

1. Background

NOWPAP Medium-term Strategy 2012-2017 (MTS) is a strategic guidance for NOWPAP RACs when developing their workplans for each biennium, and CEARAC has developed and implemented its recent core projects to align with the themes and objectives of the NOWPAP MTS.

Then, taking into consideration the outputs and outcomes of the past and current activities as well as the NOWPAP MTS and emerging issues in the regional and international marine environments, the Secretariat of CEARAC proposes a draft workplan and budget of its activities for the 2016-2017 biennium to the 13th CEARAC Focal Points Meeting (25-26 August 2015, Toyama, Japan). The meeting is kindly requested to review and discuss the proposal and to agree to submit it to the 20th NOWPAP Intergovernmental Meeting to be held on 28-30 October 2015 in China.

2. Proposal for CEARAC activities for the 2016-2017 Biennium

Summary of the CEARAC's draft workplan for the 2016-2017 biennium is shown in Table 1.

Table 1 Workplan for CEARAC activities for the 2014-2015 biennium

Activity
<p>Organization of Meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 14th FPM (2016) and 15th FPM (2017) - Expert Meeting (2017)
<p>Maintenance of Websites</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Structure renewal of CEARC website, including regular update of contents - Upgrade of Marine Environmental Watch System
<p>Specific projects</p> <p>Development of a draft common procedure for assessment of the impacts of major pressures on marine biodiversity in the NOWPAP region</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Collecting information of member states - Developing a draft common procedure - Organizing a workshop or expert meeting
<p>Feasibility study towards assessment of seagrass distribution in the NOWPAP region</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Developing seagrass database in the NOWPAP region - Preparing inventory of satellite images for seagrass mapping - Organizing an international workshop - Developing a feasibility study report
<p>Cooperation and coordination</p>

Marine litter-related activities (RAP MALI)

- Compiling/Harmonizing monitoring data
- Updating the website contents in the Northwest Pacific Regional Node

2.1 Organization of Meetings (14th and 15th FPM and an Expert Meeting)

The fourteenth and fifteenth CEARAC Focal Points Meetings (FPM) will be held in Toyama, Japan in spring 2016 and fall 2017 respectively.

Each FPM will review the progress of on-going activities and give suggestions for smooth implementation and successful completion of planned activities. In addition, the 15th FPM will discuss a draft workplan and budget of CEARAC for the 2018-2019 biennium.

In the Expert Meeting, national experts to be involved in CEARAC projects and other researchers in the NOWPAP region and NOWPAP partner organizations will gather to review the interim reports of CEARAC activities.

2.2 Maintenance of CEARAC websites

CEARAC plans to renew the structure of CEARAC website to make it more user-friendly. At the same time, some of the contents will be updated as part of its regular work.

2.3 Specific Projects

CEARAC plans to implement the following two specific projects in the 2016-2017 biennium.

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

Based on the results of the pilot assessment in the 2014-2015 biennium, CEARAC plans to develop a new common procedure for assessment of the impacts of major pressures on marine biodiversity in the NOWPAP region in the near future. As an initial stage, CEARAC will develop a draft procedure for the 2016-2017 biennium.

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

Through case studies on seagrass mapping in the 2014-2015 biennium, CEARAC has developed a manual for seagrass and seaweed mapping with satellite images, and

investigated its applicability in the selected sea areas in the NOWPAP member states. Then, while application of the developed manual to other coastal area of the NOWPAP region is expected, substantial financial and human resources are required. Therefore, CEARAC plans to conduct a feasibility study towards assessment of seagrass distribution in the NOWPAP region.

2.4 Cooperation and coordination with other NOWPAP RACs and/or regional/international organizations

Taking every opportunity, CEARAC will participate in meetings and/or workshops held by NOWPAP RCU, other RACs and relevant regional and international organizations to exchange/share information and data as well as to disseminate past and present CEARAC activities.

2.5 Activities on marine litter (RAP MALI)

CEARAC will implement several activities on marine litter (RAP MALI), following the decision at the NOWPAP Marine Litter Working Meeting (September 2015, China) and the approval of the 20th NOWPAP IGM.

2.5.1 Compiling and harmonizing national monitoring data from the member states

CEARAC will continuously collect and harmonize/summarize monitoring data submitted from the member states to upload on the DINRAC website.

2.5.2 Update of information in the Northwest Pacific Regional Node

It has been two years since the establishment of the Northwest Pacific Regional Node of the Global Partnership on Marine Litter. In the meantime, marine litter has received more attention from various groups (e.g. national/local governments, environmental conferences, schoolchildren and general public), and CEARAC plans to help NPEC, host organization of CEARAC and co-host of the Regional Node with NOWPAP, with updating contents of the website of the regional node by adding more detailed and latest information in a user-friendly manner. **3. Budget plan for the 2016-2017 biennium**

Taking into the outputs and outcomes of CEARAC activities in the past and current bienniums as well as the current status of contribution to the NOWPAP Trust Fund from

the four NOWPAP member states, CEARAC proposes a budget plan (US\$140,000) as shown in Table 2 to implement its activities for the 2016-2017 biennium.

Table 2 Workplan and Budget for CEARAC activities for the 2016-2017 biennium

Activity	Planned Budget (US\$)			Note
	2016	2017	Total	
Organization of meetings - 14 th and 15 th FPM - Expert Meeting	27,000	27,000+ external	54,000+ external	14 th – Spring 2016 15 th – Sep. 2017 EM - summer 2017
Maintenance of Websites - Renewal of website - Upgrade of Marine Environmental Watch System	6,000 in-kind	6,000 in-kind	12,000 in-kind	Including update of contents
<Specific projects> Developing a draft common procedure for assessment of the impacts of major pressures on marine biodiversity in the NOWPAP region - Developing a draft procedure - Collecting information - Organizing a workshop or expert MT	8,000	9,000 (3,000x3) 13,000	30,000	Q4, 2016 Q2-4, 2017 Q1-2, 2017
Feasibility study towards assessment of seagrass distribution in the NOWPAP region - Developing seagrass database in the NOWPAP region - Preparing inventory of satellite images for seagrass mapping - Organizing int'l workshop - Developing feasibility study report	16,000 (4,000x4) 4,000	15,000 5,000	40,000	Q3, 2016 Q1, 2017 Q1-Q2, 2017 Q3-4, 2017
Cooperation/coordination	2,000	2,000	4,000	2016-2017
Sub TOTAL	63,000	77,000	140,000	
Marine Litter (RAP MALI)* - Compiling/Harmonizing data - Info. update in Northwest Pacific Regional Node	In-kind	In-kind (6,000)		2016-2017

*Budget allocated to CEARAC for RAP MALI activities is not included in CEARAC budget for the 2016-2017 biennium.