **Workshop on Supporting Capacity Development for Solid Waste Management in South Asian Countries**

In many developing countries and cities there is a lack of capacity to strengthen policies and institutional Framework to promote transfer and adaptation of technologies related to waste management. All these processes require exchange, guidance, and assistance through international partnerships, including public-private partnership. 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.

SACEP expects to secure funds from UNCRD (under International Partnership for Expanding Waste Management Services of Local Authorities (IPLA) /3R initiative) or from any other potential donor to initiate the above in South Asia Region.

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

Air pollution is a major problem that has been recognized throughout the world for hundreds of years. It is a major environmental health problem affecting everyone in both developed and developing countries in the world.

The level and nature of air pollution in any country has implications for the economy of that country as well as neighboring countries, owing to the trans-boundary nature of air pollution. To cope with the issue of Transboundary Air Pollution, 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 7th Governing Council of SACEP held in Malé, Republic of Maldives. It is the only Inter-government environmental agreement covering all the countries of South Asia.

The main objective of the Malé Declaration programme is 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 Transboundary and shared air pollution problems at national and regional levels.

This initiative was initially funded by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) as part of the Regional Air Pollution in Developing countries (RAPIDC) programme. After SIDA stopped funding the Declaration is dependent upon the financial contribution from the member countries for its budgetary requirements. However the financial contribution of member countries is not adequate to meet the financial implications for enhanced interaction amongst member countries, strengthening monitoring activities and other technical/scientific activities such as impact assessment studies including health impact, modelling exercises, preparation of emission inventory leaving aside initiating new activities and this has resulted in the monitoring systems established in the previous phases now lying idle for the past so many years due to non-performance of Malé Declaration.

Therefore, it is extremely important that the ownership of the Malé Declaration should be kept within the region and SACEP being an intergovernmental organization of the countries of the South Asian Region needs to play an active and meaningful role in the implementation of the Malé Declaration.

Since it is basically an initiative taken by the Honorable Ministers of the member countries at the 7th Governing Council of SACEP, we request the 14th Meeting of the Governing Council to enable SACEP to deliver an effective co-ordination role in the implementation of the Malé Declaration, by becoming the secretariat of the Malé Declaration and work with its member countries and donors to mobilize resources and make functional the monitoring center as well as thematic areas for action.

Environmentally Sustainable Transport (EST)

Achieving Environmentally Sustainable Transport is a major challenge faced by countries around the world. In particular, South Asian countries are coping up with transport-related environmental problems such as traffic congestion, inefficient energy use, as well as, air, water and noise pollution, stemming from the rapid economic growth. These transport related environmental issues are not isolated issues peculiar to the transport sector, but rather overlap with issues of urban activities and land use.

The need to establish clear environmental goals that are appropriate to local circumstances was found necessary and recognizing need for South Asia. In 2008 the United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD) and SACEP proposed to work together to promote EST in South Asia and a MoU was signed between the two organizations. As a result of the MoU, the SACEP member states participated in all the Regional Environmentally Sustainable Transport (EST) Forums in Asia actively and also SACEP along with UNCRD conducted a Sub-Regional EST Training Workshop-cum-Policy Dialogue in South Asia in 2011.

Proposed Activity

Workshop on Capacity building of public sector, private sector and civil society stakeholder in SACEP member countries for sustainable energy and road transport policy, planning and implementation.

1) objectives and targets;

- To review the existing policy, strategies, programme and legal framework of the sustainable energy in transport sector in SACEP member countries in South Asia.
- To identify policy, planning and legal institutional gaps in sustainable energy in transport sector.
- To identify capacity building needs in public sector, private sector and civil society organizations in sustainable energy in transport sector.
- To develop and implement capacity building interventions in sustainable energy in transport sector at regional and national level.
- To develop and implement awareness raising campaign in sustainable energy in transport sector using ICT.
- To develop data base management system at national and sub-regional level on sustainable energy in transport sector
- To undertake a sustainable energy in transport model in each member country in consultation with the relevant agencies.

2) Target Beneficiaries;

- Public sector stakeholders in eight SACEP member countries
- Civil Society and local community eight SACEP member countries
- Private sector eight SACEP member countries
- Public/citizens at large eight SACEP member countries
- Sub-regional stakeholders
- Global institutions and relevant global community
- Research, Academia, students and scholars
- Repository of data on sustainable energy and transport for reference

The proposed interventions will be shared with the concerned officers in the member countries in a consultative workshop and the final recommendations will be incorporated in the sustainable energy and transport policy and plans in the SACEP member countries. These policy and planning interventions will be placed before the next meeting of the Governing Council for ratification.

SACEP forwarded the above proposal to UN DESA Energy Grant 2016 ‘Powering the Future We Want, under the theme ‘Energy for sustainable transport’ and is currently exploring possible funding from other potential donors.

Project Proposal

Capacity building of public sector, private sector and civil society stakeholder in SACEP member countries for sustainable energy and road transport policy, planning and implementation.

Summary of proposal

The proposed project will review and assess the existing public sector policy and planning and implementation of the sustainable energy and transport in SACEP member countries and identify institutional and professional gaps using SWOT analysis or PSR Framework analysis. The gaps identified will be classified and prioritized in short, medium and long term objectives of the proposed project for each required activities to fill such gap. The activities will be organized into a work plan indicating budget and means of implementing them thereby deriving out-put for each of the activity. The hard core activities will be implemented by the SACEP member countries through selected modeling and with a view to build capacity of the relevant professional working in the thematic areas in policy, planning and implementation professional, SACEP will undertake dedicated capacity building programmes at national and regional levels in South Asia. In addition, an extensive enhanced awareness raising programme will be initiated using ICT and other communication means like the emerging social media, dedicated blogs and audio-video channels. The proposed interventions will be shared with the concerned officers in the member countries in a consultative workshop and the final recommendations will be incorporated in the sustainable energy and transport policy and plans in the SACEP member countries. These policy and planning interventions will be placed before the SACEP Governing Council for ratification. After approval by the GC, the recommendation will be shared with the member states for incorporation in the national policy and plans besides figuring ways and means for their implementation at Regional and National level. SACEP will keep on engaging the member states on long term beyond the project period aiming at sustainability of the proposed project interventions using the SACEP intergovernmental institutional arrangements.

The critical conditions needed for success of the proposed initiatives are:

1. Policy planning at legal institutional interventions related to sustainable energy and transport in SACEP member states.
2. Identification of existing policy, planning, legal and institutional gaps using PSR or SWOT analysis.
3. Capacity building of the institutional stakeholders in public, civil society and private sectors are the most important and critical requirements for the successful intervention.
4. Identification of objectives and activities to address the weaknesses and remove threats being faced by the policy and planning institutions.
5. Provisions of the required financial and technical resources for achieving the objectives and out-put of the proposed interventions.

2) Target Beneficiaries;

- Public sector stakeholders in eight SACEP member countries
- Civil Society and local community eight SACEP member countries
- Private sector eight SACEP member countries
- Public/citizens at large eight SACEP member countries
- Sub-regional stakeholders
- Global institutions and relevant global community
- Research , Academia , students and scholars
- Repository of data on sustainable energy and transport for reference

3) Activities, expected accomplishments and indicators;

Component-1: Project Personnel

- 1.1 National Project Consultant (NPC)
- 1.2 International Project Consultant (IPC)
- 1.3 Regional Project Coordinator (RPC)
- 1.4 Data base management consultant
- 1.5 ICT software expert

Component-2: Capacity Development

- 2.1 Review policy, plans and legal framework and undertake PSR/SWOT analysis of public sector institutions in SACEP member countries
- 2.2 Review national ICT capacity
- 2.3 Review regional (SACEP) ICT capacity
- 2.4 Exchange visits among member countries

Component-3: Training and workshop

- 3.1 Develop modules and guideline for sustainable energy training
- 3.2 National Technical Training programmes in eight SACEP member countries
- 3.3 Regional workshops at SACEP
- 3.4 National and regional ICT Training

Component-4: Awareness raising

- 4.1 Social media and dedicated blog/video channel/Radio progress/Television progress
- 4.2 Rally and seminars on International Environment Days in member countries

Component-5: Data Base Management

- 5.1 Data base management system in Member countries
- 5.2 Data base management system in SACEP

Component-6: Modelling of sustainable Energy in Transport

- 6.1 Demonstration of sustainable energy and transport model at regional level country specific modelling interventions will be undertaken in each of the SACEP member country

4.) Monitoring and Evaluation

SACEP will implement the proposed project in close cooperation, support and partnership with the member countries, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Pakistan, Nepal and Sri Lanka. A project management unit will be established in SACEP to implement the project activities. The SACEP Programme Officer dealing with Energy and Transport will act as the Regional Project Coordinator (RPC) at regional level under regular supervision of the DG, SACEP. At national level the SACEP focal points will act as the National Project Coordinator (NPC) under supervision of the SACEP focal point. The strategic decision regarding the proposed project will also be discussed at the SACEP Governing Council (GC) and Consultative Committee (CC) meetings. SACEP will also coordinate and supervise the activities and will be responsible for audit/account and reporting to the appropriate designated project/donor authorities. Monitoring and evaluation of the project activities will be undertaken periodically as per project cycle and both internal and external audit will be regularly undertaken for the proposed project and reported to donor and other stakeholders. Mid-term and final evaluation of the proposed project will help in sustainability and follow-up of the project interventions by member countries through a comprehensive exit strategy.

Time Frame

	Activity	1st Year				2nd Year				3rd Year					
		1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter		
Component-1: Project Personnel															
	1.1. National Project Consultant (NPC)	X													
	1.2. International Project Consultant (IPC)	X													
	1.3.Regional Project Coordinator (RPC)	X													
	1.4.Data base management consultant	X													
	1.5.ICT software expert	X													
	1.6. Project procurements	X													
Component-2: Institutional Development															
	2.1.Review policy, plans and legal framework and undertake PSR/SWOT analysis of public sector institutions in SACEP member countries and implementation		X	X	X										
	2.2.Review of national ICT capacity and implementation		X	X	X										
	2.3.Review of regional (SACEP) ICT capacity & implementation		X	X	X										
	2.4.Exchange visits among member countries					X	X								
Component-3: Training and workshop															
	3.1.Develop modules and guideline for sustainable energy training				X	X	X								
	3.2.National Technical Training programmes in eight SACEP member countries				X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	3.3.Regional workshops at SACEP														
	3.4.National and regional ICT Training				X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Component-4: Awareness raising															
	4.1.Social media and dedicated blog/video channel/Radio progress/Television progress		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	4.2. Reporting														
	4.3 Monitoring & Evaluation/Exist strategy						X	X					X	X	X
	4.4 GC resolution				X								X		X
Component-5 : Data Base Management system															
	5.1 - Database management system's at national level		X	X	X	X									
	5.2 Date Base Management systems at regional level					X	X	X	X						

Summary of budget break up

Sl. No.	Item	Total Project Cost (US\$)			
		Unit	Quantity	Unit cost (US\$)	Total Cost (US\$)
Component-1: Project Personnel					
1.1	National Project Coordinator (NPC). SACEP member countries will bear this cost.	Man months	288	1,000.00	288,000.00
1.2	International Project Consultant (IPC), Project proponent will bear the cost.	Man months	36	2,000.00	72,000.00
1.3	Regional Project Coordinator(RPC). SACEP will bear this cost	Man months	36	2,000.00	72,000.00
1.4	Data base management consultant, Project proponent will bear the cost.	Man months	36	1,000.00	36,000.00
1.5	ICT software expert, Project proponent will bear the cost.	Man months	36	1,000.00	36,000.00
	(a) Sub Total , SACEP member countries contribution				288,000.00
	(b) Sub Total, SACEP contribution				72,000.00
	(c) Sub Total, Project proponent contribution				144,000.00
Total, a+b+c					504,000.00
Component-2: Institutional Development					
2.1	Policy, Planning and implementation capacity building at national and regional level	No.	9	10,000.00	90,000.00
2.2	ICT capacity building at national level	No.	8	5,000.00	40,000.00
2.3	ICT capacity building at regional level (SACEP)	No.	1	5,000.00	5,000.00
2.4	Exchange visit	No.	3	20,000.00	60,000.00
(2) Sub Total, Project proponent contribution					195,000.00
Component-3: Training and workshop					
3.1	National Technical Training programmes in eight SACEP member countries	No.	8	10,000.00	80,000.00
3.2	Regional workshops at SACEP	No.	1	80,000	80,000.00
3.3	National and regional ICT Training	No.	9	10,000.00	90,000.00
(3) Sub Total					250,000.00
Component-4: Awareness Raising					
4.1	Social media and dedicated blog/video channel/Radio progress/Television progress at regional level	No.	1	30,000.00	30,000.00
4.2	Rally and seminars on International Environment Days in member countries at regional level	No.	9	10,000.00	90,000.00
(4) Sub Total					120,000.00
Component-5: Data Base Management					
5.2	Data base management system at SACEP	No.	1	40,000.00	40,000.00
5 (5) Sub Total					40,000.00
Component-6: Modelling of sustainable Energy in Transport					
6.1	Demonstration of interventions at regional level	No	2	57,500.00	115,000.00
(6) Sub total					115,000.00
Component-7 Expendable Procurement for SACEP secretariat					
7.1	Laptop computer	No.	3	1,000.00	3,000.00
7.2	Lesser Printer	No.	3	500	1,500.00
7.3	Digital camera, high resolution	No.	1	1,500.00	1,500.00
7.4	video camera high resolution	No.	1	2,500.00	2,500.00
(7) Sub Total					8,500.00
Component -8 : General operating cost for SACEP					
8.1	Photocopy, printing, mail/post,	LS	LS	2,000.00	2,000.00
8.2	Contingency	LS	LS	2,000.00	2,000.00
8.3	Rent of Building, SACEP will bear the cost	LS	LS	15,000.00	15,000.00
8.4	Transportation cost, SACEP will bear the cost	LS	LS	20,000.00	20,000.00
(8) Sub Total					39,000.00
8	(8) Total cost (1+2+3+4+5+6+7+8))				1,271,500.00
9	(9)Overhead (10%)				127,150.00
	Grand total (8+9)				1,398,650.00
	Cost of Project Proponent (UNDESA)				999,650.00
	Partners (SAEP & member countries) contribution				399,000.00

Adaptation to Climate Change

In recent decades, changes in climate have caused impacts on natural and human systems on all continents and across the oceans. This leaves South Asia with no exception and the impacts of climate change are already being felt with challenges to growth and development of the region. The region shares common geological formations and river basins, so that natural hazards frequently transcend national boundaries. Without urgent action, the changing climate could push millions of people living in South Asia into poverty by 2030.

To address this issue of climate change, countries adopted the Paris Agreement at the COP21 in Paris on 12 December 2015 which came into force on 04th November 2016. In the agreement, all countries agreed to work to limit global temperature rise to well below 2 degrees Celsius, and given the grave risks, to strive for 1.5 degrees Celsius.

At present all the Eight Member States of South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP) have completed their national ratification procedures and have submitted their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC's) via their respective National Focal Points to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

For two consecutive years SACEP organized side events at the UNFCCC conference of parties (COP 22 and COP 23) successfully. These side events provided fruitful discussions and sharing of knowledge as well as the challenges and shared experiences and ideas on the issues of Climate Change faced by the member states in South Asia

A. Regional workshop on Capacity Building, Awareness and Database Development on Adaptation to Climate Change in South Asia

SACEP and Oxford Policy Management (OPM) signed a MoU in October 2016 aiming at developing synergies for the promotion of knowledge, technology, skills, capacity, awareness raising and data base management besides replication of success stories among countries in south Asia. (**Annex 1**)

With a view to make the above partnership operational in implementing the MoU, the following proposal was developed for implementing activities jointly.

Proposed Activities:

1. Awareness raising among the masses and relevant stakeholders in South Asia.
2. Capacity building of SACEP, professionals in relevant institutions in public sector, civil society and private sector in SACEP member countries in south Asia
3. Youth training through winter and summer schools by holding two such schools in South Asia in 2018 for South Asian Youth.
4. Data-base development on climate change adaptation in South Asia.

Funds are yet to be secured from Oxford Policy Management (OPM)

B. A Proposal had been developed to carry out a Regional Knowledge Exchange Programme on Measurement Reporting and Verification of Nationally Determined Contributions To Adaptation (Annex 2)

Objective of this workshop is to assist governments in South Asia in integrating Climate change into their planning and budgeting in order to use climate funds as effectively as possible and so to minimize the loss and damage arising from Climate Change.

SACEP along with Action on Climate Today (ACT) managed by Oxford Policy Management, UK with its Regional co-ordination office based in New Delhi India developed the proposal.

Awaiting acknowledgement for way forward.

C. Regional Training Programme on Capacity Development for Adaptation to Climate Change through Climate-sensitive flood management in south Asia for policy makers and other stakeholders with decision making ability about climate sensitive flood management for effective adaptation to climate change.

SACEP developed a proposal to be submitted to the International Climate Initiative (IKI) call for proposal 2018 with an EU partner, Ecologic Institute, based in Germany. (Annex 3)

It has been informed by the EU partner that in 2018 priority is given to Large Projects and therefore to submit the above proposal to the next year's IKI call for Proposal.

D. Side Event at the UNFCCC, COP 24-2018

This year also SACEP is expecting to organize a side event at the UNFCCC COP 24 scheduled to be held in December 2018.

**(A) Proposal for Capacity Building, Awareness and Database Development on
Adaptation to Climate Change in South Asia**

Introduction:

The SACEP Consultative Committee (CC) in its meeting held on the 27th Oct. 2016 at Colombo, Sri Lanka welcomed and approved the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between SACEP and OPM-ACT and appreciated the efforts by the management team of both the organizations. The Committee desired to make this partnership practical and action oriented for the benefit of both the organization aiming at developing synergies for the promotion of knowledge, technology, skills, capacity, awareness raising and data base management besides replication of success stories among countries in south Asia. With a view to make the partnership operational and report to the SACEP-CC and Governing Council about the progress made in implementing the MoU, the following proposal is drafted for implementing joint activities in the first year of the partnership.

For a multitude of reasons, South Asia is a hot spot for climate change. Comprising of Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, South Asia makes less than 5% of the world's land area that hosts nearly a quarter of its population growing at 1.8% annually. This renders it one of the most densely populated areas of the world that alarmingly continues to grow at 1.8% annually.

The region is richly endowed with diverse natural resources featuring extensive coast lines, tall mountains, fertile flood plains, vast deserts and an array of forests, freshwater and marine ecosystems. Together they have enabled the south Asian countries to experience a high economic growth rate that averaged 6% over the past two decades. However, these resources are under immense and growing pressure stemming from an increasing demand for goods and services leading to unsustainable consumption and production. There are many parameters of sustainable development but three key parameters of land, air quality and energy are presented here to illustrate the imperative of sustainable economic development for South Asia.

The average population density in South Asia is 344 persons per Square Kilometer compared to the world average of 14 person living on a square kilometer. However, looking at it as the land per capita yields a more interesting picture. Compared to the world average of 7 hectares per person, in South Asia, there is less than a third of hectare to support the life and wellbeing of an individual, and this will further decline as the population increases. There are significant variations with in the region countries like Bhutan and Afghanistan have more land per capita while in other countries the scarcity of land is partially offset by access to sea. In each case, however, people remain very vulnerable to impact of climate change resulting from changes in weather pattern, rainfall and sea level rise. While countries of the region happens and to contain their climate footprint as the region's populations and economies grow further. In the First week of November 2016, the smog engulfed large swaths of North West India and Central Punjab in Pakistan. The Government had to close schools in Delhi to protect students from exposure to excessive air pollution. In Pakistan, the government decided to put off to plan for coal powered energy generation while trying to mitigate the pollution resulting from steel furnaces in and around Lahore.

Likewise, South Asian countries consume relatively much less energy per capita than people elsewhere in the world or Asia. However, it produces only a fraction of what it uses leaving a huge deficit in the energy balance to be met with imports of the fossil fuels that come with major cost to the exchequer and the environment in terms of both the direct and indirect climate foot print of the imported fossil fuels. The great heritage of South Asia that has lived in harmony with nature for millennia underlining its resilience and resolve lends hope and optimism for a prosperous future.

All of the eight south Asian Countries have already ratified the Paris agreement as shown in the table below. At the same time the countries have also Undertaken significant initiatives at the policy and legislative level as well as some important projects on the ground. Some are climate specific legislations; others are integration of policy aspects in existing legislations related to forests, agriculture and environment protection. The trend is to pursue a mix of the policy approaches.

Country	Signature	Ratification	Entry into Force
Afghanistan	22 April 2019	15 February 2017	17 March 2017
Bangladesh	22 April 2019	21 September 2016	04 November 2016
Bhutan	22 April 2019	19 September 2017	19 October 2017
India	22 April 2019	02 October 2016	04 November 2016
Maldives	22 April 2019	22 April 2016	04 November 2016
Nepal	22 April 2019	05 October 2016	04 November 2016
Pakistan	22 April 2019	10 November 2016	10 December 2016
Sri Lanka	22 April 2019	21 September 2016	04 November 2016

Table 1 : Status of Paris Agreement Ratification in South Asia (Source; UNFCCC)

Challenges:

Major problems faced by the region in relation to climate change include unpredictable patterns of rainfall that increasingly comes in short spells of heavy downpour constraining farmers' ability to farm productively. The problem is more acute in the rain-fed areas. Downstream communities experience devastating flashfloods as witnessed over the past two decades across the region. This is paralleled by extreme droughts in other parts of the region and sometime in the same areas in a different part of the year. The region is also seeing greater storm surges and more powerful cyclones, glacier melting, bleaching of coral reefs, depletion of biodiversity, and increasing salinity induced by sea level rises or reduced fresh water flows in deltas, and a universal warming across the region with great consequences for small Island states such as Maldives.

Apart from the hard component of the adaptation challenges in South Asia, the soft components of capacity, awareness and reliable data base in South Asia are the major challenges faced by the relevant institutions in South Asia. Being new emerging area of knowledge, adaptation to climate change requires specific knowledge and techniques to address the issues, which unfortunately is lacking in south Asia. This is the biggest single most important achievable component that require serious and dedicated efforts. Capacity will not only help in achieving the targets set forth in the Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) but also facilitate in achieving the SDGs goals by the SACEP member countries.

The Way Forward:

Political Commitments at the highest level of the polity and numerous success stories dotting the South Asian landscapes and seascapes fall much short of what the enormity and expediency of the climate change adaptation challenge demands. Much of the middle level polity and civil service remains indifferent if at all fully aware of the need for action, and now. Urgent and short term fire-fighting takes priority over longer term measures aggravating the problems as issues like regular smog spills in Pakistan and India that, many thought could wait, become urgent.

The single most important need and factor of success is awareness raising and access to information, knowledge and technologies. In theory, everyone should have easy access to any information in the today's digital world. Practically, knowledge leading to behavior changes requires enabling structures that provide packaged and targeted information. It would be very unwise to invest limited resources in creating new organizations and structures while existing structures with such enabling mandates are disparate for resources to be effective in fulfilling their missions including of adaptation to climate change. Therefore, adaptation must work with existing structures wherever available. In particular, South Asia Cooperative Environment Program (SACEP), Male Declaration and such others in South Asia, offer a great potential to shorten the journey of 'knowledge' flow, and 'capacity' enhancement efforts to each countries of the region more cost effectively.

Capacity building for adaptation to climate change of professionals of public sector, civil society and private sector is vital to any initiative in South Asia. Capacity building modules will include training workshops, field visits and observation, replication of the adaptation related models from the four South Asian countries where OPM/ACT is in operation to other countries in South Asia. Holding of winter and summer schools in South Asian Institutions for the youth and early to mid-career professionals from academia, research, civil society, private sector and public sector institutions working on policy and planning. In addition, special summer schools at Oxford University through open competition among the young graduates in South Asia will go a long way in transfer of knowledge and technology in critical issues related to climate change adaptation in South Asia.

Establishment of data base management system on adaptation to climate change in South Asia using state of the art technology is urgently required for wise and informed decision making, planning and policy making on critical issues.

Activities:

The following four major activities will be undertaken during 2017:

1. Awareness raising among the masses and relevant stakeholders in South Asia.
2. Capacity building of SACEP, professionals in relevant institutions in public sector, civil society and private sector in SACEP member countries in south Asia
3. Youth training through winter and summer schools by holding two such schools in South Asia in 2017 and one at the University of Oxford for South Asian Youth.
4. Data-base development on climate change adaptation in South Asia.

Budget:

Itemized break-up of the budget will be provided later, however the overall budget is given bellow:

Overall budget for the year 2017		
Activity	Unit Cost (USD)	Total Cost (USD)
i. Awareness raising	multiple	1,00,000.00
ii. Capacity building of SACEP and holding four training workshops for member countries	multiple	4,00,000.00
iii. Youth training through winter and summer schools (two trainings in south Asia and one in Oxford University)	multiple	4,00,000.00
iv. Data-base development	multiple	1,00,000.00
Total		1,000,000.00



(B) Proposal on

Regional Knowledge Exchange Programme on Measurement Reporting and Verification of Nationally Determined Contributions to Adaptation 2017

1.) INTRODUCTION.

For a multitude of reasons, South Asia is a hot spot for climate change. Comprising of Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, South Asia makes less than 5% of the world's land area that hosts nearly a quarter of its population which is growing at 1.8% annually. This renders it one of the most densely populated areas of the world that alarmingly continues to grow at 1.8% annually.

The region is richly endowed with diverse natural resources featuring extensive coast lines, tall mountains, fertile flood plains, vast deserts and an array of forests, freshwater and marine ecosystems. Together they have enabled the south Asian countries to experience a high economic growth rate that averaged 6% over the past two decades. However, these resources are under immense and growing pressure stemming from an increasing demand for goods and services leading to unsustainable consumption and production. There are many parameters of sustainable development but three key parameters of land, air quality and energy are presented here to illustrate the imperative of sustainable economic development for South Asia.

The average population density in South Asia is 344 persons per Square Kilometer compared to the world average of 14 person living on a square kilometer. However, looking at it as the land per capita yields a more interesting picture. Compared to the world average of 7 hectares per person, in South Asia, there is less than a third of hectare to support the life and wellbeing of an individual, and this will further decline as the population increases. There are significant variations with in the region countries like Bhutan and Afghanistan have more land per capita while in other countries the scarcity of land is partially offset by access to sea. In each case, however, people remain very vulnerable to impact of climate change resulting from changes in weather pattern, rainfall and sea level rise. While countries of the region happens and to contain their climate footprint as the region's populations and economies grow further. In the First week of November 2016, the smog engulfed large swaths of North West India and Central Punjab in Pakistan. The Government had to close schools in Delhi to protect students from exposure to excessive air pollution. In Pakistan, the government decided to put off to plan for coal powered energy generation while trying to mitigate the pollution resulting from steel furnaces in and around Lahore.

Likewise, South Asian countries consume relatively much less energy per capita than people elsewhere in the world or Asia. However, it produces only a fraction of what it uses leaving a huge deficit in the energy balance to be met with imports of the fossil fuels that come with major cost to the exchequer and the environment in terms of both the direct and indirect climate foot print of the imported fossil fuels. The great heritage of South Asia that has lived in harmony with nature for millennia underlining its resilience and resolve lends hope and optimism for a prosperous future. South Asian countries have admittedly contributed little to Green House Gas (CHG) Emissions in the past, they must deal with it in terms of both adopting to the climate change as these indicators reveal increased pressure on the natural resources leading to unsustainable life style.

Challenges:

Major problems faced by the region in relation to climate change include unpredictable patterns of rainfall that increasingly comes in short spells of heavy downpour constraining farmers' ability to farm productively. The problem is more acute in the rain-fed areas. Downstream communities experience devastating flashfloods as witnessed over the past two decades across the region. This is paralleled by extreme droughts in other parts of the region and sometime in the same areas in a different part of the year. The region is also seeing greater storm surges and more powerful cyclones, glacier melting, bleaching of coral reefs, depletion of biodiversity, and increasing salinity induced by sea level rises or reduced fresh water flows in deltas, and a universal warming across the region with great consequences for small Island states such as Maldives.

Apart from the hard component of the adaptation challenges in South Asia, the soft components of capacity, awareness and reliable data base in South Asia are the major challenges faced by the relevant institutions in South Asia. Being new emerging area of knowledge, adaptation to climate change requires specific knowledge and techniques to address the issues, which unfortunately is lacking in south Asia. This is the biggest single most important achievable component that require serious and dedicated efforts. Capacity will not only help in achieving the targets set forth in the Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) but also facilitate in achieving the SDGs goals by the SACEP member countries.

2.) OBJECTIVES

Wider objective : To assist governments of South Asia in integrating Climate Change into their planning and budgeting in order to use climate funds as effectively as possible and to minimize the loss and damage arising from Climate Change.

The specific objectives are to build capacity and share knowledge on two key areas of work that could lead to improved Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV) of adaptation NDCs.:

- The **first** area involves assessing the priority of Climate Change actions and the
- **Second** involves the use of this evidence to tag and score expenditure that contributes to NDCs so that trends in adaptation expenditure can be monitored.

3.) ACTIVITIES

The activities include holding of the following two workshops in the first half of 2017.

Workshop 1 – The first workshop will be for 3 days and will be held in **Colombo, Sri Lanka in March 2017**. It will cover the different approaches for prioritization of Climate Change Adaptation actions.

The sessions covered will be:

- i) presentations by participants on their existing approaches to prioritisation in their CCAPs, including the methods used to allocate finance, if the CCAP includes any costing
- ii) International experience with prioritising expenditure on adaptation, including ACT work on CC Impact Assessment (CCIA) and CC Financing Frameworks (CCFFs)
- iii) group work to consider options for building on existing practice to improve the prioritisation done by each government

Participants

It is expected that around 25 participants will attend the meeting:

- Central governmental policy makers and planners from 8 SACEP member countries who have been involved in preparing and managing in climate change action plans.
- Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka
- Participants representing the private sector organizations working on climate change adaptation/ Practitioners who are working in Climate Change adaptation practices

Workshop 2 – The second workshop will be for 2 days and will be held in Kathmandu, **Nepal in May-June 2017** will cover the different approaches to tagging and scoring adaptation expenditure.

This workshop will include the following sessions:

- i) presentations by participants on any existing approaches to tagging and scoring (eg in Nepal and Odisha)
- ii) wider international experience with tagging and scoring (eg in the Philippines and Indonesia) and approaching to classifying CC expenditure in Climate Public Expenditure and Institutional Reviews (CPEIRs) and CCFFs
- iii) discussions on institutional reforms to introduce tagging and scoring, including options for piloting, regulatory changes and software revisions

Participants

It is expected that around 25 participants will attend the meeting:

4.) REPORTING

ACT and SACEP will prepare workshop reports for each of the workshops which aim to analyse the discussions and, in particular, any conclusions relating to further work. The reports will also facilitate the sharing of methodologies, materials and identify opportunities for further collaboration.

5.) OUTCOME

- Support effective lessons sharing on commonalities, differences, challenges and opportunities for prioritization as well as tagging and scoring expenditure.
- Overall, the workshops will help tease out implications for the use of Climate Change Finance Frameworks in MRV for adaptation NDCs.

6.) Time Frame

The workshops will be held in the first half of 2017(February through June 2017). Time Frame Matrix is given at **Annex I**

7.) Budget

Budget breakup for proposed **Workshop 1** expected to be held in Colombo, Sri Lanka is attached as **Annex II** and the **Workshop 2** expected to be held in **Kathmandu, Nepal** is attached as **Annex III**

Annex I

Regional Knowledge Exchange Programme on Measurement Reporting and Verification of Nationally Determined Contribution to Adaptation

Implementation Plan

No	Activity 1- Three days workshop	Month											
		January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept	October	November	December
1	Preparation and finalization of the workshop proposal and the Budget	↕											
2	Sending Invitations to the member Countries	↕	↕										
3	Workshop, Colombo, Sri Lanka			↕	↕								
4	Workshop Report				↕	↕							
No	Activity 2 - Two Days Workshop												
1	Preparation and finalization of the workshop proposal and the Budget		↕										
	Sending Invitations to the member Countries			↕	↕								
2	Workshop, Nepal					↕	↕						
3	Workshop Report							↕	↕				
No	Activity 3 - follow-up programme												
1	Planning for follow-up activities		↕										
2	Follow-up meetings			↕	↕			↕	↕				

Annex II

Regional Workshop on Prioritization of Climate Change Adaptation Action SACEP & Action on Climate Today through Oxford Policy Management Sri Lanka Estimated Budget

Budget Line	Cost in 2017 US\$	
1. Project Personnel		\$9,000.00
1.1 Professional Services (based on 3 man months, at the monthly rate of US \$ 2000		\$6,000.00
1.2 Support staff /man months/hours both during preparatory phase and during the meeting		\$2,000.00
1.3 Local Transport		\$1,000.00
2. Meetings and conferences		\$8,500.00
2.1 Conference venue and catering three (3) days meeting (US\$ 50x35x3)	\$50.00	\$5,250.00
2.2 Inauguration (US\$ 15x50 Persons)	\$15.00	\$750.00
2.3 Dinner (US\$ 50x50 Persons)	\$50.00	\$2,500.00
3. Travel and DSA		\$68,495.00
3.1 Flights for 26 international participants (Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan including Recourse Persons)		\$38,836.00
3.2 DSA - Rate of Jan 2017 (Including Accommodation - US\$ 223x26x5)	\$223.00	\$28,990.00
3.2.1 <i>Reduced** DSA* for 26 international participants for up to 3 days of meetings and 2 travel days</i>		
3.2.2 Local DSA for 5 local participants (UN rate of 20% of DSA) for 3 days		\$669.00
3. Miscellaneous		\$4,075.00
3.1 Supplies and materials (backdrop, bank transaction fees)		\$1,500.00
3.2 Communication and Printing Agenda, Financial Reports)		\$1,000.00
3.3 Conference Bag (US\$ 45x35)	\$45.00	\$1,575.00
4. Grand total		\$90,070.00
5. Contribution from SACEP*** (1.2 and 1.3)		\$3,000.00
6. Total Cost		\$87,070.00

**Workshop on Different approaches to tagging and scoring climate change adaptational expenditure
SACEP & Action on Climate Today (ACT) through Oxford Policy Management
Nepal
Draft Budget 2017**

Annex III

Budget Line	Cost in USD
1. Project Personnel	\$8,000.00
1.1 Professional Services (based on (3) man months, at the monthly rate of USD 2000)	\$6,000.00
1.2 Support staff man months/hours both during preparatory phase and during the meeting	\$2,000.00
2. Meetings and Conferences	\$7,850.00
2.1 Conference venue and catering (2) full days meeting for 35 participants (US\$ 55x35x2)	\$55.00
2.2 Inauguration (US\$ 20x50 persons)	\$20.00
2.3 Dinner (US\$ 60x50)	\$60.00
3 Travel and DSA	\$56,986.27
3.1 Flights for 26 International participants (Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, 5 Experts - ACT and SACEP)	\$31,970.27
3.2 DSA - Rate of Jan 2017 (Inclusive of accommodation for 26 International participants, for 2 days of meetings and 2 days of travel) - US\$ 236x26x4	\$236.00
3.2.1 Reduced DSA for 26 Int. Participants for upto 2 days of meetings and 2 days of travel	\$24,544.00
3.2.2 DSA for 5 local Participants at UN rate of 20% of DSA for 2 days	\$472.00
4. Miscellaneous	\$4,075.00
4.1 Supplies and materials (backdrop, bank transaction fees)	\$1,500.00
4.2 Communication and Printing Agenda, Financial reports	\$1,000.00
4.3 Conference bag (US\$ 45x35)	\$1,575.00
5. Grand Total	\$76,911.27
6. Contribution from SACEP*** (1.2)	\$2,000.00
7. Total Cost	\$74,911.27

(C) Project concept – Capacity Development for Adaptation to Climate Change through Climate-sensitive flood management in south Asia.

Introduction

South Asia consists of Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Iran, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka and covers an area of about 41,26,800 sq km. It has a 1.671 billion (2013) population growing at the rate of 1.8% per annum but has only 4.8 per cent of the world's total land area. It is bordered to the north by the Himalayas, to the southeast by the Bay of Bengal, to the southwest by the Arabian Sea, and to the south by the Indian Ocean.

The sub region comprises of three topographic regions: the Himalaya, Karakorum, and Hindu Kush mountain ranges and their southern slopes, the Indo-Gangetic plain, and the Deccan plateau. The Himalaya, Karakorum, and Hindu Kush mountain ranges separate the South Asian subcontinent from the rest of Asia. The Himalayas, the highest mountains in the world, extend 1,500 miles west from the Brahmaputra River to the Karakorum. The Hindu Kush, the world's second highest range, extends 500 miles west and south of the Yarkand River. South Asia's climate ranges from arctic temperatures in the high mountains to a temperate environment in the foothills and on the Indo-Gangetic plain to tropical conditions on the Deccan plateau. Much of the climate in the region is driven by monsoons and is characterized by wet summers and dry winters. Precipitation and climate vary significantly from place to place in different countries within the region, due to variations in the land forms.

Running 2,000 km from east to west and comprising more than 60,000 square km of ice, the Hindu Kush–Karakoram–Himalayan glaciers are a source of water for the quarter of the global population that lives in south Asia. All or part of six South Asian nations Afghanistan, Bhutan, Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, and Nepal constitute this region. Glaciated and receiving heavy snowfall, these mountains have permanently snow-covered peaks and host the world largest concentration of ice outside the polar region glaciers.

Adaptation is a process through which societies make themselves better able to cope with an uncertain future. Adapting to climate change entails taking the right measures to reduce the negative effects of climate change by making the appropriate adjustments and changes. There are many options and opportunities to adapt. These range from technological options such as increased sea defenses or flood-proof houses on stilts, to behavior change at the individual level. Other strategies include early warning systems for extreme events, better water management, improved risk management, various insurance options etc.

Because of the speed at which change is happening due to global temperature rise, it is urgent that the vulnerability of South Asian countries to climate change is reduced and their capacity to adapt is increased and national adaptation plans are implemented. Future vulnerability depends not only on climate change but also on the type of development path that is pursued. Thus adaptation should be implemented in the context

of national and global sustainable development efforts. The international community is identifying resources, tools and approaches to support this effort.

However, unfortunately capacities of the public sector policy and implementation institutions and professionals are weak amid civil society and private sector institutional base in south Asia and the common citizens are not aware of the gravity and severity of environmental problems and are therefore not taking part in any such initiatives. The private sector contribution towards climate change and sustainable development is negligible and the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) has not much been used for environment protection.

The proposed project is not only in line with the work programme of SACEP and global, regional and national committees of UNFCCC and Paris agreement but also aims to develop capacity of the governments in South Asia and other stakeholders to cope up with the climate change through climate sensitive flood management.

Starting situation in the country of implementation

Please indicate the present situation and the project context as a reference scenario (in bullet points). (max. 1400 characters) (This section needs to be detailed depending on the interest of the regions)

Countries of South Asia including Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka have established the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP) as an inter-governmental Organization to promote and support protection and to enhance sustainable development in the region. SACEP has its headquarters at Colombo, Sri Lanka and is registered as a Specialized Agency under the Diplomatic Missions of the Ministry of External Affairs of Sri Lanka.

South Asia is increasingly vulnerable to weather related disasters, particularly floods that previously have not been adequately managed at a regional scale. In the recent years the region witnessed some of the world's worst disaster situations, causing immense loss of life and damages to property. These challenges are already having a major impact upon the economic performance of South Asian countries and on the lives and livelihoods of millions of poor people.

A major challenge faced by the region in relation to climate change include unpredictable patterns of rainfall that increasingly comes in short spells of heavy downpour constraining farmers' ability to farm productively. The problem is more acute in the mountain areas. Downstream communities experience devastating flash floods as witnessed in many South Asian countries over the past two decades. This is paralleled by extreme droughts in other parts of the region and sometimes in the same areas over different times of any year.

Geography coupled with high levels of poverty and population density has rendered South Asia especially vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. As the region is highly vulnerable to natural disasters and over 50 percent of South Asians which is more than 750 million people affected by at least one natural disaster in the past two decades. (World Bank 2009)

South Asia can easily be divided into two distinct geo-climatic blocks; A. Mountain Ecosystems and B; Island Eco systems

A. Mountain ecosystems

- With rising temperatures the ice mass of the Himalayas and Hindu Kush is retreating more rapidly than the global average. This poses an unprecedented threat to water supplies, lives, and the economies of the region.
- With melting glaciers, flood risks increases as 2010 an increased seasonal melt coupled with rains caused excessive monsoon rains that inundated one-fifth of Pakistan's land area for five weeks, killing 2,000 people and costing tens of billions of dollars in damage and economic impact. Bangladesh, India and Nepal are facing similar situations frequently.
- In Bhutan and Nepal the risk of Glacial Lakes Outbursts Floods (GLOF) is identified as the main climate change challenge and rapid melting of glaciers is brimming up many moraine glacial lakes in Bhutan causing the natural water reservoirs to recede and increasing the risk of glacial lakes outburst. About 25 of 2674 glacier lakes in the country are identified as potentially dangerous of bursting and flooding the valleys and plains down streams.
- HKH region, primarily follow agro-pastoral practices and over 54% of the HKH region are integrated into five types of farming systems: (1) pastoral, (2) agro-pastoral, (3) middle-hill farming, (4) shifting cultivation, and (5) cash-crop based farming. These farming systems primarily depend on regular and moderate levels of precipitation.
- The challenging circumstances of mountain agriculture are being compounded by climate change and other changes in mountains, and in the long run agriculture and the region's economic structure will need to undergo significant adjustment to cope with these changes.

B. Island Ecosystems

- Maldives and Sri Lanka constitute the Island ecosystems.
- The Maldives, situated in the Indian Ocean comprises a double chain of some 1190 islands distributed into 26 geographical atolls.
- The islands in general are very small with only 33 having a land area bigger than 1km² with an average elevation of less than 1m above sea level. The total land area is estimated at approximately 235 km².

- The climate of the Maldives is governed by the Indian Ocean monsoon regime –with the drier north east monsoon dominating from January to March and the wetter and stormier south-west monsoon from May to December. Average air temperature is about 28oC and sea surface temperatures are between 28-29oC.
- Maldives is one of the most vulnerable countries to climate change and sea level rise. Over 80% of the land area in Maldives is less than 1 m above mean sea level. Being so low-lying, the islands of Maldives are very vulnerable to inundation and beach erosion.
- Over the years more than 90 inhabited islands have been flooded at least once, and 37 islands have been flooded regularly or at least once a year
- Sea level rise will have negative impact on the social and economic development of the country, as most of the economic activities are heavily dependent on the coastal ecosystem.
- Beyond the risk of rising sea level, the Maldives is already experiencing the impact of climate change on hydro meteorological disasters due to changes in weather patterns, causing storm surges and flooding, both coastal and rain induced flooding and coral bleaching.
- Sri Lanka's coastal region covers about 23% of the island's land area (Coast Conservation Department 2006) and accommodates about 25% of the country's population.
- Much of the coastal zone of Sri Lanka lies within the dry zone, with an average annual rain-fall of 1,250–1,750 mm and a temperature of 28°C–32oC. The increasing variability in temporal and spatial distribution of rainfall as well as the increasing temperature affects coastal areas and inland waters that are important for the food fishery industry.
- Further Heavy concentration of urban areas, tourism infrastructure, and industries are also vulnerable to impacts of sea level rise and increased frequency of storms and the intensification of coastal erosion due to climate change
- There are currently no forecasting systems that take the expected climatic changes into account. Climate-related floods therefore pose a serious threat to many people in Sri Lanka the region of South Asia, who are often highly dependent on the inland as well as the coastal water resources and their functions.

South Asian countries share many common climate change adaptation needs and priorities and these priorities have been identified through countries' National Communications to the United Nations Framework Convention of Climate Change (UNFCCC), and their National Adaptation Programmes of Action (NAPAs). Further all the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme(SACEP) member countries have ratified the UNFCCC, Paris Climate Agreement, submitted Nationally Determined Contribution (NDCs), adapted agenda-21 and SDGs.

Target group

Please list any actors who benefit from the measures or with whose assistance the results targeted by the project may be achieved. (max. 1000 characters)

- The six HKH mountain countries (Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Pakistan) and the two Island states (Pakistan, Sri Lanka)
- Public sector agencies working for environment, climate change, agriculture, livestock, poultry, fisheries, tourism, meteorological agencies, disaster management, educational, health and other such institutions.
- Private sector, civil society, regional and sub-regional agencies.
- Mountain and coastal communities including, farmers, fishermans, glaziers, communities.
- Researchers, academia, students, professionals and public sector functionaries working on climate related issues.
- General public and citizens,

Outcome

Please indicate as precisely as possible any concrete changes in the partner country that may be directly attributed to the project. (max. 1000 characters)

- Review and develop regional and national climate change adaptation policy and plans re-lated to climate sensitive flood management in the SACEP member countries.
- Improve capacity of the mid to senior level public sector professionals in environment, climate change, metrology, disaster management, agriculture, livestock and livelihood to implement national and regional climate change adaptation policy for sustainable development of flood management including monitoring and impact assessment for innovative and effective adaptation tools and techniques;
- Empowering and informing mountain and coastal communities in adapting to the changed climatic and disaster conditions in the mountain and coastal ecosystem.
- Educate and empower women folk in adapting to the climate change in various walks of life.
- Use print, electronic and social media in awareness, early warning and response to the climate change and disasters like floods.
- Share innovative tools, techniques and knowledge with the public sector, civil society, and private sector and mountain communities for informed decision, preparedness and response to the changing situation in terms of effective adaptation.
- Increased awareness about the climate sensitive flood management among the national and regional stakeholders using print, electronic and social media;
- Coordination and sharing of information among SASP member countries.

Outputs

Please list the expected specific results (services, products) of the project (in bullet points). (max. 1400 characters)

- Holding national and regional training programmes / workshops/seminars summer/Winter schools for policy makers and other stakeholders with decision making ability about climate sensitive flood management for effective adaptation to climate change
- Enhance capacities for improved climate-related flood forecasting using better mapping of actual stream channels and river banks, including landslide and erosion potential , preparation of inventory of glacial lakes, Analysis of glacial lake outburst floods, Establishment of an early-warning system in the region in the relevant institutions in the region that are involved in the forecasting and management of flooding and climate change.
- Optimized and synergized regional and national adaptation strategies and action plans including criteria tools, techniques and prioritized measures;
- Increased awareness about the Flood sensitive climate change adaptation among the national, regional stakeholders increased;
- Streamlined co-ordination and sharing of information among member countries.

Planned measures and activities

Please list the activities that must be carried out to achieve each specific project goal (output), and group them into work packages. List the activities within each work package in the form of bullet points and add notes as necessary. (max. 1400 characters)

- Review regional and national climate change adaptation policies and plans in the six HKH and the two Island state countries.
- Develop regional and national climate change adaptation policy and plans related climate sensitive flood management in the six HKH and the two Island state countries.
- Undertake national, regional training programmes, workshops and seminars Information and Communication Technology skills for capacity building, better co-ordination, communication and co-operation among the countries and relevant stakeholders.
- To establish regional hubs and data base centers for increased coordination and sharing of information and exchange visits among SASP member countries.
- To provide research grant to the relevant universities and research centers on climate sensitive flood management in SACEP member countries.
- To encourage Indigenous Technical Knowledge (ITK) and gender participation in the climate sensitive flood management in SACEP member countries
- Institutional capacity building by establishing new institutions and refining the mandates of existing institutions such as universities, government institutes, and research centers.

- Youth training through winter and summer schools at selected German Institutions specialized in climate change for the HKH countries and for the two island states in South Asia.

INCREASE OF THE SALARY OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL SACEP

On confirmation of the appointment of the first Director General of SACEP on 6th January 1983, the Consultative Committee fixed the Salary at US \$ 2,300/- per month and was increased once within the period of 1983-1987. Due to financial constraints, at the 4GC-SACEP held on 25-26 April 1988 the salary of the Director General was reduced to US \$ 2,000/- from US \$ 2,910. The salary of the Director General was restored to US \$ 2,910/- at the Special Session of the Consultative Committee held on 11th January 1994.

At the 81st Meeting of the Consultative Committee held on 19th April 2002 an increase was granted to the Director General of SACEP and the salary was fixed at the rate of US \$ 3,460/- per month.

The present salary drawn by the Director General was approved at the 10th GC-SACEP held on 25th January 2007 to the rate of US \$ 4,500/- (**Annex 1**) and over the past decade the salary has not been increased.

At present SACEP's financial position is sufficient to cover a reasonable increase of the salary of the Director General of SACEP as the average of the annual income generated from the country contributions within a period of 5 years and the interest earned annually amounts to US \$ 164,000 (approx) per annum.

Considering the period of stagnant, the Secretariat recommends to the 14th Meeting of the Governing Council of SACEP, that the salary of the Director General may be increased upto US 5,000/- per month.



REPORT

THE TENTH MEETING OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL

South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP)

**25 JANUARY 2007
KATHMANDU, NEPAL**

9.5.4 PRESENTATION OF AUDITED REPORT OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR 2005

- NFP Agenda Item 7.4 -

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

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

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

10. STATEMENT ON COUNTRY COMMITMENTS FOR PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION

- NFP Agenda Item 8 -

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

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

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

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

- NFP Agenda Item 10.1 -

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

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

11.2 Appointment of Director General on Merit Basis

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

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

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

8 Financial Matters :

The status of recovery of Country Contribution arrears of SACEP to date is as follows :

Country	Arrears upto 1 Jan 2013	Agreed CC 2013	Received CC 2013	Arrears upto Dec 2013	Agreed CC 2014	Received CC 2014	Arrears upto Dec 2014
		US \$	US \$		US \$	US \$	US \$
Afghanistan	-	8,050.00	8,050.00	-	8,050.00	8,050.00	-
Bangladesh	64,335.00	21,300.00	21,735.00	63,900.00	23,430.00	21,300.00	66,030.00
Bhutan	-	3,555.00	3,555.00	0.00	3,555.00		3,555.00
India	37,121.00	31,850.00		68,971.00	31,850.00	56,835.00	43,986.00
Maldives	-	14,575.00	14,575.00	0.00	14,575.00	14,575.00	-
Nepal	8,050.00	8,050.00		16,100.00	8,050.00		24,150.00
Pakistan	46,432.44	31,850.00	31,466.40	46,816.04	31,850.00	31,004.86	47,661.18
Sri Lanka	32,382.14	16,220.00		48,602.14	16,220.00	5,000.00	59,822.14
TOTAL	188,320.58	135,450.00	79,381.40	244,389.18	137,580.00	136,764.86	245,204.32

Country	Arrears upto Dec 2014	Agreed CC 2015	Received CC 2015	Arrears upto Dec 2015	Agreed CC 2016	Received CC 2016	Arrears upto Dec 2016
	US \$	US \$	US \$	US \$	US \$	US \$	US \$
Afghanistan	-	8,050.00	8,050.00	-	8,050.00	8,050.00	-
Bangladesh	66,030.00	23,430.00	-	89,460.00	23,430.00	23,350.00	89,540.00
Bhutan	3,555.00	3,555.00	7,110.00	-	3,555.00	3,555.00	-
India	43,986.00	31,850.00	75,836.00	-	31,850.00		31,850.00
Maldives	-	14,575.00	14,575.00	-	14,575.00	14,575.00	-
Nepal	24,150.00	8,050.00	-	32,200.00	8,050.00		40,250.00
Pakistan	47,661.18	31,850.00	31,367.14	48,144.04	31,850.00	31,444.71	48,549.33
Sri Lanka	59,822.14	17,842.00	4,862.18	72,801.96	17,842.00	90,643.96	-
TOTAL	245,204.32	139,202.00	141,800.32	242,606.00	139,202.00	171,618.67	210,189.33

Country	Arrears upto Dec 2016	Agreed CC 2017	Received CC 2017	Arrears upto Dec 2017	Agreed CC 2018	Received CC 14 Feb 2018	Arrears upto 14 Feb 2018
	US \$	US \$	US \$	US \$	US \$	US \$	US \$
Afghanistan	-	8,050.00	-	8,050.00	8,050.00		16,100.00
Bangladesh	89,540.00	23,430.00	22,947.10	90,022.90	23,430.00		113,452.90
Bhutan	-	3,555.00	3,555.00	-	3,555.00		3,555.00
India	31,850.00	31,850.00	31,850.00	31,850.00	31,850.00		63,700.00
Maldives	-	14,575.00	14,575.00	-	14,575.00		14,575.00
Nepal	40,250.00	8,050.00	-	48,300.00	8,050.00		56,350.00
Pakistan	48,549.33	31,850.00	31,466.54	48,932.79	31,850.00		80,782.79
Sri Lanka	-	17,842.00	-	17,842.00	17,842.00	17,842.00	17,842.00
TOTAL	210,189.33	139,202.00	104,393.64	244,997.69	139,202.00	17,842.00	366,357.69

Status of Contribution to the SACEP Trust / Corpus Fund

The establishment of the Corpus Fund was proposed by the External Review of SACEP, which was accepted at the Third Special Session of the Governing Council of SACEP held on 6 November 2003 in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

Contributions to the SACEP Corpus / Trust Fund is voluntary, and the member countries have been requested to contribute to this fund which will strengthen the financial and project base of the organization and enhance SACEP to be a pro-active regional environment organization.

Periodical reminders are sent to the Member States of SACEP for this purpose.

Country	Receipts as at date
	US \$
Afghanistan	-
Bangladesh	-
Bhutan	-
India	200,000.00
Maldives	-
Nepal	-
Pakistan	-
Sri Lanka	-
SACEP	120,000.00
TOTAL	320,000.00

The Member States of SACEP are requested to consider contributing to the SACEP Corpus Fund to strengthen the financial and project base of the organization and enhance SACEP to be a pro-active regional environment organization.

South Asain Seas Programme

SASP Country Contribution Status: as at 20 March 2018

Country	Arrears upto 1 Jan 2012	Agreed CC for 2012	Received CC Dec 2012	Arrears upto Dec 2012	Agreed CC 2013	Received CC 2013	Arrears upto Dec 2013
	US \$	US \$	US \$	US \$	US \$	US \$	US \$
Bangladesh	89,932.40	13,335.00		103,267.40	13,335.00		116,602.40
India	-	32,185.00	32,185.00	-	32,185.00		32,185.00
Maldives	-	5,975.00	5,975.00	-	5,975.00	5,975.00	-
Pakistan	101,865.52	27,130.00	26,796.47	102,199.05	27,130.00	26,733.87	102,595.18
Sri Lanka	49,071.70	13,335.00		62,406.70	13,335.00		75,741.70
TOTAL	240,869.62	91,960.00	64,956.47	267,873.15	91,960.00	32,708.87	327,124.28

Country	Arrears upto Dec 2013	Agreed CC for 2014	Received CC 2014	Arrears upto Dec 2014	Agreed CC for 2015	Received CC 2015	Arrears upto Dec 2015
	US \$	US \$	US \$	US \$	US \$	US \$	US \$
Bangladesh	116,602.40	13,335.00		129,937.40	13,335.00		143,272.40
India	32,185.00	35,405.00	67,590.00	-	35,405.00	35,405.00	-
Maldives	-	5,975.00	5,975.00	-	5,975.00	5,975.00	-
Pakistan	102,595.18	27,130.00	26,708.95	103,016.23	27,130.00	53,567.83	76,578.40
Sri Lanka	75,741.70	13,335.00		89,076.70	14,668.50		103,745.20
TOTAL	327,124.28	95,180.00	100,273.95	322,030.33	96,513.50	94,947.83	323,596.00

Country	Arrears upto Dec 2015	Agreed CC for 2016	Received CC 2016	Arrears upto Dec 2016	Agreed CC for 2017	Received CC 2017	Arrears upto Dec 2017
	US \$	US \$	US \$	US \$	US \$	US \$	US \$
Bangladesh	143,272.40	13,335.00	143,272.40	13,335.00	13,335.00	26,670.00	-
India	-	35,405.00	35,405.00	-	35,405.00	35,405.00	-
Maldives	-	5,975.00	5,975.00	-	5,975.00	5,975.00	-
Pakistan	76,578.40	27,130.00	26,964.17	76,744.23	27,130.00	-	103,874.23
Sri Lanka	103,745.20	14,668.50	118,413.70	-	14,668.50	-	14,668.50
TOTAL	323,596.00	96,513.50	330,030.27	90,079.23	96,513.50	68,050.00	118,542.73

Country	Arrears upto Dec 2017	Agreed CC for 2018	Received CC 14 Feb 2018	Arrears upto 20 Mar 2018
	US \$	US \$	US \$	US \$
Bangladesh	-	13,335.00		13,335.00
India	-	35,405.00		35,405.00
Maldives	-	5,975.00		5,975.00
Pakistan	103,874.23	27,130.00		131,004.23
Sri Lanka	14,668.50	14,668.50	14,668.50	14,668.50
TOTAL	118,542.73	96,513.50	14,668.50	200,387.73

PROJECTS SANCTIONED FROM 1 JANUARY 2014 to 14 FEBRUARY 2018

Activity	Donor	Budget US \$
To organize a regional meeting of relevant national authorities dealing with oil spill preparedness and response and to discuss the way forward to finalize the Regional Strategic Plan for the full implementation of the BWM Convention in South Asia	International Maritime Organization (IMO)	62,867.79
To conduct a Scoping Study of Nutrient pollution on the coastal and marine systems of South Asia and to organize a sub-regional validation workshop	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations ("FAO")	28,539.94
To Establish a Clearing House Mechanism on Biological Diversity for the South Asia Region	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations ("FAO")	13,671.00
Development of a Regional Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Strategy for the South Asian Seas Region	UNEP	56,000.00
To Conduct a Regional Capacity Building Workshop for Water Resources Managers on Possible Climate Change Adaptation Strategies & to establish a database and information system to facilitate data sharing,	Global Water Partnership (GWP)	46,295.69
To assist member states in the process of acceptance of the MoU for Cooperation on the Response to Oil and Chemical Pollution	UNEP - Division of Environmental Policy Implementation	10,000.00
To organize a sub-regional (South Asia) Forum on SCP under the SWITCH RPSC and establishment of the organizational structure of the Forum.	UNEP-ROAP	48,300.00
To organize Five National Preparatory Meetings (Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Pakistan, Sri Lanka) for discussing National Contingency Plan and advances in the field of Oil Spill Preparedness and Response and to prepare and Organization of the Regional Exercise	International Maritime Organization (IMO)	85,400.00
To co-operate with respect to the implementation of national consultation to Capacity-Building for Environmentally Sound Management (ESM) of Polybrominated Diphenyl Ethers (PBDEs) and their Waste in Selected Asia-Pacific Countries	Basel Convention Regional Centre-China	4,000.00

Activity	Donor	Budget US \$
Contd.....		
To co-operate with respect to the implementation of national consultation to Capacity-Building for Environmentally Sound Management (ESM) of Polybrominated Diphenyl Ethers (PBDEs) and Their Waste in Selected Asia-Pacific Countries	Basel Convention Regional Centre-China	4,000.00
Development and Establishment of National Bio-diversity Clearing House Mechanism of Sri Lanka	Government of Sri Lanka	37,878.79
To organize a Regional Workshop for updating the Regional Oil and Chemical Spill Contingency Plan and its Annexes for South Asian Seas Region, Male', Maldives	International Maritime Organization (IMO)	44,000.00
To support sub-regional co-operation on mainstreaming and implementing SCP through a multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources, to support the achievement of the SCP related Sustainable Development Goals, and ensuring the uptake of 10YFP.	UNEP-ROAP through UN-ESCAP	180,000.00
To support sub-regional co-operation on mainstreaming and implementing SCP through a multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources, to support the achievement of the SCP related Sustainable Development Goals, and ensuring the uptake of 10YFP.	SWITCH Asia Sri Lanka National Policy Support Component	9,220.00
For support to implement activities related to synergies and SDGs among the biodiversity related conventions in Sri Lanka	UNEP-ROAP	20,000.00
To organize a regional workshop to implement Nitrogen Management for South Asian Seas (SAS) Region with SACEP and International Nitrogen Management System (INMS)	Centre-for-Ecology-&-Hydrology, United Kingdom	35,020.00
For preparation of a Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter for the South Asian Seas region based on national information collection.	UNEP Ecosystems Division, Nairobi, Kenya,	50,000.00
TOTAL		735,193.21

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
T O T A L	100	127,400	127,400

13GC-SACEP ENDORSED THE PROPOSAL OF SACEP TO INCREASE THE COUNTRY CONTRUBUTIONS SUBJECT TO THE CONCURRENCE OF THE RELEVANT NATIONAL AUTHORITIES OF EACH MEMBER COUNTRY

COUNTRY	PRESENT CONTRIBUTION	%	RECOMMENDED CONTRIBUTION	ROUNDED OFF	AGREED TO INCREASE
	US \$		US \$	US \$	US \$
AFGANISTAN	8,050.00	5.94	8,855.00	8,855.00	
BANGLADESH	21,300.00	15.73	23,430.00	23,430.00	23,430.00
BHUTAN	3,555.00	2.62	3,910.50	3,910.00	
INDIA	31,850.00	23.51	35,035.00	35,035.00	
MALDIVES	14,575.00	10.76	16,032.50	16,033.00	
NEPAL	8,050.00	5.94	8,855.00	8,855.00	
PAKISTAN	31,850.00	23.51	35,035.00	35,035.00	
SRI LANKA	16,220.00	11.97	17,842.00	17,842.00	17,842.00
T O T A L	135,450.00	100	148,995.00	148,995.00	

The proposal to increase the Country Contribution was agreed in principle at the 11GC-SACEP held on 22 May 2008 and a 10% Increase in the Annual Country Contribution was requested for consideration at the 13GC-SACEP as the exsisting Country Contribution of SACEP was approved at the 7th Meeting of the Governing Council of SACEP held on 22nd April 1998 in Male, Republic of Maldives.

Government of Bangladesh and Sri Lanka contribute as per the revised Country Contribution Rates from year 2014 onwards.

The Member States of SACEP are requested to consider increasing the Country Contributions to the proposed level 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

PROPOSED SECRETARIAT BUDGET FOR 2018 - 2019

	PRESENT AGREED INCOME	EXPENDITURE
	US \$	US \$
1 ANTICIPATED INCOME		
1.1 AFGHANISTAN	8,050.00	
BANGLADESH	23,430.00	
BHUTAN	3,555.00	
INDIA	31,850.00	
MALDIVES	14,575.00	
NEPAL	8,050.00	
PAKISTAN	31,850.00	
SRI LANKA	17,842.00	
TOTAL COUNTRY CONTRIBUTIONS	139,202.00	
1.2 Interest earned	35,000.00	
1.3 Secretariat Cost from Sri Lanka	53,000.00	
TOTAL INCOME	227,202.00	
2 ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE		
2.1 Salary Director General		54,000.00
2.2 Salaries of Local Staff		68,500.00
2.3 International Travel		20,000.00
2.4 Secretariat Cost		79,000.00
SUB TOTAL		221,500.00
3 Capital Costs		17,500.00
4 TOTAL EXPENDITURE		239,000.00
5 INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE		(11,798.00)

PROPOSED SECRETARIAT BUDGET FOR 2018 - 2019

	ANTICIPATED INCOME WITH 10% INCREASE US \$	EXPENDITURE US \$
1 ANTICIPATED INCOME		
1.1 AFGHANISTAN	8,855.00	
BANGLADESH	23,430.00	
BHUTAN	3,910.00	
INDIA	35,035.00	
MALDIVES	16,033.00	
NEPAL	8,855.00	
PAKISTAN	35,035.00	
SRI LANKA	17,842.00	
TOTAL COUNTRY CONTRIBUTIONS	148,995.00	
1.2 Interest earned	35,000.00	
1.3 Secretariat Cost from Sri Lanka	53,000.00	
TOTAL INCOME	236,995.00	
2 ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE		
2.1 Salary Director General		54,000.00
2.2 Salaries of Local Staff		68,500.00
2.3 International Travel		20,000.00
2.4 Secretariat Cost		79,000.00
SUB TOTAL		221,500.00
3 Capital Costs		17,500.00
4 TOTAL EXPENDITURE		239,000.00
5 INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE		(2,005.00)