

Challenges and Opportunities: **SAS Programme** From Bergen (2010) to Busan (2011)

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SEAS CONVENTIONS AND ACTION PLANS,
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South Asian Seas



Bangladesh
India
Maldives
Pakistan
Sri Lanka

- 1/5th of world population in less than 1/20 of land area
- 50 % living along the coast and 6 Mega Coastal cities with more than 10 million
- Very rich coastal biodiversity including mangroves, coral reefs etc

Main Challenges

- Climate Change
Low laying Bangladesh, Maldives
Melting of Himalayan Glaciers
Tsunami and Cyclones
Unprecedented Rain and Flash Floods
Delayed monsoons and Droughts
- Marine Pollution
Sewage Discharge
60 % Global Oil Tanker Traffic
Agricultural runoffs and sediments
- Over Exploitation of Marine Resources
High dependency on coastal and marine resources for livelihood and food security
- Lack of Up to date Scientific Information for proper policy guidance.



Governing Structure



- The SASAP formally adopted at a Meeting of Plenipotentiaries of the concerned countries held in New Delhi, on March 24th 1995.
- SASAP follows existing global environmental and maritime conventions and considers the Law of the Sea as its umbrella convention.
- The SACEP secretariat oversee and facilitate the development and implementation of SASP, which is agreed upon by the member countries at the Intergovernmental Meeting of Ministers (IMM)
- Last IMM of the SASP held at Jaipur India in May 2008, where programme activities for 2009-10 was approved.
- 12th Meeting of the Governing Council of SACEP was held between 1-3rd November 2010 in Colombo Sri Lanka

Main Outcomes of the 12th GC



- **Recommend the appointment of Director General of SACEP to be on rotation among the member states starting from Sri Lanka**
- **Approval of SACEP and SASP Work Programme**
- **Adoption of two Resolutions; 'South Asia's Biodiversity Beyond 2010' and 'Clean Fuels and Vehicles'**



Finances



- **SASP country contributions**

The annual country contributions for SASP from 5 member countries are received

This funds are mainly used for maintenance of the Secretariat, but at present a percentage is used for project implementations

- **Assistance from UNEP for projects and programmes**

- **Other Agencies**

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**
- **Capacity building for the Clearing-House Mechanism of the Convention on Biological Diversity in South Asia – CBD and Royal Belgian National Focal Point for the CHM**
- **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**

Collaboration of SASP during 2011



- **Indian Ocean Census of Marine Life - December - NIOT/GOI**

The main objective of this meeting was to prepare an action plan to take forward the activities initiated under CoML India for the period of 2010 – 2020.

A concept paper titled “Census of Marine Life – South Asian Seas” was prepared to by SACEP and submitted to NIOT 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.

Main Activities proposed

- **Joint scientific expeditions**
- **Networking – workshops, web based etc**
- **Capacity building through exchange programmes**
- **Publications – identification guides, policy briefs, status reports, etc**



- **Collaboration with BOBP –IGO**

Participated as an Observer at the 7th Governing Council of the IGO and looking at the possibility of developing and implementing a join project on fish waste management

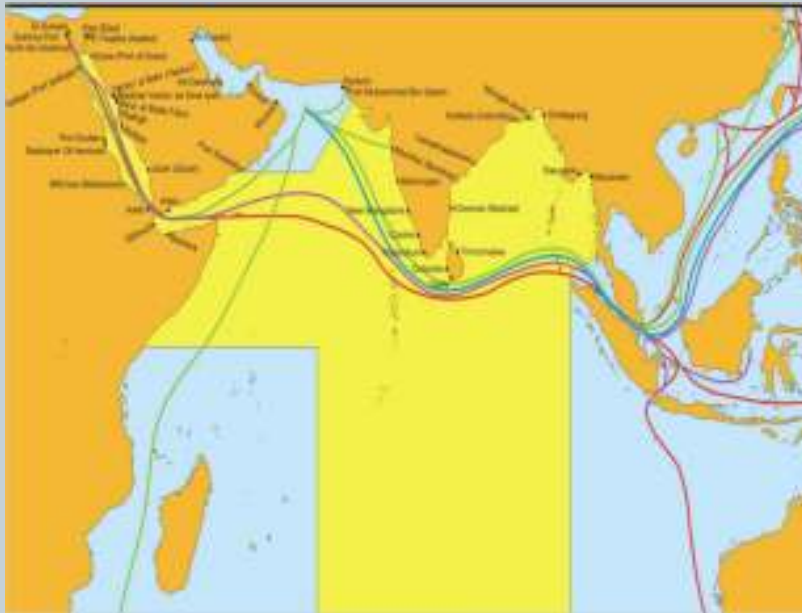
- **Discussion with Dr. Chris O' Brien, Regional Coordinator BOBLME Project**
indicated that the this project is interested in funding regional activity in the SAS in addressing combating oil pollution issues and GPA activities

- **Bi-National Stakeholder Consultation on Sustaining the Gulf of Mannar (GOM) Ecosystem and its Resources. - BOBLME**

The main aim of the consultation was to bring stakeholders from India and Sri Lanka together to develop a roadmap/ framework for fostering cooperation in management of the GoM ecosystem

- **Establishing a Co-operative Mechanism for Protection of Met - Ocean Data and Tsunami Buoys in the Northern Indian Ocean -BOB-IGO and NIOT/ GoI**

Regional Oil and Chemical Pollution Contingency Plan



A Regional Oil and Chemical Pollution Spill Contingency Plan and associated MoU were developed in association with IMO for enhanced cooperation in the event of an Oil or Chemical spill in South Asian Seas region. The final adaptation of the same has been pending since the year 2000.

Presently 3 Countries already signed the MoU and the other two are in final stages of accepting it.

It is envisaged that once the Secretariat received the signed MOU from all countries a Meeting of Plenipotentiaries will be convened.

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



Turtle Conservation



- **30th Annual Symposium on Sea Turtle Biology and Conservation** convened by the International Sea Turtle Society was held from 27 – 29 April 2010 in Goa, India.

The South Asia Mini Symposium, held on 26th was partly funded by SACEP, where representatives of member states, NGO and Academia sectors came together to discuss the present situation and how to come up with a united regional response to sea turtle conservation in the sub region. In this regard the role that can be played by SACEP/SASP as an intergovernmental partner was also discussed.

SACEP/SASP plans to play more active role in turtle conservation activities in the region in the future and is looking at the possibilities of conducting a sub-regional meeting to enhance the knowledge to conserve this highly migratory, threatened species.

Already a concept note has been prepared in this regard. To take this activities forward SACEP collaborates with the **IOSEA Marine Turtle Secretariat**



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.

Priority Programme Activities



- **Implementation of Marine Litter Programme: The Framework for Marine Litter Management for SAS Region, 2007 highlights the lack of any specific national or regional project/s dealing with the issue and therefore the importance of implementing an integrated Marine Debris Management Programme**
- **Endorsement and Formal Adoption of the Regional Oil Spill Contingency Plan for South Asia and its follow-up activities and increase co-operation with International Maritime Organization**
- **Follow -up Activities to EU funded Institutional Strengthening and Capacity Development for the Long-term Management and Conservation of MCPAs Encompassing Coral Reefs in South Asia**
- **Revision of the South Asian Seas Action Plan based on current global and regional trends**
The SASAP was prepared based upon best available information in late 1980s and early 1990s. During the last decade new environmental challenges have merged mainly in the form of natural disasters and climate change as well as importance of ecosystem services for livelihoods and food security.

Training programmes



- Prevention of entry of alien species mostly due to discharge of ballast water by ships
- Environmental Legislation
Laws related to Marine Protected Areas
- Methodologies on Economic valuation of coastal resources
- Preparation of disaster management plans and vulnerability maps

Challenges

- Obtaining Up to date Information for decision making – workshops, meetings
- Obtaining funding for project implementation – finding new donors
- Overcoming slow Government Responses – due to low Inter-Agency collaboration at National levels
- Institutional issues of the secretariat : Low capacity – need to build collaborations with existing centers of excellence within the region
Appointment of a new Regional Seas Coordinator

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Thank you

