

**NOWPAP's Voluntary Report on Implementation of the Programme of Work
on Marine and Coastal Biological Diversity**

Operational objectives of the elaborated programme of work on marine and coastal biological diversity (annex I of decision VII/5)	
1.1: To apply appropriate policy instruments and strategies, including building of capacity, for the effective implementation of IMCAM	
Progress made in implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Within the framework of NOWPAP, a new activity on Integrated Coastal and River Basin Management (ICARM) was initiated in 2007 and is being implemented by a Pollution Monitoring Regional Activity Centre (POMRAC). ● Since then, two Working Group Meetings were held in 2007 and 2008, respectively, to discuss the overall implementation of ICARM project. In addition, a workshop on ICARM will be organized together with PEMSEA as a session of the East Asian Seas Congress 2009. ● A regional report on ICARM, based on national reports of the four NOWPAP member states (using the agreed format), is planned to be finalised in 2009. Applying ICARM approach in the NOWPAP region will include the establishment and management of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) which contributes to marine and coastal biodiversity conservation in the Northwest Pacific ocean.
Barriers to implementation	Barriers to implement ICARM activities in the NOWPAP region will be identified during the preparation of the regional report in 2009.
Priorities for capacity-building to address the barriers	Priorities for capacity building to overcome barriers to implementation of ICARM activities in the NOWPAP region will be set through the preparation of the regional report in 2009.
3.1: To establish and strengthen national and regional systems of marine and coastal protected areas integrated into a global network and as a contribution to globally agreed goals	
Progress made in implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A “Regional Overview and National Reports on Marine and Coastal Nature Reserves in the Northwest Pacific Region” (http://dinrac.nowpap.org/documents/NOWPAP_DINRAC_National_Reports_Nature_Reserves.pdf) was prepared and published by NOWPAP Data and Information Network Regional Activity Centre (DINRAC) in 2007. The overview consists of (1) Background of Report; (2) Current Status of the

	<p>Establishment of Marine and Coastal Nature Reserves; (3) Introduction of Key Nature Reserves; (4) Information of Management Organizations Related to Nature Reserves; (5) Information on Activities, Measures, Laws and Regulations Related to Nature Reserves; (6) Summary; and (7) References. The overview also includes 4 national reports of the NOWPAP member states prepared using an agreed format.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● According to the regional overview, approximately 108 marine and coastal marine reserves were designated by the four member states within the geographical area of NOWPAP, which cover most typical and unique ecosystems including estuaries, intertidal zone, islands, salt marshes, and rocky and sand beaches. The member states have laws and regulations related to marine and coastal biodiversity conservation. ● Based on the regional overview and national reports of the NOWPAP member states, DINRAC established a database on marine and coastal reserves in 2007 (http://dinrac.nowpap.org/NowpapNatureReserve.php3) where information on 54 nature reserves (among 108 in total), in the NOWPAP region is provided. DINRAC also shared database information with the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC) and the World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA).
<p>Barriers to implementation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Inadequate quantity of marine and coastal protected areas in the NOWPAP region to protect the complexity of diverse species and ecosystems ● Most nature reserves are established along the coastline and islands; much less in offshore areas ● Lack of surveys in the nature reserves (or protected areas) focusing on species identification and on natural resources ● Lack of research and technical support to identify and select new nature reserves (protected areas) ● Lack of public awareness and education on species diversity and ecosystem services
<p>Priorities for capacity-building to address the barriers</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● To initiate a comprehensive activity (project) on marine and coastal protected areas in the NOWPAP region as part of its Programme of Work, taking into account recent decisions of the Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity ● To establish an extensive inventory of marine fauna and flora in the

	<p>protected areas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● To provide technical support, develop guidelines (or apply the already developed guidelines, if appropriate) to identify, select and manage the marine and coastal protected areas, including GIS applications
<p>3.3: To achieve effective management of existing marine and coastal protected areas</p>	
<p>Progress made in implementation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● As mentioned in 3.1, NOWPAP DINRAC (Data and Information Network Regional Activity Centre) published a “Regional Overview and National Reports on Marine and Coastal Nature Reserves in the Northwest Pacific Region” in 2007 (http://dinrac.nowpap.org/documents/NOWPAP_DINRAC_National_Reports_Nature_Reserves.pdf). Approximately 108 marine and coastal marine reserves were established within the geographical area of NOWPAP, covering most typical and unique ecosystems, including estuaries, intertidal zone, islands, salt marshes, and rocky and sand beaches. It was found that the NOWPAP member states have laws and regulations related to nature reserve conservation with appropriate administrative institutions. ● Based on the regional overview and national reports of the NOWPAP member states, DINRAC established a database on marine and coastal reserves in 2007 (http://dinrac.nowpap.org/NowpapNatureReserve.php3) where information on 54 nature reserves (among 108 in total), in the NOWPAP region is already provided and will be updated in 2009-2010. The database promotes the exchange of national information between the member states as well as beyond the region.
<p>Barriers to implementation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Involvement of different government agencies (ministries, local authorities, etc.) to enforce laws and regulations related to marine and coastal protected areas ● Lack of surveys in the protected areas focusing on species identification and natural resources
<p>Priorities for capacity-building to address the barriers</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● To initiate a comprehensive activity (project) on marine and coastal protected areas in the NOWPAP region as part of its Programme of Work, taking into account recent decisions of the Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity ● To share best practices on managing marine and coastal protected areas

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● To provide technical support, develop guidelines (or apply the already developed guidelines, if appropriate) to identify, select and manage the marine and coastal protected areas
3.5: To facilitate research and monitoring activities that reflect identified global knowledge gaps and priority information needs of management of marine and coastal protected areas	
Progress made in implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A “Regional Overview and National Reports on Marine and Coastal Nature Reserves in the Northwest Pacific Region” (http://dinrac.nowpap.org/documents/NOWPAP_DINRAC_National_Reports_Nature_Reserves.pdf) was developed by NOWPAP DINRC in 2007, providing information on activities and measures of the four member states related to nature reserves (protected areas). ● DINRAC also published a “Regional and National Reports on Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Data and Information in the Northwest Pacific Region” in 2007 (http://dinrac.nowpap.org/documents/NOWPAP_DINRAC_National_Reports_Marine_Biodiversity.pdf), including limited information on marine and coastal protected areas.
Barriers to implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Lack of data and information exchange mechanism between the NOWPAP member states on researches and monitoring related to the management of marine and coastal protected areas, taking into account identified regional and global gaps and priority information needs ● Lack of an extensive inventory of marine fauna and flora in the protected areas
Priorities for capacity-building to address the barriers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● To initiate a comprehensive activity (project) on marine and coastal protected areas in the NOWPAP region as part of its Programme of Work, taking into account recent decisions of the Conference of Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity ● To raise public awareness and education related to species diversity and ecosystem services
5.1: To achieve better understanding of the pathways and the causes of the introduction of alien species and the impact of such introduction on biological diversity	
Progress made in	A draft project proposal on invasive alien species is currently being developed

implementation	and will be considered for its approval by the member states in 2009
Barriers to implementation	Barriers to address alien species issues in the NOWPAP region will be identified during the implementation of the currently prepared project which will be discussed in detail in 2009
Priorities for capacity-building to address the barriers	Priorities for capacity building will be identified during the implementation of the currently prepared project (if approved by the member states in 2009)
6.1: To assemble a database of initiatives on programme elements through a cooperative approach with relevant organizations and bodies, with special emphasis on integrated marine and coastal areas management	
Progress made in implementation	A reference database on Integrated Coastal and River Basin Management (ICARM, http://dinrac.nowpap.org/NowpapReferenceICARM.php3) was established in the NOWPAP region. In the database, 437 references are available, which can be categorized into three major groups: (1) integrated coastal area management; (2) integrated river basin management, and (3) planning and management of coastal zone and river basin
Barriers to implementation	Since a regional report on ICARM is being developed, barriers will be identified in 2009
Priorities for capacity-building to address the barriers	Priorities for capacity building in the NOWPAP region will be set in detail in 2009 when the NOWPAP regional report on ICARM is available
6.2: To undertake effective collaboration, cooperation and harmonization of initiatives with relevant conventions, organizations and agencies while recognizing their independent mandates	
Progress made in implementation	Regarding marine and coastal biodiversity issues, four outcomes have been achieved within the framework of NOWPAP (in the form of published reports and online databases): (1) “Regional Overview and National Reports on Marine and Coastal Nature Reserves in the Northwest Pacific Region”; (2) “Regional and National Reports on Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Data and Information in the Northwest Pacific Region”; (3) Database on marine and coastal reserves; and (4) Reference database on Integrated Coastal and River Basin Management

	(ICARM).
Barriers to implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Weak communication and/or lack of linkages between many existing databases related to marine and coastal biodiversity issues, including protected areas and integrated coastal management ● Lack of funds to initiative a comprehensive activity (project) to support global efforts and initiatives related to biodiversity conservation
Priorities for capacity-building to address the barriers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● NOWPAP outcomes (publications and databases) were distributed as widely as possible. It was also attempted to link the NOWPAP database to others (e.g., UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre). ● New project proposals were developed on marine protected areas and invasive alien species.