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SUMMARY REPORT

REVIEW OF EXISTING CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES, CLEARING HOUSE MECHANISMS, AND AWARENESS RAISING TOOLS AND MECHANISMS ON MULTILATERAL ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENTS (MEAs) IN SOUTH ASIA

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Abbreviations / Acronyms

ADB/Africa	African Development Bank
ADB/Asia	Asian Development Bank
APCEL	Asia Pacific Centre for Environmental Law
APDIP	Asia Pacific Development Information Programme
APGEN	Asia Pacific Gender Equality Network
APNCC	Asia Pacific Net on Climate Change
APO	Asian Productivity Organization
APRI	Asia Pacific Regional Human Development Resource Initiative
AVU	Audio Visual Unit
BASEL	Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal
BCAS	Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies
BCRC	Basel Conventional Regional Centre
BINU	Biodiversity Indicators for National Use
BIOCORES	Biodiversity Conservation Restoration and Sustainable Use in Fragmented Landscapes
BPSP	Biodiversity Planning Support Programme South and South East Asia
CAI ASIA	Clean Air Initiative for Asian Cities
CAN	Collaborative Assessment Network
CAN EUROPE	Climate Action Network Europe
CATNET	Clean Air Training Network
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CBNRM	Community Based Natural Resource Management
CCNN	Climate Change Network in Nepal
CEITs	Countries with Economies in Transition
CEPA	Communication Education and Public Awareness
CESS	Center for Economic and Social Studies
CFC	Chlorofluorocarbon
CHM	Clearing House Mechanism
CIEL	Centre for International Environmental Law
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
CORDIO	Coral Reef Degradation in the Indian Ocean
CPs	Country Programmes
CSFS	Country Service Frameworks
CST	Committee on Science and Technology
DEWA	Division for Environmental Information and Assessment and Early Warning
DMPO	Disaster Management Planning Office
DNAs	Designated National Authorities
DSDS	Delhi Sustainable Development Summit
ECO	Economic Cooperation Organization
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
EROPA	Eastern Regional Organization for Public Administration
ESDD	Environment and Sustainable Development Division
ESM	Environmentally Sound Management
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FIELD	Foundation for International Environmental Law and Development
GEC	Global Environment Centre
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GEO	Global Environmental Outlook

GERIAP	Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction from Industry in Asia and the Pacific
GHGs	Green House Gases
GPA	Global Programme of Action
GRID	Global Resources Information Database
GWP	Global Water Partnership
HDRC	Human Development Resource Centre
IBCH	Iran Bio-Safety Clearing House
ICIMOD	International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
IDA	International Development Agency
IDE	Iran Department of Environment
IDRC	International Development Research Centre
IESD	Institute for Environment and Sustainable Development
IGES	Institute for Global Environmental Strategies
IHP	International Hydrological Programme
IIED	International Institute for Environment and Development
IEEP	Institute for European Environmental Policy
IISD	International Institute for Sustainable Development, Canada
IMO	International Maritime Organization
IOC	Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission
IOSEA Marine Turtle MoU	
	Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation and Management of Marine Turtles and their Habitats of the Indian Ocean and South-East Asia
IP	Integrated Programmes
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
IS	Institutional Strengthening
IUCN	World Conservation Union
IUCN-ARO	IUCN Asia Regional Office
IUCN-RBP	IUCN Regional Biodiversity Programme
IWMI	Integrated Water Management Institute
IWRM	Integrated Water Resources Management
KMTNC	King Mahendra Trust for Nature Conservation
LADPS	Integrated Local Area Development Programmes
LEAD	Leadership for Environment and Development
LMOs	Living Modified Organisms
LOGOTRI	Local Government Training Institutions
MAB	Man and the Biosphere
MACP	Mountain Area Conservancy Project
MARPOL	International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships
MCED	Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MEAs	Multilateral Environmental Agreements
MENR	Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources
MoE	Ministry of Environment
MoEF	Ministry of Environment and Forests
MoFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
MoHAHE	Ministry of Home Affairs, Housing and Environment
MoPE	Ministry of Population and Environment
MRAG	Marine Resource Assessment Group
NAP	National Adaptation Programme
NAPs	National Action Programmes
NBSAP	National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plan
NCCC	National Climate Change Committee
NCPC	National Cleaner Production Centre

NEC (Bhutan)	National Environment Commission, Bhutan
NEC (Nepal)	Nepal Environmental Commission
NEEPS	National Environment Education Programme In Schools
NEFEJ	Nepal Forum of Environmental Journalists
NFP	National Focal Point
NGOs	Non Governmental Organizations
NIA	National Implementing Agencies
NORAD	Norwegian Development Agency
NOUs	National Ozone Units
NPOs	National Productivity Organizations
NSCA	National Capacity Self Assessments
OAIC	Ozonaction Information Clearing House
ODG	Overseas Development Group
ODS	Ozone Depleting Substances
ODSONET/SA	Ozone Depleting Substances Officers Network for South Asia
OECD	Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development
OPAC	On-Line Public Access Catalogue
OZONACTION UNEP	Division of Technology, Industry and Economics Ozonaction Programme
PAROGAN	Participatory Action Research to Advance Governance Options and Networks
PD	Publication Department
PIC	Prior Informed Consent Procedure
POPs	Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants
PRA	Participatory Rural Appraisal
RAMSAR	Ramsar Convention on Wetlands
RAP	Regional Action Programme
RAPIDC	Air Pollution in Developing Countries
RDD	Regional Development Dialogue
RELP	Regional Environmental Law Programme
RMP	Refrigerant Management Plan
ROAP	Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific
ROTTERDAM	Rotterdam Convention on Prior Informed Consent of Toxic Pesticides and Hazardous Chemicals
SAARC	South Asian Regional Cooperation
SACEP	South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme
SACEP RBCHM	SACEP Regional Biodiversity CHM for South Asia
SACNET	South Asian Network for Taxonomy Capacity Building
SAFMA	South Asia Free Media Association
SASEANEE	South and South- East Asia Network for Environmental Education
SAPAP	South Asia Poverty Alleviation Programme
SD	Sustainable Development
SEAMCAP	Strengthening National Capabilities on Environmental Assessment and Monitoring
SGP	Small Grants Programme
SIDA	Swedish International Development Agency
SNV	Netherlands Development Organization
SPEF	Small Project Environment Fund
TEAP	Technical and Economic Assessment Panel
TISD	Trade Investment and Sustainable Development
TOCs	Technical Options Committees
TPN	Thematic Programme Network
TUGI	The Urban Governance Initiative
TVE	Television Trust for the Environment
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification

UNCRD	United Nations Co-Operation for Regional Development
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDP/GEF	United Nations Development Programme, Global Environment Facility Unit
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNEP/DEPI	UNEP Division of Environmental Policy Implementation
UNEP/DTIE	UNEP Division of Technology, Industry and Economics
UNEP/RRC.AP	UNEP Regional Resource Centre for Asia and the Pacific
UNESCAP	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
UNESCO	United Nations Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNU	United Nations University
WCIA	Welsh Centre for International Affairs
WCMC	World Conservation Monitoring Centre
WECS	Water and Energy Commission Secretariat
WHO	World Health Organization
WTO	World Trade Organization
WWAP	United Nations World Water Assessment Programme

INTRODUCTION

1.1. BACKGROUND

In October 2004, the United Nations University (UNU), in close collaboration with other key regional organizations, such as the South Asia Co-operative Environment Program (SACEP) and the University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka, initiated a review of existing projects, mechanisms and tools used by countries in South Asia, in promoting synergistic management of Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) in the region.

The study was initiated as a follow up to the *Brainstorming Session on the Development of a Regional Partnership for Integrated Capacity Building for MEAs in South Asia*, which was organized in Kandalama, Dambulla, Sri Lanka from 28 June to 1 July 2004, with participation by representatives from selected countries in South Asia and key regional and international organizations. The session was organized as a preparation for the *Regional Workshop on Integrated Capacity Development (Inter-linkages Initiative) for Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) in South Asia*, organized on 14 to 16 February 2005, Colombo, Sri Lanka.

The meeting in Kandalama, among other recommendations, proposed the following activities, which would assist in identifying needs and opportunities regarding capacity development for the better management of MEAs in South Asia:
1. Review existing projects to determine how they address other MEAs;
2. Stocktaking of current programmes and projects by international and regional organizations, in order to create synergies to enhance capacity development for the implementation of MEAs;
3. Review Clearing House Mechanisms (CHMs) related to MEAs; and
4. Identify appropriate awareness raising tools that can be used for sensitizing high level decision makers.

In response to the above recommendations, the study was designed to examine the following three aspects:
1. Review of existing projects and programmes implemented by regional and international organizations that promote synergistic implementation of MEAs in South Asia (covered by Part A of the questionnaire);
2. Review of international, regional and national CHMs related to MEAs, which have been designed for use by countries in South Asia (covered by Part B of the questionnaire); and
3. Review of existing awareness raising tools and mechanisms that promote inter-linkages among MEAs (covered by Part C of the questionnaire).

1.2. METHODOLOGIES

Questionnaire Survey and Selection of Organizations

As an initial step, key international, regional and national organizations which have been playing a pivotal role in environmental capacity development in South Asia were identified. The identification of organizations was done in consultation with experts from SACEP and the University of Peradeniya.

From November to December 2004, questionnaires were distributed to 156 international, regional and national organizations. In addition, questionnaires were distributed to environmental ministries in their respective countries in the region, through SACEP focal points

(7 countries)[1]. The following table illustrates the number of organizations the questionnaires were distributed to, and the received responses.

Table 1: Questionnaire Responses

	Questionnaires Sent	Responses Received
International Organizations	82	24
Regional Organizations	24	14
National Organizations[2]	57	12
Total	**163**	**50**

As indicated in Figure 1. a variety of organizations, including MEA secretariats, international organizations, NGOs, research organizations, and governments responded to the questionnaire. A full list of organizations is attached in Annex II.
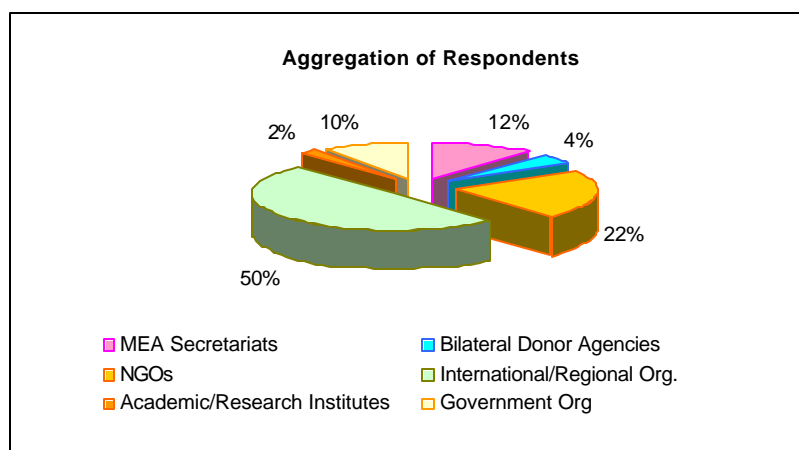
Figure 1: Aggregations of Questionnaire Responses

Follow-up and Data Collection
After receiving the completed questionnaires from respective organizations, follow up interviews were conducted through telephone and e-mails in order to receive clarification on inconclusive data, and collect additional information. Moreover, information was collected from brochures, reports, and other publications produced by the various organizations, as well as organizational websites.

1.3. SURVEY LIMITATIONS

Before analyzing the questionnaire results, some clarification needs to be made on various conditions and limitations that might have affected responses to questions and, in turn, the analysis.

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[1] Ministry of Education, Water Resources and Environment in Afghanistan; Ministry of Environment and Forest in Bangladesh; National Environment Commission in Bhutan, Ministry of Environment and Forest in India, Ministry of Environment and Forest in Nepal: Ministry of Environment and Civic Center in Pakistan, Ministry of Home and Environment in Maldives: Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources in Sri Lanka

[2] Including SACEP focal points

Firstly, it should be noted that information presented in this report is largely based on questionnaire responses, as other information was collected from conducting a websearch and referring to literature reviews. The research team often faced difficulties in receiving data from some key institutions that have been conducting a series of capacity development activities related to MEAs in the region. Although attempts have been made to collect comprehensive data on activities conducted by such organizations, it should be noted that, due to time limitations, the study may not have covered all of the ongoing initiatives in the region.

Secondly, it should be noted that in some cases, more than one person was involved in filling out a single questionnaire form, thus reflecting the views of their institution. In other cases, a single individual was involved in preparing his or her own response, which might not necessarily have reflected institutional viewpoints. Therefore, the results of the survey should not be regarded as conclusively representing institutional viewpoints alone, but also the personal viewpoints of the respondents.

Lastly, it should be noted that, in response to the questionnaire, some respondents answered that issues covered did not relate to their work, or that their knowledge was limited, hence making their responses irrelevant or not accurately reflecting the true circumstances. Furthermore, many of the respondents merely skipped certain sections of the questionnaire, stating that the questions covered by the sections were unrelated to their work or expertise.

Irrespective of the above mentioned limitations, the results of the survey will not prevent the presentation of useful information for understanding the overall trend of existing environmental capacity development initiatives and CHMs in the region, or the perception of people on effective awareness raising tools and mechanisms for the management of MEAs.

1.4.   STRUCTURE OF THE REPORT

This report consists of two parts, an analytical section and descriptive section.

The analytical section describes an overall trend of existing projects and programmes related to MEAs that have been implemented within and/or have great relevance to South Asian countries, CHMs operating at the international, regional and national levels which cover issues related to MEAs, and awareness raising tools and mechanisms that promote inter-linkages among MEAs.

The analytical section is followed by the description of various MEA related projects and programmes conducted at the international, regional and national levels. Projects and programmes described in this section include technical training initiatives, workshops, meetings and conferences, other projects, networks, Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) among key institutions, and publications that specifically cover MEA related issues, as well as those that cover broader issues of sustainable development. The section also provides a description of CHMs which cover MEA related issues, as well as various websites of key organizations that also provide useful information regarding MEA issues.

2.   ANALYSIS

2.1.   OVERALL TREND OF EXISTING PROJECTS AND PROGRAMMES RELATED TO MEAS IN SOUTH ASIA

This study reviewed existing projects and programmes that specifically cover MEA related

issues, as well as those that cover broader issues of sustainable development. To understand the status of initiatives that specifically focus on MEAs, activities relating to technical training, workshops, meetings and conferences, other projects, networks, MoUs, and publications that cover MEA related issues, were extracted and summarized into a table as presented in Annex I. The data summarized in Annex I was further analyzed to show the overall trend of MEA specific projects and programmes in South Asia, and the type of activities implemented on specific themes.

As indicated in Figure 2, while the number of workshops, meetings and conferences focused on MEA issues is relatively large, the number of technical training on MEA related issues, such as training courses targeted at MEA negotiators, is relatively low. The results also indicated that very few networks, MoUs, and publications specifically focused on MEAs existing in the region.
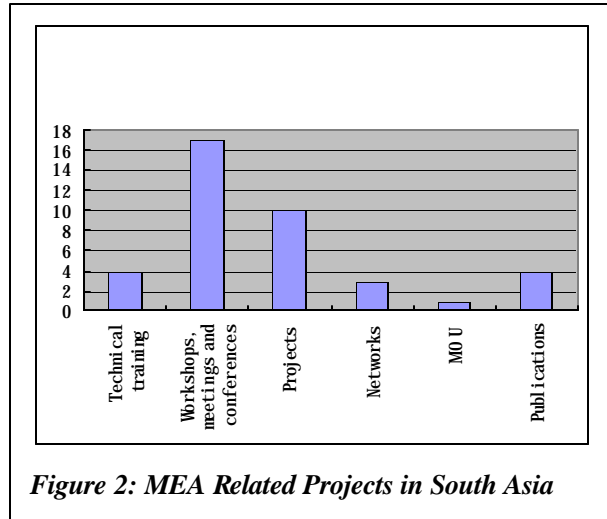
Figure 2: MEA Related Projects in South Asia

With regard to specific themes covered by different activities, results presented in Figure 3 and 4 indicate that three Rio conventions (CBD, UNFCCC and UNCCD) have larger coverage compared to other MEAs. Notably, biodiversity issues have the highest coverage in existing MEA related workshops, meetings and conferences, and projects. This is due to the high priority placed on biodiversity conservation by South Asia countries, as well as the existence of active NGOs, such as IUCN and WWF, conducting various activities that address biodiversity issues in the region.
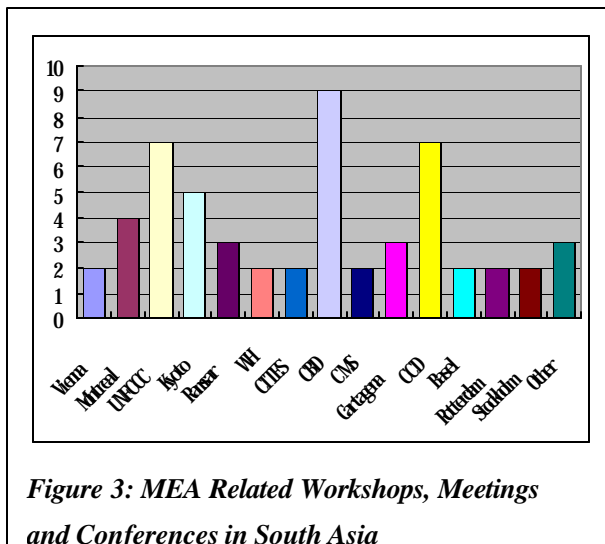
Figure 3: MEA Related Workshops, Meetings
and Conferences in South Asia
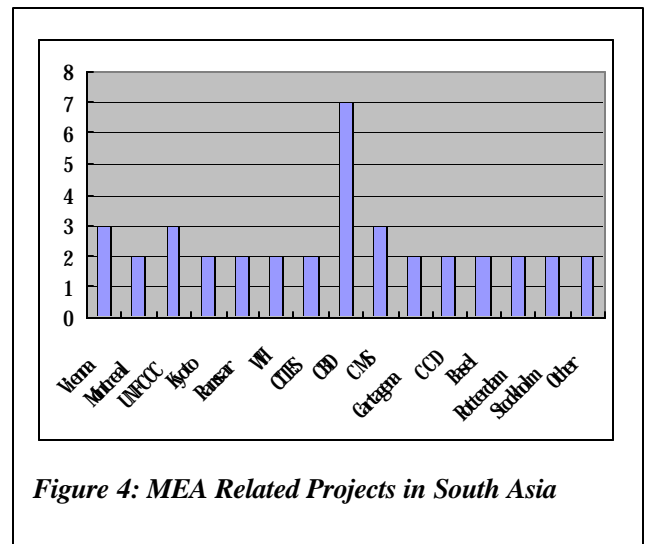
Figure 4: MEA Related Projects in South Asia

The following section provides an analysis of the effectiveness of specific types of activities implemented at regional and national levels, in promoting the synergistic management of MEAs.

The analysis is based on questionnaire responses.

2.2. OBSERVATION ON THE EFFECTIVENESS OF ACTIVITIES AT THE REGIONAL AND NATIONAL LEVELS

2.2.1. Regional Level

In order to observe the effectiveness of synergistic management of MEAs at regional level, respondents were asked to rate the effectiveness of the following activities, according to three criteria (low, medium and high):

1. International and regional agreements which support synergistic management of MEAs in South Asia;
2. Institutional arrangements, such as Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs), among key institutions involved in the MEA processes;
3. Regional frameworks and networks which facilitate collaboration and partnership building among countries and institutions involved in the MEA management in South Asia;
4. Clearing House Mechanisms (CHMs) through which information, case studies and best practices related to the MEA management are made accessible to countries;
5. Conferences, workshops and capacity development projects organized in the region, which address issues related to synergy; and
6. Studies, reviews, publications, guidelines and toolkits that support cross-cutting and synergistic approaches for MEA management.

For the purpose of analyzing the information, calculations were made by quantifying the level of effectiveness as follows: (1=low, 2=medium, 3=high).

Figure 5: Effectiveness of Different Activities at the Regional Level
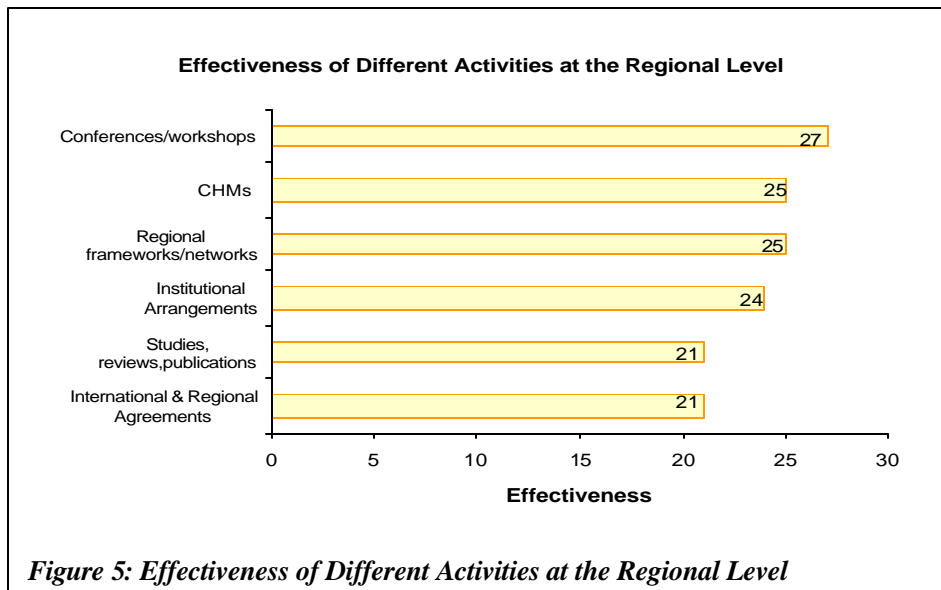
As shown with the highest value in Figure 5 above, the respondents perceive that the conferences and workshops play key roles in promoting synergistic approaches for managing MEAs, as they facilitate knowledge and information sharing, networking and partnerships. CHMs are also considered effective, as they support the MEA processes by providing critical

information and guidance for implementation of MEAs. Regional frameworks are considered as effective for capacity development, providing opportunities to exchange experiences among policy makers, enhancing regional cooperation, and partnership. Various institutional arrangements, such as MoUs, are considered effective by promoting and facilitating collaboration and coordination among key institutions. However, the effectiveness of international and regional agreements is regarded as relatively lower in promoting synergistic management of MEAs. One of the respondents noted that such agreements lack focus and therefore do not result in any substantive inputs. In this case it is critical to ensure political commitment and accountability to raise the effectiveness of such agreements.

2.2.2 National Level

For the national level, respondents were asked to rate the effectiveness of the following activities, which are considered to be important in promoting the synergistic management of MEAs:
1. Institutional arrangements (e.g. steering committees, working groups and task forces) which have been established at the national level, in order to promote coordination among MEA focal points, as well as different ministers and agencies involved in MEA management;
2. National legislations, policies, plans and guidelines which promote cross-cutting and synergistic approaches for the implementation of MEAs, as well as integration of sustainable development into planning processes;
3. Capacity development projects and programmes which enhance national capacities for the synergistic implementation of MEAs;
4. Clearing House Mechanisms (CHMs) operating at the national level, through which information, case studies and best practices related to MEA management are made accessible to stakeholders involved in MEA management;
5. National frameworks and networks which facilitate cooperation and partnership building among government and other stakeholders at the national level; and
6. Studies, reviews, publications, guidelines and toolkits that support cross-cutting and synergistic approaches for MEA management at the national level
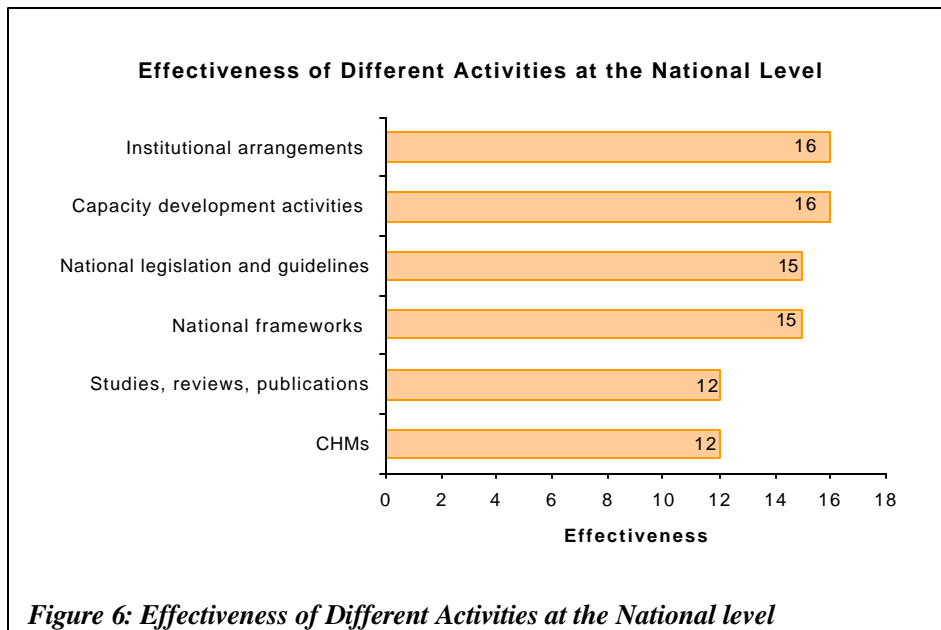
Figure 6: Effectiveness of Different Activities at the National level

As presented in Figure 6 above, the majority perceive institutional arrangements and capacity development initiatives as most effective in terms of promoting synergistic approaches at the national level, regarding universities and environmental centres for excellence as playing a prominent role. The effectiveness of CHMs, as well as studies, reviews, publications, guidelines and toolkits, was given relatively lower rates.

Respondents were also asked to prioritize areas which need further strengthening of capacities. As indicated in Figure 7, the majority of respondents commented that the capacities related to the implementation of MEAs require further strengthening. Areas such as compliance and enforcement, mobilization of funding, awareness raising and public education, promotion of multi-stakeholder partnership and participation, information, and knowledge management also were given higher priority for further capacity development, while the development of national level frameworks was given the lowest priority.

Figure 7: Priority Areas for National Capacity Development
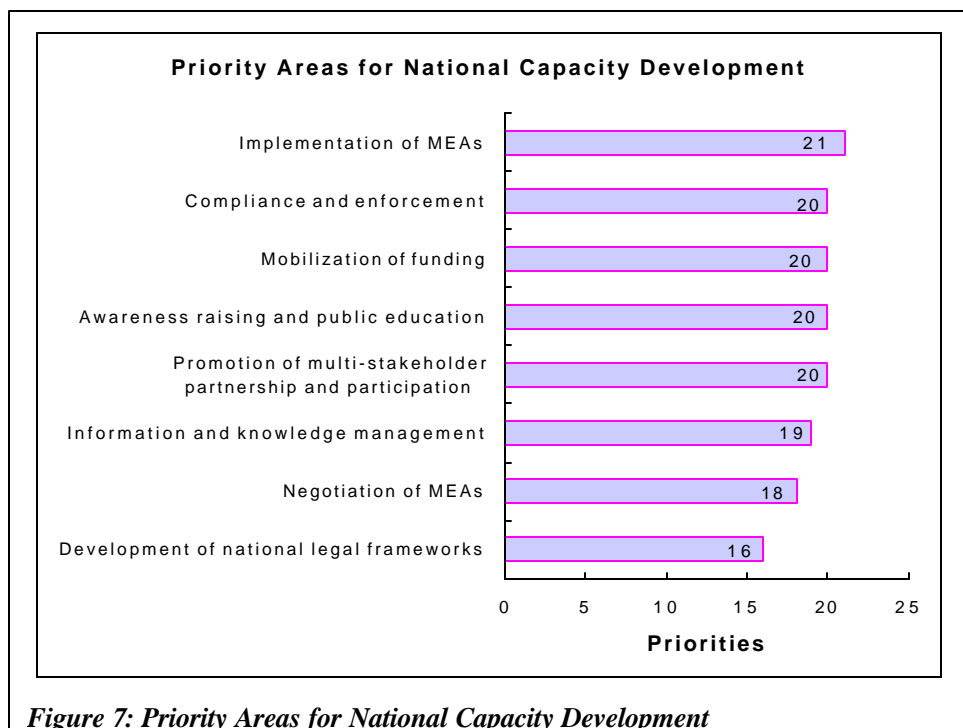
2.3.   ANALYSIS OF CHMs AND WEBSITES RELATED TO MEAs

The management of MEAs requires parties and related stakeholders to collect and manage information in a timely manner. The Clearing House Mechanism (CHM) has been highlighted as an effective system which assists countries and stakeholders in managing information efficiently and effectively. The CHM also assists in synergistic approaches toward the management of MEAs, through providing information and facilitating coordination between existing initiatives. This section of the study focuses on reviewing existing international, regional and national clearing mechanisms, which support the synergistic implementation of MEAs by countries in South Asia.

Based on preliminary research findings of CHM definitions used by other organizations, the following definition will be used for the purpose of this survey:

> *Clearing House Mechanisms (CHMs) are agencies which bring together information seekers and providers, by providing facilities through which information necessary for the management of MEAs is collected and disseminated, consultation and capacity development opportunities are provided to stakeholders, and synergies and coordination among related initiatives and stakeholders are supported and promoted through exchange of information, knowledge and experiences.*

Sufficient understanding of existing CHMs is crucial for the MEA management process to be successful. The analysis of operational CHMs, such as thematic focuses, functions and services and other management issues, would provide valuable information for users and organizers of CHMs, ultimately promoting synergistic approaches for the effective management of MEAs in the region.

In particular, this section focuses on the following:

1. International/regional CHMs;
2. National CHMs; and
3. Other related websites

2.3.1 OBSERVATIONS ON THE MANAGEMENT OF CHMS

29 respondents responded to questions, which were designed to analyze, in detail, the various aspects of the management of CHMs. The following sections summarize these responses.

Subject Areas/ Environmental Issues covered by CHMs

The subject areas covered by the questionnaire were climate, biodiversity, land degradation and desertification, waste and chemical pollution, marine and coastal, and trade, all of which were presented in a tick box format. The respondents were asked to identify the subject areas covered by their institution, as well as other environmental areas if any (see Figure 8).

The results reveal that waste and chemical pollution, biodiversity, and climate change issues are the themes covered by the highest number of CHMs that participated in our survey.

Figure 8: CHMs Dealing with Different Subjects/ Environmental Issues
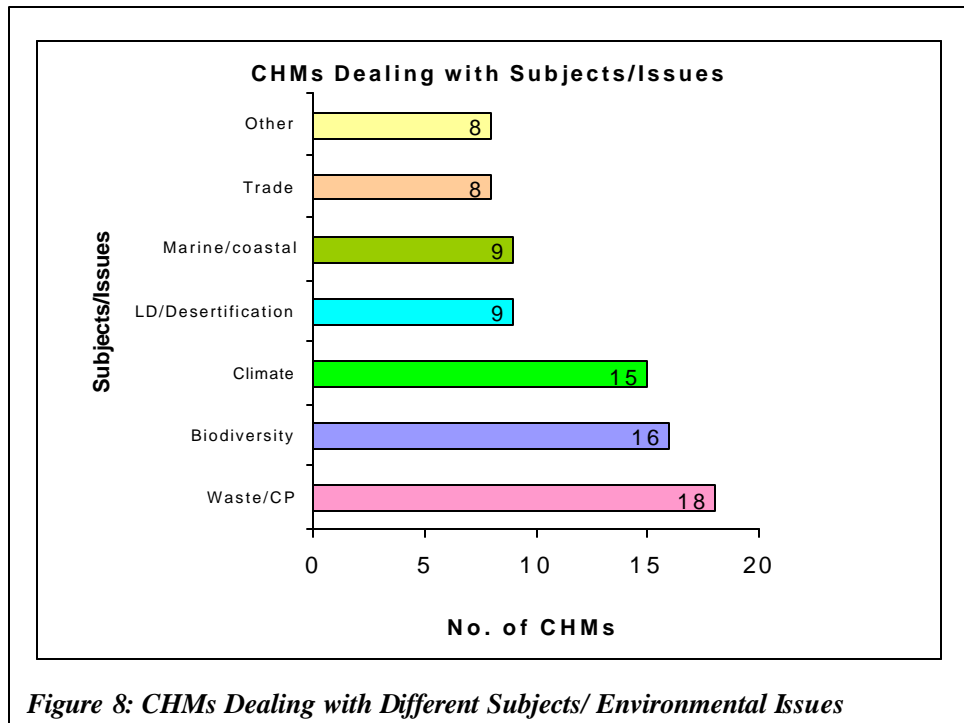
The following table displays the CHMs with respect to the subject areas covered:

Table 2: CHMs Dealing with Different Subjects/ Environmental Issues

No.	Organization	Climate	Biodiversity	LD/Desertification	Waste/CP	Marine/coastal	Trade	Other
1	APO	*			*			
2	BASEL				*			
3	CBD		*					
4	CITES		*			*		
5	Europaworld	*	*	*	*	*	*	**
6	FIELD	*	*		*		*	
7	GRID	*	*	*	*			
8	GWP							**
9	IISD	*	*	*	*	*	*	
10	NationMaster	*	*	*	*	*	*	
11	RAMSAR		*			*		**
12	UNIDO	*			*		*	**
13	ADB	*	*	*		*		
14	CAI-Asia							**
15	DOE-Iran							**
16	SABDCHM		*					

#		Col1	Col2	Col3	Col4	Col5	Col6	Col7
17	GPA				*	*		
18	UNCRD				*			**
19	STOCKHOLM				*			
20	UNEP WCMC		*			*	*	
21	UNFCCC	*						
22	FAO	*	*	*	*	*	*	
23	LEAD Pakistan	*	*		*			
24	NCPC	*			*			**
25	NEFEJ	*	*	*	*		*	
26	UNDP Bhutan				*			
27	UNDP India	*	*	*	*			
28	CMS	*	*	*	*			
29	NEC Bhutan							

Target Groups/ Users of CHMs

In the questionnaire, respondents were asked to point out different user groups of their CHMs by providing a list of user groups. As illustrated in Figure 9, governments and NGOs are noted as the main target users, followed by the general public and private sector.

For the category mentioned as 'other,' some respondents mentioned users at grassroots organizations, schools/colleges, technical and technology transfer institutes, as well as specific industries. The following table illustrates the target/user groups of each CHM.

Figure 9: CHMs with Different User Groups
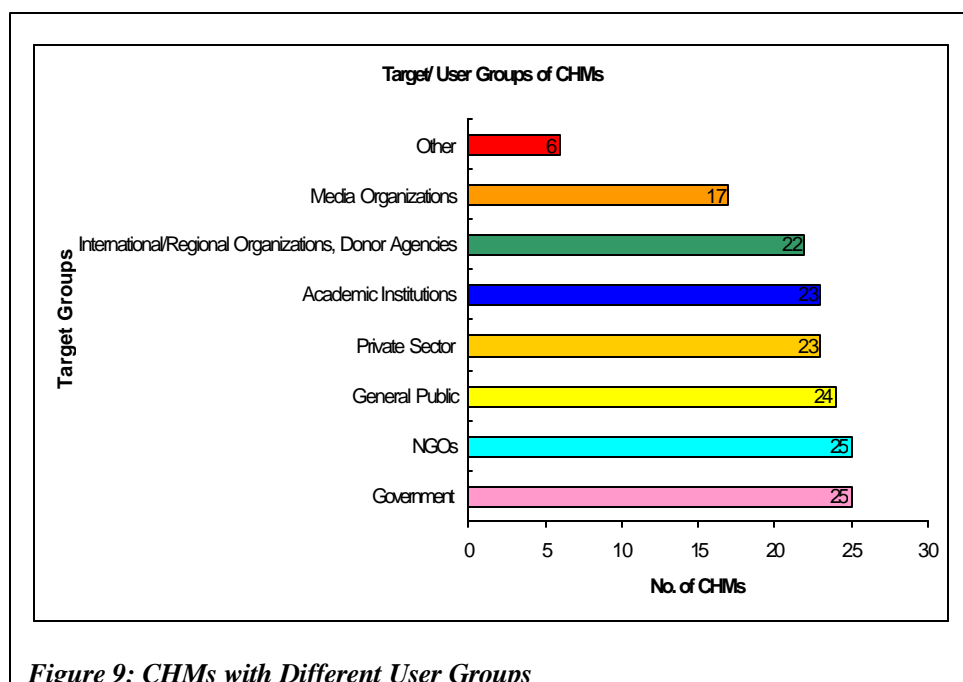
Table 3: CHMs with Different User Groups

No.	Organization	Government	NGO	Private Sector	Int'l/Regional organizations, Donor agencies	Academic Institutions	Media Orgs	General Public	Other
1	APO	*	*	*	*	*		*	
2	Basal	*	*	*	*		*		
3	CBD	*	*	*	*	*		*	
4	CITES	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
5	Europaworld					*		*	
6	FIELD	*	*	*	*	*		*	
7	GRID	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
8	GWP	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
9	IISD	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
10	NationMaster		*	*	*	*	*	*	*
11	RAMSAR	*	*		*	*	*	*	
12	SACEP(BCH)	*	*	*		*	*	*	
13	GPA	*	*						
14	UNCRD	*	*	*	*	*		*	
15	STOCKHOLM	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
16	UNEP WCMC	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
17	UNFCCC	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
18	UNIDO	*	*	*				*	*
19	DOE-Iran	*	*	*	*	*		*	*
20	CAI-Asia	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
21	ADB	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
22	NCPC			*		*	*	*	
23	NEFEJ	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
24	UNDP Bhutan								
25	UNDP India	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
26	LEAD Pakistan	*	*	*	*				
27	FAO	*							
28	CMS	*	*		*	*		*	
29	NEC Bhutan	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	

Functions of CHMs

As Figure 10 illustrates, the majority of CHMs have three major functions: information management, networking, and capacity development, while approximately 65% of CHMs also have research functions.

Other functions specified by some of the respondents include the provision of information on the trans-boundary movement of living modified organisms (LMOs/GMOs) by the CBD CHM, risk assessments, reporting on

commitments as provided through national communications, identification of technology needs as provided through technology needs assessments reports, showcasing such as projects proposals from technology needs assessments to potential donors, matchmaking, identification of experts and companies, and technical feasibility and economic viability of environmental projects
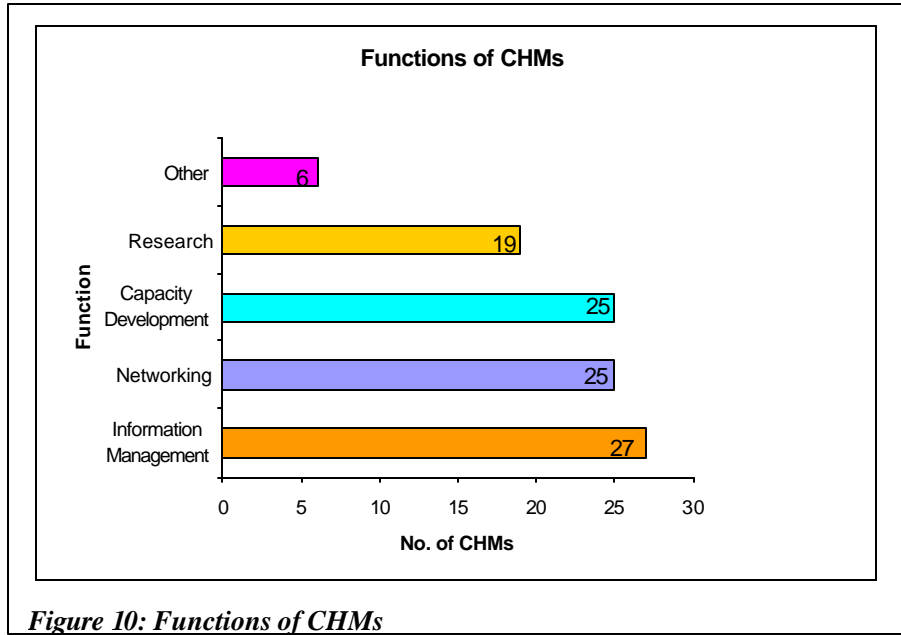
Figure 10: Functions of CHMs

Priority for Different Functions of CHMs

Respondents were then asked to rate the priority for each function by allocating 3 marks for functions with high priority, 2 marks for functions with medium priority and 1 mark for low priority functions. The results are summarized in Figure 11.
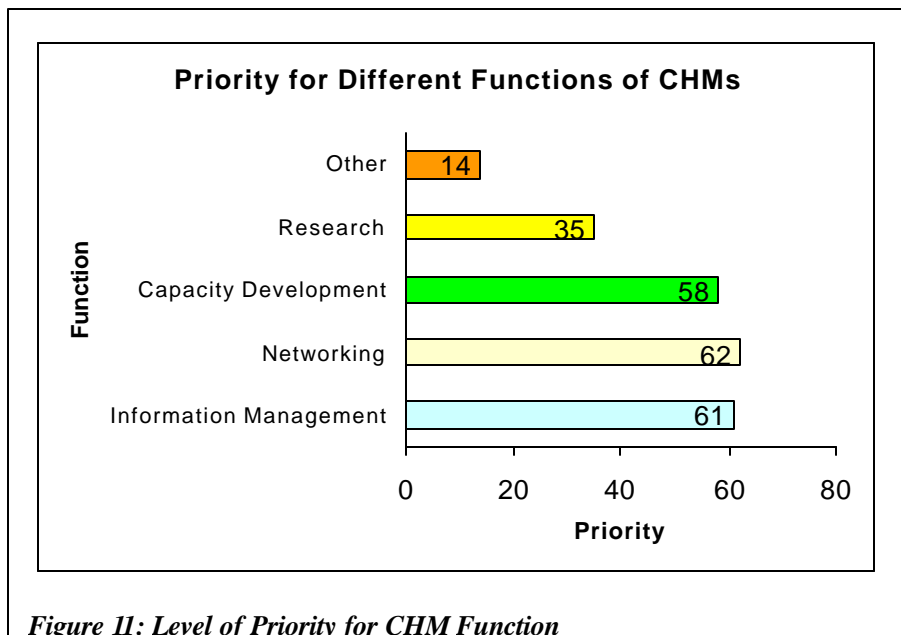
Figure 11: Level of Priority for CHM Function

<u>**Services Provided by CHMs**</u>

Respondents were also asked to indicate the services provided by their CHMs. A list of different services offered to the respondents includes:

1. Providing legal information related to MEAs
2. Providing information on decisions and declarations made by parties at major meetings of MEAs
3. Providing scientific and technical information related to MEAs
4. Providing practical information regarding negotiations and implementation of MEAs (e.g. contacts of NFPs, roster of experts, calendar of MEA related events)
5. Providing information on related projects and programmes (including other CHMs) implemented by other institutions
6. Providing forums (e.g. on-line discussion forums) where countries and stakeholders involved in MEA processes can share information, knowledge and experiences
7. Providing consultation to countries (including NFPs) and related stakeholders on cost-benefits analysis of MEAs, and the development of projects, policies, and guidelines
8. Reviewing and monitoring the progress of the implementation of MEAs at the national level
9. Conducting research on topics related to MEAs and making information available to countries and related stakeholders
10. Providing information on various research initiatives conducted by other institutions
11. Providing information on capacity development opportunities (e.g. training programmes, fellowships, personnel exchange and technical assistance)
12. Conducting various capacity development activities (e.g. awareness raising programmes on legal frameworks developed for the implementation of MEAs, promotional materials)
13. Providing information on funding opportunities, and providing necessary assistance in developing proposals and securing funds
14. Promoting coordination among different ministries, agencies and stakeholders involved in MEA processes through facilitating inter-agency communication and coordinatio n
15. Promoting multi-stakeholder partnership and participation in the MEA processes
16. Others – asked to specify if any

As presented in Figure 12 below, a majority of CHMs focus on providing scientific and technical information, as well as providing practical information on negotiations and implementation of MEAs, capacity development opportunities, and decisions and declarations made by parties at major meetings of MEAs. Furthermore, the results revealed that less attention is given to providing information related to funding opportunities and legal information related to MEAs.

Figure 12: Services Provided by CHMs
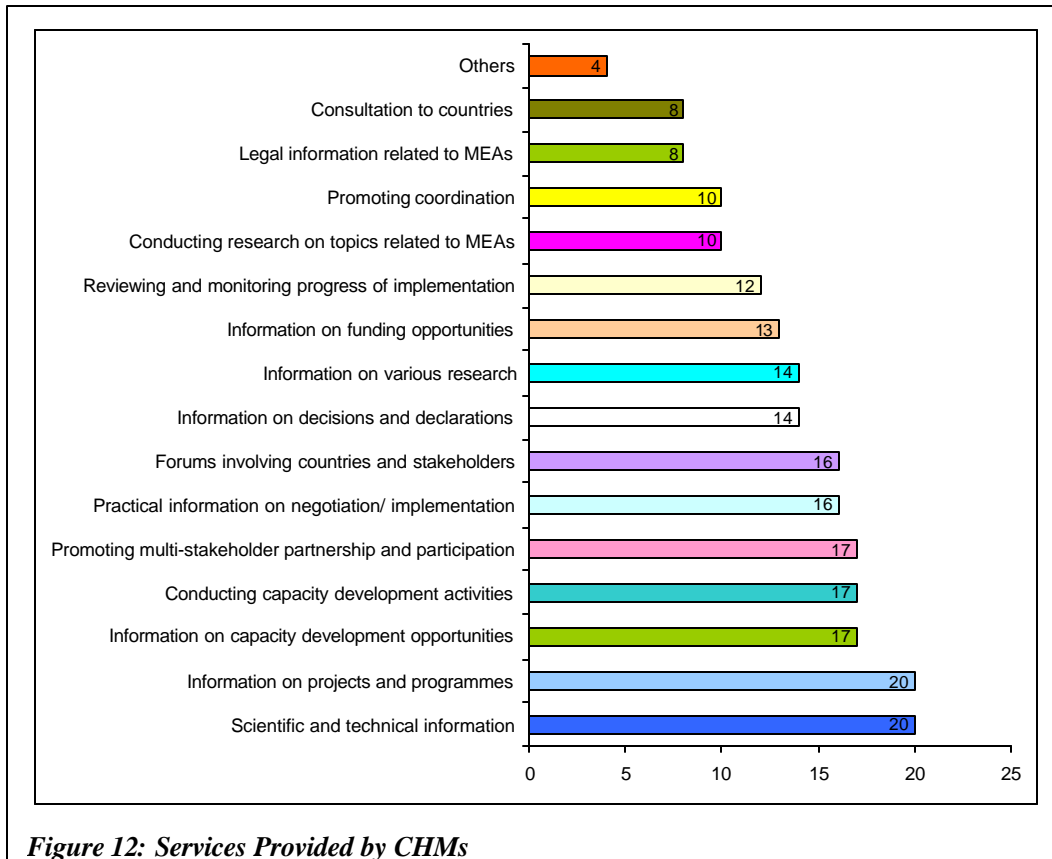
Modes of Accessibility of CHMs

In the survey, respondents were asked to specify modes of accessibility of their CHMs. As illustrated in Figure 13, the majority of CHMs are web based, while some are supplemented by other modes, such as a paper library, and telephone inquiry services.
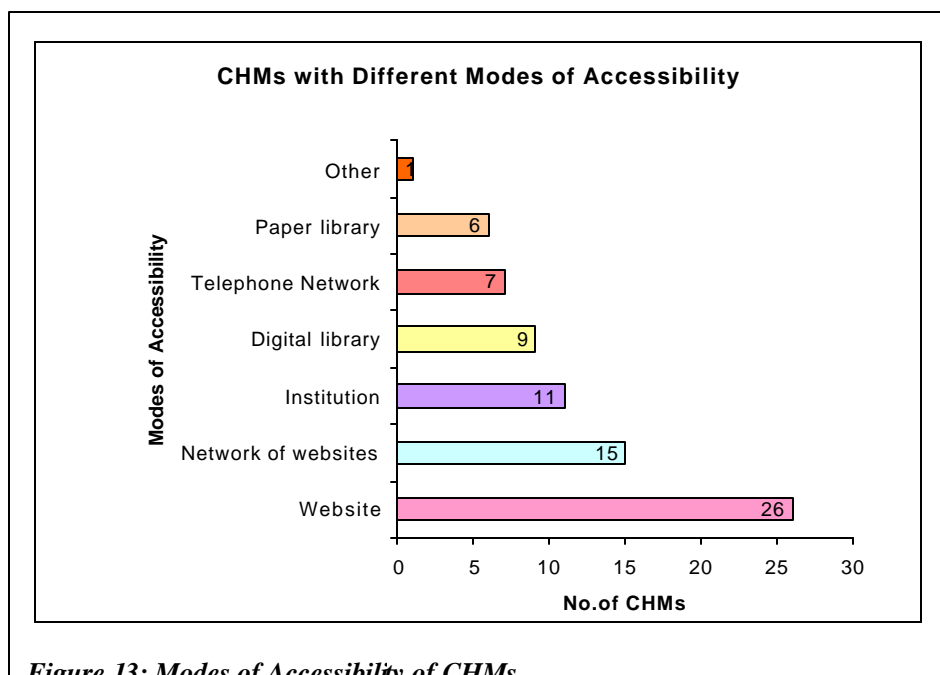
Figure 13: Modes of Accessibility of CHMs

Respondents were asked to specify data suppliers to their CHMs. As summarized in Figure 14 below, the most common data suppliers of the CHMs are organizations at the national level, which are involved in the various processes of MEA management. Regional and international organizations, as well as NGOs, are also listed as major data suppliers for CHMs.

CHMs with Different Types of Data Suppliers

Figure 14: Data Suppliers of CHMs
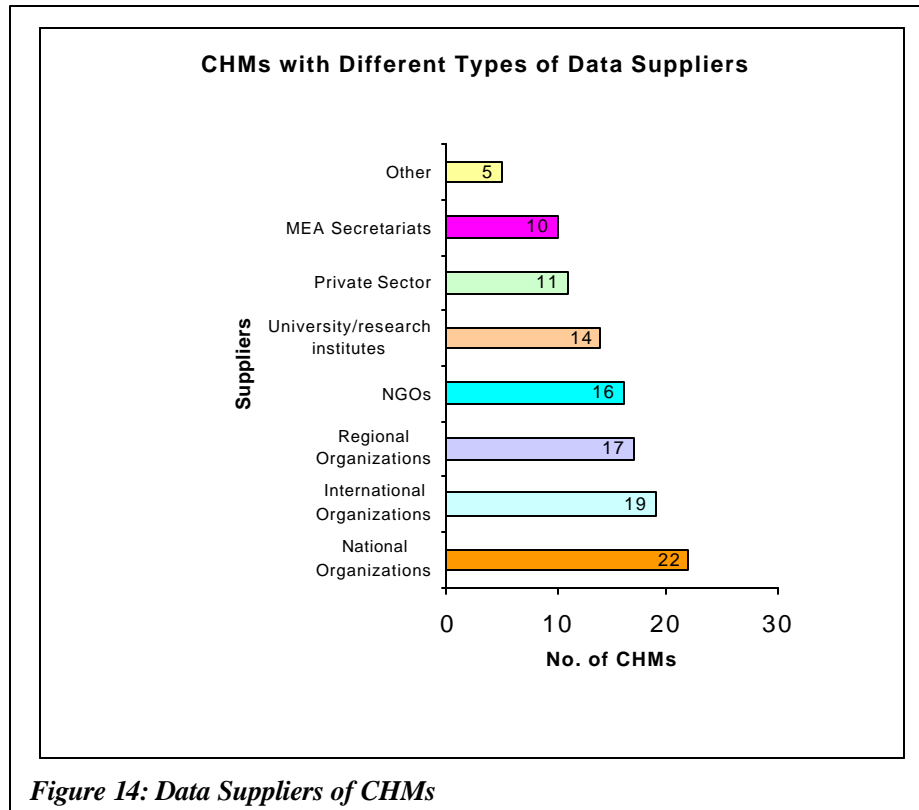
Key Factors of Successful Management of CHMs

Respondents were asked to specify success factors regarding the management of their CHMs. A list of factors offered to the respondents is as follows:
1. Decentralization of management and operation of CHMs
2. Easy accessibility to information and data
3. High quality information
4. Good infrastructure
5. Needs-driven
6. Non vested interest in controlling the expertise or information
7. Others – asked to specify

As illustrated in Figure 15 below, high quality information is a key factor for the successful management of CHMs, while easy accessibility, needs driven approaches, and good infrastructure were also noted as important elements. Other key success factors listed by the respondents include frequent updating of information, utilization of modern technologies, active interaction with CHM users through feedback systems and meetings, and availability of sufficient funding.

CHMs With Different Key Factors for Success

Key Factors	No. of CHMs
Other	5
Decentralization of management and operation	11
Non vested interest in controlling expertise or information	11
Good infrastructure	17
Needs driven	19
Easy accessibility to information and data	23
High quality information	25
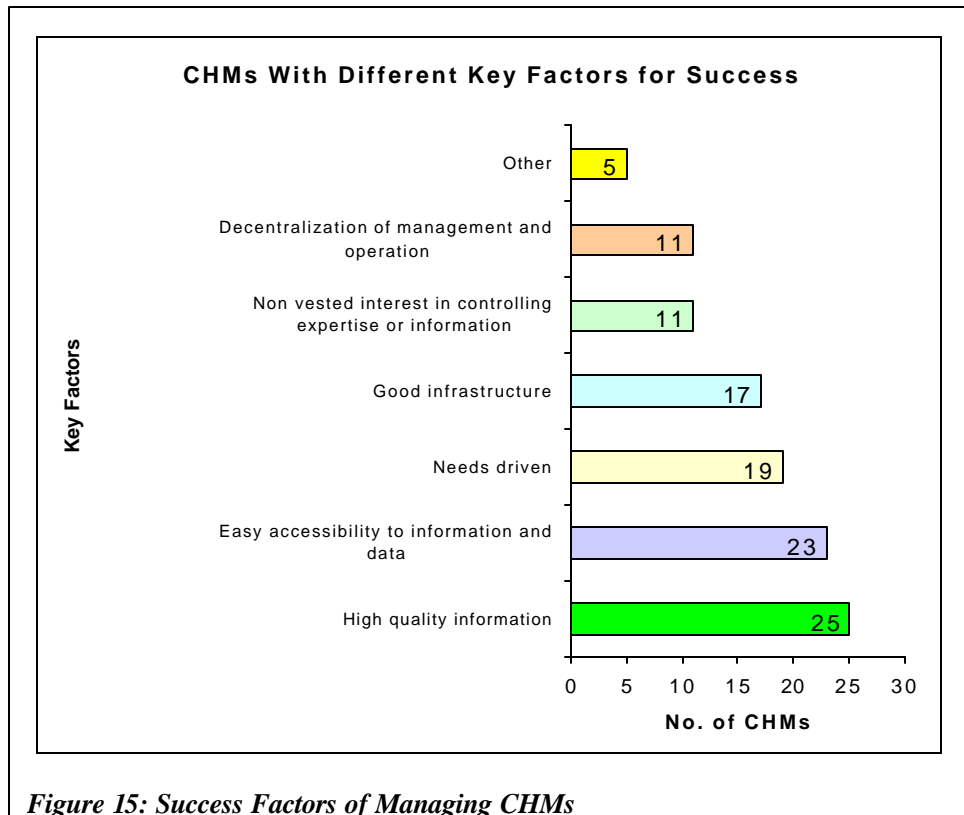
Figure 15: Success Factors of Managing CHMs

Approaches Used for Maintaining High Quality Information and Services

Respondents were then asked to specify different approaches being adopted to maintain and improve the quality of service provided by their CHMs. A list of factors offered to the respondents is as follows:

1. Setting up a third party advisory mechanism to the CHM
2. Receiving feedback from users
3. Upgrading the infrastructure
4. Frequent updating of information
5. Others – asked to specify

As presented in Figure 16 below, the majority of CHMs utilize feedback mechanisms and frequent updating for maintaining and improving quality. Other approaches adopted for the quality management include strategic planning review, frequent interaction and meetings with data providers and users, conducting client surveys, frequent evaluation, and active involvement of information and advocacy divisions.

Figure 16: Approaches for Quality Management
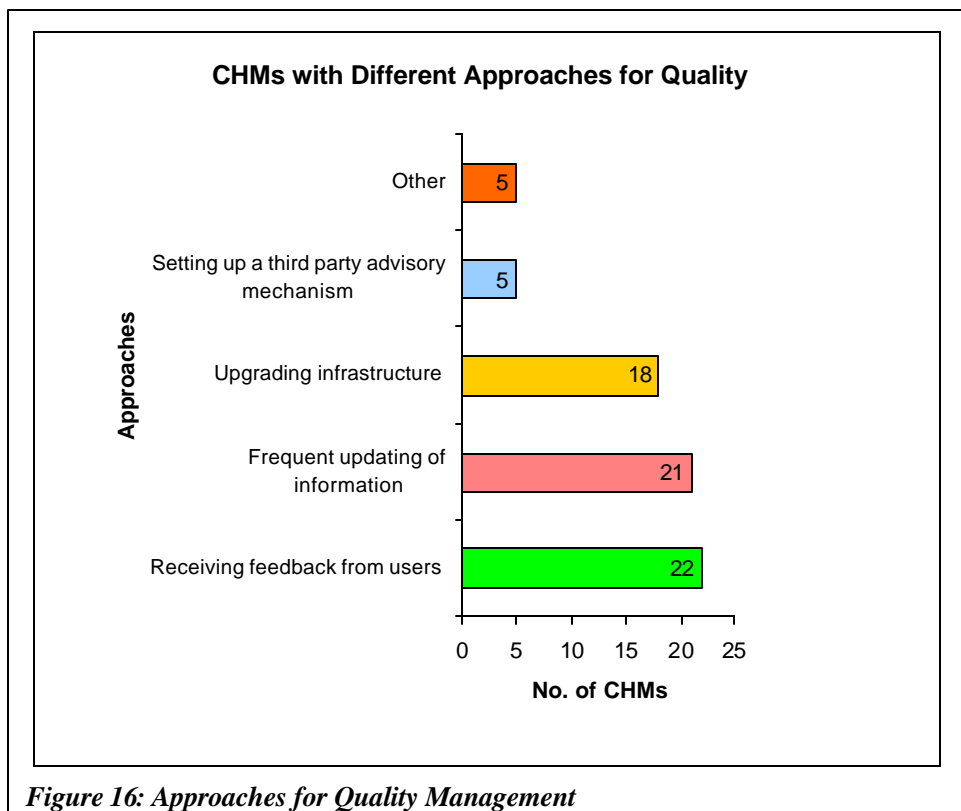
2.4. ANALYSIS ON AWARENESS RAISING TOOLS/MECHANISMS

The importance of awareness raising for high level officials, as well as the general public, on issues related to MEAs, has been repeatedly highlighted in various environmental meetings and conferences. This section of the report aims to provide an overview of the current level of awareness related to MEA issues, as well as the mechanisms and techniques which can be further utilized for raising awareness.

Please note that the results presented in this section of the report are entirely based on the information given on Part C of the questionnaire. The questionnaire asked respondents to respond to questions focused on the following two aspects:

1. Awareness tools used by MEA focal points to brief high level officials (Ministers, Secretariats, Directors, etc) and raise their awareness on MEA related issues; and

2. Awareness tools used by government, NGOs and other stakeholders in raising the public awareness on MEA related issues.

In addition to the above, the questionnaire also intended to assess people's perception regarding the current level of awareness on issues related to MEAs.

2.4.1 Awareness of High Level Officials

Creating awareness of high level officials is considered to be a critical factor in managing MEAs, particularly, in order to secure their support in the management process of MEAs, including negotiations, ratification, and implementation of agreements. Providing necessary information in an effective manner to foster their understanding on the issues related to MEAs, including the implications of ratifying and implementing agreements in political, economic, and environmental perspectives is vital to raising awareness. In order to understand the current level of awareness of high level officials, respondents were asked to give their views by rating it as either 'good', 'fair', or 'poor'.

As the data in Figure 17 shows, most respondents perceive that the level of awareness of high level officials on MEA related issues is 'fair', while 40% rated it as 'poor'. It should also be noted that none of the respondents rated the awareness level as 'good', which shows that there is a strong need to better inform high level officials.

Current Level of Awareness of High Level Officials on Issues Related to MEAs

- Good
- Fair
- Poor

40% 0% 60%
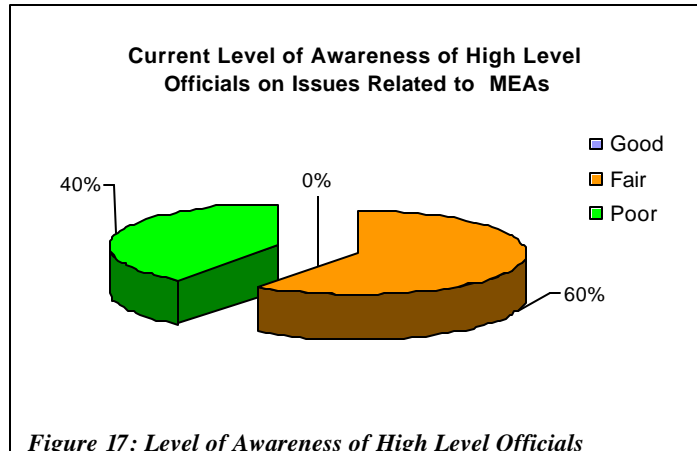
Figure 17: Level of Awareness of High Level Officials

Respondents were further asked to state reasons for the above situations. It was noted that important international negotiations on MEAs are often represented by high level officials, which help in raising their awareness on related issues. However, in many countries, high turnover of high level officials prevents highly skilled and knowledgeable officials to continuously play the key role in negotiations and other MEA processes. As a result, in many cases, high level officials who are newly appointed are sent to international negotiations, without getting appropriate awareness or sufficient information regarding the issues.

Another issue for the lack of awareness among high level officials is related to limited opportunities for awareness raising, or a lack of effective mechanisms to disseminate information regarding MEA related issues to high level officials, such as CHMs. In many cases, working on issues related to MEAs, or sustainable development in general, is perceived by high level officials as an obstacle to national development, or simply the opportunity to receive external funding, which results in limited incentives for them to work on pressing environmental concerns. Providing sufficient opportunities for high level officials for awareness raising, through various means such as workshops, and enabling them to access appropriate information through CHMs, is critical. Furthermore, a sufficient understanding on the linkages between environment and economic development is a key area that requires improvement.

Many of the respondents noted the significant difference in the level of awareness among high level officials. While officials from the environmental ministries, or those who are directly involved in MEA negotiations have relatively high awareness, those from other ministries have limited awareness on MEA related issues.

Respondents were then asked to the name three best mechanisms or tools used for raising awareness of high level officials. As indicated in Figure 18 below, respondents highlighted that multi-stakeholder participatory workshops are the most effective approach, as participation in such forums would help officials to understand not only the key issues, but also the concerns of

various sectors such as NGOs and the private sector.

The Best Mechanisms/Tools used for Raising Awareness of High Level Officials

Mechanism/Tool	Value
Help desk/Consultating	1
Publications	1
Policy briefs	2
Clearing House Mechanisms	3
Presentation skills	3
Environmental programmes by mass media	5
Cost benefit analysis/valuation	6
Conferences and Meetings on MEA/SD issues	7
Institutionalized systems/Centres of Excellence	9
Multi-stakeholder participatory workshop	11

Figure 18: The Best Mechanisms for Raising Awareness of High Level Officials

Institutional mechanisms, such as Centres of Excellence, was also noted as highly effective, as it provides consulting and capacity development activities related to MEAs. Cost benefit analysis/valuation methods were regarded as effective means, as they help people understand economic values of environmental resources and services, as well as expected costs and benefits of complying with specific agreements, and reflecting them into national policy development. Other awareness raising mechanisms and tools are also shown in Figure 18.

2.4.2 Awareness of the General Public

In addition to awareness raising of high level officials, countries in South Asia are facing great challenges in raising awareness of the general public on issues related to MEAs and sustainable development. With low literacy rates, insufficient facilities and technologies for disseminating and sharing information, and limited interaction, communication and cooperation between governmental agencies and civil society, the general public lacks the relevant awareness of environmental

Current Level of Awareness of the General Public on Issues Related to MEAs

- Good: 0%
- Fair: 15%
- Poor: 85%

Figure 19: Level of Awareness of the General Public
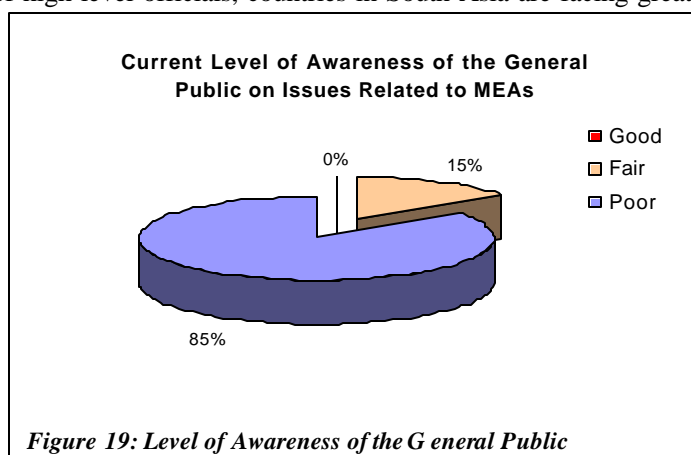
issues. In order to identify the current level of public awareness, respondents were asked to give their views by rating it into one of three levels: 'good', 'fair', or 'poor'.

As indicated in Figure 19, respondents commented that the level of public awareness on issues related to MEAs is significantly lower than that of high level officials. The fact that 85% of respondents rated it as 'poor' shows that there is a great need to raise awareness of the public on issues addressed by MEAs. This limited awareness on MEA related issues would lead to a lack of interest or participation in the implementation of MEAs, forcing further efforts to provide opportunities for the general public to acquire sufficient knowledge on MEA concerns.

When asked to state reasons for low public awareness on MEA related issues, respondents listed factors such as the lack of effective communication tools and mechanisms to distribute MEA related information among the general public, a lack of effective awareness raising programmes conducted by the government, difficulties in communicating complex issues addressed by MEAs, and a lack of incentives for national media to produce awareness raising programmes. Hence, further efforts need to be made in providing awareness raising programmes to the general public, which would allow them to relate issues addressed by MEAs as essential components in their daily lives.

Moreover, respondents were asked to name the three best mechanisms or tools used for raising awareness of the general public. As indicated in Figure 20 below, the majority of respondents agreed that mass media programmes play a pivotal role in raising awareness. Environmental campaigns and special programmes designed for school teachers and children are also considered effective approaches. Conducting environmental education by linking it closely with traditional, cultural, and religious events and practices is highly effective. In Bhutan, for example, environmental education programmes are conducted for monks residing at project sites. Other awareness raising mechanisms and tools are also shown in Figure 20.

The Best Mechanisms/Tools used for Raising Awareness of the General Public

Mechanism/Tool	Value
Environmentally sensitive cultural programmes	1
Environmental Days/ Public	1
Clearing House Mechanisms	2
Workshops/Seminars	3
Audio visual materials	4
Environmental training	4
Capacity building workshops	4
Programmes for schools (primary and secondary level)	7
Environmental campaigns	10
Mass media	13

Figure 20: The Best Mechanisms for Raising Awareness of the General Public

Respondents were also asked to rate the effectiveness of various raising tools for high level officials and the general public. As shown in Figure 20 above, various tools and programmes, which can be used for disseminating MEA information in a simple and understandable way, are effective by closely linking them with people's daily lives, and using audio visual technologies. Alternatively, various technologies and methodologies, such as GIS, meta database, remote sensing, economic valuation of natural resources and costs benefits analysis, and mechanisms for disseminating information effectively, such as CHMs and publications of policy briefs, are effective, but more suitable for high level officials.

The above analysis clearly shows that there are different tools, mechanisms and approaches which are considered effective for raising awareness of both high level officials and the general public. For high level officials, linking environmental issues with economic development, as well as promoting their understanding on the implications of MEAs working in their national development processes are key factors, therefore, the utilization of various technologies which assist people in analyzing and presenting environmental and economic benefits of working on MEAs, and effective approaches to access appropriate information such as CHMs and other institutional arrangements such as Centres of Excellence, are critical. For the general public, awareness raising on issues related to MEAs needs to be conducted by linking them closely with daily livelihoods, and translating issues addressed by MEAs into simple messages, so that they ultimately understand environmental and economic benefits of MEA related issues in promoting sustainable lifestyles.

As mentioned, this section of the study focused on providing a general overview on the level of awareness of high level officials and the general public on issues related to MEAs, and people's perception on the effectiveness of various tools and mechanisms that can be utilized for awareness raising efforts. It is hoped that further research will be conducted, in order to examine the strength and weaknesses of each tool, and carefully analyze how each tool can be utilized in assisting in the management of MEAs.

3 SUMMARY OF EXISTING PROJECTS AND PROGRAMMES RELATED TO MEAS

3.1 MEA RELATED PROJECTS /PROGRAMMES IMPLEMENTED BY INTERNATIONAL/REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

3.1.1 REGIONAL LEVEL ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED BY INTERNATIONAL/REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Technical Training Initiatives Focused on MEA Related Issues

Multiple MEAs

From 16 - 19 August 2004, **UNEP/ROAP** and **UNEP/DPDL** organized the *Regional Training Programme on Environmental Policy and Law* in Tianjin, China, focusing on economic instruments relating to the implementation of MEAs, use of synergies and inter-linkages among MEAs to facilitate effective implementation, and regional implementation of regional environmental instruments in the region. The programme particularly targeted senior level policy makers and lawyers, to assist countries in developing environmental laws.

IUCN-ARO established the *Regional Environmental Law Programme (RELP),* in cooperation with other IUCN regional and country programmes. Under the programme, particular attention

has been given to implementing MEAs, wetland laws, livelihood security, legal information, environmental justice, and legal education and sharing. While strengthening legal frameworks, RELP focuses on issues related to capacity building, through formal legal education and training, networking to unite experts across the region, and researching applied to specific issues of conservation and sustainable use.

Climate Change

UNEP/ROAP launched the project *Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction from Industry in Asia and the Pacific (GERIAP)*, in July 2002. The project is funded by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) and covers countries in South Asia, particularly, India, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh.[1] The project embodies capacity building through training National Focal Points (NFPs), practical demonstrations, and reviewing national policies related to energy, climate change and industry. The project is expected to continue until December 2005.

General Environment

UNEP/RRC.AP launched a project called *Strengthening National Capabilities on Environmental Assessment and Monitoring (SEAMCAP)* in November 1998. The project was specifically designed for South Asia (and Mekong Sub-Region), with a focus on strengthening the capacity of decision makers, particularly on emerging environmental issues, through effective reporting, monitoring and modeling of environmental data. Under the project, three inception meetings were organized in April 1999 with participants from South Asia countries. The *Fourth Collaborative Assessment Network (CAN)* meeting was organized in November 2003, highlighting specific issues in South Asia, such as linking assessment to livelihood and poverty alleviation, capacity building on data collection for MEAs, harmonizing, reporting, and linkages of indicators related to the development of livelihood systems.

Workshops, Meetings and Conferences Focused on MEA Related Issues

Multiple MEAs

UNEP/DEPI, in cooperation with SACEP, organized a regional workshop titled *Compliance with and Enforcement of Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) in Asia and Pacific*, held in September 2004, which was aimed at building capacities of governments for better implementation of MEAs, and identifying and sharing the best practices in the region.

UNU, in collaboration with other regional partners, organized the *Brainstorming Workshop on Regional Partnership for Integrated Capacity Building for Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) in South Asia* in July 2004, in Sri Lanka. The session aimed to promote regional partnerships in South Asia in addressing capacity development needs for the effective management of MEAs.

GEC organizes projects related to capacity building and information exchange on issues such as integrated river basin management, and forest and wetland conservation. In 2003, GEC organized the *Workshop on Peat-lands Biodiversity and Climate Change*, targeted at governments, private stakeholders and NGOs, and in 2004, it organized the workshops on *Peat lands and Climate Change, Wetlands, Biodiversity and Climate Change* and *Integrated*

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[1] The other Asian countries include: China, Indonesia, Mongolia, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam .

Management of Peat lands for Biodiversity and Climate Change in Canada, Italy and Malaysia, for which delegates from the South Asian region participated. The workshops aimed at raising awareness on biodiversity and climate change adaptations for better management of Peat-lands.

Climate Change

SACEP, in collaboration with UNEP, organized the national workshop on *UNFCCC and the Institutional Design of the Cooperative Implementation Mechanisms of the Kyoto Protocol* in Colombo, Sri Lanka, for the purpose of facilitating the implementation of UNFCCC.

SACEP also organized a series of technical trainings related to the Male Declaration. The first training programme was conducted in May 2004, with participants from all member countries, and provided hands-on exercises on monitoring air pollution in the region.

APNCC has organized a series of activities, aimed at facilitating policy dialogues and consultations, enhancing access to climate-change-related information, and promoting information exchange on climate-change related programs and projects within the Asia-Pacific region. It organized the *14th Asia Pacific Seminar on Climate Change* in Australia in September 2004, focusing on information sharing and confidence building measures among policy makers in the region. APNCC also organized the *Asia Pacific Seminar on Climate Change*, which was aimed at promoting information sharing and raising awareness of government officials at working levels, NGOs, academia and business sectors on issues related to climate change.

Biodiversity

The Environment and Sustainable Development Division (**ESDD**) of UNESCAP organized a workshop called *Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) on Biodiversity and Natural Resource Management* in October 2003, Bangkok, Thailand. The workshop aimed to provide comprehensive training to government experts on the implementation of CBD, Ramsar Convention, and UNCCD.

SACEP, in collaboration with NORAD, organized the regional workshop *Assessment of Plant Diversity and Preparation of Action Plans for South Asia*.

CBD Secretariat organized the *Asia Pacific Regional Meeting on the pilot phase of the Bio-safety Clearing House* in China in 2002, which aimed to provide countries of the region with an opportunity to articulate their needs and expectations with regard to the implementation of the Bio-safety Clearing House.

CBD Secretariat also organized the *Asian Regional Workshop on the Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity*, in Hanoi, Vietnam 2002, in which Sri Lanka and Bhutan participated by representing South Asia. The meeting discussed the development of practical principles and operational guidelines, as well as associated instruments for the sustainable use of biological diversity in Asia.

SAARC organized the *Expert Group Meeting on Bio-Safety* in 2004, focusing on key MEA issues and Sustainable Development in South Asia. The meeting was attended by regional environmental ministries, and aimed to establish a cooperative framework in exchanging knowledge and resources for regional biodiversity.

SACEP organized the workshop *Facilitating the Ratification and Implementation of MARPOL 73/78* in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

Desertification and Land Degradation

During the first regional conference on implementation of **UNCCD** in New Delhi, the Regional Action Programme (RAP) was established, aiming to achieve conventions' objectives at the regional level. As a follow-up to this conference, the *Ministerial Conference on Regional Cooperation to Implement the UNCCD in Asia* was held in Beijing in 1997. Furthermore, an International Expert Group meeting on *Preparation of the Regional Action Programme for Combating Desertification and Mitigating the Effects of Droughts in Asia* was held in Bangkok in 1998, focusing on developing the National Action Programmes (NAPs) in the region. As an outcome of these meetings, Thematic Programme Networks (TPNs) were established to support national regional programmes on implementing UNCCD effectively.

UNCCD Secretariat organized the *Launching Meeting of the Thematic Programme Network (TPN6) on the Implementation of the Integrated Local Area Development Programmes (LADPs) Initiatives in the Regional Context of the Regional Action Programme to Combat Desertification in Asia* in Pakistan 2004.

UNCCD Secretariat also organized the *South Asia Sub-Regional Workshop on the Development of the Sub-Regional Action Plan* in Sri Lanka in July 2004.

Projects Related to MEAs

Climate Change

CEE has developed a strategy for raising awareness on Ozone Depleting Substances at various levels, in close collaboration with UNEP's Ozone Action Office. It is a part of the work programmes of the *Industrial Initiatives* of CEE, which aim to develop tools for sustaining growth and profits through a system of information services for the industries.

As agreed in the Fourth Summit in Pakistan 1988, **SAARC Secretariat** undertook a comprehensive study called *Greenhouse Effects and its Impacts on the Region*, based on which a SAARC Plan of Action on Environment was adopted at the Male meeting in 1997. The plan aimed to evaluate the status of regional cooperation in the environment, identify the concerns of member states at regional and global levels, and set out parameters and modalities for enhanced cooperation among member states.

IUCN-ARO implements various programmes related to climate change issues. In particular, it conducts programmes which aim to support and strengthen climate change adaptation strategies and actions at national and regional levels, support integration of climate change concerns into regional and national policies and action plans, and support capacity building of national governments and regional institutions as a key to promoting regional and national cooperation for better implementation of projects and programmes related to climate change. It also promotes environmental assessment as an important tool for biodiversity management in the region, through providing technical assistance and effective methodologies for monitoring and assessment.

Biodiversity

UNDP Regional Centre launched the *Biodiversity Governance Initiative (Governance for Protected Areas)*. This initiative specifically analyzes how UNDP projects support biodiversity conservation and/or targeted governance issues in the design and implementation of projects. Case studies have been implemented (selected countries in the region) through a combination of secondary data reviews and select site visits.

CBD Secretariat initiated the *Supporting Global Biodiversity Agenda* programme in 2003, which is expected to continue until 2005. The programme has been implemented in collaboration with the IUCN Policy Biodiversity and International Agreements Unit. It aims to contribute to further development and implementation of the global biodiversity agenda, to ensure biodiversity conservation at regional and national level with equitable benefit sharing, the utilization and access to genetic resources, social and gender equity, protection of biodiversity related traditional and local knowledge, cultural integrity, and poverty reduction.

Supporting the implementation of CBD in South and Southeast Asia 1997 was initiated by the **IUCN Regional Biodiversity Programme** together with governments in Asia, Asia Pacific Centre for Environmental Law (APCEL), ASEAN Secretariat, Regional Environmental Law Programme, GTZ, The International Development Research Centre (IDRC) and the US State Department. The project aimed to build capacities in Asia on issues related to accessing genetic resources and benefit-sharing, developing training programmes, workshops, communication material; publications of policy briefs, guidelines and a hand-book.

IUCN-RBP implements projects which aim to support the effective development and implementation of the *National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAP)*, as an important tool for strengthening national responses to CBD. IUCN-RBP also implements other projects related to national biodiversity policies and plans, identification and monitoring of biodiversity, education and awareness, legislative and regulatory mechanisms, and economics of biodiversity, biosafety and climate change.

IUCN-RBP launched a programme on *Capacity Building to Implement the Bio-safety Protocol in Asia* programme, which is aimed at assisting countries in the implementation of national and international regulations on biosafety, and building capacity to integrate regulations at the international and national level.

IUCN-RBP, in partnership with UNDP and UNEP, with funding from GEF, implemented the *Biodiversity Planning Support Programme South and South East Asia (BPSP)*. The IUCN-RBP operates as the Executing Agency for BPSP activities in South and Southeast Asia.

IUCN-ARO organized the regional workshop for *Parliamentarians on Environment and Biodiversity and Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety* in March, 2003 in New Delhi, India.

Air Emissions

SEI launched a regional programme on *Air Pollution in Developing Countries (RAPIDC)* with funds from the Economic Cooperation division of SIDA. The programme supports the development of agreements and protocols to implement measures that prevent and control air pollution. The RAPIDC works with the *Male Declaration,* collaborating with National Implementing Agencies (NIA) in South Asian countries for awareness-raising on air pollution emissions, capacity building activities through the NFP/NIA network, and information and knowledge management.

General Environment

UNDP/GEF Regional Coordination Unit for Asia and the Pacific undertakes various activities related to the National Capacity Self Assessments (NSCA). It organized workshops on *Self-Assessment of National Capacity Building Needs for Effective Management of Global Environmental Issues,* in Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Sri Lanka and Pakistan.

The overall NCSA process tends to identify country level priorities and needs for capacity to address environmental issues particularly related to biodiversity, climate change, and land degradation. Further, the process highlights synergies among thematic areas, and the linkages

with wider concerns of environmental management and sustainable development.

Table 4: NCSA status in South Asia

Afghanistan	Inception	**Bhutan**	Thematic assessment
Bangladesh	GEF approved	**Iran**	Reviewed by GEF
India	Inception	**Nepal**	GEF approved
Maldives	Inception	**Sri Lanka**	Inception
Pakistan	Inception		

Networks Related to MEAs

Multiple MEAs

IUCN Commission on Environmental Law in Asia was established in 1963, with the collaboration of all countries in **IUCN**'s Asia region. This setup aimed to develop advanced sustainability, through the development of legal and policy concepts and instruments, and through building the capacity of societies, to develop and implement environmental law and policy, in furtherance of the IUCN mission.

Climate Change

UNEP/ROAP established the *Ozone Depleting Substances Officers Network for South Asia* (*ODSONET/SA)*, which is aimed at building capacities of national officers for implementing their country's obligations under the Montreal Protocol, on issues related to ozone depleting substances. The South Asia Network (ODSONET/SA) involves the member countries of Bangladesh, India, Iran, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.[2]

APNCC established *Kyoto Mechanism Information Platform* in April 2004, as an open network, including countries from South Asia, to disseminate information on the Kyoto Protocol.

Biodiversity

IUCN-RBP, in partnership with BioNET-INTERNATIONAL and environmental ministries in South Asian countries, established *South Asian Network for Taxonomy Capacity Building (SACNET)*. The network aims to assist countries in building capacity related to taxonomy and promote technical cooperation among countries. The network acts as an information exchange on taxonomy issues, and organizes capacity building activities, while supporting the implementation of programmes related to CBD.

Networks Related to MEAs

Wetlands and Water Management

SACEP has put forward a regional arrangement with the Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands with an emphasis on *Conservation and Wise Use of Wetlands in South Asia*. This

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[2] The other member countries involved are China, DPR Korea, R. of Korea, Mongolia and the United Kingdom.

collaborative programme enhances coordination between regional and international wetland initiatives and linkages between MEAs addressing wetland issues. The programme assists South Asian countries by supporting national activities, providing a formal mechanism for information exchange and data management, and mobilizing resources for wetland conservation and wise use within the region.

Publications Focused on MEA Related Issues

Climate Change

UNESCAP/ESDD published a report *Regional Follow-up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific, 2003*, which highlights collaborative work with UNEP, ADB and UNDP, in developing a regional platform for sustainable development. It also published a report *Implementation of Clean Development Mechanism in Asia and the Pacific 2003*.

Air Emissions

UNEP/RRC.AP published the report *Male Declaration on Control and Prevention of Air Pollution and its likely Transboundary Effects for South Asia (2004) - Report of the in-country Training Programmes*[3]. Other reports of regional and national stakeholder meetings and training programmes related to the *Male Declaration on Control and Prevention of Air Pollution and its likely Transboundary Effects for South Asia*, have also been published.

Wetlands and Water Management

Ramsar Secretariat published *Towards the Wise use of Wetlands: Report of the Ramsar Convention Wise Use Project*, which focused particularly on India and Pakistan in describing the sustainable use of existing wetlands in both countries. The report highlights the integrated institutional arrangements regarding wetland policies, awareness raising and knowledge management regarding wetlands and the challenges faced in their conservation.

3.1.2 NATIONAL LEVEL ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED BY INTERNATIONAL/REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Multiple MEAs

UNESCAP's work programmes have covered different themes and cross-cutting issues through national initiatives. These include: *The National Workshop on Application on Strategic Planning and Management Guideline* and *National Case studies on Water Resources in Pakistan and Sri Lanka*, in January 2004; *The Technical Committee Meeting on Conservation of Biodiversity through public-private partnership in Pakistan*, in February 2004; *The National Workshop on Promoting Public Awareness of Water Conservation in Male*, held in the Maldives; and *The Packaging and Promotion of Community Climate Change, Socio-Economic, Energy and Technology Research*, in June 2004, held in Bangkok, Thailand.

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[3]Reports on Regional Stakeholder Forum (2004), National Stakeholder Meetings (2002), Training Programme and Refresher course, Baseline studies and National Action Plans have also been published under the Male Declaration on Control and Prevention of Air Pollution and its likely Transboundary Effects for South Asia.

Climate Change

UNDP/GEF Regional Coordination Unit for Asia and the Pacific has developed national initiatives related to climate change issues in countries of South Asia. The project on *MDV National Green House Gases (GHG) inventory and Adaptation Assessment to Climate Change* and *National Plans of Action for Adaptation to Climate Change* is being implemented in the Maldives. In Sri Lanka, the project on *Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Capacity Building* has been completed.

CIDA (India) has conducted the *Demand Side Management Program for Carbon Emission Reduction* Project in India since 2001, which is expected to continue until 2006. The project aims to develop the capacity of relevant stakeholders to reduce the growth of Green House Gas (GHG) emissions through the implementation of demand side management measures.

World Bank (Pakistan) has initiated the *Montreal Protocol Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS) Phase Out Project* in January 1997, which is expected to continue until June 2006.

Biodiversity

UNDP/GEF Regional Coordination Unit for Asia and the Pacific has undertaken a series of national projects related to issues on Biodiversity. These include the *Biodiversity Action Plan* in Bangladesh, *Assessment of Capacity Building Needs and Country Specific Priorities in Biodiversity* completed in Bhutan, the programme on *Conservation and Sustainable Management of Dryland Biodiversity* in Gujarat India, *Biodiversity Conservation in the Andaman Islands,* and *Conservation and Sustainable Use of India's Wetlands* (with special focus on coastal marine and freshwater ecosystems).

World Bank (India) has initiated the *GEF Biosafety Project* from July 2003, which is expected to continue until June 2006. The project aims to build capacity for implementation of the Catargena Protocol Project.

World Bank (Pakistan) initiated the *Biodiversity Conservation Project* in April 2001. It is expected to continue until December 2007, to conserve habitats through biodiversity management.

TERI conducted a training programme on *Impact of Global Warming and Climate Change on Forest and Biodiversity*, targeted at forest service officers in India, in August 2004.

IUCN-ARO has implemented country programmes on biodiversity issues in Bangladesh, Nepal, Maldives, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. *The National Workshop on National Biosafety Framework for Maldives* was held in July 2004, aimed at sensitizing countries to be environmentally educated and conscious, and strengthening societal capacity to conserve and manage natural resources sustainably.

Desertification and Land Degradation

UNCCD organized a National Workshop on the *National Action Programme on the Implementation of the UNCCD and Partnership Building* in Sri Lanka.

UNCCD also organized the *Asia Regional Agro-forestry Workshop,* held in India 2003, to tackle issues on agro forestry and soil conservation in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas.

Air Emissions

World Bank (Bangladesh) initiated the *Air Quality Management Project* in July 2000. The project aims to reduce vehicle emissions by December 2005.

CIDA (India)
The *Environment Institution Strengthening Project*, from 1999 to 2006, in partnership with Environment Canada, focuses on developing capacity of the Indian Ministry of Environment and Forests to address national and global issues on air emission monitoring and control, environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes, and emerging environmental concerns.

Wetlands and Water Management

World Bank (Bangladesh) launched the *Bangladesh Water Supply Programme Project* in June 2004, which is expected to continue until April 2010. The project contains several components in assessing private sector participation, capacity building, national development support and monitoring, and evaluation of ongoing project activities.

World Bank (India) initiated the *Uttaranchal Decentralized Watershed Development Project* in May 2004, which is expected to continue until March 2012. The project aims to adopt a watershed approach for the sustainable management of natural resources.

ADB has implemented a number of projects and programmes at the national level, covering issues related to watershed management and development, poverty reduction, urban development, rural credits and energy sector programmes. The *Southwest Areas Integrated Water Resources Management* project was initiated in July 2002, and the *Agribusiness Development project* was initiated in March 2003 in Bangladesh. Furthermore, India implemented the project on *Sustainable Urban Development* in the North Eastern region.

SEI has initiated the project on *Managing Pollution from Small Scale Industries* in Bangladesh in 2002, which is expected to continue until 2005. The project is aimed at enhancing community-based wetlands and water resources management, to reduce pollution and improve water quality.

CIDA (Nepal) implemented the *Water and Energy Commission Secretariat (WECS) Institutional Development* project from 1996 to 2003 in Nepal, which aimed to strengthen capacity for environmentally sound water and energy resource management. It also organized the *Capacity Building on Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Related to Hydropower Development* project in Nepal 2001, which was aimed at supporting the development of effective guidelines for EIA procedures for hydropower development in Nepal.

NORAD (Bangladesh) initiated the project on *National Conservation Strategy Implementation* in Bangladesh in 2001, which aimed to support the preparation of an evaluation report on the management of wetlands, under the National Conservation Strategy Implementation Project.

General Environment

TERI has implemented a number of projects at the national level, related to sustainable development and environmental management. They include: *Sustainable Electricity Supply Options for Sri Lanka, Community Forestry – innovative approach leading to sustainable development of forest resources,* and *Water Resources & Sustainable Development in Nepal*.

CEE has conducted the *National Environment Education Programme in Schools (NEEPS)* in India, encompassing sustainable issues for children and youths, in partnership with other NGOs

and state Departments of Education. The programme is focused on teachers' training. The awareness programmes, which target decision makers and other groups, such as rural communities, have also been implemented.

CIDA (Bangladesh) completed the *Bangladesh Environmental Management Project* in 2004. The project was aimed at strengthening the institutional capacity of the Department of Environment through institutional planning, policy and legal reform, environmental management demonstration, environmental initiatives, environmental awareness activities, resource information systems, human resource development, and project management.

CIDA (India) initiated the *Small Project Environment Fund (SPEF) phase III* in 1998, which is expected to continue until 2006. The project aims to support the environmental management of small initiatives and enhances decentralized planning and local institutional capacities.

CIDA (Nepal) implemented the *Collaborative Local Initiatives for Environment* project from 1998 to 2002 in Nepal. The project was launched with national partnerships with the Government of Nepal, various private sector organizations, local NGOs, and community-based organizations. The programme aimed to strengthen the capacity of rural communities in managing indigenous resources in a sustainable manner. CIDA (Nepal) also initiated the *Community Environmental Awareness and Management* project in 2002, which is expected to continue until 2006. The aim of the project is to develop participatory environmental planning processes, and increase awareness of environmental issues among local communities, NGOs and village development committees, to incorporate these issues into District plans based on sound environmental management principles.

3.1.3 NATIONAL LEVEL ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED BY NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Afghanistan

Multiple MEAs

The Government of Afghanistan is party to the UNCCD, CBD, CITES, World Heritage Convention, UNFCCC, Montreal Protocol and Ozone Layer Convention.

Bangladesh

Multiple MEAs

The Government of Bangladesh has ratified more than 25 international conventions and treaties, including UNCBD, UNFCCC, UNCCD, Ramsar, and CITES, focusing on MEA issues and sustainable management.

Climate Change

A number of projects related to climatic and energy issues have been operated. For example, with the partnership of the Department for International Development (DFID) UK, the project on *Regional Climate Predictions for National Vulnerability* and the project on *Reducing Vulnerability to Climate Change* were initiated. The project on *Impact of Climate and Sea Level Change in part of the Indian Sub-Continent* is supported by the Canadian Climate Change

Development Fund.

Land Degradation/desertification

Ministry of Environment and Forest (MoEF), initiated several projects, including the *Annual Afforestation and Tree Planting Programme, Integrated Area Development Project (BIADE)* in Barind region, *Soil Conservation and Watershed Management Programme,* and *Sustainable Environment Management Programme (SEMP)* which was funded by the UNDP to address the major environmental priorities.

Publications

MoEF has released some online journals and articles addressing national issues on various cross-cutting events. This includes the journals on *Conservation Biology, Conservation Ecology, Cooperate Environment Strategy,* and *International Wildlife Law and Policy*.

Bhutan

Multiple MEAs

The Government of Bhutan has ratified a number of international conventions and treaties including UNFCCD, UNCCD, CITES, CBD, World Heritage Convention, the Kyoto and Montreal Protocols, Vienna Convention, and Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety.

UNDP Bhutan has initiated a range of national initiatives including Task Force and Thematic Working Groups (TWGs) for NCSA and the National Adaptation Programme (NAP), preliminary meetings, inception and planning workshops, TWG meetings, recruitment of local consultants, stock-taking by TWG members, and an assessment by local consultants. These initiatives aim to identify needs and priorities for capacity building of the three Rio Conventions and associated thematic areas of biodiversity, climate change and land degradation. In partnership with the National Environment Commission (NEC), Department of Aid and Debt Management, and Royal Civil Service Commission, UNDP Bhutan initiated the *Joint Steering Committee for NAPA and NCSA Project* to provide an adversary and executive role over the functioning and progress of the project, and to ensure that synergies and linkages are maintained throughout the implementation process.

UNDP Bhutan organized the *Training Workshop on NAPA Methodology* in August 2004, focusing on national focal points and TWGs. It also organized the workshop on *NCSA Inception and Operational Planning*, targeting the government and NGO groups. It addressed the specific status of various MEAs, identified priority issues and challenges, and concentrated on suggestions from participants with regard to information, legal, institutional and coordination issues.

Climate Change

The *National Climate Change Committee (NCCC)* was established in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Trade and Industry, Ministry of Communication, Survey, Planning Commission, and Department of Education in Bhutan. It primarily aimed to play the adversary role, providing necessary guidance to implement the UNFCCC at the national level.

Biodiversity

The *Biodiversity Action Plan* in 1998 and 2002 was declared as a framework of action that will enhance Bhutan's ability to ensure productivity, diversity, and integrity of its biodiversity and natural systems, resulting in the development of sustainability.

The *Biodiversity Task Force Group* was established in partnership with the NEC, Ministry of Agriculture, WWF, Royal Society for Protection of Nature, Sustainable Development Secretariat, and UNDP Bhutan. The group assists and guides international consultants in preparing *the National Biodiversity Conservation Strategy and Action Plan* for Bhutan, and its first national report to the CBD Conference of Parties.

General Environment

The *National Environment Strategy* was developed in 1998, to ensure careful stewardship and sustained use of natural resources.

The National Environment Commission (NEC) in Bhutan established the *National Environment Protection Act- Umbrella Law on the Environment* in collaboration with UNDP. The Act internalized environmental processes into sector policies and regulations.

The *Environment Assessment Act 2000* was developed to reduce adverse effects caused through development activities.

To enhance rural participation, particularly empowering women through effective participation of environmental management, the gender mainstreaming strategy is applied to every project. As a result, community based natural resource management plans are developed using participatory tools such as PRAs, to develop awareness raising.

Publications

UNDP Bhutan has published various reports, including *Environmental Governance in Bhutan* (July 2004) jointly with the United Nations University, highlighting synergies and coordination among MEAs in the national setup. The *State of Environment,* 2001 was issued through coordination of UNEP and NEC in Bhutan, to provide concrete guidance for action planning, policy setting and resource allocation for the coming decades to the environment in Bhutan. The report named *Bhutan the Road from Rio (National Assessment of Agenda 21 in Bhutan)* was released in 2002, focusing on the socio-economic dimensions of sustainability. Furthermore, the report addresses conservation and management of resources, strengthening the role of major groups, means of implementation, critical issues and future challenges to sustainability.

India

Multiple MEAs

India has signed and ratified most major MEAs related to atmosphere, land resources, chemical and hazardous wastes, marine and coral reef, and conservation of living resources. The management of most of these MEAs is done at the central level through the MoEF. The State Environment Departments, Inter-Ministerial Consultative Committee Working Groups and Centres of Excellence are responsible for the management of MEAs at the state level.

The Centre for Environmental Law and Freshwater & Wetlands of **WWF India** is involved in MEA management processes, by supporting the development of national legal frameworks, disseminating and managing information and knowledge, promoting stakeholder participation,

and raising awareness through public education. Existing projects have prioritized issues on climate, biodiversity, trade, marine, coastal, and land degradation, and waste chemical pollution. WWF India closely works with CITES in partnership with the *Tiger Conservation* projects.

Wetlands and Water Management

WWF India supports the establishment of task forces and steering committees, in order to promote coordination among MEA focal points and other agencies involved in the management of MEAs. The *National Committee on Wetlands*, the *Working Group on Development of National Wetland Conservation and Action Plan,* and the *National Appellate Authority for Environment and Forest*, in partnership with national government officers, NGOs, and scientific experts, have been established.

WWF India, in collaboration with the Ramsar Convention, International Center for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), and the Government of India, initiated a regional programme on *Conservation of High Altitude Wetlands in Himalaya* to promote information exchange on high altitude wetlands conservation, develop methodologies for identification of suitable Ramsar sites, and promote regional cooperation.

WWF India organized capacity building activities, including *Wetland Conservation on Wise Use in Himalayan & Central Asia High Mountains* organized in China 2004 and 2002, and in Nepal 2004.

General Environment

WWF India initiated the programme on *People's Power camping- Demand, Affordable, Reliable and Environment Friendly Power*, which was aimed at propagating transparency and accountability of energy consumption through effective participation of stakeholders in the decision-making process in energy related issues.

Publications

Ministry of Environment and Forest (MoEF) has issued various reports related to environment, such as *Empowering People for Sustainable Development*, 2002, which highlights the strategic importance of combating poverty and empowering people in implementing *Agenda 21*. The Ministry also published *Towards Sustainability - Learning from the Past, Innovating for the Future,* and *Sustainable Development – Learning and Perspectives from India*.

UNDP India has issued publications covering issues related to NCSA, biodiversity, climate change, international waters, land degradation and POPs. Some of the major publications include *Developing Capacity, Conserving Biodiversity, Sustaining Livelihoods (2004), Meeting the Climate Change Challenges, Sustaining Livelihoods (2004), Preserving International Waters and Sustaining Livelihoods: Experiences from UNDP-GEF International Projects (2002),* and *Reclaiming Land Degradation, Sustaining Livelihoods (2004).*

WWF India have completed studies and reports on wetland conservation in India, including *Wildlife Trade; A handbook for Enforcement Staff*, 1998. *Strengthen Environmental Legislation in India* was released as well as *Monographs on 6 Ramsar Sites in India, Handbook on Wetland Management* and *Directory of Wetlands in India*, in collaboration with the Centre for Environmental Law, WWF India, ADB and MoEF India,

Iran

The first international environmental convention in history was finalized and opened for signature in the Iranian city of Ramsar in 1971 (the Ramsar or Wetlands Convention). Since then, Iran has ratified more than 15 international conventions and protocols, including those addressing desertification, biodiversity and climate change.

Multiple MEAs

The Government of Iran has ratified the Ramsar Convention, CBD, Cartegena Protocol, Rotterdam Convention, Basal Convention, UNCCD, UNFCCC, Montreal Protocol, Vienna Convention, and is a signatory of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs).

The Government of Iran initiated various activities in order to promote the synergistic management of MEAs and other related issues. For example, the *National Committee of Sustainable Development* was established with representatives from all government institutions aiming at integrating national planning processes with issues related to sustainable development.

Biodiversity

The Government of Iran established the *ECO Plan of Action* (Economic Cooperation Organization) 2002 in partnership with Afghanistan, Pakistan, and other countries from West Asia [4] to promote environmental cooperation among countries in their efforts towards the sustainable future. At present, Iran is actively interacting with the programme on *Indian Ocean South East Asian Marine Turtle (IOSEA)*, which works with the partnership of national governments in the region to protect, conserve, replenish, and recover turtles and their habitats of the Indian Ocean.

Air Emissions

The Government of Iran, in addressing air pollution at the regional level, has participated in the Male Declaration since 1997, collaborating with other countries in South Asia.
In order to ensure the effective implementation of national measures to reduce air pollution, the *National Committee on Combating Air Pollution* was established with members from government sectors and the police.

The Government of Iran has established various legislations and guidelines for the effective implementation and management of environmental policies and action plans. The *Air Pollution Control Law* was established in 1995 to address air pollution problems. *Regulations on EIA and Amendments* were set up in 1999 to monitor and assess EIA (Environmental Impact Assessment) of development projects.

Publications

The Department of Environment has issued various publications highlighting environmental issues in Iran, such as *Islamic Republic of Iran, Department of Environment in the International Scene; An Introduction to Environmental Conventions and International Projects* (2002) and *Standards of Air Pollution Arising from Industries; Guidelines for Industrial Facilities* (1999).

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[4] The other countries include Turkey, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Azerbaijan

Maldives

Multiple MEAs

Ministry of Home Affairs, Housing and Environment (MoHAHE) works in planning all activities pertaining to protect the environment by formulating policies, legislations and guidelines. Its activities deal with the implementation of environmental conventions, designing projects and programmes, capacity building initiatives and awareness raising related to national environmental issues. The ministry has initiated a series of official programmes to celebrate World Environment Day 2004, including awareness raising activities with partners from schools, government offices and NGOs. At the time of writing this report, the Ministry of Home Affairs, Housing and Environment website was unavailable.

Nepal

Climate Change

Ministry of Population and Environment (MoPE) The project on *National Communication for UNFCC* in 2002 focused on national integration of UNFCCC implementation in partnership with UNEP/GEF. The project on *Environment Sector Programme Support (ESPS-5 components)* was launched in 1999 and will be completed in 2005 with funding from DANIDA.

WWF Nepal *Climate Change Programme* has been implemented as a key national initiative. Here, activities are organized focusing on raising awareness on climate change and its impacts on key target groups, notable students, academics, government officials, NGOs, and donor agencies. The programme facilitates the establishment of the *Climate Change Network* in Nepal (CCNN), including the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), IUCN Nepal, UNDP Nepal, King Mahendra Trust for Nature Conservation (KMTNC), Winrock International Nepal, WWF Nepal Program, and Clean Energy Nepal (CEN).

WWF Nepal developed *Meltdown in Nepal* as a part of the *International Climate Witness Project* to promote awareness among the public and policy-makers on the impacts of climate change at the national level. Through this presentation, environmental concerns are expected to be incorporated into the national development agenda in Nepal. The *Climate Change Campaign* was organized for the general public, in addressing climate change and its accompanying consequences for human and natural systems.

Biodiversity

WWF Nepal has established *Eco Clubs* for school children, to raise awareness on issues related to biodiversity conservation and environment management.

Wetlands and Water Management

MoPE implemented the project *Cooperation for Environment Conservation at MOPE* in 2003, and completed it successfully with WWF. It also implemented the project on *Regulating and Monitoring Capacity Building for Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of Hydropower Projects in Nepal* in 2003-04, with funding from NORAD.

General Environment

MoPE
The *National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPAs), Capacity Building* in 2003 was

initiated in cooperation with ADB.

Publications

WWF Nepal published various reports, including *The Sustainable Development Agenda for Nepal (SDAN)*, which was released in November, 2003. The book was developed as a joint publication by the National Planning Commission, in close cooperation with MoPE with support form UNDP, WWF, IUCN, the Earth Council and the British Embassy. This provides guidelines to national level planning and policy development, focusing on MDGs with particular attention to national poverty reduction.

Pakistan

MEA Issues

With focus on regional cooperation, the partnership of the South Asian Ministries of Environment *Thematic Programme Network for UNCCD* was established. Pakistan actively takes part in *The Global Training Programme on Land Policy,* which is organized annually by **UNEP.** The programme specifically attempts to promote capacity building initiatives among the countries in the region.

With particular attention to the awareness raising of environment related issues in the region, the *Asia Regional Workshop on MEAs* was organized jointly by UNEP and SACEP, in September, 2003.

Biodiversity

The Ministry of Environment (**MoE)** implemented the *Mountain Area Conservancy Project (MACP)*, in cooperation with IUCN Pakistan, WWF Pakistan, and UNDP, to conserve biodiversity with the cooperation of local communities. The project considered the capacity of local communities, environmental education and awareness, demonstration of sustainable use of biodiversity, management, and planning and implementation.

Wetland and Water Management

MoE implemented the project on *Protection and Management of Pakistan Wetlands* with GEF, to establish project coordination and consultation mechanisms, setting up a resources inventory, assessment surveys and stakeholders' workshops, to promote conservation strategy for wetland ecosystems.

General Environment

LEAD Pakistan delivers capacity building programmes on issues related to environment, development and leadership. LEAD works closely with UNICEF and other organizations to assist capacity building of the education programme in Balochistan. The programme addresses the need of capacity development in planning and monitoring and management of schools to enhance the role of parental and women groups. Hence training was conducted in Partic ipatory Rural Appraisal (PRA). A training workshop on *Understanding, Conducting, and Interpreting Environmental Assessment* was organized in April 2003, to develop knowledge on environmental science and environmental planning, grounded in environmental procedures and current practice. Participants were given an overview of environmental principles and an introduction to environmental legislation in Pakistan. A training programme on *Defining*

Sustainable Development Indicators was held in May 2003 in LEAD House Islamabad, to promote understanding of projects encompassing the concept of sustainability and its use in project planning and logical framework analysis.

Publications

MoE has published several materials addressing national issues related to biodiversity, desertification, chemical management, and natural resource management. The *Biodiversity Action Plan, National Action Plan to Combat Desertification and Droughts,* and the *National Profile on Chemical Management, in Pakistan, Forestry Sector Master Plan*, are publications issued in 2002/03.

LEAD Pakistan has published a number of research papers which address national and regional issues. These include *Socio-economic Profile and Prospects for Diffusion of Renewable Energy in Cholistani Villages; Energy Pricing Policy in Pakistan: Existing Prices and a Proposed Framework;* and *Water and Conflict in the Indus Basin: Sub-national Dimensions.*

Sri Lanka

Multiple MEAs

The Government of Sri Lanka has ratified more than 36 MEAs since 1972, and the Environmental Economics and Global Affairs Division of the ministry coordinates the implementation of various international conventions at national and local levels, such as atmosphere, biodiversity, land, marine, and coastal and chemical conventions.

Biodiversity

IUCN Sri Lanka supports national initiatives for the sustainable management of biodiversity and capacity building for environmental management. The work programme deals with areas on policy formulation, habitat and species conservation, protected area management, and the promotion of environmental awareness.

IUCN Sri Lanka plays an important role in implementing the *Biodiversity Conservation Action Plan (BCAP)*, particularly the indigenous biological resources in natural, modified and cultivated systems, while fostering the use of such resources in a sustainable manner. IUCN works closely with the forestry department to initiate projects in *Sinharaja* and *Knuckles* range forest area. These projects addressed the participatory forest management approach for the sustainable conservation and management of forest resources in such areas. The *National Action Plan for Marine Turtle Conservation* was initiated to conserve threatened species of fauna, marine turtles, and small cetaceans, with the objective of developing a comprehensive policy document for the sustainable management of the marine resources. The project on *Conservation of Small Cetaceans in the South of Sri Lanka (phase II))* was launched focusing on the capacity building of law enforcement, and raising awareness on cetacean conservations among stakeholders from marketing sectors, school children, and teachers.

IUCN Sri Lanka also implements various awareness raising programmes for school children, teachers, state sector officers, and media personnel. The project *A tomorrow for our Coral Reef* was organized recently, focusing on the sustainable livelihoods of coastal communities through awareness raising activities in the form of public exhibits of selected coastal sites in Sri Lanka. An awareness strategy on conserving the first Ramsar Wetland, the *Bundala National Park*, was organized with collaboration of the Department of Wildlife, Sri Lanka.

General Environment

Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (MENR) is the focal unit dealing with all issues related to environmental management, and enhancing the national commitment for sustainable development. MENR activities include the implementation of policies, plans and programmes in respect to environment and natural resources, and the areas of forestry, environmental protection and management, conservation of fauna and flora, river catchments, metrological researches, and marine pollution.

World Bank (Sri Lanka) initiated the project on *Renewable Energy for Rural Economic Development* in June 2002, which is expected to be completed in 2008. The project aims to integrate the energy sector with rural development strategies by providing a quality life for poor rural groups through the utilization of renewable energy technologies. Furthermore, it emphasizes the private sector's role of generating power from renewable energy resources while promoting electricity facilities for remote areas.

World Bank (Sri Lanka) also implemented the *Environmental Action 1 Project* from 1997 to 2002, aimed to assist the government in strengthening the institutional and policy framework for environmental management, within which the International Development Agency (IDA) and other donors would provide assistance for improved environmental management.

Publications

IUCN Sri Lanka has issued a range of publications, such as *Biodiversity Status Profile of Ramsar Sites (*Rekawa, Ussangoda and Kalametiya Area and Bundala National Parks), as well as the Biodiversity Assessment reports on Muthurajawela Wetland Sanctuary and Maduganga Mangrove Estuary.

3.2   SUMMARY OF OTHER INITIATIVES RELATED TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

3.2.1 REGIONAL LEVEL ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED BY INTERNATIONAL/REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Technical Training Initiatives on Sustainable Development Issues

UNEP/ROAP organized leadership training, in collaboration with the Institute for Environment and Sustainable Development (IESD), from 26-31 July 2004, in Tongji University, China. The session was aimed at providing opportunities for mid to senior level leaders from Asia and the Pacific to gain a deeper and more integrated understanding on sustainable development issues. The programme covered issues related to water pollution, land degradation and urbanization in the Asia Pacific region. The training is expected to be held annually.

UNESCAP/ESDD organized a training workshop *Integrating Sciences in Sustainable Development of Natural Resources and Poverty Alleviation in South Asia* in November, 2003 in Colombo, Sri Lanka. The workshop was designed to strengthen national capacities of South Asian countries, in the formulation and refinement of policies, strategies and planning relating to sustainable management of natural resources and poverty alleviation. Particular target groups were government officers and policy makers, who work with national policy development processes.

UNCRD organizes *International Training Courses in Regional Development* annually at its headquarters in Nagoya, Japan, targeting mid level staff from governments, and public organizations in developing countries[5]. The workshops cover issues such as human security and regional development, environment, and disaster management, and aim at exploring alternative approaches to regional sustainable development. The *33rd International Training Course in Regional Development* is expected to be held in 2005.

Workshops, Meetings and Conferences Focused on Sustainable Development Issues

UNESCAP/ESDD organizes the Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development (MCED) in Asia and the Pacific. The last meeting was held from March 24-29, 2005, and addressed cross-cutting issues in achieving sustainable development. In preparation for the conference in March 2005, various preparatory meetings were held at the sub-regional level. In September 2004, The *South Asia Sub-Regional Preparatory Meeting for the MCED in Asia and the Pacific* was held in Bangkok, Thailand. The meeting highlighted existing activities and challenges on developing capacity for sustainable development, sustainable energy, land management and biodiversity conservation, freshwater, coastal and marine resources, and climate.

UNESCAP/ESDD organized the workshop *Application of Latest Decision Making Support System and Techniques in Water Resources Planning and Management*, on 8-10 October 2003, Bangkok. It focused on strengthening national capabilities for effective planning and sustainable management of water resources in the region.

UNCRD organized the *Policy Workshop on Human Security and Sustainable Livelihoods* in collaboration with Development Alternatives India, in November 2004, New Delhi, India. The workshop aimed to establish linkages between sustainable livelihoods and human security focusing on vulnerable communities in the Asia Pacific region. Issues related to Information Communication Technology (ICT), E-governance, Community Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM), cultural concerns, knowledge sharing, and exchange of experiences, were highlighted by the workshop participants from ten countries, including Bangladesh, India, Nepal, and Sri Lanka[6].

UNCRD organized the *Needs-Assessment Mission and Consultations with Relevant Government Agencies in South Asia* in March 2004, which was aimed at assessing the needs, priorities, and initiatives in promoting sustainable production and consumption policies in South Asia. Based on regional consultation, the proposal *for "Promoting Sustainable Production and Consumption at Local and Regional Level in Asian Countries through Participatory Process - A Vision for 21st Century towards Enhancing Environmental and Social Responsibility and Accountability of Private/Business Sectors"* was developed.

UNESCO implemented various activities in South Asia, under the Man and Biosphere programme (MAB). The programme aims to develop a basis for the sustainable use and conservation of biological diversity, through interdisciplinary research and training in natural resource management. The *Regional Meeting of Coordinators of MAB National Committees and Biosphere Reserves in South and Central Asia* was held in February 2001 in India, where MAB representatives from Bangladesh, Bhutan, Iran, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka participated. The meeting covered issues related to biodiversity conservation, forest ecosystems, land degradation, rehabilitation in vulnerable ecological systems, and waste management. In

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[5] Currently Courses have been held in 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004

[6] The other participating countries include; Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Mongolia Papua New Guinea, and the Philippines

October 2002, the *Central Asian MAB Meeting of Experts on Environmental Conservation, Management and Research*, was held in Sri Lanka, with participants from South and Central Asia.

UNESCO undertakes the project *Cultural and Eco-tourism in the Mountainous Regions of Central Asia and in the Himalayas*, in order to promote cooperation between local communities, national and international NGOs in developing livelihood strategies based on tourism. The project has covered countries in South Asia, such as India, Pakistan and Nepal. In September 2004, the workshop *Development of Cultural and Eco-Tourism in the Mountainous in Central and South Asia* was organized in Tehran, Iran, which highlighted successful cases of the conservation of natural and cultural heritage through tourism.

UNESCO established a framework for the *Coordination of Decade of Education for Sustainable Development in Asia-Pacific region*. Under the initiative, the international conference on *Educational Innovation for Development (APEID)* was organized in 2003 in China. The conference was aimed at promoting educational innovations for sustainable socio-economic human development, and promoting the APEID network for strengthening partnerships and cooperation among countries in Asia Pacific region.

SACEP organized a workshop on *Integrating Environmental Consideration into Economic Policy Process* in Colombo, Sri Lanka, which focused on approaches to linking environmental mechanisms with economic development.

TERI organizes the *Delhi Sustainable Development Summit (DSDS)* annually, highlighting the theme for *Beyond Universal Goals: Steering Development towards Global Sustainability*. The summit intends to set a path for action to avoid irreversible damage of natural ecosystems.

Projects Related to Sustainable Development Issues

UNEP/ROAP initiated the project on *Capacity Building for Implementation of UN Guidelines on Consumer Protection (Sustainable Consumption) in Asia* in early 2004. The project covers 4 South Asia countries, namely, Bangladesh, India, Nepal, and Sri Lanka[7] The main objective is to transfer knowledge and experiences from European countries to Asia, concerning policies, campaigns, and instruments that are applied to support the implementation of sustainable consumption, based on the UN guidelines on consumer protection. The project is expected to continue until the end of 2005.

UNESCAP/ESDD has undertaken capacity building projects, entitled, *Strategic Planning and Management of the Energy Sector*; *Integration of Energy and Rural Development Policies and Programmes*; and *Capacity Building on Renewable Energy*.[8] The aim of the projects is to strengthen the member countries' energy sectors by promoting the sustainable use of renewable energy resources. Since 2001, various activities have been conducted under the projects, including the organization of meetings and workshops on the integration of energy and rural development planning.

UNCRD Disaster Management Planning Office (DMPO) in Hyogo, Japan undertakes a number of projects related to disaster management in Asia and the Pacific region. The project on *Sustainability in Community Based Disaster Management (CBDM)* was implemented over a three year period, focusing on three specific countries in South Asia, namely India, Pakistan and

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[7] The other Asian countries include: Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam. European countries include: Denmark, France, Germany, Netherlands, Spain, and Sweden.

[8] Other ERS projects are, *Public-Private Partnerships for Rural Electrification, and Climate Change*.

Bangladesh[9]. The objective was to identify strategies, formulate effective frameworks and guidelines, and disseminate the best practices of sustainable CBDM. UNCRD has implemented various other activities related to CBDM in South Asian countries.

UNDP Regional Centre in Bangkok launched a programme on *Environmental Governance and Management of Shared River Waters*, for the purpose of strengthening policies and capacities for regional cooperation in multi-country river basins in the Asia Pacific region, and reducing vulnerability of countries for water related disasters. The programme also focuses on environmental governance, particularly on policies aimed at promoting sustainable livelihoods and poverty reduction around shared water resources.

World Bank has implemented the programme on *Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem for South Asia* focusing on biodiversity issues, environmental policies and institutions, pollution management and water resource management.

World Bank initiated the *Clean Air Initiative for Asian Cities (CAI-Asia)* which is aimed at promoting and demonstrating innovative ways to improve the air quality of Asian cities, through partnerships, sharing of experiences on air quality management, strengthening policies, and implementing pilot projects.

TERI has implemented a series of capacity development projects related to sustainable development in the Indian Ocean, climate change and its effect on agriculture, forest and coastal areas, sustainable rural development, and water management, in collaboration with CIDA, CEEP, CICERD, European Commission, ISSD, NORAD, NORCE, IFE, UNDP, UNU, USAID, and the World Bank Institute.[1]

CEE has implemented various activities related to environmental education and capacity building in South Asia, together with the Secretariat for the South and South-East Asia Network for Environmental Education (SASEANEE), and the IUCN-Commission on Education and Communication (CEC).

SEI launched the project on *Improving Policy-Livelihood Relationships in South-Asia* in 2000, with the participation of international, regional, and national level organizations[2] to promote practical policy options to support rural livelihoods through a range of activities covering themes such as participatory forestry management, water resource management, and integrated coastal management in Nepal, India and Sri Lanka. The project focuses on the impacts of policies on livelihood strategies by analyzing the process by which the poor gain access to natural and other capital assets.

Networks Related to Sustainable Development Issues

UNEP/RRC.AP established the *South Asia Youth Environment Network (SAYEN)* in July 2001.

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[9] The other countries include Philippines, Indonesia and Cambodia. Project partners are from CARE Bangladesh, Cambodian Red Cross, Sustainable Environment and Ecological Development Society India (SEEDS), Institute of Technology Bandung, Indonesia, National Society for Earthquake Technology, Nepal, and International Institute for Disaster Risk Management Philippine

[1] More details can be obtained from the Coordinator, Ms. Vidisha Salunke (vidisha@teri.res.in)

[2] University of Leeds, International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), Marine Resource Assessment Group (MRAG), Overseas Development Group (ODG), Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies (BCAS), Centre for Economic and Social Studies (CESS), in India, the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) in Nepal and Sri Lanka, International Forum on Environment (LIFE), Integrated Water Management Institute (IWMI) and IUCN, in Sri Lanka

The network focuses on promoting effective participation of youths in the decision making process, related to sustainable development in South Asia. The Network organizes a number of youth activities, such as environmental meetings, conferences and training workshops, research projects, and campaigns. Furthermore, UNEP/RRC.AP also initiated small grant projects in South Asian countries, in collaboration with USAID. These include the *Youth in Water Conservation for Energy Conservation* project, launched in cooperation with the Centre for Environment Education, India, and the Environment Exploration Society in Sri Lanka. The third *Regional Meeting* was held on 22 January 2005 in India, with the participation of SAYEN NFPs in South Asia, in order to discuss SAYEN activities and future project proposals.

In relation to **UNESCO**'s Man and Biosphere programme (MAB), as a follow up to the *Central Asian MAB Meeting of Experts on Environmental Conservation, Management and Research*, held in October 2002 in Sri Lanka, UNESCO established the *South and Central Asia MAB Network (SACAM)*, in order to promote inter-regional cooperation on the management of biosphere reserves. The network strengthens the collaboration among member countries, through facilitating information exchange, providing specialists and research facilities, and organizing workshops and seminars.

MoUs Related to Sustainable Development Issues

UNEP/ROAP signed an agreement with the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), in August 2004 in Tehran, to strengthen the cooperation between the two organizations in promoting environmental management in countries such as Afghanistan, Iran and Pakistan. Potentially, the agreement seeks joint activities in energy, environmental law, environmental education and environmental monitoring and assessment sectors.

SACEP has established joint agreements at the project level with UNEP/ROAP, UNEP/RRC.AP, UNESCAP, the programme on Coral Reef Degradation in the Indian Ocean (CORDIO), NORAD, the International Maritime Organization (IMO), and ADB, for the purpose of promoting regional and international cooperation, by developing and implementing joint activities targeted for South Asia.

SACEP signed a draft MoU with UNEP headquarters in 2003, in order to strengthen cooperation in addressing issues related to marine oil and chemical spills, and the protection of marine environment in the South Asia region.

SACEP signed an MoU *Cooperation for the Protection of Environment of the Region* with SAARC in July 2004. The MoU emphasizes the maximum utilization of existing resources in consideration of economic, social and political factors. Furthermore, it focused on developing mutually supportive agreements to implement their respective environmental programme and action plans. The agreement highlighted the establishment of a Coastal Zone Management Centre in Maldives, developing regional arrangements for protection and management of shared resources, Sub-regional Action Programme for Land Desertification, Regional Centre for management of hazardous waste under Basel Convention, and the Regional Sustainable Development Strategy (MDG 7).

UNDP signed an MoU with SAARC in 1995, for strengthening regional collaboration, by undertaking periodic consultation for joint activities, publishing studies on priority concerns, and exchanging relevant reports on promoting sustainable human development and poverty alleviation. It focuses particularly on regional issues related to environment, natural resources, employment opportunities, and the empowerment of women.

Publications Related to Sustainable Development Issues

UNEP/RRC.AP has prepared *State of Environment* reports, which aim to provide concrete guidance for action planning, policy setting at the national, sub-regional, and regional level, and sustainable resource allocation for future initiatives. RRC.AP has recently issued a range of publications, specifically focusing on issues related to MEA and sustainable management in the South Asian region. They include *Fundamentals of Poverty Eradication in South Asia (2001), Growth, Poverty Alleviation and Sustainable Resource Management in the Mountain Areas of South Asia (2000),* and the *State of the Environment (Regional and National reports).*

UNDRD publishes *The Regional Development Dialogue (RDD)*, which covers the principles of disaster management as reflected in the project themes. Volume 24 (2004), *Human Security Now* contains the article on *Mainstreaming Environmental Security in the Human Security Framework: A Study of the Sri Lankan Situation*. Volume 23 (2001) highlights the issues on *Environmental Security and Regional Development.* UNCRD also published the reports *Sustainability in Grass-Root Initiatives* (April 2003) and *Environmental Management, Poverty Reduction, and Sustainable Regional Development* (2001).

UNESCO published the report on *Asia-Pacific Co-operation for the Sustainable Use of Renewable Natural Resources in Biosphere Reserves and Similar Managed Areas* in 2004. The UNESCO/MAB report on *Traditional Ecological Knowledge for Managing Biosphere Reserves in South and Central Asia* was issued, outlining the potential of linking traditional ecological knowledge with traditional technologies.

SACEP published the report *Regional Workshop on Strengthening Legal and Institutional Arrangements for Implementing Major Environmental Conventions in South Asia (1997)*, as well as *State of the Environment* reports for Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka, in 2001.

TERI produced various publications on issues related to climate change, energy, renewable energy, sustainable development, forestry, biodiversity, and biotechnology. A journal, *TERI Information Digest on Energy and Environment (TIDEE)*, released in 2004, highlighted the linkage between climate change and biodiversity, energy resources, environmental concerns and policy developments, while describing the strategies on energy conservation and sustainable development. TERI also published a book focused on issues in India, such as *Defining an Integrated Energy Strategy for India; Ensuring security, Sufficiency, and Sustainability*, CO_2 *Mitigation and the Indian Transport Sector*, and *The Climate Change Agenda: An Indian Perspective and Partnership for Sustainable Energy Development.*

IUCN-ARO has published reports covering issues on natural resources, livelihoods, and outcomes of the regional environmental forums. *The Essentials of Environmental Flows and Water Initiatives* was published in 2003.

IUCN-RBP has produced various publications covering themes on biodiversity, climate change, poverty and risk management related to South Asia. A report on *Biodiversity and Millennium Development Goals* was released in 2004 as a joint publication with UNDP. The report describes how biodiversity conservation can be mainstreamed in meeting the MDGs and poverty reduction initiatives. Other reports published by IUCN-RBP include *Global Biodiversity Forum–South Asia (2004), Report of the South and Southeast Asian regional session of the Global Biodiversity Forum (2000)*, *Agriculture and Biodiversity (2000), Recommendations from South and Southeast Asia Workshop on NBSAPs (2000)*, and *Report of Regional Workshop on Mainstreaming Biodiversity & Climate Change.*

UNEP/DEPI developed *Guidelines on Compliance with and Enforcement of MEAs* in 2002, which highlighted MEA negotiation and synergies among MEAs, compliance mechanisms,

implementing legislation, international cooperation and coordination, reporting, networking, education and public involvement. Based on the guidelines, the *Manual on Compliance with and Enforcement of MEAs* is currently under preparation, which is expected to be finalized in mid 2005.

4   SUMMARY OF CHMs AND WEBSITES RELATED TO MEAs

4.1 INTERNATIONAL/REGIONAL CHMs

Multiple MEAs

International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD)

The International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) facilitates information and knowledge management, networking, research and capacity development, on topics related to sustainable development such as MEAs, corporate social responsibility, poverty alleviation, climate change, natural resource management, youth and capacity building. This information can lead to capacity building in developing countries, and better dialogue between developed and developing countries. The clearing house mechanism can be accessed at www.iisd.ca.

URL	**www.iisd.org, www.iisd.ca**
Mailing address	International Institute for Sustainable Development, 161 Portage Avenue East, 6th Floor, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada R3B 0Y4
Phone:	(204) 958-7700
Fax:	(204) 958-7710
E-mail:	info@iisd.ca
Language:	English
Geographical scope:	National, regional, international

The mechanism aims to facilitate decision-makers in government, business, private enterprises, NGOs, and communities, as well as individuals, to develop and implement policies that are simultaneously beneficial to the global economy and global environment, through the advancement of policy recommendations on international trade and investment, economic policy, climate change, natural resources management, measurement and indicators, which are used to facilitate decision makers in private and public sectors to measure the progress of sustainable development through international consensus in assessment, reporting and planning.

The website includes information on IISD publications and newsletters, which are available in paper and digital formats, commentaries, annual reports, international meetings, board members, events, donor agencies and contact details. Information can also be obtained through the media room, reporting services, the research library, and database. The library offers research tools such as current journals, services such as supplying materials through fax or mail service for a fee, a weekly journal review by registering your details, and a library catalogue through search facilities.

The specific subject areas covered by the clearing house are climate, biodiversity, land degradation and desertification, waste and chemical pollution, marine and coastal, and trade. Specific information on communities and livelihoods includes how communities, specifically in developing countries, can cope with continuing economic and ecological crises. Furthermore, information on economic policy, business, and leadership development is available.

Links are provided on the ISSD linkages website. These include The Climate Change Knowledge Network, Sustainable Development Communications Network, Trade Knowledge Network, UNEP, and other UN conventions and agreements.

Biodiversity

Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Clearing House Mechanism

The Convention on Biological Diversity Clearing House Mechanism was created to meet the overall objectives of the convention, and to facilitate governments of member countries on issues related to information and knowledge management, capacity building, and the transfer of scientific and technological know-how, in order to promote awareness of the needs and concerns of communities, countries and regions in their work on biodiversity. The mechanism is managed by the Executive Secretary and the Informal Advisory Committee, which are set up by the member countries.

URL:	www.biodiv.org/chm
Address:	Clearing-House Mechanism, Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, 413 Saint-Jacques, Suite 800, Montréal, Québec, Canada H2Y 1N9
Phone:	+1 514 288 2220
Fax:	+1 514 288 6588
E-mail:	secretariat@biodiv.org
Language:	English, French, Arabic, Spanish, Russian, Chinese
Geographical scope:	National, regional, international

The website disseminates information on various tools for decision-making, training and capacity-building, research, funding opportunities, technology transfer, and the repatriation of information. It also aims to ensure that access to official records of the convention, including the Cartagena Protocol, is available through the mechanism.

Presently, users of the website can access a variety of information related to meetings through advanced search facilities, national reports, a roster of experts, CBD controlled vocabulary, decisions and declarations of the convention, documents and notifications, publications, Biosafety Clearing House, Bulgaria Clearing House, laws and regulations, genetic resources and benefit sharing, CBD Information Centre, and capacity building through electronic (CD ROM) and traditional (paper) forms. A tool kit is available for assisting parties and governments to establish their respective CHMs.

Furthermore, public awareness and participation is promoted through quarterly reports, a discussion forum and the press room, which provides press releases, biodiversity documents for journalists, speeches and presentations, corporate logos, images and photos, and press accreditation forms.

Specific information presented by the mechanism includes thematic programmes and cross-cutting themes, both complimenting one another. Work initiated on thematic programmes addresses marine and coastal biodiversity, agricultural biodiversity, forest biodiversity, island biodiversity, the biodiversity of inland waters, dry and sub-humid lands and mountain biodiversity. Each thematic programme establishes a vision and basic principles to guide future work, sets out key issues for consideration, identifies potential outputs, and suggests a timetable and means for achieving these outputs. Work on cross-cutting themes encapsulates biosafety, access to genetic resources, traditional knowledge, innovations and practices, intellectual property rights, indicators, taxonomy, public education and awareness, incentives, and alien species.

The mechanism provides access to a network of NFPs, which facilitate the technical and scientific co-operation among member countries. In response to further strengthening of the role

of focal points, parties have suggested building a network of NGOs and other institutions, as well as establishing national, regional, sub regional and thematic clearing house focal points for specific themes related to biodiversity. Furthermore, the partnering role of parties, to facilitate the implementation of non web-based NFPs, has gained support from the Secretariat, based on the recommendation made at the International Expert Meeting in Bonn (1997).

Synergistic links are available to the Global Partnership of Action (GPA) CHM. A joint page between CBD and GPA represents collaboration between the CBD mechanism and GPA mechanism, providing easy access to information located in either clearing house. Links with the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) provide support for enabling activity projects for a broad stocktaking of biodiversity, analysis of options to meet convention obligations, formulation of plans and strategies, and preparation of national reports. A list of biodiversity related websites provides links to governments, international organizations, academic institutions and partner conventions.

Global Programme of Action (GPA) Clearing House Mechanism

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) coordinates the activities as the Secretariat of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (GPA). It helps to facilitate and assist the 108 governments committed to the GPA to prevent, reduce, and eliminate marine degradation from land-based activities, through the ongoing implementation of the GPA at the national, regional, sub-regional, and international levels. The onus of implementing the GPA rests with the governments through public-private partnerships with stakeholders, NGOs and local communities; therefore, the GPA CHM is instrumental in the implementation process of the GPA.

In 1999, the GPA launched the GPA CHM, to provide a method which promotes the advertising, discovery, access, dissemination, and use of GPA related information and data held by numerous organizations, through the decentralized capabilities of the internet. The GPA CHM, as a dynamic source of information, facilitates governments committed to the GPA by raising awareness on identifying and prioritizing problems, setting management objectives for priority problems, identifying strategies and measures to achieve objectives, and developing criteria to evaluate the effectiveness of strategies, through information sharing and networking.

With the aim of building capacity for public-private partnerships and domestic resources, UNEP will make available existing expertise and experiences, through direct access and online feedback and inquiries to the CHM with regard to economic instruments, public–private partnerships regarding both the development

URL	www.gpa.unep.org
Mailing address	United Nations Environmental Programme, P.O. Box 16227, 2500 BE The Hague, The Netherlands
Tel	+31 (0) 70 311 4460
Fax	+31 (0) 70 345 6648
E-mail	gpa@unep.nl
Language:	English, French, Spanish
Geographical scope:	Local, national, regional, sub-regional, international

of policies for protection of the marine environment from land based activities, as well as facilitating the investment for that purpose, and facilitate the identification of potential donors for partnerships in the implementation of projects through a donor database. Furthermore, UNEP will convene partnership meetings for GPA implementation with donor organizations, the private sector, NGOs, local governments, and stakeholders.

South Asia Biodiversity Clearing House Mechanism

The South Asia Biodiversity CHM is currently under preparation by the South Asia Cooperative Environmental Programme (SACEP), targeting member country government officials, NGO representatives, the private sector, academics, media, donor agencies, the general public, and other organizations of the member countries. Member countries are Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Pakistan, Maldives and Sri Lanka.

URL:	Not yet decided
Address:	SACEP, # 10, Anderson road, Colombo 05, Sri Lanka
Telephone:	+94 11 2 500 546
Fax:	+94 11 2 589639
E-mail:	rd_sacep@eol.lk
Language:	English (Hindi, Urdu, Sinhala and Tamil will be added in the future)
Geographical scope:	Regional, national

The mechanism aims to provide regional information and individual country level information related to biodiversity, and promote the link between regional and national level CHMs.

The CHM will be operated under close linkage with the Belgium Biodiversity Clearing House Mechanism, which is managed by the Royal Belgium Institute of Natural Sciences, and its related CHMs at the national level, managed by the member countries.

Users of the CHM are required to register before accessing the mechanism, but services are provided free of charge.

Climate Change

OzonAction Information Clearing House Mechanism

The OzonAction Information Clearing House Mechanism is managed by the UNEP Division of Technology, Industry & Economics (DTIE). It promotes the exchange of information, experience, and know-how required to meet commitments of ozone protection under the Montreal Protocol, reports data, helps in setting and enforcing policies, adopting technologies and the effective management of the National Ozone Units (NOUs), which are establishments at the national level for exchanging experiences, developing skills, and sharing knowledge and ideas with counterparts from both developing and developed countries.

The OzonAction Information Clearinghouse (OAIC) is an integrated information exchange service designed under the Montreal Protocol and its Amendments. It provides guidebooks, manuals, videos, posters, case studies, CD-ROMs, and a library targeted at

URL	www.uneptie.org/ozonaction
Mailing address	UNEP Division of Technology, Industry and Economics, OzonAction Unit, 39-43, Quai André Citroen, 75739 Paris Cedex 15, France
Phone:	+33 1 44 37 14 50
Fax:	+33 1 44 37 14 74
E-mail:	ozonaction@unep.fr
Language:	English
Geographical scope:	National, regional, international

users of NOUs, bilateral organizations and NGOs, as well as the general public.

It provides current and relevant awareness raising material, training, and policy and scientific documents on a wide range of ozone depletion phase-out issues, all of which include alternative technologies, products and services for each industrial use sector, a directory of global experts and key ozone protection focal points, technical literature abstracts and information for ordering

documents, descriptions of national policies, legislation, regulations and programmes to phase out ODS, listings of ozone protection events, and news on the latest phase-out initiatives. Through the development and dissemination of such materials and documents, decision-makers are able to make informed decisions on policies and investments. All services are provided in collaboration with the UNEP Technical and Economic Assessment Panel (TEAP) and the associated Technical and Economic Options Committees (TOCs), as well as partnerships with governments, industry and NGOs.

Information regarding national activities includes the preparation of Country Programmes (CPs), which describe the consumption of ODS, industry and policy structure in the country and determine the country's action plan and national strategy for the phase-out of ODS, Refrigerant Management Plans (RMPs), which are an integrated cost-effective strategy for ODS phase-out in refrigeration and air-conditioning, associated Institutional Strengthening (IS) projects, which provide administrative and technical assistance to some selected countries, and training programmes, which are aimed at developing policy and technical skills to implement phase-out activities in countries.

Regional activities include training workshops to promote regional co-operation and RMP implementation. In addition, UNEP supports ozone protection activities in Countries with Economies in Transition (CEITs) by availing information through the CHM.

Regional networking provides a regular, interactive forum for officers in NOUs to share knowledge, ideas and skills by networking through meetings, email and ongoing dialogues with counterparts from both developing and developed countries. Globally, UNEP currently operates 9 regional/sub-regional networks involving 112 developing and 9 developed countries. 11 countries in South Asia participate, as well as the United Kingdom and Japan.

The CHM has links with industry associations, government and policy, Methyl Bromide links, NOUs, NGOs, meetings and conferences, science, research and UV monitoring, suppliers of equipment, chemicals, technologies and services, UNEP implementing agencies, Secretariats and other international organizations.

In the future, UNEP will focus on various activities, some of which include encouraging maximum country input of the phase-out process ("South-South support"), focusing information clearing house activities that help countries meet compliance targets, promoting global ratification of the Montreal Protocol to countries that have yet to ratify, accelerate the completion of ongoing projects through progress monitoring, and establish additional partnerships with international and regional organizations.

Technology Information Clearing House of United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

The Technology Information Clearing House was established and is managed by the Secretariat of the UNFCCC. It supports member countries to implement the Convention by providing an effective mechanism to assimilate information on technology transfer projects, and facilitating their access to financial and technical information on technology transfer, contributing to improved donor coordination and better planning and implementation of sustainable development projects, especially in developing countries.

It also provides information necessary to prepare project proposals, and supports the Secretariat in preparing synthesis reports of information provided by parties to the Convention on ongoing technology transfer activities. Furthermore, it facilitates the cooperation of ongoing technology among member countries and organizations.

The website contains information on the technology transfer related to the implementation of the convention, such as technology transfer projects and programmes, case studies of successful technology transfer, environmentally sound technologies and know-how, organizations and experts involved in the technology transfer, methods, models, and tools to assess mitigation and adaptation options and strategies, relevant internet sites for technology transfer, ongoing work of parties such as issues under negotiation, documents

URL:	ttclear.unfccc.int
Address:	Haus Carstanjen, Martin-Luther King Strasse 8, D-53175 Bonn, Germany P.O. Box 260124, D-53153 Bonn, Germany
Phone:	(49 228)815 1422
Fax:	(49-228) 815 1999
E-mail:	secretariat@unfccc.int, fvladu@unfccc.int
Language:	English, Part of CHM to be translated into other UN official languages
Geographical scope:	National, regional, international

and meetings, and the implementation of the technology framework on climate change and environment. CD ROMs and a user guide for the use of the CHM are provided.

4.2 NATIONAL CHMs

Biodiversity

Iran Biosafety Clearing House Mechanism

The Iran Biosafety CHM was created to develop Iran's National Biosafety Framework post its implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety in 2003. The mechanism facilitates the exchange of information on Living Modified Organisms (LMOs) and allows parties to make information available required under the Protocol. Financial support and appropriate technical assistance are expected to be received from developed countries, to assist developing countries set up their own national databases that are interoperable with the Biosafety Clearing-House. The website is managed by the Department of Environment.

The mechanism provides information on articles from national and international sources, publications, events, presentations, and information on the National Biosafety Framework project, LMO database, and information on the Cartagena Protocol.

Specific information is accessible on partnerships, reporting obligations, experts, domestic decisions and declarations, guidelines, laws and regulations, competent authorities, and

URL	www.irandoe.org/biosafety/
Mailing address	NBF Secretariat, Department of Environment, No. 187, Ostad Nejatollahi Av., P.O. Box 5181, 15 875 - Tehran , I. R. of Iran
Phone:	0098-21-890 82 32
Fax:	0098-21-890 81 53
E-mail:	nbf_iran@yahoo.com
Language:	English
Geographical scope:	National, regional, international

contact points for Iran's NFPs for conventions such as the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Links are available to the official website of Iran's Department of Environment. The Biosafety Clearing-House is currently under construction.

4.3 OTHER RELATED WEBSITES

4.3.1 MEA WEBSITES

Biodiversity

Website of Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)

The website of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) contains information related to regulations on international trade of endangered species, and other issues related to the link between biodiversity and trade, such as licensing mechanisms of importing, exporting ,or exchange of endangered species.

The primary objectives of the CITES website are to support member countries (167 countries as of 23 November 2004) on information management, networking, research, and capacity development related to the management of wildlife and trade.

The specific information provided by the website includes the scientific and legislative information regarding the species covered by the convention. This includes licensing mechanisms of importing, exporting, or exchange of endangered species as mentioned above, a calendar of major events related to CITES, information about member countries and national contact details, financing mechanisms with donor agencies

URL:	www.cites.org
Address:	CITES Secretariat, International Environmental House, Chemin Des Anemones, CH-1219 Chatelaine, Geneva, Switzerland
Telephone:	(+4122) 917-8139/40
Fax:	(+4122) 797-3417
E-mail:	cites@unep.ch
Language:	English, French, Spanish
Geographical scope:	National, regional, international

and their contributions to the organization, and the way of implementing funds.

Links are provided to other related institutions dealing with issues related to the management of wildlife and trade, including scientific bodies. It also provides CD-ROMs and other information materials on related issues, including publications developed by the CITES Secretariat.

Website of Convention of Migratory Species (CMS)

The website of the CMS Convention (Bonn Convention) contains information on the conservation of wildlife and habitats on a global scale, particularly terrestrial, marine, and avian migratory species. CMS is functional at the national, regional and international levels, with 88 parties to the Convention from Africa, Central and South America, Asia, Europe and Oceania. The CMS Secretariat is provided and administered by the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) and self managed.

The aim of the CMS mechanism is to provide background information, news, and information on agreements to governments and partner organizations. Most of these agreements are regional and range from legally binding treaties to memorandums of understanding. Furthermore, the mechanism provides access to official documents in Arabic, Chinese, English, Spanish, Russian, German and French.

Specific information is provided on NFPs and other CMS related secretariats of the Convention, which play an important role in supplying information. Users can find information related to the secretariat, species information, news and events about the Convention, publications, information on bodies such as the Conference of Parties, Standing Committee and the

URL	www.cms.int
Mailing address	UNEP / CMS Secretariat, United Nations Premises, Martin-Luther-King-Str. 8, D-53175 Bonn, Germany
Phone:	(+49 228) 815 2401 / 02
Fax:	(+49 228) 815 2449
E-mail:	secretariat@cms.int
Language:	English, French, Spanish
Geographical scope:	National, regional, international

Scientific Council of the Convention, meetings, and details related to the Convention, such as organizational structure, a list of parties, and a map of parties.

Chemicals and Waste

Website of Basel Convention

The website of the Basel Convention is managed by the Secretariat and administered by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). It contains information on minimizing the generation of hazardous wastes, safe disposal, and reducing the transboundary movement of hazardous wastes leading to incidents of illegal dumping through Environmentally Sound Management (ESM) practices. These practices strictly control storage, transport, treatment, reuse, recycling, recovery, and final disposal, the purpose of which is to protect human health and the environment.

URL	www.basel.int
Mailing address	Secretariat of the Basel Convention International Environment House 13 - 15 Chemin des Anemones CH - 1219 Chatelaine Geneva, Switzerland
Tel	+41 22 917 8218
Fax	+41 22 797 3454
E- mail	sbc@unep.ch
Language:	English
Geographical scope:	National, regional, international

The website provides information on assistance and guidelines of legal and technical issues, statistical data, and training on the proper management of hazardous waste. Furthermore, information on meetings, partnership programmes; with other environmental organizations, treaties, donors and business agencies, resource mobilization, protocol, strategic plans, ratifications, reporting, legal matters in connection with general information, national legislation, ratification by parties, the compliance committee and agreements, and technical matters including technical guidelines related to pesticides and wastes are all available through the website.

Links are provided to the Basel Convention Regional Centres (BCRC) to assist developing countries and CEIT to meet the objectives of the Convention through capacity-building for ESM. Further links to other organizations can be accessed.

Website of Rotterdam Convention

The website of the Rotterdam Convention is managed by the Secretariat, whose functions are performed jointly by UNEP and FAO. The mechanism functions to facilitate assistance to parties of the Convention, especially developing country parties and parties with economies in transition in the implementation of the Convention, as well as providing information exchange on toxic pesticides and hazardous chemicals to 73 signatories and 82 parties.

The website provides general information on official documents, meetings, news and country specific information such as prior informed consent regions, designated national authorities for administrative functions at the national level, information on notification of final regulatory actions, proposals for Severely Hazardous Pesticide Formulations, and Importing Country Responses. Furthermore, information on different chemicals categorized according to their effects and severity, different downloadable forms for notification of final regulatory action to ban or severely restrict a chemical, and capacity building activities are accessible, through technical assistance and training with the help of parties with more advanced programmes for regulating chemicals, assisting parties to make decisions on the future import of chemicals under the Convention, and developing infrastructure and capacity for parties to manage chemicals.

Most specific information contained in the website includes the principle of "Prior Informed Consent Procedure" (PIC). The basis of this principle is that the export of a chemical or hazardous substance covered by the Convention can only take place with the prior informed consent of the importing party. Importing countries can find important tools and information to identify potential hazards, and exclude chemicals they cannot manage safely, through the

URL	**www.pic.int**
Mailing address	**Geneva** Secretariat for the Rotterdam Convention UNEP Chemicals 11-13 Chemin des Anémones CH-1219 Châtelaine GE Switzerland
Tel	+41 22 917 8183 / 917 8177 / 917 8511
Fax	+41 22 797 3460
E-mail	pic@unep.ch
Language:	English, French, Spanish
Geographical scope:	National, regional, international

website. Once consent has been obtained, the Convention emphasizes the safe use of hazardous chemicals through labeling standards, technical assistance, and other forms of support. Information is provided on Designated National Authorities (DNAs) to fulfill their administrative tasks and functions at the national level, under the requirements of the Convention.

Information on future activities and events are also available on Secretariat and bilateral activities, based on the activities of the parties; however, this is currently under development.

Users can access the website free of charge and without registration.

Website of Stockholm Convention On Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)

The website of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) deals with measures to eliminate or reduce the release of persistent organic pollutants into the environment.

The website aims to help member countries and governments in the implementation of the Convention, by providing guidance relating to the identification and management of chemicals covered by the Convention, and alternative approaches to persistent organic pollutants. Further information includes documents on meetings, registers of different categories of chemicals,

focal point contacts, party actions, press releases, calendar of events and background information on the development of the Convention.

Specific information includes chemical and technical related information, including polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), Dioxins, and Furans, pesticides, including finding alternative approaches to persistent organic pollutants for termite management, and National Implementation Plans.

Links are available to other chemical related programmes, conventions and treaties. These include the UNEP Chemicals Programme, UNEP POPS

URL	www.pops.int
Mailing address	Secretariat For The Stockholm Convention On Persistent Organic Pollutants 11-13 Chemin Des Anémones 1219 Châtelaine Geneva Switzerland
Tel	+4122 917 8191
Fax	+4122 797 3460
E-mail	ssc@chemicals.unep.ch
Language:	English, French, Arabic, Russian, Spanish, Chinese
Geographical scope:	National, regional, international

Programme, DTIE, the International Environment House Library (IEH), Rotterdam Convention, Basel Convention and other organizations.

Desertification and Land Degradation

Website of United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)

The website of the UNCCD is administered by the UNCCD Secretariat. It aims to support the member countries to implement the Convention and raise public awareness by providing and disseminating information on action programmes, regional profiles, focal points, official documents, meetings, subsidiary bodies such as the Committee on Science and Technology (CST), publications, and the use of a newsroom and library resources related to combating desertification at the national, regional and international levels.

URL	www.unccd.int
Mailing address	UNCCD Secretariat, P.O. Box 260129, Haus Carstanjen, D-53153 Bonn, Germany Haus Carstanjen, Martin-Luther-King Str. 8, D-53175 Bonn, Germany
Phone:	+49-228 / 815-2800
Fax:	+49-228 / 815-2898/99
E-mail:	secretariat@unccd.int
Language:	English, French, Spanish
Geographical scope:	National, regional, international

The library includes documents on a range of topics including, environment, capacity building, desertification, biodiversity, climate, and NAPs, as well as sound recordings of official sessions and regional meetings, and over 10,000 volumes of books, reports, periodicals, articles, videos, audiocassettes, and CD-ROMs. Currently the On-line Public Access Catalogue (OPAC) is under development.

The library responds to the information needs of the Secretariat, the country parties to the Convention, and other national, international, governmental or non-governmental bodies.

Furthermore, the website provides links to international organizations and information on individual countries through a database providing a list of national websites concerning desertification and environmental topics. The information contains ratification status of the

convention, national reports, a roster of experts, NGOs and contact details for NFPs.

Wetlands

Website of Convention of Wetlands and International importance (Ramsar Convention)

The website of the of the Ramsar Convention (of Wetlands and international importance especially as waterfowl habitat) provides information related to biodiversity, marine and coastal wetlands and water, with specific focus on wetlands, wetlands resources, and wetland biodiversity of international importance. It was established in 1996 and is maintained by the Ramsar Secretariat.

The website contains information about the Convention including key documents, the contracting parties, news and highlights, as well as major events and activities related to the convention, such as World Wetlands Day. The website also provides the digital library, web archives, Wise Use resource centre, which is a body of more concrete materials for the wise use of natural resources, photo gallery,

URL:	www.ramsar.org
Address:	The Ramsar Convention Secretariat, Rue Mauverney 28, CH-1196 Gland, Switzerland
Telephone:	+41 22 999 0170
Fax:	+41 22 999 0169
E-mail:	ramsar@ramsar.org
Language:	English, French, Spanish
Geographical scope:	National, regional, international

and Ramsar links, which are a collection of web sources for further information about the Ramsar Convention and Ramsar-related activities.

The list of wetlands of international importance, information about wetland awards, Programmes under Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA), various announcements in their functions and activities, Mediterranean Wetland Committee, which guides strategic direction and implementation of the Mediterranean Wetland Initiative, partnerships with other conventions and organizations, and special subjects and features such as other types of wetlands are all available on the website.

4.3.2 INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS WEBSITES

Multiple MEAs

Website of Food and Agriculture Organization

The website of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) aims to provide information for developing countries and countries in transition to modernize and improve agriculture forestry and fishery practices, with special attention to developing rural areas. Its focus areas are sharing policy expertise, providing a meeting place for nations, and facilitating and providing accessible knowledge. Furthermore, it is managed by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

The website provides general information through a news room, agricultural information centre, publications, country information, which includes a mapping information system, current special issues, statistical database and a virtual library. The FAO Corporate Document

Repository, FAO library catalogue on-line, FAO Sales Catalogue, and the David Lubin Memorial Library on-line are the components of the virtual library. Users can access information on FAO topics in electronic format as well as download free of charge.

Information on international partners and information on other divisions and sections is accessible. This includes divisions of Agriculture, Economics, Nutrition and Statistics, Fisheries, Forestry, Sustainable Development, Technical Cooperation, Programme, Budget and Evaluation, Legal Office, and Decentralized Offices.

Specific information is provided on fishery, forestry and sustainable development, through the fisheries department and fisheries information centre, which provides fishery information systems and fishery project websites. The FAO's work in forestry, forest management, forest environment and people, national forest programmes, forest assessment,

URL:	www.fao.org
Address:	Viale delle Terme di Caracalla 00100 Rome Italy
Phone:	+39-06-5705-3450
Fax:	+39-06-5705-3369
E-mail:	jeff.tschirley@fao.org
Language:	English, French, Spanish, Chinese, Arabic
Geographical scope:	National, regional, international

and monitoring information on forest products, is available. Furthermore, users can find information of programmes and strategic plans under Priority Areas for Inter-disciplinary Action (PAIAs).

Links are available to conventions and agreements such as CBD, UNCCD, UNFCCC and other conventions. Other links are to the UN System Network on Rural Development and Food Security, with an Inter-agency initiative to promote information and mapping systems on food insecurity and vulnerability, the World Food Programme, International Fund for Agriculture Development, NGOs, civil society organizations, and FAO regional offices, particularly the Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ROAP), where information can be accessed regarding technical groups, field operations, meetings, publications, and press releases.

Website of the Foundation for International Environmental Law and Development

FIELD is a non-governmental international lawyers' organization committed to maintaining a fair, effective and accessible system of international law that protects the global environment and promotes sustainable development, through rules, regulations and laws, to broaden access to environmental justice and support vulnerable communities.

The website provides access to newsletters, annual reports, and a wide range of books, explanatory guides, publications and research papers. Research papers include international and EU environmental law, climate change and energy, trade, investment and sustainable development, and biodiversity and marine resources.

FIELD services range from supplying expert legal advice,

URL:	www.field.org.uk
Address:	FIELD 3 Endsleigh Street London WC1H ODD
Phone:	+44(0)20 7388-2117
Fax:	+44(0)20 7388-2826
E-mail:	field@field.org.uk
Language:	English
Geographical scope:	International

assistance, and advocacy to skills on international dispute settlement sought by governmental, intergovernmental, and NGOs on a pro-bono basis, as well as briefing and supporting delegations at international negotiations to produce analysis of the complex relationships between international environmental regulations and laws, and working with the Alliance of Small Island

States in climate change negotiations.

Specific information is provided on present and past projects. FIELD's Trade, Investment and Sustainable Development (TISD) Programme provides information exchange to empower politically and economically marginalized countries and communities through awareness raising, which keeps them informed about trade rules, their effect on the natural environment and on development objectives. FIELD has also been directly involved in the development and implementation of the international climate change regime. Furthermore, through capacity development projects launched by FIELD, opportunities have been given to empower underrepresented social groups to participate in policy and decision making, and negotiations in environmental and sustainable development issues.

Links are provided to partner organizations such as the Centre for International Environmental Law (CIEL), Climate Action Network Europe (CAN), Institute for European Environmental Policy (IIEP), International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) and IUCN. Links to international organizations include the European Commission, Global Environment Facility (GEF), Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), World Trade Organization (WTO), United Nations, and Climate Action Network.

Furthermore, links are available to MEA websites. These include CBD, CMS, CITES, POPs, Rotterdam Convention, Ramsar, UNFCCC, Kyoto Protocol and the UNESCO World Heritage Convention.

Website of the Global Environmental Facility (GEF)

GEF is an independent financial organization. It provides grants to developing countries for projects and programmes in the fields of environment and sustainable development. Projects that benefit the global environment and promote sustainable livelihood in the local communities are specially supported by the GEF. While the Secretariat of the GEF coordinates the implementation of GEF activities such as projects, programmes, as well as the formulation of policies and operational strategies, the Governing Council acts as the main governing body of the GEF.

The website contains a GEF database providing information on over 1300 projects, and documents on approximately 140 countries. Information is provided on participants, including GEF focal points, implementing and executing agencies, and Scientific and Advisory Panel, as well as projects.

The implementing agencies and executing agencies are responsible for creating and managing GEF projects. The implementing agencies consist of UNDP, UNEP and the World Bank. Seven other organizations are executing agencies. These organizations are the African Development Bank (ADB/Africa), Asian Development Bank (ADB/Asia), European Bank for Reconstruction and Development

URL	**www.gefweb.org**
Mailing address	GEF Secretariat, 1818 H Street, NW, Washington, DC 20433, USA
Phone:	(202) 473-0508
Fax:	(202) 522-3240/3245
E-mail:	secretariat@TheGEF.org
Language:	English, French, Spanish
Geographical scope:	National, regional and international

(EBRD), Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), UN Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), and UN Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO).

Furthermore, NGOs connected with the GEF participate in activities and assist in the design, execution, and monitoring of projects, a Technical and Scientific Advisory Panel provides specialist advice, and a Monitoring and Evaluation Unit conducts reviews of GEF's work and publishes lessons learned from past projects and programmes for the use of future activities.

GEF provides funding to developing countries and countries in transition for projects and programmes related to biodiversity, climate change, international waters, land degradation, ozone layer and persistent organic pollutants. Funds are given as grants and generated from the partner organizations of the GEF, as well as contributed by donor countries.

Website of United Nations Development Programme

The website of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) helps countries to develop and share their own solutions to confront development challenges at the local, regional and international levels. It bridges links between governments, civil society, multinational corporations and multilateral organizations so that they can exchange and share knowledge on best practices, provide innovative policy advice and resources, and link UNDP partners through pilot projects in the aim of strengthening capacity.

The website helps countries to integrate the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) into their national development frameworks; therefore information on individual countries or regions is accessible. Information related to speeches, publications, events of UNDP activities, contact details of the headquarters and donor liaison offices is provided, as well as the use of a newsroom. Furthermore, information is provided on the meetings, decisions, conferences, reports and documents of the Executive Board Secretariat.

In particular, the website covers specific priority issues in the practice of environment and energy such as frameworks and strategies for sustainable development, effective water governance for the sustainable use of marine resources, sustainable energy services for poverty reduction, sustainable land management by integrating major environmental conventions to reduce and combat desertification and

URL	**www.undp.org**
Mailing address	United Nations Development Programme One United Nations Plaza, 19th floor (First Avenue at 44th Street) New York, New York 10017
Tel	+1(212)906-5382,
Fax	+1(212)906-5307;(212)906-5364;(212)906-6473
E-mail	william.orme@undp.org
Language:	English, French, Spanish
Geographical scope:	Local, national, regional, international

land degradation, conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and national/sectoral policy and planning to control emissions of ozone depleting substances (ODSs) and POPs.

Environmental links are maintained with the Dry Land Development Centre, GEF, and Montreal Protocol.

The cross-cutting themes available are capacity development, knowledge networking, gender in development, human rights, information and communications technology, poverty reduction, democratic governance, human development reports and statistics and south-south cooperation. The website is functioning as a main node of other CHMs/web sites related to the United Nations.

Website of United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

The UNESCO website is established and managed by the organization's Secretariat. The mechanism aims to facilitate information management related to education, culture, social and human sciences among member countries, staff of the organization, NGOs, private sector organizations, media, and the general public. Special focus has been given to world natural heritage, coastal regions and small islands, science policy, natural disaster reduction, local and indigenous knowledge systems, fresh water, oceans, nature, people, biodiversity and ecology, and earth sciences relevant to MEAs.

The website provides general information through libraries, press releases, archives, books, publications, documents, and fax, telex, and telephone facilities. Information is available on UNESCO Communities, which focuses on synergetic partnerships among stakeholders such as governments, national commissions, parliamentarians, NGOs, the media, private sector, and cultural and scientific institutions that strengthen activities at national, regional and international levels.

Specific information is accessible on international and intergovernmental programmes encompassing MEAs, including International Geosciences, International Hydrological Programme (IHP), Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC), Man and the Biosphere (MAB), and the United Nations World Water Assessment Programme (WWAP). Furthermore, the regional offices of UNESCO for science established in Cairo, Jakarta, Montevideo, Nairobi, and Venice are functioning in connection with the organizations' activities.

A field network is managed by the Bureau of Field Coordination and ensures the implementation and management of decentralized activities of UNESCO. The Bureau facilitates interactive partnership between field offices and headquarters by carrying out functions related to policies and strategies, coordination, monitoring and reporting, and assisting field offices to enhance managerial autonomy.

URL	**www.unesco.org**
Mailing address	7, place de Fontenoy, 75352 Paris 07 SP,France
Phone:	+33 (0)1 45 68 10 00
Fax: Telex	+33 (0)1 45 67 16 90 204461 Paris; 270602 Paris
E-mail:	bpiweb@unesco.org
Language:	English, French, Spanish
Geographical scope:	National, regional, international

Website of UNEP/GRID-Arendal

As a follow-up to the recommendations of the 1987 World Commission on Environment and Development, the GRID-Arendal environmental information centre was established in 1989. GRID-Arendel is one of UNEP's Global Resource Information Database (GRID) centres and is located in Arendal, Norway. This mechanism was established to support the United Nations through disseminating high quality environmental information and to present science-based knowledge, particularly on biodiversity, environment and security, and environmental democracy, which assures public access to environmental information, public participation in environmental decision-making and public access to justice on environmental matters, in an understandable format to the public and decision-makers of sustainable development policy.

The website covers issues related to biodiversity, land degradation, waste, and chemical

pollution, with a strong emphasis on climate-change. It provides information through annual reports, environmental articles, news, books, portal, a newsroom, and a variety of downloadable graphics on climate change, including basics, observed trends, and impacts.

Information on ongoing capacity building projects such as providing technical assistance to GPA's CHM, and supporting Arctic Collaboration through developing GEF Projects, which promote international cooperation and finance actions addressing biodiversity loss, climate change and international waters, is available. Projects include the Integrated Ecosystem Approach to Conserve Biodiversity and Minimize Habitat Fragmentations in the Russian Arctic. Furthermore, a portfolio of web applications on environment related topics and themes produced by the GRID-Arendal are available.

The specific information the website provides is environmental, communication, and capacity building services for information management and assessment;

URL	polar.grida.no,
Mailing address	Longum Park, PO Box 706, N-4808 Arendal, Norway
Phone:	+47 37035650
Fax:	+47 37035050
E-mail:	grid@grida.no
Language:	English
Geographical scope:	National, regional, international

For environmental information, the website presents user targeted, easily understandable information supporting public awareness, and well presented environmental data/information networks to maximize the potential of decision-makers.

For communications information the website maintains a cost-effective telecommunication network including voice, fax, phone and video facilities compatible with the internet. It helps countries deal with the "Digital Divide" focusing on environmental concerns.

Finally, for capacity building services, an integrated package for building national, regional and global level capacity in environmental information management is provided. This mechanism aims to develop tools to facilitate environmental reporting according to the objectives and approach of the UNEP Division for Environmental Information and Assessment and Early Warning (DEWA), which in turn facilitates MEAs to maintain inter-linkages and synergies through quality and standard reporting. Such tools include GEOkit, which can be used in integrated environmental assessment and reporting of projects in order to build national, regional and local capacity, and Cookbook, which is a tool providing easy-to-use methodological guidance in booklet form, for the development of electronic environmental status reports.

The website has links with a CHM dedicated to environmental democracy, which is managed by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe. It is called Aarhus Clearing House Mechanism. (Visit http://aarhusclearinghouse.unece.org/ for further information) Other websites promote inter-linkages and awareness-raising and belong to UNEP-GRIDA Arendal, NGOs, and other external organizations.

Biodiversity

Website of UNEP - World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC)
The website of the World Conservation Monitoring Centre provides information on conservation, sustainable management and policy action for the protection of the living world. The Centre functions as the biodiversity assessment and implementation arm of UNEP, with projects focusing on biodiversity, trade and environment, species, forests, protected areas, marine,

mountains, freshwater, and habitats affected by climate change. It is managed by the information office of the WCMC.

The website provides information on publications, studies on status and location of different types of habitat at national and global levels, programmes of activities related to habitat conservation, collection of data including spatial data sets and statistical analysis, and publications of key biodiversity activities, available in printed and electronic formats. A resource centre and an online catalogue database containing literature on biodiversity are accessible. The resource centre is open to researchers through appointment only. Furthermore, implementation of biodiversity agreements and conventions are supported through background reports, assessments, and analyses of achievements, gaps, and priorities.

UNEP-WCMC, working in partnership with Earthdive, has initiated capacity building projects for biodiversity monitoring and assessment in Nepal. Other projects include Biodiversity Conservation, Restoration and Sustainable Use in Fragmented Landscapes, (BIOCORES), and Biodiversity Indicators for National Use (BINU).

URL:	www.unep-wcmc.org
Address:	219 Huntingdon Road Cambridge CB3 0DL United Kingdom
Phone:	+44 1223 277314
Fax:	+44 1223 277136
E-mail:	Jerry.harrison@unep-wcmc.org
Language:	English
Geographical scope:	International

Specific information includes a species database and support facility for conventions and agreements related to species. The CITES trade database is a unique resource which provides over six million records of trade in wildlife. This is updated regularly using data from annual reports submitted by parties to the Convention. The WCMC supports other conventions and agreements, including CBD and CMS. Furthermore, interactive map-based conservation data is available for users, who can create customized maps for specific regions to meet individual information requirements. Related facilities include a map index, tutorials, brochures, and a help section.

Links are available to websites of environmental conventions such as CITES and EU Wildlife Trade Regulation, CBD, CMS and African Eurasian Waterbird Agreement, IUCN, UNESCO, and other biodiversity related and world heritage sites.

Water Management

Website of Global Water Partnership

The website of the Global Water Partnership (GWP) Programme aims to provide a comprehensive approach to water resources management, through establishing clear principles of sustainable water resources management, identifying gaps in human and financial resources, and supporting action at the local, national and regional level that corresponds with sustainable resources management. The website aims to provide information on regional actions of water resources management in 12 regions, targeting government agencies, public-private institutions, international organizations and development agencies. The Secretariat of the partnership provides support to the Executive Secretary, the technical committee, other committees, and GWP regional partnerships in areas such as planning and operational management of GWP programmes, governance, finance, communication and administration of programmes.

The website provides general information on membership, news, a calendar of past and future

events, and contact details of regional offices. Furthermore, library facilities are available, which include publications on action reports, GWP in Action 2003, brochures describing regional and global programmes and actions, technical papers, newsletters, strategic issues, GWP strategy, monthly articles, annual reports, and a World Water Forum.

Information on programmes is related to river basin organizations, capacity building, gender and water, flood management, and ground water management. Associated programmes provide assistance on management approaches, policy awareness and dialogue, expert knowledge and information, and help with research, development, and training. Furthermore, alliances have been made with

URL:	www.gwpforum.org
Address:	LGED Annex Bhaban (Level-5) Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar Dhaka-1207, Bangladesh
Phone:	880-2-8116668, 9124027
Fax:	880-2-9124027
E-mail:	gwpsas@mail.broadaccess.net, qis@bol-online.com
Language:	English, South Asian Languages for valuable documents
Geographical scope:	National, regional, international

global and local water related networks and programmes, to implement good practices in sustainable management. This includes Water Utilities Partnership for Capacity Building in Africa and South Asia. Advisory centres, such as the Institute of Water and Environment in Denmark, HR Wallingford in United Kingdom, and the International Water Management Institute in Sri Lanka, provide support to the partnership in strategic and programmatic areas.

Specific information includes a toolbox on Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM), available in electronic and hard copy formats. The purpose of the toolbox is to equip professionals in policy, decision making, government and NGOs with knowledge, experiences and guidance of water resources management through examples of good and bad practices. Furthermore, dialogues create a platform to facilitate conflict resolution, negotiation, social learning, and collective decision making, thus the toolbox was a main input to the Third World Water Forum in March 2003.

Links with organizations such as the World Meteorological Organization and its Cap-Net programme can be accessed, as well as organizations and library links related to global water issues.

General Environment

Website of United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)

The website of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) promotes the prosperity of nations by offering custom-fit solutions for sustainable industrial development of developing countries and CEIT. It functions as a global forum to disseminate knowledge related to industrial matters among the public-private sector, civil society, and policymaking organizations, in order to develop partnerships. As a technical cooperation agency, UNIDO supports technical programmes related to industrial development. The two functions are mutually supportive.

The website contains information on integrated programmes, which are packages of mutually supportive service modules designed to help overcome critical industrial development problems at the country or local level, cooperative strategies for productivity enhancement of social

advance, and evaluation services of programmes. Information on publications, reports, articles, conferences, video facilities, governing bodies, liaison offices, field offices, and field representatives is also available. Users can obtain an electronic weekly newsletter, information on procurements, focal points, web shops, and contact details. Research activities are also facilitated, focusing on UNIDO themes.

The website provides specific information used for achieving functions and services such as Integrated Programmes (IPs), Country Service Frameworks (CSFs), and stand alone projects, on the basis of eight specific service modules on industrial governance and statistics, investment and technology promotion, industrial competitiveness and trade, private sector development, agro-industries, sustainable energy and climate change, Montreal Protocol, and environmental management.

URL	www.unido.org
Mailing address	UNIDO Headquarters Vienna International Centre P.O. Box 300 A-1400, Vienna Austria
Tel	Tel: +43 (1) 26026-0
Fax	Fax: +43 (1) 2692669
E-mail	unido@unido.org
Language:	English, Chinese, Greek, French, German, Italian, Russian, Spanish
Geographical scope:	National, regional, international

Links are provided to networks such as the National Cleaner Production Centres, Subcontracting and Partnership Exchanges, International Technology Centres, and websites of other UN organizations.

4.3.3 REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS WEBSITES

Biodiversity

Website of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)/Nature Conservation Union, Asia

The IUCN Secretariat helps countries to prepare and implement national conservation and biodiversity strategies and action plans, and develop and adopt legal and instrumental policies related to environmental management. The union acts as a representative at the global level for the views of its members, and provides them with the concepts, strategies and technical support that are needed to achieve goals. The Secretariat of the IUCN coordinates and leads projects on the conservation and sustainable use of the world's biological diversity, and the management of habitats and natural resources. The IUCN Asia is one of the programmes of IUCN. It was established in 1999 covering the Asia and Pacific region, and consists of regional and country programmes.

The website provides information on seven technical programmes of biodiversity, environmental economics, environmental law, forests, marine and coastal, protected areas, and water and wetlands.

Climate change, environmental impact assessment, and mountain landscape are other emerging topics that have started work as a regional Ecosystem and Livelihood Group (EGL). This group has been organized into two clusters as EGL-I, located in Colombo, Sri Lanka, and EGL-II

located in Bangkok, Thailand. EGL-1 deals with biodiversity, environmental economics and marine and coastal issues, whereas EGL-II deals with environmental law, forests, protected areas and, water and wetland issues. These technical programmes work together in an integrated manner for the conservation of nature and natural resources in Asia through building capacity in the ecosystem and livelihoods approach.

IUCN's work aims to demonstrate approaches for achieving equitable and sustainable development of nature and natural resources. It manages and disseminates knowledge on these approaches at the national, regional, and global levels, to identify solutions for environmental problems.

Links are provided to IUCN Secretariat, regional, country, and project offices.

URL	www.iucn.org/places/asia/
Mailing address	**IUCN - Asia Regional Office** # 63 Sukhumvit 39 Soi Prompong Sukhumvit Road, Wattana, Klongtan 10110 Bangkok, Thailand
Phone:	++ 662 662 4029 -33
Fax:	++ 662 662 4388
E-mail:	iucn@iucnt.org
Language:	English
Geographical scope:	National, regional, international

Air Emissions

Website of Clean Air Initiative for Asian Cities (CAI-Asia)

The website of the Clean Air Initiative for Asian Cities is a multi-sector regional network, promoting innovative ideas to improve the air quality of Asian cities through sharing experiences and technical knowledge on urban air quality management, improving policy and regulatory frameworks at the regional level, encouraging innovation through piloting projects, and assisting cities in implementing air quality strategies. It is targeted at governments, international and regional organizations, NGOs, academic institutions, media organizations, the private sector, and the general public , and is managed by the Secretariat of the CAI-Asia.

The website provides information on the decisions of meetings, scientific and technical information, annual reports, case studies, publications, presentations, events, and an electronic newsletter providing region specific information. Furthermore, the website provides a dialogue room and an email discussion group called Listserv where air quality specialists, stakeholders and the public can voice their opinions.

Specific information on the website includes integrated air quality management, reducing emissions from mobile and stationary sources, the control of transboundary air pollution, and climate change control. Information is accessible on capacity building measures at the national and regional levels, through training programmes such as fuel quality strategies, a distance learning course on air quality management, and the Clean Air

URL	www.cleanairnet.org/caiasia
Mailing address	Room 4531 N, Asian Development Bank 6 ADB Avenue, Mandaluyong City Metro Manila Philippines
Phone:	+63 2 632 5047
Fax:	+63 2 636 2381
Email:	chuizenga@adb.org
Language:	English
Geographical scope:	National, regional, international

Training Network (CATNET). The formulation of regional policies on fuels and vehicles emissions, and pilot projects on emission reduction, fuel, public health, and air pollution are

also available.

Links are provided to partnerships with The Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES), UNEP, WHO, the Korea Environment Institute, and the Stockholm Environment Institute. Other related links are categorized into topics such as monitoring, vehicular, industrial, and indoor air pollution, socio-economic context, education and awareness, policies, emissions inventories, measuring impacts, and regional and global effects, where further links are provided to relevant sites and conventions.

In the future, the mechanism aims to expand its work on climate change control, control of transboundary air pollution, and the management of stationary sources of pollution.

General Environment

Website of Asian Productivity Organization (APO)

The website of the Asian Productivity Organization (APO) serves its member countries specifically in the Asia-Pacific region as a think tank, through research activities in productivity enhancement, a catalyst, by promoting bilateral and multilateral partnerships between member countries and other countries, a regional advisor, by monitoring economic and development policies, an institution builder, by strengthening capacity through training and consultation services, and an information provider for productivity, through a liaison office functioning at the national level.

The website facilitates the exchange of information between member countries, and assists with human resource development, technical expert assistance, and dissemination of knowledge and know-how on productivity. It is managed and maintained by the Secretariat.

The website also provides services such as publications, articles, e-books, an e-forum, e-learning, video productions, a roster of experts, and a monthly newsletter. Its activities include basic research studies, surveys, symposia, study meetings, training courses, seminars, fellowships, technical expert services, study missions, and audio-visual training materials. Furthermore, information is accessible on the Governing Body, the Secretariat, liaison offices, and National Productivity Organizations (NPOs) operating at the national level, which act as national agents for productivity promotion and as

URL	www.apo-tokyo.org
Mailing address	Secretary-General Shigeo Takenaka Secretary-General's Office Asian Productivity Organization 1-2-10 Hirakawacho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 102-0093, Japan
Tel	(81-3) 5226 3920
Fax	(81-3) 5226 3950
E-mail	apo@apotokyo.org
Language:	English, Japanese
Geographical scope:	National, regional, international
South Asia Member countries:	Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka
Other member countries:	Kingdom of Cambodia, Republic of China, Fiji, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Japan, Republic of Korea, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Mongolia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

implementing agencies for APO programs in member countries, and international organizations with the aim of building close working partnerships.

The specific issues covered are related to industry, service, and agriculture sectors, with special focus on socio-economic development, small industry development, human resources management, productivity measurement and analysis, quality management, production and technology management, information technology, development of NPOs, green productivity, integrated community development, agribusiness, agricultural development and policies, resources and technology, and agricultural marketing and institutions.

Networking links are mainly provided to websites of National Productivity Organizations (NPOs). Users are permitted to access the website free of charge and with no registration.

Website of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)

The SAARC Secretariat deals with environmental issues faced by South Asian Countries. The SAARC Technical Committee on Environment is responsible for the coordination of regional cooperation in environment and other related areas.

The website provides information on agriculture, biotechnology, energy, and human rights. Information is available regarding the Colombo Declaration for Common Environment Programme. This programme draws attention to major international environmental instruments and declarations, and notes the importance of enhanced regional cooperation and information exchange for effective environmental management benefiting all member countries.

Specific information regarding the SAARC Action Plan on Environment provides for the establishment of two regional centres of excellence in the field of environment. These are the Coastal Zone Management Centre in Maldives, and the SAARC Forest Conservation Centre in Bhutan.

There was an MoU signed by SAARC and SACEP in 2004, resulting in closer ties between the two regional organizations.

URL	www.saarc-sec.org/
Mailing address	SAARC Secretariat, P.O. Box 4222, Tridevi Marg, Kathmandu, Nepal.
Phone:	+977 1 422 1785,+977 1 422 6350
Fax:	+977 1 422 7033, +977 1 422 3991
E-mail:	saarc@saarc-sec.org
Language:	English
Geographical scope:	Regional

Website of United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD)

The website of the United Nations Center for Regional Development (UNCRD) aims to support capacity-building for regional development planning and implementation in developing countries and CEIT, covering thematic areas of environment, disaster management, and human security. The Disaster Management Planning Hyogo Office, Africa Office, and the Project Office for Latin America and the Caribbean, are the field and project offices in connection with the information presented on the website.

The website provides information on the above thematic areas including environmental sustainable development, solid waste management, sustainable production and consumption, as well as research and training at local and regional levels, a publication series, which includes research reports, textbooks, and training materials, specific publications targeted at scholars, policymakers, and practitioners, reference and current awareness services, and search facilities of

staff and external researchers. Furthermore, the library facility provides access to approximately 25,000 books and 120 titles of periodicals, available upon request.

Specific information includes a range of training and capacity-building projects and programmes. These include an International Training Course (ITC), Africa Training Course (ATC), Country specific Training Courses, In-country Training Courses (Human Security and Environment Groups, Africa Office, and Latin America Office),

URL:	www.uncrd.or.jp
Address:	UNCRD, 1-47-1, Nagano, Nakamura-ku, Nagoya – 450-0001,Japan
Phone:	81-52-561-9417
Fax:	81-52-561-9375
E-mail:	mohantyc@uncrd.or.jp, rep@uncrd.or.jp
Language:	English, Japanese
Geographical scope:	National, regional, international

and a Thematic Training Course. A Training Alumni forum is available for the participants of these courses.

Links to UN organizations, research and academic institutions, universities, government agencies, urban planning and design networks, institutions and databases and other organizations are available.

4.3.4 NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS WEBSITES

Multiple MEAs

Website of Iran Department of Environment

The website of the Department of Environment (DoE) in Iran presents information in Iranian languages. The DoE aims to protect and enhance the environment and comply with environmental conventions adopted by Iran.

It is difficult to obtain information from the website as it is only available in Iranian languages.

URL	www.irandoe.org
Mailing address	Ostad nejatollahi Ave.Tehran,Iran
Phone:	(0098-21)8901260-6
Fax:	
E-mail:	info@irandoe.org
Language:	Persian
Geographical scope:	National

Website of Pakistan Ministry of Environment: Environment Division

The website is managed by the Environment Division of the Ministry of Environment and deals with fields related to environment, housing, physical planning, and human settlements. This division is the focal point for national environmental policy, and contains the Departments of Pakistan Environmental Protection Agency (PEPA), National Energy Conservation Centre (ENERCON), Zoological Survey Department (ZSD), National Council for Conservation of Wildlife (NCCW), and Pakistan Forest Institute Peshawar.

The website presents information on environmental policies, conventions, treaties, protocols,

projects and programmes, and international, regional, and national organizations involved in environmental issues.

In relation to GEF funded projects, information and documents are accessible on the eligibility of GEF funding, status of GEF funded projects in Pakistan, and GEF projects endorsed by the ministry. Additionally, documents are available on Pakistan's position on the Kyoto protocol, UNFCCC, and the National Conservation Strategy.

URL	www.pakistan.gov.pk/
Mailing address	Joint Secretary (Admin) Melody Market, F-6/2, Islamabad
Phone:	0091 051-9206985
Fax:	
E-mail:	contact@environment.gov.pk
Language:	English
Geographical scope:	National

Publications include Pakistan's Biodiversity Action Plan, NAPs for desertification, and reports on WSSD, country assessments, chemical management, and UNCCD.

Specific information is available on the website. This includes programme activities under the Pakistan Environmental Action Plan, policy documents regarding forest, biodiversity, ozone and human resettlement, and financial forms for NGO assistance.

Website of the Ministry of Environment: Environment, Economics and Global Affairs Division, Sri Lanka

The Global Affairs Division of the Ministry of Environment (MoE) is responsible for providing leadership to address national commitments to global environmental affairs, and ensuring the implementation of international conventions, protocols and treaties in Sri Lanka. It analyses the macroeconomic impact of national and international policies and conventions, to channel environmental concerns into decision making for the benefit of present and future generations. It is a key focal point and reference centre, and is managed by the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (MENR)

The website provides information on international conventions related to atmosphere, biodiversity, land, marine and coastal, and chemicals.

The MoE division has been maintaining a GEF strategy to contribute to preserving and restoring the Earth's life support systems. The specific objective of this strategy is conserving globally significant biological diversity, minimizing its contribution to the emission of GHGs and mitigating and

URL	www.menr.lk/division.htm
Mailing address	Environmental Economics and Global Affairs Division, Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources 'Sampathpaya', No.82, Rajamalwatta Road, Battaramulla.
Phone:	0094 011 – 4410236, 0094 011-2887452
Fax:	0094 011-2887456
E-mail:	envecon@sltnet.lk, airmac@sltnet.lk
Language:	English
Geographical scope:	National

adapting to the adverse effects of climate change. Additionally, fulfilling obligations under International Conventions ratified by Sri Lanka, including UNCBD, UNFCCC, UNCCD and Cartagena Protocol on Bio safety (CPB) are prioritized.

The Climate Change Secretariat (CCS) is a proposed separate unit within the MoE and would address matters concerning UNFCCC decisions. Various centres related to agriculture, energy,

land use, waste and industry would form part of the CCS. Currently, the Air Resource Management Centre is working on air pollution activities undertaken by the division.

General Environment

Website of the National Environmental Commission (NEC), Bhutan

The website of the National Environmental Commission (NEC) Bhutan aims to present information on climate, biodiversity, land degradation and desertification, waste and chemical pollution in relation to the Commission's long term objective of sustainable development, and policy objectives ensuring the sustainable use of natural resources in Bhutan.

Information can be obtained through the library including publications under several topics such as environmental policy, including Agenda 21 in Bhutan, Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), including assessment of existing industries, climate change under UNFCCC, including the first GHG inventory; the State of

URL:	www.nec.gov.bt/
Address:	Post Box #:466, Thimphu, Bhutan
Phone:	00975-2-323384/324323/326386
Fax:	00975-2-323385
E-mail:	webmaster@nec.gov.bt , ktshering@nec.gov.bt
Language:	English
Geographical scope:	National, regional, international

Environment, Bhutan 2001, including topics on land degradation, air pollution, water pollution and solid waste management, environmental guidelines, including topics on urban development and environmental discharge standard, and environmental codes of practice and standards.

Specific information is available on the NEC Divisions. This includes a Policy and Coordination Division; which has a Policy Section, dealing with international conventions and protocols, a Legal Section, providing legislation for environmental practice, a Programme Section, monitoring implementation, a Technical Division, which has an Environmental Assessment Section, and an Information Communication and Outreach Section to promote environmental awareness at all levels of Bhutanese society. Information on other sections is also available.

Information containing the Environment Assessment Act Passed in 2000 is accessible, as well as regulations, sectoral guidelines and environmental codes of practice related to sanitation, solid waste management, urban roads and traffic, and hazardous waste management.

Website of United Nations Development Programme-Bhutan

The website of UNDP Bhutan aims to connect people, knowledge and experience by providing information on UNDP's activities in Bhutan, which include advocacy, developing national conservation strategies, and policy advice, strengthening local initiatives by helping the people and government to build and assess capacity to meet development challenges, and knowledge management in Bhutan. It is managed by the UNDP in Bhutan.

The website covers issues such as climate change and GHGs, environmental management, energy and environment, good governance, poverty reduction, gender, human rights, and the Millennium Development Goals. Information is accessible to reference materials on studies, surveys and documents, case studies, meetings, and discussion papers. Information on local initiatives includes ecotourism, poverty, environmental degradation, protected areas, and environmentally friendly enterprises.

Specific information is provided on projects that will help Bhutan meet it obligations towards

international conventions. These include promoting sustainable livelihoods and conservation in Bhutan's largest national park, learning to adapt to climate change, developing a national biodiversity conservation strategy, strengthening capacity to manage environmental activities involving local communities in environment management, developing the basis for decentralized rural electrification, comprehensive capacity development for global environmental management, WWF and UNDP/GEF joint forces to conserve nature and reduce poverty, and small grants to enable local communities to initiate environmental projects.

Furthermore, the website places an importance on the Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, the Small Grant Programme, and an Information and Communications Technology (ICT) system that will serve both national and local development needs.

URL	www.undp.org.bt
Mailing address:	UNDP-Bhutan Environment Unit P.O. Box 162, Dremton Lam, Thimphu Bhutan
Phone:	+975-2-322424
Fax:	+975-2-322657
Email:	jigme.tobgyal@undp.org
Language:	English
Geographical scope:	National, regional, international

Links are provided to other UN agencies in Bhutan, Royal Government of Bhutan, international development partners and other relevant institutions.

Users of the website can add documents by contacting suitable persons.

Website of United Nations Development Programme – India

The website of UNDP India facilitates programmes in national development priorities through strengthening national institutions and disseminating information and know-how to diverse areas. It is managed by the UNDP office in India.

The website provides instant reports, publications, events, media responses, news and press releases. It also provides partnership forums, an online volunteering service, comments, and enquiry and search facilities, to promote user input.

Furthermore, information is available on the direction, management, monitoring, evaluation, outcomes, events, and country cooperation of country programmes. This includes in-depth consultations with diverse stakeholders and the government.

The website contains specfic information relevant to six thematic areas of the Country Programme (2003-2007). These are human development, rural and urban

URL	www.undp.org.in
Mailing Address	UNDP, P.O. Box No. 3059, 55 Lodhi Estate, New Delhi - 110 003, India
Tel	91-11-4628877
Fax	91-11-4627612
E-Mail	webadmin.in@undp.org, fo.ind@undp.org
Language:	English
Geographical scope:	National

livelihoods for human development, community centered natural resource management, decentralization and participatory planning, disaster mitigation and vulnerability reduction, and HIV/AIDs. Moreover, there is access to initiatives of the Human Development Resource Centre (HDRC), which is a centre of excellence dedicated to human development, research, training and advocacy. In particular, the Asia-Pacific Regional HDR Initiative (APRI) aims to improve

regional and national capacities, and the exchange of information between countries in Asia and the Pacific.

Links are provided to UN agencies, the government of India, national networks, international/national newspapers, NGOs and, other relevant institutions.

4.3.5 WEBSITES OF INFORMATION SERVICE PROVIDERS ON ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

Multiple MEAs

Environmental Treaties Reference Center (ETRC) - Sri Lanka

The ETRC was established by the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources of Sri Lanka and serves as a central information repository related to the management of all MEAs and their coordination with focal points and stakeholders. It works in collaboration with all MEA focal points and stakeholders, such as government agencies, professionals, academics, NGOs, and the public.

The ETRC develops criteria for selecting project proposals for external financing, prepares a calendar of external global events relevant to international conventions, protocols and agreements, and conveys information to the focal points so that they can prepare their national positions on MEAs and adopt a synergistic approach to implement MEAs at the national level.

The steering committee of the ETRC is responsible for advising NFPs on policy matters and project concepts. The MEA technical committee consists of government authorities, representatives from the Department of National Planning, MEA focal points, and GEF implementing agencies.

Specifically, the ETRC facilitates COP preparation, information dissemination, MEA project development, donor coordination, and policy and regulation formulation for the implementation of MEAs. It also provides solutions for problems related to the absence of systematic participation at MEA negotiations, weak preparation of negotiations, lack of access to information, documents and reference materials, and weak coordination among MEAs. Through this

URL	www.menr.lk/
Mailing address	Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources82, Sampath Paya, Rajamalwatte Road, Battaramulla, Sri Lanka
Phone:	94 11 286 3652
Fax:	
E-mail:	envhrd@sitnet.lk
Language:	English
Geographical scope:	National

standardized system overall work load, duplication of data and data handling costs can be reduced, while increasing compliance of convention requirements.

Emissions

Website of National Cleaner Production Centre of Sri Lanka

The National Cleaner Production Centre website aims to incorporate cleaner production strategies into environmental policies through creating awareness to industries, providing advisory services, training, updated information base, promoting projects, and providing input to policy makers.

The website contains a paper library providing information on climate, and waste, chemical, and industrial pollution. Furthermore, it provides information on networking and capacity development of the private sector, academic institutions, media institutions, and the general public.

The website specifically provides scientific and technical information and forums related to MEAs, while promoting partnerships with other organizations. Capacity development services include providing information, conducting capacity development activities, such as training programmes, and awareness raising activities in the energy efficiency and industrial pollution sector.

URL:	**www.ncpcsrilanka.org**
Address:	Level 4, 53 Vauxhall Lane, Colombo 02 Sri Lanka
Phone:	94 11 2389137
Fax:	94 11 2389139
E-mail:	contactus@ncpcsrilanka.org
Language:	English, Tamil, Sinhala
Geographical scope:	National

In future, the National Cleaner Production Centre aims to produce services in training, investment promotion, and consultancy and advisory services.

General Environment

South Asia Environment and Natural Resources Information Centre (SENRIC)

The South Asia Environment and Natural Resources Information Centre (SENRIC) is managed and maintained by SACEP, and was developed with the assistance of ADB and UNEP-GRID. It was created when SACEP sought to establish an information exchange mechanism due to the numerous development activities occurring in the region.

The centre conducts information exchange through publications, networking activities and data management activities. Training activities related to SACEP are also carried out by the SENRIC. Currently, SENRIC focuses on the assessment and reporting of projects and programmes related to all aspects of the environment. These include environmental assessment, chemical and pollution control, and air pollution.

URL	**www.sacep.org/html/senric_main.htm**
Mailing address	South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme, #10, Anderson Road, Colombo – 5, Sri Lanka.
Phone:	94 11 2589787
Fax:	94 11 2589369
E-mail:	info@sacep.org
Language:	English
Geographical scope:	Regional, national

More specifically, SENRIC, on behalf of SACEP, conducts such activities as the preparation of GIS training manuals (Professional and Policy Level), training of trainers (GIS and Image Processing / Remote Sensing), setup of GIS Training Units (University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka), setup of National Coordinating Units at the Ministries of Environment (Sri Lanka,

Maldives) and provision of hardware and software in the region.

Website of Europaworld

The Europaworld website is an online newspaper produced by EuropaWorld Limited, a non-profit company, in association with the Welsh Centre for International Affairs (WCIA). The purpose of the website is to report on development issues from a European perspective, and on the actions of international organizations and agencies, such as the European Commission, European Parliament, European governments, NGOs, and UN Agencies. It is an informative website focusing on information exchange targeted at policy and decisions makers of such organizations, as well as educational institutions, media organizations, and the general public.

Users can access up-to-date feature articles, international news related to environment, speeches, a calendar of events, and readers opinions. Additionally, information is available on donor agencies such as the European Commission and European Union, European governments, Indian Ocean Commission Council of Ministers, NGOs, and UN Donor agencies dealing with environmental issues.

URL	www.europaworld.org
Mailing address	EuropaWorld, Llanquian House, Cowbridge, CF71 7EQ, Wales, UK
Phone:	+44 1446 773874
Fax:	+44 1446 773845
E-mail:	editorialteam@europaworld.org
Language:	English, German, Spanish
Geographical scope:	Regional, international

Specific information on activities, functions, services and topics in connection with environmental agreements and treaties dealing with climate, global warming, desertification, green house gas emission, energy, environment, environmental pollution, waste, arms, chemicals, education, human rights and trade can be accessed through the website.

Links to international organizations, NGOs, educational institutions and conventions such as CITES, which are recommended by the website, can be accessed free of charge.

Website of LEAD Pakistan

The Leadership for Environment and Development (LEAD) Pakistan website aims to create, strengthen, and support networks of people and institutions through a multi-sectoral, multi-disciplinary network of professionals. It is managed by the LEAD House.

The website provides general information on publications, case studies, occasional papers, updates, lectures, annual reports, books and proceedings, e-bulletins, and news, as well as information on promoting sustainability and resource mobilization, education through supporting local communities, the functioning of schools in the country, and local governance systems by making laws, regulations and instructions

URL:	www.lead.org.pk
Address:	LEAD House F-7 Markaz Islamabad Pakistan 44000
Phone:	92-51-265-1511
Fax:	92-51-265-1512
E-mail:	main@lead.org.pk
Language:	English
Geographical scope:	National, regional

with the assistance of ADB. Information regarding leadership development programmes, management development programmes, past LEAD international events, LEAD training methodology, expert trainers and faculty, associate opportunities and responsibilities, and people's feedback and comments are available.

Specific information includes the "myLEADnet" link, which provides information on conferences, meetings, a calendar of events, and developments in connection with LEAD activities. LEAD Pakistan conducts capacity development and strategic activities consisting of policy, research, communications, and training related to climate, biodiversity and waste and chemical pollution. Capacity development is done through training programmes in sustainable development and leadership skills for the public. Furthermore, LEAD Pakistan is engaging in training programmes on Environmental Impact assessment (EIA) for physical infrastructure projects in Pakistan. It also assisted the EPA of Pakistan to set up an EIA Resource Center.

Information regarding partnerships with UNDP, UNEP, UNICEF, IUCN, WWF and various ministries can be accessed.

Links are available to donor agencies, educational institutions, NGOs, and UN organizations.

Website of NationMaster

The website of NationMaster was developed to promote education and understanding about global issues such as global commerce, health, politics and ecology. It aims to make these facts easily accessible by bringing together the works of academics, public agencies and private researchers, so that people are able to access country information and make a geographical comparative analysis between nations. It is targeted at students, educators, librarians, and the general public. It is managed by an online publishing company named Rapid Intelligence Pty Limited.

The website contains a wide variety of information for statistical purposes including central data sources and compilation of data from different agencies such as the UN, WHO, World Bank, World Resources Institute, UNESCO, UNICEF, OECD, and the Central Intelligence Agency world fact book.

Users can generate numerous statistical models, including correlation reports and scatter plots, to find relationships between variables, as well as maps, graphs, and pie-charts which are relevant to the environment. Other subjects specific to countries and regions include agriculture, trade, transportation, energy, food, industry, health, geography, economy, and education.

The website contains specific information regarding the environment. This includes environmental protection, environmental agreement, compliance, current issues in environment, international agreements with parties, international agreements signed but not ratified, and sustainability satisfying companies.

URL	www.nationmaster.com/
Mailing address	Rapid Intelligence, GPO Box 4634 Sydney, NSW 2001 Australia
Tel	612 9879 6632
Fax	612 9252 6077
E-mail	comments@nationmaster.com
Language:	English
Geographical scope:	International

Specific information related to biodiversity includes areas under protection, biodiversity richness, biosphere reserves area, coral reefs, breeding birds

threatened, ecological footprints, endangered species, known breeding bird species, known mammals, known reptile species, marine areas, marine fish, and non-wilderness wetlands of international importance.

Specific information related to water and water pollution includes acidification, groundwater withdrawals, waste generation, waste water, water dissolved oxygen concentration, freshwater pollution, water phosphorus, water salinisation, and severe water stress.

Specific information related to air and air pollution includes municipal waste generation, pollution of CO_2 from fossil fuels, carbon efficiency, CFC consumption, CO_2 emissions, pollution by nitrogen oxides, pollution by sulfur oxides , SO_2 emissions and threatened urban SO_2.

Other relevant information includes fertilizer consumption, expenditure for pollution control, pollution from nuclear waste, municipal waste generation, pollution from municipal waste, municipal waste treatment, and expenditure.

Most of the statistics are free but charges are made at a nominal rate for access to premium services like generation of correlations, pie-charts and scatter-plots, with huge discounts for educational and non-profit organizations.

Website of Nepal Forum of Environmental Journalists

The Nepal Forum of Environmental Journalists (NEFEJ) is an NGO membership organization, consisting of journalists with environmental interests. It launches various programmes and multiple activities to raise the awareness of people in Nepal, and to effect positive changes in the fields of environment and social areas. The Forum presents information on climate, biodiversity, land degradation and desertification, waste and chemical pollution, and trade.

The website contains information on interaction and trainings, where the Interaction Programme selects an environmental issue and assembles experts to interact with journalists and, watch groups. Collectively they monitor specific fields of wildlife, pesticides, public health, urban environment, trade and forests, advocacy/lobbying activities, where there is an interactive meeting for decision-makers both at the central and district level, and the Environment Support Fund, where micro-grants to CBOs and local NGOs enhance and strengthen peoples' involvement in environmental issues.

URL:	www.nefej.org.np
Address:	PO Box 5143, Thapathali, Kathmandu, Nepal
Phone:	+977 1 4261991
Fax:	+977 1 4261191
E-mail:	nefej@mos.com.np
Language:	English, Nepali, and other local languages
Geographical scope:	National

The Publication Department (PD) of the NEFEJ hires professionals in Nepal to produce specialized magazines, booklets, an environmental wall newspaper, which is a periodical containing information on special interests to rural communities, and other publications on various issues of interest to the public. The PD believes that the best medium of environmental information for Nepali people is to print in Nepali language.

Specific information is provided on the Audio-Visual Unit (AVU) of the NEFEJ on development issues. A London based NGO called the International Television Trust (TVE) appointed NEFEJ as its Video Resource Center of Nepal, hence the AVU translates broadcasts, distributes and sells

internationally acclaimed titles produced and distributed by TVE as well as functioning as the local agent of TVE Asia-Pacific. Furthermore, the AVU has a rich collection of audio visuals, images through its own productions (Aankhijhyaal productions) and from TVE films related to development, environment, community rights, and health.

The independent radio network of NEFEJ is called "Radio Sagarmata", and is the first community radio in South Asia, supported by the Community Radio Support Centre. It disseminates information on relevant environmental and social issues, and supports the NEFEJ activities in raising public awareness and forming public opinion on environmental protection and sustainable development.

The NWFEJ AVU is working in partnership with many inter-governmental organizations and national, regional, and international NGOs. The Nepal Network for Sustainable Development provides links to these.

Website of The Energy Resources Institute (TERI)

TERI is an NGO based in India. It provides environmentally friendly and innovative solutions for rural energy problems. This includes helping in the development of Indian oil and gas sectors, tackling global climate change issues, enhancing forest conservation efforts among local communities, and advancing solutions in urban transport and air pollution. The website is affiliated with other regional centres in India, offices in Japan and Malaysia, and institutes in Washington, DC, and London.

The website provides information through a digital and paper library, and a telephone network. Users can access project information on training, capacity building, awareness raising, education activities, and issues related to climate policy, including mitigation and adaptation aspects. Furthermore, information is available on the annual Delhi Sustainable Development Summit hosted by TERI. This is a major forum bringing together people who deal with sustainable development and environmental problems.

Specific information related to the TERI School of Advanced Studies is accessible. The school is an institute dealing with research activities, and offers various courses and programmes in the fields of bioresources, biotechnology, energy, environment, and regulatory and policy studies.

TERI maintains links with various energy related institutes such as the ENVIS Centre on Renewable Energy

URL	www.teriin.org
Mailing address	Darbari Seth Block, IHC Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi - 110 003, India
Phone:	(+91 11) 2468 2100
Fax:	(+91 11) 2468 2144
E-mail:	mailbox@teri.res.in
Language:	English
Geographical scope:	National, regional, international

and Environment, Global Network on Energy for Sustainable Development (GNESD), Asian Energy Institute, Mycorrhiza Network, and the Programme on Energy, Environment, Resources, and Sustainability (PEERS).

Annex I: Overview of Programmes/Projects related to MEAs

PROGRAMMES/PROJECTS	FOCAL MEAS															SACEP/SAARC COUNTRIES
	Vienna	Montreal	UNFCCC	Kyoto	Ramsar	WH	CITES	CBD	CMS	Cartagena	CCD	Basel	Rotterdam	Stockholm	Other	
<mark>Regional Level</mark>																
<mark>1. Technical Training</mark>																
1.1. Multiple MEAs																
Regional Training Programme on Environmental Policy and Law	ALL															ALL
Regional Environmental Law Programme (RELP)	ALL															ALL
1.2 Climate Change																
Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction from Industry in Asia and the Pacific (GERIAP)			?													India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh
1.3 General Environment																
Strengthening National Capabilities on Environmental Assessment and Monitoring (SEAMCAP)	*ALL															ALL
<mark>2.Workshops, meeting and Conferences related to MEA issues</mark>	Vienna	Montreal	UNFCCC	Kyoto	Ramsar	WH	CITES	CBD	CMS	Cartagena	CCD	Basel	Rotterdam	Stockholm	Other	
2.1. Multiple MEAs																
Compliance with and Enforcement of MEAs in Asia and the Pacific	ALL															ALL

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
Brainstorming Workshop on Regional Partnership for Integrated Capacity Building for MEAs in South Asia	ALL														ALL
Peat lands and Climate Change, Wetlands, Biodiversity and Climate Change, and Integrated Management of Peat lands for Biodiversity and Climate Change		?				?									ALL
Workshop on Peat-lands Biodiversity and Climate Change		?				?									ALL
2.2 Climate Change															
UNFCCC and the Institutional Design of the Cooperative Implementation Mechanisms of the Kyoto Protocol		?	?												ALL
14th Asia Pacific Seminar on Climate Change	?	?	?												ALL
Asia Pacific Seminar on Climate Change	?	?	?												ALL
2.3 Biodiversity															
MEAs on Biodiversity and Natural Resource Management				?		?		?							ALL
Assessment of Plant Diversity and Preparation of Action Plans for South Asia.						?									ALL
Asia Pacific Regional Meeting on the pilot phase of the Bio-safety Clearing House						?	?								ALL
Asian Regional Workshop on the Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity						?									Sri Lanka, Bhutan
Expert Group Meeting on Bio-Safety						?									ALL
2.4 MARPOL															
Facilitating the Ratification and Implementation of MARPOL 73/78											?				ALL
2.5 Desertification and Land Degradation															
Ministerial Conference on Regional Cooperation to Implement the UNCCD in								?							ALL

	Vienna	Montreal	UNFCCC	Kyoto	Ramsar	WH	CITES	CBD	CMS	Catagena	CCD	Basel	Rotterdam	Stockholm	Other	
Asia																
Preparation of the Regional Action Programme for Combating Desertification and Mitigating the effects of Droughts in Asia											?					ALL
Launching Meeting of the Thematic Programme Network (TPN6) on the Implementation of the Integrated Local Area Development Programmes (LADPs) Initiatives in the Regional Context of the Regional Action Programme to Combat Desertification in Asia											?					ALL
Development of the Sub-Regional Action Plan											?					ALL
3.Projects related to MEAs	**Vienna**	**Montreal**	**UNFCCC**	**Kyoto**	**Ramsar**	**WH**	**CITES**	**CBD**	**CMS**	**Catagena**	**CCD**	**Basel**	**Rotterdam**	**Stockholm**	**Other**	
3.1 Climate Change																
Strategy for awareness-raising on Ozone Depleting Substances	?															ALL
Greenhouse Effects and its Impacts on the Region			?													ALL
3.2. Biodiversity																
Biodiversity Governance Initiative (Governance for Protected Areas)								?								ALL
Supporting Global Biodiversity Agenda								?								ALL
Supporting the implementation of CBD in South and Southeast Asia								?								ALL
National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans (NBSAP)								?								ALL
Capacity Building to Implement the Bio-safety Protocol in Asia										?						ALL

	Vienna	Montreal	UNFCCC	Kyoto	Ramsar	WH	CITES	CBD	CMS	Cartagena	CCD	Basel	Rotterdam	Stockholm	Other	
Biodiversity Planning Support Programme South and South East Asia (BPSP)								?								ALL
3.3. Air Emissions																
Regional Air Pollution in Developing Countries (RAPIDC)						*ALL										ALL
3.4. General Environment																
Self-Assessment of National Capacity Building Needs for Effective Management of Global Environmental Issues						*ALL										Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Sri Lanka and Pakistan
4.Networks related to MEAs	Vienna	Montreal	UNFCCC	Kyoto	Ramsar	WH	CITES	CBD	CMS	Cartagena	CCD	Basel	Rotterdam	Stockholm	Other	
4.1. Climate Change																
Ozone Depleting Substances Officers Network for South Asia (ODSONET/SA)		?														Bangladesh, India, Iran, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.
Kyoto Mechanism Information Platform			?													ALL
4.2. Biodiversity																
South Asian Network for Taxonomy Capacity Building (SACNET)								?								ALL
5.MoUs related to MEAs																
5.1.Wetlands and Water Management																
Conservation and Wise Use of Wetlands in South Asia				?												ALL
6.Publications related to MEA issues	Vienna	Montreal	UNFCCC	Kyoto	Ramsar	WH	CITES	CBD	CMS	Cartagena	CCD	Basel	Rotterdam	Stockholm	Other	

6.1. Climate Change		
Regional Follow-up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific, 2003	ALL	ALL
Implementation of Clean Development Mechanism in Asia and the Pacific 2003.	ALL	ALL
6.2. Air Emissions		
Male Declaration on Control and Prevention of Air Pollution and its likely Transboundary Effects for South Asia (2004) - Report of the in-country Training Programmes	*ALL	ALL
6.3. Wetland and Water Management		
Towards the Wise Use of Wetlands: Report of the Ramsar Convention Wise Use Project	?	India and Pakistan

* The programme/project does not specify particular MEAs

Annex II: List of Organizations

ADB	Asian Development Bank
APNCC	Asia Pacific Network on Climate Change
APO	Asian Productivity Organization
AusAID	Australian Agency for International Development
BCN	Boulder Community Network
BOBLMED	Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem Programme
CANSA	Climate Action Network for South Asia
CBD Secretariat	Convention on Biological Diversity Secretariat
CEE	Centre for Environment Education
CESC	Centre for Ecological Science
CIDA	Canadian International Development Assistance
CIDI	Center for International Disaster Information
CITES Secretariat	Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species Secretariat
CAI ASIA	Clean Air Initiative for Asian Cities
CMS Secretariat	Convention on Migratory Species Secretariat
CRVLL	Chan Robles Virtual Law Library
DANIDA	Danish International Development Agency
EHSO	Environment, Health and Safety Online
ELDIS	Eldis Gateway to Development Information
Europaworld	Europaworld
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FCP	Forest Conservation Portal
FIELD	Foundation for International Environmental Law and Development
FINNIDA	Finnish Ministry of Foreign Affairs
FOEI	Friends of the Earth International
GDRC	Global Development Research Centre
GEC	Global Environment Center
GLOBELAW	International and Transitional Law
GPA	Global Programme of Action Coordination Office
Greenpeace	Greenpeace International
GRID	UNEP - GRID Arendal
GTZ	Head, Division for Environment and Infrastructure
GWP	Global Water Partnership - South Asia

ICIMOD	International Center for Integrated Mountain Development
ICRI	International Coral Reef Initiative
ICTEAP	Information & Communication Technology and the Environment in Asia & the Pacific
IEF	International Environmental Forum
IGIFL	Internet Guide to International Fisheries Law
IIA	Institute of International Agriculture
IIED	International Institute for Environment and Development
IISD	International Institute for Sustainable Development
INECE	The International Network for Environmental Compliance & Enforcement
IOTC	Indian Ocean Tuna Commission
IPPC	International Plant Protection Convention
ITIC	International Tsunami Information Centre
IUCN	International Union of Conservation of Nature
JBIC	Japan Bank for International Cooperation
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
NORAD	Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation
NRDC	Natural Resources Defense Council
ONEWORLD	Oneworld International Foundation
OWSA	Oneworld South Asia
PIC Secretariat	Prior Informed Consent (Rotterdam Convention Secretariat)
POPs Secretariat	Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants Secretariat
RAMSAR Secretariat	Ramsar Convention on Wetlands Secretariat
SAARC	South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation
SACEP	South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme
SARID	South Asia Research Institute for Policy and Development
SDCN	Sustainable Development Communications Network
SEDAC	Socioeconomic Data and Applications Center
SENRIC	South Asia Environment & Natural Resources Information Centre
SIDA	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
SIDSNET	Small Island Developing State Network
SSAS	South & Southeast Asian Studies: Library web
TACCF	The Arthur C. Clarke Foundation
TEC	The Earth Council, Earth Council Foundation
TERI	The Energy and Resources Institute
TWN	Third World Network

UNCCD Secretariat	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification Secretariat
UNCRD	United Nations Centre for Regional Development
UNDP	UNDP-GEF Regional Coordination Unit, Asia and the Pacific
UNDP - Bangkok	UNDP Regional Centre in Bangkok
UNDP – NY	Communication Office, New York
UNDP – MPU	Montreal Protocol Unit (MPU)
UNEP - RRC	UNEP- RRC-Asia-pacific
UNEP - OzonAction	The OzonAction Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNEP WCMC	UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre
UNEP DEPI	Division of Environmental Policy Implementation
UNEP ROAP	Regional Office for Asia Pacific
UNEP DEI	Division of Environmental Information
UNESCAP	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
UNESCAP – ESDD	Environment and Sustainable Development Division
UNESCAP - ES	Environmental Section
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNESCOWH	UNESCO World Heritage Convention Secretariat
UNESCO	Regional Bureau for Education
UNFCCC Secretariat	United Nations Framework Convention for Climate Change Secretariat
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNNC	UN News Centre
US-AEP	US Asia Environmental Partnership
USAID	USA Agency for International Development
WDEO	World Directory of Environmental Organizations

By country:

Afghanistan	UNDPAfghanistan
	World Bank, Afghanistan
Bangladesh	Bangladesh Center for Advanced Studies
	Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha
	Ministry of Environment and Forest
	UNDP-Sustainable Development Networking Programme
	World Bank, Bangladesh
Bhutan	Bhutan Trust Fund for Environment Conservation
	National Environmental Commission, Bhutan

	UNDP- Bhutan
	World Bank, Bhutan
	WWF Bhutan
Iran	Department of Environment
	IBCH Iran Bio-Safety
	UNDP-Iran
	UNIDO-Iran
India	Center for Science and Environment CSE
	Environmental Information Centre
	Environmental Protection Development Centre
	Greenpeace India
	Ministry of Environment and Forest, India
	National Forest Commission
	Network of Indian Environmental Professionals
	UNDP--India
	UNIDO, India
	World Bank, India
Maldives	WWF India
	Ministry of Environment and Construction, Maldives
	UNDP- Maldives
	World Bank, Maldives
Nepal	IUCN-Nepal
	Ministry of Population and Environment, Nepal
	Nepal Forum of Environmental Journalists
	UNDP-Nepal
	World Bank, Nepal
	WWF Nepal
Pakistan	IUCN- Pakistan
	LEAD- Pakistan
	Environmental Protection Agency
	Ministry of Environment, Pakistan

Annex III: Status of MEAs for SACEP/SAARC Member Countries

â Indicates ratification, accepta nce or accession and ∗ represents signature of a convention

	Global Climate				Global Biodiversity							Global Chemicals and Wastes			Regional Agreements			
	Ozone Layer Convention (Vienna)	Montreal Protocol	Climate Change (UNFCCC)	Kyoto Protocol	Ramsar Convention	World Heritage Convention	CITES	Biological Diversity (CBD)	Migratory Species (CMS)	Biosafety Protocol (Cartagena)	Desertification (CCD)	Basel Convention	PIC Convention (Rotterdam)	POPs Convention (Stockholm)	MoU SAARC and SACEP 2004	Colombo Declaration on SACEP	Male Declaration on Transboundary Air Pollution	South Asian Seas Agreement
Afghanistan	â '04	â '04	â '02			â '79	â '85	â '02			â '95	∗ '89			â 04	∗ '81		
Bangladesh	â '90	â '90	â '94	â '01	â '92	â '83	â '81	â '94		â '04	â '96	â '93		∗ '01	â 04	â 81	â 97	â 95
Bhutan	â '04	â '04	â '95	â '02		â '01	â '02	â '95		â '02	â '03	â '02			â 04	â 81	â 97	
India	â '91	â '92	â '93	â '02	â '82	â '77	â '76	â '94		â '03	â '96	â '92		∗ '02	â 04	â 81	â 97	â 95
Iran	â '90	â '90	â '96		â '75	â '75	â '76	â 96		â 03	â 97	â '93	â '04	∗ '01	â 04	∗ '81	â 97	
Maldives	â '88	â '89	â '92	â '98		â '86		â '92		â '03	â '02	â '92			â 04	â 81	â 97	â 95
Nepal	â '94	â '94	â '94		â '88	â '78	â '75	â '93		∗ '01	â '96	â '96		∗ '02	â 04	â 81	â 97	
Pakistan	â '92	â ' 92	â '94		â '76	â '76	â '76	â '94		∗ '01	â '97	â '94	∗ '99	∗ '01	â 04	â 81	â 97	â 95
Sri Lanka	â '89	â '89	â '93	â '02	â '90	â '80	â '79	â '94		â '04	â ' 98	â '92		∗ '01	â 04	â 81	â 97	â 95

Sources: MEA secretariat websites;
Environmental Treaties and Resource Indcators, http://sedac.ciesin.org/entri/
Status: January 2005