

Annotated Provisional Agenda

Background leading to the meeting

The Special Monitoring and Coastal Environmental Assessment Regional Activity Centre (CEARAC) is one of the four Regional Activity Centres (RACs) to coordinate activities relevant to specific components of the Action Plan for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Northwest Pacific Action Plan (NOWPAP). Since its inception in 2002, CEARAC has been mainly working on monitoring and assessing harmful algal blooms including red tides (under Working Group 3) and application of remote sensing techniques for monitoring and assessment of the marine and coastal environment (Working Group 4).

Since 2008, when CEARAC initiated an activity on eutrophication as a joint work of WG3 and WG4, its foci has shifted to eutrophication and marine biodiversity, and then to seagrass. CEARAC has implemented some activities on these areas in recent biennia.

During the 2014-2015 biennium, CEARAC implemented three specific projects related to marine biodiversity, eutrophication assessment, and seagrass mapping in the NOWPAP region. While reviewing the progress of the entire CEARAC activities including these projects at the 13th CEARAC Focal Points Meeting (FPM) held in Toyama, Japan on 25-26 August 2015, the meeting also discussed a proposed workplan for the 2016-2017 which was prepared by the Secretariat of CEARAC. The proposed workplan included two new specific projects: development of a common procedure for assessment of the impacts of major pressures on marine biodiversity in the NOWPAP region; and feasibility study towards assessment of seagrass in the NOWPAP region. After discussion, the meeting adopted the entire CEARAC workplan and budget to be submitted to the 20th NOWPAP Intergovernmental meeting (IGM) to be held in October 2015, where the entire NOWPAP workplan and budget for the 2016-2017 was approved.

In the 14th CEARAC FPM (7-8 April 2016), the Secretariat of CEARAC reported that because of late submission of some national inputs and technical problems, three projects for the previous biennium were not completed in the planned time frame, and the Secretariat asked for FPs' approval for continuation of these projects during the current biennium in parallel with the two new projects. At the same time, the meeting expressed their concern on lack of relevant information and workload of planned tasks in the new project on marine

biodiversity, they advised that the Secretariat revise the workplan to complete the project by the end of 2017.

Coming to the end of the current 2016-2017 biennium, the 15th CEARAC FPM will be held (29-30 August 2017, Toyama, Japan) to review the progress and expected outputs and outcomes of the on-going CEARAC activities as well as to discuss a draft workplan of CEARAC activities for the 2018-2019 biennium which is prepared by the Secretariat of CEARAC for adoption to its submission to the 22nd NOWPAP IGM to be held in Japan in December 2017.

The Fifteenth NOWPAP CEARAC Focal Points Meeting

DAY 1 (29 August, 9:00-17:00)

Agenda Item 1. Opening of the Meeting

The meeting will be opened at 9:00 at the Conference Room One in Tower 111, Toyama, Japan, on 29 August 2017 by the Director of CEARAC.

Agenda Item 2. Organization of the Meeting

2.1 Election of the officers

The meeting will be invited to elect the chairperson and the rapporteur in line with paragraph 5.2 of the Terms of Reference of the NOWPAP CEARAC Focal Points Meeting (FPM). The roles of chairperson and rapporteur rotate among the four member states, and in the 15th FPM, the chairperson is to be an FP of Japan and the rapporteur is to be an FP of Korea.

2.2 Organization of work

Rules of procedures will be established. For the purpose of this meeting, the rules of procedures used in the 15th FPM will be those of United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) with appropriate adjustments to suit the nature of the meeting.

English will be the working language of the meeting.

Agenda Item 3. Adoption of the agenda

The Secretariat of CEARAC will introduce the Provisional Agenda (UNEP/NOWPAP/CEARAC/FPM 15/1) with the Annotated Provisional Agenda (UNEP/NOWPAP/CEARAC/FPM 15/2). The meeting will be invited to consider the agenda items for adoption.

Agenda Item 4. Report of the Regional Coordinating Unit (RCU) on the implementation of the Northwest Pacific Action Plan (NOWPAP) including the progress of the NOWPAP Medium-term Strategy 2018-2023

The representative of NOWPAP RCU will report the progress of the entire NOWPAP activities since the 14th NOWPAP CEARAC FPM (7-8 April 2016, Toyama, Japan) (UNEP/NOWPAP/CEARAC/FPM 15/3). Since a draft workplan of CEARAC activities for the

2018-2019 biennium, a draft NOWPAP Medium-Term Strategy 2018-2023 (UNEP/NOWPAP/CEARAC/FPM 15/Ref1) will be introduced as well.

Agenda Item 5. Report on the implementation of CEARAC activities for the 2016-2017 biennium

5.1 Overall progress of CEARAC activities

The Secretariat of CEARAC will report the progress and expected outputs and outcomes of the entire CEARAC activities for the 2016-2017 biennium (UNEP/NOWPAP/CEARAC/FPM 15/4).

5.2 Progress of specific projects

5.2.1 Assessment of major pressures on marine biodiversity in the NOWPAP region

The Secretariat of CEARAC will report the progress of one CEARAC project on marine biodiversity: Assessment of Major Pressures on Marine Biodiversity in the NOWPAP Region (UNEP/NOWPAP/CEARAC/FPM 15/5).

5.2.2 Feasibility study towards assessment of seagrass distribution in the NOWPAP region

The Secretariat of CEARAC will report the progress of another current CEARAC project on seagrass, Feasibility Study towards Assessment of Seagrass Distribution in the NOWPAP Region (UNEP/NOWPAP/CEARAC/FPM 15/6 and UNEP/NOWPAP/CEARAC/FPM 15/Ref 4).

Agenda Item 6. Discussion on the proposed workplan and budget for CEARAC activities for the 2018-2019 biennium

Considering foci in the draft NOWPAP Medium-Term Strategy 2018-2023 and global concerns on the marine environment, the Secretariat of CEARAC will propose a draft workplan of CEARAC activities for the 2018-2019 biennium including two specific projects.

6.1 Proposals for specific projects

6.1.1 Development of a CEARAC Medium-term Strategy on marine biodiversity

The Secretariat of CEARAC will propose to develop a CEARAC Medium-term Strategy on marine biodiversity based on outputs/outcomes of past CEARAC's and other RACS' activities on marine biodiversity and taking into consideration a new NOWPAP Medium-Term

Strategy 2018-2023 as well as global focus on conservation of marine biodiversity (UNEP/NOWPAP/CEARAC/FPM 15/7).

6.1.2 Development of a tool for mapping seagrass distribution in the NOWPAP region

Based on the results of past and current CEARAC activities on seagrass mapping, and considering the usability of cloud computing technology, Secretariat of CEARAC will propose developing a tool for mapping seagrass distribution in the NOWPAP region (UNEP/NOWPAP/CEARCA/FPM 15/8).

6.2 Discussion on additional proposal of specific projects of CEARAC for the 2018-2019 biennium

Upon NOWPAP RCU's request to all RACs to prepare two budgetary options for the 2018-2019 biennium, the Secretariat of CEARAC will propose additional specific activities.

6.2.1 Consideration of future direction of NOWPAP marine biodiversity activities

The Secretariat of CEARAC will propose some discussion opportunities with all RAC FPs on conservation of marine biodiversity (UNEP/NOWPAP/CEARCA/FPM 15/9).

6.3 Discussion on the draft workplan and budget of entire CEARAC activities for the 2018-2019 biennium and recommendation to the 22nd NOWPAP IGM

The Secretariat of CEARAC will present a draft workplan and budget of entire CEARAC activities for the 2018-2019 biennium, including the specific projects under Agenda Item 6.1 and additional projects under 6.2. The meeting will be invited to review the proposed workplan and budget (UNEP/NOWPAP/CEARAC/FPM 15/10) and agree to submit it to the 22nd NOWPAP Intergovernmental Meeting (IGM) to be held in Japan in December 2017.

DAY2 (30 August, 9:00-15:00)

(Agenda Item 6 is continued)

Agenda Item 7. Report on CEARAC marine litter activities

The Secretariat of CEARAC will report CEARAC marine litter activities in the 2016-2017 biennium and workplan in the 2018-2019 biennium for CEARAC FPs' information (UNEP/NOWPAP/CEARCA/FPM 15/11).

The report and proposal on CEARAC marine litter activities will be reviewed and approved at the NOWPAP Marine Litter Working Meeting to be held on 20th September back-to-back with NOWPAP International Coastal Cleanup Campaign in Toyama, Japan.

Agenda Item 8. Arrangement of the Sixteenth NOWPAP CEARAC FPM

The Secretariat of CEARAC will propose a venue and the time of the 16th NOWPAP CEARAC Focal Points Meeting for approval. It is planned to be implemented in spring 2018 in Toyama, Japan.

Agenda Item 9. Other matters

The meeting will be invited to raise any other issues relevant to the NOWPAP CEARAC activities to be discussed during the 15th CEARAC FPM.

Agenda Item 10. Adoption of the report of the Meeting

A draft report of the 15th NOWPAP CEARAC Focal Points Meeting will be prepared by the rapporteur and the Secretariat of CEARAC for consideration and adoption.

Agenda Item 11. Closure of the Meeting

The meeting will be closed by the chairperson at 15:00 on 30 August 2017.