

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 to study 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 CEARAC has implemented some activities on these areas in recent biennia.

The 12th CEARAC Focal Points Meeting (FPM) held in Toyama, Japan on 2-3 July in 2014 reviewed the progress of the on-going activities for the 2014-2015 biennium.

Prior to the 13th FPM, the Fourth Expert Meeting will be held in Toyama, Japan on 24 August in 2015 to report the progress of the specific CEARAC projects, namely pilot assessment on the impacts of major threats to marine biodiversity in the selected sea areas in the NOWPAP region, trial applications of the screening procedure of the NOWPAP Common Procedure for eutrophication assessment, and case studies on seagrass mapping in the NOWPAP region. Based on the results of current activities, directions of activities for the next biennium (2016-2017) were also suggested by the participants.

Coming to the end of the current biennium, the 13th FPM will be held (Toyama, Japan, 25-26 August, 2015) to review the progress and expected outcomes of the current activities as well as to discuss proposed workplan of CEARAC for the 2016-2017 biennium for adoption to its submission to the 20th IGM, which will be held in China in the second half of 2015.

The Thirteenth NOWPAP CEARAC Focal Points Meeting

DAY 1 (25 August 2015)

Agenda Item 1. Opening of the Meeting

The meeting will be opened at 9:00 at the Sky Gallery in Tower 111, Toyama, Japan, on 25 August 2015 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.

2.2 Organization of work

Rules of procedure will be established. It is proposed that, for the purpose of this meeting, the rules used here will be those of the Governing Council of UNEP, adjusted as appropriate 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. The meeting will be invited to consider the agenda for adoption (UNEP/NOWPAP/CEARAC/FPM 13/1, UNEP/NOWPAP/CEARAC/FPM 13/2).

Agenda Item 4. Report of the Regional Coordinating Unit (RCU) on the implementation of the Northwest Pacific Action Plan (NOWPAP)

The representative of NOWPAP RCU will report the progress of the entire NOWPAP activities since the 12th NOWPAP CEARAC FPM (Toyama, Japan, 2-3 July 2014) (UNEP/NOWPAP/CEARAC/FPM 13/3).

Agenda Item 5. Report on the implementation of CEARAC activities for the 2014-2015 biennium

The Secretariat of CEARAC will report the progress and expected outcomes of CEARAC activities for the 2014-2015 biennium (UNEP/NOWPAP/CEARAC/FPM 13/4).

5.1 Pilot assessment on the impacts of major threats to marine biodiversity in the selected sea areas in the NOWPAP region

The Secretariat of CEARAC will report the progress of pilot assessments on the impacts of major threats (eutrophication, non-indigenous species and habitat alteration) to marine biodiversity in the selected sea areas in the NOWPAP region (UNEP/NOWPAP/CEARAC/FPM 13/5).

5.2 Trial application of the screening procedure of the NOWPAP Common Procedure for eutrophication assessment

The Secretariat of CEARAC will report the progress of trial application of the screening procedure of the NOWPAP Common Procedure for eutrophication assessment in the NOWPAP sea area. (UNEP/NOWPAP/CEARAC/FPM 13/6).

5.3 Case studies on seagrass mapping in the selected sea areas in the NOWPAP region

The Secretariat of CEARAC will report the progress of case studies on seagrass mapping in the selected sea areas in the NOWPAP region with the developed manual (UNEP/NOWPAP/CEARAC/FPM 13/7).

5.4 CEARAC Marine Litter Activities

The Secretariat of CEARAC will report the progress of marine litter-related activities, focusing on basin-wide collaborative actions to prevent land-based marine litter in Japan (UNEP/NOWPAP/CEARAC/FPM 13/8).

Agenda Item 6. Discussion on the proposed specific projects of CEARAC for the 2016-2017 biennium

The Secretariat of CEARAC will propose two specific projects to be implemented in the 2016-2017 biennium.

6.1 Development of a draft common procedure for assessment of the impacts of major pressures on marine biodiversity in the NOWPAP region

The Secretariat of CEARAC will propose to develop a draft common procedure to assess the impacts of major pressures on marine biodiversity in the NOWPAP region, based on the results of the pilot assessment conducted in the 2014-2015 biennium (UNEP/NOWPAP/CEARAC/FPM 13/9).

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

The Secretariat of CEARAC will propose a feasibility study for assessment of seagrass distribution in the NOWPAP region, based on the results of the case studies on seagrass mapping in the 2014-2015 biennium (UNEP/NOWPAP/CEARAC/FPM 13/10).

6.3 CEARAC Marine Litter Activities

The Secretariat of CEARAC will propose activities on marine litter, including further development of Northwest Pacific Regional Node of the Global Partnership for Marine Litter (GPML) (UNEP/NOWPAP/CEARAC/FPM 13/11).

DAY2 (26 August 2015)

Agenda Item 7. Discussion on the draft workplan and budget of entire CEARAC activities for the 2016-2017 biennium and recommendation to the 20th NOWPAP IGM

The Secretariat of CEARAC will present and explain a draft workplan and budget of entire CEARAC activities for the 2016-2017 biennium, including two specific projects under Agenda Item 6. The meeting will be invited to review the workplan and agree to submit it to the 20th NOWPAP Intergovernmental Meeting (IGM) to be held in Beijing, China on 28-30 October 2015 (UNEP/NOWPAP/CEARAC/FPM 13/12).

Agenda Item 8. Collaboration with other RACs and other regional/international organizations

The Secretariat of CEARAC will explain potential working areas and/or events of CEARAC activities which could be implemented in a collaborative manner with other NOWPAP RACs and/or relevant regional/international organizations.

Agenda Item 9. Arrangement of the 14th NOWPAP CEARAC FPM

The Secretariat of CEARAC will propose a venue and period of the 14th NOWPAP CEARAC Focal Points Meeting for approval.

Agenda Item 10. Other matters

The meeting will be invited to raise any other issues relevant to the NOWPAP CEARAC activities.

Agenda Item 11. Adoption of the report of the Meeting

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

Agenda Item 12. Closure of the Meeting

The meeting will be closed by the chairperson at 15:00 on 26 August 2015.