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Workshop for the Long-term Management and Conservation of MCPAs

First Regional Resource Coordination and Mobilisation workshop for the Long-term Management and Conservation of MCPAs in South Asia was held in Colombo on 27 and 28 September 2006. Mr. S.S.B. Yalegama Assistant Secretary represented the Ministry of Environment, Sri Lanka as the Chief Guest of the inauguration. Dr. Arvind Boaz, Director General of SACEP provided a welcome address and highlighted the

significance of this initiative to SACEP as an extremely important project undertaken by SACEP in the region, in support of the MEA targets and marine resource conservation.

This first workshop sought to finalise the focus of site based project activities, and gather critical information in support of future project activities. Based on the presentations by the working groups and the subsequent discussion, the following

provisional list of sites for the implementation of the project was agreed upon:

- St. Martin's Island, Bangladesh
- Mahatma Ghandi National Park, Andaman Islands
- Baa Atoll, Maldives
- Bar Reef, Sri Lanka
- Jiwani (Gwater Bay), Pakistan.

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Waste Management Campaign at South Asian Games

10th South Asian Games was an event with around 2,500 foreign sportsmen visited Sri Lanka. Event was conducted in 11 venues during 18 -28 August, 2006. The main functions were held at the Sugathadasa Stadium, Colombo.

SACEP initiated and coordinated the programme with the organisers of the South Asian Games (National Olympic Committee of Sri Lanka) to

introduce and disseminate integrated waste management practices during the games.

Abans, is a private company of Sri Lanka in waste management sector, involved in waste separation and identification of its proper disposal. They introduced a proper Waste Management and sorting module for the event. The Ministry of Environment, Sri Lanka, also joined hands in spreading the message of waste management

during the games through the waist pouches printed with slogans of the 3R approach to all the sportsmen, media persons and volunteers who participated in the games from all over the South Asian region.

ART TV a local television channel also joined hands with SACEP to disseminate the message to the public by making a 7 minutes documentary on SACEP's initiative and broadcasting it at prime time on their channel.



Label of the Souvenir of Waist/ Waste Pouch made with Bio-degradable material by SACEP in collaboration with the Government of Sri Lanka

Asia-Pacific Regional Consultations to Review GEO-4

The UNEP Global Environment Outlook (GEO) project was initiated in response to the environmental reporting requirements of Agenda 21 and to a UNEP Governing Council decision of May 1995 which requested the production of a new comprehensive global state of the environment report.

Three GEO reports have been published to date: *GEO-1* in 1997; *GEO-2000* in 1999 and *GEO-3* in 2002. The next comprehensive GEO report (*GEO-4*) is due 2007 and the Asia-Pacific Regional Consultation to Review this *GEO-4* was held in Pattaya, Thailand during 5 - 7 Jul, 2006. Director General represented SACEP in this meeting. Input was solicited from a wide range of sources throughout the world, including the collaborating centre network, United Nations organizations and independent experts. During the prepara-

tion of the report, UNEP organized consultations inviting policy makers and other stakeholders to review and comment on draft materials. This iterative process is designed to ensure that the contents are scientifically accurate and policy relevant to users in different parts of the world and with different environmental information needs. At the 22nd session of the UNEP Governing Council/ Global Ministerial Environment Forum (GC/GEMF) in 2003 governments requested UNEP to prepare an annual Global Environment Outlook statement to highlight significant environmental events and achievements during the year. Keeping abreast of environmental issues as they unfold, the GEO annual statement (GEO Year Book) is to be released in the

beginning of every year in between the comprehensive GEO reports.

The GEO Year Book 2003, the first in the annual series, was launched at the 8th Special Session of the GC/GMEF on the 29th March, 2004.

Other outputs of the GEO project include regional, sub-regional and national integrated environmental assessments, technical and other background reports, a Web site, products for young people (GEO for Youth) and a core database – the GEO Data Portal.

Link

www.unep.org/geo/pdfs/TowardsGeo4.pdf



Sundarban: Largest mangrove forest of the world, India/Bangladesh. Forest degradation has been occurring in many parts of Sundarbans.

Source: *One Planet, Many SOURCES*, UNEP

Sub-Regional Sustainable Development Strategy

UNEP commissioned a Sub-Regional Sustainable Development Strategy (SSDS) to be written in partnership with Development Alternatives and ICIMOD. A two day workshop was held in Kathmandu, Nepal on 21 and 22 Aug 2006 as the 1st Consultation Meeting on the for South Asia.

The meeting was attended by representatives from the ministries for the environment of Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka as well as representatives from UNEP, SACEP, TERI, IUCN and Development Alternatives. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the first draft of the SSDS for South Asia and to make comments and give guidance that could be used in the formulation of the second draft. Following topics were discussed in the workshop in length.

- 1) Conserving Natural Endowments
 - Solid waste management
 - Air pollution caused by traffic
 - The effect of infrastructure growth on biodiversity, Genetic conservation and benefit sharing
- 2) Institutional Strengthening
 - To make sure funds generated are put back into solving problems.
 - Diverse fund sourcing, mobilising funds and adequate knowledge on how funds are best spent.
 - Strategy needs to bring a balance between the state, private sector and civil society.

- 3) Eliminating poverty and creating human security

It was agreed to focus on the creation of a South Asian Food Bank.

The Food Security Stakeholders were FAO, World Food Programme, SACEP, ICIMOD and SAARC.

Energy Security, Water Security, Health Security and Security from Natural Disasters were also discussed.

Link: www.rccap.unep.org/projects/nsds/meeting/SSDSconsultation.pdf



"The only place success comes before work is in the dictionary".

-Donald Kendall

6th Meeting of the Asia Forest Partnership

The AFP was launched at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, in 2002. It is one of over 200 partnerships for sustainable development registered with the United Nations Division for Sustainable Development.

AFP 6th Meeting was convened in Hyatt Regency Hotel, Yogyakarta, Indonesia on 6-8 September, 2006. More than 140 participants from over 20 countries attended the meeting to discuss some of most pressing issues: illegal logging, forest rehabilitation, forest partnership and good governance.

Dr. A.A. Boaz, the Director General represented SACEP at the meeting and SACEP applied as a Partnership institute for AFP to the South Asian region.

In the steering committee, SACEP was accepted as a member of the AFP. The meeting produced a new AFP announcement with the rotation of Steering Committee Chairpersonship as the main issue. Mr. Bambang Murdiono from the Indonesian Ministry of Forestry and Mr. Henry Scheyvens from the IGES, Japan were elected as Chair and Vice Chair of AFP Steering Committee respectively and will be chairing the next AFP meeting, which is planned to

be held in Japan in 2007. Two preparatory meetings are planned to be conducted prior to the AFP 7th Meeting,

- 1) Working group meeting, which is to be held back-to-back with the 41st ITTO meeting in Yokohama, Japan on 12-13 of November 2006, to evaluate AFP's phase I implementation, and
- 2) AFP Steering Committee meeting, which is planned to be held back-to-back with the UNFF meeting in Bali on February 2007, to discuss further on the future of AFP.



From The Director General's Desk

The period of July –September is important to the whole global community as two extremely important events are celebrated during this period. The International Day of the World's Indigenous People on August 8th And the International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer Depletion on 16th September. Both these global events are of great significance for the South Asian Region. The whole region has a very large ancient civilisation that has an extremely eco -friendly lifestyle but these indigenous people are greatly affected by the effects of Climate change.

One of the priority areas of the Work Programme of SACEP for the years 2006 -07, as decided in the 9th GC in August 2005, is Waste Management. An important component of this priority area is development of a regional strategy for Solid Waste Management in particular to municipal, medical, industrial, hazardous, and e -waste and to facilitate the South Asian Countries to address these waste issues. One area of Programme implementation is to ensure the establishment of a network of collaborating government institutions, Centres of Excellence, Private Entrepreneurs and Civil Society organisations in the sector.

The Lack of awareness among the general public

on proper waste separation and handling leads to large scale accumulation of waste. This is a common phenomenon in almost all the urban areas of the South Asian Countries. Innovative and attractive ways of knowledge dissemination techniques on Waste management will attract the attention and educate the large population in these countries and help change their habits to be more environment friendly in order to help reduce the menace of waste.

SACEP viewed the 10th South Asian Games (18th - 28th August, 2006) as a golden opportunity to disseminate the message of proper urban waste Management through the sportspersons and the huge gathering of nearly 10.000 spectators that came to see this mega -event. Such a large gathering also led to the generation of a considerable amount of waste throughout the event and proper handling of this waste would set a good example for all future events and as a whole to the community.

SACEP, thus, initiated and coordinated a programme with the organisers, the National Olympic Committee of Sri Lanka, the Ministry of Environment, Sri Lanka, ABANS, a private company and ART TV, a local television channel, to introduce and disseminate integrated waste management

practices and their dissemination during the games. Environmental Protection through appropriate conservation and public awareness raising was one of SACEP's main approach. The main focus of this during the games was towards environmental protection and made a plea to the public as a whole for their greater participation in combating environmental degradation.

The Regional Resource Coordination and Mobilisation Workshop for the Long Term Management and Conservation of MCPAs in South Asia was held in Colombo on 27- 28th September, 2006. This initiated the important European Commission project for the South Asian Seas region that has been launched by SACEP with the collaboration of the International Coral Reef Network.

I sincerely hope that these and similar initiatives in the future will go a long way in establishing SACEP as a regional body that works towards highlighting regional issues and getting the focus on the International community on the important aspects of sustainable environmental management in the South Asian Region.

Forest Governance and Decentralisation in Asia-Pacific

A workshop on "Forest Governance and Decentralisation in Asia and the Pacific," hosted by the Government of Indonesia, was held during 4-6 September 2006 at Yogyakarta, Indonesia . The Workshop focused on roles, rights, responsibilities and institutions, with special attention to gender, law enforcement, equity, land tenure and use, land rehabilitation, and fire.

80-100 invited participants, from various government, academic, NGOs, research institutions and donors sectors represented the Workshop . The three -day meeting included one day field trip around Yogyakarta to see Indonesian decentralization in action.

SACEP presented one oral presentation and two posters on "The decentralised approach to forest management in central India: "A case study of the Dhamtari

model" and "Historical overview of forest decentralization in Sri Lanka". In the future SACEP hopes to discuss and introduce the Decentralisation process in to the Forestry Sector in the Region.

Through "Perum Perhutani" which is the principal plantation forestry operation on the island of Java, Indonesia has undergone significant changes since its certification in 1990. Most recently, Perhutani changed from Perum (a public management company with a social mission) to PT (a state-owned private company). Perhutani manages approximately 2 million hectares (over 4.9 million acres) of plantations in 54 forest management districts (KPH), mostly in teak. At the time of the certification suspension, the FSC-certified districts comprised about 5% of the total area owned by the company.

Achieved outcome include

Better understanding of the concept and implementation of decentralization in the region.

Identification of opportunities national policy responses, capacity building and best practices.

Identification of strategies and instruments for overcoming constraints to effective decentralization and sustainable forest management at all levels.



Dr. A.A. Boaz at the workshop



"Appropriate interventions on Adaptation to Climate Change"

A MoU has been signed between Center for Environment Education (CEE) and SACEP in October 2006 to address issues related to the development of appropriate responses to the challenges of adaptation to climate change by Documenting available information on the adaptation imperatives, help understand issues, articulate concerns and develop a plan of action including some proposals for seeking

funding to engage in demonstration of feasibility of some options.

In this context, it is envisaged that the following will be achieved.

establishment of contacts with stakeholders

one workshop for stakeholder consultations

development of a position paper

development of outlines for project proposals under consultations with stakeholders for the consideration of funding agencies, leading to adaptation - based action.

This joint initiative of CEE and SACEP is a scoping exercise, aimed at helping the development of need -based responses in the region.

September 18th, “International Coastal Cleanup Day”

Marine litter is identified as a priority activity for Regional Seas Programme and hundreds of thousands of people worldwide gathered for the clean up of marine environment. Last year more than 450,000 people from over 90 countries around the world participated in the clean up collecting over 3,424,622.3935 kilograms.

This year a coastal cleanup campaign was successfully organised in India on September 18th 2006, by UNEP and SACEP for developing ‘Marine Litter Activity’. Dr R. Venkatesan, National Consultant for India Marine Litter activity National Institute of Ocean Technology, coordinated the campaign.

According to the preliminary report, more than 25,000 people participated in the campaign, more than 3,000 Letters and more than 5000 Email sent to the people. This is first time such a large number of people including school and college students, CBOs, Governmental and Non governmental officials participated all along Indian coast including Islands. Prior to the campaign, awareness pamphlets were printed and distributed. The message from people is very clear: Given an opportunity's everybody wants to contribute to the cause of protecting our environment. Painting / Quiz / Elocution competition conducted in schools and more than 4000 certificates were distributed. Caps, T shirt and breakfast provided to more than 3,000 people at Chennai, India.

All these were achieved under a coordinated effort of SACEP and the national consultant from India. All activities were got sponsored from local companies and institutions. It was for

the first time that SACEP was able to coordinate the “Coastal Cleanup Day” on such a large scale.

Top few marine litter found during the clean up day

- Cigarettes and cigarette filters
- Food wrappers and containers
- Caps/lids
- Bottles
- Tobacco packaging/wrappers
- Crab and lobster traps, fishing lines, nets – the fishermen usually throw away the old worn out traps and nets in the waters
- Plastic sheeting's, ropes, trapping bands, syringes, bags, balloons

All these accounted for 60 to 80 percent of the world's marine pollution.

Some of the effects of marine litter:

The marine litter not only looks bad on the beaches but it can also be dangerous to people and to wildlife. Eg. syringes, fishhooks, and broken bottles and toxic debris, such as auto or boat batteries.

The fishing line and nets, and strapping bands can entangle animals, and some animals may ingest straws, balloons, and plastic bags, mistaking them for food.

Items such as broken glass and syringes pose health risks to people, both in and out of the water.

The data collected during the cleanups show that a lot of the garbage on the coast and in the

oceans came from land-based activities.

Marine flora & fauna:

Data on the effects of marine debris are sketchy, but rope (entanglement) and plastic fragments and pellets (ingestion) appear to pose the greatest threat to wildlife, while sewage, medical debris, and broken bottles/cans appear to pose the greatest threat to human health. Reduced recreational use of fouled shore areas is perhaps the most significant economic impact of marine debris. India has more than 1600 islands. These islands are unique marine ecosystem consisting of corals, marine organisms – some are endangered, unique, mangrove etc., During 2003 & 2004, the marine litter were reported in the beautiful scenic, pristine beaches of Andaman & Nicobar and Lakshadweep group of Islands. A scientific study in Nicobar Islands revealed that floating debris ranged from disposable plastic cups to pressurized containers to automobile parts were brought by surface currents. The final information is then used to educate the public about the problem of marine debris and to formulate methodology to control marine litter management. Students can play an active role by organizing coastal cleanup campaign near beaches

Web : www.niot.res.in/m5/mbic/osti/coastal/



Volunteers in the Campaign

First Meeting of the Lead and Cadmium Working Group

Products such as Batteries contain lead, zinc, cadmium and other toxic materials. Every year millions end up in landfill, poisoning our soil and threatening our ground water.

The First meeting of the Lead and Cadmium Working Group was held at the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) building in Geneva (Switzerland) from 18-22 September 2006. During that meeting, in order to inform future discussions of the next 24th session of the Governing Council on the need for global action in relation to lead and cadmium, the Lead and Cadmium Working Group members considered the revised drafts of the reviews of scientific information on lead and cadmium circulated in advance of the meeting.

Lead is a heavy metal that is toxic at very low

exposure levels and has acute and chronic effects on human health. It is a multi-organ system toxicant that can cause neurological, cardiovascular, renal, gastrointestinal, haematological and reproductive effects. In the environment, lead is toxic to plants, animals and micro-organisms. It bioaccumulates in most organisms. In surface waters, residence times of biological particles containing lead have been estimated at up to two years. Although lead is not very mobile in soil, lead may enter surface waters as a result of the erosion of lead-containing soil particles and the dumping of waste containing lead products.

Cadmium is a non-essential and toxic element for humans mainly affecting kidneys and the skeleton. It is also a carcinogen by inhalation. In the environment, cadmium is toxic to

plants, animals and micro-organisms. Being an element, cadmium is persistent – it cannot be broken down into less toxic substances in the environment. The degree of bioavailability and potential for effects varies depending on the form of cadmium. Cadmium bioaccumulates mainly in the kidneys and liver of vertebrates and in aquatic invertebrates and algae.

For the first time SACEP joined the working group as a member. Dr. A.A. Boaz, the Director General represented the SACEP at the meeting.

Link: www.chem.unep.ch/Pb_and_Cd/WG/WG-meeting.htm



Inception Workshop on South Asian Environment Outlook

Consultation Meeting for South Asia Sub-Regional Sustainable Development Strategy (SSDS) and Inception workshop for Preparation of South Asia Environment Outlook (SAEO) 2006 was held on 23 and 24 August 2006, Kathmandu, Nepal. Dr. A.A. Boaz, represented the SACEP at this workshop.

Key Environmental Issues for South Asia:

Degradation of land resources - soil erosion, over grazing, desertification, deforestation, declining arable per capita, food security.

Freshwater pollution and scarcity - limited access to portable water, water-borne diseases, arsenic contamination of drinking water, seasonal limitations of availability of natural freshwater resources, depletion of freshwater aquifers, organic pollution

Loss of biodiversity - habitat loss/degradation,

coastal habitat loss, illegal poaching, depletion of mangroves for aquaculture, coral reef degradation

Atmospheric air pollution and climate change - urban air pollution and related health issues such as respiratory diseases, indoor air pollution in rural areas, beach erosion

Natural disasters - flood, cyclone, land slides, drought

Urbanization - pollution by municipal, domestic, and industrial waste, vehicular pollution, industrial pollution

Poverty - slums and squatters, infant mortality, child undernourishment, literacy rate, unemployment, health facilities, lack of sanitation facilities, livelihood security (food, freshwater security, energy, income security)



Source: www.ricap.unep.org/

3R South Asia Expert Workshop

South Asia 3R Expert Workshop was co-organized by Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES), Asia Development Bank (ADB), and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) at ICI-MOD in Nepal Kathmandu from August 30th to September 1st, 2006.

Approximately forty 3Rs experts from research organisations, international organisations, governments and NGOs gathered to discuss solid waste management issues and in-depth review of 3Rs promotion in South Asia. The workshop discussed current situation and challenges for the 3Rs in the following four sessions; "domestic solid waste management", "industrial waste management", "medical hazardous waste", and "E-waste". Also, three working

groups focusing on "financial and economic", and "technological" contexts reviewed and examined priority actions for 3Rs in South Asia.

The outcome and the proceedings of the

workshop are expected to be presented at the Asia Conference on 3R Promotion in Tokyo from 30 October to 1 November 2006. Mr P.K. Kotta, Project Coordinator – SENRIC represented SACEP at this event.



Workshop Participants

Do not follow where the path may lead. Go instead where there is no path leave a trail.

-Muriel Strode

SACEP signed a MoU with IUCN, Asia Region

SACEP and the World Conservation Union (IUCN) with its programmes and offices in Asia intend to cooperate in the areas common to their programmes in South Asia according to the signed MoU on August, 2006.

The World Conservation Union (IUCN) was founded in October 1948 as the International Union for the Protection of Nature (or IUPN) following an international conference in Fontainebleau, France. The World Conservation Union is a multi-

cultural, multilingual organization with 1000 staff located in 62 countries. Its headquarters are in Gland, Switzerland. The Union's mission is to influence, encourage and assist societies throughout the world to conserve the integrity and diversity of nature and to ensure that any use of natural resources.

Principal Areas of Collaboration

IUCN-Asia and SACEP have identified the thematic areas of Biodiversity conservation and coastal and

marine ecosystem management and the crosscutting areas of environmental law and information management and public awareness raising as the substantive fields on which the partnership will begin to build. Both parties will keep each other informed of their respective programmes of assistance and activities in Asia through exchange of Newsletters, country-specific studies and other relevant documents.



A tsunami warning system-Indian Ocean region is now "up and running"

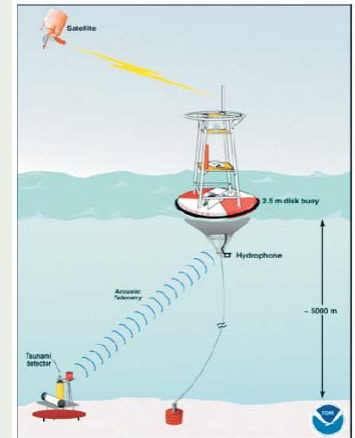
According to the UN's Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), there are 26 national tsunami information centres receiving information from 25 new seismographic stations. Also three deep-ocean sensors to detect and report tsunamis. But Director-General of the UNESCO, warned the work was not yet finished. He said the system would suffer if there was no coordination between the different nations and also said that even a 100% successful warning system

would be ineffective "if people do not know how to respond to the emergency".

The system is being overseen by UNESCO's Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission. A massive earthquake beneath the ocean on 26 December 2004 sent giant waves crashing ashore in places as far apart as Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Somalia.

The only warning most people had was the sight of the waves heading towards them. About 1.5 million people were left homeless in the region after the wall of water stripped away trees, houses and whole communities. Reconstruction could take between five years and a decade.

More Info: <http://ioc3.unesco.org/indotsunami/>



Operational Tsunami Warning System

Malé Declaration on Control and Prevention of Air Pollution and its Likely Transboundary Effects for South Asia

The annual network meeting and regional stakeholders meeting was held during 12-13 September in Thimphu, Bhutan. The meeting noted and welcomed participation from Afghanistan, which happens to be the first attendance from Afghanistan as a part of the network. Stakeholders meeting observed status from the region with status and on-going research activities presented by the participants. Minister of Trade Honourable Mr. Lyonpo Yeshey Zimba was the Chief Guest at the inaugural session. He noted the progress and the support from UNEP and Sida in establishing the programme. Dr. Arvind Boaz

appreciated the support and active involvement from all the partners, national implementing agencies and donors. He emphasized that capacity building of SACEP should take place in the balance partial of the 3rd place so that SACEP could play an active role to take the programme forward. Mr. Surendra Shrestha, Regional Director, UNEP-ROAP noted the status of the project and highlighted the possible support that could be mobilized to the research and capacity building activities under the programme.

The intergovernmental meeting endorsed review of the programme by Mr. R. Rajamani, former Secretary to the Ministry of Environment, Government of India. The meeting observed the necessity for continued support from external agencies for the sustenance of the programme and decided to put forward a proposal to Sida for financial support through the 4th Phase (2008 onwards) as well.



Workshop for the Long-term Management and Conservation of MCPAs

Contd. P

Following recommendations were agreed upon during the course of discussions:

Participants shall work in collaboration with the Project team to guide the development of materials (TOR, structure, constitution, etc.) in advance of the SACEP GC meeting in January 2007.

SACEP GC meeting to be used as opportunity for formal endorsement of the Task Force with participating

Governments.

The importance of understanding current livelihood strategies as a starting point for working towards livelihood development and change.

The importance of linking work on livelihoods with effective environmental management measures, including enforcement.

Identify partners in agencies or institutions that are already in place in the sites chosen for implementation

in this component of the project.

Establish an electronic discussion forum for issue-based discussions, to further develop an appropriate communications strategy for the project.

Conduct additional investigations and discussions regarding regional database development.

Link: http://www.sacep.org/html/projects_ongoing_icran.htm



Oil Spill in Southern Sri Lanka's waters

An oil spill caused by the sinking of a Bangladeshi merchant vessel, Amaanat Shah, which was sailing from Yangon, Myanmar in Southeast Asia to Mumbai India, with a load of teak when it developed a technical failure close to the Sri Lankan coast in Koggala 130 kilometers south of the capital, Colombo.

On 8th September, 2006 the Bangladeshi cargo ship went down after it struck a rock while being towed to the southern coast from the deep sea. Sri Lanka's Navy rescued 34 crew members from the sinking ship. The oil spill caused a 200 meter slick which severely affected the Koggala Stream,

Fishery, Tidal Forest, Planktons, and Coastal area of Koggala to Ahangama extending up to 10 Km of the coastal belt.

The Indian Coast Guard provided two ships and several aircraft to Sri Lanka to clean the oil spill. Disaster Management Center (DMC) organized an Oil Cleaning Programme jointly with Marine Pollution Control Authority (MPCA), Red Cross Society and several other organizations at Koggala Lagoon subsequent of ship wreck. With them, First Aid Teams, Volunteers, Community Team, Villagers actively partici-

pated for that Oil cleaning programme.

Links

www.redcross.lk/eh_news32.html



Volunteers cleaning the beach, Koggala

International Day of the World's Indigenous People

Estimates point to more than 370 million indigenous people in some 70 countries worldwide. While they are from diverse geographical and cultural backgrounds, they share common difficulties which include lack of basic healthcare, limited access to education, loss of control over land, abject poverty, displacement, human rights violations, and economic and social marginalization.

The International Day of the World's Indigenous People is commemorated each year on 9 August in recognition

of the first meeting of the United Nations Working Group on Indigenous Populations in Geneva in 1982. This year's celebrated the 12th commemoration of the International Day of the World's Indigenous People, organized by the Secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and the NGO Committee on the Decade of the World's Indigenous Peoples.

Experts say development programmes often ignore the needs of these communities and their traditional knowl-

edge. For development programmes, including the Millennium Development Goals, to truly have an impact on indigenous peoples, their participation in decisions that affect their lives and their visions of development need to be incorporated effectively into national plans.

More information: www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/en/news_internationalday2006.html

"The air is precious to the red man, for all things share the same breath - the beast, the tree, the man, they all share the same breath".

-Chief Seattle, 1854

International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer

Methyl Bromide, a pesticide and one of the major ozone depleting substances in use, is being phased out for some key agricultural purposes under an international agreement called the Montreal Protocol. The phase-out covers such uses as fumigation of soils and pest control on farms. methyl bromide being used around the world could have implications for the global effort to repair the 20 mile high ozone layer which filters out harmful levels of the sun's ultraviolet rays. Some experts estimate that close to a fifth of Methyl Bromide used world-wide could be excluded from control measures under these Quarantine and Pre-shipment exemptions with the amounts growing in some regions.

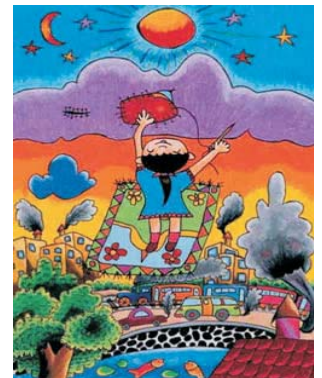
Under the Montreal Protocol, developed countries are required to end their use of methyl bromide on farms by the end of this year. However some developed world farmers in Australia, Europe and North America, have expressed concern that the alternatives to methyl bromide may, in some cases, be less effective and more expensive.

The theme of this year's observance, "Protect the Ozone Layer: Save Life on Earth", invites the international community to build on its achievements to date by accelerating the phase-out of ozone depleting substances. South Asian Countries get together with world-wide public awareness activities to celebrate achievements in comply-

ing with this treaty and to highlight remaining challenges before the job is done.

UNEP is helping countries by providing guidance and materials to support the 16 September celebrations. Principal among these is a new animated awareness video, Ozzy Ozone, in which the main character, an ozone molecule, takes viewers on a voyage of discovery to find out exactly what is attacking the Earth's protective ozone layer. It explains how children can protect themselves from the harmful effects of ultraviolet radiation caused by ozone depletion.

More Information www.uneptie.org/Ozonaction/events/ozoneday/2006.htm



"Protect the Ozone Layer: Save Life on Earth"

Source: www.uneptie.org/Ozonaction/events/ozoneday/2006.htm

Reach us on the web!



www.sacep.org

info@sacep.org

Future editions of this Newsletter will highlight regional and national initiatives and emerging environmental issues. We would like to receive related articles or information to share with our readers. Any information published will be duly acknowledged.

We look forward to receive information that could be part of our database of experts and institutions in the region. We also request for information on case studies of best management practices and initiatives in the areas of environmental protection, sustainable resource management and community -based participatory resource management.

The SACEP Newsletter is published quarterly and can be downloaded from the website.

#10 Anderson Road, Colombo -5, Sri Lanka
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Training programme for Post Graduate Students

SACEP's mandate encompasses helping its member countries to build their capacity on various areas related to the environmental management. In related with this mandate, SACEP has initiated a new programme to enhance a better knowledge of biodiversity and its related international conventions in South Asian countries. As a first step SACEP with the financial assistance of the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences (RBINS), the Belgian National Focal Point for the Convention on Biological Diversity will undertake a pilot project in Sri Lanka.

The objective of the project is "to create awareness among post graduate students on Clearing-House Mechanism of the Convention on Biological Diversity and build their capacity on how to make use of it for conservation activities". The project will organize two four day training workshops at Colombo, Sri Lanka, one in December 2006 and the other one in January 2007.

Who can apply?

Srilankan students who have registered to a Post Graduate Degree programme (Master or Ph.D) in the fields of Environmental Science, Forestry, Marine Science, Natural Resource Management or related field at local university/ institution can apply for the training course. Please visit our website, for more information and the registration forms.

New Publication

Report of the Workshop on Integrated Coastal Area and River Basin Management in the South Asian Seas Region: Chennai, India. This report is a compilation of workshop proceedings, ICARM case studies and pilot project proposals presented at the workshop.

REPORT OF THE WORKSHOP ON
INTEGRATED COASTAL AREA AND RIVER
BASIN MANAGEMENT IN THE SOUTH ASIAN
SEAS REGION

Chennai, India, 7-10 April 2003



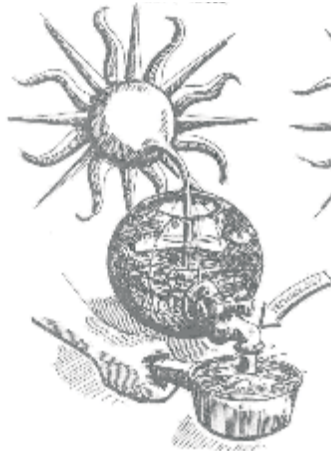
South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme
and
United Nations Environment Programme



Regional
Seas



Technologically accelerate resource use



Sustainable resource use



Source: *Our Ecological Foot Print*, Phil
Testemale, 1962

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