

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

As per the decision of the 10th GC of SACEP, the initial proposal has been revised with the technical assistance of Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences to incorporate the needs of the member countries such as more national trainings and assistance to develop national CHMs.

Two 4 day national training programmes for post graduate students of Sri Lanka on access to information on biological diversity related conventions were successfully completed in March 2007. There were 50 post graduate students trained in these two programmes. The program was conducted with the financial assistance of the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences and support from the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources of Sri Lanka and CBD Secretariat.

A MoU was signed with the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to jointly undertake the activities common to both organizations in the region. One of the tasks agreed under this MoU is to 'organize series of awareness, training, capacity development programmes of frontier areas of ecological science for better environment and sustainable development in the region by giving emphasis to the continuation of the capacity building programme on biodiversity CHM which SACEP already initiated'. As an initial step, two national training programmes for Bhutan and Sri Lanka on Biological Diversity CHM and biodiversity management in general were planned. The training for Bhutan was planned to be held in August 2007, but due to the ongoing sessions of the National Assembly, it had to be postponed. It will be re-arranged with the help of UNESCO in due course.

The national training for Sri Lanka was held from 28 – 30 April 2008. Thirty three participants comprising of Senior Level Government Officials participated at the 3 day Non Residential Training Programme. The programme was funded by UNESCO and UNEP-GEF Project for Building Capacity for Effective Participation in the Bio-safety Clearing House of the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, Government of Sri Lanka. There were three international resources persons from UNEP and four local resource persons who contributed to the programme. The topics included in the training programme were; Introduction to biological diversity: Convention on Biological Diversity and importance of its CHM, Biodiversity Clearing House Mechanism (CHM), Introduction to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (CPB), Bio-safety, Bio-technology, and Cartagena Protocol and Technology Transfer: present status, Introduction to the BCH, & Benefits and Obligations of the Country, Introduction to Interactive Modules, Information Requirements for the BCH, Surfing the BCH Central Portal, Finding Information on the BCH Central Portal, Hands-On Exercises No. 1 & 2 (Finding Information on the BCH Central Portal), Registering BCH Information, Biodiversity and Bio-safety CHMs and the

private sector: importance for the private sector, *and* Information exchange in Crop Wild Relatives. Addl. Secretary of the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, Director General, SACEP, Programme Specialists and other representatives from UNESCO, UNEP-GEF, and Secretary General of Sri Lanka National Commission of UNESCO attended the inauguration of the programme. Secretary of the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, Government of Sri Lanka was the Chief Guest at the closing ceremony which was held on 30th afternoon.

Similar programmes are also being planned for the other member countries.

A two day international workshop on “Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Reserve: an ecological model for biodiversity conservation, livelihood and sustainability” was conducted collaboration with UNESCO and National Biodiversity Authority of India from 20 to 21 September 2007 in Chennai. This programme was inaugurated by Mr. S. Ragupathi, Hon’ Minister of State for Environment and Forests, Government of India. Ms. Minja Yang, Director, UNESCO, New Delhi, Prof. S. Kannaiya, Chairman, NBA, India and Dr. A.A. Boaz, DG, SACEP were also present at the inauguration.

“ENHANCING THE CBD CHM IN SOUTH ASIA”

**SUPPORT FOR BIODIVERSITY CLEARING HOUSE MECHANISM (CHM)
WEBSITES IN SOUTH ASIAN COUNTRIES AND THE ESTABLISHMENT
OF A SOUTH ASIAN REGIONAL CHM WEBSITE**

PROJECT PROPOSAL

INTRODUCTION

Background

This project proposal proposes the development of biodiversity Clearing House Mechanism (CHM) websites in South Asian countries and the establishment of a South Asian regional CHM website.

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

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

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

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

As documented in the *State of the Environment – South Asia Report* (2001), biodiversity is under severe threat in South Asia. This is a particularly critical issue due to the millions of mainly poor people in the region who directly depend on biological resources for their livelihoods. One of the key barriers to the preservation of biodiversity in the region is the lack of information to allow stakeholders to conserve and use these resources sustainably. National and regional CHM websites are a valuable tool for allowing access to information and for facilitating cooperation.

Despite the low-income levels in the region, the use of the Internet is expanding rapidly and some countries in the region (especially India) are leaders in information technology. This situation provides an opportunity to

realize the benefits of CHM websites as an efficient, effective and low cost means of making biodiversity information widely available.

All the countries of the South Asia region have ratified the CBD.

SACEP

SACEP is the intergovernmental environment programme for South Asia (Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka). One of SACEP's priority subject areas is conservation of biodiversity. SACEP's organizational mandate is to promote cooperation, networking and information sharing between its member countries in the South Asia region. Through its mandate, SACEP is intent on advancing two interrelated aspects of biodiversity CHM websites in the region:

- Supporting national government efforts in developing and updating national level CHMs.
- Developing a regional CHM that meets the needs of the region, links together the national CHMs and provides a forum for regional cooperation.

Recently, SACEP has redeveloped its organizational website and this would be a logical site to host a regional CHM.

Current Status of CHM Websites in South Asia

All countries of South Asia have become parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity. Up to now, India is the only country with a national CHM website in South Asia. None of the other South Asian Countries developed their national CHMs yet. However, there are a range of important biodiversity and environment-related web resources throughout the region.

With understanding the needs of the member countries, SACEP initiated a process to develop a project proposal with the support of Royal Belgian CHM Focal Point. Subsequently, the proposal was adopted by the 10th Governing Council of SACEP where environmental ministers of all member countries are members held on January 2007 at Kathmandu, Nepal.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

This project has two objectives:

- Ensure the countries of South Asia have the capacity to develop and maintain national biodiversity CHMs websites that contain national biodiversity-related information that is required to assist policy makers and interested stakeholders to meet obligations under the CBD and to conserve and sustainable use biodiversity. Whenever possible and in order to avoid the multiplication of efforts, links should be made to other existing national websites and networks with relevant information.
- Assist to develop national CHMs of member countries
- Develop a regional CHM that meets the needs of the region, links together the national CHMs and provides a forum for or promoting regional scientific and technical cooperation.

PROJECT ACTIVITIES

The project will involve two stages. The first stage is a detailed assessment of current national level needs to fulfill national CBD CHM obligations, especially with regard development and maintenance of national CHM websites.

After the detailed assessment is completed, the second stage will involve:

- *Experience Sharing/Networking Workshop* – A workshop will be held to promote experience sharing and networking in the region in the area of CHM website development. This workshop would utilize the knowledge of participants to identify key requirements of a Regional CHM and provide the basis for the network of parties that will allow the effective functioning of the website in practice.
- *Capacity Building workshop* – Training/capacity building for national CHM focal points as required to meet project objectives. Key training elements may include website development, content development, national network development etc., and may need to be supported by the mobilization of physical resources. Capacity building activities could be on a national level or regional level depending on the outcomes of the assessment and the workshop.
- *Follow-up on the trainees* – A helpdesk should be available for any question the trainees have while developing and building their national CHM or adding information to the regional CHM. There should also be a follow-up in the different countries to stimulate the CHM on national level (If possible this should be done back to back with a national workshop)
- *Organisation of national workshops* – A first 2 day national workshop will be organized in each country to promote the use of the CHM in the countries.
- *Organisation of national training workshops* – In each country that has not as yet a national CHM a training workshop should be organised to ensure that participants to the national CHM network can add information to the national CHM. This training workshop will be a follow up to the first national workshop.
- *Designing and development of national CHMs* – The designing of the national CHMs will be done with the full participation of national CHM focal points. People who received training will assigned to develop respective national CHMs.
- *Design of Regional CHM* – The objectives and structure of the regional CHM will be developed based primarily on the outcomes of the workshop and advice from technical partners.
- *Development of Regional CHM Website* – The regional CHM website will be developed and hosted through the SACEP Secretariat.
- *Development of a discussion group on the regional CHM*: partners countries will discuss through an E-mail list server the functioning and services provided by the regional CHM.
- *Evaluation of the regional CHM*: a workshop will be organized one or two years after the start of the project to evaluate the functioning of

the regional CHM, to discuss problems and solutions, to provide additional training and to establish the way forward.

It may not be necessary for all countries in the region to participate in the national-level activities as at least one country is already having its national CHM. However, involvement of all eight SACEP member countries in the regional elements would be strongly encouraged.

ROLES

There are four key parties in this project – national governments, SACEP, a technical cooperation partner and a funding agency.

National Governments

The governments will be directly involved in the every steps of the project from planning to implementation.

SACEP

SACEP's role in this project is to:

- Develop and manage the project in consultation with national governments.
- Develop and host the Regional CHM Website.
- Support the capacity development of national governments through facilitation of capacity building and coordination of capacity building activities undertaken at a regional level.
- Facilitate the experience sharing and networking aspects of the project.

Technical Cooperation Partner

There is a need for a technical cooperation partner to support this project. The partner will assist with project activities requiring technical expertise including project design, capacity assessment and potentially the delivery of training.

The Belgian CHM team has accepted to work together with SACEP as a technical cooperation partner. The Belgian CHM team has a dedicated partnering role for assisting developing countries in establishing their national CHM websites. They also have facilities to host these websites for an initial period. The Belgian CHM team has already supported the development of many national level CHM sites and has several years' experience in capacity building activities for the CHM in Africa and Asia. The first stage of this cooperation involved a SACEP staff member attending the training course for CBD CHM Webmasters conducted at the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences in September 2004.

SACEP will also explore options to work with other specialist partners such as the Zoological Survey of India (SACEP's biodiversity subject area focal point) and IUCN's Regional Biodiversity Program.

Funding Agency

A detailed budget is attached in Annex III of the proposal. SACEP will need to seek the support of external funding source to implement the project activities.

INITIAL REGIONAL CHM WEBSITE

SACEP is to establish an initial version of a regional CHM website. This initial site is being developed to:

- Provide as soon as possible a basic mechanism for regional cooperation and information sharing.
- Provide the SACEP secretariat an opportunity to expand its knowledge and expertise in CHM website development.
- Give member countries an “example” CHM website to review and discuss in a subsequent formal development process.

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

A detail timeframe for project implementation is given in Annex II of the proposal.

National Links

Bangladesh

1. **Sustainable Development Network Programme** – Bangladesh:
<http://www.sdnbd.org/>
2. **Department of Environment:** <http://www.doe-bd.org/>
3. **Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies:** <http://www.bcas.net/>
Interdependent, non-profit, non government, policy, research and implementation institute working on sustainable development at local, national, regional and global levels
4. **Conservation of biodiversity, Marine Park Establishment and Ecotourism development project at St Martins Island:**
<http://www.stmartinsbd.org/>
5. **Bangladesh Environment Network:** <http://www.ben-center.org/>

Bhutan

1. **World Wildlife Fund-** Bhutan: <http://www.wwfbhutan.org.bt/>
2. **Bhutan Trust Fund for Environmental Conservation:**
<http://www.bhutantrustfund.org/>
collaborative venture between the Royal Government of Bhutan, United Nations Development Program, and World Wildlife Fund. An endowment of US\$20 million was set up as an innovative mechanism to finance conservation programs over the long term in Bhutan.
3. **National Environment Commission:** <http://www.nec.gov.bt/>
The NEC serves as an environmental adviser to the government on matters related to sustainable development
4. **Royal Society for Protection of Nature:** <http://www.rspn-bhutan.org/>
RSPN was founded as a citizen based non-profit environment organization in 1987 and in 1997 the organization gained a legal-status of a non-profit NGO, under the company act of Bhutan.

India

1. **Ministry of Forestry and Environment, Government of India:**
<http://envfor.nic.in/welcome.html>
2. **Environmental Information System (ENVIS):**
<http://www.envis.nic.in/>

A website developed with the assistance of the World Bank to give an impetus to local, national and world environmental information.

3. **Department of Biotechnology:** <http://www.dbtindia.org/>:
Initiated in 1986, under the Ministry of Science and Technology.
4. **Sustainable Development – A gateway:** <http://sdnp.delhi.nic.in/>
A site developed during UNDP sponsored Sustainable Development Networking Programme - India. It is now being maintained by the ENVIS Secretariat, Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India, New Delhi, under the Environmental Management Capacity Building Technical Assistance Project
5. **Indian Institute of Forest Management** - <http://www.iifm.org/html>:
A sectoral management institute, which constantly endeavors to evolve knowledge useful for the managers in the area of Forest, Environment and Natural Resources Management and allied sectors. It is a registered society under Societies Registration Act at Bhopal. The Honorable Minister for Forests and Environment, Government of India is the President of the society
6. **Central Zoo Authority** - <http://www.cza.nic.in/> - A Statutory body under the Ministry of Forestry and Environment, created under the Wildlife (Protection) Act.
7. **Reef India** - <http://www.reefindia.org/aboutus.html> : This site, designed and hosted by the National Institute of Oceanography, is the gateway for coral reef research in India.
8. **Project Tiger-** <http://projecttiger.nic.in/>: The project aims at tiger conservation in specially constituted 'tiger reserves', which are representative of various bio-geographical regions falling within India.
9. **State Forest Departments**
 - a. **Tamil Nadu Forest Department:**
<http://www.forests.tn.nic.in/>: The Tamil Nadu Forest department is the custodian of 22,865 sq. kms. of forest land in the state of Tamil Nadu.
 - b. **Department of Environment, Government of Tamil Nadu:**
<http://www.environment.tn.nic.in/ENVIS.htm>
 - c. **Wildlife wing, Directorate of Wildlife, Govt. of West Bengal**
<http://www.westbengal.com/wildlife/>
 - d. **Arunachal Pradesh Forest Department :**
<http://arunachalpradesh.nic.in/bio.htm>
 - e. **Goa Forest Department:** <http://www.goaforest.com/>
 - f. **Gujarat Forest Department:** <http://gujaratforest.gov.in/>
 - g. **Himachal Pradesh Forest Department:**
<http://www.hpforest.nic.in/>

- h. **Chhattisgarh Forest Department:** <http://cgforest.nic.in/>
 - i. **Madhya Pradesh Forest Department:**
<http://www.forest.mp.gov.in/>
 - j. **Uttar Pradesh Forest Department:** <http://forest.up.nic.in/>
 - k. **Andhra Pradesh Forest Department:** <http://forest.ap.nic.in/>
 - l. **Karnataka Forest Department:**
<http://karnatakaforest.gov.in/English/index.html>
 - m. **Rajasthan Forest Department:** <http://rajforest.nic.in/>
10. **Wildlife Trust of India:** <http://www.wildlifetrustofindia.org/->
was formed in November 1998 in response to the rapidly deteriorating condition of wildlife in India. WTI is a registered charity in India (under Section 12A of the Income Tax Act, 1961). It has as its express purpose the provision of rapid aid to wildlife in times of crisis.
11. **World Wildlife Fund- India:** <http://www.wwfindia.org/>
The promotion of nature conservation and environmental protection as the basis for sustainable and equitable development."
12. **Chilika Lake Development Authority (CDA):**
<http://www.chilika.com/>
CDA is mandated to protect the Lagoon ecosystem, which is an important Ramsar site in India.
13. **Salim Ali centre for Ornithology and Natural History (SACON)** is one of the Centres for excellence of the Ministry of Environment and Forest ([MOEn&F](#)) Govt. of India:
<http://www.wetlandsofindia.org/aboutus.htm>
14. **Bombay Natural History Society:** The Bombay Natural History Society is today the largest non-government organisation (NGO) in the Indian sub-continent engaged in nature conservation research. In the 120 years of its existence, its commitment has been, and continues to be, the conservation of India's natural wealth, protection of the environment and sustainable use of natural resources for a balanced and healthy development for future generations.
<http://www.bnhs.org/>
15. **Sanctuary Asia:** Sanctuary Asia, India's leading wildlife, conservation and environment magazine and aims to communicate the rationale for wildlife conservation and environmental protection. Our focus is the Indian subcontinent and Asia, but our horizon spans the globe. Sanctuary is a privately-owned, self-supporting venture and does not accept any donations. Its funding sources are advertisements, subscriptions and content provision.
<http://www.sanctuaryasia.com/>

16. **Indira Gandhi Conservation Monitoring Centre (IGCMC)-**
<http://www.wcmc.org.uk/igcmc/> - With the full support of the Government of India, the Indira Gandhi Conservation Monitoring Centre (IGCMC) has been established as a major national facility by WWF-India. The aim of the Centre is to support conservation and sustainable development by providing information to government agencies and NGOs, thereby assisting in the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity.
17. **Nature Conservation Foundation-** <http://www.ncf-india.org/> : Non-profitable organization devoted to scientific study and action for conservation of India's wildlife and natural ecosystems.
18. **Indian Environment online:**
<http://indianenvironmentonline.net/default.asp>
19. **Coastal and Marine Biodiversity , East coast of India:**
<http://www.indiancoastalmarinebiodiversity.org/>: A web-based database on the coastal and marine biodiversity of the east coast of India as a part of the all India co-ordinated project on coastal and marine biodiversity, operated in the Centre of Advanced Study in Marine Biology, Annamalai University

Nepal

1. **Ministry of Population and Environment**
2. **Environment Nepal :**
<http://www.environmentnepal.com/default.asp>: NGO in Nepal addressing environmental issues
3. **The King Mahendra Trust for Nature Conservation (KMTNC):**
<http://www.panasia.org.sg/nepalnet/kmtnc/index.html>. Established in 1982 by a Legislative Act, mandated as an autonomous, non-profit and non-governmental organization, to work in the field of nature conservation
4. **International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD):** <http://www.icimod.org.np/>; The primary objectives of the Centre is to promote the development of an economically and environmentally sound mountain ecosystem and to improve the living standards of mountain populations, especially in the HKH Region. In pursuing its mandate, ICIMOD works mainly at the interface between research and development and acts as a facilitator for generating new mountain-specific knowledge of relevance to mountain development.
5. **National Biodiversity Unit of Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation:** <http://www.biodiv-nepal.gov.np/>: Facilitate and implement the CBD under the guidance of the National Biodiversity Steering Committee.
6. **Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation:**
<http://www.dnpwc.gov.np/>

7. **IUCN- Nepal** : <http://www.iucnnepal.org/>

Pakistan

1. **Biodiversity Action Plan of Pakistan** : <http://www.macp-pk.org/bap.pdf>
2. **Environment Protection Agency of Pakistan:** <http://www.pakepa.org/>
3. **Ministry of Environment:** <http://www.pakistan.gov.pk/environment-ministry/>
4. **Green Library-** EPA : <http://www.environment.gov.pk/>: Green Library has technical material on Air, water and soil pollution. The basic theme to support the research programme of Pak-EPA by making available the latest environmental literature and research information its Central Laboratory for Environmental Analysis (CLEAN). And also a resource center for Ministry of Environment, Pakistan.
5. **Mountain Area Conservation Project:** <http://www.macp-pk.org/>: The goal of MACP is to protect biodiversity and ensure its sustainable use in Pakistan's Karakorum, Hindu Kush, and Western Himalayas mountain ranges through community-based conservation approach. The project is funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the United Nations Development Program, and the Government of Pakistan (GoP), the total budget being \$10.35M for 7 years.
6. **Wildlife of Pakistan:** <http://www.wildlifeofpakistan.com/>
7. **Environmental Protection Department– Punjab:** <http://www.punjab.gov.pk/epa/>
8. **IUCN- Sindh Programme** : <http://www.sindh.iucnp.org/>
9. **WWF-Pakistan** : <http://www.wwfpak.org/> and <http://wwfpak.org/v2/index.htm>

Sri Lanka

1. **Department of Wildlife Conservation,:** <http://www.dwlc.lk/>
2. **Wildlife Heritage Trust of Sri Lanka:** <http://www.wht.org/index.htm>
Non-profit organization dedicated to the scientific exploration and documentation of Sri Lanka's biodiversity. Established in 1989
3. **National Science Foundation, Sri Lanka:** <http://www.nsf.ac.lk/>
4. **Sri Lanka Wildlife Conservation Society:** <http://www.slwcs.org/index.html>
It is the first organization to be established outside Sri Lanka for the sole purpose of helping to conserve and preserve the dwindling biodiversity of Sri Lanka. The society is a non-profit, tax exempt organization based in the U.S.A., dedicated to the conservation and

preservation of the important and endangered flora and fauna of Sri Lanka.

Other Links in the Region

Turtles

1. **IOSEA Marine Turtles:** <http://www.ioseaturtles.org/>
Website of the Indian Ocean – South-East Asian Marine Turtle Memorandum of Understanding (IOSEA MoU). The site aims to facilitate and promote the exchange of information needed to conserve marine turtles and the habitats on which they depend, throughout the countries of the Indian Ocean and South-East Asia.
2. **Operation Kachhapa :** <http://www.kachhapa.org/>
A site serving as a node for information and activity on sea turtle conservation and management in south Asia and the Indian Ocean

Birds

1. **Bird life International :** A global alliance of conservation organizations working together for people, bird, and other wildlife: Included within the Asia partnership are India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. <http://www.birdlife.net/index.html>

General

1. **Surf South and West Asia :** <http://www.surfsouthasia.org/>: A site designed to assist people associated with or interested in UNDP and its activities in South Asia sub-region.
2. **IUCN Regional Biodiversity Programme – Asia:** <http://www.rbpiucn.lk/index.html>:
Established in 1996, the IUCN Regional Biodiversity Programme, Asia aims to help countries in the region effectively implement the provisions of Convention on Biological Diversity(CBD) in addition to supporting national and regional initiatives on securing community and household livelihood securities

International Organizations working in the region

1. **Ramsar site Database services:** provides information on wetlands designated as internationally important under the Ramsar Convention of 1971. <http://www.wetlands.org/RSDB/default.htm>
2. **Rain Forest Rescue International:** To promote the conservation of tropical rainforest in a manner that will lead to long lasting social, economical and environmental benefits to the people of the Tropical

Rainforests by undertaking appropriate environmental action on matters including: research; education; certification and development of natural products and markets.

<http://www.rain4est.org/>

3. **Asian Bio-net:** The official website of the FAO regional office for Asia Pacific project on capacity building on Biosafety of GM crops in Asia.
<http://asiabionet.org/index.htm>
4. **Millennium Ecosystem Assessment:**
<http://www.millenniumassessment.org/en/index.aspx>
The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA) is an international work program designed to meet the needs of decision makers and the public for scientific information concerning the consequences of ecosystem change for human well-being and options for responding to those changes. The MA was launched by U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan in June 2001 and it will help to meet assessment needs of the Convention on Biological Diversity, Convention to Combat Desertification, the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, and the Convention on Migratory Species, as well as needs of other users in the private sector and civil society.
5. **Genetic Resources Action International (GRAIN):**
<http://www.grain.org/>
Genetic Resources Action International (GRAIN) is an international non-governmental organisation which promotes the sustainable management and use of agricultural biodiversity based on people's control over genetic resources and local knowledge.
6. **Reefbase:** <http://www.reefbase.org/>: A global information system on coral reefs
7. **Reefnet:** <http://www.reefnet.org/>: Internet information service designed to increase the understanding of coral reef ecosystems worldwide.
8. **Reef relief :** <http://www.reefrelief.org/>: Non-profit membership organization, dedicated to preserve and protecting living coral reef ecosystems through local regional and global efforts
9. **Wetland International:** <http://www.wetlands.org/>
It is a leading global non-profit organisation dedicated solely to the crucial work of wetland conservation and sustainable management
10. **Wildlife Management International -**
<http://www.wmi.com.au/> : a widely established company with over 30 years of experience in wildlife research, population biology, ecology, conservation and sustainable use of crocodiles and other animals.

11. **The Global Invasive Species Programme (GIS) :**

<http://www.gisp.org/>

GIS Programme, was established in 1997 to address global threats caused by Invasive Alien Species (IAS), and to provide support to the implementation of Article 8(h) of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the CBD.

Training

1. The 6- month Training Programme on Biological Diversity organized in cooperation between UNU Centre and the University of Ghent offers professionals in the fields of monitoring, conservation and management of biological diversity in developing countries in-depth training to broaden their theoretical knowledge and practical capabilities. More information:

<http://allserv.rug.ac.be/~peewee/welcome.html>

Timeframe for project implementation

Activity	Year 1				Year 2				Year 3			
	1 st quarter	2 nd quarter	3 rd quarter	4 th quarter	1 st quarter	2 nd quarter	3 rd quarter	4 th quarter	1 st quarter	2 nd quarter	3 rd quarter	4 th quarter
Assessment												
Networking Workshop								Reg Meeting				Reg Meeting
Capacity building												During Reg Meeting
National workshops			Nat CHM			Nat CHM						
Follow-up in country												
Follow-up trainees (helpdesk)												
Design and development of Nat. CHMs												
Design of regional CHM												
Development of regional CHM												
Evaluation of the nat. & reg CHM												During Reg Meeting

UNESCO-SACEP Cooperation Agreement



**United Nations Educational,
Scientific and Cultural
Organization
UNESCO New Delhi, India**

**South Asia Cooperative
Environment Programme
SACEP Colombo, Sri Lanka**

UNESCO-SACEP Cooperation Agreement (USCA)

This Cooperation Agreement dated 21 March 2007, is made between United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural organization- UNESCO New Delhi, India (hereinafter referred to as UNESCO New Delhi) and South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme-SACEP Colombo, Sri Lanka (hereinafter referred to as SACEP). UNESCO New Delhi and SACEP Colombo will herein be referred to individually as a "Party" and collectively as "Parties".

UNESCO is a specialized United Nations agency, functions as a laboratory of ideas and a standard-setter to forge universal agreements on emerging ethical issues. UNESCO New Delhi, the first decentralized Office in Asia was established in 1948 and is presently designated as a Cluster Office for South Asia and is a platform for delivery of activities in all areas of UNESCO's competence, namely, education, the natural and social sciences, culture, communication and information. It undertakes variety of environment programmes aimed to improve human security through a better management of the environment and with a view to faster sustainable development.

SACEP is an Inter governmental organization, primarily focusing on environmental issues of South Asia. SACEP was set up in 1982 by the governments of South Asia, to promote and support protection, management and enhancement of the environment in the region and to promote regional co-operation in the field of environment, both natural and human in the context of sustainable development. Since its creation, SACEP has implemented a number of projects and programmes in the areas of environment education, environment legislation, biodiversity, air pollution, and the protection and management of the coastal environment. SACEP is also the Secretariat for the South Asian Seas Programme.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The two organizations in recognition of their respective mandate and common objectives, resolve to work together, so as to synergise efforts at the regional level to jointly address environment and development challenges common to the countries of the region.

Article-I

Recognizing the need to develop partnership and synergy in the region in the field of environment and related areas, the two parties hereby agree to:

1. Contribute to sustainable human development and create conditions for dialogue, based upon respect for commonly shared values and the dignity of each civilization and culture, through programmes and projects in their fields of competence;
2. Work closely to develop and reinforce their respective competencies and strengths through a range of partnerships, alliances and other cooperative mechanisms in the region, so as to foster impact of their programme at both regional and national levels;
3. Promote cooperative activities in priority areas of environment of mutual concern;
4. Ensure that these activities are beneficial individually and collectively to the member States of the region;
5. Extend support as needed through exchange of knowledge and expertise available among the member countries;
6. Provide local resources towards implementation of projects and activities; and
7. Maximize the impact of support received from donor countries and other sources;

Article –II

It is being agreed that both the parties will jointly take up the following tasks:

1. Develop extensive networking strategies for the benefit of the environment in the region and disseminate case examples of innovations and augmentation of cleaner and ecologically sound development approaches;
2. Organize series of awareness, training, capacity development programmes in frontier areas of ecological sciences for better environment and sustainable development in the region. Emphasis will be given to the continuation of the capacity building programme on Biodiversity Clearing House Mechanism which SACEP already initiated with the assistance of Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences;
3. Develop frameworks of action to identify opportunities for sharing and strengthening the knowledge and innovation based on already ongoing eco-networking and network of biosphere reserves and world heritage sites;
4. Develop joint proposals for accessing funding from diverse funding sources for taking region specific projects and programmes;
5. Prepare working papers and reports focusing on aspects of preventive environmental management including preparedness to effectively respond to the frameworks of multilateral agreements;

6. Facilitate access of expertise from other relevant agencies, apart from providing its own technical resources in areas of capacity building;
7. Launch pilot environment improvement and biodiversity conservation projects in the region. Emphasis will be given to the establishment of trans-boundary protected areas/peace parks;
8. Develop capacity of students, teachers and professionals in ecological sciences through academic exchanges, internships, distance learning programmes and through designating knowledge centres in the region;
9. Develop programmes for eco-rehabilitation in fragile ecosystems, marine, wetlands, drylands and mountains;
10. Initiate programmes using cultural diversity of the region for the conservation of biological diversity;

Article-III

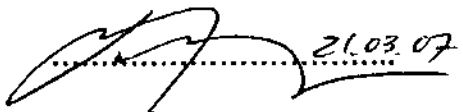
Both the parties are free to use the outcome of projects and other networking information and shall mention about the collaborative effort appropriately.

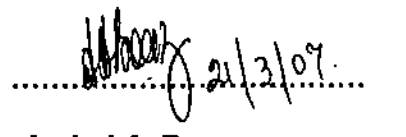
Article-IV

An Advisory Committee consisting of Director General, SACEP and Programme specialist, Ecological Sciences, UNESCO New Delhi with relevant agencies and experts of the region will be constituted to guide on the directions and programme of activities. The Committee will meet annually at a mutually decided location and also interact through other means of communication on a regular basis as and when required.

Article-V

This agreement is presently for a period of five years from the date of signing; extendable by mutual consent. If however, either party would like to modify or terminate this arrangement, it could be done through mutual discussions between the parties, at any point of time, giving a reasonable notice to the other.


..... 21.03.07
Minja Yang
Representative and Director
Signed on behalf of UNESCO


..... 21/3/07
Arvind A. Boaz
Director General
Signed on behalf of SACEP

Place: New Delhi

Date: 21 March, 2007