

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

## **1. Background**

In 2011, NOWPAP Medium-Term Strategy 2012-2017 (MTS) was adopted by the NOWPAP member states. In this MTS, Conservation of Marine and Coastal Biodiversity is set as one of the objectives (4.1. To develop the regional Action Plan on Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Conservation: RAP BIO); however, it was not realized during the 2012-2017 term.

RAP BIO should provide a framework for regional coordination of policies and management decisions of the NOWPAP member states and identify the role of NOWPAP in conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity. Therefore, any marine biological-related activity implemented by NOWPAP RACs should be aligned with the supposed-to-be-developed RAP BIO of NOWPAP. In fact, lack of RAP BIO in NOWPAP made each RAC explore feasible activities on their own and implement them in the past biennia. In the perspective of clarifying roles of each RAC and increasing cooperation among them, early development of RAP BIO is strongly desired. Then, development and finalization of RAP BIO is again included as one of outcomes in the new NOWPAP MTS 2018-2023 (Outcome 4.3 in Priority Area 4: Conserve marine and coastal biodiversity).

At the 15<sup>th</sup> CEARAC FPM held in August 2017, the Secretariat of CEARAC presented a draft workplan on development of a CEARAC Medium-term Strategy (MTS) on marine biodiversity as part of CEARAC activities for the 2018-2019 biennium. Also following RCU's suggestion of preparing some additional workplan in case of increased allocation of budget from the NOWPAP Trust Fund, the Secretariat prepared another workplan on consideration of a roadmap for developing the RAP BIO with NOWPAP RCU and all RACs. Then, in the 22<sup>nd</sup> NOWPAP IGM held in December 2017, a larger budget plan for NOWPAP Programme of Work (PoW) for 2018-2019 was adopted, including CEARAC's draft workplan of activities. So, development of the abovementioned roadmap officially became a part of CEARAC activities for 2018-2019.

At the 16<sup>th</sup> CEARAC FPM held in May 2018, all planned activities of CEARAC for 2018-2019 were reviewed by CEARAC FPs. Since this project is closely related to other three RACs and some of their past and on-going activities, the meeting recommended CEARAC to consult other RACs on the roadmap development and then decided that CEARAC would modify the workplan based on the opinions and suggestions from other RACs and their FPs as well.

## **2. Objective**

The goal of this project is to develop a roadmap toward development of RAP BIO of NOWPAP, in close communication and cooperation with the member states, NOWPAP RCU and other RACs and in alignment with the development of CEARAC MTS on marine and coastal biodiversity conservation.

The process to develop a roadmap is similar to the one used to develop RAP-MALI (Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter), which was adopted in 2008. It means that prior to adoption of RAP-MALI, one preparation project called NOWPAP Marine Litter Activity (MALITA) was implemented. In MALITA, its major activities were (i) collecting information on marine litter distribution and trends and countermeasures taken by the member states to

identify future roles of the member states, RCU and RACs in RAP-MALI and (ii) identifying necessary components to be incorporated in RAP-MALI. Development of the draft RAP-MALI at the end of 2007 was one crucial outcome of MALITA project implemented in 2005-2007.

In this CEARAC's roadmap project implemented before developing RAP BIO from 2020 on, it was agreed to take similar operational steps in MALITA and RAP-MALI developments.

### 3. Activity

#### 3-1 Cooperation and coordination with other RACs

Following suggestions by CEARAC FPs at the 16<sup>th</sup> CEARAC FPM, the Secretariat of CEARAC participated in other RACs' FPMs in 2018 to explain our project and asked for their opinions. Comments by other RACs and their FPs are shown in Table 1:

Table 1 Opinions from other RACs to this project.

|        |   |
|--------|---|
| DINRAC | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Before Working on RAP-BIO, CEARAC needs to review past activities of NOWPAP on marine and coastal biodiversity</li> <li>- CEARAC should organize an expert meeting to discuss potential working areas of NOWPAP under a broad theme of "marine and coastal biodiversity"</li> </ul>  |
| MERRAC | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Most of MERRAC FPs are representatives of national Coast Guard, so it is quite difficult for them to deal with marine biodiversity activities as part of their work. However, MERRAC has experiences on oil spill incidents. So, if marine biodiversity is somehow related to oil spill, it could be possible for MERRAC FPs to take some roles in the CEARAC project.</li> <li>- MERRAC Secretariat would like to include consideration of future activities on non-indigenous species (NIS) by ballast water and ship-hauling in the CEARAC project.</li> <li>- MERRAC plans to organize a brainstorming meeting where future possible activities of MERRAC will be discussed, and issues on marine and coastal biodiversity conservation will also be discussed there.</li> <li>- For development of RAP BIO, how about hiring individual consultant(s) who has relevant experiences in international organizations?</li> </ul> |
| POMRAC | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Issues on marine and coastal biodiversity and NIS are included in the Ecological Quality Objectives (EcoQOs) developed by POMRAC, so it is necessary to reflect what POMRAC is doing into CEARAC's work</li> <li>- How about hiring an experienced consultant(s) to do the work?</li> </ul>  |

Based on the provided opinions/suggestions, CEARAC revised the workplan as follows:

#### 3-2 Development of roadmap

The practical work of a roadmap development is done by a group of 4 national consultants/experts (one per

country) hired by CEARAC and they are led by one international UN consultant to be hired by NOWPAP RCU. RCU, in consultation with CEARAC Secretariat, develops Terms of References (ToR) for the roadmap development, which specifies responsibilities of the hired consultants taking into accounts the comments provided at RAC FPMs in 2018. Specific tasks to be included in the ToR, but not limited to, are the following:

- Identify clusters of issues of regional and national importance for marine biodiversity conservation and sustainable use (including based on inputs provided by CEARAC FPs, NOWPAP reports and other available information);
- Review and assess past NOWPAP activities for addressing marine biodiversity. In the past, not only CEARAC but also other RACs implemented activities on marine and coastal biodiversity. So, reviewing each activity helps to identify what has already done/studied and what has not. Also, recommendations made in the past activities can show which direction NOWPAP biodiversity activities move on from now and for the development of RAP BIO.

Past NOWPAP activities related to marine and coastal biodiversity are as follows: **【CEARAC】**

- Report on monitoring and management of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) in the NOWPAP region
- Pilot assessments of the impacts of major threats on marine biodiversity in the NOWPAP region
- Report on major pressures on marine biodiversity in the NOWPAP region
- Feasibility study towards assessment of seagrass distribution in the NOWPAP region

**【DINRAC】**

- Establishment of database on MPAs
- Report on NIS in the NOWPAP region
- Endangered and threatened marine species in the NOWPAP region

**【MERRAC】**

- Report on oiled wildlife response in the NOWPAP region

**【POMRAC】**

- Establishment of Ecological Quality Objectives (EcoQOs) in the NOWPAP region

- Assess existing national and regional expertise on marine biodiversity;

- Identify comparative role of NOWPAP in addressing marine biodiversity issues in consultation with the member states and RACs;- Develop the RAP BIO roadmap.

RCU coordinates implementation of the components above in consultation with CEARAC. ToR was submitted to NOWPAP Focal Points for comments together with the request for nominating national consultants/experts. RCU announced a recruitment of an international consultant on the UN career website. A group of selected consultant will produce a RAP BIO roadmap before the 24<sup>th</sup> NOWPAP IGM (December 2019) for review and adoption. After an international consultant was selected and experts were nominated from member states.

Table 2 List of International consultant and national experts

|                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| International consultant | Dr. David Coates  |
| Expert of China          | Dr. Jingfeng FAN, National Marine Environmental Monitoring Center         |
| Expert of Japan          | CEARAC Secretariat  |
| Expert of Korea          | Dr. Yong-Rock AN, National Marine Biodiversity Institute of Korea         |
| Expert of Russia*        | Dr. Tatiana Orlova, A.V. Zhirmunskii Institute of Marine Biology, FAR RAS |

\*Waiting final decision of Russian National FP

### 3-3 Organization of NOWPAP Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Workshop

CEARAC together with RCU will organize a workshop to exchange/share information/opinions on working areas of marine and coastal biodiversity in the NOWPAP region as well as roles of each RAC in this issue based on the draft roadmap prepared by a group of consultants. Possible participants are experts of marine and coastal biodiversity and government officials on national biodiversity policies of the member states, and representatives of NOWPAP RCU and RACs. The workshop should include stakeholders beyond NOWPAP to identify potential new partners.

Due to the delay of nomination of national experts, the workshop has not been held yet. CEARAC expects that it will be held by the end of 2019 and before the 24<sup>th</sup> NOWPAP IGM.

## 4. Expected outcomes

It is already proved that NOWPAP can bear fruitful outcomes in RAP MALI by well-managed cooperation and collaboration of all RACs, where roles of each RAC is clearly stated so as to they can work effectively and efficiently. So, once RAP BIO is developed and in place, NOWPAP activities on conservation of marine and coastal biodiversity will be implemented in more efficient manners and be contributed to the achievement of relevant Aichi Targets and SDG targets.

## 5. Budget

| Activity  | Timing                  | Budget (USD)   |
|---|-------------------------|--|
| Develop ToR for Marine Biodiversity Activity and submit it for comments by NOWPAP FPs. Request nomination of national consultants/experts | Mid-August<br>2018      |  |
| Conclude contracts with one international and four national consultants   | Oct-Nov<br>2018         | 10,000<br>(2,500 US\$ x 4 member states)<br>Int'l consultant hired by RCU budget |
| Preparation of Marine Biodiversity Activity proposal towards RAP BIO preparation (report)   | Dec<br>2018-May<br>2019 |  |

|   |                     |        |
|---|---------------------|--------|
| Organization of NOWPAP Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Workshop | Summer or Fall 2019 | 20,000 |
| Total   |                     | 30,000 |

## 6. Timeline

| Time |                                     | Activity   | Main body   |
|------|-------------------------------------|--|---|
| 2018 | May                                 | CEARAC FPM16<br>- Review of Workplan   | CEARAC FPs and Secretariat                              |
|      | May                                 | DINRAC FPM   | DINRAC, DINRAC FPs, RCU, CEARAC                         |
|      | July                                | POMRAC FPM   | POMRAC, POMRAC FPs, RCU                                 |
|      | July                                | MERRAC FPM   | MERRAC, MERRAC FPs, RCU, CEARAC                         |
|      | Aug.-Nov.                           | Development of ToR for Marine Biodiversity Activity and its approval by NOWPAP FPs | RCU in consultation with CEARAC                         |
|      | Nov-Dec.<br>( <i>Delayed</i> )      | Contracts with consultant/expert   | RCU (International) and CEARAC (4 national consultants) |
| 2019 | winter-summer<br>( <i>Delayed</i> ) | Development of Roadmap toward RAP BIO  | Consultants coordinated by RCU with inputs from CEARAC  |
|      | Fall<br>( <i>TBD</i> )              | Review of draft roadmap at the NOWPAP Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Workshop     | Expert and gov. officials in members RCU and RACs       |
|      | Winter                              | NOWPAP IGM24<br>- Review and adoption of NOWPAP Marine Biodiversity Activity       | NOWPAP National FPs                                     |