



**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)

**Preparation of National Reports and Overview on Microplastics
abundance in river runoff of the NOWPAP region**

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Preparation of National Reports and Overview on Microplastics abundance in river runoff of the NOWPAP region

(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 (EQOs)¹; (ii) monitoring and

¹ NOWPAP EQOs 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.

reporting on progress towards SDG 14 and its targets, and (iii) strengthening partnerships with relevant global and regional institutions.

Focusing on target SDG 14.1, NOWPAP will strengthen implementation of its two Regional Action Plans – the Regional Oil and HNS Spill Contingency Plan and the Regional Action on Marine Litter, increasingly focusing on microplastics. NOWPAP is expected to strengthen efforts assessing microplastics pollution and its impacts through assessments, methodology development and capacity building.

To promote better understanding of impact of land-based sources on plastic pollution of the regional marine environment, The activity 'Microplastics abundance in river runoff of the NOWPAP region' is launched under NOWPAP POMRAC WG2 – River and Direct inputs of contaminants into the marine environment of the NOWPAP region. The activity suggests collection of primary information from all member countries of NOWPAP describing current data availability on microplastic contamination in rivers, methodologies for microplastic contamination assessment in freshwater environment and importance of these assessment measures.

The overall objective of the activity is to prepare national reports on microplastic contamination in rivers of the NOWPAP region by the nominated experts, and to compile these reports to the regional overview by consultant. The experts and consultant will work with the NOWPAP Regional Coordinating Unit (RCU) and NOWPAP Pollution Monitoring Regional Activity Center (POMRAC).

In total, four national experts will be needed to prepare four national reports (one for each NOWPAP Member State) and then one more consultant to summarize the findings of four national experts.

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 five 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. Knowledge of at least one additional language of the region is desirable (Russian, Chinese, Korean, Japanese).

1.3 Ultimate result of services (*box 1(b) of P.104/A*):
(*Describe the final output briefly*)

A National Report on Microplastics abundance in river runoff of the NOWPAP region.

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: Preparation of the National Reports and their overview on the river runoff of microplastics to the coastal zone of the NOWPAP region

1.6 Duration

1 November 2020 – 15 October 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-004861.01.01-14AF0001 - TBC

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 the national experts.

Level B – 10 working days with daily rate of USD 500 for the 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 activity. 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, experts and consultant will be responsible for the following tasks:

- Task 1: Collect data on social and economic aspects relevant to land-based plastic and microplastic pollution during recent years in the NOWPAP region.
- Task 2: Describe national monitoring and assessment activities (National monitoring program(s) and other initiatives) related to river and inland microplastic contamination with a brief overview of related national policies and laws.
- Task 3: Summarize all available data on **microplastic contamination in the rivers** of the NOWPAP area, including development of sampling and analytic methodologies, collected information on amounts and characteristic features of contaminants registered in their rivers, and possible impacts of the contamination on the coastal marine environment affected by the surveyed river basins.
- Task 4: Attend the regional workshop for the discussion of the Draft Report.
- Task 5: Compile the results of Tasks 1-3 in the National Report and submit to the NOWPAP RCU and POMRAC for comments.
- Task 6 (for the international consultant): Summarize the findings of the four National Reports in the form of regional overview 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). Submit the regional overview to the NOWPAP RCU and POMRAC for comments.

Results/Deliverables and the timeline:

The first draft of National Reports prepared and submitted by 31 March 2021 (50% payment);

The response to the comments on the draft of National Report prepared and finalization of the draft by 31 July 2021, where RCU and POMRAC comments are properly addressed (50% payment).

The first draft of the regional overview prepared 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.