



Northwest Pacific Action Plan



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RAP MALI Meeting

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2019 Meeting of the NOWPAP Regional
Action Plan on Marine Litter (RAP MALI)
Dalian, People's Republic of China
26 September 2019

Report of Meeting

**Regional
Seas**

The 2019 RAP MALI Meeting was held in Dalian International Finance Conference Center in Dalian, People's Republic of China, on 26th September 2019 from 9:00 to 17:30. NOWPAP Marine Litter (ML) Focal Points (FPs), representatives of NOWPAP Regional Activity Centers (RACs) and Regional Coordinating Unit (RCU) attended the meeting. Representatives from China's National Marine Environment Monitoring Center, Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia (COBSEA) of United Nations Environment Programme, and WWF China Office have attended the meeting as observers. The meeting agenda and the list of participants are attached in Annex 3 and 4, respectively.

Agenda 1: Opening of the Meeting

1. The 2019 NOWPAP Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter (RAP MALI) Meeting was opened at 9:00 on Thursday, 26th September 2019 by Dr. Ruizhi LIU, RAP MALI Focal Point of China, along with Dr. Ning LIU, NOWPAP RCU Programme Officer.

Agenda Item 2: Organization of the meeting and election of officers

2. Dr. Xiangbin PEI, Director of the Department of Marine Ecological Environment, Ministry of Ecology and Environment, China, was elected as Chair during the meeting. The rules of procedure for the meeting followed those of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA).

Agenda Item 3: Adoption of the Agenda

3. NOWPAP RCU Programme Officer, Dr. Ning LIU, introduced the Annotated Provisional Agenda. The agenda was reviewed and adopted.

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

4. NOWPAP RCU and RACs representatives introduced progress made since the last meeting in 2018 and reported on the proposed activities for 2020-2021 biennium

Progress Report from NOWPAP RCU

5. NOWPAP Programme Officer, Mr. Ning LIU, presented the Progress Report from NOWPAP RCU. His presentation summarized adopted terms of reference of RAP MALI Focal Points Meeting, NOWPAP's contributions to international global and regional efforts and follow-up and review of SDG 14 through the Regional Seas programmes.

Progress Reports from NOWPAP RACs

6. Mr. Takafumi YOSHIDA, senior researcher of CEARAC, presented the Progress Report from NOWPAP CEARAC and CEARAC marine litter activities for the 2018-2019 biennium. There are three major activities to be conducted. Firstly, information about national actions on marine microplastics is to be collected, followed by reviewing and adding information as well as preparing a summary report. Secondly, the translation of the Northwest Pacific Regional Node into Japanese will be completed for Japanese users. Thirdly, to compile and harmonize marine litter monitoring data on beaches and submit the collected data to DINRAC.

7. Ms. Yinghao CHEN, Project Manager of DINRAC, presented the progress of Northwest Pacific Regional Node of the Global Partnership on Marine Litter (GPML). The objectives of

the Node are to promote networking, to conduct research studies, to improve the database, to explore practical case studies, and to form a Publicity Platform for Public Participation. Four activities related to these objectives were introduced. The first activity is to develop a data system; the second activity is to enhance the capacity of non-profit organizations (NPOs) in the NOWPAP Region, especially Chinese NPOs; the third activity is to deliver a report of “The 3rd China Ocean Philanthropy Forum in cooperation with Asia-Pacific Civic Forum on Marine Litter”; and the fourth activity is to research on gaps in legislation and regulations in addressing marine litter.

8. Ms. Joung Yun LEE, MERRAC Consultant, presented the Progress Report from NOWPAP MERRAC. Ms. Joung Yun LEE reported MERRAC’s present progress on marine litter activities for the 2018-2019 biennium and describe the draft report on “Understanding of Floating Marine Litter sources and flows”. She also proposed ideas on the MERRAC activities of RAP MALI in the 2020-2021 biennium.

9. Dr. Nikolai KOZLOVSKII, Junior Researcher of POMRAC, also reported about the progress of NOWPAP POMRAC. He reviewed the activities associated with the MALITA and RAPMALI. He highlighted that it was found that the plastic contamination level in littoral water is almost 20 times higher than that in the coastal water, which shows that the tidal area is a hotspot for plastic contamination.

10. Mr. Yisong Guan, Representative of WWF China Office delivered a presentation on the “No Plastic in Nature Initiative in China”. He pointed out that Asia has become the most severe marine plastic pollution region around the globe, with China being the biggest polluter. The WWF No Plastic in Nature Initiative focuses on a systematic approach that aims to battle against the plastic pollution issue in China and achieve the No Plastic in Nature goal in 2030, involving a series of activities such as campaigns, policy suggestions, and research studies.

Agenda Item 5: Draft report: Third Regional Overview of Marine Litter in the NOWPAP region and development of recommendations to revise NOWPAP RAP MALI (2008)

11. Dr. Sunwook HONG introduced the draft Third Regional Overview of Marine Litter in the NOWPAP Region chapter by chapter, and made her recommendations on revision of RAP MALI: to include “Impact” in the prevention and monitoring activities; to change “removing existing marine litter and its disposal” into “reduction of quantity and impact of existing marine litter”; to add “implementation of adaptive management”.

12. Ms. Natalie Harms from COBSEA delivered a presentation on the “*Revision of the COBSEA Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter*”. She gave a brief introduction of the background of COBSEA. In 2018, the COBSEA Strategic Directions 2018-2022 was adopted at the 2nd extraordinary intergovernmental meeting (EO IGM), which called for revision of the COBSEA RAPMALI adopted at the 19th IGM in 2008. In 2019, countries adopted the revised RAP MALI at the 24th IGM, and the 2019 RAP MALI aims to “facilitate coordination & guide regionally coherent management of marine litter in line with global/regional goals”. This plan consists of four actions, namely Land-based sources, Sea-based sources, Monitoring & assessment, and Enabling conditions.

Agenda Item 6: Marine Litter activities for NOWPAP Programme of Work 2020-2021

13. Mr. Ning Liu introduced that draft work plan and budget for marine litter for 2020-2021. After lengthy discussion, China, Korea and Russia agreed the proposal attached as Annex 2. Japan would provide their opinion by 20 October 2019.

Agenda Item 7: Arrangements for the 2020 NOWPAP RAP MALI FP meeting

14. Russia agreed to host the 2020 NOWPAP RAP MALI Focal Points meeting together with NOWPAP-TEMM Marine Litter Management Workshop and International Coastal Cleanup Campaign in late September 2020.

Agenda Item 8: Adoption of the 2019 NOWPAP RAP MALI FPM decisions

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

Agenda Item 9: Closure of the meeting

16. The meeting was closed by Dr. Ning Liu at 17:30 on September 26th, 2019.

ANNEX 1**Decisions of the 2019 NOWPAP RAP MALI Meeting**

1. The meeting reviewed the progress reports of NOWPAP Regional Coordinating Unit (RCU) and Regional Activity Centers (RACs), and suggested
 - RACs to link their work with UNEA resolutions on marine litter,
 - DINRAC to revise their progress report to avoid overlapped (repeated) reporting;
 - RACs to help translate the Regional Nodes into local languages, if possible;
 - DINRAC to share the knowledge related NGO activities with member states;
 - CEARAC, MERRAC, and POMRAC to circulate their reports for comments, when they are ready, and finalize the reports by the end of 2019.
2. The meeting discussed the draft Third Overview of Marine Litter in the NOWPAP Region, and requested:
 - OSEAN to collect more information from scientific reports, official reports and reports of citizen scientists, and compare and analyze them;
 - the Marine Litter Focal Points and RACs to provide their inputs and comments by the end of November 2019. The inputs and comments should include updated data, more resources and references, evaluation of RAP MALI, and future directions of RAP MALI;
 - RACs to provide OSEAN with information on what have been done, lessons learnt, what could be future directions to revise RAP MALI by 20 October 2019.
 - The Third Overview will be published early 2020.
3. The meeting discussed the work plan and budget for 2020-2021, China, Korea and Russia agreed the proposed work plan and budget in the annex 2. Japan will provide their opinion by 20 October 2019. RCU will circulate Japan's opinion among member states for further consultations. The work plan and budget should be finalized by 10 November 2019.
4. RCU, DINRAC, with the support of OSEAN, will prepare for the data reporting format and circulate among member states for comments and finalize it by the end of March 2020.
5. The next RAP MALI focal points meeting will be held in Vladivostok, Russian in late September 2020.

ANNEX 2

Activities	Budget (Thousand US\$)		Notes
	2018-2019	2020-2021	
Organize annual NOWPAP-TEMM Marine Litter Management Workshops and International Coastal Cleanup campaigns (RCU supported by RACs)	40	40	
Enhance NW Pacific regional node of the Global Partnership on Marine Litter (GPML) (RCU and DINRAC/other RACs)	20 from GPML in 2018	22	2 for each member state, DINRAC to develop format for data collection and sharing; DINRAC to maintain the node.
Revision of RAP MALI (RCU and RACs)		29	2 meetings back to back with NOWPAP marine litter management workshop should be organized; More international consultants and NGOs should be invited.
Undertake Regional overview of national efforts to address microplastics (CEARAC)	9.25		
Update marine litter information and databases (DINRAC, CEARAC, RCU)	9.25		
Assess floating marine litter sources and flows (MERRAC)	9.25		
Conduct research on microplastics content and migration in the Peter the Great Gulf, Russia (POMRAC)	13.5 (9.25 actually)		
Third Regional Overview of marine litter in the NOWPAP region (RCU supported by RACs)	6 (15 actually)		
Total	91	91	

ANNEX 3

09:00 - 09:15	Agenda Item 1: Opening of the meeting: Welcoming remarks - Dr. Ruizhi LIU, State Key Laboratory of Environmental Criteria and Risk Assessment, Chinese Research Academy of Environmental Sciences - Dr. Ning LIU, NOWPAP Regional Coordinating Unit
09:15 - 09:20	Agenda Item 2: Organization of the meeting and election of officers A chairperson and a rapporteur will be elected during the meeting. The roles of chairperson and rapporteur are proposed to rotate among the four member states; the 2019 RAP MALI FP Chair is proposed from China and the rapporteur is to be from the next hosting state: the Russian Federation. The rules of procedure for the meeting will be those of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) with appropriate adjustments to suit the nature of the meeting. English is the working language of the meeting.
09:20 - 09:30	Agenda Item 3: Adoption of the agenda NOWPAP RCU will introduce the Annotated Provisional Agenda. The meeting will be invited to review and adopt the agenda.
09:30 – 09:50	Agenda Item 4: Progress reports of NOWPAP RCU and Regional Activity Centers NOWPAP RCU and RACs representatives will introduce progress made since the last meeting in 2018. Q&A of 5-10 mins (clarification, comments from RAP MALI FPs and other participants) after each presentation. <i>Progress report from NOWPAP RCU and Role of NOWPAP mechanism in the reporting and follow up on SDG 14.1.1 (marine litter)</i> Dr. Ning LIU, Programme Officer, NOWPAP RCU
09:50 – 10:10	<i>Progress report from NOWPAP Special Monitoring and Coastal Environmental Assessment Regional Activity Centre (CEARAC)</i> Dr. Takafumi YOSHIDA, Senior Researcher, CEARAC
10:10 - 10:30	<i>Progress and Future Directions of the Northwest Pacific Regional Node of the Global Partnership on Marine Litter (GPML)</i> Dr. Chen Yinhao, Data and Information Networking Regional Activity Center
10:30 - 10:50	Coffee Break

10:50 - 11:10	<i>Progress report from NOWPAP Marine Environmental Emergency Preparedness and Response Regional Activity Centre (MERRAC)</i> Ms. Joungyun LEE, Consultant, MERRAC
11:10 - 11:30	<i>Progress report from NOWPAP Pollution Monitoring Regional Activity Centre (POMRAC)</i> Dr. Nikolai KOZLOVSKII, Junior researcher, Center for Landscape Environmental Studies, POMRAC
11:30 - 12:10	Discussion
12:10 - 12:30	<i>Introduction to the “No Plastics in the Nature Initiative”</i> Mr. Yisong Guan, Representative of WWF China Office
12:30 - 14:00	Lunch Break
14:00 – 15:00	Agenda Item 5: Draft report: Third Regional Overview of Marine Litter in the NOWPAP region and development of recommendations to revise NOWPAP RAP MALI (2008) OSEAN will present the Third Overview. Participants will be invited to give comments chapter by chapter. Dr. Sunwook HONG, President, Our Sea of East Asia Network
15:00 - 15:20	<i>Revision of COBSEA Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter</i> Ms. Natalie HARMS, Associate Programme Officer, Secretariat of the Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia (COBSEA), United Nations Environment Programme Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific
15:20 – 15:40	Coffee Break
15:40 - 16:40	Agenda Item 6: Marine Litter activities for NOWPAP Programme of Work 2020-2021 Participants will discuss the revision of NOWPAP Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter, including approaches, timeline, possible meetings and partners to complete the work. The support to Northwest Regional Node will also be discussed. After discussion, marine litter activities for NOWPAP Programme of Work 2020-2021 will be agreed.
16:40 – 16:50	Agenda Item 7: Arrangements for the 2020 NOWPAP RAP MALI FP Meeting
16:50 - 17:10	Agenda Item 8: Adoption of the 2019 NOWPAP RAP MALI FPM decisions
17:10 - 17:20	Agenda Item 9: Closure of the meeting

ANNEX 4

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