



SAARC Coastal Zone Management Centre
Male', Republic of Maldives

A brief on the establishment status of the SAARC Coastal Zone Management Centre

The five SAARC nations are very sensitive to adverse effects on the coastal environment.

Coastal zone is an essential part of the life support system of the region.

The management of coastal resources for their sustainable use has become a critically important issue for the SAARC region.

most extensive mangrove areas

world's least disturbed coral reefs.

These coastal ecosystems subjected to increasing exploitation



The broad priority areas for ICZM in the SAARC region:

Reduction of threats through exchange of information and experiences;

Building capacity at local, national and regional level;

Development of appropriate research and monitoring;

Review of the success of initiatives in these action areas.



The region has important assets of human and institutional capacity-

(Institutional, scientific, economic, social and technology fields and planning experiences).

Regional co-operation activities-
boost the exchange of experiences, information, data and expertise in coastal zone management;

Promote;
co-operative research
technology transfer
capacity- building.



The establishment of a Regional Coastal Zone Management Centre was recommended in the SAARC Study on the Causes and Consequences of Natural Disasters and the Protection and Preservation of the Environment (1992).

More recently, initiative of the President of the Maldives SAARC Environment Ministers' Conference (1997)

SAARC Environment Ministers decided to conduct a feasibility study for such a centre, and welcomed the offer of the Government of Maldives to undertake the study

Structure of the Centre



Terms of Reference of the Centre

- **Identify organizations** in the region dealing with relevant coastal resources management issues
- **facilitate interaction** amongst institutions (ministries, coastal authorities, intergovernmental organizations, international organizations, non-governmental organizations, funding agencies, etc.) and other stakeholders involved,
- **promote coordination and cooperation** on ICZM issues.

Terms of Reference.....

- Collect, compile and disseminate information through **networking** among the Member States;
- Assess and **standardize the planning methodologies** for Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM);
- Provide support for the **promotion and development of ICZM concepts, methodologies and planning tools**;
- Promote the **exchange** of experiences, information, data and expertise in ICZM;
- Assist in **institutional strengthening** and human resources development for capacity building in ICZM;
- Conduct and coordinate **research** in the field of coastal zone management and facilitate technology transfer.

Inauguration of the Centre

President of the Republic of Maldives inaugurated the SAARC Coastal Zone Management Centre on 25th June 2005.

In his speech at the ceremony, the President expressed his great pleasure and privilege in inaugurating the SAARC Coastal Zone Management Centre.

He thanked the Ministers of Environment of SAARC countries, for their support, and expressed his appreciation to the SAARC Secretary General, Lyonpo Chekyab Dorji, and his staff for their assistance in realizing the project.



Activities carried out in the year 2005

Workshop on “Developing a Framework for Managing Land-based Activities that Impact the Coastal and Marine Environment in the Maldives”

A Joint SCZMC – ERC – IUCN “Meeting on Formulation of SAARC Coastal Zone Management Action Plan” August 2005



- This one-day workshop was aimed at identifying critical aspects of CZM in the Maldives.
- Specifically, this workshop is the national component of a regional project aimed at identifying and developing appropriate coastal

management framework largely from land –based sources of marine pollution

- The SAARC Coastal Zone Management Centre together with the Environment Research Centre of the Maldives had organized the national component of this regional project



- Organizing this event by the SAARC Coastal Zone Management Centre provided the opening to introduce itself to the concerned authorities of the Government of Maldives and participate in a regional activity

- Furthermore, the Centre avails this opportunity to continue further and future cooperation in the area of coastal zone management with other member states, international and regional organizations and other interested parties.



Programme of Activities for the Financial Year 2006

- Acquisition of conventional and non conventional publications on Coastal Zone Management from SAARC Member countries and other countries including International Centres/ Organisations
- an electronic regional network
- Printing, Publications and production
- Audio-visual media resource acquisition
- Computer Mediated Communication of information
- Audio-visual media resource production
- formulation of SCZM Action Plan
- short-term courses/ seminars and attachment training



Upcoming Activities

Assessing the role of coastal environmental aspects on the impacts of December 2004 tsunami

- This two-day technical meeting is aimed at identifying critical aspects of the coastal system and understating how they may have mitigated or accentuated the impacts of the December 2004 tsunami incident
- Considering the significance the incidents, a special session of the SAARC Minister's meeting held in the Maldives in June 2005, has very specifically called for more research and information gathering on aspects related to the tsunami incident
- In formulating the regional action plan for coastal zone management, the threats and the risks of a mega environmental impacts such as that of a tsunami has to be now considered



- In the light of the above consideration the SCZMC is proposing to organize a scientific meeting to assess the role these aspects in assessing the impacts of the tsunami
- This meeting is aimed at identifying characteristics associated with those environmental aspects and the extent they may have accentuated or lessened the impacts of the tsunami
- In this regard, three areas for consideration are:
 - Mangroves
 - Coral reefs
 - Coastal geography/geomorphology
- The SCZMC intends to seek sponsorship from UN and other interested partners and agencies to sponsor this important meeting in the Maldives

