

Annex IV

Report on Implementation of CEARAC Activities for 2002/03 Biennium (Prepared and submitted by CEARAC Secretariat)

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1. Introduction

1.1 The Seventh Intergovernmental Meeting (IGM) (Vladivostok, Russian Federation, 20-22 March 2002) agreed on the workplan and budget of entire NOWPAP for the 2002/2003 biennium including the budget of US\$125,000 for the CEARAC activities (UNEP(DEC)/NOWPAP/IG.7/10).

1.2 The same Meeting also requested the RAC Directors and NOWPAP Secretariat to establish appropriate Focal Points Meeting for each RAC with a timely nomination of relevant Focal Points.

1.3 In August 2002, the Project Document (PD) for NOWPAP CEARAC was signed between UNEP and CEARAC. The PD enabled CEARAC to implement its specific activities and manage its own financial resources as approved during the 7th IGM.

1.4 Following the decision by the 7th IGM, structural arrangement was proceeded with the establishment of the CEARAC Focal Points Meeting in cooperation with the interim secretariat of NOWPAP. Meanwhile, the Memorandum of Understandings (MoU) between UNEP and CEARAC was finalized in July 2002 and CEARAC was officially instituted. The MoU provides the overall framework for cooperation between UNEP and CEARAC.

1.5 The First CEARAC Focal Points Meeting was held in February 25-28, 2003 in Toyama, Japan and adopted the revised workplan and budget for the CEARAC 2003 activities. The total budget of workplan for CEARAC for 2002/03 was US\$125,000 (Annex VII of UNEP/NOWPAP/CEARAC/FPM 1/7).

1.6 Following the revised workplan and budget for CEARAC 2003, CEARAC has carried out the specific activities in cooperation with the four NOWPAP Members including CEARAC Focal Points and Experts of NOWPAP Working Group 3 and Working Group 4. In order to implement the designated projects and activities, a total US\$125,000 has been spent in 2002 and 2003.

1.7 Upon the completion of the 2002/2003 Biennium, the Second CEARAC Focal Points Meeting is kindly requested to review the activities and budget of CEARAC for the last 2002/2003 Biennium.

2. Detailed Activities for the 2002/2003 Biennium

table 1

Workplan and Budget for CEARAC for 2002/03

Activity	Date & Venue	Responsibility	Planned Budget US\$	Actual Expenditures US\$
Organization of CEARAC 1st Focal Points Meeting	February 2003; Toyama, Japan	CEARAC with assistance of RCU, UNEP and IOC-UNESCO	30,000	28,543
Opening a CEARAC Website	October 2003;	CEARAC with assistance of a consultant	10,000	3,080
Preparation of the Working Documents for the Harmful Algal Blooms (HAB) WG	Fall 2003;	CEARAC with assistance of a consultant	6,000	11,693
Preparation of the Working Documents for the Remote Sensing (RS) WG	Fall 2003;	CEARAC with assistance of a consultant	10,000	11,500
Organization of Working Group 3 - HAB	October 2003; Busan, Korea	CEARAC with assistance of RCU, UNEP, NFRDI (Korea)	24,000	18,937
Related Work for the development of Database on HAB	Fall 2003;	NOWPAP Working Group 3 Experts and a consultant		4,000
Organization of Working Group 4- RS	December 2003; Vladivostok Russia	CEARAC with assistance of RCU, UNEP, POI/RAS (Russia)	24,000	19,912
Development of website on oil spill monitoring	Winter 2003	CEARAC with assistance of POI/RAS (Russia) and a consultant		4,600
Cooperation, Communication of CEARAC activities	Throughout 2002/03	CEARAC	21,000	22,735
		Travel Expenses Communication and Others		9,894 12,841
TOTAL			125,000	125,000

2.1 Organization of the First CEARAC Focal Points Meeting

The First Focal Points Meeting for CEARAC was held from 25-28 February 2003 in Toyama, Japan. The nominated Focal Points of four NOWPAP Members, UNEP, the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the Environmental Remote Sensing Regional Activity Centre of the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP/ERSRAC), NOWPAP/MERRAC and NOWPAP/POMRAC and the Secretariat of CEARAC participated in the meeting.

The main achievements of the Meeting were as follows:

- (1) The participants made presentations relevant to CEARAC activities on Harmful Algal Blooms (HAB) and Remote Sensing (RS) in order to recognize the present status and future concerns in the region and to focus on the immediate and productive CEARAC activities.
- (2) The meeting adopted the document of the Terms of Reference (TOR) for CEARAC Focal Points Meeting after an intensive and productive discussion. The approved text of the TOR would be forwarded by the CEARAC Secretariat to the 8th Intergovernmental Meeting for final adoption.
- (3) The meeting discussed priorities and initial steps that should be the subject of the NOWPAP Working Group 3 (HAB) and NOWPAP Working Group 4 (RS) which would be set up under the CEARAC to discuss the specific activities and Work Plans on HAB and RS.
- (4) The workplan and budget for CEARAC in 2003 was adopted. It included organizing the NOWPAP Working Groups and opening a CEARAC website. Furthermore, the framework plan of work for CEARAC for 2004/05 was presented by the Secretariat.

Expenditure: US\$28,543

2.2 Opening of a CEARAC Website

The CEARAC website was opened in fall 2003. <http://cearac.nowpap.org> It was designed to distribute and exchange information on CEARAC activities and raise public awareness on the marine and coastal environmental assessment. It includes variety of activities under NOWPAP Working Group 3 and Working Group 4. It is planned to be loaded with the database and data library concerning coastal environmental assessment and special monitoring. It also includes recent news topics which are updated as need arises.

Expenditure: US\$3,080

2.3 Organization of the First Working Group 3 (HAB) meeting

The First NOWPAP Working Group 3 (HAB) meeting was held from 28-30 October 2003 in Busan, Republic of Korea with a warm support by the National Fisheries Research and Development Institute (NFRDI).

The main achievements of the Meeting were as follows:

- (1) The meeting finalized the terms of reference for NOWPAP Working Group 3 after a productive discussion. The finalized text of the TOR is forwarded to the Second CERAC FPM for the final adoption.
- (2) Some experts made presentations concerning the lessons learned from the experiences on HAB in the NOWPAP region and the activities conducted by other international organizations in order to share the useful information for discussing the workplan of NOWPAP Working Group 3.
- (3) The meeting identified red tide as a priority matter to cope with the HAB problems in the NOWPAP region.
- (4) The meeting discussed and agreed on the workplan for 2004/05 of NOWPAP Working Group 3. It included the establishment of the database on HAB, standardization of the national reports and the integrated report. Furthermore, the meeting agreed that each member country would carry out the intersessional work related to the development of the database on HAB and standardization of the national reports.

Expenditure: US\$18,937

2.4 Organization of the First Working Group 4 (Remote Sensing) meeting

The First NOWPAP Working Group 4 (Remote Sensing) meeting was held from 1-3 December 2003 in Vladivostok, Russia with a warm support by the V.I. Il'ichev Pacific Oceanological Institute, Far Eastern Branch of the Russian Academy of Science (POI, FEB RAS).

The main achievements of the Meeting were as follows:

- (1) The meeting finalized the terms of reference for NOWPAP Working Group 4 after a productive discussion. The finalized text of the TOR is forwarded to the Second CERAC FPM for the final adoption.
- (2) Some experts made presentations on the existing activities and future plans regarding monitoring by remote sensing in NOWPAP region and the activities conducted by several international organizations in order to share the useful information for discussing the workplan of NOWPAP Working Group 4.

- (3) The meeting agreed the Working Group 4 should focus on eutrophication and oil spill monitoring by remote sensing. The meeting decided the priority of the parameters for monitoring.
- (4) The meeting discussed and agreed on the workplan for 2004/05 of NOWPAP Working Group 4. It included the development of remote sensing information network system including portal site of remote sensing and website on oil spill monitoring, standardization of the national reports and the integrated report.

Expenditure: US\$19,912

2.5 Intersessional work for 2002/03

CEARAC has carried on related work in order to proceed a smooth meeting of NOWPAP Working Group 3 (HAB) and Working Group 4 (RS) and to implement activities proposed during Working Group 3 and Working Group 4.

Expenditure: US\$31,793

2.5.1 Preparation of the Working Documents for HAB and RS.

CEARAC concluded a MoU with METOCEAN ENVIRONMENT INC. as a consultant in order to prepare the material and documents for the first meeting of Working Group 3 and Working Group 4 including Internet Meeting for Working Group 4.

Expenditure: US\$23,193

2.5.2 Related Work for the development of the database on HAB

CEARAC concluded a MoU with an institute or an expert of each member country in order to carry out the related work for the development of the database on HAB of NOWPAP. The activities to be carried out are to obtain articles related to HAB in the NOWPAP region and enter the necessary information into the database.

Expenditure: US\$4,000 (\$1,000 for each WG3 Member)

2.5.3 Preliminary Internet meetings for WG4 and Development of website on oil spill monitoring

CEARAC organized the Internet meetings to define the provisional agenda items and to have preliminary discussion on each items for the First Meeting for Working Group 4.

CEARAC concluded a MoU with Pacific Oceanological Institute of Russian Academy of Science in order to develop a CEARAC website on oil spill monitoring. The website will provide information about remote sensing techniques of oil pollution detection, updated database of satellite images of NOWPAP region, and environmental information important for oil pollution monitoring.

Expenditure: US\$4,600

2.6 Cooperation, coordination of CEARAC activities throughout 2002/03

CEARAC kept in contact with NOWPAP interim RCU, other NOWPAP RACs, UNEP and relevant regional and international organizations in order to promote the protection and management of the coastal and marine environment in NOWPAP region.

Expenditure: US\$22,735

2.6.1 Travel Expenses

In order to keep in contact with and to harmonize activities among NOWPAP interim RCU and other RACs, the Director of CAERAC and his representative participated in Focal Points Meeting for DINRAC, MERRAC and POMRAC. The Director of CEARAC also attended in the Eighth Intergovernmental Meeting for NOWPAP held from 4-6 November 2003 in Sanya, China.

The Senior Researcher of CEARAC participated in the Twelfth Annual Meeting for the North Pacific Marine Science Organization (PICES) in order to share the information concerning databases on HAB conducted by international organizations and countries in NOWPAP region and made a presentation on the outline of NOWPAP and the database on HAB of NOWPAP which CEARAC plans to develop.

Expenditure: US\$9,894

2.6.2 Communication and Others

About US\$13,000 was spent on the Communication and Others for related work of NOWPAP activities, including international telephone and express mail charges, remittance fees and office supplies.

Expenditure: US\$12,841