

United Nations Environment Programme

NOWPAP



**Northwest
Pacific
Action Plan**

Distr.: RESTRICTED
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 24/8 rev 1
13 January 2020
Original: English



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

Roadmap for the NOWPAP Regional Action Plan on Marine and Coastal Biodiversity (RAP BIO)

For reasons of economy, this document is printed in a limited number. Delegates are kindly requested to bring their copies to meetings and not to seek additional copies.

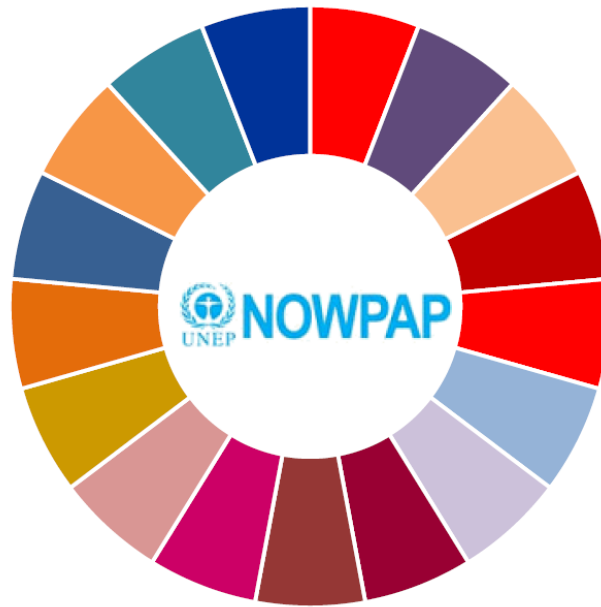
**Regional
Seas**

Contents

Acknowledgements	4
1. Background	4
2. The Roadmap for the RAP BIO	7
2.1. Principles	7
2.2. Vision, Mission and Goals	8
2.3. Draft Outline (Table of Contents) of the NOWPAP RAP BIO	8
2.4. The work plan to develop the draft RAP BIO	11
3. Workplan to Produce the Draft RAP BIO	12
Annex 1. A Note by the Secretariat on IGM Agenda item 8	15
Annex 2. History of Revisions	16

List of Acronyms

CEARAC	Special Monitoring and Coastal Environmental Assessment Regional Activity Centre
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
COP	Conference of Parties
DINRAC	Data and Information Network Regional Activity Center
IGM	Intergovernmental Meeting
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MERRAC	Marine Environmental Emergency Preparedness and Response Regional Activity Center
MTS	Medium-Term Strategy
NOWPAP	Northwest Pacific Action Plan
RAP BIO	Regional Action Plan on Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Conservation
POMRAC	Pollution Monitoring Regional Activity Center
RAC(s)	Regional Activity Center(s)
RCU	Regional Coordination Unit
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
UN	United Nations



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

Acknowledgements

1. This paper was written by David Coastes. NOWPAP Regional Coordinating Unit (RCU) would like to thank the substantial inputs and comments received to the initial draft of this documents. In particular special thanks are given to Dr. Takafumi Yoshida (Special Monitoring & Coastal Environmental Assessment Regional Activity Centre, CEARAC), Dr. Jingfeng Fan, Dr. Jie Su (the National Marine Environmental Monitoring Center of China), Dr. Yong Rock AN (National Marine Biodiversity Institute of Korea), Dr. Vladimir Shulkin, Dr. Tatiana Orlova (Far East Branch of Russian Academy of Sciences), Dr. Yan Feng (Data and Information Network Regional Activity Center, DINRAC). The thanks also go to Dr. Peng Wang, Dr. Wei Lei (National Marine Environmental Monitoring Center of China), Dr. Akihide KASAI (Hokkaido University), Dr. Toshifumi MINAMOTO (Kobe University), Dr. Sang-Yong LEE (National Institute of Fisheries Science ,NIFS), Dr. Hyun Woo KIM (Pukyong National University), Dr. Tatiana MOROZOVA(Far East Branch of Russian Academy of Science), Dr. Genki TERAUCHI (CEARAC), Dr. Seong-Gil Kang (MERRAC), and Dr. Kachur Anatolii (POMRAC).
2. NOWPAP RCU is also grateful for CEARAC Secretariat for their generous support to organize meetings and develop the paper.
3. The project is coordinated by NOWPAP RCU officers: Yegor Volovik and Ning Liu.

1. Background

4. This document proposes the *Roadmap* (or itemized work plan) to produce a *Regional Action Plan on Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Conservation*. It is accompanied by a detailed background document containing much more detailed supporting information.
5. The NOWPAP Medium-Term Strategy 2012-2017 (MTS) was adopted by the Member States (P.R. China, Japan, R. Korea and the Russian Federation) in 2011. The MTS set “Conservation of Marine and Coastal Biodiversity” as one of the objectives and requested to develop a Regional Action Plan on Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Conservation (RAP BIO), however, it was not realized during the 2012-2017 term.
6. At the 15th CEARAC Focal Points Meeting held in August 2017 in Toyama, Japan, the Secretariat of CEARAC presented a draft work plan for the development of a CEARAC Medium-Term Strategy on marine biodiversity as part of CEARAC activities in the 2018-2019 biennium. Also, following a suggestion from RCU to prepare one more work plan for further consideration of the 22nd IGM on future roadmap for developing the RAP BIO. The 22nd NOWPAP IGM, held in December 2017 in Toyama, Japan, approved the abovementioned work plan prepared by the CEARAC Secretariat.
7. The 16th CEARAC Focal Points Meeting, held in May 2018 in Toyama, Japan, reviewed the roadmap for developing the RAP BIO, and recommended CEARAC to consult with other RACs to modify this activity based on the comments and suggestions from other RACs.

8. The four Member States of the NOWPAP approved the NOWPAP MTS 2018-2023 in June 2018. A major focus of the NOWPAP MTS 2018-2023 is on the coordination of the regional implementation of the ocean-related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 14 ("*Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development*") using the NOWPAP mechanism. The NOWPAP MTS 2018-2023 will implement this leading role by focusing on three pillars: (i) an ecosystem-based management approach to sustainable development of marine and coastal areas to achieve the Ecological Quality Objectives; (ii) monitoring and reporting on progress towards Sustainable Development Goal 14 and its targets, and (iii) strengthening partnerships with relevant global and regional institutions.

9. One of NOWPAP MTS 2018-2023 priorities is the conservation of marine and coastal biodiversity. Work in this area will be capped with the development of a *Regional Action Plan on Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Conservation* (or RAP BIO hereafter) by the end of MTS period in 2023. The future NOWPAP RAP BIO should be aligned with the priorities and vision of the NOWPAP MTS 2018-2023, national biodiversity strategies of the member states, and global targets, Aichi Biodiversity Targets and post 2020 Targets. It also would be based on: (i) an assessment of the current state of, and identified regional priorities for, marine and coastal biodiversity conservation and use and the main impacts of human activities, incorporating future trends affecting ecosystem health; (ii) an identification of main actors, key strategic objectives and actions by different partners to identify NOWPAP's role and comparative advantage, complemented by a draft Action Plan for Marine and Coastal Biodiversity with priority activities for future development, with potential funding opportunities identified.

10. The draft RAP BIO will be produced in 2020 and submitted to the Inter-Governmental Meeting for approval. This Roadmap outlines the draft Vision, Mission, Goal and Principles of the RAP BIO and includes an itemized list of activities to be undertaken to produce the draft RAP BIO with timeline and experts and lead and contributing agencies involved.

11. The objective of this Roadmap for the RAP BIO is, therefore, to set out the strategy and activities to be undertaken to produce the final RAP BIO, but not to produce the finer details of the RAP BIO, nor to populate it with detailed scientific findings. Developing the details and the final recommended form of the RAP BIO will commence in early 2020 after approval of this Roadmap by the Inter-Governmental Meeting.

12. This Roadmap was developed with the support of regional experts from all four NOWPAP Member States and key national and/or regional scientific or technical institutes. RCU hired an international consultant, Dr. David Coates to provide the technical leadership of and guidance on this work. The Member States has nominated the following experts to develop the roadmap:

- Dr. Jingfeng FAN, National Marine Environmental Monitoring Center of China
- Takafumi Yoshida, CEARAC Secretariat (on behalf of Japan's expert)
- Dr. Yong-Rock AN, National Marine Biodiversity Institute of Korea
- Dr. Tatiana Orlova, A.V. Zhirmunskii Institute of Marine Biology, the Far East Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences

13. This Roadmap was discussed at a *Workshop on the NOWPAP Regional Action Plan for Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Conservation*, held 28 November 2019, in Chiba, Japan. The

workshop was organized by the CEARAC Secretariat and RCU. The participants suggested the following:

- RAP BIO is guidelines for the member states and RACs for conservation of marine and coastal biodiversity in the NOWPAP region. It *should* be aligned with national strategies/actions for marine and coastal biodiversity conservation of the NOWPAP Member States, and link with the planned RACs' activities.
- The target year of Aichi Biodiversity Target is next year. The post 2020 Target will be adopted at the CBD COP 15th to be held in China. The developed RAP BIO should be aligned with these global targets, including SDGs and UN Ocean Decades.
- It should be noted that the limitation of available data/information and difficulties to cover all marine biodiversity related issues.

14. This Roadmap is based on a more detailed background document that accompanies this Roadmap (UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 24/INF/13).

15. The 17th CEARAC FPM (9-10 September 2019, Toyama, Japan) did not include the development of RAP BIO in its work plan for 2020-2021. However, it was suggested at the Chiba meeting (28 November 2019) to use the remaining US\$ 15,000 from CEARAC 2018-2019 budget to organize the 2nd workshop on RAP BIO.

2. The Roadmap for the RAP BIO

2.1. Principles

16. The NOWPAP RAP BIO will:

- primarily build on and make an effective contribution to the current activities of individual NOWPAP Member States;
- build synergies and create efficiency gains, including the sharing of experiences and capacity building, among the four Member States;
- be developed with the full participation of all relevant stakeholders at national and regional level;
- recognise the inter-dependency of the social, economic and environmental pillars of sustainable development;
- make an effective contribution to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals and other relevant goals and targets including National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (or equivalent), the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011 - 2020 (and its successor framework) and the UN Decade on Oceans, among others;
- be based upon the fullest available scientific evidence;
- where necessary, and where important gaps are identified, help build the knowledge base on marine and coastal biodiversity in order to monitor the status and trends in biodiversity so that effective measures to conserve and sustainably use marine and coastal biodiversity can be identified;
- through improved information generation and sharing, assist Member States in their reporting on marine and coastal biodiversity including with regards to their own national biodiversity strategies and action plans, as well as global goals and targets including the Sustainable Development Goals - notably SDG 14;
- build upon and add value to existing efforts on the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity in the region and avoid duplication of effort;
- identify and prioritise areas of work where NOWPAP has a strategic advantage;
- contribute effectively to the broader objectives of the NOWPAP; and
- be results-based and where feasible include relevant targets and indicators of progress towards them.

2.2. Vision, Mission and Goals

17. The **draft** vision, mission and goals of the NOWPAP RAP BIO, to be further refined during the development phase of the RAP BIO, are:

18. **Vision:** A North-West Pacific region where communities and peoples live in harmony with nature, where marine and coastal biodiversity is valued, conserved, restored and wisely used, maintaining ecosystem services, and delivering benefits essential to maintain the lives, health and economies for all its people.

19. **Mission:** To take effective and urgent action to halt the loss of marine and coastal biodiversity in order to ensure that by 2030 ecosystems in the NOWPAP region are resilient and continue to provide essential services, thereby securing the region's variety of life, and contributing to human well-being and sustainable development. To ensure this: pressures on biodiversity are reduced, ecosystems are restored, biological resources are sustainably used and benefits arising out of utilization of genetic resources are shared in a fair and equitable manner; adequate financial resources are provided, capacities are enhanced, biodiversity issues and values mainstreamed, appropriate policies are effectively implemented; and decision-making is based on sound science and the precautionary approach and ecosystem approach.

20. **Goals:** To make an effective, cost-efficient, measurable and significant contribution to agreed national, regional and global goals and targets for marine and coastal biodiversity including relevant goals and targets of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (or equivalent), the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011 - 2020 (and its successor framework).

2.3. Draft Outline (Table of Contents) of the NOWPAP RAP BIO

21. The following is a draft outline of the contents of the NOWPAP RAP BIO. This is provided to give the Intergovernmental Meeting an overview of the possible structure and contents of the RAP BIO to be produced by September 2020. Its final structure and content will be refined as work progresses during 2020:

SECTION 1 - BACKGROUND TO THE RAP BIO

- **1.1: A Common Vision for the Marine and Coastal Biodiversity of the NOWPAP Region**
 - Introduction to the NOWPAP Region
 - Rationale for a Regional Action Plan on Marine and Coastal Biodiversity
 - Summary of National Activities and Strategies on Marine and Coastal Biodiversity
 - common components of national activities and strategies
 - Previous work of NOWPAP on Marine and Coastal Biodiversity
 - Relevant Regional Activities on Marine and Coastal Biodiversity
 - Background and Process for Developing the Strategy
 - Principles for Developing the NOWPAP RAP BIO
- **1.2: Marine and Coastal Biodiversity in the NOWPAP Region; Status and Threats**
 - Status of marine and coastal biodiversity in the NOWPAP region

- Species
 - The conservation status of threatened species, populations and genes
 - Ecosystems
 - Trends in area and condition of ecosystems (habitats)
 - Opportunities and constraints in improving conservation status
 - Conclusions and Recommendations
- Drivers of biodiversity loss (pressures, threats)
 - Pollution
 - Main sources of nutrient loading and their negative effects
 - Marine litter and debris
 - Conclusion and Recommendations
 - Habitat loss and alteration
 - Over-exploitation
 - Sustainable fisheries for the NOWPAP region
 - Main fisheries impacts on marine and coastal biodiversity
 - Over-exploitation in other sectors
 - Aquaculture
 - Key threats from aquaculture
 - Marine and Coastal Invasive Alien Species
 - Main invasive species threats
 - Main entry pathways of marine and coastal invasive species
 - Current status and recommended actions to mitigate the threats of invasive alien species
 - Conclusions and Recommendations
- Climate change and marine and coastal biodiversity in the NOWPAP region
 - Climate change as a threat to marine and coastal biodiversity
 - The role of marine and coastal ecosystems in climate change mitigation and adaptation
- **1.3: Responses to drivers of (threats to, pressures on) marine and coastal biodiversity in the NOWPAP region**
 - Current data and information availability, monitoring and gaps
 - Current regional and national policies and activities and gaps
 - Marine protected areas
 - Levels of protection and challenges in enforcement
 - Ecologically representative and effectively managed MPA Network
 - Other measures
 - Pollution

- Habitat loss/alteration
- Over-fishing
- Unsustainable aquaculture
- Threats of other human activities such as marine noise and window farming.
- Regional and Global Initiatives
 - Conclusions and Recommendations

SECTION 2 - THE REGIONAL ACTION PLAN FOR MARINE AND COASTAL BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION IN THE NOWPAP REGION

- **2.1 The role of NOWPAP in marine and coastal biodiversity conservation**
 - Existing strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats to NOWPAP's role
 - Key strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats to NOWPAP Regional Activity Centres and other key partners
 - Key strategic areas for NOWPAP interventions
 - Working with partners
- **2.2 Vision, Mission and Goals of the NOWPAP RAP BIO**
 - Vision
 - Mission
 - Goals
 - To understand the status and trends of biodiversity in the NOWPAP region
 - To assess the impacts of pressures on marine and coastal biodiversity contributions to national goals and targets
 - To contribute to National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans, the post 2020 global biodiversity targets, the Sustainable Development Goals, the UN Ocean Decade and other relevant initiatives
- **2.3 Priority strategic actions¹**
 - Building and sustaining the regional knowledge base
 - monitoring trends in species, ecosystems (habitats) and services
 - monitoring drivers of biodiversity loss
 - alien invasive species
 - pollution
 - habitat conversion/loss/degradation
 - other drivers
 - monitoring transboundary/migratory species
 - Developing biodiversity assessment methodologies
 - Red Books etc.

¹ These are draft for illustration and will be considered further during the development of the RAP BIO.

- Molecular genetic methods; including biobanking techniques for the unified registration, storage and management of genetic biodiversity data
 - Key/priority responses - addressing drivers/threats/pressures
 - Actions to improve the conservation status of specific species, populations and genes
 - Actions to manage alien invasive species
 - Actions to conserve biodiversity through optimisation of biological resources exploitation and usage
 - Actions to conserve biodiversity through the reduction of anthropogenic pressures on habitats (conversion, degradation and pollution)
 - Actions to strengthen effective networks of marine and coastal protected areas
 - Regional cross-cutting actions
- **2.4 Communicating the strategy**
- **2.5 Options for financing the NOWPAP RAP BIO**
- **2.6 Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) of the NOWPAP RAP BIO**
- **2.7 Revised workplans of the regional activity centres:**
 - **CEARAC**
 - **DINRAC**
 - **MERRAC**
 - **POMRAC**

2.4. The work plan to develop the draft RAP BIO

22. Based on the above draft outline of the RAP BIO and the existing information already compiled in the background document (etc.) the following table lists work to be undertaken, lead experts and/or agencies and deadlines in order to complete the draft RAP BIO by September 2020.

3. Workplan to Produce the Draft RAP BIO

Topic (see above table of contents)	Activities to be undertaken to produce the RAP BIO	Lead experts and/or agencies - contributing to producing the RAP BIO ²	Deadline
SECTION 1 - BACKGROUND INFORMATION FOR THE RAP BIO			
1.1: A Common Vision for the Marine and Coastal Biodiversity of the NOWPAP Region	Review of previous studies and activities etc. - building mainly upon and updating information in the background document. The priority area requiring further inputs is more detailed information on Summary of National Activities and Strategies on Marine and Coastal Biodiversity and common components of national activities and strategies	International and national consultants/experts	May 2020
1.2: Marine and Coastal Biodiversity in the NOWPAP Region; Status, and Threats: Status and threats to marine and coastal biodiversity in the NOWPAP region; Drivers of biodiversity loss (pressures, threats) - Habitat loss and alteration, Over-exploitation, Aquaculture, Marine and Coastal Invasive Alien Species; Climate change and marine and coastal biodiversity in the NOWPAP region	Review of previous studies and activities etc. - building upon and updating information in the background document	International and national consultants/experts	May 2020
1.3: Responses to drivers of (threats to, pressures on) marine and coastal biodiversity in the NOWPAP region: Current data and information availability, monitoring and gaps; Current regional and national policies and activities and gaps	Review of previous studies and activities etc. - building upon and updating information in the background document	International and national consultants/experts	June 2020

² NOT necessarily agencies implementing actions under the RAP BIO which will be identified in the RAP BIO

Topic (see above table of contents)	Activities to be undertaken to produce the RAP BIO	Lead experts and/or agencies - contributing to producing the RAP BIO ²	Deadline
SECTION 2 - THE REGIONAL ACTION PLAN FOR MARINE AND COASTAL BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION IN THE NOWPAP REGION			
2.1 The role of NOWPAP in marine and coastal biodiversity conservation Existing strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats to NOWPAP's role Key strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats to NOWPAP Regional Activity Centres and other key partners Key strategic areas for NOWPAP interventions Working with partners	Review of previous studies and activities etc. - building upon and updating information in the background document	International and national consultants/experts	June 2020
2.2 Vision, Mission and Goals of the NOWPAP RAP BIO; contributions to national goals and targets, the Sustainable Development Goals, the follow-up to the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets	Building upon and updating information in the background document Mapping of outcomes of proposed RAP BIO activities against national, regional and global targets	International and national consultants/experts	June 2020
2.3 Priority strategic actions:			
Key/priority responses - addressing drivers/threats/pressures	Identification of knowledge gaps, needs and opportunities for NOWPAP. Identification of opportunities for capacity-building by NOWPAP. Production of an activity plan (2022 - 2030) listing priority activities to be undertake and lead agencies	International and national consultants/experts	July 2020
Regional cross-cutting actions	Identification of needs and opportunities for regional cross-cutting actions. (If any)	All - as identified through discussions	July 2020

Topic (see above table of contents)	Activities to be undertaken to produce the RAP BIO	Lead experts and/or agencies - contributing to producing the RAP BIO ²	Deadline
2.4 Communicating the strategy	Development of a communication strategy and activity plan for communication and awareness raising for the RAP BIO .	International and national consultants/experts/RCU	July 2020
2.5 Options for financing the NOWPAP RAP BIO	Current approved budgets for the Regional Activity Centers for activities that will contribute to the RAP BIO Needs for additional financing	RACs/RCU	July 2020
2.6 Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) of the NOWPAP RAP BIO	Identification of ways and means to monitor implementation of the RAP BIO , evaluation of the effectiveness of the RAP BIO and reporting requirements. Development of a M&E activity plan.	International and national consultants/experts/RCU	July 2020
<i>Administrative/editing tasks:</i>			
Document preparation	Editing/revision/circulation for comment among RACs	International consultant/ RCU	August 2020
Organize the 2 nd RAP BIO workshop in Japan, with the participation of nominated experts, RACs, RCU, international consultant, and partners	Review of draft RAP BIO . Agreement on outstanding issues (if any). Stakeholder approval of the draft RAP BIO	CEARAC/RCU to organize	September 2020
Revise the RAP BIO based on the outputs of the 2 nd workshop	Final editing	International consultant/ RCU to revise	October - December 2020
Circulate the draft RAP BIO among NOWPAP member states for comments and revise the draft		RCU to circulate	Jan-Sep 2021
Organize the 3 rd RAP BIO workshop	Finalization of the RAP BIO	CEARAC/RCU to organize	2021
Adopt the RAP BIO		26 th NOWPAP IGM to approve	Oct-Dec 21

Annex 1. A Note by the Secretariat on IGM Agenda item 8

23. Secretariat for Agenda item 8 Roadmap for the NOWPAP Regional Action Plan on Marine and Coastal Biodiversity (RAP BIO) (document UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 24/8):

- NOWPAP Member States are invited to discuss the document and provide recommendations on further development of NOWPAP RAP BIO. Furthermore, the meeting is invited to consider providing additional financial support for the development of the RAP BIO.
- The Meeting is invited to consider the following draft decisions: The Meeting:
 - Notes the progress while developing NOWPAP RAP BIO, requests NOWPAP RCU together with CEARAC, the international consultant, nominated experts to complete the first draft of RAP BIO by September 2020;
 - Agrees CEARAC to use the remaining US\$ 15000 from the 2018-2019 budget to organize the second workshop on RAP BIO in 2020.
 - Approves to allocate US\$ 15,000 for hiring an international consultant to provide technical leadership to develop RAP BIO, and allocate US\$ 15,000 to organize the 3rd workshop on RAP BIO in 2021 to finalize RAP BIO.
 - Requests NOWPAP RCU to circulate the draft RAP BIO among the Member States for consultations and comments and submit the final draft to the 26th NOWPAP IGM for adoption.

Annex 2. History of Revisions

Revision Number	Date	Changes Introduced	Comments
Rev 0	28 Dec 2019		
Rev 1	13 Jan 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Added paragraphs: 5,6,7 - Expanded paragraph 12 with more details - Added paragraph 13 - 3rd Workshop is added into the Administrative/Editing tasks section of the RAP BIO Development Workplan - A note included by the Secretariat to the 24th IGM as Annex 1. - Minor editorial improvements 	The changes were introduced to address comments of China