



Protect and Manage the Marine Environment and related Coastal Ecosystems of the South Asian Seas Region

South Asian Seas Programme (SASP)

What is SASP?

The South Asian Seas Programme (SASP) is a regional agreement – formally adopted in 1995 – among the five maritime countries of South Asia sharing the Indian Ocean. SASP is part of the global Regional Seas Programme established under the auspices of UN Environment. It aims to protect and manage the marine environment and related coastal ecosystems of the region in an environmentally sound and sustainable manner.

The South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme (SACEP) is an intergovernmental organization, established in 1982 by the governments of the eight South Asian countries to promote and support the protection, management and enhancement of the environment in the region. SACEP has its headquarters in Colombo, Sri Lanka and serves as the Secretariat for SASP.

Member States

Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Pakistan and Sri Lanka

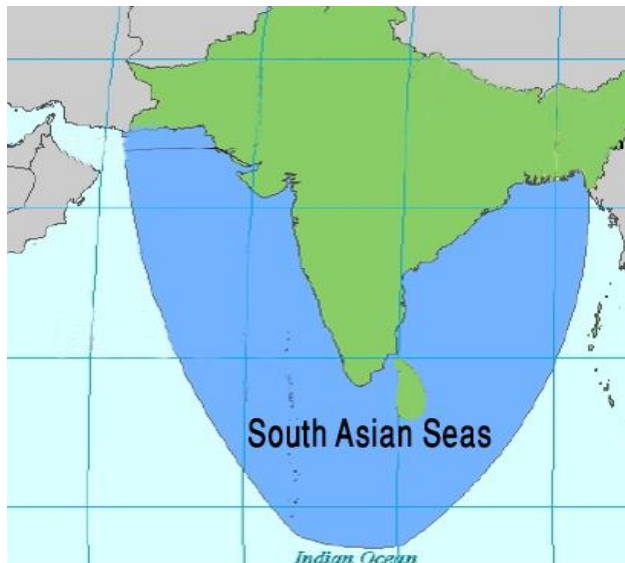
We support member States in the implementation, review and follow-up of the ocean-related SDGs

- Conducted a Scoping Study of Nutrient Pollution in the Coastal and Marine Systems of South Asia in collaboration with UN Environment's Global Programme of Action (GPA)
- Developed a Regional Oil and Chemical Pollution Contingency Plan for South Asia and a Memorandum of Understanding for cooperation on the response to Oil and Chemical Pollution in the South Asia Seas (SAS) region
- Developing a Regional Strategy and setting up a Task Force to address Ballast Water Management in collaboration with the International Maritime Organization (IMO)
- Commemorate of International Coastal Clean-up Day;

- Developing a Regional Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Strategy for the SAS region
- Commemorated the International Coastal Clean-up Day
- Launched the South Asia Coral Reef Task Force (SACRTF)

Key achievements

- SACEP, with assistance from the Global Partnership on Nutrient Management Project, implemented a 'Controlling Nutrient Loading and Eutrophication of Coastal Waters of the South Asian Seas Region' project in 2014, to reduce and control nutrient loading into the coastal waters of the SAS region through the development of a Regional Action Plan and Policy Framework.
- SASP, in partnership with UN Environment, initiated activities to develop a South Asia Regional Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Strategy – with the aim of strengthening the capacity for updating National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans, fostering collaboration, identifying and addressing challenges that require regional solutions, and engaging other stakeholders. The strategy document will be finalized by the end of 2017.
- SACEP, in partnership with the IMO and with financial support from the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation, has developed the National and Regional Oil Spill Contingency Plan for the SASP region. The plan encourages cooperative mechanisms for preparedness, early warning, response and rehabilitation in the event of oil spill incidents.
- SACEP, with financial and technical support from IMO and the GEF–UNDP–IMO GloBallast Partnerships Programme, is working to prepare a regional strategy and set up a Task Force to address Ballast Water Management in SAS region.



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