

1. Background

In the process of preparation of a new NOWPAP Medium-term Strategy 2018-2023 (NOWPAP MTS 2018-2023), the draft MTS is being reviewed by NOWPAP National FPs and it will be reviewed and approved at the 22nd NOWPAP Intergovernmental Meeting (NOWPAP IGM) held in 2017. In the strategic guidance to NOWPAP RACs for developing their workplans, possible foci of the new MTS were touched upon as the following five priority areas are mentioned as targets for the period of 2018-2023:

1. Support integrated coastal and river basin planning and management
2. Assess status of the marine and coastal environment
3. Prevent and reduce land- and sea-based pollution
4. Conserve marine and coastal biodiversity
5. Strengthen regional cooperation through building partnerships and resources

Therefore, taking into consideration the outputs and outcomes of the on-going activities as well as the draft NOWPAP MTS 2018-2023, the Secretariat of CEARAC has prepared a draft workplan and budget of its activities for the 2018-2019 biennium and proposes it to the 15th CEARAC Focal Points Meeting (29-30 August 2017, Toyama, Japan).

The meeting is kindly requested to review and discuss the proposal and to agree to submit it to the 22nd NOWPAP IGM to be held on 19-20 December 2017 in Toyama, Japan.

2. Proposal for CEARAC activities for the 2018-2019 Biennium

Summary of the draft workplan of CEARAC activities for the 2018-2019 biennium is shown in Table 1.

Table 1 Draft Workplan for CEARAC activities for the 2018-2019 biennium

Activity
Organization of Meetings - 16 th FPM (2018) and 17 th FPM (2019) - Expert Meeting (2019)
Maintenance of Websites - Periodical update of website contents - Upgrade of Marine Environmental Watch System (Additional activity in case of increased allocation of CEARAC budget) - Reconstruction of CEARAC websites using cloud computing technology
Specific projects Development of a CEARAC Medium-term Strategy on marine biodiversity - Collection of relevant information on marine biodiversity

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review of collected information by marine biodiversity experts - Organization of marine biodiversity workshop and meeting for development of CEARAC Medium-term Strategy on Marine Biodiversity - Development of CEARAC Medium-term Strategy on Marine Biodiversity
<p>Development of a tool for mapping seagrass distribution in the NOWPAP region</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Detection of potential seagrass habitat - Development of a tool for mapping seagrass distribution - Construction of web-based service for mapping seagrass distribution
<p>(Additional activity in case of increased allocation of CEARAC budget)</p> <p>Consideration of future direction of NOWPAP marine biodiversity activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Collection of information on marine biodiversity activities in other regional seas programmes - Organization of series of meetings
<p>Cooperation/Coordination with other NOWPAP RACs and/or local/regional/international organizations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Co-organization of events, such as meeting, workshops, and trainings. - Information sharing by participation in other RACs/NOWPAP partners meetings and other events

2.1 Organization of Meetings (16th and 17th FPM and an Expert Meeting)

The 16th and 17th CEARAC Focal Points Meetings (FPM) will be held in Toyama, Japan in spring 2018 and fall 2019 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, in the 17th FPM, CEARAC FPs will discuss a draft workplan and budget of CEARAC activities for the 2020-2021 biennium.

In an Expert Meeting, nominated national experts to be involved in CEARAC activities and other researchers in the NOWPAP region and NOWPAP partner organizations will gather to review the interim reports of CEARAC activities for the 2018-2019 biennium and exchange opinions on follow-up activities and/or future activities.

2.2 Maintenance of CEARAC websites

CEARAC plans to update its website contents periodically by adding new data/information and posting developed reports and annual newsletters to disseminate information and raise public awareness on the marine and coastal environment.

CEARAC also plans to use 'cloud computing' service in the near future, and will start preparing its application. So, in case of budget increase for CEARAC activities,

CEARAC plans to move existing websites and database to cloud server for reduction of operation cost and ease of maintenance.

2.3 Specific Projects

CEARAC plans to implement the following two specific projects in the 2018-2019 biennium. If budget increase for CEARAC activities is adopted as part of budget increase for entire NOWPAP activities for the 2018-2019 biennium in the 22nd NOWPAP IGM to be held in December 2017, CEARAC plans to implement one more project in the following 2.3.3 and reconstruction of CEARAC websites by cloud computing technology.

2.3.1 Development of a CEARAC Medium-term Strategy on marine biodiversity

CEARAC implemented various activities on marine biodiversity conservation in the past and current biennia. However, a number of gaps have identified among the member states and CEARAC FPs have suggested to set a clear direction of CEARAC marine biodiversity activity. Therefore, CEARAC will propose to develop a CEARAC Medium-term Strategy on Marine Biodiversity which shows CEARAC's vision and direction on marine biodiversity conservation and future workplans of CEARAC.

2.3.2 Development of a tool for mapping seagrass distribution in the NOWPAP region

CEARAC will start developing a tool for mapping seagrass distribution in the NOWPAP region by using cloud computing technology. This activity aims to provide updated information of seagrass distribution by active involvement of users/visitors of CEARAC website by using cloud computing resources.

2.3.3 Consideration of future direction of NOWPAP marine biodiversity activities

NOWPAP Medium-term Strategy 2012-2017 has proposed to develop the NOWPAP Regional Action Plan on Marine and Coastal Biodiversity (NOWPAP RAP-BD). NOWPAP RAP-BD shows a future vision on conservation of marine and coastal biodiversity in the NOWPAP region and role of each RAC and member state for implementation of relevant activities. However, NOWPAP RAP-BD has not been developed by now although CEARAC has implemented its activities on marine biodiversity in the past and current biennia.

Then, CEARAC plans to develop CEARAC Medium-term Strategy on Marine Biodiversity for the 2018-2019 biennium. Collected information through this project

helps share common understanding for discussing NOWPAP's future direction on marine biodiversity, so CEARAC plans to provide opportunities to discuss future direction of NOWPAP marine biodiversity activities with close involvement of NOWPAP RCU and RACs as well as RAC and National FPs and government officials of the member states.

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

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

Also, CEARAC explores opportunities to co-organize meetings, workshops and/or training sessions with other organizations to strengthen collaboration with them, avoid unnecessary overlapping of activities, utilize existing knowledge/techniques and human resources in an efficient and effective manner as well as increase visibility of CEARAC and NOWPAP in wider communities.

3. Budget plan for the 2018-2019 biennium

NOWPAP RCU requested to all RACs to propose two budgetary options for the 2018-2019 biennium. One is same as the current biennium as shown in Budget Plan 1 (Table 2-1). The other is a budget plan with 30 % increase over the current biennium as shown in Budget Plan 2 (Table 2-2).

**Table 2-1 Workplan and Budget Plan 1 for CEARAC Activities
for the 2018-2019 biennium (US\$ 140,000)**

Activity	Planned Budget (US\$)			Time
	2018	2019	Total	
Organization of meetings - 16 th and 17 th FPMs - Expert Meeting	27,000	27,000	54,000	16 th - spring 2018 17 th - fall 2019 EM - 2019
Maintenance of Websites - Updating web contents - Upgrading Marine Environmental Watch System	6,000 in-kind	6,000 in-kind	12,000	2018-2019
Specific projects				

Development of CEARAC MTS on Marine Biodiversity			30,000	
- Collecting information	10,000			2018
- Reviewing collected information	3,000			2018
- Organizing workshop/meeting		15,000		2019
- Developing CEARAC MTS		2,000		2019
Development of a tool for mapping seagrass distribution in the NOWPAP region				
- Detecting potential seagrass habitat	20,000		40,000	2018
- Developing a tool for mapping seagrass distribution		20,000		2019
- Constructing web-based service for mapping seagrass distribution		external		2019
Cooperation/coordination with other RACs and relevant organizations	2,000	2,000	4,000	2018-2019
TOTAL	68,000	72,000	140,000	

**Table 2-2 Workplan and Budget Plan 2 for CEARAC Activities
for the 2018-2019 biennium (US\$ 180,000)**

Activity	Planned Budget (US\$)			Time
	2018	2019	Total	
Organization of meetings				
- 16 th and 17 th FPM	27,000	27,000	54,000	16 th - spring 2018
- Expert Meeting				17 th - fall 2019
				EM - 2019
Maintenance of Websites				2018-2019
- Updating web contents	6,000	6,000	12,000	
- Upgrading Marine Environmental Watch System	in-kind	in-kind	+	
- <u>Reconstructing CEARAC websites and database by cloud computing technology*</u>		10,000	<u>10,000</u>	
Specific projects				
Development of CEARAC MTS on Marine Biodiversity				
- Collecting information	10,000			2018
- Reviewing collected information	3,000		30,000	2018
- Organizing workshop/meeting		15,000		2019
- Developing CEARAC MTS		2,000		2019
Development of a tool for mapping seagrass distribution in the NOWPAP region				
- Detecting potential seagrass habitat	20,000		40,000	2018
- Developing a tool for mapping seagrass distribution		20,000		2019

- Constructing web-based service for mapping seagrass distribution		external		2019
<u>Consideration of future direction of NOWPAP marine biodiversity activities*</u>				2018-2019
- Collecting information on other Regional Seas Programme	5,000		<u>30,000</u>	
- Organizing series of meetings	4,000	21,000		
Cooperation/coordination with other RACs and relevant organizations	2,000	2,000	4,000	2018-2019
TOTAL	77,000	103,000	180,000	

*Underlined activities will be additionally implemented if the budget for CEARAC activities is increased to US\$180,000.