

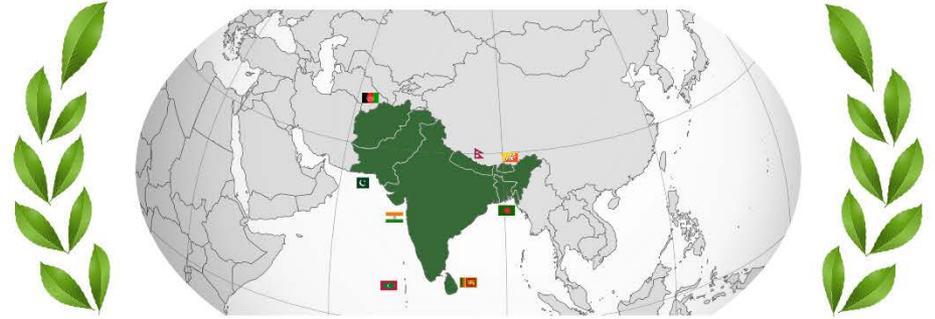
SOUTH ASIA COOPERATIVE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME



SACEP

South Asia Co-operative
Environment Programme

www.sacep.org



“Experience of SACEP in fostering environmental policies: Context of air and water pollution in South Asian Region”



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South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme (SACEP)



- ❑ Established in 1982, SACEP is an inter-governmental organization of eight member states:
- ❑ Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka
- ❑ Apex decision body is the SACEP Governing Council comprising of Ministers
- ❑ SACEP core programme and project activities apart from South Asian Seas Programme and are:
 - Waste Management
 - Adaptation to Climate Change
 - Data base and Information Management
 - Biodiversity





Important Features of South Asian Seas Region



The coastal habitats of South Asia are at a high risk of eutrophication from nutrient enrichment due to leakages from agriculture, aquaculture, sewage, industrial effluents, marine trade and transport. Some of the important features of the South Asian Seas region are:

- **About 22% of the global population;**
- **With only 4.8% of the world's land mass;**
- **14% of the global arable land;**
- **2.73% of the world forest area and**
- **4% of the world's coastline.**





South Asian Seas Region (SAS)





South Asian Seas Programme (SASP)



- Action Plan for SASP was formally adopted at a Meeting of Plenipotentiaries of the concerned countries held in New Delhi, on March 24th 1995.
- The overall objective of the SASP is to protect and manage the marine environment and related coastal ecosystems of the region in an environmentally sound and sustainable manner.
- The Action Plan in addition to specifying the needs under the main components of Environmental Assessment, Environmental Management, Environmental Legislation & Institutional and Financial Arrangements, identified the areas where priority activities need to be developed for implementation .

The Plan focuses on:

- ✓ Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM),
- ✓ oil-spill contingency planning,
- ✓ human resource development and
- ✓ the environmental effects of land-based activities.





Partnership



- IMO
- UNEP-GPA,
- UNEP Coral Reef Programme
- FAO
- IAEA
- Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem
- USDA
- Private Sector/Shipping Associations
- Other regional and sub-regional agencies



Malé Declaration on Control and Prevention of Air Pollution and its likely Trans-boundary Effects for South Asia

- March 1998 in Thailand senior government officials, analysts and experts discussed the issue of Air pollution and the possibility of regional migratory measures.
- **Malé Declaration was adopted at the 7th Governing Council of SACEP in April 1998 that took place in the Male, Maldives.**
- This is the first intergovernmental agreement to address regional air pollution .



Aim of the Declaration

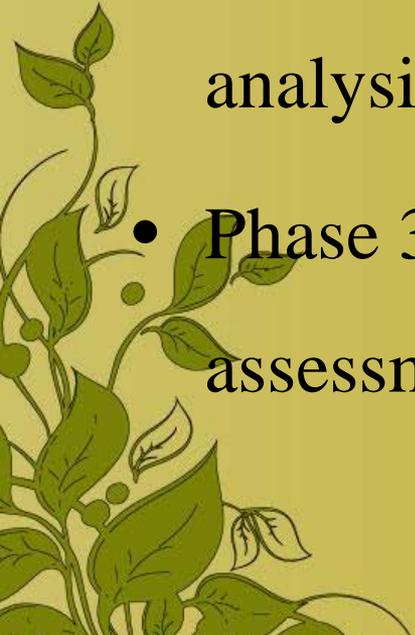
- To achieve intergovernmental cooperation;
- To address the increasing threat of transboundary air pollution; and
- Consequential impacts on human health, ecosystem function and corrosion of materials.



Phase I-III

Successfully implemented by UNEP in partnership with SACEP with the financial support from SIDA.

- Phase 1: **Awareness** and **baseline** studies (1999-2001);
- Phase 2: Local **capacity building** for monitoring and analysis (2001-2004);
- Phase 3: Capacity building on monitoring and impact assessment (2005-2008).



Phase IV (2009 -2012)

- **Aim - Enhancement of regional cooperation**
- As per recommendations of the 10th and 11th Governing Councils, SACEP signed an MoU with UNEP in April 2010, for the Phase IV .
- Under the MoU SACEP assisted carried out the following tasks :-
 - **Feasibility study on the establishment of specialized regional centers;**
 - Feasibility study on **developing a regional framework** such as convention on air pollution in South Asia
 - **Compiled a report** on the implementation of the Malé Declaration for the Governing Council of SACEP



Task Force on Future Development of Malé Declaration

First meeting of the Task Force on Future Development of Malé Declaration was held in Thailand In August 2010 the. In that meeting the members of the Task Force agreed :

1. To develop a **mechanism** for sustainable Financing;
2. To Conduct a feasibility study on establishing **regional centers**;
3. To conduct a feasibility study on developing a **regional framework** on air pollution reduction in South Asia.



Task Force on Future Development

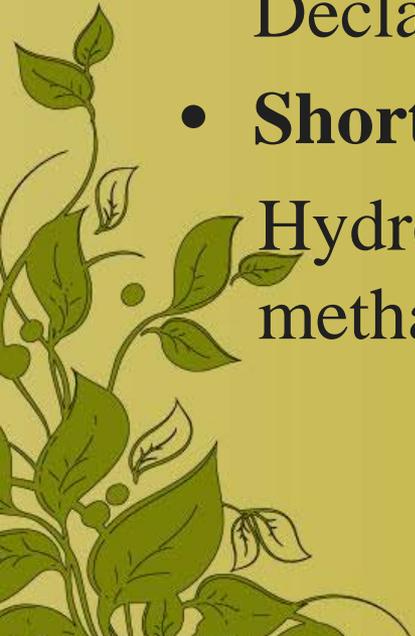
The Second Meeting of the Task Force was held in Colombo, Sri Lanka in 2012 collaboration with SACEP. At the meeting **potential regional centers were identified**. The purpose of a regional center is to advise on any technical problem faced by a country and provide guidance on the smooth operation of Malé Declaration activities and how to maintain high quality data provision.

1. Regional Centre on Wet and Dry Deposition Monitoring – **India**
2. Regional Centre on Crops and Vegetation Monitoring - **Pakistan**
3. Regional Centre on Soil Monitoring – **Bhutan**
4. Regional Centre on Corrosion Impact Assessment - **India**
5. Regional Centre on Health Impact Assessment - **Bangladesh**
6. Regional Centre on Emission Inventories – **Sri Lanka**
7. Regional Centre on Modelling Atmospheric Transport of Air Pollution – **Iran**
8. Regional Centre on Pollution Reduction Policies/Strategies –**Nepal**
/Maldives

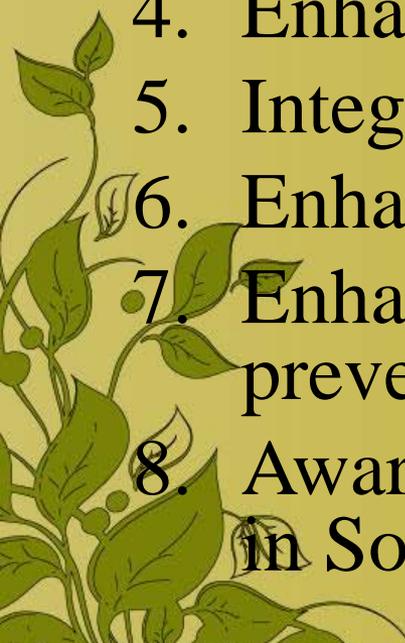
Phase V(2014-2016)

Aims

- To promote **policy measures** to control emissions of air pollution including short-lived climate pollutants (SLCPs) in South Asia and to ensure the sustainability and ownership of the Malé Declaration in the region.
- **Short lived Climate Pollutants (SLCPs)** includes Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), black carbon, methane and ground level ozone.



Outcome

1. Strengthened regional cooperation;
 2. Sharing experiences;
 3. Strengthened monitoring (SO₂, NO₂, O₃, PM_{2.5}, PM₁₀ and TSP) and capacity building programmes;
 4. Enhanced capacity on emission inventory;
 5. Integrated Assessment Modeling
 6. Enhanced national level capabilities;
 7. Enhanced policy formulation and air pollution prevention; and
 8. Awareness raised on transboundary air pollution in South Asia region.
- 



Marine Related Activities



- **Regional Strategy and Task Force on Ballast Water Management in South Asia**
- **South Asia Coral Reef Task Force**
- **Regional Oil Spill Contingency Plan in south Asian Region**
- **A Scoping Study of Nutrient Pollution on the Coastal and Marine Systems of South Asia**
- **Development of a Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Strategy for the South Asian Seas Region**



Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based activities -GPA

The protection of the marine environment from land based activities has been identified as one of the four priority areas to be address under the SAS Action Plan and therefore has been an activity, actively perused by SAS countries with the assistance of UNEP-GPA office

| Year and Venue | Initiative |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| October 1997, Colombo, Sri Lanka | Workshop on Implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the protection of the marine environment from land-based activities |
| February 2002, India | Regional Meeting for GPA-Physical Alternations and Destruction of Habitat |
| April 2003, Colombo, Sri Lanka | GPA South Asia Regional Consultation Workshop to prepare the 2003-2006 GPA Regional Action Plan |
| April 2003, Chennai, India | Integrated Coastal Area and River Basin Management |
| Colombo, Sri Lanka, 2007, | Regional Meeting of National Authorities and Experts on Marine Litter |

On-board Training Workshop on Marine Resources Sampling, Data Collection and Interpretation for the South Asian Seas



- The training workshop was organized in collaboration with the Ministry of Earth Sciences, Government of India and UNEP. UN Division for Ocean Affairs and Law of Sea and UNEP-GRID Arendal were the other partners in this activity.
- 10 mid-level managers from the five SAS countries participated in this training programme held from 18-22 September in India.
- The Training Manual which was launched at the Opening of the Workshop in Chennai, provides detailed information with research articles presented in Five Thematic Areas, can be a reference reading material in the field of Ocean Management.

Blue Flag Beach Certification Programme for South Asia



- Under this activity, SACEP/SASP in collaboration with the Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE) Denmark, and the financial support of UNEP is to take the message of “A Clean beach – A Tourist Haven” for promoting sustainable tourism in the SAS region., in collaboration with the Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE) Denmark, and the financial support of UNEP
- SACEP organized National Workshops in Bangladesh, India, Maldives and Sri Lanka in February – in March 2010 in collaboration with the National Focal Points. These workshops provided a platform to further development of national programmes.
- Individual countries have agreed to pursue a follow up on the Beach Certification Programme.

Draft Regional proposal has been submitted to UNEP



International Coastal Clean-up day



In the International Environment Calendar for each year, Saturday of 3rd week of September marks the International Coastal Cleanup Day, where events are organized to make the public aware of the growing problem of debris accumulated in coastal areas.

Since 2006, SACEP has been organizing many activities to commemorate the Coastal Cleanup Day.



- SACEP and Indian Coast Guard jointly organized the event in Chennai, India.



- In 2010, SACEP in collaboration with US Embassy in Colombo and Ministry of Environment, Government of Sri Lanka organized the beach cleanup programme in Negombo. More than 500 school children and people from hotel industry contributed towards this activity.



Controlling Nutrient Loading and Eutrophication of Coastal Waters of the South Asian Seas Region

The main objective of this project was:

- An inventory of the sources of nutrients that end up in the coastal waters
- Estimating the impact of nutrient enrichment on coastal waters.
- Develop and undertake actions to reduce nutrient inputs to agriculture as well as remedial measures to over eutrophication/ hypoxia conditions in identified sites.
- Development of a regional action plan and establishment of a regional policy forum to be pursued by member countries





Study Report



- The study report was validated during the two day regional consultative workshop; 20-21 May 2014 in Colombo, Sri Lanka.
- The report set targets and identified opportunities for technical and financial support from potential donors .
- The report will be presented at the 6th-Inter Ministerial-SASP
- SACEP is working closely with Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem (BoBLME) Phase 2 to incorporate some of the actions identified in this report (BoBLME Steering Committee meeting). The report is available at [SACEP](http://www.sacep.org) website.





Policy recommendations



- Strict adherence to laws and policies related to coastal ecology.
- Effective river conservation program ensuring direct linkage to coastal habitat conservation.
- Develop quality standards for coastal waters including introduction of uniform standard for primary water quality criteria for the coastal waters.
- Managing pollution sources on land including capture and recycling of the nutrients emanating from agriculture, aquaculture, poultry and livestock farming etc.
- To minimize nutrient leakages throughout the food chain. They should be enforced and monitored periodically through a joint task force comprising relevant scientific, administrative and civil society stakeholders.
- Develop national and **sub-regional policies for conservation, protection and sustainable** policies for conservation, protection and sustainable development of oceanic and marine resources through a South Asian level intergovernmental working group/task force with governmental and civil society representatives.



National Focal Points



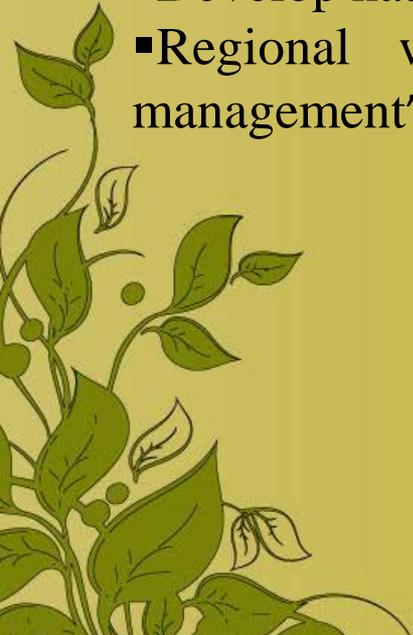
| Country | National Focal Point |
|------------|--|
| Bangladesh | 1. Director (Environment), Department of Environment. |
| India | 1. Dr. G.V.M. Gupta, Scientist, Center for Marine Living Resources and Ecology (CMLRE). 2. Dr. V.S. S. Sharma, Scientist, National Institute of Oceanography (NIO). 3. Representative from Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change. |
| Pakistan | 1. Mr. Muhammad Irfan Tariq, Director General (Environment & Climate Change). 2. Dr. Asif Inam Director General, National Institute of Oceanography. |
| Maldives | 1. Director, Ministry of Environment and Energy |
| Sri Lanka | 1. Dr. B.P. Terney Pradeep Kumara, General Manager Marine Environment Protection Authority. |



Proposed activities by SACEP



- SACEP may conduct one or more South Asian regional workshops which will provide governmental perspectives on the way forward to implement INMS.
- Organize on-board training on water quality monitoring, nutrient loading in the Indian ocean.
- Develop quality standards for coastal waters including introduction of uniform standard for primary water quality criteria for the coastal waters.
- Develop national and **sub-regional policies related to INMS**
- Regional workshop training on “nutrient loading assessment and management”





Forthcoming Regional workshop



| | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Objectives of the workshop | Governmental perspectives on the way forward to implement INMS. <i>“Capacity development for the national authorities to formulate Nitrogen Management Policy and its implementation at national and regional level”</i> -Capacity development, -awareness raising, -experience sharing, -existing activities, -way forward to prepare a regional action plan/regional policy |
| Date | Last week of August/First week of September. 2017. |
| Venue | Male, Maldives. |
| Number of participants | Bangladesh-3, India-3, Pakistan-3, Sri Lanka-3 and Maldives 10, SACEP-3, INMS-5. Total=30 |
| Duration | 3-4 Days |
| Budget | Detailed budget break-up will be shared later on |

Thank you very much

