

## **Proposal for implementation of pilot studies at significant tidal flats in the NOWPAP region**

### **1. Background**

In the CEARAC Medium-term Strategy developed in 2019, habitat conservation is selected as one of the high priority issues in the NOWPAP region. Based on this strategy, CEARAC implemented assessment of the distribution of tidal flats and salt marshes in the NOWPAP region in the 2020-2021 biennium. Through this project, the first distribution map of tidal flats in the NOWPAP region is available.

NOWPAP plans to develop the Regional Action Plan for Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Conservation (RAP BIO) by 2023. The first draft is prepared by NOWPAP RCU, RACs, nominated national experts and an international consultant, and it is being reviewed by the NOWPAP National FPs for approval at the 24<sup>th</sup> NOWPAP IGM to be held in the end of 2021. In the RAP BIO, habitat conservation is also an important part for marine biodiversity conservation in the NOWPAP region. It is expected not only to understand the distribution but also to contribute to conservation of habitats and marine species in the NOWPAP region. Thus, CEARAC would like to continue implementing a project on tidal flats and salt marshes in the 2022-2023 biennium.

### **2. Objectives**

Objectives of this project is to select significant tidal flats in each NOWPAP member state and to implement pilot studies for collecting information on marine species which use the selected tidal flats, conservation and management status and anthropogenic impacts around the tidal flats.

### **3. Tasks**

#### **3.1 Selection of significant tidal flats in the NOWPAP member states**

Each member state will select several significant tidal flats. When selecting tidal flats, the member states should refer to the situation of Ramsar Convention and Convention/Agreement of Migratory birds.

#### **3.2 Implementation of pilot studies**

The nominated expert in each member state will collect following information to implement pilot studies for enhancing the first distribution map of tidal flats in the NOWPAP region;

- 1) Information on list of migratory birds which use the selected significant tidal flats
- 2) Information on managers of the selected significant tidal flats and their status of management and conservation
- 3) Anthropogenic impacts on the selected significant tidal flats and areas around

them

- 4) Other available information on the selected significant tidal flats

### 3.3 GIS mapping of tidal flats in the NOWPAP region

CEARAC developed the first distribution map of tidal flats in the NOWPAP region using the improved Global Intertidal Change (GIC). In order to enhance the map, the collected information in 3.2 will be added to the map. In addition, if the distribution map developed in the 2020-2021 biennium is not accurate enough, the map of the selected tidal flats will be improved. The distribution map of tidal flats and their information will be disseminated through CEARAC website.

## 4. Expected outputs

Regional Action Plan for Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Conservation (RAP BIO) of NOWPAP will be developed by 2023. The first draft is circulated among the NOWPAP National FPs. As habitat conservation is included in the draft RAP BIO, information on tidal flats in the NOWPAP region will contribute to the RAP BIO. RAP BIO also requests effective management using networks of marine protected areas (MPA). This project aims to share information on common endangered migratory birds. It will contribute to development of a MPA network in the NOWPAP region in future.

## 5. Budget

Tasks	Budget
Pilot studies at the significant tidal flats in each member state	16,000USD (4,000USD×4 countries)
Enhancing the distribution map using collected information	4,000USD
Total	20,000USD

## 6. Schedule

Year	Tasks	Main Body
2021	Aug. 18 <sup>th</sup> CEARAC FPM Approval of the draft workplan	CEARAC FPs and CEARAC Secretariat
	Winter 24 <sup>th</sup> NOWPAP IGM Approval of Workplan	NOWPAP National FPs
2022	Spring 19 <sup>th</sup> CEARAC FPM	CEARAC FPs and CEARAC

		Approval of implementation plan	Secretariat
	Summer	Selection of significant tidal flats and nomination of experts Contract with the nominated experts	CEARAC FPs Experts, CEARAC Secretariat
	Q3-2023Q2	Implementation of pilot studies in each member state	Experts
2023	Q2	Expert meeting (virtual) Report of the pilot studies	Experts, CEARAC Secretariat
	Q3-Q4	Enhancing the distribution map based on the results of the pilot studies	CEARAC Secretariat