



Hon. Rajiv Gandhi, Prime Minister of India at the Inauguration of the Third Governing Council Meeting of SACEP flanked by Hon Shah Moazzem Hussain, Minister of Local Government, Rural Development & Co-operatives, Bangladesh on his right and Shri Bhajan Lal, Minister of Environment and Forests, India on his left.

### THIRD GOVERNING COUNCIL OF SACEP

The Third Governing Council Meeting of the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme was held in New Delhi, India on the 12th and 13th of January 1987.

The Meeting was attended by representatives from the following member countries namely, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Iran, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. There was also representation from the following United Nations Agencies and International Organisations—United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific (ESCAP), International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), World Health Organization (WHO), World Wildlife Fund (WWF), East-West Centre, Hawaii, World Meteorological Organization (WMO), and SACEP Vienna Liaison Office.

Honourable Rajiv Gandhi, Prime Minister of India inaugurated the Meeting. In the course of his speech he mentioned that Man and Nature have lived in harmony for centuries. The balance was not upset. The tribes that lived in the forests have not upset the balance in the forests. It is what we call civilization and development that has encroached upon nature and has destroyed her environment. We must develop the right tools of development and for protection of the environment. We must develop the human genius to give us the right answers.



A section of the participants in the Inauguration Ceremony.

In accordance with the provisions of Articles of Association of SACEP, Honourable Bhajan Lal, Minister of Environment and Forests, Government of India took over the Chairmanship from Honourable Shah Moazzem Hussain, Minister of Local Government, Rural Development and Co-operative of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.

One of the important decisions taken at this meeting of the Governing Council was the suggestion made by the members regarding the sharing of expenditure and it was decided that a new formula should be devised and approved so as to make SACEP a viable self supporting institution. The meeting also sought for the continuing support of SACEP by UN and other International Organizations.

The present status of the projects and programmes undertaken by SACEP were considered in detail by the Governing Council. Likewise the activities of the Subject Area Focal Points were considered and discussed.

The Director SACEP brought to the notice of the meeting the decision of SACEP being recommended as the Secretariat for the implementation of the Action Plan of South Asian Regional Seas Programme and that six priority programmes with collaboration from various international organizations will be implemented during the year 1987.

The Chairman GC III in his concluding remarks thanked the Director and SACEP staff for their excellent work in spite of limited resources and assured that the member countries would rally round to make SACEP a vibrant and vital organization in this region.

## EDITORIAL

Marine Mammals, the much talked about and also very much sought after, for a variety of reasons, have and will continue to fascinate and inspire human beings for years to come. They are graceful, intelligent and mysterious.

The exact circumstances and the chain of events are unknown. However, evolution points out that the present day Marine Mammals, those who spend all or most of their time in the sea and obtain their food from it, evolved from several groups of land animals who came back to the sea at various times and for different reasons.

Marine Mammals are major tourist attractions. It is they who sustain arctic lifestyles and traditions. They are also big business. As such, it is no surprise, there is a systematic extinction of many species of Marine Mammals by the destruction of their habitat, depletion of their food supplies, pollution of their waters and invasion of their breeding grounds. Marine Mammals all over the globe are threatened. They have no longer anywhere to hide.

The issues involved in the conservation and protection of Marine Mammals are complex with various opinions expressed, some with conflicting interest. A number of attempts have been made both at national and international levels to protect them.

The United Nations, drawing experience from all these efforts, have launched a single global programme for Marine Mammals. The initial step was taken in 1972 at the Stockholm Conference, when the world-wide moratorium on commercial whaling was first proposed. In 1978, FAO and UNEP initiated the preparation of a Global Action Plan for the Conservation, Management and Utilization of Marine Mammals.

The basic goal of this plan is to generate a consensus among the governments of the world on which to base a global policy for Marine Mammal conservation.

The definition of "Conservation" in this context will also encompass rational exploitation of species and the management of human activities which could affect them. This term also embraces "preservation, maintenance, sustainable utilization, restoration and enhancement of the natural environment.

The Action Plan activities are organised into five sections. Policy Formulation, Regulation and Protective Measures, Scientific Research, Improvement of Laws and their application and Public Awareness. The implementation of the plan would involve the participating of many international and Non-Governmental Organizations.

Likewise, the draft Action Plan for the South Asian Seas Regional Programme has incorporated many concepts and ideas in its work plan which directly or indirectly assist in promoting the conservation of the Marine Mammals. In fact, one of the priority projects already approved concerns the Development of a System of Protected Areas in the South Asian Seas Region and this is done in collaboration with the International Union of Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources.

It is essential that all governments, international and non governmental organizations work in close harmony so that what is considered the last or only hope for Marine Mammals, will be their best hope.

INDEX	PAGE
THIRD GOVERNING COUNCIL OF SACEP	1
EDITORIAL	2
A REFLECTION ON A REGIONAL AGREEMENT FOR THE SOUTH ASIAN SEAS ACTION PLAN	3
ENVIRONMENTAL LEGISLATION	4
EIA WORKSHOP FOR SACEP COUNTRIES	5
ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES IN SACEP COUNTRIES	6
SACEP SNIPPETS	7
SRI LANKA CELEBRATES WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY	8

## A REFLECTION ON A REGIONAL AGREEMENT FOR THE SOUTH ASIAN SEAS ACTION PLAN

The development of action plans for the protection and enhancement of the quality of regional bodies of water and adjacent coastal areas has been identified by UNEP's Governing Council as the most effective means of protecting the global marine environment. The nature of environmental problems would differ considerably between regions. Each regional group would perceive differently the common problems they wish to resolve through a co-operative effort. However, the ultimate responsibility rests on the governments of the region to ensure wise management of the common resources, a management that should result in optimal socio-economic growth on a sustainable basis without environmental degradation. It is essential that in the development of an integrated approach to environment and development, strategies should be adopted on a sustainable basis in order to meet the basic human needs without exceeding the possible "outer limits".

The following functional tasks, as defined by the United Nations Conference on Human Environment (Stockholm 1972), can be considered as components of a comprehensive action plan.

- 1) Environmental Assessment
- 2) Environmental Management, including environmental law;
- 3) Supporting measures

The key to the success of any regional seas action plan is the agreement of governments concerned to co-operate and the execution of the national programme primarily by national and other appropriate institutions from the region in close co-operation with the relevant agencies of the United Nations System, other appropriate organizations and the existing structures thereof.

The South Asian Seas Programme which is the 11th of a kind, is in the happy position that it has 10 other previous regional programmes to go by and to take note of the positive aspects and avoid the pitfalls.

A formal legal agreement is useful in providing a framework for harmonizing and strengthening national legislation and promulgating, as necessary, new legislation relating to environmental concerns.

A regional agreement gives more emphasis and continuity to governmental commitments by providing a forum for regular, high level consultation among the parties to a formal agreement.

A convention also provides a legal basis on which financial support can be built for continuous co-ordinated action. Domestically, through its participation in a regional agreement, each government will be better placed to solicit political and financial support for national activities which will have to be carried out as a part of the action plan.

All of the regional seas conventions have followed a similar format. The convention itself is an umbrella agreement outlining the general obligations and commitments of the parties. The convention's obligations are then progressively elaborated upon through the adoption of a series of technical protocols which provide for more detailed control measures, practices, standards and co-operative activities for a specific source of pollution or a particular management issue.

Experience has demonstrated that it is best to adopt concurrently, the action plan and the regional convention, so as to reinforce the fundamental link between the two and to promote a continuing political commitment at the highest and broadest levels in each Government concerned.

"There is enormous collective wisdom in humanity and there are many places where people have evolved cultures in balance with their environment down the millennia. We must not throw those things away but we must also accept today's pressures are so great on those communities that change will be forced. So we need an adaptive, system a way which draws out the accumulated good, but nonetheless moves into a stable, balanced future."

Martin Holdgate

## SACEP ENVIRONMENTAL LEGISLATION WORKSHOP

A workshop on Environmental Legislation for SACEP Member Countries was held on the 15th and 16th January 1987 in New Delhi. This workshop saw the completion of a project which was approved at the First Governing Council of SACEP in 1983, and subsequently adopted for funding by the United Nations Development Programme.

The first phase of the project was the preparation of present status country reports by national consultants on a given terms of reference. A consultant was recruited by the UNDP to study these reports, prepare a regional overview and also to make country specific and general recommendations based on these reports. The final phase of the project was this workshop where all these documents were studied, revised and recommendations made to the respective Governments.

The workshop was hosted by the Government of India and the following member countries participated: Afghanistan, Bhutan, India, Iran, Maldives and Sri Lanka. Though the Governments of Bangladesh and Nepal had submitted their country reports, their representatives were unable to be present.

The work shop was formally declared open by Mr. M.J. Kazem, Director SACEP, after which the representative from Sri Lanka, Mr. K.H.J. Wijayadasa, Secretary to the Prime Minister and Chairman Central Environmental Authority was elected Chairman. The representative from Afganistan Dr. Amir S. Hassanyar, Professor of Ecology, Faculty of Agriculture, Kabul University was elected rapporteur. The consultant for the workshop Mr. P.N. Dias Abeygunawardene acted as secretary to the workshop.

At first, the draft regional overview prepared on the basis of country reports on hand was discussed and revised. This was followed by country representatives presenting abstracts of the country reports after which the experts considered the general recommendations stated in the regional overview and after a detailed discussion it was decided to submit certain general recommendations to the Governments of the member countries for their consideration and subsequent implementation. Some of the general recommendations that emerged from the workshop are as follows:

- a) The countries that do not have a lead agency for policy formulation and co-ordination in the field of environment should seriously consider the establishment of such an agency as a matter of priority.
- b) Assuming that the above is established, a cell should be identified, whose function shall be the regular review, evaluation and when necessary, updating, strengthening and the
- c) The formulation and adoption of a National Environmental Policy.
- d) Review and re-formulation of existing legislations to cater to the requirements of Resource Management.
- e) Strengthening of the institutional infrastructure for the effective implementation of Environmental Programmes and the enforcement of Environmental Legislation.



From L to R: Mr. P. N. Dias Abeygunawardene - Consultant SACEP, Mr. M. J. Kazem - Director SACEP, Mr. K. H. J. Wijayadasa - Chairman Central Environmental Authority, Sri Lanka, Dr. Amir S. Hassanyar - Professor of Ecology, Kabul University, Afghanistan.



A section of the participants at the Environmental Legislation Workshop.

- f) An up to date compilation of Environmental Laws of the countries of the Region should be maintained. The SACEP Secretariat could be designated as a Clearing House for this purpose.
- g) The countries should review the various International and Regional Conventions, particularly those referring to the Regional Programmes concerned with the SACEP Member Countries and should consider their early ratification, if it has not already been done so.

The Meeting also decided to submit the respective governments a set of "Guidelines for the Formulation, Review and Updating of National Environmental Legislation" presented by the SACEP Secretariat as a proposal from this workshop. Finally the workshop also made certain recommendations to the Governments of the region in respect of Institutional and Training Facilities in the field of Environmental Legislation.

## ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT WORKSHOP FOR SACEP COUNTRIES MARCH 1987, COLOMBO, SRI LANKA

A Senior Level Expert Workshop to Evaluate Benefits and Constraints of the Environmental Impact Assessment Process in SACEP Countries was held from 2nd to 6th March 1987. This workshop was organised by UNEP in collaboration with the Government of Sri Lanka and SACEP, with financial support from the Government of Netherlands.

The objective of the workshop was to evaluate the advantages and constraints in using EIA and by examining case studies, the workshop would endeavour to determine how the EIA process could be improved.

The workshop was formally declared open by Mr. R. Paskaralingam, Secretary, Ministry of Local Government, Housing and Construction, Sri Lanka. The address of welcome was delivered by Mr. K.H.J. Wijeyadasa, Secretary to the Prime Minister and Chairman, Central Environmental Authority, Sri Lanka, Dr. Nay Htun, Director and Regional Representative, UNEP Regional Office for Asia & Pacific, also addressed the opening session. The vote of thanks was delivered by Mr. M.J. Kazem, Director SACEP. The following SACEP Member countries participated at this workshop; Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

The working sessions of the workshop, commenced with country presentations. This was followed by presentations by the Resource Persons which included, an overview of EIA in Environmental Management Process, the Technical and Institutional issues involved and the constraints. The participants were then divided into working groups and these groups worked for 2 days on a hypothetical case study, at the end of which, each group made their presentation. This was followed by a very meaningful discussion and summing up done by Dr. Nay Htun and the team of Resource Personnel.

On the final day the participants were taken on a day field trip where they observed two sites on the South West Coast of Sri Lanka, where in one there had been planned tourism whilst in the other, there had been un-planned tourism. The report of the workshop, with the recommendations for follow up activities is expected to be made available by UNEP to the participants and member governments of SACEP very shortly.



Inauguration Ceremony of the E I A Workshop for SACEP Countries.



Concluding Session of E I A Workshop

# ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES IN SACEP COUNTRIES

With a view of highlighting initiatives undertaken by SACEP member countries in the field of environment, the SACEP newsletter, commencing with the present issue would have this as a regular feature.

The SACEP Secretariat is pleased to publish in this issue, some initiatives undertaken by the Sri Lankan Government.

## GUIDELINES FOR ADVERTISING PESTICIDES IN SRI LANKA

In view of the increasing importance of pesticides and their correct use, the Environmental Council of Sri Lanka appointed a committee, to report on "Guidelines for Advertising Pesticides."

The committee recognising the need to market and promote pesticide products for agricultural production bearing in mind the environmental hazards, use and safety and consumer protection, spelt out a set of guidelines for the advertising and promotion of pesticides. In following these guidelines, the advertiser shall in no way contravene the provisions and regulations made under Section 18 of the Control of Pesticides (COP) Act No. 33.

The specific guidelines are as follows:

1. Advertisements and promotional materials shall not contain any statement contrary to directions on use and safety precautions given on the approved label.
2. Pesticides in the restricted category which have to be applied by specially trained applicators shall not be advertised. However, the availability of such services may be advertised.
3. Promotion programmes on pesticides in the restricted category which have to be sold by registered dealers shall indicate the restrictions placed on them.
4. All advertising materials for print, radio, TV and handouts shall contain necessary precautionary notices as indicated below:

Printed material — Printed cautionary statement

Radio material — Commentary on hazards, at the end of commercials

TV — Commentary as well as a written message at the end of commercials.

On TV filmlets, however, a written cautionary message as well as a commentary shall be used.

5. All banners and posters advertising restricted pesticide products shall carry the "skull and crossbones" marking within a square.

Demonstration boards and give-aways however may be exempted from this requirement.

6. These guidelines for print, TV and radio advertisements become mandatory after 31st March 1987.

It was the view of the committee that wide publicity should be given, emphasizing the need to follow these guidelines. It was recommended that the need to monitor compliance with these guidelines by a specific committee was important with violators being brought to book. The action recommended, should include the recall or cancellation of Media material, followed by punitive action, if the control of Pesticides Act has been contravened.

## MONITORING AND REVIEW OF WATER QUALITY IN PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY SCHEMES

The Government of Sri Lanka has set up an inter-agency committee to formulate an ACTION PLAN for the specific purpose of continuous monitoring and review of water quality in public water supply schemes, and report on the institutional arrangements so devised.

Reviewing the nature and scope of monitoring as practised at present, the committee has made the following recommendations:

- 1) The existing sampling and monitoring programme of bacteriological analysis in Colombo and towns south of Colombo Water Supply Schemes carried out by the Colombo Municipal Council, the Medical Research Institute and the National Water Supply and Drainage Board, was adequate.
- 2) The chemical analysis of water that was being carried out was not adequate.
- 3) The existing arrangements for the monitoring of water quality in the rest of the island was far from satisfactory.
- 4) The committee was concerned with the high content of fluoride in water drawn from tube wells in certain locations in Sri Lanka which could cause serious health problems to consumers.

The committee also decided on the following Action Plan for water quality monitoring and review in Sri Lanka.

- 1) The Central Environmental Authority would act as the Central Co-ordinating Agency for water quality monitoring and would receive and review all reports of monitoring carried out by the relevant agencies.
- 2) The establishment of an Inter-Agency Water Quality Monitoring and Review Committee which would meet once a month and review the results of the tests, that are being carried out by the concerned agencies and direct the agencies responsible for the supply of sub standard water to improve the quality within a reasonable period of time.

- 3) Submission of monthly reports to the National Health Council, with the follow up action taken. The Committee has been meeting each month and making reports of its observations and recommendations to the National Health Council. Inspection visits were made and reports prepared following the diarrhoea outbreaks in

Matale and Chilaw. Visits were also made to certain water treatment plants in Colombo and out-stations. Improvements in the quality of water supplied to Colombo have been observed and it has been noted that the quality in recent months may be the best reported during the past ten years.

## SACEP SNIPPETS

### IUCN AND SACEP JOIN HANDS

The SACEP Secretariat has great pleasure in inform all concerned that SACEP and the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) have formally entered into an understanding where by the 2 organizations would work jointly in the field of Conservation and Development in the South Asian Region: They would on yearly basis agree on certain specific co-operative activities.

The initial co-operative activities for 1987 will include:

- a) Co-operation in the promotion of international conservation instruments for the South Asian Region.
- b) The design of joint field projects in the areas of conservation of nature and natural resources in the South Asian Region.
- c) Co-operation in implementing priority projects connected with the South Asian Regional Seas Programme, specifically-
  - i) SACEP will collaborate with IUCN, which is the implementing organization in the Priority Project titled "Development of a System of Protected Areas in the South Asian Seas".
  - ii) IUCN will collaborate with SACEP, which is the implementing organization in two Priority Projects: "Survey of Land Based Sources of Marine Pollution and Formulation of Guidelines and Proposals for Environmentally Sound Waste Management Technologies and Policies" and "Environmental Education and Promotion of Public Awareness for South Asian Countries in connection with the South Asian Seas Programme."

### CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE DELIBERATES ON NEW FINANCIAL FORMULA FOR SACEP.

At the recently concluded Governing Council Meeting held in New Delhi, considering the suggestions made by member governments as to the sharing of expenses of SACEP, the Governing Council decided that the Consultative Committee of SACEP should consider thoroughly the formula to be adopted for sharing of expenditure and circulate their recommendations to all member countries.

Since this Governing Council Meeting, the Consultative Committee of SACEP has met twice and at the last meeting agreed to circulate a proposed formula, submitted by the Government of India, which incorporates the views of the Consultative Committee, to the member governments for their comments and subsequent approval by the Governing Council of SACEP. This proposed formula is a combination of both UN and SAARC pattern of sharing expenditure.

### A GIFT FROM PRESIDENT GAYOOM

The SACEP Secretariat wishes to place on record its deep gratitude and sincere appreciation for the generous donation of a Canon Photocopy Machine by His Excellency President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom, President of the Republic of Maldives. The machine was formally handed over to Mr. M.J. Kazem, Director of SACEP by His Excellency Mr. Ahmed Abdullah, High Commissioner for the Republic of Maldives in Sri Lanka.



H. E. Mr. Ahmed Abdullah, High Commissioner for the Republic of Maldives in Sri Lanka formally handing over the gift of Photocopy Machine for the SACEP Secretariat from H.E. President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom to Mr. M. J. Kazem, Director SACEP.

The SACEP Secretariat wishes to place on record its deep appreciation to the UNEP Regional Office in Bangkok, especially to the Director Dr. Nay Htun, for making this publication possible.



Cartoon by Wijesoma, Courtesy the Sunday Observer, (Sri Lanka).

## SRI LANKA CELEBRATES WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY

World Environment day celebrations in Sri Lanka this year was doubly significant since UNEP had decided that the theme for this years celebration would be "Environment and Shelter" in the UN International Year of Shelter for the Homeless, an idea mooted by the Sri Lankan Prime Minister.

Celebrations took varied forms and were Island wide. There were Environmental Essay Competitions, Oratorical Contests, Tree Planting Ceremonies, Seminars, Debates, Exhibitions and Slide Series Competitions. Perhaps the highlight of this celebration was a full day seminar on "Environmental Awareness"

which was jointly sponsored by the Central Environmental Authority and the Institute of Fundamental Studies held in Colombo.

The key note address was given by Mr. K.H.J. Wijeyadasa, Chairman, Central Environmental Authority and other presentations on varied topics included those from Prof. Cyril Ponnampereuma, Director of the Institute of Fundamental Studies who spoke on "The Study of the Environment" and Mr. M.J. Kazem, Director SACEP, who spoke on "Environment and Development."