

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 proposed 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 agreed to submit it to the 20th NOWPAP Intergovernmental Meeting (28-30 October 2015, Beijing, China), where the entire NOWPAP budget and workplan for the 2016-2017 biennium was approved.

2. CEARAC activities for the 2016-2017 Biennium

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

Table 1 Workplan for CEARAC activities for the 2016-2017 biennium

Activity
<p>Organization of Meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Organizing 14th FPM (2016) and 15th FPM (2017) - Organizing Expert Meeting (2017)
<p>Maintenance of Websites</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Renewing the structure of CEARC website, including regular update of contents - Upgrading 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 an 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 an inventory of satellite images for seagrass mapping - Organizing a workshop

- Developing a feasibility study report
Cooperation and coordination
- Exchanging/sharing information by participating in relevant meetings or inviting relevant people to CEARAC events
Marine litter-related activities (RAP MALI)
- Compiling/Harmonizing monitoring data
- Updating website contents of the Northwest Pacific Regional Node

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

CEARAC Focal Points Meetings (FPM) will be held annually in 2016 and 2017.

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 in 2017 will discuss a draft workplan and budget of CEARAC for the 2018-2019 biennium.

In the Expert Meeting, which is planned to be held in summer 2017, contracted national experts for CEARAC activities and other relevant researchers in the NOWPAP region as well as representatives of NOWPAP RCU and other RACs and NOWPAP partner organizations will be invited 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 current 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. In the 2016-2017 biennium, a draft common procedure will be developed as an initial step of assessment of the impact of major pressures on marine biodiversity in the NOWPAP

region.

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

In the 2014-2015 biennium, CEARAC 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 Activities on marine litter (RAP MALI)

CEARAC will implement 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 (October 2015, China).

2.4.1 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.

2.4.2 Update of information in the Northwest Pacific Regional Node 1

In recent years, marine litter has received more attention from various groups (e.g. national/local governments, environmental conferences, schoolchildren and general public), and CEARAC has updated the website contents of the Northwest Pacific Regional Node by adding latest information. Using fund from Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (GPA) for updating the Regional Node, CEARAC has added new contents on microplastics and information on measures implemented in Japan.

2.4.3 Update of information in the Northwest Pacific Regional Node 2

In this biennium, information on other three member states will be added to the website using budget of NOWPAP marine litter activities. As same as 2.4.2, information on measures implemented in China, Korea and Russia will be collected and updated in the Northwest Pacific Regional Node.

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

CEARAC will try to 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 NOWPAP and CEARAC activities.

Also, CEARAC will explore effective collaboration with other RACS and relevant local/regional/international organizations so as to contribute to enhanced outcomes and outputs of the current activities of CEARAC, taking into consideration existing activities and projects in the NOWPAP region.

3. Budget plan for the 2016-2017 biennium

The 20th NOWPAP IGM (October 2015) adopted the entire workplan and budget for NOWPAP for the 2016-2017 biennium, in which allocation for CEARAC activities was included. The budget for CEARAC activities for the 2016-2017 biennium is US\$ 140,000, same as the amount for the past biennium 2014-2015. The detailed breakdown of the budget is shown in Table 2 below.

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 - Collecting information and review by	9,000		30,000	throughout

experts	(3,000x3)			2016-2017
- Developing a draft procedure		8,000		2016-Q1,2017
- Organizing a workshop		13,000		Q1-2, 2017
Feasibility study towards assessment of seagrass distribution	16,000			Q2-Q3, 2016
- Developing seagrass database	(4,000x4)		40,000	
- Inventory of satellite images		4,000		Q1, 2017
- Organizing workshop		15,000		Q1-Q2, 2017
- Developing feasibility study report		5,000		Q3-4, 2017
Cooperation/coordination	2,000	2,000	4,000	2016-2017
Sub TOTAL	60,000	80,000	140,000	
Marine Litter (RAP MALI)*				
- Compiling/Harmonizing data	In-kind	In-kind	In-kind	2016-2017
- Information update in Northwest Pacific Regional Node		6,000	6,000	
GRAND TOTAL	60,000	86,000	146,000	

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

3.1 Mobilization of external fund

CEARAC tries to find potential external financial sources for smooth implementation of its planned activities. At present, there are some opportunities which CEARAC can join/apply:

- Environment Research and Technology Development Fund (ERTDF) by the Ministry of the Environment, Japan for development of Coastal Management Method to Realize the Sustainable Coastal Sea

One of the themes of this project focuses on the Northwest Pacific region, and it is planned to forecast the ecosystem change by climate change and impacts from the East China Sea. The outputs of projects may be useful scientific information for NOWPAP activities. CEARAC will actively use the information provided from this project, if useful and necessary.