



**Northwest
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Action Plan**

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Northwest Pacific Action Plan
Pollution Monitoring Regional Activity Centre

**REPORT OF THE NOWPAP REGIONAL COORDINATING UNIT (RCU) ON
THE PROGRESS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF
THE NORTHWEST PACIFIC ACTION PLAN**

This document was submitted by the Northwest Pacific Action Plan (NOWPAP) Regional Coordinating Unit (RCU), as the report on the implementation of NOWPAP activities carried out after the Sixteen POMRAC Focal Points Meeting.

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Contents

1. Introduction	6
2. Implementation of Programme of Work in 2018-2019	6
2.1. Review of the Implementation of NOWPAP PoW 2018-2019	6
2.1.1. Thematic Structure of PoW (2018-2019)	6
2.1.2. Engagement of RCU and RACs in Priority Areas of PoW 2018-2019.....	7
2.1.3. Status of Implementation of PoW (2018-2019) Activities	9
2.2. Progress Achieved by the Regional Activity Centers	9
2.2.1. Special Monitoring and Coastal Environmental Assessment Regional Activity Center	9
2.2.2. Data and Information Network Regional Activity Center	10
2.2.3. Marine Environmental Emergency Preparedness and Response Regional Activity Center .	11
2.2.4. Pollution Monitoring Regional Activity Center	12
2.3. Coordination of Activities of Regional Activity Centers	13
3. Northwest Pacific Action Plan Special Projects	15
3.1 Special Project on Microplastic	15
3.2 Special Project on Marine Biodiversity	15
4. Building Partnerships	16
5. Communications and Raising Public Awareness.....	20
6. The Northwest Pacific Action Plan Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter (RAP MALI)	21
8. Resource Mobilization Efforts.....	22
9. Implementation of NOWPAP POW 2020-2021.....	23
9.1 General Description and Highlights	23
9.2 Overall Assessment of the Progress in 2020.....	26
Annex A. Financial Resources Mobilized by NOWPAP in 2018-2019	29
Annex B. Progress of NOWPAP Programme of Work 2020-2021	34
Annex C. Status Report on the 2020-2021 Legal Agreements	53

List of Tables

Table 1. Engagement of NOWPAP RCU and RACs in Priority Areas of PoW 2018-2019.....	8
Table 2 Financial Resources Mobilized by the NOWPAP in 2018-2019 Biennium, US\$	22
Table 3. NOWPAP Work Plan and Budget (Thousand USD) for 2020-2021.....	25
Table 4 Financial Resources Mobilized by the NOWPAP RCU in 2018-2019.....	29
Table 5 Financial Resources Mobilized by NOWPAP Regional Activity Centers in 2018 -2019...	30

List of Acronyms

AWS	Amazon Web Service
CEARAC	Special Monitoring and Coastal Environmental Assessment Regional Activity Center
CC	Climate Change
CNA	Competent National Authorities
COBSEA	Intergovernmental Meeting of the Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia
DINRAC	Data and Information Networking Regional Activity Center
DPSIR	Driver-Pressures-State-Impacts-Responses Monitoring Framework
EBSAs	Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas
EcoQO(s)	Ecological Quality Objective(s)
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
GEE	Google Earth Engine
GESAMP	Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection
GIS	Geo-Information System
GlobalHAB	Global Harmful Algal Blooms Programme
GPA	Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities
GPML	Global Partnership on Marine Litter
HAB(s)	Harmful Algal Bloom(s)
ICARM	Integrated Coastal and River Basin Management
IGM	Intergovernmental Meeting
IOC-UNESCO	Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
IODE	International Oceanographic Data and Information Exchange
IMO	International Maritime Organization
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
MoE	Ministry of the Environment of Japan
MPAs	Marine Protected Areas
HNS	Hazardous and Noxious Substances
NEAR-GOOS	North-East Asian Regional - Global Ocean Observing System
NEASPEC	North-East Asian Subregional Programme for Environmental Cooperation
NEAT	NOWPAP Eutrophication Assessment Tool
NGO(s)	Non-Governmental Organization(s)
NPEC	Japan's Northwest Pacific Region Environmental Cooperation Center
MARPOL	International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships
MERRAC	Marine Environmental Emergency Preparedness and Response Regional Activity Centre
MTS	Medium-Term Strategy
NOWPAP	Northwest Pacific Action Plan
OPRC Convention	International Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Co-operation

PEMSEA	Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia
PICES	North Pacific Marine Science Organization
POMRAC	Pollution Monitoring Regional Activity Center
PoW	Programme of Work
PSC	Project Support Costs
RAC(s)	Regional Activity Center(s)
RAP BIO	Regional Action Plan on Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Conservation
RAP MALI	Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter
RCP	Regional Oil and HNS Spill Contingency Plan
RCU	Regional Coordinating Unit
RESTEC	Remote Sensing Technology Center of Japan
ROAP	Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific of UNEP
SACEP	South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme
SDG(s)	Sustainable Development Goal(s)
TEMM	Tripartite Environment Ministers Meeting (China, Japan, Korea)
ToR	Terms of Reference
UN DESA	UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
YSLME	UNDP-GEF Yellow Sea Large Marine Ecosystem Project

1. Introduction

1. This report on the implementation of NOWPAP activities covers the period since the 16th POMRAC Focal Points Meeting (FPM) held on 30-31 October 2019 in Beijing, People's Republic of China until 31 June 2020. For the sake of completeness, where required, some references were made to the period covering the implementation of the entire NOWPAP PoW 2018-2019.

2. More details on POMRAC activities will be presented by the POMRAC Director under a separate agenda item. Brief information on the activities of all NOWPAP Regional Activity Centers is given below, highlighting both achievements and challenges, as well as a detailed presentation in Annex B.

2. Implementation of Programme of Work in 2018-2019

2.1. Review of the Implementation of NOWPAP PoW 2018-2019

3. PoW 2018-2019 included 38 individual projects structured within four Priority Areas and a crosscutting theme on Partnership Building and Resource Mobilization. This report contains only a summary of the implementation of these projects by various structural units of NOWPAP, as well as presents the key partnerships established.

2.1.1. Thematic Structure of PoW (2018-2019)

4. NOWPAP PoW 2018-2019 was structured in the following way:

- Priority Area 1. Support Ecosystem-Based Integrated Coastal and River Basin Management (ICARM):
 - 1.1.1. NOWPAP Member States are developing and applying ecosystem-based management policies, tools and practices to support sustainable development of coastal zones and the marine environment
 - 1.1.2. Planning and decision-making processes for ICZM and MSP by NOWPAP Member States enhance inter-connectedness between the land and the sea and promote cross-sectoral cooperation
 - 1.1.3. Planning mechanisms, including integrated water resources management, ICZM and MSP in NOWPAP Member States contribute to reduced pressures on the coastal and marine environment
 - 1.1.4. "Good environmental status" of the NOWPAP is defined and provides a baseline and direction for Member States action
- Priority Area 2. Assess Status of the Marine and Coastal Environment
 - 2.1.1. NOWPAP Member States are provided with integrated periodic assessments of state of marine and coastal environment and its individual components, including (but not limited to) biodiversity, chemical and biological pollution, harmful algal blooms, marine litter, oil and HNS threats, and climate change impacts to inform and foster policy action
 - 2.1.2. NOWPAP Member States, through the NOWPAP Information Portal, have free and user-friendly access to data and reliable information on coastal and marine

environment collected from members, NOWPAP RACs, other institutions and projects

- 2.1.3. New and emerging environmental issues, including climate change impacts on socio-ecological systems in the NOWPAP region, are identified and addressed by Member States, as appropriate
- Priority Area 3. Prevent and Reduce Land- and Sea-Based Pollution
 - 3.1.1. NOWPAP Member States have effective measures in place against marine pollution emergencies through the NOWPAP Regional Oil and HNS Spill Contingency Plan (RCP), including information sharing, improved response capacity, and the implementation of specific projects
 - 3.1.2. NOWPAP Member States are provided with reliable information, guidelines and best practices addressing prevention and mitigation of coastal and marine pollution, including eutrophication
 - 3.1.3. NOWPAP Member States address marine litter, including microplastics, through the effective implementation of the NOWPAP Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter (RAP MALI)
- Priority Area 4. Conserve Marine and Coastal Biodiversity
 - 4.1.1. NOWPAP Member States are provided with information and data, including on the status and major threats to Red List species and invasive alien species and sensitive habitat mapping in the region
 - 4.1.2. NOWPAP Member States effectively address marine and coastal biodiversity conservation through planning and application of area- based management tools, including Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas (EBSAs)
 - 4.1.3. NOWPAP Member States adopt Regional Action Plan for Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Conservation
- Strengthening regional cooperation through partnership building and resource mobilization
 - NOWPAP network of RACs is managed effectively and complemented by well-functioning multi- stakeholder partnerships
 - NOWPAP Trust Funds are managed efficiently and effectively through improved administrative, financial and human resources management
 - NOWPAP communications, public advocacy and digital engagement products better inform, influence and mobilize stakeholders and resources for the protection of marine and coastal environment
 - External capacity and financial resources are mobilized for the implementation of NOWPAP activities

2.1.2. Engagement of RCU and RACs in Priority Areas of PoW 2018-2019

5. Since majority of the projects, which are included in PoW 2018-2019, require a multi-disciplinary implementation team, various structural units of NOWPAP participated in the delivery on more than one Priority Area. A summary of the engagement of RCU and each RAC could be found in Table 1. More details are presented in Section 2.2 and 2.3 below.

Table 1. Engagement of NOWPAP RCU and RACs in Priority Areas of PoW 2018-2019

	Priority Area 1	Priority Area 2	Priority Area 3	Priority Area 4	Key Partners	Resource Mobilization
RCU	Regional Overview Coordination Workshops/trainings Special Projects Communications	Emerging issues (CC) Coordination	Expert Meetings RAP MALI Coordination	MPAs network Regional cooperation RAP BIO Coordination	PEMSEA, YSLME, PICES, GESAMP, IOC WESTPAC	
CEARAC			Environmental Watch Portal RAP MALI	Seagrass remote sensing mapping Web-based tools CEARAC BIO MTS MPAs network RAP BIO	NEAR GOOS, YSLME, NEASPEC, IOC WESTPAC	
DINRAC	Regional Overview Info and Databases Inventories	Marine and Environment Data and Information Web-site	GPA GPML RAP MALI	Species Red Lists RAP BIO		
MERRAC			Update RCP POLREP Online system DELTA Exercises BRAVO Exercises Contingency Plan GIS RAP MALI	RAP BIO	CNA	
POMRAC	ICARM Workshops/trainings Regional Overview Development of EQOs	River and direct inputs of contaminants Microplastic in rivers Regional Assessment	EQO 3 RAP MALI	RAP BIO MPAs network	PEMSEA	
Key Partners	PEMSEA, YSLME	PICES	NEAR GOOS, CNA, GESAMP, UNEP/GPA OSEAN, YSLME	MoE Japan, Toyama Prefecture, YSLME, NEASPEC		

6. A general overview of key topics, in which each of the NOWPAP structural units was involved during 2018-2019 is shown in Table 1.

2.1.3. Status of Implementation of PoW (2018-2019) Activities

7. As of June 30, 2020, 35 projects out of 38 included in PoW 2018-2019 are implemented successfully (92%). Some projects are delayed due to the following reasons:

- Establishment of the ICARM Working Group was delayed because the 16th POMRAC FPM decided to re-establish the group in 2022-2023.
- SSFA and PCA delayed due to the introduction of Partner Portal and Umoja 2 Implementor module. RCU staff had not received required training, this is why, additional consultations were required with UNEP headquarters.
- Development of MTS 2018-2023 Results Planning and Performance Reporting Framework with SMART indicators used for monitoring and evaluation NOWPAP performance was delayed due to the delay in the finalization of the MEF.
- Special projects are delayed due to administrative issues and late nomination of national experts.

2.2. Progress Achieved by the Regional Activity Centers

2.2.1. Special Monitoring and Coastal Environmental Assessment Regional Activity Center

8. The 22nd NOWPAP Intergovernmental Meeting (Toyama, Japan, December 2017) approved three special projects of the CEARAC, including :

- i) Development of a Medium-Term Strategy of CEARAC for marine biodiversity,
- ii) Development of a roadmap for NOWPAP RAP BIO,
- iii) Development of a tool for mapping seagrass distribution in the NOWPAP region.

9. RAP BIO envisages the development of a common understanding of the future activities of NOWPAP, coordination of the activities of each of the four NOWPAP RACs, and, eventually, strengthening the marine biodiversity conservation efforts of the Member States. Finally, the plan is expected to significantly contribute to achieving the environmental SDGs in the NOWPAP region. An international consultant was recruited to lead the development of a RAP BIO roadmap. Also, four national experts were nominated to support this activity and provide inputs from each of the countries. A dedicated workshop was organized back-to-back with the CEARAC Medium-Term Strategy meeting in Chiba, Japan, on 28 November 2019 (see below). The meeting agreed to prepare a draft RAP BIO by August 2020 and organize the 2nd RAP BIO workshop in Japan in September 2020. The revised RAP BIO will be circulated among the NOWPAP Member States and partners for comments, and the final version is expected to be adopted by the end of 2021.

10. The 17th Focal Points Meeting of CEARAC (Toyama, 9-10 September 2019) approved in principle the draft CEARAC Medium-Term Strategy, which had been prepared by CEARAC Secretariat based on the submitted feasibility assessment reports. The details of a future work plan were discussed at the workshop held in Chiba, Japan, on 29 November 2019, and the participants agreed on the CEARAC Medium-Term Strategy.

11. Focusing on the importance of seagrass beds as essential habitats for marine and coastal species, CEARAC has been continuously working on the development of maps of seagrass distribution in selected sea areas in the NOWPAP region for the past biennia. Results of a dedicated [Feasibility Study towards the assessment of seagrass distribution in the Northwest Pacific Action Plan region](#) were published in 2018. To understand the distribution of seagrass accurately and at a larger scale, CEARAC has been developing a tool for mapping the seagrass distribution using cloud-based technology. It is essential to use compatible tools applicable in all NOWPAP Member States. Also, to ensure the real-time population of the databases, the tool being developed should be simple enough to be used by non-scientists and wider public (e.g. providing on-site information on seagrass). With this in mind, CEARAC worked, in cooperation with the Remote Sensing Technology Center of Japan (RESTEC), on developing a cloud-based tool for mapping seagrass with the free-of-charge Google Earth Engine (GEE). Since the operation of the GEE is not supported in one of the NOWPAP Member States, notably China, CEARAC considers building a similar tool based on a different cloud-based technology, namely: the Amazon Web Service (AWS).

12. In 2018-2019 CEARAC continued building partnerships and exchanging information with other NOWPAP RACs, as well as with relevant regional and global partners, including the North-East Asian Sub-regional Programme for Environmental Cooperation, Partnership for Observation of the Global Oceans, Google Earth, and others.

2.2.2. Data and Information Network Regional Activity Center

13. The Data and Information Network Regional Activity Center (DINRAC) continues to maintain the following databases (available at the [DINRAC website](#)):

- i) Major environmental data,
- ii) NOWPAP coastal and marine environmental Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and Remote Sensing applications,
- iii) Marine litter,
- iv) Coastal and marine nature reserves,
- v) NOWPAP publications,
- vi) NOWPAP database of institutions and experts.

DINRAC continues to provide administrative and financial support to selected activities of POMRAC.

14. The 22nd NOWPAP IGM (Toyama, 21-23 December 2017) approved three project proposals submitted by DINRAC including those on

- i) sea reclamation state and management,
- ii) human marine activity objects, and
- iii) the 3rd phase of collecting information on endangered and threatened species in the NOWPAP region.

15. The 17th DINRAC Focal Points Meeting was held on 22-23 August 2019 in Dalian, China. The meeting reviewed the progress made since the 16th DINRAC FPs Meeting. The meeting requested

DINRAC to speed up the implementation of the project on sea reclamation state and management. Participants recognized the progress of the Northwest Pacific Regional Node of the Global Partnership on Marine Litter.

16. Also, the meeting agreed to submit the following proposals to the 24th NOWPAP IGM for approval:

- i) Annual Summary of Major Marine Environmental Data Available in the Member States, which is an essential routine work for DINRAC,
- ii) Collection of Data and Information on Endangered Species Filed in the Red Lists of NOWPAP Member States (3rd Stage 2020-2021) will continue till 2028,
- iii) Expert meeting/ brainstorming workshop for future directions of DINRAC.

17. In 2014 and 2015, scientists of the NOWPAP Member States confirmed that 69 species included in the International Union for Conservation of Nature's (IUCN) red list are observed in the Northwest Pacific region. They expanded the research to 143 species in 2016 and 2017. The study found that most of the studied endangered species in the NOWPAP region were animals (61 *Chordata* species¹ and 6 invertebrates), and only two were plants. Among the 69 confirmed species, two species were assigned to critically endangered by IUCN, namely: the spoon-billed sandpiper and the sea-run taimen. Out of the remaining 67 species, 44 were ranked as vulnerable and 23 as endangered.

18. As mentioned in the section on NOWPAP activities highlights (page 4), the 17th Focal Points Meeting of DINRAC agreed to advance the study on endangered species in the upcoming eight years further, in 2020–2021, China will lead this project.

2.2.3. Marine Environmental Emergency Preparedness and Response Regional Activity Center

19. The Marine Environmental Emergency Preparedness and Response Regional Activity Center (MERRAC) continued to promote the regional co-operation on marine pollution prevention and response among the NOWPAP Member States with assistance from UNEP and IMO. MERRAC carries out regularly:

- Maintenance of updated information on Focal points,
- Populating a database on oil and HNS spills, and
- Keeping updated and operational an Information System, which includes the lists of oil spill response equipment in the region, lists of relevant institutions and experts, and national performance standards and regulations on the application of non-mechanical methods.

20. It was proposed that the next 8th NOWPAP DELTA Exercise to be conducted back-to-back with the 23rd MERRAC Focal Points Meeting in June 2020 and be led by Korea and China.

¹ A chordate is an animal of the phylum *Chordata*. During some period of their life cycle, chordates possess a notochord, a dorsal nerve cord, pharyngeal slits, an endostyle, and a post-anal tail: these five anatomical features define this phylum. Phylum *Chordata* includes the well-known vertebrates (fishes, amphibians, reptiles, birds, mammals).

21. The 20th NOWPAP BRAVO Exercise aimed at the strengthening of the regional cooperation on the marine pollution response under the NOWPAP Regional Contingency Plan was conducted on 25 July 2019, led by China.

22. A joint meeting of 22nd MERRAC Focal Points Meeting and 14th Competent National Authorities was organized on 28-30 August 2019 in Seoul, Korea. The meeting reviewed the progress of the routine work and special projects. The special projects are planned to be finalized by the end of 2019. The meeting agreed to submit the following project proposals to the 24th NOWPAP IGM:

- i) Assessment of the implementation of the International Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Co-operation (OPRC Convention) and OPRC-HNS Protocol in the NOWPAP region,
- ii) Identification of activities to strengthen regional cooperation on the implementation of the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL) under NOWPAP MERRAC framework (e.g., oil-waste discharge from ships, fuel-oil quality, others),
- iii) Development of response options for potential condensate spill in the context of updating the NOWPAP MERRAC Regional Report on HNS Preparedness and Response (2012),
- iv) Development of a MERRAC Strategic Plan for Better Implementation of Regional Cooperation on Marine Pollution Preparedness and Response through the establishment of expert groups on specific issues such as oil finger-print, oil spill modeling, emergency salvages, others.

23. A brainstorming workshop on oil and Hazardous and Noxious Substances spills response and preparedness was held on 27 August 2019 to identify regional capacity gaps, addressing requirements of relevant IMO conventions and guidelines on sea-based pollution in the NOWPAP region.

24. The 2019 MERRAC Expert Meeting was held on 18-19 December 2019 in Tokyo. The meeting represented a platform for MERRAC and private sector representatives to exchange information and knowledge on oil spill response in each country to seek further collaboration for dealing with oil spill accidents among stakeholders, such as Coast Guard and private sector entities. A separate report on this meeting is available.

25. The meeting also requested POMRAC secretariat to share the progress on 'Microplastics Abundance in River Runoff and Coastal Waters of the Northwest Pacific Action Plan Region with a Case Study in the Russian Part of Northwest Pacific Action Plan Sea Area' with NOWPAP Focal Points on Marine Litter, as well as to prepare a workshop on microplastics.

2.2.4. Pollution Monitoring Regional Activity Center

26. POMRAC organized an expert meeting in March 2019 to discuss the ways of assessing the health of the Sea shared by the four countries to support regional progress towards the ocean-related SDGs. The meeting discussed the six most applicable indicators related to the monitoring of marine ecological quality in the region and agreed on the targets for four of them, aligned with environmental Sustainable Development Goals. It was also suggested the following five focus geographical areas,

notably: Jiaozhou Bay in China, Toyama Bay and Hakata Bay in Japan (both or one of them), Masan Bay in Republic of Korea and Russia's Amursky Bay to be selected for testing of the indicators and targets related to the nutrient, chlorophyll-a and contaminant concentration levels in the water column and sediments, as well as the abundance and distribution of marine litter. The meeting agreed on the following targets for monitoring the quality of the marine and coastal environment:

- Nutrient concentrations in the water column within the designated area do not exceed baseline values or national standards,
- Chlorophyll-a concentrations do not exceed baseline values,
- The concentration of contaminants in the water and top layer of sediments do not exceed existing national standards over a five-year period,
- A decreasing trend in the amount of marine litter washed ashore for over a five-year period.
- Marine scientists from the four countries will test these targets by analyzing the actual monitoring data in designated areas in 2020–2021.

27. The 16th POMRAC Focal Points meeting was held on 30-31 October 2019 in Beijing, China. The meeting adopted a Regional Synthesis Report entitled "Development of regional NOWPAP EcoQO targets aligned with SDG Indicators, Phase 1, and a Regional Overview "Assessment of Trends in Rivers and Direct Inputs of Contaminants to the Marine and Coastal Environment in the NOWPAP Region During the Last Decade". The meeting agreed on the following activities for 2020-2021: Development of regional NOWPAP EcoQO targets aligned with SDG indicators. Phase 2; Preparation of the Third State of Marine Environment Report, and the Proposal of the "Microplastics Abundance in River Runoff of the NOWPAP Region". In January 2020, POMRAC published the report, "Microplastics abundance in river runoff and coastal waters of the NOWPAP region with a case study in the Russian part of NOWPAP area" .

2.3. Coordination of Activities of Regional Activity Centers

28. In line with the NOWPAP IGM decisions, the NOWPAP RCU continued its efforts on coordinating activities of the four RACs through regular bilateral meetings, meetings with RAC representatives during Focal Points Meetings, teleconferences and *ad-hoc* meetings (in addition to regular e-mail communications).

29. A new NOWPAP Coordinator, Dr. Yegor Volovik, assumed his duties on 19 August 2019, after more than 4 months after the former Coordinator, Dr. Lev Neretin, had left. Before this post, Dr. Volovik worked in the capacity of the Global Portfolio Manager of the UNEP's GEF International Waters Focal Area at Headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya. Since August 2019, RCU is fully staffed.

30. Guidance in preparation of events and documents for RAC Focal Points meeting were provided, when requested. Comments on and inputs to the meeting proceeding and documents and reports were provided by RCU.

31. Assistance was provided to RACs regularly in preparing and finalizing expenditure and progress reports before submission to the UN Environment Programme's Headquarters. When requested, RCU also assisted with ongoing projects, including identification of appropriate experts.

32. Information on the global and regional meetings, training opportunities, and other information of interest were shared with RACs regularly. The NOWPAP website was kept updated by RCU to

provide accurate and timely information about the meetings and partnerships, which could be of interest to RACs, as well as to present highlights of the achievements of the Regional Activity Centers.

33. The NOWPAP RCU continuously supported the joint work through the channeling of pertinent information, connecting various experts, and engaging with them in relevant meetings and activities.

34. Coordination of and guidance in the development of RAP MALI activities and the roadmap for RAP BIO were provided.

35. With the adoption of the NOWPAP Medium-Term Strategy 2018-2023, the demand for further integration of RACs activities has been rising exponentially. During the reporting period of 2018-2019, the number of activities that required much closer cooperation between Regional Activity Centers has significantly increased. For example, ongoing consultations have been supported on the further development of RAP BIO, development of indicators for NOWPAP EQOs, implementation of marine litter related activities as a part of RAP MALI, and forthcoming work on the integrated coastal management (has not yet started). Almost all significant activities of NOWPAP MTS require closer cooperation among RACs.

3. Northwest Pacific Action Plan Special Projects

3.1 Special Project on Microplastic

36. Upon request of the Member States at the 22nd NOWPAP IGM, RCU received four project proposals for further development. RCU was requested at the meeting, together with the lead project agency, Chinese Research Academy of Environmental Sciences, to develop a project proposal for the Project "Monitoring and Assessment Methods for Microplastics Pollution" with the total budget for project preparation not exceeding US\$50,000.

37. On June 3rd, 2018, the leading microplastics experts from NOWPAP member states convened at the Expert Meeting of the NOWPAP Special Projects: "Monitoring and Assessment Methods for Microplastics pollution" organized by RCU to brainstorm on the key issues and priorities for further development of the NOWPAP Special Project to be implemented during 2019-2022.

38. It was agreed that the Special Project will use the existing in the countries microplastics monitoring criteria to ensure a harmonized regional approach for microplastics pollution monitoring in the NOWPAP region. Results of the recent eco-toxicological studies on the impacts of microplastics on the environment will also inform a coordinated regional approach to microplastics ecological risk assessment. Monitoring of microplastics pollution would be carried out in selected sites in the NOWPAP region, and a plan prepared for a regional microplastics assessment and monitoring programme. The contract with the Chinese Research Academy of Environmental Sciences was signed 13 December 2019 to develop a project. The Second Experts Meeting on this project was held in Dalian, China, on 27 September 2019. The proposal writing team submitted a revised proposal on December 2nd, 2019.

3.2 Special Project on Marine Biodiversity

39. The NOWPAP RCU initiated consultations with the proponent of the project "Identification of Key Indicator Species and Ecosystems of Biodiversity Change in the Northwest Pacific Action Plan Region", the National Scientific Centre of Marine Biology of the Far Eastern Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences. The proposal was approved by the 23rd IGM. ToR with a request to the countries for nominations were circulated at the end of 2018. The following experts have been nominated: Dr. Hongjun Li, China; Dr. Takashi Hosono, Japan; Dr. Eun-chan YANG, Korea. An expert from Russia was nominated in March 2019 but declined in July 2019 due to health issues.

4. Building Partnerships

40. Partnership building and the development of joint initiatives and activities is one of the major tasks of the NOWPAP RCU and RACs. During the reporting period with account of the NOWPAP Medium-Term Strategy 2018-2023, the NOWPAP RCU engaged in consultations with various partners, both traditional and new.

41. **United Nations Environment Programme/Regional Seas:** During the reporting period, NOWPAP provided various inputs to the Regional Seas programme documents and events, including inputs to the UN Secretary-General report on Oceans and the Law of the Sea for the Seventy-fourth session of the UN Assembly, the Design Guide of Regional Marine Litter Action Plan, GEO-6 global report, UNEP Oceans Strategy, GESAMP 2019 annual meeting. In addition, regular updates were provided on NOWPAP activities to the UNEP Headquarters and Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ROAP), as well as NOWPAP National Focal Points. A global meeting of the UNEP-coordinated Regional Seas Programme was organized by the Regional Seas Unit of the UNEP Ecosystems Division in Berlin on 3-5 October 2019. Representatives from both UNEP-administered and Independent/Non-UNEP Administered Regional Seas Conventions and Actions Plans shared experiences at this meeting on strengthening intergovernmental governance mechanisms in various geographical regions. Regional Seas Programme's Strategic Directions and Mid-Term Strategy have also been discussed at the meeting. NOWPAP presented an overview of NOWPAP Progress on the implementation of the Regional Seas Strategic Directions 2017 – 2020. The idea of the establishment of solid horizontal links between various Regional Seas Conventions and Actions Plans was supported. A summary report of this meeting is included in the package of documents for the 24th IGM (UNEP/NOWPAP IG.24/INF/12).

42. Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (GPA) of the United Nations Environment Programme: RCU has developed a project proposal to enhance the Northwest Pacific Regional Node of the Global Partnership on Marine Litter (GPML) and negotiated a contract for DINRAC.

43. In Q1-Q2 2020, during the pandemic of COVID-19 coronavirus, a series of virtual meetings were organized by the Regional Seas Programme Unit of the Integration Branch of the Ecosystems Division of UNEP². One of the key points in these meetings were how to position the Regional Seas Programme in the new conditions, when multilateralism facing significant challenges. The following key documents were directly contributed, among others, to by NOWPAP in 2020:

- i) Review of the Regional Seas Strategic Directions (2017-2020) and the development of New Regional Seas Strategic Directions (2021-2024)
- ii) Marine and Coastal Strategy of UNEP
- iii) A Global Note on Ocean Plastics
- iv) An SDG 14 Outlook report for Oceans Conference 2020
- v) Post 2020 Regional Seas Programme
- vi) A role of the Regional Seas Programme at UNEA-5.

² In 2019-2020 a reorganization took place of the Ecosystems Division of UNEP, which all Regional Seas Programmes and Action Plans are a part of. Currently, all Secretariats of the UNEP-administered Regional Seas Programmes and Action Plans were included into the Ecosystems Integration Branch.

44. **North Pacific Marine Science Organization (PICES):** The Annual PICES 2019 Meeting was held on 16-27 October 2019 in Victoria, BC, Canada. NOWPAP sponsored two scientists from the region to co-host the Session 7: "Environmental indicators of plastic pollution in the North Pacific", and to chair the workshop on harmful algae blooms. During the workshop, over 48 international experts on economics and the science of HABs from the USA, Japan, Australia, Canada, Republic of Korea, the UAE, China, France, Norway, Chile, Scotland, Spain, and the UK discussed a compendium of case studies that highlight the economic impacts of HABs on farmed fish and shellfish, as well as wild-caught, reef-based fisheries. The workshop helped to establish greater connections between economists, industry scientists, and HAB researchers towards advancing economic and social studies on impacts of HABs. A series of papers are being prepared to document the five case studies including one from the Republic of Korea in the NOWPAP region including summary recommendations for the future. These white papers will be published on the GlobalHAB and PICES websites, which can be used to steer future studies on the economic impact of HABs.

45. In 2020, the traditionally strong collaboration with PICES with a number of Working Groups was strengthened by the engagement into activities of the PICES Working Group 42 (Marine Litter and Plastics). A number of joint activities have been identified to contribute to in 2020 on.

46. **The 2nd Phase of the Yellow Sea Large Marine Ecosystem Project:** On 12-14 March 2019, NOWPAP attended the 3rd Meetings of the Management, Science, and Technical Panel and Interim Commission Council of the Yellow Sea Project, which was held in Qingdao, China. NOWPAP agreed to further cooperate on addressing marine litter in the Yellow Sea through the Clean Beach City Alliance project. On 4-5 June 2019, NOWPAP was invited to the Second Meeting of Regional Working Group on Pollution Reduction, which was organized by the Yellow Sea Project and highlighted the importance of controlling marine litter from its sources. On 15-19 July 2019, NOWPAP attended the Science Conference of the Yellow Sea Project in Qingdao, China. NOWPAP introduced their work on biodiversity, eutrophication, and marine litter at this conference.

47. Representatives of NOWPAP participated in the Final Evaluation of YSLME and will contribute to the Final Conference of the Project in late 2020.

48. **Tripartite Environmental Ministers Meeting:** The 2019 joint Northwest Pacific Action Plan-Tripartite Environmental Ministers Meeting marine litter management workshop was held in Dalian, China, on 24-25 September 2019. Due to a number of limitations in 2020 related to the COVID-19 pandemic, in 2020 the workshops will be organized in autumn 2020 via a virtual meeting.

49. **Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA):** NOWPAP organized a side event "Two decades of cooperation in NOWPAP: Charting a Way Forward for the Achievement of Sustainable Development Goals" during the East Asian Seas Congress 2018 which was held on 27-30 November 2018 in the Philippines. The session reviewed the progress of regional cooperation for over two decades. It was recognized that the Action Plan plays a vital role in the regional implementation of ocean-related SDGs. Marine scientists, representatives of organizations, working on oceans agenda, and the NOWPAP RACs attended the session. NOWPAP representatives also contributed to the Ocean Talk and Sea Exchange discussion during the East Asian Seas Congress 2018 and highlighted the importance of Regional Action Plans on Marine Litter for better inter-regional coordination of policy and information exchange on the growing threat to the world's oceans by marine litter, particularly from plastic pollution.

50. Cooperation links have been established with the new coordinator of PEMSEA in 2019, particularly in the field of capacity building of experts to be further involved in training events on the Integrated

Coastal and River Basin Management (ICARM). Representatives of POMRAC will be involved in the ICARM training events in the future.

51. In 2020, a new Memorandum of Understanding has been prepared to mark the intensified collaboration with PEMSEA. NOWPAP contributed to the annual meeting of PEMSEA and had a virtual online meeting with the new PEMSEA Executive Secretary, Ms. Aimee Gonzales.

52. **COBSEA:** NOWPAP was invited to the 24th Intergovernmental Meeting of the Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia (COBSEA) to share its experiences on addressing marine environmental protection through institutional strengthening. The Sea of Solutions 2019 Partnership week was organized by COBSEA and the UNEP Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ROAP) on 11-14 November 2019 in Bangkok, Thailand. Together with COBSEA and South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP), the NOWPAP Coordinator directly contributed to the session "Governance Frameworks to Manage Marine Plastics". NOWPAP Coordinator, as one of the panelists, shared the knowledge and successful experience of NOWPAP, as well as that of individual countries of the NOWPAP region, in combatting marine litter.

53. In 2020, collaboration with COBSEA continued, particularly by joint contribution to the Webinar - Regional Seas Programmes and the post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (to be held in Oct 2020), where the development of NOWPAP RAP BIO will be show-cased as an example of the regional biodiversity conservation and governance.

54. **Our Sea of East Asia Network:** Our Sea of East Asia Network is a non-profit organization, established in 2009, focusing on research, education, policy development, and international cooperation to protect the marine environment from marine litter. NOWPAP was engaged in discussions and sharing views with Our Sea of East Asia Network on analyzing policies and identifying gaps in addressing marine litter in the Northwest Pacific region in July 2019 in Tongyeong, Republic of Korea.

55. **Other related activities:** NOWPAP participated in the "Reducing Marine Plastic Waste - 2019 Shanghai Forum", which was organized by the State Key Laboratory of Estuarine and Coastal Research and the Plastic Marine Debris Research Center, East China Normal University, the IOC-UNESCO's Sub-Commission for the Western Pacific (WESTPAC), and Shanghai Society for Oceanology and Limnology on 4-5 November 2019, in Shanghai, China. NOWPAP discussed with stakeholders in China on the cooperation to further reduce marine plastic waste, particularly, the role of industry in addressing plastic waste, the impact of the ban on import of plastic waste to China, and the enforcement of regulations.

56. NOWPAP attended a regional work to brainstorm on approaches to achieving the objectives of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030). The meeting, organized by WESTPAC, was held to raise awareness about the Decade, identify knowledge gaps and science questions, develop an understanding of existing and potential scientific initiatives, programmes, partnerships and resources, and elaborate issues on capacity-building, information sharing and communications.

57. At an event to mark the 20th anniversary of Japan's Northwest Pacific Region Environmental Cooperation Center (NPEC), NOWPAP voiced its commitment to strengthening its 20-year partnership with the Center to help steer the regional implementation of ocean-related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the NOWPAP's Medium-term Strategy 2018-2023.

58. Toyama prefecture in Japan is very active in supporting NOWPAP, also hosting one of the two offices of the NOWPAP RCU. RCU pays special attention to the establishment and maintenance of a truly close partnership with Toyama Prefecture. For instance, on the invitation of the Governor of the

Toyama Prefecture, NOWPAP Coordinator presented NOWPAP at the General Assembly of the Most Beautiful Bays of the World Club. Representatives and private sector entrepreneurs from over 25 countries and over 40 municipalities from various geographical regions participated in the meeting. Similarly, a NOWPAP speech was provided to address participants of the 14th Subcommittee for Environment of the North-East Asian Regional - Global Ocean Observing System (NEAR-GOOS) on 14 November 2019.

59. Marine Regions Forum - 2019 sponsored by the governments of Germany and Sweden, as the implementation of the voluntary commitments of these countries made prior or at the 2017 UN Ocean Conference was held on 30 Sept – 2 Oct 2019. The high-level segment included former and current heads and senior management of UNEP, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), World Bank, senior officials from the governments of Germany and Sweden, leaders and activists from International NGOs and public organizations. NOWPAP directly contributed to several sessions, notably: Achieving SDG 14; Building regional science-policy interfaces; Advancing the implementation of the ocean SDG through ecosystem-based Management, Inclusive ocean governance, others. The Forum helped to streamline the preparation of the Ocean community for 2020 UN Ocean Conference, UN Decade of Ocean Science (2021-2030), as well as sustainable ocean governance and global environmental agenda in general.

5. Communications and Raising Public Awareness

60. The NOWPAP RCU and RACs took a number of specific actions to closely follow the NOWPAP Public Awareness Strategy:

- News and information have been posted on the NOWPAP homepage since 2006. A new NOWPAP website, being a child site of the UNEP website, was launched in December 2018. Homepages of RACs were also updated.
- An electronic Newsletter (Northwest Pacific Action Plan Quarterly) was distributed regularly by the NOWPAP RCU to member states and partners.
- A set of popular educational videos has been completed as visual material for the promotion of NOWPAP. The set of five videos, notably: on marine litter, eutrophication, marine biodiversity, oil and HNS spills, and SDGs, are available in five languages: English (audio and subtitles) and four languages of NOWPAP (subtitles). The videos present NOWPAP in its multidisciplinary, using infographics and a common and precise language. The videos include a detailed description of critical environmental challenges of the NOWPAP region, the capacity available in the Member States, within NOWPAP and its structural units (RACs, RCU). The videos also showcase and promote a variety of scientific and technical expertise available in the region. Successful practices and experiences have also been promoted.

Following comments received from the Member States, these videos are being reviewed in 2020. Videos were circulated among official representatives of various units of NOWPAP. Feedback is due by September 30, 2020. Once received, the comments, together with those, received earlier, will be addressed by an international consultants to be deployed in late 2020.

- NOWPAP maintains an online presence on Facebook (facebook.com/nowpap.unep).
- Information about NOWPAP is regularly provided to UNEP Headquarters and ROAP.
- The staff of the NOWPAP RCU and RACs provided inputs and articles to newsletters and delivered lectures/presentations at the local level. For example, RCU delivered a lecture on marine litter at a student beach cleanup campaign held in Busan in August 2019. RCU continues taking part in events and strengthening practical cooperation with the NOWPAP hosting cities: Toyama and Busan.
- While attending a number global and regional meetings such as the Regional Consultative and Planning Workshop towards the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (31 July- 2 August 2019, Tokyo), the SEA of Solutions 2019 Partnership week for marine plastic pollution prevention (11-14 November 2019, Bangkok) (see above), staff members of RCU and RACs promoted NOWPAP and ensured its visibility, as well as public attention, to the marine environment conservation through open discussions and dialogue.

6. The Northwest Pacific Action Plan Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter (RAP MALI)

61. Two significant events, notably: the 2019 NOWPAP International Coastal Cleanup Campaign and Marine Litter Management Workshop (organized together with Marine Litter Focal Points of the Tripartite Environment Ministers Meeting, TEMM), were successfully held in Dalian, China on 24-25 September 2019. The participants shared information on how to improve waste management practices to reduce the quantity of marine litter in the sea. Following the workshop, the RAP MALI Focal Points Meeting reviewed the reports of the NOWPAP RCU and RACs, discussed the work plan and budget for 2020-2021. The 2nd expert group meeting for the development of NOWPAP Special Project on micro-plastics monitoring and assessment was organized on 27 September 2019 in Dalian. About 110 local volunteers, together with NOWPAP officials, took part in the International Coastal Clean-up Campaign on Bangchui Beach in Dalian. A total of 76 kg of litter, including rubber, fishing rods, nets, and styrofoam boxes were collected.

62. The Northwest Pacific Regional Node of GPML was transferred from NPEC to DINRAC in early 2018. UNEP GPA Secretariat allocated US\$ 20,000 to support the operation of the Regional Node in 2018.

63. DINRAC continuously updated the marine litter database with monitoring results provided by NPEC, Japan, and the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries, R. Korea, as well as International Coastal Cleanup results from P.R. China and the Russian Federation. All national marine litter monitoring data and related information, including the data from the State Oceanic Administration of P.R. China, are available at the DINRAC's website (<http://114.251.10.253:186/>).

64. MERRAC has finalized the project on floating marine litter distribution and impacts in the NOWPAP region; [two reports](#) "Understanding of Floating Marine Litter Distribution and Impacts in the Northwest Pacific Action Plan region" and "Review and Analysis of Floating Marine Litter Prediction Models in the Northwest Pacific Action Plan region" were published in 2019.

65. CEARAC published the Report of National Actions on Marine Microplastics in the NOWPAP Region in April 2020. The report presented actions taken by the NOWPAP member states to fight against microplastics. These include national legislation, strategies, and actions monitoring actions, prevention and removal activities and awareness-raising and engagement with the wider public. The report presents actions taken by central governments, but also - by other stakeholders such as local governments, academia and research institutes, Non-Profit Organizations/Non-Government Organizations (NPOs/NGOs), and, finally, private companies.

8. Resource Mobilization Efforts

66. The Northwest Pacific Action Plan Member States continue to provide generous support to operation of NOWPAP through a Northwest Pacific Action Plan dedicated Trust Fund to support personnel costs of the NOWPAP RCU in Japan and R. Korea. Another fund is provided by the Korean Coast Guard to cover personnel costs and operation of the NOWPAP Marine Environmental Emergency Preparedness and Response Regional Activity Center (MERRAC). Furthermore, dedicated funding is provided by the Member States to various projects and activities implemented by RACs. Starting from 2017, reports of the UNEP Executive Director provide information about mobilized external resources.

67. As reported to and approved by the Member States during the 23rd Intergovernmental Meeting in Moscow, Russia (9-11 October 2018), the total amount of resources mobilized in 2018 (as of Sept 2018) was UD\$ 922,860. This amount includes funds mobilized by RCU (US\$ 35,500), CEARAC (US\$ 537,806), DINRAC (US\$ 107,038), MERRAC (US\$ 234,516), and POMRAC (US\$ 8,000).

68. In 2019, the overall resources mobilized slightly exceeded those in 2018 and amount to US\$ 947,607, including RCU (US\$ 74,100), CEARAC (US\$ 532,365), DINRAC (US\$ 107,038), MERRAC (US\$ 219,104), POMRAC (US\$ 15,000).

69. Overall, for the biennium 2018-2019, the amount of resources mobilized is reported to be US\$1,862, 867.

70. A summary of mobilized resources in the 2018-2019 biennium is presented in Table 2 below. A detailed breakdown is included in Annex A.

Table 2 Financial Resources Mobilized by the NOWPAP in 2018-2019 Biennium, US\$

	2018	2019	Total	%
RCU	35,500	74,100	109,600	5.9%
CEARAC	537,806	532,365	1,070,171	57.2%
DINRAC	107,038	107,038	214,076	11.4%
MERRAC	234,516	219,104	453,620	24.3%
POMRAC	8,000	15,000	23,000	1.2%
TOTAL	922,860	947,607	1,870,467	100.0%

71. In 2020, CEARAC has developed a research proposal of GEO-Google Earth Engine Programme. The project proposal was accepted in July 2020 that will help accelerate implementation of the NOWPAP Eutrophication Assessment Tool (NEAT) and methodology improvement. Implementation plan has been discussed by the project participants at a kick-off meeting to be further approved by FPs.

72. In addition, additional funding in 2020 is sought to the NOWPAP Regional Node on Marine Litter. A proposal has been submitted to the Secretariat of GPA in UNEP Headquarters. The decision and funding are expected by the 2020-end.

9. Implementation of NOWPAP POW 2020-2021

9.1 General Description and Highlights

73. The 24th Intergovernmental Meeting (IGM) of the Northwest Pacific Action Plan (NOWPAP), planned to be organized in Beijing, China, on 11-13 February 2020, was postponed due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 coronavirus in China, and later also in Korea and Japan. The Government of China officially informed the NOWPAP Regional Coordinating Unit (RCU) on the need to postpone the IGM until later 2020 on 30 January 2020.

74. Since access to the resources of the NOWPAP Trust Fund for starting any activities is restricted until the Programme of Work 2020-2021, budget, and reports by UNEP Executive Director, RACs, IGM report, etc. are approved, RCU requested the Member States on 31 January, 2020, to send their consent in writing on starting spending from the trust fund to implement the most urgent activities until the IGM is held.

75. The Member States agreed to this approach and provided their feedback by email. The first round of consultations with the Member States was carried out during the period February 11 to March 20, 2020. Feedback was received from all four Member States. All questions, comments, and requests for clarification from the NOWPAP Member States, as well as responses of the NOWPAP RCU and actions taken or to be taken.

76. After addressing comments and following guidance of the Member States, RCU circulated management response and requested the Member States to indicate whether the proposed actions are sufficient to approve the Programme of Work 2020-2021.

77. The second round of country consultations was completed on April 17, 2020. Countries requested a number of additional clarifications. The Programme of Work has been updated in accordance with positions of the Member States.

78. The PoW has been approved by May 18, 2020, by all Member States, however, with a number of comments/conditions/reservations.

79. In addition to the regular CEARAC activities, such as the organization of the Focal Point Meetings, the following actions were approved:

- 1) CEARAC's activities on marine biodiversity conservation for the 2020-2021 biennium
- 2) Several case studies on estimating seagrass blue carbon in selected sea areas in the NOWPAP region
- 3) An improvement of NEAT for the assessment and monitoring of eutrophication using satellite chlorophyll-a
- 4) The organization of the Fifth NOWPAP Training Course on Remote Sensing Data Analysis.

80. During 2020-2021, DINRAC will continue its regular activities, including organizing Focal Point Meetings and updating and supplementing existing databases, as well as managing the Northwest

Pacific Regional Node of the Global Partnership on Marine Litter. The following activities were approved for 2020-2021:

- 1) An annual Summary of Major Marine Environmental Data available in the Member States, which is an essential routine work for DINRAC
- 2) A collection of Data and Information on Endangered Species Filed in the Red Lists of the NOWPAP Member States (3rd Stage is 2020-2021), which will continue until 2028,
- 3) An expert meeting and a brainstorming workshop for future directions of DINRAC.

81. MERRAC will utilize approved resources on organizing Focal Point and National Competent Authorities meetings, as well as to support specific activities to strengthen regional cooperation, including closer collaboration with IMO. The following activities for the 2020-2021 biennium were approved:

- 1) An assessment of the implementation of the International Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Co-operation (OPRC Convention) and OPRC-HNS Protocol in the NOWPAP region,
- 2) The identification of activities to strengthen regional cooperation on the implementation of the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL) under NOWPAP MERRAC framework (e.g., oil-waste discharge from ships, fuel-oil quality, others),
- 3) The development of response options for potential condensate spills in the context of updating the NOWPAP MERRAC Regional Report on HNS Preparedness and Response (2012),
- 4) The development of a MERRAC Strategic Plan for Better Implementation of Regional Cooperation on Marine Pollution Preparedness and Response through the establishment of expert groups on specific issues such as an oil finger-print, oil spill modeling, emergency salvages, others.

82. POMRAC will organize Focal Point Meetings and several communication activities. The following activities were approved:

- 1) The development of regional NOWPAP EcoQO targets aligned with SDG indicators. Phase 2;
- 2) The preparation of the Third State of Marine Environment Report SOMER-3, and
- 3) a Proposal of the Project "Microplastics Abundance in River Runoff of the NOWPAP Region."

83. For the Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter (RAP MALI), it was approved to focus on the revision of the NOWPAP Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter in 2020-2021 and to maintain the operation of the Regional Node of the GPML.

84. RCU will continue working on public awareness and communications activities, resource mobilization and coordination of RACs. RCU will continue strengthening regional partnerships. Specifically, special attention needs to be paid to the completion of the Regional

Action Plan for Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Conservation (RAP BIO). More work is required to complete the NOWPAP Communication Strategy.

85. The Programme of Work 2020-2021 was approved on May 18, 2020, by all Member States following multi-round consultations by email (UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 24/12 Rev 2). This procedure had been agreed with all four Member States due to impossibility to organise a face-to-face discussion related to travelling restrictions introduced by all four NOWPAP Member States following the outbreak of COVID-19 coronavirus.

86. Table 3 below provides the budget with a breakdown on specific activities. **Ошибка! Источник ссылки не найден.** including the budget for each RAC, RAP MALI and RCU.

Table 3. NOWPAP Work Plan and Budget (Thousand USD) for 2020-2021

RACs/Projects/Activities	Approved Budget for 2018-2019	Suggested Budget for 2020-2021
CEARAC	185	185
DINRAC	185	185
MERRAC	185	185
POMRAC ¹	185 ³	185
RAP MALI	91	111
Communication Activities and Public Awareness (RCU)	20	38
- Coordination of RACs (RCU)	127	104
- Implementation of NOWPAP (RCU)		
RCU Operation (RCU)	50	50
Resource Mobilization (RCU)	27	27
Contribution to the development of MPAs network	-	10
NOWPAP Special Projects / Initiatives	95	-
Preparation of RAP BIO	-	30
Communications Strategy Development	-	15
Internal Audit	-	5
Evaluation of Special Projects (Review)	-	10
Sub-total	1,150	1,140
13% of the sub-total as Programme Support Cost	150	160 ⁴
TOTAL	1,300	1,300

³ POMRAC transferred USD80,000 to DINRAC to cover costs of international consultants and additional activities for 2018-2019.

⁴ Fourteen percent of the sub-total as Programme Support Costs (13%) and UN Reform Levy (1%).

9.2 Overall Assessment of the Progress in 2020

87. Overall, due to the commitment of the NOWPAP Member States, who agreed to approve the PoW 2020-2021 by email (UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 24/12 Rev 2), the NOWPAP bodies, i.e. RCU, RACs, were able to prepare and kick-off a number of activities of 2020-2021 biennium.

88. The outbreak of COVID-19 coronavirus and following the outbreak global pandemic and restrictions of domestic and international travelling significantly affected the contents and number of activities, which were possible to start implementing.

89. Significant effort of RCU and RACs were devoted to the development of legal instruments (PCA, SSFAs) between UNEP Headquarters and RACs. A summary of the status of each agreement is included in Annex C.

90. The key highlight of achievements of NOWPAP in Q2-2020 include:

i) UNEP Headquarters:

- RCU attended the Ecosystems Integration Branch meeting on 7 July 2020
- RCU attended the Review meeting of the Regional Seas Global Outlook Report on 30 June 2020
- NOWPAP team contributed to a series of strategic papers and documents developed by UNEP HQs, including Regional Seas Programmes

ii) RCU

- Three web stories were posted on NOWPAP website
- NOWPAP newsletter for 2020 Q2 was released

iii) DINRAC

- The Project Cooperation Agreement (PCA) for 2020-2021 is in process to submit to Nairobi
- The payments for experts under PCA 2018-2019 are ongoing due to the institutional restructuring and COVID-19

iv) CEARAC

- The Small-Scale Funding Agreement (SSFA) for 2020-2021 was signed in June
- CEARAC Secretariat contracted Small Scale Fund Agreement (SSFA) for the 2020-2021 biennium with UNEP on June 15, 2020, and the first installment is in process.
- Following signature of SSFA, CEARAC Secretariat started coordination with CEARAC Focal Points (FPs) in the Member States to kick-off activities included in the Programme of Work 2020-2021. Under the circumstances of COVID-19 pandemic and following travelling restrictions, it was impossible to hold a face-to-face Focal Points Meeting (FPM). Therefore, CEARAC Secretariat engaged in discussions with FPs on how to approve the implementation plan for the 2020-2021 biennium. By the end of June 2020, this decision has

not been made and the two possible modalities are being discussed: an online virtual meeting or email communications. The final agreement is expected in July 2020.

- A project proposal: Development of a Near Real Time Monitoring System for Marine Coastal Eutrophication Using Google Earth Engine, was submitted to GEO Google

v) MERRAC

- The SSFA for MERRAC QNL for 2020 was signed on 20 April 2020, and the first installment is done
- The MERRAC SSFA PNL for 2020-2021 was signed in June 2020 and the first installment is in process
- The organization of MERRAC Focal Point Meeting for 2020 was discussed by email, and decided to agree on the major agendas by email communication among the Member States
- The Korean translation report on the 'Guidelines on implementing spill impact mitigation assessment (SIMA)' of IPIECA into Korean was published in March 2020
- The implementation plan of the MERRAC Specific Project for 2020-2021 was developed by leading experts of each Member States
- The development of the final report of the MERRAC specific project for 2018-2019 is currently in progress will be published after the final comments from Member states

vi) POMRAC

- The SSFA POMRAC for 2020-2021 was approved by Nairobi in July 2020
- The nomination of national experts for POMRAC projects is ongoing
- POMRAC has received nominations of national experts for the microplastic project

vii) Marine Litter

- RCU attended the GPML Steering Committee online meeting on 04 June 2020
- The revision of the Third Overview of Marine Litter in the NOWPAP Region is ongoing
- The Marine Litter Focal Point of Russia confirmed that it is difficult to organize a face to face NOWPAP-TEMM Marine Litter Management Workshop and the International Coastal Cleanup Campaign in 2020 in Russia due to the COVID-19 pandemic

viii) RAP BIO

- The recruitment of an international consultant to prepare for the RAP BIO is in process

ix) Special Projects

- The first payment for the Special Project on microplastics has been released
- The APN Workshop on Key Indicator Species and Habitats for Marine Biodiversity Change in East Asia was postponed due to COVID-19

x) Partnership building

- RCU attended a virtual meeting on reducing marine plastic pollution and enhance cooperation in the East Asian region. The meeting was organised by the Foreign Environmental Cooperation Centre (FECO) of the Ministry of Ecology and Environment of China on June 24, 2020.

- NOWPAP was invited to introduce the experience in hosting the Regional Node of Global Partnership on Marine Litter in technical consultation of the Working Group in East Asia which was organised by the Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia (COBSEA) on 23-25 June 2020.

91. A detailed reporting on the progress of implementation of PoW 2020-2021 in Q2 2020 is included in Annex B.

Annex A. Financial Resources Mobilized by NOWPAP in 2018-2019**Table 4 Financial Resources Mobilized by the NOWPAP RCU in 2018-2019⁵**

Funding Source	Year	Purpose of Funding	Amount (US\$)
United Nations Environment Programme Global Programme of Action Office (through Northwest Pacific Action Plan Regional Coordinating Unit)	2018	The proposal in preparation: Enhancing the Northwest Pacific Regional Node of the Global Partnership on Marine Litter ⁶	20,000
Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation	2018	Travel costs to Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation workshop on marine litter in Seoul, May 2018	1,500
R. Korea Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries and Korea Environment Management Corporation	2018	Costs of logistics for 2018 joint Northwest Pacific Action Plan-Tripartite Environmental Ministers Marine Litter Management Workshop, 2018 Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter Meeting and Northwest Pacific Action Plan International Coastal Cleanup Campaign	ca. 11,000
United Nations Environment Programme	2018	United Nations Environment Programme Case Study: Northwest Pacific Action Plan Ecological Objective setting and future use of its framework for Sustainable Development Goals monitoring	3,000
Sub-total (2018)			35,500
The Yellow Sea Large Marine Ecosystem Phase II Project	2019	Travel costs for CEARAC to YSLME Science Conference, Qingdao, China, July 2019	1,500
Norwegian Centre for Oil Spill Preparedness and Marine Environment	2019	Travel costs for DINRAC to Norwegian Conference on prevention and cleanup of marine litter in October 2019	3,000
Ministry of Ecology and Environment and Dalian Metropolitan Government of P.R. China	2019	Costs of logistics for 2019 joint Northwest Pacific Action Plan-Tripartite Environmental Ministers Marine Litter Management Workshop, 2019 Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter Meeting and Northwest Pacific Action Plan International Coastal Cleanup Campaign	20,000
Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research (APN)	2019	“International Workshop on Key Indicator Species and Habitats for Marine Biodiversity Change in East Asia”	42,000
UNEP HQs	2019	Travel costs of Yegor Volovik to Nairobi (UNEP Ecosystems Division Retreat, Regional Seas Unit Retreat, US\$2,700),	6,600

⁵ Table does not include financial contributions of the Government of Japan and Government of R. Korea to support personnel costs of Regional Coordinating Unit offices in Toyama and Busan, respectively.

⁶ Until November 2019, these funds have not been made available to NOWPAP by UNEP GPA. According to the agreement with GPA Secretariat, these funds will be made available in 2020.

Funding Source	Year	Purpose of Funding	Amount (US\$)
		Chika Kimura – to Nairobi (Management Academy, US\$3,900)	
2019 Shanghai Forum - Reducing Marine Plastic Waste Shanghai, China	2019	Travel costs of Ning Liu to 2019 Shanghai Forum - Reducing Marine Plastic Waste Shanghai, China	1,000
Sub-total (2019)			74,100
TOTAL (2018-2019)			109,600

Table 5 Financial Resources Mobilized by NOWPAP Regional Activity Centers in 2018 -2019

Funding Source	Year	Purpose of Funding	Amount (US\$)
Special Monitoring and Coastal Environmental Assessment Regional Activity Center (2018)			
Ministry of Environment of Japan	2018	Special Monitoring and Coastal Environmental Assessment Regional Activity Center projects on seagrass mapping and eutrophication assessment	129,940
Ministry of Environment of Japan	2018	Marine Environmental Protection of Northwest Pacific Region (website)	63,165
Toyama Prefecture	2018	Organization of Special Monitoring and Coastal Environmental Assessment Regional Activity Center Meetings, implementing Biodiversity activity, seagrass mapping and eutrophication assessment	108,283
Toyama Prefecture	2018	Seagrass mapping project	10,828
Toyama Prefecture	2018	Marine Environmental Protection of Northwest Pacific Region (website)	45,118
Toyama Prefecture	2018	Salary of Special Monitoring and Coastal Environmental Assessment Regional Activity Center staff	180,472
<i>Sub-Total (CEARAC, 2018)</i>			537,806
Data and Information Network Regional Activity Center (2018)			
Ministry of Ecology and Environment of P.R. China	2018	Support to Data and Information Network Regional Activity Center office (part of salary and operations)	63,050
China- ASEAN Environmental Cooperation Center	2018	Support to Data and Information Network Regional Activity Center office (salary)	43,988
<i>Sub-Total (DINRAC, 2018)</i>			107,038

Funding Source	Year	Purpose of Funding	Amount (US\$)
Marine Environmental Emergency Preparedness and Response Regional Activity Center (2018)			
P.R. China, Maritime Safety Administration	2018	Participation in the 21st Northwest Pacific Action Plan Marine Environmental Emergency Preparedness and Response Regional Activity Center Focal Point Meeting & 13th Competent National Authorities Meeting on 17-20 July 2018 in Incheon, R. Korea. - Travel expenses of the participants	1,925
Korea, Korea Coast Guard	2018	Annual Marine Environmental Emergency Preparedness and Response Regional Activity Center secretariat staff salaries and other operational costs in 2018	231,803
Korea, Korea Coast Guard	2018	Participation at the 21st Northwest Pacific Action Plan Marine Environmental Emergency Preparedness and Response Regional Activity Center Focal Point Meeting & 13th Competent National Authorities Meeting on 17-20 July 2018 in Incheon, R. Korea - Travel expenses of the participants	788
<i>Sub-Total (MERRAC, 2018)</i>			<i>234,516</i>
Pollution Monitoring Regional Activity Center (2018)			
Grant of the Presidium of the Far Eastern Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences № 18-5-019	2018	Natural-resource potential, functioning, and dynamics of the diversity of ecosystems in the transitional zone "continent-ocean" and their rational use as part of Pollution Monitoring Regional Activity Center Activity "Strengthen regional capacity on pollution monitoring through knowledge and information sharing and capacity building"	3,000
Grant of the Presidium of the Far Eastern Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences № 18-5-083	2018	Cyclicity and inertia of extreme natural processes and their ecological consequences in transboundary geosystems as part of Pollution Monitoring Regional Activity Center Activity "Assessment of Trends in River and Direct Inputs of Contaminants to the Marine and Coastal Environment in the Northwest Pacific Action Plan region"	5,000
<i>Sub-Total (POMRAC, 2018)</i>			<i>8,000</i>
SUB-TOTAL (2018)			887,360

Funding Source	Year	Purpose of Funding	Amount (US\$)
Special Monitoring and Coastal Environmental Assessment Regional Activity Center (2019)			
Ministry of Environment of Japan	2019	Special Monitoring and Coastal Environmental Assessment Regional Activity Center projects on seagrass mapping and eutrophication assessment	133,555
Ministry of Environment of Japan	2019	Marine Environmental Protection of Northwest Pacific Region (website)	46,373
Toyama Prefecture	2019	Organization of Special Monitoring and Coastal Environmental Assessment Regional Activity Center Meetings, implementing Biodiversity activity, seagrass mapping and eutrophication assessment	111,296
Toyama Prefecture	2019	Seagrass mapping project	9,274
Toyama Prefecture	2019	Marine Environmental Protection of Northwest Pacific Region (website)	46,373
Toyama Prefecture	2019	Salary of Special Monitoring and Coastal Environmental Assessment Regional Activity Center staff	185,494
<i>Sub-Total (CEARAC, 2019)</i>			532,365
Data and Information Network Regional Activity Center (2019)			
Ministry of Ecology and Environment of P.R. China	2019	Support to Data and Information Network Regional Activity Center office (part of office rent and operations)	63,050
Foreign Environmental Cooperation Center, Ministry of Ecology and Environment of P.R. China	2019	Support to Data and Information Network Regional Activity Center office (salary)	43,988
<i>Sub-Total (DINRAC, 2019)</i>			107,038
Marine Environmental Emergency Preparedness and Response Regional Activity Center			
Korea, Korea Coast Guard	2019	Annual MERRAC secretariat staff salaries and other operational costs in 2019	219,104
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - P.R. China, Maritime Safety Administration - Japan, Japan Coast Guard - Korea, Korea Coast Guard - Russia, Marine Rescue Service 	2019	Participation at the online POLREP system test exercise - 6 December 2019	To be estimated
<i>Sub-Total (MERRAC, 2019)</i>			219,104

Funding Source	Year	Purpose of Funding	Amount (US\$)
Pollution Monitoring Regional Activity Center (2019)			
Grant of the Presidium of the Far Eastern Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences № 18-5-019	2019	Natural-resource potential, functioning, and dynamics of the diversity of ecosystems in the transitional zone "continent-ocean" and their rational use as part of Pollution Monitoring Regional Activity Center Activity "Strengthen regional capacity on pollution monitoring through knowledge and information sharing and capacity building".	3,000
Grant of the Presidium of the Far Eastern Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences № 18-5-083	2019	Cyclicality and inertia of extreme natural processes and their ecological consequences in transboundary geosystems as part of Pollution Monitoring Regional Activity Center Activity "Assessment of Trends in River and direct inputs of contaminants to the marine and coastal environment in the Northwest Pacific Action Plan region"	5,000
Grant of The Russian National Geographical Society GR-000042578	2019	Assessment of microplastic transport with River Amur/Heilong	7,000
<i>Sub-Total (POMRAC, 2019)</i>			15,000
SUB-TOTAL (2019)			940,007
TOTAL FOR 2018-2019 BIENNIUM			1,862,867

Annex B. Progress of NOWPAP Programme of Work 2020-2021

Total budget of USD1,300,000 for the biennium including 13% of PSC.

Period covered: May 19 – June 30, 2020

Priority Area 1. Support Ecosystem-Based Integrated Coastal and River Basin Management (ICARM)

Outcomes / Expected Accomplishments	2020-21 PoW Activities	Responsible NOWPAP Body	2020-21 PoW Outputs / Performance indicators	Progress Summary (% of completion)
1.1.1. “Good environmental status” of the NOWPAP is defined and provides a baseline and direction for Member States action Expected partners: PEMSEA, YSLME Project Phase II, UNEP Regional Seas Programme, and UNESCO/IOC	Development of NOWPAP EcoQO targets aligned (where possible) with SDG indicators, phase 2	POMRAC	Preparation of national inputs for the development of EcoQO targets	Q2-2020: 10%. ToRs for national experts have been developed. National experts nominated.
		POMRAC	Compilation of National Inputs and preparation of draft regional synthesis report	Q2-2020: Not started.
		POMRAC	Finalizing and printing of the regional synthesis report on the Development of NOWPAP EcoQO targets aligned (where possible) with SDG indicators, phase 2)”	Q2-2020: Not started.
			Report of the regional workshop “Development of NOWPAP EcoQO targets aligned (where possible) with SDG indicators, phase 2”	Q2-2020: Not started.

Priority Area 2. Assess the Status of the Marine and Coastal Environment

Outcomes / Expected Accomplishments	2020-21 PoW Activities	Responsible NOWPAP Body	2020-21 PoW Outputs / Performance indicators	Progress Summary (% of completion)
2.1.1. The NOWPAP Member States are provided with integrated periodic assessments of the state of marine and coastal environment and its components, including (but not limited to) biodiversity, chemical and biological pollution, harmful algal blooms, marine litter, oil and HNS threats, and climate change impacts to inform and foster policy action	The preparation of State of Marine Environment in the NOWPAP Region (SOMER-3) (phase 1)	POMRAC	Workshop on SOMER-3 structure	Q2-2020: Not started.
		POMRAC	Preparation of the different chapters for SOMER-3 and compilation of the draft SOMER-3 – The integrated assessment of environmental problems, status and trends related to existing and changing natural and socio-economic conditions in the NOWPAP region	Q2-2020: Not started.
	Regional Overview of Microplastics abundance in river runoff of the NOWPAP region	POMRAC	Preparation of and draft RO and finalization National Inputs on the river runoff of microplastics to the coastal zone of the NOWPAP region	Q2-2020: Not started. ToRs for national experts have been developed. National experts nominated.
		POMRAC	Seasonal survey of microplastic runoff with river NOWPAP region RF include Amur/Heilong	Q2-2020: Not started.
		POMRAC	Finalization and publication of the regional Overview	Q2-2020: Not started.

Outcomes / Expected Accomplishments	2020-21 PoW Activities	Responsible NOWPAP Body	2020-21 PoW Outputs / Performance indicators	Progress Summary (% of completion)
2.1.2. The NOWPAP Member States, through the NOWPAP Information Portal, have free and user-friendly access to data and reliable information on coastal and marine environment collected from members, NOWPAP RACs, other institutions and projects	Annual Summary of Major Marine Environmental Data Available in the Member States	DINRAC	Marine environmental data for 2018-19 collected	Q2-2020: Not started.
		DINRAC	The data by categories, countries and years compiled	Q2-2020: Not started.
		DINRAC	Data available on the DINRAC portal with free access	Q2-2020: Not started.
		DINRAC	Collected data and evidence of databases used reported at annual FPMs	Q2-2020: Not started.
	Upgrade and regularly update DINRAC Website with additional WebGIS-based maps developed	DINRAC	Database structure of specific data redesigned	Q2-2020: Not started.
		DINRAC	Add biodiversity topics to the website	Q2-2020: Finally, the data volume from 1996 to 2018 will be formed by sorting out the National Biodiversity thematic data collected by standardization, data warehousing and visual display. (80%)
		DINRAC	The non-structured data into the database migrated	Q2-2020: Not started.

Outcomes / Expected Accomplishments	2020-21 PoW Activities	Responsible NOWPAP Body	2020-21 PoW Outputs / Performance indicators	Progress Summary (% of completion)
		DINRAC	WebGIS system developed	Q2-2020: Through rectification, the technical means of data carding, database building and informatization are realized, and the multi index and multi time series database of marine business data is formed. (80%)
		DINRAC	Spatial display of invasive species data	Q2-2020: According to the data of invasive species, spatial display of map is carried out, including spatial data, spatial data publishing services, etc. (100%)
		DINRAC	Add data statistical analysis sub column	Q2-2020: Extract the data from the Northwest Pacific Ocean Environmental analysis report compiled by Peking University in 2018, standardize the processing, put into storage, and realize the visual analysis in the website. (80%)
		DINRAC	Build the column of the 17th DINRAC regional node meeting	Q2-2020: A special column of the 17th dinrac regional node meeting was established, including 26 conference materials. (20%)
		DINRAC	Polls and questionnaires developed	Q2-2020: Questionnaire survey includes questionnaire survey and survey statistics. There are four fixed questions and one open question. Survey statistics are used to count the results of each option for each question. (80%)

Outcomes / Expected Accomplishments	2020-21 PoW Activities	Responsible NOWPAP Body	2020-21 PoW Outputs / Performance indicators	Progress Summary (% of completion)
		DINRAC	Establishment of marine garbage regional node website	Q2-2020: It includes six modules: home page, job responsibilities, data center, map, publication and technology. (40%)
		DINRAC	Polls and questionnaires developed	Q2-2020: Through rectification, the technical means of data carding, database building and informatization are realized, and the multi index and multi time series database of marine business data is formed. (80%)
2.1.3. NOWPAP Member States' capacity on remote sensing analysis improved.	Organization of the 5 th Training Course on Remote Sensing data analysis	CEARAC	A one-week training course on remote sensing data analysis for graduate students, young scientists, professionals and NGO staffs organized successfully.	Q2-2020: Started. CEARAC started considering option to organize the course in a webinar style and preparing table of contents for teaching materials. Implementation plan will be discussed and approved by CEARAC FPs. After approval by FPs, activity will be started officially.

Priority Area 3. Prevent and Reduce Land- and Sea-Based Pollution

Outcomes / Expected Accomplishments	2020-21 PoW Activities	Responsible NOWPAP Body	2020-21 PoW Outputs / Performance indicators	Progress Summary (% of completion)
3.1.1. NOWPAP Member States have included effective measures in place against marine pollution emergencies through the NOWPAP Regional Oil and HNS Spill Contingency Plan (RCP), including information sharing, improved response capacity, and the implementation of specific projects	Update and maintain NOWPAP Regional Contingency Plan (RCP) (MERRAC)	MERRAC	NOWPAP RCP regularly updated	Q2-2020: Maintaining the RCP including its Annexes and networks among the relevant Competent National Authorities for the RCP in the NOWPAP region (25%)
	Update information on marine pollution response resources, including equipment, institutions and experts (MERRAC)	MERRAC	Information system on marine pollution preparedness and response based on Web GIS is updated regularly on the MERRAC website.	Q2-2020: Collecting and updating the information of oil and HNS spill response equipment, instructions and experts (25%)
	Organize regular table-top, communication and full-scale oil and NHS spill exercises DELTA Exercise (to be led by Korea)	MERRAC	Table-top, communication and full-scale oil and/or HNS spill exercises successfully carried out	Q2-2020: Improving and practicing communication system among the Members using the Online Pollution Reporting System on 28-29 May 2020, led by Russia (21 st NOWPAP BRAVO Exercise) (50%)
	Assessment of the implementation of the OPRC Convention and OPRC-HNS Protocol in the NOWPAP region	MERRAC	Guide on practical methods for the implementation of the Convention and Protocol translated into Chinese, Japanese, Korean and Russian	Q2-2020: Nominating the relevant national expert and establishing the implementation plan of the project (20%)
		MERRAC	National reports developed with recommendations made	Q2-2020: Not started.

Outcomes / Expected Accomplishments	2020-21 PoW Activities	Responsible NOWPAP Body	2020-21 PoW Outputs / Performance indicators	Progress Summary (% of completion)
	Identification of regional cooperation activities for MARPOL convention under NOWPAP MERRAC framework	MERRAC	Tasks that require international cooperation related to MARPOL 73/78 identified (e.g., oil-waste discharge from ships, fuel-oil quality, etc.);	Q2-2020: Nominating the relevant national expert and establishing the implementation plan of the project (20%)
		MERRAC	Scope studied	Q2-2020: (0%) Not started.
		MERRAC	Case study conducted	Q2-2020: (0%) Not started.
		MERRAC	A report prepared	Q2-2020: (0%) Not started.
	Response options for condensate spill in context of update of NOWPAP MERRAC Regional Report on HNS Preparedness and Response	MERRAC	Publicly available data on natural gas condensate (NGC) spills and their response and consequences assessed	Q2-2020: Nominating the relevant national expert and establishing the implementation plan of the project (20%)
		MERRAC	Proposals for the updates of NOWPAP MERRAC previously issued technical reports prepared	Q2-2020: (0%) Not started.
	Proposal of MERRAC strategic plan for better implementation of regional cooperation on marine pollution preparedness and response	MERRAC	Possible activities/ actions to be implemented by MERRAC in the future identified	Q2-2020: Started. Nominating the relevant national expert and establishing the implementation plan of the project (20%)

Outcomes / Expected Accomplishments	2020-21 PoW Activities	Responsible NOWPAP Body	2020-21 PoW Outputs / Performance indicators	Progress Summary (% of completion)
		MERRAC	Report on MERRAC strategic plan with the information package on MERRARC activities over the last 20 years published	Q2-2020: (0%) Not started.
3.1.2. The NOWPAP Member States are provided with reliable information, guidelines and best practices addressing prevention and mitigation of coastal and marine pollution, including eutrophication	Improvement of the NOWPAP Eutrophication Assessment Tool (NEAT) for assessment and monitoring of eutrophication using satellite chlorophyll-a	CEARAC	New ocean color sensors evaluated and incorporated into an assessment of eutrophication in the coastal and closed bays in the NOWPAP region	Q2-2020: Started. A research proposal of GEO-Google Earth Engine Programme was submitted for funding. The decision is expected in July 2020. The project outputs will help to accelerate the implementation and improvement of NEAT. An implementation plan will further be discussed and approved by CEARAC FPs. After approval by FPs, activity will be started officially.
	Organization of expert meeting to discuss technical issues on oil and HNS spill preparedness and response	MERRAC	Expert meeting identifies specific issues related to oil and HNS spill response	Q2-2020: (0%) Not started.
3.1.3. NOWPAP Member States address marine litter, including microplastics, through the effective implementation of the NOWPAP Regional Action	Organize 2020 and 2021 NOWPAP-TEMM Marine Litter Management Workshops and International Coastal Cleanup campaigns	RCU, Russia (2020), Japan (2021)	Regularly updated on global, regional and national actions	Q2-2020: (0%) Not started. Due to restrictions of any events in the Far East Region of Russia, the planned events will be significantly scaled down in 2020. ICC will not be organised in 2020. The workshops are planned to be held online virtually. ICC 2021 in Japan is being designed by the Focal Point of Japan. No decision on the exact areas has been made.

Outcomes / Expected Accomplishments	2020-21 PoW Activities	Responsible NOWPAP Body	2020-21 PoW Outputs / Performance indicators	Progress Summary (% of completion)
Plan on Marine Litter (RAP MALI)			Addressing marine litter, incl. microplastics provided at the annual NOWPAP-TEMM workshops	Q2-2020: (0%) Not started.
			An increasing number of various stakeholders and citizens participate in beach cleanup campaigns in member countries	Q2-2020: (0%) Not started. Activity has been postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
	Revision of NOWPAP Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter	RCU	Consultations conducted among the Member States	Q2-2020: (0%) Not started.
		RCU	Two meetings organized back to back with the annual marine litter workshop	Q2-2020: (0%) Not started.
		RCU	Revised Action Plan adopted by the end of 2021	Q2-2020: (0%) Not started.
	Enhance the Northwest Pacific regional node of the Global Partnership on Marine Litter (GPML)	DINRAC and Member States	Updated regularly information on GPML Regional Node	Q2-2020: Ongoing. Proposal for additional funding from GPA has been prepared and submitted to UNEP HQs.
			Evidence of the Node playing an increasing role in facilitating regional information	Q2-2020: Ongoing. NOWPAP Regional Node representatives directly contributed to an online conference on Marine Litter jointly organised by UNEP GPA and Cartagena Convention.
			Exchange and networking	Q2-2020: Regional Node of GPML is operational. A series of discussions and virtual meetings were organised with UNEP HQs, and sister-Regional Seas Programmes (Cartagena Convention).

Priority Area 4. Conserve Marine and Coastal Biodiversity

Outcomes / Expected Accomplishments	2020-21 PoW Activities	Responsible NOWPAP Body	2020-21 PoW Outputs / Performance indicators	Progress Summary (% of completion)
4.1.1. The NOWPAP Member States are provided with information and data, including on the status and major threats to Red List species and invasive alien species and sensitive habitat mapping in the region	Evaluation of distribution of tidal flats and salt marshes in the NOWPAP region	CEARAC	Distribution and historical changes of tidal flats and salt marshes in the NOWPAP region mapped	Q2-2020: Started. Implementation plan will be discussed and approved by CEARAC FPs. After approval by FPs, activity will be started officially.
		CEARAC	The anthropogenic pressures on these habitats assessed	Q2-2020: (0%) Not started.
		CEARAC	A report prepared	Q2-2020: (0%) Not started.
	Organization of a training course on Environmental DNA analysis	CEARAC	A NOWPAP common analytical manual for e-DNA developed	Q2-2020: Started. English manual was developed with support of the eDNA Society, Japan. The manual will be shared with member states and is checked by experts nominated by CEARAC FPs for usability as NOWPAP manual soon.
		CEARAC	A training course on e-DNA analysis organized successfully	Q2-2020: Started. The training course was planned in March 2021. However, for safety organization of the training course without COVID-19 pandemic, it is expected to be organized in March 2022, if the member states agree on the new date.
	Update of HAB database and HAB reference database	CEARAC	HAB Database and HAB Reference Database updated by adding the latest information on HAB occurrences in the member states	Q2-2020: Started. CEARAC will collect latest information on HAB based on the rule of updating CEARAC's HAB databases, which was developed when CEARAC constructed HAB Integrated Website.

Outcomes / Expected Accomplishments	2020-21 PoW Activities	Responsible NOWPAP Body	2020-21 PoW Outputs / Performance indicators	Progress Summary (% of completion)
	Case studies of estimating seagrass blue carbon in selected sea areas in the NOWPAP region	CEARAC	Case studies for each selected sea areas to estimate seagrass blue carbon conducted	Q2-2020: Started. CEARAC is developing a website (mapsegrass.org) to guide use of cloud-based seagrass mapping tool. The website is planning to be launched in August 2020. Implementation plan will be discussed and approved by CEARAC FPs. After approval by FPs, activity will be started officially.
		CEARAC	An expert meeting on seagrass mapping organized successfully	Q2-2020: (0%) Not started.
		CEARAC	A booklet for seagrass conservation in the NOWPAP region published	Q2-2020: (0%) Not started.
	International Workshop on Key Indicator Species and Habitats for Marine Biodiversity Change in East Asia	APN-funded project, team members	Monitoring gaps for indicators species in national biodiversity monitoring systems and other relevant monitoring methods identified;	Q2-2020: Not started. Activity postponed due to COVID-19 pandemic (on a requirement of the donor – APN).
		APN-funded project, team members	Policy-relevant recommendations for NOWPAP member states developed;	Q2-2020: Not started. Activity postponed due to COVID-19 pandemic (on a requirement of the donor – APN).
		APN-funded project, team members	A proceeding prepared	Q2-2020: Not started. Activity postponed due to COVID-19 pandemic (on a requirement of the donor – APN).

Outcomes / Expected Accomplishments	2020-21 PoW Activities	Responsible NOWPAP Body	2020-21 PoW Outputs / Performance indicators	Progress Summary (% of completion)
	Collect data and information on species filed in the Red Lists of NOWPAP Member States (Phase 3)	DINRAC	Information on Red List species (Phase 3) collected and available on DINRAC website	Q2-2020: (0%) Not started.
4.1.2. NOWPAP Member States effectively address marine and coastal biodiversity conservation through planning and application of area-based management tools, including marine protected areas (MPAs) and Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas (EBSAs)	Contribute to the development of NOWPAP MPAs network through regional cooperation with the Yellow Sea LME Phase II project and with NEASPEC on NEAMPAN project led by the Russian Federation	NOWPAP Partners	Participation of NOWPAP experts in relevant activities results in improved marine biodiversity conservation measures	Q2-2020: (0%) Not started.
4.1.3. The NOWPAP Member States adopt Regional Action Plan for Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Conservation	Develop the Regional Action Plan for Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Conservation (RAP BIO) (CEARAC supported by RCU and other RACs)	RCU & CEARAC	Draft RAP BIO prepared	Q2-2020: Started. This activity was significantly delayed due to COVID-19 outbreak. RCU has developed ToR for an international consultant to lead this work and engaged with UNEP HQ to recruit a consultant. Mobilization of the consultant is expected in July-Aug 2020.
		RCU & CEARAC	The 2 nd and the 3 rd workshops on RAP BIO organized successfully	Q2-2020: (0%) Not started.

Strengthening regional cooperation through partnership building and resource mobilization

Outcomes / Expected Accomplishments	2020-21 PoW Activities	Responsible NOWPAP Body	2020-21 PoW Outputs / Performance indicators	Progress Summary (% of completion)
NOWPAP network of Regional Activity Centers is managed effectively and complemented by well-functioning multi-stakeholder partnerships	Implement and report on all IGM decisions, including project development and management and partnership building (RCU with RACs)	RCU	All IGM decisions are implemented	Q2-2020: Ongoing. Report on implementation of 23 rd IGM has been included in the RCU report to the 24 th IGM, however, due to COVID-19 pandemic the meeting has been postponed. PoW 2020-2021 was approved by the Member States on May 18. RCU is closely working with National Focal points on options of organisation of 24 th IGM to be held in 2020.
	NOWPAP tangibly contributing to global, regional, national and sub-national meetings and events increase visibility and attract new partners (RCU with RACs)	RCU	Existing partnerships are strengthened, and new ones established.	Q2-2020: Ongoing. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existing partnerships strengthened. NOWPAP representatives directly contributed to a number of virtual meetings organized online due to COVID-19 pandemic. These included an Intergovernmental meeting of PEMSEA, a series of virtual meetings of the UNEP Regional Seas Programmes, etc. • RCU attended a virtual meeting on reducing marine plastic pollution and enhance cooperation in the East Asian region. The meeting was organised by the Foreign Environmental Cooperation Centre (FECO) of the Ministry of Ecology and Environment of China on June 24, 2020. • NOWPAP was invited to introduce the experience in hosting the Regional Node of Global Partnership on Marine Litter in technical consultation of the Working Group in East Asia which was organised by the Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia (COBSEA) on 23-25 June 2020.

Outcomes / Expected Accomplishments	2020-21 PoW Activities	Responsible NOWPAP Body	2020-21 PoW Outputs / Performance indicators	Progress Summary (% of completion)
		RCU	Records of partnership building provided at each IGM	Q2-2020: Ongoing. Record of these is maintained in RCU and will be included in the documentation of the next IGM meeting.
	Maintain effective and regular dialogue, information exchange and communication between RCU and RACs and between RACs themselves (RCU)	RCU	Record of NOWPAP increasing visibility at face-to-face meetings and in media reported at IGMs	Q2-2020: Ongoing. RCU is closely engaged with all RACs on administrative and technical matters of PoW 2020-2021 implementation.
	Increasing number of joint activities among RACs (RCU supported by RACs)	RCU	Number and quality of joint activities between RACs	Q2-2020: Not Started.
Strengthened regional capacity on data and information share	Reports of the 18th and 19th NOWPAP DINRAC Focal Point Meeting prepared	DINRAC	Report of the 18th Northwest Pacific Data Center Focal Points Meeting	Q2-2020: Not Started.
		DINRAC	Report of the 19th Northwest Pacific Data Center Focal Points Meeting	Q2-2020: Not Started.
	Implement the project plan reported and adopted by the	DINRAC	Implement project plan	Q2-2020: Not Started.

Outcomes / Expected Accomplishments	2020-21 PoW Activities	Responsible NOWPAP Body	2020-21 PoW Outputs / Performance indicators	Progress Summary (% of completion)
	Data Center Focal Points Meeting			
Improved cooperation among NOWPAP experts	Preparation of expert meeting report of 18th and 19th Northwest Pacific Data Center Focal Points Meeting;	DINRAC	Meeting Report for the expert meeting with 18th NOWPAP DINRAC FPM;	Q2-2020: Not Started.
		DINRAC	Meeting Report for the expert meeting with 19th NOWPAP DINRAC FPM;	Q2-2020: Not Started.
	Implement RAC work plans within budgets and in accordance with agreed milestones (RACs)	RCU	All RAC projects are being executed on time and with high quality outcomes	Q2-2020: Ongoing. Constant effort of RCU is put into coordinating and supporting RACs in implementing the agreed PoW. In Q2-2020 was the key achievements included the development of legal instruments with all RACs, drafting ToRs for consultants (RAP-BIO, POMRAC, etc.), engaging with UNEP HQs to operationalize the 2020-2021 budget, etc.
Promote regional marine environmental cooperation	publish DINRAC newsletters, enhanced cooperation with international partners	DINRAC	4 NOWPAP DINRAC Newsletters	Q2-2020: Preparing newsletters for the second quarter (20%)
	Organize efficiently CEARAC Focal Points and relevant expert meetings	CEARAC	Progress reviewed and meeting recommendations implemented	Q2-2020: Postponed until COVID-19 outbreak is under control. Discussions take place with FPs on modality to approve an Implementation Plan for the approved PoW 2020-2021.

Outcomes / Expected Accomplishments	2020-21 PoW Activities	Responsible NOWPAP Body	2020-21 PoW Outputs / Performance indicators	Progress Summary (% of completion)
	Organize efficiently DINRAC Focal Points and relevant expert meetings	DINRAC	Progress reviewed and meeting recommendations implemented.	Q2-2020: Not Started.
		DINRAC	DINRAC new directions identified	Q2-2020: Not Started.
	Organize efficiently MERRAC Focal Points meetings	MERRAC	Implementation of the RCP discussed	Q2-2020: The 23 rd MERRAC FPM were delayed based on the consultation between Member States, and the major agenda will be discussed by email communication in August 2020. Uploading the meeting documents including the contents of the NOWPAP RCP at the website (25%)
		MERRAC	Relevant information on oil and HNS spill preparedness and response in the region exchanged	Q2-2020: Uploading the meeting documents including the information of the oil and HNS incidents at the website (25%)
	Organize efficiently POMRAC Focal Points meetings	POMRAC	Progress reviewed and meeting recommendations implemented	Q2-2020: Not Started. Postponed due to COVID-19 pandemic. POMRAC Secretariat is working on alternative modality – a virtual online meeting.
NOWPAP Trust Funds are managed efficiently and effectively through improved administrative, financial and human resources management	Provide quality support to RACs for financial and administrative operations (RCU) - Ensure quality and timeliness of procuring goods and services - Efficiently organize and provide logistical support to	RCU	- Financial transactions and administrative services provided and recorded in accordance with UN rules and regulations - Timely processing of cash advances and accurate recording of RAC expenditures by RCU and UNEP HQ	Q2-2020: Ongoing: • RCU regularly attends the Ecosystems Integration Branch meetings and meetings of the Ecosystems Division's Division Leadership Team (DLT). • RCU attended the Review meeting of the Regional Seas Global Outlook Report on 30 June 2020. • Updated the list of resource mobilization opportunities in Japan

Outcomes / Expected Accomplishments	2020-21 PoW Activities	Responsible NOWPAP Body	2020-21 PoW Outputs / Performance indicators	Progress Summary (% of completion)
	hosting countries for NOWPAP IGMs - Revise NOWPAP monitoring and evaluation processes, including the development and monitoring of the MTS 2018-2023 Results Planning and Performance Reporting Framework (RPPRF) - Internal NOWPAP audit Review of Special Projects		Timely and efficient processing of contracts, procurement and other relevant services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparing NOWPAP panels with photos and introductory notes • Consulting with local governments on possible collaboration works in fiscal year 2020 • NOWPAP budget was allocated in UMOJA in accordance with the IGM approval • Invoices for 2020 contribution from NOWPAP member states for 40PNL (Trust Fund) were issued • Invoice for 2020 contribution from Japan for 32 QNL (support of RCU Toyama Office) was issued • Invoice for 2020 contribution from Korea for 32 QNL (support of RCU Busan Office) in process • Contract with Korean Coast Guard for support of MERRAC was signed and started • Contracts with CEARAC, MERRAC for 2020-2021 NOWPAP PoW were signed and started • Contract with POMRAC for 2020-2021 NOWPAP PoW was approved, and in process for signatures • Contract with DINRAC for 2020-2021 NOWPAP PoW is in process of issuance
NOWPAP communications, public advocacy and digital engagement products better inform, influence and mobilize	Produce information and outreach materials increasing NOWPAP visibility (RCU supported by RACs)	RCU supported by RACs	Number and quality of NOWPAP public outreach materials reported to each IGM	Q2-2020: Ongoing. Scripts for NOWPAP promotional videos in English sent to RACs for comments. Three web stories were posted on NOWPAP website. NOWPAP newsletter for 2020 Q2 was released.

Outcomes / Expected Accomplishments	2020-21 PoW Activities	Responsible NOWPAP Body	2020-21 PoW Outputs / Performance indicators	Progress Summary (% of completion)
stakeholders and resources for the protection of marine and coastal environment				
		RCU	Regularly updated and renewed NOWPAP corporate website	Q2-2020: Q2-2020: Ongoing. NOWPAP web-site is regularly updated.
	Upgrade and regularly update RAC websites (RACs)	RACs	Regularly updated and renewed RACs websites	Q2-2020: Ongoing. All web-sites are regularly updated.
	Completion of NOWPAP Communication Strategy and its implementation	RCU	Communication Strategy completed and consulted with Member States	Q2-2020: Not Started.
	External capacity and financial resources are mobilized for the implementation of NOWPAP activities	RCU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Maintain existing and find new partners and donors (RCU supported by RACs) - Prepare and secure funding for NOWPAP special projects and initiatives - Increase consistently amount of mobilized external human and financial resources (RCU and RACs) - Maintain a regular internship program (RCU) 	Q2-2020: Started. Additional resources are expected to be mobilized through CEARAC-led research Project to be funded by the GEO-Google Earth Engine Programme The Project team also includes: representatives from the Nagoya University, NPEC, the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency, GOOGLE, Limited Liability Company (LLC), UNEP GPA, NOWPAP RCU, and the Japan Association for the UNEP.

Outcomes / Expected Accomplishments	2020-21 PoW Activities	Responsible NOWPAP Body	2020-21 PoW Outputs / Performance indicators	Progress Summary (% of completion)
			Review of Special Project	

Annex C. Status Report on the 2020-2021 Legal Agreements

Name of Partner	Draft	Partners Portal	Implementing Partner	Amount of First Cash Advance	Date of Disbursement	Status of Disbursement
CEARAC	Complete	Complete	Waiting for payment request approval from FMO	USD100,000		
DINRAC	In-process					
MERRAC PNL	Complete	Complete	Waiting for payment request approval from FMO	USD90,000		
MERRAC QNL	Complete	Complete	Complete	USD160,000	12-Jun-2020	Sent the bank statement to HQ on 16-Jun-2020
POMRAC	Complete	Need to upload the signed contract				

Note: There are a number of outstanding financial issues with CEARAC (extended end date of 2018-19 SSFA), POMRAC (Refund to HQ), and CRAES (Funds transferred, but there are no news about the first payment of the Microplastics Project).