

**Implementation of NOWPAP activities:
Report of NOWPAP Regional Coordinating Unit**

1. This report on the implementation of NOWPAP activities covers the period since the 15th CEARAC Focal Points Meeting (FPM) held on 29-30 August 2017 in Toyama until 24 April 2018.
2. More details of CEARAC activities will be presented by the CEARAC Director under separate agenda item. The brief information on activities of all NOWPAP RACs is given below, highlighting both achievements and challenges, which these RACs are facing.

1. CEARAC - Special Monitoring and Coastal Environmental Assessment

Regional Activity Centre

3. The regional report on pilot assessment of impacts of major threats (eutrophication, indigenous species and habitat alteration) on marine biodiversity was prepared by the Secretariat of CEARAC. After the review by the CEARAC Focal Points, the report was circulated among the NOWPAP National Focal Points for comments in June 2017. The final report is expected for publication in 2018. CEARAC is also preparing regional report "Assessment of major pressures on marine biodiversity in the NOWPAP region". The information from scientific papers on the impacts of major pressures on marine biodiversity and strategies on marine biodiversity conservation of each member state was collected by the experts nominated by the CEARAC focal points. The Assessment Report is expected to be finalized after review by the NOWPAP National Focal Points in 2018.
4. Using the developed manual for seagrass and seaweed mapping with satellite images, CEARAC has tested its applicability in selected sea areas in the NOWPAP region in 2014-2015 biennium. CEARAC has conducted a feasibility study towards assessment of seagrass distribution in the NOWPAP region in 2016-2017 biennium. The first international workshop on the assessment of seagrass distribution in the NOWPAP region was organized on 3 August 2017 in Himi, Toyama Prefecture and was attended by researchers in the NOWPAP region and beyond, including representative of the UN Environment Collaborating Center GRID-Arendal.
5. CEARAC has launched [a new CEARAC website](#) to make it more user- friendly in early 2018.
6. The 15th CEARAC Focal Points Meeting was organized on 29-30 August 2017 in Toyama, Japan. The meeting agreed in principle on the proposal to develop CEARAC Medium-term strategy on marine biodiversity. The meeting also considered additional proposal for CEARAC to lead together with Regional Coordinating Unit further discussion on the future direction of NOWPAP marine biodiversity activities, including feasibility to develop Regional Action Plan on marine and coastal biodiversity as proposed but not implemented during the time of NOWPAP Medium-term Strategy 2012-2017.

7. In 2017 CEARAC continued building partnerships and exchanging information with other NOWPAP Regional Activity Centers and relevant regional and global partners, including the North-East Asian Subregional Programme for Environmental Cooperation, Partnership for Observation of the Global Oceans, Google Earth and others.

2. DINRAC - Data and Information Network Regional Activity Centre

8. Data and Information Network Regional Activity Centre (DINRAC) continues to maintain the following databases (available at the DINRAC website): on major environmental data, on NOWPAP coastal and marine environmental Geographic Information Systems and Remote Sensing applications, on marine litter, on coastal and marine nature reserves, NOWPAP publications, and NOWPAP institutions and experts.
9. DINRAC has made progress in the following activities for the 2016-2017 biennium: The new DINRAC website and web GIS were launched in April 2016. Major environmental data (continued from 2014-2015) were collected from all NOWPAP member states in 2016 and 2017. The information on endangered/threatened species in the NOWPAP region (second phase, with expanded geographical coverage) has been collected and uploaded to the DINRAC website. Marine environmental standards used in NOWPAP member states have been collected and uploaded to the website.
10. DINRAC has provided administrative and financial support for two NOWPAP activities which have been overseen by POMRAC: Development of Ecological Quality Objectives, targets and indicators, and for training course on integrated coastal and river basin management.
11. The 22nd NOWPAP IGM (Toyama, 21-23 December 2017) approved three project proposals submitted by DINRAC including on sea reclamation state and management, on human marine activity objects, and on the third phase of collecting information about endangered/threatened species.

3. MERRAC - Marine Environmental Emergency Preparedness and Response Regional Activity Centre

12. Several MERRAC activities are continuing, including the development of MERRAC information system based on Web Global Information System, the development of information sharing platform on oil and HNS spills in the NOWPAP region, and the report on oiled wildlife response. Other ongoing activities include the establishment of oil sample exchange procedure for transboundary marine pollution, and review and analysis of existing prediction models for floating marine litter. New format for databases on oil and Harmful and Noxious Substances experts and equipment will be used routinely by MERRAC Secretariat (with periodic updates when necessary). The new online pollution reporting system is being tested.
13. To mark the 10th anniversary of the Hebei Oil Spill in 2007, MERRAC brought together about 250 experts from NOWPAP member countries as well leading relevant international and global organizations to share worldwide experiences and expertise in dealing with maritime emergencies caused by pollution incidents. The 'International Maritime Disaster Response Conference' held on 6-7 December 2017 in Busan, Republic of Korea was

organized with the support of Korea Coast Guard, Korea Research Institute of Ships and Ocean Engineering, Korea Marine Environment Management Corporation and Korea Environment Institute, to review lessons learned from major pollution incidents at sea, marine environmental disaster response policies and the latest know-how in coping with such disasters. Experts at the Busan conference emphasized the emerging risks from offshore drilling incidents and deep-water exploration that would require better response capacities. A highlight of the conference was a maritime disaster response exercise held in Busan Port by the Coast Guard of the Republic of Korea.

14. MERRAC is finalizing regional report “Oiled wildlife response in the NOWPAP region” for publication in 2018.
15. MERRAC contributed its case study to the UN Environment Report (2017): [Realizing Integrated Regional Ocean Governance - Summary of case studies on regional cross-sectoral institutional co-operation and policy coherence](#) that was publicized at the global Ocean Conference in the implementation of SDG 14 held in June 2017 in New York.
16. MERRAC continued to update the list of routine tasks including the information system and oil and Harmful and Noxious Substances spill accidents. The 22nd IGM approved the MERRAC workplan and budget for 2018-2019 biennium, including three new MERRAC specific projects on ‘Guidelines on the assessment of oil spill response capability for the NOWPAP region’, ‘The use of unmanned aircraft in marine pollution response in the NOWPAP region’ and ‘Minimum response requirements for oil and HNS spills, which may arise from the offshore units at the NOWPAP region’. During 2018-2019, MERRAC is planning to work on the regional report on floating marine litter. It will organize the first brainstorming workshop with the experts related to oil and HNS spill response and preparedness to identify regional capacity gaps addressing requirements of relevant IMO conventions and guidelines on sea-based pollution in the NOWPAP region.

4. POMRAC – Pollution Monitoring Regional Activity Centre

17. A regional workshop on Development of the Ecological Quality Objectives for the NOWPAP region was combined with 13th POMRAC Focal Points Meeting (Vladivostok, Russia on 18 May, 2016). At the workshop experts from NOWPAP member states and representatives from NOWPAP partners in the region discussed targets and indicators for the Ecological Quality Objectives formulated in 2014, related to five major issues: biodiversity and habitats, alien species, eutrophication, contaminants, and marine litter. Following preparation of national inputs and submissions from all NOWPAP Regional Activity Centers, the [Regional Overview of possible Ecological Quality Objectives indicators for the NOWPAP](#) region was published in 2017 as POMRAC Technical Report No.12.
18. In 2016-2017 POMRAC continued research on microplastics inputs with river discharge in the Far Eastern part of Russia at the sites in the tidal zone and in the coastal areas of the Peter the Great Bay, the Tumen River, Razdolnaya/Suifen River, and several smaller streams (Amba, Narva, Barabashevka, Partizanskaya, Kievka etc.). Results of this survey were published as POMRAC Technical Report No. 13: “Microplastic pollution in the coastal water of the Peter the Great Gulf: content and distribution. The first Stage of survey” in December 2017.

19. The 15th POMRAC Focal Points Meeting was held on 25-26 October 2017 in Vladivostok. The meeting approved the Regional Overview of possible Ecological Quality Objective indicators for the NOWPAP region, discussed report on microplastics contamination with the river discharge. POMRAC Focal Points acknowledged progress achieved by POMRAC during the biennium and agreed on the proposed work programme and budget for 2018-2019.

5. Coordination of RAC activities

19. In line with NOWPAP Intergovernmental Meeting decisions, NOWPAP Regional Coordinating Unit continued its efforts on coordinating Regional Activity Center activities through regular bilateral meetings with Regional Activity Centers, meetings with Regional Activity Center representatives during Focal Points Meetings, monthly Webex conferences and ad-hoc meetings (in addition to e-mail communications).
20. Guidance when requested and documents were provided in organizing Regional Activity Center Focal Points Meetings. Comments on the documents and meeting reports as well as Regional Activity Center project proposals for 2018-2019 were provided by the Regional Coordinating Unit.
21. Assistance was provided to Regional Activity Centers in preparing and finalizing expenditure and progress reports before submission to UN Environment Headquarters. When requested, Regional Coordinating Unit provided assistance with ongoing projects, including identifying appropriate experts.
22. Information on global and regional meetings, training opportunities and other information of interest were shared with Regional Activity Centers. NOWPAP website was regularly updated to provide additional information about meetings and partnerships of interest to Regional Activity Centers.
23. Regional Coordinating Unit was looking at each opportunity to support joint work between through channeling relevant information, connecting experts and engaging them in relevant meetings and activities.
24. At the time of reporting, RCU facilitated completion of biannual contracts for all RACs with first payments expected by the end of April 2018.

6. Other NOWPAP activities

25. In addition to specific projects carried out by NOWPAP RACs, several activities were implemented and coordinated by the RCU as described in the following sections.

6.1 Building partnerships

25. Partnership building and development of joint initiatives and activities is one of the major tasks of the Regional Coordinating Unit supported by Regional Activity Centers. During the reporting period, particularly with an emphasis on the development of NOWPAP Medium-term Strategy 2018-2023, NOWPAP Regional Coordinating Unit was engaged in consultations with various NOWPAP traditional and new partners.

26. NOWPAP Regional Coordinating Unit and Regional Activity Centers staff continued developing and maintaining partnerships with the following relevant organizations, programmes and projects in the region.
27. **UN Environment / Regional Seas:** NOWPAP is one of the eighteen Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans coordinated through a dedicated Regional Seas Programme of the UN Environment. NOWPAP through NOWPAP Regional Coordinating Unit is an active participant of the partnership. During the reporting period, NOWPAP provided various inputs to Regional Seas, inputs to the First Asia-Pacific Ministerial Summit on the Environment, inputs for the UN Secretary-General report on Oceans and the Law of the Sea for the Seventy-second session of the UN Assembly, report on regional implementation for the Fourth Intergovernmental Review Meeting of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities and other ad-hoc requests. NOWPAP shared experience and provided inputs to the Conference “Building International Partnership to Enhance Science Based Ecosystem Approaches in support of Regional Ocean Governance in the Context of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” (November 2017), 19th Annual Large Marine and Coastal Partners Meeting (December 2017), and the 19th Global Meeting of the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans in Cape Town, South Africa.
28. **Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities of the UN Environment:** NOWPAP contributed to the assessment of the effectiveness of governance strategies and approaches to combat marine plastic litter and microplastics that has been presented to the Third United Nations Environment Assembly in December 2017 as an important input to develop global governance framework on marine litter. NOWPAP Regional Coordinating Unit provided inputs to the Fourth Intergovernmental Review Meeting on the Implementation of the Global Programme of Action. Furthermore, Regional Coordinating Unit has developed a project proposal to enhanced Northwest Pacific Regional Node of the Global Partnership on Marine Litter to be funded by the Global Programme of Action. NOWPAP delivered a presentation and sponsored experts to participate at the 6th International Marine Debris Conference held on 11-16th March 2018 in San Diego, CA.
29. **International Environmental Technology Center of the UN Environment:** NOWPAP is developing further cooperation with the International Environmental Technology Center – UN Environment center of excellence on waste management located in Osaka, Japan. NOWPAP Regional Coordinating Unit attended a Global Dialogue on Technology for Resilient Cities in October 2017. International Environmental Technology Center supported city governments of Busan (financially) and Toyama to attend the Global Dialogue. Discussion on future collaboration is focused on joint outreach activities addressing marine litter, co-sponsorship of events/meetings of mutual interest, and strengthening UN Environment presence in Japan.
26. **Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection:** The Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection is a global advisory body that advises the United Nations system on the scientific aspects of marine environmental protection. At present it is jointly sponsored by nine UN organizations. The Working Group 40 (*Sources, fate and effects of micro-plastics in the marine environment– a global assessment*) is planning to produce a set of guidelines and protocols in the form of a practical technical manual addressing global need for more clarification and harmonization of sampling and analysis of marine plastics

and microplastics and to promote more effective monitoring and assessment, especially on a regional scale. The Manual is intended for publication as a report and the first ever global effort to streamline the use of methodologies for marine plastics and microplastics. NOWPAP is sponsoring an expert from the NOWPAP region who will serve as one of the authors of the Manual.

27. **The UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and the North-East Asian Subregional Programme for Environmental Cooperation:** In September 2017, NOWPAP Regional Coordinating Unit on behalf of the UN Environment Regional Seas Programme and NOWPAP addressed the First Asia-Pacific Ministerial Summit on the Environment organized jointly by the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and UN Environment on the theme “Towards a Resource-efficient and Pollution-free Asia-Pacific.” During a special event “Strengthening regional ocean governance and partnership towards clean seas” NOWPAP Regional Coordinating Unit reported on how the Regional Seas Programme contributes to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 14.
28. **North Pacific Marine Science Organization:** North Pacific Marine Science Organization and NOWPAP have a long history of cooperative efforts. In 2015 the joint Study Group on Scientific Cooperation in the North Pacific Ocean developed a joint framework to guide and implement joint science and monitoring activities between North Pacific Marine Science Organization and NOWPAP for the period until 2019. The framework prioritized Harmful Algal Blooms and Marine Pollution as the two themes of immediate focus for joint activities over the next few years. Three other topics, Non-Indigenous Species, Ecosystem Status Reporting, and Biodiversity were ranked as a second tier priorities followed by Eutrophication and Hypoxia as third tier priorities. During the reporting period NOWPAP participated in two meetings aimed to narrow down specific areas of cooperation: Toyama NOWPAP-North Pacific Marine Science Organization Science Dialogue held in May 2017 following the invitation of the Advisory Panel for a Circulation Research in East Asian Marginal Seas and the annual 2017 North Pacific Marine Science Organization meeting. NOWPAP co-convened and provided sponsorship to selected speakers at the two sessions on microplastics and harmful algal blooms as well as addressed North Pacific Marine Science Organization Governing Council and Science Board. As a result of discussions four areas of future co-operation were identified: 1. *NOWPAP will continue working on the two existing priority areas identified by a joint working group: harmful algal blooms and marine litter, including microplastics:* It is important to continue practice organizing joint meetings and workshops during annual meetings of the North Pacific Marine Science Organization and at other occasions where appropriate. 2. *Collaboration of Ecosystem Status Reporting;* 3. *Marine and coastal biodiversity with a focus on invasive species:* NOWPAP and the North Pacific Marine Science Organization aim at enhance cooperation in this area through Advisory Panel on Non-indigenous Invasive Species platform; 4. *Joint regular publication on Emerging Issues:* Considering unparalleled access of the North Pacific Marine Science Organization to the best scientific knowledge and expertise on marine issues in the region and NOWPAP’s access to policy and decision-makers, one potential area of interest to NOWPAP is partnering with the North Pacific Marine Science Organization in producing concise and focused annual briefs about emerging marine environmental issues in the region. Proposed Emerging Issues Briefs would aim to provide early warning information to policy makers to allow them to make preventive measures; 5. *Collaborative work on climate change adaptation/resilience of socio- ecological systems:* This is one area where NOWPAP lacks expertise and will explore partnering with North Pacific Marine Science Organization through co-sponsoring

relevant events and meetings and bringing the knowledge back to NOWPAP; one of the earliest opportunities would be the Marine Socio-Ecological Systems Symposium to be held in Yokohama in 2020.

29. From 22 September to 1 October 2017, PICES held 2017 Annual Meeting in Vladivostok, Russia. More than 300 scientists and specialists from PICES member states and elsewhere attended the meeting entitled: "Environmental Changes in the North Pacific and Impacts on Biological Resources and Ecosystem Services." Scientific sessions / workshops, poster sessions and plenaries were held to exchange knowledge and findings related to this theme. NOWPAP was co-convenor for the session, "Microplastics in marine environments: Fate and effects", and supporter of the "Long-term changes in Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) occurrences in PICES nations; the Eastern vs. Western Pacific" workshop. Both sessions covered research from regional to global scales. The microplastics session covered different parts of the microplastic pollution chain, from the sources of microplastics to its effects on organisms. The HAB workshop included research investigating the effects of environmental factors on HABs, to research looking at species composition in blooms. PICES Board and Council meetings were also held during the Annual Meeting. NOWPAP Senior Coordinator, Lev Neretin, addressed members of PICES Science Board and presented several priorities for institutional cooperation to advance the implementation of the NOWPAP Medium-term Strategy 2018-2023. NOWPAP also submitted a statement to the PICES Governing Board.
29. **The 2nd Phase of Yellow Sea Large Marine Ecosystem Project:** The Yellow Sea Large Marine Ecosystem project entitled "Implementing the Strategic Action Programme for the Yellow Sea Large Marine Ecosystem: Restoring Ecosystem Goods and Services and Consolidation of a Long-Term Regional Environmental Governance Framework" builds upon four years of regional cooperation for the sustainable use of the Yellow Sea Large Marine Ecosystem put in place by China and the Republic of Korea, supported by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Yellow Sea Partnership and the Global Environment Facility. The initial project completed a regional Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis and finalized a regional Strategic Action Programme. Yellow Sea Large Marine Ecosystem Project's geographic area and mandate overlap and complement the NOWPAP's activities. NOWPAP experts were involved in the formulation of the Yellow Sea Large Marine Ecosystem Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis and a regional Strategic Action Programme. The project's objective is to foster a long-term sustainable institutional, policy, and financial arrangements for effective ecosystem-based management of the Yellow Sea. To achieve this objective, the project will support the formation of Yellow Sea Large Marine Ecosystem Commission that will oversee the implementation of the Strategic Programme; and will support the states' efforts to reduce the decline in biological resources and to restore depleted fish stocks in the Yellow Sea. As a result of discussions, three areas of cooperation are emerging: marine litter, including microplastics, harmful algal blooms and marine and coastal biodiversity conservation. NOWPAP contributed to the Second Meeting of the Management, Science and Technical Panel (MSTP) and Interim Commission Council of the Yellow Sea LME Project Phase II that was attended by 45 representatives from governments of China and Ro Korea, UNDP, UNOPS, NOWPAP and NGOs and held in Dalian, P.R. China on 27-29 March 2018. NOWPAP introduced Mid-term strategy for 2018-2023 and programme of work and discussed joint cooperation with the YSLME project in the fields of regional governance, biodiversity and marine litter.
30. **Tripartite Environmental Ministers Meeting:** The Environmental Ministers of the three countries (Japan, P.R. China and R. Korea) organized a first joint with NOWPAP

workshop on marine litter in September 2015 in Yentai, P.R. China. Since that time, each year NOWPAP and Tripartite Environmental Ministers Meeting hold joint workshops, the last one was organized in September 2017 in Toyama, Japan. At the workshop, policy makers and experts from the four NOWPAP countries reported on the progress on marine litter management, for the first time a special session on microplastics was organized. Representatives of global and regional partners (UN Environment-International Environmental Technology Center, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, UN Environment, Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection, Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia, the 2nd Phase of Yellow Sea Large Marine Ecosystem Project) and Japanese NGO (JEAN) presented results of their efforts in tackling marine litter issues, including microplastics. Cooperation between Tripartite Environmental Ministers Meeting and NOWPAP on marine litter is highlighted as one of the voluntary commitments submitted for the Global Ocean Conference on SDG 14: [#OceanAction17562](#): Marine litter management through Tripartite Environment Ministers Meeting submitted by Ministry of the Environment of Japan, Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Korea, Ministry of Environmental Protection of the People's Republic of China, and the UN Environment. Following the discussion between the Tripartite Environmental Ministers Meeting and NOWPAP focal points on marine litter during marine litter management workshop in Toyama, two institutions agreed to continue practice of holding joint marine litter workshops for the next two years at least, with the next workshop to be organized in R. Korea in 2018.

31. **Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA):** Serving as a non-country member to the PEMSEA Partnership Council, NOWPAP contributes to the implementation of Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia (2015). In 2016, NOWPAP has presented a proposal at the East Asian Seas Partnership Council meeting to have a joint PEMSEA-NOWPAP training course on integrated coastal management in 2017. The "training for trainers" course on coastal zone management was held in November 2017 in the Philippines. NOWPAP continues exploring further areas of cooperation with PEMSEA. In addition to continuing joint activities on integrated coastal zone management, one promising area for further dialogue and cooperation is blue economy.
32. **Arctic Council / Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna Working Group:** The Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna, the biodiversity working group of the Arctic Council, at the Management Board Meeting in June 2017 acknowledged contribution made by UN Environment to the Arctic Migratory Bird Initiative (<https://www.caff.is/arctic-migratory-birds-initiative-ambi>) and emphasized that UN Environment's participation and support of the Arctic Migratory Bird Initiative is of critical importance to enabling the institutional management mechanisms necessary to improve the conservation status of this transboundary natural and cultural resource. The Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna Working Group Secretariat encouraged UN Environment to continue its participation in the Initiative and to implement relevant priority actions identified in the Arctic Migratory Bird Initiative Work Plan 2015-2019 (<https://www.caff.is/strategies-series/295-arctic-migratory-birds-initiative-ambi-work-plan-2015-2019>), and especially those which build upon actions identified to be of importance in regions where UN Environment programs are active (i.e. the Americas Flyway, and the East Asian-Australasian Flyway through NOWPAP). NOWPAP Regional Coordinating Unit / UN Environment is discussing opportunities for cooperation with Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna Working Group, specifically on conservation measures along the East Asian- Australasian Flyway.

6.2 Raising public awareness

35. In accordance with the NOWPAP Public Awareness Strategy, the following actions were taken by NOWPAP Regional Coordinating Unit and Regional Activity Centers:
- The NOWPAP homepage and Regional Activity Center homepages have been maintained and constantly updated. News and information have been posted on the NOWPAP homepage since 2006. NOWPAP Regional Coordinating Unit signed contract with UN Environment Public Information Division on the development of a new website for NOWPAP. Prototype website is completed and content migration is ongoing with the expected date of launching new NOWPAP website in 2018.
 - An electronic Newsletter (NOWPAP Quarterly) was distributed regularly by NOWPAP Regional Coordinating Unit to member states and partners. More user-friendly and interactive format for the Newsletter was introduced in Q3 2017.
 - NOWPAP maintains online presence on Facebook (facebook.com/nowpap.unep) and Twitter (page of the Senior Coordinator at twitter.com/Ineretin).
 - Information about NOWPAP activities was introduced to UN Environment Headquarters, UN Environment Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific and Global Programme of Action websites and contributed to the quarterly UN Environment Division of Ecosystems Dispatch.
 - Regional Activity Centers and Regional Coordinating Unit staff also contributed articles to newsletters and delivered lectures/presentations at a local level. RCU continues taking part at events and strengthening practical cooperation with NOWPAP hosting cities: Toyama and Busan. Few examples of these activities: Toyama Prefecture of Japan jointly with the Northwest Pacific Region Environmental Cooperation Center organized an international environment symposium entitled "Productive sea and marine environmental conservation" on 21 December 2017 in Toyama, Japan; keynote presentation at the Japan Seaology Symposium, a regular annual event organized by the Toyama Prefecture and Japan Seaology Promotion Organization, organized in Toyama, Japan on February 17th, 2018; a keynote at the third 2018 UNEP Forum of the Japan's Association for the UN Environment Programme organized by the Japan Association for the United Nations Environment Programme (JAU), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and the United Nations University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability (UNU-IAS) and others.
36. While attending a few global and regional meetings, Regional Activity Centers and Regional Coordinating Unit staff members contributed to increasing NOWPAP visibility and attracting public attention to marine environment conservation by introducing the NOWPAP activities.

6.3 Resource mobilization and financial support from members

37. Resource mobilization by NOWPAP is important because:
- Resources in the NOWPAP Trust Fund are limited and with the growing demand and scope of NOWPAP activities, it is essential for the NOWPAP partnership to mobilize additional resources and expand the resource base available supporting the achievement of NOWPAP objectives;

- Additional to the NOWPAP Trust Funds resources are an important indicator of the strength of the institution and commitment of the NOWPAP partners and beneficiaries to NOWPAP objectives; and
 - By tracking sources and amount of leveraged financing, NOWPAP could demonstrate national ownership by linking NOWPAP supported activities to various (external to NOWPAP) initiatives supporting environmental protection and sustainable development of the marine and coastal environment in the Northwest Pacific, and therefore maximizing and sustaining their impact.
38. Notwithstanding the above, NOWPAP member states continue to provide generous support to NOWPAP operations through NOWPAP dedicated trust funds to support personnel costs of the NOWPAP Regional Coordinating Unit in Japan and R. Korea and personnel costs and operations of NOWPAP MERRAC. Furthermore, dedicated funding is provided by member states to various projects and activities implemented by Regional Activity Centers. To start accounting for these mobilized resources, Regional Coordinating Unit developed a procedure for tracking NOWPAP leveraged financing and submitted to member states and Regional Activity Centers that they could start collecting relevant information. The following data were collected for the reporting period:

Table 1. Financial resources mobilized by the NOWPAP Regional Coordinating Unit in 2017²

Amount (US\$)	Funding source	Purpose of funding
20,000	UN Environment Global Programme of Action Office (through NOWPAP Regional Coordinating Unit)	Proposal in preparation: Enhancing the Northwest Pacific Regional Node of the Global Partnership on Marine Litter
4,800	UN Environment-International Environmental Technology Center	Travel costs of participants from NOWPAP region to attend Global Dialogue on Technology for Resilient Cities in Osaka, Japan, October 2017
2,000	Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation	Travel costs to Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation workshop on marine litter in Yeosu, R. Korea, June 2017
7,500	Italy funds to support G7 Presidency	Travel costs to G7 Workshop on marine litter in Rome, Italy, April, 2017
3,500	UN Environment Global Programme of Action Office	Travel costs to Workshop on Marine Litter and Microplastics in Nairobi, Kenya, March 2017
37,800	TOTAL	

Table 2. Financial resources mobilized by the NOWPAP Regional Activity Centers

Amount (US\$)	Funding source	Purpose of funding
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CEARAC

127,701	Ministry of Environment of Japan	CEARAC projects on seagrass mapping and eutrophication assessment
44,103	Ministry of Environment of Japan	Marine Environmental Protection of Northwest Pacific Region (website)
105,848	Toyama Prefecture	Organization of CEARAC Meetings, implementing Biodiversity activity, seagrass mapping and eutrophication assessment
10,584	Toyama Prefecture	Seagrass mapping project
44,103	Toyama Prefecture	Marine Environmental Protection of Northwest Pacific Region (website)
176,413	Toyama Prefecture	Salary of CEARAC staff

508,752 TOTAL**DINRAC**

52,790	Ministry of Environment Protection of P.R.	Support to DINRAC office (salary and operations)
12,066	China- Association of Southeast Asian Nations Environmental	Support to DINRAC office (salary and operations)
1,870	Conservation International Foundation	Memorandum of Understanding on Marine Environmental Cooperation In-kind Contribution to support related Workshops/Seminars

66,726 TOTAL**POMRAC**

20,000	Russian Academy of Sciences	Targets and indicators for Ecological Quality Objectives for the NOWPAP region
10,000	Grant of the Presidium of the Far Eastern Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences	POMRAC Project "Overview on possible Ecological Quality Objectives' indicators for the NOWPAP region"

30,000 TOTAL**MERRAC
2016**

2,480	P.R. China, Maritime Safety Administration	Participation at the 19th NOWPAP MERRAC Focal Point Meeting & 11th Competent National Authorities Meeting on 31 May – 3 July 2016 in Jeju, R. Korea.
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421,052	P.R. China, Maritime Safety Administration	Costs of the 6th NOWPAP DELTA exercise organized in Weihai, P.R. China on 14 July 2016 - 18 ships (including 6 OSRVs), 1 helicopter, 2 unmanned aircrafts, over 400 personnel, etc.
unknown	P.R. China, Maritime Safety Administration	Participation at the 18th NOWPAP BRAVO led by Japan organized on 30th November 2016
2,087	Japan, Japan Coast Guard	Participation at the 19th NOWPAP MERRAC Focal Point Meeting & 11th Competent National Authorities Meeting on 31 May – 3 July 2016 in Jeju, R. Korea. - Travel expenses of the participants
1,739	Japan, Japan Coast Guard	Participation at the 6th NOWPAP DELTA exercise organized in Weihai, P.R. China by China Maritime Safety Administration and Korea Coast Guard on 14 July 2016 - Travel expenses of the participants
unknown	Japan, Japan Coast Guard	Costs of the 18th NOWPAP BRAVO on 30 November 2016
146,637	R. Korea, Korea Coast Guard	Annual MERRAC secretariat staff salaries and other operational budget in 2016
21,115	R. Korea, Korea Coast Guard	Co-organizing of the 6th NOWPAP DELTA exercise organized in Weihai, P.R. China by China Maritime Safety Administration and Korea Coast Guard on 14 July 2016 19 personnel, 1 OSRV Travel expenses of the participants
unknown	R. Korea, Korea Coast Guard	Participation at the 18th NOWPAP BRAVO on 30 November 2016
1,085	R. Korea, Korea Coast Guard	Participation at the 19th NOWPAP MERRAC Focal Point Meeting & 11th Competent National Authorities Meeting on 31 May – 3 July 2016 in Jeju, R. Korea. - Travel expenses of the participants
unknown	Russia, Marine Rescue Service of Rosmorrechflot	Participation at the 19th NOWPAP MERRAC Focal Point Meeting & 11th CNA Meeting on 31 May – 3 July 2016 in Jeju, R. Korea.
3,881	Russia, Marine Rescue Service of Rosmorrechflot	Participation at the 6th NOWPAP DELTA exercise organized in Weihai, P.R. China by China Maritime Safety Administration and Korea Coast Guard on 14 July 2016
79	Russia, Marine Rescue Service of Rosmorrechflot	Participation at the 18th NOWPAP BRAVO on 30 November 2016
600,076	TOTAL	

MERRAC 2017

2,509	P.R. China, Maritime Safety Administration	Participation at the 20th NOWPAP MERRAC Focal Point Meeting & 12th Competent National Authorities Meeting on 10-13 April 2017 in Seoul, R. Korea
636	P.R. China, Maritime Safety Administration	Participation at the 2017 MERRAC Expert Meeting organized by Korea Coast Guard and co-organized by MERRAC in 6-7 December 2017 in Busan, R. Korea - Travel expenses of the participants
unknown	P.R. China, Maritime Safety Administration,	Participation at the online POLREP system test exercise - 1st, 27 June 2017 - 2nd, 27 September 2017
1,933	Japan, Japan Coast Guard	Participation at the 20th NOWPAP MERRAC Focal Point Meeting & 12th Competent National Authorities Meeting on 10-13 April 2017 in Seoul, R. Korea. - Travel expenses of the participants
1,366	Japan, Japan Coast Guard	Participation at the 2017 MERRAC Expert Meeting organized by Korea Coast Guard and co-organized by MERRAC in 6-7 December 2017 in Busan, R. Korea. - Travel expenses of the participants
unknown	Japan, Japan Coast Guard	Participation at the online POLLutionREsPonse system test exercise - 1st, 27 June 2017 - 2nd, 27 September 2017
217,448	Korea, Korea Coast Guard	Annual MERRAC secretariat staff salaries and other operational budget in 2017
438	Korea, Korea Coast Guard	Participation at the 20th NOWPAP MERRAC Focal Point Meeting & 12th Competent National Authorities Meeting on 10-13 April 2017 in Seoul, R. Korea - Travel expenses of the participants
44,678	Korea, Korea Coast Guard	Organizing of the 2017 MERRAC Expert Meeting to be held in 6-7 December 2017 in Busan, R. Korea. Travel expenses of the participants Expenses for organizing the meeting in the form of 2017 International Maritime Disaster Response Conference

unknown	Korea, Korea Coast Guard	Participation at the online POLLution REsPonse system test exercise - 1st, 27 June 2017 - 2nd, 27 September 2017
unknown	Russia, Marine Rescue Service of Rosmorrechflot	Participation at the 20th NOWPAP MERRAC Focal Point Meeting & 12th Competent National Authorities Meeting on 10-13 April 2017 in Seoul, R. Korea. - Travel expenses of the participants
unknown	Russia, Marine Rescue Service of Rosmorrechflot	Participation at the 2017 MERRAC Expert Meeting to be held in 6-7 December 2017 in Busan, R. Korea. - Travel expenses of the participants
unknown	Russia, Marine Rescue Service of Rosmorrechflot	Participation at the online POLLution REsPonse system test exercise - 1st, 27 June 2017 - 2nd, 27 September 2017
269,008	TOTAL	

41. The total number of mobilized external financial resources by all NOWPAP entities in 2017 is twice the annual contributions by Member States to the NOWPAP Trust Fund and is about US\$912,286 of which CEARAC mobilized US\$508,752, DINRAC – US\$66,726, POMRAC – US\$30,000, MERRAC – US\$269,008, and NOWPAP RCU – US\$37,800. Most of the mobilized resources are coming from core support provided by Member States to RACs in the form of staff costs and office expenses. During the reporting period, mobilization of external funds apart from this core contributions was very limited. RCU efforts were concentrated on the identification of relevant partners and modalities for resources and MTS 2018-2023 priorities. Resource mobilization efforts are expected to be strengthened in the next biennium with the expected approval of Medium-term Strategy 2018-2023 and the next Programme of Work for 2018-2019, including development of special NOWPAP projects.
42. Starting in 2016, NOWPAP Regional Coordinating Unit is having an internship program for both offices. Two interns are supporting various activities, providing administrative, communication and technical assistance. NOWPAP Quarterly and news items on the website are being produced by interns. Interns are providing support in drafting documents and reports for NOWPAP meetings and logistical support to Regional Coordinating Unit staff. NOWPAP internship will be on the ongoing basis announced regularly on the UN recruitment portal, Inspira.

6.4 NOWPAP Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter (RAP MALI)

45. NOWPAP member states have continued their efforts in organizing and supporting activities against marine litter such as International Coastal Cleanup campaigns, central

government support to local governments to deal with marine litter (Japan) and the second Comprehensive Marine Litter Management Plan (Korea).

46. The 2017 NOWPAP International Coastal Cleanup campaign and marine litter management workshop (organized together with Marine Litter Focal Points of Tripartite Environment Ministers Meeting) were successfully held in Toyama, Japan on 19-20 September 2017. The participants shared information on new approaches and research on micro-plastic. Following the workshop Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter Focal Points Meeting discussed the work plan and budget for 2018-2019 and the operational modality of the NW Pacific Regional Node (UNEP/NOWPAP/RAP MALI FP/2017/3).
47. The Northwest Pacific Regional Node of the Global Partnership on Marine Litter was transferred from the Northwest Pacific Region Environmental Cooperation Center to DINRAC in early 2018.
48. DINRAC has continuously updated marine litter database with monitoring results provided by the Northwest Pacific Region Environmental Cooperation Center, Japan and the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries, R. Korea as well as International Coastal Cleanup results from P.R. China and the Russian Federation. All national marine litter monitoring data and related information, including the data from the State Oceanic Administration of P.R. China, are available at the DINRAC website (<http://dinrac.nowpap.org>).
49. MERRAC has finalized the project on floating marine litter distribution and impacts in the NOWPAP region; Report on 'Understanding of Floating Marine Litter Distribution and Impacts in the NOWPAP region' is being finalized after review by member states for publication by the end of 2017. Upon approval of the 20th NOWPAP Intergovernmental Meeting, the new project on 'review and analysis of existing floating marine litter prediction models in the NOWPAP region' has also been implemented in parallel; draft report on "Review and analysis of existing floating marine litter prediction models in the NOWPAP region" is finalized.
50. NOWPAP co-sponsoring participation of an expert for the GESAMP Working Group 40 (Sources, fate and effects of micro-plastics in the marine environment – a global would produce a manual addressing sampling and analysis protocols on marine plastics and microplastics).

7. Brief summary of discussions the 22nd NOWPAP Intergovernmental Meeting (IGM) relevant for the 16th Meeting of CEARAC Focal Points

51. The 22nd NOWPAP IGM, the meeting was held on 21-23 December 2017 in Toyama, Japan. Final meeting report is available at the nowpap.org website.
52. The meeting was attended by representatives of the NOWPAP Member States, namely the People's Republic of China, Japan, the Republic of Korea and the Russian Federation. Directors of NOWPAP RACs and RCU also attended the meeting. Representatives from the UNEP Office in Asia and the Pacific, Yellow Sea Large Marine Ecosystem Project Phase II (YSLME Phase II), North-East Asian Sub-regional Programme for Environmental Cooperation (NEASPEC) of the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the

Pacific (ESCAP), Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA), and Japan Association of UNEP attended as observers.

53. The Meeting agenda included discussions of the UNEP Executive Director Report on the implementation of NOWPAP, reports of NOWPAP RACs, discussion on the draft NOWPAP Mid-term Strategy (2018-2023), work plan and budget for 2018-2019 and other issues.
54. The RAC directors reported on the status of implementation of their Programme of Work, including organization of Focal Points Meetings, specific projects, RAP MALI activities, cooperation and coordination among RACs and with the RCU, website updates as well as other routine tasks and plans.
55. Commenting on the reports of RACs, Japan acknowledged with satisfaction the work done by CEARAC on marine biodiversity and requested for more information about specific project on the future direction of NOWPAP marine biodiversity activities proposed in the 2018/2019 work plan. CEARAC clarified that in implementing the project, it will follow operational modality of the Marine Litter Action Plan working jointly with RCU and other RACs towards development of the NOWPAP Regional Action Plan on Marine and Coastal Biodiversity.
56. R. Korea emphasized the importance of further and continuous development of the NOWPAP Regional Action Plan on Marine and Coastal Biodiversity. The country also asked about reasons behind lacking recent marine litter data for the NW Pacific Regional Node from P.R. China considering that other three countries already provided information. In response, P.R. China clarified that the expert is being internally selected and should be nominated shortly. During the next two years as a part of RAP MALI implementation, CEARAC is planning to collect information about microplastics programs and countermeasures in the NOWPAP countries.
57. MERRAC representative emphasized that the development of marine biodiversity activities should involve contributions from all NOWPAP RACs - the comment acknowledged and agreed by CEARAC. NOWPAP Senior Coordinator thanked CEARAC for the leadership and continuing efforts contributing to the development of the Regional Biodiversity Action Plan and agreed with the importance of undertaking these activities in close cooperation with all NOWPAP RACs and regional partners to avoid duplication, including UN ESCAP NEASPEC (on the regional network of MPAs), with Yellow Sea LME Phase II (on key biodiversity sites), and with PEMSEA (on ecosystem-based area management). RCU also noted that there is a need to continue mobilizing additional financial resources to implement biodiversity-related activities.
58. Regarding DINRAC's presentation, R. Korea stressed two challenges related to database management: collection and distribution of data or information - and noted the lack of DINRAC's progress in website development. DINRAC acknowledged the delay with website content migration and informed participants that the work will be completed by the end of this year. Japan acknowledged DINRAC's efforts in maintaining the information and databases, undertake a survey to assess how databases available on its portal are being used and who are the users of the information.
59. In response, DINRAC informed participants that it is tracking users of its website using their IP addresses. DINRAC could develop a questionnaire combining IP addresses analysis to understand user demand. DINRAC acknowledged the three main directions of

its information management activities, including historical data analysis (which is challenging because of data unavailability), modelling and data visualization using web-GIS, and presentation of data and information for policy makers in a user-friendly format.

60. P.R. China noted that the NOWPAP is a small community and suggested to continue discussion on whether focus of DINRAC's website should be public-, academia-, or policy maker-oriented. The information needs of these three groups are different and the decision should be made about most appropriate users of DINRAC databases and information.
61. Providing comments to MERRAC's presentation, P.R. China inquired whether marine litter activities should continue to be discussed at the MERRAC Focal Point Meetings. In general, MERRAC Focal Points do not have expertise or assigned authority to address marine litter issues. R. Korea highlighted the important role played by the international conference on maritime disasters co-organized by Korea Coast Guard and MERRAC to strengthen regional cooperation. The conference was held in Busan, R. Korea in December 2017. He requested the next MERRAC Focal Points Meeting to discuss holding such conferences on a regular basis. Russian Federation congratulated MERRAC on the well-organized international conference in Busan. She acknowledged that MERRAC's well established mandate focused on oil and NHS spill preparedness and response makes it challenging for MERRAC to address other issues.
62. Responding to comments from member states, MERRAC Secretariat informed that the RAC will continue focusing on the existing issues such as oil and NHS spill preparedness and response for the next biennium. The latter are also being discussed at the annual meetings of National Competent Authorities for Regional Oil and NHS Contingency Plan held back-to-back with the meeting of MERRAC Focal Points. MERRAC Focal Point Meetings discuss marine litter issues. The new Programme of Work for MERRAC for 2018-2019 allocates resources for the discussion on whether and how MERRAC could undertake additional activities beyond oil and NHS spills. Discussion on the best way forward to address sea-based sources of marine litter by MERRAC was deferred to the Agenda item 10.
63. Regarding POMRAC activities, Russian Federation emphasized POMRAC important work on integrated coastal zone management and the forthcoming State of Marine Environment Report (SOMER-3) as a contribution to the achievement of SDG 14 and other related SDGs. Japan agreed and welcomed POMRAC ongoing activities on microplastics that should expand beyond coastal waters of the Russian Federation. In response, POMRAC Secretariat confirmed that future microplastics work will involve experts from Japan, R. Korea, and P.R. China as well as NOWPAP RACs. Both, Japan and R. Korea requested further information on the administrative and financial arrangements of POMRAC through DINRAC in implementing several activities of POMRAC and asked RCU to work with POMRAC in finding a way to follow standard practice used by other RACs. Further details were provided on the financial arrangements by POMRAC and RCU. R. Korea mentioned that the arrangement of budget to DINRAC seems a temporary solution, and inquired of NOWPAP RCU for any improvement considering current POMRAC's situation. POMRAC noted that the arrangement is a working model considering existing institutional and tax situation of POMRAC. RCU agreed to continue looking for other ways to process payments on certain activities to POMRAC directly, but requested Member States to support continuing current arrangements to avoid disruption of POMRAC activities.
64. NOWPAP RCU presented the status of implementation of the NOWPAP Programme of

Work for 2016-2017. About seventy seven percent of activities (by number) were completed on time. Eighteen percent are delayed, including the development of DINRAC website, annual update of existing database caused by delays in experts contracting and processing of payments. Five percent has not been started and this includes proposed NOWPAP activity on the impacts of climate change.

65. NOWPAP RCU also reported about the status of implementation of the NOWPAP Medium-term Strategy 2012-2017 and lessons learned. More than 83% of all activities listed in the NOWPAP MTS 2012-2017 were completed. Responding to the report by RCU, R. Korea emphasized the importance of addressing revealed deficiencies of the MTS 2012-2017 in the future strategy, and specifically to develop monitoring and evaluation framework for the MTS 2018-2023.
66. Considering the focus of NOWPAP DINRAC activities on data and information management, members requested NOWPAP DINRAC to provide hosting services and management of the Regional Node and CEARAC with a help from NOWPAP RCU to facilitate smooth transfer of the available information resources from Northwest Pacific Region Environmental Cooperation Center (NPEC) server to DINRAC.
67. In response to requests from NOWPAP Member States for enhanced resource mobilization efforts and recognizing limited technical and financial capacities of NOWPAP RACs and RCU, RCU introduced the new operational modality of NOWPAP special projects/initiatives to support implementation of the NOWPAP MTS 2018-2023. At the request of NOWPAP RCU, three project proposals were submitted by the NOWPAP Focal Point of P.R. China. Russian Federation distributed the fourth project proposal for consideration by members at the meeting.
68. All four member states welcomed the idea and provided several important observations. Japan appreciated the efforts made by RCU in developing the new modality and requested that further project development should involve NOWPAP RACs in addition to lead national entities. The project proposal should be consulted not only with NOWPAP Focal Points, but also discussed by RAC Focal Points. Japan suggested that the use of NOWPAP Trust Fund resources for project implementation should not be ruled out, taking account of the current surplus in the NOWPAP Trust Fund. Japan supported moving ahead with the proposed operational modality starting from one project initially. R. Korea welcomed the initiative and stressed the importance of having working meetings to review project proposals and NOWPAP RCU to develop further a mechanism for resource mobilization. P.R. China recommended keeping soliciting project ideas from national entities and for RCU to establish an inventory of project ideas for future implementation. Russian Federation welcomed further development of the project on microplastics.
69. After the discussion, the meeting agreed to allocate US\$95,000 for developing new projects in 2018-2019. The first project to move ahead is "Monitoring and Assessment Methods for Microplastics Pollution" with the total budget for project preparation not exceeding US\$50,000. The second project proposal should be selected by NOWPAP Focal Points with further proposed project for consideration by the 23rd NOWPAP IGM.
70. RCU submitted two budget proposals for 2018-2019 biennium for consideration by Member States: Option A (status quo – US\$1,000,000) and Option B (increase by 30% using accumulated over the years surplus resources up to US\$1,300,000). Thus, the total requested budget for each RAC would be US\$151,000 for Option A and US\$185,000 for

Option B. He also introduced activities aligned with the proposed NOWPAP MTS for 2018-2023 priority areas. Member States expressed their consent to consider Option B further and requested RCU to prepare additional budget tables for each RAC and RCU separately. After lengthy discussion and review of the budget proposal, NOWPAP Programme of Work and budget for 2018-2019 biennium was adopted.

71. With regard to NOWPAP MTS 2018-223, R. Korea agreed with the proposed MTS 2018-2023 document and stressed the importance of developing performance and evaluation framework, including measurable and evaluative indicators. The importance of the issue was raised by other delegations. In response, NOWPAP Coordinator, suggested that monitoring and evaluation framework of MTS 2018- 2023 will be developed and presented for adoption by the next IGM meeting in 2018.
72. P.R. China raised several issues and requested the meeting to postpone adoption of the MTS in the current form. She noted that development of MTS this time utilized more top-down approach with insufficient involvement of NOWPAP RAC Focal Points. Their ownership of the document is crucial. P.R. China proposed to assign each RAC to lead one of the priority areas to establish the ownership and encourage cooperation with other RACs involved in relevant activities. Furthermore, additional streamlining and editing of the document would be required before finalization. P.R. China would like to see a simplified version of the Strategy consisting of chapters introducing each priority area by describing its major focus, individual RAC responsibilities, and outputs. These chapters would follow by the description of cooperation partners and resource mobilization strategy.
73. Russian Federation agreed with the major principles contained in the document, but expressed an opinion that because of some editorial issues, it cannot adopt the document in its present form. The country also cautioned about narrowing down the document to the description of activities of individual RACs instead of supporting more strategic focus of the document.
74. ESCAP proposed to consider using NOWPAP as a regional reporting mechanism for relevant Sustainable Development Goals. Yellow Sea Large Marine Ecosystem Project (Phase II) informed participants that the project's main goal of ecosystem restoration and agreed to provide further comments on MTS to reflect upon potential cooperation between the project and NOWPAP.
75. The meeting agreed with the principles of the MTS described in the document and the schedule for finalizing and adopting the text of MTS as provided in Resolution 3 of the 22nd NOWPAP IGM (see Annex 1). At the time of reporting (April 24th 2018), all member states provided comments on the draft MTS; the revised version will be submitted to all member states for final approval in April 2018 and expected to be finalized in the Q3 2018.
76. Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA) briefed participants about the PEMSEA's Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia or SDS-SEA and its implementation for the period of 2017-2022. PEMSEA is looking forward to sharing knowledge, skills and capacities that are beneficial and supportive of NOWPAP mission and the implementation of the NOWPAP MTS 2018-2023, particularly on the ecosystem-based Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM). PEMSEA highlighted its State of Oceans and Coast Report, and welcomed NOWPAP and its Member States to support the organization and participate in the forthcoming East Asian Seas (EAS) Congress in October 2018.

77. ESCAP informed participants about the progress of the North-East Asia Marine Protected Area Network (NEAMPAN) that aims to create a network of MPA managers and stakeholders of marine protected areas in North-East Asia and facilitate the exchange of experiences in MPA management. This sub-regional initiative would benefit from future technical work of NOWPAP as well as MPA Network component of the Yellow Sea Large Marine Ecosystem (YSLME) Phase II Project which commenced in 2017. Furthermore, ESCAP expects to commence implementation of “Strengthening the sub-regional cooperation through knowledge sharing on sustainable management of MPAs” project funded by the Government of Russian Federation. The project is of relevance to the proposed marine and coastal biodiversity activities of NOWPAP.
78. PICES stated that PICES views NOWPAP as a key collaborator. The joint PICES-NOWPAP Study Group on Scientific Cooperation in the North Pacific Ocean developed a framework of enhanced collaboration between the two organizations, which serves as a basis for longer-term strategic planning. Several specific proposals were developed jointly by PICES Secretariat and NOWPAP RCU, including support for joint reports, workshops and capacity building activities. PICES stressed the importance of enhancing cooperation between the two institutions during the Decade of Ocean Science to Support Sustainable Development Goals (2021-2030) when such regional partnerships may become critical in building an effective and efficient regional ocean governance framework.
79. YSLME informed participants about the activities of the project financed by the Global Environment Facility. The project will organize YSLME Biodiversity Conservation Workshop in Qingdao, China aiming to contribute to the development of YSLME Biodiversity Conservation Plan for 2018-2030, including discussion on the conceptual MPA network. He would welcome sharing of experiences of NOWPAP Member States at the meeting. Moreover, YSLME project will review policies and regulations regarding solid waste disposal as well as technologies for reducing production and identifying recycling opportunities in 2018. In 2019, YSLME project will organize a regional workshop on marine litter, including microplastics and is looking forward to further cooperation in this area with NOWPAP.
80. Japan Association for the United Nations Environment Programme, informed participants about the Association activities. It was established in 2016 and aims at raising awareness about UNEP activities in Japan. The association is looking forward to work closer with NOWPAP and intend to publish information about the 22nd NOWPAP IGM in its forthcoming journal Our Planet.
81. The 22nd NOWPAP IGM adopted five resolutions as attached in the Annex 1. The approved Report is available online on the NOWPAP website.

ANNEX 1: Resolutions of the 22nd NOWPAP Intergovernmental Meeting

Resolution 1

PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR THE 2018-2019 BIENNIUM

Acknowledging RACs and RCU efforts in implementing the NOWPAP 2016-2017 Programme of Work (PoW),

Recognizing the importance of joint efforts to protect the shared marine environment and manage sustainably its natural resources by engaging neighboring countries in comprehensive and specific regional actions contributing to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals and targets,

Recognizing the need to initiate new activities, including NOWPAP Special Projects in line with the NOWPAP Medium-term Strategy 2018-2023 principles,

Taking note that about 95% of the activities included in the 2016-2017 NOWPAP Programme of Work were implemented on time or to be completed at the beginning of 2018,

The Twenty Second Intergovernmental Meeting.

1. Approves the Report of the Executive Director of UNEP (UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 22/3), taking note of the progress in the implementation of NOWPAP activities during the 2016-2017 biennium.
2. Approves also the reports of the four Regional Activity Centers of the NOWPAP (CEARAC, DINRAC, MERRAC and POMRAC) (UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 22/4/1-4) and acknowledges with satisfaction progress made.
3. Decides, to simplify the administrative process of recruitment of and payment to foreign experts (consultants), to continue the existing practice of assigning the responsibility of implementation of POMRAC activities with a total 2018-2019 biennium budget of US\$80,000 to DINRAC, while these activities will be overseen by POMRAC.
4. Approves the NOWPAP Programme of Work (UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 22/12/Ver.1) with the total budget of US\$1,300,000 as presented in Table 1.
5. Adopts the revised Terms of Reference of the NOWPAP Regional Coordinating Unit (RCU) as described in the document UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 22/7/Ver.1.
6. Requests RAC directors, in consultation with their Focal Points, to prepare detailed work plans with quarterly milestones to monitor the progress of implementation in line with the approved budget and NOWPAP 2018-2019 Programme of Work.

7. Requests also RAC Directors when reporting to the NOWPAP IGM to provide summary of their Focal Point Meetings and indicate clearly relevance of their activities to the NOWPAP Medium-term Strategy (MTS) 2018-2023.8. Requests NOWPAP RCU to facilitate the implementation of work by providing coordination, support and assistance to the RACs and to circulate work plans of each RAC (with quarterly milestones) for Member States consideration by correspondence within two months after this IGM.

9. Requests NOWPAP RCU to undertake contractual arrangements to support timely and effective implementation of the Programme of Work 2018-2019.

10. Encourages NOWPAP RCU and RACs to continue their best efforts to develop and maintain partnerships with related organizations, programmes and projects to further implementation of the biennial Work Programme 2018-2019 and MTS 2018-2023.

11. Encourages NOWPAP RCU and RACs to continue their best efforts to mobilize additional financial resources for the implementation of the NOWPAP Programme and report progress at each NOWPAP Intergovernmental Meeting.

12. NOWPAP RCU and RAC Directors to enhance efforts in public communication and outreach aiming at the increased NOWPAP presence, relevance and visibility in the region and beyond, including in all four languages of the region.

13. Hold the 23rd NOWPAP IGM in the Russian Federation in 2018.

Table 1. NOWPAP workplan and budget for the 2018-2019 biennium

(Thousand US\$)

Activity	Approved Budget	Suggested Budget Option B
	2016-2017	2018-2019
CEARAC	140	185
DINRAC	140	185
MERRAC	140	185
POMRAC*	140	185
RAP MALI	70	91
Public Awareness (RCU)	19	20
Coordination of RACs (RCU)	16	127
Implementation of NOWPAP (RCU)	83	
RCU Operation (RCU)	78	50
Resource Mobilization (RCU)	15	27
NOWPAP Special Projects / Initiatives	-	95
Sub-total	841	1150
13% of the sub-total as Programme Support Cost	109	150
TOTAL	950	1,300

Resolution 2

SUSTAINABLE CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE NOWPAP TRUST FUND AND RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

Recognizing with satisfaction the full replenishment and continuing and stable contributions to NOWPAP Trust Fund by member states achieved by the end of the year 2017,

The Twenty Second Intergovernmental Meeting,

1. Agrees to the contributions to the NOWPAP Trust Fund in 2018 as presented in Table 1.
2. Request NOWPAP RCU together with RAC Directors undertake efforts to reach 100% expenditure rate of the NOWPAP Trust Fund biennial contributions by the end of 2019;
3. Encourages NOWPAP RCU and RACs to continue their best efforts to mobilize additional financial resources for the implementation of the NOWPAP Programme.

Table 1. Scale of contributions to NOWPAP Trust Fund for 2018

	Annual contribution (US\$)
People's Republic of China	125,000
Japan	125,000
Republic of Korea	125,000
Russian Federation	125,000
Total	500,000

Resolution 3**THE NOWPAP MEDIUM-TERM STRATEGY 2018-2023**

Recognizing the importance of the NOWPAP Medium term Strategy 2018-2023 for aligning NOWPAP activities with national and regional priorities and the achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals,

Acknowledging the progress achieved and lessons learned during the implementation of the NOWPAP Medium Term Strategy 2012-2017 adopted at the NOWPAP 16th IGM 16th in 2011,

The Twenty Second Intergovernmental Meeting,

1. Agrees on the principles contained in the NOWPAP Medium-term Strategy 2018-2023 (MTS 2018-2023) as proposed in the document UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 22/10 and to this effect requests:
 - a. NOWPAP Focal Points to submit additional editorial comments to the RCU by February, 2nd 2018;
 - b. NOWPAP RCU to prepare a revised version reflecting upon agreed principles of the MTS 2018-2023 considering comments received by Member states by March 1st, 2018 and submit for one month review by Member States, followed by the adoption by correspondence by June 30th, 2018;
 - c. NOWPAP RCU and RACs in consultation with the Focal Points, to develop the monitoring and evaluation framework for MTS 2018-2023 for adoption by the 23rd NOWPAP IGM. _____

Resolution 4

REGIONAL ACTION PLAN ON MARINE LITTER

Acknowledging the negative impacts of marine litter, including microplastics on the coastal and marine environment in the NOWPAP region,

Acknowledging also the efforts of NOWPAP member states to address marine litter problem to prevent harm to the coastal and marine environment,

Taking into account that the implementation of the NOWPAP Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter (RAP MALI) adopted in 2008 is in line with national and regional priorities identified by the NOWPAP member states,

Taking note that most of RAP MALI activities are expected to being implemented at the national and local level, in cooperation with local governments and relevant authorities as well as private sector, research institutions, NGOs and the general public,

Complimenting NOWPAP RCU for its efforts working with UNEP GPA office and other relevant organizations and initiatives to expand activities addressing marine litter, including microplastics and its sources,

The Twenty Second Intergovernmental Meeting,

1. Approves NOWPAP RAP MALI work plan and budget (UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 22/9) for the 2018-2019 biennium as presented in Table 1.
2. Requests NOWPAP RCU to prepare and submit proposal for funding by the UNEP Global Programme of Action (GPA) as described in the document UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 22/8.
3. Requests NOWPAP DINRAC to provide hosting services and management of the Regional Node and CEARAC with a help from RCU to facilitate smooth transfer of the available information resources from NPEC to DINRAC.
4. Requests NOWPAP RCU in consultation with the NOWPAP RAP MALI Focal Points to prepare the Terms of Reference of RAP MALI Focal Points for the adoption by NOWPAP Focal Points by correspondence no later than two months before the 2018 RAP MALI Focal Points Meeting.
5. Requests NOWPAP RACs and RCU to implement the NOWPAP RAP MALI work plan as scheduled in close consultation with UNEP GPA office and other international organizations, projects and programmes involved.
6. Encourages NOWPAP Member States to carry out activities to prevent, monitor and remove marine litter at a national and local level through the implementation of the NOWPAP RAP MALI.

Table 1. NOWPAP Trust Fund allocation for 2018-2019 RAP MALI activities

	Budget, US\$
2018 NOWPAP ICC campaign and NOWPAP-TEMM Workshop in R. Korea	20,000
2019 NOWPAP ICC campaign and NOWPAP-TEMM Workshop in P.R. China	20,000
Enhancing NW Pacific regional node of the Global Partnership on Marine Litter (GPML)	External funding by UNEP GPA (up to 20,000)
CEARAC: Regional overview of national efforts to address microplastics	9,250
DINRAC: Updating and visualizing database on marine litter	9,250
MERRAC: Understanding floating marine litter sources and flows	9,250
POMRAC: Research on micro-plastics content and migration in the Peter the Great Gulf	9,250
RCU supported by all RACs: Third Regional Overview of marine litter in the NOWPAP region	6,000
RCU: Support for regional cooperation, travel and development of public awareness materials	8,000
Total:	91,000

Resolution 5

NOWPAP SPECIAL PROJECTS

Acknowledging the importance of securing larger-scale and sustained impact of the NOWPAP MTS 2018-2023 through closer integration of MTS objectives into national or regional strategies and plans using partnerships,

Acknowledging also the importance of external resource mobilization to complement and enhance the impact of NOWPAP RAC activities, particularly in areas with insufficient expertise,

Having considered four project proposals submitted by Member States as presented in the document UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 22/11/Ver.1,

The Twenty Second Intergovernmental Meeting.

1. Approves budget envelope of up to US\$95,000 for the 2018-2019 biennium to develop two project proposals.
2. Requests NOWPAP RCU together with the lead project agency to develop project proposal submitted by P.R. China "Monitoring and Assessment Methods for Microplastics Pollution" with the total budget for project preparation not exceeding US\$50,000 and the second project proposal to be selected by NOWPAP Focal Points, including from the list of proposals in the document UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 22/11/Ver.1 for consideration by the 23rd NOWPAP IGM.
3. Requests NOWPAP RCU to keep track record of the submitted project proposals and continue soliciting further project ideas for consideration by the 23rd NOWPAP IGM.