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South Asia Environment Ministers endorse the "Jaipur Declaration Establishing the South Asia Initiative for Combating Illegal Trade in Wildlife"

The 11th GC.SACEP endorsed the Declaration on South Asia Wildlife Trade Initiative as the 'South Asia Initiative for Combating Illegal Trade in Wildlife', and agreed to the South Asia Regional Strategic Plan on Illegal Wildlife Trade (2008 – 2013)

The countries in the South Asia region are very rich in terrestrial and marine natural resources which are a storehouse of unique biodiversity as well as many endangered species and there is rapid growing demand, both locally and globally, for wildlife products.

While legal trade can be monitored and managed, illegal trade in wild animals and plants poses a major challenge to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in South Asia.

All the countries in the region are presently having various laws and regulations to prevent illegal trade but still are subject to large scale illegal trade in wildlife and its derivatives by a well organized local and international illegal trade network.

Despite concerns of overexploitation of wildlife by the civil society and efforts of the enforcement agencies it is unlikely that the on going trend of increased illegal trade by the strong international illegal wildlife crime nexus can be tackled without new enforcement strategies and

through regional cooperation and networking.

The countries in the region have committed for wildlife conservation and to regulate illegal trade under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) through its various resolutions, or implement related National Laws and Policies.

The South Asia Wildlife Trade Diagnostic Workshop held in Kathmandu in April 2004, and the priorities identified for improved regional co-operation to address illegal wildlife trade challenges in South Asia.

The SAWTI has been launched with the active support of the TRAFFIC International and CITES Secretariat, WWF and the US Government

Cont Page 07.....



Dr. A.A. Boaz, DG SACEP (M) getting a DVD on "Coastal Cleanup DAY-India" released by H.E. the Governor of Rajasthan Shri S. K. Singh, (L). The Chief Minister, Government of Rajasthan, Hon' Ms. Vasundhara Raje (R) looks on.

ELEVENTH MEETING OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL OF SACEP (GC11.SACEP) HELD AT JAIPUR, INDIA

The Eleventh Meeting of the Governing Council of the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (GC11.SACEP) was held on 22nd May 2008 in Jaipur, India. The Meeting was attended by representatives from the following Member Countries: - Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. It was also attended by representatives from TRAFFIC International, United States Embassy of Kathmandu, United States Embassy of Delhi and United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD).

The Chief Guest for the Inaugural Session of the 11th Governing Council of SACEP was His Excel-

lency, the Governor of Rajasthan Shri S. K. Singh, Government of India. The welcome address was delivered by Dr. Arvind Anil Boaz, Director General of SACEP. Out-going Chairman and Head of Delegation Mr. Narayan Prasad Silwal, Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Science & Technology, Government of Nepal addressed the august gathering next. This was followed by the address of Hon' Namo Narian Meena, Minister of State for Environment & Forests, Government of India. The meeting was next addressed by the Chief Minister, Government of Rajasthan, Hon' Ms. Vasundhara

Raje The Chief Guest His Excellency, Shri S. K. Singh, the Governor of Rajasthan then delivered his Inaugural Address.

In accordance with the provisions of the Articles of Association of SACEP, Hon' Namo Narian Meena, Minister of State for Environment & Forests, Government of India was elected as Chairman of the 11th Governing Council of SACEP. Hon. Patali Champika Ranawaka, Minister of Environment and Natural Resources, Government of Sri Lanka was elected as the Vice Chairman. Mr. Ishtiaq Ahmad Khan, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Government of Pakistan was elected as Rapporteur.

Fourth Inter Ministerial Meeting (IMM) of SASP held

The Fourth Intergovernmental Meeting of Ministers (IMM) of the South Asian Seas Programme was held in Jaipur, India on the 22nd May 2008. The meeting was attended by Representatives from Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

Outgoing chairman of SASP, H.E. Mr. Ahmed Abdullah, Minister Environment, Energy and Water, Republic of Maldives (R) greets the elected Chairman of the SASP, H.E. Namo Narian Meena, Minister of State for Environment & Forests, India (L).



Contd. Page 05.....



Delegates at the 11th Governing Council Meeting



Hon' Namo Narian Meena, Minister of State for Environment & Forests, Government of India



Hon. Ministers of the Meeting



Dr. A.A. Boaz, DG SACEP addressing the meeting

Country Delegates at the GC



1. H.E. Mr. Ahmad Shah Karim Olomi
Deputy Director General, National Environmental Protection Agency, Afghanistan

2. Mr. Ruhul Alam Siddique
Minister (Pol) ,Bangladesh High Commission in Delhi.

3. H.E. Dasho Nado Rinchen
Deputy Minister of Environment National Environment Commission P.O. Box 466, Thimphu Royal Government of Bhutan

4. H.E. Mr. Ahmed Abdullah,
Minister Environment, Energy and Water, Republic of Maldives

8. H.E. Patali Champika Ranawaka,
Minister of Environment and Natural Resources, Government of Sri Lanka was elected as the Vice Chairman.

7. Mr. Ishtiaq Ahmad Khan, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Government of Pakistan was elected as Rapporteur.

6. Mr. Narayan Prasad Silwal, Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Science & Technology, Government of Nepal Out-going Chairman, and Head of Delegation

5. H.E. Namo Narian Meena, Minister of State for Environment & Forests, Government of India was elected as Chairman of the 11th Governing Council of SACEP.



From the Director General's desk

This period saw the conduction of the 11th Governing Council of SACEP and the 4th Inter Ministerial Meeting, South Asia Seas Programme. The Government of India was kind enough to host both the meetings in a grand manner at the historical and beautiful city of Jaipur in Rajasthan. I am personally indebted to the Hon' Minister of State of Environment and Forests, Government of India, Mr Namonarian Meena for consenting to be present at both the meetings and to the Hon' Governor of Rajasthan, HE S. N. Singh for being the Chief Guest and Hon' Chief Minister Of Rajasthan, HE Ms Vasundara Raje Scindia, for accepting our invitation to grace the occasion as a Guest of Honour. I am thankful to all the Ministers and other delegates from the member countries who attended the meetings.

The 11th Governing Council was the third council meeting to be held since I took over at SACEP as the Director General in the year 2005. The 4th Inter Ministerial Meeting, South Asia Seas Programme was the 2nd ministerial

meeting during my tenure. This was the first time that the Governing Council and Inter Ministerial Meeting, South Asia Seas Programme were being held so regularly as laid down in the Articles of Association of SACEP and the South Asian Seas Action Plan. The Ministers greatly appreciated the giant strides taken by SACEP and the SASP in the last few years and praised the efforts of SACEP to realize the arrears of Country contributions and raise fresh funds for various programmes. This has strengthened SACEP both financially and programmatically and for the first time SACEP is on a very strong footing. The expansion of the network of SACEP to include not only the UN agencies like UNEP, UNESCO, UNCRD, WMO, IMO, UN-DAOLOS and governments like the USA, Belgium but also international NGOs like IUCN, WWF and funding agencies like the EC and SIDA was much appreciated. The Governing Council praised the Secretariat for its efforts in developing a large variety of Projects in-house and approved several projects put before it for be-

ing posed to funding agencies. It also requested the member countries to enhance the country contributions and to support SACEP in expanding its Trust Funds that was kick-started by India in 2007 through an initial contribution of INR 10 million.

It is with a great sense of achievement and contentment that I look over the past three years at SACEP. The vision that the external review committee as seen in its report in the year 2004, has been fulfilled to a great extent by the new path that SACEP had embarked upon and now it is standing at the threshold of a great and bright future where it can fulfill the aspirations of its member countries as a very strong foundation has been laid and it has now the capacity and the financial strength to march forward in its endeavor for a bright and sustainable future.

GC Approves "New Initiatives"

Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM)

The proposal was agreed to in principle and the member countries requested SACEP to conduct awareness programme on SAICM Global Action Plan at National and Regional Levels.

Capacity building for the Clearing-House Mechanism of the Convention on Biological Diversity in South Asia

The meeting requested SACEP to assist countries of South Asia to build capacity and to develop and maintain National Biodiversity CHMs Assist to develop national CHMs of member countries. Develop a regional CHM that meets the needs of the region, links together the national CHMs and provides a forum for promoting Regional Scientific and Technical co-operation.

Establishment of Basel Convention Regional Centre for South Asia

The Meeting agreed to support the establishment of the Basel Convention Regional Centre for South Asia at the SACEP Secretariat, Colombo, Sri Lanka, comprising of all South Asian countries as its members as decided by the 10th Meeting of the Governing Council of SACEP.

Establishment of the South Asia Initiative

for Combating Illegal Trade in Wildlife

The 11th GC.SACEP endorsed the Statement on South Asia Wildlife Trade Initiative as the 'South Asia Initiative for Combating Illegal Trade in Wildlife', and agreed to the South Asia Regional Strategic Plan on Illegal Wildlife Trade (2008 – 2013).

Scoping Exercise on E-waste Management in South Asia

The Meeting noted that most of the countries in the Region are in the process of preparing their own Rules and Regulations on e-waste Management. SACEP Secretariat was requested to assist member countries to undertake risk assessment at National Levels and based on the above to prepare a proposal on establishing a central e-waste Management facility for South Asia for the next GC/SACEP.

Environmentally Sustainable Transport (EST)

While appreciating the proposed initiative in collaboration with UNCRD, the members decided that the endorsement of the Extended Aichi Statement by the balance countries of South Asia would be considered only after consultation with their respective Ministries of

Transport and Urban Development. Collaboration with the Regional Community Forestry Training Centre for Asia and the Pacific (RECOFTC) for Capacity Building in the Community Forestry Sector

The Meeting approved the proposal and further requested SACEP to develop collaborative arrangements with institutions of South Asia under south-south collaboration.

MoU with TRADA (Timber Research and Development Association) to develop Integrated Sustainable Bamboo-based Livelihoods

The Meeting approved the proposal to conduct a Pilot Project in Sri Lanka.

Collaboration with National Botanical Research Institute (NBRI), Lucknow to Develop Programme on Climate change and its Impact on the Flora of the South Asia

The Meeting approved the Project Proposal in principle subject to specific commitment from respective countries.

....From P. 01 Jaipur Declaration Establishment of the South

Salient Features

Recalling the decision taken in the Tenth Governing Council Meeting of SACEP on 25th January 2007 to incorporate a Work Programme (2007-2008) for Combating Illegal Trade in Wildlife products and to help strengthening of enforcement of CITES in the region.

Aware of CITES Resolution 11.3 'Compliance and Enforcement' revised at the 14th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES in July 2007 urging parties to consider formulating regional action plans, incorporating timetables, targets and provisions for funding, designed to enhance enforcement of CITES, achieve compliance with its provisions, and support wildlife-law enforcement agencies;

Acknowledging the Memorandum of Understanding signed by SACEP and TRAFFIC International on 20/07/07 to jointly take forward the initiative of regional co-operation for Combating Illegal Trade and the joint efforts initiated by them.

Recalling the endorsement of the South Asia Regional Strategic Plan on Illegal Wildlife Trade (2008-2013) by the Senior Officers of the Member Countries at the First Regional Workshop on the South Asia Wildlife Trade Initiative in Kathmandu from 31st January and 1st February 2008.

Stressing the importance of mutual networking and technical support as well as financial and technical support from the international community for building expertise, resources, and capacity to address the needs of the region for combating the illegal wildlife trade; and

Believing that regional cooperation can provide the best solution for regional problems;

We the Environment Ministers constituting the 11th Meeting of the Governing Council of SACEP,

- *Support* the South Asia Initiative for Combating Illegal Trade in Wildlife and Regional Action Plan

and the Formation of South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network (SAWEN)

- *Urge* to establish the South Asia Experts Group on Illegal Wildlife Trade, consisting of relevant technical representatives from the eight member countries, which would meet periodically to provide a forum for the development of regional programmes through networking, sharing and effective dissemination of knowledge and information;
- *Mandate* the expert group to develop a detailed work programme for implementing the South Asia Regional Strategic Plan on Illegal Wildlife Trade with the assistance of SACEP and other relevant partners; and
- *Request* Countries, donors and other organizations to provide financial and technical support to assist in the implementation of the approved Work Programme.

Strengthening Environment Law Capacity in the SAARC Region -Collaboration with NALSAR on Environmental Legislation

The National Academy of Legal Studies and Research (NALSAR), University of Hyderabad India is implementing a programme to support the strengthening of Environmental Law in the SAARC Region. SACEP had been implementing many Environmental Law Programmes under its UNEP – NORAD – SACEP programme and have conducted many ground breaking programmes and have several Environmental Law Publications.

NALSAR invited SACEP to be an active partner in this Law Programme. A series of Training Programmes were held across the South Asian Region for strengthening the Environmental Law Capacities in the SAARC region. Experts, National Representatives, NGO's & Academia were invited to build

strong partnerships amongst environmental professionals at the workshop held .during 04 ~ 06 April 2008

SACEP was represented by it's DG, Dr. Arvind Boaz who gave a presentation on "SACEP's Initiative in Developing environmental Law Capacity in the South Asia Region".

The Principal Themes of these Training Workshops were:

1. Overview of Environmental Law and thematic components of the legal framework on environment in the SAARC region
2. Climate Change, Energy and Law
3. Natural Resource Management, Tenure Security & Participation of Local People.

4. Corporate Governance & Law

During the discussions participants were encouraged to share their experiences on various perspectives and a Road Map was developed for training and demand driven orientation for the future. SACEP played an active role in these training programmes and will co-ordinate with NALSAR in the future for strengthening the environmental law capacity in the SAARC region and ensure strong participation amongst environmental professionals of the Member countries of SACEP through development of a collaborative Programme on Environmental Law in the South Asian region.

Annual Meeting of the RAPIDC

The regional Air Pollution in Developing countries (RAPIDC) a programme carried out by Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI) had its Technical Advisory Committee Meeting (TAC) and the Programme Management Committee (PMC) meeting consisting of all its core collaborators in Stockholm, Sweden from 1-3rd June 2008. It was attended by representatives from SACEP, UNEP, SIDA and members of both Programme Advisory Group (PAG) and Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) consisting of members from University of Goteborg, IVL, University of Singapore, IIIEE of the Lind University, Sweden, SMHI and KIMAB.

At the meeting it was highlighted that Male Declaration Programme has acted as a Regional forum for the Governments and Stakeholders in South Asia to participate in addressing the air pollution issues for the Last

10 years. Also it has come a long way towards mapping the various emission sources and understanding the complex relations between them and their contributions to ambient air concentrations and effects on human health, crops, corrosion, eco systems etc. Further it was highlighted that the level of political commitment has increased over the years. As per the progress of the Implementation of the Male Declaration programme it was mentioned that at the beginning of the project there were only seven monitoring stations established and now at the end of the Phase III, it has been expanded up to 14 monitoring stations in eight countries. Over the years the programme was able to conduct successful Regional Level and National Level training programmes for the operation of the monitoring sites. With regard to the Future Development of the programme, SIDA suggested

to conduct a meeting with the ministers of Environment's of the member countries to get the project on the ground and suggested that SACEP could play a prominent role as SACEP can directly deal with Ministers to have effects in the countries.



Dr. Arvind Boaz, DG SACEP (L) with the Participants at the Meeting

..Cont. Page 01 Fourth Inter Ministerial Meeting (IMM) of SASP...

It was also attended by Observers from the following UN agencies and International Organisations: US Embassy Kathmandu and New Delhi. UNEP could not participate in the meeting.

In accordance with the provisions of Articles of Association of SACEP, H.E. Mr. Namo Narain Meena, Minister of Environment & Natural Resources, Government of India was elected Chairman of the 4th IMM of SAS. H.E. Mr. R. A. Patali Champika Ranawaka, Minister of Environment & Natural Resources, Sri Lanka was elected as Vice Chairman of the Meeting. H.E. Mr. Ahmed Abdullah, Minister Environment, Energy and Water, Republic of Maldives was elected as Rapporteur.

The Heads of Delegations from member countries made presentations of their country statements to the 4th IMM.

All statements reflected the initiatives taken by

the countries in the area of environmental protection and management of the marine environment. The Country Statements clearly recognised the very crucial and pivotal role played by SAS in the promotion of environmental management in the South Asian Seas region and noted that it needs to be further strengthened.

Some of the important decisions taken at the meeting included the endorsement of the Marine Litter Framework document and the approval of formulation of activities under i) Capacity Building (Training and Awareness); ii) Beach Clean Up – An Approach to Control and Manage Coastal Litter in the SAS Region; iii) Creation of Port Reception Facilities; iv) Solid Waste Management in The SAS Region for Marine Litter Management.

The meeting endorsed the formal adop-

tion of the Regional Oil Spill Contingency Plan for South Asia and related follow up activities & the project activities under the project on Institutional Strengthening and Capacity Development for the Long-term Management and Conservation of Coral Reef Resources in South Asia.

Approval was also given for the activities under the Global Invasive Species Programme, the programmes envisaged with UNDOALOS) and the continued co-operation with IMO.

The Meeting approved the revision and updating of the South Asian Seas Action Plan based on the current global trends and approved the proposal to observe a day in the 3rd week of September for the observation of Coastal Clean up Day as it will enhance awareness on the negative impacts of marine litter in the region.

SACEP's Proposal of "BCR Center for South Asia" considered. Ninth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to Basel Convention

The ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention (COP9) was held on 23-27 June in Bali, Indonesia and hosted by the Government of Indonesia. It was a very important meeting for SACEP as it was discussed the setting up of Basel Convention Regional Centre for South Asia at SACEP Secretariat, Colombo, Sri Lanka.

SACEP's proposal to establish a Basel Convention Regional Centre for South Asia was presented in detail both at the Contact Group established for the BCRCs and the Committee of the Whole by Dr. Arvind Boaz, DG SACEP and fully supported by all member countries of SACP. Based on the discussions, the following decision was

taken by the CoP9;

- Invites the SACEP to enter into consultations with the host countries of the Basel Convention Regional and Coordinating Centres in China, Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Russian Federation, and also with the related members served by the centres, in order to define the relationship of the proposed centre with the others and its comparative advantage,
- Invites the SACEP to update the proposal in the light of the outcome of these consultations and of new information provided in relation to the outstanding issues identified by the Secretariat in the original review of the proposal, and

- Requests the SACEP to submit to the Open-Ended Working Group an updated proposal for the establishment in the programme of a regional centre for South Asia, to be located in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

Now, SACEP Secretariat is following up with its member countries to address the concerns raised at the CoP9 and updating the proposal to submit to the Open-Ended Working Group Meeting.

For further info:

www.basel.int/

<http://www.iisd.ca/basel/cop9/index.html>



Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission - 22nd Session

The first-ever Asia-Pacific Forestry Week organized 21-26 April 2008, in Hanoi, Vietnam. It was the largest and the most important forestry-related events in the region in 2008. The event brought together upwards of 500 individuals from governments, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), research institutions, regional and international networks, UN agencies and the private sector and high-level forestry officials from throughout the Asia-Pacific region. It provided a unique opportunity for diverse stakeholders and forest managers to share perspectives and solutions to the most challenging issues facing forests and forestry today.

Leading regional and international natural resource organizations convened special plenary sessions each morning of Asia-Pacific Forestry Week, focusing on the three pillars of sustainable development: social, envi-

ronmental, and economic. Under the social pillar "forests and poverty" issues highlighted, with consideration given to resource tenure and access, decentralization, livelihoods and community participation.

Forests and climate change was the top of the agenda on the "environment day", with consideration given to what forestry can do to mitigate climate change, as well as how forestry will need to adapt in response to climate change. For the economic focus topics related to trade, timber certification, forest law enforcement and governance, and forestry investment will dominate. In addition to these plenary sessions, numerous international and regional organizations and networks working in forest- and forestry related issues are planning important events and activities throughout the week.

Dr. Arvind Boaz, Director General,

SACEP presented two papers.

The first was titled Forestry Research need to cope Global Changers-The South Asia Perspective". The paper titled the limitations and constraints of Forestry Research In South Asia and elaborated on current emerging challengers in the global scenario. It proposed a way ahead to bring in the "Brown Revolution" in South Asia, where there will be Forest Products in plenty because Forestry Research had reinvented itself and paved a golden future for forestry in South Asia.

The second Paper was on "South Asia wildlife Trade Initiative" -An intergovernmental initiatives by eight countries of SACEP". In this paper, details of the new initiatives of SACEP to establish the SWATI in order to combat illegal trade in wild flora and fauna in the South Asia Region.

ICRI GENERAL MEETING

The second general meeting of the Mexico-United States ICRI Secretariat was held from the 12-13th July, 2008 in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, USA. The meeting was co-chaired by David Gutierrez, Mexico and Stephanie Caswell, United States.

The chairman and the Member Secretary of the SACRTF attended the ICRI General Meeting. The development of linkages to the ICRI and the attendance of a SACRTF representative (in addition to the Member Secretary) at each ICRI General Meeting were identified as key opportunities to feed re-

gional information into government and policy processes, alongside raising the profile of the SACRTF among the international donor community. Dr. Arvind Boaz, DG-SACEP and member secretary of the SACRTF attended the meeting.

A total of 67 attended the ICRI General Meeting, including the participation of 9 of the 14 scholars that ICRI supported to attend the 11th ICRS. 15 countries were represented and 31 organisations.

Among the many activities planned by the IVOR Coordinator to raise aware-

ness about coral reefs, the GM agreed to sponsor an ICRI-IVOR side event at the upcoming Conference of Parties to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (29 October-5 November 2008, Changwon, Korea). The IVOR Coordinator will plan the side event with input from Members to highlight the coral reef-mangrove relationship;

ICRI members thanked the IVOR Coordinator for his motivation and dedication in realising the IVOR Campaign, and keeping such high momentum.

IYOR Celebration 2008 SCHOOL AWARENESS PROGRAMME

"Help Conserve Coral Reef in South Asian Region" Essays, Posters & Paintings Competition

The **International Year of the Reef (IYOR) 2008** is a worldwide campaign to raise awareness about the value and importance of coral reefs and threats to their sustainability, and to motivate people to take action to protect them.

To celebrate the IYOR, South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (**SACEP**) South Asian Seas (**SAS**), South Asia Coral Reef Task Force (**SACRTF**) & Center for Environment Education (**CEE**) are organizing regional School Essays, posters & paintings Competition among the five maritime

nations **Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Pakistan and Sri Lanka** on behalf of the **International Year of Reef**. The main theme is "**Help Conserve Coral Reef in South Asian Region**". Themes for relevant categories are shown in the tables 1, 2 and 3.

Table-1 Painting Competition Details

Category	Grade / Age	Titles
A	Grade 6 – 8 Age (12-14)	Beautiful Corals
B	Grade 9 – 11 Age (15-17)	Pollution Damages the Coral Reef
C	Grade 12 – 13 Age (18-19)	Human affects the Coral life

Table-3 Poster competition Details

Category	Grade	Title
A	Grade 9 – 11 Age 12-14	Coral Reefs beauty of the sea
B	Grade 9-11 Age 15-17	Coral Reefs at Risk
C	Grade 12-13 Age 18-19	Human activities and coral life

Table-2 Essay competition details

Category	Grade/ Age	Title	Minimum Number of Words
A	Grade 6 – 8 Age (12-14)	Climate Change and Survival of Life on Earth	300 - 400
B	Grade 9 – 11 Age (15-17)	Stop the Air Pollution to Save the Coastal Ecosystem.	400-500
C	Grade 12 – 13 Age (18-19)	Climate Change and its effects on Corals in South Asian Seas.	500-600

Table-4 Details of Awards

Category	Place	Prize (US\$)
A	First	300
	Second	200
	Third	100
B	First	300
	Second	200
	Third	100
C	First	300
	Second	200
	Third	100

Every Essay should have the writer's name, title, address of the school and the year / grade at the back.

In addition to these each winner will be awarded with a Medal and a certificate.

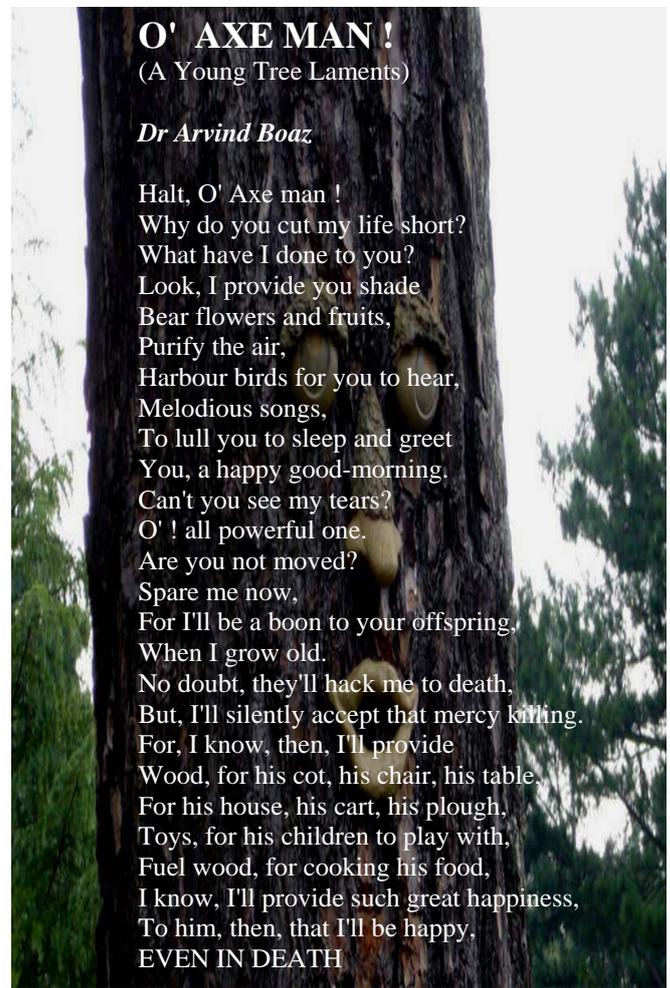


www.sacep.org
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Future editions of this Newsletter will highlight regional and national initiatives and emerging environmental issues. We would like to receive related articles or information to share with our readers. Any information published will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



O' AXE MAN ! (A Young Tree Laments)

Dr Arvind Boaz

Halt, O' Axe man !
Why do you cut my life short?
What have I done to you?
Look, I provide you shade
Bear flowers and fruits,
Purify the air,
Harbour birds for you to hear,
Melodious songs,
To lull you to sleep and greet
You, a happy good-morning.
Can't you see my tears?
O' ! all powerful one.
Are you not moved?
Spare me now,
For I'll be a boon to your offspring,
When I grow old.
No doubt, they'll hack me to death,
But, I'll silently accept that mercy killing.
For, I know, then, I'll provide
Wood, for his cot, his chair, his table.
For his house, his cart, his plough,
Toys, for his children to play with,
Fuel wood, for cooking his food,
I know, I'll provide such great happiness,
To him, then, that I'll be happy.
EVEN IN DEATH

SACEP Calendar July-Sep., 2008

19-21 August 2008 Malé Declaration On Control And Prevention Of Air Pollution And Its Likely Transboundary Effects; For South Asia.

The Tenth Session of the Inter Governmental Meeting of the Male Declaration on control and prevention of Air pollution and the Fifth Regional Stakeholders cum Regional Coordination meetings will be held during 19-21 August 2008 in Colombo Sri Lanka.

31st August 2008 -2nd Meeting of the South Asia Coral Reef Task Force (SACRTF) in the Republic of Maldives.

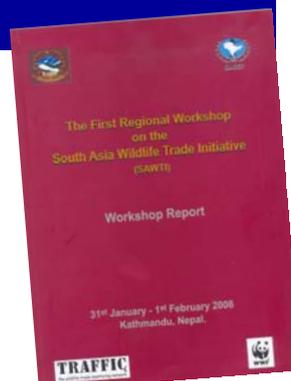
IYOR Celebration 2008 SCHOOL AWARENESS PROGRAMME "HELP CONSERVE CORAL REEF IN SOUTH ASIAN RE- GION

**Essays, Posters & Paint-
ings Competition**

The deadline for the submission of entries will be 15th of September 2008.

Report— on the First Regional Workshop on the South Asia Wildlife Trade Initiative

SAWTI is the first wildlife trade initiative of its kind in South Asia. This Report Highlighted, First Regional Workshop on the South Asia Wildlife Trade Initiative



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