

**SOUTH ASIAN SEAS
PRESENTATION
FOR THE
7th GLOBAL MEETING**

**HELSINKI
18th to 20th October 2005**

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South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme

Framework of the Presentation

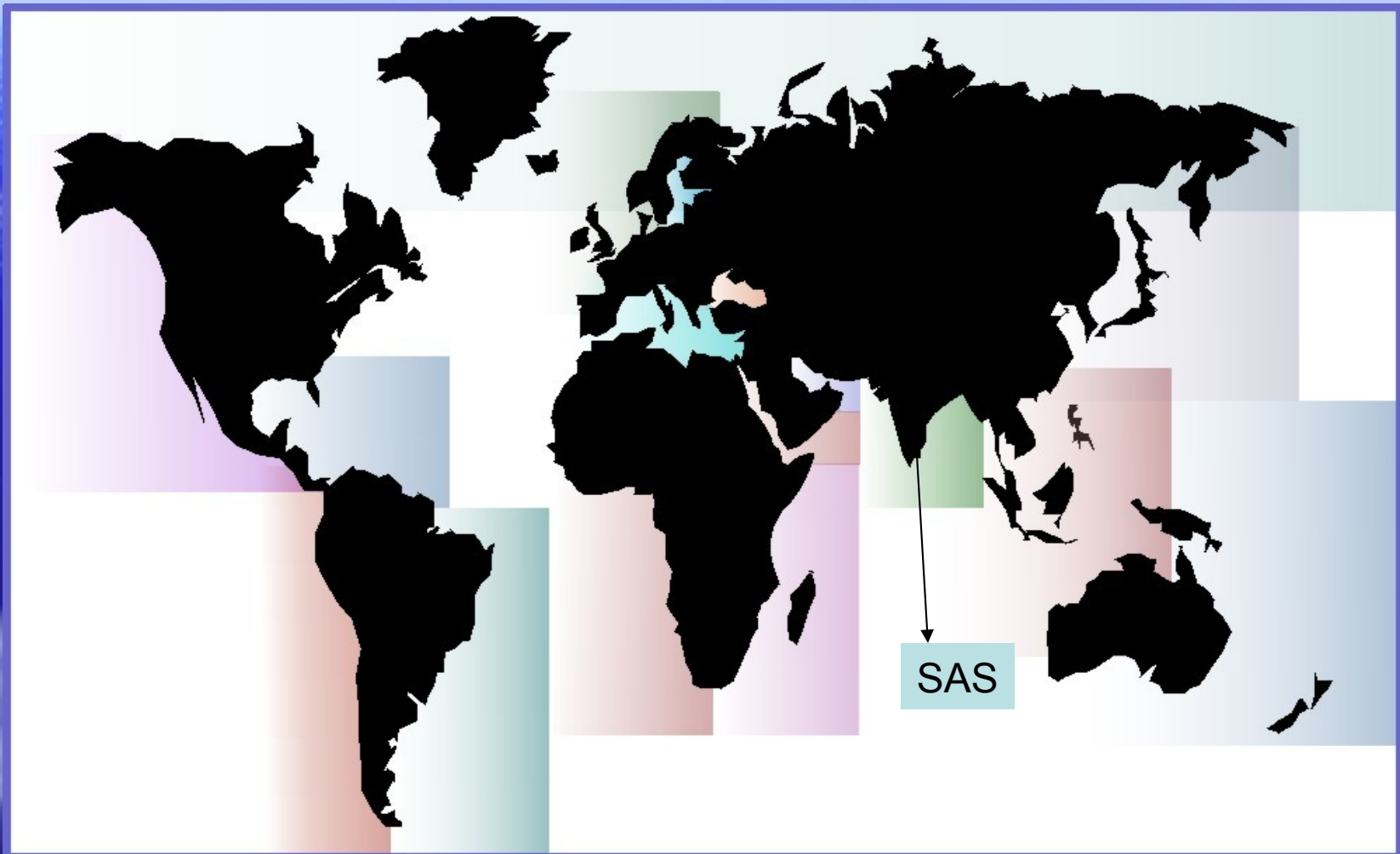
- Brief History of SASP
- Priority Programme Areas
- Financial Status
- Assisting Countries Implement NPA's
- Next Steps

HISTORY OF SOUTH ASIAN SEAS PROGRAMME

The Governing Council on 24 May 1983, by its 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, in close co-operation with the South Asia Co-operative Environmental Programme and the Governments of the region, and to assist in the formulation of a plan of action for the environmental protection of the South Asian Seas.*".

In response to decision 11/7 of the General Council the Executive Director of UNEP, in close cooperation with the Governments of the region, some international organisations and SACEP, convened a number of meetings and initiated various activities.

Location of the South Asian Seas Programmes



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

FINANCIAL STATUS

- The SASP Secretariat is housed in SACEP. The host facilities are extended by the Sri Lankan Government
- On the basis that the SASP Trust Fund be financed by annual contribution according to the ratios in the SAARC Scale of Assessment agreed upon by SAARC member States, where the maximum contribution from a member State is 35% whilst the minimum contribution is 5%, the % contribution and the current level of contributions are as follows

FINANCIAL STATUS 1995 - 2004

SAS TRUST FUND PRESENT COUNTRY CONTRIBUTIONS

COUNTRY	% Contribution	2004 US \$
Bangladesh	14.5	13,335
India	35.0	32,185
Maldives	6.5	5,975
Pakistan	29.5	27,130
Sri Lanka	14.5	13,335
TOTAL		91,960

FINANCIAL STATUS 1995 - 2004

SAS TRUST FUND

COUNTRY CONTRIBUTIONS ARREARS

COUNTRY	% of Total Arrears	Total Arrears US \$
Bangladesh	9.9	17,853
India	35.6	64,370
Maldives	13.5	24,472
Pakistan	41.0	74,225
Sri Lanka	0	0
TOTAL		180,920

Assisting Countries Implement NPA's

Strengthening long term sustainable financing in Sri Lanka

3. Strategic planning of action – programming the implementation of the NPA in short, medium and long – term
4. Potential of market based instruments - long term sustainable financing (including action programme for Market Based Instruments implementation)

Strategic planning of action – programming the implementation of the NPA in short, medium and long – term

Sri Lanka NPA

- Identifies 17 focus areas with 67 activities and many more specific projects within identified activities.
- Cost of focus areas has been estimated.
- Responsibility has been assigned.
- Stakeholders identified and involved

Need to develop a structured implementation plan based on affordability.

Need to sequence action based on maturity of projects and supporting capacity, institution, legislation and financial options.

Strategic planning of action – programming the implementation of the NPA in short, medium and long – term

Strategic planning of action will

- 3. Review existing NPA – costing, current financial flows, barriers to implementation and GAP assessment**
- 4. Financing options (current and potential financing) – identifying mechanisms and their potential**
- 5. Affordability, willingness to pay and social issues**
- 6. Iteration process bringing demand and supply together (NPA to be based on affordability rather than wishes).**
- 7. Identify needed policy actions (legislation, capacity and institutional strengthening and strengthening financial market creation)**
- 8. Identification of Short term and medium term action programme both for investment but also for strengthening capacity, institution and financial markets**

Domestic Resource Mobilisation

Potential of market based instruments - long term sustainable financing

1. Identify and analyze new and existing environmentally related economic instruments, including taxes, e.g. on

- Water supply and water pollution (water abstraction taxes, wastewater taxes (effluent taxes, etc.),
- Waste management & recycling, e.g. landfills, plastic bags, etc.;
- Agricultural sector: e.g. insecticides, pesticides, etc.;
- Other (including tourism, energy, transport and air emissions)

2. Investigate the institutional set-up; monitoring of emissions, collecting tax revenues, etc.

3. Investigate the feasibility, appropriateness and (fiscal) policy implications of the possibility of tax revenue hand the potential for possible - earmarking of environment taxes for environmental investment.

Next Steps.....

- Increase visibility and initiate action for stronger ownership by the member states
- It is very important that for the Secretariat to function effectively, as such the financial commitments pledged by the countries should be remitted within the 1st quarter of the SAS Financial year which is January to December.
- It is proposed that in order to strengthen the regional cooperation and in turn the SAS program, countries having the expertise and Centres of Excellence in various programmes of the Regional Seas should contribute to development of capacities in the region. This can be done through :
 - Free reservation of slots for each country of the region in various training programmes conducted by the National Institutes. The respective countries availing of this benefit should sponsor delegates at their own cost. SAS to facilitate
 - Extending in-kind facilities of experts in training programmes conducted in the region through donor contributions.
 - Extending financial support to projects of capacity building for the region over and above the country contributions.

Next Steps.....

- Pursue GEF and EU proposals for CORAL REEF ACTIVITIES - in collaboration with UNEP's coral reef unit, ICRAN
- Development of Harmonised National Environmental Quality Criteria for Seawater for the South Asian Seas (SEAQUAL) with Norwegian Institute for Water Research (NIVA) for NOK 14.98 Million (US \$ 2 Million) for Implementation during 2005. This project is currently being expanded to include Tsunami related activities and also possible co-financing from SIDA. The Secretariat would receive during the course of November the revised proposal from NIVA and we are hopeful that before the end on this year we are hopeful the project will be operational.
- Establish new partnerships -IMO, NIVA, WMO, Indian Ocean Global Ocean Observation System (IO-GOOS) and local governments
- Establish links with the private sector and NGOs
- Identify financing priorities and develop economic instruments to serve financing needs like local government taxes on utilities like water, energy and waste disposal

Thank You