



# **Plastic Free Rivers and Seas for South Asia**

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**22<sup>nd</sup> May 2020**

**International Biodiversity Day**



# Presentation Outline



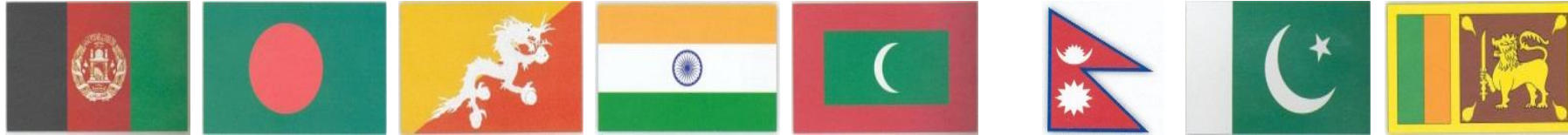
- 1. About SACEP**
- 2. SACEP Activities (Marine Litter, Solid Waste, Plastic, Sewages and Chemicals)**
- 3. South Asian Seas Regional Marine Litter Action Plan**
- 4. Plastic Free Rivers and Seas for South Asia**

# SOUTH ASIA CO-OPERATIVE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME (SACEP)



- ❖ Is an inter-governmental organization of 8 member states,
- ❖ Established in 1982. It is mandated to promote and support protection, management and enhancement of the environment in South Asia

Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka



- ❖ **SACEP core programme, project activities and priority areas are:**
  - + **Waste Management**
  - + **Air quality**
  - + **Climate Change and Biodiversity**
  - + **Sustainable consumption and production**
  - + **Marine Environment**

# SOUTH ASIA CO-OPERATIVE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME (SACEP)



The South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP) serves as the secretariat of **SOUTH ASIAN SEAS PROGRAMME (SASP)**.



- ❖ South Asian Seas Action Plan (SASAP) was adopted in March 1995 by the region's five maritime countries Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.



- ❖ The overall objective of the SASP is to **protect and manage the marine environment and related coastal ecosystems of the region** in an environmentally sound and sustainable manner.



# SACEP and South Asian Seas Programme (SASP)



- ❖ The South Asian Seas Action Plan was adopted at Meeting of Plenipotentiaries by the five maritime countries of South Asia, on March 24<sup>th</sup> 1995, New Delhi, India.



- ❖ SASP is one of the 18<sup>th</sup> Regional Seas Programme of UNEP. SASP follows existing global environmental and maritime conventions and considers Law of the Sea as its umbrella convention.





# **SAS Regional Marine Litter Action Plan**





The summary report of the Regional Marine litter Action Plan was launched by Dia Mirza-UN Goodwill Ambassador and Erik Solheim-UN Executive Director at New Delhi, India on the event of World Environment Day 2018 (WED-18). As the theme of the WED-2018 was Beat Plastic Pollution, the SACEP Regional Marine Litter Action Plan well suited to the overall WED-18 in India.



TOWARDS  
LITTER FREE  
INDIAN OCEAN

Summary of the  
Regional Marine Litter Action Plan  
for South Asian Seas Region







# The summary reports of SACEP-SAS Regional Marine Litter Action Plan well accepted by the Honorable Minister, Dr. Harsh Vardhan, MOESCC, DATED ON 27<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2018



The cover of the report features a large blue circular graphic on the left containing a photograph of a white plastic bag floating in the water. To the right of the graphic, the title 'TOWARDS LITTER FREE INDIAN OCEAN' is written in a serif font. Below the title, it says 'Summary of the Regional Marine Litter Action Plan for South Asian Seas Region'. At the bottom, there are logos for UNEP and Regional Seas, along with the national flags of Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka, Maldives, and Pakistan.

**TOWARDS  
LITTER FREE  
INDIAN OCEAN**

Summary of the  
Regional Marine Litter Action Plan  
for South Asian Seas Region

UNEP Regional Seas

# The Status of Marine Litter quantity data availability statuses in South Asian Seas (SAS) Region

Country	Quantity Data availability at area/region level	Quantities of Marine Litter Data availability at National Level
<b>Bangladesh</b>	Litter classification information available. But actual quantity not available.	Total Quantity Data not available. But estimation was done by using beach collection data.
<b>India</b>	Status of marine litter indicated 14 segments/regions. But not quantity not available	Quantity Data not available
<b>Maldives</b>	Regional data not available	Quantity Data not available
<b>Pakistan</b>	Regional level classification of marine litter is available. But not quantity data not available	Quantity Data not available
<b>Sri Lanka</b>	Regional level classification of marine litter is available. But same areas quantity data available.	Quantity Data not available





# Marine Litter Issues availability statuses in South Asian Seas (SAS) Region



<b>Country</b>	<b>Ecological Issues</b>	<b>Social Issues</b>	<b>Economic Issues</b>
<b>Bangladesh</b>	No site specific data available to indicate exact issues	General statements but not any quantifiable information	Tourist areas have some impacts but not quantified General statements
<b>India</b>	No country specific information but general impacts information indicated	General statements but country and sites specific social issues not available	General statements but not any quantifiable information
<b>Maldives</b>	No country specific information	General statements and also indicated that it is an emerging issues but country and sites specific social issues not available	Economic impacts due to the marine litter on Maldivian economy are not currently well understood.
<b>Pakistan</b>	No country specific information available	General statements but country and sites specific social issues not available	Indicated Tourism is affecting General statements but not any quantifiable information
<b>Sri Lanka</b>	Little information indicated that coral reefs and mangroves in the certain areas have been affected. But national level information not available	General statements but country and sites specific social issues not available	Indicated that tourism gaining is very high but economic lost and issues due to marine litter to tourism is not specifically



## Three specific goals to reduce Marine Litter



- 1. Reduced amount and impact of land-based litter and solid waste introduced into the marine environment.**
- 2. Reduced amount and impact of sea-based sources of Marine Litters.**
- 3. Reduced amount and impact of accumulated Marine Litters on shorelines, in benthic habitats, and in pelagic waters.**



# Strategies Needed for Management of Marine Litter for SAS regions



- 1. Formation of Management Polices, International Conventions, laws, regulations and treaties**
- 2. Implementation of Direct development activities**
- 3. Conducting Research and surveys**
- 4. Implementations of enforcement program**
- 5. Monitoring and evaluation**
- 6. Conducting Education and awareness programs**
- 7. Use Market and Economic Instruments**



# **Major Gaps and Challenges for SAS region on Managing the Marine Litter**



- 1. Lack of Marine litter data in the SAS Region.**
- 2. Poor Institutional system for management of Marine litter.**
- 3. Non-availability of legal framework for marine litter management.**
- 4. Poor and insufficient enforcement of international Conventions, Agreements, laws, regulations and treaties.**
- 5. Limited Implementation of Direct development activities for marine management.**
- 6. Lack of Research and surveys on Marine Litter.**
- 7. Weak formulation and enforcement of regulatory framework.**
- 8. Lack of marine litter Production and Consumption Policy and Strategies.**
- 9. Lack of Education and Awareness Program for Marine litter management.**
- 10. Lack of Marketing and Economic Instruments for marine litter management.**



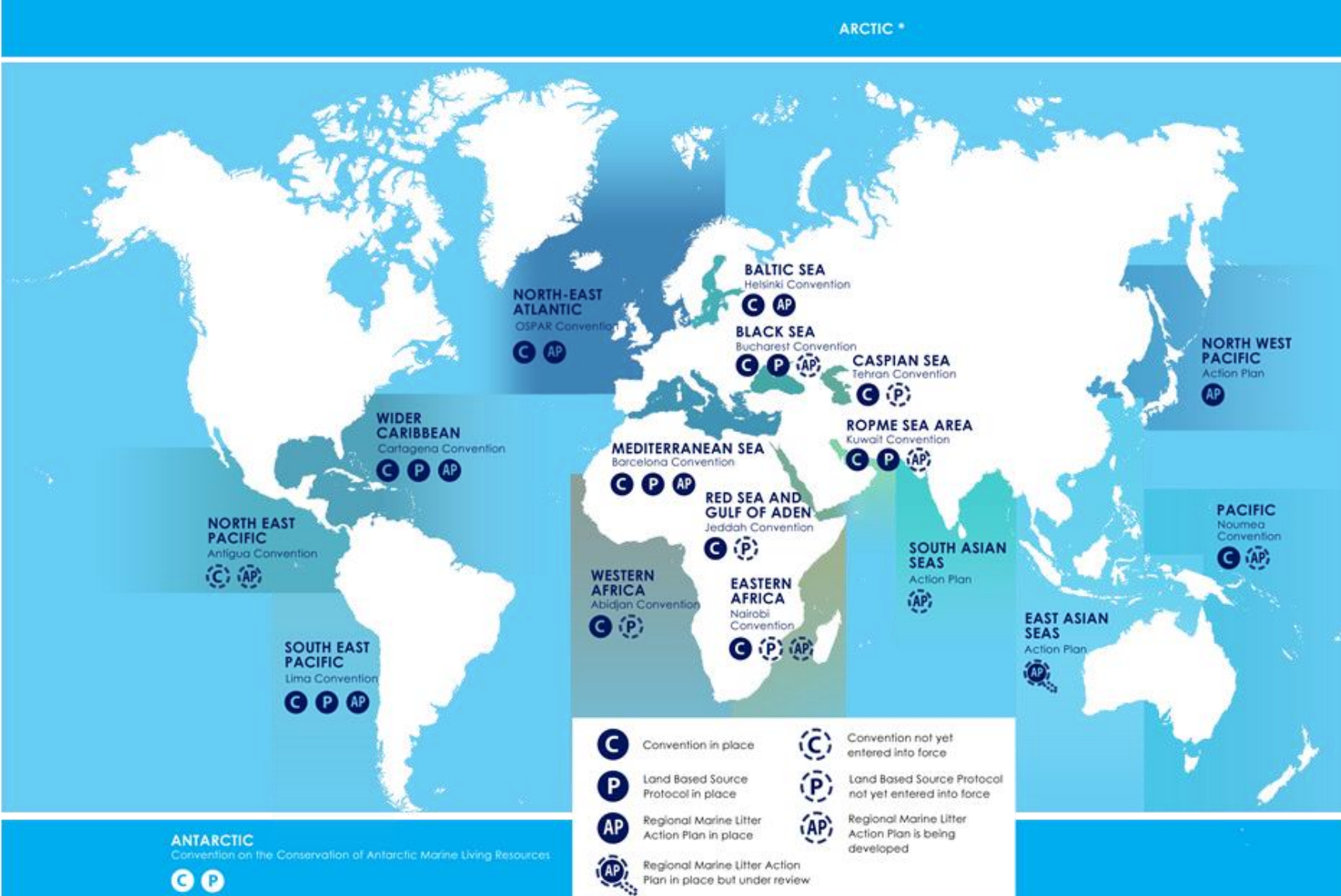
# Recommendation



- **Establishment of new Institutional system SAS region level as well as country level to tackle the marine litter problem**
- **Assist to enact specific separate law or Act for each SAS countries to properly manage the marine litter**
- **Establish Regional Level legal Institutional Structure to facilitate implementation of international Conventions, Agreements, laws, regulations and treaties**
- **Introduce urgent project to collect Marine litter data to Quantity the marine litter in the SAS Region Countries**
- **Preparation and Implementation of the Proper Direct development activities plan to minimize Coastal and Marine litter in the SAS region**
- **Preparation of Research and survey program to study all aspect of Marine Litter in SAS region**
- **Preparation Regulations and enforcement program for each SAS countries to manage the marine litter**
- **Preparation of Country specific Education and Awareness Program to manage the Marine litter issues in the SAS Region and Countries**
- **Amending existing instruments to narrow exceptions and clarify enforcement standards**
- **Establishment of comprehensive national marine litter programmes**
- **Strengthening management measures on fishing vessels**



# Negotiation, adoption and implementation of a marine litter action plan has been undertaken, irrespective of the number of years since adoption.



## TOWARDS LITTER FREE INDIAN OCEAN

Summary of the Regional Marine Litter Action Plan for South Asian Seas Region







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# Plastic Free Rivers and Seas in South Asia

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# Plastic Free Rivers and Seas in SA

## PROJECT INTRODUCTION

- i. The South Asia Region is the third largest contributor to plastic waste globally with an estimated doubling by 2050 unless action is taken. The Maldives aside, all South Asia's coastal nations are among the top twenty most polluting nations ranked by the volume of mismanaged plastic waste with Sri Lanka ranked among the top six according to published studies.**
- ii. There is growing global and regional recognition and call to reduce ocean plastic pollution. World leaders, including representatives from SAR within the G7, G20, APEC, IORA, SACEP and the UN, have agreed to reduce plastic waste, and signed agreements supporting greater cooperation across nations.**
- iii. The Plastic free Rivers and Seas for South Asia (PRS) Project consists of four main components totaling US \$37 million from IDA that will be implemented over a period of five years.**
- iv. Parley for the Oceans parallel co-financing to support Plastic free Rivers and Seas for South Asia, a regional project to mitigate plastic pollution across South Asia's rivers and seas contribute an amount of US \$13 million.**



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# Plastic Free Rivers and Seas in SA

## Project Development Objective

The Project development objective is to catalyze actions that reduce the flow of plastic pollution into South Asian Seas. To achieve this, proposed PDO-level objectives include the following:

- ✓ Reduction of stock and flow of plastic pollution intercepted and/or recovered;
- ✓ Increased investment in 3R and/or AIR;
- ✓ Increased consumer demand for circular products;
- ✓ Increased access to regional data and analytics for plastic pollution abatement decision making;
- ✓ Regional plastic pollution mitigation guidelines incorporated into national standards; and
- ✓ Institutional capacities strengthened to undertake single use plastic informed policy bans, EPR and planning.



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# Plastic Free Rivers and Seas in SA

**Objective:** To catalyze actions that reduce the flow of plastic pollution into South Asian Seas.

**Proposed key results include the following:**

**Outcome 1:** Amount of plastic intercepted and/or recovered from rivers, beaches and seas.

**Outcome 2:** Increased investment in 3R and/or A.I.R. plastic waste management (public and private sources).

**Outcome 3:** Increased consumer/retail demand with supportive policy for circular products

- **Component 1: Regional Competitive Block Grants to Reduce Plastic Waste.** The objective of this component is to identify, verify and scale up plastic pollution mitigation solutions that would be made available as a regional and global public good. To this end, the project will develop, administer and support a first of its kind SAR regional competitive grants program that would reduce plastic pollution and provide a demonstration effect for SAR nations on what is possible.
- **Component 2: Leveraging Private Sector Engagement and Solutions.** This component would be supported by design of the regional mechanism (including operations manual) and branded platform; support for annual convenings of public sector policy and decision makers with private sector representatives, including the sharing of PPP solutions from within the region and beyond; support for a research agenda that would identify sticking points in policy and its implementation (i.e., single use plastic bans) and identify workable and effective solutions; informational website, and operational support.
- **Component 3: Promoting Educational Partnerships, Awareness, and Behavioral Change.** The objective of this proposed component is to promote education, increase awareness and stimulate behavioral change of citizens across SAR. IDA support would forge educational partnerships targeting young people and public awareness campaigns. The rationale for this component is that the plastics waste problem cannot be solved without changing mindsets, particularly society's dependence on single use plastics.
- **Component 4: Strengthening Regional Integration and Project Management.** The proposed objective of this component would be to support regional coordination, cooperation, institutions and policy development that deliver both short and long-term solutions.



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*THANK YOU . . . .*

Kindly visit [www.sacep.org](http://www.sacep.org) to know more information about the WB funded project.