

South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme (SACEP)

Project for

# Long Term Management and Conservation of Marine and Coastal Protected Areas in South Asia



With funding from the European Union



Regional Resource Coordination and  
Mobilisation Workshop, Colombo, Sri Lanka  
27 - 28 September 2006

## Workshop Report



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# Regional Resource Coordination and Mobilisation Workshop for the Long-term Management and Conservation of MCPAs in South Asia

## Workshop Report

Colombo, Sri Lanka.

27 –28<sup>th</sup> September 2006

**South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme**



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## Foreword

South Asia is home to 6% of the world's coral reefs, providing a critical source of food and livelihoods to an estimated 400 million people. Demographic and economic changes have increased demands on coral reef resources and extractive processes for food, income generation, medicines, and building materials degrade coastal ecosystems. This combined with natural impacts inflict heavy pressure on the existing natural resource base.

The use of marine protected areas has long been heralded as an appropriate conservation strategy for marine and coastal resources. The South Asian region was ranked the lowest in the world in terms of declared Marine and Coastal Protected Areas (MCPAs) in the 2003 United Nations List of Protected Areas, making the Indian Ocean with its wealth of coral reefs, seagrasses, and mangrove forest, perhaps the most poorly protected coastline/ocean. Only 5160 km<sup>2</sup> of the regions marine resources has been assigned protected area status, representing 0.1% of the EEZ. As a result, the degradation of coastal and marine resources continues at an unprecedented rate, and despite current protection measures, one third to half of the coral reefs of South Asia are now effectively dead, and a further 30% threatened.

The 2004 Status of Coral Reefs of the World report identified the major factors contributing to the continued resource degradation at MCPA sites encompassing coral reef habitats, prior to the Indian Ocean Tsunami event. This report specified limited interagency and governmental cooperation as an inhibitor to effective resource management across the South Asia region and recommended the introduction of overlapping and complementary mandates.

Through funding from the European Union a three-year project titled "Institutional Strengthening and capacity development for the Long term management of MCPA's encompassing coral reefs in South Asia" was initiated in January 2006. The aim of the project is to contribute to the reduction in the rates of marine and coastal biodiversity loss within the South Asia region, and protect the natural resources on which the economic and social development of future generations is based, through the establishment of regionally representative networks of MCPAs encompassing coral reefs.

The South Asia Cooperative Environment Program (SACEP) is the implementing agency of this project, working alongside with the International Coral Reef Action Network (ICRAN) and other project partners. As an initial step to mobilize activities, a Regional Resource Coordination and Mobilization Workshop was conducted in order to bring together a diverse group of stakeholders from the five countries of the region to discuss, review and finalise the focus of site based project activities, and gather critical information in support of future project activities. The outputs of the discussions are summarized in this report.

**Dr. Arvind Boaz**  
**Director General, SACEP.**

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**Dr. Arvind Boaz,**  
**Director General, SACEP**

## CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION .....	1
WORKSHOP REPORT	
DAY 1 – WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 27 <sup>th</sup> 2006	
Inauguration Ceremony .....	2
Session 1 – Workshop Goals and Outputs .....	2
Session 2 - Marine and Coastal Protected Area Site Selection .....	3
Session 3 - Communications Component .....	3
DAY 2 – THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 27 <sup>th</sup> , 2006	
Session 4 - Livelihood Diversification Component .....	5
Session 5 - Regional Cooperation Component .....	6
ANNEXURES	
1. Workshop Agenda.....	9
2. List of Participants.....	10
3. Elements in a communication Strategy.....	13
4. Participants’ guidance on the approach for the field work.....	14
5. Project Document.....	15



## Introduction

Coral reefs, inarguably the most diverse ecosystem of the marine environment, are compared to the tropical evergreen forests in terms of their diversity and abundance of species and are estimated to provide the world with US\$ 375 billion in goods and services annually, which per unit area, place them among the most valuable ecosystems globally. Coral reefs are found in over 100 countries, mostly in economically challenged areas, and the coastal populations have depended on the reef resources for centuries.

There has been a steady increase in the biogeographic representation and total coverage of protected areas in the South Asia region, but this has not been matched by a commensurate growth in management capabilities. Governmental commitments and legislation for Marine and Coastal Protected Areas (MCPAs), are not always effectively translated into management strategies within existing MCPAs in the South Asia region, or may not support the realities of site based management. Consequently, the majority of MCPAs are failing to adequately protect critical coastal habitats or to ensure the well-being of dependant coastal communities.

It is also recognised that while an effectively managed isolated MCPA will produce local rewards, the relative absence of physical limits, and the presence of mobile reproductive stages mean that a network approach to marine resource conservation is essential. The expansion of protected area networks is therefore a principal requirement of the region in order to ensure the food and livelihood security of coastal populations, generate resilience in reef ecosystems to the increasing risks of climate change, and meet the requirements of the Convention on Biological Diversity 'to achieve by 2010 a significant reduction of the current rate of biodiversity loss at the global, regional and national level' and, the goals of the World Summit on Sustainable Development 'to establish regionally representative networks of protected areas by 2012'.

The Project 'Institutional Strengthening and Capacity Development for the Long-term management and Conservation of Marine and Coastal Protected Areas encompassing Coral Reefs in South Asia' has been designed to respond to this situation, and through funding from the European Union, SACEP will implement activities working closely with ICRAN and other international and local partners, to improve the operation of existing MCPAs, develop links and communications between MCPA sites across the region, and build a robust human and technical resource base, from which an effectively managed network of MCPAs can develop. Opportunities for environmental education and livelihood diversification for communities within or adjacent to selected MCPA sites will also be developed in collaboration with partners.



**REGIONAL RESOURCE COORDINATION AND MOBILISATION WORKSHOP FOR THE  
LONGTERM MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION OF MCPAs IN SOUTH ASIA  
COLOMBO, SRI LANKA,**

**27-28<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2006**

**DAY 1: WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 27<sup>th</sup>, 2006**

**INAUGURATION CEREMONY**

- Mr. S.S.B. Yalegama Assistant Secretary represented the secretary of the Ministry of Environment, Sri Lanka as the chief guest
- Keynote Address was given by Mr. Anura Jayathilake, Director, Global Affairs and Environmental Economics, Ministry of Environment
- Dr. Arvind Boaz, Director General of SACEP provided a welcome address to participants and invitees on behalf of the organising committee, and highlighted the significance of this initiative to SACEP as the largest project undertaken to date, and to the region, in support of the MEA targets and marine resource conservation
- Dr. Kristian Teleki, Director of ICRAN welcomed participants and encouraged an inclusive, and participatory workshop, and maximisation of the regional networking opportunity to develop essential links in support of this project and region wide issues
- Mr. Prasantha Abeyegunawardene advisor to SACEP, delivered a vote of thanks to all concerned

**SESSION 1: Workshop Goals and Outputs**

The background to the partnership between ICRAN, SACEP, and partners, and the development of the project was presented, highlighting the objectives and scope of the regional project, and defining the structure and specific objectives of the workshop.

It was noted that over 135 stakeholders had been consulted during the development of the project. All participating country governments were consulted in the development of the project proposal, and provided feedback relative to the national situation. Endorsement of project activities was received from governments, and continued involvement was noted as critical to the success of the project, and will be ensured through contact with nominated focal points.

Participants were encouraged to use the workshop as a further opportunity to provide feedback and suggestions on the design of activities. Project activities were designed with an element of flexibility, with respect to the specific details, to ensure that the project would be responsive and adaptable at the time of implementation, and to ensure that all decisions on project actions would be taken with a consensus from the 5 participating nations, to build stewardship.

The first workshop sought to finalise the focus of site based project activities, and gather critical information in support of future project activities. The following objectives were discussed:

- Identification of 5 sites for the implementation of project activities
- Discussion and review of communication between marine and coastal stakeholders within the region and identification of options and priorities for a unifying communication strategy
- Identification of database needs and scenario development
- Identification of possibilities for an electronic discussion forum
- Elaboration of a draft Terms of Reference for the establishment and mode of operation of a regional Task Force
- Identification of appropriate members and affiliations of the regional Task Force
- Selection of an appropriate date for a second regional workshop to finalise draft outputs resulting from this workshop

## **SESSION 2: Marine and Coastal Protected Area Site Selection**

Nicola Barnard of ICRAN highlighted the role of the project in supporting the development of human and technical capacity at existing MCPAs across the region. The suite of activities planned for implementation at 5 sites across the region was presented, alongside a set of ideal characteristics to be demonstrated by potential sites, to support the implementation of these activities.

It was requested that MCPA sites with common resource properties, such as encompassing coral reef and associated habitats in their boundaries, be the focal areas for this initiative to facilitate the replication of effective actions between sites, and focus efforts for a greater deliverable impact through the project.

The selection of one site per country was encouraged. It was noted that all training and capacity building activities would be implemented in conjunction with the selected sites, to address multiple elements of management, enforcement and education, and to encourage the improved operation and outputs at these sites and their use as better management practice examples within countries and across the region.

Working groups, with representatives from all 5 countries, evaluated the appropriateness of nominated sites in accordance with the suggested criteria, and participants outlined the objectives of their activities at sites, and provided updates on progress and status. Short listed sites were then reviewed according to the potential for demonstrable impact that might be realised through the project at each site, as well as the potential for adding value to existing efforts.

It was noted that each site will be allocated equal resources from the project for the implementation of training, enforcement and education programmes. These programmes will be developed in collaboration with local partners and management agencies to ensure a complementary and appropriate local focus and to add value to the existing efforts. Where appropriate, lessons learned will be transferred between sites related to the development and implementation of training.

The possibilities for match funding from country governments was highlighted and ICRAN committed to review the co financing regulations with the EU, to encourage acceptance of parallel financing to this targeted initiative.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

Based on the presentations by the working groups and the subsequent discussion, the following provisional list of sites for the implementation of the project was agreed upon:

- ❖ St. Martins Island, Bangladesh
- ❖ Mahatma Ghandi National Park, Andaman Islands
- ❖ Baa Atoll, Maldives
- ❖ Bar Reef, Sri Lanka
- ❖ Jiwani (Gwater Bay), Pakistan.

## **SESSION 3: Communications Component**

The objectives of the project to identify the key communication challenges faced by marine and coastal stakeholders in the region and to encourage information exchange between MCPA sites, and within and across national boundaries were highlighted. Two possible mechanisms to enhance regional communication were presented:

- The updating of existing, or establishment, of a regional database or centralised information conduit
- The establishment of an electronic discussion forum



Participants worked in groups to discuss the key communication challenges facing marine and coastal stakeholders in the region. Groups were asked to reflect on the broader context of information and communication in marine management, and the implications of this for the design of communication mechanisms (such as the database and the discussion forum). The group were asked to provide guidance to the project in its development of tools and services to assist communication within the region. A breakdown of discussions can be found in Annex 1.

Participants emphasised several key issues that may be relevant to the development of an appropriate communication strategy for the project:

- Different stakeholders have varied information needs, dependent on the purpose of the information, and a range of formats is required to facilitate access. Some stakeholders may also have limited access to certain forms of communication media such as Internet and e-mail. Creative thinking on appropriate modes of communication is required to ensure the relevant information reaches stakeholders and can be utilised.
- The capacity of decision-makers and managers to make effective use of information may be as important as the information itself. It was noted that much of the existing information in the region is not effectively utilised in decision-making processes related to coral reef management. Improving the use and uptake of existing information is a priority, and may precede the use of scarce resources on the generation of more information.
- With respect to communications; participants highlighted a wide range of possible uses for information and communication including; good governance (accountability and transparency), an increased sense of ownership among stakeholders in coral reef management, progress & performance monitoring, public awareness, information exchange and consensus building.

The following points were raised in relation to the development of communication mechanisms through this project:

- Participants highlighted the existing frameworks for regional information management such as the GCRMN Coral Reef Database for South Asia, and discussed the merits of updating and modifying the existing systems versus the creation of a new system, in an attempt to identify a sustainable, relevant, and attractive service.
- Concerns were raised in the validity, exchange and misuse of information and sensitive data, and options such as subscribed users were discussed as possible ways to alleviate these issues.
- To reach a greater range of stakeholders other than researchers and academics, it was deemed more appropriate to have a knowledge base or an information portal, which contains tools and information distilled from data in a useable form.
- Further discussion on a suitable database is required. Capacity building training implemented through this project at selected MCPA sites was considered to provide additional opportunities to garner more information on the database/information needs of managers.
- To facilitate discussion on the database following the workshop, the development of an issue based electronic discussion forum was endorsed. This forum will facilitate communication on issues related to this project. Possibilities for the establishment of the discussion forum will be related to the group in the coming weeks.
- The use of a moderator to distil key information from the electronic forum discussions was endorsed as a useful mechanism to build confidence in the system, and as an option for populating a related information knowledge base.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

Although further thought and discussion is required among regional stakeholders before a coherent communication services can be developed, several recommendations were agreed upon during the course of discussions:

- ❖ Establish an electronic discussion forum for issue-based discussions, which could, among other things, be used to further develop an appropriate communications strategy for the project.
- ❖ Incorporate the effective application of information for coral reef management into capacity building training under the project.
- ❖ Conduct additional investigations and discussions regarding regional database development.

**DAY 2: THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 27<sup>th</sup>, 2006**

### **SESSION 4: Livelihood Diversification Component**

The development, testing and documentation of an approach to enable livelihood diversification activities for people who are dependent on coral reefs, as a means of supporting and strengthening coral reef management, was presented as a key objective of this component. The development and delivery of information to inform and influence policy makers and managers was also highlighted.

The work will be undertaken in collaboration with IUCN and CORDIO, and in partnership with a series of local level agencies that will pilot the work in communities. IMM outlined the background to the component, and introduced the comprehensive Sustainable Livelihood Enhancement and Diversification (SLED) approach to alternative livelihoods.

The importance of drawing on the rich experience available in the region in the field of livelihoods development was emphasised and the subsequent plenary discussion regarding participants' own experience with livelihoods development highlighted just how valuable this approach could be. During the discussion participants related their experiences and identified some of the key lessons that they had learnt (see annex 2 for a full list of points raised).

Several key points emerged from this discussion:

- The importance of understanding current livelihood strategies as a starting point for working towards livelihood development and change.
- The importance of linking work on livelihoods with effective environmental management measures, including enforcement.
- The importance of linkages and partnerships with institutions and initiatives that have long-term commitments to working with stakeholder communities - given the complexities involved in working on livelihoods, and the long timeframes often required in order to achieve sustainable results.
- The importance of feeding developed approaches and methodologies for working on livelihood enhancement and diversification into longer-term, on-going initiatives to enhance impacts.

Following the plenary discussion IMM gave a brief overview of the components of this part of the project, which are as follows:

#### **1. Understanding the Context**

- Understanding reef dependency
- Understanding what helps & hinders people in enhancing & diversifying their livelihoods



## 2. Developing Tools & Approaches (at 5 pilot sites in the region)

- Lessons from past & current experience
- Distilling best approaches & tools
- Piloting approaches & tools

## 3. Monitoring for Management

- Building on existing socio-economic monitoring efforts
- Making it suited for South Asia context
- Pilot testing socio-economic monitoring at field sites

## 4. Capacity-Building

- Producing guidance & training materials
- Training & facilitation for partners
- Informing & influencing management & policy

Jerker Tamelander from IUCN then reviewed the complementary work already undertaken by CORDIO in this field and identified the framework for cooperation between IUCN, IMM and CORDIO, and the added value this collaboration will bring to the region for livelihood diversification in coastal communities.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

This component of the project will be developed in close collaboration with participating institutions but key recommendations that emerged from the discussion included:

- ❖ Identify partners in agencies or institutions that are already in place in the sites chosen for implementation in this component of the project.
- ❖ Establish mechanisms to ensure that the work both builds on past experiences in the region and that it effectively informs future plans and interventions.
- ❖ Ensure that this component of the project is clearly and effectively linked into other project activities.

### SESSION 5: Regional Cooperation Component

ICRAN provided support in the establishment of the East African Coral Reef Task Force (EACRTF), and a presentation was made on the experiences and lessons learned from that process, alongside information on the structure and operation of the EACRTF, as the basis for discussions on the enhancement of regional cooperation.

The importance of inter-agency and government cooperation was highlighted as an essential factor to effective resource management, and reference made to the recommendations of the South Asian Caucus at the International Tropical Marine Management symposium in 2002, to establish a specific unit to facilitate the implementation of regional and international coral reef management initiatives.

The potential roles of such a Task Force were highlighted in relation to the project objectives and in the wider context of the region, such as; an improved capacity for a coordinated response to environmental issues, providing institutional linkages required to elevate environmental issues into regional and national political agenda and working towards common regional strategies for marine and coastal resources in support of Multilateral Environmental Agreement targets.

Key points emerging from discussions included the following:

- It was recognised that a wealth of information and training had been developed, and progress made towards improved regional coordination through the existing frameworks of GCRMN, ICRMN, and CORDIO in the region. All participants agreed that this must form the basis to the Task Force, and actions should build upon this effort.
- The establishment of the Task Force was highlighted as an evolving process, which must include member governments at all stages. That said, it was noted that the Task Force should avoid adding additional layers of bureaucracy to the region, and that the membership structure should provide adequate opportunity for the inclusion of coral reef practitioners, scientists and NGOs who have been shown to drive the process in EACRTF experiences. All participants were mindful of the limited timeframe of the project, and the need to ensure timely establishment through an effective and active membership structure.
- The scope of the Task Force was debated and concerns were raised that a coral reef focus may prove problematic for some countries, and be too restrictive, while an expansion to cover marine and coastal resource issues may render the Task Force ineffectual due to the enormity of issues and challenges.
- It was recognised that a regional coral reef focused Task Force could provide support to the management of the 5 MCPAs selected through this project, which encompass coral reef habitats within their boundaries, supporting the EU project goals and allowing for attention to regional wide issues related to coral reef and associated ecosystem management.
- Suggestions were made to use a similar terminology as employed by the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) and the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN), which does not preclude those organisations from addressing issues on coral reef associated ecosystems, and wider management issues.
- It was recognised that the structure and the operational guidance of the Task Force will shape the role and the focus of the Task Force, and will also facilitate the final selection of an acronym.
- The SACEP GC meeting in Nepal in January 2007 was highlighted as an appropriate and timely opportunity to seek formal endorsement of the Task Force from participating Governments. It was noted that further discussions are required and that participants will work in collaboration with the Project team to develop the necessary materials in advance of the SACEP GC meeting. A complementary approach was developed to move forward with the endorsement of the Task Force.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- ❖ Previous efforts to improve regional coordination such as GCRMN, ICRMN and CORDIO should form the basis to the preparations for the Task Force, and be developed to add value to this effort.
- ❖ Each participating Government should be contacted by SACEP to relay the following:
  - The deliberations and outputs of the workshop
  - Referencing previous efforts (GCRMN, ICRMN etc) and the added value this initiative will bring
  - Identifying a representative from the workshop to provide guidance for each Government if required
  - Requesting that the Task Force be constituted

- Requesting nomination of National Governmental Task Force Nodal Representative
- ❖ SACEP is the most appropriate agency to liaise with Governments to ensure requests are processed in a timely fashion.
- ❖ Participants shall work in collaboration with the Project team to guide the development of materials (TOR, structure, constitution, etc.) in advance of the SACEP GC meeting in January 2007.
- ❖ SACEP GC meeting to be used as opportunity for formal endorsement of the Task Force with participating Governments.
- ❖ Participants shall work in collaboration with the Project team to update the GCRMN Directory, identified as a good starting point for structure and participation discussions.
- ❖ Participants to reconvene in first quarter of 2007 following the SACEP GC meeting, to review and finalise the composition / structure of Task Force.
- ❖ Task Force to be referred to as the South Asia Coral Reef Task Force (SACRTF) for present purposes.
- ❖ Electronic discussion forum (once operational) to be used as a mechanism to discuss and develop the Task Force.



## AGENDA

**Regional Resource Coordination and Mobilisation Workshop for the Long-term  
Management and Conservation of MCPAs in South Asia,**  
CINNAMON GRAND HOTEL, Colombo-03, Sri Lanka 27 –28<sup>th</sup> September 2006

<b>DAY 1: WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 27 2006</b>	
0815 - 0845	Arrival and networking
0845 - 0915	Welcome address
<b>SESSION 1: Workshop Goals and Outputs</b>	
0915 - 0945	<i>Presentation</i> - General introduction, workshop objectives and structure
0945 - 1015	Coffee Break
<b>SESSION 2: Marine and Coastal Protected Area Site Selection</b>	
1015 - 1045	Introduction to site based activities and site nomination process, review of questionnaires and collaborated materials on potential sites for implementation across South Asia
1045 - 1230	Discussion and elaboration of a shortlist of MCPA sites for activity implementation
1230 - 1330	Lunch
1330 - 1400	Identification of Collaborative opportunities at short-listed sites
<b>SESSION 3: Communication</b>	
1400 - 1430	Introduction to project objectives related to communication
1430 - 1530	Discussion and identification of principal communication challenges, options, and priorities
1530 - 1600	Coffee Break
1600 - 1630	Discussion and identification of principal role and focus of the electronic discussion forum
1630 - 1745	Discussion and identification of principal role and focus of the centralised database
1745 -1800	Close of Meeting
<b>DAY 2: THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 28 2006</b>	
0830 - 0900	Arrival and networking
0900 - 0915	Introduction
<b>SESSION 4: Alternative Livelihoods</b>	
0915 - 1030	<i>Presentation</i> – General introduction, objectives and structure of the Alternative Livelihoods component
1030 -1100	Coffee Break
<b>SESSION 5: Establishment of a Coastal Resource Task Force</b>	
1100 - 1145	<i>Presentation</i> – East African Coral Reef Task Force
1145 - 1215	Introduction to project objectives related to the TF
1215 - 1330	Discussion of membership options and structure of the TF
1330 - 1430	Lunch
1430 - 1600	Discussion and elaboration of a draft TOR for the TF
1600 - 1730	Identification of collaboration potential
1730 - 1800	Close of Meeting



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ANNEX 3

ELEMENTS IN A COMMUNICATION STRATEGY			
Information	Communication	Database	Discussion Forum
<p><b>Uses</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Build capacity to use information &amp; link it with other activities</li> </ul> <p><b>Who</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Different people at different levels have different information needs in different forms</li> </ul> <p><b>Issues</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Forms and format of information – need to think creatively</li> <li>• Changing how people use information is a paradigm shift – long-term process</li> <li>• Utilise what is there – data is expensive</li> </ul>	<p><b>Uses</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitoring</li> <li>• Exchanging experience</li> <li>• Learning</li> <li>• Enforcement</li> <li>• Governance</li> <li>• Problem/conflict resolution</li> <li>• Consensus building</li> <li>• Public awareness</li> <li>• Informing &amp; influencing</li> <li>• Building collaboration &amp; partnerships</li> <li>• Building ownership / buy in</li> </ul> <p><b>Who</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Everybody</li> <li>• Involving different groups in communicating with policy makers</li> <li>• Defining roles of NGOs &amp; CBOs</li> </ul> <p><b>Issues</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Many stakeholders excluded from technological communication</li> <li>• Lack of confidence in information being communicated</li> <li>• Restrictions on access</li> </ul>	<p><b>Uses</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Build on what's there – use links to existing info</li> <li>• Archive / repository</li> <li>• Summarising/ analysing trends</li> <li>• Information for lobbying</li> <li>• Monitoring &amp; evaluation</li> <li>• Knowledge-base</li> <li>• Data needs to be in a useable form &amp; accessible</li> </ul> <p><b>Who</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Researchers &amp; policy makers</li> <li>• Indirect use by others</li> </ul> <p><b>Issues</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Misuse of data</li> <li>• Good use for scarce resources – used by few people</li> <li>• Sustainability</li> <li>• Balance between managing information &amp; management information</li> <li>• Reliability</li> <li>• Format harmonisation</li> </ul>	<p><b>Uses</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Best practice &amp; experience</li> <li>• Locating &amp; accessing information</li> <li>• Identifying existing forums</li> <li>• Building networks</li> </ul> <p><b>Who</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Subscriber groups</li> <li>• Protect sensitive information</li> </ul> <p><b>Issues</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Electronic &amp; peer-to-peer</li> <li>• Issue-based forums</li> </ul>



**PARTICIPANTS GUIDANCE ON THE APPROACH FOR THE SLED WORK**

- Education and awareness of environmental issues
- Education is useful as a way of opening up people's options
- Need to be sensitive to the current opportunities that people have (are there any alternatives there)
- Recognise the influence of Global trends and incentives at the local level
- Develop linkages to governance of the resources
- It is key to ensure that this work is clearly linked into the other components of the project
- Identify whether local solutions are enough to address the issues.
- Be clear about whether SLED leads to positive conservation benefits
- Link environment protection with SLED – integrated approach
- Need to add value to people's livelihoods
- Create linkages
- Need to give people a actual (and a sense) of ownership of the process
- Take time – developing relationships with people needs to be done slowly
- Identify an appropriate entry point for the activities (may not be related to specific resource that you are trying to protect)
- Take a holistic approach that recognises resource use as contributing to multiple aspects of people's livelihoods
- Consider the impacts of such initiatives on the whole of people's livelihood strategies (i.e. income improvement may be to the detriment of education)
- Recognise the changes in allocations of benefits that may come from MCPAs (e.g. fishers – tourism)
- Need to generate continuity
- Recognise past efforts

## Project Document

### Institutional Strengthening and Capacity Development for the Long-term Management and Conservation of MCPAs encompassing coral reef resources in South Asia

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Location(s): **Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Sri Lanka, and Pakistan**

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#### Summary

This regional initiative gives priority to the management and conservation of exploited marine and coastal resources. The improvement of management outputs from existing Marine and Coastal Protected Areas (MCPAs) will be targeted through the development of human and technical expertise, improvement of information and networking services, and the allocation of technical equipment to sites. Training and management processes across the region will be reviewed and rationalised to ensure greater consistency and aptitude for management and conservation, and to formulate a transferable resource base capable of accommodating future MCPA network developments in line with countries Multilateral Environmental Agreement (MEA) commitments. Institutional strengthening will be undertaken in parallel to mainstream environmental considerations into development policy agenda and readdress the unique situations of poor coastal communities. The creation of advisory and coordination capacity through the establishment of the South Asia Coastal Resource Task Force, will develop linkages between all levels of management, and will harness and focus existing regional expertise, facilitating coordinated responses to transboundary management issues and improving the representation of South Asian marine and coastal resource management challenges within global discussion fora.

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#### Objectives

To contribute to the reduction in the rates of marine and coastal biodiversity loss at the global, regional and national level and protect the natural resources on which the economic and social development of future generations is based, through the establishment of regionally representative networks of marine and coastal protected areas (MCPAs) encompassing coral reefs.

The specific aims of this project are to:

- Define and implement a more effective and coordinated management system for coastal and marine resources across the South Asia region, rationalising operational management of existing MCPAs and generating greater expertise for protected area planning and the long-term protection of critical marine habitats
- Develop the required foundations for consolidated and coordinated management strategies, facilitating the targeted responses of nations to the international conventions through institutional, human and technical capacity investment
- Ensure the greater representation of coastal stakeholders at a national and international level and increase stakeholder participation in management, in order to realign policy and management strategies with site based realities, develop appropriate management interventions and foster greater stewardship of management actions
- Identify mechanisms and build both the institutional and technical capacity for understanding the factors affecting the identification of viable and sustainable livelihood diversification options and for creating the conditions for their successful uptake by poor coastal communities, thus reducing reef dependency, facilitating resource conservation efforts, and contributing to national poverty alleviation efforts
- Facilitate the development of adequate enforcement capacity and infrastructure, greater inter-agency coordination, trained and equipped personnel, and the establishment of legal provisions and appropriate penalties to mitigate potential harmful impacts in marine and coastal protected areas

- Establish an advisory team of regional experts and stakeholders, to review policy, guide future interventions and encourage governments to urgently address all threats, including those arising from the land and shipping, in order to maximise the effectiveness of marine and coastal protected areas in achieving their objectives for marine and coastal biodiversity
- Improve information exchange systems to ensure that rehabilitation efforts following the Indian Ocean tsunami disaster are coordinated, sustainable, and mindful of the long-term conservation needs of the coastal zone and dependant communities
- Improve the integration and inter-agency cooperation of the maritime countries of the region and increase the potential for transboundary management and coordinated responses to shared environmental issues, and generate greater disaster response capabilities within the South Asia maritime nations

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## 1.7 Detailed description of activities

### 1.7.1

#### **Action 1: Human and Technical Resource Coordination and Mobilisation**

##### **1.1 Regional Workshop 1 – Inception Workshop**

Representatives from existing MCPAs, governmental policy departments, intergovernmental organisations, and scientific institutions will be invited to attend a 2-day regional workshop hosted in Sri Lanka. SACEP will provide the coordination for this meeting, which aims to bring together a diverse array of coral reef stakeholders. The agenda will include:

- Inception meeting, project design reviewed in consultation with stakeholders, first work plan updated to ensure relevance and feasibility, and to identify exact stakeholder commitments and roles
- A review of the baseline study information relating to shortfalls in management capacity at existing MCPAs
- Identification of common communication failures and suggestions of alternative communication strategies between institutional and ground levels
- Identification of potential partners for interactive List Server development
- Review of the need for regional coordination and provisional identification of Terms of Reference (TOR) for the establishment of a South Asia Coastal Resource Task Force
- Nomination of appropriate members and coordinator for the South Asia Coastal Resource Task Force

SACEP will organise and coordinate all meeting arrangements, and will ensure the collection of baseline management information from sites in advance of the meeting. Participants unable to attend the meeting may send an appropriate representative or provide written or verbal input in advance of the meeting.

The current work commitments of stakeholders will be considered during the allocation of roles and responsibilities at this meeting, to ensure actions will be fulfilled in a timely manner. Continual liaison with the implementing agency following this workshop will review progress and identify problems in advance. Conference outputs will be compiled and disseminated via email to update those unable to attend. Flexibility will be factored into the allocation of roles with job-share options to negate time and effort constraints.

- A total of 30 people will participate in the 2-day workshop, comprising of 5 participants from each of the 5 countries involved in the project, and 5 representatives from the coordinating and implementing agencies SACEP/UNEP/ICRAN
- DSA rate for International Travellers in Colombo, Sri Lanka will be allocated to cover accommodation, food and local travel costs.
- International Flights will be provided for the participants located outside Sri Lanka.
- A complementary luncheon and refreshments will be provided for participants on each day of the workshop.



## **Preparatory Activities to achieve Action 1.1 - Compilation of site based MCPA management practices, shortfalls and capacity needs:**

In preparation for the first regional workshop, selected MCPA staff from across the region will be requested to collate information specific to their site detailing any perceived problems relating to the implementation of management plans, enforcement of regulations, communication strategies, training of staff and community outreach programs. SACEP will prepare an explanatory template for completion by MCPA staff taking into account the experiences of regional partners and ICRAN and UNEP-CRU, to ensure that the appropriate basic information is obtained. A one-page handout detailing this information will be produced from each site selected for dissemination at the workshop, providing an opportunity for direct representation of those tasked with implementing policy at the ground level. In particular, the interaction and methods of information exchange between communities, MCPA staff, policy makers and higher-level managers will be reviewed.

In recognition of high reporting workloads at MCPA sites and limited staff resources, this assessment is designed to request only basic and easily obtainable information. Flexibility will be built into the process to allow for further information submission should sites wish to contribute further. MCPA sites and staff included in this initiative will be nominated through SACEP focal points across the region. Whilst interventions are intended for only 5 MCPA sites at this time, information will be gathered from at least 10 potential sites to ensure adequate information collection and create a greater overview of the current capacity shortfalls.

### **1.2 Regional Workshop 2**

Representatives from MCPAs, government, intergovernmental organisations, South Asia Coastal Resource Task Force and scientific institutions will be invited to attend a 3-day workshop hosted by SACEP in Sri Lanka. The agenda will include:

- Finalisation of the TOR and operating procedures and work plan of the South Asia Coastal Resource Task Force
- Finalisation and consensus of adoption for an interactive regional communication strategy
- Review of options for interactive List Server development and appropriate partners and implementation work program determined
- Identification of centralised information conduit to be managed by the South Asia Coastal Resource Task Force and work plan for its development
- Identification of 5 MCPA sites for the implementation of training activities

SACEP will again organise and coordinate all meeting arrangements and any participants who are unable to attend, will be required to send a representative on the identified dates. SACEP will maintain contact with participants to ensure that all tasks allocated at the first workshop are completed in advance of this meeting to ensure timely progress.

The updated work plan produced from the 1<sup>st</sup> regional workshop may be reviewed again at this meeting to accommodate any significant changes. Consensus of opinion and adoption of the proposed actions is anticipated however, the majority vote will finalise actions.

- A total of 30 people will participate in the 3-day workshop, comprising of 5 participants from each of the 5 countries involved in the project, and 5 representatives from the coordinating and implementing agencies SACEP/UNEP/ICRAN
- DSA rate for International Travellers in Colombo, Sri Lanka will be allocated to cover accommodation, food and local travel costs.
- International Flights will be provided for the participants located outside of Sri Lanka.
- A complementary luncheon and refreshments will be provided for participants on each day of the workshop.

### **1.3 Development and production of an interactive regional communication strategy**

Shortfalls in the current reporting processes and institutional management pathways in operation between MCPA managers, stakeholders and policy makers in the South Asia region will be identified and assessed during the regional workshop sessions. In light of the gap analysis, a strategy outlining suitable modifications to regional reporting procedures, communication pathways, and information storage and access will be developed to streamline the vertical and horizontal flow of information to



and from sites, and a centralised information conduit will be identified and developed to improve information coordination and experience sharing mechanisms.

The recommendations developed will be formulated into agreed co-operation actions with regional applicability, following stakeholder review. The accepted reporting procedures will ensure streamlined processes, facilitating MCPA staff roles rather than generating significant additional workloads. Stakeholder consultation is intended to identify problems as they arise and will allow for the modification of the strategy accordingly.

- A consultant will be contracted to coordinate the development of the communication strategy and to act as editor for the production of a 20-page, full colour document.
- UNEP-CRU, SACEP and ICRAN will provide technical support and will proof-read the first draft of the communication strategy and provide input into its development and production.
- The consultant will attend one meeting of the TF in order to exchange information and report on progress.
- The communication strategy will be a 20 page, full colour document and 1000 copies will be produced for dissemination.
- Nominated TF members will be required to work on the development of the communication strategy in the interim 4 – 6 weeks between Regional Workshop 1 and 2.

## **Action 2: Human and Technical Capacity Development**

### **2.1 Development and production of training curricula for optimised MCPA management**

National and regional representatives identified for roles within the Task Force will be commissioned alongside a consultant to conduct a comprehensive review of existing literature on MCPA management processes such as; annual workshop reports, developed regulatory and policy tools, socio-economic studies, and educational program reports produced at national and regional levels. Based on the existing literature and additional expert input, and incorporating the newly defined regional communication strategies, a training curricula package will be produced compiling the most relevant and successful strategies adopted throughout the region for improved MCPA management and staff training. The information will be placed into the public domain and easily accessible from the centralised information conduit, fulfilling the CBD COP7 recommendations and facilitating the realisation of CBD Clearing House Mechanism goals.

It is anticipated that task force members can assemble the information comprehensively, and that the original authors will grant the exchange and copyright access to existing information to ensure inclusion of successful interventions in the final published training package. The outputs of partner organisations will be used where relevant to mitigate this factor. The package produced will have regional relevance and will be translated into the appropriate local languages for dissemination.

- A consultant will be contracted to review existing literature and coordinate the development and editing of the training curricula in collaboration with TF members.
- The consultant will attend one meeting of the TF in order to obtain and exchange information, and report on progress.
- UNEP-CRU, SACEP and ICRAN will provide technical support and will proof-read the first draft of the training curricula and provide input into its development and production.
- The training curricula will be produced as a full colour document and widely disseminated to all countries of the region. Translation is not anticipated at this stage.
- Nominated TF members will be required to work on the development of the training curricula.

### **2.2 Implementation of training for staff at MCPA sites**

Based on the training curricula package developed and printed by the TF (c.f. Action 2.1), and incorporating the needs assessments and reports from MCPAs presented at the regional workshops, one week will be allocated per MCPA site within which to conduct the relevant training programs in MCPA management strategies, community outreach, and environmental education. The implementation of training programs will accommodate for the continued daily operation of MCPA facilities. As such, implementation time frames may differ between sites, dependant on management preferences. Participants of the training programme will receive recognition for their involvement and certification of their attendance, to be presented on completion.

- Two TF members or national experts local to each MCPA will be contracted to conduct the training of MCPA staff at the 5 selected sites.

- One week will be allocated for the implementation of the training curricula programme at each of the 5 MCPA sites selected in this project, and two weeks allocated for programme preparation and post implementation follow-up.
- DSA rate for National travel will be allocated in line with UN specifications to cover accommodation, food and local travel costs during the 5 days of training course implementation at each site.
- Participants at each MCPA will be given a modest daily stipend for their attendance at the 5-day training course.

### **2.3 Implementation of maritime law enforcement training with staff from existing MCPAs**

A rapid needs assessment and training curricula will be designed for 5 MCPAs based on a site and stakeholder evaluation of perceived threats to maritime law enforcement at each MCPA. A senior marine law enforcement specialist, as identified by stakeholder consultation at the regional inception workshop, will be subcontracted to conduct a 1-week training course in basic patrol and arrest techniques, fish identification, local marine law, and law enforcement skills at each MCPA to ensure more effective maritime law enforcement for governmental agencies and non-governmental organizations with jurisdiction and responsibility in protecting the marine environment. The training will include participants from each MCPA, local marine patrols if relevant, and one government representative with responsibilities in marine law enforcement in the near shore waters and marine protected areas. National experts from scientific establishments will be invited to co-host the sessions and provide additional local expertise.

Based on the individual site analysis, and following consultation with the TF, funding will be allocated to sites through this component to provide additional technical enforcement equipment where deemed necessary, such as in the provision of outboard engines for MCPA vessels, or VHF radios to patrol teams. Participants of the training programme will receive recognition for their involvement and certification of their attendance, to be presented on completion.

The technical assessments and actions implemented at MCPA sites will be documented to create nationally applicable reference tools for improved enforcement practices, which can be transferred and applied at additional sites. This information will be directed to the central information conduit for easy access of resource managers and policy makers.

The rapid assessment undertaken by consultants will determine the likelihood of success and the feasibility of implementing actions in advance of training programs and will ensure the development of relevant, effective solutions to local enforcement problems and capacity restraints.

- One senior enforcement specialist will be contracted to review, develop and implement an appropriate enforcement-training programme at the 5 sites selected for this project.
- One local TF member or national expert will assist the enforcement specialist to implement the enforcement-training program within each country.
- Enforcement equipment or financial support for existing enforcement activities will be provided to each site, based on a needs assessment and the review of maintenance and sustainability issues.
- Participants at each MCPA will be given a modest daily stipend for their attendance at the 5-day training course.

### **2.4 Implementation of environmental education programs with coastal communities in the vicinity of existing MCPA sites**

Following the site-based training on community outreach and environmental education techniques implemented for MCPA staff in line with the TF training curricula (c.f. Action 2.1, 2.2), outreach and environmental education strategies will be developed or reviewed at each MCPA in accordance with the TF training guidelines, and additional activities proposed to better integrate communities local to the MCPAs. Staff members who have participated in the TF training program will be selected to conduct awareness-raising activities at the discretion of their relevant MCPA management team. Community based interactions will be increased in respect of baseline levels, coordinating greater educational activities, participation in hands on ecosystem restoration (e.g. beach cleaning) activities, and international awareness programs such as PADI AWARE and the CORAL organised 'Earth Day' activities.



The sociological conditions and attitudes of coastal communities to resource conservation and the functioning of MCPAs determined from existing MCPAs site reports will be considered by stakeholders in the initial site selection process to ensure that communities will participate in arranged activities and will be receptive to the ideas proposed during outreach and awareness sessions. Visual and hands-on learning methods will be promoted to ensure the greatest retention of information possible.

- Each site will be given a budget to develop education and outreach materials such as banners, posters and t-shirts in conjunction with the international awareness programs.

### **Action 3.0 Institutional Strengthening**

#### **3.1 Development of South Asia Coastal Resource Task Force (TF)**

A South Asia Coastal Resource Task Force of 10 members will be established and terms of reference (TOR) for their operation and planned outputs finalised by coral reef stakeholders through the first two regional workshops and intercessional correspondence (c.f. Action 1.1, 1.2). Once in operation and endorsed by national governments within the framework of SACEP, this advisory body will advise agencies to develop coordinated, science based plans to restore reefs and mitigate current and future impacts in South Asia. Comprised of a representative group of regional experts and stakeholders, the task force will become the regional driving force relaying site-based realities to policy makers and facilitating policy changes in line with identified needs and national priorities. As the lead body for coral reef conservation the task force will advise on strategies in response to the growing global environmental crisis and will support the implementation of policy and its adherence to the objectives of Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs).

The TF will review annual meeting calendars and agendas, in order to effectively allocate resources for optimum member attendance and input to international meetings relating to coastal and marine resources, ensuring representation of South Asia coral reef stakeholders in the global discussion fora. The task force will also operate as a body of expertise able to be mobilised regionally, nationally and locally, in the event of any future natural catastrophes, reducing the reliance on external assistance and providing a well-informed advisory service in rehabilitation processes.

While the TF will be financed through EC funds for the first three years, it will be responsible for developing its own strategies to guarantee the longer-term sustainability of the TF and will be responsible for fundraising for future activities. The TF will also provide proposal development assistance to other parties undertaking coastal resource activities that will benefit the region or individual participating countries. SACEP will administer the budget of the TF. A fund will be retained by SACEP within the TF budget which can be used to support managers and policy makers to undertake exchange visits between MCPA sites and review progress and exchange experience, or to grant international travel and DSA assistance to students, managers and researchers from the South Asia region. An appropriate selection criteria and process will be developed by TF and SACEP to assist participant selection which builds on the experiences of ICRAN and UNEP-CRU.

The TF will meet in person, quarterly for the first year of the project, to assist in the development of the communication strategy and the training curricula, and to review the progress and implementation of training programs at sites. In years 2+3 meetings will be conducted on a bi-annual basis. Where possible TF meetings will be conducted in association with other meetings and events. External consultants working on TF publications will be requested to join one TF meeting in order to share progress and exchange knowledge. Coordination assistance for these meetings will be provided by SACEP.

The initial nominations for the 10 core members of the TF will be put forward by SACEP focal points based on the expert's capacity for networking and coral reef related activities within the nominating country. Further individuals may be identified by stakeholders and participants at the regional workshops. Additionally, the TF will be strengthened through the inclusion of stakeholders of strategic importance, invited to participate in accordance with the identified operating procedures and workplan. Stakeholders identified for inclusion in the Task Force will be allocated tasks in light of their existing work commitments and their area of expertise. All task force members will be selected on the grounds that they have adequate skills to compile, generate and implement training schemes and provide policy and scientific advice. Monthly conference contact, by telephone or email, between the members



of the task force will allow for modification of tasks or the reallocation of commitments if necessary to ensure timely outputs.

- Quarterly (year one) and bi-annual (year two and three) coordination meetings for TF members.
- Funds will be allocated to ensure the attendance of the TF at international conferences relating to coastal and marine resource management.
- An International travel budget will be allocated to allow the attendance of each TF member at international conferences and meetings based on each member flying twice per year.
- A UNEP DSA rate for international destinations and an average duration of 3 days will be allocated for accommodation, food and local travel when at conferences and meetings based on two meetings per year for each member.
- Internet operated telecommunications systems will be purchased for each member of the TF to ensure that close consultation can be maintained between nations in a cost effective manner.
- SACEP will administer the budget of the TF for the 3-year duration of the project.
- Funds will be retained to support 10 applicants to undertake one international flight or exchange experience and receive 2 days of DSA.

### **3.2 Development of accessible centralised information conduit and resource base**

The groundwork for a comprehensive regional database resource facility has been initiated through the actions of the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN), the Department for International Development (DFID), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), and Systems Engineering and Marine Consulting (SEAMARC). Software detailing country geography, legislative and resource management provisions, socio-economic status and the extent of marine and coastal resources has been created for the Maldives, Sri Lanka and India. At present none of these country profiles are complete and the system fails to fulfill its potential as an accessible information resource for interested parties in the region. Financial and technical resources will be allocated to resume work on this database system in conjunction with GCRMN in order to update this information and generate country profiles for both Pakistan and Bangladesh. In addition, the role of the database as a comprehensive central information conduit will be developed providing storage for the wealth of marine and coastal resource status information generated following the tsunami disaster and acting as a consistent source of information for all resource managers, policy makers and users across the region, facilitating the realignment of research and management priorities with the current situation.

The centralised database system may be monitored by the Task Force. Training will be provided by the dedicated staff member(s) to all other TF members in the margins of the TF coordination meetings (c.f. Action 3.1) and members will be responsible for the dissemination of information and advice relating to the database at all regional consultations they attend. This resource base will reduce the disparity in information accessibility and availability across the region. The inclusion of governments and all the major regional intergovernmental organisations in this intervention, will promote effective use of the database.

- The human resource requirements of further developing and managing the database are anticipated at 120 person hours per month, dependent on the number of site visits and submissions. 3 hours is required every day for handling e-mails and administration of the site, which will require staff member(s) dedicated to the database and able to commit time to maintenance and updating tasks on a daily basis.
- Equipment requirements include antiviral software, test environment software license(s), a domain name and search engine facilities.
- A consultant will be identified to re- design the database, set up and test the database, provide basic training and technical assistance

### **3.3 Development of interactive coral reef stakeholder network**

SACEP with advice from the Task Force will edit and moderate a coastal resource list server to provide a forum for Internet discussions and announcements among South Asian coastal resource stakeholders. This active forum will allow researchers, scientists and policy developers to locate expertise and information on all aspects of coastal resource management and utilisation, and provide real-time updates on current work programs. The list serve will be developed along a similar template to well established systems such as the international Coral List Server coordinated by NOAA's Coral



Reef Health and Monitoring Program and will facilitate coordination of coastal and marine resource management and experience sharing across the region. In addition to this continual consultation with stakeholders, the Task Force members will also meet with regional coral reef stakeholders on a biannual basis and facilitate the dissemination of site based management and capacity needs to policy makers. The Task Force will function as a focal point of contact for international development agencies and intergovernmental organisations with an interest in marine and coastal resource projects, as such, strategies will be developed to guide donors and ensure national and international assistance is directed to strategic priorities and complementary to existing efforts.

The development of the interactive forum is proposed for development with pre-existing server equipment (e.g. SACEP, Indian government, ICRI forum) in a form of counterpart assistance to this project. Stakeholder consultation will determine the best implementation strategy. A costing strategy and work plan for initiation of the forum without counterpart assistance will also be developed and implemented if necessary. SACEP will appoint a member of staff to dedicate their time to this list server on a part time basis in order to facilitate its development, maintenance and the training of users, and a per diem allowance will be provided during initial set up and testing phase (5-days).

Training will be provided by the SACEP appointed list serve coordinator for marine park managers from each of the 5 sites, and for the national TF members who will all attend a one-day training workshop in Sri Lanka and will be charged with disseminating the information to their teams and colleagues to encourage use of the facility. The TF members in attendance will relay the information to the remainder of the task force at the bi-annual coordination meeting.

- The human resource requirements of hosting the interactive server are anticipated at 60 to 80 person hours per month, dependant on the number of subscriptions. 1.5 hours is required every day for handling e-mails and administration of the site, which will require a member of staff dedicated to the Forum and able to commit time to website maintenance on a daily basis.
- Equipment requirements include a cold fusion server and software, a mail server, antiviral software, test environment software license(s), a domain name and search engine facilities.
- Training will be provided for marine park managers and TF members. A total of 10 people will participate in a 1-day workshop.
- DSA rate for International and Local Travellers in Colombo, Sri Lanka will be allocated in line with UN specifications to cover accommodation, food and local travel costs.
- International Flights will be provided for the 6 participants located outside of Sri Lanka.

#### **4.0 Strengthened capacity of policy makers, planners and managers to design and implement livelihood enhancement and diversification for poor reef users**

This section of the intervention seeks to improve the institutional capacity of national policy makers, and managers to understand and respond to the need for alternative livelihoods for poor reef users and encourage the adoption of more systematic approaches to the diversification of livelihood practices away from unsustainable resource use. The international research and development group Integrated Marine Management (IMM Ltd.) in partnership with IUCN and CORDIO will provide technical support relating to the key concepts, knowledge and skills required to understand and work with poverty and sustainable livelihoods the South Asia in a collaborative venture with People's Action for Development (PAD) in the Gulf of Mannar, the Kalmetiya Rehabilitation and Development Trust in Sri Lanka, and its network of regional partners.

This initiative builds on lessons learned from ongoing alternative livelihood schemes in the region and on research which has been conducted in India and Cambodia, and ensures that actions are driven from a national perspective in order to promote the development of appropriate tools, generate the knowledge and capacity to apply them successfully, and achieve a supportive policy environment, improving the potential to have positive impact on the lives of the reef-dependent poor and to prevent further degradation of coral reef resources.

The capacity of policy makers, planners and managers in South Asia to understand and respond to the livelihood enhancement and diversification needs of poor reef users will be strengthened through:

- Working with the reef-dependant poor in the region to better understand their livelihoods and the factors, which affect their ability to enhance or diversify their livelihoods away from reef dependence



- Developing approaches and tools to guide those working with coral reefs and the reef dependant poor to identify and design alternative livelihood options
- Building institutional capacity to implement these approaches and tools and to understand and effectively respond to livelihood diversification issues among the reef dependent poor

An informing and influencing strategy will guide the dissemination of key concepts and outputs that emerge from the work and will support the integration of outputs and positive policy changes for poor conservation and sustainable livelihoods. Regional guidelines will be produced for adoption by national governments, and training interventions will be implemented for both policy makers and practitioners.

The following activities will be undertaken:

**4.1 Reef dependency characterisation workshop** - A workshop for participants involved in reef related alternative livelihoods projects within Sri Lanka will be organised in order to review the national livelihoods approaches used in Sri Lanka and characterise the national situation. This workshop will provide an opportunity for both learning and training. Lessons learned from the aquatic resource dependency work conducted by IMM Ltd, in Cambodia, and IUCN/CORDIO activities will then be introduced to define the key drivers and inhibitors that appear to influence the uptake of new livelihoods locally. Outcomes from the workshop will be validated through site based field exercises, which will serve to fully incorporate the tsunami effects into the equation.

**4.2 Review existing initiatives** - Alternative Livelihoods are seen as a panacea for many of the problems facing poverty and conservation. There is an expansive amount of literature relating research into the problems facing the poor and their use of the natural resource base, and many conclude that alternative livelihoods are the answer. This however is where they stop, and there are few suggestions on how these livelihoods may be identified or developed. Where development agencies have moved into initiating alternatives these have tended to be selected from an ever expanding global list of "ideas" that may or may not have any relevance to the needs, aspirations or capacities of the people concerned or of the markets that they have access to.

Working in both the UK and Sri Lanka, existing initiatives and literature relating to the use of alternative income generating options will be reviewed and the challenges and successes identified in order to identify the most efficient modalities.

**4.3 Development and field-testing of methodology** - Livelihood strategies that people adopt are based on a finely balanced relationship between their skills, knowledge, attitudes, their access to resources and their relationship with the wider social, political and cultural framework in which they operate. Unless these linkages and relationships are understood it is likely that livelihood changes will place them under greater risk or just not work. To overcome this issue IMM, has been developing a process for systematically understanding the livelihoods of the poor and for working with them to either sustainably enhance their existing livelihoods or diversify into alternatives. This process is referred to as SLED or Sustainable Livelihoods Enhancement and Diversification.

Based on the analysis and review of existing initiatives undertaken in Activity 4.2, a methodology for the identification and response to the needs of the coastal poor in livelihood diversification will be developed. IMM consultants will work in close association with partners in Sri Lanka to develop a field methodology, drawing from previous experience such as the SLED approach. A revised SLED tool will then be applied in the field, with community members, who will evaluate the effectiveness of the tool in identifying the processes and forms of organisation required to facilitate the effective diversification of livelihoods in the future.

In parallel, IUCN and CORDIO will work towards the development of socio-economic methodologies and systems for implementation within the region.

**4.4 Production of Alternative Livelihood Implementation Guidelines** - As a result of field trials held in Action 4.3, detailed guidelines for the implementation of the most appropriate livelihood approach will be developed in conjunction with local partners. A workshop will be conducted in Sri Lanka to gather local partners and provide an opportunity for training and information exchange.



**4.5 Development of training materials and outreach schedule** – IMM, IUCN and CORDIO in conjunction with partners, will develop a training plan to ensure the dissemination of findings and alternative livelihood implementation guidelines to policy makers and MCPA managers across the South Asia region. Outreach materials will be developed in advance of the training sessions in support of the findings.

**4.6 Implementation of Training for Policy Makers and Practitioners** - Two workshops will be held in Sri Lanka bringing together international and national participants in order to present the findings of previous activities, and to explain the importance of livelihood diversification to poor coastal communities and within wider regional policy frameworks. The training workshops are designed to raise awareness, build capacity, and to facilitate feedback from policy makers and practitioners on how best to present these principles for livelihood interventions to a wider audience.

The first training session will gather 30 policy makers and practitioners in Sri Lanka for a three-day workshop. The second training session will be a continuation of the lessons learned and will be conducted for 20 of the participants from the initial workshop who have greater responsibility and orientation towards field management. The second workshop will immediately follow the first, and will be conducted over an 8-day period. There will also be an element of practical application to demonstrate the effectiveness of the tools developed.

**4.7 Production of Policy Guidance Materials** – In light of the alternative livelihood implementation guidelines produced for MCPA managers, a further document will be produced to encapsulate the findings of the project for those in higher-level governance positions. IUCN and CORDIO will promote the uptake and application of this material to create an enabling environment whereby managers will be facilitated to put their new knowledge into practice.

## **5.0 Long-term coral reef management in South Asia**

### **5.1 Preparation for long-term marine and coastal resource conservation**

The Task Force is to be established with a key strategic objective to promote the development and implementation of a networked system of marine and coastal protected areas, encompassing coral reefs, across the region in order to safeguard the biodiversity and conservation of essential habitats in line with CBD COP7 Marine and Coastal Biodiversity goals. Extensive stakeholder consultation has already been undertaken within the region relating to suitable sites for future MCPA development, but in light of recent infrastructure losses and resource reprioritisation across the region following the tsunami disaster, a further review of potential sites for MCPA development will be conducted. This information will be prepared in a report format by the TF and submitted for consideration by principal stakeholders and decision makers. Following acceptance of these recommendations a further document will be prepared with a strategy and timeframe for implementation of a networked system of MCPAs.

The effective operation of existing MCPAs achieved through this intervention will enforce their potential as an effective tool for long-term conservation purposes, and will garner support for the continued use of MCPAs in the protection of marine and coastal ecosystems.

- A senior consultant will be contracted to coordinate the development and production of a strategy document for the long-term conservation of marine and coastal resources through a networked system of MCPAs within South Asia.
- The consultant will attend one meeting of the TF in order to obtain and exchange information, and report on progress.
- UNEP-CRU, SACEP and ICRAN will provide technical support and will proof-read the first draft of the training curricula and provide input into its development and production.

### **How the action is intended to build on a previous interventions in the region**

This project is mindful of the significant activities of counterparts in the region and will pro-actively promote synergies between interventions, and extensive stakeholder collaboration to minimise overlap. The technical capabilities, expertise, and resources of the major development and scientific



agencies operating in the region will be requested and integrated into this project where appropriate to provide support to, and buffer any capacity constraints of the implementing agency selected to undertake activities. In addition, the expertise housed at the corresponding International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) network nodes, and with International Coral Reef Action Network (ICRAN) partners will be called upon to facilitate transboundary information exchange and cooperation. The centralised coordination of the World Conservation Union (IUCN), Coral Reef Degradation in the Indian Ocean (CORDIO) and the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN) activities in the South Asia region will facilitate the adherence and complementarity of this project to the existing work plans and will assist with the determination of appropriate collaborations.

Major progress has been made towards enhanced regional cooperation for coral reef monitoring and the management of marine ecosystems through the development of the South Asian regional node of the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN) based in Sri Lanka, and the development of the Indian Coral Reef Monitoring Network (ICRMN), laying the foundations for an informing and influencing network of stakeholders affected by coral reef ecosystems across the globe. With links to International organisations such as the Department for International Development (DFID), the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) and joint regional coordination with CORDIO and IUCN this organisation is integral to the prosperity of this project. IMM played a major role in both the management and the technical support to the development of the GCRMN South Asia office. The GCRMN was established in three countries in South Asia with long term development aims to establish a network to deliver critical information to managers, policy makers, donors and communities. A database was designed to assist in the storage and transfer of information across the network, and the Sri Lanka Coral Reef Forum was established as a vehicle to obtain feedback from stakeholders and exchange information using approaches developed under the DFID-funded, IMM implemented, Sustainable Coastal Livelihoods project. These essential systems are currently inoperative or functioning at a basic level, and this intervention aims to strengthen and build upon the existing frameworks through collaboration with GCRMN, to capitalise on the expertise, re-engage stakeholders, to modernise and further develop a functional regional coral reef database. The provision of an interactive List Server will facilitate the work started by the Sri Lanka Coral Reef Forum allowing the development of a real time, highly accessible, information exchange mechanism.

The South Asian node of the CORDIO program has been active, supporting reef monitoring in India, Maldives and Sri Lanka, developing resource materials for school teachers, reviewing alternative livelihood approaches, and supporting participation of stakeholders in international conferences, training, and other coral reef related education activities. CORDIO has worked in conjunction with a number of the principal scientific and development agencies in the region and has a well developed contact base and on-going projects across the region related to alternative livelihood generation. In addition, the African node of the CORDIO program was involved in the initiation and conceptual meetings of the East Africa Coral Reef Task Force, hosted in Kenya, and thus has experience that can be drawn through its network that is directly relevant to the proposed actions.

IUCN has offices based in Bangladesh, Pakistan and Sri Lanka and thus is capable of mobilising resources, and facilitating integrated actions across the region. IUCN seeks to use knowledge about natural ecosystems and the role of social equity in biodiversity conservation in an integrated manner to build the capacity of individuals and institutions to influence environmental governance at regional and global levels and thus the existing expertise of staff members, and experience of project implementation in the region are highly applicable. In addition, IUCN has developed the World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA), which seeks to promote the establishment, and effective management of a worldwide representative network of terrestrial and marine protected areas, housing a wealth of expertise and information through its international network that is applicable to this project.

The proposed livelihood diversification scheme will in part be implemented through existing CORDIO and other projects on alternative livelihoods and lessons will be learned from the socio-economic monitoring and capacity building which has been developed in the Gulf of Mannar and the Lakshadweep Islands in India in association with the Suganthi Devadason Marine Research Institute (SDMRI) and Centre for Action Research on Environment Science and Society (CARESS), and the Turtle Conservation Project (TCP) in Sri Lanka. Lessons from IUCN, GEF and other activities along the Rekawa, Kalametiya and Ussangoda Coastline in the Hambantota Region of Sri Lanka, such as the identification of alternative income sources for community members dependant on coral mining,



and the implementation of Alternative Livelihood Programs will also be shared, supporting the IUCN Regional Marine Program for Asia, which aims to encourage the conservation and sustainable use of coastal and marine biodiversity.

This project will encourage intra-regional information sharing through the existing networks and ICRAN, and seeks to work in collaboration with CORDIO, IUCN, GCRMN and others to obtain strategic advice and information on existing linked initiatives in the region, and exchange the lessons learned and best practices drawn from conservation, poverty strategies, and alternative livelihood schemes developed by these organisations.

The establishment of the Task Force is intended to develop institutional management capacity with regards to coastal and marine resources, assisting in the rationalisation of regional management practices, and with a strategic priority to safeguard the future of critical coastal habitats through the use of MCPAs. As such, this project facilitates the objectives of the South Asia program for the World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA), and supports MCPA management actions in progress such as the Ministry of Fisheries, Agriculture and Marine Resources (MoFaMR) Integrated Reef Resources Management Program, and AusAID activities in the Maldives, and those of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) Coastal Resource Management Program (CRMP), USAID's SCOTIA programme, and National Aquatic Resources Research and Development Agency (NARA) in Sri Lanka. The successes achieved through the implementation of the Coastal 2000 strategy for coastal zone management at both a local and national level, and the integration of coastal communities through the Special Area Management Program will be used as a model for the integration and effective coordination of multiple agencies in marine resource management. The TF will develop links with these existing initiatives in order to ascertain the progress and success of initiatives, share lessons learned, and to assist in the acquisition of additional funds for projects nearing completion. The development of a coordinated, moderated information forum will facilitate the exchange of expertise and information between these interventions, allowing agencies to coordinate resources where appropriate and prosper from the exchange of effective management solutions.

A number of large-scale projects are in operation in the South Asia region in conjunction with International donors such as the Global Environment Facility (GEF). Activities undertaken through this proposal seek complementarity with existing efforts and aim to utilise the combined experience and guidance from the related programs detailed below. The establishment of a centralised information conduit will encourage information sharing between these national initiatives and facilitate greater implementation of the numerous management tools and processes developed through projects. The centralised information conduit will function as a source of regional information for interested donor organisations, and can direct future marine and coastal investments appropriately to national and regional needs.

#### **Level of involvement and activity of other organisations (partners or others) in the action**

The continual input of direct partners and other coral reef and coastal resource stakeholders will be requested in this project in order to ensure stewardship and complementarity of the proposed actions. The participatory nature of the proposed interventions dictates that the involvement of stakeholders is dynamic and some changes to the outlined approach may occur. Final commitments of partner organisations and roles in specific actions will be confirmed at the inception meeting scheduled at the first regional workshop. The integrated List Serve proposed will facilitate the inclusion of all stakeholders remotely and allow continued consultation and progress without the demand for costly regional workshops.

#### **Partner involvement:**

- SACEP as the implementing agency will drive the process from the inception, coordinating actions and stakeholders. It is anticipated that responsibility for numerous actions of the project will be transferred to the developing South Asia Coastal Resource Task Force as the project progresses, leaving the implementing agency responsible for monitoring and evaluation tasks
- Environmental Ministers will be involved from the inception of this intervention, liaising with the TF and stakeholders through workshops, the interactive list serve and participating in training and capacity building actions



- IMM, IUCN and CORDIO through partnerships with counterpart organisations locally will coordinate and manage the characterisation of reef dependant livelihood from the inception, developing field approaches, producing guidelines and implementing training actions over the course of the project duration
- ICRAN will undertake an advisory role in this intervention, providing relevant information on coastal and marine resource management and facilitating access to inter-regional expertise and support. Review and consultation will be provided with respect to documented outputs and coordination assistance provided to the implementing agency.

This project provides a framework, which will be populated as the project evolves. This adaptable structure facilitates the involvement of additional partners, and collaboration with existing initiatives, as deemed appropriate by regional stakeholders.



## Project Background

# Long Term Management and Conservation of MCPAs in South Asia

The South Asian region was ranked the lowest in the world in terms of declared Marine and Coastal Protected Areas (MCPAs) in the 2003 United Nations List of Protected Areas, making the Indian Ocean with its wealth of coral reefs, seagrasses, and mangrove forest, one of the World's most poorly protected coastlines/oceans. As a result, the degradation of coastal and marine resources in South Asia continues at an unprecedented rate, and despite current protection measures, one third to half of the coral reefs in the region are now effectively dead, and a further 30% threatened.



A grant has been secured from the European Union for a three-year project in the 5 maritime nations of South Asia (Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Pakistan, Sri Lanka).



The aim of the project is to contribute to the reduction in the rates of marine and coastal biodiversity loss within the South Asia region, and protect the natural resources on which the economic and social development of future generations is based. Actions will assist nations to move forward with commitments to develop networks of MCPAs in line with Multilateral Environmental Agreements (CBD, WSSD, MDG's).

## Project Components

**COMMUNICATION AND DATA MANAGEMENT** Information exchange and storage processes within and between countries will be enhanced and streamlined, with effort focused on the development of existing regional database facilities for a comprehensive information portal, and the exchange of lessons learned and best practices between managers.

### REGIONAL COORDINATION

The advisory and coordination capacity of coastal resource stakeholders will be enhanced by the establishment of the South Asia Coastal Resource Task Force. Institutional linkages will be developed between all levels of management, to focus existing regional expertise, facilitate coordinated responses to transboundary management issues and improve the representation of South Asian marine and coastal resource management challenges within global discussion fora.

### PROGRESS

- Information gathering from regional MCPAs and related programmes;
- Regional workshop held for key stakeholders, in Colombo, September 2005;
- Focal MCPA sites selected
- Scenarios developed for improved regional communications;
- Consultation and strategy development for the establishment of the Task Force

**CAPACITY BUILDING** Training and management processes across the region will be developed and rationalized to ensure greater consistency in, and aptitude for management, and to formulate a transferable resource base for uptake across a future MCPA network. Workshops and training in management techniques,

**ALTERNATIVE LIVELIHOODS** The capacity of national policy makers and managers to understand and respond to the need for alternative livelihoods will be reviewed and developed, to encourage the adoption of more systematic approaches to the diversification of livelihood practices away from unsustainable resource use. Learning from ongoing livelihood schemes in the region, guidelines and tools will be developed, and workshops conducted with policy makers and poor reef users alike, to encourage the uptake of effective actions, which readdress the unique situations of poor coastal communities.



J K Patterson Edward - SDMRT

**PARTNERS** The South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme (SACEP) ([www.sacep.org](http://www.sacep.org)), based in Colombo, is responsible for the coordination of project activities and is working alongside the International Coral Reef Action Network (ICRAN) ([www.icran.org](http://www.icran.org)), United Nations Environment Programme - Coral Reef Unit (UNEP-CRU), Integrated Marine Management (IMM Ltd), IUCN (The World Conservation Union), CORDIO, and local partners to conduct project activities.

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