



Member Report

ICRI GM 27 – SASP/SACEP

INTERNATIONAL CORAL REEF INITIATIVE (ICRI)
27th General Meeting
16 -19 June 2012 – Cairns, Australia

Member’s report on activities to ICRI

Presented by South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP), South Asia

Reporting period January - July 2012

1. General Information (note that this information will be posted on the ICRI website in your member page: <http://www.icriforum.org/about-icri/members-networks>)

Are you an ICRI Member?	Yes
Representation to ICRI (Country / Organization):	South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme / South Asian Seas Programme
Focal Point 1:	
Name:	Mr. S. M. D. P. Anura Jayatilake, Director General
Organization:	South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme
Email:	dg_sacep@eol.lk
Focal point 2:	
Name:	Ms. Nishanhti M. P. Perera
Organization:	South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme
Email:	po_sacep@eol.lk
Last meeting attended:	ICRI GM 24, Monaco, 12-15 January 2010

For countries only: **N/A**

National Action Plan / Initiative	
Do you have a National Coral Reef action plan or similar? If so please provide URL:	
If you are you engaged in any regional programs / initiatives relating to coral reefs, please indicate which ones:	

2. Updates on your activities (new initiatives/programs/projects of your government /organization which will be of interest to the ICRI Members). Examples include MPA declarations, World Heritage sites status, economic valuation of reefs, policy changes in relation to coral reefs etc.

Endorsement for the Formal Adoption of the Regional Oil and Chemical Pollution Contingency Plan for South Asia

A Regional Oil & Chemical Pollution Contingency Plan for South Asia & associated MoU were developed in association with the International Maritime Organization (IMO) for enhanced cooperation in the event of an Oil or Chemical spill in South Asian Seas region. All the SASP member countries agreed on the text of the Regional Plan and MoU. Three member countries viz. Bangladesh, Maldives and Pakistan have already signed the MoU. Status with respect to the signing of MoU by India and Sri Lanka is at an advanced stage and would get cabinet sanction in due course.

South Asian Regional Ballast Water Management Strategy

South Asia is one of the main regions of global shipping activity and is the region of oil conveyor belt from the Gulf. Therefore, becoming a party and implementing the provisions of Ballast Water Management Convention is highly vital for the region. Presently, out of the 5 member states only Maldives is signatory to the BWM convention. With the objective of assisting the member states of the South Asian Region in

preparing for the implementation of the Convention, IMO in collaboration with Government of India organized the South Asia Regional Ballast Water Management Strategy Development Meeting in Mumbai, India from 29-30 May 2012. The meeting agreed that SACEP, as the Secretariat for the SASP would be the appropriate Institutional Framework to support and formulate the regional strategy and ensure execution of the action plan. It was also agreed to establish a Regional Task Force to facilitate the process and it is envisaged that the First Meeting of the Task Force to take place in mid 2013. SACEP has requested the SASP member states to provide with the National Action Plan that will provide the basis for the preparation of the Regional Strategy in collaboration with IMO. A Status Report of the BWM initiatives in the South Asian Region will be presented at the next Governing Council of SACEP / Intergovernmental Ministerial Meeting of SASP, which is scheduled for the 4th quarter of 2012.

Pre-CoP11 Asia Regional Meeting of Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, Jakarta, Indonesia

A Draft document titled 'Regional Co-operation for the Conservation and wise-use of Internationally Important Wetlands in South Asia' was circulated among the SACEP member countries and was presented and discussed at the Pre – CoP Asia meeting held in Jakarta from 14 – 18 November 2011. It is now being updated with new information received after the meeting. Ramsar Secretariat is very much interested in signing a MoU with SACEP for enhancing cooperation amongst the South Asian countries for wise-use of the regions wetlands.

UNU-INWEH, UNESCO and SACEP - International Training Course on Biodiversity in Mangrove Ecosystems

The 11th UNU-INWEH, UNESCO and SACEP International Training Course on Biodiversity in Mangrove Ecosystems was held at Annamalai University, India from 5-19 October 2011. SACEP provided technical inputs to the development of the course material and also assisted in publishing of the course material.

International Coastal Clean-up day

Since September 2006, SACEP has been organizing many activities to commemorate the International Coastal Clean-up Day and the activity will be taken forward this year too. These events bring public awareness on protection and conservation of marine environment.

Inception and Training Workshop on Establishment of Environmental Data and Information Management System for South Asia

The 9GC-SACEP held in August 2005 in Bhutan identified Data and Information Management as one of the key areas concerned in the region. At the 12GC-SACEP, UNEP ROAP agreed to provide necessary funds to implement the project. As the initial step, a two day Inception and Training Workshop on Establishment of Environmental Data and Information Management System for South Asia was held in Colombo, Sri Lanka from 9 – 10 February 2012. The workshop was attended by all member countries of SACEP. It was also attended by resource persons from UNEP – Nairobi, Development Alternatives – India, UNEP-RRC-AP and National Environmental Information Management System Project of Pakistan.

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

SACEP in collaboration with Secretariat of CBD and with the generous support of the Governments of Japan and Belgium, organized a Sub-regional Capacity-building Workshop for South Asia on the Clearing-House Mechanism in Dehradun, India from 12 to 16 December 2011. The capacity building workshop consisted of national and technical presentations, question and answer sessions, and discussions. A full day was devoted to a hands-on training provided by the Belgian CHM focal point. The workshop was attended by 17 government-nominated officials involved in the CHM and in the NBSAP process. Participants included all the member states of SACEP. The objective of the workshop was to build capacity and provide guidance on how to establish and sustain effective national clearing-house mechanisms, in line with decision X/15 of CBD CoP-10 and in support of the NBSAPs. The workshop was also expected to contribute to the establishment of a sub-regional CHM for SACEP member countries and to facilitate co-operation among them.

Regional Workshop on Information use and Indicators for NBSAP updating for South Asia

SACEP will be convening a South Asia regional workshop on Indicator use for NBSAP in collaboration with UNEP-ROAP and UNEP-WCMC from 16 – 19 July 2012. The objective of the workshop is to assist achievement of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2010 – 2020 and related Decisions at the CBD COP10, where the parties to the CBD were requested to update their NBSAPs with the new Aichi Targets. More specifically, the workshop aims the involvement of government agencies in the South Asian Countries in updating NBSAPs and to have ;

- Increased skills and confidence in developing and using indicators as a part of NBSAP updating and implementation
- Improved understanding of the information needs and availability of data to develop national targets and indicators within the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2010 – 2020.
- To gain new ideas, inspirations and opportunities for NBSAP updating from the experience of other countries in the region.
- Information on activities in support of NBSAP updating of UNEP, UNEP-WCMC and other members of the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership and SACEP.

In addition to the above, each participating country will have an opportunity to have the workshop resource persons' reviews and provide inputs on the indicator needs of draft national targets for their NBSAP.

Establishment of Basel Convention Regional Centre for South Asia

As directed by the CoP IX of the Basel Convention held in June 2008 SACEP submitted an updated proposal for establishment of a Regional Centre for South Asia, to be located in SACEP Secretariat, Colombo, Sri Lanka. The updated proposal was taken into discussion at the 7th Open Ended Working Group (OEWG) meeting held from 10 – 14 May 2010. The issue regarding the overlap with the Iranian Centre was raised and as there was no Iranian delegation, the Permanent Representative of Iran to the UN suggested both parties to have more deliberations in this regard. SACEP will undertake a mission to Iran to discuss the issue and the outcome of the deliberations will be submitted to the OEWG Meeting which is scheduled to be held from 25 – 28 September 2012.

Establishment of the South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network (SAWEN)

Through the "JAIPUR DECLARATION" adopted at the 11GC-SACEP held in Jaipur, India on 22 May 2008, it was agreed to the establishment of the South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network (SAWEN) and the South Asia Regional Strategic Plan on Combating Illegal Wildlife Trade (2008 –2013). A series of meetings were held in this process and the SAWEN secretariat is established in Nepal. Government of Sri Lanka hosted the First Meeting of the South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network (SAWEN) in Sri Lanka from 3 – 6 June 2012 in collaboration with TRAFFIC International and SACEP. As recommended SACEP will be the facilitator of the SAWEN Secretariat.

3. Contribution to the ICRI GM

Your responses to the following questions will assist the Secretariat in assessing contributions towards the major themes of the current ICRI action plan and objectives of the general meeting.

a. Management effectiveness

Are you engaged in an assessment of management effectiveness in your marine areas? If so, the ICRI Secretariat invites members to provide a 5-minute presentation on a case study relative to assessing the management effectiveness of an MPA during the management effectiveness workshop that will be held on the Tuesday (17 July). The 5 minute presentation will provide an overview of:

- What kind of assessment was undertaken
- How the results of this assessment are being used.

The presentation can be illustrated with a PowerPoint presentation or not; if a PowerPoint is used than it should not exceed 5 slides.

Please indicate whether you would like to provide a presentation as described above:

YES NO

Is there any other aspect of management effectiveness you would like to share with ICRI members?

[Insert text here]

b. Community stewardship

Are there any activities or initiatives involving community engagement in coastal marine management that you are involved with?

[Insert text here]

4. Is there any other topic you would like to raise during the meeting?

YES NO

If yes, please indicate which topic and the reason why you would like to raise it:

SACEP successfully completed an UNEP/ EU Funded Project on MCPAs in Coral Reef Ecosystems in South Asia in March 2009.

In view of the regional importance of this initiative, SACEP Secretariat is actively searching for possible donors to take the project activities forward. Under the above project the South Asia Coral Reef Task Force (SACRTF) was established to actively participate and support the effective implementation of existing national regulations, action plans and strategies for the management of coral reefs and associated ecosystems and to promote the development of strategic linkages for enhanced regional cooperation and the establishment of an effective networked system of marine and coastal protected areas in the South Asian region.

5. Please list publications, reports you have been released since the last meeting.

Title (incl. author and date)	Type of publication (Paper, report etc.)
Report of the Sub-regional Capacity-building Workshop for South Asia on the Clearing-House Mechanism, Dehradun, India, 12 – 16 December 2011	Report
Report of the Inception and Training Workshop on Establishment of Environmental Data and Information Management System for South Asia, Colombo, Sri Lanka, 09 – 10 February 2012	Report
Regional Workshop on South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network, Sri Lanka, 3 – 6 June 2012	Report to be published

6. Please indicate upcoming coral reef-related meetings you will attend

International Coral Reef Symposium, 9-13 July, Cairns, Australia

IUCN World Conservation Congress, 6-15 September 2012, Jeju

→ Are you planning to organise a side event? Please indicate:

[Insert text here]

11th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties on Biological Diversity (COP-11), 8-19 October 2012, Hyderabad, India

Other: [Insert text here]