

Outline of NOWPAP Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter (RAP MALI)

*(approved in principle by the 12th NOWPAP Intergovernmental meeting,
waiting a final approval by NOWPAP member states)*

GOAL AND OBJECTIVES

The goal of the NOWPAP Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter (RAP MALI) is to **improve the quality of the marine and coastal environment of the Northwest Pacific region by addressing the marine litter problem through cooperation and partnerships**. RAP MALI will also help to establish a regional mechanism to deal with the marine litter problem in the NOWPAP region. It will eventually contribute to achieving the overall goal of NOWPAP that is the sustainable development of the region.

To achieve the RAP MALI goal, the following three objectives are suggested:

- to **prevent** the marine litter input into the marine and coastal environment;
- to **monitor** the quantities and distribution of marine litter;
- to **remove** existing litter that was already discarded, disposed of and abandoned.

The NOWPAP RAP MALI is a non-legally binding action plan for the NOWPAP member states.

IMPLEMENTATION OF RAP MALI

Three main components of the NOWPAP RAP MALI are suggested to be organized in accordance with the three objectives above. Of course, this division into three separate components is only for convenience; in real life all components will be interlinked. For example, International Coastal Cleanup (ICC) campaigns contribute to raising public awareness and monitoring; from the other hand, monitoring data help to develop new technical and administrative measures and even to introduce new legislation.

NOWPAP RAP MALI is expected to be implemented in close coordination with UNEP and other UN agencies, including Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO and International Maritime Organization (IMO). For example, when UNEP/IOC Global Guidelines for Marine Litter Monitoring are developed, the NOWPAP member states might consider using those guidelines. Close collaboration with other existing regional and global projects, programmes and organizations is also crucial for the RAP MALI implementation. Several joint activities have been already organized by NOWPAP, Yellow Sea Large Marine Ecosystem (YSLME) project, Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia (COBSEA) and Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA) programme in 2007; such cooperation will be continued within the framework of RAP MALI as well.

One of critical factors for success of NOWPAP RAP MALI is a combination of national and regional actions. NOWPAP institutional infrastructure (Intergovernmental Meeting, Regional Activity Centres, Regional Coordinating Unit, and National Marine Litter Focal Points) has proven itself operational and reliable during the MALITA implementation and will be used for implementing RAP MALI.

WORKPLAN AND BUDGET FOR 2008/2009

While the implementation of RAP MALI is relying on the individual NOWPAP member states, funding for the implementation of basic activities of RAP MALI will be provided through the NOWPAP Trust Fund. Additional financial support, and in-kind contributions, from the NOWPAP member states and from international organizations and programmes will also be sought. Suggested NOWPAP RAP MALI activities to be covered by the Trust Fund in the 2008/2009 biennium are shown in the table below.

Activities	Target date	Participants
1. Prevention of marine litter inputs to marine and coastal environment		
1.1 Legal and administrative instruments		
Update national summaries (prepared initially during MALITA implementation) on legal instruments, institutional arrangements and programmes related to marine litter, including solid waste management, integrated coastal and river basin management, and market-based economic incentives	Sept. 2008	RCU, Member states
Prepare regional overview on legal instruments, institutional arrangements and programmes related to marine litter based on updated national summaries	April 2009	DINRAC
1.2 Wise management of marine litter		
Organize workshop on marine litter-related issues (expected to be supported by member states)	2008-2009	RCU
Apply sectoral guidelines on land-based sources of marine litter ----- - Translate developed guidelines into national language of each member state and update them as appropriate ----- - Publish translated guidelines ----- - Distribute guidelines to the relevant sectors and organizations, including the public and workers, through appropriate occasions (e.g., workshops and campaigns)	July 2009	CEARAC POMRAC ----- RACs, Member states ----- CEARAC POMRAC ----- Member states, RACs
Apply sectoral guidelines on sea-based sources of marine litter ----- - Translate developed guidelines into the national language of each member state and update them as appropriate ----- - Publish translated guidelines ----- - Distribute guidelines to the relevant sectors and organizations, including the public and workers, through appropriate occasions (e.g., workshops and campaigns)	July 2009	MERRAC POMRAC ----- RACs, Member states ----- MERRAC POMRAC ----- Member states, RACs
Assessment of port reception facilities in the NOWPAP region ----- - Develop methodology and formats for assessment of port reception facilities	Aug. 2009	MERRAC ----- MERRAC

	- Collect data based on agreed methodology and formats		Member states
	- Develop assessment report		MERRAC
1.3	Information, education, outreach and public awareness		
	Develop public awareness materials	Aug. 2008	RCU, RACs
	- Translate developed brochure into national language of each member state		RACs
	- Publish translated brochures		RACs
	- Distribute brochures to relevant sectors and organizations, including the public and workers, through the relevant occasions (e.g., workshop and ICC campaign)		Member states, RACs
1.4	Cooperation with civil society		
	Organize joint workshops and campaigns, in conjunction with NOWPAP ICC, as appropriate	2008-2009	RCU, Member states, RACs
1.5	Research activities		
	Introduce and exchange information (by e-mail, during workshops and similar events) on research outcomes and technologies on marine litter prevention and reduction	2008-2009	RCU, Member states, RACs
2. Monitoring of marine litter quantities and distribution			
2.1	Marine litter monitoring using NOWPAP guidelines		
	Implement marine litter monitoring using NOWPAP monitoring guidelines	2008-2009	Member states
2.2	Maintenance of marine litter database		
	Maintain and update data and information based on national inputs by member states and RACs	2008-2009	DINRAC
2.3	Compilation of data from national monitoring programmes		
	Compile and harmonize marine litter monitoring data on beaches (provided by member states) and submit collected data to DINRAC	2008-2009	CEARAC, Member states
	Compile and harmonize data on marine litter on seabed (provided by member states) and submit collected data to DINRAC	2008-2009	MERRAC, Member states
2.4	Regular assessment of current situation and trends in marine litter quantities and distribution		
	Updated regional assessment on a regular basis	2008-2009	RCU
2.5	Collection of marine litter-related research outcomes		
	Collect and put collected information on NOWPAP website or share with member states by e-mail	2008-2009	RCU
	Interpret results of marine litter monitoring on beaches	2009	CEARAC

3. Removing existing marine litter and its disposal			
3.1	Beach Cleanups Campaigns		
	Organize NOWPAP ICC campaigns during 2008-2009, together with marine litter workshops and/or working meetings	2008-2009	RCU DINRAC POMRAC
3.2	Removal of existing marine litter		
	Collect data and information on marine litter collection / disposal in fishing sector, including policies, technologies, etc., and share with member states	Sept. 2009	RCU, Member states, RACs
3.3	Research activities related to marine litter		
	Introduce and exchange information on technologies and research outcomes on removal of existing marine litter (by e-mail and through workshops and other relevant events)	2008-2009	RCU, Member states, RACs
	Develop technical materials and introduce best practices on solid waste management, including removal of marine litter on beaches	July 2009	CEARAC
	Develop technical report on technologies and research outcomes on prevention, collection and treatment of marine litter	2008-2009	MERRAC
4. Coordination of RAP MALI implementation			
	Organize working meetings on RAP MALI implementation in conjunction with workshops and/or NOWPAP ICC campaigns	2008-2009	RCU, Member states, RACs
