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Attachment I

NOWPAP Evolution: New Directions for the NOWPAP RACs and RCU

I. Introduction - the Northwest Pacific Action Plan (NOWPAP)

The Northwest Pacific Action Plan (NOWPAP) was established in 1994, as a part of the UNEP Regional Seas Programme. Following the decisions of the 3rd, 4th and 5th Intergovernmental Meetings (IGM) of NOWPAP (1997-1999), UNEP facilitated, during the years 1998-2001, the establishment of a network of the four Regional Activity Centers (RACs) for NOWPAP. The 3rd IGM (April 1998, Vladivostok) also decided about the demarcation of the activities of the RACs.

UNEP, acting as the Interim Secretariat for NOWPAP since its inception, and following the requests of the NOWPAP IGMs, has also facilitated the process of the establishment of a co-hosted Regional Coordinating Unit (RCU) in Toyama, Japan and Busan, the Republic of Korea. The inauguration ceremonies of both RCU offices took place in November 2004, and they became fully operational in April 2005.

After ten years of NOWPAP evolution and establishment of the RCU, it is clear that some changes in the functions of the RACs are necessary. Based on the discussions at the NOWPAP Intersessional Workshop in Seoul, the Republic of Korea, on 25-26 July 2005, it is recommended that the RCU and the RACs would be given the following responsibilities as listed below.

1. The Regional Coordinating Unit (RCU)

The RCU should be the nerve center directing and promoting the Action Plan's activities. The RCU has overall responsibility for the implementation of the Member States decisions regarding the operation of the Action Plan. The RCU should assist, and provide the regional platform of the Action Plan, as much as possible, for the implementation of Global Environmental Conventions. It should be responsible for the follow-up and implementation of legal documents, the Programme of Work and of general strategies and policies adopted by the Member States. The RCU should perform the diplomatic, political and public relations functions of the Action Plan.

The RCU should cooperate with governments, with other UN and non-UN agencies and with NGOs and facilitate the capacity building of the Regional Activity Centers (RACs) and of the Member States.

The RCU should perform all secretariat functions such as the organization of major institutional meetings and oversee the programme implementation. The RCU should also be responsible for the smooth and efficient operation of the RACs and for general management of the Action Plan.

The main responsibilities of the NOWPAP RCU offices regarding administrative and substantive issues, as of September 2005, are shown in the table below. These responsibilities are in line with the Terms of Reference for the NOWPAP RCU adopted at the 5th IGM.

Toyama – Coordinator's responsibility	Busan – Deputy Coordinator's responsibility
Administrative issues	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overall responsibility over NOWPAP activities • General administration (manpower, offices, travel, etc.) • General responsibility for implementation of workplan and budget 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deputy's secondary overall responsibility (OIC when coordinator on leave or mission) • Administration of Busan office (office, finances, travel, etc.) • Technical and scientific projects
Substantive and cross-cutting issues (covered by BOTH offices under coordinator's overall responsibility)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination and support to the RACs • Preparation of meetings and reports • Liaison with UNEP and Governments • Development of partnerships, contacts with MEAs, IGOs, NGOs, regional and global projects • Finance and resource mobilization (including GEF) • Public relations, public awareness, publications • Land based activities • Marine litter • Sustainable development • Legal aspects, environmental legislation • Capacity building • Other activities not taken by RACs 	

2. The Regional Activity Centers (RACs)

The RACs were established in the different host countries (which also support them financially and logistically) and are aimed to serve all member states, by carrying out activities related to the Action Plan at a regional level ('regional' means the level of the Action Plan's geographic coverage) as agreed and guided by the IGM decisions. The RACs play key roles in the implementation of various components of the NOWPAP. They are financially supported by the NOWPAP Trust Fund and by the host country. The RACs are an integral part of the Action Plan and should report directly to the RCU.

The RACs should promote, develop and carry out capacity building in various environmental fields in the region and strengthen the member states which are more in need.

The present activities of NOWPAP RACs, as decided by the 3rd and 4th NOWPAP IGMs, are as follows:

RAC	Present Activities
CEARAC, Toyama	Special Monitoring and Coastal Environmental Assessment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harmful Algal Blooms (HAB) • Remote Sensing (RS) applications
DINRAC, Beijing	Data and Information Network <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data and Information Management
MERRAC, Daejeon	Marine Environmental Emergency Preparedness and Response <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oil Spill Preparedness and Response
POMRAC, Vladivostok	Pollution Monitoring: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Atmospheric input of contaminants to the marine and coastal environment • River and direct inputs of contaminants to the marine and coastal environment

II. Recommendation

The suggestions regarding future directions of work of NOWPAP RACs are shown in the table below. These suggestions were discussed at the NOWPAP Intersessional Workshop in Seoul, Republic of Korea, on 25-26 July 2005 and are based on the capabilities of respective national host institutions which are currently hosting the NOWPAP RACs. The transition should be implemented gradually, within several years (please see the table and text on the following pages). More detailed responsibilities of each RAC, their work plans and budgets for 2006-2007, will be discussed at their respective Focal Points Meetings (pending further approval by the NOWPAP IGM).

Suggested Responsibilities and Activities of the NOWPAP RACs

RAC	RESPONSIBILITIES and ACTIVITIES
<p>CEARAC</p>	<p>2004-2005:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WG3 on Harmful Algal Blooms (HAB) • WG4 on Remote Sensing (RS) of the Marine Environment • National Reports on HAB and RS • Integrated Reports on HAB and RS <p>2006-2007:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working Groups on HAB and RS (continued) • Land Based Sources of Pollution (with other RACs) • Marine Litter (with other RACs) - might be linked with general waste management practices on land and with 3R (reduce, reuse, recycle) initiative
<p>POMRAC</p>	<p>2004-2005:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WG1 on Atmospheric Deposition (AD) of Contaminants • WG2 on River and Direct Inputs (RDI) of Contaminants • National Reports on AD and RDI <p>2006-2007:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional Overviews on AD and RDI • State of Marine Environment Report (with other RACs) • Integrated Coastal and River Basin Management • Land Based Sources of Pollution (with other RACs)
<p>DINRAC</p>	<p>2004-2005:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DINRAC website and databases of experts and institutions • NOWPAP policy on data and information sharing • National reports on data and information management • Guidelines for NOWPAP meta-database establishment • Study on GIS-type products and applications in NOWPAP region <p>2006-2007:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NOWPAP Clearing-House - storage and easy retrieval of data resulting from all NOWPAP activities (oil spills, HAB, atmospheric and river inputs of contaminants, biodiversity data, legal issues, etc.) • A “switchboard” to provide links to resources available in NOWPAP member countries

MERRAC	<p>2004-2005:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oil Spill Preparedness and Response • NOWPAP Regional Oil Spill Contingency Plan (RCP) and MOU • Specific projects on oil spill modeling; sensitivity mapping; dispersant application; shore clean-up • Training exercises <p>2006-2007:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oil and Chemical Emergency Preparedness and Response (within a framework of NOWPAP RCP, including specific projects and training exercises) • Marine-Based Pollution (MARPOL and OPRC, with IMO) • Marine Litter (with other RACs) <p>At a later stage:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ballast Waters and Alien Invasive Species (with GloBallast II) • IMO conventions • Liability and Compensation
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1. CEARAC

The Special Monitoring and Coastal Environmental Assessment Regional Activity Center (CEARAC) in Toyama, Japan, currently has two Working Groups (WG3 on Harmful Algal Blooms and WG4 on Remote Sensing of the Marine Environment). In 2005-2006, the experts of these working groups will prepare National Reports and then the Integrated Reports on these two issues for the NOWPAP region. These documents might contribute to the State of Marine Environment Report in the NOWPAP Region which would be prepared in 2006-2007. Then, CEARAC might consider focusing on activities related to land based sources of pollution and marine litter.

2. DINRAC

The Data and Information Network Regional Activity Center (DINRAC) in Beijing, China, is responsible for providing data storage and retrieval as well as information network for all NOWPAP activities. The DINRAC website was envisioned as a primary source of environmental data and information for the NOWPAP region and also as a “switchboard” to provide links to resources available in NOWPAP member countries. It is suggested that in addition to data resulting from other NOWPAP RACs activities (oil spills, HABs, atmospheric and river inputs of contaminants, etc.), biodiversity data could be also included into DINRAC database. DINRAC should serve as a NOWPAP Clearing-House, providing information about all NOWPAP-related activities and eventually also information about the state of marine environment in the NOWPAP region.

3. MERRAC

The Marine Environmental Emergency Preparedness and Response Regional Activity Center (MERRAC) in Daejeon, the Republic of Korea, has accumulated substantial expertise during the last several years. The MOU on the NOWPAP Oil Spill Regional Contingency Plan has been recently signed by NOWPAP Members. According to MERRAC vision for the future, chemicals

spills and marine litter will be included in its scope of activities. MERRAC will work in close cooperation with the IMO on marine-based pollution issues (e.g., MARPOL and OPRC). The work on tanker ballast waters (including alien invasive species) as well as on liability and compensation issues is also envisioned for the future.

4. POMRAC

The Pollution Monitoring Regional Activity Center (POMRAC) in Vladivostok, Russia, currently has two Working Groups (WG1 on Atmospheric Input of Contaminants and WG2 on River and Direct Inputs of Contaminants). In 2005-2006, the experts of these working groups will prepare National Reports and then the Regional Overview on these two issues. These documents might contribute to the State of Marine Environment Report in the NOWPAP Region which would be prepared in 2006-2007. Then, POMRAC might consider focusing on activities related to Integrated Coastal and River Basin Management which includes land-based sources of pollution. All activities related to land-based sources of pollution will be implemented in close collaboration with all NOWPAP RACs and with the UNEP/GPA.

5. Joint activities implemented by RACs

During the NOWPAP Intersessional Workshop, NOWPAP member states requested the RCU to ensure synergy among RAC activities. According to RCU suggestion (prepared in close consultation with RAC directors), the following activities will be implemented jointly by NOWPAP RACs (not in the order of priority).

- **MALITA:** detailed responsibilities of each RAC and RCU in implementation of the MALITA work plan are presented in the document UNEP/NOWPAP/IG. 10/6.
- **Report of the State of Marine Environment in the NOWPAP region:** to be prepared jointly by CEARAC and POMRAC, with specific chapters submitted by DINRAC and MERRAC.
- **GEF PDF-B project on land-based sources of persistent toxic substances:** to be implemented by NOWPAP RACs, RCU and national experts, detailed responsibilities will be defined during the first meeting of the Project Steering Committee.
- **Integrated Coastal and River Basin Management:** to be lead by POMRAC, but with active participation of CEARAC and other RACs.
- **Data and Information Management:** though this activity is definitely under DINRAC portfolio, without data and information supply from other NOWPAP RACs, DINRAC can not implement it efficiently.

Finally, it should be kept in mind that all RACs, according to their Terms of Reference, are working for the NOWPAP as a whole, not for the host country. Therefore it's not exactly critical which RAC is leading specific activity. The NOWPAP RCU will ensure that all RACs are involved in implementation of these activities.

Attachment II Establishment of a Marine Litter Activity (MALITA)

A. INTRODUCTION

Scope of the Problem

Marine litter is found in all sea areas of the world – not only in densely populated regions but also in remote places far away from any obvious sources. Marine litter travels over long distances with ocean currents and winds. Studies from different parts of the world have confirmed that marine litter is found everywhere in the marine and coastal environment, from the poles to the equator and from continental coastlines to small remote islands. Marine litter comes from sea-based sources and land-based sources, and it is obvious that measures to reduce or prevent marine litter in the marine and coastal environment have to be taken in a large number of places, within a large number of activities in a wide range of societal sectors, and by many people in many situations.

Measures to reduce or prevent marine litter are part of waste management in the society as a whole. People who are waste-wise in general, and who realize that waste is a common problem and not one that 'someone else should take care of', would have the responsible attitude towards the handling of waste – the waste that could end up as marine litter. Good waste management must begin with preventing waste being generated – what is never produced does not have to be disposed of and cannot become marine litter. The second step is to collect waste that has anyway been generated and make sure it is being taken care of properly, either for reuse and recycling of materials and products (to as large an extent as possible) or for disposal in a manner that is as safe as possible from an environmental and health point of view.

Today, there is generally a lack of appropriate management of waste from the place where the waste is produced to the final disposal or processing of the waste. However, marine litter is not only an environmental problem that can be solved solely by means of legislation, law enforcement and technical solutions. It is also a cultural problem and has to be addressed as such, namely by efforts to change attitudes, behaviours, management approaches, education and involvement of all sectors/interests, including the public at large. Education, information and training are vital components in all efforts towards more waste-wise thinking in society as a whole. Marine litter is also an issue that is connected to other marine environmental, economic and health problems, including the possible distribution of toxic substances, the destruction of marine habitats and biodiversity, and the transfer of invasive species.

Marine Litter and the NOWPAP Region

The NOWPAP region is among the most highly populated regions of the world, and the pressures and demands that this large population brings to bear on the environment are considerable. In a region in which so many people are directly dependant on the marine and coastal environment for their livelihoods, there is an urgent need to protect the natural environment and moreover, manage it in a sustainable manner, so that the following generations will be able to enjoy it and benefit from it.

The countries of the region know that it is possible, if they will join forces, to strike a wise balance between providing for human needs, the use of resources, and development on one hand, and protection, enhancement and sustainability of the environment on the other hand. Marine litter has become a major environmental concern of the NOWPAP member countries. Due to the transboundary character of marine litter, there is a clear need to develop regional and national programmes dealing with marine litter.

In acknowledging the need to act on the problem of marine litter the countries of the NOWPAP region at their Ninth Intergovernmental Meeting on the Northwest Pacific Action Plan (Busan, Republic of Korea, 2-4 November 2004) in their Resolution 1:

“Recognised the importance and urgent need to establish and develop an activity on Marine Litter in NOWPAP region while avoiding duplications with existing global agreements and through consultations with other international agencies and organisations in the region”,

Decided that the newly established RCU will take a lead on developing the Marine Litter activity and that the coordinator of NOWPAP will consult closely with the RACs on how to proceed with this activity,

Agreed that a programme of work and appropriate budget for this activity should be developed by the RCU for the next biennium, based on consultations between the NOWPAP Focal Points, the RACs and the planned ‘Intersessional Workshop’, and be presented by the RCU for consideration by Tenth Intergovernmental Meeting.

This Resolution provided the base for the preparation of the proposal for the establishment of the Marine Litter Activity (MALITA) in the NOWPAP Region.

B. MARINE LITTER ACTIVITY (MALITA) IN THE NOWPAP REGION

On the basis of the Resolution 1 of the *Ninth Intergovernmental Meeting on the Northwest Pacific Action Plan*, the Regional Coordinating Unit (RCU) of NOWPAP, in cooperation with UNEP’s Regional Seas Programme and in consultation with the RAC directors and the National Marine Litter Focal Points (ML FPs) recently nominated by the NOWPAP Focal Points, prepared this proposal as a road map for the developing and implementation of the Marine Litter Activity (MALITA) in the NOWPAP Region.

Objective

The objective of MALITA is to assist in the environmental protection and sustainable development of the NOWPAP region through the development of the NOWPAP Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter.

The proposal of MALITA will be submitted to the planned Intersessional Workshop (mid 2005) for comments, with the view of submitting it, as amended, to the Tenth Intergovernmental Meeting on the Northwest Pacific Action Plan for consideration and adoption, as the response to the Resolution 1 of the Ninth Intergovernmental Meeting of the Northwest Pacific Action Plan.

Institutional Arrangements

The RCU, in cooperation with UNEP will be responsible for the overall management of the MALITA. The four RACs, together with the four ML FPs will be responsible for various segments of MALITA with following responsibilities: CEARAC: Land-based sources of ML; MERRAC: Marine based sources of ML; POMRAC: Outreach (Public awareness, education, information); and DINRAC – data and information and biodiversity aspects of ML, such as ML and living marine resources.

Involvement of UN Agencies/Organisations

The MALITA will be implemented in cooperation with the International Maritime Organisation (IMO); Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO; the Secretariat of the Basel Convention and the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO). Involvement of IMO is of particular importance since they are responsible for the implementation of the MARPOL Convention, including Annex V on Garbage.

Funding

For the implementation of basic activities of MALITA funds will be provided through the NOWPAP Trust Fund. For high cost initiatives (port reception facilities, landfills, fisheries, etc.), approach should be made to the World Bank, Regional Investment Bank, Global Environment Facility (GEF) and other International Financing Institutions in order to obtain financial support for relevant regional and national efforts.

National activities on ML conducted within the framework of MALITA or in coordination with MALITA would be funded by national resources.

UNEP already initiated the process for the preparation of a GEF MSP (Medium-Size Project) on the management of marine litter. Although the project will be of a global coverage, it will have few pilot regions, and one of those could be NOWPAP. The funds spent on MALITA from the NOWPAP Trust Fund and from UNEP, as well as national funds spent on the implementation of MALITA, will be considered as the counterpart contribution to the GEF MSP. This Project, if approved, will provide additional funds for the implementation of MALITA and even more so will provide a solid base for the development of the Regional Action Plan for the Marine Litter Management in the NOWPAP Region (RAP MALI).

Work Plan

Activity		Target Date
<i>Initiation of the Marine Litter Activity (MALITA)</i>		
1.	Nomination of the National Focal Point for Marine Litter (ML FP) in each of the NOWPAP countries.	Feb. 2005
2.	Preparation of the draft MALITA by RCU, in cooperation with UNEP and in consultation with RACs and ML FPs.	April 2005
3.	Presentation of the draft MALITA at the Intersessional Workshop.	mid – 2005
4.	Collection and review of existing information and data relevant to marine litter in each of the NOWPAP countries.	Sept. 2005
5.	Review of relevant legal instruments and programmes in NOWPAP countries in order to identify gaps and needs in the coverage of marine litter and make proposals for the revision, if appropriate.	Oct. 2005
6.	Presentation of the MALITA proposal at the Tenth IGM	Nov. 2005

Implementation of MALITA		
7.	Preparation of the document "Marine Litter in the NOWPAP Region"	April 2006
8.	Organizing a NOWPAP regional meeting on marine litter.	June 2006
9.	Development of regional and national strategies on integrated management of marine litter.	Sept. 2006
10.	Organise that NOWPAP region countries join the International Coastal Cleanup 2006 Campaign (if feasible)	Sept. 2006
Building ownerships and partnerships		
11.	Approach to the civil society (private sector actors, environmental NGOs and the scientific community) to develop partnerships, and if appropriate develop Voluntary Agreements with partners from civil society. This activity should involve all major stakeholders (e.g., shipping industry; ship operators; fisheries sector; tourism industry; manufacturers of plastics; waste managers/services; NGOs and general public).	August 2006
Information and outreach		
12.	Formulation and implementation of awareness and education campaigns for the general public, industry, municipal authorities, local communities, shipping companies, ship officers and crews of recreational, commercial and fishing vessels, various groups within the tourism sector, and media.	May 2006
13.	Development and implementation of long-term regional and national monitoring programmes in order to detect and determine amounts, distribution patterns, effects and trends of marine litter and identify marine litter hot spots in the NOWPAP region.	April 2007
14.	Establishment of regional and national campaigns (as a part of public awareness) and /or permanent services for cleaning and collecting of solid wastes that pollute coastal and marine areas.	April 2007
15.	Preparation of brochures in the four NOWPAP languages and English, for the purpose of promoting public awareness on the reduction of marine litter.	April 2007
Sectoral activities		
16.	Development of sectoral guidelines for management of marine litter (e.g , shipping, fisheries, tourism, boating, diving, cruise lines, coastal construction).	Sept. 2007
17.	Development of a programme for the improvement of port reception facilities and services for garbage collection from the shipping and the fishing industries.	Sept. 2007
18.	Development and improvement of waste management policies and systems.	Sept. 2007
19.	Development of 'responsible citizenship' guidelines for different target audiences, in particular children and tourists. Practical demonstration through awareness-raising campaigns in selected destinations and with selected tourism companies.	Sept. 2007

Fundraising		
20.	Identification and approach to potential funding sources for various components and activities of the RAP on Marine Litter.	April 2006
21.	For high cost initiatives (port reception facilities, landfills, fisheries, etc.), approach the World Bank, Regional Investment Bank, Global Environment Facility (GEF) and other International Financing Institutions in order to obtain financial support of relevant regional and national efforts.	Sept. 2006
Regional Action Plan for the Marine Litter Management in the NOWPAP Region (RAP MALI)		
22.	Preparation of the draft RAP MALI (see below for proposed sections)	June 2007
23.	Presentation of the RAP MALI at the Twelfth Intergovernmental Meeting	Nov. 2007

Proposed Elements of the Regional Action Plan for the Marine Litter Management in the NOWPAP Region

The Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter in the NOWPAP Region should include, amongst others, and when feasible, the following elements:

- (a) Programme of enhancement of regional and national legal instruments, programmes and institutional arrangements relevant to marine litter;
- (b) Programme of implementation of regional and national monitoring programmes;
- (c) Development of regional and national strategies on integrated management of marine litter (including regional guidelines for the wise management of marine and coastal litter);
- (d) Approach to the civil society (private sector actors, environmental NGOs and the scientific community) to develop partnerships, and if appropriate develop voluntary agreements with partners from the civil society. This activity should involve all major stakeholders (e.g., shipping industry, ship operators; tourism industry, manufacturers of plastics; waste managers/services; local authorities and municipalities; NGOs and general public);
- (e) Establishment of campaigns and /or permanent services for the cleaning and collecting of solid wastes that pollute coastal and marine areas;
- (f) Participation in annual International Coastal Cleanup Campaigns;
- (g) Development of 'responsible citizenship' guidelines for different target audiences, in particular children and tourists. Practical demonstration through awareness-raising campaigns in selected destinations and with selected tourism companies;
- (h) Formulation and implementation of awareness and education campaigns for the general public, industry, municipal authorities, local communities, shipping companies, ship officers and crews of recreational, commercial and fishing vessels, various groups within the tourism sector, and media;
- (i) Preparation of brochures in various languages for the purpose of promoting public awareness on the reduction of marine litter;
- (j) Development of sectoral guidelines for the management of marine litter (e.g., tourism, boating, diving, cruise lines, coastal construction, fisheries);

- (k) Improvement of port reception facilities and services for garbage collection from the shipping and fishing industries;
- (l) Development and improvement of waste management policies and systems; and
- (m) Identification and approach to potential funding sources (including Governments) for various components and activities of the Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter.

Several of above proposed activities will be developed during the MALITA phase of the management of marine litter in the NOWPAP region.

Budget (until the end of 2007)

Activity	Budget (US \$)
Consultants	30,000
Meetings and travel	30,000
Publications	10,000
TOTAL	70,000