

South Asia Coral Reef Task Force (SACRTF) Second Meeting

Meeting Report

31st August, 2008

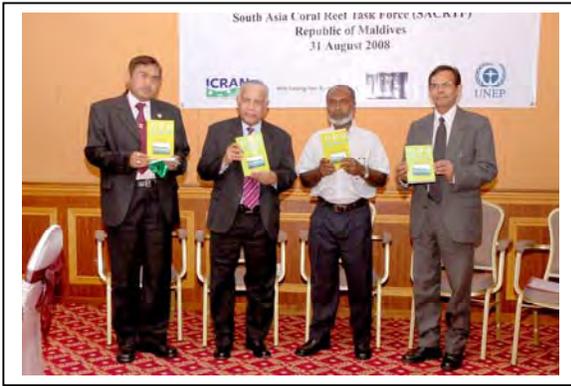
Hulhule' Island Hotel, Male, Republic of Maldives



With funding from the European Union

South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP)





L-R Dr. Arvind Boaz, Director General of SACEP, Patron-SACRTF Hon. Judge C. G. Weeramantry, Chief Guest Hon., Mr. Abdul Razzaq Idris Deputy Minister of Environment Energy & Water, Republic of Maldives, Dr. B.P. Nilratna, Hon. Chairman of the SACRTF



Delegates from India



Sri Lanka and Pakistani Delegates at the meeting



Maldives delegates at the meeting



Bangladesh delegates at the meeting



Participants at the meeting



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September 2008

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FOREWORD

It is indeed a pleasure to share with you the Report of 2nd Meeting of the South Asia Coral Reef Task Force. This meeting was held in the beautiful Island of Hulhule in the Island country of Maldives – an ideal setting for thinking about the protection, conservation and development of the Coral Reefs and associated ecosystems.

We have come a long way since the starting of the EU funded MCPA Project of South Asia. A lot of work has been done in this period of nearly three years that we have been implementing this project in the five Maritime Countries of South Asia. One of the biggest achievements of this project has been the establishment of this Task Force on Coral Reefs that is the first in Asia and only the third in the world after the US and the East African Coral Reef Task Force.

The SACRTF has grown from strength to strength. It has been able to bring policy makers, bureaucrats, experts and grass root level managers on one forum to discuss the problems facing Coral Reef conservation in the region and to learn and implement good practices both from within the region and elsewhere. The Regional Task Force was also able to request the country governments to establish National Task Forces and I am happy to report that Pakistan and India have established the National level Task Forces and the balance countries have initiated action to do so.

This meeting was particularly important as it discussed the important issue of developing a Regional Management and Communication Strategy that will be finalized over the next few months after receiving comments from Country Governments and experts. These strategies will go a long way to have a uniform approach to coral reef management in the region and help the countries to communicate effectively with each other on matters of conservation and development and linking Coral Reef conservation to development issues and livelihood sustenance in this region. It will also help countries to discuss and replicate best practices for the benefit of both the environment and the dependent. Another important deliberation was the important discussion on how to attract sustainable financing for the Task Force so that it carries on beyond the period of the project. The members were strongly of the opinion that the country government should extend both technical and financial support for the Task Force and that SACEP should try to house the Task Force to provide it continuity to strengthen coral reef conservation in the region.

I am confident that this report will be thought provoking and informative and will help to develop a sustained commitment of the country governments and experts to the cause of coral reefs conservation and development in the South Asian Region.

Dr. A A Boaz
Director General

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme and SACRTF acknowledge the generous support offered by the Government of Maldives through the Ministry of Environment, Energy and Water towards the conclusion of the meeting. I gratefully acknowledge the contributions of Hon. Minister for Energy, Environment and Water, HE Mr. Ahmed Abdullah, Republic of Maldives for his valuable suggestions while initiate this venture and HE Mr. Abdul Razzaq Idris Deputy Minister of Environment Energy & Water, Republic of Maldives, for beign generous enough to spare his valuable time for the meeting.

A special thanks to Mr. Mohamed Zuhair, Director General, Ministry of Environment, Energy and Water and all the Staff Members of the Ministry for valuable cooperation in organizing and in the successful conduct of the meeting. I would like to extend my gratitude to the Hon. Judge C.G. Weeramantry, Patron of the SACRTF and Dr. B.P. Nilaratna, Hon. Chairman of the SACRTF for attending the meeting.

I would like to thank all the workshop participants and delegates from the region, as this workshop report is an output of their active and involved brainstorming sessions, inputs and discussions. Also I thank SACEP Staff to coordinate this event at the Regional level.

My thanks are also due to the European Union for their generous funding for the budget and Dr. Kristian Teleki and Ms. Nicola Bernard from ICRAN for supporting us in the conduction of the meeting.

Dr. Arvind Boaz
Director General, SACEP

Welcome Speech by Dr. A. A. Boaz Director General SACEP

- ❖ *Chief Guest - Hon. Mr. Abdul Razzaq Idris Deputy Minister of Environment Minister of Environment, Energy and Water, Republic of Maldives*
- ❖ *Guest of Honour – H. E. Judge Mr. C. G. Weeramantry, International Centre for Peace, Education & Research*
- ❖ *Dr. B.P. Nilratna, Hon. Chairman of the SACRTF*
- ❖ *Dignitaries from International and Local Agencies*
- ❖ *Distinguished Members of the South Asia Coral Reef Task Force*
- ❖ *Ladies and Gentlemen*

On behalf South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme and as Member Secretary of the SACRTF let me warmly welcome all those present this morning for the Inaugural Session of this 2nd Meeting of the South Asia Coral Reef Task Force (SACRTF). This meeting is convened to discuss the progress made since its inauguration and discuss at length and to chalk out the future work plan, policy and administrative issues of the SACRTF.

21st December 2007 was a red letter day in the history of SACEP and the South Asian Seas Programme. It saw the inauguration of a ground breaking activity as the first meeting of the South Asia Coral Reef Task Force, which is only the 2nd in the world and the first in the Asian Region. It also saw the beginning of a new era of activity in the management of Coral Reefs in South Asia which at present is facing severe environmental threats, mainly man made

SACEP is greatly honoured by the presence of Hon. Mr. Abdul Razzaq Idris Deputy Minister of Environment Energy & Water, Republic of Maldives. His continued patronage to the activities coming under the South Asian Seas Programme has been a source of encouragement to the SAS Secretariat.

The Patron of the Task Force H. E. Judge C. G. Weeramantry who is here with us today as given the Task Force the necessary international recognition and his continued commitment is indeed a source of great encouragement and inspiration to SACEP. Dr. B.P. Nilratna, Hon. Chairman of the SACRTF

The presence of a large gathering of Experts from the National and International Community is indeed a matter of pride and great satisfaction,
The Task force activities which since its formation is commendable and we are here today to take steps for the future activities

I am confident that this meeting will decide on the various critical issues related to the task force and also chart out a long term sustainable strategy for the task force that will prove to be a boon for the management of coral reefs and related ecosystems in the South Asian Region.

On behalf of SACEP I wish to pledge SACEP's fullest support in meeting the goals of Task Force and I wish this meeting the very best and also wish all foreign delegates a very pleasant stay in Maldives.

Thank you

Dr. A. A. Boaz
Director General SACEP and Member Secretary, SACRTF



Message from the ICRAN Director – Dr. Kristian Teleki

28 August 2008

Your Excellencies,
Honourable guests,
Colleagues and friends

Please let me extend my sincere apologies for not being able to be with you at this very important meeting of the South Asia Coral Reef Task Force as longstanding personal commitments precluded my participation with you here today.

Before offering you some thoughts I would like to acknowledge and thank the Honourable Minister for generously hosting this meeting in the Maldives. Your leadership and genuine interest in the Task Force and the EU South Asia MCPA Project has been an inspiration to us all and for which we are very thankful.

I would also like to thank our patron the Honourable Judge Weeramantry who continues to provide support and leadership to the South Asia Coral Reef Task Force, and would like to recognise his tireless efforts to champion pressing environmental issues which are of great concern to us all.

Finally, but not least, I would like to thank Dr. Boaz, Hiran Tillekaratne and the staff of SACEP who have worked very hard to ensure that the meetings of the South Asia Coral Reef Task Force occur with such efficiency. Dr. Boaz has also worked hard to promote the Task Force in the wide range of meetings he has attended over the last year which has been very welcome.

To date the EU South Asia Project has been very successful in addressing the issues which the marine and coastal environment, and the people and communities who live there, face in the South Asia region. There have been a diverse range of activities and a great number of project participants for all of the five maritime countries in South Asia and it is our hope that this network will continue well beyond the life of the project.

There have been a number of important workshops and activities to build and develop capacity in the region, as well as provide opportunities for exchanging information and knowledge, and raising the profile of the importance of coral reefs and MCPAs.

Project highlights include:

- Developing a more systematic approach to livelihood enhancement and diversification which responds to the actual realities and needs of coastal communities.
- Convening a workshop (December this year) on Coral Reef Crime Scene Investigation to enhance and improve resources to enforce MCPA regulations, and to provide training for field investigators in investigative, forensic and rapid ecological assessment techniques. This will ensure accurate assessment and data collection, and maximise prosecution, mitigation, or negotiation success.
- Producing an MPA Managers Toolkit for South Asia (a number of you will have participated in the very successful workshop held here in the Maldives a little over two months ago) – this will officially be launched at the World Conservation Congress being held in Barcelona in October this year.
- And of course the formation of the South Asia Coral Reef Task Force which will hopefully be a dynamic and living legacy of this project. The Task Force has been recognised at a number of regional and international venues. The membership of the International Coral Reef Initiative has been particularly supportive and welcoming of this initiative for which all of you should be congratulated, and I hope that this can continue.

There is a very full agenda for the Task Force meeting and a number of critical issues which need to be addressed which will benefit from your collective experience and guidance. Particularly the long term sustainability of the South Asia Coral Reef Task Force and how the Task Force will operate and support a regional strategy and approach for coral reef management and conservation. This will require your sustained commitment and effort, and I am confident that this will continue.

Although the EU South Asia MCPA Project is entering its final months there is still much to accomplish and set into motion before it finishes, and look to you all for seeing through the Project to its fullest extent. The EU has been very complimentary of the project and its activities which is a great testament to all of you assembled here and our colleagues in the region. It is our hope that we can maintain this high standard right to the end.

I think that you will agree that with such an august composition and esteemed leadership that the South Asia Coral Reef Task Force will continue to evolve and move from strength to strength.

Please let me extend my apologies again for not being with you and, on behalf of ICRAN, I wish you a very successful and productive meeting. I shall look forward to the outcomes with great anticipation and hope to see many, if not all, of you at the next meeting.

Thank you.

Kristian Teleki
Director
International Coral Reef Action Network (ICRAN)
219 Huntingdon Road
Cambridge CB3 0DL
United Kingdom

Speech of Dr. B.P. Nilaratna, Hon. Chairperson, South Asia Coral Reef Task Force at 2nd meeting of SACRTF

Ladies and Gentlemen

It is my pleasure and privilege, as chairperson of the South Asia Coral Reef Task Force (SACRTF), to welcome you all at this 2nd coordination meeting of SACRTF at Male. I would also like to thank Government of Maldives for making excellent arrangements for the meeting and our comfortable stay in Maldives.

It is heartening to note that delegates from all the five South Asian Countries, namely, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Maldives, Sri Lanka and India have spared their valuable time and made it convenient to participate in this meeting.

The objectives of this meeting are to discuss the progress of SACRTF from the 1st meeting held in Colombo and development of Communication Strategy and Regional MCPA Strategy of concrete actions. The meeting will also discuss Research, Monitoring and Policy issues. The meeting would also like to develop Sustainable Financing and Institutionalisation of SACRTF, both Regional and National level.

You would recall that the establishment of the South Asia Coral Reef Task Force (SACRTF) was done to facilitate and coordinate in the management of coral reefs and associated ecosystems at a national level, and to promote collaborative action at the regional level, encouraging trans-boundary responses to shared environmental challenges and raising the political and public profile of coral reef related issues in the South Asia region. As the Chairperson, I feel greatly honoured by the confidence placed in me by the participating SACEP countries and reassure you that the Task Force will make every effort to fulfil the tasks assigned to it.

In the last meeting of SACRTF held in Colombo, the member countries were urged to establish the national level task force early, where it has not been done so far. I am sure some progress must have made in this regard.

Coral Reefs are the 'rainforests of sea'. They are the repositories and storehouses of biological diversity. The South Asia region has enormous wealth of coral reefs. The natural and human pressures on the resources are high. Despite the current protection measures, degradation of these resources continues at an unprecedented rate. One third to half of the coral reefs of South Asia are now effectively dead and a further 30% threatened. It is beyond doubt that coral reefs have been degrading alarmingly in the last few decades and this is likely to get aggravated by anthropogenic changes. However, the international community has now become more conscious of the anthropogenic effects on coral reefs. Sincere efforts have been made in recent years to protect and conserve these resources.

The Year 2008 has been designated as the 'Year of Reef'. Let us strive together to conserve, protect & manage coral reefs of south Asia region for both present and future generations. During the IYOR, I am sure the member countries must have initiated many programmes and activities. They may present them while making their country presentations.

I hope this meeting of SACRTF will further our efforts on protection and conservation of our reefs. I wish you all productive & fruitful deliberations and comfortable stay in this beautiful country, Maldives.

Thank you.

**Dr. B.P. Nilaratna,
Hon. Chairperson, South Asia Coral Reef Task Force**

Message by Guest of Honour Hon. Patron-SACRTF, Judge C. G. Weeramantry

The protection of the environment is one of the major obligations of the present generation. It has come down to us from generations past and we need to transmit it in all its integrity to generations yet to come.

We are not its owner but only its custodian. Yet, for too long now, human beings have behaved as if we are the owners. This wrong attitude needs to be corrected urgently, especially because the rate at which damage is caused to the environment is accelerating dangerously. Species that have existed from time immemorial are disappearing, forests are being felled, water supplies world wide are being poisoned, the climate is being changed and coral reefs are being destroyed, all at an accelerated pace. Every one of these is occurring because we are thoughtless about generations yet to come.

In this age of commercialism, individual rights have been magnified and social duties neglected and the interests of the present generation have been elevated over the interests of future generations. The environment has been treated as our private property to be exploited for our temporary advantage rather than to be protected in the long term interest of humanity as a whole.

All the religions of the world are agreed that the environment and all its component elements are the creation of a power superior to us, which has given these to us in trust. It is God's handiwork and is not to be damaged or destroyed. All humanity is one family and past, present and future groups are its component elements. The environment has been given to humanity across the boundaries of time just as it is given across the boundaries of race.

Likewise all the religions are agreed that we must protect the rights of our children and our children's children. Buddhism taught us the principle of sustainable development more than two thousand years ago. In a famous episode the monk Mahinda, son of the Emperor Asoka of India, preached Buddhism to the King of Sri Lanka when he was on a hunting trip and told him that though he was the king of the country he was not the owner of the land but held it in trust for those who are entitled to enjoy it both now and in the future.

In Christianity, Jesus has taught, quite categorically, that it would be better for anybody who places obstacles in the way of our children to have a millstone round his neck and to be drowned in the ocean. In Judaism we are taught that land does not belong to us but rather that we belong to the land. In Islam, Prophet Mohamed has taught that our duty to the future is such that even if we know we are to die tomorrow and we have a sapling in our land we should plant it.

All of these teachings can be multiplied several fold from the sacred texts and what they tell us is that we must live in harmony with the environment, that it must have continuity, and that it is like a seamless web. If we damage any part of it we damage the whole structure.

This can be well illustrated in the case of coral reefs, for if we damage them we damage life in the ocean, thus damaging the foodstocks of humanity, thus damaging global welfare, the economic system, the source of livelihood for many and so on, in an unending series of negative consequences.

Now, for the first time, humanity has acquired the power to destroy itself if it does not use its knowledge constructively. Today more than ever the need is urgent for correct attitudes towards the environment. More sensitivity needs to be generated in relation to obligations towards the environment, humanity as a whole and generations yet to come.

The message sent out by organizations like SACEP is that we should be more sensitive towards the environment, more practical in protecting it, more thoughtful about those who come after us, more dutiful as human beings towards the planet as a whole. Education to this end is urgently required.

I commend SACEP for the wonderful work it has done and is continuing to do in this field on which the future of humanity so heavily depends.

Address by Hon Mr. Abdul Razzaq Idris, Deputy Minister of Environment Energy & Water, Republic of Maldives

It is indeed a great honour for me to be present as Chief Guest at the 2nd Meeting of the South Asia Coral Reef Task Force, under the European Union Funded Project titled Long Term Management and Conservation of Marine and Coastal Resources in South Asia.

Let me also warmly welcome our foreign delegates to my country.

The establishment of the South Asia Coral Reef Task Force (SACRTF) was done to facilitate and coordinate in the management of coral reefs and associated ecosystems at a national level, and to promote collaborative action at the regional level, encouraging trans-boundary responses to shared environmental challenges and raising the political and public profile of coral reef related issues in the South Asia region, which was endorsed by the country governments of the 5 maritime nations of South Asia, at the SACEP 10th Governing Council (GC) Meeting and further ratified by the 11th GC.

This meeting is convened to discuss the progress made since its inauguration and discuss at length and to chalk out the future work plan, policy and administrative issues of the SACRTF.

It will also discuss among other matters the Specific activities under each of the SACRTF priority implementation areas and develop timeframe for implementation, which includes Policy Matters such as to Identify / development of a regional strategy for coordinated responses to marine and coastal issues within the South Asia region, set the framework/outline of the regional strategy Regional Coral Reef Action Strategy, develop a strategy for engagement with key coral reef entities: EACRTF, GCRMN, ICRMN, National Coral Reef Committee (India) and others and carry forward the decisions on MCPA adopted by the SACEP 11th GC.

Amongst Communication it is scheduled to discuss the institutionalising the SACRTF so as to ensure that a nodal unit/representative can be mandated to undertake specific responsibilities, To the review and preparation of a strategy for enhanced communications between sectors involved in MCPA management and operation within the South Asia region and to discuss the modalities of the MCPA Exchange Programme in 2008, to be carried out by the GEER Foundation, India.

Another important aspect under discussion will be **Fundraising** under which the meeting is expected to identify a mechanism, and key actions to advance discussions with country governments on the 'challenge grant' for the sustainable future of the SACRTF and to Harmonise meetings/ events calendar with the availability of members.

It has been brought to my notice that the funds generously provided by the European Union for the establishment of the SACRTF will cease on 31st December 2008, and therefore the development of a sustainable financing mechanism or the successful institutionalisation of the SACRTF over the course of 2008 is the key to the continuation of this unit. As such the representatives should bear this mind in the discussions

I would be failing my duties if I do not thank UNEP and ICRAN for having chosen the South Asian Seas region for priority activities, the European Union for the generous financial assistance and last but not least the member governments for their support to this activity.

I wish this meeting the very best look forward to receiving the Final Report of this meeting.
Thank you

South Asia Coral Reef Task Force (SACRTF)
2nd Meeting August 31st 2008, 9:00 am
at the Hulhule' Island Hotel, Male', Republic of Maldives

INTRODUCTION

The South Asia region was ranked the lowest in the world in terms of declared marine and coastal protected areas in the 2003 United Nations List of Protected Areas. In addition, the inclusion of essential coral reef habitat in MCPA provisions is minimal, making the Indian Ocean, with its wealth of coral reefs, seagrasses, and mangrove forests, perhaps the most poorly protected ocean. As a result, the degradation of coastal and marine resources continues at an unprecedented rate, and despite current protection measures, one third to half of the coral reefs of South Asia are now effectively dead, and a further 30% threatened.

The 2004 Status of Coral Reefs of the World report identified the major factors contributing to the continued resource degradation at MCPA sites encompassing coral reef habitats, prior to the Indian Ocean Tsunami event. This report specified limited interagency and governmental cooperation as an inhibitor to effective resource management across the South Asia region and recommended the introduction of overlapping and complementary mandates.

OBJECTIVE

The establishment of the South Asia Coral Reef Task Force (SACRTF) was done to facilitate and coordinate in the management of coral reefs and associated ecosystems at a national level, and to promote collaborative action at the regional level, encouraging trans-boundary responses to shared environmental challenges and raising the political and public profile of coral reef related issues in the South Asia region, which was endorsed by the country governments of the 5 maritime nations of South Asia, at the SACEP 10th Governing Council (GC) Meeting and further ratified by the 11th GC.

Through extensive consultation with key regional stakeholders, the role, mandate and structure of the SACRTF was developed, and the resulting constitution document endorsed by the participants of the second regional resource coordination workshop held on the 25-27th July 2007, in Colombo, Sri Lanka. SACRTF representatives have been selected in accordance with the constitution document and regional nominations – see Annex F.

Second official meeting of the SACRTF representatives discussed the progress made by Task Force, the establishment of the National Task Force, the future work plan, policy and administrative issues of the SACRTF.

INAUGURATION CEREMONY

Inauguration Dinner of the meeting was held at the conference hall of the Hulhule Island Hotel, Republic of Maldives on 30th August, 2008. The Chief Guest on this occasion was Hon. Mr. Abdul Razzaq Idris, Deputy Minister, of Environment, Energy and Water, Republic of Maldives and the Guest of Honour, Former Vice President International Court of Justice & Hon. Patron of SACRTF Judge C. G. Weeramantry. The meeting was attended by the national members of the South Asia Coral Reef Task Force from Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. The International Community represented by UNESCO and GEER Foundation.

- Dr. Arvind Boaz, Director General of SACEP provided the welcome address to participants and invitees on behalf of the organising committee, who said that the SACEP is honoured to host this 2nd Task Force meeting in Maldives and pledged its fullest support to ensure the meeting of the objectives of this Task Force.
- Dr. B.P. Nilratna, Hon. Chairman of the SACRTF, mentioned SACRTF will be working towards the cooperative body with the participation of the Regional experts and policy makers soon.
- Address by Guest of Honour Hon. Patron-SACRTF, Judge C. G. Weeramantry encouraged an inclusive, important meeting at which guidelines will be laid down for the future work of the SACRTF.
- Address by the Chief Guest Hon. Mr. Abdul Razzaq Idris Deputy Minister of Environment Energy & Water, Republic of Maldives delivering the keynote address briefed the meeting on the importance of strengthening the SACRTF AS a Regional Body on Coral Reef conservation.
- Hon. Mr. Abdul Razzaq Idris Deputy Minister of Environment Energy & Water, Republic of Maldives released the proceedings of Gulf of Mannar Workshop.
- Mr. Hiran Tillekaratne Programme Officer-SACEP, delivered the vote of thanks to all concerned.

1. MEETING OBJECTIVES

The following objectives were achieved at the meeting.

1.1 Specific activities under each of the SACRTF priority implementation areas and develop timeframe for implementation.

Policy

- Identify / development of a regional strategy for coordinated responses to marine and coastal issues within the South Asia region.
- set the framework/outline of the regional strategy Regional Coral Reef Action Strategy
- Develop a strategy for engagement with key coral reef entities: EACRTF, GCRMN, ICRMN, National Coral Reef Committee (India) and others.
- Carry forward the decisions on MCPA adopted by the SACEP 11th GC.

Communication

- Institutionalising the SACRTF to ensure that a nodal unit/representative can be mandated to undertake specific responsibilities
- To the review and preparation of a strategy for enhanced communications between sectors involved in MCPA management and operation within the South Asia region.
- Discuss the modalities of the MCPA Exchange Programme in 2008, to be carried out by the GEER Foundation, India.

Fundraising

- Identify a mechanism, and key actions to advance discussions with country governments on the 'challenge grant' for the sustainable future of the SACRTF
- Harmonise meetings/ events calendar with the availability of members.

1.2 Implementation and Reporting of Environmental Education activities at 5 MCPA sites participating in the project (selected via call for proposals).

1.3 Advocacy and awareness raising Identify profile-raising materials required by the SACRTF and the process for their development.

1.4 Administration issues:

- Communications and coordination
- SACRTF budget
- Official launching of the SACRTF logo

2. Deliverables

1. Progress of SACRTF from the 1st Meeting.
 - Communication and coordination strategy identified among SACRTF representatives.
2. Implementation and Reporting of the five selected Education Grant IYOR Progress
 - A strategy for the assessment of activities of 'Environmental Education Call for Action proposals.
 - As the IYOR Focal point for South Asia, Key messages for SACRTF for IYOR 2008 Profile and a SACRTF IYOR 2008 activities.
3. Development of communication Strategy and development of concrete actions.
 - SACRTF work plan with specific activities, lead representatives, and timeframe identified under each of the priority action headings.
4. Research, Monitoring and Policy Issues
 - Criteria, lead representative, and launch timeframe for the SACRTF Exchange Programme to be conducted by the GEER Foundation, India..
 - Key actions, lead representatives, and timeframe for the institutionalisation of the SACRTF.
5. Sustainable Financing and Institutionalisation of SACRTF, both Regional and National level.
 - 'Challenge Grant' for the sustainable future of the SACRTF
 - Participation of SACRTF representatives at local, regional, and international meetings of strategic importance coordinated and finances allocated from the SACRTF budget.
 - Target meetings include:
 - The managers exchange programme will be hosted by the GEER Foundation in October
 - World Conservation Congress - Oct
 - ICRI East Asian Seas MCPA Meeting - Nov
 - ASEAN/ SAARC/ EACRTF opportunities
6. Outreach materials
 - Further development of promotional and outreach materials required by the SACRTF.

SESSION 1 – INTRODUCTORY SESSION

This working meeting is the Second official meeting of the SACRTF representatives held on 31st of August, 2008 at the conference hall of the Hulhule Island Hotel, Republic of Maldives. Hon. Patron Judge C.G. Weeramantri released the SACRTF 1st Meeting Report and 04 Stickers of the IYOR celebration at the outset of the meeting.

1.1 Introduction and Progress of SACRTF from the 1st Meeting

The meeting adopted the agenda and introductory presentation of the SACRTF was done by Dr. A.A. Boaz. Dr. K. Venkataraman was appointed as the official Rapporteur of the meeting.

1.2 Environmental Education Call for Action Grants

Dr. Boaz pointed out that the following proposals were selected for the funding and contract already signed with the Maldives, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

- Environmental Education for Conservation of Threatened Coral Resources in the St. Martin's Islands -Department of Environment Nature Conservation Management (NACOM), Bangladesh
- Awareness Generation Programme for local stakeholders in Mahatma Gandhi Marine National Park, Andaman & Nicobar Islands-Department of Environment and Forest, India
- Building Youth Constituency to Conserve Coral Reef Ecosystem In Maldives' Baa Atoll -Ministry of Environment, Energy and Water, Government of Maldives.
- Environmental Education Activities with reference in Marine and Coastal Protected Area- Sindh Wildlife Department, Pakistan.
- Development of Capacity of the Department of Wildlife Conservation for the Management of the Bar Reef Marine Sanctuary- Department of Wildlife Conservation, Sri Lanka.

1.3 Progress of International Year Of Reef (IYOR) Activities

For the IYOR 2008, ongoing Regional Environmental School competition and Brand Ambassador selected from Sri Lanka Cricket team for raising profile of the Coral Reef Task Force. SACEP has been selected as the South Asia Focal Point for the IYOR by the IYOR secretariat.

1.4 Report on the progress in Preparation of the Managers Exchange Programme

Managers Exchange Programme is planned to be hosted by the Gujarat Ecological Education and Research (GEER) Foundation in November 2008 to address multiple elements of management, enforcement and education, and to encourage the improved operation and outputs and their use as better management practice examples within countries and across the region. Dr. H. S. Singh, Acting Director of GEER Foundation explained the provisional workshop agenda.

1.4 EU project Update and Progress

Dr. Boaz highlighted the role of the project in supporting the development of human and technical capacity at existing MCPAs across the region.

- Project partnership has been widened improving access to regional and international technical expertise and outreach potential
- Challenges remain to complete all activities before the project deadline 31 December 2008. SACRTF member support is sought to help advance and effectively implement the remaining activities – key challenge areas listed in slides
- Toolkit prepared in consultation with over 40 regional and international experts and printing will be completed by 1 October 2008
- Interactive exercises to build managers skills in project design, planning, monitoring, livelihoods and networking. Workshop Report is available from www.icran.org/action-southasia.html
- Government of Maldives kindly offered to host a regional South Asia Coral Reef Crime Scene Investigation (CSI) course, 1-5 December 2008. To identify ~18 participants with appropriate in-water skills and opportunity to apply training in workplace

RECOMMENDATIONS

Following recommendations were emerged from the discussion;

- Bangladesh highlighted the importance of collaboration with Center for Environment Education (CEE), Ahmedabad, India for the environment educational activities of the Task Force.
- 3-5 officers from each country will be selected for the MCPA manager level participants for site exchange/exposure visit programme by first week of November 08, after the consultation with the country governments.
- Director of the GEER Foundation, Ahmedabad, India will be sending the provisional work programme for the managers exchange programme at Gulf of Kachchh which is the first Marine National Park in India and they agreed to facilitate the programme. Half day experience sharing session and 30 min country case study session will be included in the agenda. (Provisional Agenda in Annex J)
- Implementation of project activities under the Environmental Education Call for Action from all 5 countries were agreed to complete within the IYOR, i.e 2008. SACRTF representatives were requested to share the progress of the short projects.



Environmental Education Call for Action



GOAL

- to raise awareness of the importance and value of coral reefs and associated ecosystems, and to explain to the public the long-term, sustainable benefits of the MCPA.

Objective

- to improve the effectiveness of management and operation at existing Marine and Coastal Protected Areas (MCPAs), developing staff capacity and training tools, and encouraging the replication of best practices at sites across the region.

Output

- Awareness and the involvement and participation of coastal communities in MCPA management is critical to effective conservation.
- In countries where MCPAs are effective, conservation awareness is usually high among communities, managers and the private sector.

Areas of focus/Action

Under the project and with the support of the South Asia Coral Reef Task Force (SACRTF), five small action grants are available for environmental education and outreach activities at the following participating MCPA sites

- St. Martins Island, Bangladesh
- Mahatma Gandhi National Park, Andaman Islands, India
- Baa Atoll, Maldives
- Jiwani (Gwater), Pakistan
- Bar Reef, Sri Lanka

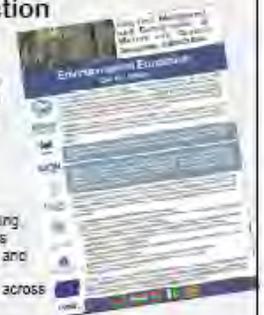
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Call for Action Output

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- In countries where MCPAs are effective, conservation awareness is usually high among communities, managers and the private sector.



Summary of the Proposals

ID	COUNTRY	INSTITUTION	SCOPE OF THE PROPOSAL
01	Bangladesh	1.1 Department of Environment, Marine Conservation Management (DMCM)	Environmental Education for Conservation of Threatened Coral Reefs in the St. Martin's Islands
		1.2 Wildlife Conservation Research Centre (WCRC)	Community Based Nature Education (CBNE) in St. Martin Island Bangladesh
		1.3 Bangladesh Center for Village Development (BCVD)	Coral Conservation Education in St. Martin Island
		1.4 Bangladesh POC/CI	Environmental Education & Outreach Activities for Protection and Care of Coral Reefs and Associated ecosystems, and long-term sustainable livelihoods at St. Martin's Island MCA
		1.5 Green City's Green Health and Environment Development Foundation	Ecotourism Strengthening and Living Dams Management and Conservation of Marine and Coastal Resources in Bangladesh
02	India	2.1 Department of Environment and Forest	Awareness Generation Programme for local stakeholders in Maldives Coastal Marine National Park, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, India
		2.2 Center for Action Research on Environmental Science and Society	Awareness of MCA and Children/Students of the Coral Reef Ecosystem in South Asia
03	Maldives	Sea Act, Government of Maldives	Building Youth Competency to Conserve Coral Reef Ecosystems in Maldives (Sea Act)
04	Philippines	Sanctuary Department	Environmental Education Activities and Outreach in Marine and Coastal Protected Area
05	Belarus	Department of Wildlife Conservation	Development of Capacity of the Government of Maldives Conservation for the Management of the San-Fee Marine Sanctuary

Reporting Information

Short proposals were invited from MCPA site management authorities, local partners, community groups and conservation NGOs. Collaborative efforts that promote the continued involvement of communities beyond the life of the grant will receive preference.

Reporting Information

- Background information on previous or existing awareness raising activities conducted for coastal communities at the MCPA site (if any).
- An outline, or strategy for community engagement in education and awareness raising activities that will motivate the target audience to take action to protect coral reefs.
- Justification on how the planned activities will help to raise the profile of coral reefs and generate support for the MCPA site.
- A list of key partners involved and a brief description of respective organisational capacity to conduct the planned activities.
- Detailed objectives and deliverables with a time frame for implementation.
- Projected budget for the planned activities (not to exceed USD 5,500).
- Focal point contact information.

01 Bangladesh

Department of Environment Marine Conservation Management (DMCM)
Environmental Education for Conservation of Threatened Coral Reefs in the St. Martin's Islands

- Preparation of script for the lecture films production – A script on the importance and the benefits aspect of the corals and associated ecosystem will be prepared involving experts groups.
- On-site training for the national performance.
- Produce drama performance on the conservation of coral resources (10 performances). Awareness through talking drama to keep the coral reefs and accepted communication and awareness tools for reaching the target stakeholder group. Update the content, 10 lecture performances will be held on the island and in the City's stage where the corals are exploited. One local group will be trained to prepare and rehearse similar performances so they can continue to raise awareness in future.
- Development of Nature Club – One nature club will be developed for the island for continuing the awareness activities. An action plan will be developed for the Nature Club so they can effectively contribute to and complement community conservation activities ongoing on the island.
- Develop awareness materials – One booklet on the coral reef and the importance of it in the ecosystem will be produced for creating awareness among locals and the local population. Three 800 copies will be developed and printed at key locations across the MCPA and within the community to display conservation message and MCA regulations.

02 India

Department of Environment and Forest
Awareness Generation Programme for local stakeholders in Maldives Coastal Marine National Park, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, India

- Organize Workshop and Awareness campaign for local fishermen and POC's. It is proposed to take up various awareness generation activities like organization of workshops for local fishermen and POCs to educate them about the significance of biodiversity conservation, eco-developed fisheries and to link the conservation efforts to help in uplifting their economy through generation of new employment opportunities.
- Two nature camps will be organized for local fishermen, POCs. One extension activity will also be taken up with local citizens, locals and general public.
- Film on the conservation of coral resources (10 performances).
- Awareness through film show is one the most useful and accepted communication and awareness tools for reaching the target stakeholder group. Under this contract, 10 local schools will be reached to hold film on Coral Reef Conservation, where the corals are exploited. One local group will be trained to prepare and rehearse similar performances so they can continue to raise awareness in future.
- One Nature Camp - 2 nature camps will be held on the island for continuing the awareness activities. An action plan will be developed for the nature camp so they can effectively contribute to and complement community conservation activities ongoing on the site.
- One Drawing competition and awareness campaign for schools - drawing awareness among 10 Local Schools across the MCPA.

03 Maldives

Sea Act, Government of Maldives
Building Youth Competency to Conserve Coral Reef Ecosystems in Maldives (Sea Act)

- Training 25 empowered and informed young people to run and support awareness activities at three island of Baa Atoll within a period of three months; the age group will be students studying at grades 8 and 9 of secondary schooling.
- Field trips to protected areas and photography of globally significant species in Baa Atoll with the trained young people.
- Design and production of awareness materials, toolkit for conducting Awareness island level workshops by the trained young people.
- Partnering with NGOs and environment clubs to mobilize the trained agent for change in awareness activities within Baa Atoll.

04 Pakistan

Wildlife Department,
Environmental Education Activities with reference to Marine and Coastal Protected Area.

- Preparation of Education Materials:
 - Photographs of different species of corals will be used for printing of posters carrying attractive messages and catchy captions in English and local languages. The posters will be distributed amongst students and displayed in schools and other educational and cultural institutions.
 - A brochure with first hand information on importance of corals and coral reefs and their occurrence in Pakistan particularly in Qasim Bay will be produced for raising public awareness and to increase the profile of corals at that MCPA site.
 - Promotional items like T-shirts depicting dominant coral species found in the proposed project area with convincing message for conservation of marine environment will be produced in different sizes and distributed amongst local communities specially students when they are participating in the educational program for raising the importance of coral reefs and the associated ecosystem.
- Production of Documentary Film:
 - A documentary film is a useful tool for spreading conservation message in communities and general public. The duration of the documentary will be 15-20 minutes with background commentary in English and local languages. The documentary covering potential coral reef areas with different species of corals will be prepared with the assistance of a professional under water film producer and expert divers. It will be shared with other representative countries of SACREP.
 - Development of signboards:
 - Education and publicity for environmental projects will be enhanced by erection of attractive signboards with beautiful pictures and meaningful messages. Few signboards with colorful paintings of coral and coral reefs in their habitat will be developed. These signboards will be installed at important sites along Jiwani coastal area.

05 Sri Lanka

Department of Wildlife Conservation,
Development of Capacity of the Department of Wildlife Conservation for the Management of the Bar Reef Marine Sanctuary.

- I. Awareness Phase
 - Briefings will be provided to DWLS staff to provide back ground information on the objectives and target of this program and identify implementation mechanisms.
 - 1. Capacity Building-Enhance capabilities of wildlife officers for conservation of coral reef ecosystem at the area
 - Upgrade knowledge and skills of Field managers (WILDLIFE OFFICERS) in order to enable and empower themselves to efficiently discharge their duties. Apart from the formal basic training in biodiversity conservation, which is essential for all staff for laying the foundation, the field staff will be provided opportunities for 'on the job' and 'in service' training.
- III. Awareness Programme for Local community
 - An awareness programme will be conducted to educate the local community in and around the Bar Reef Sanctuary those who are involved in fishing and illegal activities. In addition, school children awareness programme will be conducted.
- IV. Production of awareness/educational materials
 - Two posters will be produced to aware the general public on importance of coral reef and existing ecosystem. A leaflet will be produced to identify the coral species and their importance. These educational materials will be helpful in educating the local people and school children.

IYOR 2008

- In order to align activities with the global awareness raising campaign of the International Year of the Reef 2008 (IYOR 2008) which starts in January, Final Reports are asked to submitted before 31 DECEMBER 2008.
- MCPA site management authorities, in collaboration with local partners, community groups, and conservation NGOs.

Thank you !

For more information on the project

www.sacep.org/html/projects_ongoing_icran.htm

Regional Response to International Year of the Reef (IYOR)



IYOR Introduction

"Recognizing that ten years after the first International Year of the Reef (1997) there continues to be an urgent need to increase awareness and understanding of coral reefs, and to further conserve and manage valuable coral reef and associated ecosystems.

The International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI), designated 2008 as the "International Year of the Reef (IYOR 2008)" in October 2006.

IYOR 2008 Goals

- Strengthen awareness about ecological, economic, social and cultural value of coral reefs and associated ecosystems
- Improve understanding of the critical threats to reefs and generate both practical and innovative solutions to reduce these threats
- Generate urgent action to develop and implement effective management strategies for conservation and sustainable use of these ecosystems

Vision:

January to December 2008

IYOR 2008 will be a year-long campaign of events and initiatives hosted by governments and non-governmental organizations around the world, with global ownership from the community level upward, to promote conservation action and strengthening long-term constituencies for coral reef conservation.



IYOR South Asia Context



IYOR Outreach Materials





Regional Response to International Year of the Reef (IYOR) 2008 Goals

IYOR 2008 Activity / Event for SACRTF

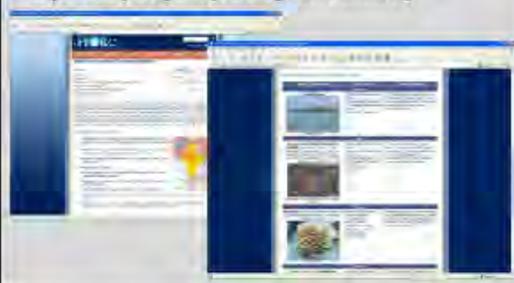
- Organise and host a special 'Day of the Coral Reef' in 2008 - this could involve a public festival or street parade with a focus on celebrating coral reef. Invite local dignitaries and the media to take part!
- Invite a celebrity who is interested in coral reef to be a IYOR Ambassador. Use their status to increase public awareness of coral reefs.
- Develop a range of IYOR merchandise such as, calendar, caps, etc. Ask if your postal service could produce a IYOR stamp (pictured at right). Use this merchandise as giveaways or as rewards for participation in conservation activities.
- Produce leaflets, brochures, pamphlets, stickers and posters in your native language to educate the public about the value of coral reef.
- Encourage local Journalists to write features about issues important to coral reef in the media.
- Organise a coral reef competition (or photo competition) that encourages participation of local school students and the general public.
- Promote the IYOR by linking web site to the IYOR web site (www.iyor.org)
- Participate to beach clean up.

Contd. IYOR 2008 Activity / Event Ideas....

- Encourage the next generation to care about coral reefs - organise educational visits to local schools and introduce coral reef biology and conservation into the school curriculum.
- Identify and nominate sites that are important for coral reef in your country, and lobby for their protection.
- Organise a community clean-up day and coral reef survey. Invite local schools to participate.
- Develop a code of practice for sustainable tourism - build relationships with coastal resort developers and tourism authorities and encourage them to ensure that their resorts are 'coral reef'. Offer training for resort staff and develop (or re-print existing) educational material on coral reef for tourist.

SACREP as the Focal Point for IYOR-South Asia Region

<http://www.iyor.org/focalpoints/orgs/sacrtf/default.asp>



Thank You !



Overview

- Significant progress has been made in a number of key products and activities during the last 6 months
- 100% of the required co-financing (~US\$225,000) has been secured, releasing all funds from the EU
- Project partnership has been widened improving access to regional and international technical expertise and outreach potential
- Challenges remain to complete all activities before the project deadline **31 December 2008**
- SACRTF member support is sought to help advance and effectively implement the remaining activities – key challenge areas listed in slides

Managing Marine and Coastal Protected Areas: A Toolkit for South Asia

Aim: Prepare a comprehensive toolkit to help managers in South Asia access simple and current information to support MCPA management

- Toolkit prepared in consultation with over 40 regional and international experts
- Printing will be completed by 1 October 2008
- International launch intended at the World Conservation Congress in Barcelona, October 2008
- **Next Step:** To identify strategic opportunities for regional launch and dissemination by SACRTF (E.g. ICRI East Asia MCPA Regional Workshop, 11-14 November 2008)

Capacity Building Training for MCPA Managers

Aim: Develop the skills of participants through interactive training scenarios, and provide opportunity for the target audience to review content, structure and usefulness of the South Asia Toolkit prior to finalisation.

- Regional training workshop conducted in the Maldives, June 4-7 2008.
- 30 participants attended from the 5 participating countries.
- Interactive exercises to build managers skills in project design, planning, monitoring, livelihoods and networking.
- 70-page Workshop Report prepared. Available from www.victan.org/action-southasia.html

Coral Reef Crime Scene Investigation (CSI)

Aim: Training for field staff in investigative, forensic and rapid ecological assessment techniques to improve response to impact events, and maximise prosecution and mitigation success

- 290-page Coral Reef CSI Toolkit prepared to guide resource impact investigations and rapid responses
- Government of Maldives kindly offered to host a regional South Asia CSI course, 1-3 December 2008
- Marine Research Centre (MRC) to provide local coordination support
- Site visit conducted 14-18 Aug 2008, by international CSI trainers to finalise location, dive scenarios, logistics
- **Next Step:** To identify ~18 participants with appropriate in-water skills and opportunity to apply training in workplace

Supporting Enforcement and Compliance at existing MCPA Sites

Aim: To better support existing MCPAs in the enforcement of protection measures and regulations through the provision of technical enforcement equipment and resources

- Call for proposals released in November 2007 to highlight availability of 5 action grants (~US\$20k)
- Only two proposals were received, from Sri Lanka and Pakistan - paperwork in preparation to release funds to these countries.
- **Next Step:** Encourage timely engagement of remaining 3 countries to ensure that the funds can be released from the EU for national activities

South Asia Marine and Coastal Information Portal

Aim: Develop a comprehensive information portal containing tools, resources and information distilled from data in a useable form for marine and coastal resource managers

• IUCN Asia contracted to lead the development of an innovative information and linked discussion facility

Next Steps:

- Establish collaboration partnerships with regional stakeholders to encourage regular sharing of information and resources
- Obtain feedback from target audience on relevance and user-friendliness of site

Sustainable Livelihood Diversification and Enhancement (SLED)

Aim: Strengthen the capacity for the design and implementation of SLED initiatives for poor reef users

• 3 regional SLED workshops conducted to characterise reef dependency and build skills of local facilitators to assist and engage communities

• Regional framework to guide implementation and uptake of SLED activities designed and field tested in 6 countries

• Micro-grants provided to support community members in SLED projects – demand for additional activities in many communities

• SLED process evaluated to define impact and regional scope – full report prepared

• **Next Steps:** Explore options for continuing/expanding the scope of SLED activities beyond the 2008 deadline

Sustainable Livelihood Diversification and Enhancement (SLED)

SLED Outputs include:

- SLED Manual prepared to provide development practitioners with an introduction to the process and guidance for facilitating Sustainable Livelihood Enhancement and Diversification (SLED)
- Global Review of Livelihood Experiences prepared and in print
- Case Studies from site based SLED activities prepared for each participating country
- Article in the 2008 CORDIO report on regional SLED activities

Contact Information

- ICRAN and SACEP are keen work alongside SACRTF members to advance and successfully implement the remaining activities under this project
- For further information on any of the listed activities, how you can help, or to obtain copies of reports and resources please contact:

Nicola Barnard
Senior Programme Officer - ICRAN
nbarnard@icran.org

**Managers exchange program in the Marine National Park in the Gulf of Kachchh,
Dr. H.S.Singh**

Managers exchange program
in the Marine National Park in
the Gulf of Kachchh,
Jamnagar
Bangladesh, India, Maldives,
Pakistan, and Sri Lanka
REFERENCE: WESTERN INDIAN
OCEAN REGIONAL CORAL REEF
ACTION STRATEGY
2nd Meeting South Asia Coral Reef Task
Force (SACRTF)



First Marine National Park of the country-declared in
1982, although Marine Sanctuary was constituted in
1980



Opportunities of learning

- Long history of coral reef conservation-28 years
- First Marine National Park of India
- Diversity of marine habitats-coral reef, mangroves, sea grass bed, algal bed...
- Biological diversity
- Good research and educational activities
- Large number of stake holders
- Rich fishery area-high dependency of fishermen
- Support threatened marine species
- Largest area of coastal wetland of India in the Gulf of Kachchh

ZONING IN THE GULF OF KUTCH



**How management of MPA in India is different
from other parts of the world?**

- Policies and legislation-IFA 1927, WPA 1972, FCA 1980, EPA 1986, CRZ Act 1991
- Organisational set up
- Complexity of stakeholders
- Research and education activities



SECTORS AND STAKEHOLDERS IN MPA

- Coastal people, fishermen
- Marine Park Authority
- Department of Fisheries
- Gujarat Maritime Board
- Kandla Port Trust (KPT)
- Salt industries
- Refineries and petroleum co.
- GSFC Ltd.
- Cement industries
- Thermal power plants
- Ship breaking units
- Department of Custom
- Coastal guards
- Indian Navy
- Department of Tourism



BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

MANGROVES

- Mangroves in Gujarat 936 sq. km.
- Mangroves in MPA - 150 sq. km.
- Total core species of mangroves - 7
- 204 sp. of flowering plants and 120 species of algae



Impressive Mangroves Restoration
A most successful mangrove restoration in the world



Mangrove's restoration to reduce coral damage due to silt



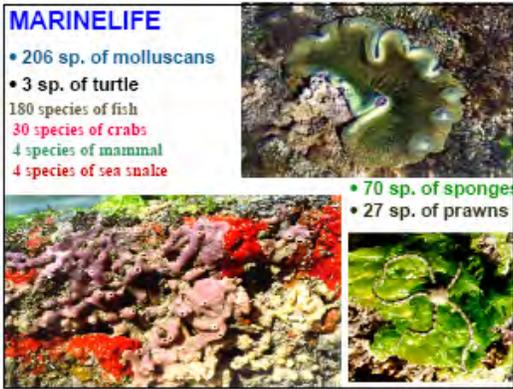
CORAL REEFS
52 species of corals



Dead and live coral reef
460 sq. km

MARINELIFE

- 206 sp. of molluscs
- 3 sp. of turtle
- 180 species of fish
- 30 species of crabs
- 4 species of mammal
- 4 species of sea snake
- 70 sp. of sponges
- 27 sp. of prawns



190 species of birds

2500 pairs of birds of over dozen species nested on mangrove trees in a part of area in the park in 2000



Programs

First Day: Inauguration at GEER Foundation, Gandhinagar

- Presentation by experts and discussion on Program on coral conservation in India
- Marine National Park, Jamnagar-conservation and management
- Research works on coral reef and associated habitats in the Marine Park by GEER Foundation
- Presentation by international expert and discussion
- Institutional and organizational arrangement for managing Marine National park
- Community participation in mangroves and sustainable use of coastal resources- by GEC
- Mapping the coral reefs and other associated habitats

Second Day

Experience sharing-Presentation by the managers of the MCPAs of South Asian Nations and discussion



Departure from Gandhinagar/Ahmedabad to Jamnagar in the afternoon

Third Day: at Jamnagar

Presentation by Director, Marine National Park on conservation, management of the park-issues of conservation-discussion



Visit to the park to see and study Mangrove's restoration by the department & industries

sustainable use of resources by local people

Ecological education activities-discussion

Fourth Day: Presentation by international or national expert

Visit to islands of the Marine National Park in the Gulf of Kachchh to study coral reef conservation

Discussion with local people and stake holders.



Fifth Day

- Presentation and discussion on policies and implementation related to MCPAs
- Presentation and discussion on role of local communities in mangroves and coral conservation and sustainable use of marine resources
- Marine biodiversity and livelihood of coastal communities
- Feedback
- Plenary discussion
- Concluding session



Cost estimate

Total cost for organizing managers exchange/training program for 25 participants in the Gulf of Kachchh as per the planning would be about Rs 3.0 million (US \$ 70,000).

Above cost include about Rs one million for travel cost of the managers from their countries to Jamnagar-Gulf of Kachchh and about Rs 0.3 million will be cost for international experts.

Above cost may be modified after discussion

SESSION 2 – COORDINATION AND INFORMATION SHARING SESSION

Review of progress and major initiatives related to MCPAs/ coral reefs and the SACRTF work plan since the 1st meeting of the SACRTF.

2.1 Country Presentations

Country presentations were done by the following representatives highlighting the;

- New activities which raise the profile of MCPAs
- New key policy developments
- New funding opportunities
- Major new initiatives
- Milestones for the next year and potential role of the task force to advance them.
- Establishment of National Coral Reef Task Force (NCRTF)

Bangladesh, Mr. Md. Mahbubur Rahman, Project Manager, Coastal and Wetland Biodiversity Management Project (CWBMP)

- A coral conservation plan developed under CWBMP for St. Martins Island by WCRC
- The experiences gathered from the deliberation of fellow member countries in this regard could play a role in forming National Coral Reef Task Force and to carryout conservation activities of national and international interest

India, Dr. K. Venkataraman, Secretary- NBA

- National committee on Mangroves & Coral Reef acts as National Coral Reef Task Force
- Expert Group on Research in Mangroves and Coral Reef.

Maldives, Mr. Hussein Zahir, Senior Research Officer, Marine Research Center

- Ecological surveys of the 15 sites from 1998-2005 on the status and recovery
- Marine resource valuation – just completed under AEC Project

Pakistan, Dr. Fehmida Firdous, Deputy Conservator of Forests, Sindh Wildlife Department

- Coral and Coral Reefs have recently been explored in Pakistan after extensive underwater surveys along Baluchistan coast due to technical assistance from Pakistan Wetland Program under Ministry of Environment, Government of Pakistan.

Sri Lanka Mr. Anil Premaratne Additional Director, Coast Conservation Department

- Country Task Force has not been formed yet. This would be formed for action to begin at the MCPAs. Lead agency will be the Coast Conservation Department involving all other stakeholders. However there are no funds for any of the activities that the task force would address at the MCPA site.

2.2 UNESCO Efforts in The Field of Coral Reef and Marine Protected Area Conservation”.

Dr. Ram Boojh, Programme Specialist (Ecology & Earth Science) of UNESCO highlighted in his presentation the Mandate of UNESCO are

- Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC)- Coral Reef Monitoring sites
- Man and Biosphere (MAB) Programme- Biosphere Reserves- Marine Protected Areas- Marine Spatial Planning
- World Heritage Marine Sites- Marine Parks

Key points emerged from this discussion:

- Dedicated funding for the development of MCPA sites and for continued research.
- Identify and seek support through available expertise within region which can minimize expenses for training of MCPA staff.
- Development of sustainable financing mechanisms through Public and Private partnerships in the activities of MCPAs through tourism, resource use etc. (SACRTF can assist by linking the sources that is necessary for PP partnerships).
- National Committee on Coral reef and Mangrove of India which will function as National Coral Reef Task force and country Working Group including more members.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the presentations and the subsequent discussion, following recommendations for the implementation by the Task Force were agreed upon:

- It was noted that each National Task Force will have to be allocated adequate resources from the Country Governments. It will be developed in collaboration with local partners and management agencies to ensure a complementary and appropriate local focus and to add value to the existing efforts. Where appropriate, lessons learned will be transferred to the Regional level.
- UNESCO will be informed and shared their marine and coastal activities within the region with the SACRTF. Similarly, communication between stakeholders in this sector will be identified for experiences sharing and capacity building programmes of the sector.
- Pakistan and India were already nominated the Country Task Force and the secretariat requested the other country governments to form the National Task Force nominations. SACRTF representatives agreed on a representative from each MCPA site, if not already done so and ensure that they are included in all future SACRTF correspondence and meetings. Till such time that the country task forces are established and one member nominated them on the regional task force.

Country Presentations

Country Presentation Bangladesh

Mr. Md. Mahbubur Rahman, Project Manager, Coastal and Wetland Biodiversity Management Project



New Activities to raise the profile of MCPAs

Following activities took place

- A coral conservation plan developed under CWBMP for St. Martin's Island by WCRC
- A comprehensive under water survey of the coral and associated community conducted in St. Martin's Island from CWBMP project by WCRC
- An Education programme for awareness raising of people in and around St. Martin's Island developed, SACEP has agreed to fund



New key policy developments

- ECA rules drafted under the BECA 1995, this will provide legal protection to coral and associated communities among others
- The CWBMP has planned to organize seminar and photo exhibition on Corals to sensitize people

New Funding Opportunities

- The MOEF has planned to provide 1 Million US\$ to the CWBMP for addressing climate change issues in biodiversity conservation
- the SACRTF can provide technical assistance to the CWBMP coral conservation activities and can coordinate in exploring necessary funding

Major New Initiatives

CWBMP Coral Conservation activities:
Objective: Conserve coral biodiversity and colonies through community engagement at St. Martin's Island.

Activities:

1. Sensitize and engage local community
2. Under water survey
3. Identify and prioritize threats
4. ID & prioritize conservation actions

Engaging Community

- Consultation meeting with stakeholders
- Sensitize and engage local community: fisher, collectors, traders
- Aware tourists
- Market vigilance and legal enforcement
- Alternative income generation activities

National Coral Reef Task Force

- Though there is no specific progress, it is expected that the upcoming seminar will result in formation of a net work for coral conservation
- The experiences gathered from the deliberation of fellow member countries in this regard could play a role in forming National Coral Reef Task Force and to carryout conservation activities of national and international interest

CORAL CONSERVATION IN BANGLADESH

31 August 2008, Malis

Md. Mahbubur Rahman
Department of Environment, Bangladesh

Objective

Conserve Coral Biodiversity and colonies through community Engagement at St. Martin's Island

- St. Martin's Island: Declared as ECA in 1999 under the BECA 1995
- A small Island at the north-eastern corner of Bangladesh in the Bay of Bengal
- 9 km south from Cox's Bazar-Teknaf Peninsular tip
- Famous tourist island, the tourist pressure is increasing rapidly
- Surface area is about 8 km²



Major Activities

Done under coral conservation component of CWBMP are:

1. Sensitize and engage local community in coral conservation
2. Conduct a comprehensive underwater survey of the coral and associated community of the Island
3. Identify and prioritize threats for corals
4. Identification and prioritization of actions for conservation of coral ecosystem

MAJOR FINDINGS

Corals of 65 species, 16 family observed
Acropora is most common
37 species of reef associated fish
46 species of algae



Acropora



Brittle Star



Caulerpa



Fevia



Engaging Community

1. Consultation meeting with stakeholders
2. Sensitize and engage local community, especially the fisher, coral collectors and traders
3. Aware tourists
4. Market vigilance and legal enforcement
5. Alternative income generation activities for the poorer

Threats to coral communities

- ❑ Sedimentation
- ❑ Marine trash
- ❑ Fishing and other vessel anchoring
- ❑ Boulder removal from intertidal zone
- ❑ Coral collection trading
- ❑ Movement of fishing & tourist boats over the area
- ❑ Oil pollution
- ❑ Walking over
- ❑ Coral disease
- ❑ Climate change

Guidelines developed

- ❑ Guideline for tourist
 - ❑ For divers
 - ❑ For boating
 - ❑ For shore side walking
 - ❑ For snorkeling
- ❑ Under water cleanup guideline

Management: Zoning of Coral Area

- ❑ Restricted access zone: only scientific research
- ❑ Sanctuary zone: high protection/no take
- ❑ Habitat protection: fishing & recreation without harming corals
- ❑ Generally managed zone: sustainable use
- ❑ Special purpose zone: Jetty/port



South Asia Coral Reef Task Force (SACRTF)

COORDINATION AND INFORMATION MEETING
SEPTEMBER 2008

India
K. Venkataraman
Government of India





New Activities to raise the profile of MCPAs

Research, Monitoring and Management/ Capacity Building and Training
Awareness and Education

- Lakshadweep coral reef meeting with coral reef stakeholders held in January 2008
- 49 papers were presented from India during 10th ICRS
- Attended MCPA programme for Managers at Maldives- IUCN
- Programme on Children Education- Awareness for Schools at Gujarat Gok- OCT-NOV 2008
- National meet on conservation and management of Indian coral reef 2008 at Andaman Nicobar Islands
- IUCN – SGP on brain storming meeting (NGO-GoMBR)
- ICZM Project to Space Application Centre (INR 16.58 crores 2005-08)
- 14 International Agreements/Treaties/Conventions

New key policy developments

- Implementation of National Environment Policy 2006
- National Biodiversity Action Plan 2008 (CBD-Ar 6)
- Fourth Country Report on Biodiversity (CBD)
- National Expert Group on Research – New R&D Projects.
- National Committee Meeting on Mangroves and Corals –March 2008 Goa (Spl. Invitee DR ARAVIND BOAZ).
- WLP Act amended –Community Protected Area.

New Funding Opportunities

Supported:

- GEF (GoMBR), World Bank-on ICZM, UNEP (strengthen the capacity under BD Act), UNDP (Malvan-Koringa).

Regional opportunities that can be capitalised on through leadership from the SACRTF?

- Revive the earlier Programmes such as GCRMN & CORDIO

Major New Initiatives

- Coastal Regulation Zone under World Bank Project (ICZM, Pollution Monitoring and Control and Technical Capacity Building)
- UNDP GEF – Coastal and Marine Biodiversity Project (Malvan and Koringa).
- Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Reserve Trust (GEF)
- Regional initiatives on South Asian Regional Seas Programme (Training on MPA, Assessment of Ballast Studies under Glo-ballast Programme, Regional Oil spill Contingency Programme)

Milestones

- National Coral Reef Research Institute strengthened further by MoEF.
- Post Tsunami Coral Reef Studies completed by ISRO
- Expert group on Research in Mangroves and Coral Reefs reconstituted.
- Structured Guidelines on Coral Reefs finalised.
- R&D Oil Spill Modelling in MPAs; R&D Programme on Monitoring of Turtle Habitats; Development of Sea Water Quality Criteria; Drugs from the sea; Marine Biodiversity assessment in Deep Sea, Pollution modelling in Biodiversity rich Areas, Marine outfall point & Modelling; Ecosystem Modelling; Fishery based Alternate Livelihood Programmes
- National Biodiversity Action Plan approved
- WLP Act amended and to cater to the Community participation.
- Globalast, Training on Environment Law for Marine Protected Area by UNCLOS.
- Regional Oil Spill contingency Plan for India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Maldives and Sri Lanka.

National Coral Reef Task Force

Progress Made

- Several Programme Related Committees of Min. Earth Sci.
- National committee on Mangroves & Coral Reef acts as National Coral Reef Task Force
- Expert Group on Research in Mangroves and Coral Reef.
- Several Research projects have been funded by Government of India and on going projects.

No developments and barriers

- Dearth of Taxonomists and Capacity Building in coral reef
- Open access nature of marine resources
- Inadequate capacities for underwater monitoring.

Thank you very much



**Think corals,
Dream Corals &
Save corals**

Country Presentation Maldives
Mr. Hussein Zahir, Senior Research Officer, Marine Research Center



New Activities to raise the profile of MCPAs

Atoll Ecosystem Conservation Project (GEF)

- Collation of information on biodiversity and related issues
- Rapid ecological surveys ongoing
- Socioeconomic studies of Baa atoll
- Economic valuation of natural resources of Baa atoll
- Economic studies and management plans for Dhigalihaa and Olhugiri
- Dive site study on tourists willingness to pay (Dhigalihaa)

New Activities to raise the profile of MCPAs

Program of Work on Protected Areas (POWPA) under GEF

- Establish a system for representative Pas
- Develop a governance mechanism
- Develop a financing mechanism

New activities continued,...

Country Coral Reef Task Force

- Just initiated. MFF's National Co-ordinating Body (NCB) and National Task Force on IYOR followed. Representatives of NCRTF
- MEEW
- MOFAMR
- MPND
- Tourism
- NGO
- Dive sector
- Fishermen's Association
- etc

New key policy developments

- Existing policies and strategies
 - National Development Plans
 - National Biodiversity strategy and action Plan
 - Tourism Master Plan 3
 - National Environment Action Plan 3 - drafted
 - National Sustainable Development Plan - ongoing
 - National Strategy and Action Plan (MFF) – ongoing
 - National Adaptation Program of Action (NAPA)

New Funding Opportunities

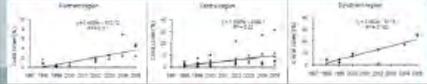
- **BOEMLE** Approved by GEF and ready for signing
 - Main focus is on the management of shared resources
 - Benefits to the Maldives is limited...larval connectivity of pelagic and coral reef resources
- **Indian Ocean Island Biodiversity Project** FIB
 - Started in 2008 (3 years)
 - Biodiversity inventory of coastal and coral reef areas, connectivity studies
 - Linked to AEC Project
- **SWIFCO South western Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission**
 - Management of non tuna fishery resources
- MFF (small-scale US\$25,000 large-scale US\$100,000)

Major New Initiatives/Projects

- **Maldives Environmental Management Project (MEMP)**
 - WB funding 12m USD
 - Capacity building, waste management and strengthening of existing coral reef monitoring programmes
 - Project target area: North and Central atolls (includes Baa atoll)
- **Are there any gaps/needs that SACRTF member countries can support?**
 - Exchange of expertise
 - Long-term management plans

Milestones

- Ecological surveys of the 15 sites from 1998-2005 on the status and recovery...regional recovery trends
- Marine resource valuation – just completed under AEC Project
- **How can the SACRTF contribute to this effort?!**
 - Seek funding opportunities??
 - Information dissemination and sharing in the region and beyond



National Coral Reef Task Force

- Just initiated and comprises of government, private and NGO sectors
- Need collaboration and networking of all sectors and their activities; e.g. reef rehabilitation activities on resorts, awareness activities of NGOs and communities
- Need enhanced environmental stewardship from public and private sector



Acknowledgements



EU
ICRAN
UNEP
SACEP
MEEW and others



Thank you

Country Presentation Pakistan
Dr. Fehmida Firdous, Deputy Conservator of Forests, Sindh Wildlife Department



South Asia Coral Reef Task Force (SACRTF)

COORDINATION AND INFORMATION SHARING
 31st August 2008

PAKISTAN
DR. FEHMIDA FIRDOUS




Exploration for Coral

Coral and Coral Reefs have recently been explored in Pakistan after extensive underwater surveys along Baluchistan coast due to technical assistance from Pakistan Wetland Program under Ministry of Environment, Government of Pakistan.



- Problems associated with coastline resources
- Habitat loss due to conversion and sea intrusion;
 - Network of Protected Areas: minimum protection; gap analysis
 - Excessive cutting of mangroves and associated riverine forests;
 - Reduced availability of freshwater due to construction of dams;
 - Forest land clearance for agricultural purposes;
 - Unchecked pollution from the industries and agricultural fields;
 - Use of illegal nets for fishing;
 - Population pressure;
 - Lack of political will among the leaders; and,

Coral Threat by Ghost Nets



Existing Legislation / Policies

Federal	Sindh	Balochistan
The West Pakistan Fisheries Ordinance, 1951	Sindh Fisheries Ordinance, 1956	Balochistan Fisheries Ordinance, 1971
The Karachi Port Trust Ordinance, 1954	Karachi Fisheries Harbour Ordinance, 1954	Balochistan Sea Fisheries Ordinance, 1971
The Pakistan Environmental Protection Act, 1997	Coastal Development Act of 2004, 1994	Balochistan Sea Fisheries Amendment Ordinance, 1992
Deep Sea Fishing Policy, 1991 (Amended in 2003)	Notification, 2 nd Dec 1987 (Sindh on Karachi coast)	Balochistan Sea Fisheries Act, 1994
Maritime Zones Act, 1976	SWPZ 1972	SWPZ-1972
Exclusive Fishery Zone Act (Regulation of fishing, 1975 (Amended in 1983)		
Karachi Fisheries Harbour Authority Ordinance 1982		
The Indian Water Treaty, 1960		
The Indian Water Accord, 1991		

Pakistan's International Obligations (Coastal and Marine Biodiversity)

- ❑ Ramsar Convention
- ❑ Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
- ❑ Convention on Migratory Species (CMS)
- ❑ Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)
- ❑ The UN Convention on the Law of Sea
- ❑ Oil Pollution Preparedness Response and Cooperation Convention
- ❑ MARPOL (Marine Pollution)
- ❑ International Convention on Civil Liability for Oil Pollution
- ❑ MARSAT Convention 1976 (Convention of International Maritime Satellite)
- ❑ IMO Convention 1948 related to alien species

New key policy developments

- MOUs signed with Oman Beach Gwadar and PWP Makran coast.
- MoU signed with Community Development Department and Makran Coastal Complex.
- Recommendations submitted to Government of Sindh to declare as "Nature Reserve".
- Government of Baluchistan requested to declare Jewani as "Protected Area".
- Conservation Committees formed in Baluchistan coastal area.
- Declared Astola Island as Ramsar Site

New Activities to raise the profile of MCPAs

- Established Conservation, Information/Resource centre at Gwadar Jewani and Pasai.
- Initiated Community Based Turtle & Coral Conservation Programs.
- Organised Training Workshops and seminars to aware community for important of corals and surrounding habitats.
- Celebrated Important weeks/ Days e.g. world wetland week, world water Day, world Earth Day, world Environment Day.
- Attended Coral Management Course in Egypt by three Participants from Pakistan.
- Approved a five month Project on Environmental Education activities with reference to Coral and Coral Reefs at Jewani (Gwater Bay), funding recently approved by UNEP.

Major New Initiatives

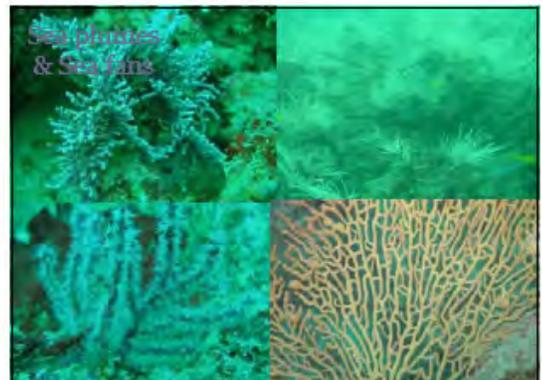
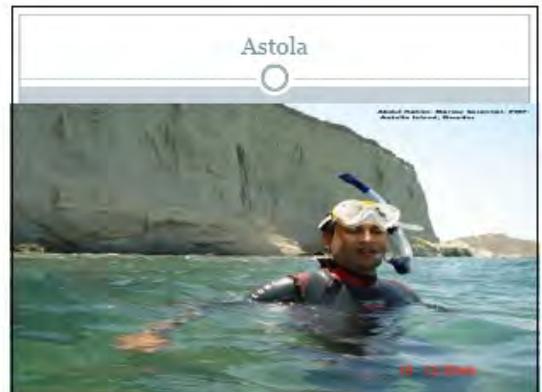
- **Biodiversity conservation Project implemented at Jewani.**
- Cetacean conservation program carried out along Sindh & Baluchistan coast.
- A Project on monitoring and assessment of Shark catch, landing and trade on Baluchistan has been implemented.
- Mangrove Plantation carried out in an area of about 150 ha.
- Conducted underwater surveys at Jewani & Astola for exploring coral and coral reefs.

CORAL REEF COUNTRY TASK FORCE

- 12th Nov.2007 Min. Env. Pak.
- Members
 - a) ZSD, Govt. of Pak.
 - b) SWD, Govt. of Sindh
 - c) PWP
 - d) NIO Govt. of Pak.
 - e) IUCN Pak.
 - f) WWF Pak.
 - g) CEMB, K.U
 - h) BD, Directorate Min. Env. Pak.

National Coral Reef Task Force

- National Coral Reef Task Force was formulated in 2007
- Members of National CRTF work in cooperation with each other and exchange expertise and information as required.
- Progress of coral reef net work can be listed as follows.
 - a) The issue of coral reef conservation is considered at federal and provincial level besides International NGOs and Local communities.
 - b) MoUs at local, national and regional levels have been signed by various Governments organizations, NGOs and local communities.
 - c) Declaration of important coral reef areas as " Nature Reserves" or "Protected areas".
 - d) Community based training programs/workshops/seminars have been conducted.
 - e) Foreign training programmes for PWP staff was provided.
 - f) Celebration of Important days and weeks to highlight the coral reef profile and associated ecosystem.
 - g) Members of National CRPT regularly attend regional SACRPT meetings.



Green Turtle Laying Eggs



Green Turtle Hatchlings



Acknowledgements

1. Mr. Masood Arshad and Mr. Abdul Rahim, Pakistan Wetland Program
2. Mr. Mohammad Husnain, WWF Pakistan
3. Mr. Tahir Qureshi, IUCN Pakistan
4. Dr. Rupert Ormond, Marine Conservation International
5. Mr. Amjad Ali, Marine Fisheries Department Govt. of Pakistan
6. Mr. Riaz Khan Baloch, Sindh Wildlife Department Govt. of Sindh

THANKS FROM





South Asia Coral Reef Task Force (SACRTF)

COORDINATION AND INFORMATION SHARING
MALDIVES
24 AUGUST 2008

SRI LANKA



New Activities to raise the profile of MCPAs

- **Activities at MCPA to advance management**
 - Community has been sensitized through the Bay Reef Management Committee on conservation aspects.
 - Training has been provided to selected individuals in obtaining license for SCUBA diving in order to reduce resource exploitation by diversifying livelihood opportunities.
 - Preparation for the demarcation of the ERMS Core area. (However, hindered by construction of bridges, bridges and for deployment).
 - No funding has been received yet for ground level actions through the EU funded MCPA project.
- **Country Task Force has not been formed yet. This would be formed for action to begin at the MCPAs. Lead agency will be the Coast Conservation Department involving all other stakeholders. However there are no funds for any of the activities that the task force would address at the MCPA site. So far no funding has been received through the EU project.**
- **Raising awareness of the status of coral reefs and their management.**
 - The current status of coral reefs was presented at the 10th ICRG and in the forthcoming status report of COAST-7 to be published in late 2008.

New key policy developments

- **No new policies have been introduced since the last meeting in December 2007**
- **Mainstreaming of coral reef issues – The following national plans address coral reef issues**
 - The Coastal Zone Management Plan addresses all the current issues
 - The National Environmental Action Plan

Funding Opportunities

- **There are severe budget reductions for activities of government departments and therefore external funding is necessary to carry out existing work at the MCPA site.**
- **Regional funding opportunities.**
 - Regional opportunities that can be capitalised on through leadership from the SACRTF has to be discussed at this meeting.
- **Fund raising for MCPA work and SACRTF.**
 - Lead role should be taken by SACEP in seeking funds.

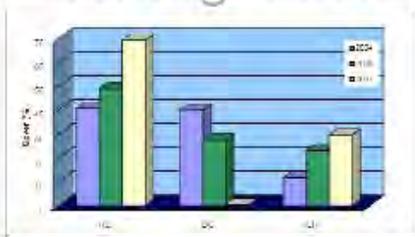
Major New Initiatives

- **No major initiatives taken for the development of MCPAs since the last meeting in December 2007.**
- **Major issues affecting development of MCPA management.**
 - Lack of funding, dedicated and trained management staff and equipment are major issues. Dedicated staff for MCPAs is lacking. Furthermore transferring of trained staff from marine to terrestrial parks is also affecting the MCPAs.
- **Support from SACRTF member countries.**
 - can support each other through available expertise in training and exchange programmes.

Institutional strengthening for management

- **Review of current management initiatives and identification of gaps in policies and implementation.**
- **Support received to date from the project, effective use and future needs**
- **Improvement of policies with particular emphasis on resource use**
- **Institutional strengthening is needed for the effective implementation of existing regulations**
- **Importance of sharing experiences within the region and development of appropriate techniques for local conditions.**
- **Project support for further strengthening of CRM processes.**
- **Strengthening of institutional linkages for effective management.**

Current physical status at the target site – Bar Reef Marine Sanctuary



The recovery of the shallow coral reefs have been rapid in the last 4 years. Increase of coral rubble is due to the collapse of corals that died during the 1996 bleaching event.

Funding needs for development of the chosen MCPA site

Development of the Bar Reef Marine Sanctuary and current needs.

ADB-CRMP completed a SAMP with awareness, some training in livelihood diversification (cage culture of fin fish and crustaceans, scuba diving training for tourism development etc). Management plan has been published.

Key activities that needs support for implementation –

- Demarcation of the MCPA boundary (requires about \$1,000,000)
- Allocation of permanent staff – (sustainable funding is needed for this as government funding is very limited).
- Equipment such as patrol craft and associated monitoring equipment
- Further training in livelihood diversification with the aim of reducing pressure on resource exploitation.

Research needs for management of coral reef ecosystems

- Continued monitoring of the status of the coral reefs employing reef resilient methodology in view of changes due to climate change impacts and increasing resource exploitation.
- Oceanographic parameters that are important to predict the changes that may occur to reef habitats
- Monitoring of resource exploitation for adaptive management
- Determine maximum exploitation levels and their impacts with a view to controlling resource exploitation.
- Impacts of livelihood diversification and development of alternative livelihoods

Support sought through SACRTF

- Dedicated funding for the development of MCPA sites and for continued research.
- Organize active participation of the Ministers concerned in each country. (SACRTF should facilitate this process).
- Identify and seek support through available expertise within region. (This can minimize expenses for training of MCPA staff)
- Development of sustainable financing mechanisms through Public and Private partnerships in the activities of MCPAs through tourism, resource use etc. (SACRTF can assist by linking the sources that is necessary for PP partnerships).

UNESCO Efforts in The Field of Coral Reef and Marine Protected Area Conservation”.

Dr. Ram Boojh, Programme Specialist (Ecology & Earth Science) of UNESCO



UNESCO Efforts in the Field of Coral Reefs and Marine Protected Area Conservation

Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission
Ecological and Fisheries Programme
1980-2000



UNESCO works to create the conditions for genuine dialogue based upon respect for shared values and the dignity of each civilization and culture

- Laboratory of ideas
- Standard setting
- Sharing of information and knowledge
- Building institutions and human capacity-building

Mandate of UNESCO



- Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC)- Coral Reef Monitoring sites
- Man and Biosphere (MAB) Programme- Biosphere Reserves- Marine Protected Areas- Marine Spatial Planning
- World Heritage Marine Sites- Marine Parks

Initiatives and Partnerships

Partnership on Marine and Coastal Protected Areas (MCPAs)

- Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO (IOC)
- UNESCO's Man and Biosphere Programme (MAB)
- UNESCO's World Heritage Centre (WHC)
- UNEP Regional Seas Programme
- Other agencies



Initiatives and Partnerships

The Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN)

- Global, interagency initiative under the stewardship of the IOC of UNESCO, UNEP, IUCN and the World Bank, among others

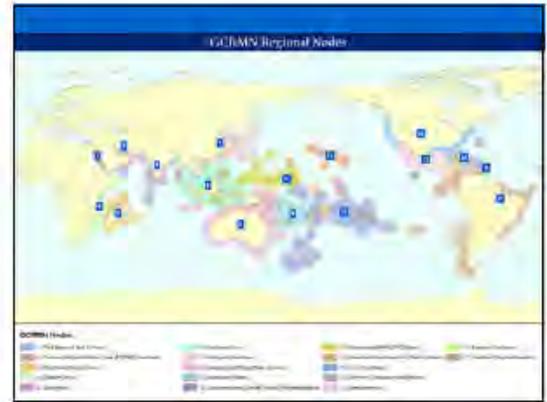


GCRMN

- Part of the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI)
- Role: to deliver critical information to managers, policy makers, donors and communities; to raise awareness of coral reef issues amongst all stakeholders
- enables the decision making process that feeds into international policy and donor funding to be grounded in local level needs

GCRMN (cont.)

- Works to improve management and conservation of coral reefs by providing manuals, equipment, databases, training, problem solving, and helps with finding funds for reef monitoring
- Works through 17 regional networks of states and countries called nodes
- Ex: The South Asian Node includes: India, Bangladesh, Maldives, Pakistan, Sri Lanka



Outputs of the GCRMN

Biennial 'Status of Coral Reefs of the World':

- 2004 Report: human activities the primary cause of severe degradation of coral reefs worldwide; details many new initiatives aimed at reversing this degradation such as by conserving the biodiversity, the economic value and beauty of coral reefs
- 2006 'Status of Coral Reefs in Tsunami Affected Countries: 2005'
- 2008: 'Status of Coral Reefs of the World: 2008'.
Released 2008 - July 2008, at the 13th International Coral Reef Symposium in Ft Lauderdale, Florida, USA.

Outputs of the GCRMN

Other publications released in 2008:

- Status of Caribbean Coral Reefs after Bleaching and Hurricanes in 2005
- Effective Catchment Management and Coral Reef Conservation: Best Practice Case Studies'

Outputs of the GCRMN

IOC/World Bank Study Group on Coral Bleaching and Local Ecological Responses:

set-up in 2000, with the purpose of integrating, synthesizing and developing global research on coral bleaching. Among the more specific objectives is to develop indicators of coral bleaching of various kinds (molecular, cellular, physiological, community), capable of detecting stress responses due to changes in variables such as sea surface temperature and UV

GCRMN – South Asia

- Started in 1997
- First phase - focus on awareness raising and the development of capacity for biophysical monitoring across the region
- Second phase - begun in 1999 with an emphasis on recognising the importance of socio-economic monitoring for the effective management of coral reefs
- Third phase - started in 2002: develop the understanding within South Asia of the process of converting information into action in response to the realisation that few attempts at using information to inform and influence reach the right people in the right format to stimulate the kind of change that is needed.

GCRMN – South Asia (cont.)

1998 – 2000:

- regional training programmes in biophysical and socio-economic monitoring to equip researchers and managers with the tools to collect information on not only the status of the coral reefs and the reef stakeholders but also the policies, institutions and processes that affect the decisions and actions made by those stakeholders
- a database has been developed which in the future is hoped to provide a storage system that will facilitate the horizontal (between the information generators) and vertical (from micro to meso to macro levels) movement of information on coral reefs

Gulf of Mannar BR



- Coral mining for cement manufacturing industries, which has been associated to the loss of several islands

Activities:

- Educating coastal communities about the destructive effects of dynamite fishing in the coral reefs, which in addition to the death of the fish also kills the fauna and associated dugongs (sea cows)

Gulf of Mannar BR

- Legal enforcement and stringent punishment for use of dynamite in fishing
- Community awareness combined with remedial and preventative measures through involving the community – promote forming committees of representatives as their community authorised managers = stakeholder involvement

Conclusion from the activities and experiences of the GCRMN South Asia, 2005

- Coral reef ecosystems in South Asia are under increasing pressure due to among others: environmental stress, unsustainable fisheries, coral mining, climate change related coral bleaching
- For long term successful management of the reefs, equitable distribution of benefits among all of the stakeholders, including the poorest in the region, need to be ensured
- The resource management will affect the way people interact with the reefs resources and actively participate in sustaining them
- A holistic development-environment approach with poverty reduction focus is needed

GCRMN South Asia Capacity Building Framework 2005



Poverty reduction among coastal communities in South Asia

Information that effectively informs and influences resource use, management and policy making at local, national and international levels enabling equitable and sustainable coral reef use

Building capacity to produce and use information on environmental and socio-economic conditions of coral reefs and their use

4. Develop skills to produce and use information to inform and influence management planning and policy making

- Develop monitoring and effectively implemented reef policy guidelines
- Use information generated for reef users
- Develop reef user capacity to plan/develop projects

3. Develop systems for information sharing

- Capacity building (technical, managerial, economic)
- Develop and maintain an information network of stakeholders
- Develop national coral reef policy
- Coordinate national level monitoring, data sharing
- Develop local level monitoring and management systems in reef areas

3. Develop capacity to collect, store and manage data

2. Develop policy and management

- Develop reef user capacity
- Develop national level policy
- Develop management plan
- Develop monitoring and management systems
- Develop policy and management systems

1. Understand and identify needs in effective management planning

Develop monitoring systems with awareness of:

- Political priorities, institutional and local reef user
- Division of activities between processes and reef resources users
- Local and national monitoring and management and reef user capacity

South & Central Asia MAB (SACAM) Network



Afghanistan
Bangladesh
Bhutan
India
Iran
Maldives
Nepal
Pakistan
Sri Lanka



SESSION 3 – Activities of SACRTF

3.1 Sustainable Financing and Institutionalisation of SACRTF

Dr. Arvind Boaz, highlighted the funds to support the initial establishment of the SACRTF have been generously provided by the European Union, through the South Asia MCPA project. After the project close on 31 December 2008, no further funds will be provided to the SACRTF. Participants at the meeting recognised the need to develop a sustainable financing strategy as critical to ensuring the continuation of the SACRTF and the expansion of the network to incorporate national level coral reef task forces in each participating country. Projected budget adopted for the annual operating costs of the SACRTF was presented and at the meeting. (Annex D)

3.2 Development of draft Regional Strategy for coordinated responses to marine and coastal issues within the South Asia region

Participants worked in 2 different groups to discuss the Regional Strategy on marine and coastal areas in the region. Each Group were asked to reflect on the broader context of the issues on Regional Strategy and communication Strategy on MCPA priority areas. The groups were asked to provide guidance to develop a strategy within the region.

Presentation of the 2 groups outcomes were discussed with all participants and GEER Foundation will compiled those in a draft.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- GEER Foundation will be sending the draft document on Regional Strategy and Communication Strategy on end September, 2008.
- Modality for the commitments from SACRTF Members to implement the strategy is to be develop.
- The possibilities for match funding from country governments and other international funding agencies were highlighted to this targeted initiative.
- It was agreed to identify key actions/ materials to advance institutionalisation of the SACRTF and discussions on the sustainable financing and institutionalisation of the SACRTF in the region with country governments.
- The members of the task force thanked the EU for providing the generous finance for the project and establishment and initial continuation of the SACRTF.



- ### Sustainable Financing of the SACRTF
- Funds to support the initial establishment of the SACRTF have been generously provided by the European Union, through the South Asia MPA project. The project will close on 31 December 2008 after which point no further funds will be provided to the SACRTF.
 - Participants at the 1st SACRTF Meeting recognised the need to develop a sustainable financing strategy as critical to ensuring the continuation of the SACRTF and the expansion of the network to incorporate national level coral reef task forces in each participating country.
 - Representatives are requested to identify a strategy to advance discussions on the sustainable financing and institutionalisation of the SACRTF in the region. To facilitate discussions and consultation with country governments a projected budget for the annual operating costs of the SACRTF.

Projected Annual Operating Costs of the SACRTF

Activity	Quantity	Unit Cost	Total Cost
Operational Travel (flights for SACRTF meetings) (incl. crew) based on average flight costs of US\$600 of people flying from within the region for each meeting, 3 meetings per year for the SACRTF	180	2000	360000
US\$100 SACRTF meetings (logistical) - Based on SACRTF Meeting for Sri Lanka US\$100 per day and 3 days (incl. accommodation and food and local travel costs included) for each activity (2 people per meeting)	111	900	100000
International Travel for other meetings and conferences of technical nature to SACRTF (flights) - depending on meeting importance, attendance and locality of members (US\$1000 per flight) and 24 members based on an average of US\$1000 per flight	24	4167	100000
US\$100 other meetings (incl. accommodation) - An above based on US\$1000 rate of US\$100 per day, 3 days per meeting	111	900	100000
Meeting/Conferences Attendance at Visi Park - Based on average meeting or conference fee of US\$2000 (e.g. TRACMS equivalent)	200	3500	700000
SACRTF Secretariat (SACRTF) - Considering a staff member to be specifically an accompanying SACRTF member while SACRTF and for an support to the Member Secretary. Based on annual salary for staff in other countries	1	40000	40000
Communication (Internet, office supplies)	200	150	30000
Printing (Materials, design, production & dissemination)	200	150	30000
Outreach Expansion (incl. Programme) - Based on a grant of US\$100000 per year for 3 years (US\$300000 per year)	3	100000	300000
Technical Funds - to support SACRTF to undertake activities in the field (US\$100000 per year)	1	100000	100000
TOTAL			1100000
Notes: Average SACRTF membership 100			
SECRETariat			40000

- ### Sustainable Approach for Institutionalisation of the SACRTF
- Need to secure sustainable financing for the SACRTF.
 - Need commitments of member countries to take initiative forwarded.
 - Annual financial commitments to meet projected operating cost.
 - Raise the profile of coral reefs issues, and successful initiatives in the region in order to garner support from donor community and attract funds.
 - Review existing national budget allocations for coral reef conservation and management to identify potential financial support for the SACRTF.

Thank You !

PROPOSED SOUTH ASIA REGIONAL CORAL REEF ACTION STRATEGY

Dr.H.S.Singh

PROPOSED SOUTH ASIA REGIONAL CORAL REEF ACTION STRATEGY

Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka

REFERENCE: WESTERN INDIAN OCEAN REGIONAL CORAL REEF ACTION STRATEGY

2nd Meeting South Asia Coral Reef Task Force (SACRTF)



INTRODUCTION

- A Strategy for the SAR
- The Importance of Coral Reefs
 - CORAL REEFS OF THE SA REGION
- The Status and Value of Coral Reefs of the Western Indian Ocean
- Threats to Coral Reefs of the SAR

REGIONAL CORAL REEF ACTION STRATEGY

- Action Strategy Development Process
- The Goals and Objectives of the Action strategy

How to develop the strategy document?

- Coordinating with nodal officer or nodal institution of the five nations and SACRTF to develop and produce the document



Background Information

General information about-Coral Reef Ecosystems, their values and conservation significance

- Human dimension and threat to coral reefs
- Present trend of global and regional networks of MCPAs and scope of their expansion
- Recent changes in sea environment, their impact on coral reefs and reef communities, and response to mitigate the impact

(About one page from review of literatures)




Background-continues

- Global and regional responses and initiatives to conserve coral reefs
- International Coral Reef Action Network (ICRAN), ICRAN and its partnership with UNEP, SACEP, GCRMN, ICRI, CORAL, WWF, TNC, GOOS and other global and regional organizations
- Necessity for developing coordinated action plans and strategies in partnerships of South Asian Nations-an initiative of SACRTF/SACEP

(About one page from literature review, representatives of the South Asian Nations and inputs from SACEP)



Coral Reef in South Asia

Data sheet-I: Description of coral reefs in South Asian countries

Inventory

Maps of the coral reefs and other associated ecosystems in and around the reef and MCPAs

Types of coral reefs-fringe, barrier, atoll

Reef areas-live reefs, dead reefs, reef under sand/mud etc.

Extent of other associated habitats and their relations with coral reefs

Previous status and present conditions of the reef areas

Coral reef inside and outside the MCPAs

Scope of encompassing other coral reef area under MCPAs

Gaps in above information

(About one page from literature review, monitoring reports, reporting prescribed pro-forma from representatives of the South Asian Nations and inputs from SACEP)



STRATEGIC THEMES

- Theme 1: Understanding Coral Reefs and Associated Ecosystems
- Theme 2: Reducing Threats to Coral Reefs
- Theme 3: Growing Capacity for Conservation and Management of Coral Reefs
- Theme 4: Strengthening Networks and Partnerships




Theme 1: Understanding Coral Reefs and Associated Ecosystems

- Action 1: Mapping coral reefs and associated ecosystems
- Action 2: Targeted research on reef processes
- Action 3: Long-term monitoring and assessments of coral reef health
- Action 4: Targeted research on threats to coral reefs and associated ecosystems
- Action 5: Targeted research on linkages between reefs and associated ecosystems



Contd...

- Action 6: Research to identify reefs that are resilient to climate change
- Action 7: Research on Marine Protected Area network design
- Action 8: Targeted research on the social and economic parameters that affect management and conservation of coral reefs
- Action 9: Assessment of the effectiveness of current management policies and legislative frameworks
- Action 10: Modeling carrying capacity for human activities on reefs and associated ecosystems
- Action 11: Packaging scientific information into a form relevant for management



Theme 2: Reducing Threats to Coral Reefs

- Action 1: Increasing the effectiveness and coverage of marine protected areas
- Action 2: Reducing destructive fishing, over-fishing and other extractive uses
- Action 3: Enforcing regulations to control illegal fishing and other unsustainable harvesting methods
- Action 4: Increasing collaborative management
- Action 5: Promoting the use of responsible fishing practices
- Action 6: Developing a regional code of practice for fishers



Contd...

- Action 7: Reducing negative impacts of coastal development
- Action 8: Reducing land-based and marine pollution
- Action 9: Developing management interventions to restore coral reefs and associated ecosystems
- Action 10: Identifying and promoting viable alternative livelihood options
- Action 11: Improving management of marine protected areas
- Action 12: Placing new marine protected areas in more resilient locations



Theme 3: Growing Capacity for Conservation and Management

- Action 1: Increasing support for coral reef and associated ecosystems awareness programs
- Action 2: Increasing institutional capacity to manage coral reefs and associated ecosystems
- Action 3: Developing outreach and environmental education programs
- Action 4: Developing capacity in policy, enforcement and compliance



Theme 4: Strengthening Networks and Partnerships

- Action 1: Strengthening local networks and partnerships
- Action 2: Improving mechanisms for linkages to the Clearing House Mechanisms
- Action 3: Encouraging mechanisms for the exchange and dissemination of information between networks and partners
- Action 4: Encouraging collaborative project development
- Action 5: Developing a Forum for information exchange



IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Defining roles and administrative procedures

- SACEP/SACRTF
- Implementing countries
- Manager/ MCPAs level
- Research institution/NGOs
- Local institutions and local communities
- Fund flow mechanism

MONITORING AND EVALUATION



Data sheet-I

Ecological Status

Species diversity, richness and abundance

Assessment of the status of reef fish and benthic life to establish a baseline for long term monitoring and conservation

Uniqueness of the reefs and MCPAs

Critical habitats in and around the MCPAs

Specific local ecological, cultural, traditional and economic values of the coral reefs

Rare and threatened species-global and national

Associated habitat/ecosystem, including landuse practices in coastal landscape influencing the reefs

Marine environment in general

(Collection of data from five countries in prescribed proforma and supplementing it from literature review)



Data sheet-III

- Anthropogenic activities and their impact on coral reefs
- Understanding human dimension related to coral reefs
- Degradation of surrounding habitats and their impact on corals
- Use of coral reef resources, their trade and threat to the reefs
- Pollution and coral degradation
- Identifying activities/factors impacting coral reefs
- Extent of eco-tourism and its impact on reef communities
- Monitoring report on damage to corals due to global warming

(Collection of data from five countries in prescribed proforma and supplementing it from literature review)



Data Sheet-IV

Management and Conservation Status

Existing legal framework and constraints for conserving the MCPAs

National and local response and initiatives for coral reef conservation

Status of awareness at the government and institutional level and also among local communities about the values of coral reefs

Existing coral conservation programmes and their impact-coral conservation plan

Monitoring programmes of coral reefs

Gap in action plans and strategies to reduce the adverse impact of human activities and associated ecosystem

Strength and weakness, gaps and constraints in the conservation of coral reefs

(Collection of data from five countries in prescribed proforma and supplementing it from literature review)



Data sheet-I

Organizational Setup and Institutional Arrangement for Managing MCPAs

National institutional arrangement for coral reef conservation

Local organizational setup of managing and conserving MCPAs

Local NGOs, universities and institutions involved in the activities

Stakeholders and their roles

Grass-root community-based efforts and scope of developing community organization

Exploring Joint Coral Reef Conservation by local communities and MCPAs organization

Institutional arrangements for strategic research and education

Gaps and constraints (in term of legal framework, administration, technical manpower) in organization

(Collection of data from five countries in prescribed proforma and supplementing it from literature review)



Data sheet-VI

Research and Scientific Management Inputs

Research activities

Gaps in understanding coral reef ecosystems, their biological communities, the anthropogenic process, and their health and viability

Gaps in critical and strategic scientific research

Gaps and weakness in coral conservation awareness activities

(Collection of data from five countries in prescribed proforma and supplementing it from literature review)



Data sheet-VII

Lesson learnt from site specific coral restoration programmes

Coral restoration and result
Strategic research
Public education and awareness programmes and their impact
Specific community initiatives on coral conservation and sustainable harvest of resource from coral reefs
Lesson learnt from eco-tourism in coral reef areas and lesson

(Collection of data from five countries in prescribed programs and supplementing it from literature review)



Gaps, Constraints and weaknesses

Preparing about five pages status report from the information extracted from the six data sheets provided by the five nations.

Critically examining gaps, weakness and constraints in managing and conserving MCPAs and Coral reefs

Identifying important institutional gaps, constraints and weakness for developing strategy for strengthening and capacity development

Total six (five + one) pages



Strategy for Institutional Strengthening and Capacity Development- Capacity to bring changes in policy, legal framework and creation and expansion of MCPAs

Creating environment through consultation/interaction/workshop for high level authorities for bringing necessary changes in conservation policy and legal framework and also to create and expand MCPAs encompassing coral reefs

Organising meeting/seminars/workshop for the higher level authority to make them to understand the values of coral reefs and their conservation

(About one page)



Strategy for Institutional Strengthening and Capacity Development- Scientific and Technical Capability

Scientific capability to develop coral reef health indicators for long term monitoring

Capability of research personnel and managers for long term monitoring of ecological and biological parameters related to coral reefs, reef communities and associated habitats

Technical expertise for coral recruitment & restoration and remediation

Scientific capability to study and monitor coral bleaching, coral diseases and local ecological responses due to global warming, other changes in environment

Developing technical capability of scientists/managers to understand linkages between global climate change and coral reef degradation

Scientific capability to document changes in physical, chemical and biological factors in the coral reef

Capacity to establish a system to analyze and interpret monitoring data and communicating the monitoring results to all concern, including the international institution and the managers of MCPAs in South Asian Nations.

Capacity building to develop coral data base.

(About one page)

Strategy for Institutional Strengthening and Capacity Development- Coral Reef Conservation Planning and Management

Improving knowledge of the managers to understand ecological values of the reef and imparting this knowledge by them to stakeholders and local communities

Improving technical and managerial capacity to design conservation plan of the MCPAs

Improving capacity to develop coordinated and integrated action plans-capacity to bring together diverse groups and stakeholders to work for common goal

(About half to one page)



Strategy for Institutional Strengthening and Capacity Development-Local communities and local institution

Improving capacity of small to medium sized local communities for managing coral reefs and using it sustainably

Improving capacity of local communities for Joint Coral Reef Conservation

Improving capacity of local community and local institutions for monitoring coral reefs

Improving capacity of community institutions by providing financial assistance as a seed money

About half to one page)



Strategy for Institutional Strengthening and Capacity Development-Education and communication

Developing pro-forma for collecting information on annual coral conservation activities at a centre and exchanging them among the South Asian Nations

Annual meeting and workshop of the managers of South Asian countries to exchange information and also to exchange knowledge about the management practices, especially about the best practices

Collecting and processing all these information and experiences and communication them in form of a document

(About half to one page)



Communication and Educational Strategy at Grass-root

Understanding local ecological, cultural and traditional values related to coral reefs and integrating them in management practices

Preparing educational literature, including documentaries in local language to improve knowledge and understanding about the coral reefs

Conducting educational programmes for school children around the MCPAs and exposing them to best sustainable coral resource use and conservation practices

(About half to one page)



Developing inventory of resources—resources persons and institutions

Preparing a list of –

Coral reef experts and marine biologists for South Asian Countries

International experts on corals, marine environment and related subjects

Imminent institutions/organizations/universities for high quality training and education on the subject relevant to the subject as discussed for capacity building

(About two pages as annexures)



SESSION 4 – SACRTF ADMINISTRATION

SACRTF administration issues:

4.1 Official launch of the SACRTF Logo

A Logo competition was launched across the region to develop a unique and exciting logo for the SACRTF. Dr. Boaz unveiled the logo which was finalised by the 3 member committee of the SACRTF.

4.2 Meeting/Event Calendar mapping and opportunity

Dr. Boaz pointed out the actions taken to identify regional and international fora that SACRTF should be engaging with (e.g. ICRS, ITMEMS and draft time table of key regional/international fora that SACRTF will be engaging with over 2008) by the SACEP.

4.3 Further development of promotional and outreach materials

SACRTF web portal was launched at the meeting and further proposed development of outreach materials such as Leaflets, Brochures, Posters, Video Clips, Newsletters etc.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations were agreed upon during the course of discussions:

- Incorporate the effective application of information for coral reef management into capacity building training under the project.
- SACRTF Members are asked to find the opportunities and send their consent for the related Regional and International meetings and workshops.
- Establish collaboration partnerships with regional stakeholders to encourage regular sharing of information and resources. Obtain feedback from target audience on relevance and user-friendliness of site
- SACRTF representatives were agreed upon the display the selected logo for every publications of SACRTF. (*see AnnexG*)
- Second week of October 2008, as appropriate date for a third regional meeting of the SACRTF which will be hosted by the Government of India suitable venue for the meeting will be notify soon.
- Country Governments are asked to contribute to the Beach Cleaning Day on 3rd week of September.
- Create National plan of action for engaging with education/community outreach initiatives by with parallel to the in collaboration with national focal points and committees.

Meeting/ Event Calendar mapping

Meetings	2008											
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Conference and Events												
Regional Training – Toolkit for MPA Managers in South Asia												
Sustainable Livelihoods Enhancement and Diversification Policy Forum (linked to May SACRTF Meeting)												
COP 9 - Bonn, Germany												
SACRTF Members Meeting												
10th International Coral Reef Symposium (with ICRS 2008) Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, USA Web: www.icsr.org												
ICRI General Meeting - Florida, USA www.icriforum.org												
10th Annual Meeting of the Society for Conservation Biology												
10th IUCN World Conservation Congress Barcelona, Spain												
World Conference on Marine Biodiversity Valencia, Spain												
Policy Level Targets and Meetings												
SACEP Governing Council Meeting												
East Africa Coral Reef Task Force Meeting (date tbc)												

International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI)

The International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) is a partnership among governments, international organizations, and non-government organizations. It strives to preserve coral reefs and related ecosystems by implementing [Chapter 17 of Agenda 21](#), and other relevant international conventions and agreements.

The IUCN World Conservation Congress

About the World Conservation Congress

- The IUCN World Conservation Congress is the world's largest and most important conservation event. Held every four years, the Congress aims to improve how we manage our natural environment for human, social and economic development.
- The Congress will take place from 5 to 14 October, 2008, in the Centre de Convencions Internacional de Barcelona (CCIB) at Barcelona, Spain. More than 8,000 leaders from government, the public sector, non-governmental organizations, business, UN agencies and social organizations will discuss, debate and decide solutions for the world's most pressing environment and development issues.
- The Congress starts with the four-day Forum run by IUCN members and partners discussing cutting edge ideas, thinking and practice. The Forum leads into the four-day IUCN Members' Assembly, a unique global environmental parliament of governments and NGOs.

Meeting/ Event allocation of SACRTF budget

- MCPA Mangers Exchange Programme
- SACRTF Meeting, Colombo (After 6 Months)
Date should be decided by the Members
- Any other suggestions

Thank You !

Annexure

- Annex A** SACRTF Work Plan and Priority Actions for the SACRTF
- ANNEX B** Environmental Education Call For Action
- ANNEX C** International Year Of The Reef (IYOR)
ANNEX C-01 Year Planner Published to celebrate the IYOR-2008
ANNEX C-03 IYOR News
ANNEX C-02 South Asia Web Portrait of IYOR
- ANNEX D** financial sustainability: Projected Annual Operating Costs of the SACRTF
- ANNEX E** SACRTF ADMINISTRATION
- ANNEX F** SACRTF Nominated Representatives
- ANNEX G** Approved Logo SACRTF
- ANNEX H** SACRTF Implementation Plan
- ANNEX I** MEETING AND EVENTS CALENDAR
- ANNEX J** Mangers Training Programme
- ANNEX K** Call for Proposals - Enforcement Equipment
- ANNEX L** Workshop Agenda
- ANNEX M** List of Participants

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

1.1 SACRTF Work Plan

A suite of management plans, policies, and national and international strategies exist to support the management of marine and coastal resources in the South Asia region. However, the realisation of policy and strategies at the ground level is often poor. As such, the SACRTF has been established with the following mission statement:

'To actively participate in, and support, the effective implementation of existing national regulations, action plans and strategies for the management of coral reefs and associated ecosystems, and to promote the development of strategic linkages for enhanced regional cooperation, and the establishment of an effective, networked system of marine and coastal protected areas in the South Asia region.'

A list of broad priority actions was endorsed at the second regional workshop to form the basis for the annual SACRTF work plan – Annex A. Representatives are requested to identify specific activities that can be undertaken in support of each action, a lead party, and a timeframe for implementation.

The SACRTF are also requested to consider the following opportunities in the elaboration of the work plan:

1.1.1 COMMUNICATION

Regional Information Portal

Following stakeholder consultations, a regional information portal will be developed through the South Asia MCPA Project to house key resources, tools and information critical for managers across the region. Design of the site is currently underway and it is hoped to launch the site soon. In the meantime, details of the SACRTF and activities can be accessed from the SACEP and ICRAN websites. Representatives may wish to provide further guidance on additional materials and the preferred web presence of the SACRTF.

Capacity Development Training for MCPA Managers

IUCN Asia and ICRAN are leading the adaptation of the highly successful 'Western Indian Ocean toolkit for managing MPAs' for the South Asia context. The modular toolkit will provide simple reference materials on a wide range of subjects relevant to effective management. Case studies are currently being collated from across the region to showcase the successful activities already underway, and regional training for MCPA managers will be conducted in Nov 2008 on the use and application of the toolkit in MCPA management.

SACRTF Managers Exchange Programme

The SACRTF was established with a key strategic objective to promote the effective implementation of Marine and Coastal Protected Areas (MCPAs) and to advance the concept and discussions of a network of MCPAs in the South Asia region.

To develop the capacity of resource managers at existing MCPAs in preparation for network development, and in order to meet the objectives of the South Asia MCPA Project under which the SACRTF is established, the SACRTF will establish and coordinate a programme of exchange or exposure visits for MCPA managers and policy makers from across the region, allowing countries and sites to benefit from each others experiences and management efforts, and demonstrating management challenges and successes at MCPA sites.

The exchange/exposure visit programme should focus initially on the 5 MCPA sites selected for inclusion in project activities. SACRTF representatives are requested to identify a suitable mechanism for participant selection, and a supportive administration structure.

Representatives may wish to consider the development of a more comprehensive programme and strategy to continue this activity beyond the life of the South Asia MCPA project.

Communication- Priority Actions for the SACRTF

- Improve, and better coordinate reporting mechanisms nationally and within the region on all coral reef work with the aid of the South Asia MCPA Project website and other media.
- Encourage, and support the development of capacity building and training opportunities, materials, and manuals for groups involved in coral reef programmes through skills transfer and exchange programmes.

- Identify strategic partnerships and linkages at the regional and international level (e.g. ICRI), and review recommendations and other relevant information from regional and international initiatives, in order to develop responsive and informed action plans.
- Increase awareness of environmental conservation and management among decision and policy makers through lobbying and exposure visits.

1.1.2 POLICY

ICRI

The development of linkages to the International Coral Reef Initiative (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 regional information into government and policy processes, alongside raising the profile of the SACRTF among the international donor community. The chairman and the Member Secretary attended the ICRI General Meeting held in Washington from 10th -12th July 2008.

SACEP Governing Council

The SACEP Governing Council (GC) is the principal deliberative and review body responsible for determining policies, strategies and programmes of SACEP. It is represented at the ministerial level and periodically meets to take decisions of strategic significance. Since becoming a legal entity in 1982, SACEP has held eight regular GC meetings and three special sessions. The establishment of the SACRTF was officially endorsed at the SACEP GC meeting held in Nepal in January 2007 by all participating country governments.

Meeting Harmonisation

Provision has been made in the SACRTF budget to facilitate the attendance of SACRTF representatives at meetings of strategic importance for regional/local priorities, and the work plan priorities of the SACRTF. In order to ensure good representation at international meetings, raise the profile of SACRTF activities, and effectively administer the limited funds available, representatives are requested to review the calendar of events and meetings presented and inform the Member Secretary of any events to which their attendance is already planned. This exercise will help to ensure effective allocation of the SACRTF budget, and can facilitate the identification of a suitable date and location for the next SACRTF meeting. (*The calendar of events is detailed in Annex I.*)

Policy- Priority Actions for the SACRTF

- Undertake a review of existing policy related to coral reef management and conservation in the region, in collaboration with the SACRTF Patron, and present the findings to authorities to influence the review of existing legislation and policy change at the national level as appropriate.
- Elevate the South Asia experience to the international level by engagement in IUCN World Conservation Congress.
- Raise awareness of the need for political engagement in coral reef management through high-level political segment meetings. The SACRTF will present specific agenda items at each SACEP Governing Council meeting to raise awareness of needs, and develop political will in support the SACRTF.

International Year of the Reef 2008

The International Coral Reef Initiative designated 2008 as the International Year of the Reef (IYOR 2008). IYOR 2008 will be a year long global campaign to raise mass awareness on the importance of coral reefs and the need for their sustainable management.

A number of regional organisations have already generated work plans and organisational profiles in support of IYOR objectives and will conduct activities over the course of 2008 (CARESS, SDMRI).

The potential role of the SACRTF in leading a regional level response to IYOR was highlighted by participants at the second regional workshop of the South Asia MCPA Project, as an excellent mechanism to not only generate political will for coral reef conservation and management, but also to raise the profile and visibility of the SACRTF within the region. Only one other region is currently presenting a coordinated regional response to the IYOR. (*AnnexC.*)

1.1.3 FUNDRAISING

Fundraising- Priority Actions for the SACRTF

- Raise the profile of coral reefs issues, and successful initiatives in the region in order to garner support from donor community and attract funds.
- Identify and package existing or new activities to create a regional effort in support of the International Year of the Reef 2008, and other mass awareness raising campaigns (e.g. Earth Day, World Environment Day).
- Find support for the budget projection for the annual maintenance of the SACRTF that was presented to country government earlier this year and to advance the identification of a sustainable structure and funding mechanism to ensure the continuation of the SACRTF.
- Map a meeting calendar of coral reef forums, venues and meetings, against the movements of SACRTF representatives to maximise representation of the SACRTF regionally and internationally, and facilitate linked meetings of the SACRTF where the quorum of representatives will be reached.
- Review existing national budget allocations for coral reef conservation and management to identify potential financial support for the SACRTF.

Environmental Education at MCPA Sites

A Call for Action was released in September 2007, through the South Asia MCPA Project, to request short proposals from each of the 5 participating MCPA sites for activities that raise awareness among coastal communities of the importance and value of coral reefs, and which help to demonstrate the role of MCPAs in their sustainable management. Recognising the strategic value of aligning the resulting activities with IYOR 2008, and the SACRTF, it is requested from that SACRTF representatives to identify a strategy for the assessment of the progress. (*Further proposed site activities under the Call to Action is included in Annex B.*)

Coral Reef Livelihoods Initiative (CORALI)

Under the South Asia MCPA project, activities are underway with field teams and coastal communities in the 5 participating countries to develop and test a globally appropriate approach to sustainable livelihood enhancement, diversification and change in the context of coral reef management. Detailed information on the approach, and case studies to demonstrate the impact and success of the approach with communities from sites across the region, are available with the partners IUCN and IMM. Further information on CORALI can be viewed at www.coralweb.org

Coordination- Priority Actions for the SACRTF

- Lead and facilitate the development of strong multilateral linkages for all aspects of coral reef management within and between countries by engaging strategic stakeholders in SACRTF activities, and providing a focal representation for coral reef management.
- Work alongside key national stakeholders to establish national Coral Reef Task Forces (CRTF), with multi-sector representation, to support the development of local capacity in research, management and government, coordinate communication at the national level, and serve as a platform to share information with regional initiatives.
- Examine capacity needs, evaluate and review existing mechanisms for coral reef conservation and management, and where appropriate encourage each country to design national action plans or equivalent strategies, under the umbrella of the regional action strategy.
- Prepare a regional coral reef action strategy, incorporating the key findings on the development and implementation of a networked system of MCPAs across the South Asia region, and identify supporting frameworks for effective implementation.
- Initiate discussions regarding the development of a coordinated regional mandate or mechanism to more effectively respond to natural and man made disasters.
- Designate institutions as a focal point for coral reefs to increase coordination potential.

Research and Monitoring- Priority Actions for the SACRTF

- Identify the strengths in each country in all aspects of research and monitoring related to coral reefs. Develop a mechanism to ensure knowledge and training is shared and exchanged among the participating countries in accordance with needs.
- Encourage each country to effectively establish national monitoring programmes for coral reefs and associated ecosystems, and recommend better coordination within and between countries in the region in the design and implementation of monitoring programmes.
- Promote both biophysical and socio economic assessment/monitoring and more effective coordination with regional and international monitoring programmes.

Proposals Environmental Education Call for Action

GOAL: To raise awareness of the importance and value of Coral reefs and associated ecosystems, and to explain to the public the long term, sustainable benefits of the MCPA.

ACTION: With the support of the South Asia Coral Reef Task Force (SACRTF), five small action grants are facilitating for environmental education and outreach activities at the participating MCPA sites

1. St.Martins Island Bangladesh
2. Mahatma Ghandi National Park, Andaman island India
3. Baa Atoll, Maldives
4. Jiwani (Gwater), Pakistan
5. Bar Reef, Sri Lanka)

Five short proposals were selected from MCPA site management staff, in collaboration with local partners, community groups, and conservation NGOs.

General Information of the Projects

1. Environmental Education for Conservation of Threatened Coral Resources in the St. Martin's Islands

Activities to be undertaken

- I. **Preparation of script of the folklore drama productions** - A script on the importance and the beneficial aspect of the corals and associated ecosystem will be prepared involving experts/ groups.
- II. **Organize training for the folklore performers**
- III. **Folklore drama performance on the conservation of coral resources (10 performances)**
Awareness through folklore drama is one the most useful and accepted communication and awareness tools for reaching the target stakeholder group. Under this contract, 10 folklore performances will be held on the island and in the Cox's Bazar where the corals are exploited. One local group will be trained to prepare and implement similar performances so they can continue to raise awareness in future.
- IV. **Development of Nature Club** - One nature club will be developed on the island for continuing the awareness activities. An action plan will be developed for the Nature Club so they can effectively contribute to, and complement biodiversity conservation activities ongoing on the island.
- V. **Develop awareness materials** - One booklet on the coral resources and the importance/role of it in the ecosystem will be produced for creating awareness among tourists and the local population. Three Bill boards will be developed and erected at key locations across the MCPA and within the community to display conservation messages and MCPA regulations.

2. Awareness Generation Programme for local stakeholders in Mahatma Gandhi Marine National Park, Andaman & Nicobar Islands

Activities to be undertaken

- I. **Organize Workshop and Awareness campaign for local fishermen and PRIs***
It is proposed to take up various awareness generation activities like organization of workshops for local fishermen and PRIs to sensitize them about the significance of biodiversity conservation, eco-development processes and on how the conservation efforts in Park will help in uplifting their economy through generation of new employment opportunities.
- II. **Two nature camps will be organized for local fishermen, PRIs.** Other extension activities will also be taken up with schoolchildren, tourists and general public.
- III. **Film on the conservation of coral resources (10 performances)**
Awareness through Film show is one the most useful and accepted communication and awareness tools for reaching the target stakeholder group. Under this contract, 10 local Schools will be selected to held Film on Coral Reef Conservation, where the corals are exploited. One local group will be

trained to prepare and implement similar performances so they can continue to raise awareness in future.

- IV. **Two Nature Camps** - 2 nature camps will be held on the area for continuing the awareness activities. An action plan will be developed for the Nature Camp so they can effectively contribute to, and complement biodiversity conservation activities ongoing on the area.
- V. **One Drawing competition and awareness campaign for schools** - creating awareness among 10 Local Schools across the MCPA.

3. Building Youth Constituency to Conserve Coral Reef Ecosystem In Maldives' Baa Atoll

Activities to be undertaken

- I. Training 25 empowered and informed young people to run and support awareness activities at three island of Baa atoll within a period of three months: the age group will be students studying at grades 8 and 9 of secondary schooling.
- II. Field trips to protected areas and photography of globally significant species in Baa atoll with the trained young people
- III. Design and production of awareness materials, toolkits for conducting Awareness Island level workshops by the trained young people.
- IV. Partnering with NGO's and environment clubs to mobilize the trained agent for change in awareness activities within Baa Atoll .

4. Environmental Education Activities with reference to Coral and Coral Reefs in Marine and Coastal Protected Area, Site, Jewani (Gwater Bay)-Pakistan

Activities to be undertaken

I. Preparation of Education Materials:

- Photographs of different species of corals will be used for printing of posters carrying attractive messages and catchy captions in English and local languages The posters will be distributed amongst students and displayed in schools and other educational and cultural institutions.
- A brochure with first hand information on importance of corals and coral reefs and their occurrence in Pakistan particularly in Gwater Bay will be produced for raising public awareness and to increase the profile of corals at that MCPA site. These brochures will be printed in English and in local languages as well.
- Promotional items like T-shirts depicting dominant coral species found in the proposed project area with convincing message for conservation of marine environment will be produced in different sizes and distributed amongst local communities specially students when they are participating in the educational program for raising the importance of coral reefs and the associated ecosystem.

II. Production of Documentary Film

- A documentary film is a useful tool for spreading conservation message in communities and general public. The duration of the documentary will be 15-20 minutes with background commentary in English and local languages. The documentary covering potential coral reef areas with different species of corals will be prepared with the assistance of a professional under water film producer and expert divers. It will be shared with other representative countries of SACRTF.

III. Development of signboards

- Education and publicity for environmental projects will be enhanced by erection of attractive signboards with beautiful pictures and meaningful messages. Few signboards with colorful paintings of coral and coral reefs in their habitat will be developed using non corrosive galvanized metallic sheet and wooden frame carrying easily understandable conservation captions and slogans in English and local languages with phosphorescent paints for highlighting the importance of the species and area. These signboards will be installed at important sites along Jewani coastal area.

5. Awareness and Capacity Building Programme for The Effective Management of Marine Resources in the Bar Reef Marine Sanctuary, Sri Lanka

Activities to be undertaken

I. Awareness Phase

Briefings will be provided to DWLS staff to provide back ground information on the objectives and target of this program and identify implementation mechanisms.

II. Capacity Building-Enhance capabilities of wildlife officers for conservation of coral reef ecosystem at the area

Upgrade knowledge and skills of Field managers (WILDLIFE OFFICERS) in order to enable and empower themselves to efficiently discharge their duties. Apart from the formal basic training in biodiversity conservation, which is essential for all staff for laying the foundation, the field staff will be provided opportunities for ‘on the job’ and “in service” training.

List of components for basic training for the field staff

Training Components	Training Elements
Community outreach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basic concepts of coral reef conservation • Role of DWLC in wildlife protection • Role of MCPAs in resource protection • Participatory planning methodology

iii. Awareness Programme for Local community

An awareness programme will be conducted to educate the local community in and around the Bar Reef Sanctuary those who are involved in fishing and illegal activities. In addition, school children awareness programme will be conducted.

List of components for basic training/awareness programme for the local community

Components	Training Elements
Awareness programme for local community, and school children on Importance of Coral reef conservation	<p>Awareness Workshop</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to coral reef and species in the ecosystem • Importance of coral reef & fishes <p>Videos/films</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Importance of coral reef protection and release of by caught turtles • Sustainable Fishing-use of fishing nets
Art competition and exhibition for school children	<p>Themes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coral reef conservation • Turtle conservation • Importance of marine ecosystem and the role of MCPAs • Sustainable fishing

iv. Production of awareness/educational materials

Two posters will be produced to aware the general public on importance of coral reef and existing ecosystem. A leaflet will be produced to identify the coral species and their importance. These educational materials will be helpful in educating the local people and school children.

Summary of the sanctioned Proposals

NO	COUNTRY	INSTITUTION	NAME OF THE PROPOSAL	REQUESTED AMOUNT (US\$)	COMMENTS
01	Bangladesh	1.1 Department of Environment Nature Conservation Management (NACOM)	Environmental Education for Conservation of Threatened Coral Resources in the St. Martin's Islands	5400	Government MCPA Authority.
02	India	2.1 Department of Environment and Forest	Awareness Generation Programme for local stakeholders in Mahatma Gandhi Marine National Park, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, India	15,000	Government MCPA Authority.
03	Maldives	Baa Atoll, Government of Maldives	Building Youth Constituency to Conserve Coral Reef Ecosystem In Maldives' Baa Atoll	14000	Government MCPA Authority.
04	Pakistan	Sindh Wildlife Department.	Environmental Education Activities with reference in Marine Coastal Protected Area.	5494	Government MCPA Authority.
05	Sri Lanka	Department of Wildlife Conservation.	Development of Capacity of the Department of Wildlife Conservation for the Management of the Bar Reef Marine Sanctuary.	4460 (SLR500,000)	Government MCPA Authority.

IYOR 2008 Activity and Events

Below are some suggestions of events and activities that you might like to organise taken from the IYOR website www.iyor.org

- Organise and host a special 'Day of the Coral Reef' in 2008 - this could involve a public festival or street parade with a focus on celebrating coral reef. Invite local dignitaries and the media to take part!
- Invite a celebrity who is interested in coral reef to be a IYOR Ambassador. Use their status to increase public awareness of coral reefs.
- Develop a range of IYOR merchandise such as, calendar, T-shirts, caps, or drink holders. Ask if your postal service could produce a IYOR stamp (pictured at right). Use this merchandise as giveaways or as rewards for participation in conservation activities.
- Produce leaflets, brochures, pamphlets, stickers and posters in your native language to educate the public about the value of coral reef.
- Encourage local journalists to write features about issues important to coral reef in the media.
- Organise a coral reef competition (or photo competition) that encourages participation of local school students and the general public.
- Promote the IYOR by linking your web site to the IYOR web site (www.iyor.org) Participate to beach clean up.
- Encourage the next generation to care about coral reefs - organise educational visits to local schools and introduce coral reef biology and conservation into the school curriculum.
- Identify and nominate sites that are important for coral reef in your country, and lobby for their protection.
- Organise a community clean-up day and coral reef survey. Invite local schools to participate.
- Develop a code of practice for sustainable tourism - build relationships with coastal resort developers and tourism authorities and encourage them to ensure that their resorts are 'coral reef'. Offer training for resort staff and develop (or re-print existing) educational material on coral reef for tourist

INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF REEF

SOUTH ASIA CORAL REEF TASK FORCE SACRTF YEAR PLANNER 2008





	1 Tue	2 Wed	3 Thu	4 Fri	5 Sat	6 Sun	7 Mon	8 Tue	9 Wed	10 Thu	11 Fri	12 Sat	13 Sun	14 Mon	15 Tue	16 Wed	17 Thu	18 Fri	19 Sat	20 Sun	21 Mon	22 Tue	23 Wed	24 Thu	25 Fri	26 Sat	27 Sun	28 Mon	29 Tue	30 Wed	31 Thu		
JAN																																	
FEB	1 Fri	2 Sat <small>World Water Day</small>	3 Sun	4 Mon	5 Tue	6 Wed	7 Thu	8 Fri	9 Sat	10 Sun	11 Mon	12 Tue	13 Wed	14 Thu	15 Fri	16 Sat	17 Sun	18 Mon	19 Tue	20 Wed	21 Thu	22 Fri	23 Sat	24 Sun	25 Mon	26 Tue	27 Wed	28 Thu	29 Fri	30 Sat	31 Sun		
MAR	1 Sat	2 Sun	3 Mon	4 Tue	5 Wed	6 Thu	7 Fri	8 Sat	9 Sun	10 Mon	11 Tue	12 Wed	13 Thu	14 Fri	15 Sat	16 Sun	17 Mon	18 Tue	19 Wed	20 Thu	21 Fri	22 Sat <small>World Water Day</small>	23 Sun <small>World Water Day</small>	24 Mon	25 Tue	26 Wed	27 Thu	28 Fri	29 Sat	30 Sun	31 Mon		
APR	1 Tue	2 Wed	3 Thu	4 Fri	5 Sat	6 Sun	7 Mon	8 Tue	9 Wed	10 Thu	11 Fri	12 Sat	13 Sun	14 Mon	15 Tue	16 Wed	17 Thu	18 Fri	19 Sat	20 Sun	21 Mon	22 Tue <small>World Water Day</small>	23 Wed	24 Thu	25 Fri	26 Sat	27 Sun	28 Mon	29 Tue	30 Wed	31 Thu		
MAY	1 Tue	2 Fri	3 Sat	4 Sun	5 Mon	6 Tue	7 Wed	8 Thu	9 Fri	10 Sat	11 Sun	12 Mon	13 Tue	14 Wed	15 Thu	16 Fri	17 Sat	18 Sun	19 Mon	20 Tue	21 Wed	22 Thu <small>World Water Day</small>	23 Fri	24 Sat	25 Sun	26 Mon	27 Tue	28 Wed	29 Thu	30 Fri	31 Sat		
JUN	1 Sun	2 Mon	3 Tue	4 Wed	5 Thu <small>World Environment Day</small>	6 Fri	7 Sat	8 Sun	9 Mon	10 Tue	11 Wed	12 Thu	13 Fri	14 Sat	15 Sun	16 Mon	17 Tue <small>World Environment Day</small>	18 Wed	19 Thu	20 Fri	21 Sat	22 Sun	23 Mon	24 Tue	25 Wed	26 Thu	27 Fri	28 Sat	29 Sun	30 Mon	31 Tue		
JUL	1 Tue	2 Wed	3 Thu	4 Fri	5 Sat	6 Sun	7 Mon	8 Tue	9 Wed	10 Thu	11 Fri	12 Sat	13 Sun	14 Mon	15 Tue	16 Wed	17 Thu	18 Fri	19 Sat	20 Sun	21 Mon	22 Tue	23 Wed	24 Thu	25 Fri	26 Sat	27 Sun	28 Mon	29 Tue	30 Wed	31 Thu		
AUG	1 Fri	2 Sat	3 Sun	4 Mon	5 Tue	6 Wed	7 Thu	8 Fri	9 Sat	10 Sun	11 Mon	12 Tue	13 Wed	14 Thu	15 Fri	16 Sat	17 Sun	18 Mon	19 Tue	20 Wed	21 Thu	22 Fri	23 Sat	24 Sun	25 Mon	26 Tue	27 Wed	28 Thu	29 Fri	30 Sat	31 Sun		
SEP	1 Mon	2 Tue	3 Wed	4 Thu	5 Fri	6 Sat	7 Sun	8 Mon	9 Tue	10 Wed	11 Thu	12 Fri	13 Sat	14 Sun	15 Mon	16 Tue <small>World Environment Day</small>	17 Wed	18 Thu	19 Fri	20 Sat	21 Sun	22 Mon	23 Tue	24 Wed	25 Thu	26 Fri	27 Sat	28 Sun	29 Mon	30 Tue	31 Wed		
OCT	1 Wed	2 Thu	3 Fri	4 Sat	5 Sun	6 Mon	7 Tue	8 Wed	9 Thu	10 Fri <small>World Environment Day</small>	11 Sat	12 Sun	13 Mon	14 Tue	15 Wed	16 Thu	17 Fri	18 Sat <small>World Environment Day</small>	19 Sun	20 Mon	21 Tue	22 Wed	23 Thu	24 Fri	25 Sat	26 Sun	27 Mon	28 Tue	29 Wed	30 Thu	31 Fri		
NOV	1 Sat	2 Sun	3 Mon	4 Tue	5 Wed	6 Thu	7 Fri	8 Sat	9 Sun	10 Mon	11 Tue	12 Wed	13 Thu	14 Fri	15 Sat	16 Sun	17 Mon	18 Tue	19 Wed	20 Thu	21 Fri	22 Sat	23 Sun	24 Mon	25 Tue	26 Wed	27 Thu	28 Fri	29 Sat	30 Sun	31 Mon		
DEC	1 Mon	2 Tue	3 Wed	4 Thu	5 Fri	6 Sat	7 Sun	8 Mon	9 Tue	10 Wed	11 Thu <small>International Christmas Day</small>	12 Fri	13 Sat	14 Sun	15 Mon	16 Tue	17 Wed	18 Thu	19 Fri	20 Sat	21 Sun	22 Mon	23 Tue	24 Wed	25 Thu	26 Fri	27 Sat	28 Sun	29 Mon	30 Tue	31 Wed		

South Asia Coral Reef Task Force (SACRTF) has been established by SACEP and the Country Governments of the five member nations of South Asia-Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Pakistan & Sri Lanka to implement the regional and international initiative in the management of coral reefs and associated ecosystems and to promote collaborative action and inter-boundary responses to shared environmental challenges.







SOUTH ASIA COOPERATIVE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME
16, AHMEDSHAH ROAD, COLOMBO 03,
SRI LANKA.
Tel: +94112 559 767 Fax: +94112 559 389
E mail: sacrtf@sacep.lk Web: <http://www.sacep.org>

International Year of the Reef 2008 - Microsoft Internet Explorer

File Edit View Favorites Tools Help

Address <http://www.iyor.org/focalpoints/orgs/sacrif/default.asp>

Maldives		
<p>Baa Atoll of the Republic of Maldives which is a country composed entirely of coral reefs. It comprises 26 atolls</p>  <p><i>Baa Reef Project</i></p>	<p>Ministry of Environment Energy and Water Project Manager Atoll Ecosystem Conservation Project Fen Building (3rd Floor) Ameenee Magu Male, Maldives</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Building capacity and empowering of young people to be engaged as agents for change to raise awareness on the importance and value of coral reefs and associated ecosystems
Pakistan		
<p>Jiwani coastal area at Gwader Bay</p>  <p><i>Coral's in Coastal Area Jiwani</i></p>	<p>Ministry of Environment Sindh Wildlife Department Karachi, Pakistan</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sampling and identification of corals and other floras and faunas Preparation of Education Materials Production of Documentary Films Development of signboards
Sri Lanka		
<p>Bar Reef and Kalpitiya</p>  <p><i>Coral's in the Bar Reef Marine Sanctuary</i></p>	<p>Ministry of Environment Department of Wildlife conservation 382 Dilco Court, New Kandy Road Malabe, Sri Lanka</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Awareness Programmes Infrastructure Development Capacity Building

(C) 2007 International Coral Reef Initiative 

Internet

News about the International Year of the Reef:

* 2008 **Olympics artist Wyland** to paint Whaling Wall Mural in celebration of the International Year of the Reef 2008.

http://www.iyor.org/news/IYOR_MN_Wyland_may2008.asp OR <http://www.iyor.org/news/press.asp#mn>

* **News from Mexican:** to celebrate IYOR, three phone cards will be released by Telmex / Ladatel. Telmex is the largest telecommunication Company in Latin America. These cards will be distributed nation wide during the months of May and June.

<http://www.iyor.org/focalpoints/countries/mexico/>

* To celebrate the IYOR 2008 the **Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence for Coral Reef Studies is pleased to announce an online seminar series** on the future of the world's coral reefs. Leading international researchers cover the latest science which supports the sustainable management of coral reefs.

<http://www.iyor.org/spotlights/coralcoe.asp>

* **Professional surfer James Pribram joins the International Year of the Reef** campaign as spokesperson to help the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) to raise awareness about coral reefs with a focus on the following theme: "Every Act Counts."

<http://www.iyor.org/spotlights/pribram.asp> (please contact me if you would like to contact James Pribram) or <http://www.iyor.org/news/press.asp#mn>

* **World Water Monitoring Day (WWMD)** – As you know the World Water Monitoring Day (WWMD) is pleased to partner with the International Year of the Reef (IYOR) in 2008 in a joint effort to highlight the importance of water quality to marine wildlife. Kits are now available online. The kit includes everything you'll need to test your waterbody for pH, dissolved oxygen, temperature and turbidity and is designed to be an accurate, yet accessible technology for all levels of experience.

The World Water Monitoring Day encourages participation from Low- and Middle-Income countries through the donation of monitoring kits. For more information, please contact wcmd@wef.org.

The WWMD test kit now includes instructions in both English and Spanish. Instructions in French, Portuguese and Chinese are available for download from the WWMD website (www.WorldWaterMonitoringDay.org)

Some news about the International Year of the Reef 2008 :

The World Ocean Day (June 8th, 2008):

This Year's theme is "helping our climate / helping our ocean" with a special focus on coral reefs, to take advantage of International Year of the Reef (IYOR) 2008. We encourage you to participate in the World Ocean Day in order to promote the International Year of the Reef. More information at: www.iyor.org/WOD

IYOR U.S. Public Service Announcement

NOAA, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, UrbanArts Institute at Mass College of Art and other Marine and Ocean Conservation NGOs are supporting the production and distribution of a series of 30 second TV PSAs to educate the US public concerning ocean-coral reef and coastal environmental education. 5 PSAs are now available at www.iyor.org/TV

IYOR Creative

NOAA's Coral Reef Conservation Program and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation have worked together to develop a united U.S. IYOR Messaging Campaign 2 new action

messages are now available and FREELY downloadable into print advertisements. More information at www.IYORcreative.com

IYOR at the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 9)

The ICRI secretariat will be holding an ICRI-CBD side event on "Marine Biodiversity and the International Year of the Reef" (www.iyor.org/cbd). An IYOR 2008 presentation will be also made at the CBD CEPA Fair (www.iyor.org/cbd/CBD_CEPA.asp).

11th International Coral Reef Symposium

IYOR 2008 will be celebrate at the 11th ICRS during a showcase of IYOR activities taking place around the world. Presentations will include an overview of the Year and highlights from activities around the world (www.iyor.org/icrs). If you are interested in presenting your activities, please contact the IYOR coordinator (fstaub@iyor.org). Space for educational posters is also available at the educational center. If you want yours to be displayed, contact the IYOR coordinator (fstaub@iyor.org).

In addition to the formal launch in Washington, DC on January 24, many other activities and launches have happened around the world and many more are underway:
<http://www.iyor.org/news/launch.asp>

Please remember to add your events to the calendar and share your activities with the IYOR Coordinator (info@iyor.org) or to post your videos on the IYOR youtube:
www.youtube.com/iyor2008

ANNEX D**FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY: Projected Annual Operating Costs of the SACRTF**

Action	Unit Cost	No. of Units	Total US\$
International Travel (Flights) for SACRTF meetings (regional) - <i>Based on average flight costs of US600. 20 people flying from within the region for each meeting. 2 meetings per year for the SACRTF.</i>	600	40	24000
DSA for SACRTF meetings (regional) - <i>Based on SACEP Per Diem for Sri Lanka US110 per day and 3 days DSA (accommodation and food and local travel costs included) for each person (25 people per meeting)</i>	110	150	16500
International Travel for other meetings and conferences of strategic value to SACRTF efforts (flights) - <i>Meetings of strategic importance, internationally and locally to promote SACRTF efforts and SA situation based on an average of US\$800 per flight</i>	800	5	4000
DSA for other meetings and conferences - <i>As above, based on SACEP DSA rate of US\$110 per day, 3 days per meeting</i>	110	15	1650
Meeting/Convention Attendance or Visa Fees - <i>Based on an average meeting or conference fee of US\$200 (e.g. ITMEMS registration)</i>	200	5	1000
SACRTF Secretariat (SACEP) - <i>Consider hiring a staff member to work specifically on coordinating SACRTF efforts within SACEP and act as support to the Member Secretary. Based on annual salary for medium grade candidate</i>	4000	1	4000
Communications (telephone, office supplies)	2000	1	2000
Outreach Materials (design, production & dissemination)	2500	1	2500
Exchange/Exposure Visit Programme – <i>Based on a grant of US\$1000 to each candidate for all costs (8 candidates per year)</i>	1000	8	8000
Activities Fund - <i>to allow the SACRTF to undertake activities in line with the work plan each year</i>	10000	1	10000
SUBTOTAL			73,650
Indirect Charges (SACEP administration) 15%	11047.5		11047.5
GRAND TOTAL			84,697.5

Chairperson

At the First meeting of the ASCRTF, the house unanimously decided India as the Chairperson for the SACRTF. The agreed SACRTF constitution states that the Chairperson must serve for a period of one year.

Member Secretary

The Director General of SACEP will serve as the Member Secretary of the SACRTF to provide continuity and administration support to the SACRTF.

Sustainable Financing of the SACRTF

Funds to support the initial establishment of the SACRTF have been generously provided by the European Union, through the South Asia MCPA project. The project will close on 31 December 2008 after which point no further funds will be provided to the SACRTF. Participants at the second regional workshop recognised the need to develop a sustainable financing strategy as critical to ensuring the continuation of the SACRTF and the expansion of the network to incorporate national level coral reef task forces in each participating country. Representatives are requested to identify a strategy to advance discussions on the sustainable financing and institutionalisation of the SACRTF in the region. To facilitate discussions and consultation with country governments a projected budget for the annual operating costs of the SACRTF is presented in Annex D.

Coordination and Communication

Representatives will need to identify the most suitable way to remain in communication in between SACRTF meetings, and should set a regular contact schedule to promote coordination.

MCPA Site Representatives

In the agreed organisational structure of the SACRTF it was noted that a temporary representative from each selected MCPA site may participate in the SACRTF while national level iterations of the task force are established. SACRTF representatives will need to agree on a representative from each MCPA site, if not already done so and ensure that they are included in all future SACRTF correspondence and meetings.

SACRTF Logo

A Logo competition was launched across the region to develop a unique and exciting logo for the SACRTF. (*Approved Logo is in Annex G*)

**Constitution based on country nominations and decision of the 2nd Regional Workshop
SACRTF-Composition**

1. **Government Representative(s) from each country (12)**
2. **Coral Reef Ecosystem Expert, one from each country (5)**

Country: Bangladesh

No.	Role in the SACRTF	Representative	Name / Contact details
1	Member - SACRTF	Secretary Ministry of Environment and Forests,	Mr. Reza Ul Kabir Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests, Bangladesh Secretariat, Room No. 1309, Building No. 6, Dhaka Bangladesh.
2	Member - SACRTF	Director General, Department of Environment	Dr. Khandekar Rashedul Haue Director General, Department of Environment, Paribesh Bhabar, E-16, Agaragon , Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka 1207, Bangladesh.
3	National Expert	Mr. Md. Jafar Siddique	Mr. Md. Jafar Siddique, National Project Director, Coastal and Wetland Biodiversity Management Project (CWBMP), Room No-501, Paribesh Bhaban, Agargaon, Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Country: India

No.	Role in the SACRTF	Representative	Name / Contact details
1	Member - SACRTF	Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forest	Ms. Meena Gupta, Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forest, Paryavaran Bhawan, CGO Complex, Lodi Road, New Delhi, 110 003 India.
2	Member - SACRTF	Secretary, Ministry of Ocean Development	Dr. P.S. Goel, Secretary, Ministry of Ocean Development Mahasagar Bhawan Block 12, C.G.O. Complex Lodhi Road, New Delhi 110 003, India.
3	Member - SACRTF	Scientist E, Ministry of Ocean Development	Mr. Madeswaran, Scientist E, Ministry of Ocean Development Mahasagar Bhawan Block 12, C.G.O. Complex Lodhi Road, New Delhi 110 003, India.
4	Chairman-SACRTF	Joint Secretary	Dr. B.P. Nilaratna, Ministry of Environment and Forest, Paryavaran Bhawan, CGO Complex, Lodi Road, New Delhi, 110 003 India. Tel: +91 11 24361712 Fa: 91 11 24362127 nilratna007@hotmail.com, jsbpn-mef@nic.in
5	National Expert	Dr. K. Venkataraman	Dr. K. Venkataraman, Secretary- NBA, NBA, #475, 9th South Cross Street, Neelankarai, Chennai 600 041 India.

Country: Maldives

No.	Role in the SACRTF	Representative	Name / Contact details
1	Member - SACRTF	Director General, Ministry of Environment, Energy and Water	Dr. Mohamed Zuhair, Director General, Ministry of Environment, Energy and Water, 3 rd Floor, Fen Building, Ameenee Magu, Male, Republic of Maldives
2	Member - SACRTF	Environmental Analyst Ministry of Environment, Energy and Water	Mr Hussein Naeem Environmental Analyst Ministry of Environment, Energy and Water, 3 rd Floor, Fen Building, Ameenee Magu, Male, Republic of Maldives.
3	National Expert	Mr. Mohamed Faiz	Mr. Mohamed Faiz Assistant Director General, Fisheries Development and Extension Unit, Ministry of Fisheries, Agriculture and Marine Resources, Male. Republic of Maldives.

Country: Pakistan

No.	Role in the SACRTF	Representative	Name / Contact details
1	Member - SACRTF	Secretary, Ministry of Environment	Mr. Ejaz Ahmad Qureshi Secretary, Ministry of Environment CDA, Block No.4 Civic Centre, G-6, Islamabad Pakistan.
2	Member - SACRTF	Director Zoological Survey of Pakistan	Mr. Hamid Iqbal Javed Director, Zoological Survey Department, Ministry of Environment, Government of Pakistan CDA Block No. IV, Old Naval Headquarter, Islamabad, Pakistan.
3	National Expert	Mrs. Fehmida Firdous	Mrs. Fehmida Firdous Deputy Conservator of Forests, Sindh Wildlife Department Government of Sindh, Block A, Shahbaz Building, Hyderabad, Karachi, Pakistan.

Country: Sri Lanka

No.	Role in the SACRTF	Representative	Name / Contact details
1	Member - SACRTF	Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources	Mr. M.A.R.D. Jayathilake, Secretary, Ministry of Environment, "Sampathpaya", 82, Rajamalwatte Road, Battaramulla, Sri Lanka.
2	Core Member	Director, Coast Conservation Department	Mr. Nissanka Perera, Director, Coast Conservation Department, New Secretariat, Maligawatta, Colombo 10, Sri Lanka.
3	National Expert	Mr. Arjan Rajasuriya	Mr. Arjan Rajasuriya, Research Officer, Marine Research Div., Department of Aquatic Resources Research & Development, Crow Island, Colombo -15, Sri Lanka.

3. CRTF Representative, one from each country (5) –(Till the National Task Force are formed , Temporary Members of the Selected MCPA Project sites to be nominated by the governments will work on the Task Force)

4.

No.	MCPA Project Site	CRTF Representative <i>(till formation, Temporary members of selected MCPA Project Sites)</i>
I	Bangladesh -St. Martins Island	<i>To be nominated by the Country Government</i>
li	India- Mahatma Gandhi National Park and Andaman Islands	<i>To be nominated by the Country Government</i>
lii	Maldives-Baa Atoll	<i>To be nominated by the Country Government</i>
Iv	Sri Lanka- Bar Reef	<i>To be nominated by the Country Government</i>
v	Pakistan- Jiwani (Gwater Bay)	Commanders Said Rahim PN DDMA & EC-I (Letter 4(91)/ 2007-Marine, Dated 12 Nov, 2007)

5. **International NGO or Agency** UNEP

6. **Member Secretary (1)** Dr. A.A. Boaz, Director General, SACEP

7. **Patron (1)** Justice C.G. Weeramantry, former Vice President,
International Court of Justice

Key objective of the SACRTF is to help participating countries to work together to safeguard their essential coral reef, mangrove and sea-grass habitats for the benefit of the people of South Asia, and to encourage coordinated management and conservation approaches, and information exchanges between the maritime countries of the region.



An open logo completion was held in the five member maritime countries of the South Asia region. Entries were requested through wide publicity via country governments and websites of the SACEP and the concerning ministries.

Out of the entries received, the committee consisting of Patron-SACRTF Hon. Judge C. G. Weeramantry, Hon. Chairman of the SACRTF, Dr. B.P. Nilratna, and Member Secretary, Dr. A.A. Boaz selected the logo that conformed to the parameters decided by the SACRTF.

The SACRTF congratulates Mr. Akash Boaz, a student of B.E., Karuaya University India for designing the above logo. The Task Force expresses its gratitude for the honorary service rendered by him.

SACRTF Activities	2008											Partners	Comments
	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec				
Coordination													
National Coral Reef Focal Points Appointed in each country												SACEP, Country Governments	Institutions designated as focal points for coral reefs to increase coordination potential
Build SACRTF Network - Formal introductions of members to focal points												SACEP	Develop a short-list of focal point contacts within international and regional bodies of relevance. Contacts made available on the SACEP, ICRAN and project websites
Examine national capacity needs, evaluate and review existing mechanisms for coral reef management												SACRTF, SACEP to lead	Produce a summary brief with a view to using this information to develop a comprehensive regional action strategy development
Prepare a regional coral reef action strategy												SACRTF - lead by SACEP	Strategy will incorporate key findings on the development and implementation of a networked system of MCPAs and identify supporting frameworks for effective implementation
Selection of Environmental Education Proposals for implementation at 5 project sites												SACRTF, SACEP, ICRAN	Contracts to be developed directly between SACEP and successful recipients to expedite funds to site level
Implementation of Environmental Education activities at sites												SACEP & local partners	Environmental education activities to be conducted in line with successful proposals at the 5 participating MCPA sites.
Fundraising													
Preparation of a challenge grant for launch at the SACEP GC												SACEP, SACRTF Chair, ICRAN	Sustainable financing is critical for the continued operation of the SACRTF beyond 2008. The challenge grant will request and match financial commitments from all participating countries.
Preparation of key materials (e.g. annual budget projection for the maintenance of the SACRTF) for country governments												SACEP, SACRTF Chair, ICRAN	
Policy													
Review existing policy, and gaps in coral reef management and preparatory materials generated for SACEP GC												SACRTF	
SACEP Governing Council Meeting -												SACEP, SACRTF, ICRAN	Special session on the SACRTF conducted and challenge grant launched.
Position Papers generated building on recommendations from SACEP GC												SACEP, SACRTF, IMM, IUCN	Statement on the importance of coral reefs and need for improved management Statement on coral reefs and livelihoods generated and disseminated
Raise the profile of coral reefs among country governments and lobby for enhanced support for their effective management												SACRTF, SACEP, National Coral Reef Focal Points	Dissemination of SACRTF briefs and position statements generated.

Communication												
Participants for MCPA Managers Exchange Programme Selected											SACRTF Members & SACEP	
Knowledge Exchange - create opportunities for knowledge exchange between MCPA managers/practitioners through site exposure visits (US\$8,000)											SACRTF, lead by India	Increase awareness of environmental conservation and management issues among decision makers and practitioners through lobbying and exposure visits at 5 project sites
Raising Awareness - Generation of awareness raising materials for dissemination to the general public											SACRTF, with support from ICRAN	All outputs and materials from the SACRTF will be disseminated through member networks and the ICRAN network
Lead a regional response to mass environmental awareness raising campaigns (Earth Day, IYOR, World Environment Day (WED))		E-D		WED							SACRTF	SACRTF to support and showcase the regional activities underway through these campaigns
Establish a SACRTF Profile on the IYOR website to showcase the efforts of the region											SACRTF Member Secretary	www.iyor.org
Develop an action plan for engaging with education and community outreach efforts to raise the profile of coral reefs											National Coral Reef Focal Points, SACRTF	
Research & Monitoring												
Identify the strengths of each participating country related to research and monitoring. Prepare a summary for dissemination											SACRTF	Summary report to be showcased on SACEP, ICRAN and project websites
Develop and promote a mechanism to ensure knowledge and training is shared and exchanged											SACRTF	SACRTF actions must build on the past efforts and experiences within the region
Develop linkages with national, regional and international research agencies and monitoring programmes											SACRTF	showcase recent reports related to the SA region on the SACEP, ICRAN and project websites
SACRTF Administration												
Standardised Reporting Format developed											SACRTF Member Secretary, with support from ICRAN	Format to include performance indicators to demonstrate the impact and success of the SACRTF
Progress Reports Submitted to SACRTF Members and ICU											SACRTF Member Secretary	Copy of report to be shared with ICRAN and other project partners
Finalise MCPA Representatives to participate on the SACRTF											SACEP with country government support	MCPA Representatives shall be requested to attend the 2nd SACRTF Meeting
Finalise the logo and branding of the SACRTF to use in future publications												Standardised presentations for SACRTF members, and logos of all sponsors and contributors referenced on materials

Activities to be carried out

- Attendance of SACRTF members or appropriate regional stakeholders at international meetings, and share SACRTF outputs and achievements with project partners and the general public where appropriate.
- Provide coordination assistance and technical support for the timely completion of actions as defined in the 2008 implementation plan for the SACRTF (Annex H).
- Develop the SACRTF network by engaging strategic stakeholders in SACRTF activities, and developing regional, multilateral linkages for coral reef management.
- Examine national capacity needs, evaluate and review existing mechanisms for coral reef management to ensure SACRTF work plan builds on past efforts and experiences within the region.
- Coordinate the development and printing of a regional coral reef action strategy, incorporating key findings on the development and implementation of a networked system of MCPAs across the South Asia region.
- Raise the political and public profile of coral reefs and the SACRTF through the development and distribution of promotional materials, briefs and position statements.
- Assist the SACRTF in the establishment, operation and promotion of a sponsorship fund to support exchange/exposure visits for MCPA managers, practitioners, student researchers, and policy makers.
- Coordinate the discussion and presentation of a regional communications strategy to streamline the flow of information to and from MCPA sites, and across the region.
- Lead the development and implementation of a sustainable financing strategy to ensure the continuation of the SACRTF beyond 31 December 2008.
- Lead the preparation and dissemination of a strategy for improved regional communication pathways between sectors and organisations involved in MCPA management and operation.
- Select successful candidates to lead a suite of environmental education activities (via the released call for proposals) at each of the 5 project sites (St. Martins Island, Mahatma Gandhi NP, Baa Atoll, Bar Reef, Jiwani Bay). Prepare appropriate contracts to ensure the dissemination of funds directly to local partners, and facilitate the implementation of activities.
- Provide reports and feedback, including full outputs, resulting from the environmental education activities at each site, and showcase this on the SACEP, and ICRAN websites.

Expected results/ outputs to be achieved in line with the implementation plan (Annex A)

- The regional South Asia Coral Reef Task Force (SACRTF) will be maintained with core and associate members.
- A minimum of two (2) SACRTF meetings will be conducted before 31 December 2008, coordinated by SACEP, to bring together the quorum of SACRTF members.
- SACEP will support the attendance of a minimum of ten (10) South Asian representatives at national and international meetings of importance for the SACRTF, before 31 December 2008. To include both SACRTF members and non-members as appropriate.
- National Coral Reef Focal Points established and promoted in each country.
- A list of focal point contacts within international and regional bodies of relevance to the SACRTF developed and displayed on the SACEP, ICRAN and project websites.
- A summary brief produced of national capacity needs, and evaluation of existing mechanisms for coral reef management to guide SACRTF beyond 2008.
- A regional coral reef action strategy drafted and reviewed, incorporating key findings on the development and implementation of a networked system of MCPAs across the South Asia region.
- A summary report/brief presented to country governments on regional communication gaps and improvements, detailing cooperation actions and the role of the SACRTF, and made available on SACEP and ICRAN websites.
- A total of eight (8) managers will participate in the exchange/exposure visit scheme during 2008.
- A focused SACRTF session conducted during the 2008 SACEP Governing Council Meeting and a challenge grant launched by India for the sustainable financing of the SACRTF.
- Establish a SACRTF profile on the IYOR 2008 website.
- Awareness raising event for the general public conducted with associated materials to highlight the importance and value of coral reefs and the role of the SACRTF.
- Successful environmental education proposals selected before 31 March 2008 and ICRAN notified.
- Action plan prepared for SACRTF engagement with education and community outreach in the South Asia region beyond 2008.
- A summary brief produced of national strengths in research and monitoring of participating countries.
- Three (3) progress reports submitted to SACRTF, ICRAN and other project partners by SACEP Member Secretary before 31 December 2008.
- SACRTF Logo endorsed.
- Environmental education activities conducted at each of the 5 project sites (St. Martins Island, Mahatma Gandhi NP, Baa Atoll, Bar Reef, Jiwani Bay).
- 5 reports and all outputs prepared, detailing the impacts of environmental education activities, for showcasing on the SACEP and ICRAN websites.

MEETING AND EVENTS CALENDAR

Different SACRTF Members will participate in the following meetings to raise the profile of the SACRTF and coral reefs

Meetings	2008										Partners	Comments
	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec			
Conference and Events												
Regional Training – Toolkit for MPA Managers in South Asia											IUCN ELG, ICRAN, IMM	SACRTF Representative to attend as observer, and facilitate the attendance of target constituents (where appropriate e.g. visa etc)
Sustainable Livelihoods Enhancement and Diversification Policy Forum (linked to May SACRTF Meeting)											IMM, IUCN-ELG	SACRTF Representatives to attend, and facilitate the attendance of target constituents (where appropriate e.g. visa etc)
COP 9 - Bonn, Germany												SACRTF Representative to attend and present information on the objectives and activities of the SACRTF
SACRTF Members Meeting											SACEP, SACRTF	Quorum of SACRTF Representatives to attend to review progress of the work plan and sustainable financing strategy
"11th International Coral Reef Symposium (11th ICRS 2008)" Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, USA Web: www.nova.edu/ncr/11icrs/				7-11								
ICRI General Meeting - Florida, USA www.icriforum.org				Jul 12-13							SACEP/ SACRTF	Presentation on SACRTF activities and progress since January
"22nd Annual Meeting of the Society for Conservation Biology"				Jul 13-18								The University of Tennessee, Chattanooga, Tennessee, USA http://www.conbio.org/Activities/Meetings
4th IUCN World Conservation Congress Barcelona, Spain							5-14					
World Conference on Marine Biodiversity Valencia, Spain									11-15			The deadline for sessions is April 1st 2008. (registration opens in November, 08). http://www.marbef.org/worldconference/
Policy Level Targets and Meetings												
SACEP Governing Council Meeting											SACEP, SACRTF, ICRAN	Presentation on session on the SACRTF done and challenge grant launched. Members of GC, SACP, updated on progress of SACRTF.
East Africa Coral Reef Task Force Meeting (date tbc)											SACEP/ SACRTF	Share experiences with EACRTF, and learn about the regional action strategy being released in WIO

ANNEX J
Provisional Agenda Managers Training Programme



Provisional Agenda Managers exchange program in the Marine National Park in the Gulf of Kachchh, Jamnagar, India.

Day-1 (3rd November, 2008)		Venue – GEER Foundation
Inaugural Session		
1000 - 1030	Registration	
1030 - 1145	Introduction & Inauguration	
1145 - 1200	Tea	
Technical Session – I		
1200 - 1245	Relevance of conserving marine and coastal bioresources in south-east Asia- perception of threat	
1245 – 1330	Management issues and action plans for coastal bioresources in south east Asia	
1330 - 1430	Lunch	
Technical Session – II		
1430 - 1515	Managing mangrove ecosystems	
1515 - 1600	Biodiversity of coral reefs in South East Asia	
1600 - 1630	Discussions and Tea	
1630 - 2100	Visit to Indroda Park, Gandhinagar / Science City / Ahmedabad Dinner at Ahmedabad	
Day-2 (4th November, 2008)		
Technical Session – III		
0900 - 0945	Institutionalizing community participation	
0945 – 1030	Mass awareness for conserving marine bioresources	
1030 - 1045	Tea	
Technical Session – IV		
1045 – 1315	Experience sharing and presentation by participating country (Presentations – 20 min. Discussion – 10 min.) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bangladesh- 30 minutes • India- 30 minutes • Maldives - 30 minutes • Pakistan - 30 minutes • Sri Lanka - 30 minutes 	
1315 - 1400	Lunch	
1400 - 1500	Introduction to IUCN Tool Kit	
1500 hrs	Tea & Move to Jamnagar	

Day-3 (5th November, 2008)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Visit to Gulf of Kachchh Mangrove and Coral areas
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Field exercises in groups
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Interaction with local staff and communities
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Back to Jamnagar
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Visit to Jamnagar City

Day-4 (6th November, 2008)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Visit to Narara mangroves- plantation
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Presentation by various groups regarding field exercises
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A cultural evening at Jamnagar

Day-5 (7th November, 2008)

0900 - 1000	Use of remote sensing for planning and monitoring of marine bioresources
1000 - 1100	Preparing conservation action plans
1100 - 1115	Tea
1115 - 1200	Elements of conservation action plans
1200 - 1245	Group exercise and presentation pertaining to Elements of action plan by groups
1245 - 1345	Country specific action plan points & country specific discussion
1345 - 1430	Lunch
1430 - 1515	General discussion and feedback
1515 - 1545	Valedictory & summing up
1545 - 1600	Tea
1600 - 2100	Visit to Dwarka and Poshitra Corals
2100 hrs	Dinner at Dwarka- Halt at Jamnagar

Under the South Asia MCPA Project, five small action grants are available (US\$15,300) to support participating MCPA sites (St. Martins Island, Bangladesh; Mahatma Ghandi National Park, Andaman Islands, India; Baa Atoll, Maldives; Jiwani (Gwater), Pakistan; and Bar Reef, Sri Lanka) in the enforcement of protection measures and regulations. Short proposals are invited from MCPA site management authorities, local partners, community groups, and conservation NGOs for technical enforcement equipment (e.g. VHF Radio, Mooring Buoys, Signage), and/or capacity developing programmes (e.g. Establishment of Patrol Teams, Training).



Long Term Management and Conservation of Marine and Coastal Resources in South Asia

Supporting Enforcement at MCPAs Call for Proposals



SAGEP



IMM Ltd



IUCN



CORDIO



CORDIO



UNEP



UNITED NATIONS FOUNDATION



MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF FINLAND



IYOR

The European Union funded project 'Institutional Strengthening and Long Term Management and Conservation of Marine and Coastal Resources in South Asia' seeks to improve the effectiveness of management and operation at existing Marine and Coastal Protected Areas (MCPAs), developing staff capacity and training tools, and encouraging the replication of best practices at sites across the region. For more information on the project visit: <http://www.icran.org/action/southasia.html>

Where protection measures and resource restrictions exist but are poorly enforced, the full potential and benefits of a MCPA to its local communities and ecosystem will not be realised. This can lead to diminishing confidence and support for the MCPA. Developing the enforcement capabilities at MCPA sites in South Asia is crucial to the effective operation of the site, and to the continued health of the marine and coastal resources.

GOAL: to better support existing MCPAs in the enforcement of protection measures and regulations, through the provision of technical enforcement equipment and resources.

ACTION: Under the project, five small grants are available to support enhanced enforcement of protection measures and management regulations at participating MCPA sites (St. Martins Island, Bangladesh; Mahatma Gandhi National Park, Andaman Islands, India; Baa Atoll, Maldives; Jiwani (Gwater), Pakistan, and Bar Reef, Sri Lanka).

Short proposals are invited from MCPA site management authorities, local partners, community groups, and conservation NGOs. Collaborations are encouraged. Proposals for technical enforcement equipment (e.g. VHF Radio, Mooring Buoys, Signage), and capacity developing programmes (e.g. Establishment of Patrol Teams, Training) will be considered.

Proposals should include the following information:

- Background information on the challenges of effective enforcement at the MCPA site, and the impact on the natural marine and coastal resources;
- An outline of key resources and equipment required to improve the function and management of the existing MCPA;
- Justification on how the equipment/resources will help to support the enforcement of restrictions and management plans at the MCPA site;
- Quotations from 3 suppliers for any equipment items over US\$2,500 in value, and recommendation made as to the preferred supplier;
- Details on how the equipment will be maintained and by whom to prevent its loss or damage;
- Details on the sustainability and future continuation of any capacity developing activities conducted;
- A list of key partners involved and a brief description of respective organisational capacity to conduct the planned activities;
- Detailed objectives and deliverables with a time frame for implementation (Please note, that all activities must be completed before 31 December 2008);
- Projected budget for the planned activities (not to exceed US\$15,300);
- Focal point contact information.

Proposals must be submitted to nbarnard@icran.org before 6 June 2008. Contracts will be drawn up between successful parties and UNEP for the direct transfer of funds.



**INAUGURATION Dinner 07.45 – 09.30 PM 30th August, 2008
Hulhule' Island Hotel, Male`.**

Hosted by the Hon. Minister and the Deputy Minister

1945 Guests arrive at the venue

2000 Arrival of Chief Guest Deputy Minister, Hon. Mr. Abdul Razzaq Idris and Guest of Honour Hon. Patron Judge C. G. Weeramantry, Former Vice Chairman, International Court of Justice.

Welcome address By Dr. Boaz

Address by the Hon. Chairman-SACRTF

Address by Guest of Honor / Hon. Patron Judge C. G. Weeramantry, Former Vice Chairman, International Court of Justice & Hon. Patron of SACRTF

Address by Deputy Minister, Hon. Mr. Abdul Razzaq Idris

Vote of Thanks

AGENDA 2nd Meeting South Asia Coral Reef Task Force (SACRTF)-

31ST August, 2008 Hulhule' Island Hotel Male`

SESSION 1 – INTRODUCTORY SESSION

9.30	Participants & Guests take their seats
	Arrival of Chief Guest of Honor,
10.00 – 10.15	Introduction and Progress of SACRTF from the 1 st Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Education Call for Action Grants • Progress of IYOR Activities
10.15 – 10.30	Report on the progress in Preparation of the managers exchange programme to be hosted by the GEER Foundation in October, 2008
10.30– 10.45	EU project Update and Progress

SESSION 2 – COORDINATION AND INFORMATION SHARING SESSION

Review of progress and major initiatives related to MCPAs/ coral reefs and the SACRTF workplan since the 1st meeting of the SACRTF e.g.:

- *New activities which raise the profile of MCPAs*
- *New key policy developments*
- *New funding opportunities*
- *Major new initiatives*
- *Milestones for the next year and potential role of the task force to advance them.*
- *Establishment of National Coral Reef Task Force (NCRTF)*

10.45– 11.00	Bangladesh
11.00– 11.15	India
11.15– 11.30	Maldives
11.30– 11.45	Pakistan
11.45– 12.00	Sri Lanka
12.00 – 12.10	<i>"UNESCO Efforts In The Field of Coral Reef and Marine Protected Area Conservation".</i>
12.10-12.30	Discussion
12.30 – 13.30	Lunch

SESSION 3 – Activities of SACRTF

13.30 – 14.30	Sustainable Financing and Institutionalisation of SACRTF Discussion - <i>lead by Dr. Arvind Boaz, SACEP.</i> Identification of key actions/ materials to advance institutionalisation of the SACRTF with country governments.
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14.30- 15.30	<p>Development of draft regional strategy for coordinated responses to marine and coastal issues within the South Asia region</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General discussion on the proposed the action strategy (which includes a communication strategy) and its relevance to science, management and policy. • Commitments from SACRTF Members to implement the strategy. <p>NB Breakout groups to review the framework and content.</p>
15.15 – 15.30	Coffee Break
15.30 – 16.30	Continued regional strategy discussion and report back

SESSION 4 – SACRTF ADMINISTRATION	
16.30 – 17.30	<p>SACRTF administration issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Official launch of the SACRTF Logo • Meeting/Event Calendar mapping and opportunity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Opportunities ○ Purpose and message • Further development of promotional and outreach materials • Next Venue and Date of the SACRTF Meeting
17.30	Meeting Close

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