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SAARC Nations join hands to tackle illegal wildlife trade



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SAARC Nations will join hand to tackle the region's illegal wildlife trade and accordingly the eight nations have come under the banner of the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP), an inter-governmental organization.

The first regional workshop of this programme was held in Kathmandu, where the group agreed to a series of measures as part of a South Asia Wildlife Trade Initiative (SAWTI). This includes the setting up of a South Asia Experts Group on Wildlife Trade and the development of a South Asia Regional Strategic Plan on Wildlife Trade (2008-2013).

During the Kathmandu workshop it was agreed to focus on a number of key areas of work, including co-operation and co-ordination, effective legislation policies and law enforcement, sharing knowledge and effective dissemination of information, sustainability of legal trade and livelihoods security, intelligence networks and early warning systems and capacity building.

The workshop was organised by the Nepal Ministry of Environment, Science and Technology, SACEP, World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) Nepal and TRAFFIC, the wildlife trade-monitoring network. SACEP was established in 1982 to promote regional co-operation in South Asia in the field of environment.

The group includes Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

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