

1. Background

The Special Monitoring and Coastal Environmental Assessment Regional Activity Centre (CEARAC) CEARAC has been working on monitoring and assessing Harmful Algal Blooms (HAB) under Working Group 3 (WG3), and developing new monitoring tools using Remote Sensing (RS) under Working Group 4 (WG4) following the decision of the 1st CEARAC FPM (February 2003, Toyama, Japan).

In the 2008-2009 biennium, CEARAC initiated an activity on eutrophication as a joint activity of WG3 and WG4. CEARAC also initiated an activity on marine biodiversity in the 2010-2011 biennium. Therefore, the target areas of CEARAC has been expanded, and following this change, conventional Working Group Meetings has been changed to Expert Meetings with experts on HABs, remote sensing, eutrophication, marine biodiversity in the member states and NOWPAP partners meeting together.

NOWPAP Med-Term Strategy 2012-2017 (MTS) suggests five thematic elements such as “Regular assessments of the state of the marine environment” and “Biodiversity conservation” including the development of a NOWPAP action plan for biodiversity conservation, with which CEARAC activities for the 2014-2015 biennium are expected to be aligned.

Based on the outcomes of the past and current activities to be implemented and the directions of the NOWPAP MTS, the Secretariat of CEARAC has prepared a draft workplan and budget of CEARAC activities for the 2014-2015 biennium. Taking into consideration the current situation of the NOWPAP Trust Fund and suggestion from NOWPAP RCU, three budget plans are prepared for the 2014-2015 biennium, namely, US\$ 120,000 (Budget A), US\$ 125,000 (Budget B) and US\$ 147,000 (Budget C).

Upon the ending of the 2012-2013 biennium, the Eleventh CEARAC FPM is kindly requested to review and discuss proposals for the activities and budget of CEARAC for the next biennium (2014-2015) and agree to submit them for approval to the 18th NOWPAP Intergovernmental Meeting (IGM) to be held in December 2013.

2. Proposal for activities for the 2014-2015 Biennium

2.1 Organization of the 12th and 13th CEARAC Focal Points Meetings and an Expert Meeting

The Twelfth and Thirteenth CEARAC Focal Points Meetings (FPMs) will be held in Toyama, Japan in spring 2014 and fall 2015 respectively.

Each FPM will review the progress of on-going activities and give suggestions for smooth implementation and completion of planned activities. In addition, the Thirteenth FPM will review a proposal of CEARAC workplan and budget for the 2016-2017 biennium and agree to submit it for approval to the IGM.

In the Expert Meeting, relevant experts in the NOWPAP region and NOWPAP partner organizations will review the interim reports of CEARAC activities and give suggestions for potential activities for the next biennium.

2.2 Maintenance of CEARAC websites

CEARAC plans to continue some routine work such as regular upload of latest information on HABs and remote sensing in the 2014-2015 biennium in order to improve the quality of the contents of CEARAC websites in close consultation and cooperation with relevant experts and other RACs and organizations.

2.3 Specific Projects

CEARAC plans to implement the following three specific projects in the 2014-2015 biennium.

2.3.1 Activity on marine biodiversity

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

CEARAC will conduct pilot assessment on the impacts of major threats to marine biodiversity in the NOWPAP member state. Major three threats, eutrophication, non-indigenous species and habitat loss, are focused on this activity. At the same time, CEARAC will organize a workshop to discuss possible components, data requirements and methodologies for future development of marine biodiversity assessment tools for the NOWPAP region.

2.3.2 Activity on eutrophication

- Trial applications of the screening procedure of the NOWPAP Common Procedure for eutrophication assessment

CEARAC will apply the “screening procedure” in the NOWPAP Common Procedure (refined in 2013) to the entire NOWPAP sea area in order to identify potential eutrophic zones as well as to verify the suitability of the screening procedure. At the same time, CEARAC will organize training workshops for coastal managers to promote autonomous use of the NOWPAP Common Procedure in each member state.

2.3.3 Activity on seagrass mapping

- Case studies on seagrass and seaweed mapping in selected sea areas in the NOWPAP region

CEARAC will conduct case studies on the changes of seagrass and seaweed distribution associated with environmental change in the NOWPAP member states by applying remote sensing techniques. CEARAC will also develop a manual to detect spatial distribution of seagrass and seaweed beds and then validate it in selected case study areas.

2.4 Cooperation, 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 information and data and disseminate past and present CEARAC activities, aiming to contributing to the goals of NOWPAP.

In addition, CEARAC will closely cooperate with organizations for smooth implementation of its activities for the 2014-2015 biennium. Some of the potential areas of work and partners may include:

- Marine biodiversity with DINRAC, PICES, IOC/WESTPAC and YSLME;
- Seagrass and seaweed mapping with DINRAC and PICES;
- Eutrophication with POMRAC, IOC/WESTPAC; and
- HAB with PICES

2.5 Activities on marine litter (RAP MALI)

CEARAC will implement activities on marine litter (RAP MALI). Detailed workplan and budget will be prepared following the decision of NOWPAP Marine Litter Working Meeting (26 October, Okinawa, Japan); however, CEARAC plans to implement the following activities:

2.5.1 Developing a report of case studies on basin-wide collaborative actions for prevention of marine litter input from land-based sources in Japan

CEARAC will focus on a few good practice cases of basin-wide collaborative actions in Japan, which aim to prevent marine litter input from land-based sources, and develop a summary report on the case studies for disseminating best practices and raise awareness of policy-makers and the public.

2.5.2 Collecting and summarizing national monitoring data from the member states

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

3. Budget plans for the 2014-2015 biennium

Based on the three options suggested by NOWPAP RCU and taking into the outcomes of implemented activities in the past and current bienniums, CEARAC proposes three budget plans for implementing abovementioned activities: Budget Plan A (US \$ 120,000); Budget Plan B (US\$ 125,000); and Budget Plan C (US\$ 147,000).

3.1 Budget Plan A (US\$ 120,000)

The proposed workplan and budget are shown in Table 1.

Table 1 Workplan and Budget of CEARAC for the 2014-2015 biennium

Activity	Planned Budget (US\$)			Note
	2014	2015	Total	
2 CEARAC FPMs and 1 Expert Meeting	27,000	27,000	54,000	FPM12-spring 2014 FPM13-fall 2015 EM- summer 2015
Maintenance of Websites	1,000	1,000	2,000	Less than current service level
<Specific project> Marine Biodiversity - Assessment in member states - Preparation of report - 1 workshop	12,000 (3,000/ea)	2,000 10,000	24,000	
Eutrophication assessment - Assessment in member states - 1 training workshop	12,000 (3,000/ea)	4,000	16,000	Only one training workshop held for capacity building of coastal managers
Seagrass/seaweed mapping - Developing a manual - Purchasing satellite images - Case studies	4,000 4,000	12,000 (3,000/ea)	20,000	
Cooperation and coordination	2,000	2,000	4,000	
TOTAL	62,000	58,000	120,000	

Note: Budget for marine litter activity (RAP MALI) is separated from the budget allocated to each RAC.

3.2 Budget Plan B (US\$ 125,000)

The proposed workplan and budget are shown in Table 2.

Table 2 Workplan and Budget of CEARAC for the 2014-2015 biennium

Activity	Planned Budget (US\$)			Note
	2014	2015	Total	
2 CEARAC FPMs and 1 Expert Meeting	27,000	27,000	54,000	FPM12-spring 2014 FPM13-fall 2015 EM- summer 2015
Maintenance of Websites	1,500	1,500	3,000	Current service level maintained
<Specific project> Marine Biodiversity - Assessment in member states - Preparing a report - 1 workshop	12,000 (3,000/ea)	2,000 10,000	24,000	
Eutrophication assessment - Assessment in member states - 2 training workshops	12,000 (3,000/ea)	8,000 (4,000/ea)	20,000	
Seagrass/seaweed mapping - Developing a manual - Purchasing satellite images - Case studies	4,000 4,000	12,000 (3,000/ea)	20,000	
Cooperation and coordination	2,000	2,000	4,000	
TOTAL	62,500	62,500	125,000	

Note: Budget for marine litter activity (RAP MALI) is separated from the budget allocated to each RAC.

3.3 Budget Plan C (US\$ 147,000)

The proposed workplan and budget are shown in Table 3.

Table3 Workplan and Budget of CEARAC for the 2014-2015 biennium

Activity	Planned Budget (US\$)			Note
	2014	2015	Total	
2 CEARAC FPMs and 1 Expert Meeting	27,000	27,000	54,000	FPM12-spring 2014 FPM13-fall 2015 EM- summer 2015
Maintenance of Websites	1,500	1,500	3,000	
<Specific project> Marine Biodiversity - Assessment in member states - Preparing a report - 1 workshop	18,000 (4,500/ea)	2,000 10,000	30,000	Number of topics and engaged experts increased for biodiversity assessment
Eutrophication assessment - Assessment in member states - 2 training workshops	12,000 (3,000/ea)	8,000 (4,000/ea)	20,000	
Seagrass/seaweed mapping - Developing a manual - Purchasing satellite images - Case studies - 1 workshop	4,000 4,000	12,000 (3,000/ea) 15,000	35,000	A workshop held for enhanced discussion and collaboration among experts
Cooperation and coordination	2,500	2,500	5,000	Cooperation enhanced
TOTAL	68,000	79,000	147,000	

Note: Budget for marine litter activity (RAP MALI) is separated from the budget allocated to each RAC.