

Assessment of major pressures on marine biodiversity in the NOWPAP region

1. Background

Since 2010, CEARAC has implemented activities related to marine biodiversity conservation. Based on the experience of developing a common procedure for assessment of the eutrophication status (NOWPAP Common Procedure), development of a new assessment method of marine environment for marine biodiversity conservation has been proposed at the 14th CEARAC FPM. However, there is a big gap of data availability among the NOWPAP member states, and the participants of the meeting concerned about the difficulty of implementing the proposed activity. After discussion during the meeting, a new project “Assessment of major pressures on marine biodiversity in the NOWPAP region” was proposed and approved.

In addition, it was adopted to continue one CEARAC activity for the last 2014-2015 biennium, preparing the report on pilot assessments of the impacts of major threats to marine biodiversity in the selected sea areas in the NOWPAP region, which was not completed by the end of 2015 due to the delay of submission of national reports, as part of this new project.

2. Objective

Objective of this activity is to publish a report on assessment of the major pressures on marine biodiversity, mainly status of eutrophication, non-indigenous species and habitat alteration, using available data collected in the pilot assessments conducted in the 2014-2015 biennium.

3. Tasks

3-1 Publication of a regional report on pilot assessments of impacts of major threats on marine biodiversity

The Secretariat of CEARAC prepared the first draft of the regional report on pilot assessments of impacts of major threats on marine biodiversity in winter 2016 based on the national reports submitted to CEARAC by nominated experts from the member states. The first draft of the report was reviewed by the CEARAC FPs and revised based on their comments. Then, the second draft was circulated among the NOWPAP National FPs to finalize the report based on the publication procedure of NOWPAP reports. The Secretariat of CEARAC reflected the comments from the National FPs and finalized it. The report will be published soon.

3-2 Assessment of major pressures on marine biodiversity in the NOWPAP region

The Secretariat of CEARAC has been preparing the first draft of a report, “Assessment of major pressures on marine biodiversity in the NOWPAP region” with the experts who implemented pilot assessments in each member state. The report will include assessment of status of major pressures in the NOWPAP region based on the pilot assessment implemented in the 2014-2015 biennium. The first

draft will be reviewed by these experts, and it will be modified, if necessary, during the workshop to be held in October. CEARAC FPs will be asked to review the revised draft in November. After review by the CEARAC FPs, a final draft will be circulated among the NOWPAP National FPs for finalization. The report will be published by the end of 2017 in a digital format.

3-3 Collection of scientific papers on impacts of major pressures on marine biodiversity

In the pilot assessments implemented in each member state in the 2014-2015 biennium, impact of pressures on marine biodiversity was not clearly shown.

The experts nominated by CEARAC FPs collected scientific papers which study impacts of pressures on marine biodiversity in each member state and submitted a list of collected scientific papers with a brief summary of each paper.

Information of the collected scientific papers will be included into the report of assessment of major pressures on marine biodiversity in the NOWPAP region as reference.

3-4 Collection of information on strategies on marine biodiversity conservation

Each member state sets their visions for marine biodiversity conservation and implements national efforts to achieve the Convention of Biological Diversity and its Strategic Plan. In order to consider the future direction of CEARAC marine biodiversity activities, it is necessary to understand needs of the member states. Thus, CEARAC asked the nominated experts to collect information on strategies/plans/laws on marine biodiversity conservation in each member state.

The collected information will be used for consideration of the future CEARAC's marine biodiversity activities.

3-5 Organization of a workshop

To discuss the contents of report and finalize the first draft, workshop will be held in October 2017. The Secretariat of CEARAC has been preparing the first draft of a regional report on assessment of major pressures on marine biodiversity in the NOWPAP region. The first draft will be reviewed by the experts who implemented pilot assessments in the 2014-2015 biennium.

4. Expected outputs

A report on assessment of major pressures will be published by the end of 2017, and it will show the current status of the three major pressures on marine biodiversity, namely eutrophication, non-indigenous species and habitat alteration, in the NOWPAP region. Various kinds of activities on marine biodiversity conservation are implemented in global and regional levels at present, and CEARAC expects that this project and the assessment results will contribute to the activities by other international and regional organizations.

5. Budget

Task	Budget (US\$)
Assessment of major pressures on marine biodiversity in the NOWPAP region (including preparing a report)	5,000
Review of a report on the assessment of major pressures on marine biodiversity in the NOWPAP region	China 2,000
	Korea 2,000
	Russia 2,000
- Collecting scientific papers on impacts of major pressures - Collecting information on national strategies/plans/laws on marine biodiversity conservation in each member state	China 3,000
	Japan in-kind
	Korea 3,000
	Russia 3,000
Organization of a workshop	10,000
Total	30,000

* Budget for preparing and publishing a regional report on pilot assessments has already been allocated in the 2014-2015 biennium, and there is no extra budget is planned for this task.

6. Schedule

Time		Actions	Main Body
2016	April	14 th CEARAC FPM - Review and approval of workplan	CEARAC FPs, CEARAC Secretariat, RCU and RACs
	June	Nominating experts for collecting scientific papers and information	CEARAC FPs
	July	Contracting with nominated experts	Experts and CEARAC Secretariat
	Q2-Q4	- Collecting scientific papers on impacts of the three major pressures on marine biodiversity - Collecting information on national strategies/plans/laws on marine biodiversity conservation	Experts
	Q2-Q4	Preparing a draft regional report on pilot assessments (continuance of the 2014-2015 activity)	CEARAC Secretariat
2017	March	Review of the draft regional report of pilot assessments	CEARAC FPs
	June	Review of the draft regional report of pilot assessments	NOWPAP National FPs
	Q2-Q3	- Finalizing the regional report of pilot assessments - Preparing the first draft of report on major pressures on marine biodiversity	CEARAC Secretariat
	October	Review and revise of the first draft of the report on major pressures	Experts and CEARAC Secretariat
	November	Review of the revised first draft	CEARAC FPs
	December	Finalizing the report on major pressures	NOWPAP National FPs
	End of 2017	Publication of the report in a digital format	CEARAC Secretariat