2018 Meeting of the NOWPAP Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter (RAP MALI)
Busan, Republic of Korea
5-6 June 2018

Report of the Meeting
The 2018 RAP MALI Meeting was held in Hotel Homers in Busan, Republic of Korea, on 5th June 2018 from 14:00 to 19:00 continued on 6th June 2018 from 8:20 to 12:00. NOWPAP Marine Litter (ML) Focal Points (FPs), representatives of NOWPAP RACs and RCU attended the meeting. The meeting agenda and the list of participants are attached in Annex 2 and 3, respectively.

Agenda 1: Opening of the Meeting

1. The 2018 NOWPAP Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter (RAP MALI) Meeting was opened at 14:00 on Tuesday, June 5th, 2018 by Mr. Sang-Soon MYUNG, Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries (MOF), R. Korea, along with Mr. Lev NERETIN, NOWPAP RCU Senior Coordinator.

2. While RCU prepared documents for the 1st NOWPAP RAP MALI Focal Points Meeting, country’s representatives noted that without the adoption of the RAP MALI FPs Terms of Reference, the meeting could not be called as such. After the discussion, the meeting agreed to use the term “2018 NOWPAP RAP MALI Meeting” instead of “1st NOWPAP RAP MALI Focal Points Meeting”.

Agenda Item 2: Adoption of the agenda

3. NOWPAP RCU introduced the Provisional Agenda and Annotated Provisional Agenda (UNEP/NOWPAP/2018 RAP MALI Meeting/1-2). The agenda was reviewed and adopted.

Agenda Item 3: Terms of Reference for the NOWPAP RAP MALI Focal Points Meeting

4. Dr. Lev Neretin introduced the draft RAP MALI Focal Points Meeting Terms of Reference (ToR) (UNEP/NOWPAP/2018 RAP MALI Meeting/3) and acknowledged the fact that the draft ToR discussed by RAC and RAP MALI Focal Points at the beginning of 2018 was not circulated among NOWPAP Focal Points for approval two months before this RAP MALI meeting contrary to the respective Resolution 4 of the 22nd NOWPAP IGM. The meeting participants requested to review the ToR line by line during the meeting.

5. NOWPAP Programme Officer, Mr. Ning LIU, presented the ToR. After discussion, the meeting agreed on the revised ToR as attached in Annex 1. RCU will circulate the revised ToR among NOWPAP Focal Points after the RAP MALI meeting for adoption by correspondence.

Agenda Item 4: Progress reports of NOWPAP RCU an Regional Activity Centers

6. NOWPAP RCU and RACs representatives introduced progress made since the last meeting in 2017 and reported on the proposed activities for 2018-2019 biennium

Progress Report from NOWPAP RCU

7. NOWPAP Programme Officer, Mr. Ning LIU, presented the Progress Report from NOWPAP RCU. His presentation summarized progress made by member states and RACs with respect to the three elements of RAP MALI: prevention of marine litter inputs to marine and coastal environment, monitoring marine litter quantities and distribution, and removal of existing marine litter and its disposal. He also summarized discussions at the 2017 NOWPAP-TEMM workshop and ICC in 2017 in Japan, and presented the approved by the 22nd NOWPAP IGM RAP MALI work plan for 2018-2019.

Progress Reports from NOWPAP RACs
8. Mr. Takafumi YOSHIDA, senior researcher of CEARAC, presented the Progress Report from NOWPAP CEARAC and CEARAC marine litter activities for the 2018-2019 biennium: collecting information about national actions on microplastics and compilation of data on marine litter on the beaches and submitting the relevant data to DINRAC.

9. Mr. YAN Feng, Director of DINRAC, presented the progress Report from NOWPAP DINRAC. He concluded the DINRAC Secretariat is awaiting submission of marine litter data from member states; Japan is the only country who submitted historical data; other member states are encouraged to submit more historical data in particular data prior to 2010. He noted that DINRAC continues updating the website and make further improvements to ensure that it is user-friendly, easy to operate. New modules could be developed on a need-to-built basis. The ultimate goal is to make DINRAC a data hub and center for NOWPAP data and information exchange and sharing.

10. Ms. Joung Yun LEE, MERRAC Consultant, presented the Progress Report from NOWPAP MERRAC. Ms. Joung Yun LEE reported MERRAC’s progress on marine litter activities and reported on completed RAP MALI publications and projects from 2016-2017, followed by presentation of activities and budget for 2018-2019 biennium. MERRAC will cooperate with OSEAN, an Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) to complete the project on the state of floating marine debris in the NOWPAP region.

11. Mr. Anatolii KACHUR, Director of POMRAC, also reported about the progress of NOWPAP POMRAC marine litter activities for 2016-2017 biennium. Examples of activities included the organization of RAP MALI workshop and International Coast Cleanup (ICC) in 2016 and new data on microplastics contamination with river discharge in the Russian Far East region. Mr. Nikolai KOZLOVSKII continued the POMRAC progress report with regard to POMRAC’s 2018-2019 biennium workplan and budget for marine litter activities. He described the planned project aimed to continue surveying microplastics pollution in rivers and in the coastal zone of the Peter the Great Gulf in 2018-2019.

12. Mr. Xiangbin PEI raised concerns that the presented POMRAC budget proposal for 2018-2019 was significantly higher than the budget proposals presented by other RACs. POMRAC Secretariat and RCU responded that the presented by POMRAC biannual budget proposal includes funding from RAP MALI budget and also funding for regular POMRAC programme of work approved by the 22nd NOWPAP IGM and thus significantly higher than for other RACs. The meeting discussed the issue and decided to recommend for NOWPAP IGM that technical and budget clearance of all marine litter related activities of RACs and RCU should be within a purview of RAP MALI FPs before they are subsequently adopted by the IGM. Respective decision is included in Annex 1 below.

Agenda Item 5: NOWPAP Special Project “Monitoring and Assessment Methods for Microplastics pollution”: Summary

13. Mr. Lev NERETIN introduced the modality of NOWPAP Special Projects as discussed during the 22nd NOWPAP IGM (UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 22/11/Ver.1) and progress made since then, including major conclusions of the microplastics workshop held prior to the 2018 RAP MALI Meeting.

14. Mr. Liu RUIZHI, the lead expert from Chinese Research Academy of Environmental Sciences (CRAES) sent his regrets for not being able to attend the meeting in person. Instead the presentation of the NOWPAP Special Project was delivered by Dr. QingJia MENG.
15. RAP MALI FPs expressed their unanimous support for further project development and agreed with the proposed scope of project’s work as agreed at the Expert Workshop prior to the meeting. It was agreed that the Special Project would use existing microplastics monitoring criteria in NOWPAP countries and later develop a harmonized regional approach for microplastics pollution monitoring. Existing eco-toxicological studies of the impact of microplastics on the environment would be reviewed as a second component of the project. Monitoring of microplastics pollution would be carried out in selected sites in the NOWPAP region and a plan prepared for a regional programme for microplastics assessment and monitoring. Dr. Lev NERETIN concluded that RCU will draft and issue a contract to CRAES to develop full project proposal. Project development, funds mobilization, expert consultations will be conducted during August 2018 - Dec 2018. It is expected the proposal will be presented to the 23rd NOWPAP IGM in October 2018, and the Project implementation could be started in 2019.

**Agenda Item 6: Further development of the Northwest Pacific Regional Node of the Global Partnership on marine Litter (GPML)**

16. NOWPAP RCU updated the meeting about progress in further development of the Global Partnership on Marine Litter since the last meeting followed by the presentation of the proposed activities to develop further the Northwest Pacific Node in 2018-2019 by NOWPAP DINRAC Director, Mr. Feng Yan. The meeting discussed the need for closer cooperation among RACs and RCU to provide information and data for the Node. RCU suggested each RAC to nominate contact point for the Regional Node. DINRAC was requested to compile categories and format of data/information about marine litter in the NOWPAP region to be used for the Regional Node and share them with RAP MALI Focal Points. Further discussion between DINRAC, RCU and RACs is warranted to establish work flows and ensure close cooperation.

**Agenda Item 7: Feasibility of updating NOWPAP RAP MALI (2008)**

17. Dr. Lev NERETIN made a presentation providing justification for the necessity to update NOWPAP RAP MALI (2008) after about 10 years of successful implementation. After a long discussion and sharing of views, the participants suggested to prepare the Third Regional Overview of Marine Litter in NOWPAP Region as a first step. The latter should provide data and information as a rationale for the RAP MALI (2008) update. RCU was requested to prepare project proposal for the Third Regional Overview of Marine Litter in NOWPAP Region and submit for comments by RAP MALI FPs shortly after the meeting.

**Agenda Item 8: Follow-up and review of the SDG 14.1 using NOWPAP mechanisms**

18. Agenda Item 8 was not considered due to time constraints of the meeting. RCU indicated that this issue will be presented for consideration by the 23rd NOWPAP IGM.

**Agenda Item 9: Arrangements for the 2019 NOWPAP RAP MALI FP meeting**

19. NOWPAP RCU invited People’s Republic of China (P.R China) FP to propose a venue and timing for the 2019 NOWPAP RAP MALI FPM for meeting approval. The meeting accepted with much appreciation the invitation from Dalian City, of P.R. China to hold 2019 RAP MALI Focal Points Meeting together with 2019 NOWPAP-TEMM Marine Litter Management Workshop, and 2019 NOWPAP ICC (tentatively planned in September 2019).

**Agenda Item 10: Other matters**
20. RCU proposed to establish closer cooperation among members to facilitate participation of civil society in NOWPAP marine litter activities in the region and beyond. The example of 2018 joint NOWPAP-Asia-Pacific Civil Forum on Marine Litter held on June 5th 2018 concurrently with the 2018 RAP MALI Meeting was cited as an excellent example of cooperation as members of Civic Forum include all NOWPAP members as well as few leading NGOs working on marine litter in the South East Asia. After exchange of opinions, the meeting requested RCU to develop further terms of cooperation with the Asia-Pacific Civil Forum on Marine Litter in the next two months and submit to RAP MALI FPs for review.

Agenda Item 11: Adoption of the 20199 NOWPAP RAP MALI FPM decisions

21. NOWPAP RCU prepared and distributed decisions of the meeting. After the discussion, they were adopted as presented in Annex 1.

Closure of the meeting

22. The meeting was closed by the Mr. Sang-Soon Myung and Mr. Lev Neretin at 12:00 on June 6th, 2018.
Decisions of the 2018 NOWPAP RAP MALI Meeting

1. Implementing Resolution 4: RAP MALI of the 23rd NOWPAP IGM, RAP MALI Focal Points reviewed and agreed on the revised Terms of Reference (ToR) for the RAP MALI Focal Points Meeting as presented in Annex 1. RCU is requested to submit draft ToR to NOWPAP FPs within a week after the meeting for adoption by correspondence.

2. RAP MALI Focal Points reviewed the progress made and proposed RAP MALI related activities of NOWPAP RACs and RCU in 2018/2019 and provided the following recommendations:
   
   2.1 POMRAC Secretariat is requested to provide regular update about the progress and consult with RAP MALI Focal Points requesting their feedback on the report and participation in planned workshop where applicable with respect to the Activity “Microplastics abundance in river runoff and coastal waters of the NOWPAP region with a case study in the Russian coastal waters”;
   
   2.2 To avoid confusion with the allocation of funds for marine litter activities from RAP MALI budget and budget for RAC regular programme of work, RAP MALI Focal Points recommend 24th NOWPAP IGM to consider abolishing a separate budget envelope for RAP MALI activities. Instead, technical and budget clearance of all marine litter related activities of RACs and RCU before adoption of the biannual work programme and budget by IGM should be within a purview of RAP MALI FPs. The practice should be applied from NOWPAP Work Programme 2020-2021 onward.

3. Having considered NOWPAP special project Monitoring and Assessment Methods for Microplastics Pollution” and considering comments provided, recommend further development of the project according to a proposed approach and timeline.

4. The meeting discussed maintenance and further development of the NW Pacific Regional Node of GPML, including visual identity, categories of data and information, national inputs of relevant data and information from member states, and cooperation with RCU and RACs. Recommendations of the meeting should be compiled and submitted to DINRAC by RCU. The meeting requested RAC Secretariats and RCU to nominate contact point for the Regional Node. DINRAC is requested to compile categories and format of data/information about marine litter in the NOWPAP region to be used for the Regional Node.

5. NOWPAP RCU is requested to submit specific proposal for the Third Overview of Marine Litter (purpose, major directions and etc.) to RAP MALI Focal Points for comments within a month after the meeting.

6. Having considered RCU and Asia-Pacific Civil Forum on Marine Litter proposal on establishing closer cooperation to facilitate participation of civil society in marine litter activities in the region and beyond, requested RCU to develop further terms of cooperation in the next two months and submit to RAP MALI FPs for review.

7. Recommends updating NOWPAP RAP MALI (2008) in principle and agrees to initiate the process after completing the Third Overview of Marine Litter in the NOWPAP region that should, inter alia, identify gaps and needs of RAP MALI (2008).

8. Recommends including Agenda item 8: Follow up and review of SDG 14.1 using NOWPAP mechanism for consideration by the 23rd NOWPAP IGM.

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Terms of Reference
of the NOWPAP RAP MALI Focal Points Meeting

1. Background

1. The Tenth NOWPAP Intergovernmental Meeting (IGM) (24-26 November 2005, Toyama, Japan) approved the new directions for the NOWPAP Regional Activity Centers (RACs) and Regional Coordinating Unit (RCU), including new activities addressing marine litter pollution in the framework of Marine Litter Activity (MALITA) project. The project was implemented from November 2005 until December 2007 by RACs and coordinated by RCU. The overall objective of the MALITA project was to develop a NOWPAP Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter (RAP MALI).

2. The Eleventh NOWPAP IGM (20-22 December 2006, Moscow, Russia) approved the revision of the Terms of Reference of NOWPAP CEARAC, MERRAC, and POMRAC Focal Points Meeting to incorporate activities addressing marine litter issues and the implementation of RAP MALI (2008).

3. RAP MALI was approved by NOWPAP Member States by correspondence in March 2008 following the decision of the Twelve NOWPAP IGM (23-25 October 2007, Xiamen, the People’s Republic of China) as the next phase of NOWPAP MALITA project. RAP MALI consists of three key elements: prevention of marine litter input to the marine and coastal environment; monitoring of marine litter quantities and distribution; and removal of existing marine litter and its disposal. NOWPAP institutional infrastructure (IGM, RACs, RCU, and National Marine Litter Focal Points) are used for implementing RAP MALI in close collaboration with relevant organizations, programmes and projects.

4. Responding to global and regional needs to increase public awareness and engagement, in 2014, Northwest Pacific Environmental Cooperation Center (NPEC), host organization of the NOWPAP CEARAC, together with NOWPAP RCU has established the Northwest Pacific Regional Node of the Global Partnership on Marine Litter (GPML). The 22nd NOWPAP IGM (19-21 December 2017, Toyama, Japan) requested transfer of the Regional Node from NPEC to NOWPAP DINRAC.

5. The 22nd NOWPAP IGM requested development of Terms of Reference of RAP MALI Focal Points to reflect upon their strengthened role in overseeing all NOWPAP marine litter, including microplastics, activities and the further development of the Northwest Pacific Regional Node of the GPML, while respecting existing responsibilities of NOWPAP RACs Focal Points.

2. Objectives

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

3. Functions

8. Bearing in mind that the Intergovernmental Meeting is the governing body for the Northwest Pacific Action Plan, the functions of the NOWPAP RAP MALI Focal Points Meeting are:
- To identify cooperative actions in the Northwest Pacific region related to marine litter management;
- To carry out cooperative actions in the Northwest Pacific region in accordance with RAP MALI priorities to exchange information related to marine litter management;
- Subject to availability of funds, the meeting may establish a Working Group of experts comprised of the NOWPAP Member States and other participants to undertake specific functions related to the scientific and technical issues, including development of projects and programs;
- To coordinate, supervise, or discontinue the Working Group(s) established under RAP MALI;
- To promote and strengthen national coordinating mechanisms and national capabilities to address marine litter management as recommended by the RAP MALI;
- To assist in identifying gaps in scientific knowledge and promote information exchange and technical cooperation, including education, training and technology transfer in the fields related to marine litter management;
- To review the effectiveness of ongoing cooperative activities, and advise on necessary follow-up activities in the field of marine litter management;
- To disseminate information on the implementation of RAP MALI to a wide range of the public concerned;
- To perform other functions pursuant to the objectives and goals of NOWPAP and RAP MALI in the field of marine litter management.
- Advise, when necessary, NOWPAP Intergovernmental Meeting on amendments to the present Terms of Reference for the NOWPAP RAP MALI Focal Points Meeting.

4. Participation

9. The NOWPAP Member States shall be invited to participate in the NOWPAP RAP MALI Focal Points Meeting. The representative of each Member State - the RAP MALI Focal Point - should represent the relevant national agency having the responsibility and authority at the national level regarding marine litter management. The Focal Point himself/herself should have experience in marine litter management. Each representative may be accompanied by advisors as appropriate, such as a senior scientist(s) with sufficient experience in the field. It is expected that the NOWPAP
Member States would ensure that their delegations reflect the full range of national expertise and interests.

10. Relevant representatives of NOWPAP RACs shall be invited to participate in the NOWPAP RAP MALI Focal Points Meeting.

11. Other relevant regional bodies and organizations concerned with marine litter management may be invited to participate in the meeting as observers.

12. Relevant United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, as well as intergovernmental organizations, involved in marine litter management may be invited to participate in the meetings as observers.

13. Interested Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) that are willing to contribute to the work of these meetings may be invited as observers.

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

15. The meeting may invite observers from local authorities or private sector entities from the NOWPAP Member States as well as local or national NGOs, which may assist in the promotion of the work of the meeting in the host country. The NOWPAP Member States are responsible for distribution of documents to such observers and for other arrangements of their participation.

16. The term “Participants” in this document, refers to all representatives from government agencies, intergovernmental and nongovernmental organizations and private sector entities mentioned above.

17. The “observers” (non-NOWPAP Members participants, intergovernmental participants, and nongovernmental and private sector participants) may make oral statement on the matters within the scope of the activities of the meeting upon invitation of the Chairperson and subject to the approval of the meeting.

5. Sessions

18. It is expected that the NOWPAP RAP MALI Focal Points Meeting to be held once a year on a rotating basis between NOWPAP Member States. Each session of the Focal Points Meeting should discuss the timing of the subsequent session.

19. At each session, from the official representatives of the NOWPAP Member States, the meeting elects by consensus, meeting officers consisting of a Chairperson and a Rapporteur.

6. Tasks

20. The NOWPAP RAP MALI Focal Points Meeting carries out the following tasks:

- To review and report the implementation of RAP MALI and identify further activities, including revision of RAP MALI if necessary;
- To advise the Intergovernmental Meeting on the work plan and budget of RAP MALI activities through RCU;
- To review progress and provide recommendations on RACs activities related to marine litter;
- To review implementation and recommend for approval by the Intergovernmental Meeting the work plan and budget of RAP MALI activities undertaken by RCU and RACs;
- To review and recommend for publication technical reports related to marine litter prepared by RCU and RACs;
- To provide the Terms of Reference of the Working Groups supporting implementation of RAP MALI activities;
- To review project proposals and reports prepared by Working Groups;
- To recommend specific actions to the Intergovernmental Meeting promoting coordination of relevant RAC activities in the field of marine litter management;
- To review, facilitate access to data and information on marine litter in the NOWPAP region and beyond, including further development of the Northwest Pacific Regional Node of GPML;
- To implement other relevant tasks decided by NOWPAP IGM.

Intersessional work:

21. As a rule, the intersessional work shall be carried out mainly by correspondence among the participants without financial implications.

22. Subject to availability of funds, the intersessional work shall be carried out through meeting of experts, workshops and meetings of Working Groups.

7. Secretariat

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

8. Decisions

23. The NOWPAP RAP MALI Focal Points Meeting achieves decisions by consensus among the NOWPAP Member States.

9. Agenda

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

10. Budget and Expenses

25. The budget for the NOWPAP RAP MALI Focal Points Meeting and RAP MALI subsequent activities are supported by the NOWPAP Trust Fund. Other external funds shall also be sought in accordance with the development of RAP MALI activities.
11. Meeting Report

26. The NOWPAP RAP MALI Focal Points Meeting consider and adopt decisions at each of their sessions. The meeting report should be submitted to RAP MALI Focal Points for comments no later than one month after the meeting. NOWPAP RCU submits meeting reports to the NOWPAP Intergovernmental Meeting.

12. Language

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

1. Opening of the Meeting
2. Agenda Item 1: Organization of the Meeting and election of officers
3. Agenda Item 2: Adoption of the agenda
4. Agenda Item 3: Terms of Reference for the NOWPAP RAP MALI Focal Points Meeting
5. Agenda Item 4: Progress reports of NOWPAP RCU and Regional Activity Center
   5.1 Progress Report from NOWPAP RCU
   5.2 Progress Report from NOWPAP CEARAC
   5.3 Progress Report from NOWPAP DINRAC
   5.4 Progress Report from NOWPAP MERRAC
   5.5 Progress Report from NOWPAP POMRAC
6. Agenda Item 5: NOWPAP Special Project “Monitoring and Assessment Methods for Microplastic pollution”: Summary
7. Agenda item 6: Further development of the Northwest Pacific Regional Node of the Global Partnership on Marine Litter (GPML)
9. Agenda Item 8: Follow-up and review of the SDG 14.1 using NOWPAP mechanism
10. Agenda Item 9: Arrangements for the 2nd NOWPAP RAP MALI FP Meeting
11. Agenda Item 10: Other matters
12. Adoption of the 2018 NOWPAP RAP MALI Meeting decisions
13. Closure of the Meeting
ANNEX 2

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## ANNEX 3

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