



SOUTH ASIA CO-OPERATIVE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME



SOUTH ASIAN SEAS PROGRAMME

SOUTH ASIAN SEAS PROGRAMME

4th Intergovernmental Ministerial Meeting

**Jaipur, India
22nd May 2008**

**REPORT OF THE FOURTH INTERGOVERNMENTAL
MINISTERIAL MEETING
OF THE
SOUTH ASIAN SEAS PROGRAMME**



South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme

South Asian Seas Programme
No. 10, Anderson Road, Colombo 5, Sri Lanka

CERTIFICATE

The Report of the Fourth Intergovernmental Ministerial Meeting of South Asian Seas Programme held on 22nd May 2008 in Jaipur, India is herewith submitted to the members of the Intergovernmental Ministerial Meeting and the Consultative Committee, in fulfilment of the financial and administrative procedures of SACEP and SASP.


Dr. Arvind Anil Boaz
Director General

SOUTH ASIAN SEAS PROGRAMME
REPORT OF THE FOURTH INTERGOVERNMENTAL
MINISTERIAL MEETING

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SOUTH ASIAN SEAS PROGRAMME

Fourth Intergovernmental Ministerial Meeting (IMM)

22nd May 2008

Jaipur, India

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SOUTH ASIAN SEAS PROGRAMME

Fourth Intergovernmental Ministerial Meeting (IMM)

22nd May 2008

Jaipur, India

REPORT

1. INTRODUCTION

The Fourth Intergovernmental Ministerial Meeting (IMM) of the South Asian Seas Programme was held in Jaipur, India on the 22nd May 2008.

2. ATTENDANCE

The Fourth Intergovernmental Ministerial Meeting (IMM) was attended by Representatives from the following Member Countries viz: Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

It was also attended by Observers from the following UN agencies and International Organisations: US Embassy Kathmandu and New Delhi. UNEP could not participate in the meeting.

The List of Participants is in **Annex I**.

3. INAUGURATION

The Fourth Intergovernmental Ministerial Meeting (IMM) of the South Asian Seas Programme was inaugurated by H.E. Mr. Ahmed Abdullah, Minister Environment, Energy and Water, Republic of Maldives

The Director General of SACEP, Dr. A. A. Boaz delivered the Welcome Address

The text of his Address is in **Annex II**.

The meeting was next addressed by H.E. Mr. Ahmed Abdullah, Minister Environment, Energy and Water, Republic of Maldives

A copy of his Address is in **Annex III**.

4. ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS

In accordance with the provisions of Articles of Association of SACEP, **H.E. Mr. Namo Narain Meena**, Minister of Environment & Natural Resources, Government of India was elected Chairman of the 4th IMM of SAS. **H.E. Mr. R. A. Patali Champika Ranawaka**, Minister of Environment & Natural Resources, Sri Lanka was elected as Vice Chairman of the Meeting. **H.E. Mr. Ahmed Abdullah**, Minister Environment, Energy and Water, Republic of Maldives was elected as Rapporteur.

5. AGENDA

The 4th IMM discussed and adopted the Agenda of the Meeting. A copy of the Adopted Agenda is at **Annex IV**.

6. STATEMENTS OF HEADS OF DELEGATIONS

The Heads of Delegations from Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Pakistan & Sri Lanka made presentations of their country statements to the 4th IMM.

All statements reflected the initiatives taken by the countries in the area of environmental protection and management of the marine environment. The Country Statements clearly recognised the very crucial and pivotal role played by SAS in the promotion of environmental management in the South Asian Seas region and noted that it needs to be further strengthened.

The Country Statements of India, Pakistan & Sri Lanka are found in **Annexes V to VII**

7. PRESENTATION OF THE REPORT OF THE MEETING OF NATIONAL FOCAL POINTS BY THE RAPPORTEUR.

Under this Agenda Item, the Rapporteur of the NFP Meeting presented a brief summary of the Report of the Meeting of National Focal Points held on the 21st of May 2008. The detailed Report of this meeting is given in **Annex VIII**

8. ENDORSEMENT OF RECOMMENDATIONS AGREED UPON AT THE MEETING OF NATIONAL FOCAL POINTS

The 4th IMM endorsed the following decisions recommended by the Meeting of the National Focal Points.

A) INSTITUTIONAL MATTERS

- a) Approved the detailed presentation under this agenda item which included staff and financial arrangements.
- b) With respect to the appointment of a new Regional Co-ordinator, the countries were requested to send their nominations to serve on the selection panel by 15th June 2008.

B) PROGRAMME MATTERS

- a) **Marine Litter Programme for South Asia (WP 2).**

The major activity carried out under the programme included a Review of Marine Litter problem in the SAS region which was based on National Reviews and a framework for Marine Litter Management in the SAS region. The Secretariat presented the frame work document, wherein the following four activities were proposed:

i) Capacity Building (Training and Awareness); ii) Beach Clean Up - An Approach to Control and Manage Coastal Litter in the SAS Region; iii) Creation of Port Reception Facilities; iv) Solid Waste Management in The SAS Region for Marine Litter Management.

SACEP proposes to develop specific project proposals based on the framework document and intend to seek the support from United Nations Organisations and donor communities for support in the implementation of the same. The outline of these project proposals is spelt out in the envisaged work programme for 2009 - 2010.

The meeting approved the Framework Document and the related proposed activities by the Secretariat

b) Endorsement for the formal adoption of the Regional Oil Spill Contingency Plan for South Asia and the follow up activities. (WP 3)

A Regional Oil Spill Contingency Plan and associated MOU have been developed to promote regional co-operation and working arrangements in the event of oil spills. While India, Bangladesh, Maldives and Sri Lanka consented on both the plan and MOU, Pakistan proposed a few amendments to the Plan and the MOU. While Bangladesh, Maldives and Sri Lanka agreed to the amendments proposed by Pakistan, India made a few observations on these amendments.

It was also been proposed to establish a Regional Activity Centre to co-ordinate the key aspects of the contingency plan.

The meeting approved the following recommendations;

1. Request India to send comments on the Pakistan Amendments to SACEP for circulation among the SAS countries.
2. SACEP to convene a meeting of experts to consider i) the comments made by India on Pakistan's amendments ii) to arrive at consensus about the location of Regional Activity Centre and iii) to check whether the present version of the contingency plan needs updating. The meeting may be convened before December, 2008. Based on the outcome of the meeting, a decision to hold the meeting of Plenipotentiaries to sign the accepted version of MOU can be taken
3. The Secretariat to look into the possibilities of setting up of the Regional Activity Centre after the formal adoption of the Oil Spill Contingency Plan

c) Coral Reef Conservation and Monitoring (WP 4)

The major activity under the programme is the project on Institutional Strengthening and Capacity Development for the Long-term Management and Conservation of Coral Reef Resources in South Asia. Two workshops have been held to discuss the conservation strategies and livelihood options for dependent communities in pilot areas in SAS region and a South Asian Coral Reef Task Force (SACRTF) has been constituted to plan and co-ordinate workshops, training programmes etc. The project is funded by the European Commission and the funding ends in Dec 2008. The meeting was requested to consider the proposal of SACEP to continue the programme.

The project activities have been found to be useful and the meeting recommended for its continuation. SACEP also need to prepare a proposal for funding by countries and donors, thus indicating the extent of funds needed from each source. It was approved that a web based data base on health of coral reefs be developed.

d) Global Invasive Species Programme (WP 5)

The project activity is mainly on the conducting of a training programme on Prevention of entry of alien species mostly due to discharge of ballast water by ships passing en route, their Early detection and Rapid Response, Incursion Management, International Response, Developing a National Strategic Framework and Communication, Education and Public Awareness. The International Ocean Institute, South Africa would be providing part financial and technical assistance. Other funding for this activity need to be explored.

The meeting approved this activity be supported in view of the potential danger to the endemic species due to invasion of alien species on which the existing knowledge is very less.

e) Areas of Co-operation with UNDOALOS (WP 6)

The UN-DOALOS Secretariat has identified SAS as one of the key geographical locations that need to be supported with capacity building on environmental law relating the Marine Protected Areas. A Regional Training Course on this subject is proposed to be organised. The total budget for the Regional Training Course is estimated at US \$ 97,000 of which UN-DOALOS has committed US \$ 33,500. SAS and UN-DOALOS is expected to raise the balance funding through partners, national governments and other funding agencies

The meeting approved that this activity be supported as the training will be useful to SAS region, as it houses one of the major mangrove and coral reef formations in the world.

f) Areas of Co-operation with International Maritime Organization (WP 7)

The Secretariat reported that as recommended by the 3rd IMM SACEP had signed a letter of Agreement with IMO for mutual co-operation in December 2005.

The working paper also enumerated the major collaborative activities carried by SASP in conjunction with IMO in connection with implementation of various IMO Conventions.

SAS has been selected by IMO as a special area for the development of a South Asian Seas Plan for the promotion and implementation of the Globallast Programme of IMO. IMO has planned to develop a proposal for preparation of Regional Strategy and Action Plan (SAP) for Ballast Water Management and Control in the South Asian Seas Region. The proposal has been submitted by IMO to GEF for funding

The meeting recommended that this activity be supported as the ballast water and sediment disposal by ships is the major source of introduction of dangerous alien species in the marine environment & the adoption of strategy would help in dealing with this problem.

g) Areas of Co-operation with UNEP GPA on Market Based Strategy (WP 8)

The National Programme of Action to deal with land-based activities for Sri Lanka has identified the need for incorporating appropriate public spending programs, pollution control regimes, market and fiscal incentives for pollution prevention and capacity building initiatives. In order to implement these activities UNEP/GPA provided financial assistance through SACEP to implement a project which had three components. The Component 1 was implemented with a view to review existing and potential MBIs in Sri Lanka, while Component 2 was to develop a strategic plan for implementation of the short, medium and long term implementation of the NPA. The component 3 was to study the economic significance of the coastal region of Sri Lanka in the context of socio economic and environmental changes of pre and post Tsunami disaster and for evaluation of the squatter settlements in the coastal region. The component 1 has been completed and component 3 will be taken up later.

Even though it is a country specific programme, its outcome on developing Market Based Instruments for the Medium to Long Term Strategic Planning to deal with land based activities and the resultant development of methodology for assessment of economic value of coastal areas, will be useful for other countries in the region. As such SACEP was requested to arrange training programmes in the other countries in the region especially the methodology used to determine the economic value of coastal areas.

h) Coastal Clean Up Day (WP 9)

Marine litter arising from land based littering and disposal of solid wastes by ships is a growing problem in the SAS region. A framework to deal with the issue has already been suggested in the marine litter activities. As a support to this, SACEP has proposed to observe a day in the 3rd week of September as a Coastal Clean Up Day, as it was done in India.

The meeting approved the proposal to observe a day in the 3rd week of September for the observation of Coastal Clean up Day as it will enhance awareness on the negative impacts of marine litter in the region.

i) School Awareness Programme (WP 10)

SACEP with Centre for Environment Education in India and with both Ministry of Education and Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources of Sri Lanka and with the assistance of South Asia Youth Network organized a series of School Competitions (Essay, Drawing and Painting, Posters and Photography) from January to July 2007 for different age categories. The main theme of these competitions was Adaptation to Climate Change and Waste Management. SACEP intends to develop and conduct more environmental educational programmes within the region, in collaboration with partners to raise awareness among school children on issues of concern in the field of Environment in this region. As recommended by Maldives, it is proposed to have a South Asian Student Environment Forum in November 2008

The meeting approved this programme as it will enhance awareness on negative impacts of climate change and waste disposal especially to the younger generation.

j) Collaboration with SAARC Disaster Management Centre for developing Coastal and Marine Risk Mitigation Plan for South Asia (WP 11)

SAARC Disaster Management Centre has proposed to develop a template for preparing Coastal and Marine Risk Mitigation Plans especially to deal with disasters like floods, earthquake, cyclones and tsunamis by the countries in the region. A workshop of experts was organised recently to develop the template.

The meeting approved the following

- a) The proposed template needs to take into account the Disaster Mitigation Plans prepared by the local authorities in the SAS countries, before its finalisation.
- b) That SACEP negotiates with SAARC to conduct training programmes on preparation of disaster management plans including its tools like preparation of vulnerability maps. The need for existing capabilities available in the region for preparation of such maps should also be utilized.

k) Basel Convention Regional Centre (WP 12)

SACEP has urged the Basal Convention Secretariat to establish a Regional Centre to assist the SACEP countries to deal with transboundary movement of hazardous wastes in the land and sea routes in South Asia.

The meeting approved the establishment of the Centre as it will help the countries in dealing with hazardous wastes.

l) Development and Implementation of prevailing strategies in respect to perturbation in Coastal Areas caused by Land-based Activities (WP 13)

In order to demonstrate the benefit adopting the ICZM practices in dealing with land based activities combined other sea based disasters and new threats like climate change, it has been proposed to undertake pilot projects on ICZM in selected areas in each SAS country. A proposal is to be developed and posed for funding to donor agencies.

The meeting approved the proposed ICZM pilot projects as it will be useful to demonstrate the advantages of integrated management of land and sea based activities.

m) MOU with World Meteorological Organization (WP 14)

SACEP has signed a MOU with WMO to work together on aspects relating to the climate change, especially the impact of climate change in the region. A Specific project titled "Networking for Greater Awareness and Understanding on the Impacts of Environmental Degradation and Climate Change Strategies for South Asia" has been developed and WMO will be partially supporting this project. WMO and SACEP will be seeking from other donor agencies to meet the balance funds.

The meeting supported this project as SAS region is one of the regions that will be affected by the global climate change, as such the undertaking relevant studies with WMO, will be beneficial to the region.

n) Mangroves for the Future (MFF) Programme (WP 15)

It is an initiative by IUCN and UNDP as an aftermath of Indian Ocean Tsunami which demonstrates the beneficial role of mangroves in mitigating the impact of tsunami. It is a programme by itself encompassing several activities including protection and development of Marine Protected Areas. The forum has membership and most of the SAS countries are members. SACEP has expressed its desire in participating the programme as a regional body so that it can develop regional proposals on MPA and secure funding.

The following was agreed upon:

- a) Approval was given for SACEP/SAS to approach IUCN through UNEP to obtain recognition as a regional body to participate in the MFF.

- b) After securing the recognition, it was approved that for developing proposals SACEP/ SAS to seek funding from the IUCN-UNDP forum.

o) Collaboration with NALSAR on Environmental Legislation (WP 16)

The National Academy of Legal Studies and Research (NALSAR), University of Hyderabad India is implementing a programme to support the strengthening of Environmental Law in the SAARC Region. SACEP had been implementing many Environmental Law Programmes under its UNEP – NORAD – SACEP programme and have conducted many ground breaking programmes and have several Environmental Law Publications. SACEP has proposed to work jointly NALSAR in conducting workshops/trainings relating to environmental law.

The meeting approved the proposal for the collaboration with NALSAR.

p) Need for the Revision of the South Asian Seas Action Plan based on the current global trends. (WP 17)

The SAS action adopted in 1995 was based on environmental issues prevailed during the last decade. Over a period of time new issues such as disasters and climate change and other environmental challenges have emerged, there is a need to update the action plan.

- a) The above was approved and SACEP should convene a meeting of the National Focal Points to discuss the proposed updating.
- b) It is also necessary that inputs from the member countries in the form of current environmental and other major coastal and marine environment related issues be obtained before preparing the draft of the updated plan.
- c) The member countries need to send their inputs to SACEP within a period of 6 months.

q) Finalisation and Adoption of Work Programme for 2009 – 2010 (WP 18)

- a) Whilst approving the above programmes, it is necessary to follow up the projects and activities approved during the 1 and 2nd IMM. Where necessary, the project proposals developed need to be updated and submitted to donor agencies to seek funding.
- b) Further all the proposed programmes should be grouped under respective priority areas of action/programmes identified under the action plan
- c) The summarised work programme for 2009 -2010 is attached as **Annex IX**

C) FINANCIAL MATTERS

- a) The countries are urged to pay their arrears at the earliest, as lack of funds hamper are not encouraging to take follow up actions on implementation of programmes identified. Regarding the additional contributions sought, the increases sought for the 2008 has been agreed in principle, however, it is subject to approval by the member countries. Regarding the increased annual budgetary requirements for staff, office expenses etc., the proposed increase of salary of local staff as projected for 2008, 2009 and 2010 alone could be agreed and would be effective after receipt of additional contributions from the member countries. SACEP may manage the additional requirements of funds on other items for the period 2008-10, within the contribution made by the member countries
- b) The agreed levels of contributions to the SAS Trust fund are follows subject to the approval of the member countries

COUNTRY	% Contribution	2008 US \$	2009 US \$
Bangladesh	14.5	16,670	18,337
India	35.0	40,230	44,253
Maldives	6.5	7,470	8,217
Pakistan	29.5	33,910	37,301
Sri Lanka	14.5	16,670	18,337
TOTAL	100.0	114,950	126,445

c) Secretariat Budget for 2008 - 2009

	2008	2009
	Cost in US \$	Cost in US \$
PERSONNEL		
International		
Regional Co-ordinator	36,000	36,000
Local		
Senior Programme Officer	5,500	6,050
1 Junior Programme Officer	8,000	8,800
1 Secretary	3,600	3,960
PROJECT FORMULATION	20,000	22,000
OFFICE INFRASTRUCTURE		
Furniture, Office Equipment & Consumables	8,000	8,800
RENTAL AND MAINTENANCE	12,000	13,200
ADMINISTRATION COSTS	9,000	9,900
MEETING & INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL	15,000	16,500
DOCUMENTS	8,000	8,800
CONTINGENCIES	5,000	5,500
TOTAL	135,100	145,010

- d) The agenda item on corpus funds was deferred.
- e) **Approval of the Annual Audited Report of Accounts for the years 2005, 2006**

The audit reports for the years 2005 and 2006 were approved

9. ADOPTION OF REPORT

The Report was adopted unanimously with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

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**Welcome Address
Dr. A. A. Boaz
Director General
South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme**

Honourable Ministers

Let me warmly welcome all delegates attending this Ministerial Segment of the 4th Intergovernmental Ministerial Meeting of the South Asian Seas Programme

Initially I would like place on record my appreciation for the guidance and the conscious efforts of the outgoing Chairman Hon Mr. Ahmed Abdullah, Minister Environment, Energy and Water, Republic of Maldives on his part to attend all the programmes of the South Asian Seas Programme. He has also been a constant guide to me personally.

I also extend my heartfelt appreciation for Hon Mr. Namo Narain Meena, Minister of Environment & Forests, Government of India who will take up the Chair of the South Asian Seas Programme today. Honourable Mr. Kapil Sibal, Minister of Earth Sciences, Government of India who was unable to come today due to his pre occupations and he has requested Hon Mr. Namo Narain Meena to Chair this meeting.

I am happy to report that since the 3rd Intergovernmental Ministerial Meeting held in August 2005, much progress has been achieved. The details of our achievements are given in the Report to the National Focal Point Meeting. I would however like to highlight some important achievements.

We have with the assistance of UNEP and Member countries successfully completed a major programme on Marine Litter and the Report of which was formally released at the SACEP Governing Council. For the past 2 years we have observed the International Coastal Cleanup Day and a film made by the Indian Coast Guard was also released at the SACEP Governing Council Meeting.

The implementation of the European Commission (EC) Proposal titled "Institutional Strengthening and Capacity Development for the Long-term Management and Conservation of MCPAs encompassing Coral Reef Resources in South Asia" prepared in co-operation with UNEP-Coral Reef Unit and ICRAN has been approved by the European Commission is currently on. The project was launched on 1st January 2006 with EC providing Euros 748,720 over a three year period and 20% of this amount being co-finance had to be raised from the participating countries and other sources. Under this activity, a South Asian Coral Reef Task Force was formally launched on 27th July 2007, with the Former Vice President of the International Court of Justice Hon Judge C. G. Weeramantry being the Patron.

We have signed Letters of Agreement with the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) to undertake new programme activities.

We have established contacts with Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (DOALOS) of the United Nations Office of Legal Affairs and International Oceans, Institute of Southern African University, of the Western Cape South Africa to undertake programme activities which will benefit the region.

We have laid the foundation for many more significant activities which will benefit the region.

I will now like to introduce Dr. B. R. Subramanian, Adviser to the Ministry of Earth Sciences who are the local Government of India Focal Point for the South Asian Seas Programme.

Now I handover the proceedings to the Chair of the South Asia Seas Programme. Hon Mr. Ahmed Abdullah, Minister Environment, Energy and Water, Republic of Maldives

Thank you

Opening Address by Chairman of 3rd IMM
Hon Mr. Ahmed Abdullah,
Minister Environment, Energy and Water,
Republic of Maldives

Honourable Ministers

Distinguished colleagues, Friends

It is a privilege for me to address this Meeting of the Ministers of SACEP in my capacity of the Outgoing Chairman of the 3rd Intergovernmental Ministerial Meeting of the South Asian Seas Programme. On behalf of the Member Governments of SACEP & South Asia Seas Programme, I extend my sincere gratitude to Government of India for hosting this 4th Inter Ministerial Meeting in this beautiful and historical city of Jaipur, which is synonymous with hospitality. The SAS programme has made significant progress in meeting some of our challenges and aspirations of our region.

One of the major achievements has been the completion of Regional Activity on Marine Litter in South Asian Seas where based on a Review Document on Marine Litter in the South Asian Seas Region prepared by a team of regional and national consultants, a Framework for Marine Litter Management in the South Asia Seas region has been developed which is now before this meeting for adaption. This is a significant achievement for our project proposals based on the Framework document which has been developed and proposed for approval in the work programme for 2008-2010.

UNEP has pledged support to develop this programme further. A film has been made by SACEP, SASP and the Indian Coast Guard on the International Coastal cleanup Day the activities in India. Part of which is a part of our information and awareness network. One of the major annual activities under the Marine Litter programme is the Coastal Cleaned up day. I am happy to note that member countries have actively associated with SASP to celebrate this day. An important programme took place since 2006 in India where the National Consultant for the Marine Litter Programme conducted this programme with the Indian Coast Guard, the District Administration of Coastal Cities, Universities, Schools and NGOs to carry out a very successful Beach Clean up Campaign along the India Coast in which more than thirty thousand people participated both in 2006 and 2007.

Another important achievement has been the launch of the project Institutional Strengthening and Capacity Development for the Long term Management and Conservation of Marine Coastal Protected Areas and composing coral reef resources in South Asia, with funds from European Commission and support from ICRAN and UNEP. Under this activity as South Asia Coral Reef Task Force has been established and I had the pleasure to be associated in the launch of this Task Force in Colombo, Sri Lanka. In the pursuit of informal participation an environmental Education Campaign has been initiated in five selected marine protected area cites in five member countries.

Significant new partnerships have been established in collaborative activities between UN-DOALOS and SAS in the conduct of a Regional Training Course on the Development and Implementation of the Management of Marine Protected Areas in the South Asia Seas region and also for the conduct of a two week Scanning Phase Workshop in connection with the UNEP Shelf Programme. Partnership with International Oceans, Institute of Southern African University, of the Western Cape South Africa and UNEP has been developed in the development of national regional strategic framework on global investee's species and training workshop which will be held on the 2008 on the management of marine and Coastal investee's species.

Areas of co-operation with International Maritime Organization IMO have been further strengthened with the signing of the Letter of Agreement on mutual co-operation between SACEP, SAS and also IMO. Many activities such as regional seminar, workshop on ratification and implementation of the OPRC - HNS Protocol the AFS Convention and Identification and Establishment of Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas in Chennai and Regional Workshop on the OPRC HNC Protocol. BWM, AFS Conventions on PSSA'S in Colombo Sri Lanka January 2006 have been held. National Training Workshop on OPRC Level 3 for Bangladesh and Maldives to have also been concluded.

I am happy to report that all member countries have endorsed the South Asia Regional Oil Spill Contingency Plan by 2006 the finalisation for the implementation of the South Asia Regional Oil Spill Contingency Plan is nearing completion. It is hoped that this important milestone of the signing of the MoU of the Contingency Plan for the South Asia Seas Region will be completed shortly.

Another significant achievement has been COP 9 decision in December 2006 of the Basel Convention to establish Basel Convention Regional Centre at SACEP and I am thankful to the all countries for supporting this proposal. The establishment of the Centre at the SACEP will be extremely helpful to its member countries. The Centre will deliver training, dissemination of information, awareness raising and technology transfer on matters relevant to the implementation of the Basel Convention for the environmentally sound management of hazardous and other wastes.

I am happy to note that SASP has given as much emphasis awareness generation especially on the youth of the region through development of brochures and pamphlets, conduction of Essay, Poster and Painting Competitions and organising discussion fora on important current issues like Climate Change and Sea Level Rise.

I greatly appreciate if such programmes are carried out on much larger scale in the future. I would also like to request member countries to support such initiatives of SASP. All these important initiatives would not happen without the active support of member countries. Thank you very much for that and I am thankful to all of them and request member countries to continue vigorously to pursue these programmes for our mutual benefit.

I will be failing my duties if I do not recognise the proactive role and dynamism exhibited by the Secretariat in the implementation of the South Asian Seas Programme. I am honoured to invite my Colleague Honourable Meena from India to take over the Chairmanship of the 4th Intergovernmental Ministerial Meeting of the South Asian Seas Programme.

With the unswerving commitment and wealth of knowledge and experience of the Government of India, I am very confident that under your able hands and dynamic leadership you will take the South Asian Seas Programme to newer heights of success.

On behalf of all my ministerial colleagues, let me extend a very warm welcome and my best wishes to the Government of India and to Honourable Minister Meena for the continued success of this important meeting.

Thank you very much

SOUTH ASIAN SEAS PROGRAMME

**4TH INTERGOVERNMENTAL MINISTERIAL MEETING OF THE
SOUTH ASIAN SEAS PROGRAMME (SASP)
JAIPUR, INDIA
22ND MAY 2008**

AGENDA

1. Opening of the Meeting
2. Election of Office Bearers & Country Statements
3. Adoption of Agenda and Organisation of Work
4. Statements by United Nations Agencies, International / Regional Organisations and Aid Consortia
5. Presentation of Report of the Preparatory Meeting of National Focal Points by the Rapporteur
6. Endorsement of Recommendations Agreed Upon at The Preparatory Meeting of National Focal Points
 - a) Institutional
 - b) Projects & Programmes
 - c) Financial
7. Approval of the Annual Audited Report of Accounts for years 2005, 2006
8. Any Other Business
9. Adoption of the Meeting Report
10. Closure of Meeting

Indian Country Statement By
H.E. Mr. Namo Narain Meena
Minister of State for Environment & Forests
Ministry of Environment & Forests

Your Excellencies, Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen

India has a vast coastline of 7500 km. Many specialized ecosystems such as estuaries, mangroves, lagoons and coral reefs are present in the coastal and marine areas. The coastal areas are being used widely for human settlement, commerce, and industry and for resource exploitations. In the recent years, due to urbanization and rapid industrialisation along the coast, the marine environment especially the biological organisms have shown signs of stress. Realising the need to take effective measures to sustain the health of the marine environment, a number of initiatives have been taken by the Government over the last few decades and these are being continued on a long-term basis through development of new programmes. These initiatives also address the priority issues identified under the South Asian Seas programme.

Programmes have been developed to prepare management plans for Mangroves, coral reefs, lagoons and estuaries. Monitoring of health of coral reefs and mangroves has been taken up periodically. Expansion of mangrove areas through afforestation is a regular activity. As a result the mangrove coverage has been increasing in the country. The concept of Integrated Coastal Zone Management was introduced legislatively and also through few pilot projects. A major legislative notification namely Coastal Regulation Zone Notification which was enacted in 1991, contains provisions to prohibit several activities along the coast and regulates the permissible activities. Implementation of the notification was intensified through preparation of Coastal Zone Management plans and as a result many coastal stretches remain pristine and available for the fisher folk to meet their fishing needs such as drying of nets and beaching of their crafts. Biodiversity of the beach and coastal waters have been preserved.

Advantages of benefit of adopting the concept of Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) have already been demonstrated through pilot projects in selected coastal areas such as Chennai, Goa, Gulf of Kachchh, Mangalore and Puri. More ICZM plans in selected stretches of the coastal areas of Gujarat, West Bengal and Orissa are being planned. The adoption of environmental norms in developmental projects has been ensured through preparation of Environmental Management Plans for all developmental activities. These management plans contain the strategies to prevent negative impacts indicated by the Environmental Impact Assessment studies.

Long-term pollution monitoring programmes in rivers and coastal areas have been developed and they are being implemented since the year 1990. In the coastal waters where trends of increasing pollution due to increased disposal of sewage, industrial wastes or wastes from non-point sources etc., are noticed, suitable remedial measures are initiated. A massive sewage treatment programme to treat sewage generated from Mumbai city is operational and as a result water quality in nearshore areas that deteriorated over the years, has shown signs of improvement. Similarly dedicated River Action Plans to clean up rivers and sewage carrying canals have been developed and they are in various stages of implementation along the coastal areas of the country. Adequate incentives are being provided to industries for adoption of cleaner technologies. Several Common Effluent Treatment Plants are operational to treat the wastes collected from small and medium scale industries, to ensure that the wastes are treated before their disposal. With all these measures, the increasing pollution load will be dealt to preserve the quality of marine environment.

The country has made significant progress in the field of disaster management. A dedicated Tsunami Early Warning Centre has been established. The tasks on preparation of Coastal Vulnerability maps are in progress. Programmes to study the likely impacts of Climate change on coastal ecosystems are being developed. Mathematical models to predict inundation of seawater in the event of anticipated sea level rise have been developed. India can provide training programmes to the other SAS countries on coastal erosion, pollution management, sea level rise modelling and disaster mitigation strategies.

India is strongly committed to implement the SAS programme. I hope, the meeting will address emerging issues relating to the climate change especially on the regional aspects relevant to the South Asian Seas. I wish all success to the meeting.

Thank You.

**STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF
HONOURABLE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT,
GOVERNMENT OF ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF PAKISTAN**

Mr. Chairman, Director General (SACEP), Ladies and Gentlemen.

It is a privilege for me to be present in Jaipur, India today for this meeting. On behalf of my country I thank the Government of India, for the warm welcome and hospitality, as well as the excellent arrangements made. We consider this as a testimony for the Government of India's commitment and dynamic leadership for achieving the long term goals of the SACEP charter. 4th Inter-Ministerial Meeting of the SASP in collaboration with 11th Governing Council meeting of SACEP also marks an important milestone of this regional organization particularly to discuss substantive issues concerning institutional, programmatic and financial matters of the South Asian Seas Programme (SASP).

We all are aware that SACEP has gone through an evolutionary process and a new direction and approach for SACEP activities has been set in motion. It is playing a vital role for development of South Asian Seas Programme (SASP) particularly improving the viability and sustainable management Marine and Coastal Protected Areas (MCPAs) in South Asia. The improvement of management outputs from existing Marine and Coastal Protected Areas (MCPAs) must be targeted through the development of human and technical expertise, improvement of information and networking services, and the allocation of technical equipment to sites. Training and management processes across the region should be reviewed and rationalized to ensure greater consistency and aptitude for management and conservation, and to formulate a transferable resource base capable of accommodating future MCPA network developments in line with the Multilateral Environmental Agreement (MEA) commitments of SASP member states. Institutional strengthening might be undertaken parallel to mainstream environmental considerations into development policy and address the unique situations of poor coastal communities.

Environmental challenges and threats are growing every day. Therefore, we must give more priority for capacity building and human resource development. I feel that SACEP could harness resources and opportunities in the region in order to address this critical issue. Member countries would be more than happy to help one another through a good and coordinated programme. It is a highly technical field and only qualified and experienced people can shape the future of the environment. Human resource development is one of the most urgent, rewarding investment for future. We must dedicate ourselves to more environmental education and awareness. Evidence-based information and awareness is vital for increasing love and care for the environment. It is essential for changing habits and behavior of people that are harmful to environment. Information is a key to empowering people and strengthening our common partnership to protect the environment.

For strengthening of South Asian Seas Programme (SASP), the SACEP has been ably supported by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in various ways. I am glad that SACEP has planned some important activities in a work programme for this year. They also include activities of South Asian Seas Programme (SASP) such as natural disaster management with respect to storms, surges and tsunamis, management of Coastal and Marine Protected Areas, Regional Oil Spill Contingency Plan and Marine Litter Activity in the SAS Regional Seas Programme.

I look forward to have productive deliberations at this meeting resulting in some concrete decisions to address various issues being faced by this region.

Thank you.

**Sri Lanka Country Statement By
Hon Mr. Patali Champika Ranawaka
Minister of Environment & Natural Resources
Government of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka**

Auybowan, Namaskar, and Good Morning,

His Excellency, Hon Minister of Environment and Forests of India and Chairman of SASP,
Excellencies,
Senior Officials of the SASP member countries,
Director General of SACEP,
Members of the donor communities,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Firstly I would like to congratulate the Government of India for providing arrangements to hold this Meeting in the beautiful city of Jaipur, the capital of Rajasthan and providing excellent arrangements for our stay comfortable and enjoyable.

Secondly, please accept the sympathies of the President and the Government of Sri Lanka to the victims of the recent tragic happenings in Jaipur, and furthermore we salute the Government of India for the courage and commitment you have shown to continue with this meeting unchanged in spite of all those tragic happenings due to terrorist attacks.

Mr. Chairman, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Today, my statement mainly focuses on climate change, which is the fundamental human development challenge that looms above the global community, while the poorest countries are the most vulnerable to threats posed by global warming. World's two most vulnerable countries to climate change – Bangladesh and Maldives, are in our Region. Most of other SAARC countries – India, Sri Lanka, Pakistan have populated coastlines, with extremely high productivity, which are highly susceptible to sea level rise. On the other hand Nepal and Bhutan are threatened by melting of ice caps, which threaten freshwater resources almost in the entirety of the SAARC region.

The SAARC region having a population of nearly 1/6th of global population has a total CO₂ emission level of around 1330 million tons per year, which is only 3.7% of the total global emissions. According to the available data for 2007 the per capita tCO₂ in the SAARC countries range from 0.25-1.3 where, as the global average is 4.22.tCO₂.

Several studies in this regard suggest that to some extent, the rich countries have developed at the expense of poor countries. The high living standards of the population in the west have been maintained by drawing from the ecological resources of the developing countries and this fact of “environmental debt” has been largely unrecognized or has not been researched up to now.

In line with the Human Development Report (UNDP, 2007-2008) if the global accepted per capita emission level of tCO₂ is 2.1 the countries that exceed this acceptable level are depriving the opportunities of the low emitting countries as well as the rights of the future generation.

Mr. Chairman,

Considering the above, Sri Lanka would like to submit the following proposals for the consideration of the member countries;

1 Assessing the cost either in terms of monetary values or as an index to measure past accumulated "Environmental Debt" owed by the developed countries to the developing countries. This index could be used to estimate past environmental impacts of development activities of developed nations that have already caused natural resource depletion and environmental degradation in terms of an environmental debt to future generations, of both developing and developed countries.

2 The Human Development Index (HDI), which now comprises of an average of three independent indices be enlarged to include a few more indices to take into account, ecological or environmental concerns, poverty and climate change factors. The new index may be termed Sustainable Human Development Index (SHDI).

3 We have identified that SAARC countries are entitled to a large amount of Carbon stocks by way of an environmental capital, which have been used by developed countries, infringing the rights of the present and future generations of our countries. These Carbon stocks together with Carbon credits from CDM process can be pooled together to form a Carbon cartel similar to the rice cartel proposed by Thailand or to the OPEC of oil producing countries. Such a mechanism will allow us to price our Carbon stocks/ credits in a manner that will benefit the developmental activities of our country.

4 It is a fact that SAARC countries are paying large debts to developed countries, at the cost of their own developmental activities, and hence it is necessary to look in to the possibilities of setting off the existing financial debts with Carbon credits available in SAARC countries.

Mr. Chairman, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen

I have put forward some of our thinking regarding climate change, carbon emission and environmental debt concepts and we like to have consultations in these issues and to develop a suitable implementation mechanism.

While thanking again the Government of India for providing excellent hosting facilities and we look forward to your valuable responses to our proposals.

Thank you for your attention

SOUTH ASIAN SEAS PROGRAMME
PREPARATORY MEETING OF NATIONAL FOCAL POINTS FOR
4TH INTER MINISTERIAL MEETING OF THE SASP
JAIPUR, INDIA
21 MAY 2008

REPORT

INTRODUCTION

1. The Preparatory Meeting of the National Focal Points for the 4th Inter Ministerial Meeting of the South Asian Seas Programme was held on 21st May 2008 in Jaipur, India
2. It was convened in order to discuss all substantive issues concerning Institutional, Programme and Financial Matter of the South Asian Seas Programme. It was also agreed that the Report of the Preparatory Meeting of National Focal Points on the various agenda items would form the basis of discussion of the Fourth Inter Ministerial Meeting.

ATTENDANCE

3. The meeting was attended by Representatives from the following Member Countries: Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Pakistan and Sri Lanka
4. It was also attended by Observers from the following UN agencies and International Organisations: US Embassy Kathmandu and New Delhi. UNEP could not participate in the meeting.

The List of Participants is in Annex 1.

OPENING OF MEETING

5. Welcome Address was delivered by Dr. A. A. Boaz, Director General SACEP Mr. Mohamed Zuhair, Director General, Ministry of Environment, Energy and Water, Maldives the current chair of the IMM inaugurated the meeting and he also welcomed the incoming Chairman Dr. B. R. Subramanian from India. The text of the outgoing Chairman is in Annex 2,

ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS

6. In accordance with the Rules of Procedure of the Governing Council of SACEP, the following office bearers were elected

Chairman	Dr. B. R. Subramanian, India
Vice Chairman	Mr. Anura Jayathilake, Sri Lanka
Rapporteur	Mr. Mohamed Zuhair, Maldives

ADOPTION OF AGENDA AND ORGANISATION OF WORK

7. The Draft Agenda prepared by the Secretariat for this meeting was discussed. The new Chairman while initiating the discussion on agenda item invited the attention of the members on Programme Matters wherein the activities performed and planned have been listed as independent activities. He recalled the 4 priority areas identified under the action plan namely, i) Integrated Coastal Zone Management, ii) Regional Oil spill contingency planning, iii) Capacity building needs for the management of coastal and marine environment, iv) Land based activities. The 1st and 2nd IMM identified projects under each priority areas of action. During the 3rd IMM two project areas namely Disaster management and Marine Protected Areas were added. It is necessary to group the projects/activities listed under programme matters under the above priority areas, so that the relevance of planned activities can be understood. The meeting agreed to the views expressed and accordingly the Secretariat was advised to carry out such groupings. A query by the delegate from the Maldives on duplication of agenda items between SACEP and SAS programme especially on Basel Convention Regional Centre was also clarified that as the programme also deals with hazardous substances transported by ships, this agenda was also included. After intensive discussion participated by all the members, it was recommended that hence forth, the agenda be organised in the following manner:

1. Programmes relating SASP
2. Common programmes between SASP and SACEP.

With these recommendations, the meeting adopted the agenda. The adopted Agenda is contained in **Annex 3**.

AGENDA ITEM 4: INSTITUTIONAL MATTERS

8. The Secretariat made a detailed presentation under this agenda item. This included staff and financial arrangements. With respect to the appointment of a new Regional Co-ordinator, the countries were requested to send their nominations to serve on the selection panel by 15th June 2008.

AGENDA ITEM 5: PROGRAMME MATTERS

9. Under this agenda item, the Secretariat initially presented the Status Report of Programme Activities for 2005 – 2008 which was contained in Working Paper WP 1.
10. This was followed by the presentation of the working papers on following programmes. The working documents to view the details are given in respective working papers for the meeting. The major activities carried out/planned under each programmes were extensively discussed with active participation by all the members. The recommendations arrived by the Meeting for consideration by IMM is given below. The IMM is requested to approve these recommendations.

a) **Marine Litter Programme for South Asia (WP 2)**

The major activity carried out under the programme include Review of Marine Litter problem in the SAS region which was based on National reviews and a framework for Marine Litter Management in the SAS region. The secretariat presented the frame work document, wherein the following four activities proposed:

i) Capacity Building (Training and Awareness); ii) Beach Clean Up – An Approach to Control and Manage Coastal Litter in the SAS Region; iii) Creation of Port Reception Facilities; iv) Solid Waste Management in The SAS Region for Marine Litter Management.

SACEP has proposed to develop specific project proposals based on the framework document and intend to seek the support from United Nations Organisations and donor communities for support in the implementation of the same. The outline of these project proposals is spelt out in the envisaged work programme for 2009 – 2010.

Recommendation: The meeting recommended to the IMM for approval of the Framework document and the related proposed activities by the Secretariat as above.

b) **Endorsement for the formal adoption of the Regional Oil Spill Contingency Plan for South Asia and the follow up activities. (WP 3)**

A Regional Oil Spill Contingency Plan and associated MOU have been developed to promote regional co-operation and working arrangements in the event of oil spills. While India, Bangladesh, Maldives and Sri Lanka consented on both the plan and MOU, Pakistan proposed few amendments to the Plan and the MOU. While Bangladesh, Maldives and Sri Lanka agreed to the amendments proposed by Pakistan, India made a few observations on these amendments.

It was also been proposed to establish a Regional Activity Centre to co-ordinate the key aspects of the contingency plan.

Recommendations to IMM

- I. Request India to send comments on the Pakistan Amendments to SACEP for circulation among the SAS countries.
- II. SACEP to convene a meeting of experts to consider i) the comments made by India on Pakistan's amendments ii) to arrive at consensus about the location of Regional Activity Centre and iii) to check whether the present version of the contingency plan needs updating. The meeting may be convened before December, 2008. Based on the outcome of the meeting, a decision to hold the meeting of Plenipotentiaries to sign the accepted version of MOU can be taken
- III. The Secretariat to look into the possibilities of setting up of the Regional Activity Centre after the formal adoption of the Oil Spill Contingency Plan

c) Coral Reef Conservation and Monitoring (WP 4)

The major activity under the programme is Institutional Strengthening and Capacity Development for the Long-term Management and Conservation of coral reef resources in South Asia. Two workshops have been held to discuss the conservation strategies and livelihood options for dependent communities in pilot areas in SAS region. A South Asian Coral Reef Task Force (SACRTF) has been constituted to plan and co-ordinate workshops, training programmes etc. The project is funded by the European Commission and the funding ends in Dec 2008. The meeting was requested to consider the proposal of SACEP to continue the programme.

Recommendations to IMM

The project activities have been found to be useful and recommended for continuation. SACEP need to prepare proposal for funding by countries and donors, thus indicating the extent of funds needed from each source. A web based data base on health of coral reefs be developed

d) Global Invasive Species Programme (WP 5)

The project activity is mainly on conducting training programme on Prevention of entry of alien species mostly due to discharge of ballast water by ships passing en route, their Early detection and Rapid Response, Incursion Management, International Response, Developing a National Strategic Framework and Communication, Education and Public Awareness. The International Ocean Institute, South Africa would provide part financial and technical assistance. Other funding for this activity will be explored.

Recommendations to IMM

In view of the potential danger to the endemic species due to invasion of alien species on which the existing knowledge is very less, it is recommended to IMM that this activity be supported.

e) Areas of Co-operation with UNDOALOS (WP 6)

The UN-DOALOS secretariat has identified SAS as one of the key geographical locations that need to be supported with capacity building on environmental law relating the Marine Protected Areas. A Regional Training Course on this subject is proposed to be organized. The total budget for the Regional Training Course is estimated at US \$ 97,000 of which UN-DOALOS has committed US \$ 33,500. SAS and UN-DOALOS is expected to raise the balance funding through partners, national governments and other funding agencies

Recommendations to IMM

The training will be useful to SAS region, as it houses one of the major mangrove and coral reef formations in the world. It is recommended to IMM that this activity be supported.

f) Areas of Co-operation with International Maritime Organization (WP 7)

The Secretariat reported that as recommended by the 3rd IMM SACEP had signed a letter of Agreement with IMO for mutual co-operation in December 2005.

The working paper also enumerated the major collaborative activities carried by SASP in conjunction with IMO in connection with implementation of various IMO Conventions.

SAS has been selected by IMO as a special area for the development of a South Asian Seas Plan for the promotion and implementation of the Globallast Programme of IMO. IMO has planned to develop a proposal for preparation of Regional Strategy and Action Plan (SAP) for Ballast Water Management and Control in the South Asian Seas Region. The proposal has been submitted by IMO to GEF for funding

Recommendations to IMM

As the ballast water and sediment disposal by ships is the major source of introduction of dangerous alien species in the marine environment, adoption of strategy would help in dealing with this problem. It is recommended to IMM, that this activity be supported

g) Areas of Co-operation with UNEP GPA on market based strategy (WP 8)

The National Programme of Action to deal with land-based activities for Sri Lanka has identified the need for incorporating appropriate public spending programs, pollution control regimes, market and fiscal incentives for pollution prevention and capacity building initiatives. In order to implement these activities UNEP/GPA provided financial assistance through SACEP to implement a project which had three components. The Component 1 was implemented with a view to review existing and potential MBIs in Sri Lanka, while Component 2 was to develop a strategic plan for implementation of the short, medium and long term implementation of the NPA. The component 3 was to study the economic significance of the coastal region of Sri Lanka in the context of socio economic and environmental changes of pre and post Tsunami disaster and for evaluation of the squatter settlements in the coastal region. The component 1 has been completed and component 3 will be taken up.

Recommendations to IMM

Even though it is a country specific programme, its outcome on developing Market Based Instruments for the Medium to Long Term Strategic Planning to deal with land based activities and the resultant development of methodology for assessment of economic value of coastal areas, will be useful for other countries in the region. SACEP be requested to arrange training programmes in the other countries in the region especially the methodology used to determine the economic value of coastal areas.

h) Coastal Clean Up Day (WP 9)

Marine litter arising from land based littering and disposal of solid wastes by ships is a growing problem in the SAS region. A framework to deal with the issue has already been suggested in the programme a) above. As a support to this, SACEP has proposed to observe a day in the 3rd week of September as a Coastal Clean Up Day, as it was done in India.

Recommendations to IMM

As observation of Coastal Clean up Day will enhance awareness on the negative impacts of marine litter, the proposal to observe a day in the 3rd week of September as the Coastal Clean Up Day in the region is supported

i) School Awareness Programme (WP 10)

SACEP with Centre for Environment Education in India and with both Ministry of Education and Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources of Sri Lanka and with the assistance of South Asia Youth Network organized a series of School Competitions (Essay, Drawing and Painting, Posters and Photography) from January to July 2007 for different age categories. The main theme of these competitions was Adaptation to Climate Change and Waste Management. SACEP intends to develop and conduct more environmental educational programmes within the region, in collaboration with partners to raise awareness among school children on issues of concern in the field of Environment in this region. As recommended by Maldives, it is proposed to have a South Asian Student Environment Forum in November 2008

Recommendations to IMM

As the proposed will enhance awareness on negative impacts of climate change and waste disposal especially to the younger generation, this proposal be supported.

j) Collaboration with SAARC Disaster Management Centre for developing Coastal and Marine Risk Mitigation Plan for South Asia (WP 11)

SAARC Disaster Management Centre has proposed to develop a template for preparing Coastal and Marine Risk Mitigation Plans especially to deal with disasters like floods, earthquake, cyclones and tsunamis by the countries in the region. A workshop of experts was organised recently to develop the template.

Recommendations to IMM

The proposed template needs to take into account the Disaster Mitigation Plans prepared by the local authorities in the SAS countries, before its finalisation. SACEP should negotiate with SAARC to conduct training programmes on preparation of disaster management plans including its tools like preparation of vulnerability maps. Existing capabilities available in the region for preparation of such maps also need to be utilized.

k) Basel Convention Regional Centre (WP 12)

SACEP has urged the Basel Convention Secretariat to establish a Regional Centre to assist the SACEP countries to deal with transboundary movement of hazardous wastes in the land and sea routes in South Asia.

Recommendations to IMM

Establishment of the Centre will help the countries in dealing with hazardous wastes. The proposal to be supported.

l) Development and Implementation of prevailing strategies in respect to perturbation in Coastal Areas caused by Land-based Activities (WP 13)

In order to demonstrate the benefit adopting the ICZM practices in dealing with land based activities combined other sea based disasters and new threats like climate change, it has been proposed to undertake pilot projects on ICZM in selected areas in each SAS country. A proposal will be developed and posed for funding to donor agencies.

Recommendations to IMM

The proposed ICZM pilot projects will be useful to demonstrate the advantages of integrated management of land and sea based activities. Proposal be approved by IMM.

m) MOU with World Meteorological Organization (WP 14)

SACEP has signed a MOU with WMO to work together on aspects relating to the climate change, especially the impact of climate change in the region. A Specific project titled "Networking for Greater Awareness and Understanding on the Impacts of Environmental Degradation and Climate Change Strategies for South Asia" has been developed and WMO will be partially support this project. WMO and SACEP will seek other donor agencies to meet the balance funds.

Recommendations to IMM

SAS region is one of the regions that will be affected by the global climate change, as such the undertaking relevant studies with WMO, be supported and the conduct of the above project be supported.

n) Mangroves for the Future (MFF) Programme (WP 15)

It is an initiative by IUCN and UNDP as an aftermath of Indian Ocean tsunami which demonstrates the beneficial role of mangroves in mitigating the impact of tsunami. It is a programme by itself encompassing several activities including protection and development of Marine Protected Areas. The forum has membership and most of the SAS countries are members. SACEP has expressed in participating the programme as a regional body so that it can develop regional proposals on MPA and secure funding.

Recommendations to IMM

SACEP/SAS should approach IUCN through UNEP to obtain recognition as a regional body to participate in the MFF. After securing the recognition, it can develop proposals to seek funding from the IUCN-UNDP forum.

o) Collaboration with NALSAR on Environmental Legislation (WP 16)

The National Academy of Legal Studies and Research (NALSAR), University of Hyderabad India is implementing a programme to support the strengthening of Environmental Law in the SAARC Region. SACEP had been implementing many Environmental Law Programmes under its UNEP – NORAD – SACEP programme and have conducted many ground breaking programmes and have several Environmental Law Publications. SACEP has proposed to work jointly NALSAR in conducting workshops/trainings relating to environmental law

Recommendations to IMM

This proposal to be supported.

p) Need for the Revision of the South Asian Seas Action Plan based on the current global trends.

The SAS action adopted in 1995 was based on environmental issues prevailed during the last decade. Over a period of time new issues such as disasters and climate change and other environmental challenges have emerged, there is a need to update the action plan.

Recommendations to IMM

The proposal is supported and SACEP may convene a meeting of the National Focal Points be convened to discuss the proposed updating. It is also necessary that inputs from the member countries in the form of current environmental and other major coastal and marine environment related issues be obtained before preparing the draft of the updated plan. The member countries need to send their inputs to SACEP within a period of 6 months.

q) Finalisation and Adoption of Work Programme for 2008 – 2010 (WP 18)

SACEP has proposed to develop capacity building programmes and strategic plans etc on the above programmes areas for the period 2008-10. (**Annex 4**)

Recommendations to IMM

While the above programmes may be approved, it is necessary to follow up the projects and activities approved during the 1 and 2nd IMM. Where necessary, the project proposals developed need to be updated and submitted to donor agencies to seek funding. Further all the proposed programmes should be grouped under respective priority areas of action/programmes identified under the action plan.

AGENDA ITEM 6: FINANCIAL MATTERS

Under this agenda item the following matters were discussed

- (a) Review of Country Contributions from Member States for South Asian Seas Trust Fund and need for increased contribution from countries to cope up inflation was discussed. The budgetary requirements for 2008-10 are given in Annex IV. SACEP has justified that the salaries and other expenses approved have not been increase since last 10 years. SACEP is finding it extremely difficult to run the secretariat to meet increasing cost of essential requirements and unable to attract skilled personal for working. It has sought 10% increase annually from 2008 on country contributions. The details of budgetary requirements and additional contributions sought from the countries are as follows:

Draft COUNTRY CONTRIBUTIONS

COUNTRY	% Contribution	2008 US \$	2009 US \$
Bangladesh	14.5	16,670	18,337
India	35.0	40,230	44,253
Maldives	6.5	7,470	8,217
Pakistan	29.5	33,910	37,301
Sri Lanka	14.5	16,670	18,337
TOTAL	100.0	114,950	126,445

Draft Secretariat Budget for 2008 - 2009

	2008	2009
	Cost in US \$	Cost in US \$
PERSONNEL		
International		
Regional Co-ordinator	36,000	36,000
Local		
Senior Programme Officer	5,500	6,050
1 Junior Programme Officer	8,000	8,800
1 Secretary	3,600	3,960
PROJECT FORMULATION	20,000	22,000
OFFICE INFRASTRUCTURE		
Furniture, Office Equipment & Consumables	8,000	8,800
RENTAL AND MAINTENANCE	12,000	13,200
ADMINISTRATION COSTS	9,000	9,900
MEETING & INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL	15,000	16,500
DOCUMENTS	8,000	8,800
CONTINGENCIES	5,000	5,500
TOTAL	135,100	145,010

- (b) Establishment of a Corpus Fund for South Asian Seas Programme and means of financing a Programme Development including pledges for contribution to be made in Cash and Kind by the Member Governments and other organizations.
- (c) Approval of Annual Audited Report of Accounts for years 2005 & 2006

Recommendations to IMM

- a) The countries are urged to pay their arrears at the earliest, as lack of funds hamper are not encouraging to take follow up actions on implementation of programmes identified. Regarding the additional contributions sought, the increases sought for the 2008 has been agreed in principle, however, it is subject to approval by the member countries. Regarding the increased annual budgetary requirements for staff, office expenses etc., the proposed increase of salary of local staff as projected for 2008, 2009 and 2010 alone could be agreed and would be effective after receipt of additional contributions from the member countries. SACEP may manage the additional requirements of funds on other items for the period 2008-10, within the contribution made by the member countries.
- b) The agenda item on corpus funds to be deferred.
- c) The audit reports for the years 2005 and 2006 may be approved.

AGENDA ITEM 7 ADOPTION OF REPORT

The Report was adopted unanimously with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

Inaugural Address

Mr. Mohamed Zuhair

**Director General, Ministry of Environment, Energy & Water,
Maldives**

Director General of SACEP

Senior Officials of the Member States of the South Asian Seas Programme,

Representatives of Observer International Organisations

Ladies and Gentlemen

I am addressing you as outgoing Chairman of the Meeting of National Focal Points of the 3rd Inter Ministerial Meeting of the South Asian Seas Programme.

On behalf of the member governments of the South Asian Seas Programme, I extend my sincere gratitude to the Government of India, for agreeing to hold this 4th Inter Ministerial Meeting in Jaipur, India

The Government of Maldives assumed the Chairmanship of the 3rd IMM in Thimphu, Bhutan in August 2005 and at the Meeting of Senior Officials with the assistance of the National Focal Points of the member countries we formulated a course of action which would take this programme further. The work programme we recommended to the Inter Ministerial Meeting was duly approved and we are gathered today to review the progress made during the last 2 years and to approve a course of action as proposed by the Secretariat.

I am happy to note that significant progress has been made by the South Asian Seas Programme during the last 2 years and today we have a big task in approving our course of action for 2008 – 2010.

The progress report submitted for this meeting by the Secretariat spells out the achievements

Some of the major achievements have been the completion of “Regional Activity on Marine Litter in South Asian Seas”, where based on a Review Document on Marine Litter in the South Asian Seas Region prepared by a team of Regional and National Consultants, a Framework for Marine Litter Management in the South Asian Seas Region has been developed which is now before the 4th IMM for formal adoption.

Another major activity has been the participation of the member countries in the International Coastal Clean up day for 2006 & 2007, the most significant of which has been the contribution of the Government of India.

Another significant achievement has been the Institutional Strengthening and Capacity Development for the Long-term Management and Conservation of Marine Coastal Protected Areas encompassing coral reef resources in South Asia, with significant funding from European Commission and UNEP. Under this activity a South Asian Coral Reef Task Force has been established and launched in Colombo, Sri Lanka, where on both occasions, the Chairman of the 3rd IMM His Excellency Ahmed Abdullah, Minister of Environment Energy & Water was the Chief Guest

I am also aware that new partnerships have been established for Collaborative Activities between UN-DOALOS and SAS in the conduct of a Regional Training Course on the Development, Implementation and Management of Marine Protected Areas in the South Asian Seas Region and also for the conduct of a Two Week Scanning Phase Workshop in connection with the UNEP Shelf Programme.

Partnership with International Oceans Institute of Southern Africa University of the Western Cape South Africa and UNEP has also been developed in the Development of a National Regional Strategic Framework on Global Invasive Species and Training Workshop will be held during the course of 2008 on the Management of Marine and Coastal Invasive Species

Areas of Co-operation with International Maritime Organization (IMO) have been further strengthened with the signing of a Letter of Agreement for mutual co-operation and many National & Regional Workshops have been held.

There is however some unfinished business with IMO. We urgently need to ensure that Regional Oil Spill Contingency plan for South Asia is made operational as soon as possible

The Government of Maldives has now, according the rules of procedure for the conduct of this meeting, have great pleasure in inviting the Government of India to assume the Chairmanship of this meeting and to guide us in meeting our objectives

India hosted the Plenipotentiary Meeting in New Delhi in March 1995 and it now takes over to guide the destinies of this vibrant programme.

With India's leadership I am very confident that SASP will reach greater heights

On my government's behalf and that of the member countries of SASP let me extend our best wishes to the Government of India for success in carrying out the responsibilities of the Chair.

I thank you.

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SOUTH ASIAN SEAS PROGRAMME

**PREPARATORY MEETING OF NATIONAL FOCAL POINTS FOR
4TH INTERGOVERNMENTAL MINISTERIAL MEETING OF THE SASP
JAIPUR, INDIA
21 MAY 2008**

AGENDA

1. Opening of the Meeting
2. Election of Office Bearers
3. Adoption of Agenda and Organisation of Work
4. Institutional Matters
5. Programme Matters
 - a) Status Report of Programme Activities for 2005 – 2008 (WP 1)
 - b) Presentation of Framework for Action For Marine Litter Programme for South Asia (WP 2)
 - c) Endorsement for the formal adoption of the Regional Oil Spill Contingency Plan for South Asia and the follow up activities. (WP 3)
 - d) Follow up activities pertaining to the Work Programme on Coral Reef Conservation and Monitoring with respect to the ongoing EC Project and those related to South Asian Coral Reef Task Force (SACRTF) (WP 4)
 - e) Global Invasive Species Programme (WP 5)
 - f) Areas of Co-operation with UNDOALOS (WP 6)
 - g) Areas of Co-operation with International Maritime Organization (WP 7)
 - h) Areas of Co-operation with UNEP GPA (WP 8)
 - i) Coastal Clean Up Day (WP 9)
 - j) School Awareness Programme (WP 10)
 - k) Collaboration with SAARC Disaster Management Centre for developing Coastal and Marine Risk Mitigation Plan for South Asia (WP 11)
 - l) Basel Convention Regional Centre (WP 12)
 - m) Concept note on “Development and Implementation of prevailing strategies in respect to perturbation in Coastal Areas caused by Land-based Activities (WP 13)
 - n) MOU with World Meteorological Organisation (WP 14)
 - o) Mangroves for the Future Programme (WP 15)
 - p) Collaboration with NALSAR on Environmental Legislation (WP 16)

- q) Need for the Revision of the South Asian Seas Action Plan based on the current global trends (WP 17)
- r) Finalisation and Adoption of Work Programme for 2009 – 2010 (WP 18)

6. Financial Matters

- (a) Review of Country Contributions from Member States for South Asian Seas Trust Fund
- (b) Approval of the budgetary resources required to support the work plan for 2008 - 2009
- (c) Establishment of a Corpus Fund for South Asian Seas Programme and means of financing a Programme Development including pledges for contribution to be made in Cash and Kind by the Member Governments and other organisations
- (d) Approval of Annual Audited Report of Accounts for years 2005 & 2006

7. Any Other Business

8. Adoption Report & Closure of Meeting

SOUTH ASIAN SEAS PROGRAMME

Draft Work Programme 2009 – 2010

PROGRAMME 1: MARINE LITTER

- (1) Capacity building (training and awareness)
- (2) Beach clean up on quarterly basis
- (3) Creation of port reception facilities
- (4) Solid waste management.

Project	• Activities	Financial Outlay in US \$
(1) Capacity Building (Training And Awareness)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upgrading or creating new facilities for training and extension; • Conducting pilot training programmes in member countries at various levels of planners, policy makers, administrators, scientists, NGOs, voluntary organisations, school/college children/students, academics, private industries, and selected coastal communities. • Conducting Trainers training in member countries; • Establishing contact with stakeholders/heads of local communities, various trade associations in the communities, local body/council authorities, boards of education and teachers; • Listing the types and most probable sources of marine debris that constitute the greatest hazards to the community and to living marine resources; • Developing pamphlets, posters and stickers in English and in the local languages for distribution among coastal communities, marine recreational firms, other auxiliary services and NGOs; • Distributing marine debris education materials to educators through presentation to teachers, conferences and seminars, organisation of students' excursions/exposure visits to relevant degraded environment for on-the-spot appreciation and organisation of essay competitions on the environment. 	1,500.000
(2) Beach Clean Up	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organising the youth and school children into groups for clean-ups of debris on beaches; • Providing funding, logistics, and advice to the groups; • Using both national/regional network committees to compile information on clean-ups and data findings in the form of a report; • Widely circulating clean-up reports to local, regional and international organisations. 	500.000

(3) Creation of Port Reception Facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The project components would include designing of the reception facilities for different types of garbage/litter as per MARPOL Annex V requirements in particular, frequency of use and emptying requirements, disposal methods to be used, environmental and amenity values of the area, and the access and security requirements. The facility standards and design would relate to the port/harbour characteristics. IMO could provide the basic design for the port reception facilities for different types of degradable and non-degradable wastes. 	300.000
(4) Solid Waste Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing specialised marine litter waste management strategies – either as a separate strategy or part of an existing waste management strategy. Improving and/or expanding waste management strategies for the public at local beaches, sporting events and festivals where appropriate receptacles are used. Reviewing the Management Plans of hotel and restaurant industries, for waste management practices and strengthen collaboration with the tourism sector for sharing of best practices and lessons learnt. Developing and promoting activities for national/regional recycling, reuse and waste diversion for plastics, glass, metal and other materials. Identifying/promoting international environmental certification programmes which include waste management and minimisation for possible inclusion into national marine litter/waste management strategies/action plans. Maintaining/developing specialised waste management strategies for marine litter problems associated with seasonal and/or weather related events. Establishing emergency response waste management strategies, where necessary, which deal with the aftermath of natural disasters. 	300.000

Total budget and Source of funding

Project Area	Total in US \$
Capacity building (training and awareness)	1,500.000
Beach clean up on quarterly basis	500.000
Creation of port reception facilities	300.000
Solid waste management	300.000
TOTAL	2,600,000

It is expected that the concerned member governments will make firm commitments for the implementation of these Priority Projects

PROGRAMME 2: GLOBAL INVASIVE SPECIES PROGRAMME**B) GLOBAL INVASIVE SPECIES PROGRAMME**

OBJECTIVE: Development of a National Regional Strategic Framework on Global Invasive Species

Project	Activities	Financial Outlay in US \$
Training course on the management of marine and coastal Invasive Species	Details of Training Course Modules <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Introduction to Marine & Coastal Invasive Species ❖ Goals and Principles of Invasive Species Management ❖ Prevention ❖ Early detection and Rapid Response ❖ Incursion Management ❖ The International Response ❖ Developing a National Strategic Framework ❖ Communication, Education and Public Awareness 	59,000

PROGRAMME 3 COLLABORATIVE ACTIVITIES BETWEEN UN-DOALOS AND SACEP/SAS

Project	Activities	Financial Outlay in US \$
Regional Training Course on the Development, Implementation and Management of Marine Protected Areas in the South Asian Seas Region	Details of Training Course Modules <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Developing marine Protected Areas ❖ Implementing Marine Protected Areas ❖ Managing Marine Protected Areas 	Committed by UNDALOS 33,500 To be raised by jointly by UNDOLOS and SAS 63,500

PROGRAMME 4 OIL SPILL CONTINGENCY PLANNING

Project	Activities	Financial Outlay in US \$
Meeting of Senior Officials to update the current Regional Oil Spill Contingency Plan also determine initially on a two year work plan to operationalise Contingency Plan	Meeting in Colombo assisted by UNEP and IMO	30,000

PROGRAMME 5 REVISION OF THE SOUTH ASIAN SEAS ACTION PLAN

Project	Activities	Financial Outlay in US \$
Updating of present South Asia Seas Action Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ On an agreed terms of reference and based on the previous country reports, the preparation of National Reports on the Status and Environmental Problems of the Marine and Coastal Areas of Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Pakistan and Sri Lanka by Government identified National Consultants ❖ Based on these reports, the Preparation of a State of the Marine Environment of the South Asian Seas Region by a Regional Consultant ❖ Based on the above, identify fresh priority areas for inclusion in the South Asian Seas Action Plan to be adopted at by the member countries at a Special Meeting of the Inter Ministerial Meeting to be convened in the March 2009 	100,000

PROGRAMME 6 FOLLOW UP OF REGIONAL OIL SPILL CONTINGENCY PLAN

Project	Activities	Financial Outlay in US \$
Follow up activities as the Regional Oil Spill Contingency Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Initial for Updating of Existing Oil Spill Contingency Plan ❖ Joint meetings ❖ Mock Oil Spill Exercises ❖ Joint Training Exercises ❖ Annual Meetings for Review and Updating of Plan 	Initially 150,000

PROGRAMME 7 STRENGTHENING AND CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT FOR THE LONG-TERM MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION OF MCPAS ENCOMPASSING CORAL REEF RESOURCES IN SOUTH ASIA

Project	Activities	Financial Outlay in US \$
Strengthening and Capacity Development for the Long-term Management and Conservation of MCPAs encompassing coral reef resources in South Asia		875,907.43 EURO
Action 1: Human and Technical Resource Coordination and Mobilisation	Regional Workshop 1 - Inception Workshop	(EURO 19,1000
	Regional Workshop 2	EURO 22,150

NFP - Annex 4

	Development and production of an interactive regional communication strategy	EURO 6060
Action 2: Human and Technical Capacity Development	2.1 Development and production of training curricula for optimised MCPA management	EURO 19,260
	2.2 Implementation of training for staff at MCPA sites	EURO 39,500
	2.3 Implementation of maritime law enforcement training with staff from existing MCPAs	EURO 139,700
	2.4 Implementation of environmental education programs with coastal communities in the vicinity of existing MCPA sites	EURO 25,000
Action 3.0 Institutional Strengthening	Development of South Asia Coastal Resource Task Force (SACRTF)	EURO 139,850
	3.2 Development of accessible centralised information conduit and resource base	EURO 65,000
	3.3 Development of interactive coral reef stakeholder network	EURO 57,650
4.Strengthened capacity of policy makers, planners and managers to design and implement livelihood enhancement and diversification for poor reef users		EURO 206,245
	4.1 Reef dependency characterisation workshop	
	4.2 Review existing initiatives	
	4.3 Development and field-testing of methodology	
	4.4 Production of Alternative Livelihood Implementation Guidelines	
	4.5 Development of training materials and outreach schedule	
	4.6 Implementation of Training for Policy Makers and Practitioners	
	4.7 Production of Policy Guidance Materials	
5.Long-term coral reef management in South Asia		
	5.1 Preparation for long-term marine and coastal resource conservation	EUR 14,260

PROGRAMME 8 FOLLOW UP ACTIVITIES ON THE EXSISTING MBI PROJECT WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF SRI LANKA

Project	Activities	Financial Out Lay in US \$
Follow up activities on the existing MOU with GPA	To be Determined (Recommendations from the MBI Project)	To be determined

FOLLOW UP OF PROJECTS APPROVED AT PREVIOUS IMM'S

A. Follow up on the Projects & Activities approved at the 1st and 2nd IMM

1. Integrated Coastal Zone Management

PROJECT TITLE	TIME FRAME	BUDGET IN US \$
1) Capacity Building for the control of coastal erosion in the context of ICZM in the South Asian Seas Region <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Course Development Meeting • Workshop on Coastal Erosion 	12 Months	40,000 95,000
2) Assessment of Areas Vulnerable to Sea Level Rise in the South Asian Seas Region	18 Months	406,500

2. National and Regional Oil Spill Contingency Planning:

PROJECT TITLE	TIME FRAME	BUDGET IN US \$
1) Capacity Building in the Development and Operation of National Oil Spill Contingency Planning	12 months	336,775 (3 seminars / Workshops)
2) Capacity Building Activities with IMO	24 Months	200,000

3. Human Resource Development through Strengthening Regional Centres of Excellence

PROJECT TITLE	TIME FRAME	BUDGET IN US \$
1) Identification of Capacity Building Requirements in Coastal and Marine Environmental Protection and Management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Course Development • Cost of Course Material and Course expenses for 8 Courses 	12 Months	75,000 600,000
2) Strengthening the Capacity of the Regional Centres of Excellence in the Protection and Management of the Coastal and Marine Environment	6 Months	225,000

4. Protection of the Marine and Coastal Environment from Land-Based Activities

PROJECT TITLE	TIME FRAME	BUDGET IN US \$
1) Approval of Draft National Action Plans prepared by National Consultants for implementation of the GPA at a National Forum	6 Months	5,000 per country for 7 countries
2) Regional Workshop to finalise Draft Regional Overview and Action Plan on the Implementation of the GPA and implementation of components of Regional Action Plan	6 Months	30,000
3) Development of National Pilot Programmes of Action for the Protection of Marine Environment from Land-based Activities	18 Months	75,000 per country for 5 countries
4) Setting up of a Clearing House Mechanism for GPA in the South Asian Seas Region with South Asia Environment and Natural Resources Information Centre (SENRIC) functioning as the central node	To be determined	To be determined
5) Participation in GPA Project on Physical Alterations and Destruction of Coastal Habitats: Guidelines for Action and Role of Stake Holders	To be determined	To be determined
6) Assistance for Development of a Proposal for a GEF Block B PDF Grant under the GPA	To be determined	To be determined

5. Management of Coastal and Marine Protected Areas in the South Asian Seas Region

B. Follow up on the Projects & Activities approved at the 3rd IMM

1. New project areas identified by the meeting:

i) Natural Disaster Management with respect to Storm Surges and Tsunamis

- Identification of coastal areas vulnerable for seawater flooding 2005-06
- Education and awareness 2005-06
- Adoption & Evaluation of Ecosystem services in Coastal and marine areas. 2006-07
- Capacity building in mitigation measures such as creation/maintenance of natural defences like sand dunes, coastal plantation, coral reef, mangroves 2006-07

ii) Management of Coastal and Marine Protected Areas

- Coral Reefs and Sea Grass-2006-07
- Mangroves-2005-06
- Lagoons-enhancing the tidal influx 2006-07

SOUTH ASIAN SEAS PROGRAMME Work Programme 2009 – 2010

PROGRAMME 1: MARINE LITTER

- (1) Capacity building (training and awareness)
- (2) Beach clean up on quarterly basis
- (3) Creation of port reception facilities
- (4) Solid waste management.

Project	Activities	Financial Outlay in US \$
(1) Capacity Building (Training And Awareness)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upgrading or creating new facilities for training and extension; Conducting pilot training programmes in member countries at various levels of planners, policy makers, administrators, scientists, NGOs, voluntary organisations, school/college children/students, academics, private industries, and selected coastal communities. Conducting Trainers training in member countries; Establishing contact with stakeholders/heads of local communities, various trade associations in the communities, local body/council authorities, boards of education and teachers; Listing the types and most probable sources of marine debris that constitute the greatest hazards to the community and to living marine resources; Developing pamphlets, posters and stickers in English and in the local languages for distribution among coastal communities, marine recreational firms, other auxiliary services and NGOs; Distributing marine debris education materials to educators through presentation to teachers, conferences and seminars, organisation of students' excursions/exposure visits to relevant degraded environment for on-the-spot appreciation and organisation of essay competitions on the environment. 	1,500.000
(2) Beach Clean Up	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organising the youth and school children into groups for clean-ups of debris on beaches; Providing funding, logistics, and advice to the groups; Using both national/regional network committees to compile information on clean-ups and data findings in the form of a report; Widely circulating clean-up reports to local, regional and international organisations. 	500.000

(3) Creation of Port Reception Facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The project components would include designing of the reception facilities for different types of garbage/litter as per MARPOL Annex V requirements in particular, frequency of use and emptying requirements, disposal methods to be used, environmental and amenity values of the area, and the access and security requirements. The facility standards and design would relate to the port/harbour characteristics. IMO could provide the basic design for the port reception facilities for different types of degradable and non-degradable wastes. 	300.000
(4) Solid Waste Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing specialised marine litter waste management strategies – either as a separate strategy or part of an existing waste management strategy. Improving and/or expanding waste management strategies for the public at local beaches, sporting events and festivals where appropriate receptacles are used. Reviewing the Management Plans of hotel and restaurant industries, for waste management practices and strengthen collaboration with the tourism sector for sharing of best practices and lessons learnt. Developing and promoting activities for national/regional recycling, reuse and waste diversion for plastics, glass, metal and other materials. Identifying/promoting international environmental certification programmes which include waste management and minimisation for possible inclusion into national marine litter/waste management strategies/action plans. Maintaining/developing specialised waste management strategies for marine litter problems associated with seasonal and/or weather related events. Establishing emergency response waste management strategies, where necessary, which deal with the aftermath of natural disasters. 	300.000

Total budget and Source of funding

Project Area	Total in US \$
Capacity building (training and awareness)	1,500.000
Beach clean up on quarterly basis	500.000
Creation of port reception facilities	300.000
Solid waste management	300.000
TOTAL	2,600,000

It is expected that the concerned member governments will make firm commitments for the implementation of these Priority Projects

PROGRAMME 2: GLOBAL INVASIVE SPECIES PROGRAMME

B) GLOBAL INVASIVE SPECIES PROGRAMME

OBJECTIVE: Development of a National Regional Strategic Framework on Global Invasive Species

Project	Activities	Financial Outlay in US \$
Training course on the management of marine and coastal Invasive Species	Details of Training Course Modules <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Introduction to Marine & Coastal Invasive Species ❖ Goals and Principles of Invasive Species Management ❖ Prevention ❖ Early detection and Rapid Response ❖ Incursion Management ❖ The International Response ❖ Developing a National Strategic Framework ❖ Communication, Education and Public Awareness 	59,000

PROGRAMME 3 COLLABORATIVE ACTIVITIES BETWEEN UN-DOALOS AND SACEP/SAS

Project	Activities	Financial Outlay in US \$
Regional Training Course on the Development, Implementation and Management of Marine Protected Areas in the South Asian Seas Region	Details of Training Course Modules <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Developing marine Protected Areas ❖ Implementing Marine Protected Areas ❖ Managing Marine Protected Areas 	Committed by UNDOLOS 33,500 To be raised by jointly by UNDOLOS and SAS 63,500

PROGRAMME 4 OIL SPILL CONTINGENCY PLANNING

Project	Activities	Financial Outlay in US \$
Meeting of Senior Officials to update the current Regional Oil Spill Contingency Plan also determine initially on a two year work plan to operationalise Contingency Plan	Meeting in Colombo assisted by UNEP and IMO	30,000

PROGRAMME 5 REVISION OF THE SOUTH ASIAN SEAS ACTION PLAN

Project	Activities	Financial Outlay in US \$
Updating of present South Asia Seas Action Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ On an agreed terms of reference and based on the previous country reports, the preparation of National Reports on the Status and Environmental Problems of the Marine and Coastal Areas of Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Pakistan and Sri Lanka by Government identified National Consultants ❖ Based on these reports, the Preparation of a State of the Marine Environment of the South Asian Seas Region by a Regional Consultant ❖ Based on the above, identify fresh priority areas for inclusion in the South Asian Seas Action Plan to be adopted at by the member countries at a Special Meeting of the Inter Ministerial Meeting to be convened in the March 2009 	100,000

PROGRAMME 6 FOLLOW UP OF REGIONAL OIL SPILL CONTINGENCY PLAN

Project	Activities	Financial Outlay in US \$
Follow up activities as the Regional Oil Spill Contingency Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Initial for Updating of Existing Oil Spill Contingency Plan ❖ Joint meetings ❖ Mock Oil Spill Exercises ❖ Joint Training Exercises ❖ Annual Meetings for Review and Updating of Plan 	Initially 150,000

PROGRAMME 7 STRENGTHENING AND CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT FOR THE LONG-TERM MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION OF MCPAS ENCOMPASSING CORAL REEF RESOURCES IN SOUTH ASIA

Project	Activities	Financial Outlay in US \$
Strengthening and Capacity Development for the Long-term Management and Conservation of MCPAs encompassing coral reef resources in South Asia		875,907.43 EURO
Action 1: Human and Technical Resource Coordination and Mobilisation	Regional Workshop 1 - Inception Workshop	(EURO 19,1000

	Regional Workshop 2	EURO 22,150
	Development and production of an interactive regional communication strategy	EURO 6060
Action 2: Human and Technical Capacity Development	2.1 Development and production of training curricula for optimised MCPA management	EURO 19,260
	2.2 Implementation of training for staff at MCPA sites	EURO 39,500
	2.3 Implementation of maritime law enforcement training with staff from existing MCPAs	EURO 139,700
	2.4 Implementation of environmental education programs with coastal communities in the vicinity of existing MCPA sites	EURO 25,000
Action 3.0 Institutional Strengthening	Development of South Asia Coastal Resource Task Force (SACRTF)	EURO 139,850
	3.2 Development of accessible centralised information conduit and resource base	EURO 65,000
	3.3 Development of interactive coral reef stakeholder network	EURO 57,650
4.Strengthened capacity of policy makers, planners and managers to design and implement livelihood enhancement and diversification for poor reef users		EURO 206,245
	4.1 Reef dependency characterisation workshop	
	4.2 Review existing initiatives	
	4.3 Development and field-testing of methodology	
	4.4 Production of Alternative Livelihood Implementation Guidelines	
	4.5 Development of training materials and outreach schedule	
	4.6 Implementation of Training for Policy Makers and Practitioners	
	4.7 Production of Policy Guidance Materials	
5.Long-term coral reef management in South Asia		
	5.1 Preparation for long-term marine and coastal resource conservation	EUR 14,260

PROGRAMME 8 FOLLOW UP ACTIVITIES ON THE EXSISTING MBI PROJECT WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF SRI LANKA

Project	Activities	Financial Out Lay in US \$
Follow up activities on the existing MOU with GPA	To be Determined (Recommendations from the MBI Project)	To be determined

FOLLOW UP OF PROJECTS APPROVED AT PREVIOUS IMM'S

A. Follow up on the Projects & Activities approved at the 1st and 2nd IMM

1. Integrated Coastal Zone Management

PROJECT TITLE	TIME FRAME	BUDGET IN US \$
1) Capacity Building for the control of coastal erosion in the context of ICZM in the South Asian Seas Region <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Course Development Meeting Workshop on Coastal Erosion 	12 Months	40,000 95,000
2) Assessment of Areas Vulnerable to Sea Level Rise in the South Asian Seas Region	18 Months	406,500

2. National and Regional Oil Spill Contingency Planning:

PROJECT TITLE	TIME FRAME	BUDGET IN US \$
1) Capacity Building in the Development and Operation of National Oil Spill Contingency Planning	12 months	336,775 (3 seminars / Workshops)
2) Capacity Building Activities with IMO	24 Months	200,000

3. Human Resource Development through Strengthening Regional Centres of Excellence

PROJECT TITLE	TIME FRAME	BUDGET IN US \$
1) Identification of Capacity Building Requirements in Coastal and Marine Environmental Protection and Management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Course Development Cost of Course Material and Course expenses for 8 Courses 	12 Months	75,000 600,000
2) Strengthening the Capacity of the Regional Centres of Excellence in the Protection and Management of the Coastal and Marine Environment	6 Months	225,000

4. Protection of the Marine and Coastal Environment from Land-Based Activities

PROJECT TITLE	TIME FRAME	BUDGET IN US \$
1) Approval of Draft National Action Plans prepared by National Consultants for implementation of the GPA at a National Forum	6 Months	5,000 per country for 7 countries
2) Regional Workshop to finalise Draft Regional Overview and Action Plan on the Implementation of the GPA and implementation of components of Regional Action Plan	6 Months	30,000
3) Development of National Pilot Programmes of Action for the Protection of Marine Environment from Land-based Activities	18 Months	75,000 per country for 5 countries
4) Setting up of a Clearing House Mechanism for GPA in the South Asian Seas Region with South Asia Environment and Natural Resources Information Centre (SENRIC) functioning as the central node	To be determined	To be determined
5) Participation in GPA Project on Physical Alterations and Destruction of Coastal Habitats: Guidelines for Action and Role of Stake Holders	To be determined	To be determined
6) Assistance for Development of a Proposal for a GEF Block B PDF Grant under the GPA	To be determined	To be determined

5. Management of Coastal and Marine Protected Areas in the South Asian Seas Region

B. Follow up on the Projects & Activities approved at the 3rd IMM

1. New project areas identified by the meeting:

i) Natural Disaster Management with respect to Storm Surges and Tsunamis

- Identification of coastal areas vulnerable for seawater flooding 2005-06
- Education and awareness 2005-06
- Adoption & Evaluation of Ecosystem services in Coastal and marine areas. 2006-07
- Capacity building in mitigation measures such as creation/maintenance of natural defences like sand dunes, coastal plantation, coral reef, mangroves 2006-07

ii) Management of Coastal and Marine Protected Areas

- Coral Reefs and Sea Grass-2006-07
- Mangroves-2005-06
- Lagoons-enhancing the tidal influx 2006-07

SOUTH ASIAN SEAS PROGRAMME

Agenda Item 5 (a)

PROGRAMME AREA:

Progress Report 2005 – 2008

**South Asian Seas Programme
PROGRESS REPORT
April 2005 – 15 April 2008**

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Immediately after I took over as the Director General of SACEP, the first priority before me was to get the 9th Governing Council of SACEP and the 3rd Inter Ministerial Meeting (IMM) of SASP conducted. These meetings had been due for some time as the 8th Governing Council was held on 29.9.2001 and the 2nd IMM on 1.7.2002. In order to clearly lay down the path ahead, I proposed both the meetings to be held back to back in Bhutan. The Royal Government of Bhutan was gracious enough to accept my request and both the meetings were held in Thimphu, Bhutan from 24th to 26th of August 2005.
- 1.2 The 3rd Inter Ministerial Meeting held in Thimphu, Bhutan on 24th-26th August 2005, reviewed the past strategies and performance of SASP and adopted a new Strategic approach to focus on the priority issues of the region to reflect greater commitment of the country governments to look upon SAS as a dynamic and vibrant organisation. It also discussed at length the papers presented by the Secretariat that were a result of intensive introspection, consultations with member countries, partner organisations, independent evaluation and the suggestions of the review report of SASP.
- 1.3 The strategy of SASP in the next phase of its growth was to comprehend these issues and increase its effectiveness as a regional programme. Looking into the limited resources, both financial and core staff, it was decided that in the immediate future SASP will focus its attention on the following major programme areas:
 - Natural Disaster Management with respect to storm surges and Tsunamis
 - Management of Coastal and Marine Protected Areas
- 1.4 It was also decided to continue the ongoing programmes which SASP have been implementing in the past. The major programmes that will be carried forward are:
 - Environmental Legislation
 - Regional Oil Spill Contingency Planning, IMO Conventions-OPRC, MARPOL73/78, AFS, and Globallast
 - Marine Litter
 - Programmes under GPA and ICARM
- 1.5 The 3rd Inter Ministerial Meeting, South Asia Seas Programme, while appreciating the commendable work done by SASP over the past years, approved the 2006 – 2007 Work Programme of SASP.

2 Progress of Work:

2.1 Administrative Matters:

Based on the decisions of the 3rd Inter Ministerial Meeting held in August 2005 the first task ahead was to revamp the Secretariat to make it into an efficient, task oriented work force to deliver as per the targets set for it. Great emphasis was laid on the administrative and financial matters and the following was achieved by the Secretariat.

2.1.1 After the successful conduction 3rd Inter Ministerial Meeting of SAS on 26th August 2005, hosted by the Royal Government of Bhutan, the final reports of the meeting was finalised and forwarded to the country governments after approval of the respective Chairman.

2.1.2. As per the rules of the SASP, the Accounts of SASP had to be audited every year and put before the IMM for approval. The accounts for the year 2001 to 2004 were audited and put before the 3rd IMM which approved the audited accounts.

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

2.1.3. Capacity development of the administrative staff of SASP has been carried out by establishing role clarity, constant support and guidance. The staff has also been encouraged to write scientific papers which have been selected in prestigious International Conferences. Senior officers and Programme Officers at SASP have also been fully funded by organizers of such conferences to attend several conferences, meetings and training camps.

2.1.4. Terms of Reference (ToRs) for Staff : All Staff of SASP have been covered by a specific ToR for Year 2007- 2008 based on the approved Work Programme.

2.1.5 Appointment of the New Auditor: External Audit of SASP had been carried out by the same auditors since its inception. This was brought before the 3rd IMM who directed the Director General to change the Auditors every three years as per Auditing principles. The external auditors for SASP were appointed with the approval of the Consultative Committee, as recommended by the 3rd IMM immediately and the audits for year 2005, 2006 were got done by the new auditors.

2.1.6. Financial Matters : Sound financial management has been put into place. Monthly accounts are finalized by the administrative section and reconciliation done with the bankers on a regular basis. These accounts are then regularly audited by the external auditors and now we are up-to-date with all audit reports till the year 2006.

2.1.7. All US \$ Deposit accounts of SASP have now been put on a fixed deposit scheme. This has ensured earning of much higher interest for the money in these accounts. The Earned Interest up to 10 April 2008, to US \$ 31746

2.1.8 Appointment of Staff :

- a. Programme Officer : One new programme officer has been appointed
- b. Junior Programme Officer : One new programme officer has been appointed
- c. Secretary : One new Secretaries has been appointed
- d. ICRAN-SACEP South Asia Project Officer : For the 'Institutional Strengthening and Capacity Development for the Long-term Management and Conservation of MCPAs' Project

- e. SASP Co-ordinator (South Asian Seas Programme) : SACEP is in the process of reappointing the SASP Coordinator as per the directions of the Consultative Committee of SACEP on the existing procedure as the Service Contract of the Regional Co-ordinator, South Asian Seas Programme was terminated with effect from 31st January 2007 due to gross misconduct.
 - f. One Data Manager and one Asst Data Manager are being recruited to manage the growing amount of Data and the Web Server that is being installed. The Asst Data Manager has been appointed.
- 2.1.9. Improvement and upgradation of facilities for staff have been done to provide the staff with better working environment. These include Dual Core and Core Duo desktops computers with LCD screens, Laptops, LCD Projector, Centralised double sided printing facility, LAN and wireless networking, air-conditioning in all rooms, refrigerator, microwave oven, development of front Office, lounge, Central PBX systems, Individual cubicles, etc.
- 2.1.10. Archive Development : At the time of my joining the SACEP /SASP, no records or archives was available in a systematic manner. This led to great difficulty in not only day to day work but also in referencing past activities. I have now established a regular archive in SACEP / SASP. All IMM reports and Minutes of the Consultative Committee Meetings were collected and archived both in Hard copies and converted into digital format for easy reference and archive purposes. A complete database of all MoU / LoA / Gazette Notifications has been done right from the inception of SASP. A photographic and movie archive has also been established for maintaining a photo and movie record of the activities of SASP.
- 2.1.11 Steps have being taken to establish an internal library with Journals and Reference Books for the secretariat. Nearly 50 Scientific Journals have been subscribed to and several important publications on current environmental issues added to enrich the Library. Three separate rooms have been refurbished and a reading room equipped with computers has been established. A DVD/CD Library has also been established. Besides our staff, Local students and researchers are encouraged to make use of this Library.
- 2.1.12 A new look of SACEP Website has been developed in-house. Separate space has been dedicated for SASP and all its activities. Constant efforts are on to make this website interactive and more useful for the member countries. The site is being updated periodically.
- 2.1.13 The 3rd IMM approved the following programmes to be taken under SAS Programme for the period 2005 - 2007
- 1. Persuasion of projects approved by the 2nd IMM seeking funding for their implementation:
 - 2. New project areas identified by the meeting:
 - i) Natural Disaster Management with respect to Storm Surges and tsunamis
 - Identification of coastal areas vulnerable for seawater flooding 2005-06
 - Education and awareness 2005-06
 - Adoption and Evaluation of Ecosystem services in Coastal and marine areas. 2006-07
 - Capacity building in mitigation measures such as creation/maintenance of natural defences like sand dunes, coastal plantation, coral reef, mangroves 2006-07
 - ii) Management of Coastal and Marine Protected Areas
 - Coral Reefs and Sea Grass-2006-07
 - Mangroves-2005-06
 - Lagoons-enhancing the tidal influx 2006-07
 - 3. South Asian Regional Oil Contingency Plan:
The meeting recognised the importance of the early operationalisation of South Asian Regional Oil Spill Contingency Plan and requested the 2 countries who have yet agree to

the signing of the concerned MOU to kindly pursue with the relevant authorities and convey their concurrence to the SAS Secretariat so that the SAS Secretariat could convene a Special Meeting for the formal signing of the MOU followed back to back with IMO Regional Training Exercise pertaining to some important elements of the plan.

3 Programme Activities :

3.1 Completed Activities :

- 3.1.1 A MoU was signed with UNEP, Division of Environment Conventions (DEC), Nairobi for **“Multilateral Environmental Agreements Negotiators Regional Training Workshop (MEA-N)”**. The workshop was held from 5 – 7 October, 2005 in Colombo, Sri Lanka and 35 participants from 09 countries attended the workshop. The Report of this workshop was released at the 10 GC-SACEP.
- 3.1.2 A MoU signed with UNEP for **“Rapid Assessment of the Environmental Damage due to the Tsunami Disaster in Sri Lanka”**. The Tsunami Task Force was established in Sri Lanka which submitted its report to the Government on both the Brown and Green Assessment of the damage. The MoU culminated on 31st December 2005. SACEP recovered 10% Administrative Charges for the services rendered by the Secretariat under the MoU.
- 3.1.3 A MoU signed with the International Maritime Organization (IMO) for a **Regional Seminar / Workshop on Ratification and Implementation of the OPRC-HNS Protocol, the AFS Convention and Identification and Establishment of PSSA's**. The workshop was held in Chennai, India from 3 – 6 October 2005. 32 Participants from 14 countries from the Asia Pacific region attended.
- 3.1.4 A MoU was signed with IMO for the conduction of **Regional Workshop on The OPRC, OPRC/HNS Protocol, The BWM, AFS Conventions and PSSA's** in Colombo. The workshop was attended by 22 delegates from 5 countries from the South Asia region. International consultants were provided by the IMO and the host facilities were provide by the Government of Sri Lanka.
- 3.1.5 Progress has been made for the finalization of Regional Oil Spill Contingency Plan that was drafted in 1999 and agreed upon in 2000. An MOU was drafted in the year 1999 and presented to the countries for endorsement. Initially 3 member states, namely Bangladesh, India, and Sri Lanka agreed to the signing of the MOU. On a subsequent date Maldives too agreed to the MOU. Pakistan agreed to the signing of the MOU subject to certain amendments. The Governments of Bangladesh, Maldives and Sri Lanka have agreed to these amendments proposed by Pakistan. The Secretariat is awaiting the concurrence of the Government of India to these amendments
- 3.1.6 A report was published on the **“Workshop on Integrated Coastal Area and River Basin Management in South Asia,”** held in Chennai in 7-10th April, 2003.
- 3.1.7 A MoU with CEE-India (Ahmedabad) has been concluded during October 2006. Under this CEE-SACEP initiative **“A Scoping Exercise on Adaptation to Climate Change”** was conducted on 10th January 2007 in which government representatives and experts participated to consider a regional status of the priorities on adaptation to Climate Change under a consultative process. The report was finalised and submitted to the 10th GC. The report was greatly appreciated and the 10th GC directed the DG to take action on the recommendations of the report. The CEE committed US \$ 10,000 for this project. A Report on the Scoping exercise has been published.
- 3.1.8 MoU between Society for Development Alternatives, India and SACEP was signed for the period 26th February 2007 to 31 July 2007 to facilitate the development of need based responses in the region. Under the MoU, **“A Scoping Exercise on E-waste Management in South Asia”** was conducted in New Delhi on 21st September, 2007. DA and SACEP are working together to implement the above stated scoping exercise in countries associated with SACEP. The DA had committed US \$ 10,000 for this project. A report on the Scoping exercise is under publication.
- 3.1.9 “Two national training programmes on CHM for developing capacities of Post Graduate students and researchers with respect to CHM.” Each was for 4 days and were conducted successfully in Colombo, Sri Lanka in March 2007 There were attended by 49 trainees from 8 Universities of Sri Lanka. The programme was well appreciated and there was heavy demand for similar programmes not only for postgraduate students but also for Government officials. Request for the same has been sent to the Royal Belgium Institute to include more programmes in their activities. Other

donors were contacted and UNESCO came forward to support one such programme that was conducted for Government Officials of Sri Lanka from 28 – 30 March 2008 with the help of the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, Government of Sri Lanka

3.1.10 **School Environment Awareness Programme**

The School Environment Awareness Programme on SACEP's priority areas was conducted in Sri Lanka in collaboration with the CEE, with the participation of the several schools in the Colombo municipal area. The response has been extremely good in the Painting, Essay and Poster competitions held in various categories. SACEP has organised the Award ceremony on 16th of July, 2007 at the Mahaweli Center Auditorium, Colombo 7. Chief Guest Hon. Mr. Mahan Thakur, Chairman of SACEP and Minister of Environment, Science and Technology, Government of Nepal graces the occasion. A Panel discussion on "Adaptation Strategies to Sea Level Rise in South Asia" and a Video presentation on Sea Level Rise was screened to show the global picture followed by an awards ceremony to the winners of the School Environment competition. A representative of the Best and most active winning School was fully sponsored to participate in the 4th International Conference on Environmental Education 26-28 November, Ahmedabad, India. The Standard Charter Bank has been gracious enough to sponsor the other awards for this function.

3.1.11 **Coastal Clean Up Programme**

The 3rd week of September is observed globally as the International Coastal Clean up Day and South Asian Countries has been observing this day since 2006, with activities coming under the Marine Litter Programme.

The major player in the region has been the Government of India and to a lesser extent the other 4 member states of SAS

The International Coastal Clean up Day was jointly organised in India by SACEP / SAS, The Indian Coast Guard and the National Institute of Ocean Technology, Chennai on 16th September 2006 & 2007

The International Coastal Cleanup Day 2007 (ICC Day 2007) was successfully organized in all coastal areas of India. The event was a grand success.

The Government of India appointed Dr. R. Venkatesan, Group Head, Ocean Science and Technology for Islands, National Institute of Ocean Technology, Chennai, as the national consultant for the UNEP-SACEP/SAS. The Ministry of Defence on the other hand appointed the Indian Coast Guard as the coordinating agency for the event since environment protection is one of the statutory duties of the Coast Guard. These two agencies coordinated the programme at the national level.

The other member countries of SAS also observed the International Coastal Clean up Day in September 2007..

It is hoped that all member countries continue to celebrate the International Coastal Clean up day and observe this day on a bigger scale to spread more awareness about Marine Litter

3.2 **Ongoing Activities**

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

Completed Activities :

Under the Project, the first workshop titled ***"Regional Resource Coordination and Mobilisation Workshop for the Long-term Management and Conservation of MCPAs in South Asia"*** was held in Colombo during

27th and 28th September 2006. This was attended by 27 delegates from the five member countries and International Organisations like ICRAN, IMM, CORDIO, IUCN

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

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

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

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

Future Activities :

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

- a) Development and production of an interactive regional communication strategy
- b) Development and production of training curricula for optimised MCPA management
- c) Implementation of training for staff at MCPA sites
- d) Implementation of maritime law enforcement training with staff from existing MCPAs
- e) Implementation of environmental education programs with coastal communities in the vicinity of existing MCPA sites
- f) Development of South Asia Coastal Resource Task Force (SACRTF)
- g) Development of accessible centralised information conduit and resource base
- h) Development of interactive coral reef stakeholder network
- i) Strengthened capacity of policy makers, planners and managers to design and implement livelihood enhancement and diversification for poor reef users
- j) Long-term coral reef management in South Asia

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

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

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

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

- A. The Study of Economic Significance of Coastal Region of Sri Lanka in the Context of Environmental Changes of Pre and Post Tsunami***
- B. Report of the Study of Socio-Economic Aspects of Coastal Regions and Squatters with Special Reference to the Western Province***

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

- 3.2.4 A ***“Letter of Agreement with International Maritime Organization”*** has been signed in compliance of the 9th Governing Council decision, to facilitate the consultation on matters of common interest to both organizations, with a view to ensure maximum co-ordination of the work and activities of the respective organizations in respect to such matters. The 24th Regular Session of the IMO Assembly had approved the LoA and the signing was completed on 16th December 2005.
- 3.2.5 A MoU with UNEP was signed on 16th November 2005 for general SASP coordination, the ***“Development of a regional activity on Marine Litter for the SAS region, the development of a regional activity on Sustainable and Environmentally sound management of POPs in the South Asian Seas Region and the preparation of a GEF PDF-A proposal on Persistent Toxic substances in SAS region”***. Under the Marine Litter project, International Beach Cleaning Day was observed on 18th September, 2006 and 2007 in India with the help of the Indian Coast Guard, who have been designated as the nodal agency by the Ministry of Defence, several Indian Universities and colleges, the NIOT, Chennai and several NGOs. The programme was observed in several places along the Indian Coastline and more than 30,000 people participated in the programme every year. In 2007, the main function was held in Chennai where it was graced by the Hon’ Governor of Tamilnadu.

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

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

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

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

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

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

- 3.2.6 A MoU with the World Conservation Union (IUCN) has been concluded during the month of August 2006. The MoU outlines the intention to cooperate in the areas of common programmes in South Asia. Several collaborations have been developed with IUCN under this MoU including the SLED approach in the EU Project, the help of IUCN in the SAWTI initiative and the collaboration between SACEP and IUCN in the Mangroves for the Future Programme.
- 3.2.7 UNESCO, India Regional Office and SACEP signed a co-operation Agreement (USCA) on 21st March 2007 to undertake joint activities in many areas of environmental management. A proposal to hold a ***“National training programme on biodiversity management and the CHM”*** was prepared and submitted to the UNESCO for funding. Subsequently, UNESCO signed an agreement for co-funding of 5000 USD for the project and efforts are underway for conducting the exercise. The training Programme has been finalized to be conducted from 28th-30th April 2008 in Colombo with the help of the Ministry of Environment, who have agreed to contribute SLR 2,50,000 for the Project. The occasion will be graced by the Hon’ Patali Champika Ranawaka, the Minister of Environment, Government of Sri Lanka and Ms Minja Yang, the Director, UNESCO regional office, New Delhi. Similar proposals are being prepared for other countries of the region. Several other programmes have been developed and implemented under this MoU. An International Workshop on ***“Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Reserve: an ecological model for Biodiversity Conservation, Livelihood and Sustainability”*** was held under the joint collaboration of the Govt. of India (NBA), UNESCO and SACEP in Chennai on September 20-21, 2007. This was inaugurated by the Hon’ Minister of State for Environment, India and the Director General, SACEP, Dr Boaz, gave the keynote address. Another major programme was the organization of the ***“International Workshop on Environmental Education”*** with UNESCO and CEE and the Government of India in which the Director General, SACEP gave the Special Valedictory address along with the Valedictory by Dr M.S. Swaminathan and the Director General of UNESCO, Mr. Masahiro Kochiro who gave the Closing Speech.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Since the BCRC will deal with the transboundary movement of Hazardous waste SASP will be able to derive great benefit from its establishment in SACEP.

- 3.2.9 **Mangroves for the Future :** Discussions are being carried out with the regional office of IUCN in Bangkok for SACEP to become a collaborator in the Mangroves for the Future Project being undertaken by IUCN. During the course of the Mangroves For the Future (MFF) consultations, SACEP expressed an interest in collaborating as partners in the implementation of this programme of work. This includes interests in developing and partnering in new projects, as well as the existence of ongoing or planned projects and programmes which contribute towards MFF results and objectives. SACEP has identified the key areas to be engaged in the activities for 2007, and proposed different approaches that SACEP would be interested in undertaking, in collaboration with the IUCN (for the year 2007). These come under six, out of the fifteen broad programmes of work mentioned in the action plan and they cover the principal areas of collaboration included in the MoU. Discussions were held with IUCN in the way that SACEP and IUCN could collaborate in the implementation of MFF.
- 3.2.10 **Collaboration with UN DOALOS :** A meeting was organized with the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Laws of the Sea (DOALOS), Office of Legal Affairs during the 8th Meeting of the Consultative Process was held during 25-29 at the UN Head-Quarters, New York. During this meeting between Mr. Vaclav Mikulka, Director, DOALOS and Dr Arvind Boaz, Director General, SACEP, discussions were held on collaboration between SACEP and DOALOS on the delivery of a number of capacity building activities that DOALOS is presently engaged in. The SAS and DOALOS Secretariat are now finalising arrangements for the implementation of 2 major activities. The first is the conduct of a **“Regional Training Course on the Development, Implementation and Management of Marine Protected Areas in the South Asian Seas Region”** and the second is the conduct of a **“Two Week Scanning Phase Workshop in connection with the UNEP Shelf Programme.”** The first of these activities is planned for the 2nd half of 2008. The total budget for the Regional Training Course is estimated at US \$ 97,000 of which UN-DOALOS has committed US \$ 33,500. SAS and UN-DOALOS are expected to raise the balance funding through partners, national governments and other funding agencies. SAS Secretariat requests the member countries to pledge support for this programme.
- 3.2.11 **Collaboration with SAARC Disaster Management Centre for Developing Coastal and Marine Risk Mitigation Plan for South Asia**
- In pursuit of implementation of the decisions of various SAARC forums especially with regard to the coastal regions of South Asia, the SAARC Coastal Zone Management Centre (SCZMC) Maldives organised an Expert Group Meeting in April 2007 to draft SAARC Coastal Zone Management Action Plan. One of the identified issues was that of coastal and marine hazards and the Expert Group recommended that SAARC Disaster Management Centre (SDMC) be requested to prepare a Coastal and Marine Mitigation Plan and the Governing Boards of SCZMC & SDMC endorsed this recommendation
- 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

Present Status

A workshop was held in 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.

SACEP / SAS are expected to play an important role in the implementation of the Regional Mitigation Plan.

3.2.12 Development of a National Regional Strategic Framework on Global Invasive Species

A) BACKGROUND

The Global Invasive Species Programme

The mission of Global Invasive Species Programme (GISP) is to conserve biodiversity and sustain human livelihoods by minimising the spread and deleterious impacts of invasive alien species. GISP's main focus is to promote global co-operation in invasive species prevention and management, by fostering cross-sectoral collaboration between relevant international instruments and organizations. GISP has a mandate to support the implementation of Article 8(h) of the Convention of Biological Diversity, which addresses the issue of invasive alien species.

Set up in 1997, GISP was initially a small, mainly voluntary partnership programme. In early 2005, GISP was constituted as a legal entity with Founding Members IUCN, CABI, The Nature Conservancy, and the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI). The GISP Secretariat – sponsored primarily by the World Bank through the Bank Netherlands Partnership Programme and Development Grant Facility – is based in Cape Town, South Africa.

Following the distribution of a flyer advertising the training course at COP 8 in Curitiba in March, and at the IMO-UNEP Forum in London, both the UNEP-RS Office in Nairobi, and the GISP Secretariat, had received numerous requests to have the training course presented in various Regional Seas areas. We are therefore in the process of developing an 18-month programme which would see the delivery of the training course in at least 6 of our regions by the end of 2007.

SACEP had expressed its interest during the IMO-UNEP Forum, and an offer was received from UNEP for the conduct of a Training Course for the South Asian Seas Region, This was in May 2007.

However there was a change in the Focal Point in UNEP and the responsibility for the conduct of such training programmes was shifted to the International Oceans Institute of Southern Africa University of the Western Cape South Africa

SACEP has been in communication with IOI in South Africa and it proposed to conduct such a training programme during the course of 2008

Title of Course:

Training Course on the Management of Marine and Coastal Invasive Species

Modules

- Introduction to Marine & Coastal Invasive Species
- Goals and Principles of Invasive Species Management
- Prevention
- Early detection and Rapid Response
- Incursion Management
- The International Response
- Developing a National Strategic Framework
- Communication, Education and Public Awareness

There would be 2 participants from each of the 5 SAS countries participating and IOI would provide the training staff and will conduct the Training Course

B) Present Status

Negotiations are currently on with IOI South Africa for the conduct of this Training Course. The estimated cost is around US \$ 59,000 of which the commitment of the Host Government and SACEP will be US \$ 16,000

There is a possibility that this course being dovetailed to a Regional Training Programme conducted by the Government of Sri Lanka and if so, the commitment from IOI would be reduced.

The time frame for this activity is during the course of 2008

3.2.13 Globallast Programme – Development of a South Asian Seas Plan

SAS has been selected by IMO as a special area for the development of a South Asian Seas Plan for the promotion and implementation of the Globallast Programme of IMO

At the 1st South Asia Regional Meeting on Ballast Water Control and Management the Development of South Asian Seas Plan was discussed.

The meeting welcomed the ongoing activities of the GEF/UNDP/IMO Global Ballast Water Management Programme (GloBallast) and in particular its regional component

It recalled the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), in its Agenda 21, requested countries to consider the adoption of appropriate measures to prevent the spread of non-indigenous organisms, and further to the appeal, in its Declaration on Environment and Development, that States apply the precautionary approach according to their capabilities;

It noted that the Adoption of the International Convention on the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments by IMO member States on 13 February 2004;

It also recognised the recent and ongoing significant increase in shipping activity in the seas of South Asia and the associated risks of new invasions of harmful species and pathogens;

The meeting agreed to the following

1. To adopt the Regional Strategy and Action Plan (SAP) for Ballast Water Management and Control in the South Asian Seas Region;
2. to designate National Lead Agencies and form inter-ministerial/cross-sectoral National Task Forces for ballast water control and management issues form a Regional Task Force (RTF) and adopt the Terms of Reference (ToR) for the RTF
3. To support the rapid entry into force and implementation of the International Convention on the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments
4. recommended that the issue of invasive aquatic species and ballast water transfers be recognized and given priority by existing regional programmes such as SACEP, BOB LME and others and that related activities under these programmes be coordinated with the Regional SAP to Minimize the Transfer of Harmful Aquatic Organisms and Pathogens in Ships' Ballast Water
5. It also recommended that participating countries, relevant regional programmes including SACEP, the GEF Bay of Bengal LME project and GloBallast, and multilateral donors such as World Bank, GEF, ADB, UNEP, UNDP, IMO and others consider funding and/or otherwise supporting the implementation of technical cooperation projects on ballast water control and management under the framework of the Regional Action Plan; &
6. That GEF, UNDP and IMO secure continuation and replication of the GloBallast Programme within the timeframe needed to ensure a seamless implementation of the International Convention on the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments in the South Asian Region.

Follow up on Globallast Programme

There have been recent discussions with Dr. Jose Matheickal, Project Co-ordinator in IMO

As a follow up to the initial Phase of this programme, IMO is currently developing a stakeholder consultation plan for the GloBallast Partnerships PDF-B process.

There is a possibility that some funds will be available for implementing some areas identified in the Regional Action Plan which was finalised at the Singapore Regional Meeting.

They will keep us posted of the developments.

4. Major Milestones during 2005-2008:

- 4.1 It was for the first time in the History of SASP that the South Asian Seas Programme Chairman, H E Ahmad Abdullah, Minister of Environment, Energy and Water, Government of Maldives graced the

SACEP activities in Colombo twice- Once at the Launch of the SACRTF on 27th July 2007 and then again on the occasion of the First meeting of the SACRTF on 21st December 2007.

- 4.2 Similarly, the current Chairman, SACEP Governing Council, H E Mahant Thakur, Minister of Environment and Forests Nepal, visited SACEP Secretariat with his Secretary, Joint Secretary and other officers on 16-19th July 2007 and graced the occasion of the School Awareness Programme held on the SASP issues.
 - 4.3 SACEP also had the privilege of H. E Mr. Patali Champika Ranawaka, Minister of Environment, Government of Sri Lanka gracing some of the major activities of SACEP like the First Meeting of the Coral Reef Task Force on 21.12.07.
 - 4.4 The Hon' Minister of State for Environment, India, HE Thirumigu S. Raghupati Avl graced the opening ceremony of the SACEP-UNESCO-NBA Workshop on the Gulf of Mannar Biosphere reserve in Chennai on 20th September 2007
 - 4.5 The Director General of SACEP has presented more than 50 Papers and Presentations at International Meetings and Workshops to spread the word about the various activities of the SASP during the period 2005-2007. He has also been invited to deliver Key Note Address and Valedictory Address at various International meetings.
- 5 Request the 4th Inter Ministerial Meeting, South Asia Seas Programme to:**
- 5.1 Endorse the SASP Work Programme 2009 – 2010.
 - 5.2 Challenge grant for SACRTF
 - 5.3 Approval of Marine Litter Framework for Action
 - 5.4 Enhancement of
 - a) SASP Country Contributions
 - b) Establishment of SASP Corpus Fund
 - c) Commitment of Country Governments for suitable Building Complex of SACEP that houses the SASP in Colombo as the allotment of Land by Sri Lankan Government to SACEP is in a very advanced stage.
 - 5.5 Setup possible dates and country for the 5th IMM meeting

6. Financial Matters:

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

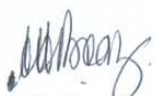
Payment of arrears and Country Contributions by the Countries of SASP

SASP Country Contribution Status: From 2002 - 10th April 2008

Country	Arrears up to 2004	Agreed CC for 2005	Received CC for 2005	Total Arrears up to 2005	Agreed CC for 2006	Received CC 2006	Arrears up to Dec 2006
	US \$	US \$	US \$	US \$	US \$	US \$	US \$
Bangladesh	17,852.40	13,335.00		31,187.40	13,335.00		44,522.40
India	64,395.00	32,185.00		96,580.00	32,185.00	96,580.00	32,185.00
Maldives	24,471.00	5,975.00		30,446.00	5,975.00	36,421.00	0.00
Pakistan	74,225.50	27,130.00		101,355.50	27,130.00	54,260.00	74,225.50
Sri Lanka	17,518.02	13,335.00	30,561.94	291.08	13,335.00	12,990.37	635.71
TOTAL	198,461.92	91,960.00	30,561.94	259,859.98	91,960.00	200,251.37	151,568.61
Country	Arrears as at Dec 2006	Agreed CC 2007	Received CC 2007	Arrears up to Dec 07	Agreed CC for 2008	Received CC 2008	Arrears from 2002 - 10 Apr 08
	US \$	US \$	US \$	US \$	US \$	US \$	US \$
Bangladesh	44,522.40	13,335.00		57,857.40	13,335.00		71,192.40
India	32,185.00	32,185.00	32,185.00	32,185.00	32,185.00		64,370.00
Maldives	0.00	5,975.00		5,975.00	5,975.00	5,975.00	5,975.00
Pakistan	74,225.50	27,130.00	27,157.10	74,198.40	27,130.00		101,328.40
Sri Lanka	635.71	13,335.00		13,970.71	13,335.00	8,469.08	18,836.63
TOTAL	151,568.61	91,960.00	59,342.10	184,186.51	91,960.00	14,444.08	261,702.43
Interest Earned			Year 2005	237.52			
Fixed Deposit Interest Earned			Year 2006	3,051.68			
Fixed Deposit Interest Earned			Year 2007	24,356.95			
Fixed Deposit Interest Earned			Year 2008	4,100.37			
Total Interest – SASP				31,746.52			

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

Activity	Donor	Budget
MoU between SACEP and UNEP on Updating Regional Seas Report / Co-ordination of South Asian Seas Action Plan	UNEP	30,000.00
MoU between SACEP and UNEP on Strategic Planning and Developing Market Based Instruments for the Medium to Long Term Strategic Planning of the Implementation of the Sri Lanka National Programme of Action (MBI / NPA)	UNEP-GPA	64,000.00
MoU between UNEP SACEP for UNEP's Asian Tsunami Disaster Task Force	UNEP	87,050.00
LoA between IMO and SACEP / Regional Workshop on Measures to Collect, Handle, Treat and Dispose of Waste Generated in Applying the AFS Convention, Chennai, India	IMO	71,998.00
MoU between South Asian Seas Action Plan(SASAP), SACEP and UNEP Regional Seas / co-ordination of SAS Action Plan, Marine Litter Activity & POP's and PDF A Proposal	UNEP	53,400.00
OPRC-HNS Workshop	IMO	35,000.00
Project Sanctioned by European Commission for the SACEP/ICRAN Coral Reef Work in South Asia (Three Year Project)	European Commission 875,907.43Euros	1,162,583.00
MoU SACEP-CEE, Scoping Exercise on Climate Change	CEE, Ahmedabad	10,000.00
School Awareness Programme	Government of Sri Lanka, Standard Charter Bank, CEE, SAYEN	5000.00
"Regional Training Course on the Development, Implementation and Management of Marine Protected Areas in the South Asian Seas Region"	UN DOALOS, SACEP,	33,500.00
Support for SACEP to attend International Meetings (2005-2007)	Various Organisation	65,238.00
Interest to date on Project account (2006-2008)	-	14256.80
GRAND TOTAL		1,632,025


(Dr. A. A. Boaz)
Director General

SOUTH ASIAN SEAS PROGRAMME

Agenda Item 5 (b)

PROGRAMME AREA: Marine Litter Management in the South Asian Seas Region

OBJECTIVE:

Development of a Framework for Marine Litter Management in the South Asian Seas Region

A) BACKGROUND

1. The Governing Council decision 22/2 IIIA on the United Nations Environment Programme/ Regional Seas Programme, called for the utilization of the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans as a platform for the regional implementation of multilateral environmental agreements and global programmes and initiatives. According to the resolution on "Oceans and the Law of the Sea" (A/59/L.22 adopted as resolution 59/25), in paragraph 92, the sixth meeting of the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea, which took place at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 6 to 10 June 2005 organised its discussions around the issues of abandoned fishing gear and related marine debris. The eighth special session of the UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum, held in Jeju, Republic of Korea, from 29 to 31 March 2004, at its 6th plenary meeting on 31 March, adopted the decision SS.VIII/4 on Waste Management, on the basis of drafts approved and submitted by the Committee of the Whole.
2. Within the above mentioned context, and within the context of UNEP's support to the South Asia Seas Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP), Secretariat to the South Asian Seas Regional Seas Programme (SAS), bearing in mind that marine litter is a priority activity for both the SAS and UNEP's Regional Seas Programme, UNEP supported the SAS Secretariat for the development of Regional Activity on Marine Litter in the South Asian Seas.

B. OBJECTIVE

3. The objective of this activity was to assist in the environmental protection and sustainable management and development of the South Asian Seas region through the development of a regional activity on marine litter.

C. ACTIVITIES

4. A MOU was entered into between UNEP and SACEP, and under the terms of this MoU, SACEP in consultation with the UNEP Regional Seas Coordinating Office (RSCO), the following activities were undertaken

Activity A - Preparation of a Review Document on Marine Litter in the South Asian Seas Region, on both the national and regional levels, which will include, among others: collection of information and review of existing institutional arrangements; data and information on marine litter in the marine and coastal environment; legal and administrative instruments; programmes and initiatives; identification of gaps and needs in coverage of marine litter management; and proposals for changes and recommendations.

Such review document should be based on national reports (preferably based on standard questionnaires) and their compilation and other available documents and information, such as relevant scientific papers and other sources and literature.

Activity B - Development of proposal(s) for national and regional monitoring and assessment programmes, including the development of appropriate methodologies, to assess quantities, compositions, distribution patterns and trends of marine litter in the South Asian Seas region. The

methodologies suggested should preferably be based on successful experiences gained in other regions.

Activity C – Organisation of a regional meeting of national authorities and experts on marine litter in order to assess the regional situation, discuss the products of Activity A and B above, and discuss the draft framework document “Regional Activity on Marine Litter in the South Asian Seas” (Activity E below).

Activity D – Organization of the participation of the South Asian Seas countries in a Regional Beach Clean Up Day, within the framework of the International Coastal Cleanup 2006 and 2007 Campaign

Activity E - Preparation of a Framework Document 'Regional Activity on Marine Litter in the South Asian Seas'. This document should include, among others, the strategic approach, a costed programme of work, potential regional and international partners, a list of operational activities and recommended sources for funding.

The Framework Document once agreed upon by the Member countries will be formally presented to the 4th IMM of SAS for adoption.

5. The draft Framework Document “Regional Activity on Marine Litter in South Asian Seas” should include, amongst others, and when feasible, the following elements:

- Programme of enhancement of national/regional legal and administrative instruments; national/regional programmes and initiatives; and national/regional institutional arrangements;
- Programme of implementation of regional and national monitoring programmes including suggested methodologies;
- Development of regional and national strategies on integrated management of marine litter (including regional guidelines for the wise management of marine and coastal litter);
- Recommended programmes of co-operation with the civil society (private sector, NGOs and the scientific community). Programmes to develop partnerships, voluntary agreements and cooperation with major stakeholders (e.g., shipping industry, tourism industry, fisheries, manufacturers of plastics, waste managers/services, local authorities, municipalities and communities, NGOs and general public);
- Development of campaigns and /or permanent services for the cleaning and collecting of solid wastes that pollute coastal and marine areas; Demonstrations through awareness-raising campaigns in selected destinations and with selected stakeholders;
- Participation, as the South Asian Seas region in the annual International Coastal Cleanup Campaigns (September of every year);
- Development of 'responsible citizenship' guidelines for different sectors and target audiences, in particular: children and students, tourists, municipal authorities and local communities, shipping companies, ship and smaller vessels crews; commercial and recreation fishing vessels, and other identified target groups;
- Public awareness and education campaigns through the preparation of brochures in various languages, the use of the media, etc.;
- Development of professional sectorial guidelines for the wise management of marine litter (e.g., tourism, boating, diving, cruise lines, fisheries, coastal construction);
- Plans for the improvement of port reception facilities and services for garbage collection from the shipping and fishing industries;

- Development and improvement of waste management policies and systems;
- Identification and approach to potential funding sources (including Governments) for various components and activities of the Regional Activity on Marine Litter in the South Asian Seas; and
- Development of strategies and approaches for funding high cost initiatives (such as port reception facilities, landfills, fisheries, etc.). These should include approaches to the World Bank, Regional Investment Bank, Global Environment Facility (GEF) and other international financing institutions.

D. PRESENT STATUS

As per the project, 500 copies of the publication titled Marine Litter in the South Asian Seas Region were printed. This document is in two parts. Part one contains a Review of Marine Litter in the SAS Region whilst part two spells out the Framework for Marine Litter Management in the SAS Region. The printed report has been widely distributed in the region and to all relevant agencies, including other Regional Seas Secretariats.

Under this project the Indian Coast Guard was assigned the task prepare video film on the International Coastal Cleanup Day activity 2007 in India. This film is now ready for release and a copy will be made available to the member countries shortly

With the assistance of the member governments and through a Regional Consultant and National Consultants from each of the member countries, the above activities were successfully concluded, The SAS Secretariat will formally present as envisaged, the Framework Document 'Regional Activity on Marine Litter in the South Asian Seas' for consideration adoption by the 4th Intergovernmental Ministerial Meeting.

Pending formal approved SAS Secretariat has identified 4 project areas, namely, a) Capacity Building (Training and Awareness); b) Beach Clean Up – An Approach to Control and Manage Coastal Litter in the SAS Region; c) Creation of Port Reception Facilities;; d) Solid Waste Management in The SAS Region for Marine Litter Management, to develop specific project proposals based on the framework document and seeks the support from United Nations Organisations and donor communities for support in the implementation of the same. The outline of these project proposals is spelt out in the envisaged work programme for 2008 – 2009.

SOUTH ASIAN SEAS PROGRAMME

Agenda Item 5 (c)

PROGRAMME AREA: Oil Spill Contingency Planning

OBJECTIVE:

Setting up of a Regional Activity Centre within SAS for Implementation of a Regional Oil Contingency Plan and also for the Port Reception Facility under MARPOL

BACKGROUND

The Regional Seas Programme was initiated by UNEP in 1974. Since then the Governing Council of UNEP has repeatedly endorsed a regional approach to the control of marine pollution and the management of marine and coastal resources and has requested the development of regional action plans.

Following the report of a mission to the coastal States by a consultant appointed by UNEP the South Asia Seas region was established by UNEP in 1983 (Governing Council Decision 11/7). It includes the marine and coastal areas of Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. The region was included in the Regional Seas Programme in close collaboration with the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP) and governments in the region.

South Asia not only imports much of its own consumption of oil but India, Maldives, Pakistan and Sri Lanka lie close to the main shipping route from the Middle East to the Far East. A total of some 525 million tonnes a year of crude oil pass through the region – about 25% of total world movement of crude oil by sea. Additional maritime oil spill risks arise from non-tanker shipping, carriage of refined products, offshore exploration and production operations, and the transfer of oil cargoes at sea.

Although there is some capacity within the Region to respond to oil spills in harbour and at sea, and the five countries continue to develop or enlarge their capabilities, the response to a major spill at sea would probably require the co-operation of the other States in the Region, or assistance from further a field. A Regional Plan is an important first step towards supplementing individual States' response capabilities.

The International Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Co-operation, 1990 (OPRC) facilitates international co-operation and mutual assistance in preparing for and responding to a major oil pollution incident and encourages States to develop and maintain an adequate capability to deal with oil pollution emergencies. The basic obligation of this convention is for parties to establish a national system for responding promptly and effectively to oil pollution incidents which have, as a basic minimum, a national oil spill contingency plan, designated national authorities and operational focal points responsible for oil pollution preparedness and response, reporting and handling requests for assistance. In order to facilitate the operational aspects of oil spill monitoring and response, the OPRC Convention encourages parties to conclude bilateral or multilateral agreements for oil pollution preparedness and response.

Bangladesh, India and Pakistan are the only countries in the region to have ratified the OPRC 1990 Convention.

The position on the Conventions is summarised in the following table

	Bangladesh	India	Maldives	Pakistan	Sri Lanka
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	Bangladesh	India	Maldives	Pakistan	Sri Lanka
MARPOL 73/78 ANNEX I/II	18.3.03	24.12.86	20.8.05	22.2.95	24.9.97
INTERVENTION 69	4.2.82	14.9.00		13.4.95	11.7.83
INTERVENTION PROT 73				13.4.95	
CLC 69		30.7.87	14.6.81		11.7.83
CLC PROT 92		15.11.00	20.5.06	2.3.06	22.1.00
FUND 71		8.10.90	14.6.81		11.7.83
FUND PROT 92		21.6.01	20.5.06		22.1.00
SALVAGE 89		18.10.96			
OPRC 90	23.10.04	17.2.98		13.5.95	
OPRC HNS PROT 2000					
HNS 96					
Limitation of Liability for Maritime Claims (LLMC) 76		1.12.02			
LLMC PROT 96					
BWM 2004			22.6.05		

In order to assist the countries to ratify and implement the OPRC 90 Convention, UNEP in 1995 adopted the project **“Development and Implementation of National and Regional Oil Spill Contingency Planning”** as one of the six priority projects in its South Asia Regional Seas Action Plan. Prior to the adoption of this Action Plan, a UNEP/UNDP/IMO mission conducted in 1989 & compiled a Draft South Asian Marine Pollution Emergency Action Plan.

The purpose of the South Asian Regional Oil Spill Contingency Plan is to establish a mechanism for mutual assistance, under which the competent national Authorities of Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Pakistan and Sri Lanka will co-operate in order to co-ordinate and integrate their response to marine pollution incidents either affecting or likely to affect the territorial sea, coasts and related interests of one or more of these countries, or to incidents surpassing the available response capacity of each of these countries alone.

The general objective of the Plan is to organise a prompt and effective response to oil spills affecting or likely to affect the area of responsibility of one or more of the countries concerned and to facilitate their co-operation in the field of oil and chemical pollution preparedness and response.

For this purpose the following specific objectives are defined to:

- a) define areas of responsibility of the parties to the Plan;
- b) determine the extent of co-operation for the implementation of the Plan between the responsible authorities, at the operational level;

- c) specify the type of assistance which might be provided and the conditions under which it will be provided;
- d) divide the responsibilities and to provide for the transfer of responsibility from one State to another;
- e) establish the principles of command and liaison, and to define the corresponding structures;
- f) determine in advance the financial conditions and administrative modalities related to co-operative actions in case of emergency.

In order to achieve these objectives, the following actions referred to in the OPRC Convention are needed to implement the Regional Contingency Plan:

- a) developing national preparedness measures including an appropriate organisation and effective systems for detecting and reporting pollution incidents affecting or likely to affect the area of responsibility of the Parties;
- b) promoting and implementing regional co-operation in oil and chemical pollution contingency Planning, prevention, control and clean-up operations;
- c) establishing a minimum level of pre-positioned response equipment to restrict spreading and to minimise the hazard posed by oil and chemical spills;
- d) developing and implementing a programme of training courses and practical exercises for different levels of personnel involved in oil pollution prevention and combating;
- e) developing procedures to increase regional co-operation.

The Scope and Geographical Coverage of the Plan is intended to be a regional agreement between the following countries: Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

It applies to the waters which are under the jurisdiction of the parties for pollution purposes, including the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) or pollution zone, the territorial sea and internal waters. (The response to pollution in inland waterways which cross international boundaries would be a matter for bilateral arrangement between the riparian States.)

The Plan identifies the responsible authorities in each country, prescribes a co-ordinated response structure and establishes a method of operation for a joint response to an incident.

The Plan applies to marine spills of oil and hazardous substances which cause or could cause damage to the environment in countries neighbouring the source of the incident. It may also apply when only one country is affected but the magnitude is such that the incident requires assistance from another country.

The rationale for developing this project was that a draft South Asian Marine Pollution Emergency Action Plan was prepared by the IMO in 1989 based on inputs received from member countries. The plan reflected essentially the threats of oil pollution in the South Asian Seas Region based on information and statistics made available during 1989. The Marine Pollution Emergency Action Plan was not finalised, and it was recognised that there was an urgent need to develop a new regional oil spill contingency plan for the region.

As a first step in developing a South Asian Regional Contingency Plan, an IMO consultant undertook a mission to the region in November 1999 to assess the current status of preparedness and response in the region and to prepare a Draft Regional Oil and Chemical Pollution Contingency Plan for South Asia as well

as an overview report on oil spill preparedness in the five countries. A Meeting of Senior Officials was held in Colombo, Sri Lanka from 14 to 16 December 1999 to consider the Draft South Asian Oil Spill Contingency Plan. Representatives from the five countries Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Pakistan and Sri Lanka attended the meeting. The meeting discussed, commented and amended the draft Regional Contingency Plan. It was subsequently circulated to the five countries for further consideration and comments which were requested to be submitted to the SACEP Secretariat.

The Meeting of Senior Officials also prepared a preliminary draft of a Memorandum of Understanding aiming at establishing the basis for regional co-operation on preparedness and response to accidental marine pollution in the South Asian Region. The preliminary draft of the MOU has also been circulated to the countries for comments.

Pursuant to the decision of the meeting of Senior Officials held in Colombo from 14 to 16 December 1999, IMO jointly with the SACEP Secretariat convened and organised with the financing support of UNEP a High Level meeting to approve the draft Regional Contingency Plan and the draft Memorandum of Understanding for Co-operation on the response to marine oil and chemical spills in the South Asian Region. The High Level Meeting took place in Colombo, Sri Lanka from 4 to 6 December 2000. Its main objective was to finalise the Draft Regional Contingency plan and the Draft Memorandum of Understanding with a view to the South Asian countries representatives approving them at the meeting, prior to their final acceptance and signature by the South Asian Governments at a later date at the 2nd Intergovernmental Ministerial Meeting of the South Asian Seas Programme.

PRESENT STATUS

- a) Initially 4 member states, namely Bangladesh, India, Maldives and Sri Lanka agreed to the signing of the MOU with respect to the implementation of Regional Oil Spill Contingency Plan for South Asia
- b) Subsequently Government of Pakistan too agreed to the signing of the MOU subject to certain amendments
- c) These amendments were made available to the other 4 member state seeking their agreement to these amendments.
- d) The Governments of Bangladesh , Maldives & Sri Lanka have informed that they have no objections to these amendments and the Secretariat is currently awaiting the response from the Governments of India.
- e) Following the concurrence of the Government of India, the Secretariat is proposing the following:
 - i) The Convening of a Plenipotentiaries Meeting for the formal signing of the MOU, prior to which there should be a Meeting of Senior Officials to update the current Regional Oil Spill Contingency Plan. Funding and technical assistance from the International Maritime Organisation has been requested for.
 - ii) The meeting of Senior Officials will also decide initially on a two year work plan to operationalise Contingency Plan

The suggested venue be Sri Lanka and proposed budget is around US \$ 30,000. It is envisaged that IMO will offer technical and partial funding, with the Sri Lanka Government giving the necessary Host Country logistical and financial support.

LONG TERM OBJECTIVE Setting up of a Regional Activity Centre (RAC) for Oil Spill Contingency Plan

THE PROPOSED RAC

In order to implement the main objectives of the Regional Contingency Plan within the wider context of South Asia Seas Action Plan there is an urgent need to establish a Regional Activity Centre that would co-ordinate the regional activities in the field of Oil Spill preparedness and Response.

The **main responsibility** of the proposed RAC would entail the planning and assistance in management of contingencies for large oil spills based on national, regional and international cooperation as spelled out in the OPRC Convention. This RAC would thus come under the umbrella of UNEP/SACEP and IMO with links to the relevant Ministries in each participating country.

The overall functions of that Oil Spill Preparedness and Response RAC still to be defined should include:

- Maintenance of an information database;
- Establishment of regional marine emergency contingency plans;
- Supervision and encouragement of the establishment and the running of reception facilities;
- Coordination of the control of ships visiting ports for MARPOL compliance;
- Training and Capacity building programmes;
- Establishment of Reporting and Communication systems;
- Preparation of inventories;
- Liaison with regional and international organisations; and
- Additional functions as found necessary to assist Parties in initiating operations to prevent and combat pollution on national and regional levels and in accordance with National and Regional Oil Spill Contingency Plans

For practical, technical, economical and legal reasons, it is considered advisable that the proposed RAC should not embark upon direct involvement with actual on scene oil spill combating efforts, the running of reception facilities or facilities to store oil spill combating response equipment. These activities should be left with national authorities. In the cases of emergencies an affected country (or countries) should be designated as the lead country (ies) and may call upon assistance from the neighbouring countries, according to the provisions the Regional Contingency Plan and under the OPRC Convention.

SOUTH ASIAN SEAS PROGRAMME

Agenda Item 5 (d)

PROGRAMME AREA: Coral Reef Conservation

OBJECTIVE:

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

Summary Report

FIRST REGIONAL RESOURCE COORDINATION AND MOBILISATION WORKSHOP FOR THE LONG-TERM MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION OF MCPAS IN SOUTH ASIA, COLOMBO, SRI LANKA, 27-28th SEPTEMBER 2006

First Regional Resource Co-ordination and Mobilisation workshop for the Long-term Management and Conservation of MCPAs in South Asia was held in Colombo on 27 and 28 September 2006.

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

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

2ND REGIONAL COORDINATION WORKSHOP FOR THE LONG TERM MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION OF MCPAS IN SOUTH ASIA AND LAUNCH OF SOUTH ASIA CORAL REEF TASK FORCE (SACRTF) COLOMBO, SRI LANKA, 25th - 27th July 2007

The Second Regional Resource Coordination and Mobilisation workshop for the Long-term Management and Conservation of MCPAs in South Asia was held in Colombo, Sri Lanka on 25-27 July 2007.

LAUNCH OF \SOUTH ASIA CORAL REEF TASK FORCE (SACRTF)

The launch ceremony of the SACRTF was inaugurated by the Chief Guest, HE Mr. Ahmad Abdullah, Chairman, South Asia Seas and Minister for Environment, Energy and Water, Republic of Maldives and the Guest of Honour, Justice C.G. Weeramantry, former Vice President, International Court of Justice by lighting the oil-lamp on 27th July, 2007 Colombo, Sri Lanka. . The SACRTF is only the second task force to be established in the world for conservation & Development of Coral Reefs.

PRESS CONFERENCE:

A press conference was held to celebrate the launch of the SACRTF to which many national media reporters (press and television) were invited and attended. Printed materials were distributed to the press to raise awareness of the South Asia MCPA project, and the SACRTF launched under the project. The project management team were on hand to field questions from the audience. Dr. Boaz reiterated the significance of the initiative for the region, also highlighting the role of SACEP as a coordinating body for environmental efforts in the region. Dr. Kristian Teleki, and Ms. Nicola Barnard provided the background and rationale behind the South Asia MCPA project, and its significance to the region as a milestone project, and presented information on the importance of the South Asia Coral Reef Task Force in enhancing cooperation and collaboration among stakeholders in the region, and as a mechanism to drive regional coral reef conservation efforts.

FIRST MEETING SOUTH ASIA CORAL REEF TASK FORCE (SACRTF) 21 DECEMBER 2007, COLOMBO, SRI LANKA.

The establishment of the South Asia Coral Reef Task Force (SACRTF) to facilitate the implementation of regional and international initiatives in the management of coral reefs and associated ecosystems, and to promote collaborative action, and transboundary responses to shared environmental challenges, was by endorsed by the country governments of the 5 maritime nations of South Asia, at the SACEP Governing Council Meeting in Nepal, in January 2007.

Through extensive consultation with key regional stakeholders, the role, mandate and structure of the SACRTF was developed, and the resulting constitution document endorsed by the participants of the second regional resource coordination workshop held on the 25-27th July 2007, in Colombo, Sri Lanka. SACRTF representatives have been selected in accordance with the constitution document and regional nominations.

This working meeting is the first official meeting of the SACRTF representatives was held on 21st December 2007 in Colombo. The Chief Guest on this occasion was Hon. Mr. Ahmed Abdullah, Minister of Environment Minister of Environment, Energy and Water, Republic of Maldives and Hon. Mr. Patali Champika Ranawaka, Minister of Environment & Natural Resources, Government of Sri Lanka was the Guest of Honour. The meeting was attended by the national members of the South Asia Coral Reef Task Force from Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. The International Community represented by IMM and IUCN.

Coral Reefs and Livelihoods Initiative Training Workshop – Tuticorin, India January 27 – February 3, 2007

The World Conservation Union (IUCN), Integrated Marine Management (IMM), International Coral Reef Action Network (ICRAN), Coral Reef Degradation in the Indian Ocean (CORDIO), and the South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme (SACEP), are working together to implement a regional project for the Long Term Management and Conservation of Marine and Coastal Resources in South Asia. A component of this project is focused on Livelihood Enhancement and Diversification within coral reef associated communities.

The first workshop (in a series of three) for the Coral Reefs and Livelihoods Initiative (CORALI) was held in Tuticorin – India - between January 27th – February 3rd 2007.

A core objective of CORALI was to develop and test a regionally appropriate approach to livelihood development in association with coral reef management. This approach built on best practice from around the world and draw on the rich experiences in the field of livelihood development in South Asia. The process used to develop and test this approach based around:

- 3 training and reflection workshops – held over a period of 8 months - which will provide space for field teams and practitioners to build a regionally appropriate approach for working with coral reef communities to develop sustainable livelihoods.
- Community based field work in order to develop the approach with 4 communities

This first workshop was for 8 days. At this workshop participants built a process for understanding livelihoods and livelihood change within coral reef dependent communities. They also created guidance for effective ways of building working relationships within these communities.

Coral Reef Livelihoods Initiative (CORALI)

One of the major projects under implementation by SACEP is the European Union (EU) funded project, “Long Term Management and Conservation of Marine and Coastal Resources in South Asia”. CORALI (Coral Reef Livelihoods Initiative), a component of the larger EU project, is carried out with the help of IMM and IUCN. The second CORALI workshop was held between 4-10 June 2007 in Sri Lanka to review Phase I of the fieldwork, and to develop phase II for implementation.

The Overall CORALI Pilot Fieldwork Objective is to develop and test a regionally appropriate approach to livelihood development in association with coral reef management.

Outputs:

- A key output of the first workshop in January/February 2007 was the development of a fieldwork methodology for the first phase of work.
- The first phase of the initiative concentrates on developing participants understanding of the nature of livelihoods in the areas
- To build the relationships and partnerships for sustainable development - understanding livelihoods and livelihood change.
- The fieldwork is being implemented by the participants over a period of 3 months between the periods of March-June 2007 in 6 sites:

Field Overview (March-June 2007)

India – Middle Andaman Island

Initial community meetings held, literature search been completed and livelihood data gathered from secondary sources. Partnerships forged with village leaders, actively involved with the field team in the collection of household data.

India – Lakshadweep Islands: Minicoy and Agatti

Review of secondary information and available data completed, field discussions held with fishermen, reef gleaners, construction workers, tourist resorts, youth groups, women’s Self Help Groups in both islands. Assessments of the situation and livelihood aspirations vis a vis the reef conservation and sustainability issues will also be conducted.

India – Gulf of Mannar: 5 Villages including Thirespuram and Inico Nager

Meetings with partners, unions, CBOs, self-help groups and traditional leaders held.
Household surveys and key informant surveys conducted.

Indonesia, Aceh, Weh Island: 3 villages of Le Meulee, Ujong Kareung and Anoi Itam

First meeting held at the end of April in Sabang, to share the activities and aims with the team. Information collected from the labour department, village offices, family planning department, and consultations held with these institutions.

Sri Lanka – Bar Reef

First round of field work was carried out and secondary information collected.

First round of assessment carried out in a village called Kudaw located in close proximity to the Bar Reef. 3 focal group discussion sessions and several interviews were conducted.

Maldives – Baa Atoll: Eydhafushi

Fieldwork initiated with the assistance of Ministry of Planning and National Development and Ministry of Environment Energy and Water.

SOUTH ASIAN SEAS PROGRAMME

Agenda Item 5 (e)

PROGRAMME AREA: Management of Marine and Coastal Invasive Species

OBJECTIVE:

Development of a National Regional Strategic Framework on Global Invasive Species

PROPOSED PLAN OF ACTION:

A) BACKGROUND

The Global Invasive Species Programme

The mission of Global Invasive Species Programme (GISP) is to conserve biodiversity and sustain human livelihoods by minimising the spread and deleterious impacts of invasive alien species. GISP's main focus is to promote global co-operation in invasive species prevention and management, by fostering cross-sectoral collaboration between relevant international instruments and organizations. GISP has a mandate to support the implementation of Article 8(h) of the Convention of Biological Diversity, which addresses the issue of invasive alien species.

Set up in 1997, GISP was initially a small, mainly voluntary partnership programme. In early 2005, GISP was constituted as a legal entity with Founding Members IUCN, CABI, The Nature Conservancy, and the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI). The GISP Secretariat – sponsored primarily by the World Bank through the Bank Netherlands Partnership Programme and Development Grant Facility – is based in Cape Town, South Africa.

The Convention on Biological Diversity

The Convention on Biological Diversity was one of the key agreements adopted at the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro. The Convention establishes three objectives: the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components, and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits from the use of genetic resources. Article 8(h) of the Convention states that Contracting Parties to the Convention should, as far as possible and appropriate, prevent the introduction of, control or eradicate those alien species that threaten ecosystems, habitats or species.

The desire to prevent the potentially serious negative impacts of invasive alien species in the marine environment is reflected in the Convention's programme of work on marine and coastal biological diversity, which incorporates the issue of invasive alien species as one of its five “programme elements”.

The past year has seen the emergence of a growing collaboration between the Marine and Coastal Programme under the CBD, the UNEP Regional Seas Programme, and the Global Invasive Species Programme on the issue of marine and coastal invasive species. One aspect of that collaboration has been the development of a training course on marine and coastal invasives, which was piloted in late 2005 in Tanzania in association with the Nairobi Convention.

Following the distribution of a flyer advertising the training course at COP 8 in Curitiba in March, and at the IMO-UNEP Forum in London, both the UNEP-RS Office in Nairobi, and the GISP Secretariat, had received numerous requests to have the training course presented in various Regional Seas areas. We are therefore in

the process of developing an 18-month programme which would see the delivery of the training course in at least 6 of our regions by the end of 2007.

SACEP had expressed its interest during the IMO-UNEP Forum, and an offer was received from UNEP for the conduct of a Training Course for the South Asian Seas Region, This was in May 2007.

However there was a change in the Focal Point and the responsibility for the conduct of such training programmes was shifted to the International Oceans Institute of Southern Africa University of the Western Cape South Africa

SACEP has been in communication with IOI in South Africa and it proposed to conduct such a training programme during the course of 2008

Title of Course:

Training Course on the Management of Marine and Coastal Invasive Species

Details of Training Course

Modules

- Introduction to Marine & Coastal Invasive Species
- Goals and Principles of Invasive Species Management
- Prevention
- Early detection and Rapid Response
- Incursion Management
- The International Response
- Developing a National Strategic Framework
- Communication, Education and Public Awareness

There would be 2 participants from each of the 5 SAS countries participating and IOI would provide the training staff and will conduct the Training Course

B) Present Status

Negotiations are currently on with IOI South Africa for the conduct of this Training Course. The estimated cost is around US \$ 59,000 of which the commitment of the Host Government and SACEP will be US \$ 16,000

There is a possibility that this course being dovetailed to a Regional Training Programme conducted by the Government of Sri Lanka and if so, the commitment from IOI would be reduced.

The time frame for this activity is during the course of 2008

SOUTH ASIAN SEAS PROGRAMME

Agenda Item 5 (f)

PROGRAMME AREA: Collaborative Activities between UN-DOALOS and SACEP/SAS

BACKGROUND

The **United Nations Convention on Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)**, also called the Law of the Sea Convention and the Law of the Sea Treaty is the international agreement that resulted from the third United Nations Convention [Conference] on the Law of the Sea, which took place from 1973 through 1982. The Law of the Sea Convention defines the rights and responsibilities of nations in their use of the world's oceans, establishing guidelines for businesses, the environment, and the management of marine natural resources. The Convention concluded in 1982 replaced four 1958 treaties. UNCLOS came into force in 1994, a year after Guyana became the 60th state to sign the treaty. To date 155 countries and the European Community have joined in the Convention. The United States has signed the treaty, but the Senate has not ratified it.

While the Secretary General of the United Nations receives instruments of ratification and accession and the UN provides support for meetings of states party to the Convention, the UN has no direct operational role in the implementation of the Convention. There is, however, a role played by organizations such as the International Maritime Organization, the International Whaling Commission, and the International Seabed Authority (the latter being established by the UN Convention).

In this context, the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (DOALOS) of the United Nations Office of Legal Affairs helps to coordinate the Organization's activities and programmes in the area of marine affairs. It is active in assisting and advising States in the integration of the marine sector in their development planning. It also responds to requests for information and advice on the legal, economic and political aspects of the Convention and its implications for States. Such information is used by States during the ratification process, in the management of the marine sector of their economies and in the development of a national sea-use policy.

PRESENT STATUS

Following discussions the Director General had with Senior Officials of UN-DOALOS at the UNICPOLOS Meeting in May 2007, SAS and DOALOS Secretariat are finalising arrangements for the implementation of 2 major activities. The first is the conduct of a **Regional Training Course on the Development, Implementation and Management of Marine Protected Areas in the South Asian Seas Region** and the second is the conduct of a **Two Week Scanning Phase Workshop in connection with the UNEP Shelf Programme**. The first of these activities is planned for the 2nd half of 2008.

FUNDING

The total budget for the Regional Training Course is estimated at US \$ 97,000 of which UN-DOALOS has committed US \$ 33,500. SAS and UN-DOALOS is expected to raise the balance funding through partners, national governments and other funding agencies

SOUTH ASIAN SEAS PROGRAMME

Agenda Item 5 (g)

PROGRAMME AREA: Areas of Co-operation with International Maritime Organization (IMO)

BACKGROUND

Introduction

The International Maritime Organization (IMO) has been associated with the South Asian Seas Programme since its formative stages. In addition to assisting SAS in the development of the Regional Oil Spill Contingency Plan they have assisted the SAS Secretariat in many other programmes.

a) Letter of Agreement with IMO

Following long negotiations with IMO, and following a recommendation at the 3rd IMM, in Thimphu in August 2005, SACEP/SAS signed a Letter of Agreement with IMO in December 2005. This agreement came into force in December 2005 following the formal approval by the IMO General Assembly

Terms of Agreement of Co-operation between The International Maritime Organization (IMO) and South Asia Co-Operative Environment Programme (SACEP) entailed the following main clauses

- 1 The 2 organisations will consult each other on matters of common interest to the two Organizations with a view to ensuring maximum co-ordination of the work and activities of the respective Organizations in respect of such matters.
- 2 Subject to such arrangements as may be necessary for safeguarding confidential information, the **Secretary-General of IMO** and the **Director General of SACEP** will exchange information and keep each other fully informed of projected activities and programmes of work in fields of common interest. Accordingly, when either Organization proposes to initiate a programme or activity on a subject in which the other has or may have a substantial interest, consultation will be initiated between the Organizations with a view to harmonizing their efforts as far as possible, taking into account their respective responsibilities and any decisions or wishes of the appropriate governing bodies of the respective Organizations.
- 3 The **Secretary-General of IMO** will invite the **Director General of SACEP** to send representatives to observe meetings or conferences convened by or under the auspices of **IMO** to consider matters in which **SACEP** has an interest, in accordance with procedures applicable to each meeting or conference. The **Director General of SACEP** will invite the **Secretary-General of IMO** to send observer to meetings or conferences convened by or under the auspices of **SACEP** to consider matters in which **IMO** has an interest, in accordance with the procedures applicable to each meeting or conference.
- 4 The **Secretary-General of IMO** and the **Director General of SACEP** may consult, where appropriate, on the use of personnel, material, services, equipment and facilities for joint undertakings which may be agreed between them in fields of common interest to **IMO** and **SACEP**
- 5 **IMO** will, at the request of **SACEP**, render assistance to **SACEP** with respect to matters within the scope of activities of **SACEP**; and **SACEP** will, at the request of **IMO**, render assistance to **IMO** in

matters falling within the scope of IMO's activities. Where assistance which is required by either party under the terms of this Agreement involves substantial expenditure, consultation will take place with a view to determining the most equitable manner for meeting such expenditure.

MAJOR JOINT COLLABORATIVE ACTIVITIES SINCE 3RD IMM, August 2005

- A) Regional Seminar / Workshop on Ratification and Implementation of the OPRC-HNS Protocol, the AFS Convention and Identification and Establishment of PSSA's. Chennai, India – October 2005
- B) National OPRC Level 3 for Bangladesh (MED/SACEP), December 2005, Dhaka, Bangladesh
- C) Regional Workshop on The OPRC, OPRC/HNS Protocol, The BWM, AFS Conventions and PSSA's, Colombo, Sri Lanka, January 2006
- D) National OPRC Level 3 for Maldives (MED/SACEP), January 2006, Male. Maldives

Some of recommendations that have emerged from these activities are as follows:

1. Participants to inform administrations of outcomes of workshops

- A. take action to inform of need to finalise preparation / consideration of acceptance of conventions addressed at this workshop, as appropriate
- B. consider needs to protect certain sensitive areas in relation to threats from international shipping
- C. need to finalise development and approval of NCPs, find resources to equip and resource NCP, as appropriate, commensurate to risk
- D. test and revise NCP (desktop and / or on-site) as needed
- E. update NCP as per Regional Contingency Plan

2. South Asia Regional Contingency Plan

- A. MOU – Pakistan and Maldives to take appropriate action to obtain necessary approval / signatures (before June '06)
- B. Prepare position paper regarding establishment and resourcing of regional emergency Centre (SACEP)
- C. Pre-positioning of regional equipment-proposal
- D. Need to analyse regional legislation to check if updating is necessary (broader than oil/chemical spill)
- E. Preparatory Meeting of Senior Officials for review of RCP (July 2006)
- F. Meeting of Plenipotentiaries for signing of MOU back to back with first meeting of national focal points under Regional Plan (date TBD) for reviewing and updating RCP

3. Other

- A. Possible National OPRC Level 2 and Level 3 Courses in India and Sri Lanka
- B. Possible Regional Workshop on London Convention/protocol (in conjunction with Scientific Group Meeting) and include GPA – LBAs

E) Globallast Programme – Development of a South Asian Seas Plan

SAS has been selected by IMO as a special area for the development of a South Asian Seas Plan for the promotion and implementation of the Globallast Programme of IMO

At the 1st South Asia Regional Meeting on Ballast Water Control and Management the Development of South Asian Seas Plan was discussed.

The meeting welcomed the ongoing activities of the GEF/UNDP/IMO Global Ballast Water Management Programme (GloBallast) and in particular its regional component

It recalled the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), in its Agenda 21, requested countries to consider the adoption of appropriate measures to prevent the spread of non-indigenous organisms, and further to the appeal, in its Declaration on Environment and Development, that States apply the precautionary approach according to their capabilities;

It noted that the Adoption of the International Convention on the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments by IMO member States on 13 February 2004;

It also recognised the recent and ongoing significant increase in shipping activity in the seas of South Asia and the associated risks of new invasions of harmful species and pathogens;

The meeting agreed to the following

1. To adopt the Regional Strategy and Action Plan (SAP) for Ballast Water Management and Control in the South Asian Seas Region;
2. to designate National Lead Agencies and form inter-ministerial/cross-sectoral National Task Forces for ballast water control and management issues form a Regional Task Force (RTF) and adopt the Terms of Reference (ToR) for the RTF
3. To support the rapid entry into force and implementation of the International Convention on the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments
4. recommended that the issue of invasive aquatic species and ballast water transfers be recognized and given priority by existing regional programmes such as SACEP, BOB LME and others and that related activities under these programmes be coordinated with the Regional SAP to Minimize the Transfer of Harmful Aquatic Organisms and Pathogens in Ships' Ballast Water
5. It also recommended that participating countries, relevant regional programmes including SACEP, the GEF Bay of Bengal LME project and GloBallast, and multilateral donors such as World Bank, GEF, ADB, UNEP, UNDP, IMO and others consider funding and/or otherwise supporting the implementation of technical cooperation projects on ballast water control and management under the framework of the Regional Action Plan; &
6. That GEF, UNDP and IMO secure continuation and replication of the GloBallast Programme within the timeframe needed to ensure a seamless implementation of the International Convention on the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments in the South Asian Region.

❖ Follow up on Globallast Programme

There have been recent discussions with Dr. Jose Matheickal, Project Co-ordinator in IMO

As a follow up to the initial Phase of this programme, IMO is currently developing a stakeholder consultation plan for the GloBallast Partnerships PDF-B process.

There is a possibility that some funds will be available for implementing some areas identified in the Regional Action Plan which was finalised at the Singapore Regional Meeting.

They will keep us posted of the developments.

SOUTH ASIAN SEAS PROGRAMME

Agenda Item 5 (h)

PROGRAMME AREA: Strategic Planning and Developing Market Based Instruments for the Medium to Long Term Strategic Planning of the Implementation of the Sri Lanka National Programme of Action (MBI/NPA)

BACKGROUND

1. Introduction

To reverse the present trends in pollution and degradation of coastal and marine environment due to land based activities, the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources has developed a National Program of Action (NPA) with short, medium and long term goals, with the assistance of the United Nations Environment Program/Global Program of Action. The National Programme of Action for Sri Lanka identified the need for incorporating appropriate public spending programs, pollution control regimes, market and fiscal incentives for pollution prevention and capacity building initiatives. In order to implement these activities UNEP/GPA provided financial assistance through SACEP to implement a project which had three components. The Component 1 was implemented with a view to review existing and potential MBIs in Sri Lanka, while Component 2 was to develop a strategic plan for implementation of the short, medium and long term implementation of the NPA. The component 3 was to study the economic significance of the coastal region of Sri Lanka in the context of socio economic and environmental changes of pre and post Tsunami disaster and for evaluation of the squatter settlements in the coastal region.

Once the first MOU signed between UNEP and SACEP expired a new MOU was signed in late 2007. According to the first MOU, the Ministry of Environment was expected to carry out components 1, 2 and 3.

Component 2 of this project was to be implemented after the completion of Component 1 (MBI component). As Component 3 was not initiated due to Tsunami, UNEP suggested to postpone the activity until additional resources can be identified. However, after the MBI workshop held in June 2007, UNEP requested to continue this Component.

COMPONENT 1:

Assistance to Evaluating the Potential of Market Based Instruments for the Medium to Long-Term Implementation of the Sri Lanka National Programme of Action

Objective and Outputs:

The overall objectives of this component are:

OBJECTIVE

- A) To develop a sound scientific study to further evaluate the role of environmentally related market based instruments on Sri Lanka.
- B) To support the overall project, expected to end in early 2006, with inputs on realistic market based instruments, which may be developed to support the implementation of the Sri Lanka NPA.

OUTPUTS

- a) A National Co-ordinator and National Experts were selected for the following sectors Coastal Management, Energy, Transport, Agriculture, Waste and Water
- b) Two Workshops were held in April 2007 and June 2007 for the review of the Sector Reports and the finalisation of the MBI Report
- c) The Final Draft report on **Development of Market Based Instruments for Environmental Management in Sri Lanka** is now ready for formal approval by the Government of Sri Lanka.

COMPONENT 2

Strategic Planning for the Implementation of the Short, Medium and Long Term Implementation of the Sri Lanka National Programme of Action.

Overall objective

To carry out a study on the economic valuation of goods and services provided by coastal and marine resources in Sri Lanka, limited to selected **thematic areas such as, tourism, fishery/aquaculture, sand mining etc.**, aimed at providing a tool for mainstreaming coastal and marine issues (including Sri Lanka's NPA) into relevant national development processes.

a. Tasks to be undertaken

- Select the thematic areas based on the outcomes of the **Component 1** for which the economic valuation of goods and services provided by coastal and marine resources will be carried out;
- Hire a National Consultant based on a well defined TOR to carry out the study;
- Establish a multi stakeholder platform involving relevant stakeholders (Government, local authorities, industry and civil society) to provide necessary guidance to the study
- Based on the findings of component 2 and 3, provide recommendations for policy actions to be incorporated into the next Five Year Implementation Plan (2008-2012) of the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, including the potential entry points and opportunities for mainstreaming coastal and marine issues into relevant national development processes.

OUPUT

Not completed. Ministry has requested for extension of the MOU to be completed in 2008

COMPONENT 3:

Support to the Implementation of Short-Term NPA Priorities on Socio Economic Issues of Coastal Regions and Squatter Settlements along the Coastline of Sri Lanka

a. Overall objective

To prepare a study on the economic significance of coastal regions of Sri Lanka in the context of social, political and environmental changes including post-tsunami situation during the last decade, aimed at identifying the relative importance of different economic sectors in the coastal region for the gross domestic product (GDP) of the country.

b. Tasks to be undertaken

- i. Finalise the study on the economic significance of coastal regions of Sri Lanka, focusing on the relative importance of different economic sectors in the coastal region for the gross domestic product (GDP) of the country which will constitute an input to the study on the economic valuation of goods and services provided by coastal and marine resources in Sri Lanka;

- ii. Based on the findings of component 2 and 3, provide recommendations for policy actions, including the potential opportunities and challenges for mainstreaming coastal and marine environmental issues into relevant national development processes.

Outputs

The following 2 Draft Reports have been prepared by the Coast Conservation Department in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment & Natural Resources through the employment of External Consultants

- A. The Study of Economic Significance of Coastal Region of Sri Lanka in the Context of Environmental Changes of Pre and Post Tsunami
- B. Report of the Study of Socio-Economic Aspects of Coastal Regions and Squatters with Special Reference to the Western Province

SOUTH ASIAN SEAS PROGRAMME

Agenda Item 5 (i)

PROGRAMME AREA: Coastal Clean Up

BACKGROUND

The 3rd week of September is observed globally as the International Coastal Clean up Day and South Asian Countries has been observing this day since 2006, with activities coming under the Marine Litter Programme.

The major player in the region has been the Government of India and to a lesser extent the other 4 member states of SAS

The International Coastal Clean up Day was jointly organised in India by SACEP / SAS, The Indian Coast Guard and the National Institute of Ocean Technology, Chennai on 16th September 2007

The International Coastal Cleanup Day 2007 (ICC Day 2007) was successfully organized in all coastal areas of India. The event was a grand success.

The Government of India appointed Dr. R. Venkatesan, Group Head, Ocean Science and Technology for Islands, National Institute of Ocean Technology, Chennai, as the national consultant for the UNEP-SACEP/SAS. The Ministry of Defence on the other hand appointed the Indian Coast Guard as the coordinating agency for the event since environment protection is one of the statutory duties of the Coast Guard. These two agencies coordinated the programme at the national level.

At the local level, Prof. D. Sudarsanam of Loyola College, Chennai coordinated the educational institutions in the coastal cleanup and other related activities. The Tree Foundation is the other coordinating organisation in Chennai, which is actively involved in the protection and conservation of marine mammals and turtles along the south Chennai beaches. The four organizations have been active in the conduct of the programme.

The SACEP Indian consultant had sent nearly 7000 letters and emails to many central and state governmental departments and non-governmental organizations to support this event in their respective coastal areas. The Indian Coast Guard organized a national level coordination meeting at Chennai on 6 September wherein the national level coordination of the ICC day activities were finalized.

In addition, Indian Coast Guard communicated to various governmental departments to issue official circulars asking the respective coastal district administration to organize this event. Hence, complete micro level planning and initiatives were taken. The press and media covered this event and requested the public to come together for this national and international cause. This has motivated many citizens to come forward on their own to join hands with the coordinating agencies.

As part of the programme, the message of the coastal cleanup campaign was communicated through email, letter, pamphlet, banner, radio, television, and through official orders issued by the government to their regional/district offices.

A large representation of volunteers / participants from the Indian Army, Navy, Coast Guard, Air Force, Central Industrial Security Force, Police, various government organizations, non-governmental organizations, large number of corporate companies and educational institutions participated on that day. Representatives from two major ports - Chennai Port and Ennore Port, actively participated in this event.

Marine Litter Data

The data on marine litter received so far from different parts of Chennai and other adjoining areas shows that the major part (more than 50%) of the debris is related to the activities of shoreline and recreation, followed by ocean/waterway, smoking-related, dumping and medical /personal hygiene related. The total number of litter collected on International Coastal Cleanup Day 2007 in these areas amount to more than 1.4 lakhs.

ICC Day 2007 Highlights - India

No. of participants = 19,398

No. of litter collected = 1,49,730*

(*The total weight of this litter along with the non-segregated marine litter was estimated to be about 71 tonnes)

PARTICIPATION IN OTHER MEMBER COUNTRIES

The other member countries of SAS also observed the International Coastal Clean up Day in September 2007..

It is hoped that all member countries continue to celebrate the International Coastal Clean up day and observe this day on a bigger scale to spread more awareness about Marine Litter

SOUTH ASIAN SEAS PROGRAMME

Agenda Item 5 (j)

PROGRAMME AREA: School Environment Awareness Programme

CONTEXT & BACKGROUND

Introduction

Adaptation to Climate Change and Waste Management were identified as priority issues in the work programme of SACEP by the 9th Governing council meeting held in August 2005 at Thimphu, Bhutan and also at the 10th Governing Council of SACEP held in January 2007 in Kathmandu, Nepal.

An important component of this priority area is the development of a regional strategy for Solid Waste Management in particular to municipal, medical, industrial, hazardous and e-waste and to facilitate South Asian Countries to address these waste issues.

The lack of awareness among the general public on proper waste separation and handling leads to large scale accumulation of waste. This is a common phenomenon in almost all the urban areas of the South Asian Region.

The Slogan for the world environmental day, year 2007 was ‘Melting ice – Hot Topic?’

Sea Level rise due to increasing temperature greatly affects the island countries like Sri Lanka and Maldives. So far no adaptation strategy to minimise the environmental damage by such issues were designed in these countries. Awareness should be created among the countries for a better understanding on adverse impacts of climate change.

SACEP decided to conduct a School Environment Awareness Programme giving special attention to the younger generation.

SACEP with Centre for Environment Education in India and with both Ministry of Education and Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources of Sri Lanka and with the assistance of South Asia Youth Network organized a series of School Competitions (Essay, Drawing and Painting, Posters and Photography) from January to July 2007 for different age categories. The main theme of these competitions was Adaptation to Climate Change and Waste Management.

A total of 35 schools from Colombo Zone were participated and a total of 3522 entries were submitted.

On 16th July 2007, Soba Sankalpana programme was organized. Chief Guest for the occasion was Hon Mr Mahanth Thakur, Chairman of SACEP Governing Council and Minister of Environment, Science and Technology, Government of Nepal. Mr Laxman Prasad Mainali, Secretary, from the same Ministry of Nepal and Mr Udaya Gammanpila, Chairman, Central Environment Authority of Sri Lanka was also present. Winners of the School Competitions, Parents, School Teachers, University Lectures and the delegates from both the Government and non government organizations were present.

The programme started with a video presentation on sea level rise.

Panel Discussion on Adaptation Strategies for the Sea Level Rise in South Asia was the next item of the programme. The panel represented experts from National Aquatic Resources Research and Development

Agency, Sri Lanka, Department of Meteorology, Sri Lanka, Centre for Environment Education, India and Local University Lecturers. Prof. Sarath Kotagama, Department of Zoology, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka was the Moderator for the discussion.

Following recommendations were gathered during the discussion.

Adaptation Methods to be improved by,

- Raising awareness of adaptation
- Facilitating the strengthening capacity for coordinated action on adaptation
- Incorporating adaptation into policy and operations
- Promoting and coordinating research on impacts and adaptation
- Support knowledge – sharing networks
- Mainstreaming adaptation to sea level rise into policies and programmes in different sectors vulnerable to climate change impacts and need to include such potential impacts in their sectoral design and investments.
- Development of eco-specific adaptive knowledge on adaptation to climate change variability and sea level rise to enhance adaptive capacity for future climate change and sea level rise.

Award ceremony was held for the winners of school competitions. First, Second and Third places were selected for each age category. Awards were presented by the Chief Guest Hon Mr Mahanth Thakur, Chairman of SACEP and Minister of Environment, Science and Technology, Government of Nepal.

Taking into consideration the total winning entries and the environmental related activities carried out in the school, the best school was selected to award a representative from the school with a scholarship to attend in the 4th International Conference on Environmental Education which was held in November 2007, in India. This award was sponsored by South Asia Youth Network.

All the participants were also presented with a certificate of participation.

Poster and Painting Exhibition was held on the same day where all the winning entries and 150 selected posters and drawings were exhibited. Exhibition was opened by Hon Mr Mahanth Thakur, Chairman of SACEP and Minister of Environment, Science and Technology, Government of Nepal.

SACEP intend to develop and conduct more environmental educational programmes within the region, in collaboration with partners to raise awareness among school children on issues of concern in the field of Environment in this region.

SOUTH ASIAN SEAS PROGRAMME

Agenda Item 5 (k)

PROGRAMME AREA: Collaboration with SAARC Disaster Management Centre for Developing Coastal and Marine Risk Mitigation Plan for South Asia

CONTEXT & BACKGROUND

In pursuit of implementation of the decisions of various SAARC forums especially with regard to the coastal regions of South Asia, the SAARC Coastal Zone Management Centre (SCZMC) Maldives organised an Expert Group Meeting in April 2007 to draft SAARC Coastal Zone Management Action Plan. One of the identified issues was that of coastal and marine hazards and the Expert Group recommended that SAARC Disaster Management Centre (SDMC) be requested to prepare a Coastal and Marine Mitigation Plan and the Governing Boards of SCZMC & SDMC endorsed this recommendation

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

Present Status

A workshop was held in 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.

SACEP / SAS will play an important role in the implementation of the Regional Mitigation Plan

SOUTH ASIAN SEAS PROGRAMME

Agenda Item 5 (I)

PROGRAMME AREA: Basel Convention Regional Centre

CONTEXT & BACKGROUND

Establishment of Basel Convention Regional Centre for South Asia

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

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

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

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

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

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

SACEP will be requesting that the 11th Meeting of the Governing Council of SACEP adopt the following decision on establishment of Basel Convention Regional Centre for South Asia at the SACEP Secretariat, Colombo, Sri Lanka.

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

SOUTH ASIAN SEAS PROGRAMME

Agenda Item 5 (m)

PROGRAMME AREA: Development and implementation of preventive strategies in response to perturbations in coastal areas caused by land-based activities

Introduction: The context of environmental perturbations in coastal areas.

South Asia's coastal waters have some of the richest and most diverse marine species and coastal habitats in Asia. It is well known that a wide variety of environmental externalities are generated from land-based activities with a significant negative impact on these coastal areas.

The present concept note highlights some of the imperatives calling for concerted action to reduce the diversity and scale of perturbations at three inter-related locations. These locations are at-source, along the path of transport and at the coastal-sink. While, some attention has been paid to the origin and impact of industrial pollutants and domestic sewage, there is enormous scope for defining and implementing preventive strategies with respect to three other important issues. They pertain to

1. transport and contamination of coastal waters by persistent organic pollutants and other harmful chemical derivatives used in agriculture in particular and
2. susceptibility of coastal systems to natural and artificially induced disasters
3. the need to strengthen coping strategies with respect to impacts of climate change.

We indicate an action plan to address these three issues on a priority basis. of equal importance is the need to tackle industrial pollutants through comprehensive waste minimization and cleaner production approaches including the identification and promoting the use of alternatives.

Some of the overarching approaches include reality checks on existing technical capabilities, assessment of capacity building and technical assistance needs and establishment of pilots through intensive multi-stakeholder involvement at various levels. These approaches will help initiate and sustain action simultaneously in at least three countries namely, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and India, to start with.

Guiding Principles:

The priority areas have been chosen on the basis of a felt need to

- Contribute significantly to the body of information / empirical evidences which can then be used for defining well-guided integrated environmental action including the development and implementation of multiple interventions
- Prioritize issues of local and regional relevance with implications in fulfilling commitments of compliance to bilateral or multilateral environmental agreements.

Some important issues:

Most pollution loads including municipal, industrial, agricultural wastes and run-off, and atmospheric deposition, emanate from land-based activities. Contaminants are then transported long distances by watercourses, ocean currents and atmospheric processes. They affect the most productive areas of the marine environment, including estuaries and near-shore coastal waters. These areas are threatened also by physical destruction of habitats.

The present concept is designed to assist countries act individually and jointly considering their respective policies, priorities and resources to prevent, reduce, control and/or eliminate degradation of coasts and recover from impacts of land-based activities. Identification and assessment of options for management relate to the nature and severity of problems in relation to food security and poverty alleviation; public health; coastal and marine resources and ecosystem health. Some of the important contaminants include sewage; persistent organic pollutants; radioactive substances; heavy metals; hydrocarbons; nutrients etc. Invasive species in aquatic and terrestrial systems including agriculture pose significant threats

The objective of the proposed interventions is to help develop integrated strategies for protection of the coastal environment from LBA by which it will be possible to

- reduce emissions and discharges;
- find and introduce alternatives;
- identify and initiate use of cleaner production practices / processes,
- reduce and/or eliminate hazardous by-products associated with production, incineration and combustion
- consolidate other programmes in progress
- pilot activities
- build capacities of stakeholders to implement preventive and adaptive strategies and
- develop a clearing-house mechanism for providing information on technologies and share experiences regarding coastal-zone-management methodology.

Recent reports show that

- 90 percent of Asia's sewage is discharged into the marine environment waters without treatment, threatening fisheries, mangrove forests, coral reefs and coastal wetlands
- Access to sewage treatment across Asia varies widely
- Discharges from many big industrial plants threaten coasts,
- Land use patterns are changing across Asia as result of continued economic growth leading to increased use of fertilizers, which along with sources like sewage and animal wastes are increasing nutrient loads in coastal waters.
- Two thirds of the world's total sediment transport to the oceans occurs in South and East Asia, and deforestation is adding to soil erosion and sediment loads in water.

The Global Programme of Action for the protection of the marine environment from land-based activities adopted in November 1995 clearly referred to the establishment of national action plans for preventive management, compliance and surveillance of pollutants including persistent organic pollutants. While several activities have been in progress since then, it is important to integrate emerging understanding of the scale and diversity of impacts.

Country-specific contexts:

Bangladesh

Sources of coastal and marine pollution include:

- Industrial waste (including those from ship breaking yards)
- Sewage disposal
- Solid waste
- Agrochemicals and PoPs

- Deforestation
- Salinity intrusion
- Rapid urbanization
- Erosion in the coastal zone
- Extraction of coastal resources
- Coastal tourism
- Land use change
- Climate change

In combating surface water pollution the Government needs to introduce

- land zoning with respect to industries,
- strengthen water quality monitoring;
- enforce conservation
- introduce waste reception and treatment facilities in ports, clean-up and rehabilitate hot spots
- database on coastal resources, coastal pollution, biology and toxicology of biotic pressures and options to minimize negative effects.

Sri Lanka

- Erosion of coastal area (about 1 meter per year) due to river damming, sand mining, collection of coral rubble and removal of coastal vegetation
- Salinisation of paddy land due to reduction of flood buffering capacity of mangroves, lagoons and estuaries.
- Degradation of coral reefs.
- The major sources of land-based coastal water pollution along the West, South West and South coasts are domestic sewage, industrial waste, solid waste and agricultural chemicals. The main industries contributing to water pollution are textile, paper, tanning, distilleries, paints and chemical production.
- Maritime traffic and effects
- Except for Colombo, no other city in Sri Lanka possesses treatment facilities for municipal wastes.
- About 45 to 50 per cent of Sri Lanka's coastline, primarily in the south, is exposed to coastal erosion. On an average, the Sri Lankan coast recedes by about 0.3 metres every year.

India

Under the Coastal Ocean Monitoring and Prediction System (COMAPS) programme water quality monitoring was carried out by various agencies including the CPCB and identified hot- spots in Indian coasts with respect to industrial and domestic pollution.

- The total quantity of wastewater generated by 87 coastal cities and towns is 5,561 MLD, which is one third of the wastewater generated by 644 class I cities and class II towns in the country. Only 78% of total wastewater generated in the coastal cities and towns are collected. The coastal cities and towns have facilities to treat only 9.38% of the wastewater generated.
- Pollution from use of persistent organic pollutants (POPs) such as DDT for crop protection and the issue of adoption of a legal instrument on the control of POPs.
- The effect of antifouling paints used on ships on marine organisms and the adoption of the ban
- Transfer of exotic species through ship fouling and ballast water

- ❖ Provide adequate and appropriate support from developed countries to ocean related capacity-building in developing countries
 - ❖ International involvement in the management of the high seas fishery resources, as observed by the UN Conference on Straddling and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks.
 - ❖ There is no data yet on the transfer of exotic species through ship fouling and ballast water
-
- Inventory of land-based sources and coastal outfalls transporting pollutants from the land to the seas
 - Sector-wise identification of different uses of coastal waters, zoning/ classifying them in terms of respective designated-best-use classes
 - Assessment of actual state and extent of pollution, if any, in coastal waters through systematic monitoring

Maldives

- Coral and sand mining
- Coastal erosion
- Dredging and land reclamation
- Sewage and solid waste disposal
- Over-fishing and Use of Destructive Fishing Practices

Pakistan

Coastal pollution by toxics and sewage with major portion of oil pollution at Karachi port.
www.american.edu/TED/karachi.htm

Three overarching questions in this context are:

- 1) How do current coastal zone regulations in countries of South Asia help communities prepare for and mitigate effects of natural disasters and degradation of coastal resources?
- 2) What are some adaptation strategies for coastal communities to better respond to coastal disasters and degradation relating to
 - Changes in occupations and living areas post-disaster with a special emphasis on rehabilitation
 - Physical restoration of disaster-affected and prone zones;
 - Strengthening natural barriers
- 3) What is the role of credit and insurance markets in reducing risks associated with natural disasters?

Reality checks on integrated assessments of coastal zone vulnerability, prevailing process of adaptation, capacities of stakeholders and political institutions to tackle challenges, realistic cost estimates for various adaptation options will generate empirical evidences and help address the questions indicated above.

The proposed integrated approach will centre on a logical framework with well-defined goals, activities and expected output and outcome.

1. A detailed desk-based study will be the starting point. The desk-based study will collate information on a significant number of the most important prevailing interventions. This information will pertain to the spread and depth of empirical evidences, statement of actions needed with special reference to gaps either In

conceptualization or in the implementation status. Adequate care will be taken to gather information on the science and the management aspects including such mechanisms as regulations, incentives and disincentives, technical preparedness and institutional mechanisms

- ..
2. Stakeholder consultations focusing on the above-stated aspects will follow. These consultations will be aimed at verifying the learnings and help establish the much needed link to implement concepts. Importantly, a clear understanding of the technical preparedness of stakeholders to engage in concerted action will emerge and help define the framework for capacity building.
3. The desk-based study and the consultations can be completed in a period of three months as part of the project process of developing the larger proposal focusing particularly on the implementation aspects.
4. A detailed roadmap highlighting the barriers to be addressed and the expected output/outcome will emerge as part of the process of development of the detailed proposal for the implementation phase. This will provide the basis for developing a scheme of activities including
 - a. selection of site for development and establishment of a pilot,
 - b. the technical and methodological approaches to fulfill the objectives of the pilot,
 - c. scope for optimizing stakeholder involvement and
 - d. demonstrating the feasibility of interventions on a location-specific basis.
5. Based on the above, it will be clear that the tasks indicated will constitute the preparatory phase before actually launching on the implementation phase of activities. While a large number of crosscutting issues will obviously be integrated into the assessments as part of the reality checks it is important to recognize that the above mentioned pertain to each of four areas namely, the work on persistent organic pollutants; improving preparedness to tackle disasters; facilitating adaptation approaches and reduction of priority- pollutants at source.

Outline of the budget

The project proposal development phase including the desk-based analysis and stakeholder consultations is expected to cost around USD 2,00,000 (USD 0.2 million). The actual implementation costs will relate to the allocations for full size projects.

Footnote:

Some of the expected outputs of the final implementation phase are indicated in the following:

1. In the case of the work on persistent organic pollutants a comprehensive plan for surveillance, a list of viable alternatives which could be used in pest management; demonstration of the successful use of some of the alternatives and capacity building of a segment of personnel associated with operations with respect to unintentional releases will be achieved.
2. In the case of disaster mitigation preparedness with special reference to coastal areas a framework for identifying potential disasters particularly through chemicals and handling them will be developed. This is an addition to highlighting mechanisms for improving preparedness to tackle natural disasters. An information clearing house on options for mitigating impacts will be developed; with a special emphasis on best practices.
3. Pilot projects on adaptation will be of immense value to the respective governments in understanding the diversity and value addition opportunities for optimal use of locally available resources in addition to the development of a capacity-built cadre of stakeholders. A SWOT analysis of the various options will also emerge.
4. The feasibility of employing cleaner production options will be demonstrated in a representative set of firms in order to promote the use of such practices in several clusters close to water bodies. The links between substitution energy efficiency enhancement, mitigation of local environmental impacts, value addition to wastes to enhance recovery and recycle; thereby significantly reducing loads on aquatic systems and the

coastal systems in particular will be demonstrated. This is expected to help develop other complementing mechanisms including appropriate incentives and disincentives to promote mitigation.

SOUTH ASIAN SEAS PROGRAMME

Agenda Item 5 (n)

PROGRAMME AREA: MOU with World Meteorological Organization

BACKGROUND

Pursuant to the decision taken by the 3rd Intergovernmental Ministerial Meeting of the South Asian Seas Programme held on 26th August 2005, South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme which is the Secretariat for the South Asian Seas Programme signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the World Meteorological Organization on 22nd November 2005, in Colombo at the SACEP Secretariat.

The World Meteorological Organization is an intergovernmental organisation with a membership of 187 Member States and Territories. It originated from the International Meteorological Organization (IMO), which was founded in 1873. Established in 1950, WMO became the specialized agency of the United Nations in 1951 for meteorology (weather and climate), operational hydrology and related geophysical sciences.

As weather, climate and water cycle knows no national boundaries, international cooperation at a global scale is essential for the development of meteorology and operational hydrology as well as to reap the benefits from their applications. WMO provides the framework for such international cooperation

Since its establishment, WMO has played a unique and powerful role in contributing to the safety and welfare of humanity. Under WMO leadership and within the framework of WMO programmes, National Meteorological and Hydrological Services contribute substantially to the protection of life and property against natural disasters, to safeguarding the environment and to enhancing the economic and social well-being of all sectors of society in areas such as food security, water resources and transport.

The provisions of the Convention of World Meteorological Organization, by which WMO was created in order to facilitate cooperation in the establishment of networks of stations for making meteorological including climatological, hydrological and other related geophysical observations; to promote the rapid exchange of meteorological information, the standardization of meteorological observation and the uniform publication of observations and statistics; to further the application of meteorology to water problems, agriculture, drought monitoring, natural disaster reduction and mitigation, ozone and pollution monitoring, monitoring of climate change, weather- and climate-sensitive socio-economic activities, to promote operational hydrology and encourage research and training in relevant fields

SACEP has been in negotiation with WMO for the implementation of the following project:

Title of Project

Networking for Greater Awareness and Understanding of the Impacts of Environmental Degradation and Climate Change Adaptation Strategies for South Asia

Geographical Scope

The geographical scope of the project is restricted to the member countries of South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme namely, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka

Targeted Participants

✚ Parliamentarians, Executives, Conservation NGOs and Experts

Objectives

- A. The identification of existing methods and development of new methodologies and tools for improving the effectiveness of scientific knowledge transfer to user communities.
- B. The strengthening of ties with policy- and decision-making processes and society in general for mainstreaming environmental concern, in order to develop pathways and effective mechanisms to approach economic and industrial planning processes, and enhancing practical research activities, in keeping pace with progress in international policy processes.
- C. The encouragement of initiatives from developing countries, especially for place-based integrative research that includes interdisciplinary analyses of the effects and consequences of development pathways, and potential coping strategies pertinent to the region.
- D. The promotion of science and technology relating to sustainability, by aligning with global scientific programmes such as those being coordinated by the International Council for Science (ICSU), etc.
- E. The detection of global change, observing, and information gathering for early warning systems, disseminating this information to appropriate end-users, and contributing to the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS).

Project Implementation

- (i) Executing Agency; South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme
- (ii) Collaborating Agencies APN & IUCN
- (iii) Funding Agencies; World Meteorological Organization (WMO)
- (iv) Implementing Agencies; National Focal Points of the member states

Duration of the Project 24 Months

Cost of Project (US Dollars) US \$ 237,000

The SACEP Secretariat is currently in communication with WMO Secretariat in working out the modalities and the financial details of this project

SOUTH ASIAN SEAS PROGRAMME

Agenda Item 5 (o)

PROGRAMME AREA: Mangroves for the Future Programme

BACKGROUND

The Strategy for Mangroves for the Future (MFF) is based on a vision of more healthy prosperous and secure future for all sections of coastal populations in India Ocean countries where all ecosystems are conserved and managed sustainably.

MFF's goal and objectives contribute towards conservation and restoration of coastal ecosystem as an essential part of coastal development infrastructure. The first works at the level of direct actions and interventions that are required to manage coastal ecosystems based sustainably, equitably and effectively. The second objective works to strengthen the broader frameworks that influence people's investments and actions, and which enable to hinder environmentally sustainable coastal development. Together, these objectives tackle both the direct and the underlying causes of ecosystem degradation, unsustainable livelihoods and persistent vulnerability in coastal areas if the Indian Ocean countries

MFF intends to effect demonstrable changes through 19 results, spread across 4 key areas of influence: regional co-operation: national programme support, private sector engagement and community action

Fifteen broad programmes of work have been designed to effect the changes reflected in these results by tackling key aspects of coastal management in which effort is required. The initiative will be implemented through a series of on-the-ground project which will deliver these actions, outputs and associated results. Together these result areas represent the types of changes and involve the main stakeholder groups, where support and action is required to address the current and future threats to ecosystems and livelihoods, and to conserve and restore coastal ecosystems for the long-term human well-being and security.

SACEP has been identified as possible partners for the projects in the following Programme Areas. The SACEP Secretariat is in communication with the steering committee to determine its specific role.

Programme Area	Project Title
❖ Actions to Build Knowledge	(3) Providing decision support for reef-to-ridge approaches to land and resource management
❖ Actions to Strengthen Empowerment	(7) Building the capacity of professional coastal managers for integrated coastal management (8) Supporting environmentally sustainable livelihoods among coastal communities
❖ Actions to Enhance Governance	(11) Supporting National Integrated Coastal Management Programmes (13) Building National Systems of Marine and Coastal Protected Area that contribute to a Regional Network (14) Promoting adaptive Coastal Management Programmes that include ongoing ecological and socio-economic assessment and Monitoring

Programme Area

❖ Actions to Build Knowledge

(3) Providing decision support for reef-to-ridge approaches to land and resource management

Actions and Outputs

- a) Enhance awareness of the need for 'reef to ridge' approaches among inland land and resource managers, river-basin planners and policy-makers
- b) Analysis of existing land-based activities which impact on coastal ecosystems and livelihoods, in order to identify appropriate plans for reversal and mitigation
- c) Promote inclusion of coastal stakeholders in existing and planned integrated land and water resource management strategies and mechanisms for dialogue
- d) Design and distribute a decision support tool that incorporates 'reef to ridge' considerations

Programme Area

❖ Actions to Strengthen Empowerment

(7) Building the capacity of professional coastal managers for integrated coastal management

Actions and Outputs

- a) National capacity and training needs assessments for different stakeholder groups in order to identify gaps, needs, strengths and opportunities for building capacity in ICM
- b) Support to existing regional and national centres of training, research and excellence in ICM
- c) Support to tertiary education and research in ICM through grants, partnerships and leadership development programmes
- d) Development of targeted training modules for continuing education of coastal practitioners and managers, including enforcement agencies

(8) Supporting environmentally sustainable livelihoods among coastal communities

Actions and Outputs

- a) Development of models to guide livelihood restoration to post-disaster situations and methodologies to promote an action-learning approach to ensure that livelihood restoration activities are adapted to specific local needs and ecosystems
- b) Development & Replication of small community-led ecotourism activities related to mangroves and other coastal ecosystems and improve access to markets
- c) Support the restoration of fisheries and aquaculture in tsunami-affected areas and ensure that these efforts are environmentally sustainable
- d) Development of efforts to add value to local use and marketing of non-fish mangrove products, linked to community-based management and conservation approaches

Programme Area

- ❖ Actions to enhance governance

(11) Supporting National Integrated Coastal Management Programmes

Actions and Outputs

- a) Assessment of national institutional mechanisms and programmes for ICM in order to identify and operationalise appropriate, inclusive and sustainable governance mechanisms to MFF” approaches among inland and resource managers, river-basin planners and policy makers
- b) In India, support the operations of state-level coastal zone management authorities
- c) In Maldives to support the development of measures and mechanisms for inter
- d) In Sri Lanka, support to inter-sectoral mechanisms for integrated coastal zone management through coast Conservation Department

(13) Building National Systems of Marine and Coastal Protected Area that contribute to a Regional Network

Actions and Outputs

- a) Gap analysis to review existing protected area coverage, identify regionally and nationally under-represented ecosystems, and recommend areas in need of additional [protection
- b) Assessment of management effectiveness of existing protected areas leading to the development of strategies for management improvements
- c) Support to the development of new, or strengthening of existing protected areas in critical or under-represented coastal ecosystems
- d) Supporting a regional forum and learning network to share knowledge and approaches on protected area management
- e) Development of codes of conduct for the tourism industry for the use of protected areas

(14) Promoting adaptive Coastal Management Programmes that include ongoing ecological and socio-economic assessment and Monitoring

Actions and Outputs

- a) Needs assessment to identify existing socio-economic and ecological baselines, and gap-filling of deficiencies in key data and indicators
- b) Support to regional and national systems for the spatial assessment of ecosystems using satellite imagery and to mechanisms for developing the communication and information sharing necessary to combine data at a regional level
- c) Development and associate training in the use of, common protocols for community-based and scientific monitoring of coastal ecosystem health and socio-economic indicators
- d) Application of ecological and socio-economic assessment and monitoring mechanisms, for key MFF actions, paying particular attention to actions aimed at protected area management, coastal ecosystem rehabilitation and community sustainable livelihood activities

SOUTH ASIAN SEAS PROGRAMME

Agenda Item 5 (p)

PROGRAMME AREA: Environmental Legislation

CONTEXT & BACKGROUND

Collaboration with NALSAR on Environmental Legislation

The National Academy of Legal Studies and Research (NALSAR), University of Hyderabad India is implementing a programme to support the strengthening of Environmental Law in the SAARC Region.

SACEP had been implementing many Environmental Law Programmes under its UNEP – NORAD – SACEP programme and have conducted many ground breaking programmes and have several Environmental Law Publications.

NALSAR invited SACEP to be an active partner in this Law Programme.

A series of Training Programmes were held across the South Asian Region for strengthening the Environmental Law Capacities in the SAARC region.

Experts, National Representatives, NGO's & Academia were invited to build strong partnerships amongst environmental professionals

The Principal Themes of these Training Workshops were:

1. Overview of Environmental Law and thematic components of the legal framework on environment in the SAARC region
2. Climate Change, Energy and Law
3. Natural Resource Management, Tenure Security & Participation of Local People.
4. Corporate Governance & Law

During the discussions participants were encouraged to share their experiences on various perspectives and a Road Map was developed for training and demand driven orientation for the future

SACEP played an active role in these training programmes and will co-ordinate with NALSAR in the future for strengthening the environmental law capacity in the SAARC region and ensure strong participation amongst environmental professionals of the Member countries of SACEP through development of a collaborative Programme on Environmental Law in the South Asian region.

SOUTH ASIAN SEAS PROGRAMME

Agenda Item 5 (q)

PROGRAMME AREA: Management Issues of SAS Action Plan




OBJECTIVE:

Revision of the South Asian Seas Action Plan

A) BACKGROUND

1. Based on the decisions of a High Level Meeting of Officials convened in Colombo, 18 - 21 February 1981 the coastal and island States of the South Asian Seas decided that within the context of the South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme (SACEP), a Regional Seas Programme should be developed.
2. In response the tenth session of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in May 1982, requested the Executive Director in decision 10/20 "*...to enter into consultation with the concerned States of the South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme (SACEP) to ascertain their views regarding the conduct of a Regional Seas Programme in the South Asian Seas*".
3. On the basis of this decision the Executive Director appointed a high level consultant between October-November 1982 and in February 1983 to visit the five member States of SACEP¹ in order to: (a) consult with Governments with a view to assessing each State's interest in participating in a future regional programme; (b) seek the Governments' views on the relationship between the SACEP and UNEP's Regional Seas Programme; (c) discuss the steps to be followed which may most successfully lead to identification of the South Asian Seas as a regional seas area and subsequent adoption of an action plan; and (d) respond to queries, as well as provide clarification regarding UNEP's Regional Seas Programmes. The report of the mission was sent to the Governments of the South Asian Seas region in May 1983.
4. On the basis of the mission's findings, the Executive Director submitted recommendations on the possible follow-up actions to the eleventh session of the Governing Council. The Governing Council on 24 May 1983, by its decision 11/7, noted "*...the consultation carried out in accordance with the Council decision 10/20 of 31 May 1982...*" and requested "*...the Executive Director to designate the South Asian Seas as a region to be included in the regional seas programme, in close co-operation with the South Asia Co-operative Environmental Programme and the Governments of the region, and to assist in the formulation of a plan of action for the environmental protection of the South Asian Seas*".
5. In response to decision 11/7 of the General Council the Executive Director of UNEP, in close co-operation with the Governments of the region, some international organisations and SACEP, convened a number of meetings and initiated various activities.
6. One such activity undertaken was as follows:

¹ The coastal and island States participating in the South Asian Seas Action Plan are: Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

- (a) The preparation of country reports by the Governments, with the assistance of UNEP and SACEP, addressing and reviewing:
-  national environmental problems defined as priority areas or regional concern;
 -  activities which may usefully be carried out under the Action Plan to resolve or mitigate these problems; and
 -  national institutional and manpower resources which are, or may be, involved in dealing with these problems, including the identification of the need to strengthen their capabilities.
- (b) A report on the State of the Marine Environment in the South Asian Seas Region (UNEP Regional Seas Reports & Studies No. 123), based on the country reports,

These reports were the basis of for the development of the South Asian Seas Action Plan which was adopted at a Plenipotentiaries Meeting held in March 1995 in New Delhi

B) PROPOSAL

- a) It is 23 years since the South Asian Seas Action Plan was adopted and in the light of the current developments ,the Secretariat is of the opinion that it is opportune to initially review the existing action plan and identify new areas for inclusion in the present Action Plan

C) METHOD

1. On an agreed terms of reference and based on the previous country reports, the preparation of National Reports on the Status and Environmental Problems of the Marine and Coastal Areas of Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Pakistan and Sri Lanka by Government identified National Consultants
2. Based on these reports, the Preparation of a State of the Marine Environment of the South Asian Seas Region by a Regional Consultant
3. Based on the above, identify fresh priority areas for inclusion in the South Asian Seas Action Plan to be adopted at by the member countries at a Special Meeting of the Inter Ministerial Meeting to be convened in the March 2009

WORK PLAN

Finalisation of Proposal with UNEP Nairobi and Signing of MOU	UNEP & SAS Secretariat
Agreeing on the Contents of the Country Report and State of the Marine Environment in the South Asian Seas Region	UNEP & SAS Secretariat
Identification of National Consultants and Preparation of National Reports	National Focal Points
Identification of International / Regional Consultant	UNEP & SAS Secretariat
Submission of Country Reports to SAS Secretariat and UNEP	National Focal Points
Preparation of State of the Marine Environment in the South Asian Seas Region and a Draft Revised South Asian Seas Action Plan	Regional Consultant
Submission of Draft State of the Marine Environment in the South Asian Seas Region and a Draft Revised South Asian Seas Action Plan to SAS & UNEP	Regional Consultant
Review of State of the Marine Environment in the South Asian Seas Region and the Draft Revised South Asian Seas Action Plan by UNEP and SAS	SAS Secretariat & UNEP
Submission of State of the Marine Environment in the South Asian Seas Region and the Draft Revised South Asian Seas Action Plan to Special IMM of SAS	SAS Secretariat
Printing of State of the Marine Environment in the South Asian Seas Region to 5th IMM of SAS	UNEP & SAS Secretariat

BUDGET IN US \$

The proposed time frame is 12 months to be completed by middle of 2009 and the financial outlay is estimated to be US \$ 100,000.

We have sought in principle a commitment from UNEP, Nairobi for assistance in the form of technical guidance and part financial assistance in the undertaking of this activity. It is expected that member states too will have to support this activity.

SOUTH ASIAN SEAS PROGRAMME

Agenda Item 5 (r)

Draft Work Programme 2009 – 2010

PROGRAMME 1: MARINE LITTER

- (1) Capacity building (training and awareness)
- (2) Beach clean up on quarterly basis
- (3) Creation of port reception facilities
- (4) Solid waste management.

Project	Activities	Financial Outlay in US \$
(1) Capacity Building (Training And Awareness)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upgrading or creating new facilities for training and extension; • Conducting pilot training programmes in member countries at various levels of planners, policy makers, administrators, scientists, NGOs, voluntary organisations, school/college children/students, academics, private industries, and selected coastal communities. • Conducting Trainers training in member countries; • Establishing contact with stakeholders/heads of local communities, various trade associations in the communities, local body/council authorities, boards of education and teachers; • Listing the types and most probable sources of marine debris that constitute the greatest hazards to the community and to living marine resources; • Developing pamphlets, posters and stickers in English and in the local languages for distribution among coastal communities, marine recreational firms, other auxiliary services and NGOs; • Distributing marine debris education materials to educators through presentation to teachers, conferences and seminars, organisation of students' excursions/exposure visits to relevant degraded environment for on-the-spot appreciation and organisation of essay competitions on the environment. 	1,500.000
(2) Beach Clean Up	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organising the youth and school children into groups for clean-ups of debris on beaches; 	500.000

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing funding, logistics, and advice to the groups; • Using both national/regional network committees to compile information on clean-ups and data findings in the form of a report; • Widely circulating clean-up reports to local, regional and international organisations. 	
(3) Creation of Port Reception Facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project components would include designing of the reception facilities for different types of garbage/litter as per MARPOL Annex V requirements in particular, frequency of use and emptying requirements, disposal methods to be used, environmental and amenity values of the area, and the access and security requirements. The facility standards and design would relate to the port/harbour characteristics. • IMO could provide the basic design for the port reception facilities for different types of degradable and non-degradable wastes. 	300.000
(4) Solid Waste Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing specialised marine litter waste management strategies – either as a separate strategy or part of an existing waste management strategy. • Improving and/or expanding waste management strategies for the public at local beaches, sporting events and festivals where appropriate receptacles are used. • Reviewing the Management Plans of hotel and restaurant industries, for waste management practices and strengthen collaboration with the tourism sector for sharing of best practices and lessons learnt. • Developing and promoting activities for national/regional recycling, reuse and waste diversion for plastics, glass, metal and other materials. • Identifying/promoting international environmental certification programmes which include waste management and minimisation for possible inclusion into national marine litter/waste management strategies/action plans. • Maintaining/developing specialised waste management strategies for marine litter problems associated with seasonal and/or weather related events. • Establishing emergency response waste management strategies, where necessary, which deal with the aftermath of natural disasters. 	300.000

Total budget and Source of funding

Project Area	Total in US \$
Capacity building (training and awareness)	1,500.000
Beach clean up on quarterly basis	500.000

Creation of port reception facilities	300.000
Solid waste management	300.000
TOTAL	2,600,000

The above projects will be proposed for formal approval by 4th IMM. It is expected that the concerned member governments will make firm commitments for the implementation of these Priority Projects

PROGRAMME 2: GLOBAL INVASIVE SPECIES PROGRAMME

B) GLOBAL INVASIVE SPECIES PROGRAMME

OBJECTIVE: :Development of a National Regional Strategic Framework on Global Invasive Species

Project	Activities	Financial Outlay in US \$
Training course on the management of marine and coastal Invasive Species	Details of Training Course Modules <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Introduction to Marine & Coastal Invasive Species ❖ Goals and Principles of Invasive Species Management ❖ Prevention ❖ Early detection and Rapid Response ❖ Incursion Management ❖ The International Response ❖ Developing a National Strategic Framework ❖ Communication, Education and Public Awareness 	59,000

PROGRAMME 3 COLLABORATIVE ACTIVITIES BETWEEN UN-DOALOS AND SACEP/SAS

Project	Activities	Financial Outlay in US \$
Regional Training Course on the Development, Implementation and Management of Marine Protected Areas in the South Asian Seas Region	Details of Training Course Modules <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Developing marine Protected Areas ❖ Implementing Marine Protected Areas ❖ Managing Marine Protected Areas 	Committed by UNDOLOS 33,500 To be raised by jointly by UNDOLOS and SAS 63,500

PROGRAMME 4 OIL SPILL CONTINGENCY PLANNING

Project	Activities	Financial Outlay in US \$
Meeting of Senior Officials to update the current Regional Oil Spill Contingency Plan also determine initially on a two year work plan to operationalise Contingency Plan	Meeting in Colombo assisted by UNEP and IMO	30,000

PROGRAMME 5 REVISION OF THE SOUTH ASIAN SEAS ACTION PLAN

Project	Activities	Financial Outlay in US \$
Updating of present South Asia Seas Action Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ On an agreed terms of reference and based on the previous country reports, the preparation of National Reports on the Status and Environmental Problems of the Marine and Coastal Areas of Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Pakistan and Sri Lanka by Government identified National Consultants ❖ Based on these reports, the Preparation of a State of the Marine Environment of the South Asian Seas Region by a Regional Consultant ❖ Based on the above, identify fresh priority areas for inclusion in the South Asian Seas Action Plan to be adopted at by the member countries at a Special Meeting of the Inter Ministerial Meeting to be convened in the March 2009 	100,000

PROGRAMME 6 FOLLOW UP OF REGIONAL OIL SPILL CONTINGENCY PLAN

Project	Activities	Financial Outlay in US \$
Follow up activities as the Regional Oil Spill Contingency Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Initial for Updating of Existing Oil Spill Contingency Plan ❖ Joint meetings ❖ Mock Oil Spill Exercises ❖ Joint Training Exercises ❖ Annual Meetings for Review and Updating of Plan 	Initially 150,000

PROGRAMME 7 STRENGTHENING AND CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT FOR THE LONG-TERM MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION OF MCPAS ENCOMPASSING CORAL REEF RESOURCES IN SOUTH ASIA

Project	Activities	Financial Outlay in US \$
Strengthening and Capacity Development for the Long-term Management and Conservation of MCPAs encompassing coral reef resources in South Asia		875,907.43 EURO
Action 1: Human and Technical Resource Coordination and Mobilisation	Regional Workshop 1 – Inception Workshop	(EURO 19,1000
	Regional Workshop 2	EURO 22,150

	Development and production of an interactive regional communication strategy	EURO 6060
Action 2: Human and Technical Capacity Development	2.1 Development and production of training curricula for optimised MCPA management	EURO 19,260
	2.2 Implementation of training for staff at MCPA sites	EURO 39,500
	2.3 Implementation of maritime law enforcement training with staff from existing MCPAs	EURO 139,700
	2.4 Implementation of environmental education programs with coastal communities in the vicinity of existing MCPA sites	EURO 25,000
Action 3.0 Institutional Strengthening	Development of South Asia Coastal Resource Task Force (SACRTF)	EURO 139,850
	3.2 Development of accessible centralised information conduit and resource base	EURO 65,000
	3.3 Development of interactive coral reef stakeholder network	EURO 57,650
4.Strengthened capacity of policy makers, planners and managers to design and implement livelihood enhancement and diversification for poor reef users		EURO 206,245
	4.1 Reef dependency characterisation workshop	
	4.2 Review existing initiatives	
	4.3 Development and field-testing of methodology	
	4.4 Production of Alternative Livelihood Implementation Guidelines	
	4.5 Development of training materials and outreach schedule	
	4.6 Implementation of Training for Policy Makers and Practitioners	
	4.7 Production of Policy Guidance Materials	
5.Long-term coral reef management in South Asia		
	5.1 Preparation for long-term marine and coastal resource conservation	EUR 14,260

PROGRAMME 8 FOLLOW UP ACTIVITIES ON THE EXSISTING MBI PROJECT WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF SRI LANKA

Project	Activities	Financial Out Lay in US \$
Follow up activities on the existing MOU with GPA	To be Determined (Recommendations from the MBI Project)	To be determined