

## Memorandum of Understanding

Concerning cooperation between

the United Nations Environment Programme,  
GPA Coordination Office

and

the South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme (SACEP)

the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), GPA Coordination Office and the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP),

*Whereas* the GPA Coordination Office in The Hague was established to coordinate tasks and activities of UNEP as secretariat of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (GPA),

*Whereas* the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP) in Colombo was established to promote transboundary cooperation in the context of sustainable development, and economic and social development issues which impinge on the environment,

*Noting* the role of SACEP as the implementing agency for activities under the United Nations Environment Programme – South Asian Seas Programme,

*Recognizing* the commitments made at the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) by the South Asian nations, and the endorsement of the SACEP Governing Council for the expansion of the International Coral Reef Action Network (ICRAN) into the South Asia region.

*Recalling* the UNEP Governing Council Decisions 21/12 and 22/2 IV on coral reefs, which support UNEP's increased commitment to coral reef related activities, through the establishment of the UNEP-Coral Reef Unit, its continuing role in the International Coral Reef Initiative and its coordinating role in the International Coral Reef Action Network,

*Grateful* for the contributions provided by the European Union to UNEP in 2006 for work to support actions promoting the conservation and sustainable management of coral reefs in South Asia.

Have agreed as follows:

*delly*

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1. UNEP/GPA and SACEP cooperate to:
  - (a) To develop the institutional and human capacity for the improved management and conservation of exploited marine and coastal resources on which the economic and social development of future generations in South Asia is based.
  - (b) Strengthen this implementation of the GPA Strategic Action Programme by identification of and collaboration in demonstration projects and by identifying knowledge gaps and relevant ongoing programmes related to the topic.
2. UNEP/GPA and SACEP, within the respective mandates and subject to the availability of resources, will undertake joint activities to facilitate the management and conservation of coral reefs and the sustainable use of the goods and services they provide by utilizing the contributions pledged in 2006 by the European Union to UNEP under agreement number ENV/2005/.
3. UNEP/GPA and SACEP will regularly review existing collaborative activities and discuss opportunities for future collaboration and keep each informed on relevant activities conducted by either partner.
4. None of the parties to this Memorandum shall make any commitments or take any positions on behalf of the other without that organization's specific, written consent.
5. The specific activities that will be undertaken under this MOU will be identified on a yearly basis as a minimum, and more frequent as appropriate, subject to availability of funds and will be described in annexes to this MOU. They form an integral part of this MOU. A first activity to be performed in 2006 is described in Annex 1 and attached to this MOU.
6. This Memorandum enters into force upon signature of the parties. It remains effective for three years after the date on which it enters into force. It may be modified only by written mutual agreement of the parties. Activities as described in Annexes will be completed during the 3-year duration of this MoU.

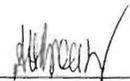
Signed on behalf of the GPA Coordination Office:



Dr. Veerle Vandeweerd  
GPA Coordinator

20/07/2006  
Date

Signed on behalf of SACEP:



Dr A A Boaz  
Director General SACEP

27/7/06  
Date