

South Asian Seas Programme

Presentation at the
9th Global Meeting of the Regional Seas
Conventions and Action Plans
Jeddah, Saudi Arabia
29-31 October, 2007

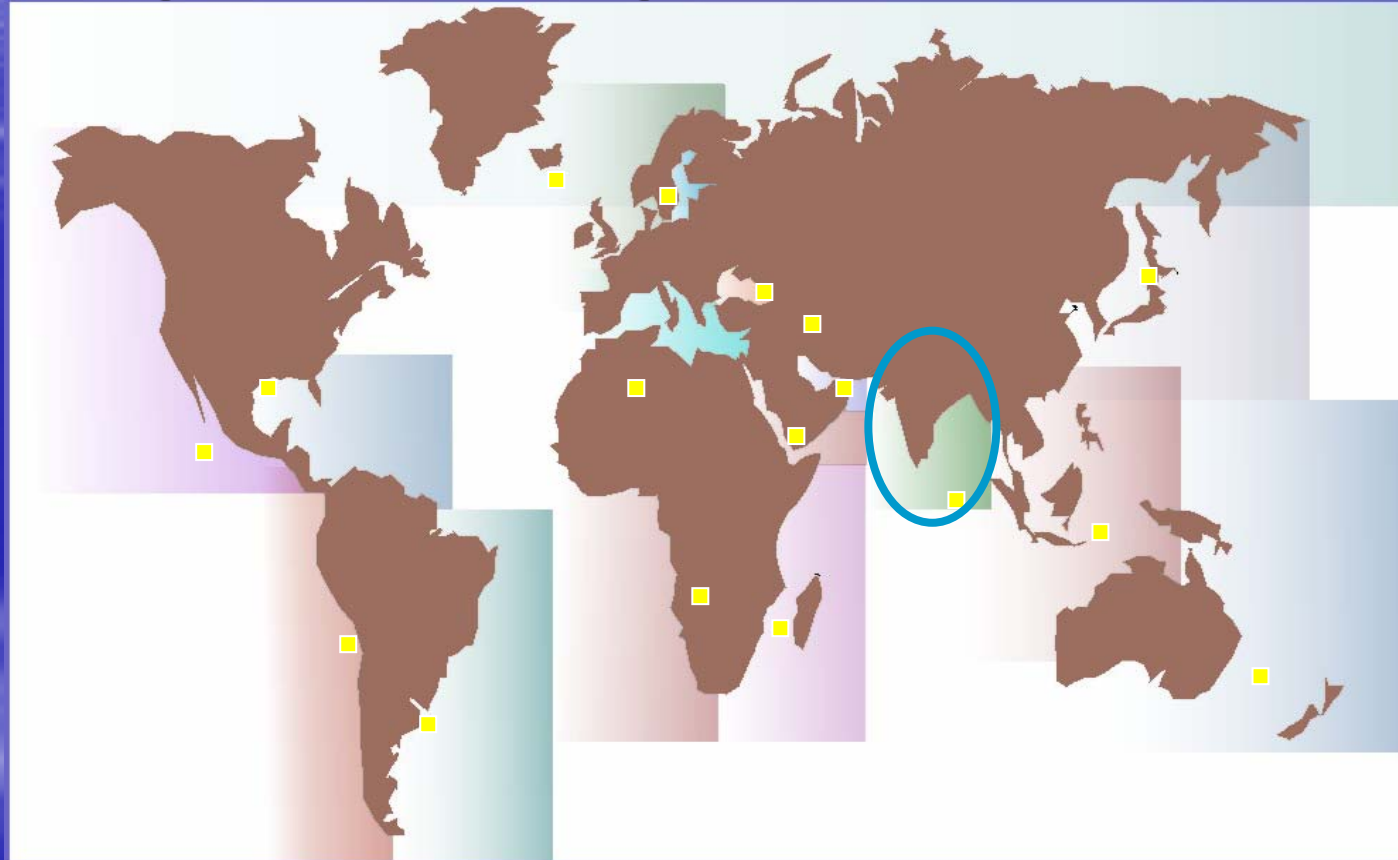
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SASP

17 Regional Seas Programmes- 140 Countries

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17 Regional Seas Programmes - 140 Countries



HISTORY OF SOUTH ASIAN SEAS PROGRAMME

- February 1981 – High Level Meeting of SAS Countries decide to develop SAS in the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP)
- 24th May 1983 – The Governing Council decision 11/7 noted "*...the consultation carried out in accordance with the Council decision 10/20 of 31 May 1982...*" and requested "*..the Executive Director to designate the South Asian Seas as a region to be included in the regional seas programme.*
- **FORMAL ADOPTION IN MARCH 1995** at a Meeting of Plenipotentiaries - New Delhi - March 24th 1995
- **IMPLEMENTATION** Came into force only in January 1998. with the signing of the act by the fifth state

SOUTH ASIAN SEAS PROGRAMME

MEMBER COUNTRIES

BANGLADESH

INDIA

MALDIVES

PAKISTAN

SRI LANKA

SOUTH ASIAN SEAS PROGRAMME

ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

MINISTERIAL GOVERNING COUNCIL

CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

SECRETARIAT

NATIONAL FOCAL POINTS

SOUTH ASIAN SEAS TRUST FUND

SOUTH ASIAN SEAS PROGRAMME

PRIORITY PROGRAMME AREAS

Priority Area 1

Integrated Coastal Zone Management

Priority Area 2

Development and Implementation of National and Regional Oil Spill Contingency Planning

Priority Area 3

Human Resources Development Through Strengthening Regional Centres of Excellence

Priority Area 4

Land Based Sources of Marine Pollution

MAJOR COLLABORATORS SO FAR

- ❖ UN affiliated organisations such as UNEP, IMO, UNESCO, UNCRD , GPA
- ❖ National Focal Points of Member Countries
- ❖ European Union, NORAD, South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation (SAARC), TRAFFIC INTERNATIONAL and Royal Belgium Institute of Natural Sciences
- ❖ ICRI, GCRMN, IUCN. IMM, GBRMPA & CORDIO on Coral Related Activities
- ❖ Local, National and Regional NGO's such as CEE (India), Development Alternatives (India), BCAS (Bangladesh), SDPI (Pakistan), CARESS (India)
- ❖ Efforts have been initiated to develop projects with the Norwegian Water Institute (NIVA), GEF POP's Unit in Nairobi and UN DOALOS

MAJOR PROJECT AREAS /ACHIEVEMENTS

Development of a Regional Oil Spill Contingency Plan and related activities

- ❖ 4 Regional Consultations for finalising the South Asian Seas – Regional Contingency Plan
- ❖ Training National Delegates on OPRC Level II and III and MARPOL implementation



Tasman Spirit Disaster in Pakistan

Workshop



MAJOR PROJECT AREAS /ACHIEVEMENTS

- With respect to the International Convention on The Control of Harmful Anti-Fouling Systems On Ships, 2001 (AFS Convention), a Regional Workshop on Measures To Collect, Handle, Treat And Dispose of Waste Generated In Applying the AFS Convention.
- Also there was a Regional Seminar/Workshop on the Ratification and implementation of the OPRC – HNS Protocol, the AFS Convention and the Identification & establishment of PSSAS
- SAS is also advocating that 2 remaining Maritime Member countries who have yet to ratify the OPRC Convention should do so urgently
- SAS is also promoting that all Maritime countries ratify the IMO Globallast Convention
- The platform of SAS was used effectively to promote the Regional Oil Spill Contingency Plan for South Asia and we are happy to report that now all countries have endorsed the Plan

MAJOR PROJECT AREAS /ACHIEVEMENTS

Activities under the GPA Programme

- Formulation of National Plans of Action and Regional Action Plan
- Conduct of a Regional Training Course on Integrated Coastal and River Basin Management
- Project on Strategic Planning and Developing Market Based Instruments for the Medium to Long Term Strategic Planning of the Implementation of the Sri Lanka National Programme of Action (MBI/NPA) The Market Based Instrument study aimed at identifying the contribution of the Coastal Region to the National GDP and identifying MBI's to develop Environmental Funds for implementation of the National Plan of Action under the GPA of Sri Lanka is a major study undertaken by SAS.



**Release of wastewater from
small industries into creeks**

MAJOR PROJECT AREAS /ACHIEVEMENTS

Coral Reef Conservation with relevant International Organisations

- Development & Conduct of a Training Course titled “Management of Protected Areas & Coral Island Ecosystems in the Indian Ocean”
- EU Financed Project with ICRAN / SACEP and Member Countries on Institutional strengthening and capacity development for the long-term management and conservation of MCPAs encompassing coral reef resources in South Asia
- Establishment of South Asian Coral Reef Task Force on 27th July with former Vice President of ICJ Judge C. G. Weeramantry being the Patron. Meeting chaired by Hon. Ahmed Abdullah, Chairman IMM and Minister of Environment, Energy and Water, Maldives



MAJOR PROJECT AREAS /ACHIEVEMENTS

Development of a Regional Marine Litter Activity

- Preparation of a Review Document on Marine Litter in the SAS Region and a framework document "Regional Activity on Marine Litter in the South Asian Seas",
- Under the Marine Litter Programme for Education, and Creation of Public Awareness, Regional Coastal Clean up Campaigns have been regularly organised since 2006. The most significant campaigns are that of India which are undertaken every year with Indian Coast Guard, Ministry of Earth Sciences Indian Government & National Institute of Ocean Technology, Universities, Colleges / NGOs in India. Over 30,000 volunteers participated in 2006 and 2007 all along the coast of India



Regional Workshop on Marine Litter

MAJOR PROJECT AREAS /ACHIEVEMENTS

Miscellaneous Achievements

- ❖ For the first time SACEP was able to get a COP decision at the 8th COP of the Basel Convention in Nairobi in December 2006 to establish a Basel Convention Regional Centre in SACEP for Hazardous Waster Management.
- ❖ Establishment of SAWEN (South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network) with TRAFFIC INTERNATIONAL - to combat illegal trade in Wildlife including trade in Marine species especially coral reefs in the SAS Region in South Asian Seas . Development of a Regional. Strategy drafted on Wildlife Trade for South Asia
- ❖ In collaboration with Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences Capacity building exercise was conducted for the Clearing House Mechanism of the Convention on Biological Diversity in South Asia, through informing the public and Training of 60 Post Graduate students in Biodiversity Conservation aspects
- ❖ Many project activities have targeted the enhancements of public participation, education and training especially the general public participation such as Coastal Clean up Campaign under the Marine Litter Programme, Conduct of Seminars and Panel Discussions for the public and school children, Poster, Essay and Painting Competitions for Children on Climate Change and Biodiversity as few of the major activities

MAJOR PROJECT AREAS /ACHIEVEMENTS

Miscellaneous Achievements

❖ Many important MOU's have been signed with UN and other organisations with particular significance to the Regional Seas Programme . Some of them are:

- * International Maritime Organization
- * World Meteorological Organisation
- * UNESCO Regional Office in New Delhi
- * IUCN Regional Centre in Bangkok

❖ The sustainability of the programme has been made effective by ensuring country ownership and their regular financial contribution to support the programme on an agreed financial formula. An important decision to contribute part of this contribution for programme development has also been taken at the 3rd Intergovernmental Ministerial Meeting in August 2005

❖ SAS through its National Focal Points in the Ministries of Environment or Earth Sciences in the member countries is seen as a major collaborating organisation for the transboundary issues of South Asia. This has ensured greater visibility and political impact in global, regional and National policies. It has also helped in promoting SAS at various regional, National and Inter Governmental Meetings.

MAJOR PROJECT AREAS /ACHIEVEMENTS

Miscellaneous Achievements

- ❖ Preparatory activities for Training Course on the Management of Marine and Coastal Invasive Species
- ❖ Information on SAS has been facilitated through the SACEP Website (www.sacep.org), publication of Brochures and newsletter. Networking has been undertaken with Educational Institutions, Centres of Excellence, Universities and Global Partnership Networks such as ICRAN, GCRMN & ICRI
- ❖ Currently SACEP is developing two Projects with DOALOS under the UN Law of the Sea Convention, namely a Regional Training Course on the “Development, Implementation and Management of Marine Protected Areas” along with DOALOS and UNEP GRID the conduct of Regional Training Course on Extending the Continental Shelf for the South Asian Seas Programme

**Thankyou for
your kind attention**