

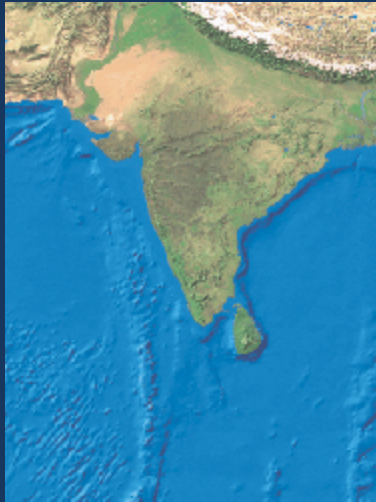
South Asian Seas Programme



S M D P Anura Jayatilake/Director General,
South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme



South Asian Seas Programme



- 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 SASAP 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.
- Although there is no regional convention yet, SASAP follows existing global environmental and maritime conventions and considers Law of the Sea as its umbrella convention.



Ongoing Activities

- Formal Adoption of the Regional Oil and Chemical Pollution Contingency Plan for South Asia in partnership with IMO
- Developing a Regional Strategy for Ballast Water Management in collaboration with IMO
- A Scoping Study of Nutrient Pollution on the Coastal and Marine Systems of South Asia in collaboration with UNEP GPA and FAO/BOBLME
- Developing a Regional Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Strategy for the South Asian Seas Region in collaboration with UNEP



Enhancing regional co-operation mechanisms on marine pollution preparedness and response in the SACEP region

- The long-term objective of the project is the effective implementation of the OPRC Convention and the OPRC-HNS Protocol
- The short-term objective will be to enhance regional cooperation on marine pollution preparedness and response in the SACEP region through an early and effective implementation of the MoU on regional cooperation in case of emergency and through the revitalization of the regional contingency plan and its entry into force.
- The following results/outcomes are expected at the completion of the project.
 - The Regional Contingency Plan, together with the MoU have entered into force;
 - A regional exercise conducted to test the communication and the operational procedures of the current Regional Contingency Plan and to identify the gaps if any;
 - The Regional Contingency Plan revisited, completed and updated as necessary;
 - The secretarial arrangements for the Regional Contingency Plan reviewed and confirmed; and
 - Key issues of importance regarding cooperation in case of major pollution incidents, such as the use of dispersants, aerial surveillance and liability and compensation addressed and related agreements reflected in the Regional Contingency Plan.

Regional Oil and Chemical Pollution Contingency Plan

The purpose of this 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

Responsibilities under the Action Plan

- Exchange of information
- Designation of National Authorities and points of contact
- Meetings of National Operational Authorities responsible for the implementation of the Plan
- Joint training and exercises



Under this MoU, in cases of major marine pollution incidents the Parties will cooperate in taking individually and jointly the necessary response measures according to the principles set out in the Regional Plan. The Parties will use their best endeavors to maintain their ability to respond to pollution incidents threatening the marine environment of the South Asia Seas Area. This would include:

1. Making a risk assessment regarding the traffic, offshore units, ports and oil handling facilities;
2. A minimum level of spill response equipment capable of making a first response proportionate to the risk involved;
3. Communication capabilities to notify without delay any pollution incidents; and
4. Programmes for training and exercises



Develop a Regional Strategy and Action Plan for Ballast Water Management in South Asia



Main Activities identified

- Ratification and implementation of the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments (BWM Convention);
- Establish a harmonized Compliance, Monitoring and Enforcement (CME) system in the region;
- Establish a port base line survey, biological data monitoring and risk assessment system for ports in the region;
- Establish Regional and National Task force supported by scientific/technical committee as necessary;
- Enhance public awareness and capacity building related to ships' ballast water and invasive aquatic species issues; and
- Information on the above to be shared among the member countries of SACEP and inter-regionally.



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

The main objective of this project is reducing and controlling nutrient loading into the coastal waters of the South Asian Seas Region through development of a regional action plan and policy forum/framework.

The activities proposed under this initiative include:

- An inventory of point/non- point 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



Regional Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Strategy for the South Asian Seas Region

In order to strengthen the NBSAPs processes and address challenges that require regional solutions and collaboration, SACEP and UNEP initiated the process of developing a Regional Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Strategy for the South Asian Seas Region.

The Objectives of the Strategy

- 1 Support South Asian countries in achieving Aichi Biodiversity targets with special reference to Targets 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 14 and 15, relevant for coastal and marine issues
- 2 Provide a framework for coordination and collaboration among country governments and other regional and global stakeholders
- 3 Promote and ensure coherence among NBSAPs
- 4 Provide basis for mobilizing funding for implementing the Strategy at regional level.
- 5 Provide background information for updating the South Asian Seas Action Plan developed in 1995

The Strategy will be used as a framework for coordination and collaboration between South Asian countries in their efforts towards developing and implementing NBSAPs and applying ecosystem approaches for the protection and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity and ecosystem services.