

SACEP NEWS

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SACEP keen to work with interested partners to promote sustainable development in South Asia: Statement of DG at the WSSD

Mr Mahboob Elahi, the Director General of SACEP in his statement at the 9th Plenary Meeting of the WSSD on 29th August at Johannesburg, stated that SACEP as an indigenous local environmental programme with inherent advantages of local knowledge, networks and resources is willing to work as partners with any government or other agencies keen to work in South Asia for environmental protection and sustainable development as part of the follow up activities of WSSD.

He also expressed SACEP's willingness to work with United Nations University (UNU) in two of three additional Type II Partnerships being announced at WSSD relating to (a) Inter-linkages between Multilateral Environmental Agreements in collaboration with ASEAN, SPREP, UNEP, ECA and FAO (b) International Partnership for Sustainable Development in Mountain area in collaboration with FAO, UNEP and Swiss Agency for Environmental Co-operation

The DG mentioned that SACEP have made a modest contribution to the preparatory works of WSSD by co-organised South Asia Sub-regional Consultations for WSSD in Colombo in 2001, for which Prof. Emil Salim, Chairman, Preparatory Committee of WSSD was present. SACEP have also organised a Sub-regional Meeting for South Asia Position for WSSD and the decisions arrived at this meeting were forwarded to the member states of South Asia to be used in the negotiations at WSSD. SACEP also formulated 12 Type II Interventions/Proposals in collaboration with UNEP's GPA office/Regional Seas Programme and its ICRAN Division.

He further stated that SACEP's past activities helped the region in addressing its endemic problems such as poverty, degradation of the natural resources base and indicators of social and economic development through adding value to the work and achievements of the national Governments, especially in the area of environmental education, environmental law, national and regional environmental assessments, publication of reports, data bases, training, joint programmes and projects for shared resources, development of Regional Oil Spill Contingency Plan and projects of Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) in the South Asian Seas Coastal States in the region, which were financially supported by several bilateral and multilateral donors.

The Director General extended his gratitude to Honourable Rukman Senanayake, Minister for Environment and Natural Resources of Sri Lanka, who is the Present Chairman of the Governing Council of SACEP, for promoting and supporting the organization with his cabinet colleagues in the member Governments and donors as the true representative of the region in matters relating to environmental protection and sustainable development.

SAARC and SACEP to Co-operate on Regional Environmental Matters

At the recently held Meeting of SAARC Council of Ministers in Nepal, the participants recognized the importance of cooperation in between SAARC and SACEP in promoting environmental issues in the region. As a result a draft MoU has now been prepared and is being circulated with in the relevant agencies.

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WEHAB: The New Mantra for Sustainable Development

The WEHAB initiative was proposed by UN Secretary General Kofi Annan as a contribution to the preparation of WSSD and it provides focus and framework for action on five thematic areas: Water, Energy, Health, Agriculture and Biodiversity and Ecosystem Management,

The WEHAB initiative also responds to resolution 55/199 of the UN General Assembly that mandated the WSSD summit should focus on areas where further efforts are needed to implement Agenda 21 and that action oriented decisions in those areas should address new challenges and opportunities, especially through Type 2 initiatives.

Five thematic papers on the above issues were prepared based on initial consultations with concerned UN agencies.

- **Water and sanitation.**

More than 1 billion people are still without access to safe drinking water, while twice that number lack adequate sanitation facilities. Around 2 million children die every year from water-related diseases.

Improve access to water and, the efficiency of water use through getting more "crop per drop" in agriculture, which is the largest consumer of water, better watershed management, and to reduce leakage, especially in the many cities where water losses are an astonishing 40 percent or more of total water supply are some of the proposed actions to be undertaken.

- **Energy**

Around 2 billion people in the world, mostly living in rural areas lack access to diverse and affordable energy services and it means that the basic needs of these people are not being met. Therefore, there is a need to make clean energy supplies accessible and affordable while at the same time increasing the use of renewable energy sources and improving energy efficiency. The issue of over consumption, especially by the developed countries should also be addressed. Ratification of the Kyoto Protocol will be a positive step forward.

- **Health and Environment**

The links between the environment and human health are powerful. Toxic chemicals and other hazardous materials are basic elements of development. More than one billion people breathe unhealthy air, while three million people die each year from air pollution and two thirds of them are poor. Tropical diseases such as malaria are closely linked with polluted water sources.

Conventions and other steps aimed at reducing waste and eliminating the use of certain chemicals and substances can go a long way to creating a healthier environment. More research is especially important, particularly studies that focus more on the diseases of the poor than has historically been the case.

- **Agricultural productivity**

Land degradation affects as much as two thirds of the world's agricultural land. As a result, agricultural productivity is declining sharply, while the number of mouths to feed continues to grow. In Africa, especially, millions of people are threatened with starvation. We must increase agricultural productivity, and reverse human encroachment on forests, grasslands and wetlands. Research and development will be crucial, as will implementation of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification.

- **Biodiversity and ecosystem management**

Biodiversity is declining at an unprecedented rate and as much as a thousand times what it would be without the impact of human activity. Half of the tropical rainforests and mangroves have already been lost. About 75 percent of marine fisheries have been fished to capacity. 70 percent of coral reefs are endangered. Therefore action is needed to reverse this process preserving as many species as possible, and clamping down on illegal and unsustainable fishing and logging practices, while helping people who currently depend on such activities to make a transition to more sustainable ways of earning their living.

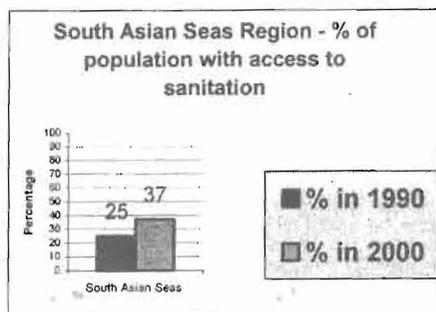
The WSSD Plan of implementation, released at the Johannesburg summit calls for number of activities to address the WEHAB issues. Following are few of the recommended actions:

1. Halving the number of people without access to proper sanitation by 2015.
2. Restoring depleted fish stocks by 2015
3. Reducing the extinction rate of the world's plants and animals by 2010.
4. Achieve a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers, by 2020, as proposed in the "Cities without slums" initiative

More information can be obtained from <http://www.unep.org/wssd/>



Coastal waters of South Asia at the highest risk from Untreated Sewage: UNEP Calls on Governments to back Wastewater Emission Targets



Of all the UNEP Regional Seas the South Asian Seas Region has the lowest coverage in sanitation services. Since the absolute population numbers of the category 'un-served' in South Asia total up to 40% of the world population without access to improved sanitation, this gives South Asia a high need for improved and innovative approaches in the sanitation and wastewater sector to reduce the high emission loads.

A report titled, "Water Supply and Sanitation Coverage in UNEP Regional Seas - Need For Wastewater Emission Targets" reveals that the level of untreated sewage discharge into South Asia's coastal waters are likely to be the highest in the world, increasing the risk of shellfish contamination and the chance of toxic, algal blooms poisoning fish and wildlife.

Studies show that over 800 million people, or 40 per cent of the population is without access to basic sanitation services in coastal countries of the South Asia and as a result, precious habitats such as 6 per cent of the world's coral reefs, and large stretches of mangroves are likely to be

under increased stress due to the high levels of nutrients and suspended solids linked with the discharges.

South Asia is followed by East Asia, where 515 million people, or 25 per cent of the coastal population lack sanitation facilities while in the North West Pacific around 414 million people have no access to basic sanitation systems. In comparison in the North East Atlantic and the Arctic only a few people are ranked as being without proper sanitation services.

The report notes that in many developing parts of the world, the increased levels of sanitation coverage and wastewater treatment are being overwhelmed by rising populations. For example in the South Asian Seas region, access to improved sanitation during the period 1990 to 2000 has benefited 220 million people. But during that period the population grew by 222 million leaving 825 million still without access to acceptable sanitation systems and thousands of miles of coastline vulnerable to pollution. In the East African region the numbers un-served even doubled over the last decade, to 19 million people having no access to basic sanitation.

The study highlights the fact that one key step for reducing this pollution of coastal waters is to set realistic but ambitious Wastewater Emission Targets (WET), echoing those that have been developed in many parts of the world for emissions of toxic chemicals and noxious gases from power stations and factories. WET can be used as instruments for prioritization, resource allocation and progress reporting towards achieving the global targets agreed upon at the WSSD in Johannesburg.

The WET Initiative on Wastewater Emission Targets has been proposed by UNEP and major partners, such as WHO, WSSCC and UN-HABITAT, during the WSSD, as a key component of the "H2O - From Hilltops to Oceans" Type II Partnership Proposal. The issue of WET, and how they relate to existing Regional Seas Conventions and Protocols, will also be on the agenda at the 3rd World Water Forum to be held in Japan in March 2003

The report was launched in 3rd October and is a production of UNEP/GPA Coordination Office. The major aim of the publication is to assist the UNEP Regional Seas Programme in taking appropriate action to contribute to achieving the WSSD-target of having the number of people that have no access to basic sanitation services by the year 2015. For more information visit <http://www.gpa.unep.org>, What's New section.

SACEP, under the South Asian Seas Programme's GPA component has produced the following 02 documents on sewage:

1. An overview of socio-economic opportunities related to the protection of coastal and marine environment from land based sources of pollution, particularly urban and domestic sewage in the South Asian Seas Region.
2. Cost-Benefit analysis of the proposed sewer network at Moratuwa/Ratmalana in Sri Lanka as a measure to protect coastal areas from land-based sources of pollution. (available online on GPA website under document library)



The 2002 Human Development Report and South Asia

Human development is about people, and about expanding their choices to lead lives they value. The most basic capabilities for human development are leading a long and health life, being educated, having access to the resources needed for a decent standard of living and being able to participate in the life of one's community.

The 2002 Human Development Report of UNDP is titled as "Deepening Democracy in a Fragmented world" and highlights that democracy brings principles of participation and accountability to the progress of human development.

The report gives the following factors on South Asia:

- 23.15% of the world's human population lives in South Asia and the annual population growth rate of the region is 2.1% (See Table)
- The percentage of people living on less than a \$1 a day in the region has reduced from 44% in 1990 to 36.9% in 1999. Out of the world total who are earning less than \$1 per day, 42.57% lives in South Asia.
- The Millennium Development Goals for gender equality in education responds to gender disparities in many parts of the world, particularly in South Asia. The female literacy rate is below 30% in Pakistan, Bangladesh and Bhutan while the male literacy rate is above 50%.
- All the South Asian countries have gained in the rank of HDI since 1990 from 2 in Bangladesh to 13 in Maldives. Only Sri Lanka has dropped 2 places in the HDI rank from the previous year.

For more information visit <http://www.undp.org>

	South Asia	World
Total population (trillions)	1.402	6,057
Urban Population (as a % of total)	29.4	47.2
Annual growth rate (% for 1975-2000)	2.1	1.6
Total fertility rate (per women for 1995-2000)	3.6	2.8
Life expectancy at birth	62.9	66.9
Adult literacy rate (% age 15 and above)	55.6	-
GDP per capita (PPP US\$)	2,404	7,446
The number of people living on less than \$1 a day		
1990 (millions)	495 (44%)	1,276 (29%)
1999 (millions)	490 (36.9%)	1,151 (22.7%)
Population using adequate sanitation facilities (%)	39	56
Population using improved water sources (%)	89	81
Under nourished people (as % of total pop. 1997/99)	23	-
People living with HIV/AIDS (% age 15-49 in 2001)	0.55	1.20
Human Development Index (HDI Value) in 2000	0.570	0.722
Traditional Fuel consumption (as % of total energy use 1997)	20.3	8.2
Fertilizer consumption (kg/ha of arable and permanently cropped land) -1998	98.6	105.4
Total Official Development Assistance (ODA) US\$	4,230.3T	39,923.5T

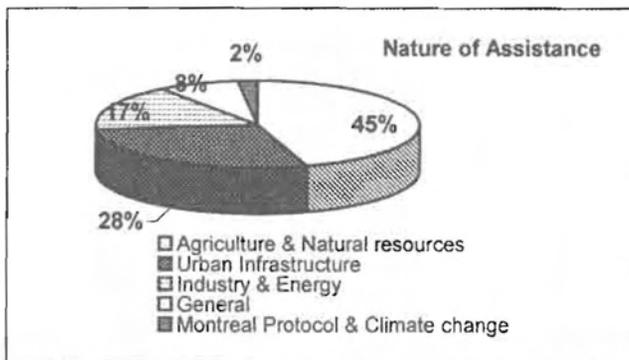


India prepares a Compendium on Donor Assistance in the Environment

A compendium on donor assistance to India in all areas related to the environment has been prepared by the Environment Management Division of the Confederation of Indian Industry for the World Bank. The report examines the nature and types of external assistance for the period of 1995-2000 and examines around 400 different activities in the areas of agriculture, natural resources management, industry, energy, urban infrastructure, environmental health, education, policy reform, capacity building, environmental assessment, climate change and Montreal Protocol totaling nearly \$10 billion. According to the report the total volume of assistance in the environment sector has grown consistently at a rate of around 7% annually during the five-year period. Among the donors, the WB accounts for 39% of environmental assistance followed by JBIC at 16% and DFID at 12%.

The WB has a Country Assistance Strategy based on two broad themes: Strengthening the enabling environment for development and sustainable growth; and Supporting critical interventions of special benefit to the poor and disadvantaged. The ADB has a similar comprehensive approach to development and poverty alleviation and provides assistance in the form of grants, loans or a combination of both. Both the ADB and the WB have well-developed guidelines for the environmental evaluation of projects.

Among the United Nations agencies, the UNDP is the largest source of assistance, providing technical assistance, equipment, and training while UNDP implemented GEF has built up a sizable programme since 1995 in the forms of grants to NGOs or government institutions.



DFID and USAID are the two major bilateral donors in India. DFID's focus has been on the alleviation of poverty, while environment issues are incorporated in to these programmes. When considering assistance from the Scandinavian and Nordic donors, SIDA was the largest bilateral donor for the forestry sector till the early nineties, but have phased out most of its projects by late nineties. NORAD and DANIDA were significant contributors in the areas of watershed, livestock, eco-development, environmental health and natural resources management projects. Under the Agriculture and Natural Resources Projects, about one third of the assistance has gone to biodiversity projects, while 31% to watershed management and 18% for both forestry sector and land reclamation/eco-restoration projects. When considering the urban Infrastructure projects 81% of the donor assistance was for water and sanitation projects while 19% goes to slum upgrading. The compendium is available at the website: <http://www.worldbank.org/sarcompendium>.

SACEP Secretariat is interested in preparing a similar compendium for the South Asian region and request s the relevant agencies of its member governments to forward information to the Secretariat.

INDOEX Researchers find a Dense Brown Cloud Over the Northern Indian Ocean



Field experiments conducted under the Indian Ocean Experiment (INDOEX) have found a dense brownish pollution haze extending from the ocean surface to 1 to 3 km altitude, covering most of the northern Indian Ocean including the Arabian Sea, much of the Bay of Bengal, and the equatorial Indian Ocean to about 5 degrees south of the equator. The haze layer contains relatively high concentrations of gases including carbon monoxide, various organic compounds, and sulfur dioxide and therefore it is evident that the haze layer is caused by pollution. Haze particles scatter solar radiation, a process that reduces the amount of sunlight reaching the ocean surface, thus reducing the amount of

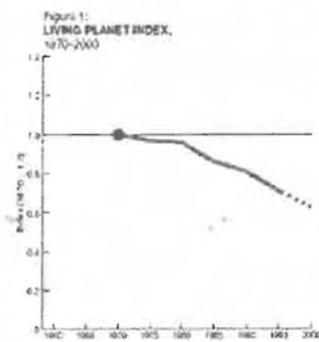
solar energy that would otherwise heat the earth-atmosphere system. Vital follow up studies are needed to unravel the precise role this pollution blanket may be having on the region's climate. For more information visit <http://www.rrcap.unep.org>



The World in running on an Ecological Overdraft: WWF Living Planet Report

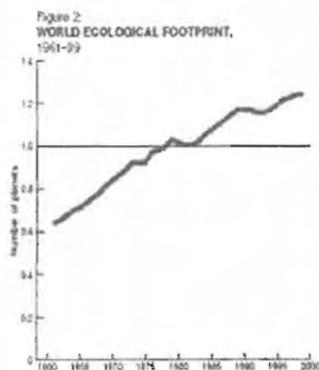
The Living Planet Report is World Wild Life Fund's (WWF) periodic update on the state of the world's ecosystems - as measured by the Living Planet Index and the human pressures on them—as measured by the Ecological Footprint.

The Living Planet Index (LPI) is derived from trends over the past 30 years in populations of hundreds of species of birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians and fish. Between 1970 and 2000, it declined by about 35%. The LPI is the average of three ecosystem-based indices. The forest species population index declined by about 15%, the marine species population index fell by about 35%, while the freshwater species population index dropped 55% over the 30-year period. As the figure indicated the trends shown by the LPI are a quantitative confirmation that the world is currently undergoing a very rapid loss of



biodiversity comparable with the great mass extinction events that have previously occurred only five or six times in the Earth's history.

The Ecological Footprint (EF) is a measure of the consumption of renewable natural resources by a human population, be it that of a country, a region or the whole world. A population's EF is the total area of productive land or sea required to produce all the crops, meat, seafood, wood and fibre it consumes, to sustain its energy consumption and to give space for its infrastructure. The EF can be compared with the biologically productive capacity of the land and sea available to that population.



The Earth has about 11.4 billion hectares of productive land and sea space, after all unproductive areas of icecaps, desert and open ocean are discounted, or about a quarter of its surface area. Divided between the global population of six billion people, this total equates to just 1.9 hectares per person. While the EF of the average African or Asian consumer was less than 1.4 hectares per person in 1999, the average Western European's footprint was about 5.0 hectares, and the average North American's was about 9.6 hectares.

The EF of the world average consumer in 1999 was 2.3 hectares per person, or 20% above the earth's biological capacity of 1.90 hectares per person. In other words, humanity now exceeds the planet's capacity to sustain its consumption of renewable resources. We are able to maintain this global overdraft on a temporary basis by eating into the earth's capital stocks of forest, fish and fertile soils. We also dump our excess carbon dioxide emissions into the atmosphere. Neither of these two activities are sustainable in the long-term - the only sustainable solution is to live within the biological productive capacity of the earth.

However, current trends are moving humanity away from achieving this minimum requirement for sustainability, not towards it. The global ecological footprint has grown from about 70% of the planet's biological capacity in 1961 to about 120% of its biological capacity in 1999. Furthermore, future projections based on likely scenarios of population growth, economic development and technological change, show that humanity's footprint is likely to grow to about 180% to 220% of the Earth's biological capacity by the year 2050.

Of course, it is very unlikely that the Earth would be able to run an ecological overdraft for another 50 years without some severe ecological backlashes undermining future population and economic growth. But it would be far better to control our own destiny than to leave it to nature. If we are to return to a sustainable development pathway, it means making changes in four fundamental ways.

First, it is necessary to improve the resource-efficiency with which goods and services are produced. Second, we must consume resources more efficiently, and redress the disparity in consumption between high and low income countries. Third, population growth must be controlled through promoting universal education and health care. And, finally, it is imperative that we protect, manage and restore natural ecosystems in order to conserve biodiversity and maintain ecological services, and so conserve and enhance the planet's biological productivity, for the benefit of present and future generations. <http://www.panda.org/news.facts/publications/general/livingplanet/>



Conventions Updates

Nations Agree to Strengthen the Conservation of 37 Species Including 03 Whales and the Blind Dolphin

Nearly 70 nations, attending the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) tri-annual conference, which opened on September 18, assessed the situation of 37 species and backed priority Appendix I listing for three species of whales: the Fin, Sei and Sperm whales.

The Ganges and Indus River Dolphin, found in the rivers of countries including India, Pakistan and Bangladesh, also secured the priority listing. The dolphins, which are considered blind but able to navigate and feed using their sophisticated biological sonar systems, are threatened by pollution and dam building.

Three, fragmented, populations of a curious kind of camel which some experts suspect may be an entirely new species, have also been given priority protection. The camel, which numbers less than a 1,000 individuals and thus is rarer than the Giant Panda, lives in Mongolia and China. Its uniqueness has emerged from a 1999, UNEP-backed expedition funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), where scientists discovered a small population in a lost land of salty sand dunes on the edge of the Tibetan mountains. The fact that these animals, living in a former nuclear test zone, were able to survive on salt water bubbling up from beneath the dunes has led experts to conclude that they may be unique. The listing will boost efforts to protect the animals from poachers and illegal miners as well as intensify efforts to conserve their habitats and migration routes.

Bhutan ratifies CITES

Bhutan, will become the 160th Party to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) on 13 November 2002, as the country acceded to the Convention on the 15 August 2002

Major sources and markets of illegal ivory trade identified by new monitoring system

Despite a virtually continuous ban on international trade in ivory since 1989, a series of analytical reports from the Elephant Trade Information System (ETIS) has revealed that a significant illegal trade in ivory continues.



This illegal trade is driven mainly by large, unregulated domestic markets in a number of Asian and African countries. The reports also reveal that the increasing economic power of consumers in China is making that country the major force in driving ivory demand worldwide.

Between 1989 and 1997, all elephant populations were listed in Appendix I of CITES, which imposed a global ban on international commercial trade in elephant products. In September 1997, the large and increasing elephant populations of Botswana, Namibia and Zimbabwe were transferred to Appendix II, allowing a one-off ivory sale to Japan two years later. In 2000, the South African elephant population was also transferred to Appendix II, but there was no provision for trade in ivory. ETIS was established to monitor whether or not the limited resumption in ivory trade would have negative impacts on elephant populations. More information from <http://www.cites.org/>

\$600 million needed for the protection of the ozone layer over next three years

Representatives from some 100 countries are meet in Montreal from 23 to 25 July to review an expert report on how much money will be needed for a three-year replenishment of the Multilateral Fund for the 1987 Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer.

Under the Protocol, developing countries are committed to reducing their consumption and production of CFCs by 50% in the year 2005, and by 85% in 2007. By 2005 they are also obliged to reduce their consumption of halons by 50%, methyl bromide (a fumigant) by 20%, and the solvents carbon tetrachloride and methylchloroform by 85% and 30%, respectively.

The role of the Fund – which is headquartered in Montreal and has already disbursed some \$1.3 billion since it was set up in 1990 – is to help developing countries meet these targets by adopting ozone-friendly chemicals and processes.

Against this background, the Parties to the Protocol set up a task force consisting of members of UNEP's Technology and Economic Assessment Panel to assess the resources that developing countries will now need meeting their next targets. The task force estimates that a sum of US\$548 – 600 million will be required for the three year replenishment period of 2003–2005.



Prevention and Management of Invasive Alien Species

Invasive Alien species (IAS) invasions are now recognized as an important component of global environmental change, as it breakdown the biogeographic barriers leading to changes in ecosystem structure and function and decline in biological diversity. The global impact of the IAS has been recognized in the Convention on Biological Diversity, which calls for the prevention of introduction, control or eradicate alien species, which threaten ecosystems, habitats and species,

A workshop on "Prevention and Management of Invasive Alien Species: Forging Cooperation in south and South-east Asia" was organized by the Global Invasive Species Programme in August this year in Bangkok, with the objective of raising awareness and to promote international cooperation to address the problem. SACEP was represented at this meeting by the Director General, who act as a panelist during the plenary session on opportunities for addressing IAS in the region through existing regional instruments and programmes

During his statement, the SACEP delegate stressed the fact that one of the major reasons for the spread of IAS within South Asia is the deliberate introduction of high demanding species for food and fuel wood generation. Trees such as *Acacia* and *Eucalyptus* have been introduced to alleviate shortages in timber and fuel wood, while Tilapia has been introduced to supply the much-needed animal protein component of the diet. As the effects of IAS on the native biodiversity of the region is yet not well known, no new species should be introduced without evaluating their detailed life histories, problem impacts and probable benefits.

At the workshop the delegates concluded that problems of invasive alien species (IAS) are causing significant ecological, economic and social damages and pose ongoing threats to all countries within the region and recommended actions and measures for the prevention and management of IAS. Establish coordination mechanism and information exchange systems at national, regional and international levels by the creation of IAS National Focal Points and through the Convention on Biological diversity's Clearing-house mechanism and to ensure political commitments in terms of policy, legislation, enforcement and implementation of activities to prevent and manage IAS initiated through national and regional strategies and action plans are two such important recommendations.

New Basel guidelines to improve recycling of old batteries

In an effort to reduce the global risk to lead poisoning, the Basal Convention of hazardous wastes has finalized a set of guidelines promoting the environmentally sound recycling of spent lead-acid batteries, which is the number one source of secondary lead in the world today.

In many developing countries, used batteries are still broken manually using an axe, which is extremely dangerous to the workers. Lead is absorbed into the body through the lungs or mouth and about 90% of it accumulates in the bones and cause neurological damage.

The new Basel guidelines aim to improve the management of lead-acid batteries by enabling the governments to develop the necessary legislation and facilities for coping with the dramatic growth in the quantity of used batteries. The 64-page guidelines describe how to collect, transport and store used batteries and says that the most effective approach to collection is to retain the old battery at the time a new one is provided to the customer. The guidelines also describe how to recover the lead and medical issues as well as public awareness. These guidelines will be finally adopted at the COP 6, scheduled in December 2002. For more information refer www.basel.int.

India Pledge To Ratify Kyoto Protocol

India's Union Cabinet's decision to join the 77 other countries that have already ratified the Protocol was announced by Hon. Yashvant Sinha, Head of Indian delegation at the WSSD in Johannesburg. Klaus Toepfer, the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), welcomed the announcement and stated that the country has an important leadership role to play in the climate change process, as the host country of the Eighth Conference of Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change in October.

India emits only four percent of global greenhouse gas emissions but is highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and is active in the development of alternative energy sources.

Although the Protocol does not require India and other developing countries to make cuts, all parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change are expected to take steps to curb greenhouse gases emissions or emissions growth.

Under the Kyoto Protocol, India would benefit from additional transfers of technology, and foreign investments in renewable energy, energy generation and efficiency promotion and afforestation projects, through the Clean Development Mechanism.

However, to come into effect the Protocol still requires ratification by more developed countries.



UP COMING EVENS (MEETINGS/CONFERENCES)

Event	Date	Venue
Joint State-USAID South Asia Regional Environment, Science and Technology Officers Conference (ESTOC)	9-10 October 2002	Bentota Beach Hotel, Sri Lanka
The Second GEF Assembly and Associated Meetings	16-18 October 2002	Beijing, China
Development of National Programme of Action for the Protection of Marine and Coastal Environment from Land Based Activities in Sri Lanka –Stakeholders Meeting	17-18 October 2002	Colombo, Sri Lanka
Eighth Conference of the Parties to UNFCCC (COP.8/UNFCCC)	23 rd October –2 November 2002	New Delhi, India
The 14 th World Congress of Environmental Journalists	27-31 October 2002	Colombo, Sri Lanka
Asian Development Bank (RETA 5974) Regional Technical Assistance for Coastal and Marine Resources Management and Poverty Reduction in South Asia: Mid-term Workshop	28-29 October 2002	Maldives
First Conference of the Indian Ocean Observing System (IOGOOS)	4-9 November 2002	Grand Bay, Mauritius
GCRMN South Asia Review Meeting	8-9 November 2002	Colombo, Sri Lanka
SACEP Regional Level 2 OPRC Course	11-15 November 2002	Sri Lanka
12 th Meeting of the Parties to CITES (COP.12/CITES)	14-16 November 2002	Santiago, Chile
2 nd Meeting of Sri Lanka Coral Reef Forum	15 November 2002	Colombo, Sri Lanka
1 st Session of the Committee for Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC), UNCCD	18-29 November 2002	To be announced
Collaborative Assessment Network (CAN) Meeting (UNEP-ROAP)	21-22 November 2002	AIT, Bangkok, Thailand
Second International Tropical Marine Ecosystem Management Symposium –ITMEMS	25-28 November 2002	Manila, Philippines
The 14 th Meeting of the Parties to Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer	25-29 November 2002	To be announced
Sixth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention	9-13 December 2002	Geneva, Switzerland

SACEP Organize a Training Course on OPRC

SACEP in association with the International Maritime Organization (IMO) is organizing an OPRC Level 2 Training Course from 11-15th November 2002 in Colombo, Sri Lanka. The objective of this course is to provide basic training for oil spill supervisors and on-scene commanders to respond and manage a major oil spill, if such an incidence occur within the South Asian Seas. Delegates nominated by the Governments of Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Pakistan and Sri Lanka will be attending the training course. The training course has been developed by the OPRC Working Group for the Marine Environmental Protection Committee of the IMO for the purpose of facilitating the implementation of the Oil pollution Preparedness, Prevention and Response Convention (OPRC), which was adopted in 1990. Parties to the OPRC convention are required to establish measures for dealing with pollution incidents, either nationally or in co-operation with other countries.

With Regard to South Asia, India and Pakistan are already signatory to the Convention while all the five maritime countries of the region have already prepared draft oil spill contingency plans. A draft regional Contingency plan and a draft MoU on regional cooperation on the occurrence of a major oil spill has been prepared by SACEP with the assistance from IMO and UNEP and is waiting for the endorsement by country governments for its final adoption



SACEP NEWS

The mission of SACEP is to promote and support protection, management, and enhancement of the environment of the countries of South Asia, collectively and co-operatively.

For further information, please visit our website www.sacep.org

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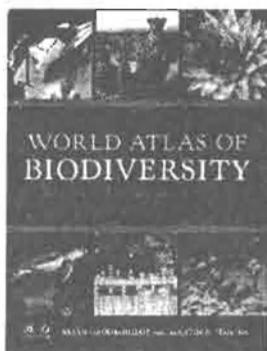
You are invited to submit articles or letters to the editor for consideration for publication in the upcoming issues of the Newsletter.

To include your name on our mailing list send a request to:

Nishanthi Perera
Programme Officer
South Asia Co-operative Environment
Programme
#10, Anderson Road
Colombo-5, Sri Lanka.
Tel: 94-1- 552761/589787
Fax: 94-1-589369
Email: np-sas@eureka.lk

The Newsletter does not necessarily reflect the official views of the contributing organizations.

The first "World Atlas of Biodiversity: Earth's Living Resources for the 21st Century



The Atlas launched in August 2002 by the United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC), is the first comprehensive map-based view of global biodiversity. It provides a wealth of facts and figures on the importance of forests, wetlands, marine and coastal environments and other key ecosystems. It is the best current synthesis of the latest research and analysis, providing a comprehensive and accessible view of key global issues in biodiversity.

It also highlights humankind's impact on the natural world during the past 150 years, and how they have directly impacted and altered close to 47 per cent of the global land area.

Under one bleak scenario, biodiversity will be threatened on almost 72 per cent of the land area by 2032. The Atlas reveals losses of biodiversity are likely to be particularly severe in South East Asia, the Congo basin and parts of the Amazon. As much as 48 per cent of these areas will become converted to agricultural land, plantations and urban areas, compared with 22 per cent today, suggesting wide depletions of biodiversity.

The Atlas goes beyond doom and gloom scenarios and asks how irreversible current problems are. Pulling together the latest thinking on the subject it shows, through a scientific assessment of the entire range of living plants and animals, just how robust, resilient and accommodating biodiversity can be within limits.

By using maps to show the location of biodiversity UNEP-WCMC draws together the work of researchers across the world who have identified particularly rich or vulnerable areas, including "hot spots" and "eco-regions". These are regions where it is particularly important to identify development paths that can serve humankind without reducing nature's capital. More information from <http://www.unep-wcmc.org/>

International Symposium on Tropical Marine Ecosystems Management: 25-28th November 2002, Philippines

Tropical marine ecosystems are under increasing pressure from many sources, including coastal land use and development, pollution, unsustainable fishing and tourism and the impacts of global climate change. Therefore, effective management that promotes sustainable use of marine resources is essential.

The 2nd International Tropical Marine Ecosystems Management Symposium (2nd ITMEMS) is organized by the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources of Philippines to provide an opportunity for managers to engage in multidisciplinary discussions and sharing of experiences and lessons learned to identify gaps and priorities for future management action. The outputs and recommendations from the symposium will be disseminated through the partners of ICRI (including member countries, the International Coral Reef Action Network, IUCN, UNEP, WWF, the World Bank, donor agencies, etc.) and considered in the implementation of management programs for tropical ecosystems at local, national, regional and global levels.

SACEP as the regional node for ICRI and as the Secretariat for South Asian Regional Seas programme will present a regional overview at the symposium, highlighting the activities undertaken since the 1st ITMEMS in 1998 and new priorities that have been identified from the region. More Information can be obtained from <http://www.icriforum.org>.