

1. Background

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.

Taking into consideration the output and outcomes of the past activities as well as the progress of on-going activities and the directions of the NOWPAP MTS, the Secretariat of CEARAC presented a draft workplan and budget of its activities for the 2014-2015 biennium to the 11th CEARAC FPM (11-12 September 2013, Toyama Japan) to discuss, and the workplan and budget were approved to be submitted to the 18th NOWPAP Intergovernmental Meeting (4-6 December 2013, Toyama, Japan).

Since the 18th IGM could not reach any conclusions on financial matters of NOWPAP including the budget for RAC activities for the 2014-2015 biennium until the beginning of April 2014, all planned activities of CEARAC had been suspended until that time. Taking into consideration this long delay of the schedule, the Secretariat of CEARAC presents a modified workplan and budget to be discussed at the 12th CEARAC FPM.

2. Proposal for activities for the 2014-2015 Biennium

Summary of the workplan for CEARAC activities for the 2014-2015 biennium is shown in Table 1.

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

Activity
Organization of Meetings - FPM 12 and 13 - Expert Meeting
Maintenance of Websites - regular update of contents (HAB Integrated Website and Ocean RS Portal Site) - upgrade of Marine Environmental Watch System
Specific projects Marine Biodiversity (Pilot assessment on the impacts of major threats to marine biodiversity in selected sea areas in the NOWPAP region) - Assessment in member states and preparing national reports - Organizing a workshop

- Preparing a regional report
Eutrophication assessment (Trial applications of the screening procedure of the NOWPAP Common Procedure for eutrophication assessment)
- Assessment in member states - Harmonization of reports on trial application - Developing a potential eutrophic map and an integrated report
Seagrass/seaweed mapping (Case studies on seagrass and seaweed mapping in selected sea areas in the NOWPAP region)
- Developing a manual - Purchasing satellite images - Implementing case studies - Organizing a workshop
Cooperation and coordination
RAP MALI (marine litter-related activities)
- Compiling/Harmonizing monitoring data - Developing a case study report on basin-wide collaborative actions to prevent land-based ML input in Japan

2.1 Organization of Meetings (12th and 13th FPMs and an Expert Meeting)

The Twelfth and Thirteenth CEARAC Focal Points Meetings (FPMs) will be held in Toyama, Japan in July 2014 and in September 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.

Website of Marine Environmental Watch System will also be upgraded by in-kind support by the Ministry of the Environment of Japan.

Since website is a useful tool for disseminating/sharing information in wider communities instantaneously, CEARAC will make a full use of this communication tool.

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, through nominated national experts, will conduct pilot assessment on the impacts of major threats to marine biodiversity in the NOWPAP member state. Three threats, eutrophication, non-indigenous species and habitat loss, are main foci in this activity. CEARAC will organize a workshop and discuss possible components, data requirements and methodologies on these three topics 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, through nominated national experts, will apply the Screening Procedure in the refined 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.

2.3.3 Activity on seagrass mapping

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

CEARAC will also develop a manual to detect spatial distribution of seagrass and seaweed beds, and through nominated national experts, conduct case studies on the changes of seagrass and seaweed distribution associated with environmental changes in the NOWPAP member states by applying remote sensing techniques.

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

Taking every opportunity, CEARAC will participate in events (e.g. meetings and workshops) held by NOWPAP RCU, other RACs and relevant regional/international organizations to exchange information and data as well as to disseminate past and present CEARAC activities, aiming to contribute to conservation of the marine environment.

At the 2013 PICES Annual Meeting, a joint publication of “Economic Impacts of Harmful Algal Blooms on Fisheries and Aquaculture” by PICES HAB-section and NOWPAP in 2014 was proposed and it was approved by Science Board and Governing Council of PICES. This PICES Scientific Report will be published by the time of the 2014 PICES Annual Meeting to be held in Yeosu, Korea.

Some other potential areas of work and partners may include:

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

2.5 Activities on marine litter (RAP MALI)

CEARAC will implement the following activities on marine litter (RAP MALI), following the decision at the NOWPAP Marine Litter Working Meeting (October 2013, Okinawa, Japan) and the approval at the 18th NOWPAP IGM.

2.5.1 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.

2.5.2 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 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 in and out of the NOWPAP region and raising awareness of policy-makers as well as the public.

2.5.3 Establishing the Northwest Pacific Regional Node of the Global Partnership on Marine Litter

In spring 2014, NPEC, host organization of CEARAC, and NOWPAP RCU established the Northwest Pacific Regional Node of the Global Partnership on Marine Litter with the support by UNEP Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities. This framework is expected to help promote prevention and reduction of marine litter in the NOWPAP region.

3. Budget plans for the 2014-2015 biennium

The 18th NOWPAP IGM basically approved the NOWPAP Programme of Work for the 2014-2015 biennium with total budget at US\$ 900,000, in which, each RAC is to be allocated US\$ 125,000 for implementing their planned activities for 2 years.

However, only 2014 budget (US\$ 62,500 for each RAC) has been clearly set as an unprecedented practice, and the rest of the 2014-2015 budget including the 2015 budget for each RAC will be considered at the 19th IGM (tentatively October 2014, Vladivostok, Russia).

Table 2 shows the budget and the workplan for CEARAC activities for the 2014-2015 biennium.

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

Activity	Planned Budget (US\$)			Note
	2014	2015	Total	
Organization of meetings - FPMs (12 th and 13 th) - 1 Expert Meeting	27,000	27,000 + external	54,000	FPM12-Jul. 2014 FPM13-Sep. 2015 EM- summer 2015
Maintenance of Websites - regular update (HAB & RS) - upgrade of Marine Environmental Watch System	1,500 in-kind	1,500 in-kind	3,000 in-kind	HAB: 1/biennium RS: 1/yr Watch: 1/yr
Specific projects Marine Biodiversity - Assessment in member states and preparing national reports - Organizing a workshop - Preparing a regional report		12,000 (3,000/ea) 10,000 2,000	24,000	

Eutrophication - Assessment in member states - Developing a potential eutrophic map and a report		16,000 (4,000/ea) 4,000	20,000	
Seagrass mapping - Developing a manual - Purchasing satellite images - Implementing case studies - Organizing a workshop	4,000	4,000 12,000 (3,000/ea) external	20,000	
Cooperation/coordination	2,000	2,000	4,000	2014-2015
Sub TOTAL	34,500	(90,500)	(125,000)	
RAP MALI - Compiling/Harmonizing monitoring data - Developing a report on basin- wide collaborative actions in Japan - Establishing the Northwest Pacific Regional Node	in-kind external	in-kind 6,000 external	6,000	
Grand TOTAL	34,500	(96,500)	(131,000)	