

Consideration of future direction of NOWPAP marine biodiversity activities

1. Background

In 2011, "NOWPAP Medium-term Strategy, 2012-2017" (NOWPAP MTS) was adopted by NOWPAP member states. It expresses the medium-term vision of NOWPAP. In the NOWPAP MTS, conservation of biodiversity is included as one of the themes which NOWPAP should address, and Development of Regional Action Plan for marine and coastal biodiversity (RAP-BD) was proposed as an activity for the 2012-2017.

However, RAP-BD has not been developed yet. Therefore, future direction on NOWPAP marine biodiversity conservation is not clearly stated. RAP-BD is important to show the basic policy for marine and coastal biodiversity conservation in the NOWPAP region, agendas to be addressed and roles of the member states and RACs. Basically, activities of each RAC should be proposed and implemented based on the RAP-BD. However, the activities were implemented by each RACs' discretion. It is expected to develop RAP-BD as early as possible in order to have common understanding and strengthen collaboration among the RACs.

The RAP-BD should be developed under collaboration by the NOWPAP member states, NOWPAP RCU and all RACs. When NOWPAP Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter (RAP-MALI) was developed, Marine Litter FPs of each member state, NOWPAP RCU and all RACs reviewed the situation of marine litter in the NOWPAP region and discussed which problematic issues in this region should be addressed. Then, based on the discussion, a new project, Marine Litter Activity (MALITA) was established in 2008 and RAP-MALI was developed as an output of MALITA in two years. It is expected that RAP-BD will be developed in the same manner.

In addition, CEARAC proposes to develop a CEARAC Medium-term Strategy on Marine Biodiversity in the 2018-2019 biennium in order to set a direction of the future CEARAC's marine biodiversity activities. In this activity, information on past and on-going activities for marine biodiversity conservation by other organizations will be collected and reviewed. Such information is useful input to consider/establish the NOWPAP's direction of marine biodiversity conservation and the future vision.

2. Objective

Objective of this activity is to consider the future direction on marine biodiversity conservation in the NOWPAP region with collaboration of NOWPAP RCU, all RACs and the NOWPAP member states. The output got through consideration is summarized as draft NOWPAP Marine Biodiversity Activity for review at the 24th NOWPAP IGM to be held in 2019.

3. Tasks

3-1 Collection of relevant information on marine biodiversity conservation in other Regional Seas Programmes

Information on past and current projects of marine biodiversity conservation and regional action plans on marine biodiversity in other Regional Seas Programmes will be collected.

3-2 Organization of Marine Biodiversity RCU/RAC Meeting

Marine Biodiversity RCU/ RAC Meeting will be held back-to-back with RACs FPM with representatives of RCU and RACs. At the meeting, the roles of each RAC will be discussed based on the responsibility of each RAC stated in NOWPAP and their past and future planned activities.

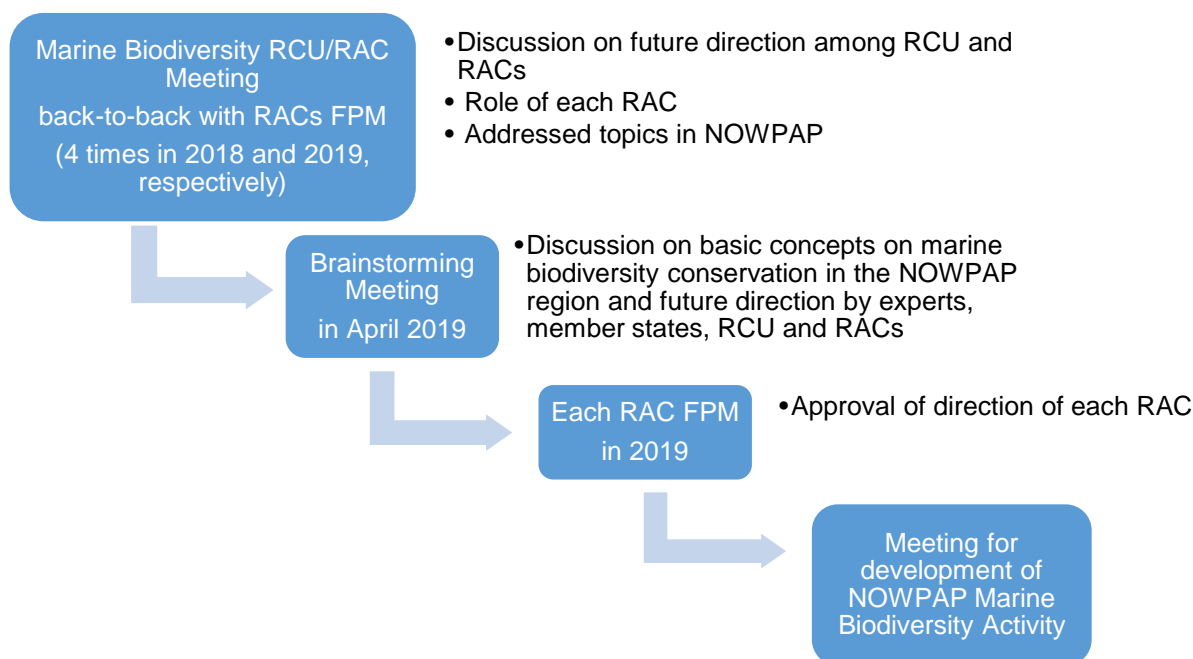
However, it is difficult to set the role of each RAC without approval by each RAC FPM. Therefore, the draft of role of each RAC will be developed through four times meeting, the draft will be reviewed and approved at the each RAC FPM in 2019.

3-3 Organization of a Brainstorming Meeting

CEARAC plan to organize a Marine Biodiversity Workshop in 2019 (UNEP/NOWPAP/CEARAC/FPM 15/7) back-to-back with a meeting on developing a CEARAC medium-term strategy on marine biodiversity (CEARAC MTS on BD). Taking this opportunity, a Brainstorming Meeting will also be held with participation of experts and/or governmental officers of the member states. During the brainstorming meeting, basic concepts on marine biodiversity conservation in the NOWPAP region and future direction will be discussed.

3-4 Organization of a meeting for development of NOWPAP Marine Biodiversity Activity

In order to develop a draft of NOWPAP Marine Biodiversity Activity, a meeting for development of NOWPAP Biodiversity Activity will be organized. Representatives of NOWPAP RCU, RACs and RAC FPs will participate in the meeting and discuss a draft NOWPAP Marine Biodiversity Activity. The developed draft NOWPAP Marine Biodiversity Activity will be proposed to the NOWPAP IGM to be held in 2019 for their approval.



4. Expected outcome

In the current situation without NOWPAP’s clear direction on marine biodiversity conservation, each RAC implements their activity by their own FPM’s decision. To develop NOWPAP Marine Biodiversity Activity is expected to share common understanding and the direction of NOWPAP and roles of each RAC, and contribute to more effective implementation of marine biodiversity conservation in the NOWPAP region.

The developed draft NOWPAP Marine Biodiversity Activity will connect to the future development of NOWPAP Regional Action Plan on Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Conservation and conservation in this region.

5. Budget

Activities	Budget (US\$)
Collection of relevant information on marine biodiversity	5,000
Organization of Marine Biodiversity RCU and RACs Meeting	8,000 (1,000x4 timesx2 years)
Organization of a Brainstorming Meeting	7,000
Organization of a meeting for development of NOWPAP Marine Biodiversity Activity	10,000
Total	30,000

6. Schedule

Timing		Actions	Main Body
2017	December	The 22 nd NOWPAP IGM - Approval of the workplan and budget for the 2018-2019 biennium	NOWPAP National FPs
2018	Q1-Q2	Collection of relevant Information	Consultant
	Spring	The 16 th CEARAC FPM - Review and approval of workplan	CEARAC FPs and CEARAC Secretariat
		The 1 st Marine Biodiversity RCU and RACs Meeting (back-to-back with CEARAC FPM)	RCU and RACs
	Q2	The 2 nd Marine Biodiversity RCU and RACs Meeting (Back-to-back with MERRAC FPM)	RCU and RACs
		The 3 rd Marine Biodiversity RCU and RACs Meeting (Back-to-back with DINRAC FPM)	
Q3	The 4 th Marine Biodiversity RCU and RACs Meeting (Back-to-back with POMRAC FPM)	RCU and RACs	
2019	April	Brainstorming Meeting	Experts and/or governmental officers of member states RCU and RACs
	Q2	The 5 th Marine Biodiversity RCU and RACs Meeting (Back-to-back with MERRAC FPM)	RCU and RACs
		The 6 th Marine Biodiversity RCU and RACs Meeting (Back-to-back with DINRAC FPM)	
	Q3	The 17 th CEARAC FPM - Review of progress and role of CEARAC	CEARAC FP and CEARAC Secretariat
		The 7 th Marine Biodiversity RCU and RACs Meeting (Back-to-back with CEARAC FPM) The 8 th Marine Biodiversity RCU and RACs Meeting (Back-to-back with POMRAC FPM)	RCU and RACs
	Q4	Meeting for development of NOWPAP Marine Biodiversity Activity	RCU, RACs and Representatives of RACs FPs
Winter	The 24 th NOWPAP IGM - Review of the draft NOWPAP Marine Biodiversity	NOWPAP National FPs	

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