

Annotated Provisional Agenda

Background leading to the meeting

In recent years, CEARAC has implemented activities on marine biodiversity, seagrass mapping and marine litter as well as some follow-up work on eutrophication and harmful algal blooms (HABs). Seagrass is one of the important coastal habitats for marine species and their ability to capture carbon (blue carbon) has gotten much attention globally. CEARAC developed a manual for seagrass and seaweed bed distribution mapping with satellite images in 2015 and validated its applicability in the entire NOWPAP region.

CEARAC focused on eutrophication, invasive species and habitat alteration as main threats to marine biodiversity in the NOWPAP region and assessed their status and impacts with the support by national experts of the member states. The analysis was compiled as an assessment report published in 2018.

While CEARAC has delivered certain outcomes by its projects, lack of NOWPAP's clear vision on conservation of marine biodiversity has obstructed CEARAC to pave the way for its future actions. Thus, at the 15th CEARAC Focal Points Meeting (FPM) held in 2017, CEARAC Secretariat proposed one project under the theme of marine biodiversity: development of a CEARAC Medium-term Strategy on marine biodiversity (MTS). CEARAC also proposed to develop of a tool for mapping seagrass distribution in the NOWPAP region in 2018-2019 besides some routine work such as organization of meetings and maintenance of the website.

After discussion, the meeting approved the proposed workplan of CEARAC with applying some modifications and agreed to submit it to the 22nd NOWPAP Intergovernmental Meeting (IGM) held later in 2017.

Then, the 22nd IGM approved the NOWPAP workplan for the 2018-2019 biennium with higher budget allocation than the previous biennia. Following this decision, CEARAC decided to add another activity to its workplan: development of a roadmap for Regional Action Plan for Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Conservation (RAP BIO) which could complement development of CEARAC MTS.

At the 16th CEARAC FPM held in May 2018, the meeting carefully reviewed the revised workplan with detailed tasks and the progress of respective activities. The meeting discussed how much work could be done within two years (2018-2019) with clear outcomes. At the same time, the meeting strongly recommended cooperation and coordination with other RACs, especially for development of a roadmap for RAP BIO as it should be one of the major outcomes of NOWPAP Medium-term Strategy 2018-2023.

Coming to the end of the 2018-2019 biennium, the 17th NOWPAP CEARAC FPM will be held on 9-10 September 2019 in Toyama, Japan to review the progress of the current CEARAC activities and discuss workplans proposed by CEARAC Secretariat for the 2020-2021 biennium.

The Seventeenth NOWPAP CEARAC Focal Points Meeting

➤ DAY 1 (9 September)

Agenda Item 1. Opening of the Meeting

(Director of CEARAC chairs)

The 17th CEARAC Focal Points Meeting (FPM) will be opened at 9:00 at Sky Gallery in Tower 111 in Toyama City, Japan, on 9 September 2019 by the Director of CEARAC.

Agenda Item 2. Organization of the Meeting

2.1 Election of the officers

(Director of CEARAC chairs)

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 FPM. The roles of chairperson and rapporteur rotate among the four member states, and in the 17th FPM, the chairperson is to be an FP of Russia and the rapporteur is to be an FP of China.

2.2 Organization of work

(Elected Chairperson chairs)

Rules of procedures will be established. For the purpose of this meeting, the rules of procedures used in the 17th FPM will be those of United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) with appropriate adjustments to suit the nature of the meeting.

English will be the working language of the meeting.

Agenda Item 3. Adoption of the agenda

(Elected Chairperson chairs)

CEARAC Secretariat will explain the Provisional Agenda of the 17th FPM (UNEP/NOWPAP/CEARAC/FPM 17/1) with the Annotated Provisional Agenda (UNEP/NOWPAP/CEARAC/FPM 17/2). The meeting will be invited to consider the agenda items for adoption.

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

(Elected Chairperson chairs)

A representative of NOWPAP RCU will report the progress of the entire NOWPAP activities since the 16th NOWPAP CEARAC FPM (10-11 May 2019, Toyama, Japan) (UNEP/NOWPAP/CEARAC/FPM 17/3).

Agenda Item 5. Report on CEARAC activities for the 2018-2019 biennium

(Elected Chairperson chairs)

CEARAC Secretariat will report the progress of CEARAC activities for the 2018-2019 biennium including detailed reports on three specific projects (UNEP/NOWPAP/CEARAC/FPM 17/4 ~ 17/7).

5.1 Overall progress report of CEARAC activities

5.2 Report on development of the CEARAC Medium-term Strategy on Marine Biodiversity Conservation (MTS)

5.3 Report on development of a roadmap for the Regional Action Plan for Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Conservation (RAP BIO)

5.4 Report on development of a tool for mapping seagrass distribution in the NOWPAP region

Agenda Item 6. Proposals on CEARAC activities for the 2020-2021 biennium

(Elected Chairperson chairs)

CEARAC Secretariat will present proposals on activities to be implemented in the 2020-2021 biennium, most of which are under the same focus on the 2018-2019 activities. After explanation and discussion of respective specific activities, draft workplan of entire CEARAC activities including some routine work will be presented. (UNEP/NOWPAP/CEARAC/FPM 17/8~17/12) for approval to send it to the 24th NOWPAP Intergovernmental Meeting (IGM) held later in 2019.

6.1 Proposals for Specific Projects

6.1.1 Proposal on CEARAC's activities for marine biodiversity conservation for the 2020-2021 biennium.

6.1.2 Proposal for case studies of estimating seagrass blue carbon in selected sea areas in the NOWPAP region

6.1.3 Proposal for improvement of the NOWPAP Eutrophication Assessment Tool (NEAT) for assessment and monitoring of eutrophication using satellite chlorophyll-a

6.1.4 Proposal for organization of the 5th NOWPAP Training Course on Remote Sensing Data Analysis

6.2 Discussion on the draft workplan and budget of CEARAC activities for 2020-2021 biennium

➤ **DAY2 (10 September)**

Agenda Item 7. Report on marine litter activities

(Elected Chairperson chairs)

CEARAC Secretariat will report CEARAC marine litter activities implemented in the 2018-2019 biennium. (UNEP/NOWPAP/CEARCA/FPM 17/13).

Focus and priorities of NOWPAP Marine Litter activities are discussed and decided by NOWPAP Marine Litter Focal Points (ML FPs), and CEARAC activities on marine litter for the 2020-2021 biennium are to be decided in late-September 2019.

Agenda Item 8. Consideration of potential collaborative areas with other RACs and other regional/international organizations

(Elected Chairperson chairs)

Representatives of other RACs and/or NOWPAP partner organizations and projects will introduce their on-going activities as well as planned ones for the 2020-2021 biennium, focusing on their potentiality of collaboration with CEARAC. All meeting participants are encouraged to provide information of any collaborative chances, if any, other than presentations by other RACs and/or NOWPAP partners.

Agenda Item 9. Arrangement of the Eighteenth NOWPAP CEARAC FPM

(Elected Chairperson chairs)

CEARAC Secretariat will propose the venue and the time of the 18th NOWPAP CEARAC FPM for approval. It is planned to be held in spring in 2020 in Toyama, Japan.

Agenda Item 10. Other matters

(Elected Chairperson chairs)

The meeting will be invited to raise any other issues, especially relevant to CEARAC activities, to be discussed during the 17th CEARAC FPM.

Agenda Item 11. Adoption of the report of the Meeting

(Elected Chairperson chairs)

A draft report of the 17th NOWPAP CEARAC FPM will be prepared by the rapporteur and CEARAC Secretariat for review and finalization.

Agenda Item 12. Closure of the Meeting

(Elected Chairperson chairs)

The 17th CEARAC FPM will be closed by the chairperson at 12:30 on 10 September 2019.