

Long Term Management and Conservation of Marine and Coastal Protected Areas in South Asia



With funding from



Regional Resource Coordination and
Mobilisation Workshop
Colombo, Sri Lanka
27 - 28th September 2006

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WORKSHOP AGENDA

DAY 1: WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 27 2006	
0830 - 0915	Arrival and registration – IVY Room
0915 - 0930	Welcome address – Dr Boaz, Director General, South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme SACEP – OAK Room
0930 - 1000	Inaugural Speech - Mr. S.S.B. Yalegama, Assistant Secretary Ministry of Environment, Government of Sri Lanka
1000 - 1015	Presentations
1015 - 1045	Coffee Break
SESSION 1: Workshop Goals and Outputs	
1045 - 1115	Presentation - General introduction, workshop objectives and structure – Nicola Barnard, Programme Officer, International Coral Reef Action Network (ICRAN) – IVY Room
SESSION 2: Marine and Coastal Protected Area Site Selection	
1115 - 1130	Introduction to site based activities and site nomination process, review of questionnaires and introduction to site selection process
1130 - 1245	Working Group discussion and elaboration of a shortlist of MCPA sites for activity implementation
1245 - 1400	Lunch
1400 - 1430	Identification of short-listed sites & collaboration opportunities
SESSION 3: Communication	
1430 - 1445	Introduction to project objectives related to communication
1445 - 1545	Discussion and identification of principal communication challenges, options, and priorities
1545 - 1600	Coffee Break
1600 - 1700	Discussion and identification of the principal role and focus of a centralised database and electronic discussion forum
1700 - 1730	Discussion of strategy for improved communication
1730 - 1745	Close of Meeting - Kristian Teleki

DAY 2: THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 28 2006	
0830 - 0845	Round-up of previous days outputs – Kristian Teleki, Director, ICRAN – IVY Room
SESSION 4; Alternative Livelihoods	
0845 - 0945	Presentation – General introduction to the objectives and structure of the Alternative Livelihoods component – Ben Cattermoul - IMM, Jerker Tamelander - IUCN
0945 - 1030	Discussion
1030 -1100	Coffee Break
SESSION 5: Establishment of a Coastal Resource Task Force	
1100 - 1145	Presentation – Establishment of the East African Coral Reef Task Force – Kristian Teleki, Director ICRAN
1145 - 1215	Introduction to project objectives related to the TF
1215 - 1330	Discussion of options and structure of the TF
1330 - 1430	Lunch
1430 - 1630	Discussion and elaboration of a draft TOR for the TF
1630 - 1745	Identification of collaboration potential
1745 - 1800	Close of Meeting – Kristian Teleki



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BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The South Asia region was ranked the lowest in the world in terms of declared Marine and Coastal Protected Areas (MCPAs) in the 2003 United Nations List of Protected Areas, making the Indian Ocean with its wealth of coral reefs, seagrasses, and mangrove forests, one of the World's most poorly protected coastlines/oceans. As a result, the degradation of coastal and marine resources in South Asia continues at an unprecedented rate, and despite current protection measures, one third to half of the coral reefs in the region are now effectively dead and a further 30% threatened.

A grant has been secured from the European Union for a three-year project in the 5 maritime nations of South Asia (Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Pakistan and Sri Lanka). Project activities will commence implementation with this regional workshop.

Project Objective

The aim of the project is to contribute to the reduction in the rates of marine and coastal biodiversity loss within the South Asia region, and protect the natural resources on which the economic and social development of future generations is based. Actions will assist nations to move forward with commitments to develop networks of MCPAs in line with Multilateral Environmental Agreements (CBD, WSSD, MDG's).

The focal areas of the project are as follows:

- **Communication**
- **Data management**
- **Effectiveness of alternative livelihoods for coastal communities**
- **Regional coordination of management efforts**
- **The development and evolution of MCPAs in the region**

ICRAN and SACEP have undertaken extensive consultations with key regional stakeholders (over 135 stakeholders contacted) to develop project activities within these focal areas, and to ensure that the project accurately represents and responds to the needs of the five participating countries. With this in mind, ICRAN and SACEP have organised this participatory regional workshop to present the planned activities and to outline the scope of the project. The workshop will provide an additional opportunity for stakeholder consultation, and will be used to finalise project specifics.

Workshop Objective

The aim of the workshop is to provide an opportunity for face-to-face contact between key stakeholders from across the region, and a platform from which to discuss the critical issues related to marine and coastal protected areas in the region, raised by this project.

Participants will work to confirm the feasibility and relevance of the planned activities, finalise the roles of key stakeholders and elaborate detailed implementation plans for the effective attainment of project objectives, whilst evaluating the potential for collaboration and co-financing support from within the region.





Specific Workshop Objectives

- Identification of 5 sites for the implementation of project activities
- Discussion and review of marine and coastal communication within the region and identification of options and priorities for a unifying communication strategy
- Identification of database needs and scenario development
- Identification of possibilities for an electronic discussion forum
- Elaboration of a draft Terms of Reference for the establishment and mode of operation of a regional Task Force
- Identification of appropriate members and affiliations of the regional Task Force
- Selection of an appropriate date for a second regional workshop to finalise draft outputs resulting from this workshop

IMPORTANT

ACTION / DISCUSSION POINTS to support these objectives are noted throughout this document in red font.

The organisers request that all participants prepare for these discussion points before attending the meeting to maximise the outputs from this short workshop and to ensure a participatory environment and a fair consultative process.



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Project Partners

The South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme (SACEP)

The South Asia Cooperative Environment Program (SACEP) acts as the Secretariat implementing the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) activities for the South Asian Seas Program (SASP). SACEP was registered with the United Nations Secretariat as a Multi-lateral organisation in April 2004, has an operational work force of 15 full time staff members and is based in Sri Lanka. The national governments of Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Pakistan and Sri Lanka are represented on the Governing Council of SACEP and on the Intergovernmental Meeting of Ministers of the SASP, and consequently drive the work program in conjunction with nationally and regionally defined priorities.

SACEP considers that there are many environmental and development challenges common to the countries of the region, and seeks to work in areas where regional cooperation and collective action can add value to member countries and produce better outcomes for the region. The 3rd special session of 8th Governing Council approved a work programme with a broad focus on capacity building and experience sharing and networking. As such, the proposed actions of this project are highly complementary to SACEP's regional goals.

SACEP is also an appropriate forum for action on transboundary environmental issues, with well-established links between both government and regional organisations, essential for the coordination of actions.

For more information on current programmes please visit the SACEP website www.sacep.org or contact po_sacep@eol.lk

Integrated Marine Management (IMM)

IMM Ltd. has comprehensive expertise in the socio-economic study of coastal communities in the South Asia region, undertaking research into coastal livelihoods of poor people in the fisheries post harvest sector in India, conducting micro-projects on livelihood diversification in tsunami affected communities in Sri Lanka, providing training in livelihood diagnostics and community mobilisation methods in Sri Lanka, and providing technical and management support to the GCRMN South Asia node.

The linkages established through the Reef Livelihoods Assessments in India, and the Sustainable Coastal Livelihoods Research Program undertaken in the Western Bay of Bengal will be drawn upon to facilitate the transfer of expertise and knowledge. These projects have enhanced the understanding of benefit flows to coastal communities from coral reefs and associated ecosystems, and identified the relationships between policy and poverty in the coastal environment. The expertise of IMM Ltd. will be used to review and characterise the factors affecting livelihood diversification across the region and to develop regionally applicable guidance that will strengthen the capacity of policy makers and managers to address the needs of the poor more effectively.

For more information on projects and achievements please visit the IMM website www.innovation.ex.ac.uk/imm/ or contact Ben Cattermoul B.Cattermoul-IMM@exeter.ac.uk





Project Partners

International Coral Reef Action Network (ICRAN)

The International Coral Reef Network (ICRAN) established in 2000 is a collaborative effort of many of the world's leading coral reef science and conservation organisations (United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), WorldFish Centre, Coral Reef Alliance (CORAL), Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN), International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI), World Resources Institute (WRI)) working to halt and reverse the decline in the health of the world's coral reefs. ICRAN has links to governments, intergovernmental organisations and NGOs alike and draws on its partners' investments in reef monitoring and management to create strategically linked actions across local, national and global scales.

SACEP is a partner of ICRAN and also acts as the regional node coordinator for the International Coral Reef Initiative. The development of ICRAN actions in the South Asia region support the commitments made by the Governing Council of SACEP at the 2002 WSSD. ICRAN will provide logistical, technical and coordination assistance to SACEP where necessary to ensure the effective execution of activities planned through this project.

For further information on the ICRAN global programme please visit the website www.icran.org or contact Nicola Barnard nbarnard@icran.org

The World Conservation Union (IUCN)

Created in 1948, IUCN – The World Conservation Union brings together 82 States, 111 government agencies, 800 plus NGOs, and some 10,000 scientists and experts from 181 countries in a unique worldwide partnership. IUCN's mission is to influence, encourage and assist societies throughout the world to conserve the integrity and diversity of nature and to ensure that any use of natural resources is equitable and ecologically sustainable. IUCN is the world's largest environmental knowledge network and has helped over 75 countries to prepare and implement national conservation and biodiversity strategies. IUCN is a multicultural, multilingual organisation with 1000 staff located in 62 countries. Its headquarters are in Gland, Switzerland.

IUCN seeks to use knowledge about natural ecosystems and the role of social equity in biodiversity conservation in an integrated manner to build the capacity of individuals and institutions to influence environmental governance at regional and global levels. IUCN has country offices based in Bangladesh, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, as well as regional offices in Bangkok and Colombo, experience of project implementation in the participating countries, and is capable of mobilising resources, and facilitating integrated actions across the region. In addition, IUCN has developed the World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA), which seeks to promote the establishment, and effective management of a worldwide representative network of terrestrial and marine protected areas, housing a wealth of expertise and information through its international network that is applicable to this project.

IUCN's Global Marine Programme is since 2004 hosting Coral Reef Degradation in the Indian Ocean (CORDIO) in Asia. CORDIO is a multi-stakeholder partnership project set up in 1998 to strengthen coral reef research on impacts of climate change and monitoring capacity and coordination, including bridging the gap between biophysical and socio-economic issues as well as between science and management policy. Working through local, national and regional partner institutions the project provides data, information and knowledge needed for sound and adaptive management of both livelihoods and natural resources, ensuring sustainable and equitable use as well as conservation of biodiversity.



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IUCN and CORDIO will work in collaboration with IMM to implement the alternative livelihoods component of the project, drawing on lessons learned from the socio-economic monitoring and capacity building developed in the Gulf of Mannar and the Lakshadweep Islands in India in association with the Suganthi Devadason Marine Research Institute (SDMRI) and Centre for Action Research on Environment Science and Society (CARESS). Lessons from IUCN, GEF, CORDIO and other activities along the Rekawa, Kalametiya and Ussangoda Coastline in the Hambantota Region of Sri Lanka, such as the identification of alternative income sources for community members dependant on coral mining, and the implementation of Alternative Livelihood Programs will also be shared, supporting IUCN mission in Asia to encourage the conservation and sustainable use of coastal and marine biodiversity.

This project will encourage intra-regional information sharing through the existing networks and ICRAN, and seeks to work in collaboration with CORDIO, IUCN, GCRMN and others to obtain strategic advice and information on existing linked initiatives in the region, and to exchange lessons learned and best practices developed by these organisations.





MCPA SITE SELECTION

This project has a site based activity component for execution within existing Marine and Coastal Protected Areas (MCPAs) which seeks to improve the available capacity for all aspects of management (enforcement, education, outreach, etc.), and to create a robust foundation from which a networked system of effectively managed MCPAs can evolve in the region.

Site based activities are to be conducted at 5 MCPA sites, ideally one from each of the maritime nations (Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Pakistan, Sri Lanka) of the South Asia region.

Nominations were requested from key stakeholders, and MCPA managers from across the region in an information gathering exercise to assist in the identification of sites that will benefit most, and that will be best suited to undertake the planned activities.

Sites are to be selected in light of previously implemented activities, to avoid any duplication of effort, and where appropriate, countries with previous experience may take a leading role on the activity, acting as a best practice example in order to ensure the effective exchange of lessons learned.

Planned activities for selected sites

It is proposed to carry out the following activities at selected sites:

- **Implementation of a 5-day training programme for staff members from selected sites to review and address MCPA management strategies, and develop or enhance community outreach and environmental education programmes**
- **Implementation of a 5-day training programme for staff members from selected sites to review and address enforcement challenges**
- **Provision of enforcement equipment or financial support to selected sites for existing enforcement activities, in accordance with needs assessment**
- **Provision of financial and technical support to selected sites for the implementation of environmental education activities with local communities, and the development of outreach materials**
- **Implementation of a one-day training workshop to introduce MCPA representatives to the electronic discussion forum developed through the communications component of this project**



MCPA Site Selection Objective

While an effectively managed, isolated MCPA site will produce local rewards, a networked approach to marine resource conservation is considered to be more effective for the protection of biological diversity. The expansion of protected area networks is therefore a principal requirement of the South Asia region in order to ensure the food and livelihood security of coastal populations, and achieve Multilateral Environmental Agreement (MEA) targets.

It is widely recognised that whilst environmental legislation exists; implementation and enforcement of these regulations is often weak, and existing MCPAs often do not achieve their establishment objectives.

This project seeks to improve the effectiveness of management and operation at existing MCPA sites, developing the necessary capacity and training tools, and encouraging the replication and uptake of best practices at other sites across the South Asia region to garner support for MCPAs, and promote their effective maintenance and future establishment in support of MEA targets.

Guidelines for Site Selection

The following are the preferred criteria for sites participating in project activities:

- The MCPA site must already have a management plan and exhibit a basic level of management capacity
- The MCPA site boundaries must encompass coral reef habitat
- The MCPA site must be able to designate personnel to engage in project communications, regional workshops, the organisation of training sessions, and basic administrative arrangements associated with the project
- The proposed activities must not duplicate existing efforts at the MCPA site
- The MCPA site must be considered to benefit from the implementation of the proposed activities
- Site based training activities are anticipated for 6 staff, over an intensive 5 day period. Each site must have adequate staff and time to spare for the various site based training activities
- The MCPA must be prepared to maintain the basic level of training among existing and new staff as per the training and resources provided through this project
- The MCPA site will ideally have an associated community or group of stakeholders, and staff must be prepared to implement education and awareness programmes using the resources provided
- The MCPA should be considered as an appropriate example with which to exchange lessons learned and experiences nationally and across the region
- The MCPA must be able to gain authorisation from leading Management Authority to undertake such training



Site Nominations

Following consultation with key stakeholders from across the region a number of sites have been put forward for inclusion in the planned project activities, as shown below .

Name of Nominated Site
BANGLADESH
St Martins Island
INDIA
M. G National Park (A&N)
Gulf Of Mannar
Gulf of Kutchh Marine National Park, Gujarat
Pitti Wildlife Sanctuary, Lakshadweep
Rani Jhansi National Park, Andaman
Jamnagar Marine National Park, Gujarat
Lakshadweep
MALDIVES
Vaavu Atoll
Faafu Atoll
Addu Atoll
Eedhigali Kilhi & Koatthey Area at Addu Atoll, Hithadhoo
Hurasdhoo, North Ari Atoll
Baa atoll
PAKISTAN
Hingol National Park including Ras Malan
Cape Montz (Chuma Island)
Omara
Astola Island (Haft Talar)
Jiwani (Gwater Bay)
SRI LANKA
Bar Reef Marine Sanctuary
Pigeon Island
Hikkaduwa
Rumassala
Pohena reef, Matara District

These site nominations are to be used as the basis for discussions, in the finalisation of 5 sites (one from each participating country) to take part in project activities.



Data Gathering from MCPA Sites

A questionnaire was disseminated to key stakeholders involved in the management of existing MCPA sites across the region. The questionnaire was intended to provide an opportunity to demonstrate the challenges and constraints of the management strategies at each MCPA, and showcase successful aspects of management regimes, in a lesson sharing exercise. Completed questionnaires returned can be found in the 'Supporting Documents' section.



COMMUNICATION COMPONENT

Component Objective

Communication and coordination of knowledge and information are critical elements in effective management, facilitating access to up-to-date information and data, and the exchange of tried and tested methodologies and successes between projects and organisations. It is recognised that the current reporting processes and institutional management pathways in operation between MCPA managers, stakeholders and policy makers in the South Asia region are limited in their effectiveness, and challenges exist to obtain and exchange information vital to marine and coastal resource conservation.

This workshop will be used to identify the principal communication challenges perceived by stakeholders in a needs assessment exercise.

Planned Activities

- **Identification and development of an accessible centralised information conduit and resource base for marine and coastal resource stakeholders across the region.**
- **Development and launch of an interactive electronic discussion forum to provide a platform for Internet discussions and announcements to link marine and coastal stakeholders in real time.**
- **Development of a strategy to outline appropriate modifications to reporting and information exchange procedures to and from MCPA sites within and across the region, to highlight the communication pathways and information storage options available, and to encourage the streamlining of information exchange.**



Communication Needs Assessment

Identify how the communication of information to and from MCPA sites in each country, and across the region, can be improved to support greater coordination of efforts and the exchange of best practices at sites, and promote the development of a connected MCPA network in the future.

ACTION / DISCUSSION POINTS

- **What are the principal challenges in obtaining and exchanging information with MCPAs across the region?**
- **Are MCPA sites able to access information necessary for management / funding?**
- **Is information shared between MCPAs nationally / regionally? Would this be beneficial?**
- **Are South Asian MCPAs effectively represented in global fora?**



Database Facility Development

The groundwork for a comprehensive regional database resource facility has been initiated through the actions of the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN), the Department for International Development (DFID), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), and Systems Engineering and Marine Consulting (SEAMARC).

Software detailing country geography, legislative and resource management provisions, socio-economic status and the extent of marine and coastal resources has been created for the Maldives, Sri Lanka and India. At present none of the country profiles are complete and the system does not fulfill its potential as an accessible information resource for interested parties in the region.

Financial and technical resources are available to develop this, or another resource to provide a comprehensive central information conduit to link stakeholders and reduce the disparity in information accessibility and availability across the region.

More information on the GCRMN South Asia Regional Coral Reef Database for Reef Management Support can be found by visiting the IOC website:

<http://ioc.unesco.org/gcrmn/database.htm>

ACTION / DISCUSSION POINTS

- **Is a centralised database and resource facility required/useful?**
- **What factors prevent the uptake and use of such a facility by stakeholders?**
- **What principal facilities/information should this service have to support communication and information exchange in relation to marine and coastal resource management?**
- **What is the preferred server/host for this facility? - To develop the existing format or identify another host?**
- **How can this system be made sustainable?**



Electronic Discussion Forum

An electronic discussion forum will be established to allow researchers, scientists and policy developers to locate expertise and information on all aspects of coastal resource management and utilisation. The service facilitates real-time advice and updates on current work programs, local and global issues, and can be used to mentor the next generation of scientists in the region.

An example of a well-established electronic discussion forum is the International Coral List Server coordinated by NOAA's Coral Reef Health and Monitoring Program.

A linked information clearing house and forum service for Octocoral researchers has also recently been established. Please visit the website for more information.
<http://www.octocoralresearch.com>

ACTION / DISCUSSION POINTS

- Is an electronic discussion facility required/useful?
- Who would be the anticipated core users of this facility?
- What lessons can be learned from previous networking efforts in the region? – e. g ICRMN
- Design of List Serve – Similar template to well established systems?
- What are the possibilities for the hosting of an electronic discussion facility – Pre-existing server equipment (SACEP, Governments, ICRI Forum)?
- Should the database and forum services be linked to facilitate access to both?



Unifying Communications Strategy

One of the goals of this project is to develop human and technical capacity for management at existing MCPA sites, and build more robust foundations in knowledge, information sharing, and communication, which will support the evolution of a networked system of MCPAs in the future.

In the spirit of networking and communication, mechanisms to encourage information and best practice exchanges between MCPA sites within the region, and the wider marine and coastal resource community, will be explored and practical solutions captured in a strategy document.

The strategy document will outline modifications to regional reporting procedures and communication pathways, and will integrate the information coordination and experience sharing mechanisms to be developed through this project, to enhance the vertical and horizontal flow of information to and from MCPA sites.

- **What is the scope of the strategy – which stakeholder groups can effectively be included?**
- **What endorsement requirements exist for MCPA sites and agencies to participate in such a strategy?**
- **Scenarios for development.**



ALTERNATIVE LIVELIHOODS COMPONENT

A lack of alternative livelihood options in coastal areas has been identified as a root cause of continued coastal degradation and poverty. While many programmes and projects dealing with natural resource management in the South Asia region have included alternative livelihood components, these have often been poorly conceived and ineffective in their implementation. This limited success is largely due to a poor comprehension of the full range of issues at stake, and a failure to systematically document the approaches to understanding livelihood diversification that have already been utilised.

Component Objective

At present, the information and institutional capacity within the region to systematically approach alternative livelihood creation in a participatory and poverty-focused way is insufficient to ensure effective and sustainable actions. This project, in partnership with IUCN and CORDIO, will therefore aim to develop, test and fully document such approaches, disseminating findings through training sessions for practitioners and policy makers to redirect attitudes and management structures within the region, and demonstrate the inherent links between environmental protection and poverty.

The workshop will be used to introduce participants to the planned activities, highlighting the collaboration of IMM, IUCN and CORDIO in support the objectives of this component, and demonstrating the value added to the existing programmes of these regional organisations.

Planned Activities

- **Workshop to characterise reef dependency and identify key drivers and inhibitors that influence the uptake of alternative livelihoods by poor coastal communities in the region.**
- **Review of livelihood diversification initiatives and experiences to highlight examples of best practice and lessons learned in the development of options for alternative livelihoods.**
- **Development of a sustainable livelihood enhancement and diversification (SLED) and socio-economic monitoring methodologies for the region.**
- **Implementation of pilot studies in selected communities to trial the developed methodologies.**
- **Development of guidelines and training programmes for Livelihood Enhancement Diversification in South Asia.**
- **Training for policy makers and practitioners and selected communities in the use and application of the guidelines and methodologies.**
- **Development of policy guidance to inform and influence key stakeholders across the region and create an enabling environment for the application of successful materials and techniques developed.**



REGIONAL COORDINATION COMPONENT

Component Objective

Economies of scale are evident in the South Asia region with regards to marine and coastal resource management and conservation, and transboundary support and guidance is limited.

In light of this, a Task Force will be established with a key strategic objective to promote the development and implementation of a networked system of MCPAs across the region, and to improve regional cooperation and coordination of efforts in order to safeguard the biodiversity and conservation of essential habitats in line with CBD, MDG and WSSD targets.

Major progress has been made towards enhanced regional cooperation for coral reef monitoring and management through the development of the South Asian regional node of the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN) based in Sri Lanka, and the development of the Indian Coral Reef Monitoring Network (ICRMN). This intervention seeks to strengthen and build upon these advances through collaboration with ICRMN, capitalizing on the existing expertise to re-engage stakeholders.

Planned Activities

- **Establishment of a regional coastal resource task force with defined operational guidelines, and a membership structure to support the identified regional needs, and the planned outputs of the project.**



ESTABLISHMENT OF A REGIONAL TASK FORCE

One of the major anticipated outputs of the project is the establishment of a Regional Task Force for marine and coastal resources. Workshop and intercessional discussions will be used to develop a draft Terms of Reference (TOR) for the operation of the Task Force, and its role in the forthcoming EU project activities, and within the region.

Potential Role of the Task Force

Once in operation it is anticipated that this body will provide guidance to agencies to develop coordinated, science based plans to manage and conserve reefs, and mitigate current and future impacts in South Asia. Comprised of a representative group of policy makers, regional experts and stakeholders, it is anticipated that the Task Force will become a regional driving force relaying site-based realities, and providing environmental information support to policy makers.

The Task Force will operate as a body of expertise able to be mobilised regionally, nationally and locally, and, in the event of any future natural catastrophes, reducing the reliance on external assistance and providing a well-informed advisory service in the assessment and rehabilitation process.

Developing a role as a leading body for coral reef conservation, the Task Force will advise on strategies in response to the growing global environmental crisis and will support the implementation of policy and its adherence to the objectives of Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs).

The Task Force will be financed through EU funds for the first three years of operation, after which point it will be responsible for developing its own fundraising strategies to guarantee longer-term sustainability. The Task Force will also be available to provide technical assistance in proposal development to other parties undertaking coastal resource activities that will benefit the region or individual participating countries

ACTION / DISCUSSION POINTS

- **Can such a body affect regional communication and cooperation?**
- **What is the most effective scope of a Task Force in South Asia – coral reef specific or encompassing all marine and coastal resource issues?**
- **How to avoid creating additional bureaucracy in the region?**
- **What is the preferred format and participation?**
- **What is the preferred branding and outreach?**



Planned Activities for the Regional Task Force

Provision of support and guidance to the following EU project activities:

- The preparation of a long-term strategy for marine and coastal resource conservation in the region
- The development and implementation of a unifying regional communication strategy
- The development and production of training curricula for optimised MCPA management
- The implementation of training for staff at MCPA sites
- The implementation of maritime law enforcement training with staff from existing MCPAs
- The development of the centralised information conduit and resource base
- The development of the electronic discussion forum

In addition to the;

- Design and establishment of a sponsorship fund to facilitate exchange visits and information sharing opportunities by MCPA managers and student researchers
- Representation of the newly formed task force at international conferences and meetings
- Attendance at periodic coordination meetings for task force members to facilitate programme development and target setting

For more detailed information on the human resource requirements of the listed tasks please refer to the project document in the 'Supporting Documents' section of this workbook.



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Selection of Task Force Members

Nominations were requested from key stakeholders (Governments, NGO's, Scientific and Community based initiatives) from across the region in an information gathering exercise to assist in the identification of potential Task Force members.

A group of core members with adequate skills to provide policy and scientific advice, and conduct capacity building training, and who demonstrate commitment and enthusiasm for the objectives of this EU project and the wider role of the Task Force in the region, will be selected to initiate the Task Force. The Task Force may be strengthened through the inclusion of stakeholders of strategic importance, invited to participate in accordance with the identified operating procedures and project work plan.

Stakeholders identified for inclusion in the Task Force will be allocated tasks in light of their existing work commitments and their area of expertise. While all reasonable costs are covered, the provision of advice and support in some tasks will be on an in-kind contribution basis.

General Requirements of Task Force Members

- **Work alongside project personnel and principal stakeholders to define a suitable work plan for each year of project implementation, mindful of the commitments of Task Force members, and the goals of the wider EU project**
- **Encourage policy makers and decision makers to develop national coral reef action plans or strategies, where they do not already exist, and to look at the establishment of a regional framework for coral reef management and protection**
- **Act as a reference body and provide technical advice, where appropriate, on proposals and coral reef related activities in the region**
- **Explore fundraising options for the long-term sustainability of the Task Force, and provide assistance and advise to organisations developing national or regionally applicable projects**
- **Facilitate linkages and dialogue between potential collaborators to maximise synergies at all levels of work on coral reefs**
- **A chairperson will be elected to provide coordination assistance to Task Force outputs. The position will be filled on a rotational basis defined during discussions**



Task Force Member Nominations

These nominations were received from key stakeholders from across the region and are to be used as a basis for discussions related to the structure and membership of the regional Task Force.

Name of Nominated Participant/Expert	Organisation
INDIA	
Dr Sarang Kulkarni	Reefwatch Marine Conservation
Dr Wafer	NIO Goa
Dr Venketrman	Biodiversity Authority of India
Vineeta Hoon	CARESS
Dr Patterson Edward	SDMRI
Dr Rohan Arthur	Nature Conservation Foundation - Mysore
Dr Kartik Shanker	Centre for Ecological Sciences - Bangalore
Mr A Senthilvel (policy)	MoEF – New Delhi
Ms Aarthi Sridhar	Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology & Environment - Bangalore
Mr Sundarshan Rodriguez	Independent marine conservation consultant - Chennai
Dr Melkani	GOMBRT
Dr Vivekanandan	ZSI India
Mr Sya m Choudhury	Chief Wildlife Warden A&N
Representation	MoEF – focal point for ICRMN and ICRI
Representation	RWMC
Representation	CORDIO
SRI LANKA	
Representation	CORDIO
Representation	Department of Wildlife Conservation
Arjan Rajasuriya	NARA
Dr Ranil Senanayake	Counterpart International (based in Washington)
MALDIVES	
Dr Mohamed Zuhair	PA's MoEEW
Ms Mariyam Saleem	MRC
Mr Mohamed Faiz	Assistant Director General, Fisheries Development and Extension Unit, MoFAgr
Dr Abdulla Naseer	Executive Director, Fisheries Development and Extension Unit, MoFAgr
PAKISTAN	
Representation	Chief Conservabr, Forest and Wildlife, Govt. of Sindh
Tahir Qureshi	IUCN
BANGLADESH	
Quazi Mukhlesur Rahaman	Marine Park Establishment & Eco-Tourism Development project – St Martins Is.
Raquibul Amin	IUCN



Regional Task Force Draft Terms of Reference

- Assist in the construction of an identity and presence of the TF in the region
- Work alongside Task Force members and principal stakeholders to define a suitable work plan for each year of project implementation, mindful of commitments of task force members, the goals of the EU project, and wider regional needs
- Define the structure and operation of the Task Force through regional consultation and review
- Encourage active participation in international meetings by institutions and relevant parties in order to raise awareness about priority issues relevant to the region
- Facilitate the establishment of national coral reef task forces that support the development of local capacity in research, management and government, coordinate communication at the national level and serve as a platform to local initiatives
- Encourage policy makers and decision makers to develop national coral reef action plans or strategies and to look at the establishment of a regional framework for coral reef management and protection
- Act as a reference body and provide technical advice, where appropriate, on proposals for coral reef projects in the region
- Provide advice to strengthen the legal and institutional framework at all appropriate levels for the conservation and sustainable management of coral reefs
- Facilitate communication and the dissemination of information for scientific and public awareness purposes
- Undertake fundraising activities to support Task Force outputs as well as assisting in fundraising for other coral reefs activities and projects that will benefit the region and individual countries



SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

Data Gathering from MCPA Sites

A questionnaire was disseminated to key stakeholders involved in the management of existing MCPA sites across the region. The questionnaire was intended to provide an opportunity to demonstrate the challenges and constraints of the management strategies at each MCPA, and showcase successful aspects of management regimes, in a lesson sharing exercise.

Completed questionnaires returned to us are shown below.



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MCPA OVERVIEW QUESTIONNAIRE

Gahirmatha Marine Sanctuary

Location of MCPA: [Rajnarag Mangrove Division, Dist: Kendrapara, Orissa](#)

Size of MCPA: [1435 sq](#)

List legislation governing MCPA management: [Wildlife Protection Act, 1972](#)

Leading Management Authority: [Forest Department, Orissa](#)

Number of permanent staff: [Not available](#)

Number of casual or temporary staff: [Not available](#)

Do staff have the necessary skills and training? YES/NO ([Some have, but not all, particularly ad-hoc volunteers don't have them](#))

Do staff members speak English? If NO, please state preferred language. [Higher officials speak English](#)

List MCPA establishment goal(s): [Protection of Olive Ridley Turtles and mangrove ecosystem](#)

List 3 most important threats to the MCPA:

- [Illegal Fishing](#)
 - [Developmental activities](#)
 - [Illumination at the coast](#)
-

List the top three management activities:

- [Protection through policing](#)
 - [Awareness generation](#)
 - [Illumination mitigation activities](#)
-

Does your MCPA have a current management plan? YES/NO ([yes, under last stages of finalisation](#))

Are the objectives and actions specified in the management plan an adequate and appropriate response to the issues? If NO, please state why.

[To some extent not all](#)

Are coral reefs present within the boundaries of your MCPA? [No](#)

Is there a monitoring programme to review the health of the resources at your MCPA? If YES, please state how frequently monitoring is undertaken.

[Only regular periodic monitoring of resources, no scientific research based monitoring](#)

COMMUNICATION

Are there any key stakeholder groups that you do not have contact or regular communications with? If YES, please state which stakeholders (Fishermen, policy makers, scientists, NGOs etc), and reasons.

Does your MCPA have computers and access to the Internet?

[Only at the office of MPA director](#)

Are you able to access the relevant scientific and management information you need? If NO, what specific information do you feel is lacking?



Do you have any contact with other MCPA sites in your country or region? YES/ NO

Yes

Would your MCPA benefit from access to a free electronic discussion forum to exchange ideas and lessons learned with other managers and stakeholders in the region?

No

Do representatives from your MCPA attend international meetings to relate the situation of your MCPA to a wider audience? If NO, please state why.

From the forest department yes but not necessarily posted as staff for the MPA

SOCIO ECONOMICS

Are there communities living within or near to your MCPA? If YES, please state distance from MCPA and approximate population number.

Yes...very close in fact, just residing on the boundary

Are members of the local communities reliant on the resources of the MCPA for food or livelihoods? If YES, please state in what way.

Yes, they depend for fishing, grazing the cattle in the mangrove area and also collect fuel wood.

Have any alternative livelihood schemes been conducted in or around the MCPA? If YES, please briefly describe.

Not much, some small NGOs works towards imparting sewing training to women in some villages, not much success so far

Does the MCPA management plan take into account the needs and interest of local communities living in or around the MCPA? If NO, please explain why.

It does ascribe the importance of the interest of local communities, but addressing the issues of resource sharing and management has not been adequate so far.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

Is there an environmental education element in the management plan? YES/NO

Yes, they conduct camps and awareness generation meetings with communities and school children as well.

Does your MCPA conduct environmental education or awareness raising programmes with local communities/stakeholders? If YES, please state frequency of contact, and types of activities conducted.

Yes, Seasonal, periodicity not specified. Nature camps, visits to MPA.

ENFORCEMENT

Does your MCPA have dedicated enforcement personnel – warden/ranger(s)?

yes

Do staff have the necessary skills and training?

Provision of on duty training, but specific skills for marine conservation is lacking

Are local stakeholders (fishermen/communities etc) aware and supportive of the regulations of the MCPA? If NO, please state possible reasons.

Many of them support, but conflicts do arise on the issues of resource sharing.



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Are the existing legislation and legal processes adequate to support enforcement and preserve the MCPA values? If NO, please state inadequacies.

Need to be a little more people centric and should foster community's participation and involvement.

How many regulation infringements have been reported in 2005 and so far in 2006?

The exact figure is not known but there are many

What enforcement equipment is available at your MCPA? Please list (hand held radios/Boats/Outboard engines etc.)

Patrolling boats, wireless sets etc (not sure)

Is the equipment appropriate and functional?

Not aware



MCPA OVERVIEW QUESTIONNAIRE

Gulf of Kachchh Marine National Park

Location of MCPA: [Dist: Jamnagar , Gujarat](#)

Size of MCPA: [162.89 sq km National Park + 457.42 sq km of Sanctuary area](#)

List legislation governing MCPA management: [Wildlife Protection Act, 1972](#)

Leading Management Authority: [Forest Department, Gujarat](#)

Number of permanent staff: [86](#)

Number of casual or temporary staff: [65](#), [Voluntary people: 21](#)

Do staff have the necessary skills and training? YES/NO ([Some have, but not all, particularly ad-hoc volunteers don't have them](#))

Do staff members speak English? If NO, please state preferred language. [A good majority of officials speak English, if not speaks they understand English.](#)

List MCPA establishment goal(s): [To conserve and maintain Coral reef areas in their natural status.](#)

List 3 most important threats to the MCPA:

- [Industrial activity](#)
- [Natural disasters](#)

List the top three management activities:

- [Propagation of mangroves](#)
 - [Protection of coral reef, mangroves and other marine life](#)
-

Does your MCPA have a current management plan? YES/NO ([yes, latest management plan is under last stages of finalisation](#))

Are the objectives and actions specified in the management plan an adequate and appropriate response to the issues? If NO, please state why .

[Not aware](#)

Are coral reefs present within the boundaries of your MCPA? [Yes, predominantly a coral reef ecosystem.](#)

Is there a monitoring programme to review the health of the resources at your MCPA? If YES, please state how frequently monitoring is undertaken.

[Only regular periodic monitoring of resources, not much scientific research based monitoring](#)

COMMUNICATION

Are there any key stakeholder groups that you do not have contact or regular communications with? If YES, please state which stakeholders (Fishermen, policy makers, scientists, NGOs etc), and reasons.

Does your MCPA have computers and access to the Internet?

[Only at the office of MPA director](#)

Are you able to access the relevant scientific and management information you need? If NO, what specific information do you feel is lacking?



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Do you have any contact with other MCPA sites in your country or region? YES/ NO

Yes

Would your MCPA benefit from access to a free electronic discussion forum to exchange ideas and lessons learned with other managers and stakeholders in the region?

Not to a large extent

Do representatives from your MCPA attend international meetings to relate the situation of your MCPA to a wider audience? If NO, please state why.

Yes and posted as staff for the MPA (Mr. Dave, RFO, MNP)

SOCIO ECONOMICS

Are there communities living within or near to your MCPA? If YES, please state distance from MCPA and approximate population number.

Yes...good population density in the vicinity of MPA, mainly due to so many industrial units around MPA

Are members of the local communities reliant on the resources of the MCPA for food or livelihoods? If YES, please state in what way.

Yes, they depend for fishing, collection of corals (very small proportion).

Have any alternative livelihood schemes been conducted in or around the MCPA? If YES, please briefly describe.

Not aware

Does the MCPA management plan take into account the needs and interest of local communities living in or around the MCPA? If NO, please explain why not.

Not aware

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

Is there an environmental education element in the management plan? YES/NO

Yes, they conduct camps and awareness generation meetings with communities and school children as well.

Does your MCPA conduct environmental education or awareness raising programmes with local communities/stakeholders? If YES, please state frequency of contact, and types of activities conducted.

Yes, periodical Nature camps, visits to MPA, for school children and other groups.. Awareness generation camps for communities

ENFORCEMENT

Does your MCPA have dedicated enforcement personnel – warden/ranger(s)?

yes

Do staff have the necessary skills and training?

Provision of on duty training, but specific skills for marine conservation not appropriate.

Are local stakeholders (fishermen/communities etc) aware and supportive of the regulations of the MCPA? If NO, please state possible reasons.

Many of them supports, but conflicts do arise on the issues of resource sharing, Industrial units are major stakeholders





Are the existing legislation and legal processes adequate to support enforcement and preserve the MCPA values? If NO, please state inadequacies.

Need to be a little more people centric and should foster communities participation and involvement.

How many regulation infringements have been reported in 2005 and so far in 2006?

The exact figure is not known but there are some

What enforcement equipment is available at your MCPA? Please list (hand held radios/Boats/Outboard engines etc.)

Patrolling boats, wireless sets etc (not sure)

Is the equipment appropriate and functional?

Not aware



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MCPA OVERVIEW QUESTIONNAIRE

Mahatma Gandhi Marine National Park

Location of MCPA: **Wandoor, Andaman Islands**

Size of MCPA: **281.5 Sq. km**

List legislation governing MCPA management: **Indian Wildlife Act (1972)**

Leading Management Authority: **Department of Environment and Forests**

Number of permanent staff: **4 higher level officers, 2 rangers, 5 Camp Officers**

Number of casual or temporary staff: **Around 40 Labourer who are permanent**

Do staff have the necessary skills and training? **No**

Do staff members speak English? If NO, please state preferred language. **Very few speak English and majority of staff prefer Hindi**

List MCPA establishment goal(s):

To preserve the marine and island ecosystem

List 3 most important threats to the MCPA:

- **Sedimentation**
- **Poaching**
- **Tourism**

List the top three management activities:

- **Surveillance**
- **Monitoring**
- **Tourism**

Does your MCPA have a current management plan? YES/NO **Management plan is drafted but not as yet finalised**

Are the objectives and actions specified in the management plan an adequate and appropriate response to the issues? If NO, please state why .

NA

Are coral reefs present within the boundaries of your MCPA? **YES**

Is there a monitoring programme to review the health of the resources at your MCPA? If YES, please state how frequently monitoring is undertaken.

YES (Annually) but it is not sustained

COMMUNICATION

Are there any key stakeholder groups that you do not have contact or regular communications with? If YES, please state which stakeholders (Fishermen, policy makers, scientists, NGOs etc), and reasons.

YES I have regular communications with stakeholder

Does your MCPA have computers and access to the Internet?

NO





Are you able to access the relevant scientific and management information you need? If NO, what specific information do you feel is lacking?

YES

Do you have any contact with other MCPA sites in your country or region?

YES

Would your MCPA benefit from access to a free electronic discussion forum to exchange ideas and lessons learned with other managers and stakeholders in the region?

YES

Do representatives from your MCPA attend international meetings to relate the situation of your MCPA to a wider audience? If NO, please state why.

NO

SOCIO ECONOMICS

Are there communities living within or near to your MCPA? If YES, please state distance from MCPA and approximate population number.

YES (local communities lives around MCPA ... nearest distance: 200 meter)

Are members of the local communities reliant on the resources of the MCPA for food or livelihoods? If YES, please state in what way.

YES but illegally for commercial fishing and wood for construction

Have any alternative livelihood schemes been conducted in or around the MCPA? If YES, please briefly describe.

NO

Does the MCPA management plan take into account the needs and interest of local communities living in or around the MCPA? If NO, please explain why not.

NO (local communities needs are taken care by other various scheme of state government)

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

Is there an environmental education element in the management plan? YES/NO

YES

Does your MCPA conduct environmental education or awareness raising programmes with local communities/stakeholders? If YES, please state frequency of contact, and types of activities conducted.

YES ... taking kids from local communities in MPA

ENFORCEMENT

Does your MCPA have dedicated enforcement personnel – warden/ranger(s)?

YES

Do staff have the necessary skills and training?

NO



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Are local stakeholders (fishermen/communities etc) aware and supportive of the regulations of the MCPA? If NO, please state possible reasons.

YES

Are the existing legislation and legal processes adequate to support enforcement and preserve the MCPA values? If NO, please state inadequacies.

YES

How many regulation infringements have been reported in 2005 and so far in 2006?

What enforcement equipment is available at your MCPA? Please list (hand held radios/Boats/Outboard engines etc.)

5 hand held radio
2 speed boats
2 OBM

Is the equipment appropriate and functional?

NO

Boats are inappropriate as they are not sea worthy therefore its affecting the surveillance and other monitoring activities. Under the present project, it will be great if this project can provide sea worthy speed boat for patrolling and monitoring purpose.



Project Document

Institutional Strengthening and Capacity Development for the Long-term Management and Conservation of MCPAs encompassing coral reef resources in South Asia

Location(s): **Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Sri Lanka, and Pakistan**

Summary

This regional initiative gives priority to the management and conservation of exploited marine and coastal resources. The improvement of management outputs from existing Marine and Coastal Protected Areas (MCPAs) will be targeted through the development of human and technical expertise, improvement of information and networking services, and the allocation of technical equipment to sites. Training and management processes across the region will be reviewed and rationalised to ensure greater consistency and aptitude for management and conservation, and to formulate a transferable resource base capable of accommodating future MCPA network developments in line with countries Multilateral Environmental Agreement (MEA) commitments. Institutional strengthening will be undertaken in parallel to mainstream environmental considerations into development policy agenda and readdress the unique situations of poor coastal communities. The creation of advisory and coordination capacity through the establishment of the South Asia Coastal Resource Task Force, will develop linkages between all levels of management, and will harness and focus existing regional expertise, facilitating coordinated responses to transboundary management issues and improving the representation of South Asian marine and coastal resource management challenges within global discussion fora.

Objectives

To contribute to the reduction in the rates of marine and coastal biodiversity loss at the global, regional and national level and protect the natural resources on which the economic and social development of future generations is based, through the establishment of regionally representative networks of marine and coastal protected areas (MCPAs) encompassing coral reefs.

The specific aims of this project are to:

- Define and implement a more effective and coordinated management system for coastal and marine resources across the South Asia region, rationalising operational management of existing MCPAs and generating greater expertise for protected area planning and the long- term protection of critical marine habitats
- Develop the required foundations for consolidated and coordinated management strategies, facilitating the targeted responses of nations to the international conventions through institutional, human and technical capacity investment
- Ensure the greater representation of coastal stakeholders at a national and international level and increase stakeholder participation in management, in order to realign policy and management strategies with site based realities, develop appropriate management interventions and foster greater stewardship of management actions
- Identify mechanisms and build both the institutional and technical capacity for understanding the factors affecting the identification of viable and sustainable livelihood diversification options and for creating the conditions for their successful uptake by poor coastal communities, thus reducing reef dependency, facilitating resource conservation efforts, and contributing to national poverty alleviation efforts
- Facilitate the development of adequate enforcement capacity and infrastructure, greater inter-agency coordination, trained and equipped personnel, and the establishment of legal provisions and appropriate penalties to mitigate potential harmful impacts in marine and coastal protected areas



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- Establish an advisory team of regional experts and stakeholders, to review policy, guide future interventions and encourage governments to urgently address all threats, including those arising from the land and shipping, in order to maximise the effectiveness of marine and coastal protected areas in achieving their objectives for marine and coastal biodiversity
- Improve information exchange systems to ensure that rehabilitation efforts following the Indian Ocean tsunami disaster are coordinated, sustainable, and mindful of the long-term conservation needs of the coastal zone and dependant communities
- Improve the integration and inter-agency cooperation of the maritime countries of the region and increase the potential for transboundary management and coordinated responses to shared environmental issues, and generate greater disaster response capabilities within the South Asia maritime nations

1.7 Detailed description of activities

1.7.1

Action 1: Human and Technical Resource Coordination and Mobilisation

1.1 Regional Workshop 1 – Inception Workshop

Representatives from existing MCPAs, governmental policy departments, intergovernmental organisations, and scientific institutions will be invited to attend a 2-day regional workshop hosted in Sri Lanka. SACEP will provide the coordination for this meeting, which aims to bring together a diverse array of coral reef stakeholders. The agenda will include:

- Inception meeting, project design reviewed in consultation with stakeholders, first work plan updated to ensure relevance and feasibility, and to identify exact stakeholder commitments and roles
- A review of the baseline study information relating to shortfalls in management capacity at existing MCPAs
- Identification of common communication failures and suggestions of alternative communication strategies between institutional and ground levels
- Identification of potential partners for interactive List Server development
- Review of the need for regional coordination and provisional identification of Terms of Reference (TOR) for the establishment of a South Asia Coastal Resource Task Force
- Nomination of appropriate members and coordinator for the South Asia Coastal Resource Task Force

SACEP will organise and coordinate all meeting arrangements, and will ensure the collection of baseline management information from sites in advance of the meeting. Participants unable to attend the meeting may send an appropriate representative or provide written or verbal input in advance of the meeting.

The current work commitments of stakeholders will be considered during the allocation of roles and responsibilities at this meeting, to ensure actions will be fulfilled in a timely manner. Continual liaison with the implementing agency following this workshop will review progress and identify problems in advance. Conference outputs will be compiled and disseminated via email to update those unable to attend. Flexibility will be factored into the allocation of roles with job-share options to negate time and effort constraints.

- A total of 30 people will participate in the 2-day workshop, comprising of 5 participants from each of the 5 countries involved in the project, and 5 representatives from the coordinating and implementing agencies SACEP/UNEP/ICRAN
- DSA rate for International Travellers in Colombo, Sri Lanka will be allocated to cover accommodation, food and local travel costs.
- International Flights will be provided for the participants located outside Sri Lanka.
- A complementary luncheon and refreshments will be provided for participants on each day of the workshop.

Preparatory Activities to achieve Action 1.1 - Compilation of site based MCPA management practices, shortfalls and capacity needs:





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In preparation for the first regional workshop, selected MCPA staff from across the region will be requested to collate information specific to their site detailing any perceived problems relating to the implementation of management plans, enforcement of regulations, communication strategies, training of staff and community outreach programs. SACEP will prepare an explanatory template for completion by MCPA staff taking into account the experiences of regional partners and ICRAN and UNEP-CRU, to ensure that the appropriate basic information is obtained. A one-page handout detailing this information will be produced from each site selected for dissemination at the workshop, providing an opportunity for direct representation of those tasked with implementing policy at the ground level. In particular, the interaction and methods of information exchange between communities, MCPA staff, policy makers and higher-level managers will be reviewed.

In recognition of high reporting workloads at MCPA sites and limited staff resources, this assessment is designed to request only basic and easily obtainable information. Flexibility will be built into the process to allow for further information submission should sites wish to contribute further. MCPA sites and staff included in this initiative will be nominated through SACEP focal points across the region. Whilst interventions are intended for only 5 MCPA sites at this time, information will be gathered from at least 10 potential sites to ensure adequate information collection and create a greater overview of the current capacity shortfalls.

1.2 Regional Workshop 2

Representatives from MCPAs, government, intergovernmental organisations, South Asia Coastal Resource Task Force and scientific institutions will be invited to attend a 3-day workshop hosted by SACEP in Sri Lanka. The agenda will include:

- Finalisation of the TOR and operating procedures and work plan of the South Asia Coastal Resource Task Force
- Finalisation and consensus of adoption for an interactive regional communication strategy
- Review of options for interactive List Server development and appropriate partners and implementation work program determined
- Identification of centralised information conduit to be managed by the South Asia Coastal Resource Task Force and work plan for its development
- Identification of 5 MCPA sites for the implementation of training activities

SACEP will again organise and coordinate all meeting arrangements and any participants who are unable to attend, will be required to send a representative on the identified dates. SACEP will maintain contact with participants to ensure that all tasks allocated at the first workshop are completed in advance of this meeting to ensure timely progress.

The updated work plan produced from the 1st regional workshop may be reviewed again at this meeting to accommodate any significant changes. Consensus of opinion and adoption of the proposed actions is anticipated however, the majority vote will finalise actions.

- A total of 30 people will participate in the 3-day workshop, comprising of 5 participants from each of the 5 countries involved in the project, and 5 representatives from the coordinating and implementing agencies SACEP/UNEP/ICRAN
- DSA rate for International Travellers in Colombo, Sri Lanka will be allocated to cover accommodation, food and local travel costs.
- International Flights will be provided for the participants located outside of Sri Lanka.
- A complementary luncheon and refreshments will be provided for participants on each day of the workshop.

1.3 Development and production of an interactive regional communication strategy

Shortfalls in the current reporting processes and institutional management pathways in operation between MCPA managers, stakeholders and policy makers in the South Asia region will be identified and assessed during the regional workshop sessions. In light of the gap analysis, a strategy outlining suitable modifications to regional reporting procedures,



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communication pathways, and information storage and access will be developed to streamline the vertical and horizontal flow of information to and from sites, and a centralised information conduit will be identified and developed to improve information coordination and experience sharing mechanisms.

The recommendations developed will be formulated into agreed co-operation actions with regional applicability, following stakeholder review. The accepted reporting procedures will ensure streamlined processes, facilitating MCPA staff roles rather than generating significant additional workloads. Stakeholder consultation is intended to identify problems as they arise and will allow for the modification of the strategy accordingly.

- A consultant will be contracted to coordinate the development of the communication strategy and to act as editor for the production of a 20-page, full colour document.
- UNEP-CRU, SACEP and ICRAN will provide technical support and will proof-read the first draft of the communication strategy and provide input into its development and production.
- The consultant will attend one meeting of the TF in order to exchange information and report on progress.
- The communication strategy will be a 20 page, full colour document and 1000 copies will be produced for dissemination.
- Nominated TF members will be required to work on the development of the communication strategy in the interim 4 – 6 weeks between Regional Workshop 1 and 2.

Action 2: Human and Technical Capacity Development

2.1 Development and production of training curricula for optimised MCPA management

National and regional representatives identified for roles within the Task Force will be commissioned alongside a consultant to conduct a comprehensive review of existing literature on MCPA management processes such as; annual workshop reports, developed regulatory and policy tools, socio-economic studies, and educational program reports produced at national and regional levels. Based on the existing literature and additional expert input, and incorporating the newly defined regional communication strategies, a training curricula package will be produced compiling the most relevant and successful strategies adopted throughout the region for improved MCPA management and staff training. The information will be placed into the public domain and easily accessible from the centralised information conduit, fulfilling the CBD COP7 recommendations and facilitating the realisation of CBD Clearing House Mechanism goals.

It is anticipated that task force members can assemble the information comprehensively, and that the original authors will grant the exchange and copyright access to existing information to ensure inclusion of successful interventions in the final published training package. The outputs of partner organisations will be used where relevant to mitigate this factor. The package produced will have regional relevance and will be translated into the appropriate local languages for dissemination.

- A consultant will be contracted to review existing literature and coordinate the development and editing of the training curricula in collaboration with TF members.
- The consultant will attend one meeting of the TF in order to obtain and exchange information, and report on progress.
- UNEP-CRU, SACEP and ICRAN will provide technical support and will proof-read the first draft of the training curricula and provide input into its development and production.
- The training curricula will be produced as a full colour document and widely disseminated to all countries of the region. Translation is not anticipated at this stage.
- Nominated TF members will be required to work on the development of the training curricula.



2.2 Implementation of training for staff at MCPA sites

Based on the training curricula package developed and printed by the TF (c.f. Action 2.1), and incorporating the needs assessments and reports from MCPAs presented at the regional workshops, one week will be allocated per MCPA site within which to conduct the relevant training programs in MCPA management strategies, community outreach, and environmental education. The implementation of training programs will accommodate for the continued daily operation of MCPA facilities. As such, implementation time frames may differ between sites, dependant on management preferences. Participants of the training programme will receive recognition for their involvement and certification of their attendance, to be presented on completion.

- Two TF members or national experts local to each MCPA will be contracted to conduct the training of MCPA staff at the 5 selected sites.
- One week will be allocated for the implementation of the training curricula programme at each of the 5 MCPA sites selected in this project, and two weeks allocated for programme preparation and post implementation follow-up.
- DSA rate for National travel will be allocated in line with UN specifications to cover accommodation, food and local travel costs during the 5 days of training course implementation at each site.
- Participants at each MCPA will be given a modest daily stipend for their attendance at the 5-day training course.

2.3 Implementation of maritime law enforcement training with staff from existing MCPAs

A rapid needs assessment and training curricula will be designed for 5 MCPAs based on a site and stakeholder evaluation of perceived threats to maritime law enforcement at each MCPA. A senior marine law enforcement specialist, as identified by stakeholder consultation at the regional inception workshop, will be subcontracted to conduct a 1-week training course in basic patrol and arrest techniques, fish identification, local marine law, and law enforcement skills at each MCPA to ensure more effective maritime law enforcement for governmental agencies and non-governmental organizations with jurisdiction and responsibility in protecting the marine environment. The training will include participants from each MCPA, local marine patrols if relevant, and one government representative with responsibilities in marine law enforcement in the near shore waters and marine protected areas. National experts from scientific establishments will be invited to co-host the sessions and provide additional local expertise.

Based on the individual site analysis, and following consultation with the TF, funding will be allocated to sites through this component to provide additional technical enforcement equipment where deemed necessary, such as in the provision of outboard engines for MCPA vessels, or VHF radios to patrol teams. Participants of the training programme will receive recognition for their involvement and certification of their attendance, to be presented on completion.

The technical assessments and actions implemented at MCPA sites will be documented to create nationally applicable reference tools for improved enforcement practices, which can be transferred and applied at additional sites. This information will be directed to the central information conduit for easy access of resource managers and policy makers.

The rapid assessment undertaken by consultants will determine the likelihood of success and the feasibility of implementing actions in advance of training programs and will ensure the development of relevant, effective solutions to local enforcement problems and capacity restraints.

- One senior enforcement specialist will be contracted to review, develop and implement an appropriate enforcement-training programme at the 5 sites selected for this project.



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- One local TF member or national expert will assist the enforcement specialist to implement the enforcement-training program within each country.
- Enforcement equipment or financial support for existing enforcement activities will be provided to each site, based on a needs assessment and the review of maintenance and sustainability issues.
- Participants at each MCPA will be given a modest daily stipend for their attendance at the 5-day training course.

2.4 Implementation of environmental education programs with coastal communities in the vicinity of existing MCPA sites

Following the site-based training on community outreach and environmental education techniques implemented for MCPA staff in line with the TF training curricula (c.f. Action 2.1, 2.2), outreach and environmental education strategies will be developed or reviewed at each MCPA in accordance with the TF training guidelines, and additional activities proposed to better integrate communities local to the MCPAs. Staff members who have participated in the TF training program will be selected to conduct awareness-raising activities at the discretion of their relevant MCPA management team. Community based interactions will be increased in respect of baseline levels, coordinating greater educational activities, participation in hands on ecosystem restoration (e.g. beach cleaning) activities, and international awareness programs such as PADI AWARE and the CORAL organised 'Earth Day' activities.

The sociological conditions and attitudes of coastal communities to resource conservation and the functioning of MCPAs determined from existing MCPAs site reports will be considered by stakeholders in the initial site selection process to ensure that communities will participate in arranged activities and will be receptive to the ideas proposed during outreach and awareness sessions. Visual and hands-on learning methods will be promoted to ensure the greatest retention of information possible.

- Each site will be given a budget to develop education and outreach materials such as banners, posters and t-shirts in conjunction with the international awareness programs.

Action 3.0 Institutional Strengthening

3.1 Development of South Asia Coastal Resource Task Force (TF)

A South Asia Coastal Resource Task Force of 10 members will be established and terms of reference (TOR) for their operation and planned outputs finalised by coral reef stakeholders through the first two regional workshops and intercessional correspondence (c.f. Action 1.1, 1.2). Once in operation and, endorsed by national governments within the framework of SACEP, this advisory body will advise agencies to develop coordinated, science based plans to restore reefs and mitigate current and future impacts in South Asia. Comprised of a representative group of regional experts and stakeholders, the task force will become the regional driving force relaying site-based realities to policy makers and facilitating policy changes in line with identified needs and national priorities. As the lead body for coral reef conservation the task force will advise on strategies in response to the growing global environmental crisis and will support the implementation of policy and its adherence to the objectives of Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs).

The TF will review annual meeting calendars and agendas, in order to effectively allocate resources for optimum member attendance and input to international meetings relating to coastal and marine resources, ensuring representation of South Asia coral reef stakeholders in the global discussion fora. The task force will also operate as a body of expertise able to be mobilised regionally, nationally and locally, in the event of any future natural catastrophes, reducing the reliance on external assistance and providing a well-informed advisory service in rehabilitation processes.

While the TF will be financed through EC funds for the first three years, it will be responsible for developing its own strategies to guarantee the longer-term sustainability of the TF and will be responsible for fundraising for future activities. The TF will also provide proposal development assistance to other parties undertaking coastal resource activities that will



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benefit the region or individual participating countries. SACEP will administer the budget of the TF. A fund will be retained by SACEP within the TF budget which can be used to support managers and policy makers to undertake exchange visits between MCPA sites and review progress and exchange experience, or to grant international travel and DSA assistance to students, managers and researchers from the South Asia region. An appropriate selection criteria and process will be developed by TF and SACEP to assist participant selection which builds on the experiences of ICRAN and UNEP-CRU.

The TF will meet in person, quarterly for the first year of the project, to assist in the development of the communication strategy and the training curricula, and to review the progress and implementation of training programs at sites. In years 2+3 meetings will be conducted on a bi-annual basis. Where possible TF meetings will be conducted in association with other meetings and events. External consultants working on TF publications will be requested to join one TF meeting in order to share progress and exchange knowledge. Coordination assistance for these meetings will be provided by SACEP.

The initial nominations for the 10 core members of the TF will be put forward by SACEP focal points based on the expert's capacity for networking and coral reef related activities within the nominating country. Further individuals may be identified by stakeholders and participants at the regional workshops. Additionally, the TF will be strengthened through the inclusion of stakeholders of strategic importance, invited to participate in accordance with the identified operating procedures and workplan. Stakeholders identified for inclusion in the Task Force will be allocated tasks in light of their existing work commitments and their area of expertise. All task force members will be selected on the grounds that they have adequate skills to compile, generate and implement training schemes and provide policy and scientific advice. Monthly conference contact, by telephone or email, between the members of the task force will allow for modification of tasks or the reallocation of commitments if necessary to ensure timely outputs.

- Quarterly (year one) and bi-annual (year two and three) coordination meetings for TF members.
- Funds will be allocated to ensure the attendance of the TF at international conferences relating to coastal and marine resource management.
- An International travel budget will be allocated to allow the attendance of each TF member at international conferences and meetings based on each member flying twice per year.
- A UNEP DSA rate for international destinations and an average duration of 3 days will be allocated for accommodation, food and local travel when at conferences and meetings based on two meetings per year for each member.
- Internet operated telecommunications systems will be purchased for each member of the TF to ensure that close consultation can be maintained between nations in a cost effective manner.
- SACEP will administer the budget of the TF for the 3-year duration of the project.
- Funds will be retained to support 10 applicants to undertake one international flight or exchange experience and receive 2 days of DSA.

3.2 Development of accessible centralised information conduit and resource base

The groundwork for a comprehensive regional database resource facility has been initiated through the actions of the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN), the Department for International Development (DFID), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), and Systems Engineering and Marine Consulting (SEAMARC). Software detailing country geography, legislative and resource management provisions, socio-economic status and the extent of marine and coastal resources has been created for the Maldives, Sri Lanka and India. At present none of these country profiles are complete and the system fails to fulfill its potential as an accessible information resource for interested parties in the region. Financial and technical resources will be allocated to resume work on this database system in conjunction with GCRMN in order to update this information and generate country profiles for both Pakistan and Bangladesh. In addition, the role of the database as a comprehensive central information conduit will be developed providing storage



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for the wealth of marine and coastal resource status information generated following the tsunami disaster and acting as a consistent source of information for all resource managers, policy makers and users across the region, facilitating the realignment of research and management priorities with the current situation.

The centralised database system may be monitored by the Task Force. Training will be provided by the dedicated staff member(s) to all other TF members in the margins of the TF coordination meetings (c.f. Action 3.1) and members will be responsible for the dissemination of information and advice relating to the database at all regional consultations they attend. This resource base will reduce the disparity in information accessibility and availability across the region. The inclusion of governments and all the major regional intergovernmental organisations in this intervention, will promote effective use of the database.

- The human resource requirements of further developing and managing the database are anticipated at 120 person hours per month, dependent on the number of site visits and submissions. 3 hours is required every day for handling e-mails and administration of the site, which will require staff member(s) dedicated to the database and able to commit time to maintenance and updating tasks on a daily basis.
- Equipment requirements include antiviral software, test environment software license(s), a domain name and search engine facilities.
- A consultant will be identified to re- design the database, set up and test the database, provide basic training and technical assistance

3.3 Development of interactive coral reef stakeholder network

SACEP with advice from the Task Force will edit and moderate a coastal resource list server to provide a forum for Internet discussions and announcements among South Asian coastal resource stakeholders. This active forum will allow researchers, scientists and policy developers to locate expertise and information on all aspects of coastal resource management and utilisation, and provide real-time updates on current work programs. The list server will be developed along a similar template to well established systems such as the International Coral List Server coordinated by NOAA's Coral Reef Health and Monitoring Program and will facilitate coordination of coastal and marine resource management and experience sharing across the region. In addition to this continual consultation with stakeholders, the Task Force members will also meet with regional coral reef stakeholders on a biannual basis and facilitate the dissemination of site based management and capacity needs to policy makers. The Task Force will function as a focal point of contact for international development agencies and intergovernmental organisations with an interest in marine and coastal resource projects, as such, strategies will be developed to guide donors and ensure national and international assistance is directed to strategic priorities and complementary to existing efforts.

The development of the interactive forum is proposed for development with pre-existing server equipment (e.g. SACEP, Indian government, ICRI forum) in a form of counterpart assistance to this project. Stakeholder consultation will determine the best implementation strategy. A costing strategy and work plan for initiation of the forum without counterpart assistance will also be developed and implemented if necessary. SACEP will appoint a member of staff to dedicate their time to this list server on a part time basis in order to facilitate its development, maintenance and the training of users, and a per diem allowance will be provided during initial set up and testing phase (5-days).

Training will be provided by the SACEP appointed list server coordinator for marine park managers from each of the 5 sites, and for the national TF members who will all attend a one-day training workshop in Sri Lanka and will be charged with disseminating the information to their teams and colleagues to encourage use of the facility. The TF members in attendance will relay the information to the remainder of the task force at the bi-annual coordination meeting.



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- The human resource requirements of hosting the interactive server are anticipated at 60 to 80 person hours per month, dependant on the number of subscriptions. 1.5 hours is required every day for handling e-mails and administration of the site, which will require a member of staff dedicated to the Forum and able to commit time to website maintenance on a daily basis.
- Equipment requirements include a cold fusion server and software, a mail server, antiviral software, test environment software license(s), a domain name and search engine facilities.
- Training will be provided for marine park managers and TF members. A total of 10 people will participate in a 1-day workshop.
- DSA rate for International and Local Travellers in Colombo, Sri Lanka will be allocated in line with UN specifications to cover accommodation, food and local travel costs.
- International Flights will be provided for the 6 participants located outside of Sri Lanka.

4.0 Strengthened capacity of policy makers, planners and managers to design and implement livelihood enhancement and diversification for poor reef users

This section of the intervention seeks to improve the institutional capacity of national policy makers, and managers to understand and respond to the need for alternative livelihoods for poor reef users and encourage the adoption of more systematic approaches to the diversification of livelihood practices away from unsustainable resource use. The international research and development group Integrated Marine Management (IMM Ltd.) in partnership with IUCN and CORDIO will provide technical support relating to the key concepts, knowledge and skills required to understand and work with poverty and sustainable livelihoods the South Asia in a collaborative venture with People's Action for Development (PAD) in the Gulf of Mannar, the Kalmetiya Rehabilitation and Development Trust in Sri Lanka, and its network of regional partners.

This initiative builds on lessons learned from ongoing alternative livelihood schemes in the region and on research which has been conducted in India and Cambodia, and ensures that actions are driven from a national perspective in order to promote the development of appropriate tools, generate the knowledge and capacity to apply them successfully, and achieve a supportive policy environment, improving the potential to have positive impact on the lives of the reef-dependent poor and to prevent further degradation of coral reef resources.

The capacity of policy makers, planners and managers in South Asia to understand and respond to the livelihood enhancement and diversification needs of poor reef users will be strengthened through:

- Working with the reef-dependant poor in the region to better understand their livelihoods and the factors, which affect their ability to enhance or diversify their livelihoods away from reef dependence
- Developing approaches and tools to guide those working with coral reefs and the reef dependant poor to identify and design alternative livelihood options
- Building institutional capacity to implement these approaches and tools and to understand and effectively respond to livelihood diversification issues among the reef dependent poor

An informing and influencing strategy will guide the dissemination of key concepts and outputs that emerge from the work and will support the integration of outputs and positive policy changes for poor conservation and sustainable livelihoods. Regional guidelines will be produced for adoption by national governments, and training interventions will be implemented for both policy makers and practitioners.

The following activities will be undertaken:

4.1 Reef dependency characterisation workshop - A workshop for participants involved in reef related alternative livelihoods projects within Sri Lanka will be organised in order to review the national livelihoods approaches used in Sri Lanka and characterise the national



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situation. This workshop will provide an opportunity for both learning and training. Lessons learned from the aquatic resource dependency work conducted by IMM Ltd. in Cambodia, and IUCN/CORDIO activities will then be introduced to define the key drivers and inhibitors that appear to influence the uptake of new livelihoods locally. Outcomes from the workshop will be validated through site based field exercises, which will serve to fully incorporate the tsunami effects into the equation.

4.2 Review existing initiatives – Alternative Livelihoods are seen as a panacea for many of the problems facing poverty and conservation. There is an expansive amount of literature relating research into the problems facing the poor and their use of the natural resource base, and many conclude that alternative livelihoods are the answer. This however is where they stop, and there are few suggestions on how these livelihoods may be identified or developed. Where development agencies have moved into initiating alternatives these have tended to be selected from an ever expanding global list of "ideas" that may or may not have any relevance to the needs, aspirations or capacities of the people concerned or of the markets that they have access to.

Working in both the UK and Sri Lanka, existing initiatives and literature relating to the use of alternative income generating options will be reviewed and the challenges and successes identified in order to identify the most efficient modalities.

4.3 Development and field-testing of methodology – Livelihood strategies that people adopt are based on a finely balanced relationship between their skills, knowledge, attitudes, their access to resources and their relationship with the wider social, political and cultural framework in which they operate. Unless these linkages and relationships are understood it is likely that livelihood changes will place them under greater risk or just not work. To overcome this issue IMM, has been developing a process for systematically understanding the livelihoods of the poor and for working with them to either sustainably enhance their existing livelihoods or diversify into alternatives. This process is referred to as SLED or Sustainable Livelihoods Enhancement and Diversification.

Based on the analysis and review of existing initiatives undertaken in Activity 4.2, a methodology for the identification and response to the needs of the coastal poor in livelihood diversification will be developed. IMM consultants will work in close association with partners in Sri Lanka to develop a field methodology, drawing from previous experience such as the SLED approach. A revised SLED tool will then be applied in the field, with community members, who will evaluate the effectiveness of the tool in identifying the processes and forms of organisation required to facilitate the effective diversification of livelihoods in the future.

In parallel, IUCN and CORDIO will work towards the development of socio-economic methodologies and systems for implementation within the region.

4.4 Production of Alternative Livelihood Implementation Guidelines - As a result of field trials held in Action 4.3, detailed guidelines for the implementation of the most appropriate livelihood approach will be developed in conjunction with local partners. A workshop will be conducted in Sri Lanka to gather local partners and provide an opportunity for training and information exchange.

4.5 Development of training materials and outreach schedule – IMM, IUCN and CORDIO in conjunction with partners, will develop a training plan to ensure the dissemination of findings and alternative livelihood implementation guidelines to policy makers and MCPA managers across the South Asia region. Outreach materials will be developed in advance of the training sessions in support of the findings.

4.6 Implementation of Training for Policy Makers and Practitioners - Two workshops will be held in Sri Lanka bringing together international and national participants in order to present the findings of previous activities, and to explain the importance of livelihood



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diversification to poor coastal communities and within wider regional policy frameworks. The training workshops are designed to raise awareness, build capacity, and to facilitate feedback from policy makers and practitioners on how best to present these principles for livelihood interventions to a wider audience.

The first training session will gather 30 policy makers and practitioners in Sri Lanka for a three-day workshop. The second training session will be a continuation of the lessons learned and will be conducted for 20 of the participants from the initial workshop who have greater responsibility and orientation towards field management. The second workshop will immediately follow the first, and will be conducted over an 8-day period. There will also be an element of practical application to demonstrate the effectiveness of the tools developed.

4.7 Production of Policy Guidance Materials – In light of the alternative livelihood implementation guidelines produced for MCPA managers, a further document will be produced to encapsulate the findings of the project for those in higher-level governance positions. IUCN and CORDIO will promote the uptake and application of this material to create an enabling environment whereby managers will be facilitated to put their new knowledge into practice.

5.0 Long-term coral reef management in South Asia

5.1 Preparation for long-term marine and coastal resource conservation

The Task Force is to be established with a key strategic objective to promote the development and implementation of a networked system of marine and coastal protected areas, encompassing coral reefs, across the region in order to safeguard the biodiversity and conservation of essential habitats in line with CBD COP7 Marine and Coastal Biodiversity goals. Extensive stakeholder consultation has already been undertaken within the region relating to suitable sites for future MCPA development, but in light of recent infrastructure losses and resource reprioritisation across the region following the tsunami disaster, a further review of potential sites for MCPA development will be conducted. This information will be prepared in a report format by the TF and submitted for consideration by principal stakeholders and decision makers. Following acceptance of these recommendations a further document will be prepared with a strategy and timeframe for implementation of a networked system of MCPAs.

The effective operation of existing MCPAs achieved through this intervention will enforce their potential as an effective tool for long-term conservation purposes, and will garner support for the continued use of MCPAs in the protection of marine and coastal ecosystems.

- A senior consultant will be contracted to coordinate the development and production of a strategy document for the long-term conservation of marine and coastal resources through a networked system of MCPAs within South Asia.
- The consultant will attend one meeting of the TF in order to obtain and exchange information, and report on progress.
- UNEP-CRU, SACEP and ICRAN will provide technical support and will proof-read the first draft of the training curricula and provide input into its development and production.

How the action is intended to build on a previous interventions in the region

This project is mindful of the significant activities of counterparts in the region and will proactively promote synergies between interventions, and extensive stakeholder collaboration to minimise overlap. The technical capabilities, expertise, and resources of the major development and scientific agencies operating in the region will be requested and integrated into this project where appropriate to provide support to, and buffer any capacity constraints of the implementing agency selected to undertake activities. In addition, the expertise housed at the corresponding International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) network nodes, and with International Coral Reef Action Network (ICRAN) partners will be called upon to facilitate transboundary information exchange and cooperation. The centralised coordination of the World Conservation Union (IUCN), Coral Reef Degradation in the Indian Ocean (CORDIO)



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and the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN) activities in the South Asia region will facilitate the adherence and complementarity of this project to the existing work plans and will assist with the determination of appropriate collaborations.

Major progress has been made towards enhanced regional cooperation for coral reef monitoring and the management of marine ecosystems through the development of the South Asian regional node of the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN) based in Sri Lanka, and the development of the Indian Coral Reef Monitoring Network (ICRMN), laying the foundations for an informing and influencing network of stakeholders affected by coral reef ecosystems across the globe. With links to International organisations such as the Department for International Development (DFID), the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) and joint regional coordination with CORDIO and IUCN this organisation is integral to the prosperity of this project. IMM played a major role in both the management and the technical support to the development of the GCRMN South Asia office. The GCRMN was established in three countries in South Asia with long term development aims to establish a network to deliver critical information to managers, policy makers, donors and communities. A database was designed to assist in the storage and transfer of information across the network, and the Sri Lanka Coral Reef Forum was established as a vehicle to obtain feedback from stakeholders and exchange information using approaches developed under the DFID-funded, IMM implemented, Sustainable Coastal Livelihoods project. These essential systems are currently inoperative or functioning at a basic level, and this intervention aims to strengthen and build upon the existing frameworks through collaboration with GCRMN, to capitalise on the expertise, re-engage stakeholders, to modernise and further develop a functional regional coral reef database. The provision of an interactive List Server will facilitate the work started by the Sri Lanka Coral Reef Forum allowing the development of a real time, highly accessible, information exchange mechanism.

The South Asian node of the CORDIO program has been active, supporting reef monitoring in India, Maldives and Sri Lanka, developing resource materials for school teachers, reviewing alternative livelihood approaches, and supporting participation of stakeholders in international conferences, training, and other coral reef related education activities. CORDIO has worked in conjunction with a number of the principal scientific and development agencies in the region and has a well developed contact base and on-going projects across the region related to alternative livelihood generation. In addition, the African node of the CORDIO program was involved in the initiation and conceptual meetings of the East Africa Coral Reef Task Force, hosted in Kenya, and thus has experience that can be drawn through its network that is directly relevant to the proposed actions.

IUCN has offices based in Bangladesh, Pakistan and Sri Lanka and thus is capable of mobilising resources, and facilitating integrated actions across the region. IUCN seeks to use knowledge about natural ecosystems and the role of social equity in biodiversity conservation in an integrated manner to build the capacity of individuals and institutions to influence environmental governance at regional and global levels and thus the existing expertise of staff members, and experience of project implementation in the region are highly applicable. In addition, IUCN has developed the World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA), which seeks to promote the establishment, and effective management of a worldwide representative network of terrestrial and marine protected areas, housing a wealth of expertise and information through its international network that is applicable to this project.

The proposed livelihood diversification scheme will in part be implemented through existing CORDIO and other projects on alternative livelihoods and lessons will be learned from the socio-economic monitoring and capacity building which has been developed in the Gulf of Mannar and the Lakshadweep Islands in India in association with the Suganthi Devadason Marine Research Institute (SDMRI) and Centre for Action Research on Environment Science and Society (CARESS), and the Turtle Conservation Project (TCP) in Sri Lanka. Lessons from IUCN, GEF and other activities along the Rekawa, Kalametiya and Ussangoda Coastline in the Hambantota Region of Sri Lanka, such as the identification of alternative income sources for community members dependant on coral mining, and the implementation of



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Alternative Livelihood Programs will also be shared, supporting the IUCN Regional Marine Program for Asia, which aims to encourage the conservation and sustainable use of coastal and marine biodiversity.

This project will encourage intra-regional information sharing through the existing networks and ICRAN, and seeks to work in collaboration with CORDIO, IUCN, GCRMN and others to obtain strategic advice and information on existing linked initiatives in the region, and exchange the lessons learned and best practices drawn from conservation, poverty strategies, and alternative livelihood schemes developed by these organisations.

The establishment of the Task Force is intended to develop institutional management capacity with regards to coastal and marine resources, assisting in the rationalisation of regional management practices, and with a strategic priority to safeguard the future of critical coastal habitats through the use of MCPAs. As such, this project facilitates the objectives of the South Asia program for the World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA), and supports MCPA management actions in progress such as the Ministry of Fisheries, Agriculture and Marine Resources (MoFaMR) Integrated Reef Resources Management Program, and AusAID activities in the Maldives, and those of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) Coastal Resource Management Program (CRMP), USAID's SCOTIA programme, and National Aquatic Resources Research and Development Agency (NARA) in Sri Lanka. The successes achieved through the implementation of the Coastal 2000 strategy for coastal zone management at both a local and national level, and the integration of coastal communities through the Special Area Management Program will be used as a model for the integration and effective coordination of multiple agencies in marine resource management. The TF will develop links with these existing initiatives in order to ascertain the progress and success of initiatives, share lessons learned, and to assist in the acquisition of additional funds for projects nearing completion. The development of a coordinated, moderated information forum will facilitate the exchange of expertise and information between these interventions, allowing agencies to coordinate resources where appropriate and prosper from the exchange of effective management solutions.

A number of large-scale projects are in operation in the South Asia region in conjunction with International donors such as the Global Environment Facility (GEF). Activities undertaken through this proposal seek complementarity with existing efforts and aim to utilise the combined experience and guidance from the related programs detailed below. The establishment of a centralised information conduit will encourage information sharing between these national initiatives and facilitate greater implementation of the numerous management tools and processes developed through projects. The centralised information conduit will function as a source of regional information for interested donor organisations, and can direct future marine and coastal investments appropriately to national and regional needs.

Level of involvement and activity of other organisations (partners or others) in the action

The continual input of direct partners and other coral reef and coastal resource stakeholders will be requested in this project in order to ensure stewardship and complementarity of the proposed actions. The participatory nature of the proposed interventions dictates that the involvement of stakeholders is dynamic and some changes to the outlined approach may occur. Final commitments of partner organisations and roles in specific actions will be confirmed at the inception meeting scheduled at the first regional workshop. The integrated List Serve proposed will facilitate the inclusion of all stakeholders remotely and allow continued consultation and progress without the demand for costly regional workshops.

Partner involvement:

- SACEP as the implementing agency will drive the process from the inception, coordinating actions and stakeholders. It is anticipated that responsibility for numerous actions of the project will be transferred to the developing South Asia Coastal Resource Task Force as the project progresses, leaving the implementing agency responsible for monitoring and evaluation tasks



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- Environmental Ministers will be involved from the inception of this intervention, liaising with the TF and stakeholders through workshops, the interactive list serve and participating in training and capacity building actions
- IMM, IUCN and CORDIO through partnerships with counterpart organisations locally will coordinate and manage the characterisation of reef dependant livelihood from the inception, developing field approaches, producing guidelines and implementing training actions over the course of the project duration
- ICRAN will undertake an advisory role in this intervention, providing relevant information on coastal and marine resource management and facilitating access to inter-regional expertise and support. Review and consultation will be provided with respect to documented outputs and coordination assistance provided to the implementing agency.

This project provides a framework, which will be populated as the project evolves. This adaptable structure facilitates the involvement of additional partners, and collaboration with existing initiatives, as deemed appropriate by regional stakeholders.

Amended Work Plan 2006 - 2007

Activity	YEAR ONE Semester 2							YEAR TWO Semester 1					
	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6	
Month													Implementing body
Preparation of criteria for baseline study of MCPA management effectiveness													SACEP
Execution of baseline study of site based MCPA practices													Selected MCPA management staff
Organisation of Regional Workshop													SACEP
1.1: Regional Workshop 1			1										SACEP
1.2: Regional Workshop 2													
Identification of team members and preparation of TOC for the South Asia Coastal Resource Task Force (SACRTF)													SACRTF members
Cost analysis and review of partner options for housing the on-line list serve													Regional workshop participants
1.3: Preparation of interactive regional communication strategy													SACRTF members
3.1: Coordination meeting of SACRTF members, adoption of TOR and development of work plan and responsibilities for year 1													SACRTF members & SACEP
3.2: Development of country profiles and update and launch of regional database													South Asia Coastal Resource Task Force (SACRTF), GCRMN
3.3: Development and launch of interactive on-line coastal resource list serve													SACRTF in conjunction with Government Ministers and coral reef community
2.1: Development and production of comprehensive training curricula for optimised MCPA staff management training													SACRTF in conjunction with SACEP and local experts
4.1: Reef dependency characterisation and the identification of drivers and inhibitors of livelihood change													IMM, CORDIO, IUCN
4.2: Review of existing diversification initiatives													IMM, CORDIO, IUCN
4.3: Development and field testing of livelihood characterisation and diversification methods													IMM, local partners

Long Term Management and Conservation of MCPAs in South Asia



The South Asian region was ranked the lowest in the world in terms of declared Marine and Coastal Protected Areas (MCPAs) in the 2003 United Nations List of Protected Areas, making the Indian Ocean with its wealth of coral reefs, seagrasses, and mangrove forest, one of the World's most poorly protected coastlines/oceans. As a result, the degradation of coastal and marine resources in South Asia continues at an unprecedented rate, and despite current protection measures, one third to half of the coral reefs in the region are now effectively dead, and a further 30% threatened.

A grant has been secured from the European Union for a three-year project in the 5 maritime nations of South Asia (Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Pakistan, Sri Lanka).



The aim of the project is to contribute to the reduction in the rates of marine and coastal biodiversity loss within the South Asia region, and protect the natural resources on which the economic and social development of future generations is based. Actions will assist nations to move forward with commitments to develop networks of MCPAs in line with Multilateral Environmental Agreements (CBD, WSSD, MDG's).

Project Components

COMMUNICATION AND DATA MANAGEMENT Information exchange and storage processes within and between countries will be enhanced and streamlined, with effort focused on the development of existing regional database facilities for a comprehensive information portal, and the exchange of lessons learned and best practices between managers.

REGIONAL COORDINATION

The advisory and coordination capacity of coastal resource stakeholders will be enhanced by the establishment of the South Asia Coastal Resource Task Force. Institutional linkages will be developed between all levels of management, to focus existing regional expertise, facilitate coordinated responses to transboundary management issues and improve the representation of South Asian marine and coastal resource management challenges within global discussion fora.

PROGRESS

- Information gathering from regional MCPAs and related programmes;
- Regional workshop held for key stakeholders, in Colombo, September 2006;
- Focal MCPA sites selected
- Scenarios developed for improved regional communications;
- Consultation and strategy development for the establishment of the Task Force

CAPACITY BUILDING Training and management processes across the region will be developed and rationalized to ensure greater consistency in, and aptitude for management, and to formulate a transferable resource base for uptake across a future MCPA network. Workshops and training in management techniques,

ALTERNATIVE LIVELIHOODS The capacity of national policy makers and managers to understand and respond to the need for alternative livelihoods will be reviewed and developed, to encourage the adoption of more systematic approaches to the diversification of livelihood practices away from unsustainable resource use. Learning from ongoing livelihood schemes in the region, guidelines and tools will be developed, and workshops conducted with policy makers and poor reef users alike, to encourage the uptake of effective actions, which readdress the unique situations of poor coastal communities.



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PARTNERS The South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme (SACEP) (www.sacep.org), based in Colombo, is responsible for the coordination of project activities and is working alongside the International Coral Reef Action Network (ICRAN) (www.icran.org), United Nations Environment Programme - Coral Reef Unit (UNEP-CRU), Integrated Marine Management (IMM Ltd), IUCN (The World Conservation Union), CORDIO, and local partners to conduct project activities.

