



WORKSHOP REPORT

Brainstorming Workshop on the Development of a Regional Partnership for Integrated Capacity Building for Multilateral Environmental Agreements in South Asia

28 June to 1 July 2004
Kandalama Hotel, Dambulla, Sri Lanka

Supported by
Ministry of the Environment (MOE), Japan
Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES)

Inter-linkages

Synergies and Coordination among Multilateral Environmental Agreements

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Abbreviations / Acronyms

APO	Asian Productivity Organization
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
ETRC	Environment Treaties Reference Center
GEF	Global Environmental Facility
IGES	Institute for Global Environmental Strategies
ISIS	Institute of Strategic and International Studies
IUCN	IUCN-The World Conservation Union
MEA	Multilateral Environmental Agreement
NCSA	National Capacity Self-Assessment
SACEP	South Asian Cooperative Environmental Programme
SAARC	South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation
SPREP	South Pacific Regional Environment Programme
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNU	United Nations University

1. Introduction and Background

At the *Informal Regional Consultation on Inter-linkages* held in Kuala Lumpur Malaysia on 26-27 February 2001, to discuss the opportunities for synergetic implementation of multilateral environmental agreements at the regional and national levels, special sessions were organized to discuss opportunities and challenges for the synergetic implementation of MEAs in the Asia and Pacific regions. During the meeting, working groups agreed that the lack or weakness of national policies, legal and institutional arrangements and human resource capacities are obstacles to effective negotiation, ratification and implementation of MEAs. A goal therefore, should be to strengthen national governance structures within negotiation, ratification, and implementation of MEAs by using synergies and inter-linkages. It was agreed that this could best be achieved by carrying out case studies to examine the use of linkages in strengthening national governance structures, identify gaps and obstacles in the use of synergies between MEAs and develop practical solutions for national governance structures while encouraging greater regional and international coordination.

Immediately after the workshop, the UNU), together with regional partners (the SPREP, in the Pacific, the ASEAN Secretariat in the Southeast Asian region and SACEP and UNDP in South Asia), began to conduct country case studies on *Inter-linkages: Synergies and Coordination among Multilateral Agreements* with the countries chosen to represent specific sub-regions in the Pacific, Southeast Asia and South Asia. The Pacific and Southeast Asian case studies have been completed in 2001 and 2002, with the South Asian studies currently ongoing (Bhutan and Sri Lanka study finished in 2004 with 2 other country studies in preparation).

To follow-up the case study results, the UNU and other partners launched in early 2003 an informal regional partnership on integrated capacity development in Asia and the Pacific, with the goal of deriving a concrete action plan of activities from 2003 onwards. The first two steps taken within the framework of this regional partnership were 1) the conduct of regional workshops on integrated capacity development; and 2) support for the GEF NCSA programme.

2. Building upon the GEF National Capacity Self Assessments (NCSAs)

The NCSA is a new programme that has been approved by the GEF Council, providing support to countries to carry out self-assessments of their capacity needs and priorities, to determine what capacities they have, what capacities they need, and where capacity is lacking within their countries. By identifying these opportunities and gaps in capacity, countries are then encouraged to develop a plan of action for overcoming the gaps.

The primary objective of NCSAs is to identify country level priorities and needs for capacity building to address global environmental issues, in particular the conventions for biological diversity, climate change, and land degradation, with the aim of catalyzing domestic and/ or externally assisted action to meet those needs in a coordinated and planned manner. While these three thematic areas are central to the exercise, it is fully recognized that NCSAs will need to explore the synergies among them, as well as crosscutting linkages with wider concerns of environmental management and sustainable development.

With most of the countries in the region already undergoing the NCSA, the present initiative intends to take advantage and contribute to the process, by using the national assessments:

1. To identify regional priorities

2. To promote the sharing of experiences among countries from the region on environmental management
3. As one of the first activities that can be considered by a regional partnership to promote the synergistic capacity building for MEA management

3. Regional Workshops on Integrated Capacity Development

As the first concrete activity of the informal partnership, the UNU and its partners have organized two regional workshops. One for the Southeast Asian region held in March 2003 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia and organized together with the ASEAN Secretariat, ISIS Malaysia, The Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment of Malaysia, the Ministry of the Environment of Japan and the IGES. The second workshop, for the Pacific, was held in Nadi, Fiji last March 2004 and organized together with SPREP, UNDP, IGES and the Ministry of the Environment of Japan. A third workshop is being proposed for the South Asian region in February 2005, possibly hosted by SACEP and the Ministry of Environment of Sri Lanka and organized by the UNU, SAARC, UNDP, UNEP, IUCN and the University of Peradeniya, with support from the Ministry of the Environment of Japan.

The primary objective of the regional workshops is to develop a concrete plan of action based on the identified opportunities for, and constraints in, strengthening cooperation and mutual supportiveness of environmental agreements across scales and issues in the three sub-regions. By building upon the results of the inter-linkages case studies and the experiences of a number of organizations' cooperation on capacity development, the workshops aim at benefiting both governmental and non-governmental stakeholders at the national level while strengthening the position of regional organizations such as SPREP, ASEAN Secretariat and SACEP in facilitating further cooperation among countries.

The intended outcomes of the workshops are as follows:

1. Concrete action plans for specific activities related to MEA management in the region
 2. Framework for cooperation on integrated capacity development for MEAs
 3. Increased partnership among the various stakeholders, including countries, regional and international organizations, to implement environmental policies
4. Brainstorming Workshop on the Development of a Regional Partnership for Integrated Capacity Building for Multilateral Environmental Agreements in South Asia

In order to prepare for the February 2005 South Asia regional meeting, a brainstorming workshop was organized in Dambulla and Kandy, Sri Lanka from 28 June to 1 July 2004.

4.1 Purpose and Scope of the Workshop

Leading up to and in preparation for the proposed regional workshop on coordinated capacity building in South Asia for MEAs in February 2005, the brainstorming workshop was organized to develop a concrete plan of action based on the identified opportunities for, and constraints in, strengthening cooperation and mutual supportiveness of environmental agreements across scales and issues in South Asia. It built upon the experiences of a number of organization's cooperation on the inter-linkages concept in the region and the results of the national case studies undertaken jointly by the UNU in 2004.

The objectives of the workshop were to:

1. Discuss the framework for the regional partnership
2. Develop a concrete plan of action on integrated or coordinated capacity development that would be realistic under the framework of the regional partnership
3. Discuss the organization of the regional workshop in February 2005
4. Discuss the development of regional project proposals for capacity development in the region to respond to both MEA issues and the broader sustainable development concerns of the region

4.2 Participants

Participants included regional and international organizations, bilateral and multilateral donors, government representatives from Sri Lanka, Bhutan, and India, and other stakeholders. The participants were senior or middle level managers, and decision makers.

4.3 Outcomes

The workshop aimed at developing concrete and practical actions and suggestions on how the region could promote effective implementation of MEAs based on the inter-linkages approach.

The workshop outcomes were expected to be:

1. Concrete action plans for specific activities related to MEA management in South Asia
2. Framework for cooperation on integrated capacity development for MEAs in South Asia
3. Increased partnership among the various stakeholders in the South Asia, including countries, regional and international organizations, to implement environmental policies

4.4 Structure

The workshop was conducted in three segments:

Segment 1, on the first day, aimed at providing the workshop's participants with background information on the goals of the workshop and introduced programmatic activities for MEA management at the global, regional and national levels, such as the Inter-linkages Initiative and the NCSA process. Segment 1 was held in plenary and invited speakers gave presentations from international and regional inter-governmental organizations on crosscutting and functional issues related to MEAs.

Segment 2, on the afternoon of the first day and the morning of the second day, was conducted in three parallel working groups each covering for a half day each the themes of "issues" and "proposals and strategic plan". The working groups were requested to profile actions and practical steps (proposals and strategic plan) to address the already identified capacity challenges (issues) for managing MEAs.

Segment 3, in plenary during the afternoon of the second day, presented the recommendations of the thematic working groups with a view to identifying areas of synergy and coordination across thematic clusters and functional areas.

For the detailed workshop programme, see Annex 1

5. Workshop Recommendations

The workshop recommended the following:

5.1 Utilize and enhance the GEF National Capacity Needs Self Assessment (NCSA) Process

The workshop recognized the need to better engage the GEF NCSA process by better utilizing its methodologies, assessment and results for purposes both within the NCSA framework and outside of it, and also to contribute to the improvement of the NCSA process through the sharing of ideas, suggestions and experiences regionally. The suggestions fall under three sub-headings, framework building, assessment and review and regional partnership building.

5.1.1 Framework building

1. Review possible components of a guiding framework for the effective coordination and review mechanisms for MEA implementation.

The workshop recognized the important role of national MEA coordination mechanisms, such as multi-sectoral bodies, committees, groups, divisions and departments, which facilitate both the identification of possible policy synergies and conflicts. It was also recognized that each country takes different approach to coordination, depending on what works for the governance system that is in place. It was recognized, however, that no matter how different the institutional structure of such coordinating bodies, a generic guiding framework that leads not only to success of the group's function, but also to its sustainability. This proposal will look at what components of such a generic framework would be for the South Asian context.

2. Identify a dedicated mechanism in order to build a database system on environmental issues and sharing of information related to MEAs among Convention national focal points and other stakeholders¹

The workshop identified that information sharing among stakeholders is important to promote the effective implementation of MEAs at the national level. Sharing of information also creates the environment where national policy conflicts are avoided and national policy synergies are identified. For the purpose of promoting better sharing of information across national and regional MEA stakeholders, the workshop proposed the identification of possible mechanisms where a database system can be created, maintained and used, within the framework of the current NCSA sectoral and cross sectoral assessments.

5.1.2 Assessment and review

1. Review existing projects through the NCSA process to determine how they address other MEAs for implementation at the national level.

A similar assessment would be useful for projects being undertaken at the national level, to assist in determining if opportunities for synergistic implementation exist

¹ The Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources of Sri Lanka, together with IUCN presented a proposal during the workshop to strengthen Sri Lanka's ETRC. This proposal is attached in Annex 3.

and if synergies already are being used in implementation. Again the workshop identified the NCSA assessment as one possible mechanism where such a review can be done for countries in the region.

2. Stocktaking, through the NCSA process, of current programmes and projects by international and regional organizations to create synergies to enhance capacity development for MEA implementation

The workshop identified the importance of knowing the status quo of projects related to MEAs that promote synergistic implementation of other conventions, particularly related to activities that are now already ongoing. Through such an assessment, further activities, programmes and plans can be identified for the region in a holistic way as follow-up to this workshop. It was identified that the NCSA's sectoral and cross sectoral assessments will be a good mechanism to review what projects are already ongoing, especially at the regional and international levels.

3. Within the framework of the NCSA, identify appropriate awareness raising tools that can be used for sensitizing high level decision makers

The workshop identified the importance of sensitizing high level decision makers of the various issues relating to MEA management, including the costs, benefits and responsibilities. The workshop further identified that awareness at a high level of policy making is important to ensure that further capacity development interventions are successful at lower levels. To promote high level sensitization of MEA issues, the workshop proposed, if possible, the identification of tools, mechanisms, approaches and methodologies within the existing framework of the NCSA assessments. Within this understanding, two levels of stakeholders were identified by the workshop as users of the these tools, including the mid-level staff, mainly Convention focal points, and the high level decision makers, mainly Department Secretary level and higher. The mid-level staff are the ones that would have to transmit the necessary information to higher level policy makers, and the high level policy makers, upon receipt of such information, should be able to make informed decision relating to the issue at hand. The tools identified in this proposal therefore targets both these stakeholders.

5.1.3 Regional partnership building

1. Share country NCSA implementation experiences and status reports at the proposed February 2005 regional workshop on integrated capacity development in South Asia.

Knowing the importance of sharing experiences with regard to NCSA implementation, the workshop recommended that countries of the region take advantage of the proposed February 2005 workshop to be held in Sri Lanka.

2. Use the NCSA process to develop a mechanism towards a multi-disciplinary expert regional working group consisting of representatives nominated by the SAARC and the SACEP countries².

² SAARC member countries include Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. SACEP member countries include Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

The workshop recognized the need for an effective and formal mechanism in the region to look into MEA issues, and recommended that a country-nominated expert regional working group would be the best way to do this. It was therefore recommended that the region consider utilizing the NCSA process, particularly the development of capacity development action plans, to develop this formal consultative mechanism.

5.2 Undertake stocktaking not included in the NCSA

Acknowledging certain limitations within the NCSA assessment, particularly the focus on the Rio Conventions, the workshop highlighted the need to conduct similar stocktaking of existing projects, mechanisms and tools related to multiple MEAs outside the scope of the NCSA. The necessity to better engage the private sector was also highlighted.

5.2.1 Review existing projects

1. Review existing projects to determine how they address other MEAs

The workshop recommended that a similar stocktaking of existing projects and their links to other MEAs be done for the region, outside the scope of the NCSA.

2. Stocktaking of current programmes and projects by international and regional organizations in order to create synergies to enhance capacity development for the implementation of MEAs.

The workshop also recommended that stocktaking be undertaken for current projects by international and regional organizations, outside the scope of the NCSA.

5.2.2 Stocktaking of mechanisms and tools

1. Review clearinghouse mechanisms related to MEAs.

The workshop noted the existence of various clearinghouse mechanisms related to different MEAs and recommended that a review of these mechanisms be done to contribute to other activities being proposed, including the creation of national mechanisms to house a database for MEA issues.

2. Identify appropriate awareness raising tools³ that can be used for sensitizing high level decision makers

Similar to the scope and purpose of item 1.5 above, the workshop recommended that a similar review be done for awareness raising tools be made for issues outside the scope of the NCSA, where appropriate.

5.2.3 Engaging the private sector

1. Identify relevant partners and suitable approaches to better engage the private sector in order to promote the synergistic implementation of MEAs.

³ Examples of such tools can include the economic evaluation of synergies resulting from linkages among MEAs to facilitate policy making

The workshop recognized the importance of engaging the private sector and recommended that a review of present activities and needs be made in order to develop programme and activities that will involve them.

5.3 Promote innovative projects

The workshop recognized three aspects of innovative activities in the region that promote synergies among MEAs for capacity building. These include a) activities that are successful enough by themselves and just need further support and encouragement; b) activities that although are innovative by themselves in their approaches, can be further extended to cover other MEA issues or themes; and c) activities that does not yet exist and should be developed.

5.3.1 Encourage and support existing and proposed innovative projects

1. Promote capacity development initiatives that address multiple MEAs such as the UNEP's Customs Technical Assistance Project, and Sri Lanka's proposals for the creation of national centers of excellence for MEA implementation.

The workshop recognized the importance of supporting existing innovative projects and activities that already promote synergistic implementation of MEAs, such as the UNEP's Customs Technical Assistance Project, which provides capacity development to a broad range of stakeholders involved in import and export of goods, and the two proposals by Sri Lanka (see Annex 3 and 4) for the creation of a national center of excellence for knowledge management and capacity development for MEAs.

5.3.2 Support and extend existing innovative activities to cover more MEAs

1. Integrate MEA concepts into ongoing capacity development initiatives at the regional, national and sub-national levels.

The workshop recognized the proliferation of ongoing capacity development initiatives for the region on various issues, and recommended that an attempt be made to extend appropriate activities to cover MEA issues, for implementation and application at all levels, including regional, national, and sub-national levels

2. Expand on training modules that are available for MEAs to cover aspects on synergy. Tools can be developed to assist with training aimed at promoting synergies among MEAs.

The workshop also recognized the existence of various capacity building interventions on the region targeting various MEAs and recommended that some of these modules should be expanded to cover aspects of synergies among MEAs.

3. Develop a framework for additional on the job technical training related to MEAs.

The workshop recognized the need for practical know how and training, particularly on technical matter related to MEAs and recommended that on-the-job training programmes, if they exist, be expanded to cover more participants and more issues.

5.3.3 Develop new projects and activities

1. Establish regional mechanisms through SAARC, SACEP and other partners a) for the development of common MEA negotiating positions; b) to provide intellectual input for MEA management; and c) develop ideas for convergence in the region related to MEAs.

The workshop recognized the need to strengthen the roles of regional organizations such as SACEP and SAARC to facilitate national MEA management. In order to do this, the workshop recommended that a mechanism be established for MEA coordination in the region.

2. Establishment of a dedicated center where a database system on environmental issues can be created and stored. The center can promote the sharing of information related to MEAs among national focal points and other stakeholders. This could include the strengthening of Sri Lanka's ETRC to perform knowledge management⁴, MEA coordination and other similar functions.

The workshop recognized the importance of centers that can facilitate better use of environment related information for MEA management purposes. One such proposal has been presented at the workshop and is attached in Annex 3.

3. Develop activities that will enhance capacity to deal with the links between natural and cultural heritage and other issues such as the protection of biodiversity.

The workshop recommended that based on the rich cultural and natural heritage of countries in the region, links to issues such as biodiversity protection should be further explored and developed. The workshop also suggested that these issues could also serve as the first of a series of demonstration activities for the region, following up on the results of this workshop.

4. Develop pilot projects that will better engage the private sector in synergizing the implementation of MEAs (with a proposed partnership with APO as an example).

Having heard of the good work already being undertaken by regional organizations such as APO on capacity building for the private sector, the workshop recommended that projects and activities should be explored with organizations such as the APO as pilot projects as follow up activities to the workshop.

5. Develop appropriate mechanisms to implement and manage MEAs at sub-national levels (districts, provinces, states, etc.)

The workshop recognized the importance of implementation mechanisms, especially involving vertical coordination, and recommended that mechanisms be developed in order to better build capacity at all levels for improved implementation of MEAs.

6. Develop appropriate awareness raising tools for sensitizing high-level decision makers on MEA implementation issues, particularly on synergies.

The workshop recommended that based on an assessment and review of selected tools be developed and tested for effectiveness, particularly with regard to sensitization of high level decision makers for synergetic implementation of MEAs.

⁴ The collection, storage, assessment, sharing and use of information.

7. Develop a guiding framework for effective coordination and review mechanism for MEA implementation.

Again, based on the review and assessment, the workshop recommended that a guiding framework be developed for effective coordination and review mechanism for MEA implementation.

8. Build capacity in order to facilitate legislations that simultaneously implement multiple, thematically related MEAs at the national level.

The workshop recognized that legislation is an important aspect of MEA management and effective implementation, and recommended that capacity must be built in order to facilitate the development of legislations that simultaneously implement multiple, thematically related MEAs at the national level.

5.4. Foster regional partnerships

The workshop recognized the importance of fostering regional partnerships, through the establishment of regional frameworks and mechanisms to facilitate coordination and effective implementation of MEAs. The need to promote sharing of experiences among countries in the region, and enhance the process of briefings prior to MEA negotiations was also highlighted.

5.4.1 Frameworks and mechanisms

1. Establish regional mechanisms through SAARC, SACEP (possibly be done through the creation of a multi-disciplinary expert regional working group consisting of representatives nominated by SAARC and SACEP countries) and other partners a) for the development of common MEA negotiating positions; b) to provide intellectual input for MEA management; and c) develop ideas for convergence in the region related to MEAs.

The workshop also recognized that the establishment of a regional mechanism to facilitate effective MEA implementation at the national level will also lead to better regional partnership and coordination.

2. Promote national and regional partnerships in the review and development of a guiding framework for effective coordination of the implementation of MEAs through information exchange.

The workshop recommended that a regional partnership and information exchange will be necessary in order to develop a guiding framework for effective coordination of the implementation of MEAs at the national level and therefore recommended that a framework for this partnership should be developed.

3. Develop regional framework where appropriate awareness raising tools targeting the sensitization of high level decision makers can be developed and utilized.

Similarly, a framework for the development and use of awareness raising tools was recommended by the workshop.

5.4.2 Sharing of experiences

1. Share experiences with other countries on the development of national legislations that simultaneously implement multiple, thematically related MEAs.

Similarly, the workshop recognized that good cases where legislation that implement multiple, thematically related MEAs have been developed, can be shared with other countries in the region as approaches and lessons learned would be useful for their own national MEA management purposes.

2. Share country NCSA implementation experiences and status reports at the proposed February 2005 regional workshop on integrated capacity development in South Asia.

The workshop recommended that countries of the region take advantage of the proposed February 2005 workshop to be held in Sri Lanka to share their experiences related to the implementation of the NCSAs.

5.4.3 Regional training and briefings

1. Enhance the process of “targeted briefings⁵” prior to the negotiation of MEAs at both national and regional levels (with the IUCN briefing as an example).

The workshop recognized the importance of targeted briefings, especially immediately prior to MEA negotiations and recommended that a process for the expansion of existing initiatives such as the one undertaken by the IUCN be developed.

Reports by the working groups to the plenary are attached in Annex 2. In addition, a proposal by the Center for Environmental Studies of the University of Peradeniya for the creation of National and Regional Centers of Excellence is attached as Annex 4.

6. Action Plan

To respond to these recommendations the partners have agreed to the following action plan:

6.1 MOUs

1. UNU and the University of Peradeniya, Center of Environmental Studies – (under preparation)
2. UNU and SACEP – (under preparation)

6.2 NCSA use and enhancement

1. UNDP/GEF and UNEP/GEF (ongoing)

6.3 Stocktaking (review through questionnaires, interviews and library research)

1. Review of existing activities by regional and international agencies that promote inter-linkages in the South Asian region (UNU with University of Peradeniya, SACEP and IUCN – *partners tentative*)
2. Review of regional and national clearing house mechanisms related to MEAs (UNU with University of Peradeniya, SACEP and IUCN – *partners tentative*)

⁵ Briefings for policy makers, negotiators, or other stakeholders as relevant

3. Review of existing tools and mechanisms that promote inter-linkages among MEAs (UNU with University of Peradeniya, SACEP and IUCN – *partners tentative*)
- 6.4 Framework building
1. Development of model framework for national coordination centers for MEAs (UNU with University of Peradeniya, SACEP, UNEP, UNDP and IUCN – *partners tentative*)
 2. Development of modules for cross-sectoral MEA training (UNU with University of Peradeniya, SACEP, UNEP, UNDP and IUCN – *partners tentative*)
- 6.5 Demonstration training activities (activities under discussion)
1. Conduct demonstration training workshop on natural and cultural heritage and biodiversity protection (UNU with UNESCO, University of Peradeniya, Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources of Sri Lanka, IUCN, SACEP and Sri Lankan National Heritage Commission – *partners tentative*)
 2. Conduct demonstration training workshop on MEAs and the private sector (UNU with the University of Peradeniya, Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources of Sri Lanka, IUCN, SACEP and Asia Productivity Organization, APO – *partners tentative*)
 3. Conduct demonstration training for MEA negotiators (UNEP with SACEP, and the University of Peradeniya, Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources of Sri Lanka, IUCN and UNU – *partners tentative*)
 4. Conduct training workshop on strategic environmental assessment (UNU together with University of Peradeniya, SACEP and the UNU Media Center – *partners tentative*)
- 6.6 Project proposal development
1. Development of a national center of excellence for MEA management and capacity development (by the Sri Lanka Government, IUCN, UNDP, UNEP, UNU and University of Peradeniya – joint proposal now under preparation)
- 6.7 Partnership building
1. Facilitate regional coordination of MEAs through SACEP and SAARC subsidiary bodies (to be tabled at the February 2005 workshop)
 2. Promote partnership among international and regional initiatives and programmes in the region (all relevant partners – to be tabled at the February 2005 workshop)
- 6.8 Workshop
1. Regional inter-governmental workshop, February 2005, Colombo Sri Lanka (SACEP and UNU with all partners)

Annex 1. Workshop Programme

June 28 (Mon)	
08:30	Participants depart from Hilton Colombo for Kandalama Hotel
around noon	Check in and Lunch at: Kandalama Hotel, Dambulla
14:00-16:00	Preparatory meeting of the organizers and facilitators at Kandalama Hotel
19:30-	Dinner
June 29 (Tue)	
09:00-09:10	Inauguration and Opening
09:10-10:30	Presentations: - Overall Issues on Inter-linkages, <i>Dr. Jerry Velasquez, UNU</i> (20 min.) - Introduction to NCSA, <i>Ms. Yumiko Yasuda, UNDP/GEF</i> (15 min.) - Global Perspectives of NCSA, <i>Mr. Abdul-Majeid Haddad, UNEP/GEF</i> (15 min.) Opening Speech: <i>Prof. Wiswa Warnapala, Honorable Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Government of Sri Lanka</i> (30 min.)
10:30-11:00	Morning Tea
11:00-12:30	Q & A, discussion Introduction to the Working Group sessions Facilitators: <i>Prof. C.M. Madduma Bandara and Dr. Jerry Velasquez</i>
12:30-13:30	Lunch break
13:30-17:00	Working Groups Focusing on issues Facilitators: <i>Dr. B.M.S. Batagoda, Dr. Dechen Tsering, and Mr. Chee Keong Chew</i>
15:30-16:00	Afternoon Tea
17:00-18:00	Plenary Presentations from Working Groups (15 min. each) Discussions, wrap-up
18:00-19:00	Presentation on Sigiriya World Heritage Site <i>Prof. Senara Bandaranayke, National Heritage Commission</i>
19:30-	Reception
June 30 (Wed)	
09:00-09:30	Brief plenary session
09:30-13:00	Working Groups - Focusing on regional partnership and strategic plan
10:30-10:45	Morning Tea
13:00-14:00	Lunch break
14:00-15:00	Working Groups continue
15:00-15:15	Afternoon Tea
15:15-17:30	Plenary Presentations from Working Groups (15 min. each) Discussions, wrap-up
18:30- 19:30	In-house Meeting
19:30-	Dinner
Field Trip July 01 (Thurs)	
08:30	Depart Kandalama Hotel
Morning	Trip to Sigiriya World Heritage Site
10:30	Tea at Sigiriya
13:30-	Lunch at: Le Kandyan Resort Heerassagala, Kandy, Sri Lanka. Tel: +94 081 2233521 / 2 E-mail: lekandyan@sltnet.lk
Afternoon	Botanical Garden, Kandy
Evening	Cultural evening at the Kandyan Resort

July 02 (Fri)	
09:00	Participants depart from Kandy to Colombo

Annex 2. Participants List

No.	Organization	Name	Position	Contact Details
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Annex 3. Presentations

Developing a Partnership for Integrated/Coordinated Capacity Development for MEAs in South and West Asia

Jerry Velasquez
United Nations University



Why is there a need for Inter-linkages?

- Pressure is building for countries to consider multiple issues at once
 - More complex issues, less resources
- Recommendations call for coordination
 - UN reform plan, WSSD & CSD processes, 1998 Report of the UN Task Forces, Millennium Development Goals, UN agencies asked to work on multiple MEA issues, MEA Parties call for better coordination, etc.
- *National level challenges for countries*

Challenges to Countries (1 of 2)

- Strategic Planning
 - Environment is seldom included in national sustainable development planning
 - Decentralization processes devolves responsibilities but not capacity and finances
 - Conflicts in central policies
- Negotiations
 - No clear process for lead agencies to prepare for negotiations, select delegations and brief after negotiations

Challenges to Countries (2 of 2)

- Legal frameworks
 - Problems with ratification process
 - Conflicts within national legal frameworks
 - Weak compliance and enforcement
- Implementation
 - Weak inter-agency cooperation especially between national focal points
 - Unclear role of provinces
 - Weak partnership and participation process
 - Issues with information and knowledge management
 - Weak or non-existent awareness raising and public education
 - Challenges in accessing financing

Challenges to Present Response

- Too much focus on structure, not function
- Too much focus on rule making, not implementation
- Bridging the global/local gap



What is Inter-linkages?

- Effective and efficient implementation through the use of synergies
- To synergize or not to synergize - *Operational concepts*
 - Demand Driven
 - Support Agenda 21
 - Principle of Subsidiarity
 - Value Added



Why Capacity Development?

- Responds to most of the issues identified above
- Ongoing programmes on the topic
 - GEF NCSA
 - UNEP-led Issue Management Group on CD
 - CD and CB activities by many organizations
- Basis and/or key component for other issues

Why a Regional Partnership?

- Two possible outcomes
 - Formal governmental process
 - Partnership of ongoing and planned activities
- It is important that we come up with concrete outcomes from the initiative
- Results have to be attractive to most of the stakeholders (win-win-win approach).

What Do We Hope to Achieve in this Meeting?

- Identify priority issues
- Come up with a strategic plan of activities
 - Step by step plan (short, medium and long term)
 - Concrete proposals / ideas
 - Framework for partnership among institutions and countries
- NCSA Support and Engagement

What is Possible?


- Pacific
 - UNDP, SPREP, UNU initiated regional partnership
 - Developed proposal for regional support mechanism for NCSA
 - Proposal by countries for better coordination among CROP agencies on MEA issues
- Proposal by countries for regional information clearing house for MEA issues
 - Developing follow-up activities between SPREP and UNU

What will happen after this meeting?

- Framework for regional partnership to be drafted, developed and circulated to all stakeholders
- Draft national/regional proposals
- Implement aspects of action plan
- Regional inter-governmental meeting in February 2005

What are Expected from Participants and What Can You Bring Back?


- Share your experiences, your ideas, your suggestions
- Your comments on follow-up planning
- Consider the issues discussed in the meeting in your own work/programmes
- If useful, and if it adds value, consider utilizing the activities that will be proposed in your existing programmes
- Participate in the development of joint activities



GEF National Capacity Self Assessment Programme

Presented at
Brainstorming workshop for Development of a Regional Partnership on Integrated Capacity Development in South and West Asia on MEAs.
Sri Lanka, June 2004
Yumiko Yasuda
UNDP-GEF Regional Coordination Unit for Asia and the Pacific

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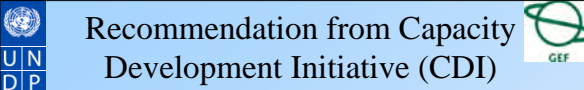


GEF Business Plan

Strong focus on capacity development in the recently approved GEF Strategic Business Plan FY04-06

“Capacity building is a strategic priority of the GEF that cuts across all focal areas...The issue of capacity building has become a major priority within the global conventions, the GEF and the international community. Recent events such as the WSSD and the Second GEF Assembly reaffirmed the priority of building the capacity of developing countries.”


2



Recommendation from Capacity Development Initiative (CDI)

- Ensure national ownership and leadership.
- Ensure multi-stakeholder consultations.
- Base capacity building efforts in self-needs assessment.
- Adopt a holistic approach to capacity building.
- Integrate capacity building in wider sustainable development efforts.
- Promote partnerships.
- Accommodate the dynamic nature of capacity building.
- Adopt a learning-by-doing approach.
- Promote regional approach.

3



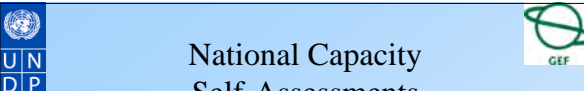
GEF Resources for Capacity Building

Methods for access to GEF Resources

1. National Capacity Self-Assessments (NCSAs)	2. Enhanced attention to capacity building in regular projects	3. Targeted capacity building projects	4. Program for critical capacity building activities in LDCs & SIDS
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Approved by GEF Council
First step for GEF resources for capacity building


Principle agreed at November 2003 GEF Council. Operational guidelines to be developed.



National Capacity Self-Assessments

- **GEF Funding:** Up to \$200,000 'expedited' procedures. Up to \$25,000 for PDF-A process for LDCs and SIDS.
- **Scope:** capacity needs assessment on biodiversity, climate change and land degradation, with a particular focus on cross-cutting issues and synergies between and across these thematic areas.
- **Time:** Average 18 months
- 154 countries under implementation/development

5



Outputs of NCSA

Mandatory:

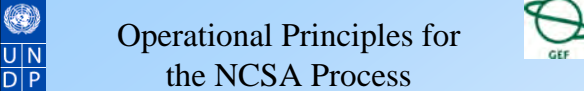
The NCSA must produce a report that includes:

- Description and summary of the “stock-taking” exercise conducted at the beginning of the NCSA process.
- A description of the stakeholder consultation process.
- Three thematic profiles: CBD, UNFCC, CCD
- An analysis of synergies and cross-cutting issues.

Optional:

- A Strategy and Action Plan.
- A Monitoring and Evaluation Exercise focused on implementation of the Action Plan.

6



Operational Principles for the NCSA Process

- National ownership and leadership.
- Multi-stakeholder consultation and decision-making.
- Emphasis on linking global environmental obligations with national sustainable development goals.
- Building on what has already been done and learning from past mistakes and problems (don't "reinvent the wheel".).
- Responding to CD priorities identified by the UNFCCC, the CBD, and the CCD.
- Cross-institutional coordination and dialogue.
- Cross-sectoral issues and synergies.
- Three levels of capacity: individual, institutional, systemic.

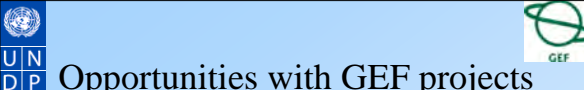
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Opportunities

- Placing global environmental management objective into the national sustainable development priority context.
 - Integration and mainstreaming.
- Opportunity to identify critical capacity constraints with broader implications for national governance.
 - Integrated approach and inter-sectorial nature.
 - Achieving cross-sectoral synergy
- Raise awareness of decision-makers and general public of global environmental issues and their implications on national and local levels.
 - Process oriented and participatory.

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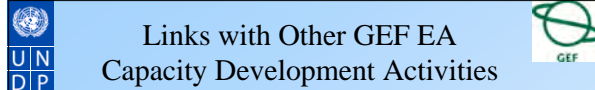


Opportunities with GEF projects

A well-designed and implemented NCSA could be used:

- To support implementation of regular GEF projects by further examining capacity constraints and needs that inhibit performance and implementation.
- As a knowledge management tool through strategic use of the stock taking, priority setting or in-depth analysis exercises.
- To lay the foundation for more innovative Multiple Focal Area projects.
- Examine how capacity developed by mature projects can be sustained after GEF funding ends.

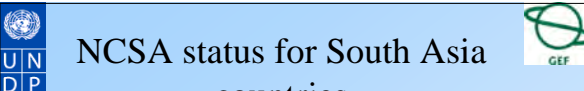
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Links with Other GEF EA Capacity Development Activities

- NAPA (National Adaptation Plan of Actions): Develops adaptation plan for climate change, including capacity needs assessment.
- Biodiversity enabling activities adds-on: Capacity needs assessment for BD areas.
- SNCs (Second National Communication): Capacity building activities
- NAPs (National Action Plans) for Land Degradation under the UNCCD.
- Biosafety: Capacity needs assessments.
- POPs (Persistent Organic Pollutants): Capacity needs assessments.

10

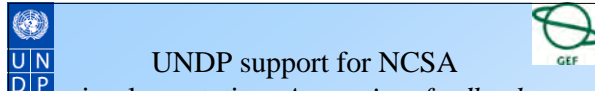


NCSA status for South Asia countries

Afghanistan	Under implementation
Bangladesh	Under preparation
Bhuthan *	Under implementation
India *	Under implementation
Maldives *	Brief submitted to GEF
Nepal	Brief submitted to GEF
Pakistan	Under implementation
Sri Lanka *	Under implementation
Iran	Under preparation

* UNU inter-linkage study

11



UNDP support for NCSA implementation: *Appreciate feedback*

- UNDP-GEF resource kit for NCSA
- Sub-regional technical workshops
- NCSA web site
- Regional Coordination Unit: Partnership development and technical backstopping
 - South Asia partnership
 - SPREP: Pacific Island Countries
 - ASEAN
- UNDP Country offices: Implementation support. Mainstreaming support through UNDP environment and governance work.
- Global NCSA support program (collaboration with UNEP)



Concept for 1st regional NCSA workshop in Asia: *Appreciate your feedback*



- Purpose: Provide support for countries at initial stage of NCSA for effective implementation
- Objectives
 - Scoping NCSA/ Sharing some methodologies for capacity assessment
 - Benchmarks and sharing experiences: Cross-cutting issues, institutional and systemic capacity assessment
 - Networking/ Regional and sub-regional partnership
 - Mainstreaming: potential joint workshop on capacity building for MDGs.
- Participants: NCSA focal points in Asia and Partners.
- Timing: October 2004

13



Summary



- Funding for NCSAs was developed based on needs from countries –consulted through CDI.
- NCSAs will benefit countries to identify cross-cutting capacity needs and synergies among various sectors.
- NCSAs will be an important basis for actual tangible capacity development interventions, following the finalization of the NCSA report.
- NCSA is a nationally owned process. As long as it keeps to the main principles, individual countries can adjust their project to maximize the national benefits.
- Importance of building onto previous activities.
- Potential benefit from regional partnership

14

Global Perspective of NCSAs
 Abdul-Majeid Haddad
 NCSA Task Manager, UNEP/DGEF

Talking Points

- Challenges for NCSAs
- Where are we with regard to capacity building within the GEF family
- Global Support programme
- Piloting Capacity Building Interventions

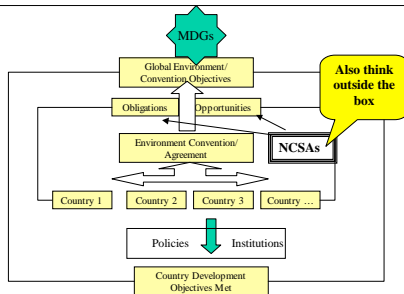
The MEAs Web – The Challenge



The MEAs Web – The Response



The Global Framework



Assumption: The common sustainable development objectives of the conventions does not/should not contradict national sustainable development objectives

NCSAs - How It Will Contribute

Perceptions:

- Another Assessment and Action Plan! Assessment fatigue!
- Let us do it anyway, some more money from the GEF why not!
- We know what we need, just give us the fund to implement projects
- Institutions will not come together to do the assessment, you will be creating an environment for intense institutional fights!
- It is no different from other Conventions EAs, so why duplicate and waste time and money?
-
-

Piloting Synergetic Implementation of MEAs

1. NEAPD GEF Capacity Building Projects – Sub-Regional Action Plans Through Regional Economic Communities
2. Belgium-UNEP is piloting MEAs synergetic implementation in four African countries (Uganda, Rwanda, Mozambique, Tanzania)

Two main components:

- A) Establishing & operating National Conventions Coordinating Centres (NCCCs) with following functions:
- Framework for institutional coordination and collaboration
 - Sustaining NCSA process... (convention focal points and task forces)
 - Integrating the process of reporting at the national level
 - Common database
 - Joint Policy Analysis & Research
 - Convention Resource Centre
 - Guiding & learning from the local level synergies

Belgium-UNEP Project

- B) Piloting synergies on local level through micro-grants programme but with more emphasis between local-national (NCCCs) collaboration and learning. Adopting/Complimenting GEF SGP
- Experience, good practices and lessons learnt will be disseminated/replicated in other African countries

Thank you for your attention.