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SACEP Launches SAWTI—The First Regional Effort to Combat Illegal Trade in Wildlife in South Asia

SACEP signed a MoU with TRAFFIC International in July 2007 to jointly work on the initiative taken at the 10th Governing Council of SACEP on combating illegal trade in wildlife and its products with a view to strengthening enforcement of CITES in the region and in controlling illegal domestic and international trading in wild fauna and flora which is seriously impeding biodiversity conservation efforts by all countries.

The main aims of this MoU was to develop and implement a South Asia Regional Strategy for

combating illegal trade in wild flora and fauna and to ensure that the legal trade is maintained at sustainable levels in South Asia and to establish the South Asia Wildlife Trade Initiative (SAWTI) and strengthen partnerships, alliances and other cooperative mechanisms to foster impacts of the progress at the national and regional level.

SACEP and TRAFFIC decided to hold the 1st Regional Workshop in Kathmandu on 31st January and 1st February 2008.

The workshop was organized by SACEP with TRAFFIC International, WWF -Nepal and it was

hosted by the Government of Nepal. WWF – UK and the United State Department of State financially supported this workshop. Senior Government officials and key stakeholders of all the eight member countries of SACEP were present at this workshop. The CITES Secretariat was also present at this workshop.

Cont Page 04



DR. A.A. BOAZ ADDRESSING THE GATHERING AT THE INAUGURATION OF THE MEETING

SACEP ensures Member Country participation in Third Regional EST Forum, Singapore

The United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD), Land Transport Authority (LTA) of the Ministry of Transport of Singapore, National Environment Agency (NEA) of the Ministry of the Environment and Water Resources of Singapore, and the Ministry of the Environment - Government of Japan (MoE -Japan), jointly organized the Third Regional Environmentally Sustainable Transport (EST) Forum from 17 -19 March 2008 in Singapore.

The primary objectives of the Third Regional EST Forum were:

- To conduct policy dialogue and share best practices, policy instruments, tools and technologies in the areas of urban environment and transport in line with the philosophy of EST;
- To follow-up on the implementation of the Aichi Statement, adopted in the First Regional EST Forum held on 1 -2 August 2005 in Nagoya, Japan through sharing government initiatives and policies in relation to the ten thematic areas of EST;
- To follow-up on progress on

National EST Strategy Formulation supported by UNCRD in Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam;

- To discuss on Climate Change, EST and Co -benefits in a special session in view of the emerging international concern on global warming;
- To discuss and explore linkages with other on-going national, regional and international activities / initiatives in promoting environmentally sustainable transport.

Cont. Page 07.....

SACEP-NBRI Joint Initiative on Climate Change & its Impact on Flora in South Asia

Regional Workshop on Climate Change and it's Impact on Flora in the South Asia Region was held during 9 -12, March, 2008 (four days) at National Botanical Research Institute, Lucknow, India

This workshop was conducted to carry forward the Priority Area of Adaptation to Climate change that was identified as one of the main priority areas at the 9th Governing Council of SACEP collaborating with the National Botanical Research Institute (NBRI). The National Botanical Research Institute (NBRI) is the premier national plant research center for India under the umbrella of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) an interna-

tionally well-known research organisation of the foot of India and it focuses on both basic and applied aspects of plant sciences. It caters to the need of almost every aspect of plant research in South Asian region in general and India in particular.

Scope

The scope of the workshop was to develop key role in the area of climate change and its effect on biodiversity of various locations/ ecosystems and areas like; agriculture, forestry of South Asian countries were discussed in common. Besides, specific impacts to the flora, like carbon sequestration in changing climatic condition and plant nutrient /

metal interaction etc. also discussed. Finally, a region specific recommendation for enhancing environmental sustainability was prepared. Various deliberations and discussions pertaining to various subsets of climate change interactions with flora were formulated in to a project mode document..



INAUGURAL SESSION LR DR. RAKESH TULI, DIRECTOR NBRI, DR. A.A. BOAZ, DIRECTOR GENERAL, SACEP PROF. N.H. RAVINDRANATH AND DR. R.D. TRIPATHI

Cont Page 05.....

Salient Features of the draft Statement- SAWTI

- Aware of CITES Resolution 11.3 'Compliance and Enforcement' revised at the 14th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES in July 2007 urging Parties to consider formulating regional action plans and support wildlife law enforcement agencies,
- Acknowledging the MoU signed by SACEP and TRAFFIC International to jointly take the initiative of regional cooperation, for combating illegal trade and maintenance of sustainable level in legal trade, forward and joint efforts initiated by them,
- South Asia Regional Strategic Plan on Wildlife Trade (2008 -2013) endorsed by the senior officers of the member countries at the First regional Workshop,
- Mutual networking and technical support as well as financial and technical support from the international community for building, expertise, resources, and capacity to address the needs of the region for combating the illegal wildlife trade,
- and the development of a South Asia Regional Strategic Plan on Wildlife Trade (2008 -2013).
- The Experts Group, with the assistance of the SACEP Secretariat, TRAFFIC and other relevant partners, to develop a detailed work programme for implementing the South Asia Regional Strategic Plan on Wildlife Trade,
- Countries, donors and organizations to provide financial and technical support to assist in the implementation of this work programme.

SAWTI and regional action plan urge for;

- To establishment of a South Asia Experts Group on Wildlife Trade

DELEGATES WITH THE H.E. MR. FARMULLAH MANSOOR, THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY OF NEPAL AT THE WORKSHOP CLOSING CERAMONY



OBJECTIVES & GOALS OF SAWTI

- Mainly assist the South Asian countries in achieving strategic goals as outlined in CITES Strategic Vision 2008 – 2013 for facilitating and managing efficiently the legal and sustainable trade and eventually eliminating illegal trade in wildlife.
- Provide mutually assistance to ensure maintenance of sustainable wildlife trade levels, and to combating and eventually eliminate illegal trade.
- Support member countries to develop effective and complementary laws, regulations and policies in combating international networks of smugglers and illegal traders of wildlife operating in the region and beyond.
- Provide mutual help in species conservation, sustainable harvesting practices for livelihood security and trade through exchange of success stories.
- Risk assessment and developing inter-country early warning system on issues of trans boundary legal trade and illegal smuggling.
- Capacity building of governmental staff, local stakeholders and relevant NGOs.
- Ensure flow of technical support and funds from governmental aid agencies and other international donor organizations to assist with capacity building and provide additional resources.
- As a regional entity develop linkages with other similar regional organisations such as ASEAN and wildlife authorities of the neighbouring countries like China, Iran, Myanmar and other selected Central Asian countries for collaboration in preventing illegal trade of wildlife products from the region.
- Develop and implement common strategies for combating illegal trade within and beyond the region through networking, information and intelligence exchange.
- Develop overarching regional work programmes for human resource development, need based research, creation of data base on a common format, ensure periodical trade monitoring and exchange of views.



TRAFFIC
the wildlife trade monitoring network





From DG's Desk



The issue of developing a regional approach to combat illegal trade in wildlife has been discussed in South Asia for quite sometime. The raising of this issue

at the 10th Governing Council of SACEP, by the Hon Minister of State from India H.E. Namon Narayan Meena and unanimously supported by all member countries, gave the mandate of SACEP to go ahead to develop the SAWTI (South Asia Wildlife Trade Initiative). Discussions followed with TRAFFIC to take this initiative forward. The marriage between TRAFFIC and SACEP in the form of an MOU helped to formalize the regional consensus in an inter government meeting that the government of Nepal was kind enough to host.

The US government and WWF (UK) came forward to support the initiative.

The biggest achievement of this meeting was the consensus agreement on the SAWTI and the finalization of the draft statement for the Hon. Ministers of the eight member countries to be adopted at the next Governing Council of SACEP. I am confident that SAWTI will ensure mutual help and international support in combating illegal trade in wildlife and achieving strategic goals as outlined in CITES Strategic Vision 2008 – 2013.

Climate Change is one of the most important issues facing mankind in the present era. It is having a big impact on Flora. In order to push this important aspect high on the SACEP Agenda, we conducted an inter government meeting in collaboration with a Premier Centre of Excellence, the National Botanical Research Institute (NBRI), India on "Effect of Climate Change on Flora in South Asia". Nearly 140 government representatives and researchers from the South Asian region attended this workshop and developed specify recommendations for Environmental sustainability and specific impacts

on Flora in changing Climate conditions and plant nutrient / metal interaction etc. The meeting also made at "Lucknow Statement" and agreed to establish a "South Asia Forum" for Climate Change Challenges.

During this quarter another major activity was the participation of all the eight countries of South Asia in the 3rd EST Forum in Singapore. SACEP is happy to report that it was able to collaborate with UNCRD and the Government of Japan to facilitate the participation in this important forum for the first time. Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Afghanistan endorsed the "Aichi Statement Forum and the balance countries will do so after consultations with their country governments. SACEP is now breaking new grounds and initiating new activities and projects for the benefit of its member countries. These new initiatives will help the South Asia region to keep pace with the global trends that are emerging in the field of environment. I am confident that the global donor community will whole heartedly support our efforts for the benefits of humanity in the future.

ICRI General Meeting

The first general meeting of the Mexico - United States ICRI Secretariat and the official international launch of the International Year of the Reef (IYOR 2008) was held from the 22nd – 25th January, 2008 in Washington DC. The meeting was co-chaired by Robert Cudney, Mexico and Stephanie Caswell, United States.

A total of 79 participants attended the ICRI General Meeting, with 35 local participants and observers. Eighteen countries were represented and 26 organisations.

At the meeting it was agreed:

- To adopt the Action Plan for the period 2007-09
- That the ICRI Secretariat will take forward the planning of the ICRI Regional Workshop on Sustainable Tourism in the Caribbean, drawing

on the outcomes of the breakout session at this meeting and in a consultative manner.

- That the ICRI Secretariat consider the question of the relationship of ICRI to its Operational Networks, drawing together information on the Terms of Reference and operations of the operational networks, making recommendations to the next ICRI GM in July 2008.

It was also agreed that two new *ad hoc* Committees be formed, and should report to the next ICRI GM in July 2008:

The long term management and conservation of marine and coastal resources in South Asia and launch of the South Asia Coral Reef Task Force was presented by Dr. Boaz, Director General of South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme (SACEP), and Dr. Nilaratna, Minis-

try of Environment and Forests of India, as the elected Chair of the SACRTEF. The activities focus on Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Maldives, and Sri Lanka with the objective to recognise the need to develop and advance MCPA networks in the South Asia region in order to meet multilateral environmental agreement targets of poverty, environmental sustainability and equitable sharing.

The SACRTEF was launched in July 2007 in Colombo, Sri Lanka with a mission statement to actively participate in, and support, the effective implementation of existing national regulations, action plans and strategies for the management of coral reefs and associated ecosystems, and to promote the development of strategic linkages for enhanced regional cooperation, and the establishment of an effective, networked system of marine and coastal protected areas in the South Asia region. Its first meeting was held in December 2007.

Coastal and Marine Risk Management Plan South Asia

A workshop was held in 27 ~ 28 March 2008 conducted by the SAARC Disaster Management Centre New Delhi in collaboration with National Institute of Oceanography (NIO) Goa for the development of a comprehensive SAARC Coastal and Marine Risk Mitigation Plan integrating the resources and expertise available with operational as well as R&D Agencies in the region taking into account the five priorities of Hyogo Framework of Action such as

- Ensure the Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) is a national and local priority with a strong institutional basis for implementation;
- Identify, assess and monitor disaster risks and enhance early warning;
- Use knowledge, innovation and education to build a culture of safety and resilience at all levels
- Reduce the underlying risk factors;

- Strengthen disaster preparedness for effective response at all levels
- The workshop to which SACEP was invited, took into account the following
- Expert deliberations on the outstanding issues and challenges facing the region with regards to coastal and Marine disasters;
 - Sharing the respective national initiatives in operational as well as research domains towards addressing these issues;
 - Discussing the regional approach strategy and plan taking into account all the ongoing planned efforts at international, regional and national levels.

The full -fledged Regional Mitigation Plan would be developed by November – December 2008 and the countries have been requested to develop their respective national plans. Subsequently, the Programme Committee of SAARC, while approving the recommendation of the Governing Board, outlined the

following approach and methodology for the development of a SAARC Coastal and Marine Risk Mitigation Plan.

- a) Convening of a workshop of experts to discuss issues and suggest the methodology for the development of a template for the preparation of a Coastal and Marine Hazard Mitigation Plan for South Asia
- b) Based on the agreed methodology of SDMC shall develop the template which shall be divided in to two parts:
 - i) Coastal and Marine Risk Mitigation Plan for each Coastal country
This will focus on the issues that each country has to address within the country and would serve as input for the regional plan.
 - ii) Coastal and Marine Risk Mitigation Plan for the region
The inputs from the member countries would form the basis the detailed Regional Coastal and Marine Risk Mitigation Plan.

Cont. Page 01 SACEP Launches SAWTI—The First Regional Effort to Combat ...

The aims of this workshop were to follow up on the 2004 Kathmandu Wildlife Trade Workshop, development of a South Asia Wildlife Trade Initiative and to finalize the South Asia Regional Strategic Plan on Wildlife Trade.

Chief Guest for the inaugural session was Mr Tirtha Raj Sharma, Secretary Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation, Nepal. Dr Arvind Boaz, Director General of SACEP, during his welcome speech highlighted the SACEP roll in the region on protecting the wild flora and fauna where most of the countries are famous for their biodiversity. He also explained the scope of the South Asia Wildlife Trade Initiative. The Chair person for the Inaugural Session was Mr Narayan Prasad Silwal, Secretary Ministry of Environment, Science and Technology, Government of Nepal.

Mr. Bajimaya, Director -General, Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation Nepal, during his welcome speech pointed out the illegal trade of endangered species is still moving with all the efforts of both national and regional level. Remarks from the CITES Secretariat was given by Mr John Sellar, Senior Officer for Anti-smuggling, fraud and organized crime. Opening remarks from the TRAFFIC International was given by Mr Roland Melisch, Global Programme Co-ordinator. Mr Anil Manandhar, Country Representative, WWF

Nepal and Ms Meena Khanal, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Science and Technology, Government of Nepal also address the inaugural session.

Technical sessions for the workshop included the country presentations focussing the current scenario of wildlife trade policies, regulations and practices and also the capacity gaps found for further regional and multilateral collaboration by the all eight member countries. Important decisions were made by the Government representatives from the member countries for the future actions.

Establishment of the South Asia Wildlife Trade Initiative (SAWTI) was one of the decisions taken at the workshop. This was the first time that such a cooperative effort was taken in the South Asia region to combat illegal trade in wild life and to maintain legal trade in wildlife at sustainable levels. SAWTI will work under the mandate of SACEP and develop a work programme within the context of the national priorities after detailed consultations with all the eight countries in the region. The South Asia Regional Strategic Plan on Wildlife Trade was also endorsed by the representatives of the member countries.

The workshop also approved the draft statement for adoption at the Ministerial level 11th Governing Council of SACEP that will adopt the establishment of a South Asia Expert Group on Wildlife Trade, consisting of relevant technical representatives from the eight

member countries, which could meet periodically and provide a forum for the development of regional programmes through networking, sharing and effective dissemination of knowledge and information. This expert group with the assistance of the SACEP Secretariat, TRAFFIC and other relevant partners will develop a detailed work programme for implementing the South Asia Regional Strategic Plan on Wildlife Trade. It will also seek support of countries, donors and organizations to provide financial and technical support to assist in the implementation of this work programme.

Concluding session was chaired by the Hon. Mr Farmullah Manssor, Minister for Environment, Science and Technology, Nepal. During his speech mentioned as a country rich in biodiversity, Nepal Government has formulate a strong legal and policy actions over trading of wild flora and fauna. He also mentioned the support the Government is getting from the International organizations regarding wildlife management in the country. Impotency and timely need for an initiative like this for the region was also highlighted.

Dr Arvind Boaz, Director General of SACEP Thanked all the participants for their valuable time and the contribution towards the workshop and also to organizes with special thank to the Government of Nepal for hosting the event even with in a short period of time.



Salient Features “Lucknow statement 2008”

- Establish of a South Asia Forum for Climate Change Challenges to Flora in South Asia (FC3F -SA) to support and guide the development of regional and local strategic plans by working closely with global, regional and local governmental and non governmental partners.
- Setting up a FC3F -SA web portal of member countries for communication, creation of database on regional floral diversity, ecosystems, climate change indicators and projects in progress.
- Generate multidisciplinary climate change information to supplement existing educational materials, textbooks and publications in member countries.
- Coordinate with Donor agencies to generate Fund for regional projects to evolve standard operative procedures to collect data, monitor, quantify and analyse climate change impact on agriculture, forestry and wild flora.
- Enhance focus on strategies for responding to climate change vulnerability of flora through adaptation and mitigation research on trees, higher and lower plants.
- Evolve strategies to minimize climate change impacts on agriculture and minimize agricultural impacts on climate change. Promote the development of stress tolerant varieties and management practices to cope with climate stress on agriculture and forestry systems.
- Integrate biofuel policy in a comprehensive energy, agriculture, climate, population, social and ecosystem sustainability model.



WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS

Cont. Page 01 Climate Change & its Impact on Flora in the

Developed and discussed the projections of climate change and its impact on the flora in the 08 countries in South Asia.

Outputs:

- Initiate a collaborative network to study regional impact of climate change in South Asia.
- Published research papers summarizing the expected impacts of climate change on flora in South Asian countries.
- Proposal on “Impact of Climate Change on Flora: A South Asian Initiative” was developed.

Adopted Lucknow Declaration on “Climate Change and its Impact on Flora in the South Asian Region” also attached

Workshop Recommendations

- Development of collaborative network to study regional impact of climate change in South Asia.
- Development of a strategy for region specific studies on climate change, pollutants and response of regional flora.
- Identification of crop varieties for higher adaptability to different parameters of climate change factors.

- Predictive modeling under laboratory and field conditions with appropriate format and tools.
- Establishment of regional facilities for data development on climate change and effects on local flora in different countries in South Asia.
- Development of South Asian information network to enhance awareness about climate change and other environmental pollutants.

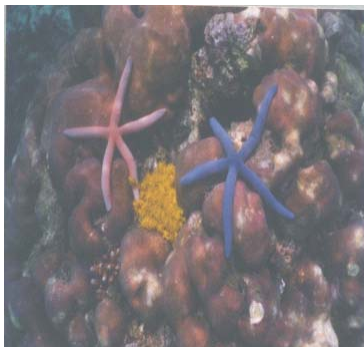


International Year the Reef (IYOR)

What is International Year of the Reef ?

Ten years later there continues to be an urgent need to increase awareness

and understanding of coral reefs, and to further conserve and manage valuable coral reef and associated ecosystems, the International Coral Reef Initiative designated 2008 as the International Year the Reef (IYOR).



ANDAMAN HARD CORALS (MAHATMA GANDHI NATIONAL PARK INDIA)



ST. MARTINS BEACH- BANGLADESH



BAA ATOLL OF THE REPUBLIC OF MALDIVES

South Asia Coral Reef Task Force (SACRTF) as a Focal Point for the SA Programme of IYOR



CORAL REEF PHOTO - BALL REEF PROJECT SRI LANKA



CORALS IN COSTAL AREA IN JEWANI PAKISTAN

PROPOSED ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

- Organize and host a special “Day of the South Asian Coral Reefs” which involves a public level festival / street parade with a focus on celebrating coral reef.
- Invite a celebrity who is interested in coral reefs to be an IYOR ambassador. Use their states to increase public awareness of coral reefs.
- Develop a range of IYOR merchandise such as Calendar, T shirts, Caps or Drink holders.
- Produce an IYOR stamp
- Produce Leaflets, Broachers, Pamphlets, Stickers and Posters in native language to educate the public.
- Encourage local journalists to write features about issues important to coral reefs in the media.
- Promote the IYOR by Linking the SACEP web site to the IYOR web site.
- Identify and nominate the sites that are important for coral reefs in South Asian countries and lobby for their protection.
- Develop a code of practice for sustainable tourism - build relationships with Costal resort developers and tourism authorities and encourage them to ensure that their resorts are Coral Reefs.



Salient Feature of the AICHI Statement

The participants, having met in Nagoya City, Aichi Prefecture, Japan from 1 -2 August 2005, for the International Conference on Environment and Transport, to draw up and adopt a statement on the establishment of a Regional EST Forum for the promotion of environmentally sustainable transport in Asia,

Noting the important contribution sustainable transport systems can make towards realizing the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) set by the United Nations, through improving access to education, employment opportunities, and health care, *Noting* the importance of achieving greater synergies among the various efforts to promote environmentally sustainable transport in Asia, at the regional, national and local level, *Acknowledging* that continued eco-

nomie growth in Asian countries will result in significant further growth in transport demand, which will require a wide range of effective measures at the national and local level to prevent or minimize negative environmental and social impacts associated with the rapid growth in motorization.

Regional EST Forum, 1 -2 August 2005, Nagoya, Japan

Considering that efforts to promote environmentally sustainable transport will result not only in the improvement of human health through the reduction of urban air pollution but will also have important complimentary benefits, including the reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, the reduction of deaths and injuries from road accidents, the reduction of harmful noise levels, and the reduction of traffic congestion levels,

Recognizing the need for both national and local level governments to develop and adopt integrated policies, strategies, and programmes incorporating key elements of environmentally sustainable transport such as:

- *Public health*
- *Land-use planning*
- *Environment and people friendly urban transport infrastructures*
- *Public transport planning and transport demand management (TDM)*
- *Non-motorized transport (NMT)*
- *Social equity and gender perspectives*
- *Road safety and maintenance*
- *Strengthening road side air quality monitoring and assessment*
- *Traffic noise management*
- *Cleaner fuel*

...cont from Page 01 Third Regional EST Forum

The Forum was supported by various international organizations such as World Health Organization (WHO), Swedish International Development Agency (Sida), Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC), German Technical Cooperation (GTZ), South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme (SACEP), and the ASEAN Working Group on Environmentally Sustainable Cities (AWGESC). The Forum was attended by approximately 120 participants, comprised of governmental representatives from 22 Asian countries. Two Ministers, Minister of Urban Development, Government of Sri Lanka and Minister of Transport and Communication, Government of Maldives also attended the forum. This is the 1st time that the South Asian countries (Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka) participated in the Asia EST forum. Welcoming the participants, Mr. Kazunobu Onogawa, Director of UNCRD, expressed his sincere appreciation to LTA and NEA for their generous support in organizing the 3rd Regional EST Forum in Singapore. He appreciated the overall cooperation and support provided by WHO, Sida, GTZ, AWGESC, SACEP, JICA and JBIC in organizing the Forum.

Plenary Session 6 on Future EST Activities was chaired by SACEP Director General, Dr. Arvind Anil Boaz. C.R.C. Mohanty of UNCRD introduced the future plan and activities under the Asian EST Initiative. The future process will continue to seek active participation of 22 countries from South and South East Asia as well as inter-

national organizations, partners, donors, to address following areas:

- sharing best practices, policy instruments, technologies among countries;
- strengthening mutual cooperation among the sub -regional groups (ASEAN, South Asia, North East Asia) in building each other's capacity and in materializing harmonized approach and common understanding to address EST elements underlined in the *Aichi Statement* ; and
- strengthening interagency coordination at local and national level to effectively address the environment and transport issues in an integrated way; Specific

Concluding the session, Director General of SACEP, which is the only intergovernmental body on the environment in South Asia, welcomed SACEP's member countries for their first time participation in the Regional EST Forum. He mentioned that the *Aichi Statement* provided a unique understanding on various elements of EST and all the activities and process behind the Asian EST Initiative were driven by the *Aichi Statement* . Underscoring the fact that the *Aichi Statement* provides a basic/fundamental platform through the EST Forum for policy dialogue and sharing best practices, knowledge, technology, and tools concerning various aspects of EST, it is very essential to have a common understanding across Asia on the *Aichi Statement* . He sincerely requested all South Asian countries to join ASEAN and Northeast Asian countries (China, Korea, Mongolia, Japan) to fully support the *Aichi Statement* as well as join actively in the future activities under Asian

EST Initiative and Regional EST Forum. He proposed to launch a SACEP South Asia Expert Group on EST with support of member countries, UNCRD and other donors. He requested UNCRD to extend its help to formulate National EST Strategies and Action Plan for some countries in South Asia. He also suggested development of a program for specific awareness -raising on EST in Asia. He called upon the automobile industry to actively support the EST initiatives in Asia. He thanked the Hon. Minister of Urban Development, Government of Sri Lanka, Mr. Rohana Dissanayake for proposing to launch a "Car Free Day" in Sri Lanka. He also congratulated the Government of Maldives for conducting the "Car Free Day" in Maldives and requested them to conduct this in future as part of the EST initiative in South Asia and all South Asian countries confirmed their full support to the principles and objectives of the *Aichi Statement* .

The representatives of Ministry of Land, Transport and Maritime Affairs of Republic of Korea announced their interest to host the 4th Regional EST Forum in Korea. They emphasized that the 4th EST Forum in Korea would provide very meaningful opportunities to enhance awareness on the environment and sustainable transportation. All countries welcomed the proposal from the Government of Korea.

On the third and final day of the Forum (19 March 2008), all the participants participated on a field trip jointly organized by LTA and NEA to show the participants the best practices and measures taken up by Singapore for the promotion of EST.



www.sacep.org
info@sacep.org

SACEP

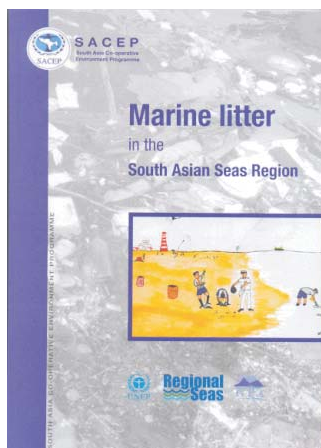
Future editions of this

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.

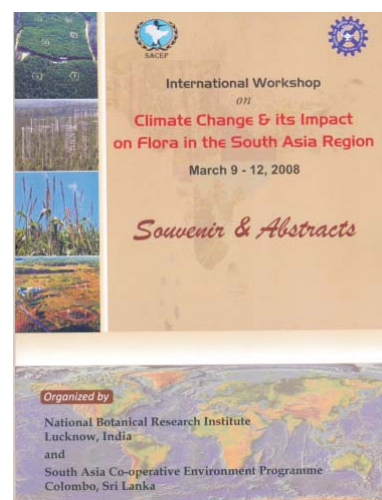
We look forward to receive information that could be part of our database of experts and institutions in the region. We also request for information on case studies of best management practices and initiatives in the areas of environmental protection, sustainable resource management and community -based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

The SACEP Newsletter is published quarterly and can be downloaded from the website.
#10 Anderson Road, Colombo -5,
Sri Lanka.

*Marine Litter in the South Asia
Seas Region*



New Publications



*International Workshop on Climate
Change & its Impact on Flora in the
South Asia Region*

SACEP Calendar April -June, 2008

- **28th April-1st May, 2008 Biosafety Clearing House (BCH) SACEP -UNESCO Workshop will be held in Sri Lanka.**
- **The 11th Meeting of the Governing Council of SACEP will be hosted by the Government of India and will be held on 20 - 22 May 2008 in Jaipur, India.**

Meeting Schedule

- 20 May 2008, 0900 - 1700 hrs, Meeting of the Senior Officials of NFPs of SACEP
- 21 May 2008, 0900 - 1700 hrs, Meeting of the Senior Officials of NFPs of SASP
- 22 May 2008, 0900 - 1300 hrs, 11th Meeting of the Governing Council of SACEP
- 22 May 2008, 1400 - 1700 hrs, 4th Inter Ministerial Meeting of SASP
- **Programme Management Committee Meeting (PMC) of the Malé Declaration on Control and Prevention of air Pollution and its likely Transboundary Effects For South Asia will be held from 2 -4th June 2008, at Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI) Stockholm, Sweden.**

New staff member at SACEP

Mr. Akhila N. Wijerathne

Assumed duties from January 2008 as a Project Assistant at SACEP. He is a graduate of Chemistry (Special) from College of Chemical Sciences Sri Lanka. Prior to joining SACEP, he has worked as a Teaching Assistant in College of Chemical Sciences.

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