

OUR SOUTH ASIA

# SACEP TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



*Sarawit Pongsom, Thailand*



South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme  
July 1994

# **OUR SOUTH ASIA**

**SACEP towards Sustainable Development  
1982 - 1994**



**South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme  
1994**

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

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

At Colombo on 25th February 1981.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

*DECLARES:*

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

*Calls upon:*

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

## FOREWORD

*It is now more than 10 years since SACEP was formed by nine Member Countries of South Asia. During this period, SACEP has gone through many ups and downs which raises many questions about this institution. With the deteriorating environmental conditions world over in general and South Asia in particular, the follow-up of UNCED and Agenda 21 has become a necessity for survival of mankind. It is very clear that there is an absolute need of a Sub Regional Intergovernmental Organisation like SACEP, with a special focus on environment to combat the menace faced by most poor region of the world i.e, South Asia.*

*SACEP through its Strategy and Programme (SSP - 1) covering a period of 1992 -1996, has set up a Regional Strategy for Environmental Management for South Asia, which is nothing but Agenda 21 in a different form. Within the framework of this strategy, SACEP is endeavouring to step up its programme activities for the benefit of the people of this region. Through this publication, we are trying to put together brief areas of concern in South Asia, SACEP's perspective and past and present programme activities.*

*The perfection always comes by critical analysis and self appraisal. It is therefore, imperative that SACEP has to keep on asking questions and re-examining its approaches if it is to achieve its ultimate goal. Questions and questioning are crucial elements in human endeavour because without the right questions, there can be no meaningful answers.*

*I would like to take this opportunity to understand that this publication will enlighten the readers of the true form and content of SACEP and invite necessary guidance and suggestions for its further improvement.*

V.P. Jauhari

Director  
SACEP

July, 1994

We are in the last decade of an extraordinarily eventful 20th Century. The World has seen spectacular Political, Social, Cultural, Economic and Scientific progress through this Century, but this progress has been monopolised by the chosen few at a tremendous cost of the majority of mankind. The most disconcerting manifestation of this lopsided progress has been our planet's ravaged ecology. In the last 10-15 years, there has been a gratifying resurgence of environmental sense among the developing countries and the most important aspect of this growing consciousness in the region, is its permeation to the establishment and also at the people's level. It is imperative that environmental consciousness becomes a pre-occupation with our people, as no amount of Government intervention can reverse ecological collapse. While at the National Level, this is what is needed but co-operation at the international level is also an important catalyst in checking the impending havoc.

The SACEP Region covers almost one twentieth of the earth's surface, has 5.38 per cent of the total land area, 16 per cent of agricultural land, 3.2% of forested areas which amounts to 131.184 million hectares. The food production has increased substantially, but at the expense of wide spread deforestation and soil erosion, while world economic growth has registered an average of 3 per cent per year with developing countries as a whole achieving only 2 per cent. The SACEP region has achieved about 3.5 per cent per year on average.

Large irrigation projects have resulted in water logging and salinity converting some of the most fertile soil in the region to wastelands. Similarly, mounting pressure on fragile and marginal lands caused by over cropping, livestock grazing, fuel wood collection, logging, mining and dry land farming has adversely affected millions of hectares of land in the region. When the soil loses its productivity, the intensity of desertification spreads over the entire region. As people face this rapidly dwindling bio mass reserves and other natural resources, poverty becomes even more acute and burdensome.

Industrial growth in the region has taken place at the cost of environment, evident

from the severe atmospheric and water pollution and exhaustion of both renewable and non-renewable resources. Facts on the Depletion of the Ozone Layer, Climatic Changes and Sea Level Rise can no longer be ignored. The densely populated cities of the region face health hazards arising from high level of sulphur-dioxide, Lead and other harmful chemicals in the atmosphere. The toxic wastes, hard metals and pathogenic bacteria contaminate water bodies. Oil spills, the dumping of hazardous waste and radio active materials, drainage of untreated industrial effluents and municipal wastes directly into the seas have heavily polluted the marine environment. The reckless destruction of valuable fragile ecosystems, the mining of corals, denuding of mangroves, forests and over fishing has drastically reduced primary productivity as well as fish stocks in both coastal areas and deep sea waters. All this has adverse impact directly on the food front in the region apart from other serious environmental hazards.

Poverty is an acute phenomenon in this region. Poverty is the biggest polluter also. Therefore, environmental deterioration, due to poverty, is a matter of great concern both to rural and urban areas in the South Asia Region. The World Development Report has estimated about 1,242.04 million people in the SACEP Region, most of whom are struggling to survive on less than a dollar per day. The interaction of poverty and environmental destruction sets a vicious circle that threatens economic well being, physical security and healthy living conditions of many of the region's poorest people. The problem of poverty is so acute, that members of the region cannot solve it with domestic resources alone. Therefore, financing of many initiatives for poverty alleviation and improvement of the environment, still have to come particularly from the developed countries.

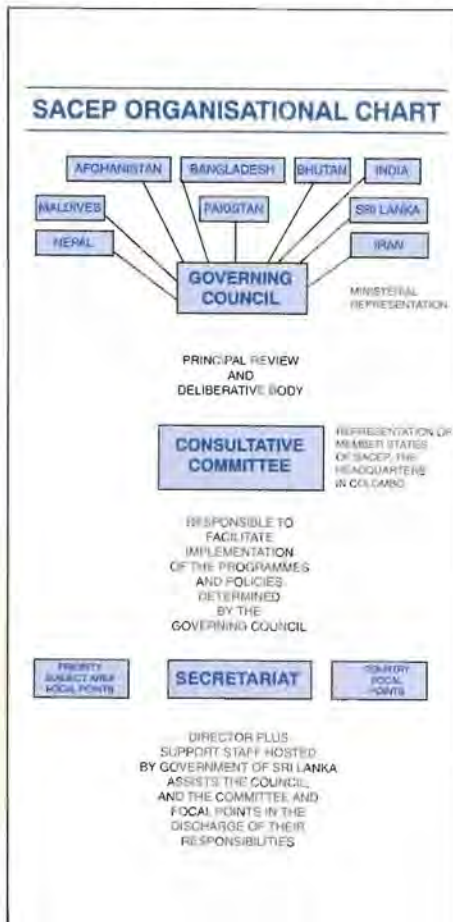
As properly stated by the UNEP's Executive Director Ms Elizabeth Dowdeswell, extreme poverty is not only a result of environmental degradation, it is also to some extent, a cause. Not until the poor are given the means and opportunity to break out of the vicious circle, in which poverty holds them, will real development, sustainable development, become a possibility.

## SACEP - It's Mandate

To summarise, the degraded environment situation in the region once again, the Executive Director, UNEP has quoted :

*"Stand with your back to the water, in an increasing number of countries, and you will see the impact of poverty on the environment."*

*In the foreground, is a city whose most basic services have broken down. Raw sewage is being pumped into the bay. Garbage collection is non-existent, and the carriers of infectious diseases are scurrying from one garbage pile to another. Lift your eyes and you will see denuded hillsides, cleared by people so desperate for fuelwood that they have destroyed the forests that hold the soil. If*



*it is raining, you will see a river of mud, once rich topsoil being washed through down and in to the sea.*

*Turn around to face the sea or a road and you will see the effort of this destruction; boats or vehicles with cargoes of refugees preparing for a journey to anywhere that will take them."*

To avoid the deteriorating Bio-physical conditions, the countries of the region have responded through proliferation of Environmental Legislation and Convention, Enhancement in Environmental Education, Communications and Public Awareness, Environmental Policy Planning and Application of Green Technology.

Most of the countries of the region have Ministries of Environment or Central Environmental Agencies under different Ministries. The Environmental Laws are in the process of constant change due to the test of legal scrutiny. The development of green technology is still in the stages of infancy. In most of the countries however, environmental issues are already incorporated in National Economic Development Plans. Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Environmental Audit are gaining wide acceptance. However, major programmes are inadequate in Environmental Data Base and monitoring. Recycling, reuse and reduction of waste, is still not achieved in most of the countries. Most countries have little or no sewage collection and treatment facilities.

In the light of the deteriorating environmental conditions, the countries of the South Asian Region, thoughtfully came together, and signed a Declaration in 1981, now known as the "Colombo Declaration." These countries include all the seven countries of SAARC and Afghanistan and Iran. Through this Declaration, they formulated **South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP)** to be the nerve centre of environmental activities in the areas of regional concern as a collaborative effort of Member States. Since its inception, SACEP has been implementing the Programmes and Policies approved by its Governing Council at the Ministerial Level.

While SACEP is alive to the regional challenges, it co-ordinates its activities within overall framework of the Regional Strategy on Environmentally Sound and Sustainable Development, developed by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific (ESCAP). The issues, addressed in the National and Regional Strategy, are :-

1. *Improvement of the Living and Working Environment for the Poor;*
2. *Protection of Health Conditions and Improvement in the Quality of Life;*
3. *Protection of the Atmosphere by Combating Climate Change, Depletion of the Ozone Layer and Transboundary Air Pollution;*
4. *Protection and Management of Oceans and Coastal Areas and Rational use of Marine Living Resources;*
5. *Protection and Management of Land Resources, by Combating Deforestation, Desertification and Land Degradation;*
6. *Protection and Supply of Fresh-water Resources;*
7. *Environmentally Sound Management of Toxic Chemicals and Hazardous Wastes;*
8. *Conservation of Biological Diversity.*

This strategy outline shows the project frame of the strategy for achieving Environmentally Sound and Sustainable Development. The strategy outlines a broad framework of priorities and action points in selected areas. Some of these pertain to specific sectors, while others are cross-sectoral. The selected areas for action, are based on the identified causes of environmental degradation.

- \* *Population and Human Settlements;*
- \* *Poverty, Rural Development and Agriculture;*
- \* *Natural Resources and Energy;*
- \* *Trade, Investment and Tourism;*
- \* *Industry.*

The supporting measures needed for implementation of the strategy have also been outlined, and include.

- \* *Institutional and Administrative measures, including Economic Instruments;*
- \* *Legislation, Conventions and Treaties;*
- \* *Environmental Education, Communication and Public Awareness;*
- \* *Development and Transfer of Environmentally Sound and Technology.*



Colombo Declaration Meeting  
25 February, 1981

SACEP's activities since the beginning, are within the above strategy. At this stage before proceeding further, it would be better if past activities are briefly narrated here.

Since its inception, the work activities of SACEP has been based on the 15 Priority Subject Matter Areas which were initially identified by the Project Identification and Formulation Missions and formally approved at the First Governing Council (GC) Meeting of SACEP held in January 1983 in Colombo. The list of these Priority Subject Matter Areas include the following:

1. *Environmental Impact Assessment and Cost/Benefit Analysis; Environment and Development.*
2. *Environment Quality Standards.*
3. *Technology for the Development of Renewable and Reusable Resources.*
4. *Environment Legislation.*
5. *Conservation of Montane Ecosystems and Watersheds.*
6. *Social Forestry.*
7. *Regional Co-operation in Wildlife and Genetic Resources Conservation.*
8. *Conservation of Corals, Mangroves, Deltas, Coastal Areas; and*
9. *Island Ecosystems.*
10. *Tourism and Environment*
11. *Desertification.*
12. *Regional Seas Programme.*
13. *Energy and Environment*
14. *Education and Training.*
15. *Training in Wildlife Management.*

### South Asian Regional Seas Programme

One of the major achievements of SACEP, has been its ability to bring to the South Asian Region, UNEP's Regional Seas Programme. It is expected, that the Action Plan, which is now in advanced stage for the South Asian Regional Seas Programme, will be formally approved by the five concerned Marine Member States of SACEP. The SACEP Secretariat has been identified and designated as the Secretariat for the implementation of this programme.

**"The 11th Governing Council of UNEP requested the Executive Director to designate the South Asian Seas as a region to be included in Regional Seas Programme in close collaboration with SACEP"**

In 1972, the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment in Stockholm outlined a "master plan" for the world's environment which linked Environmental Assessment, Environmental Management and Supporting Measures as basic and inseparable elements of a global strategy. The *United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)* since the

Stockholm Conference has served as Focal Point for Environmental Action and Co-ordination within the United Nations System for the implementation of the Action Plan adopted at Stockholm.

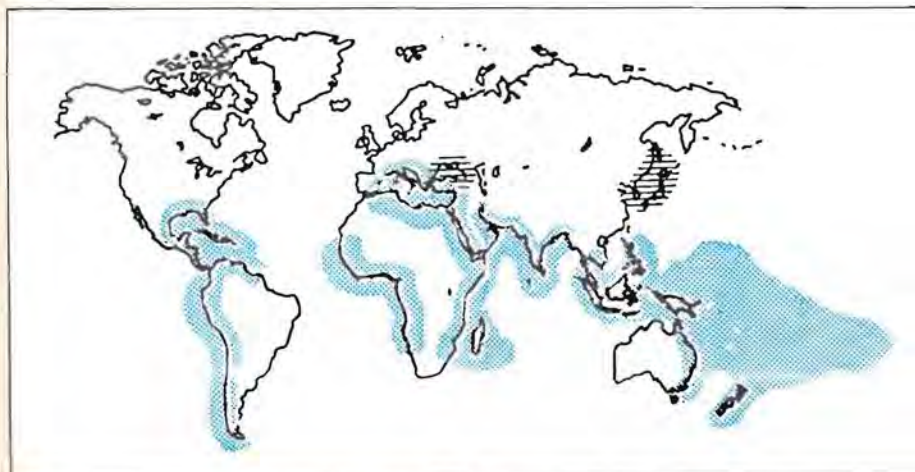
The early meetings of the UNEP Governing Council endorsed a regional approach to the control of Marine Pollution and Management of Marine and Coastal Resources. Consequently, in 1974 the Regional Seas Programme of UNEP was initiated.

The Expert Working Group on Regional Seas which was convened by the Executive Director of UNEP recommended the expansion of the Regional Seas Programme to cover the South Asian Seas.

On an initiative taken by the member countries of SACEP, the Tenth Governing Council of UNEP resolved to "request the Executive Director to enter into consultation with the concerned states of SACEP to ascertain their views regarding the conduct of a Regional Seas Programme in the South Asian Seas".

A Mission conducted by a Senior Consultant to the five concerned states concluded that the five states were 'favourably disposed to the establishment of a Regional Seas Programme making use of SACEP as the co-ordinating centre for the preparatory stages'.

The 11th Governing Council of UNEP requested the Executive Director to designate the South Asian Seas as a region to be included in Regional Seas Programme,



Map Showing Existing Regional Seas Programmes

## Programmes

in close collaboration with SACEP and other Governments of the Region.

The First Meeting of the National Focal Points was held in March 1984 in Bangkok. The significant outputs from this meeting were as follows:

- \* Preparation of Present Status Country Reports
- \* Based on the Country Reports, Preparation of a Regional Overview.
- \* Preparation of Draft Action Plan for the South Asian Seas Programme.
- \* Preparation of a document addressing the essential Legislative Aspects relevant to the Action Plan.

It was also agreed to convene a Meeting of Experts to Review and Revise, as appropriate these reports prior to submission to the 2nd Meeting of Focal Points.

The preparation of the National Country Reports commenced from August 1984 and Meeting of Experts took place in Bangkok in December 1986. This Meeting in addition to reviewing the concerned Reports, recommended the formulation and early implementation of the following six (6) Priority Projects prior to the formal adoption of the Action Plan.

- SAS 2 Coastal Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) for Pakistan.
- SAS 3 Development of a System of Protected Areas in the South Asian Seas Region.
- SAS 4 Assessment of Levels and Effects of Marine Pollution in the South Asian Seas Region.
- SAS 5 Development of an Operational Regional Contingency Plan for Responding to Marine Pollution.
- SAS 6 Survey of Land Based Sources of Marine Pollution and Formulation of Guidelines and Proposals for Environmentally Sound Waste Management Technologies and Policies.
- SAS 7 Promotion of Public Awareness for South Asian Countries in connection with the South Asian Seas Programme.



The main reason for the delay in the adoption of the South Asian Seas Action Plan has been the lack of consensus among the member states on the Legal Agreement. However, this problem does not exist now, as OCA/PAC's line of thinking on this matter has changed and they are now of the opinion that a Legal Agreement or Convention, if so desired by all the participating states could come at time when the countries need it and until such time priority activities, as identified, could be implemented. As such the formal adoption of the South Asian Seas Action Plan should be finalised very shortly.

#### *Highlights of Draft Action Plan to be adopted by Member States*

The Highlights of the proposed Action Plan is that all components of the Action Plan are interdependent and provide a framework for comprehensive action which should contribute to both the protection and the continued development of the region. No component is an end itself. Each activity is intended to assist the Governments of the region to strengthen the process through which Environmental Management Policies are formulated and to improve the quality of the Information on which these policies are based.



First Meeting of National Focal Points  
March, 1984

The objective of the Action Plan is to Protect and Manage the Marine Environment and related Coastal Ecosystems of the Region. This objective includes the promotion of sustainable development and sound management of regional marine and coastal resources by:

- \* *Establishing and enhancing consultations and technical co-operation among the states of the region;*
- \* *Emphasising the economic and social importance of the resources of the marine and coastal environment; and*

- \* *Establishing a Regional Co-operative network activities concerning concrete subjects/projects of mutual interest for the whole region.*

The present status of the Priority Projects are as follows:

#### **SAS 2 Coastal Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) for Pakistan.**

This Project was executed by ESCAP and has been completed. The Draft Plan is now with the Government of Pakistan for approval.

**"The objective of the  
Action Plan is to  
Protect and Manage  
the Marine  
Environment and  
related Coastal  
Ecosystems of the  
Region"**

#### **SAS 3 Development of a System of Protected Areas in the South Asian Seas Region.**

IUCN was designated as the Executing Agency for this Project. Reports from IUCN indicate that this Project has been completed but SACEP has been kept in the dark of all the activities connected with this project. Clarification has been requested from IUCN but there has been no response.

#### **SAS 4 Assessment of Levels and Effects of Marine Pollution in the South Asian Seas Region.**

UNEP's Environment Fund has approved the project but its implementation has been deferred till the Action Plan is adopted. IOC has been designated as the Executing Agency.

#### **SAS 5 Development of an Operational Regional Contingency Plan for Responding to Marine Pollution.**

This project has been completed successfully by IMO. The "Draft Operational Regional Contingency Plan" was approved at a Workshop attended by the Experts of the Region and this document is now with the respective Governments for scrutiny and Final Approval.

#### **SAS 6 Survey of Land Based Sources of Marine Pollution and Formulation of Guidelines and Proposals for Environmentally Sound Waste Management Technologies and Policies.**

This Project too has been approved by the UNEP's Environment Fund but its implementation has been deferred till the Action Plan is adopted.

#### **SAS 7 Promotion of Public Awareness for South Asian Countries in connection with the South Asian Seas Programme.**

This project has been completed and the three outputs, namely a Poster, Brochure and a Video Film have been made available to the member countries and UNEP. SACEP was the Executing Agency for this Project.



### *Role of SACEP in the South Asian Seas Programme*

For a variety of historical reasons, a Regional Seas Programme for the South Asian Seas was not initiated. The emergence of SACEP saw with it the revival of interests of the concerned member states towards the establishment of a Regional Seas Programme for the South Asian Seas.

Since the designation of the South Asian Seas Programme as a part of UNEP's Regional Seas Programme, SACEP has played a very active a significant role towards the finalisation of this Programme. SACEP has actively participated at all activities concerning the formulatory stages of this Programme and have assisted OCA/PAC in expediting responses from the Member States on various technical and administrative matters concerning the programme. This fact has been recognised by the concerned member states who have designated the SACEP to act as the Secretariat for the implementation of the SAS Action Plan, once it is formally adopted by the Concerned Member Governments.

### *Environmental Legislation*

The UNEP/SACEP Project Identification Mission which visited the Member Countries during August-October 1982, observed that although most countries have legislation dealing with the environment, in most areas, the laws are obsolete and are incapable of tackling the complex multi-disciplinary environmental problems that has come to afflict man.



Thus, a Project Proposal was prepared. According to this, its First Phase activities would result in the Preparation of Present Status Country Reports, a Regional Overview and Recommendations, both gen-

eral and country specific, to be made available to the Member Governments. Phase 2 envisages the Training of National Lawyers in Drafting Effective Environmental Legislation, the Creation of Awareness among the Members of the Legal Profession and other interested groups on the importance of an up-to-date environmental legislation and to give advice on the enforcement of the provisions of environmental legislation and to give advice on the enforcement of the provisions of environmental laws.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), decided to adopt this project and Phase I was completed with a Workshop held in New Delhi in 1987, where all Country Reports and the Regional Overview were discussed. This Workshop also made certain far reaching recommendations to the Member Governments and also requested the assistance of Donor Agencies to assist the SACEP Secretariat in completing Phase II of the project.

### *Declaration of The Year of Trees for South Asia*

A Resolution was unanimously adopted at the First Meeting of the Governing Council of SACEP declaring the year 1988 as the Year of Trees for South Asia.

At the 11th Meeting of the Governing Council of UNEP, held in Nairobi in May 1983, a Resolution was adopted commending the initiative taken by the countries of South Asia to overcome deforestation, and requesting the Executive Director to support, within available resources, the formulation of projects and programmes by the SACEP Secretariat in connection with Year of Trees, and to assist in soliciting support from Donor Agencies for the implementation of these activities. The resolution also invited other Member Countries of the Asian and Pacific Region to consider designating 1988 as the Year of Trees.

In accordance with the Terms of Resolution, UNEP agreed to provide Funds for the Formulation of Programmes and Projects, after deciding on the Modalities of Operation for same.

On the basis of reports at hand, the SACEP Secretariat in consultation with

**"A Resolution was unanimously adopted at the First Meeting of the Governing Council of SACEP declaring the year 1988 as the Year of Trees for South Asia"**

the selected Consultant, prepared a Regional Action Plan which was submitted to UNEP to obtain the necessary funds. The Regional Action Plan was also circulated to the Member Countries of SACEP for their information.



### *Conservation of Mangrove, Coral and Island Ecosystems*

With financial assistance from UNEP/ESCAP, a Symposium was held in Dhaka in August 1983 to discuss this subject. The symposium was attended by the Marine Member States and a number of UN and other International Agencies. This meeting considered the critical areas that require attention in these specialised ecosystems and discussed their present status, effects of resource exploitation and other human activities, as well as pollution impacts. Several suggested actions were considered for the sound management of these fragile ecosystems.

Based on these suggested activities, the SACEP Secretariat prepared a Draft Action Plan which spells out the present status in these ecosystems, actions already underway and activities which need to be undertaken in priority basis. This

Action Plan has been circulated to various interested agencies with the hope that some joint activity could be initiated.

#### *Environmental Impact Assessment and Cost/benefit Analysis*

This particular Subject Area has wide ranging importance in all aspects of the environment, as well as for effectively establishing environment management in a developing context. The SACEP Secretariat has been in close communication with the Focal Point of this Subject Area and some International Organisations with a view to initiating activities connected with this subject.

A Senior Level Expert Workshop to Evaluate Benefits and Constraints of the Environmental Impact Assessment Process in the SACEP Countries was held in Colombo in March 1981. This workshop was organised by UNEP in collaboration with the Government of Sri Lanka and SACEP, with financial assistance from the Government of Netherlands.

The objective of the Workshop was to Evaluate the Advantages and Constraints in using EIA and by examining Case Studies to determine how the EIA process could be improved.

#### *Co-ordinated Environmental Education Programme*

At the 11th Meeting of the Governing Council of UNEP held in Nairobi during May 1983, a resolution was adopted "to formulate a project for Environmental Education for Asia and the Pacific." SACEP requested UNEP to consider South Asia as a "bloc," taking into consideration this aspiration reflected in the Revised Project on Environmental Education for

South Asia so that this organisation could take a leading role in its implementation.

SACEP was invited to participate at the UNEP/UNESCO sponsored Meeting of Experts on Environmental Education for Asia and Pacific held in Bangkok in November 1985, where a programme of action for Asia and the Pacific was formulated. In the light of the above programme of action, the SACEP Secretariat prepared its project proposal and submitted to UNESCO for possible collaboration and funding.

#### *Desertification*

At the onset, it was decided that since this Subject Area has a global foundation and is pursued vigorously by UNEP in co-operation with specialised agencies of the United Nations and other bodies, the SACEP Secretariat and the countries concerned should identify their needs and participate actively in the on-going global programmes.

The SACEP Secretariat participated in an International Conference titled "Economics of Dryland Degradation and Rehabilitation," conducted by the Government of Australia and UNEP. This Conference was a follow-up of a major UN Conference held in 1977, where Plan of Action to Combat Desertification (PACD) was drafted.

As a follow-up to the Australian Conference, a Workshop for South and South East Asia was held in August 1986 in New Delhi, where UNEP sponsored the participation of delegates from SACEP Member Countries nominated by the respective Governments.

On this Subject Area, SACEP has worked very closely with ESCAP, who is the Exe-

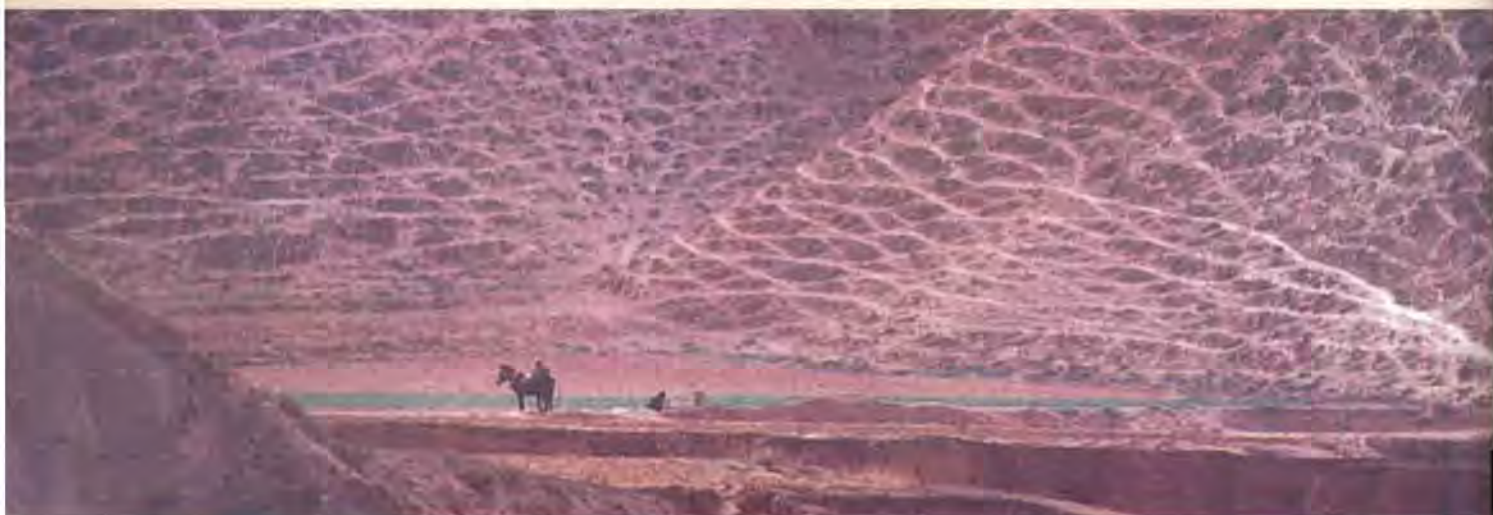
cutive Agency, in connection with the UNDP Regional Project RAS/88/005 - titled "Programme Support to the Network of Research and Training Centres of Desertification Control in Asia and the Pacific (DESCONAP)". SACEP has attended most of the activities in connection with this project. At the Final Review Meeting of this Project, SACEP expressed its willingness to assist this activity especially in the Area of Information Dissemination through its ongoing Asian Development Bank (ADB) assisted RENRIC Programme. The SACEP Secretariat now awaits the response from the ADB as regards Phase II of this project, so that SACEP could act as an Information Centre for ESCAP's Desertification Programme.

#### *Environmental Clearing House Services Project*

The 'Environmental Clearing House Services Project' which was approved by the Governing Council of SACEP, was submitted to the Asian Development Bank (ADB) for possible funding in May 1987.

The funded Project was titled 'Regional Environmental and Natural Resources Information Centre' (RENRIC) and Phase I of the Project, which was for a period of one year, commenced in July 1990.

Phase I of this Project was completed in June 1991. Activities for Phase II of this Project was approved by the Governing Council of SACEP for implementation and SACEP has approached the ADB for assistance. This would involve setting up of information cells in each Member Country and arranging their networking. Other relevant National and International networks would also be covered in this networking exercise.



# SACEP's Strategy and Programme (SSP - I : 1992-96)

In 1992, the SACEP Secretariat with assistance from UNEP's Regional Office for Asia and Pacific, engaged a Consultant to conduct a review of its performance since 1982 and to prepare a Plan of Action for the next 4 years. Accordingly, an Action Plan titled SACEP's Strategy and Programme - SSP -I (1992-1996) was prepared and was formally approved for implementation by 5th Governing Council of SACEP, which met in September 1992.

SSP - I 1992-1996 contains 14 Project Concepts which covers 5 key areas of activity, namely:

- 1) *Capacity Building and Awareness Raising*
- 2) *Systematic Information Exchange and Intra-Regional Technology Transfers;*
- 3) *Environmental Management for Training and Institutional Development for Training;*
- 4) *Regional Co-operation in Management Plans for Montane Ecosystems/ Watersheds and Coastal Resources;*
- 5) *Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat Conservation in the Region.*

The 14 Project Concepts are :-

## **Environment and Sustainable Development within the Context of Agenda 21: Capacity Building and Enhancement of Awareness and Practical Implementation Options for High Level Government Policy and Decision-makers in the Countries Participating in SACEP**

The purpose of the Project is the introduction of the relevant chapters of Agenda 21, Examination of their practical implications and Discussions on the implementation options aimed at High-Level Government Policy and Decision-Makers in each of the Countries of the Region.

In each of the countries of the SACEP region a number of Workshops will be held for the High-Level Government Policy and Decision-Makers (Afghanistan: 1, Bangladesh: 2, Bhutan: 1, India: 4, Maldives: 1, Pakistan: 2, and Sri Lanka: 1). These Workshops will consider and recommend for implementation Work Programmes and Project Documents for Regional Priorities under Agenda 21.

## **Enhancement of the Public Environmental Awareness in Connection with Existing as well as Emerging Environmental Issues of Concern in the Countries of the Region**

The Project will be aimed at raising the general public's awareness on general as well as specific environmental issues of regional, national, and local concern. This is essentially envisaged to be achieved through audio-visual channels: Preparation and Dissemination of Printed Material (brochures, posters, booklets, slides, photographs, etc.) as well as Preparation and Broadcasting of Short Films and Videos, basically for Television Broadcasting. Radio Spots will also be prepared and disseminated through the countries of the region for local language broadcasting.



Environmental Awareness through Puppeteers

A Meeting of Journalists and Other Media Representatives from the Countries of the Region will first be convened in order to advise and prepare brief guidelines on the preparation of the most effective and appropriate audio-visual material, taking the diverse cultural and traditional values into account. Wherever possible the audio-visual material will be prepared in consultation with relevant governments' department so that they would reflect national and regional policies and programmes.

### **Preparation of Guidelines For the Assessment of Highly Polluting Industries; Import of Potentially Harmful Chemicals and Hazardous Wastes; and Dealing With Chemical Disasters**

The Project will examine IBRD, ILO, ESCAP and other relevant Guidelines, Regional Training and Workshop Schedules, and Institutional Arrangements, and recommend, if necessary, the Preparation of Region-Specific Guidelines, for (i) Assessment of Existing and Planned Highly Polluting Industries, (ii) Control of Potentially Harmful and Hazardous Chemicals and Hazardous Wastes produced or imported into the countries of the region, and (iii) Dealing with Chemical Disasters.

An initial inventory of the above mentioned will be prepared and this would be followed by Workshops/Seminars which will prepare the Guidelines, Consider Institutional Arrangements, and Develop Project Documents for further regional collaboration in the above areas.



### **Regional Environmental and Natural Resources Information Centre (RENRIC) - Phase 2**

This is the Second Phase of the RENRIC, Phase I of which was completed in 1991 with Asian Development Bank funding.

The Second Phase of the Project was formulated in consultation with participating Member Countries of SACEP at a Meeting held in Colombo. The Project Proposal outlines a detailed workplan, whose salient elements are as follows:

- (a) Establishment of RENRIC Cells in each country;
- (b) Collection, Collation and Dissemination of Relevant Environmental and Natural Resources Information;
- (c) Preparation of a Compendium of All Relevant Seminars, Workshops, Meeting held in each Priority Subject Area in the Region during the last two decades;
- (d) Updating the Regional and National Directories.
- (e) Training of RENRIC Country Cell Officers in the use of Information Technology.

### **Sharing of Pollution Abatement Technology through Exchange of Information and Training Programmes**

Efforts to develop Appropriate Technology and Management Systems for Municipal, Industrial and Agricultural Wastes have succeeded to varying degrees in member countries. This Project envisages sharing the most appropriate Pollution Abatement Technologies, and the most successful Technology Development and Management Systems, achieved in any participating Member Country with other countries in the region, through Systematic Exchange of Information and Training Programmes.

## Regional Air Quality Monitoring and Management Systems

The Project will assess the Coverage and Quality of Air Quality Monitoring in the Main Urban Airsheds of the Region; Collate and Analyse the Data, Develop Comparative Rankings and Appropriate Standards for General and Specific Situations; Evaluate Alternate Mitigation Measures being practiced within and outside the region, and Promote the Adoption of the most practical and efficient measures.

### Strengthening of the Environmental Management in the SACEP Countries-Phase I (Training)

This Project is Cross sectoral, covering almost all of the "SACEP Priority Subject Matter Areas (PSMA)".

In the First Phase of this Project only a few of the Priority Subject Areas in the Priority Subject Matter Area (PSMA), are selected for concentrated attention: i.e. (i) Environmental Impact Assessment, (ii) Forestry, (iii) Wildlife Management, (iv) Eco-tourism, and (v) Pollution Control.

The Project envisages a Series of Training Workshops to be held in the Countries of the Region with the involvement of institutions that each have experience in one of the selected areas. The Training Workshops will be preceded by a Meeting of Experts outlining details of the coverage and the needs of each workshop and will end with a meeting, evaluating the results and making recommendations for the Second Phase of the Project.

### Establishment of a Regional Training and Information Centre for Environmental Management

The justification for the Project is the absence of a Regional Centre of Excellence in Environmental Management in South Asia, while there is a well demonstrated need for it to meet the environmental challenges lying ahead. The Centre will create a Regional Database on the Environment and Train Manpower to Understand and Tackle Environmental Problems facing the Region.

### Regional Co-operation in Conservation of Montane Ecosystems and Watersheds

Conservation of the Montane Ecosystem is a high priority issue owing to immediate and long term needs. Present Forestry and other Mountain Resources Management Techniques and Watershed Conservation Practices leave much to be desired. To be successful, an Integrated approach is needed, drawing upon public participation for common social issues.

Under the Project:-

- (a) Management Plans prepared at National and Local Level for Montane Ecosystems and Watersheds will be exchanged, leading towards comprehensive co-operation in Management of the Himalayan Ecosystem.
- (b) The carrying capacity of crucial and representative Montane Ecosystems and Watersheds will be assessed.
- (c) Select Pilot Plans for Watershed Conservation will be implemented, such as Dissemination of Regenerative Agriculture Technologies and Practices, including High Altitude HYV Fodders and Rotational Grazing.
- (d) In Co-operation with Sister Organisations, a Recurrent Manpower Training Programme may be established to ensure the Availability of Expertise in the Region for Sound Montane and Watershed Management.



## Assessment of Land-based Sources of Coastal and Marine Pollution in the Countries of the Region



As an adjunct to the Regional Seas Programme, the Project is expected to provide an up-to-date estimate and Assessment of the Land-Based Sources of Coastal and Marine Pollution, originating from both land-locked and coastal countries participating in the SACEP, in the coastal countries of the region.

A simplified and easy to utilise Guidelines for the Assessment of Land-Based Sources of Pollution will be prepared. The techniques outlined will be introduced to Representatives of the relevant Institutions of the countries of the region through a number of short Training Courses/Workshops.

The results will be published in the form of National Reports as well as a Regional Overview.

## Regional Co-operation in Conservation of Marine Species (Marine Mammals and Sea Turtles)



As an adjunct to the UNEP Regional Seas Programme and the UNDP/IOMAC Marine Mammals Programme, the Project will concentrate on collection on available data on Marine Mammals and Sea Turtles within the Coastal Countries of the Region (Species, Types, Extent of habitat, Breeding Grounds, Existing Management Practices, Environmental and Human Pressures, etc.). Based on these information, National and Regional Guidelines for the Coastal Countries of the Region would be developed, and Capacities of National Institutions for Implementation and Regional Co-operation augmented.

## Regional Co-operation for Strengthening the Management of Terrestrial (Wildlife) and Marine Parks

The Project will have two components: (i) Terrestrial (Wildlife) and (ii) Marine Parks.

Through separate Workshops and/or Seminars, the present status of the Terrestrial and Marine Parks and their management will be assessed and evaluated. Based on the information gathered and exchanged a Report will be prepared with Guidelines on the Ways and Means of Improving and Strengthening of the Management of these Parks. Strong emphasis will be placed on utilization of these Parks as Venues for Eco-tourism.



The Project will be concluded by a series of Training Workshops for the Managers and Staff of the Regions Terrestrial and Marine Parks. As much as possible, existing Management Institutions will be relied on for the exchange of experience and training purposes.

Regional Co-operation in the Protection of Shared (Transboundary) Wildlife Habitats (Conservation of Mountain and Wetland Ecosystems)

Due to the high density of human population in most of the countries of the region there is an inevitable pressure on the Wildlife Habitats. The Project is aimed at Regional Co-operation on Shared Habitats which might not enjoy Conservation measures commensurate with their significance. In its First Phase, the Project will concentrate on Shared Mountain and Wetland Habitats.

Through Preparation of an Inventory of Significant Mountain and Wetland Habitats, the Project will attempt in Preparation of Guidelines and Workplans for Joint Activities necessary for the Conservation of these habitats. Conservation measures

for two of such shared habitats would be implemented as Case Studies and Models on the experience of which further phases of the Project will be developed.

### **Regional Co-operation in Conservation of the Habitat of the Terrestrial Migratory Species**

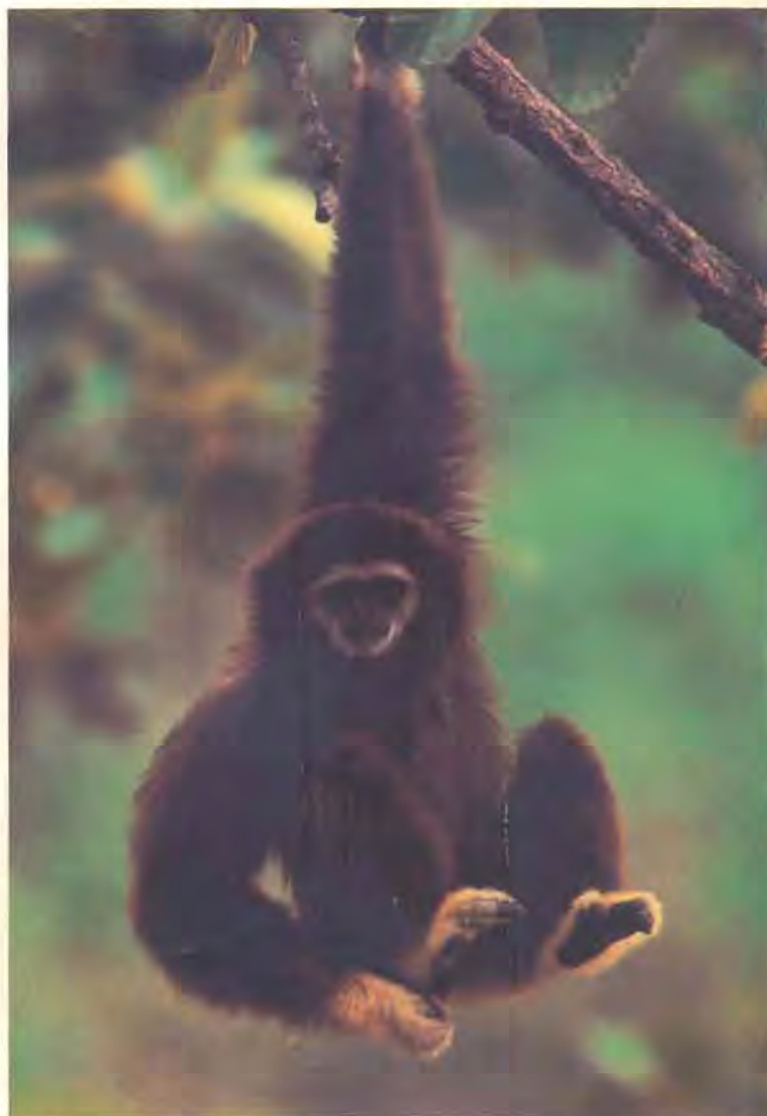
This Project is complementary to Projects 12 and 13. The focus of this Project would be on the Conservation of the Habitat of the Terrestrial Migratory Species.

In the initial stages of the Project, an Inventory of the Terrestrial Migratory Species and their Habitat in the region will be prepared. This would be followed by a number of Workshops/Seminars, relying on the existing and established institutions in the Region, in order to Prepare Guidelines for Co-operative Action in Conservation of the Habitats.

*The above key areas cover fourteen projects as approved by the Governing Council, in support of AGENDA 21. These would also include series of Training Programmes, Workshops and Seminars on subjects such as Implementation of AGENDA 21, Community Participation in Sustainable Development, Hazardous & Solid Waste Management, Regional Information Service etc.*

*In addition, Focal Points in the respective member countries have been requested to prepare projects for capacity building in designated areas. It is hoped that with the support of the Member States and Donor Agencies this task will be fulfilled in the allotted time.*

*Currently, SACEP is engaged in getting donor assistance for implementation of its programmes. The Global Environmental Facility (GEF) is also approached for pre-investment funding. The current step involved, is seeking donor's help in preparation of detailed Project Reports for all 14 concept outlines approved, and thereafter, funding for their implementation would follow from multilateral/bilateral agencies. It is hoped that keeping in view of the decisions of AGENDA 21, creation of GEF and Commission on Sustainable Development, SACEP's efforts will find renewed support with donor agencies. Avoiding multiplicity of agencies and duplication of efforts was the outcome of the Rio Conference. It is expected that in view of this, a co-ordinated approach for environmental protection in the region would follow in future.*





## Projects under Implementation

### Geographic Information System /SACEP's Environment and Natural Resources Information Centre (SENRIC)

The programme activities of SACEP since formation has been based on the Fifteen Priority Subject Matter Areas which had been approved at its First Governing Council Meeting held in Colombo in January, 1983. Some of the major activities are listed below:

- \* *South Asian Regional Seas Programme*
- \* *Regional Environmental & Natural Resources Information Centre*
- \* *Environmental Legislation*
- \* *Year of Trees for South Asia*

UNEP has established RENRIC at Bangkok to bring about inter-country co-operation in the countries in the Asia Pacific region. This is the first venture of its kind to bring together diverse skills and common perceptions on environmental issues across geographical boundaries, involving both regional/sub-regional institutions and countries in the region.

### UNEP's Networking Strategy for Establishment of GIS Facility for Asia and Pacific



The primary mission of RENRIC is to facilitate the provision and exchange of environmental information to support the decision making and action towards sustainable development. Most specifically, the tasks are Capacity Building, Environmental Sensing, and Catalyzing Government response.

In the first phase of its operation, RENRIC has identified five sub-regional institutions for focussed attention, mainly, ICIMOD, Mekong Committee, SPREP, SACEP and ASOEN along with countries of the respective region. RENRIC will build its collaborative process based on the following building blocks.

Build on existing institutional base on a complementary and non-competitive basis;

- \* *Integrate scattered institutions, experts and data to avoid duplication of efforts;*
- \* *Build data on compatible format systems and classification to facilitate aggregation;*
- \* *Build incountry capability for human resource development and institution building; and*
- \* *Build national/regional networked and decentralized environmental resource information systems.*

In this connection, an information centre for the dissemination of Environmental Information in the South Asian Region is being set up through a close assistance from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). The information centre will act as a node for the Regional Environmental Natural Resources Information Network (RENIN) being implemented by UNEP/GRID-Bangkok for the Asia and Pacific Region and termed as SENRIC.

SENRIC is being set up with a Geographical Information System (GIS) facility and upgraded with an Image Processing (IP) system at a later stage to undertake the activities as given in the Memorandum of Understanding.

SENRIC will be the constituent of RENRIC at the South Asia level, having its sub-regional network with headquarters at SACEP Office in Colombo. It will also build up nodal centres in the headquarters of the member countries in a networking fashion. Through this programme, the committed money for the project will flow to the Member Countries for the above activities to be undertaken. In order to facilitate better co-ordination, each Member Country would constitute a National Advisory Group (NAG).

### SENRIC Priority Objectives

- \* **Capacity Building:** Through the assistance from UNEP, SENRIC would assist in establishing institutions to provide policy makers of the region with tools, information and equipment to evolve appropriate environmentally sound strategies and help in setting up appropriate laws and regulations. Capacity building does not remain institutional assistance alone. It entails technology transfer, collaborative financing, training and information dissemination.
  - a. Increase capacities of Governments utilizing modern information technologies and tools to integrate bio-physical and socio-economic data.
  - b. Establish sub-national, national, sub-regional, and regional environment information network.
  - c. Facilitate to bring together bilateral, multilateral and other agencies on a common collaborative programme to support environmental institutions with necessary mechanisms to transfer technology for the establishment of decision support systems.
  - d. Assist in the dissemination of holistic environment concepts through training in Geographical Information Systems and Remote Sensing (GIS/RS) applications.

### SENRIC Network for the SACEP Regional Countries



- \* **Sense the Environment:** To assist UNEP at the sub regional level, to know the state of the environment at any point in time to provide early warning.
  - a. Develop 1:250000 scale bio-physical and socio-economic datasets.
  - b. Assess annually environment information at national and regional levels.
- \* **Catalyse Government Response:** Assist UNEP to bring Governments together to develop policies, programmes, or to negotiate agreements towards sustainable development. It can serve as a focal point for emerging issues to achieve sustainable management of natural resources.
  - a. Prepare national, sub-regional state of environment (SoE) reports, environment impact assessments (EIAs) through integration of bio-physical and socio-economic information.

### SENRIC Programme Implementation Strategy

Following salient activities indicate the SENRIC strategy in setting up the network under the UNEP/GRID umbrella for the Environmental Database for the region.

#### a. Establishment of GIS facility

SENRIC will be equipped with a GIS unit which will facilitate the programme activities.

#### b. Directory of Environmental Institutions

SENRIC would contact the governmental bodies to develop a directory of environmental institutions and experts and consequently make proposals to UNEP for capacity building exercise.

#### c. GIS Training for the Government Bodies

Training at three levels (Policy, Professional and Technical) will be conducted at SENRIC during the second half of the year to promote the understanding of the technology.

#### d. Case Studies

Case studies concurrently will be developed to include the local conditions and incorporated in the training programmes.

#### e. Resource Database

Along with the other nodes of RENRIC, a 1:250'000 scale database will be developed and packaged to the Government in ArcView software format.

## I. Capacity Building

Initially an Environmental Information System (EIS) at the Environment Ministry, followed by GIS facilities for other departments will be provided from the inventory directory exercise estimates, under UNEP/GRID's assistance.

### g. State of Environmental (SoE) Reporting

As emphasized in Chapter 40 of the Agenda 21 document of UNCED, to aid the informed decision making, a constant SoE Reporting will be done through the UNEP/GRID for the region, taking into consideration of the bio-physical and socio-economic parameters.

### h. EIS Establishment for the Countries

An EIS will be established within each of the Ministries of Environment of SACEP member countries to facilitate better decision making process within the government.

### Future of SENRIC

The initial year of its establishment, SENRIC would concentrate on the two regional countries Sri Lanka and Maldives to establish the EIS, followed by its other member countries in the consecutive years. SENRIC would continuously train the government departments of the region to complement the RENRIC network activities in the region and constantly build the GIS awareness at all user levels, to meet its objectives. It is further envisaged that SENRIC would initiate bilateral / multilateral projects to aid the government in dealing with the environmental issues, in association with the other agencies working in similar activities.

It is expected that in addition to the financial assistance from UNEP and ADB, SENRIC would constantly develop Case Studies and assist Projects to stabilise its resource base to support its operational costs.

## Capacity Building in the Field of Planning and Management of the Coastal Areas in the South Asian Seas Region : Phase I

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), in co-operation with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP) is currently implementing the Project titled "Capacity Building in the Field of Planning and Management of the Coastal Areas in the South Asian Seas Region Phase I".

Within the framework of the Project, ESCAP in co-operation with the UNEP and SACEP conducted Workshop on Management Strategies for the Protection of the Coastal and Marine Environment in the South Asian Seas Region, which was held in Colombo from 20 - 23 December 1993.

The main objective of the Workshop was to Assess the Potential and Modalities of Promoting Co-operation for Capacity Building among the Maritime Member Countries of SACEP on the basis of Country Studies on Coastal Zone Management prepared by National Experts from Bangladesh, India Maldives, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

The Workshop also reviewed Management Strategies for the Protection of the Coastal and Marine Environment, Assessed the Requirements for Capacity Building in the Management of Coastal and Marine Environment and Identified Priorities for Action and the Nature of Assistance that will be required to address the issues on the Protection of Coastal and Marine Environment.

The Workshop also carried out a thorough Assessment of Capacity-Building Requirements in the Countries of the Region and Formulated Recommendations for addressing needs. These included the fields of Integrated Coastal Zone Management, Ocean Resource Assessment, Data and Information Systems, Marine Pollution, Ocean Technology Development, Disaster Mitigation, Coastal Erosion, Sea Level Monitoring, Education and Awareness and Human Resources Development.

Based on the Overall Assessment of Capacity-Building Requirements, the Workshop agreed on the following Areas for Priority Action to support Capacity-Building Activities in the South Asian Seas Region.

- i) *An Umbrella Project for Regional Co-operation and Pilot Projects in Integrated Coastal Zone Management*
- ii) *Development and Implementation of National and Regional Oil Spill Contingency Planning*
- iii) *Human Resources Development through Strengthening of National Centres of Excellence*

Based on the findings of the Studies and the Recommendations of the Workshop, ESCAP in collaboration with SACEP developed a Set of Proposals to address to the above three areas for Capacity Building.

The Secretariat presented the outlines of Project Proposals addressing the above areas, as well as a Strategy for Project Development and Implementation to an Intergovernmental Meeting held from 17 - 19 May 1994 in New Delhi.

The Meeting recommended that these Project Profiles be developed into defined Project Proposals with the concurrence of National Focal Points and Institutions and Technical Assistance Activities. There was also a strong recommendation that UNEP should take steps to ensure that there is early ratification of the Action Plan for the South Asian Seas Programme

This Meeting was attended by the five Marine States of SACEP, namely Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and UN/ International Organisations such as ESCAP, FAO, IMO, IOC, International Ocean Institute, SACEP, UNDP, UNEP, UNESCO and WHO.

## State of the Environment Report for South Asia 1995

Environmentally Sound and Sustainable Development was the emphasis of the Rio Conference held in 1992. Agenda 21 discussed the priorities for change and made several recommendations. Among them, the monitoring of environmental trends was considered as an important step to better Environmental Management. These trends have to be periodically monitored Nationally, Regionally and Globally.

Various mechanisms have evolved over time to monitor these trends. One such mechanism is the "Preparation of the State of Environment Report" once in five years. In this context, SACEP will be bringing out the Report for the South Asia Region, to be published in 1995.

Initially National Consultants will be preparing Country Reports which will then be consolidated into a Regional Report by a Consultant identified from the region. The outline that is being followed is the same adopted by ESCAP so that this Report would form a vital input into ESCAP's Report which is for the Asia and Pacific Region.

### Outline of the State of Environment Report 1995

#### Part i Environmental Conditions and Trends:

- Chapter 1. Land
- Chapter 2. Forests & Wildlife
- Chapter 3. Inland Waters
- Chapter 4. Coastal and Marine Environment
- Chapter 5. Atmosphere and Climate
- Chapter 6. Wastes, Toxic and Hazardous Chemicals
- Chapter 7. Natural Disasters

#### Part ii Causes and Consequences

- Chapter 8. Poverty and the Environment
- Chapter 9. Population and Lifestyle
- Chapter 10. Urbanisation
- Chapter 11. Agriculture and Fisheries
- Chapter 12. Industry
- Chapter 13. Energy
- Chapter 14. Transport
- Chapter 15. Tourism
- Chapter 16. Human Health and the Environment

#### Part iii Response

- Chapter 17. Environmental Technology
- Chapter 18. Environmental Management: Policies, Institutions and Monitoring Mechanisms
- Chapter 19. Communication for the Environment: Education and Awareness
- Chapter 20. Regional, Sub-regional and Global Responses

#### Part iv Challenges and Opportunities

- Chapter 21. Follow-up of Agenda 21. Challenges to Sustainable Development: Concept, Policies and Issues with Regional and Sub-regional Focus.
- Chapter 22. Prospects for the 21st Century: A Regional Perspective
- Appendix 1. Indicators for Environmentally Sound and Sustainable Development
- Appendix 2. South Asia Environment Data Report

The Final Draft is expected to be ready by October 1994 and Printed Version would be available by December 1994. UNEP and ESCAP are expected to jointly fund this publication.

### Children's Story Books

SACEP's Strategy and Programme has identified five Priority Programme Areas for the period 1992 - 1996. One of which pertains to the Enhancement of Environmental Awareness for the Public in the Region. In this context SACEP with financial assistance from UNEP Regional Office for Asia and Pacific will be publishing books on selected topics such as Pollution, Conservation of Natural Resources, Ozone Depletion, Hazardous Waste Management, Waste Reduction and Recycling, Forests and its Value and Climate Change.

These publications will take the form of Story Books catering to children in the age group 8 - 16 years. The final product will be simple to understand and interesting enough to attract the attention of the youth. The books also would aim to build up on the skills and knowledge a student acquires through formal education in school so that he can interact with an inquire into the environment in greater depths. It is expected that these books will be ready by September 1994 for distribution to the SACEP Focal Points.

It is envisaged that finally these books which are in English, will be translated into the Regional Languages of the different Countries by the respective Focal Points.

### SACEP Newsletter

The First Issue of the SACEP Newsletter was released in January 1984, and upto date, 15 issues have been published. The main objective of the Newsletter has been to keep the Member States of SACEP and the UN and International Community informed of SACEP's Activities. In the future, SACEP proposes to broaden its Newsletter by including articles from eminent personalities in the field of Environment and also to feature success stories on environment achieved by its Member Countries.

SACEP is specifically thankful to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Asian Development Bank (ADB), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN), International Maritime Organisation (IMO), United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO), World Health Organisation (WHO) and East West Centre, Hawaii for their assistance and support in the past.

SACEP being the only specialised agency in the South Asia Region will continue to endeavour for sustainable development in the region and will work for attaining the objectives of this co-operation.

## PROJECTS UNDER NEGOTIATION

NO	T I T L E	V A L U E U S \$
A	Assessment of Land Based Sources of Coastal and Marine Pollution in the Countries of South Asia Region	225,000
B	Regional Co-operation in Conservation of the Habitat of the Terrestrial Migratory Species of the South Asia Region	216,000
C	Regional Project for Training & Research in Environment Impact Assessment	239,000
D	Technological Choice Enhancement & Capacity Building in Energy-Environment Interface Issues for South Asian Countries	431,095
E	Co-operation in Environmental Training. A Proposal for Capacity Building in the SACEP Countries	177,500
F	Assessment of Faunal Biodiversity in the Countries of South Asia	235,000
G	Training Programme on Climate Change for South Asian Planners	54,500
H	Training Programme on Environmental Legislation for the Countries of South Asia	53,175
I	Guidelines on Chemical Accident Prevention, Disaster Preparedness and Post Accident Emergency Relief Operations	100,000
J	Guidelines on Transboundary Movement of Potentially Hazardous Chemicals and Hazardous Wastes	141,000
K	Promotion of Cleaner Technologies and Waste Minimisation Programmes in the Countries of the SACEP Region.	76,000
L	Phase I - National Database & Regional Workshop Phase II - Information Exchange on Cleaner Technologies and Waste Minimisation Programmes	139,000
M	Regional Co-operation for Management and Conservation of Marine Species (Marine Mammals and Sea Turtles) in South Asia	234,000
N	Capacity Building of Environment Protection Agencies of South Asia Region Phase I	175,000

## SACEP LIST OF PUBLICATIONS

1. Report of the Inter-Governmental Expert Group Meeting on the Formation of SACEP, *10 - 15 March 1980, Bangalore, India.*
2. Report of the High Level Meeting to Initiate the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme, *18 - 25 February 1981, Colombo, Sri Lanka.*
3. Report of the First Governing Council Meeting of SACEP, *23 - 25 January 1983, Colombo, Sri Lanka.*
4. Report of ESCAP/SACEP Regional Symposium on the Environmental Management of Mangroves, Corals and Island Ecosystems in South Asia, *August 1983, Dhaka, Bangladesh.*
5. Report of the Second Governing Council Meeting of SACEP, *17 - 18 April 1985, Dhaka, Bangladesh.*
6. Report of the Third Governing Council Meeting of SACEP, *12 - 13 January 1987, New Delhi, India.*
7. Report of SACEP/UNDP Meeting on Environmental Legislation for the SACEP Countries, *January, 1987, New Delhi, India.*
8. Report of the Senior Level Expert Workshop to evaluate Benefits and Constraints of the Environmental Impact Assessment Process in the SACEP Countries, *March 1987, Colombo, Sri Lanka.*
9. Report of the Fourth Governing Council Meeting of SACEP, *25 - 26 April 1988, Kabul, Afghanistan.*
10. Publication of SACEP's Regional Environmental and Natural Resources Information Centre (RENRIC) on Data Base - Environmental Expertise in the SACEP Region, *January 1991.*
11. Publication of SACEP's Regional Environmental and Natural Resources Information Centre (RENRIC) on Data Base - Environmental Training/Research Institutions in the SACEP Region, *January 1991.*
12. Publication of SACEP's Regional Environmental and Natural Resources Information Centre (RENRIC) on Data Base - Environmental Legislation in the SACEP Region, *January 1991.*
13. Report of Workshop I of SACEP's Regional Environmental & Natural Resources Information Centre (RENRIC), *21 - 23 February 1991.*
14. Publication of SACEP's Regional Environmental and Natural Resources Information Centre (RENRIC) on Data Base - Environmental Information System (ENVIS) India, *March 1991.*
15. Publication of SACEP's Regional Environmental and Natural Resources Information Centre (RENRIC) on A South Asian Experience on Appropriate Research & Development - National Engineering Research & Development Centre, Sri Lanka, *April 1991.*
16. Publication of SACEP's Regional Environmental and Natural Resources Information Centre (RENRIC) on Another Approach for Social Forestry One Hundred Million Tree Programme of Sri Lanka, the Ipil Ipil Component, *June 1991.*
17. Report of the SACEP/ESCAP/CEA Workshop on Coastal Resources Management Planning in the SACEP Region, *10 - 14 June 1991, Colombo, Sri Lanka.*
18. Report of the Fifth Governing Council Meeting of SACEP, *21 September 1992, Colombo, Sri Lanka.*
19. A Poster in Connection with the South Asian Regional Seas Programme, *June 1993.*
20. A Brochure titled Overview SACEP's Mandate and Operations, *August 1993.*
21. A Brochure Titled "The Sea a Heritage to Share" in connection with the South Asian Regional Seas Programme, *December 1993.*
22. Report of ESCAP/UNEP/SACEP Workshop on Management Strategies for the Protection of the Coastal and Marine Environment in the South Asian Seas Region, *20 - 23 December 1993, Colombo, Sri Lanka.*
23. Report of the ESCAP/UNEP/SACEP Intergovernmental Meeting on Capacity Building for Coastal Environmental Management in the South Asian Seas Region, *17 - 19 May 1994, New Delhi, India.*
24. An Information Brochure on SACEP Environment Natural Resources Information Centre (SENRIC), *May 1994.*
25. A Video Film titled "The Sea A Heritage Share" prepared in connection with South Asian Regional Seas Programme, *June 1994.*
26. Story Book for Children on Pollution (Under Print).
27. Story Book for Children on Waste Reduction & Recycling (Under Print).
28. Story Book for Children on Forests & its Values (Under Print).
29. Story Book for Children on Conservation of Natural Resources (Under Print).
30. Story Book for Children on Hazardous Waste Management (Under Print).
31. Story Book for Children on Ozone Depletion (Under Print).
32. Story Book for Children on Climate Change (Under Print).



The SACEP Newsletter is currently being published Quarterly with financial assistance from UNEP/ROAP

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