



**Northwest  
Pacific  
Action Plan**



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Twenty Third Intergovernmental Meeting of  
the Northwest Pacific Action Plan  
Moscow, the Russia Federation  
9-11 October 2018

**Terms of Reference  
for NOWPAP RAP MALI Focal Points Meeting**

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## 1. Background

1. The Tenth NOWPAP Intergovernmental Meeting (IGM) (24-26 November 2005, Toyama, Japan) approved the new directions for the NOWPAP Regional Activity Centers (RACs) and Regional Coordinating Unit (RCU), including new activities addressing marine litter pollution in the framework of Marine Litter Activity (MALITA) project. The project was implemented from November 2005 until December 2007 by RACs and coordinated by RCU. The overall objective of the MALITA project was to develop a NOWPAP Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter (RAP MALI).
2. The Eleventh NOWPAP IGM (20-22 December 2006, Moscow, Russia) approved the revision of the Terms of Reference of NOWPAP CEARAC, MERRAC, and POMRAC Focal Points Meeting to incorporate activities addressing marine litter issues and the implementation of RAP MALI (2008).
3. RAP MALI was approved by NOWPAP Member States by correspondence in March 2008 following the decision of the Twelve NOWPAP IGM (23-25 October 2007, Xiamen, the People's Republic of China) as the next phase of NOWPAP MALITA project. RAP MALI consists of three key elements: prevention of marine litter input to the marine and coastal environment; monitoring of marine litter quantities and distribution; and removal of existing marine litter and its disposal. NOWPAP institutional infrastructure (IGM, RACs, RCU, and National Marine Litter Focal Points) are used for implementing RAP MALI in close collaboration with relevant organizations, programmes and projects.
4. Responding to global and regional needs to increase public awareness and engagement, in 2014, Northwest Pacific Environmental Cooperation Center (NPEC), host organization of the NOWPAP CEARAC, together with NOWPAP RCU has established the Northwest Pacific Regional Node of the Global Partnership on Marine Litter (GPML). The 22<sup>nd</sup> NOWPAP IGM (19-21 December 2017, Toyama, Japan) requested transfer of the Regional Node from NPEC to NOWPAP DINRAC.
5. The 22<sup>nd</sup> NOWPAP IGM requested development of Terms of Reference of RAP MALI Focal Points Meeting to reflect upon their strengthened role in overseeing all NOWPAP marine litter, including microplastics, activities and the further development of the Northwest Pacific Regional Node of the GPML, while respecting existing responsibilities of NOWPAP RACs Focal Points.
6. The draft ToR of RAP MALI Focal Points Meeting was prepared by NOWPAP RCU in early

2018 and circulated to NOWPAP member states for comments. The comments received from NOWPAP member states have been incorporated in the current ToR. The 2018 RAP MALI meeting held on 5-6 June 2018 in Busan, Republic of Korea has further reviewed the ToR. The ToR was adopted at the 23<sup>rd</sup> NOWPAP IGM.

## **2. Objectives**

7. The NOWPAP RAP MALI Focal Points Meeting is an arrangement established by NOWPAP to promote smooth and effective implementation of the Regional Action Plan, whereby representatives of the NOWPAP Member States meet in accordance with Article 4 (Participation) below.
8. The main objectives of the NOWPAP RAP MALI Focal Points Meeting are:
  - To exchange information to ensure practical implementation of the NOWPAP RAP MALI;
  - To promote, coordinate and harmonize regional cooperation in the Northwest Pacific region related to marine litter management, including prevention, monitoring and removal;
  - To provide strategic direction as indicated by NOWPAP IGM and coordination for the activities and development of the Northwest Pacific Regional Node of the GPML.

## **3. Functions**

9. Bearing in mind that the Intergovernmental Meeting is the governing body for the Northwest Pacific Action Plan, the functions of the NOWPAP RAP MALI Focal Points Meeting are:
  - To identify cooperative actions in the Northwest Pacific region related to marine litter management;
  - To carry out cooperative actions in the Northwest Pacific region in accordance with RAP MALI priorities to exchange information related to marine litter management;
  - Subject to availability of funds, the meeting may establish a Working Group of experts comprised of the NOWPAP Member States and other participants to undertake specific functions related to the scientific and technical issues, including development of projects and programs;
  - To coordinate, supervise, or discontinue the Working Group(s) established under

RAP MALI;

- To promote and strengthen national coordinating mechanisms and national capabilities to address marine litter management as recommended by the RAP MALI;
- To assist in identifying gaps in scientific knowledge and promote information exchange and technical cooperation, including education, training and technology transfer in the fields related to marine litter management;
- To review the effectiveness of ongoing cooperative activities, and advise on necessary follow-up activities in the field of marine litter management;
- To disseminate information on the implementation of RAP MALI to a wide range of the public concerned through the Northwest Pacific Regional Node of GPML as a major platform;
- To perform other functions pursuant to the objectives and goals of NOWPAP and RAP MALI in the field of marine litter management.
- To advise, when necessary, NOWPAP Intergovernmental Meeting on amendments to the present Terms of Reference for the NOWPAP RAP MALI Focal Points Meeting.

#### **4. Participation**

10. The NOWPAP Member States shall be invited to participate in the NOWPAP RAP MALI Focal Points Meeting. The representative of each Member State - the RAP MALI Focal Point - should represent the relevant national agency having the responsibility and authority at the national level regarding marine litter management. The Focal Point himself/herself should have experience in marine litter management. Each representative may be accompanied by advisors as appropriate, such as a senior scientist(s) with sufficient experience in the field. It is expected that the NOWPAP Member States would ensure that their delegations reflect the full range of national expertise and interests.
11. Relevant representatives of NOWPAP RACs shall be invited to participate in the NOWPAP RAP MALI Focal Points Meeting.
12. Other relevant regional bodies and organizations, relevant United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, interested Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), local authorities and private sector entities following the national rules and procedures-concerned with marine litter management and are willing to contribute to the work may be invited to participate in the meeting as observers.
13. Prior to each meeting, NOWPAP RCU shall circulate a list of observers, which may be able

to contribute to the work of the meeting or which have informed the RCU of their wishes to participate in the meeting. If no objection is noted, such observers may be invited to participate in the meetings. Certain meeting discussions may be limited only to the NOWPAP Member States' official participants. Decisions on issues shall be made by the NOWPAP Member States' official participants. The continued participation of observers in the work of the meetings shall be reviewed periodically, considering the contribution made by such observers to the work of the NOWPAP RAP MALI Focal Points Meetings.

14. The term "Participants" in this document, refers to all representatives from government agencies, intergovernmental and nongovernmental organizations and private sector entities mentioned above.
15. The "Observers" may make oral statement on the matters within the scope of the activities of the meeting upon invitation of the Chairperson and subject to the approval of the meeting.

## **5. Sessions**

16. The NOWPAP RAP MALI Focal Points Meeting is expected to be held once a year on a rotating basis between NOWPAP Member States. Each session of the Focal Points Meeting should discuss the timing of the subsequent session.
17. At each session, the meeting elects by consensus, meeting officers consisting of a Chairperson and a Rapporteur from the official representatives of the NOWPAP Member States.

## **6. Tasks**

18. The NOWPAP RAP MALI Focal Points Meeting carries out the following tasks:
  - To review and report the implementation of RAP MALI and identify further activities, including revision of RAP MALI if necessary;
  - To advise the Intergovernmental Meeting on the work plan and budget of RAP MALI activities through RCU;
  - To review progress and provide recommendations on RACs' activities related to marine litter;
  - To review implementation and recommend for approval by the Intergovernmental Meeting the work plan and budget of RAP MALI activities undertaken by RCU and RACs;
  - To review and recommend for publication technical reports related to marine litter

prepared by RCU and RACs;

- To provide the Terms of Reference of the Working Groups supporting implementation of RAP MALI activities;
- To review project proposals and reports prepared by Working Groups;
- To recommend specific actions to the Intergovernmental Meeting promoting coordination of relevant RAC activities in the field of marine litter management;
- To review, facilitate access to data and information on marine litter in the NOWPAP region and beyond, including further development of the Northwest Pacific Regional Node of GPML;
- To explore possible additional mobilization of resources for the activities and development of the Northwest Pacific Regional Node of the GPML;
- To implement other relevant tasks decided by NOWPAP IGM.

## **7. Intersessional work**

19. As a rule, the intersessional work shall be carried out mainly by correspondence among the participants without financial implications.
20. Subject to availability of funds, the intersessional work shall be carried out through meeting of experts and, workshops and meetings of Working Groups.

## **8. Secretariat**

21. The NOWPAP RAP MALI Focal Points Meeting and Working Groups, if established, are is served by a secretariat provided by the NOWPAP RCU.

## **9. Decisions**

22. The NOWPAP RAP MALI Focal Points Meeting considers and adopts decisions by consensus among the NOWPAP Member States, which is subject to endorsement by IGM.

## **10. Agenda and Meeting Documents**

23. The secretariat, in consultation with RAP MALI Focal Points, prepares a provisional agenda, and distribute relevant meeting documents one month prior to each meeting.

## **11. Budget and Expenses**

24. The budget for the NOWPAP RAP MALI Focal Points Meeting and RAP MALI subsequent

activities are supported by the NOWPAP Trust Fund. Other external funds shall also be sought in accordance with the development of RAP MALI activities.

## **12.Meeting Report**

25. The meeting report should be submitted to RAP MALI Focal Points for comments no later than one month after the meeting. The meeting report then should be submitted by NOWPAP RCU for consideration and adoption by IGM.

## **13.Language**

26. The working language of the NOWPAP RAP MALI Focal Points Meeting is English. The host country of each session may interpret English into the language of the host country if necessary.