

Annotated Provisional Agenda

Background leading to the meeting

The Special Monitoring and Coastal Environmental Assessment Regional Activity Centre (CEARAC) is one of the four Regional Activity Centres (RACs) to coordinate activities relevant to specific components of the Action Plan for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Northwest Pacific Action Plan (NOWPAP). Since its inception in 2002, CEARAC has mainly worked on monitoring and assessing harmful algal blooms including red tides (under Working Group 3) and application of remote sensing techniques for monitoring and assessment of the marine and coastal environment (Working Group 4).

Since 2008, when CEARAC initiated an activity on eutrophication as a joint work of WG3 and WG4, its foci have shifted to eutrophication and marine biodiversity and CEARAC has implemented some activities on these areas in recent biennia.

During the 2014-2015 biennium, CEARAC implemented three specific projects related to marine biodiversity conservation, eutrophication assessment, and seagrass mapping in the NOWPAP region. Especially for eutrophication assessment, CEARAC applied the screening procedure (first diagnosis) of the NOWPAP Common Procedure to the entire NOWPAP region to detect potential eutrophic zones in the NOWPAP region. One of the outcomes of this activity was presented in a form of web GIS map to visually understand the status of eutrophication in the NOWPAP region.

In the following 2016-2017 biennium, CEARAC conducted core projects on marine biodiversity and seagrass assessment while implementing follow-up activities of eutrophication assessment. Since there was some delay in the 2014-2015 activities, the Secretariat of CEARAC asked its Focal Points (FPs) for continuation of these projects during the 2016-2017 biennium at the 14th CEARAC Focal Points Meeting (FPM) held in 2016 in parallel with two new projects. At the meeting, participated FPs expressed their concern on lack of relevant information and rather heavy workload of planned tasks in the new project on marine biodiversity and advised that the Secretariat revise the workplan and conduct assessment of major pressures on marine biodiversity in the NOWPAP region based on the data collected in the previous 2014-2015 biennium. The Secretariat followed the suggestion and revised the workplan on marine biodiversity activity.

In the 16th CEARAC FPM (29-30 August 2017, Toyama, Japan), while reviewing the progress of CEARAC activities for the 2016-2017 biennium, the meeting discussed the draft workplan of CEARAC activities for the 2018-2019 biennium presented by the Secretariat for

adoption to its submission to the 22nd NOWPAP Intergovernmental Meeting (IGM) held in December 2017. Following the advice from the NOWPAP Regional Coordinating Unit (RCU), the Secretariat prepared a workplan with two budgets: USD 140,000 (same amount as the 2016-2017 biennium) and USD 180,000 with two potential activities on upgrading CEARAC websites and considering future direction of NOWPAP marine biodiversity activities.

Then, the 22nd NOWPAP IGM approved the workplan of NOWPAP with a higher budget set by RCU, and it was decided that CEARAC would be allocated USD 185,000 for implementing its planned activities for the 2017-2018 biennium. In addition to above budget, USD 9,250 was allocated to CEARAC as budget of marine litter activity for the 2018-2019 biennium. In line with the decision, the Secretariat of CEARAC has slightly revised its workplan and budget for the 2018-2019 activities.

The 16th NOWPAP CEARAC will be held on 10-11 May 2018 to review the workplan and budget of CEARAC activities for the 2018-2019 biennium and to give practical guidance for smooth implementation of all planned activities to be completed successfully with fruitful outcomes at the end of the current biennium.

The Sixteenth NOWPAP CEARAC Focal Points Meeting

Agenda Item 1. Opening of the Meeting

(Director of CEARAC chairs)

The 16th CEARAC Focal Points Meeting (FPM) will be opened at 9:15 at Room 612 at Toyama Kenmin Kaikan, Toyama, Japan, on 10 May 2018 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 16th FPM, the chairperson is to be an FP of Korea and the rapporteur is to be an FP of Russia.

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 16th 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)

The Secretariat of CEARAC will explain the Provisional Agenda of the 16th FPM (UNEP/NOWPAP/CEARAC/FPM 16/1) with the Annotated Provisional Agenda (UNEP/NOWPAP/CEARAC/FPM 16/2). 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)

The representatives of NOWPAP RCU will report the progress of the entire NOWPAP activities since the 15th NOWPAP CEARAC FPM (29-30 August 2017, Toyama, Japan) including the outcomes of the NOWPAP activities in the 2016-2017 biennium as well as the

workplan of NOWPAP activities for the 2018-2019 biennium while indicating their relevance to the NOWPAP Medium-term Strategy (MTS) 2018-2023 (UNEP/NOWPAP/CEARAC/FPM 16/3, UNEP/NOWPAP/CEARAC/FPM 16/Ref 5).

Agenda Item 5. Report on CEARAC activities for the 2016-2017 biennium

(Elected Chairperson chairs)

The Secretariat of CEARAC will report the results of entire CEARAC activities for the 2016-2017 biennium (UNEP/NOWPAP/CEARAC/FPM 16/4) including two reports of specific projects: assessment of major pressures on marine biodiversity in the NOWPAP region; and feasibility study towards assessment of seagrass distribution in the NOWPAP region.

Agenda Item 6. Workplan and budget for CEARAC activities for the 2018-2019 biennium

6.1 Overall workplan and budget for CEARAC activities

(Elected Chairperson chairs)

Following the decision at the 22nd NOWPAP IGM, the Secretariat of CEARAC will briefly explain the workplan and budget of all CEARAC activities for the 2018-2019 biennium (UNEP/NOWPAP/CEARAC/FPM 16/5) followed by more detailed explanation of three specific projects.

6.2 Workplan and budget of Specific Projects

6.2.1 Development of the CEARAC Medium-term Strategy on marine biodiversity

(Elected Chairperson chairs)

The Secretariat of CEARAC will explain the workplan and budget and report the progress of an activity: development of the CEARAC Medium-term Strategy on marine biodiversity (UNEP/NOWPAP/CEARAC/FPM 16/6). CEARAC plans to clearly set out its vision and develop a CEARAC's medium-term strategy on marine biodiversity which should be the guideline of relevant CEARAC activities from 2020 on.

6.2.2 Development of a roadmap for Regional Action Plan for Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Conservation

(Elected Chairperson chairs)

The Secretariat of CEARAC will explain the workplan and budget and report the progress of an activity: development of a roadmap for Regional Action Plan for Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Conservation (UNEP/NOWPAP/CEARCA/FPM 16/7). After explanation from CEARAC Secretariat, NOWPAP RCU will make additional explanation. While RCU works on

NOWPAP regional Action Plan on Marine and Coastal Biodiversity to be developed in 2023, CEARAC will provide some discussion opportunities with other RACs and their FPs to develop a roadmap for the regional action plan. The first meeting will be held in the afternoon of 11 May, after the 16th FPM.

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

(Elected Chairperson chairs)

The Secretariat of CEARAC will explain the workplan and budget and report the progress of an activity: development of a tool for mapping seagrass distribution in the NOWPAP region, in which cloud computing technology will be applied (UNEP/NOWPAP/CEARCA/FPM 16/8). CEARAC plans to develop a web-based mapping tool which users of the website can actively involve the mapping of seagrass distribution in the NOWPAP region.

Agenda Item 7. Report on CEARAC marine litter activities

(Elected Chairperson chairs)

The Secretariat of CEARAC will report CEARAC marine litter activities implemented in the 2016-2017 biennium and explain planned activities for the 2018-2019 biennium (UNEP/NOWPAP/CEARCA/FPM 16/9). Since NOWPAP DINRAC will start operating the Northwest Pacific Regional Node on Marine Litter (GPML) instead of the Northwest Pacific Region Environmental Cooperation Center (NPEC), host organization of CEARAC, the Secretariat of CEARAC will support NPEC with transfer of the responsibility.

Agenda Item 8. 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 current/future activities which is related to CEARAC activities.

Agenda Item 9. Arrangement of the Seventeenth NOWPAP CEARAC FPM

(Elected Chairperson chairs)

The Secretariat of CEARAC will propose the venue and the time of the 17th NOWPAP CEARAC FPM for approval. It is planned to be held in autumn 2019 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 16th CEARAC FPM.

Agenda Item 11. Adoption of the report of the Meeting

(Elected Chairperson chairs)

A draft report of the 16th NOWPAP CEARAC FPM will be prepared by the rapporteur and the Secretariat of CEARAC for review and finalization.

Agenda Item 12. Closure of the Meeting

(Elected Chairperson chairs)

The 16th CEARAC FPM will be closed by the chairperson at 12:00 on 11 May 2018.

***In the afternoon of 11 May**, the Secretariat of CEARAC will invite representatives of other RACs and RCU of NOWPAP, and NOWPAP partners as appropriate, to the **RCU/RAC Meeting on Marine Biodiversity** to discuss and clarify responsibilities of each RAC on marine biodiversity conservation in the NOWPAP region.