



**Northwest
Pacific
Action Plan**

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Northwest Pacific Action Plan
Pollution Monitoring Regional Activity Centre

The Seventeenth NOWPAP POMRAC Focal Points Meeting
Vladivostok, Russian Federation, October, 2020

Terms of Reference (ToR)

Testing NOWPAP Ecological Quality Objective (EcoQO) Targets

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(Home-based)

Request for: Consultant Individual contractor

Organizational Unit: ECOSYSTEMS DIVISION / NOWPAP

1. Purpose (justification for request)

1.1 Explain the requirement for a consultant / individual (*Box 1(a) of P.104/A*):
(*summary of why consultant is needed*)

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is the leading environmental authority that sets the global environmental agenda, promotes the coherent implementation of environmental dimension of sustainable development within the United Nations system and serves as an authoritative advocate for the global environment.

The Action Plan for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Northwest Pacific Region (NOWPAP) is one of the Regional Seas Programmes and Action Plans (RSPAPs) of UNEP and was adopted by the four Member States (P.R. China, Japan, R. Korea, and the Russian Federation) in 1994 (<https://www.unenvironment.org/nowpap/>). The overall goal of the NOWPAP is "the wise use, development and management of the coastal and marine environment so as to obtain the utmost long-term benefits for the human populations of the region, while protecting human health, ecological integrity and the region's sustainability for future generations".

The major focus of the NOWPAP Medium-Term Strategy (MTS) 2018-2023 adopted in June 2018 is on the coordination of the regional implementation of the ocean-related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 14 "Life Below Water" using the NOWPAP inter-governmental mechanism. NOWPAP will play this leading role, by focusing on the three pillars: (i) an Ecosystem-Based Management Approach (EBMA) to sustainable development of marine and coastal areas to achieve the Ecological Quality Objectives (EcoQOs)¹; (ii) monitoring and reporting on progress towards SDG 14 and its targets, and (iii) strengthening partnerships with relevant global and regional institutions. In 2019,

¹ NOWPAP EcoQOs include: (i) Biological and habitat diversity are not changed significantly due to anthropogenic pressure; (ii) Alien species are at levels that do not adversely alter the ecosystems; (iii) Eutrophication adverse effects are absent; (iv) Contaminants cause no significant impact on coastal and marine ecosystems and human health; (v) Marine litter does not adversely affect coastal and marine environments.

experts from NOWPAP Member States have agreed on the four EcoQO targets related to 1) nutrients concentration in the water column; 2) *Chlorophyll a* concentration in the water column; 3) concentration of contaminants in water and sediments; and 4) trends in the amount and composition of litter washed ashore. In 2020-2021, experts will have to do the practical testing of these agreed targets in their respective “designated areas” taking into account relevant national laws and legislation, recent developments in other RSPAPs, and progress in setting SDG 14 indicators and targets. The results will be summarized in the four National Reports (one from each NOWPAP Member State).

The overall objective of the consultancy is to review and then compile four National Reports into a regional synthesis report. The consultant will work with the NOWPAP Regional Coordinating Unit (RCU) and NOWPAP Pollution Monitoring Regional Activity Center (POMRAC), which is leading the work on EcoQOs indicators and targets within the NOWPAP.

1.2 Qualifications / special skills or knowledge (*box 1(a) of P.104/A*)

Education: Advanced university degree (PhD preferred) in marine-related science with the focus on marine environment, marine pollution, or a related field. First university degree in combination with five additional years of qualifying experience may be accepted in lieu of the advanced degree.

Experience: A minimum of ten years of progressively responsible professional work experience in the field of marine environment, marine chemistry, marine pollution, or related marine sciences field, of which some should be at the international level. Familiarity with the UN system and/or NOWPAP would be an advantage.

Language: English and French are the working languages of the United Nations Secretariat. For the post advertised, fluency in oral and written English is required.

1.3 Ultimate result of services (*box 1(b) of P.104/A*):

(Describe the final output briefly)

A regional synthesis report, summarizing findings of the four National Reports on testing of EcoQO targets accepted by the NOWPAP RCU and POMRAC.

1.4 Legislative authority reference (*box 1(c) of P.104/A*): (*e.g. GC or GA decision, if applicable*)

Resolution 1: PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR THE 2020-2021 BIENNIUM approved during inter-sessional consultations with the NOWPAP Member States via email.

1.5 Title and identification number of programme / project

NOWPAP PoW 2020-2021: The development of regional EcoQO targets aligned (where possible) with SDG indicators, phase 2.

1.6 Duration

1 November 2020 – 30 April 2021

2. Funding

2.1 Source of Funds Regular Budget Extra-budgetary
(box 4 of P.104/A)

2.1 Allotment Account / Budget Line
B21-40PNL-11207-SB-004861.01.04-14AF0001

2.3 Indicative level of remuneration

- *terms of payment (lump-sum, installments, travel included) – box 1(e) of P.104*
- *indicative level of remuneration (e.g. P5) - box 1(e) of P.104/A*
- *any cost of travel and any DSA payable – box 5 of P.104/A*

Level B – 10 working days with daily rate of USD 400 for national experts
Level B – 10 working days with daily rate of USD 500 for international consultant.

Payment schedule – upon submission of the agreed milestones (see below).

3. Travel involved – *(box 7 of P.104/A)* *(Indicate the required travel itinerary, if applicable)*

Travel is not necessary for this consultancy. Participation in the regional workshop will be covered separately.

Travel will be organized by Substantive Office Selected candidate

4. Workplan

Under the direct supervision of the NOWPAP Coordinator and Programme Officer and in close cooperation with the NOWPAP POMRAC, consultant will be responsible for the following tasks:

- Task 1: Analyse the “baseline values” for the designated areas where the four EcoQO targets will be tested to be submitted by four national experts. Provide comments, if necessary, through the RCU and POMRAC.
- Task 2: Review the four National Reports to be submitted by national experts where relevant monitoring data (nutrients, *Chlorophyll a*, contaminants, marine litter) during the last 5 years should be compared with the suggested EcoQO targets, taking into consideration relevant national standards. Provide comments through the RCU and POMRAC.
- Task 3: Attend the regional workshop where the results of EcoQO targets testing within the designated areas will be presented by national experts.
- Task 4: Make suggestions on possible adjustments (if needed) in EcoQO targets agreed upon in 2019.
- Task 5 (for the international consultant, only): Summarize the findings of the four National Reports in the form of regional synthesis report, while taking into account recent progress in leading RSPAPs (HELCOM, MAP, OSPAR, etc.), relevant projects and programmes (e.g. YSLME-2), UNEP- and IOC-led working groups on SDG 14 indicators (*Chlorophyll a*, nutrients, marine litter, etc.). Submit the regional synthesis report to the NOWPAP RCU and POMRAC for comments.

Results/Deliverables and the timeline:

Comments on the baseline values to be submitted by national experts – within two weeks of each submission.

The first draft of the regional synthesis report – within two months upon submission of the last national report.

Finalization of the draft report (where RCU and POMRAC comments should be properly addressed) - within two weeks of receiving comments (100% payment).

The experts and consultant will work closely with the NOWPAP RCU and POMRAC; they will provide overall coordination of work.