

United Nations Environment Programme

# NOWPAP

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## Northwest Pacific Action Plan

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Third Extraordinary Intergovernmental Meeting of  
the Northwest Pacific Action Plan  
Virtual Meeting  
27 January 2021

## Report of the Meeting

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**List of Acronyms**

APN	Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research
CEARAC	Special Monitoring and Coastal Environmental Assessment Regional Activity Center
CNA	Competent National Authorities
COBSEA	Intergovernmental Meeting of the Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia
CRAES	Chinese Research Academy of Environmental Sciences
DINRAC	Data and Information Networking Regional Activity Center
eDNA	Environmental DNA
DLT	UNEP Ecosystems Division's Division Leadership Team
EAS	East Asian Seas
EcoQO(s)	Ecological Quality Objective(s)
FECO	Foreign Environmental Cooperation Centre
FPs	Focal Points
FPM	Focal Points Meeting
GEE	Google Earth Engine
GEO	Group on Earth Observations
GPA	Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities
GPML	Global Partnership on Marine Litter
HNS	Hazardous and Noxious Substances
HAB(s)	Harmful Algal Bloom(s)
HR	Human Resources
HQs	Headquarters
ICARM	Integrated Coastal and River Basin Management
ICC	International Coastal Cleanup campaign
IGM	Intergovernmental Meeting
IMO	International Maritime Organization
LLC	Limited Liability Company
MARPOL	International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships
MED	Marine Environmental Data
MERRAC	Marine Environmental Emergency Preparedness and Response Regional Activity Centre
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MEQ	Marine Environmental Quality Committee
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
NEAT	NOWPAP Eutrophication Assessment Tool
NOWPAP	Northwest Pacific Action Plan
NPEC	Northwest Pacific Region Environmental Cooperation Center

OPRC Convention	International Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response, and Cooperation
PCA	Project Cooperation Agreement
PEMSEA	Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia
PICES	North Pacific Marine Science Organization
PNL	PNL fund (NOWPAP activities)
POMRAC	Pollution Monitoring Regional Activity Center
PoW	Programme of Work
QNL	QNL funds (staffing 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
SDG(s)	Sustainable Development Goal(s)
SMART Indicators	Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Time-Bound
SOMER	State of the Marine Environment Report for the NOWPAP Region
SSFA	Small Scale Fund Agreement
TEMM	Tripartite Environment Ministers Meeting (China, Japan, Korea)
ToR	Terms of Reference
UNEA	UN Environment Assembly
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme

## Introduction

1. The 1<sup>st</sup> Intergovernmental Meeting (IGM), held on 14 September 1994 in Seoul, the Republic of Korea<sup>1</sup>, adopted the Action Plan for the Protection, Management, and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Northwest Pacific Region (NOWPAP). The 2<sup>nd</sup> IGM (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 4<sup>th</sup> IGM (6-7 April 1999, Beijing, the People's Republic of China<sup>2</sup>) agreed to establish four Regional Activity Centers (RACs). The 5<sup>th</sup> IGM (29-30 March 2000, Incheon, Korea) adopted a procedure for establishing the NOWPAP Regional Coordinating Unit (RCU) and its Terms of Reference (ToR). The 8<sup>th</sup> IGM (5-7 November 2003, Sanya, China) approved the text of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the 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.

2. Since the inception of NOWPAP, the Member States have acknowledged the importance of setting up an RCU as a fundamental prerequisite for the successful implementation of the Action Plan. In Resolution #2 of the 6<sup>th</sup> IGM, the NOWPAP Member States decided to accept the offers of the Governments of Japan and the Republic of Korea to co-host RCU offices in Toyama (Japan) and Busan (Korea), respectively. Following NOWPAP Members' request, UNEP has recruited six staff members of the RCU; the RCU offices were inaugurated in early November 2004 in Toyama and Busan, respectively.

3. The 10<sup>th</sup> IGM (24-26 November 2005, Toyama, Japan) decided to start the Marine Litter Activity (MALITA) in the NOWPAP region, to expand the geographical coverage of the NOWPAP Oil Spill Regional Contingency Plan (RCP) and to initiate new directions of work for the NOWPAP RACs. The 11<sup>th</sup> IGM (20-22 December 2006, Moscow, the Russian Federation<sup>3</sup>) decided to evaluate the performance of NOWPAP RACs in 2007 to enhance their efficiency and effectiveness further. The meeting approved the revised Terms of Reference (ToR) of the NOWPAP RCU and the Focal Points Meetings of CEARAC, MERRAC, and POMRAC. It also adopted the General NOWPAP Policy on Data and Information Sharing to facilitate information exchange among the Member States and related organizations.

4. The 13<sup>th</sup> IGM (20-21 October 2008, Jeju, Korea) decided to conduct an RCU performance review to assess the effectiveness, efficiency, and relevance of RCU activities related to the overall goal and objectives of NOWPAP, including achievements of planned outputs. The 13<sup>th</sup> IGM also approved a NOWPAP Regional Oil and HNS (Hazardous and Noxious Substances) Spill Contingency Plan. The 14<sup>th</sup> IGM (8-10 December 2009, Toyama, Japan) discussed the enhancement of the NOWPAP RCU performance, based on a performance review, and requested the NOWPAP RCU, in close consultation with all NOWPAP RACs, to develop a draft NOWPAP Medium-term Strategy (MTS) with the aim to facilitate effective and efficient implementation of the Action Plan. The 15<sup>th</sup> IGM (16-18 November 2010, Moscow, Russia) requested NOWPAP RCU to further revise MTS in close collaboration with RACs to reflect

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<sup>1</sup> The Republic of Korea (the official name of the country) or South Korea is referred to further in the text as Korea.

<sup>2</sup> The People's Republic of China (the official name of the country) is referred to further in the text as China.

<sup>3</sup> The Russian Federation (the official name of the country) is referred to further in text as Russia.

Member States' suggestions. The meeting agreed that the Government of Korea would prepare a draft paper addressing the future financial situation of NOWPAP to be discussed at the 16<sup>th</sup> IGM.

5. The 16<sup>th</sup> IGM (20-22 December 2011, Beijing, China) adopted the revised TOR of the NOWPAP RCU and reviewed the NOWPAP MTS 2012-2017 (adopted later by correspondence). While appreciating an increased contribution of Russia to the Trust Fund, the meeting agreed that the Government of Korea would further revise the draft paper to improve the future financial situation of NOWPAP and circulate it among the Member States for comments and suggestions before the 17<sup>th</sup> IGM. The 17<sup>th</sup> IGM (1-2 November 2012, Jeju, Korea) requested the RCU to prepare a scoping paper by June 2013 on possible measures to improve the financial situation of NOWPAP for further consideration at the 18<sup>th</sup> IGM. The meeting also requested NOWPAP RCU to continue working closely with UNEP and IMO to obtain an observer status for NOWPAP at IMO meetings by finalizing an Agreement of Cooperation between UNEP and IMO. The Agreement of Cooperation between UNEP and IMO was countersigned and came into force on February 28, 2014.

6. The 18<sup>th</sup> IGM (4-6 December 2013, Toyama, Japan) agreed on a scale of contributions to the NOWPAP Trust Fund for the next two years, reflecting an increased contribution from the Korea starting from 2014. The meeting approved the Agreement of Cooperation with IMO granting NOWPAP observer status at the IMO meetings and conferences. As some important decisions had to be made after the meeting, the Member States adopted the meeting resolutions through correspondence in April 2014. The Meeting agreed to hold an Extraordinary IGM in Korea in April 2014 to consider possible decisions on measures to address the hosting countries' concerns over the financial sustainability of RCU to comply with the Host Country Agreements. The meeting asked UNEP to conduct an audit of the NOWPAP RCU.

7. The 1<sup>st</sup> Extraordinary NOWPAP IGM (9-10 April 2014, Seoul, Korea) decided to reduce the total number of RCU staff to the maximum of four individuals and requested UNEP to conduct a functional review of the NOWPAP RCU offices in Toyama and Busan two years after the recruitment of the last staff member. The meeting also decided to discuss functions of new posts for the two RCU offices at the 19<sup>th</sup> NOWPAP IGM to be held in Russia in the second half of 2014. This would conclude the discussions on appropriate measures to improve the financial sustainability of the RCU offices.

8. The 19<sup>th</sup> IGM (20-22 October 2014, Moscow, Russia) decided to evaluate the progress of implementation of the NOWPAP Medium-term Strategy 2012-2017 at the 20<sup>th</sup> IGM. Financial Rules and Procedures of 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.

9. At the 2<sup>nd</sup> Extraordinary NOWPAP IGM (1-2 April 2015, Seoul, Korea), the Member States finalized the discussions on the NOWPAP RCU staffing (with four professional positions for UN staff members in both RCU offices) and approximate timing of the recruitment of personnel (around February 2016). It was also decided that fund management support services would be

provided by UNEP Headquarters in Nairobi, to be covered by NOWPAP Project Support Cost (PSC).

10. The 20<sup>th</sup> NOWPAP IGM (28-30 October 2015, Beijing, China) approved the NOWPAP Programme of Work (PoW) 2016-2017 and requested RAC directors, in consultation with the Focal Points in the Member States, to prepare detailed work plans with quarterly milestones to facilitate monitoring of the progress of implementation in line with the approved budget and NOWPAP 2016-2017 PoW. The meeting also decided that MTS 2018-2023 to be prepared in close collaboration between Member States, NOWPAP RCU and RACs,

11. The 21<sup>st</sup> NOWPAP IGM (23-24 November 2016, Seoul, Korea) requested RCU, with support of RACs' Directors and in consultation with the Member States and NOWPAP partners, to finalize the NOWPAP Medium-term Strategy 2018-2023 (MTS 2018-2023) and prepare revised ToR of the NOWPAP RCU for the adoption by the 22<sup>nd</sup> NOWPAP IGM.

12. The 22<sup>nd</sup> NOWPAP IGM (19-21 November 2017, Toyama, Japan) agreed on principles of the MTS 2018-2023, approved the NOWPAP PoW 2018-2019 with a total budget of US\$1,300,000. The meeting adopted the revised ToR of the NOWPAP RCU and requested the NOWPAP RCU, in consultation with the NOWPAP RAP MALI Focal Points, to prepare ToR of the national RAP MALI Focal Points. Furthermore, the meeting approved a budget envelope of up to US\$95,000 for the 2018-2019 biennium to develop two project proposals.

13. The 23<sup>rd</sup> NOWPAP IGM (9-11 October 2018, Moscow, Russia) approved a public version of MTS 2018-2023 and adopted ToR of the NOWPAP RAP MALI Focal Points Meeting.

14. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, the proposed IGM could not be held in Beijing, China, in February 2020. After several rounds of consultations with the NOWPAP Member States, the Programme of Work for 2020-2021 and associated budget were approved by the NOWPAP Member States on 18 May 2020 by correspondence. It was also proposed to approve major meeting documents by correspondence and organize a virtual meeting, named as the Third Extraordinary NOWPAP IGM, on 27 January 2021 instead of the 24<sup>th</sup> NOWPAP IGM, as ToR for the NOWPAP Intergovernmental Meeting related to hosting of and chairing the meeting could not be strictly followed.

15. The meeting was attended by representatives of the NOWPAP Member States, namely China, Japan, Korea and Russia, NOWPAP Regional Activity Centres (RACs) and Regional Coordinating Unit (RCU), UNEP, including several UNEP-administered Regional Seas Programmes and Action Plans, the Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA), and several officers from the Shandong Maritime Safety Administration of China.

## **Agenda Item 1: Opening of the meeting**

16. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Extraordinary NOWPAP IGM was opened on Wednesday, 27 January 2021, at 3:00 pm (Tokyo and Seoul local time) by Ms. Natalia Tretiakova, the Head of Delegation of Russia, who chaired the 23<sup>rd</sup> NOWPAP IGM. Ms. Natalia Tretiakova welcomed participants and highlighted that it was important to enhance the NOWPAP Regional Activity Centers' role in implementing various NOWPAP activities. She pointed out that Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are on the top of the agenda of major Regional Seas organizations. She wished this meeting to significantly contribute to the implementation of the Northwest Pacific Action Plan.

17. Mr. Xiangbin Pei, the Head of Delegation of China, expressed his gratitude to all Member States and RCU for their hard work in preparing for this meeting. He briefed the action plans adopted by the Chinese Government on addressing pollution and highlighted the success of the NOWPAP-TEMM Marine Litter Management Workshop and the International Coastal Cleanup Campaign organized in September 2019 in Dalian, China.

18. Mr. Atsushi Iwasaki, the Head of Delegation of Japan, welcomed the new NOWPAP Coordinator, Dr. Yegor Volovik, to the NOWPAP family. He highlighted that "Osaka Blue Ocean Vision" aiming to reduce additional pollution by marine plastic litter to zero by 2050. He stated that the currently ongoing revision of the NOWPAP Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter (RAP MALI) would contribute to the Vision and suggested the NOWPAP Special Project on microplastics pollution to explore the additional funding opportunities, for instance, from the GEF.

19. Mr. Hyunsoo Yun, the Head of Delegation of Korea, congratulated Ms. Natalia Tretiakova with her Chairpersonship. He stressed the importance of concerted efforts to address the global challenges and wished the NOWPAP delegations of the Member States to be able to meet in-person in the second half of 2021.

20. Ms. Kerstin Stendahl, the Head of UNEP Delegation, delivered a statement on behalf of the UNEP Executive Director, Ms. Inger Andersen. Ms. Kerstin Stendahl introduced the upcoming United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-5), the new UNEP Medium-Term Strategy. She also highlighted that NOWPAP continued to be an important mechanism that contributed to the global agendas and expressed gratitude to the current level of collaboration with NOWPAP and further intention to work closely with NOWPAP to strengthen the roles and mandate of the Regional Seas Programme.



## **Agenda Item 2: Organization of the Meeting Agenda Item**

### **Agenda Item 2(a): Election of officers**

21. In discussions between RCU and the Member States in advance of the meeting, it had been coordinated by correspondence that Russia would be the Chair of this meeting in the capacity of the Chair of the 23<sup>rd</sup> NOWPAP IGM. The Chair suggested to follow the usual NOWPAP practice to elect Vice-Chairpersons and a Rapporteur. The Meeting elected the following officers from representatives of the Member States:

Chairperson: Ms. Natalia TRETIKOVA (Russia)

Vice-Chairperson: Mr. Atsushi IWASAKI (Japan)

Vice-Chairperson: Mr. Hyunsoo YUN (Korea)

Rapporteur: Mr. Xiangbin PEI (China)

### **Agenda Item 2(b): Organisation of work**

22. The meeting participants decided that Rules of Procedures of the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA) would be applied during the meeting with necessary adjustments (i.e., the meeting to be conducted in English, and decisions to be made by consensus).

### **Agenda Item 2 (c): Presentation of credentials**

23. The Chair, Ms Natalia Tretiakova, inquired RCU about the Delegations' credentials. The NOWPAP Coordinator, Dr. Yegor Volovik, confirmed that since the resolutions would be adopted by correspondence after the meeting, the credentials had not been requested prior to the meeting. All Member States had sent letters of support and lists of national delegations to RCU in due time before the 3<sup>rd</sup> Extraordinary IGM. The supporting letters and lists of the delegations were duly accepted.

### **Agenda Item 2(d): Adoption of the agenda**

24. Dr. Yegor Volovik, NOWPAP Coordinator, introduced the provisional agenda (UNEP/NOWPAP IG. EO23/1) and the annotated agenda (UNEP/NOWPAP IG. EO 23/2).

25. Mr. Hyunsoo Yun of Korea commented on Agenda item 4 and inquired whether the Member States had an opportunity to review and provide comments on the implementation of the PoW 2020-2021 (the current biennium). Furthermore, Korea proposed to include the reform of RACs into the "Any Other Business" session of the meeting.

26. The NOWPAP Coordinator responded that the meeting was considering the implementation of the NOWPAP PoW 2018-2019 on its status as of December 2019. The implementation of PoW 2020-2021 had been reported to the Member States every quarter since 18 May 2020, following conditions of the approval by Korea of PoW 2020-2021 by correspondence (UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 24/12, Table 1). Since the meeting was designed for a three-hour discussions, the time available could be insufficient to cover the progress in the current biennium 2020-2021. A reform of RACs would be further discussed in Agenda 6.

27. Delegations adopted the agenda without a revision.

### **Agenda Item 3: Status of the implementation of resolutions of the 23<sup>rd</sup> NOWPAP Intergovernmental Meeting**

28. The NOWPAP Coordinator, Dr. Yegor Volovik, presented the status of implementing resolutions adopted at the 23<sup>rd</sup> NOWPAP IGM (UNEP/NOWPAP IG.EO3/3, UNEP/NOWPAP IG.EO3/4-1, IG.EO3/4-2, IG.EO3/4-3, IG.EO3/4-4; UNEP/NOWPAP IG.EO3/5) including the status of the NOWPAP Trust Fund and contributions by the NOWPAP Member States as of Dec 2019. Among 23 resolutions, 16 of them were completed. Seven are delayed or ongoing due to various reasons. Among 38 activities under PoW 2018-2019, 34 were completed, four were delayed. The status of NOWPAP Trust Funds is healthy.

29. During the discussion, Japan commented that a surplus in the NOWPAP Trust Funds at the end of 2019 was still high, and expressed the concern that the amount of the reserve would further grow caused by the challenges of budget expenditures in 2020-2021 due to the delay of the implementation of the programmes during the COVID-19 pandemic. RCU and RACs should expedite the implementation of planned activities to avoid additional delays.

30. The NOWPAP Coordinator responded that the budget for the PoW for 2020-2021, likewise the PoW 2018-2019, had been increased by 30% to expedite a reduction of the surplus in the NOWPAP Trust Fund. It was also noted that RCU and RACs should further explore ways to expedite spending the funds available and implement activities in the difficult times of COVID-19.

31. The Head of Delegation of Korea, Mr. Hyunsoo Yun, expressed their concern about the promotion of the NOWPAP MTS 2018-2023. RCU was expected to circulate the public version as soon as possible. Mr. Yun emphasized the importance of fiscal sustainability of NOWPAP and encouraged RCU and RACs to mobilize additional resources.

32. Dr. Guozhi Liu of China also encouraged RCU and RACs to mobilize financial resources and requested RCU to analyze the financial situation and identify the financial gaps. It was stressed that further resource mobilization activities needed to be coordinated with the Member States.

33. The NOWPAP Coordinator responded that RCU and RACs were busy implementing the PoW 2020-2021 aligned with the NOWPAP MTS 2018-2023. The mobilization of additional funds was to promote the implementation of the NOWPAP MTS. For example, one of the current projects implemented by CEARAC is scaling-up of the NOWPAP Eutrophication Assessment Tool (NEAT) that had been developed for the NOWPAP region. One of key outcomes of the project would be applicability of NEAT in other geographical regions and globally.

34. The NOWPAP Coordinator summarized the process of confirmation of the contributions of the Member States to the NOWPAP Trust Fund in 2020 by correspondence. After confirmation of the process by the Member States in 2020, the Member States confirmed their contributions to the NOWPAP Trust Fund in 2021 being at the same level as in 2020. Each Member State confirmed their contribution to the NOWPAP Trust Fund in 2021 in the amount of US\$ 125,000.

**Agenda Item 4: Information of NOWPAP Programme of Work for 2020-2021 as approved by email on 18 May, 2020**

35. The NOWPAP Coordinator presented the document UNEP/NOWPAP IG. EO 3/9. He pointed out several delay in achieving outcomes of Priority Area 1 of the MTS 2018-2023: "Support Ecosystem-Based Integrated Coastal and River Basin Management (ICARM)".

36. The Head of Delegation of Korea inquired about the status of the implementation of PoW for 2020-2021. The NOWPAP Coordinator responded that three reports had been already provided to the Member States, i.e., a Baseline report, and Quarterly reports for Q2 and Q3 of 2020. The quarterly report for Q4 of 2020 would be circulated within one week after the meeting.

37. The Head of Delegation of Korea proposed the draft resolution regarding expediting the implementation of PoW and promised provide their input in writing<sup>4</sup>.

**Agenda item 5: Report on unaccomplished activities of NOWPAP Programme of Work 2018-2019 to be continued in 2020-2021****Agenda item 5.(a): Progress of the development of the NOWPAP Regional Action Plan on Marine and Coastal Biodiversity (RAP BIO)**

38. Dr. Ning Liu, NOWPAP Programme Officer, presented the progress of developing RAP BIO. He briefed that the draft Roadmap for the Development of RAP BIO and the Background document had been submitted to the NOWPAP Member States in December 2019. After the PoW for 2020-2021 was approved on 18 May 2020, an international consultant was hired to provide technical leadership to RAP BIO's development. A draft BIO had been circulated among nominated experts and RACs for comments on 9 December 2020. The revised RAP BIO would be submitted to the NOWPAP Focal Points in March 2021 for national consultations. It was expected that the text would be finalized by September 2021.

39. Mr. Atsushi Iwasaki of Japan expressed appreciation the efforts by RCU and CEARAC in developing RAP BIO. The Aichi Target on biodiversity conservation had not been met. NOWPAP would be expected expedite this work and demonstrate how the Member States could address this challenge in the NOWPAP region after the CBD COP15 adopts the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

40. The meeting took note of the progress of the development of RAP BIO.

**Agenda item 5.(b): NOWPAP Special Projects: Progress and Status**

41. The NOWPAP Programme Officer, Dr. Ning Liu, presented the progress in developing and implementing NOWPAP Special Projects, including lessons learned. The Special Projects included: the Projects "Identification of key indicator species and ecosystems of biodiversity change in the NOWPAP region" and "Monitoring and Assessment Methods for Microplastics Pollution".

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<sup>4</sup> The text was provided after the meeting and incorporated into the Draft Resolutions of the Meeting.

42. On the Special Project on microplastics, Dr. Ning Liu presented background information and a schedule and further steps in the development of the microplastic project:

- An SSFA with the leading agency was signed on 12 December 2019
- The SSFA required amending due to a delay in payment caused by an error in banking details of the beneficiary (beyond control of the parties) and was amended on 14 Oct 2020
- First draft of the project proposal to be submitted by 30 Jun 2021
- National inputs of the Member States to be expected by 31 July 2021
- Presentation of the project proposal to the Member States to be expected by Jan 2022
- Detailed project proposal to be completed by 31 March 2022.

43. As for the special project on biodiversity, Dr. Liu from RCU reminded the meeting that the leading organization submitted a project proposal to the 22<sup>nd</sup> IGM in 2017. The project was also presented to and supported by the 16<sup>th</sup> CEARAC FPM and 15<sup>th</sup> POMRAC FPM. However, since the key experts later became unavailable for implementing the project, the lead agency suggested terminating it. Following this request, RCU suggested terminating the biodiversity project.

44. In the discussion, following RCU presentation on special projects, Mr. Hyunsoo Yun of Korea noted that the microplastic project was significantly behind schedule and not all experts agreed on the harmonization of the assessment methods in the region. He suggested that RCU and the lead agency conduct a comparative study to explore other achievable objectives.

45. Dr. Guozhi Liu of China suggested revising the draft resolution and requested to include a notion that all focal points on marine litter to engage in resource mobilization. The proposed wording would be sent to RCU after the meeting.

46. Concerning the biodiversity special project, Mr. Atsushi Iwasaki of Japan noted that it was not immediately ready to approve terminating the project just because of the reason provided by the RCU, and suggested RCU to provide background information and an analysis to the NOWPAP Focal Points to consider whether to continue or terminate this project.

47. Mr. Hyunsoo Yun of Korea suggested conducting a feasibility study to assess the situation before granting the project. New innovative methods and tools could be applied for supporting the achievement of outcomes of MTS 2018-2023. Korea also requested RCU to: (i) prepare an analytical paper on improving the operational procedures and business methods of the NOWPAP special projects and (ii) develop draft Guidelines on preparing new NOWPAP special projects for consideration by the 24<sup>th</sup> IGM.

48. The Chair, Ms. Natalia Tretiakova, summarized that the proposal of RCU to terminate the biodiversity project was not supported and encouraged to continue efforts in finding alternative leading scientists to implement this project, and present alternatives if such efforts did not bear fruit. Korea also suggested finding a new scientist to continue the activity.

49. After discussion, the Chair proposed a decision to suspend the project pending a report from the RCU regarding its continuation or termination to be included in draft resolutions of the meeting on this agenda item (see UNEP/NOWPAP IG. 24/13, Resolution 5).

**Agenda item 5.(c): Draft NOWPAP Communication Strategy (2018-2023) and New NOWPAP Promotional Videos**

50. The NOWPAP Coordinator presented the progress in developing the NOWPAP Communication and Outreach Strategy and promotional videos (UNEP/NOWPAP IG. EO3/10) and reported on the current efforts and recommend next steps to finalize the Strategy and the videos.

51. On the Communication and Outreach Strategy, it was mentioned that the current document did not cover several important issues:

- Stakeholder analysis is insufficiently developed, there were gaps
- Audience segmentation (and methods) were not clearly articulated
- Internal communication was not well designed
- Positioning for the desired change
- An Implementation plan and a Monitoring and evaluation plan (media, web) were missing
- Implementation and M&E Budget (total, annual) were not assessed.

52. The following finalization process was also presented to the meeting:

- 2019-2020 (COMPLETED): RACs Reviewed, Discussed at RCU-RAC Meeting 2019, RCU developed ToR for Revision of NOWPAP Communication Strategy
- 2020 (COMPLETED): Consultations with the Member States on ToR, comments and feedback collected and addressed, ToR finalized and approved by UNEP HQs
- Feb-May 2021 (ONGOING): Recruitment of an International consultant to revise the Communications and Outreach Strategy for MTS 2018-2023
- 2021: Approval of a draft Communication and Outreach Strategy by the Member States by correspondence to be organized by RCU, start of implementation of the Strategy
- Q3 2023: Review of Communications efforts, development of recommendations on improvement and lessons learned.

53. For the five promotional videos, it was reported that RCU had received sixty two comments from the Member States and RACs. It was proposed to:

- Rewrite scripts of the videos to be subject to approval by Member States (May 2021)

- Reproduce videos to be submitted for approval by the National NOWPAP Focal Points by correspondence and to launch the videos at 24<sup>th</sup> IGM (2021 end).

54. Dr. Guozhi Liu of China noted the progress in developing the NOWPAP Communication and Outreach Strategy and encouraged Member States' National Focal Points to consider further steps towards the completion and approval.

55. Mr. Hyunsoo Yun of Korea pointed out the RCU had not updated NOWPAP website and Facebook timely. RCU responded that the new section of the website had been updated regularly. The published newsletters would be uploaded within one week. UNEP had introduced very strict rules on social media and did not allow to have separate social media pages. All communication efforts of UNEP-affiliated offices through the Communication Division of UNEP. That was the reason of abandoning the NOWPAP Facebook page.

56. Dr. Xiangbin Pei of China commented that the Communication Strategy needed to contribute to the awareness-raising and outreach efforts and to help providing additional knowledge to people, particularly in the field of abatement of the marine plastics pollution.

57. Mr. Hyunsoo Yun of Korea commented that the Communication Strategy needed to promote the awareness-raising efforts also on addressing adverse impacts of disasters and extreme events. Dr. Seong-Gil Kang, Director of MERRAC, requested to support awareness-raising during oil spill incidents, so that NOWPAP activities could be further promoted. MERRAC also conducted response training and information exchange in case of actual accidents using relevant standardized procedure guidelines such as International Offers of Assistance (IOA) of International Maritime Organization (IMO). He pointed out that this is a good example and such an approach would be a very useful cooperation method. The NOWPAP Coordinator, Dr. Yegor Volovik, supported both interventions and mentioned that specific thematic focus and messages to be included in the Communication and Outreach efforts needed to be meticulously analysed, corresponding efforts developed and be incorporated into further efforts in reaching out to various NOWPAP audiences.

58. After discussion, the meeting accepted the proposed steps and a schedule to complete the Communication and Outreach Strategy and the videos (see above, paragraphs 52 and 53).

#### **Agenda item 5 d. NOWPAP MTS Monitoring and Evaluation Framework**

59. The NOWPAP Coordinator presented the NOWPAP MTS Monitoring and Evaluation Framework (UNEP/NOWPAP IG. EO3/INF/4). He briefed the issues identified in the current document and proposed the process to finalize the Framework.

60. It was mentioned that the Monitoring and Evaluation Framework had been already presented to the 23<sup>rd</sup> IGM. The 23<sup>rd</sup> IGM included the following recommendations in the resolutions: (i) to continue consultations with the Member States and RACs on M&E Framework with specific focus on the proposed indicators, (ii) indicators included in M&E Framework needed to be clearly linked to activities of RCU and RACs rather than other, also global, frameworks, (iii) to ensure a rigorous analysis of the proposed indicators by and agreement on those with RACs.

61. Following instructions from the 23<sup>rd</sup> IGM, in 2019 RCU organized a meeting with RACs and following the deliberations at the meeting and a follow-up analysis, the following drawbacks were identified:

- Ambiguous wording found, often not relevant to NOWPAP PoW
- No baseline
- Incompatible scales (MTS, SDGs, sub-indicators) and a confusing structure
- Some indicators had no measurement units (not meeting the SMART indicators standards)
- No targets (not time-bound)
- No indicators to evaluate NOWPAP Units (RCU, RACs)
- A further detailed institutional assessment was recommended
- No funding was allocated to implement M&E Framework.

62. As for the further steps it was proposed to:

- March 2021: RCU to develop ToR for a Mid-Term Review based on existing guidance documents (UNEP, GEF)
- May 2021: Consultations with the Member States on ToR, Comments Addresse
- May-Sep 2021: An International Consultant to carry out a NOWPAP Mid-Term Review of MTS 2018-2023 is recruited
- 2022: RCU and RACs, supported by an International Consultant – Completion of MTS M&E Framework
- Q3 2023: MTS 2018-2023 Implementation - Final Review.

63. Mr. Hyunsoo Yun of Korea suggested developing a timetable for the Mid-Term Review. The NOWPAP Coordinator responded that RCU would develop a ToR for the Mid-Term Review. A set of criteria used by the GEF and UN agencies would be applied.

64. Dr. Guozhi Liu of China suggested RCU to provide the guideline documents designed by GEF and/or UNEP for reference.

### **Agenda item 6: Overview of and discussions on arrangements and work of NOWPAP and required adjustments of the IGM process in 2021 in the prolonged COVID-19 pandemic**

65. The NOWPAP Coordinator proposed to discuss the following:

- a. Adjustments required to modus operandi of NOWPAP 2021 and beyond
- b. 24<sup>th</sup> IGM in 2021 (virtual vs. in-person, possible options of combining)
- c. Chair of 24<sup>th</sup> IGM and following IGMs
- d. Funds saved due to restrictions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic (traveling, meetings, some activities, etc.).

66. As the Chair of the meeting, Ms Natalia Trtiakova of Russia introduced and opened the discussion on Agenda Item 6. She emphasized the importance of an agreed decision by the Member States on organizing future IGMs. She stressed that the current IGM was held *in lieu* of the postponed 24<sup>th</sup> IGM in Beijing, China, from early 2020. It was critical to learn the views of the NOWPAP Member States on the organization of future IGMs.

67. Also, Ms. Natalia Tretiakova, as the National Focal of Russia, proposed to organize the next 24<sup>th</sup> NOWPAP IGM, also virtually, in the middle of 2021 under the Chairmanship of China. She stressed that the IGM should not be a short one-day meeting for 3-4 hours, but at least during 2-3 days for 3 hours a day to account for the time difference and allow for detailed discussions on meeting's agenda. She further pointed out that if the situation with the COVID-19 pandemic allowed, the 25<sup>th</sup> IGM could be organized at the end of 2021 in-person in Korea and the 26<sup>th</sup> IGM, also in-person, in 2022 in Japan. Ms Tretiakova invited the Member States to present their views on the organization of future meetings.

68. Dr. Guozhi Liu of China stated that due to the serious situation of COVID 19, it was difficult to predict when the COVID would end. China proposed to have one IGM this year. The NOWPAP work in 2020 has been conducted smoothly, and the PoW was adopted by correspondence. The NOWPAP Member States had to live and function in a new normal. China proposed that RCU made coordination by email and kept the Focal Points updated. Since many global events would be organized in 2021 virtually, China proposed to convene the next IGM at the end of this year. China would chair the meeting. Due to the budget allocated to the IGM scheduled in February 2020 had been returned to the Treasury of China, it was difficult to organize a face to face meeting, since no budget was available. China suggested to organize a virtual meeting. RCU expressed its readiness to support with organization and technical platform for the meeting, if needed.

69. Mr. Atsushi Iwasaki of Japan stated that there was no urgent issue this year, so it was unnecessary to have two IGMs this year. The proposal of China was supported. Japan supported organizing the IGMs in the original order of rotation of the Member States hosting IGMs.

70. Mr. Hyunsoo Yun of Korea stated that they understood the argumentation of China. Korea was ready to meet face to face, and the meeting should be held within this year. Korea had a concern about how many activities could be implemented.

71. Following this discussion, it was agreed to organize the 24<sup>th</sup> IGM at the end of 2021 virtually, and China would chair the meeting.

72. As an example of additional NOWPAP activities, Ms Natalia Tretiakova, in the capacity of the National Focal Point of Russia, proposed to introduce an annual NOWPAP recognition award. The most outstanding contributors to achievements of NOWPAP since 1994, and their role in these achievements could be recognized by the award. It was proposed to initiate this tradition at the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of NOWPAP in 2024, and to issue such an award annually.

73. Mr. Hyunsoo Yun of Korea responded that it's better to have the award ceremony every two or three years. China would give feedback after receiving details. Japan provided no comments on this initiative. The meeting requested RCU to work closely with Russia as the proponent and develop a NOWPAP Award concept to recognize outstanding achievements in



the implementation of NOWPAP to be launched in 2024 at the celebrations of the 30<sup>th</sup> NOWPAP Anniversary and submit it for consideration to the 24<sup>th</sup> IGM.

74. Mr. Hyunsoo Yun of Korea also stated that RACs' TORs were outdated, it was difficult to implement the NOWPAP activities effectively. In order to discuss further how to improve the governance and performance of NOWPAP RACs at the next 24<sup>th</sup> IGM, Korea proposed RCU to prepare a positioning paper on an assessment of the *modus operandi* of NOWPAP RACs and the collaboration between RCU and RACs. It was stated critical to improve the overall operation of NOWPAP and operation of individual RACs in terms of an efficient division of activities, better collaboration or coordination, re-prioritization of mandates, including possible options for discussions and timetable to address this issue. This positioning paper was proposed to be subject for consideration by the 24<sup>th</sup> IGM.

75. The NOWPAP Coordinator responded that RCU supported this initiative and would propose a methodology and design the survey, which could be decided on in consultation with the Member States. Korea offered to send a proposed text to RCU after the meeting by email.

76. As for the Agenda Item 7 (Statements by NOWPAP Member States and observers), the Chair stressed that due to the time constraints, the Member States and observers were requested to send their statements to RCU by email after the meeting.

77. Mr. Keiji NAKASHIMA from Japan highlighted the "Osaka Blue Ocean Vision" and the second G20 report on Actions against Marine Plastic Litter was prepared in November 2020. To combat marine plastic litter, it was important to take measures throughout the whole plastic life cycle. It was stressed that Japan was working to promote environmentally friendly design that considered the waste treatment process from the product design stage and towards enacting a new law to promote the recycling of plastic resources and the amount of plastic that flew out of Japan into the ocean was expected to decrease further. Japan also attached great importance to the UNEA process and would like to accelerate its international efforts toward UNEA-5. Specifically, Japan would like to make the Osaka Blue Ocean Vision a common global vision while involving multi-stakeholders, including many countries, private organizations, and various institutions, such as NOWPAP, to implement measures.

78. Mr. Guo Peng from the Shandong Maritime Safety Administration of China proposed that the NOWPAP Member States continued to strengthen the capacity building in marine pollution preparedness and response during the COVID-19 situation and to maintain the information sharing and coordination framework in terms of marine pollution accident to provide a safe and sound maritime environment for the global efforts in fighting the COVID-19 pandemic.

## **Agenda Item 10: Closure of the Meeting**

79. The Chair, Ms Natalia Tretiakova of Russia, pointed out that the meeting took longer than planned and thanked meeting participants for the fruitful discussions and closed the meeting at 7:11 pm (Tokyo/Seoul local time) on 27 January 2021.

80. The list of participants and list of meeting documents are presented in Annex 3 and Annex 4, respectively.

**Annex 1. Agenda of the Meeting**

14:45 – 15:00	Check of Connections and Registration of Participants
15:00 – 15:15	1. Opening of the meeting <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Welcome remarks by the Chair (Russia in the capacity of the Chair of the 23<sup>rd</sup> IGM)</li> <li>Welcome remarks on behalf of the UNEP Executive Director</li> <li>Head of Delegations opening remarks and introduction of Delegation members (not personal but by Delegations)</li> </ol>
15:15 – 15:25	2. Organization of the meeting: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Election of officers</li> <li>Organization of work</li> <li>Presentation of credentials</li> <li>Adoption of the agenda</li> </ol>
15:25 – 15:50	3. Status of the implementation of resolutions of the 23 <sup>rd</sup> NOWPAP Intergovernmental Meeting, including <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Status of NOWPAP Trust Fund and contributions by NOWPAP member states (as of Dec 2019)</li> </ol>
15:50 – 16:05	4. Information of NOWPAP Programme of Work for 2020-2021 as approved by email on 18 May, 2020
16:05 – 16:30	5. Report on unaccomplished activities of NOWPAP Programme of Work 2018-2019 to be continued in 2020-2021: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Progress of the development of the NOWPAP Regional Action Plan on Marine and Coastal Biodiversity (RAP BIO)</li> <li>NOWPAP Special Projects: Progress and Status</li> <li>NOWPAP Communication Strategy (2018-2023) and New NOWPAP Promotional Videos</li> </ol> 1. Discussion (10 min)
16:30 – 17:00	6. Overview of and discussions on arrangements and work of NOWPAP and required adjustments of the IGM process in 2021 in the prolonged COVID- 19 Pandemic, including <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Preparation of the Twenty Fourth Intergovernmental Meeting followed by</li> <li>Discussion (20-25 min)</li> </ol>
17:00 – 17:15	Break
17:15 - 17:30	7. Statements by NOWPAP Member States and observers
17:30 - 17:40	8. Other business
17:40 – 18:00	9. Adoption of resolutions of the meeting
18:00	10. Closure of the meeting

## **Annex 2. Resolutions of the Third Extraordinary NOWPAP IGM**

### **1. Introduction**

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

Since access to the resources of the NOWPAP Trust Fund for starting any activities was restricted until the Programme of Work 2020-2021 was approved, RCU requested the Member States on 31 January 2020 to send their consent in writing on starting spending from the NOWPAP Trust Fund to implement the urgent activities until the IGM was held later in 2020.

The Member States decided to take this approach and provided their feedback by correspondence within several rounds of communication. The first round of consultations with the Member States was carried out during February 11–March 20, 2020. RCU received detailed feedback from all four Member States with a number of questions and requests for clarification. This feedback and responses from RCU and, wherever required by the RACs, are presented in the IGM document UNEP/NOWPAP IG. EO3/12 under Round 1 (UNEP/NOWPAP IG. EO3/12, Table 2).

The second round of country consultations was completed on April 17, 2020. The Member States requested several additional clarifications. Those, as well as the management response from RCU, are included in the IGM document UNEP/NOWPAP IG. EO3/12 under Round 2 (UNEP/NOWPAP IG. EO3/12, Table 2). The NOWPAP Programme of Work 2020-2021 was then updated according to the Member States' positions.

Finally, all questions, comments, and requests for clarification from the NOWPAP Member States, supplemented by responses of the NOWPAP RCU and actions taken or to be taken, were summarized by RCU and included in UNEP/NOWPAP IG. EO3/12. A special section was added to UNEP/NOWPAP IG. EO3/12 (Section 2) with a table that included the date of approval, exact wording used by the Member States, and conditions on which the PoW 2020-2021 was approved (UNEP/NOWPAP IG. EO3/12, Table 1, page 4).

There have been also several rounds of consultations with the Member States related to the organization of the 24<sup>th</sup> NOWPAP IGM. Altogether, three rounds of consultations were required.

As a result of these consultations, the Member States decided that the coming IGM had to be titled not as the “24<sup>th</sup> NOWPAP IGM” but the “3<sup>rd</sup> Extraordinary NOWPAP IGM” and would be chaired by the Russian Federation as the Chair of the 23<sup>rd</sup> NOWPAP IGM. The Member States also decided to take with the proposed procedure that the IGM documents to be processed by correspondence. The opportunity of a face-to-face virtual meeting would be used by the Member States and NOWPAP Structural Units to discuss remaining policy and programmatic issues further. Specific attention would be paid to discussing NOWPAP operation during and after the COVID-19 pandemic in 2021 further.

As decided by the Member States, the Third Extraordinary NOWPAP Intergovernmental Meeting was held online on Wednesday, January 27, 2021. This document includes the key decisions and resolutions of the meeting.

## **2. Resolution 1: Status of the Implementation of Resolutions of the 23<sup>rd</sup> NOWPAP Intergovernmental Meeting**

*Acknowledging RACs and RCU efforts in implementing the NOWPAP 2018-2019 Programme of Work (PoW) and acknowledging the continued support to these efforts by the Member States and expert community of the Northwest Pacific region,*

*Recognizing the importance of joint efforts to protect the shared marine environment and manage sustainably its natural resources by engaging neighboring countries in comprehensive and specific national and regional initiatives and actions also contributing to the global environmental agenda, including the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals, the Global Biodiversity Framework, the Decade on Ecosystem Restoration and the Decade of Ocean Science,*

*Recognizing the need to initiate new activities in line with the NOWPAP Medium-term Strategy 2018-2023,*

### The Third Extraordinary Intergovernmental Meeting

1. Takes note of the NOWPAP implementation progress and the status of resources in the NOWPAP Trust Fund in the 2018-2019 biennium. Reports for 2018-2019 of UNEP Executive Director and RACs will be approved by the Member States by correspondence<sup>5</sup>.
2. Takes note that contributions to the NOWPAP Trust Fund in 2020 was approved and confirmed by the Member States by correspondence in April 2020 as presented in Table 1 below.
3. Decides that the contributions to the NOWPAP Trust Fund by the Member States in 2021 will be at the same level as in 2020 as presented in Table 1 below.
4. Approves the total contribution of the Member States to the NOWPAP Trust Fund for 2020-2021 biennium as shown in Table 1 below.
5. Requests UNEP and RCU to develop an overview of the financial status and situation of the NOWPAP Trust Fund (40PNL) in order to estimate the financial gap, if any, to carry out additional resource mobilization activities.
6. Encourages NOWPAP RCU and RACs to continue their best efforts to mobilize additional financial resources for the implementation of the NOWPAP Programme of Work 2020-2021 including NOWPAP Special Project, and to scale up successful outcomes. NOWPAP RCU and RACs are expected to update the Member States on their efforts through the regular reporting

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<sup>5</sup> The process of approval will be coordinated by RCU. A special document will be prepared by RCU to facilitate the approval process. When finalized, the document will become a part of the documentation set of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Extraordinary NOWPAP IGM.

process. Prior to formalizing any resource mobilization engagements, they have to duly consult with the NOWPAP Member States.

**Table 1 Approved Contributions of NOWPAP Member States in 2020-2021**

NOWPAP Member States	Contribution, US\$		TOTAL
	2020	2021	
People's Republic of China	125,000	125,000	<b>250,000</b>
Japan	125,000	125,000	<b>250,000</b>
Republic of Korea	125,000	125,000	<b>250,000</b>
Russian Federation	125,000	125,000	<b>250,000</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>500,000</b>	<b>500,000</b>	<b>1,000,000</b>

### **3. Resolution 2: Information of NOWPAP Programme of Work for 2020-2021 as approved by correspondence on May 18, 2020**

*Acknowledging RCU and RACs efforts in implementing the NOWPAP 2018-2019 Programme of Work (PoW) and acknowledging the continued support to these efforts by the Member States and expert community of the Northwest Pacific region,*

*Highlighting the need of a regular reporting by RCU on the progress of implementation of NOWPAP Programme of Work 2020-2021,*

*Expressing concerns over the delayed implementation of many activities of PoW 2020-2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic,*

#### The Third Extraordinary Intergovernmental Meeting

1. Takes note of the process of approval of the NOWPAP Programme of Work 2020-2021 by correspondence.
2. Encourages RCU and RACs to design additional activities to expedite and support the achievement of goals and outcomes under Priority Area 1 of the NOWPAP MTS 2018-2023 "Support Ecosystem-Based Integrated Coastal and River Basin Management (ICARM)".
3. Requests RCU and RACs to exert extraordinary efforts to implement work program and budget for 2020-2021, by introducing and applying innovative way of working methods, i.e., virtual meetings or workshops, collaborative works on documents or papers through various channels of communications and collaboration tools or technology.
4. Requests RCU to provide all necessary supports to RACs to facilitate their implementation of activities of PoW 2020-2021.
5. Requests RCU to further continue regular (quarterly) update of the NOWPAP Member States and National Focal Points on the progress of implementation of PoW 2020-2021.

6. Requests the Member States to further encourage national experts from the countries to more actively engage in the NOWPAP activities, specifically those implemented and coordinated by RACs.

#### **4. Resolution 3: Progress of the development of the NOWPAP Regional Action Plan on Marine and Coastal Biodiversity (RAP BIO)**

*Recognizing the importance of the role of RAP BIO in supporting the priorities and vision of the national biodiversity strategies and action plans, as well as SDG 14,*

*Stressing that RAP BIO will be instrumental for subsequent revisions of the NOWPAP Medium Term Strategy and NOWPAP's other activities in the field of conservation of marine and coastal biodiversity,*

*Acknowledging RCU, CEARAC and nominated experts' efforts in the development of the NOWPAP Regional Action Plan on Marine and Coastal Biodiversity (RAP BIO),*

##### The Third Extraordinary Intergovernmental Meeting

1. Encourages NOWPAP Member States to further support the development of RAP BIO and approves the next steps presented at the meeting, especially on organization of national consultations to provide guidance and inputs to the RAP BIO.
2. Requests RCU, in cooperation with the nominated experts, CEARAC and other RACs closely, to finalize the text of RAP BIO by the end of September 2021 and submit the RAP BIO to the 24<sup>th</sup> NOWPAP IGM for adoption.

#### **5. Resolution 4: NOWPAP Special Projects: Progress and Status**

*Having considered progress achieved and lessons learned in the development of NOWPAP Special Projects,*

*Acknowledging the delays of Special Projects "Monitoring and Assessment Methods for Microplastics Pollution", and "Identification of Key Indicator Species and Ecosystems of Biodiversity Change in the NOWPAP Region",*

##### The Third Extraordinary Intergovernmental Meeting

1. Notes the progress and lessons learned while developing NOWPAP Special Project "Monitoring and Assessment Methods for Microplastics Pollution".
2. Requests RCU to coordinate with the leading agency and other partners to complete the project proposal before March 2022.
3. Requests RCU to coordinate with the National Focal Points on Marine Litter and relevant external partners the process of mobilization of additional financial resources for the approved NOWPAP Special Project "Monitoring and Assessment Methods for Microplastics Pollution".
4. Requests RCU to provide detailed background information and analysis on the delay of the project "Identification of Key Indicator Species and Ecosystems of Biodiversity Change in the NOWPAP Region" for the Member States to consider whether to continue the project.

5. Decides to suspend this project until more information is available on whether it is possible to implement the project with other partner organization(s).

6. Encourages RCU to continue explore possibilities that the Project to be developed and implemented under the RAP BIO umbrella including finding a new leading organization able to continue the biodiversity project.

7. Requests RCU to prepare a scoping paper containing i) lessons learned during the development of the Special Projects and ii) how to improve the operational procedure and a business method, as well as to develop a manual with Guidelines on preparing NOWPAP special projects and submit them for consideration by the 24<sup>th</sup> IGM.

## **6. Resolution 5: Draft NOWPAP Communication Strategy (2018-2023) and New NOWPAP Promotional Videos**

*Acknowledging RCU and RACs efforts in the development of the NOWPAP Communication Strategy 2018-2023,*

*Recognizing the need for further improvement of the NOWPAP Communication Strategy 2018-2023 approved in principle at 23<sup>rd</sup> NOWPAP IGM and further evaluation in according with the meeting resolutions by RCU and RACs,*

*Recognizing the need of an effective Communications Strategy to popularize achievements of NOWPAP and support public awareness efforts in the NOWPAP Region, including environmental knowledge strengthening and awareness of the wider public and decision-makers on relevant topics, including marine litter, conservation of marine and coastal biodiversity, disaster risk reduction and supporting public communications in the case of oil and NHS spills,*

*Recognizing the process of developing of the NOWPAP Communication and Outreach Strategy 2018-2023 and Promotional Videos as presented by RCU at the meeting,*

### The Third Extraordinary Intergovernmental Meeting

1. Approves the process of finalization of the NOWPAP Communication Strategy 2018-2023 and Promotional Videos as presented by RCU.

2. Takes note of the progress in the development of the NOWPAP Communication and Outreach Strategy, including and Promotional Videos, and encourages the National Focal Points of the Member States to consider further steps towards the completion and approval. This work is expected to be completed and presented for approval in Q4 2021.

## **7. Resolution 6: Monitoring and Evaluation Framework of the NOWPAP Medium-Term Strategy 2018-2023**

*Acknowledging RCU and RACs efforts in developing the proposed Monitoring and Evaluation Framework of NOWPAP MTS 2018-2023,*

*Recognizing the process of revision of the draft Monitoring and Evaluation Framework of NOWPAP MTS 2018-2023 as presented by RCU at the 23<sup>rd</sup> IGM,*

*Recognizing the need for more detailed information on the approach proposed by RCU to use an adapted methodology available in UNEP and/or GEF on a mid-term reviews/evaluation,*

#### The Third Extraordinary Intergovernmental Meeting

1. Takes note of the progress in the development of the Monitoring and Evaluation Framework of NOWPAP MTS 2018-2023 and proposed approach to operationalize the evaluation process of implementation of the NOWPAP Midterm Strategy 2018-2023 at mid-point of its implementation in 2021, notably:

- 1) March 2021: RCU to develop ToR for a Mid-Term Review based on existing guidance documents (UNEP, GEF)
- 2) May 2021: Consultations with the Member States on ToR, Comments Addressed
- 3) May-Sep 2021: An International Consultant to carry out a NOWPAP Mid-Term Review of MTS 2018-2023 is recruited
- 4) 2022: RCU and RACs, supported by an International Consultant – Completion of MTS M&E Framework
- 5) Q3 2023: MTS 2018-2023 Implementation - Final Review.

2. Requests RCU to prepare a concept paper on a Mid-Term Review of the implementation of the NOWPAP MTS 2018-2023 and circulate to the Member States along with the existing guidelines from UNEP and/or GEF.

#### **8. Resolution 7: Overview of and discussions on arrangements and work of NOWPAP required adjustments of the IGM process in 2021 in the prolonged COVID-19 Pandemic**

*Recognizing the need for adjustment of the regular IGM process due to the negative impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the need to combine meetings organized in-person and through virtual online platforms,*

*Also recognizing that due to COVID-19 pandemic significant budget will be saved due to restrictions imposed by the countries on travelling, additional activities could be designed and funded through available budget on the basis of consensus by the Member States,*

*Recognizing common interests of member countries in strengthening NOWPAP mechanism and its institutional arrangements to meet changing priorities in our region,*

#### The Third Extraordinary Intergovernmental Meeting

1. Decides that the next Intergovernmental meeting, the 24<sup>th</sup> NOWPAP IGM, will be hosted by China at the end of 2021. The Chairmanship of NOWPAP will be transferred to China. Depending on the development of the COVID-19 pandemic, the next IGM could be organized through an online platform. RCU will facilitate the technical support to the meeting if required.

2. Decides that the order of holding IGMs will come back to the original one. The 25<sup>th</sup> IGM will be hosted by Korea (tentatively 2022), the 26<sup>th</sup> IGM – by Japan (tentatively 2023). The final



decision on timing of these IGMs will be taken later in accordance with the existing NOWPAP practice.

3. Request RCU in coordination with the NOWPAP Member States and RACs to prepare a positioning paper on:

- i) an assessment of the *modus operandi* of NOWPAP RACs and the collaboration between RCU and RACs
- ii) how to improve the overall operation of NOWPAP and operation of individual RACs in terms of an efficient division of activities, better collaboration or coordination, and re-prioritization of mandates including possible options for discussions and timetable to address this issue, for the consideration by the 24<sup>th</sup> IGM.

4. Requests RCU to work closely with Russia as the proponent and to develop a Concept Note of a NOWPAP Award to recognize outstanding achievements in the implementation of NOWPAP activities to be launched not later than in 2024 also to celebrate the 30<sup>th</sup> NOWPAP Anniversary and submit the Concept Note, including a selection procedure, to the 24<sup>th</sup> IGM for consideration.

### **Annex 3. List of Participants**

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**Annex 4. List of Documents****Working Documents**

UNEP/NOWPAP IG. EO3/1	Provisional Agenda
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. EO3/2	Annotated Provisional Agenda
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. EO3/3	Report of the Executive Director of United Nations Environment Programme on the Progress in the Implementation of the Northwest Pacific Action Plan in 2018-2019
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. EO3/4-1	Report on the Activities of NOWPAP Special Monitoring and Coastal Environmental Assessment Regional Activity Centre (CEARAC) in 2018 and 2019
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. EO3/4-2	Report on the Activities of the NOWPAP Data and Information Network Regional Activity Centre (DINRAC) in 2018–2019 Biennium
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. EO3/4-3	Report on the activities of NOWPAP Marine Environmental Emergency Preparedness and Response Regional Activity Centre (MERRAC) in 2018 and 2019
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. EO3/4-4	Report on the Activities of NOWPAP Pollution Monitoring Regional Activity Center (POMRAC) in 2018 and 2019
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. EO3/5	Status of Implementation of the NOWPAP Programme of Work in 2018-2019
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. EO3/6	Report on Implementation of the NOWPAP Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter (RAP MALI) in 2018-2019
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. EO3/7	Report on NOWPAP Special Projects
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. EO3/8	Roadmap for the NOWPAP Regional Action Plan on Marine and Coastal Biodiversity (RAP BIO)
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. EO3/9	NOWPAP Proposed Programme of Work (2020-2021) as approved on May 18, 2020, by email
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. EO3/10	Draft NOWPAP Communication Strategy 2018-2023
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. EO3/11	Report “Towards “Blue economy” Transformation in the NOWPAP Region” <sup>6</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> This report is a part of the NOWPAP RCU project “Rapid Assessment of Emerging Environmental Issues of Policy Relevance in the NOWPAP Region” (2018-2019)

UNEP/NOWPAP IG. EO3/12	Report on Addressing Member States Comments and Questions on the 3 <sup>rd</sup> Extraordinary IGM Documents
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. EO3/13	Resolutions of the Third Extraordinary Intergovernmental Meeting of the Northwest Pacific Action Plan
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. EO3/14	Report of the Third Extraordinary Intergovernmental Meeting

### **Information Documents**

UNEP/NOWPAP IG. EO3/INF/1	Provisional List of Documents
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. EO3/INF/2	Provisional List of Participants
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. EO3/INF/4 <sup>7</sup>	Draft Summary of NOWPAP Regional Activity Centers and Regional Coordinating Unit Meeting
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. EO3/INF/5	Draft Report on NOWPAP Communications Effort in 2018-2019, including five NEW promotional NOWPAP videos
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. EO3/INF/6	Statement of UNEP Executive Director
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. EO3/INF/12 <sup>8</sup>	UNEP Regional Seas Strategic Directions (2017-2020)
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. EO3/INF/13	Background Information for the Roadmap for the NOWPAP Regional Action Plan on Marine and Coastal Biodiversity (RAP BIO)
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. EO3/INF/14	Public Version of NOWPAP Mid-Term Strategy (2018-2023)
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. EO3/INF/15	CEARAC Medium-Term Strategy for Marine Biodiversity Conservation in the NOWPAP Region
UNEP/NOWPAP/CEARAC/FPM 17/14	Report of the Seventeenth NOWPAP CEARAC Focal Points Meeting
UNEP/NOWPAP/DINRAC/FPM 17/18	Report of the Seventeenth NOWPAP DINRAC Focal Points Meeting
UNEP/IMO/NOWPAP/MERRAC/FPM 22/14	Report of the 22 <sup>nd</sup> NOWPAP MERRAC Focal Points Meeting & the 14 <sup>th</sup> Competent National

<sup>7</sup> The document UNEP/NOWPAP IG. EO3/INF/3, Logistics Informational Note, has been deleted, as the meeting will be organized virtually.

<sup>8</sup> The document UNEP/NOWPAP IG. EO3/INF/11, Statement of YSLME, deleted, as the GEF UNDP YSLME Project had been completed.

#### Authorities Meeting

UNEP/NOWPAP/POMRAC/FPM 16/12	Report of the 16 <sup>th</sup> NOWPAP POMRAC Focal Points Meeting
UNEP/NOWPAP/2019NOWPAP- TEMM Joint Workshop on Marine Litter Management	Summary of the 2019 NOWPAP-TEMM Joint Workshop on Marine Litter Management and 2019 NOWPAP International Coastal Cleanup Campaign
UNEP/NOWPAP Second Microplastic expert meeting	The Second Expert Meeting of the NOWPAP Special Project: "Monitoring and Assessment Methods for Microplastics pollution": Report of the Meeting
UNEP/NOWPAP/2019 RAP MALI Meeting	2019 Meeting of the NOWPAP Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter (RAP MALI): Report of Meeting
UNEP/NOWPAP IG.23/5	Monitoring and Evaluation Framework of the NOWPAP Medium-term Strategy 2018-2023
UNEP/NOWPAP/ IG. 23/14	Report of the 23 <sup>rd</sup> Intergovernmental Meeting

#### **Major Publications**

UNEP/NOWPAP IG. EO3/PUB/1	CEARAC: Assessment of Major Pressures on Marine Biodiversity in the NOWPAP Region
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. EO3/PUB/2	CEARAC: Feasibility Study for Assessment of Seagrass Distribution in the NOWPAP Region
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. EO3/PUB/3	MERRAC: Review and Analysis of Floating Marine Litter Prediction Models in the NOWPAP region
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. EO3/PUB/4	MERRAC: Understanding of Floating Marine Litter Distribution in the NOWPAP Region
UNEP/NOWPAP IG. EO3/PUB/5	POMRAC: Development of NOWPAP Ecological Quality Objective Targets Aligned (Where Possible) with SDG Indicators, Phase 1

**Annex 5. History of Revisions**

<b>Revision Number</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Changes Introduced</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Rev 0	11 Feb 2021		
Rev 1	5 Mar 2021	Multiple changes based on feedback from the Member States and RACs	
Rev 2	30 Mar 2021	Minor editorial improvements	
Rev 3	05 Apr 2021	A typo was corrected in Resolution 1, item 3, on page 21.	