



South Asia Coral Reef Task Force

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

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South Asia Coral Reef Task Force (SACRTF)

Mission Statement

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



Structure of the SACRTF

- 2 Government Representative(s) from each country (12)
- Coral Reef Ecosystem Expert, one from each country (5)
- CRTF Representative, one from each country (5)
- International NGO or Agency (e.g. UNEP)
- Member Secretary (1) – Director General, SACEP
- Patron (1) - Justice Mr. C.G. Weeramantry



Priority Areas

Target Countries: Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Maldives, Sri Lanka.

- Improve the effectiveness of management at existing MPAs.
- Improve information exchange and data management across the region.
- Improve regional cooperation and responses to regional marine and coastal resource management challenges.
- Strengthen the capacity of policy makers, planners and managers to design and implement viable livelihood diversification for poor reef users.



FOCUS

- Capacity Building
- Communications and Data Management
- Regional Coordination
- Livelihood Enhancement and Diversification



Regional Cooperation

Limited inter-agency and government cooperation has been identified as a compounding factor to effective management.

Planned Actions:

- Provision of opportunities to link regional stakeholders to discuss key issues
- Coordinated regional response to shared environmental challenges



Communications and Data Management

Communication and coordination of knowledge and information are critical elements in effective management

Actions:

- Identification of communication gaps and needs
- Establishment of responsive communication services and tools
- Stakeholder identification
- Development of knowledge base



Sustainable Livelihood Enhancement & Diversification

- Understand critical factors in livelihood diversification
- Develop guidance strategies, institutional capacity and supportive policies
- Create an informed and enabling environment for the effective uptake of outputs and a greater success rate



SOUTH ASIA MARINE ENVIRONMENT

- Five maritime countries of the South Asia region are characterized by extensive river deltas and diverse marine and coastal habitats
- Supporting some of the richest concentrations of marine biodiversity in the world
- encompassing globally significant mangrove, sea grass, and coral reef habitats. Home to around 10 % of the world mangroves:

Home to 6% of Worlds coral reefs More than 250 species of coral species, over 1200 reef associated fish species Maldives-Chagos-Lakshadweep Atolls largest atoll system in world

Large coastal copulaion

Over 100 Globally threatened species are recorded from coastal and marine habitats

These valuable sources are threatened from various factors -\



Threats to coral reef ecosystem

- Despite current protection measures degradation of coral reef resources continues
- 1/3 rd to 1/2 of coral reef resources of South Asia are now effectively dead and further 30 percent are threatened
- The anthropogenic factors have further aggravated the degradation
- Such as unplanned human settlements, improper industrial growth, improper infrastructure over exploitation of resources
- Open access nature of these resources

Significant achievements

- Significant progress has been made in a number of key products and activities
- Organized three meetings of SACRTF
- Recommendations were forwarded to GC/ IMM
- Regional Managers training in Gujarat India
- Capacity Building Training for MCPA Managers at Maldives
- Shared experiences among the MCPA Managers
- Developed Regional strategy for Coral Reef management in South Asia and
- Communication strategy coral reef management in South Asia

Recommendation from ICRI GM

- Uniqueness of SACRTF and importance of South Asia on coral reef management to be recognised
- Assistance in securing sustainable financing for the SACRTF.
- Raise the profile of coral reefs issues of the region
- participate actively and support new initiatives of SACRTF



Thank You

