

United Nations Environment Programme

NOWPAP



Northwest
Pacific
Action Plan

Distr.: RESTRICTED
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 24/3 rev 1
3 February 2020
Original: English



Twenty Fourth Intergovernmental Meeting of
the Northwest Pacific Action Plan
Beijing, People's Republic of China
11-13 February 2020

**Report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment
Programme on the Progress in the Implementation of the Northwest
Pacific Action Plan in 2018-2019**

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**Regional
Seas**

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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

Northwest Pacific Action Plan Highlights: January-December 2019

1. Representatives of government agencies and research institutes from People's Republic of China, Japan, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, as well as participants from UNEP, the Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat, and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) teamed up with volunteers from China to clean up the Bangchui Beach in Dalian, China, on 25 September 2019. More than 150 people joined this event and collected 76 kilograms of litter. Implementation of such joint activities has clear public awareness impacts both short- and long-term. The UNEP Northwest Pacific Action Plan (NOWPAP) is proactively involved in several activities to address marine litter since 2006 and organizes annual coastal cleanup campaigns in China, Japan, Korea, and Russia on a rotating basis. Policymakers and experts from the NOWPAP gathered in Dalian, China, in September 2019 to discuss how to improve existing waste management approaches to address marine litter at the source. The theme of the meeting was selected as "The Improvement of Waste Management to Reduce Marine Litter in the Oceans." The meeting presented an excellent opportunity for the participants to share their experience and best practices, as well as practical measures to overcome marine litter related challenges.

2. The NOWPAP Member States agreed at the 23rd Intergovernmental Meeting (IGM) in 2018 to develop a Regional Action Plan on Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Conservation (RAP BIO). The plan will be designed to envisage a common understanding of the future directions of work of NOWPAP, to coordinate individual activities of each of the four NOWPAP's Regional Activity Centers (RACs), and to guide more effectively future marine biodiversity conservation efforts. Finally, the plan is expected to significantly contribute to achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the region. In September and November 2019, experts and nominated government Focal Points from the countries, after thorough discussions and consultations, agreed on how to move the development of RAP BIO forward.

3. In August 2019, NOWPAP experts gathered in Seoul, Korea, to brainstorm on future directions of the regional cooperation on addressing oil, Hazardous and Noxious Substances (HNS), and marine pollution. The participants commended the achievements of the existing regional mechanism, including multiple communication channels and practical response capacities. They also highlighted that the Marine Environmental Emergency Preparedness and Response Regional Activity Centre (MERRAC) should brace new opportunities like emerging global issues, further strengthening the partnership with the International Maritime Organization (IMO). It was recognized that a stronger link with SDGs needs to be established. Budgetary limitations of MERRAC were also admitted. Further, participants discussed potential projects on early assessment of status and forecasts of oil spill, application of new technologies to spill prevention preparedness and response, other issues. Specific focus was put on health and safety issues for responders, volunteers and residents, as well as post-accident long-term environmental monitoring approaches. It was suggested to develop a mid- or long-term strategy for MERRAC to address marine disasters and oil and HNS pollution in the NOWPAP region.

4. In 2018 and 2019, a total of 1,196 species listed on the Red List of Japan were evaluated by national experts from China, Korea and Russia. Scientists and government representatives met in Dalian, China, on 22–23 August 2019 at the 17th Focal Points Meeting of the Data and Information Networking Regional Activity Centre (DINRAC) and agreed to survey further the endangered species of the NOWPAP region. To understand the situation with endangered species better, to promote

wider information sharing, and to directly contribute to strengthening of the biodiversity conservation efforts in the region, participants of the Dalian meeting agreed to advance the study on endangered species in next eight years. Meeting participants emphasized that further development of the Marine Species Red List could be hampered by the existing knowledge gaps and inconsistency of information available in the countries. In 2020–2021, as agreed by at the meeting, China will lead the project. The Species Red List of China, published by the Ministry of Ecology and Environment and the Chinese Academy of Sciences, and the List of National Key Protected Wildlife in China, published by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, will also contribute to the Marine Species Red List.

5. A satellite remote sensing technique for the timely detection of potential dead zones in the sea, developed by NOWPAP, is now ready for use to protect oceans from the severe threat of eutrophication which negatively impacts marine and human health, but also can severely harm fisheries and tourism related business. Scientists from China, Korea, Japan, and Russia met in Vladivostok, Russia, in March 2019. At this meeting the effectiveness of the NOWPAP Eutrophication Assessment Tool (NEAT) for protecting the region from eutrophication was discussed. To further develop this tool, NOWPAP cooperates with the global online search service Google and the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency to test NEAT for monitoring of eutrophication in oceans around the world, using cloud technologies. The NOWPAP's Special Monitoring and Coastal Environmental Assessment Regional Activity Center (CEARAC) has been studying eutrophication since 2008 and developing methodologies for assessing eutrophication levels. The NEAT method was reviewed at the meeting of marine scientists organized in Vladivostok.

6. Marine scientists from the NOWPAP countries met in Vladivostok, Russia, at NOWPAP's Pollution Monitoring Regional Activity Center (POMRAC) in March 2019 to discuss ways of assessing the health of the seas shared by the four countries to support regional progress towards ocean-related SDGs. The meeting discussed the six most applicable indicators related to monitoring of marine ecological quality in the region and agreed on the targets for four of them, aligned with environmental SDGs. They also suggested Jiaozhou Bay in China, Toyama Bay and Hakata Bay in Japan, Masan Bay in Korea and Russia's Amursky Bay as designated areas for testing of the targets related to nutrient, marine litter, and chlorophyll 'a' in water column and contaminant concentration levels in water and sediments.

The Vladivostok 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' concentration does not exceed baseline values
- Contaminant concentrations in water and surface sediments do not exceed existing national standards over a five-year period
- A decreasing trend in the amount of marine litter washed ashore over a five-year period

Marine scientists from the four countries will test these targets by observing actual monitoring data in designated areas in 2020–2021.

As a follow up, a Regional synthesis report "Development of NOWPAP Ecological Quality Objective Targets Aligned with SDG Indicators, phase 1" was circulated by POMRAC in October 2019.

1. Introduction

7. The 1st Northwest Pacific Action Plan Intergovernmental Meeting, held on 14 September 1994 in Seoul, Republic of Korea, adopted the Action Plan for the Protection, Management, and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Northwest Pacific Region (Northwest Pacific Action Plan, NOWPAP). The 2nd Intergovernmental Meeting (20 November 1996, Tokyo, Japan) approved the geographic scope of the Action Plan as well as a tentative scale of contributions to the NOWPAP Trust Fund. The 3rd Intergovernmental Meeting (9 April 1998, Moscow, Russian Federation) approved the biennial Programme of Work (PoW) and principles of expenditure of the NOWPAP Trust Fund. The 4th Intergovernmental Meeting (6-7 April 1999, Beijing, People's Republic of China) agreed to establish four Regional Activity Centers. The 5th Intergovernmental Meeting (29-30 March 2000, Incheon, Republic of Korea) adopted a procedure for the establishment and Terms of Reference (ToR) of the NOWPAP Regional Coordinating Unit (RCU). The 6th Intergovernmental Meeting (5-6 December 2000, Tokyo, Japan) accepted the offers of the Governments of Japan and the Republic of Korea to co-host RCU in Toyama, Japan, and Busan, Republic of Korea. The 8th Intergovernmental Meeting (5-7 November 2003, Sanya, People's Republic of China) approved the text of the Memorandum of Understanding on Regional Cooperation on Preparedness and Response to Oil Spills in the Marine Environment of the Northwest Pacific Region and the related Regional Oil Spill Contingency Plan for the NOWPAP region.

8. The 10th Intergovernmental Meeting (24-26 November 2005, Toyama, Japan), held after the Toyama and Busan Regional Coordinating Unit offices were inaugurated in early November 2004, decided to start the Marine Litter Activity in the NOWPAP region, to expand the geographical coverage of the NOWPAP Regional Oil Spill Contingency Plan and to initiate new directions of work for the NOWPAP Regional Activity Centers. The 11th Intergovernmental Meeting (20-22 December 2006, Moscow, Russian Federation) decided to evaluate the performance of the NOWPAP RACs in 2007 to further enhance their efficiency and effectiveness. The meeting approved the revised ToR of the NOWPAP RCU and for the Focal Points Meetings of RACs, namely: the Special Monitoring and Coastal Environmental Assessment Regional Activity Center (CEARAC) in Japan, the Data and Information Management Network Regional Activity Centre (DINRAC) in China, the Marine Environmental Emergency Preparedness and Response Regional Activity Centre (MERRAC) in Korea, and the Pollution Monitoring Regional Activity Center (POMRAC) in Russia. Also, the Member States adopted the General Northwest Pacific Action Plan Policy on Data and Information Sharing to facilitate information exchange among the countries and partner organizations. The 13th Intergovernmental Meeting (20-21 October 2008, Jeju, Republic of Korea) initiated a performance review of RCU focusing on evaluation of effectiveness, efficiency and relevance of RCU activities to the overall Goals and Objectives of NOWPAP, as well as achievement of planned outputs. The 13th Intergovernmental Meeting approved the NOWPAP Regional Oil and Hazardous and Noxious Substances Spill Contingency Plan and new activities of NOWPAP RACs for 2008-2011.

9. The 14th Intergovernmental Meeting (8-10 December 2009, Toyama, Japan) requested RCU, in close consultation with all RACs, to draft a NOWPAP Medium-Term Strategy to streamline the implementation of the Action Plan. The 15th Intergovernmental Meeting (16-18 November 2010, Moscow, Russia) discussed the draft of the NOWPAP Medium-Term Strategy thoroughly and requested to develop a full-fledged document to prioritize NOWPAP activities for the PoW for 2012-

2013 and beyond. The meeting agreed that the Korean Government would prepare a positioning paper by the next IGM on possible measures to ensure financial strengthening of NOWPAP.

10. The 16th Intergovernmental Meeting (20-22 December 2011, Beijing, China) approved (by correspondence) the revised Medium-Term Strategy of NOWPAP for 2012-2017. The meeting also approved revised ToR of the NOWPAP RCU. The meeting requested the Korean Government to further revise the positioning paper on measures to ensure financial strengthening of NOWPAP for discussion at the next IGM. The 17th Intergovernmental Meeting (1-2 November 2012, Jeju, Korea) requested RCU to prepare a scoping paper on possible measures to address the financial situation of NOWPAP. The meeting also asked RCU to continue working closely with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and International Maritime Organization (IMO) to obtain observer status for NOWPAP at IMO meetings.

11. The 18th Intergovernmental Meeting (4-6 December 2013, Toyama, Japan) agreed on the scale of contributions to the NOWPAP Trust Fund for the next two years, reflecting an increased contribution from the Republic of Korea starting from 2014. The meeting approved the Agreement on cooperation with IMO granting NOWPAP a status of observer at IMO meetings and conferences. The Meeting agreed to hold an extraordinary IGM in R. Korea in April 2014 to consider possible measures to address the concerns of the hosting countries over the financial sustainability of RCU in compliance with the Host Country Agreements. The meeting asked UNEP to conduct an audit of RCU.

12. The 1st Extraordinary Northwest Pacific Action Plan Intergovernmental Meeting (9-10 April 2014, Seoul, Korea) decided to reduce the total number of RCU staff members of UNEP to a maximum of four and requested UNEP to conduct a functional review of the NOWPAP RCU offices two years after the recruitment of the last staff member. The meeting also decided to discuss functions of new posts for the two Regional Coordinating Unit offices at the 19th Northwest Pacific Action Plan Intergovernmental Meeting and to finalize discussions on measures required for the financial sustainability of the RCU offices.

13. The 19th Intergovernmental Meeting (20-22 October 2014, Moscow, Russia) agreed to review the progress of implementation of the NOWPAP Medium-Term Strategy 2012-2017 at the next IGM. Financial Rules and Procedures for the NOWPAP Funds were adopted by correspondence after the meeting. The Member States also agreed to have the second extraordinary IGM in the first quarter of 2015 in Korea.

14. At the 2nd Extraordinary Northwest Pacific Action Plan Intergovernmental Meeting (1-2 April 2015, Seoul, R. Korea), the Member States finalized the discussions on the restructuring of the NOWPAP RCU (with four UNEP staff members in two RCU offices) and its approximate timing (around February 2016). It was agreed to request fund management support to be provided by UNEP Headquarters in Nairobi and be covered by NOWPAP Project Support Costs (PSC).

15. The 20th Intergovernmental Meeting (28-30 October 2015, Beijing, China) decided to start developing the new NOWPAP Medium-Term Strategy 2018-2023 and to discuss the revised ToR of RCU after completion of its restructuring in 2016. The 21st Intergovernmental Meeting (23-24 November 2016, Seoul, Korea) requested RCU, with support of RAC Directors and in consultation with the Member States and partners, to finalize the Medium-Term Strategy 2018-2023 and to prepare the revised ToR of RCU for adoption at the next IGM.

16. The 22nd Intergovernmental Meeting (21-23 December 2017, Toyama, Japan) agreed on the principles contained in the NOWPAP Medium-term Strategy 2018-2023 and adopted it by correspondence in June 2018. The meeting also requested RCU and RACs, in consultation with national Focal Points, to develop a Monitoring and Evaluation Framework for Medium-term Strategy 2018-2023 and ToR for the Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter Focal Points Meeting. The NOWPAP biannual budget for 2018-2019 was approved by the meeting. The Member States also agreed on the budget for the development of the NOWPAP Special Projects.

17. The 23rd Intergovernmental Meeting (9-11 October 2018, Moscow, Russia) reviewed the progress of implementation of the NOWPAP Medium-term Strategy 2018-2023, the biennial Programme of Work (2018-2019), and approved in principle the Monitoring and Evaluation Framework for Medium-term Strategy 2018-2023. A public version of NOWPAP MTS (2018-2023) was also supported. The meeting encouraged NOWPAP Member States to carry out activities to prevent, monitor, and remove marine litter at the national and local levels through the implementation of the NOWPAP Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter (RAP MALI) and approved Terms of Reference of NOWPAP RAP MALI Focal Points Meeting. The Member States acknowledged with great satisfaction the efficient actions during the 2018 Sanchi oil accident guided by the NOWPAP Regional Contingency Plan. Countries expressed satisfaction with the progress of transferring and development of the Northwest Pacific Node of the Global Partnership on Marine Litter.

2. Implementation of Programme of Work in 2018-2019

18. This report on the implementation of NOWPAP activities covers the period after the 23rd Intergovernmental Meeting, held in Moscow, Russia, from October 2018 to November 2019.

2.1. Status of Implementation of NOWPAP PoW 2018-2019

19. PoW 2018-2019 includes 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 implementation of these projects by various structural units of NOWPAP, as well as presents key partnerships established. More details on the status of each of the projects are presented in a separate IGM document (UNEP/NOWPAP IG.24/5).

2.1.1. Thematic Structure of PoW (2018-2019)

20. NOWPAP PoW 2018-2019 is 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

21. 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		

22. 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)

23. As of December 31, 2019, 35 projects out of 38 in total 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.

24. More details on each individual project for each of the years of 2018-2019 could be found in the following 24th IGM document: UNEP/NOWPAP IG.24/5.

2.2. Progress Achieved by the Regional Activity Centers

25. Details of the activities of the NOWPAP RACs are available as meeting information documents (UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 24/4/1-4); therefore, only a summary of their activities is provided herein.

2.2.1. Special Monitoring and Coastal Environmental Assessment Regional Activity Center

26. [A regional report on a pilot assessment of impacts of significant threats \(eutrophication, indigenous species, and habitat alteration\) on marine biodiversity](#) was prepared by the Secretariat of the Special Monitoring and Coastal Environmental Assessment Regional Activity Center (CEARAC). After review by CEARAC Focal Points, the report was circulated among NOWPAP National Focal Points, and, after incorporating feedback received, published in 2017. The second regional report, entitled "[Assessment of Major Pressures on Marine Biodiversity in the Northwest Pacific Action Plan Region.](#)" presented results of the application of the Driver-Pressures-State-Impacts-Responses (DPSIR) framework to assess impacts on marine biodiversity in the NOWPAP region. It was published in 2018. Together with other relevant NOWPAP reports on the status of marine biodiversity, the aforementioned papers provide valuable information for the development of a NOWPAP RAP BIO.

27. CEARAC organized an Expert Meeting on Eutrophication Assessment in the NOWPAP Region on 22 March 2019 in Vladivostok, the Russia Federation. The main objective of the meeting was to review the progress of the on-going activities on eutrophication assessment and to discuss how to update the existing maps of potential eutrophic zones in the NOWPAP region (<https://map.nowpap3.go.jp/maps/view>). The meeting participants also discussed possible contributions to the development of an Index of Coastal Eutrophication, listed as a sub-indicator of Sustainable Development Goal 14.1.1. The meeting agreed on the following recommendations:

- i) To organize an additional Expert Meeting on the assessment of eutrophication in collaboration with the expert group on Ecological Quality Objectives (EcoQOs) of POMRAC,
- ii) To encourage POMRAC to further develop the NOWPAP Eutrophication Assessment Tool with new ocean color sensors, carry out inter-calibration of these sensors and cross-validation with *in situ* Chl-a measurements,
- iii) To suggest to CEARAC and POMRAC to use unified terminologies in the NOWPAP Common Procedure for eutrophication assessment of nutrient and chlorophyll-a concentrations.

28. 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.

29. 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 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.

30. 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.

31. 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).

32. 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

33. 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.

34. 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.

35. 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.

36. 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.

37. 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.

38. 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

39. 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.

40. The 7th NOWPAP DELTA Exercise was conducted in Maizuru City, Japan, on 2-5 October 2018, aimed to increase the capacity of oil spill response of the NOWPAP Member States and to facilitate the implementation of the NOWPAP Regional Contingency Plan. Japan and Russia led this exercise. 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.

41. 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.

42. 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

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).

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.

43. 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.

44. 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.

2.2.4. Pollution Monitoring Regional Activity Center

45. The 15th Focal Points Meeting of the Pollution Monitoring Regional Activity Center (POMRAC) was held on 4-5 July 2018 in Vladivostok, Russia. The meeting noted the progress of activities and agreed to:

- i) advance the development of regional NOWPAP EQOs targets aligned with SDGs indicators (Phase 1) and
- ii) assess trends in the rivers and direct inputs of contaminants into the marine and coastal environment of the NOWPAP Region during the last decade.

46. 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.

47. 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.

48. 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 requested POMRAC Secretariat to circulate the Report on the implementation of the activity "Microplastics abundance in river runoff and coastal waters of the NOWPAP region with a case study in the Russian part of NOWPAP area" for comments by the end of November 2019. 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".

2.3. Coordination of Activities of Regional Activity Centers

49. 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).

50. A joint meeting of NOWPAP RCU and RACs was organized on 1-2 April 2019 in Busan, Korea. The meeting discussed the development of a joint NOWPAP Programme of Work (PoW) 2020-2021, a NOWPAP common approach to data and information sharing, principles and priorities for joint work between RCU and RACs and between RACs themselves, as well as the NOWPAP Communication Strategy and Outreach. The meeting also discussed the NOWPAP MTS Monitoring and Evaluation Framework. A summary report is included as UNEP/NOWPAP IG.24/INF/4.

51. 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.

52. 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.

53. 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.

54. 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.

55. 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.

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

57. 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

58. 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.

59. 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.

60. 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 drafted and expected to be signed in Q4 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

61. 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. Work on this project is planned to be started in 2020.

4. Building Partnerships

62. 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.

63. **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).

64. 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.

65. **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.

66. **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.

67. **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.

68. **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.

69. 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.

70. **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.

71. **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.

72. **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.

73. 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.

74. NOWPAP participated in the regional briefing on environment conservation and cooperation on the Korean Peninsula held in Seoul on 17 May 2019. The main objective of the meeting was to explore ways to promote cross-border conservation on the Korean Peninsula, building on green initiatives launched after the historic 2018 Korean leaders' summit. The meeting was organized by the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership, the Hanns Seidel Foundation Korea, and the Ramsar Convention Regional Center.

75. NOWPAP attended the Meeting of the Communities of Ocean Action "From Commitments to Action: Implementing SDG14", which was organized by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) on 30-31 May 2019 in Incheon, Republic of Korea. International and regional environmental organizations, governments, and academia identified the best practices and experiences, gaps and obstacles in the delivery of the voluntary commitments to the 2017 United Nations Ocean Conference. NOWPAP exchanged views with the participants at the conference on how to further collect data on marine litter, build databases on ocean resources, and engage civil society to achieve their voluntary commitments.

76. NOWPAP attended the 18–19 February 2019 International Oceanographic Data and Information Exchange (IODE) XXV Scientific Conference, organized by the International Oceanographic Data and Information Exchange Programme of UNESCO and hosted by the Government of Japan. The meeting reviewed scientific preparedness and needs for the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030). NOWPAP highlighted the contribution of the over four-decade-old UNEP Regional Seas Programme to the sustainable management of the marine and coastal environment, a vital goal of the 2030 Agenda.

77. 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.

78. 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.

79. 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

80. 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.
- NOWPAP maintains an online presence on Facebook ([facebook.com/nowpap.unep](https://www.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)

81. 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.

82. 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 and plans to provide US\$ 50,000 in later 2019-early 2020 additionally.

83. 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 Data and Information Network Regional Activity Center website (<http://114.251.10.253:186/>).

84. 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 2018.

7. Status of implementation of the resolutions of the 23rd NOWPAP IGM

85. Table 3 provides the state of the implementation of the various resolutions adopted by the 23rd Intergovernmental Meeting of NOWPAP.

Table 2 Status of Implementation of Resolutions of the 23rd NOWPAP IGM

Resolution 1: Programme of work for the 2018-2019 biennium	Status	Remarks
1. Approves the report of the UNEP Executive Director (UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 24/3), takes note of the NOWPAP implementation progress and the status of resources in the NOWPAP Trust Fund	Completed	No action required. Status of NOWPAP implementation progress and status of resources in the NOWPAP Trust Fund are presented in document UNEP/NOWPAP IG.24/5.
2. Approves report on the Status of Implementation of the NOWPAP Programme of Work in 2018-2019 (UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 23/7) and the reports of NOWPAP Regional Activity Centers – CEARAC, DINRAC, MERRAC, and POMRAC (UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 24/4/1-4)	Completed	No action required. Status of implementation of the Programme of Work 2018-2018 is presented in document UNEP/NOWPAP IG.24/5.
3. Encourages NOWPAP RCU and RACs to continue their best efforts to mobilize additional financial resources for the implementation of the NOWPAP Programme of Work	Ongoing	Resource mobilization efforts and results of both RCU and RACs are presented in Section 8. For NOWPAP - total amount of raised funds in 2018-2019 is US\$1,870,467 (see Table 4).
4. With reference to the document UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 23/13 (Internal review of NOWPAP RCU human resources needs): - Requests NOWPAP RCU include additional functions in the staff work plans for 2018-2019 during the mid-term review in October 2018 as recommended in the document	Completed	RCU staff members revised their Work Plans in October 2018.
- Approves in principle to allocate financial resources from the contribution from Japan for Toyama office of NOWPAP RCU for a post of Individual Contractor in charge of time-bound tasks in the NOWPAP RCU for a limited period not exceeding 36 months without extension. Requests NOWPAP RCU to prepare Terms of Reference for the position within one month after the 23 rd NOWPAP IGM and submit for comments and approval by the Member States. After agreeing with the Government of Japan the position's budget envelope, requests RCU to undertake necessary contractual arrangements.	Ongoing	An agreement was reached in general with the Focal Point of Japan. A Vacancy Announcement was posted in INSPIRA. However, the recruitment was delayed due to the change of NOWPAP Coordinator. After joining NOWPAP the New Coordinator temporarily stopped the process, since the available ToR did not match the decision of the IGM, as they were not associated with specific time-bound tasks but had a more of a hidden staff recruitment nature. Also, the proposed modality, a 3-year

Resolution 1: Programme of work for the 2018-2019 biennium	Status	Remarks
		contract, is in contradiction with the policy of UNEP, i.e., 2-year maximum with a 6-month break after 24 months. Additional consultations are sought with the Member States related to this item.
5. Requests NOWPAP RCU to provide regular (quarterly) updates to NOWPAP Focal Points on missions undertaken by RCU and RACs supporting implementation of the NOWPAP Programme of Work	Ongoing	Detailed information on missions of RCU staff with an indication of resources used for traveling has been communicated quarterly to NOWPAP Focal Points. Also, brief information on and outcomes of these missions were published on NOWPAP's web site and pages in social networks.
6. Requests NOWPAP RCU and RACs to make full use of focal points mechanism to achieve better communication and coordination while implementing the NOWPAP Programme of Work 2018-2019.	Ongoing	Despite the efforts put into the strengthening of both internal and external communication, member-states still indicate the need for further improvement of the communication mechanisms of NOWPAP.
7. Encourages NOWPAP RCU and RACs to continue their best efforts to develop and maintain partnerships with related organizations, programmes and projects to further implementation of the biennial Programme of Work 2018-2019 and NOWPAP Medium-term Strategy 2018-2023	Ongoing	Information is provided in section 4. Building partnerships of the Report
8. Requests NOWPAP RCU and RAC Directors to enhance efforts in public communication and outreach, aiming at the increased NOWPAP presence, relevance, and visibility in the region and beyond, including in all four languages of the NOWPAP region and report progress to the 24 th NOWPAP IGM.	Ongoing	Status is provided in Section 5 of the Report
9. Hold the 24th NOWPAP IGM in Beijing, People's Republic of China in 2019.	Completed	Due to the unavailability of National Focal Points in 2019, the 24th IGM was agreed to be held on 11-13 February 2020, in Beijing, P.R. China.

Resolution 2: Sustainable contributions to NOWPAP Trust Fund and resource mobilization	Status	Remarks
1. Agrees to the contributions to the NOWPAP Trust Fund in 2019 as presented in Table 1.	Completed	All four-member states made their contributions to the NOWPAP Trust Fund per the accessed scale in 2019.
2. Requests NOWPAP RCU together with RACs undertake efforts to reach the full expenditure rate of the approved budget for the 2018-19 biennium by the end of 2019 (see Table below).	Delayed	The current expenditure rate for 2018-2019 stands at US\$1,340,581, or 103%. Implementation of this task was slowed down by the administrative change in RCU and by the introduction of a new Financial Management System in UNEP, UMOJA-2. The latter introduced a more rigorous system of financial control and several additional procedural steps requiring the involvement of various administrative staff, professional officers, and FMOs.

Table 3 Scale of Contributions to NOWPAP Trust Fund for 2019

Country	Annual contribution (US\$)
People's Republic of China	125,000
Japan	125,000
Republic of Korea	125,000
Russian Federation	125,000
Total	500,000

Resolution 3: Northwest Pacific Action Plan Medium-term Strategy 2018-2023	Status	Remarks
1. Adopts a public version of the NOWPAP Medium-Term Strategy 2018-2023 as provided in the document UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 23/6 Ver.1 and requests NOWPAP RCU to publish and disseminate the Strategy widely among relevant national, regional, and global fora.	Ongoing	The NOWPAP MTS brochure has been designed. RCU is in the process of finalizing and publishing (online only). After, it will be disseminated.
2. Approves Monitoring and Evaluation Framework for NOWPAP Medium-Term Strategy 2018-2023 in principle as provided in the document UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 23/5. Requests NOWPAP RCU to submit the Framework document for a two-month comments period by RACs following the 23 rd IGM, then to the NOWPAP Member States for two-months comments and prepare for adoption by the 24th NOWPAP IGM.	Ongoing	RCU has circulated the Monitoring and Evaluation Framework among NOWPAP Focal Points for comments. An RCU-RACs meeting organized in Busan in April 2019 has further discussed it. It was suggested that the Monitoring and Evaluation Framework had mixed indicators or information from SDG, EcoQO, and State of Marine Environment, so it would be difficult to properly

Resolution 3: Northwest Pacific Action Plan Medium-term Strategy 2018-2023	Status	Remarks
		implement it, and have it as a Monitoring & Evaluation framework for the Mid-Term Strategy. It was recommended to develop a simplified but technically correct version. Since the change is quite drastic, additional consultations with the Member States are sought.
3. Encourages NOWPAP RACs and RCU to enhance further regional cooperation and coordination for follow up on Sustainable Development Goal 14 (SDG 14) in the Northwest Pacific region, including but not limited to providing relevant inputs to global and regional processes for the development of SDG 14 indicators. Requests NOWPAP RCU to report annual progress on the follow up on SDG 14 related to NOWPAP MTS.	Ongoing	The issue was discussed in RACs Focal Points meetings and expert meetings. It was suggested that more guidelines should be provided by UNEP, particularly under closer guidance of the Regional Seas Unit and Marine and Coastal Ecosystems Unit of the Ecosystems Division in Nairobi. A detailed report on this meeting is presented in the IGM document: UNEP/NOWPAP IG.24/INF/4.
4. Takes note of the merit of the proposal on conducting an external institutional assessment of the NOWPAP's "business model" as provided in the document UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 23/11 as means to strengthen regional cooperation and coordination for achieving Sustainable Development Goal 14.	No action	No action required.

Resolution 4: Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter	Status	Remarks
1. Approves Terms of Reference of NOWPAP RAP MALI Focal Points Meeting as provided in the document UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 23/9 Rev.1.	Completed	The RAP MALI Focal Points reviewed RACs' progress reports on marine litter and agreed on the work plan and budget for 2020-2021 in the 2019 RAP MALI Focal Points meeting held in Dalian, China, 26 September 2019.
2. Requests NOWPAP RACs and RCU to implement the work plan in close consultation with the UNEP GPA office and other relevant international organizations, projects, and programmes.	Ongoing	RCU, with support of the DINRAC Secretariat, has submitted a project proposal to the GPA office in early 2019, but no funds have been received. Following the agreement with the GPA Unit of the Ecosystems Division, these funds will not expire in 2019 and will be extended into 2020. NOWPAP has also worked closely with COBSEA, YSLME, and East China Normal University to share experiences and explore opportunities for cooperation.

Resolution 4: Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter	Status	Remarks
3. Encourages the NOWPAP Member States to carry out further activities to prevent, monitor and remove marine litter at national and local levels.	Ongoing	National progress is described in the document UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 24/6. Information from member states about local and national actions is available at the NOWPAP website.

Resolution 5: NOWPAP Special Projects	Status	Remarks
1. Taking notes with concern delay in submitting NOWPAP Special Project proposal "Monitoring and Assessment Methods for Microplastics Pollution" for the decision by the 23 rd NOWPAP IGM and encourages NOWPAP RCU together with the lead national agency and project partners to accelerate project preparation and submit the project for approval by the 24 th NOWPAP IGM.	Ongoing	The Second Microplastic Experts Meeting (Dalian, 27 September 2019) has further discussed the project. An SSFA has been prepared. The project proposal is expected to be completed before October 2020.
2. Requests NOWPAP RCU in consultation with RACs and together with the lead national agency to develop project proposal submitted by the Russian Federation "Identification of key indicator species and ecosystems of biodiversity change in the NOWPAP region" (as presented in Annex 1 of the document UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 23/10) with the total budget for project preparation not exceeding US\$45,000 for consideration by the 24 th NOWPAP IGM.	Ongoing	RCU had been waiting for the nomination of experts from the Member States. RCU has discussed the issue of administrative support to the project with the CEARAC Secretariat. RCU has also raised an additional amount of US\$ 42,000 from the Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research (APN) to support the implementation of this project.
3. Requests NOWPAP RCU to develop draft Guidelines for preparing NOWPAP Special Projects and submit for consideration by the 24 th NOWPAP IGM.	Delayed	Postponed. Due to the change of the NOWPAP Coordinator and the long delay of the approved two projects, RCU suggests discussing this in the 24 th IGM and based on experience gained with the approved two projects, whether to continue developing special projects in the future. RCU is seeking more guidance from the Member States.
4. Requests NOWPAP RCU to coordinate mobilization of financial resources for the approved Special Projects with the lead national agency, relevant external partners, and RACs.	Delayed	Since the implementation of the two projects has been significantly delayed, no action has been taken in the mobilization of financial resources.
5. Encourages Member States to identify and propose new NOWPAP Special Projects supporting the implementation of the NOWPAP MTS 2018-2023 and NOWPAP RCU to keep a track record of the submitted proposals for consideration by the 24 th NOWPAP IGM.	Delayed	Due to the delay of the two approved projects, no progress has been made.

8. Resource Mobilization Efforts

86. 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.

87. 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).

88. 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).

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

90. A summary of mobilized resources in the 2018-2019 biennium is presented in Table 4 below. A detailed breakdown is included in Annex A.

Table 4 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%

9. Status of the NOWPAP Trust Fund and Contributions by Member-States

9.1. Contributions by Member States

Table 5. The scale of contributions 2019

Member States	Annual contribution (US\$)
People's Republic of China	125,000
Japan	125,000
Republic of Korea	125,000
Russian Federation	125,000
Total	500,000

9.2. Expenditure status of the Trust Fund

Table 6. Approved budget and expenditure for the past biennia (US\$)

Year	Approved budget (incl. 13% PSC)	Expenditure (incl. 13% PSC)
2002-2003	1,100,000	553,902 (50.4%)
2004-2005	1,100,000	815,103 (74.1%)
2006-2007	1,179,000	900,911 (76.4%)
2008-2009	1,000,000	887,846 (88.8%)
2010-2011	770,000	710,810 (92.3%)
2012-2013	796,000	732,671 (92.0%)
2014-2015	900,000	594,518 (66.1%)
2016-2017	950,000	824,532 (86.8%)
2018-2019	1,300,000	1,340,581 (103%)

* As of 31 December 2019. The number includes actual expenditures **and** financial obligations.

Table 7. Details of Expenditure of NOWPAP in 2018-2019 (Thousand US\$)

	Biennium 2018-2019		
	(A) 2018-2019 budget	(B) Expenditure (as of 31 Dec 2019)	Remaining balance (A)-(B)
Special Monitoring and Coastal Environmental Assessment Regional Activity Center	185	184	1
Data and Information Network Regional Activity Center	185	327 ²	-142
Marine Environmental Emergency Preparedness and Response Regional Activity Center	185	255 ³	-70
Pollution Monitoring Regional Activity Center	185	114	71
Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter	91	119	-28
Public Awareness	20	3	17
Coordination of Regional Activity Centers	127	117	10
Implementation of the Northwest Pacific Action Plan			
Operation of Regional Coordinating Unit	50	15	35
Resource Mobilization	27	2	25
Northwest Pacific Action Plan Special Projects	95	50	45
Sub-Total	1,150	1,186	-36
13% of the sub-total as Programme Support Cost (PSC)	150	154	4
TOTAL	1,299.500	1,340.180	-40

* The number includes actual expenditures AND outstanding financial commitments.

9.3. Financial expectations for 2020 and beyond

91. In order to ensure the financial sustainability and future development of NOWPAP and its PoW, the Member States, the NOWPAP RCU and RACs, and the Executive Director of UNEP are encouraged to make all possible efforts to secure funds from external sources, including civil society, private sector, central and local governments, international and regional organizations and financial institutions, as well as to utilize the resources available in the most efficient and effective manner.

² \$52,250 duplicated expenditure recorded in UMOJA 2019. Needs further investigation.

³ \$ 60,476 duplicated expenditure recorded in UMOJA 2019. Needs further investigation.

10. Recommendations

92. The meeting is invited to:

- Review, discuss and adopt the report of the Executive Director on the status of the Northwest Pacific Action Plan implementation.
- Review and adopt the report on the status of the NOWPAP Trust Fund.
- Encourage Northwest Pacific Action Plan Regional Coordinating Unit together with Regional Activity Centers and in consultation with Northwest Pacific Action Plan member states to enhance efforts to secure additional funds from the external sources to supplement Northwest Pacific Action Plan Trust Fund resources.

Recommended draft decision:

Approves the report of the United Nations Environment Programme Executive Director (UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 24/3), takes note of the NOWPAP implementation progress and the status of resources in the NOWPAP Trust Fund.

Annex A. Financial Resources Mobilized by NOWPAP in 2018-2019**Table 8 Financial Resources Mobilized by the NOWPAP RCU in 2018-2019⁴**

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 ⁵	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

⁴ 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.

⁵ 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 9 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	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
<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
- 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>			<i>15,000</i>
SUB-TOTAL (2019)			940,007
TOTAL FOR 2018-2019 BIENNIUM			1,862,867

Annex B. Annual Pledges and Contributions for 1995–2019 (US\$)**Table 10 Annual Pledges and Contributions for 1995–2019 (US\$)**

Country		P.R. China	Japan	Republic of Korea	Russian Federation	TOTAL
1995	Pledges	20,000	-	50,000	-	70,000
	Amount Received	20,000	-	50,000	-	70,000
1996	Pledges	40,000	125,000	50,000	50,000	265,000
	Amount Received	40,000	125,000	50,000	50,000	265,000
1997	Pledges	40,000	125,000	100,000	50,000	315,000
	Amount Received	40,000	125,000	100,000	-	265,000
1998	Pledges	40,000	125,000	100,000	50,000	315,000
	Amount Received	40,000	-	100,000	-	140,000
1999	Pledges	40,000	125,000	100,000	50,000	315,000
	Amount Received	40,000	125,000	100,000	-	265,000
2000	Pledges	40,000	125,000	100,000	50,000	315,000
	Amount Received	40,000	125,000	100,000	150,000	415,000
2001	Pledges	40,000	125,000	100,000	50,000	315,000
	Amount Received	40,000	125,000	100,000	-	265,000
2002	Pledges	40,000	125,000	100,000	50,000	315,000
	Amount Received	40,000	-	100,000	-	140,000
2003	Pledges	40,000	125,000	100,000	50,000	315,000
	Amount Received	40,000	250,000	100,000	-	390,000
2004	Pledges	40,000	125,000	100,000	50,000	315,000
	Amount Received	40,000	125,000	100,000	-	265,000
2005	Pledges	40,000	125,000	100,000	50,000	315,000
	Amount Received	40,000	125,000	100,000	-	265,000
2006	Pledges	40,000	125,000	100,000	50,000	315,000
	Amount Received	40,000	125,000	100,000	-	265,000
2007	Pledges	40,000	125,000	100,000	125,000	390,000
	Amount Received	40,000	125,000	100,000	-	265,000
2008	Pledges	40,000	125,000	100,000	50,000	315,000
	Amount Received	40,000	125,000	100,000	-	265,000
2009	Pledges	40,000	125,000	100,000	50,000	315,000
	Amount Received	40,000	125,000	100,000	-	265,000
2010	Pledges	40,000	125,000	100,000	50,000	315,000
	Amount Received	40,000	125,000	100,000	-	265,000
2011	Pledges	40,000	125,000	100,000	125,000	390,000
	Amount Received	40,000	125,000	100,000	125,000	390,000
2012	Pledges	40,000	125,000	100,000	125,000	390,000
	Amount Received	40,000	125,000	100,000	125,000	390,000
2013	Pledges	40,000	125,000	100,000	125,000	390,000
	Amount Received	100,000	125,000	100,000	125,000	450,000
2014	Pledges	100,000	125,000	125,000	125,000	475,000
	Amount Received	100,000	125,000	125,000	125,000	475,000

Country		P.R. China	Japan	Republic of Korea	Russian Federation	TOTAL
2015	Pledges	100,000	125,000	125,000	125,000	475,000
	Amount Received	100,000	125,000	125,000	125,000	475,000
2016	Pledges	100,000	125,000	125,000	125,000	475,000
	Amount Received	100,000	125,000	125,000	125,000	475,000
2017	Pledges	100,000	125,000	125,000	125,000	475,000
	Amount Received	125,000	125,000	125,000	125,000	500,000
2018	Pledges	125,000	125,000	125,000	125,000	500,000
	Amount Received	125,000	125,000	125,000	125,000	500,000
2019	Pledges	125,000	125,000	125,000	125,000	500,000
	Amount Received	125,000	125,000	125,000	125,000	500,000
1995-2019	Pledges	1,390,000	3,000,000	2,550,000	1,950,000	8,890,000
	Amount Received	1,450,000	2,875,000	2,550,000	1,325,000	8,200,000
	Amounts Unpaid	-60,000 ⁶	125,000 ⁷	-	625,000 ⁵	690,000

⁶ US\$ 60,000 was overpaid by P.R. of China in 2013 making the overall surplus for 1995-2018.

⁷ The unpaid pledges of US\$125,000 from Japan and US\$625,000 from Russian Federation will be written down at the end of 2019.

Annex C. Status of NOWPAP Trust Fund**Table 11 Status of NOWPAP Trust Fund (PNL) for 1995-2019 (US\$)**

Year	Opening balance	Paid pledges	Interest/other adjustments	In-Kind Contribution	Expenditure (incl. 13%PSC)	Total net assets
1994	-	-	-	-	-	-
1995	-	70,000.00	-	-	-	-
1996	70,000.00	265,000.00	1,388.00	-	34,195.00	
1997	302,193.00	265,000.00	15,068.00	-	140,491.00	
1998	441,770.00	140,000.00	12,669.00	-	52,906.00	
1999	541,533.00	265,000.00	8,904.00	-	36,002.00	
2000	779,435.00	415,000.00	26,811.00	-	33,932.00	
2001	1,187,314.00	265,000.00	60,696.00	-	160,968.00	
2002	1,352,042.00	140,000.00	58,901.00	-	81,459.00	
2003	1,469,484.00	390,000.00	43,113.00	-	472,443.00	
2004	1,430,154.00	265,000.00	26,332.00	-	270,151.00	
2005	1,451,335.00	265,000.00	37,291.00	-	544,952.00	
2006	1,208,674.00	265,000.00	53,894.00	-	429,985.00	
2007	1,097,583.00	265,000.00	56,284.00	-	470,926.00	
2008	947,941.00	265,000.00	22,381.00	-	309,879.00	
2009	925,443.00	265,000.00	16,235.00	-	577,967.00	
2010	628,711.00	265,000.00	6,273.00	-	268,931.00	
2011	631,053.00	390,000.00	6,624.00	-	441,879.00	
2012	585,798.00	390,000.00	5,849.00	-	326,654.00	
2013	654,993.00	450,000.00	6,980.00	-	406,017.00	
2014	705,956.00	475,000.00	(37,804.00) ⁸	60,168.00 ⁹	364,797.00	
2015	838,523.00	475,000.00	2,000.00	40,560.00 ¹⁰	330,449.00	1,025,634.
2016	1,025,634.00	475,000.00	7,319.31	(100,728.00) ¹¹	743,281.20	
2017	663,944.11	475,000.00	13,724.39	-	126,939.33	1,025,729.
2018	1,025,729.17	500,000.00	13,018.39	-	548,775.65 ¹²	989,971.91
2019	989,971.91	500,000.00	25,000.00	-	655,468.25	
TOTAL			488,951.09	-	7,829,447.43	

⁸ Correction to recognize some International Public Sector Accounting Standards requirements not known to us by the time of submission of document to the 19th NOWPAP Intergovernmental Meeting (IMIS was not availing the entire International Public Sector Accounting Standards ledger).

^{9,4,5} Recognition of the Voluntary In-Kind credit wrongly posted to PNL which are moved to QNL in 2016 against respective office components

¹⁰ Recognition of the Voluntary In-Kind credit wrongly posted to PNL which are moved to QNL in 2016 against respective office components

¹¹ Recognition of the Voluntary In-Kind credit wrongly posted to PNL which are moved to QNL in 2016 against respective office components

¹² As of 31/12/2019 and includes actual expenditures without outstanding commitments

Annex D. Contributions by the Republic of Korea in Support of Busan RCU Office

Table 12 Status of contributions by the Republic of Korea in Support of Busan RCU Office (US\$) (QNL Fund)

Year	Contribution	Expenditure (incl. 13% of PSC)	Carry-over balance	Accumulated balance since 2002
2002	626,405	0	626,405	626,405
2003	328,441	0	328,441	954,846
2004	162,921 -189,722 ¹³	11,817	-38,618	916,228
2005	142,951	403,760	-260,809	655,419
2006	157,267	394,542	-237,275	418,144
2007	0	399,052	-399,052	19,092
2008	684,522	415,591	268,931	288,023
2009	442,036	495,676	-53,640	234,383
2010	429,932	460,636	-30,704	203,679
2011	488,527	510,366	-21,839	181,840
2012	430,256	509,317	-79,061	102,779
2013	454,463	565,218	-110,755	-7,976
2014	485,767	483,995	1,767	-6,209
2015	626,740	320,248	306,493	300,284
2016	401,155	228,469 [§]	172,686	472,970
2017	441,267	122,807 [§]	318,460	791,429
2018	446,301	504,955 ^{14,§}	-58,654	732,775
2019	416,680	248,546	168,134	900,909

¹³ Refunded back to the Republic of Korea

¹⁴ Expenditures as of 31/12/2019

[§] Programme Manager (P3 post in the Regional Coordinating Unit in Busan) costs have been erroneously charged under the Regional Coordinating Unit in Toyama Operational costs in the amounts of USD342,055.11 (2016 - USD90,341.86; 2017 - USD157,206.68, and 2018 - USD94,506.57). These costs are corrected for both QNL funds for R. Korea and Japan in 2018.

Annex E. Contributions by Japan in Support of Toyama RCU Office**Table 13 Status of contributions by Japan in support of Toyama RCU office (QNL Fund)**

Year	Contribution	Expenditure including 13% of PSC	Carry-over balance	Accumulated balance since 2001
2001	16,311	0	16,311	16,311
2002	377,453	0	377,453	393,764
2003	0	0	0	393,764
2004	200,000	43,295	156,705	550,469
2005	799,995	477,874	322,121	872,590
2006	558,135	570,816	-12,681	859,909
2007	175,417	528,314	-352,897	507,012
2008	654,240	646,240	8,000	515,012
2009	600,000	725,095	-125,095	389,917
2010	1,254,240	676,606	577,634	967,551
2011	600,000	782,434	-182,434	785,117
2012	600,000	703,757	-103,757	681,360
2013	650,000	678,550	-28,550	652,810
2014	600,000	517,203	82,797	735,607
2015	600,000	293,567	306,433	1,042,040
2016	600,000	494,374 [§]	105,656	1,147,696
2017	600,000	585,967 [§]	14,032	1,161,728
2018	600,000	165,920 ^{15,§}	434,080	1,595,808
2019	600,000	365,573	234,427	1,830,235

¹⁵ Expenditures as of 31/12/2019

[§] Programme Manager (P3 post in the Regional Coordinating Unit in Busan) costs have been erroneously charged under the Regional Coordinating Unit in Toyama Operational costs in the amounts of USD342,055.11 (2016 - USD90,341.86; 2017 - USD157,206.68, and 2018 - USD94,506.57). These costs is corrected for both QNL funds for R. Korea and Japan in 2018

Annex F. Partnership Building Events Attended by NOWPAP RCU in 2019**Table 14 Partnership Building Events Attended by NOWPAP RCU in 2019**

Date	Venue	Event
20/01/2019	Toyama, Japan	20th anniversary of Northwest Pacific Region Environmental Cooperation Center (NPEC)
18-19/02/2019	Tokyo, Japan	The International Oceanographic Data and Information Exchange (IODE) XXV Scientific Conference
17/02/2018	Toyama, Japan	Japan Seaology Symposium "What is happening in Japan Sea now?"
20/03/2018	Tokyo, Japan	UNEP Forum
20-22/03/2019	Vladivostok, Russia	The POMRAC Workshop on ecological quality objectives (EcoQOs) and the CEARAC Expert Meeting on eutrophication assessment
12-14/03/2019	Dalian, China	The Third Meeting of Management, Science and Technical Panel (MSTP) and the Third Meeting of the Interim Commission Council of the YSLME Phase II GEF Project
01-03/04/2019	Busan, R. Korea	Joint NOWPAP Regional Coordinating Unit and Regional Activity Centers Meeting
17/05/2019	Seoul, R. Korea	Briefing on Environment Conservation and Cooperation on the Korean Peninsula Engagement through Nature
30-31/05/2019	Seoul, R. Korea	Meeting of the Communities of Ocean Action: From Commitments to Action- Implementing SDG14
04-06/06/2019	Busan, R. Korea	The Second Meeting of Regional Working Group on Pollution Reduction of YSLME
19-20/06/2019	Bali, Indonesia	The 24th Intergovernmental meeting of the Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia (COBSEA)
15-19 July	Qingdao, China	The 3rd Yellow Sea Large Marine Ecosystems (YSLME) Science Conference
31/07- 02/08/2019	Tokyo, Japan	Regional Planning Workshop for the North Pacific and Western Pacific Marginal Seas towards the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030)
07/08/2019	Busan, R. Korea	2019 Beat Plastic Pollution: Save the Sea—Clean-up Marine Litter Camp
22-23/08/2019	Dalian, China	The 17th NOWPAP Data and Information Network Regional Activity Center (DINRAC) Focal Points Meeting
27-30/08/2019	Seoul, R. Korea	The 22nd NOWPAP Maritime Emergency Response and Preparedness Regional Activity Center (MERRAC) Focal Points Meeting, the 14th Competent National Authorities Meeting, and brainstorm workshop
3/09/2019	Tokyo, Japan	Meeting with UNEP-Japan Association
9-11/09/2019	Toyama, Japan	The 17th NOWPAP Special Monitoring and Coastal Environmental Assessment Regional Activity Center (CEARAC) Focal Points Meeting

Date	Venue	Event
30/9-2/10 2019	Berlin, Germany	Marine Regions Forum 2019 “Achieving a Healthy Ocean – Regional Ocean Governance Beyond 2020”
3-5/10/2019	Berlin, Germany	Annual Regional Seas meeting
7-12/10/2019	Busan, R. Korea	APEC Training Workshop to Foster Marine Debris Experts
16/10/2019	Toyama, Japan	The World’s Most Beautiful Bay Club, Annual General Assembly Meeting
29/10–1/11 2019	Beijing, China	The 16th NOWPAP Pollution Monitoring Regional Activity Center (POMRAC) Focal Points Meeting
16-27/10/2019	Victoria, BC, Canada	PICES (North Pacific Marine Science Organization)-2019 Annual Meeting: Connecting Science and Communities in a Changing North Pacific
11-14/11/ 2019	Bangkok, Thailand	SEA 2019: Partnership week for marine litter and plastic pollution prevention in South East Asia
4-5/11/2019	Shanghai, China	Reducing Marine Plastic Waste – 2019 Shanghai Forum
28-29/11/2019	Chiba, Japan	Workshop on CEARAC Medium-term Strategy (MTS) on marine Biodiversity Conservation and Workshop on NOWPAP Regional Action Plan for Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Conservation (RAP BIO)

Annex G. History of Revisions

Revision Number	Date	Changes Introduced	Comments
Rev 0	26 Dec 2019		
Rev 1	03 Feb 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Based on inputs from UNEP HQs, tables with financial information have been updated: 23rd IGM Resolution, item 2 – delivery (US\$ and rate), Tables 5-7, Tables 10-13.– Minor editorial improvements.	