

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

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Following the 2-decadal process, the 8th Governing Council (GC), 29.9.2001 suggested a review and revitalization of the Secretariat in terms of its functionality and programme focus, UNEP had readily committed its assistance to conduct a review, which was later endorsed by the Governing Council at its 3rd Special Session held in Colombo during 4-6 November, 2003.
- 1.2 As an initial step ahead, the Secretariat's Director General's position was considered from the region on a merit basis, abandoning the appointments from the member countries through nominations on a rotational basis. The Governing Council after a long selection process, placed the mantle of guiding SACEP as per the recommendations of the review committee, on my shoulders. After I took over as Director General, SACEP on 20th April 2005, the first task was to revitalize and steer SACEP on a path to strengthen institutional mechanisms including improving its governance and financial resources to implement and expand the work programmes. It is envisioned that this rebuilding and strengthening process undertaken will enable SACEP to become a more effective and useful asset to the region and serve as a vehicle for the integrated and environmentally sound sustainable development of its member countries.
- 1.3 Immediately after I took over as the Director General of SACEP, the first priority before me was to get the 9th Governing Council of SACEP and the 3rd Inter Ministerial Meeting (IMM) of SASP conducted. These meetings had been due for some time as the 8th Governing Council was held on 29.9.2001 and the 2nd IMM on 1.7.2002. In order to clearly lay down the path ahead, I proposed both the meetings to be held back to back in Bhutan. The Royal Government of Bhutan was gracious enough to accept my request and both the meetings were held in Thimphu, Bhutan from 24th to 26th of August 2005.
- 1.4 The 9th Governing Council and the 3rd Inter Ministerial Meeting held in Thimphu, Bhutan on 24th-26th August 2005, reviewed the past strategies and performance of SACEP and adopted a new Strategic approach to focus on the priority issues of the region to reflect greater commitment of the country governments to look upon SACEP as a dynamic and vibrant organisation. It also discussed at length the papers presented by the Secretariat that were a result of intensive introspection, consultations with member countries, partner organisations, independent evaluation and the suggestions of the review report of SACEP.
- 1.5 The strategy of SACEP in the next phase of its growth was to comprehend these issues and increase its effectiveness as a regional organisation. Looking into the limited resources, both financial and core staff, it was decided that in the immediate future SACEP will focus its attention on the following major programme areas :
 - Waste Management
 - Adaptation to Climate Change
 - Data Management
- 1.6 The 3rd Inter Ministerial Meeting likewise, decided that in the next phase of the growth of the South Asian Seas Programme (SASP), the focus will be on the following two programme areas :
 - Natural Disaster Management with respect to storm surges and Tsunamis
 - Management of Coastal and Marine Protected Areas
- 1.7 It was also decided to continue the ongoing programmes which SACEP / SASP have been implementing in the past. The major programmes that will be carried forward are :
 - Environmental Legislation
 - Malé Declaration
 - Regional Oil Spill Contingency Planning, IMO Conventions-OPRC, MARPOL73/78, AFS, and Globallast

- Marine Litter
- Programmes under GPA and ICARM
- SENRIC under the continued support from UNEP-ROAP.

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

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

2 Progress of Work:

2.1 Administrative Matters :

Based on the decisions of the 9th Governing Council and the 3rd Inter Ministerial Meeting and the 10th Governing Council of SACEP August 2005 and January 2007 respectively the first task ahead was to revamp the Secretariat to make it into an efficient, task oriented work force to deliver as per the targets set for it by the three ministerial meetings. Great emphasis was laid on the administrative and financial matters and the following was achieved by the Secretariat.

- 2.1.1 After the successful conduction of the 9th Governing Council of SACEP and 3rd Inter Ministerial Meeting of SAS on 26th August 2005, hosted by the Royal Government of Bhutan, the final reports of the two meetings were finalised and forwarded to the country governments after approval of the respective Chairman.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- 2.1.4 We have been able to get the Gazette notification No 1426/17-2006 dated 5th January 2006 published by the Foreign Ministry under the Diplomatic Privileges Act No 1996 that have been granted by the Government of Sri Lanka to SACEP. This was done after 24 years of the foundation of SACEP in 1982.
- 2.1.5 SACEP has been able to get itself declared by the Ministry of Finance and Planning as a Specified International Organisation under Section 14 of the Financial Act No. 16 of 1995 vide No.FP/06/1.5/02/02 dated 6th April 2006. This was also a major step in the 24th year of its existence.
- 2.1.6 Capacity development of the administrative staff of SACEP has been carried out by establishing role clarity, constant support and guidance. The staff has also been encouraged to write scientific papers which have been selected in prestigious International Conferences. Senior officers and Programme Officers at SACEP have also been fully funded by organizers of such conferences to attend several conferences, meetings and training camps in Palau, Seychelles, UK, Stockholm, Bhutan, Thailand, Indonesia and Kenya.
- 2.1.7 Terms of Reference (ToRs) for Staff : All Staff of SACEP / SASP have been covered by a specific ToR for Year 2007. 2008 based on the approved Work Programme of SACEP.
- 2.1.8 Appointment of the New Auditor : External Audit of SACEP had been carried out by the same auditors since its inception. This was brought before the 9th Governing Council who directed the Director General to change the Auditors every three years as per Auditing principles. The external auditors for SACEP were appointed with the approval of the Consultative Committee, as recommended by the 9 GC-SACEP, immediately and the audits for year 2005 were got done by the new auditors.
- 2.1.9 Financial Matters : Sound financial management has been put into place. Monthly accounts are finalized by the administrative section and reconciliation done with the bankers on a regular basis. These accounts are then regularly audited by the external auditors and now we are up-to-date with all audit reports till the year 2006.
- 2.1.10 All US \$ Deposit accounts of SACEP have now been put on a fixed deposit scheme. This has ensured earning of much higher interest for the money in these accounts. The Earned Interest upto 10 April 2008, to US \$ 82708
- 2.1.11 Appointment of Staff :
- (a) Programme Officer : Two new programme officer has been appointed
 - (b) Junior Programme Officer : One new programme officer has been appointed
 - (c) Secretary : Two new Secretaries has been appointed
 - (d) ICRAN-SACEP South Asia Project Officer : For the 'Institutional Strengthening and Capacity Development for the Long-term Management and Conservation of MCPAs' Project
 - (e) SASP Co-ordinator (South Asian Seas Programme) : SACEP is in the process of reappointing the SASP Coordinator as per the directions of the Consultative Committee of SACEP on the existing procedure as the Service Contract of the Regional Co-ordinator, South Asian Seas Programme was terminated with effect from 31st January 2007 due to gross misconduct.
 - (f) One Data Manager and one Asstt Data Manager are being recruited to manage the growing amount of Data and the Web Server that is being installed.

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

The Programme of Work for SACEP for the years 2006-07 describes the strategic approach and the new direction accepted at the 9th Governing Council at its meeting held in Thimphu, Bhutan on 26th August 2005.

This work programme considers discussions at various levels (sub-regional, regional and global) such as the Millennium Development Goals, the World Summit for Sustainable Development and the South Asia position paper, in particular, the Sub-regional Environmental Policy Dialogue, the Governing Council of UNEP – which indicated the commitment by all the countries to complete the strategies for sustainable development by 2005, the goal to reverse the negative trends on environment by 2015 and development of indicators for land, air, water and bio-diversity.

SACEP has been designated as the Secretariat for the South Asian Seas Programme and has the responsibility to the overall coordination and management of the programme activities for implementation of the Plan of Action and the decisions taken by the Inter Ministerial Meetings (IMM) held regularly to oversee the performance and focus of the programme.

The 3rd Inter Ministerial Meeting held in Thimphu, Bhutan on the 26th August 2005 has also identified new areas of focus for the SASP as an addition to its on-going programme activities. The GC decided that SACEP should incorporate work programme for combating illegal trade in Wildlife and its products. This will help strengthening enforcement of CITES in the region and in controlling illegal domestic and international trade in wild fauna and flora

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

This programme of work spells out the following four main priority programme areas that the 9th Governing Council and the 3rd Inter Ministerial Meeting have identified :

- P 1 : Waste Management with specific attention to the emerging issue “e-waste”
- P 2 : Adaptation to Climate Change
- P 3 : Data and Information Management
- P 4 : South Asian Seas
 - 4.1 Natural Disaster Management with respect to Storm Surges and Tsunamis
 - 4.2 Management of Coastal and Marine Protected Areas

The Work Programme also emphasises the continuation of ongoing programmes which SACEP has been implementing in the past. The major programmes that will be carried forward are:

- Environmental Legislation
- Malé Declaration on Control and Prevention of Air Pollution and its likely Trans-boundary Effects for South Asia
- Regional Oil Spill Contingency Planning, IMO Conventions-OPRC, MARPOL73/78, AFS, and Globallast
- Marine Litter
- Programmes under GPA and ICARM

3 Programme Activities :

3.1 Completed Activities :

- 3.1.1 A MoU was signed with UNEP, Division of Environment Conventions (DEC), Nairobi for “**Multilateral Environmental Agreements Negotiators Regional Training Workshop (MEA-N)**”. The workshop was held from 5 – 7 October, 2005 in Colombo, Sri Lanka and 35 participants from 09 countries attended the workshop. The Report of this workshop was released at the 10 GC-SACEP.
- 3.1.2 A MoU signed with UNEP for “**Rapid Assessment of the Environmental Damage due to the Tsunami Disaster in Sri Lanka**”. The Tsunami Task Force was established in Sri Lanka which submitted its report to the Government on both the Brown and Green Assessment of the damage. The MoU culminated on 31st December 2005. SACEP recovered 10% Administrative Charges for the services rendered by the Secretariat under the MoU.
- 3.1.3 A MoU signed with the International Maritime Organization (IMO) for a “**Regional workshop on Anti Fouling System of Ships (AFS) Convention.**” The workshop was held in Chennai, India from 3 – 6 October 2005. 32 Participants from 14 countries from the Asia Pacific region attended.
- 3.1.4 A MoU was signed with IMO for the conduction of “**Workshop on Anti Fouling System of Ships (AFS)**” in Colombo. The workshop was attended by 22 delegates from 5 countries from the South Asia region. International consultants were provided by the IMO and the host facilities were provide by the Government of Sri Lanka.

- 3.1.5 A report was published on the “*Workshop on Integrated Coastal Area and River Basin Management in South Asia,*” held in Chennai in 7-10th April, 2003.
- 3.1.6 SACEP organised a “*South Asian Games Waste Management Programme*” during the South Asian Games held in Colombo during 18th-28th August, 2006. This was organised to take the 9th GC decision to take up Waste Management as one of the Priority Issues of SACEP. This helped SACEP not only to raise awareness in the participating athletes and audience but also the message was carried through media and the sportspersons from the eight countries of South Asia to the masses in these countries. It also ensured cleanliness in the Games as the concept of 3-R was adopted for waste segregation and disposal. The collaborators were the Ministry of Environment, Sri Lanka, the Olympic Committee, Sri Lanka, Abans Environmental Services and ART TV. This was the first time that SACEP was able to get financial and technical help from the private sector (ABANS and ART TV) for conducting its programmes. A seven minutes film was made by ART TV and broadcast on its channel during the games.
- 3.1.7 A MoU with CEE-India (Ahmedabad) has been concluded during October 2006. Under this CEE-SACEP initiative “*A Scoping Exercise on Adaptation to Climate Change*” was conducted on 10th January 2007 in which government representatives and experts participated to consider a regional status of the priorities on adaptation to Climate Change under a consultative process. The report was finalised and submitted to the 10th GC. The report was greatly appreciated and the 10th GC directed the DG to take action on the recommendations of the report. The CEE committed US \$ 10,000 for this project. A Report on the Scoping exercise has been published.
- 3.1.8 MoU between Society for Development Alternatives, India and SACEP was signed for the period 26th February 2007 to 31 July 2007 to facilitate the development of need based responses in the region . Under the MoU, “*A Scoping Exercise on E-waste Management in South Asia*” was conducted in New Delhi on 21st September, 2007. DA and SACEP are working together to implement the above stated scoping exercise in countries associated with SACEP. The DA had committed US \$ 10,000 for this project. A report on the Scoping exercise is under publication.
- 3.1.9 “Two national training programmes on CHM for developing capacities of Post Graduate students and researchers with respect to CHM.” Each was for 4 days and were conducted successfully in Colombo, Sri Lanka in March 2007 There were attended by 49 trainees from 8 Universities of Sri Lanka . The programme was well appreciated and there was heavy demand for similar programmes not only for postgraduate students but also for Government officials. Request for the same has been sent to the Royal Belgium Institute to include more programmes in their activities. Other donors were contacted and UNESCO came forward to support one such program that will be conducted shortly.
- 3.1.10 School Environment Awareness Programme

The School Environment Awareness Programme on SACEP’s priority areas is being conducted in Sri Lanka in collaboration with the CEE, with the participation of the several schools in the Colombo municipal area. The response has been extremely good in the Painting, Essay and Poster competitions held in various categories. SACEP has organised the Award ceremony on 16th of July, 2007 at the Mahaweli Center Auditorium, Colombo 07. Chief Guest Hon. Mr. Mahanth Thakur, Chairman of SACEP and Minister of Environment, Science and Technology, Government of Nepal will grace the occasion. A Panel discussion on “Adaptation Strategies to Sea Level Rise in South Asia” and a Video presentation on Sea Level Rise will be screened to show the global picture followed by a awards ceremony to the winners of the School Environment competition. A representative of the Best and most active winning School will be fully sponsored to participate the 4th International Conference on Environmental Education 26-28 November, Ahmedabad, India. The Standard Charter Bank has been gracious enough to sponsor the other awards for this function.

3.2 Ongoing Activities

- 3.2.1 The European Commission (EC) Proposal titled *“Institutional Strengthening and Capacity Development for the Long-term Management and Conservation of MCPAs encompassing Coral Reef Resources in South Asia”* that had been prepared in cooperation with UNEP-Coral Reef Unit and ICRAN has been approved by the European Commission and signed on 26th December 2005. The project has been launched on 1st January 2006. The EC will provide Euros 748,720 over a three year period and 20% of this amount is expected as co-finance from the participating countries and other sources.

Completed Activities :

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

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

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

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

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

Future Activities :

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

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

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

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

3.2.2 A MOU was signed with the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) on 22nd November, 2005 during the visit of the WMO, Secretary General to the SACEP Secretariat. As a follow-up a proposal titled **“Networking for Greater Awareness and Understanding of the Impacts of Environmental Degradation and Climate Change Adaptation Strategies for South Asia”** was sent to WMO for financial support. WMO has agreed to act as a collaborator and support participants from LDCs for the activities in this project.

3.2.3 Activities under the MoU with UNEP-GPA for **“Strategic Planning and developing Market Based instruments for the medium to long term strategic Planning of the Sri Lankan National Plan of Action on GPA”** are being implemented in Sri Lanka. International and National consultants were appointed and their reports were presented and discussed at a workshop organized on 28th April 2006 in Colombo. Another workshop was held in March 2007 to finalise the reports presented by the consultants. This was attended by nearly 50 experts from various ministries, NGOs and Institutions. The report **“Development of Market Based Instruments for Environmental Management in Sri Lanka”** has been formally approved by the Government of Sri Lanka and recently it has approved the levy of Environmental Cess in the country.

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

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

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

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

3.2.4 A **“Letter of Agreement with International Maritime Organization”** has been signed in compliance of the 9th Governing Council decision, to facilitate the consultation on matters of common interest to both organizations, with a view to ensure maximum co-ordination of the work and activities of the respective organizations in respect to such matters. The 24th Regular Session of the IMO Assembly had approved the LoA and the signing was completed on 16th December 2005.

3.2.5 A MoU with UNEP-ROAP for taking the SENRIC programme forward was finalised and signed with UNEP-ROAP on 12th December 2005. This MoU also includes financial and technical assistance by UNEP-ROAP to develop the work programme and projects under the waste management, adaptation to Climate change and Data and Information Management. The Meeting of the National Focal Points held in January 2007 reviewed the collaboration with UNEP and agreed to recommend the Governing Council to the continued support of UNEP to SACEP to continue the on-going activities including the SENRIC Project and to

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

- 3.2.6 MoU for the implementation of the Malé Declaration with UNEP-ROAP has been signed on 24th April 2006 for the 3rd Phase of the project for the period 2006-08. SACEP is now preparing itself to take up an enhanced role in the Malé Declaration at the end of the 3rd phase.

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

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

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

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

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

- 3.2.7 A MoU with UNEP was signed on 16th November 2005 for general SASP coordination, the ***“Development of a regional activity on Marine Litter for the SAS region, the development of a regional activity on Sustainable and Environmentally sound management of POPs in the South Asian Seas Region and the preparation of a GEF PDF-A proposal on Persistent Toxic substances in SAS region”***. Under the Marine Litter project, International Beach Cleaning Day was observed on 18th September, 2006 and 2007 in India with the help of the Indian Coast Guard, who have been designated as the nodal agency by the Ministry of Defence, several Indian Universities and colleges, the NIOT, Chennai and several NGOs. The programme was observed in several places along the Indian Coastline and more than 30,000 people participated in the programme every year. In 2007, the main function was held in Chennai where it was graced by the Hon’ Governor of Tamilnadu.

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

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

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

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

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

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

- 3.2.8 A MoU with the World Conservation Union (IUCN) has been concluded during the month of August 2006. The MoU outlines the intention to cooperate in the areas of common programmes in South Asia. Several collaborations have been developed with IUCN under this MoU including the SLED approach in the EU Project, the help of IUCN in the SAWTI initiative and the collaboration between SACEP and IUCN in the Mangroves for the Future Programme.
- 3.2.9 UNESCO, India Regional Office and SACEP signed a co-operation Agreement (USCA) on 21st March 2007 to undertake joint activities in many areas of environmental management. A proposal to hold a ***“National training programme on biodiversity management and the CHM”*** was prepared and submitted to the UNESCO for funding. Subsequently, UNESCO signed an agreement for co-funding of 5000 USD for the project and efforts are underway for conducting the exercise. The training Programme has been finalized to be conducted from 28th-30th April 2008 in Colombo with the help of the Ministry of Environment, who have agreed to contribute SLR 2,50,000 for the Project. The occasion will be graced by the Hon’ Patali Champika Ranawake, the Minister of Environment, Government of Sri Lanka and Ms Minja Yang, the Director, UNESCO regional office, New Delhi. Similar proposals are being prepared for other countries of the region. Several other programmes have been developed and implemented under this MoU. An International Workshop on ***“Gulf of***

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

3.2.10 A MoU between Timber Research and Development Association (TRADA) United Kingdom and SACEP , was signed during April, 2007. Under the MoU, the thematic areas of Access to Benefit Sharing, Community Development, Equitable sharing and specifically addressing Poverty reduction and livelihoods issues, Sustainable timber and wood products production through demonstrating Best Practices, Sharing skills and knowledge have been identified. A ***“Project on Development of Bamboo based industry in South Asia”*** is being developed for support.

3.2.11 **Combating Illegal Trade in Wildlife and its Products-Strengthening CITES enforcement through initiation of SAWEN (South Asian Wildlife Enforcement Network) and CAWT (Coalition Against Wildlife Trafficking) :** The 10th Governing Council of SACEP had decided that it should incorporate combating illegal trade in Wildlife and its products in its work programme. This will help strengthening enforcement of CITES in the region and in controlling illegal domestic and international trade in wild fauna and flora which is seriously impending biodiversity conservation efforts by all countries. SACEP made efforts at the CoP to take this initiative forward and proposed to become part of the CAWT (Coalition Against Wildlife Trafficking) and also proposed to establish a regional network similar to the ASEAN-WEN Initiative with the help of TRAFFIC International and other key partners and donors. After discussions of the Director General, SACEP with the Executive Director, TRAFFIC International, Mr. Steven Broad it was agreed to sign an MoU between the two organizations for establishing such a network. This MoU has been signed on 12.07.07. Discussions were also held with Hilary Thompson, Head of Wildlife Species Conservation Division of DEFRA (Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs), United Kingdom, to garner support for the network.

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

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

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

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

3.2.12 **SAARC collaboration** : Discussions were held with H.E. Mr Chenkyab Dorji, Secretary General of SAARC at Kathmandu, Nepal on 17th March 2006 on taking forward the MoU signed between the two organizations. The Secretary General stressed on the closer cooperation between the two organizations in the field of environment so that the member countries could benefit from the regional approach. He also emphasized on the fact that the year 2007 has been declared by SAARC as the “Green South Asia Year” and that SACEP should play a pivotal role in this year. I reciprocated his feelings and gave a detailed blueprint of the plan of action that could strengthen the MoU. The Hon’ Secretary General has recently intimated that the Second meeting of the Technical committee on Environment and forestry held in Dhaka on 22 May 2006 had recommended that the task of follow-up action and Preparation of the South Asia State of Environment Report be entrusted to SACEP with necessary assistance from external sources. This was endorsed by the Seventh Meeting of the SAARC Environment Ministers in Dhaka on 24th May 2006 and also by the Thirty-second Session of the Standing Committee held at Dhaka on 31st July-1st August, 2006. SACEP, while thanking the Hon’ Ministers and Committee Members and the Secretary General for the trust placed in SACEP, has made a proposal to SAARC to conduct a regional stakeholder meeting at the earliest to review the needs and prepare a detailed proposal for updating the national SoE reports which will help to update the regional report. SACEP has also requested the UNEP Regional Office for necessary support to take this initiative forward.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- 3.2.14 **Collaboration with RECOFTC** : Discussions are being held with Regional Community Forestry Training Centre for Asia and Pacific (RECOFTC) , Bangkok for taking ahead the collaborative approach for Sustainable Development issues in the field of Forestry and Adaptation to Climate Change. An MoU for the collaboration has been finalized and was signed in August 2007. This will pave the way for taking collaborative capacity building initiatives in the field of forestry in the South Asia region that is a major component of the adaptations strategies to climate change. Currently, efforts are on to develop a Joint work Programme for Capacity building in Community based Natural resource Management for South Asia.
- 3.2.15 **Collaboration with Asia Pacific Forestry Commission, FAO** : As a follow-up to the Governing Council directive on taking up “Adaptation to Climate Change” as a priority issue for SACEP, efforts are in full swing for development of partnerships with Asia Pacific Forestry Commission, FAO, Bangkok on forestry issues.
- 3.2.16 **Collaboration with UNCRD for 3R and EST in South Asia** : Efforts are underway to develop the 3-R (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle) Activity in South Asia with the help of the United Nation Centre for Regional Development, Nagoya, Japan. Following the mission of Mr. Kazunobu Onogawa, Director, UNCRD to SACEP in June 2006, collaboration between the two organizations has been taken ahead with SACEP being taken as a partner in all 3-R activities of UNCRD in the region. SACEP also was a partner organization in the first ever workshop held by UNCRD in the South Asia region in Dhaka, Bangladesh in 27th-28th February, 2007 and also invited to participate in the EST Mayors Workshop held in OSAKA, Japan in 23rd-24th April, 2007.

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

- 3.2.17 **South Asia Biodiversity Clearing House Mechanism** : Efforts have been initiated to establish a “South Asia Biodiversity Clearing House Mechanism” at SACEP with the help of the Institute of Natural Sciences, Brussels, Belgium. This has been sent to the National Focal Points for comments. Comments have been received from Afghanistan, Bhutan, India and Pakistan. Establishment of regional CHM was approved by the 10 GC-SACEP which also requested SACEP to assist to develop national CHMs which will facilitate the development of regional CHM. Accordingly, the earlier proposal has being revised to incorporate the country needs.
- 3.2.18 **Mangroves for the Future** : Discussions are being carried out with the regional office of IUCN in Bangkok for SACEP to become a collaborator in the Mangroves for the Future Project being undertaken by IUCN. During the course of the Mangroves For the Future (MFF) consultations, SACEP expressed an interest in collaborating as partners in the implementation of this programme of work. This includes interests in developing and partnering in new projects, as well as the existence of ongoing or planned projects and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

4. Major Milestones during 2005-2008:

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

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

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

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

5.7 Enhancement of

- a) SACEP Country Contributions
- b) Commitment for SACEP Corpus Fund
- c) Commitment of Country Governments for suitable Building Complex of SACEP in Colombo as the allotment of Land by Sri Lankan Government to SACEP is in a very advanced stage.

5.8 Endorse the updating of the SACEP Articles of Association with all decisions of the Governing Councils

5.9 Decision on extension of tenure of the D.G.

5.10 Setup possible dates and country for the 12th GC meeting

6. Financial Matters :

6.1 The recovery of Country Contributions arrears was taken up as a priority. We were able to realize the following amounts till date.

Payment of arrears and Country Contributions by the Countries of SACEP

SACEP Country Contribution Status from 2001 to 10th April 2008

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

**Host Facility Contribution from Government of
 Sri Lanka
 Year 2004- 2008**

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

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

CORPUS FUND :

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

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

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

Payment of arrears and Country Contributions by the Countries of SASP
 SASP Country Contribution Status: From 2002 - 10th April 2008

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

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

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

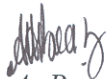
Interest Earned From year 2005 - to 10th April 2008

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

6.2 We have also tried extremely hard to start new activities and get funds from different agencies to carry out activities as directed by the 9th Governing Council and 3rd Inter Ministerial Meeting. We are happy to report that several MoUs and LoAs have been signed and we have been able to attract funds for projects and activities as under :

Activity	Donor	Budget
MoU between SACEP and UNEP for support to the SENRIC Programme (2005)	UNEP-ROAP	93,000.00
SACEP-UNESCAP Collaboration	UN ESCAP	4440.00
MoU between SACEP and UNEP on Updating Regional Seas Report / Co-ordination of South Asian Seas Action Plan	UNEP	30,000.00
MoU between SACEP and UNEP on Strategic Planning and Developing Market Based Instruments for the Medium to Long Term Strategic Planning of the Implementation of the Sri Lanka National Programme of Action (MBI / NPA)	UNEP-GPA	64,000.00
MoU between UNEP SACEP for UNEP's Asian Tsunami Disaster Task Force	UNEP	87,050.00
MoU between SACEP and UNEP / DEPI (MEAs) Planning and Convening a South Asia Regional Workshop for MEA Negotiators	UNEP	63,000.00
LoA between IMO and SACEP / Regional Workshop on Measures to Collect, Handle, Treat and Dispose of Waste Generated in Applying the AFS Convention, Chennai, India	IMO	71,998.00
MoU between South Asian Seas Action Plan(SASAP), SACEP and UNEP Regional Seas / co-ordination of SAS Action Plan, Marine Litter Activity & POP's and PDF A Proposal	UNEP	53,400.00
MoU between SACEP and UNEP, Regional Office, Asia and the Pacific (ROAP) / On SACEP and SENRIC Activities (2006-07)	UNEP-ROAP	75,000.00
MoU between SACEP and UNEP, Regional Resource Centre for Asia and the Pacific (ROAP) / On Agreed Programme under Phase III implementation of the Male' Declaration	UNEP-RRC-AP	30,000.00
OPRC-HNS Workshop	IMO	35,000.00
Capacity Building for the CHM of the CBD in South Asia through informing the public and training Post Graduate Students-A Case Study for Sri Lanka	Royal Belgian Institute for Natural Sciences	7,200.00
South Asian Games Waste Management Project	MoE, Sri Lanka, ABANs, ART TV	15,000.00
TOTAL		6,29,088.00

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


(Dr. A. A. Boaz)
Director General