

Regional Co-operation for Enhanced Biodiversity Conservation in South Asia



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South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme



Established in 1982 as the regional environmental hub of South Asia.

Mission :

“to promote regional co-operation in South Asia in the field of environment, both natural and human in the context of sustainable development and on issues of economic and social development which also impinge on the environment and vice versa; to support conservation and management of natural resources of the region and to work closely with all national, regional, and international institutions, governmental and nongovernmental, as well as experts and groups engaged in such co-operation and conservation efforts”.

The Organization structure of SACEP

- Governing Council - represented at ministerial level
- Consultative Committee - representatives of diplomatic missions residing in Colombo
- National Focal Points – Environment Ministries / Agencies
- Subject Area Focal Points - appointed by member country
- Secretariat - Director General, professional, administrative and supporting staff.

The Role of SACEP



SACEP in collaboration with partner organizations had implemented programmes in the field of

- Environmental Law, Biodiversity ,
- Air Pollution, Environmental Education,
- Multi-lateral Environmental Agreements,
- Environmentally Sustainable Transport,
- Climate Change, Waste Management,
- Data and Information Management,
- and Clearing-House Mechanism

Since 1983 has served as the secretariat for the South Asian Seas Programme - UNEP RSP

SACEP receives financial assistance

- the Government of Sri Lanka – Host Facility
- Country Contribution by member governments
- bilateral and multilateral donors.

SACEP Partnership Programmes



- **Malé Declaration on Control and Prevention of Air Pollution and its likely Trans-boundary Effects for South Asia – UNEP RRCAP**
- **Environmentally Sustainable Transport (EST) - UNCRD**
- **International Partnership for Expanding Waste Management Services of Local Authorities (IPLA) – UNCRD**
- **Inception and Training Workshop on Establishment of Environmental Data and Information Management System for South Asia- UNEP-ROAP**
- **Partnership for Cleaner Fuels and Vehicles (PCFV) - UNEP**
- **Establishment of Basel Convention Regional Centre for South Asia**
- **Establishment of a South Asia Regional Initiative for the conservation and wise use of wetlands – Ramsar Convention Secretariat**

CHM for South Asia

- A project proposal to establish a regional CHM for South Asia with the assistance of Belgian CHM focal point was presented to the 10 GC of SACEP and the following decision was adopted
- “The GC agreed in principle to establish a regional Biodiversity CHM in SACEP. However it noted that except for one country none of the other countries had developed National CHMs and it will be beneficial to develop national CHMs in close coordination with the regional CHM. Therefore the proposal should be amended accordingly to incorporate the country needs.”
- The 11th GC suggested the following activities
 - a) Assist member countries of South Asia to build capacity to develop and maintain National CHMs
 - b) Assist member countries to develop and maintain National CHMs
 - c) Develop a regional CHM that meets the needs of the region, links together the national CHMs and provides a forum for promoting regional scientific and technical cooperation



A capacity building workshop is organized from 12 - 16 December 2011 with assistance of CBD Secretariat, Belgian CHM focal point and the Government of India.

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE SOUTH ASIA INITIATIVE FOR COMBATING ILLEGAL TRADE IN WILDLIFE



- **At the 10th GC of SACEP a decision was taken to incorporate special work programme for combating illegal trade in wildlife and its products in South Asian Region. To take this decision forward, SACEP signed a MoU with TRAFFIC International to establish a Wildlife Enforcement Network for the South Asian Region.**
- **The first Regional Workshop on the South Asia Wildlife Trade Initiative was held in Kathmandu, Nepal from 31st January – 1st February 2008.**
- **The 11th GC of SACEP, held in May, 2008, endorsed the Statement on South Asia Wildlife Trade Initiative as the ‘South Asia Initiative for Combating Illegal Trade in Wildlife’, and unanimously adopted it as the “JAIPUR DECLARATION”.**

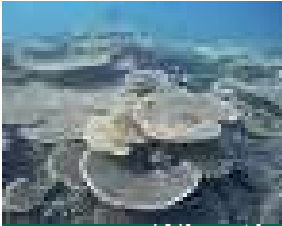
The Ministerial representatives also endorsed the establishment of the South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network (SAWEN) and the South Asia Regional Strategic Plan on Combating Illegal Wildlife Trade (2008 –2013)

South Asian Seas Programme



- **On-board Training Workshop on Marine Resources Sampling, Data Collection and Interpretation for the South Asian Seas - GoI, UNEP, UNDOLAS and UNEP-GRID Arendal**
- Indian Ocean Census of Marine Life - a concept paper titled “Census of Marine Life – South Asian Seas” in collaboration with Dr M.V. M. Wafar, Chairperson of the Indian Ocean Census of Marine Life to extend this activity within the South Asian Seas Region. The main objective of this initiative will be to build more collaboration within the scientific community and relevant institutions of the region. - NIOT/GOI
- **Marine Biodiversity Assessment and Outlook 2010**
UNEP entrusted SACEP to prepare the Outlook Report for the South Asian Seas Region. The Global Synthesis report was launched by the UNEP-Regional Seas Programm on 19th October 2010 in Nagoya, Japan.

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UNEP/ EU Funded Project on MCPAs in Coral Reef Ecosystems in South Asia

- The three year project terminated in 2009, assisted in building capacity and awareness in Coral Reef management in the region.
- The Establishment of the South Asia Coral Reef Task Force, the development of a Regional Communication Strategy and a Tool Kit for Marine and Coastal Protected Areas are some of the highlights of this project.
- Activities undertaken with the Small Scale Funding Agreement (SSFA) on Educational Awareness in member countries in MCPAs were very successful. Under the SSFA the following documents were produced and published by the SACEP Secretariat:
 - Regional Communication Strategy for Coral Reef Management in South Asia
 - Regional Strategy for Coral Reef Management in South Asia
- In view of the regional importance of this initiative, SACEP Secretariat is actively searching for possible donors to take the project activities forward.



Ministerial Statement on South Asia's Biodiversity Beyond 2010.....



- At the 12th Meeting of the GC of SACEP held on 3rd November 2010, the Environmental Ministers adopted the South Asia's Biodiversity Beyond 2010 which urges South Asian Governments and stakeholders to take necessary measures in conjunction with the international community to implement decisions of the CBD COP and the actions identified in the third edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook to curb the continuing loss of biodiversity.

It emphasize the need for increased support to strengthen capacity for the implementation of CBD obligations in line with the updated Strategic Plan 2011-2020, including support for the updating of national biodiversity strategies and action plans



The Status of NBSAPS in South Asia

- Of the eight member states of SACEP, all are party to the CBD.
- NBSAPs) are the principal instruments for implementing the Convention at the national level (Article 6).

Country	Status
Afghanistan	There is no recent information about the status of NBSAP
Bangladesh	Completed in 2006
Bhutan	Prepared in 1997 and revised in 2002 and 2009
India	Prepared in 1999 and revised in 2008
Maldives	Completed in 2002
Nepal	Completed in 2002
Pakistan	Completed in 1999
Sri Lanka	Completed in 1998; Addendum prepared in 2006

- Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and has requested that parties review, update and revise their NBSAPs by 2014



THE NEED FOR REGIONAL COOPERATION IN SOUTH ASIA



Areas where regional cooperation is essential or can add additional value to national efforts in developing and implementing NBSAPs

□ development of regional biodiversity strategies, as appropriate, including agreeing on regional targets, as a means of complementing and supporting national actions and of contributing to the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020;

□ Interlinkages between Existing biodiversity related Multilateral Environmental Agreements.

Proposed activities

- Conduct capacity-building workshops, to support countries – valuation, indicator, communication strategy and financial mechanism development etc.,
- Promote the clearing house mechanism – sharing best practices
- Joint biodiversity Assessments in shared ecosystems
- Develop and implement a project for establishment of Regional Biodiversity Outlook and a strategy

Interlinkages of MEA activities

Six international conventions focus on biodiversity issues: the Convention on Biological Diversity

Convention	Status of Participation – Date of Entry in to force							
	Afghanistan	Bangladesh	Bhutan	India	Maldives	Nepal	Pakistan	Sri Lanka
Ramsar Convention	NP	1992	NP	1982	NP	NP	1976	1990
CITES	1986	1982	2002	1976	NP	1975	1976	1979
UNESCO -WH	1979	1983	2001	1977	1986	1978	1976	1980
CMS	NP	2005	NP	1983	NP	NP	1987	1990
- MoU on Marine Turtles of IOSEA, 2001	NRS	S	NRS	S	NP	NRS	S	S
- MoU on Dugongs, 2007	NRS	NRS	NRS	S	NP	NRS	NP	NP
- MoU on Siberian Crane, 1993	S	NRS	NRS	S	NRS	NRS	S	NRS
- MoU on Birds of Prey (Raptors), 2008	NRS?	NRS?	NRS?	NRS?	NRS?	S	S	NRS?
- AP Central Asian Flyway, 2008 (30)	Adopted by member countries other than Pakistan, yet not a legal entity							
CBD	2002	1994	1995	1994	1992	1993	1994	1994
Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, 2000 (156)	2005	2004	2003	2002	2003	Rtf	2009	2004
ITPGRFA	2006	2003	2003	2002	2006	2009	2003	NP

NP – Not a Party to the Convention/Initiative;
 NRS – Not a Range State to the MoU/Agreement;
 S- Signatory; Rtf – Ratified



Regional Cooperation for the Conservation and Wise-use of Internationally Important Wetlands in South Asia



Areas where regional cooperation is essential or can add additional value to national efforts

- ❑ Mobilization of regional assistance for non-signatory parties to sign and ratify the Ramsar convention.
- ❑ Facilitation of cooperative management of shared wetland systems, including river basins.
- ❑ Coordination of activities to conserve migratory and other common flagship species and their wetland habitats.
- ❑ Coordination between existing and future multinational and regional wetlands management programmes.
- ❑ Sharing of critical information and data, and experience sharing in wetlands management in a South Asian context.
- ❑ Interlinkages between Multilateral Environmental Agreements addressing wetland issues.

Shared ecosystems

- Terrai ecosystems (e.g. Shiwalik range) between India and Nepal
- Sundarbans mangrove forest between India and Bangladesh
- Manas sub tropical forest between India and Bhutan
- Gulf of Mannar between India and Sri Lanka
- Run of Kuchch between India and Pakistan
- Coral Atoll ecosystems between India (Lakshwadeep) and Maldives



Common and shared Species

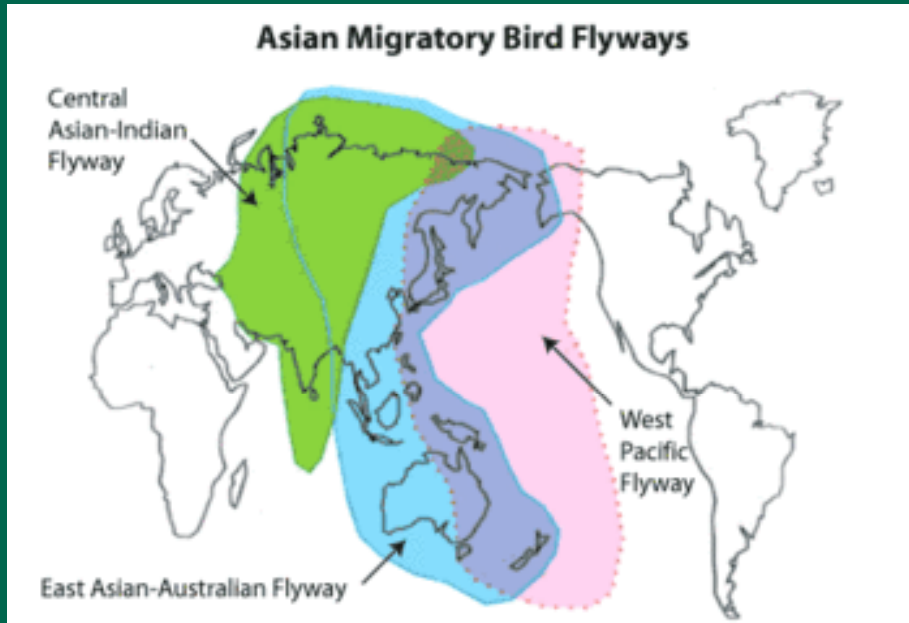


Charismatic and globally threatened sp
Eg: Tigers, Leopards, Elephants, Turtles



The nilgai (*Boselaphus tragocamelus*), is one of the most commonly seen wild animals of central and northern India, eastern Pakistan; and in parts of southern Nepal. The mature males are also known as blue bulls. The nilgai is the biggest Asian antelope.

A Missing Link : Protection of Migratory birds using the Central Asian Flyway



- A total of 193 species of waterbirds are recorded from the South Asian countries. 24 of these species are Globally Threatened and 16 are Near Threatened

- The region provides an important wintering ground for around 100 migratory species

- All 8 countries are part of the Central Asian Migratory flyway that includes 30 range states

- Action Plan has been prepared under the CMS





**Lets collaborate and cooperate to
for the wise use Biodiversity for
people and nature !!**

Thank You

