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UNEP Regional Director visits SACEP

Mr. Surendra Shrestha, Regional Director of UNEP-ROAP visited SACEP on 28th March, 2006 and held discussions with the Director General, Dr. Boaz on various issues related to collaborative programmes between the two organizations.

The discussions focused on carrying forward the decision of the 9th Governing Council meeting of SACEP especially the prioritized areas of Waste Management and Adaptation to Climate change. Dr. Boaz stated that the work plan is under finalization. SACEP had forwarded the work plan to the country governments after approval by the Hon' Chairman and

was waiting for the comments from the country governments. SACEP has also gone ahead to develop concept notes and projects on the prioritized areas and sent them to the country governments for their comments and endorsements. Some of the projects have also been moved to donors for funding support.

Mr. Shrestha appreciated the efforts of SACEP and added that UNEP is always there to support SACEP in all its endeavours and help it in not only developing the projects but also in finding donor support to strengthen the project base of SACEP. Mr. Shrestha also

discussed issues related to the Malé Declaration.



Mr. Surendra Shrestha Regional Director, UNEP -ROAP with Dr. Arvind Boaz, Director General SACEP (left), at the SACEP Secretariat

UNCRD Director visits SACEP

Dr. Kazunobu Onogawa, Director, UN Center for Regional Development- visited SACEP recently. He elaborated on two major programmes of UNCRD - Solid Waste Management and Environmentally Sustainable Transport. He welcomed SACEP's initiatives to collaborate with UNCRD and said that even though the available programme funds were rather limited, yet he will be pleased to initiate and strengthen the collaboration with sub -regional organizations. The first step in South Asia to address the 3R - initiative will be through a national level workshop to be held in Bangladesh. A regional study for South Asia as a scoping exercise will also be considered. Dr. Onogawa indicated his observation from the discussions

with the government officials, JICA, UNDP representatives and other partner agencies that there is a strong collaborative response from all the agencies for addressing the Waste Management issues in South Asia especially with reference to the 3R - initiative.

Dr. Boaz welcomed Dr. Onogawa and his colleagues and expressed keen interest in a strong collaborative arrangement with UNCRD for the region. Being an inter-governmental organization, SACEP has the attention from the regional bodies, international organizations and the governments. UNCRD's work programme focus coincides with that of SACEP. Promoting South -South cooperation and regional understanding of these issues would be SACEP's main role in the near future. SACEP area of collaboration for the

South Asian region with the UNCRD will be Environmentally Sustainable Transport (EST), Solid Waste Management (SWM) and Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP).



Director General of SACEP and the Director United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD), Dr. Kazunobu Onogawa at the SACEP Secretariat on 6th June 06

SACEP Library



SACEP Library

Efforts are underway to establish a formal Library at the SACEP Secretariat. Besides the normal facilities, the Library will also have facilities for referencing and an e-Library with particular emphasis on South Asia. A computerized library information system, using UNESCO's WINSIS interface software for cataloging and indexing has been put into place. With the introduction of Software following facilities will be available to the readers.

In-depth, fast and accurate searching and retrieval.

Use of advanced search techniques (Boolean searches, proximity searches, truncation.)

provision of print outs sorted by any desired order.

ability to disseminate search results by email.

ability to access the catalogue via a network and search the catalogue from their offices when the catalogue is stored in the server.

ability to link to Internet making it visible throughout the world

online updating the catalogue.

ability to access full text document when it is in electronic form.

The system will be fully operational by the end of the year.

21st Session of Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission

The 21st session of the Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission (APFC) was held in Dehradun, India during 17 ~ 21 April, 2006. Members of the APFC from 30 countries in Asia and the Pacific meet every two years in a General Session to review forestry developments in the region, discuss problems of mutual concern and set new agendas for inter-session work. Active participation of international NGOs and the private sector in all APFC activities is encouraged.

A crowning feature of the APFC meeting was to examine the findings of the 2005 Forest Resources

Assessment, review the accomplishments of APFC and FAO in the region, and consider major forestry developments in APFC member countries. With forestry issues holding the spotlight in national and global fora, there is growing debate about how to finance forest management in an efficient and effective manner.

An in-session seminar on payment for environmental services probed deeper into the prospects for these newly emerging mechanisms for funding forest management and protection.

Also discussed were the codes of practice for planted forests, forest

harvesting and wildland fires. Consideration was given to whether a broader regional code for sustainable forest management standards is needed in Asia and the Pacific. Information was shared on a joint FAO/ITTO effort to develop guidelines for forest law enforcement, activities of the Asia-Pacific Forest Invasive Species Network, and proposals for a new Asia-Pacific Forest Sector Outlook Study. Exhibits and displays were prepared by various international, regional and Indian forestry organizations highlighting a wide range of activities in the region. In his presentation, Dr. Boaz highlighted the role of SACEP in the region. www.apfcweb.org/



Dr. Boaz with Patrick B. Durst, Senior Forestry Advisor for Asia and Pacific, FAO at the 21st Session of the APFC, Dehradun, India



MoUs with Collaborating organizations

SACEP has been actively pursuing to establish and strengthen its network. To this end, it has entered into Agreements/MoUs with several International Agencies recently. A list of such MoUs / Agreements given below.

MoU with South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) for the environmental protection and sustainable use of natural resources of the region.

MoU with WMO (World Meteorological Organization) on cooperation in the areas of promotion of sciences of meteorology, climatology and hydrology for the safety of human life and property, disaster reduction and mitigation.

MoU with IMO (International Maritime Organization) to ensure maximum coordination of work related to IMO conventions and other activities.

MoU with UNEP-RSP to assist in the environmental protection and sustainable management of the South Asian Seas region through the development of a regional activity on marine litter and POPs.

MoU with UNEP to the cooperation in the following sectors.

- On strategic planning and developing market base instruments.
- On protection and development of the marine and coastal environment of South Asian seas.

MoU with UNEP ROAP on implementation of the Phase 3 activities related to the Male' Declaration on transboundary air pollution.

MoU with UNEP-ROAP to the development of the work programme for the biennium 2006-7 as recommended by the Governing Council of SACEP



Regional Co-operation Forum in Combating Marine Pollution

IMO/UNEP Forum on Regional Co-operation in Combating Marine Pollution Incidents-2006 was held at IMO HQ in London, during 2 ~ 5 May 2006.

The International Maritime Organization (IMO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations which is responsible for measures to improve the safety and security of international shipping and to prevent marine pollution from ships. It is also involved in legal matters, including liability and compensation issues and the facilitation of international maritime traffic. IMO's governing body is the Assembly which is made up of 166 Member States and meets normally once every

two years. The main technical work is carried out by the Maritime Safety, Marine Environment Protection, Legal, Technical Co-operation and Facilitation committees.

In his presentation on the regional Oil spill contingency plan being developed for the South Asian Region, Dr. Boaz stated that THE Vision with which this plan was being developed was to provide a cooperative plan for mutual assistance of the member states and organizations in the event of a major oil spill incident that exceeds the response capability of the national governments or the oil industry

A regional plan was important because it is the first step towards supplementing individual states

response capabilities, The South Asian Seas Programme Plan is primarily reserved for Oil Spills over 100 tonnes unless a spill of smaller magnitude causes unexpected privation.

All five Maritime countries of South Asia are in agreement to have this Oil Spills contingency Plan and the text has been finalized. The final endorsement to this plan is expected shortly and then a formal signing ceremony will be organized by SACEP with the help of the IMO

www.imo.org/home.asp



The Tasman Spirit's oil slick of August 2003, was an estimated 30'000 MT of Iranian light crude oil. Impact assessment reports indicate an approximate 11,000 tonnes of VOC in the air following the spillage, impacting the marine environment covering an area about 40sq. Km heavily affecting the benthic fauna, fisheries resources and mangroves. An oil spill contingency plan for the Region is yet to be formalised.

From The Director General's Desk....

The pursuit of excellence is at the heart of all Human Endeavour. Each one of us tries to do better than our predecessors did yesterday. We always want to outperform others. The field of Natural Resource Management is not untouched by this behaviour. Yet, when most of the people working in the field of Environmental Management are leaving no stones unturned to excel in their work, why is it that this sector attracts such a lot of negative publicity and is in the eyes of the general public a sector full of mismanagement, irresponsible behavior, arrogance and malpractices.

The causes are not difficult to find. The environment is a field that is severely affected by several factors much beyond the control of its managers. The daily chores of the ever increasing population are adversely affecting the environment. This is more true in South Asia where we have 20% of the world's population competing for only 5.38% of the world's land and the resources it supports. A majority of the people in this region still live in rural areas where they still depend on the fuelwood cut from the forest areas for cooking their food. Energy demands in South Asia are rapidly increasing with many countries embarking on a rapid pace of development. The rapid effect of western

influence is gradually weaning away the people, even in rural areas, to a more wasteful form of living, leading to a great stress on the already depleting resources.

The wastes getting generated in South Asia are another means of adverse impact on the environment. Air pollution has become a major cause of concern in most of our countries with polluting sources like automobiles and industries increasing by leaps and bounds. Our water resources, both fresh and marine, are under serious threat both from overuse as well as from large scale contamination from point and non-point sources.

In spite of all the above causes, the poor environment manager, is at the receiving end of all the criticism. The poor forester is held responsible for all the deforestation and poor management of the forests, when he himself is fighting a losing battle against man made calamities like diversion of land for settlements, establishing industries, giving land for mining leases and also against timber mafias and hacking of forests for fuelwood and large scale illegal grazing. Similar is the plight of marine ecosystem managers who constantly are at the receiving end from threats by the several marine industries especially shipping and tourism, land based activities, illegal commercial fishing

and coral mining etc.

The vital question before us is how to stem this problem and ensure sustainable management of our natural resources. No one simple answer is there. The first and foremost issue is that we should educate the masses to be part of the movement to save our environment. This is easier said than done. A person who is faced with the immediate problem of cooking his food will chop the nearest tree in sight no matter how well coached he is in environmental conservation. The answer lies in providing for the immediate need of the large masses that are there in our region who have an immediate problem of food and energy. Besides other approaches, this could be done by linking sustainable natural resources management practices to participatory management of the resource by the population living around the resource and proper usufruct sharing so that the renewable natural resource is viewed by the masses as their own to be cherished and protected and used in a manner that it gives sustained yield. If this approach is followed, we may be able to sustainably manage our natural resource and be able to save the "Golden Goose to lay the Golden egg on a sustainable basis"



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

"There is sufficiency in the world for man's need but not for man's greed"

~Mohandas K. Gandhi

5th Session of Working Group of the Basel Convention

Secretariat of the Basel Convention organized the 5th Session of Open-ended Working Group of the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal at Geneva International Conference Centre (CICG), Switzerland during 3 ~ 7 Apr 06. The Secretariat provides assistance and guidelines on legal and technical issues, gathers statistical data, and conducts training on the proper management of hazardous waste. The Secretariat is administered by UNEP.

Origins of the Convention

When hazardous waste is dumped indiscriminately, spilled accidentally or managed improperly, it can cause severe health problems, even

death, and poison water and land for decades. In the late 1980s, a tightening of environmental regulations in industrialized countries led to a dramatic rise in the cost of hazardous waste (toxic, poisonous, explosive, corrosive, flammable, ecotoxic and infectious) disposal. Searching for cheaper ways to get rid of the wastes, "toxic traders" began shipping hazardous waste to developing countries and to Eastern Europe. When this activity was revealed, international outrage led to the drafting and adoption of the Basel Convention.

During The Present Decade the Convention will build on this framework by emphasizing full implementation and enforcement

of treaty commitments.

During his participation in the 5th Session, Dr A A Boaz, D. G. SACEP held meetings with the Executive Secretary of the BASEL convention on the proposal moved by SACEP for the establishment of a sub-regional Centre for the convention at SACEP Secretariat. The proposal was well received and it was decided to get the endorsement from the countries and move a formal proposal to the BASEL secretariat. The Director General also had discussions with the Directors of the Regional Centre in Tehran, China and Indonesia as presently some of the South Asian countries are members of these regional centre.

www.basel.int



Dr Boaz, Director General, SACEP, with Ms. Sachiko Kuwabara Yamamoto, Executive Secretary, Basel Convention and the other officers of the Secretariat, Geneva, Switzerland

Asia's Green Fuel Revolution



Jatropha curcas

The concept of substituting bio diesel produced from plantations on eroded soils for conventional diesel fuel has gained wide-spread attention in India. In recent months, the Indian central Government as well as some state governments have expressed their support for bringing marginal lands, which cannot be used for food production, under cultivation for this purpose. *Jatropha curcas* is a well established plant in India. It produces oil-rich seeds, is known to thrive on eroded lands, and to require only limited amounts of water, nutrients

and capital inputs. This plant offers the option both to cultivate wastelands and to produce vegetable oil suitable for conversion to bio diesel. More versatile than hydrogen and new propulsion systems such as fuel cell technology, bio diesel can be used in today's vehicle fleets worldwide and may also offer a viable path to sustainable transportation, i.e., lower greenhouse gas emissions and enhanced mobility, even in remote areas. Mitigation of global warming and the creation of new regional employment opportunities can be im-

portant cornerstones of any forward looking transportation system for emerging economies. In addition to working with commercial partners, it should be extensively addressed with NGOs and non-profit organizations throughout the region to enable *Jatropha* to create the thousands of new job opportunities, enhance rural incomes, promote reforestation and also prevent soil erosion.

Source: *Natural resources forum* 29 (1, 2005) : 12-24

“I have no doubt that we will be successful in harnessing the sun's energy.... If sunbeams were weapons of war, we would have had solar energy centuries ago.”

~Sir George Porter, *The Observer*, 26 August 1973

South Asia Status: Multilateral Environmental Agreements

Country	UNFCCC	Kyoto Protocol	UNCBD	Biosafety Protocol (Cartagena)	UNCCD	MoU SAARC and SACEP 2004	Declaration on SACEP	Malé Declaration on Transboundary Air Pollution	South Asian Seas Agreement
Afghanistan	@ '02	-	@ '02	-	@ '95	@ '04	* '81	-	n.a.
Bangladesh	@ '94	@ '01	@ '94	@ '04	@ '96	@ '04	@ '81	@ '97	@ '95
Bhutan	@ '95	@ '02	@ '95	@ '02	@ '03	@ '04	@ '81	@ '97	n.a.
India	@ '93	@ '02	@ '94	@ '03	@ '96	@ '04	@ '81	@ '97	@ '95
Maldives	@ '92	@ '98	@ '92	@ '03	@ '02	@ '04	@ '81	@ '97	@ '95
Nepal	@ '94	@ '95	@ '93	* '01	@ '96	@ '04	@ '81	@ '97	n.a.
Pakistan	@ '94	@ '95	@ '94	* '01	@ '97	@ '04	@ '81	@ '97	@ '95
Sri Lanka	@ '93	@ '02	@ '94	@ '04	@ '98	@ '04	@ '81	@ '97	@ '95

Note: □ Indicates ratification, acceptance or accession and * represents signature of a convention

Conservation of Marine & Coastal Protected Areas

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

In collaboration with ICRAN, under the south Asian Seas Programme, a three-year project “*Institutional Strengthening and Capacity Devel-*

opment for the Long-term management and Conservation of Marine and Coastal Protected Areas encompassing Coral Reefs in South Asia” in the 5 maritime nations of South Asia (Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Pakistan, Sri Lanka), will commence in August 2006. The aim of the project is to contribute to the reduction in the rates of marine and coastal biodiversity loss within the region, and protect the natural resources on which the economic and social development of future generations is based. Actions will assist nations to move forward with commitments to develop networks of MCPAs encompassing coral reefs in line with Multilateral Environmental Agreements.

The Project will address,

Communication: development of human and technical expertise, improvement of information and networking services, and allocation of technical equipment to project sites.

Data management : Review and rationalisation of training and management processes across the region to ensure greater consistency and aptitude for management and conservation, and to formulate a transferable resource base.

Effectiveness of alternative livelihoods for coastal communities: Review of alternative livelihood programmes and the development of guidelines to encourage the uptake of effective actions, to readress the unique situations of poor coastal communities.

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Dr. Aravind Boaz, met ICRAN

Director, Mr. Kristian Teleki with South Asian Seas Interim Coordinator Mr. P. Abegunawardene Ms. Nic Bernard, Programme Officer also seen in the picture

Transboundary Air Pollution

As industrialization has spread, air pollution has become a major problem throughout the world, particularly in urban centers. The public health consequences of air pollution are well known, and often much greater than other environmental issues, even in developing countries. For example, according to the World Bank, 1.3 billion people live in urban areas that do not meet World Health Organization air pollution standards, resulting in from 300,000 to 700,000 additional deaths each year. Death, of course, is not the only human health impact. Lead poisoning due to air pollution in Bangkok is estimated to have caused a decrease of four IQ points for the average child by the age of seven. Air pollution also causes significant damage to the environment, including buildings, materials and vegetation.

Transboundary air pollution has given rise to some of the most important international disputes, beginning in the

1940s with the well known Trail Smelter Arbitration between Canada and the United States. Trail Smelter involved the relatively simple case of a factory located wholly inside one country (Canada) but near and upwind of the border of another country (the United States). The rule emanating from Trail Smelter, now widely accepted as customary international law, is that one State should not allow activities under its jurisdiction or control to harm the environment of a neighboring State or of areas beyond national jurisdiction. For the region, the implementation of the regional agreements in South and South East Asia adopted and formalized during the last ten years will provide eligible statistic in this aspect.

The impact of long range pollutants came to the fore in the 1970s, particularly with respect to sulfur dioxide (SO₂) and nitrous oxide (NO_x)

emissions and their contribution to acid rain (more properly called acid deposition, because it can occur both as snow and as dust in addition to rain). Concern over acid deposition has led to significant international negotiations both in North America and in Europe. Europe, under the auspices of the U.N. Economic Commission for Europe, has adopted a complex and comprehensive regime for regulating long range air pollution (known as the Convention on Long-Range Transboundary of Air Pollutants or LRTAP). After agreeing to a framework convention, the parties established a series of separate protocols to control NO_x, SO₂, volatile organic compounds (VOCs), and persistent organic pollutants (POPs). This treaty regime is important in its own right, but also as a model for the Montreal Protocol regime, the 1992 Climate Change Convention, and the 2001 POPs Convention.



"There's so much pollution in the air now that if it weren't for our lungs there'd be no place to put it all."

~Robert Orben

Peace Parks A Transboundary Coordinated Conservation Strategy

Protected areas are the central part of national policies and efforts for the conservation of biodiversity and natural and cultural values. This is recognized by Article 8 of the Convention on Biological Diversity, which calls for the strengthening of national systems of protected areas. One of the major issues related to depletion of biodiversity is fragmentation of their habitats due to various factors. One such major factor is political boundaries between countries which restrict the free movement of animals. Very often, there is some sort of tension arising on these boundaries and it further affects the biodiversity. There are several factors contributing to an increase of tension at the borders throughout the world. They include struggles for independence after colonial rule, the break-up of nations due to ethnic or religious conflict and competing claims for access to or control of natural resources, including water.

Ecosystems and species do not recognize political borders, which were usually defined for historical and geopolitical reasons, without reference to ecological functions or processes. Effective biodiversity conservation depends on an ecosystem management approach that integrates protected area management into wider land

and water use planning. Protected areas that are established and managed across borders (Transboundary Protected Areas) can therefore provide an important tool for coordinated conservation of ecological units and corridors.

The growing interest in the concept of Peace Parks has been one of the key emerging areas for conservation policy in the last ten years. Peace Parks are promoted as a means of conflict resolution and increased international cooperation in the realm of environmental conservation. Peace Parks do much to illuminate the tangled politics of border regions in an era of globalization. In principle, they promise the unimpeachable environmental and economic benefits to be achieved by removing the impact of artificial state frontiers, and switching to bioregions as a more effective means of tackling global environmental problems. Bioregions have significant environmental advantages over attempting environmental protection through agreements between nation-states. They can re-establish long lost wildlife migration routes which are beneficial in terms of increasing the genetic diversity of wild populations.

The benefits of trans-boundary protected areas can go well beyond biodiversity conservation. Such areas can also play a major role in promoting cooperation and confidence building between countries.

The peace park concept can apply to the South Asia as well. There are number of areas which can be managed as peace parks in South Asia such as;

- The Sundarbans trans-boundary protected area at the border between India and Bangladesh
- Royal Manas National Park, Bhutan and Manas Tiger Reserve, India
- Royal Chitwan National Park Parsa wildlife reserve, Nepal and Valmiki Tiger Reserve, India
- Suklaphanta wildlife reserve Royal Bardia national park, Nepal and Dudwa tiger reserve, India
- Kanchanjunga national park Qomolangma nature reserve, India and Kanchanjunga conservation area, Nepal.



Malé Declaration - Phase 3 project implementation

“ One person flying in an airplane for one hour is responsible for the same greenhouse gas emissions as a typical Bangladeshi in a whole year.” -

Beatrice Schell, European Federation for Transport and Environment, Nov., 2001.

The Male' Declaration on Control and Prevention of Transboundary Air Pollution and its Likely Effects for South Asia has entered its 3rd Phase with the continued financial support from Sida. The present phase will continue to strengthen the networks and capacity building activities through monitoring and trainings. In particular, the present phase will extend its focus to study the health impacts of air pollution. The project is being supported by Sida under the global programmes of Regional Air pollution in Developing Countries (RAPIDC), and implemented under the technical support from SEI and close collaboration and guidance from UNEP-ROAP.

Annual meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and Programme Management Committee (PMC) of RAPIDC were held during 22-23 May 2006 in Stockholm at the Sida's Head Quarters. Dr. A.A. Boaz, Director General,

SACEP and Pradyumna Kumar Kotta, Project Coordinator, SENRIC represented SACEP at these meetings.

The TAC meetings discussed issues related to monitoring and transport of air pollution, emission inventories, acidification, Integrated Assessment Model, scenarios and responses. Presentations included sharing of experiences from the networks and linkages between different programmes related to the monitoring of air pollution (Male' Declaration, Atmospheric Brown Cloud, CAD, etc) and related issues to capacity building. The TAC also addressed issues related to air pollution impacts on crops, urban air pollution assessment, corrosion, Air Pollution in Mega Cities of Asia (APMA) / Better Air Quality (BAQ) and health.

The meetings reviewed current status of monitoring and observed

that three additional stations have started monitoring activities in Bangladesh, India and Iran. Considering the continuous monitoring, annual submission of data will be reported to the governments. It was agreed that the present network will also include O₃ as one of the monitoring parameters.

The PMC Meetings considered the status and progress of the programme implementation. The meeting agreed on the approaches to capacity building activities and the issue of transfer of ownership to the regions through staggered phases.

During this visit, Dr. Boaz observed the waste management and bio-energy processes followed in Sweden and held discussions at the Stockholm University. He also had discussions with the staff at Sida Dr. Per Bjorkman, with Dr. Mirjam Palm, related to forestry and climate issues.



Air Pollution Monitoring Station, Bhutan



Dr. Boaz visits Environment Ministry, Nepal



SACEP Director General with the Nepal Assistant Minister of Environment HE Pratap Ram Lohar and Secretary, Mr. Ananda Raj Pandey and Dr. Chhewang Lama, in Kathmandu, Nepal

The 10th Governing Council and the 4th Inter Ministerial Meeting is being planned to be held in Kathmandu, Nepal. Dr. Boaz, Director General, SACEP met the Assistant Minister, Environment, HE Mr. Pratap Ram Lohar and Secretary, Mr. Ananda Raj Pandey in Kathmandu, Nepal in March, 06. The issue was discussed and an agreement was reached, in principle, that Nepal would host the two meetings in Kathmandu. The Director General requested that the dates for the meetings should preferably be in the end of August as the last Governing Council of SACEP was held in Thimphu, Bhutan On 26th August, 2005.

HE Mr. Pratap Ram Lohar emphasized that SACEP should take up more activities in Nepal. Nepal had very good examples of participatory forest management and NTFP, especially medicinal plants, management and would be most willing to share its expertise for the benefit of other countries in the region.

The Secretary, Mr. Pandey laid stress on the need for SACEP to initiate activities relating to climate change issues as Nepal was facing a serious threat from the effects of Climate change and global warming leading to melting of Glaciers. Another major

problem was the silting of rivers and lakes.

Dr. Boaz thanked the Hon' Minister and the Secretary for their kind consent to holding the Governing Council and the Inter Ministerial Meeting and requested that the formal consent and dates may be intimated at the earliest. He also requested them to approve the work-plan of SACEP for 2006-07. SACEP has already initiated action to develop projects for donor support on the prioritized areas of the work plan.

Community Forestry A Tool for Sustainable Forest Management

Community Forestry has developed into a strong tool for achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) in the South Asian Region. The role of the Forest Department in organizing the local forestry communities to not only protect and conserve the forest areas but also sustainably harvest the forest products has been laudable. This has led to putting in place people participatory approaches for recovery of the forest areas and contributed to enhancing the livelihood support that these forests provided. The Director General, Dr. A. Boaz in his recent visit to com-

munity forestry areas in the region, met members of such committees in Mussoorie Forest Division, Uttaranchal, India and Dhaka Forest Division, Bangladesh and was greatly impressed by the enthusiasm of local communities, especially the women, who were whole heartedly participating in the protection, conservation and development of the forest areas and benefiting from the Benefit Sharing mechanisms put in place for the benefits accrued by the communities from the forest areas allotted and conserved by them.

In both the areas, the biggest achievement was the active participation of the womenfolk. In the Kempty Forest Committee, the Chairman, dynamic young woman, said that she took up the cudgels to guide the committee because it was "the women who were the worst affected by the progressively receding forests and water resources as it was they who fetched water, fuel-wood and other natural produce from the forest areas for their families."



Dr. Boaz with the members of Forest Committees in Dhaka Forest Division, Bangladesh (Top) and Mussoorie Forest Division, India

A discussion forum on Response to Post Tsunami Status

A discussion forum was organized by the SACEP Secretariat, specifically to identify regional level innovative approaches with potential to make use of opportunities to assist local communities to deal with environmental problems that are still persistent after the Asian tsunami episode occurred in December 2004. The forum focused on Best Practices, Knowledge Management, Policy Guidance, Options that could be considered.

The discussion forum was attended by representatives from IUCN, Sarvodaya Shramadana Movement, University of Ruhuna, University of Peradeniya, CEE-Ahmedabad India, CEE-Sri Lanka, and NARA. Under different discussion themes concerns below were highlighted.

Session 1: Waste Management in the South Asia Region

SACEP should consider possibilities for the development of a South Asia regional center for the management of E-Waste.

Waste minimizing strategies, sorting out of domestic waste and environment friendly consumption patterns should be popularized among the younger generation through youth programmes under the Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (DESD). Successful programmes undertaken by CEE, Bangalore should be considered for the region. The region could be benefited under a "Regional Waste Agreement" which may also address exchange of waste as a raw material for different recycling plants.

Session 2: Green Belts, Eco Villages, and Legal Provisions, with community participation
Appropriate jurisdiction is

needed to acquire land for the proper Green Belt. SACEP should consider to promote eco-village concepts in the region.

Session 3: Lagoons and Estuaries (threats and their sustainable management)

Coral mining is still an on-going issue and awareness programme to curb such activities needs to be promoted. Publication and distribution of research material regarding the coastal and marine resources through already established channels.

Under the South-South Cooperation, SACEP should coordinate to develop a programme with India to trace the fisheries resources using GIS and Remote Sensing technologies which will benefit the region.



Prof. Madduma Bandara (right) setting the objectives for the Discussion Forum, on 16th June 2006 at SACEP

Conservation of Marine & Coastal Protected Areas

From P.4

Regional coordination of management efforts creation of advisory and coordination capacity through the establishment of the South Asia Coral Reef Task Force, developing linkages between all levels of management, focusing existing regional expertise, facilitating coordinated responses to transboundary management issues and improving the representation of South Asian marine and coastal resource management challenges within global discussion fora.

Proposed activities at selected

sites:

A 5-day training programme to address MCPA management strategies, community outreach and environmental education will be conducted with staff members from selected sites

A 5-day training programme to review and address enforcement challenges will be conducted with staff members from selected sites Enforcement equipment or financial support for existing enforcement activities will be provided to

selected sites based on the results of a needs assessment Financial and technical support will be provided to selected sites for the implementation of environmental education activities with local communities, and the development of outreach materials A one-day training workshop will be organised to introduce MCPA representatives to the electronic discussion fora developed under this project.
www.icran.org





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info@sacep.org

The future editions of this Newsletter will highlight regional

and national initiatives and emerging environmental issues. We would like to receive related articles or information to share with our readers. Any information published will be duly acknowledged.

We look forward to receive information that could be part of our database of experts and institutions in the region. We also request for information on case studies of best management practices and initiatives in the areas of environmental protection, sustainable resource management and community -based participatory resource management.

The SACEP Newsletter is published quarterly and can be downloaded from the website.

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SACEP Publications

Following copies of the Books are available at our book store.

Harmonising Environment and development in South Asia Colombo, Sri Lanka: SACEP publication. xii, 458 Ed Wijayadasa, K.H.J. 1997

Compendium of summaries of judicial decisions

in Environment related cases: Series on Environmental Law and policy No.3 . 1997, Colombo, Sri Lanka: SACEP, UNEP, NORAD publication .xiv, 242p.

South Asia handbook of treaties and other legal instruments in the field of Environmental Law: Series on Environmental Law and policy No.1. 1997,

Colombo, Sri Lanka: SACEP, UNEP, NORAD publication 331p.

Alternative livelihoods through income diversification: An option for sustainable coral reef and associated ecosystem management in Sri Lanka, Colombo, Sri Lanka: SACEP, CORDIO publication. 98p. Ed; Perera, Nishanthi 2003



International Days for the Environment

22-Mar	World Water Day	www.unesco.org/water/wwd2006/index.shtml
23-Mar	World Meteorological Day	www.wmo.int/wmd/
22-May	International Day for Biological Diversity	www.biodiv.org/programmes/outreach/awareness/biodiv-day
5-Jun	World Environment Day	www.unep.org/wed/2006/english/
17-Jun	World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought	www.iydd.org/
9-Aug	International Day of the World's Indigenous People	www.un.org/events/indigenous/
16-Sep	International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer Depletion	
September last Week	World Maritime Day	www.imo.org/About/mainframe.asp?topic_id=320
October 2nd Wednesday	International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction	
6-Nov	International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict.	www.un.org/depts/dhl/environment_war/index.html
11-Dec	International Mountain Day	

NEW Programme Officer at SACEP

Mr. Hiran Tillekaratne assumed duties as a Programme Officer, South Asian Seas Programme. His experiences include rainforest and tropical plant uses and Participatory Forestry under the Participatory Forestry Project, Forest Department, Sri Lanka. Prior to joining SACEP, he has worked at UN-OCHA, Rainforest Rescue International and Biosafety Framework Development Project, Ministry of Environment, Sri Lanka.

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