

12th Meeting of the Governing Council of SACEP
Decision No 11

South Asia's Biodiversity Beyond 2010

We, the Environmental Ministers of South Asian Countries viz. Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka assembled in Colombo, Sri Lanka at the 12th Meeting of the Governing Council of SACEP on 3rd November 2010;

Aware that Biodiversity is essential for human life which generates goods and services including the provision of food and medicine, regulation of climate and water flow, supporting of soil formation and cultural values;

Emphasizing the role played by healthy ecosystems at the global, regional and national levels in moderating the effects of climate change;

Noting that the biodiversity loss has negative impacts on climate change and that the two are among the main global environmental challenges

Recognizing the important role of South Asia's Biodiversity towards economic development and ecosystem services for the well being of our people and the world community at large;

Acknowledging the positive steps taken by governments of South Asia and the other various institutions and organizations to conserve the region's rich biodiversity individually and collectively and understanding that much more need to be done;

Appreciating the initiatives taken by world leaders in implementing the Convention on Biological Diversity;

Expressing grave concern that the 2010 Biodiversity targets to halt the loss of biodiversity has not been reached;

Noting that the limited technical and financial resources had been an obstacle to achieving the 2010 target in South Asian countries;

Noting the 2020 targets and the Strategic Plan for the Period 2011 – 2020 adopted by the CBD CoP10 on 29th October 2010 at Nagoya, Japan;

Recognizing that the current rate of loss is a serious threat to the existing Biodiversity and immediate measures are required to reverse the loss of biodiversity

Emphasizing the importance of a holistic ecosystem management approach to biodiversity, poverty alleviation and economic development, and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;

Conscious that public awareness achieved through information, educational and motivational programmes on sustainable use of biodiversity positively contribute towards biodiversity conservation, human health and wellbeing, as well as economic development

Urge South Asian Governments and stakeholders to take necessary measures in conjunction with the international community to implement decisions of the Conference of the Parties to CBD and the actions identified in the third edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook to curb the continuing loss of biodiversity;

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

Urge SACEP to forge greater links and interaction with SAARC in line with the MoU signed between the two and also to take note of the signing of the SAARC Convention on Co-operation on Environment.