

Annex IV

Report of the Regional Coordinating Unit (RCU) on the implementation of the Northwest Pacific Action Plan (NOWPAP)

This report on the implementation of NOWPAP activities covers the period since the Eleventh IGM in December 2006. As details of the CEARAC activities will be presented by CEARAC Director, only information about three other RACs is given here. Other NOWPAP activities are also briefly described.

DINRAC - Data and Information Network Regional Activity Centre

1. DINRAC has developed and maintained the following databases:
 - Database on NOWPAP Institutions:
<http://dinrac.nowpap.org/NowpapInstitution.php3>
 - Database on NOWPAP Experts:
<http://dinrac.nowpap.org/NowpapExpert.php3>
 - Database on NOWPAP Coastal and Marine Environmental GIS and RS Applications:
<http://dinrac.nowpap.org/NowpapGIS.php3>
 - Database on Marine Litter:
http://dinrac.nowpap.org/MALITA_Whatis.htm
 - Coastal and Marine Nature Reserves:
<http://dinrac.nowpap.org/NowpapNatureReserve.php3>
2. Reference Databases on Atmospheric Deposition (AD) & River and Direct Inputs (RDI) were established through cooperation between POMRAC and DINRAC:
 - Atmospheric Deposition (AD):
<http://dinrac.nowpap.org/NowpapReferenceAD.php3>
 - River and Direct Inputs (RDI):
<http://dinrac.nowpap.org/NowpapReferenceRDI.php3>
3. The Regional Internet Communication System between DINRAC and the NOWPAP members is under testing and will be completed at the end of 2007 (with subsequent work on improvements and further additions). With this system operational, DINRAC is expected to play a role of information clearinghouse for NOWPAP (in close collaboration with other RACs).
4. The following reports were published by DINRAC:
 - National Reports and Regional Report on Coastal and Marine Biodiversity Data and Information in the NOWPAP Region.
 - National Reports and Regional Report on Marine Nature Reserves in the NOWPAP Region.

- Regional Overview of Legal Aspects of the Protection and Management of the Marine and Coastal Environment in NOWPAP Region (updated overview on NOWPAP/2 project, originally prepared in 2000).

MERRAC - Marine Environmental Emergency Preparedness and Response Regional Activity Centre

5. MERRAC organized the Tenth MERRAC Focal Points Meeting in conjunction with the Second Competent National Authorities (CNA) Meeting for NOWPAP Regional Oil Spill Contingency Plan in May 2007. NOWPAP ALPHA table top exercise was carried out at the CNA meeting. The Meeting agreed to organize a NOWPAP BRAVO exercise (communication exercise) during the intersessional period after the 10th MERRAC FPM.
6. The 2nd Joint NOWPAP Oil Spill Exercise will be conducted in Qingdao, China, in April 2008, based upon the decision of the 10th MERRAC Focal Points Meeting. The Exercise will be organized by the People's Republic of China.
7. MERRAC Specific Projects on the oil spill prediction model, minimum level of preparedness and response, and HNS National Reports have been carried out by experts nominated by the NOWPAP members. The draft reports were submitted to MERRAC and reviewed at the 10th MERRARC Focal Points Meeting (FPM), 15-18 May 2007, Daejeon, Korea.
8. MERRAC has been preparing the regional report on marine litter (based upon the national reports from the NOWPAP members) in addition to the following activities related to marine litter:
 - monitoring guidelines for marine litter on seabed;
 - sectoral guidelines for management of marine litter;
 - programme for improvement of port reception facilities and services for garbage collections from the shipping and fishing industries;
 - waste management policies and systems.
9. MERRAC has maintained the following databases via the MERRAC website:
 - List of oil spill response equipment, institutions and experts in the field of marine pollution preparedness and response;
 - List of oil spill accidents over 10 tons.
10. MERRAC webpage has been significantly updated in March 2007.

POMRAC – Pollution Monitoring Regional Activity Centre

11. Regional Overview on Atmospheric Deposition of Contaminants to the Marine and Coastal Environment has been published by POMRAC in late 2007.

12. The report "State of Marine Environment in the NOWPAP Region", prepared by POMRAC in collaboration with other RACs, has been published before the 12th NOWPAP IGM.
13. Reference Databases on Atmospheric Deposition and River and Direct Inputs has been developed in cooperation with DINRAC and are available at the DINRAC website.
14. The 1st Meeting of NOWPAP POMRAC Working Group for Integrated Coastal and River Basin Management (ICARM) was held in Toyama, Japan, on 10-11 July 2007. The meeting agreed on the draft Terms of Reference for NOWPAP ICARM Working Group, development of National Reports on ICARM and development of Reference Database on ICARM (in cooperation with DINRAC). In the future, participation of other NOWPAP RACs in ICARM activities is expected.
15. Brochure on marine litter (in Russian and English) was published in cooperation with NOWPAP MALITA Focal Point of Russia.
16. POMRAC has also maintained and updated its homepage.

NOWPAP RACs Evaluation

17. Following resolution 1.7 of the Eleventh Intergovernmental Meeting of NOWPAP, independent international consultant has been hired to carry out the evaluation of the performance of NOWPAP RACs. Based on the questionnaire survey results among the NOWPAP National Focal Points, RAC Directors, related organizations and experts as well as personal interviews of RAC directors, draft of NOWPAP RACs evaluation report was compiled and circulated among member states for comments. The final report will be presented at the 12th Intergovernmental Meeting (IGM) of NOWPAP on 23-25 October 2007.

Building partnerships

18. Following resolution 1.6 of the Eleventh Intergovernmental Meeting of NOWPAP, RCU and RACs staff have continued actively developing partnerships with many relevant organizations, programmes and projects in the region. Close relations were established with the following partners (in alphabetical order):
 - East Asian Seas Regional Coordinating Unit (EAS/RCU);
 - North East Asian Regional – Global Ocean Observing System (NEAR-GOOS);
 - GEF/UNDP/IMO Regional Programme on Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA);
 - North Pacific Marine Science Organization (PICES);
 - UNESCO/IOC Sub-Commission for the Western Pacific (WESTPAC);
 - UNDP/GEF Project on the Yellow Sea Large Marine Ecosystem (YSLME).

19. NOWPAP Regional Coordinating Unit signed the Letter of Cooperation (LOC) with the Project Management Office of the UNDP/GEF Yellow Sea Large Marine Ecosystem (YSLME) project on 24 May 2007 in Beijing. The LOC will serve as the basis for the two sides to conduct cooperative activities. In June 2007, the YSLME project representative has participated (along with COBSEA and PEMSEA representatives) in the NOWPAP International Coastal Cleanup (ICC) campaign in Rizhao, China. In September 2007, these three NOWPAP partners will participate in the NOWPAP ICC campaign in Busan, Korea.
20. NOWPAP RCU has been also working on development of the similar LOC with PEMSEA.
21. NEAR-GOOS was approached in order to develop cooperative relationships with NOWPAP. The NEAR-GOOS Coordinating Committee accepted the following suggestions from NOWPAP RCU: a) on enriching the NEAR-GOOS data in order to support the NOWPAP activities; b) on linking NOWPAP CEARAC remote sensing database to NEAR-GOOS databases; and c) on co-organizing a remote sensing data analysis training course. Follow-up actions will be taken in the future to further facilitate the cooperation.

Raising public awareness

22. According to NOWPAP Public Awareness Strategy, the following actions were taken by NOWPAP RCU and RACs:
 - NOWPAP homepage and RAC homepages have been maintained and constantly updated. News and information have been posted on the NOWPAP homepage in five languages (English, Chinese, Japanese, Korean and Russian) since August 2006.
 - Information about NOWPAP was posted at the partners' websites and introduced in their electronic newsletters (e.g., COBSEA, PEMSEA, UNEP ROAP, YSLME). In total, NOWPAP was introduced more than 150 times through website links and news briefings worldwide (among those, only 30 in the NOWPAP member countries). Most importantly, NOWPAP has been introduced by the following international and regional organizations: GPA, ROAP and Regional Seas (of UNEP), IOC and IODE (of UNESCO), GESAMP, NEASPEC, PEMSEA, PICES, TEMM, WESTPAC and YSLME. This has definitely increased NOWPAP visibility in the Asia-Pacific region and worldwide.
 - Several brochures, leaflets, posters about NOWPAP activities were prepared and widely distributed. In addition to English, local languages were used when appropriate.
 - While attending a few global and regional meetings (e.g., 2006 East Asian Seas Congress, 34th GESAMP Session) and local events, RACs and RCU staff contributed to increasing NOWPAP visibility and attracting public attention to marine environment conservation by introducing the NOWPAP activities. Several

specific events were organized by RCU and RACs (workshops, beach cleanups, lectures, sharing books and other materials with local libraries and museums, etc.).

- During the events organized and attended by RACs and RCU staff, contacts with media were maintained. RACs and RCU staff also contributed articles to magazines, newspapers and newsletters.
- NOWPAP promotion materials (pens, bags, calendars, magnets, bumper stickers) were produced and widely distributed in order to raise public awareness about marine environmental issues and NOWPAP activities.

Resource mobilization and financial support from members

23. According to the NOWPAP Resource Mobilization Strategy, several external sources were approached by the NOWPAP RCU and relevant information has been introduced to the RAC directors and Marine Litter Focal Points. NOWPAP RCU assisted Marine Litter Focal Point of Russia and his colleagues to apply for the Grant for Environmental Research Projects of the Sumitomo Foundation (results are expected in late October 2007).
24. On NOWPAP RCU request, UNEP Regional Seas Programme provided USD 13,000 as a consultant fee for NOWPAP RACs evaluation (completed in August 2007) and USD 20,000 to organize a workshop on NOWPAP Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter (RAP MALI) in November 2007.
25. Several important NOWPAP activities listed below were financially supported by the member states:
 - The 2nd NOWPAP Workshop on Marine Litter in Toyama, Japan, 28-29 March 2007 (supported by the Ministry of the Environment, Japan).
 - NOWPAP Marine Litter Prevention and Control Workshop and International Coastal Cleanup in Rizhao, China, 27-28 June 2007 (supported by the State Environmental Protection Administration, Rizhao City and Environmental Protection Bureau of Shandong Province). The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan supported the international travel of 20 participants from the member states, international organizations and the RCU.
 - The First NEAR-GOOS - NOWPAP Training Course on RS Data Analysis in Nagasaki, Japan, 3-7 September 2007 (USD 20,000 provided by IOC/WESTPAC).
 - 2007 NOWPAP International Coastal Cleanup Campaign in Busan, Korea, 28-29 September 2007 (supported by the Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, Korea).

NOWPAP/2 project (legal issues)

26. According to resolution of the 10th NOWPAP IGM, the "Regional Overview of Legal Aspects of the Protection and Management of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Northwest Pacific Region" (prepared originally in 2000 as an outcome of NOWPAP/2 project) has been updated and published before the 12th NOWPAP IGM.

Marine Litter Activity (MALITA)

27. NOWPAP MALITA was supported by all member states and has been implemented successfully. The details of MALITA implementation are provided in a separate Annex (report prepared for the coming 12th NOWPAP IGM).
28. As one of the outcomes of MALITA, draft Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter (RAP MALI) has been developed and will be presented at the 12th NOWPAP IGM. A RAP MALI meeting is planned in November 2007 with the financial support from UNEP Regional Seas Programme.

NOWPAP GEF project proposal

29. The support/endorsement letters from all NOWPAP member states had been received by the end of April 2007. Re-submission of NOWPAP project proposal to the GEF pipeline (using new GEF criteria and formats) had been planned for June-July 2007, but was postponed by the GEF Secretariat until November 2007. Further modifications of the project proposal might be necessary depending on new GEF International Waters Focal Area Strategy (being finalized as of August 2007).
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Annex

Report on the implementation of Marine Litter Activity (MALITA), 2006-2007

Introduction

In compliance with Resolution 1 of the Ninth NOWPAP Intergovernmental Meeting (Busan, Republic of Korea, November 2004) and Recommendation 2 of the Intersessional Workshop (Seoul, Republic of Korea, July 2005), the Regional Coordinating Unit (RCU) of NOWPAP prepared, based on a draft developed by a UNEP consultant and in consultation with the Regional Activity Centres (RAC) and the nominated Marine Litter National Focal Points (ML FPs), a project proposal on Marine Litter Activity (MALITA) in the NOWPAP region.

The proposal was submitted to and approved at the Tenth NOWPAP Intergovernmental Meeting (Toyama, Japan, November 2005). Thereafter, it has been implemented and will be completed by the end of this year. The overall goal of MALITA is to assist the environmental protection and sustainable development of the region through the development of a NOWPAP Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter (RAP MALI).

Progress on major activities of the MALITA workplan

Activity 5 of the MALITA Workplan: collection and review of the existing data and information relevant to marine litter in each of the NOWPAP member states

The nominated ML FPs and NOWPAP RACs were requested to provide data and information related to marine litter in early 2006 according to the guidelines prepared by RCU. Based on the materials provided by the member states and RACs, DINRAC established the NOWPAP marine litter database (<http://dinrac.nowpap.org>) in 2006 and updated it in 2007.

RCU has collected a wide range of reference materials from other regions and placed them on the NOWPAP website (<http://www.nowpap.org>) for downloading. These materials were also shared with RACs and ML FPs. Some NOWPAP MALITA related documents were widely distributed during regional workshops, meetings, exhibitions, cleanups, etc. and are also available at the UNEP Regional Seas website (<http://www.unep.org/regionalseas>).

Activity 6: collection of information on relevant legal instruments and programmes on marine litter in each of the NOWPAP member states

National experts of the member states were nominated to collect information on legal and administrative arrangements related to marine litter and to prepare a national summary in accordance with the Terms of Reference and guidelines prepared by RCU in early 2006. Subsequently, the four draft national summaries were prepared and submitted to DINRAC. A regional consultant was hired by DINRAC to prepare a regional overview based on the national summaries which is to be published before the 12th NOWPAP Intergovernmental Meeting.

Activity 7: preparation and regular update of the overview documents on marine litter in the NOWPAP region

The progress of the MALITA implementation has been reflected and regularly updated at the NOWPAP website (<http://www.nowpap.org>), in addition to the marine litter database (Activity 5 led by DINRAC).

Activity 8: organizing NOWPAP regional meetings and workshops on marine litter

Two NOWPAP marine litter workshops were organized by MERRAC (Incheon, Republic of Korea, June 2006) and CEARAC (Toyama, Japan, March 2007) with financial support from the Korean and Japanese government, respectively. The proceedings of these workshops were distributed as widely as possible and are downloadable at the NOWPAP website. The workshops were of great help to build common understanding on the marine litter problem and to exchange and share information and views on the national management of marine litter in the NOWPAP member states.

In conjunction with each of the workshops, two NOWPAP MALITA working meetings were held in order to discuss the progress of the MALITA implementation and further activities to be carried out. The meeting summaries were adopted by consensus.

Activity 9: development of regional and national strategies on integrated management of marine litter

This activity will be further developed as part of NOWPAP RAP MALI (UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 12/6) prepared by RCU. This document will be discussed at the 12th NOWPAP IGM and then at a special NOWPAP RAP MALI meeting (Toyama, Japan, 20-21 November 2007).

MERRAC prepared a document "Marine Litter: Case Study of Incheon Coastal Waters, Republic of Korea" in 2007 to introduce the Korean practices in dealing with marine litter, including cost sharing between different municipalities and application of some economic instruments in the marine litter management. The document will be published before the 12th NOWPAP Intergovernmental Meeting and can also be considered as a contribution to activity 18.

Activity 10: organize that the NOWPAP member states join the International Coastal Cleanup 2006 and 2007 Campaign

The First NOWPAP ICC campaign was convened in Yamagata Prefecture, Japan in September 2006 with financial support from the Japanese government. In June 2007, another NOWPAP ICC campaign was held in Rizhao, People's Republic of China, with financial support from the Chinese government (travel expenses of international participants were kindly supported by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan). The NOWPAP ICC campaign in September 2007 will be organized with financial support from the Korean government in Busan, Republic of Korea. These campaigns brought representatives of government agencies, academic institutions and NGOs from all NOWPAP member states as well as other regional programmes and projects (COBSEA, PEMSEA, and YSLME). In conjunction with each ICC campaign, there were well-organized side events such as workshops, NGO meetings and exhibitions; in some cases, school children and youth also participated in the cleanups. In addition, a pilot ICC campaign was held in Vladivostok, Russian Federation in October 2007

and a full scale ICC campaign in Russia is planned to be held in 2008.

Activities 11 and 16: approach to the civil society and development of sectoral guidelines

CEARAC and MERRAC prepared sectoral guidelines for tourist companies; for fishing and recreational boats; and for passenger ships in late 2007. These guidelines will be distributed to the member states and relevant stakeholders accordingly. CEARAC also prepared a booklet on plastic marine litter recycling.

Activity 12: development and implementation of long-term regional and national monitoring programmes

CEARAC developed "Guidelines for Monitoring Marine Litter on the Beaches and Shorelines in the Northwest Pacific Region" in early 2007 and distributed to the member states and other stakeholders. The guidelines were also translated into local languages of the NOWPAP member states for their further use.

MERRAC developed "Guidelines for Monitoring Marine Litter on the Seabed in the Northwest Pacific Region" in late 2007. These guidelines will also be distributed to the member states and other stakeholders as widely as possible.

Activities 13, 14, 15 and 19: formulation and implementation of awareness and education campaigns; establishment of regional campaigns; preparation of brochures; and development of 'responsible citizenship' guidelines

RCU and all four RACs have developed and distributed brochures and leaflets for different target audiences to increase public awareness on the marine litter problem. Each marine litter-related event (cleanup, workshop, etc.) had been used to increase public awareness by different means: providing interviews to representatives of the media; and involving school children, youth and local citizens, etc.

Activities 17 and 18: development of a programme for the improvement of port reception facilities; and development and improvement of waste management policies and systems

MERRAC prepared "Guidelines for Providing and Improving Port Reception Facilities and Services for Ship-generated Marine Litter in the Northwest Pacific Region" in late 2007 and will distribute it to the member states and relevant stakeholders accordingly. See also above, activity 9.

Activities 20 and 21: Approach to potential funding sources

RCU has surveyed the potential funding sources in Japan and shared with RACs and ML FPs to encourage the preparation and submission of marine litter-related project proposals. The ML FP of Russia submitted a project proposal to the Sumitomo Foundation in 2007 (results are expected in late October 2007).

RCU has also secured the Japanese government financial support (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) to cover travel expenses of international participants of the NOWPAP ICC in Rizhao, People's Republic of China in June 2007.

Activities 22 and 23: preparation of the draft Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter (RAP MALI); and presentation of the RAP MALI at the Twelfth IGM

RCU has developed the draft RAP MALI in close collaboration with NOWPAP RACs and ML FPs. It will be finalized after the 12th NOWPAP IGM during the NOWPAP RAP MALI meeting (Toyama, Japan, 20-21 November 2007) taking into accounts comments and suggestions from the member states and other stakeholders (e.g., UNEP Regional Seas Programme, COBSEA).

Conclusions

The Marine Litter Activity was the first NOWPAP project implemented by all RACs together with RCU where the ML FPs also played a very important role. Though the 12th Intergovernmental Meeting is being held in October 2007, two months before the end of the year, when all MALITA activities were planned to be finished, it is possible to conclude even at this early stage (this document was prepared in August 2007) that MALITA had been successfully implemented, mostly due to the strong support from all NOWPAP members states and close collaboration between all RACs, RCU and other organizations and many individual experts involved.

Since the completion of MALITA does not mean that the marine litter problem in the NOWPAP region has been resolved, marine litter-related activities will be continued. The possible directions of such national and regional activities are described in the draft NOWPAP RAP MALI.
