

Annex 1.

Project proposal for NEAMPAN **Strengthening the subregional cooperation through knowledge sharing on sustainable management of MPAs**

Project duration: May 2017 - December 2018

Total project cost: US\$ 120,000.

Proposed source of funding:

Major project goal: Strengthening the subregional cooperation through knowledge and experience sharing on the assessment of environmental and socio-economic pressures on MPA; and the sustainable management of marine resources

Major implementing institutions in the Russian Federation

Russian Federation: (with reference to the original project proposal)

- Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of the Russian Federation;
- Pacific Institute of Geography of the Far East Branch of Russian Academy of Sciences (FEB RAS);
- Institute of Marine Biology of the FEB RAS;
- Autonomous Non-Profit Organization, “Centre for International Projects” (ANO-CIP), Russian Federation.

China:

- First Institute of Oceanography, SOA
- Lands & Ocean Ecological Technology Research Center

Japan: to be identified

Republic of Korea: to be identified

NEAMPAN secretariat

I. Background

Under NEASPEC framework, a series of formal and informal consultations was held on subregional cooperation on marine environment since 2011, which eventually led to the launch of the North-East Asia Marine Protected Areas Network (NEAMPAN) at the 18th Senior Officials Meeting in November 2013.

MPAs of the North-East Asia subregion significantly vary in size, biodiversity, management authority, etc. while they share similar objectives such as contribution to biodiversity and conservation, non-consumptive economic benefits such as tourism.

While conservation is a key objective of MPA by definition, many MPAs face lack of resources and thus face challenges of balancing conservation and economic activities to support local communities and management of MPAs. Many of the MPAs engage in research and monitoring of the health of their MPAs, with various scope and framework. Some large MPAs have structured indicators for monitoring the status of the MPAs and impacts of activities within their MPAs according to their management plans or mandates. For some smaller MPAs, often the environmental status and activities outside the MPAs have more significant impacts on the MPAs.

Many of the MPAs in NEAMPAN undertake monitoring of their sites although with various scope and degree of scientific monitoring. Almost by definition, human activities in MPAs are more strictly controlled than non-MPA sites, and MPA monitoring has place-based focus and possibly accumulated long-term data sets of the sites. In this context, MPAs can also serve as sentinel sites to monitor climate change¹. In this context, assessment and monitoring of MPAs provides critical tool for effective management of MPAs as well as important indicator of climate change.

Thus, this project aims to promote exchange of experiences in monitoring and assessment of the status of MPAs and sustainable management of marine resources, to collectively improve knowledge and practices in NEAMPAN sites.

As set out in the NEAMPAN Terms of Reference adopted at the 18th Senior Officials Meeting of NEASPEC in 2013, priority activity themes of the NEAMPAN include: (i) Protection of key marine animals, such as Spotted Seals, Black-faced Spoonbills and Sea Turtles, and their habitats, and (ii) Sustainable use of marine resources, such as aquaculture, seafood security, fish stocks restoration.

While the current focus of the NEAMPAN is on network of MPA managers and stakeholders, the key objectives of NEAMPAN also include building of knowledge, i.e.,

¹ http://marineprotectedareas.noaa.gov/pdf/helpful-resources/mpas_climate_change_march_2013.pdf

“... to promote and facilitate cooperative research and projects for improving management effectiveness of individual MPAs as well as the concerned national and local policies”.

Thus the current project proposal is a revision of the project proposal submitted to the Senior Officials Meeting of NEASPEC earlier in 2016, incorporating comments of the Steering Committee Meeting in June 2016 to focus on key activities to be manageable within the size of the proposed budget. It also corresponds to the interest of NEAMPAN members on eco-tourism development in MPA during the first NEAMPAN workshop held in 2016 in Suncheon, Republic of Korea, in June 2016.

The proposal is also in line with the call to strengthen regional cooperation for the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans, seas and marine resources and to enhance the capacity of member states for the protection of marine and coastal environment, as outlined in the ESCAP commission resolution at its 72nd session adopted in 2016².

II. Key outcomes

1. Review of the management plans and strategies of selected NEAMPAN sites
2. Review and analysis of methodologies applied in the respective MPAs for
 - a. monitoring and assessment of the current status and
 - b. assessment of environment and socio-economic pressures
 - c. sustainable management of marine resources
3. Case studies of monitoring and assessment results and corresponding measures in the selected MPAs
4. Recommendations on monitoring and assessment strategies and plans for sustainable MPAs.

III. Main project activities

1. Research and analysis:

² Regional cooperation to promote the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific, (E/ESCAP/72/L.12/Rev.1)

- a. Literature review of the management plans and strategies of selected NEAMPAN sites
 - b. Review and analysis of methodologies applied in the respective MPAs for
 - i. monitoring and assessment of the current state of MPAs
 - ii. assessment of environment and socio-economic pressures
 - iii. sustainable management of marine resources
 - c. Case studies of monitoring and assessment results and corresponding measures in the selected MPAs
2. Expert group meeting to review studies on management plans and strategies (1.a above) and methodologies (1.b above)
 3. Expert group meeting to review case studies (1.c above) and to develop recommendations on strategies and plans (based on the research and information sharing) on (i) monitoring and assessment of environmental and socio-economic pressures on NEAMPAN sites (ii) identifying local and global environmental impact on species of the target MPAs
 4. Site visits and knowledge sharing workshop
 5. Dissemination of studies and recommendations

IV. Geographical focus

Existing Marine Protected Areas designated as NEAMPAN site (and peripheral areas)

V. Key considerations in connection with the existing initiatives

The project will be implemented with special attention to the following

1. Adaption of the scientific criteria on identification of ecologically and/or biologically significant marine areas³ in need of protection to the marine and coastal areas based on the CBD COP decisions.
2. Reference to the existing Integrated Coastal Area and River Basin Management (ICZM⁴-IRBM⁵) system to the biodiversity management tasks.

³ For detail on Scientific Criteria for Identifying Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas (EBSAs), see CBD website <https://www.cbd.int/ebsa/about>

⁴ Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM)

3. Interaction with other international and intergovernmental organizations in this area (NOWPAP, GEF, UNESCO/IOC, UNEP, CBD, IUCN, UNESCO/MAB etc.).

VI. Implementation strategies

- Close communication will be maintained throughout the project, via meetings, workshops of focal points and expert groups, the video-conferences, etc., aiming at the development of common approaches, formats, as well as assistance in sharing knowledge and information among the countries.
- To avoid duplication and to use the positive experience gained under the project, discussions and consultation on the project materials will be held with both the experts in the countries and national focal points for this activity, and the relevant institutions performing its activities in this field.
- The case study areas could be selected in each country, where the work methods, formats for provided materials, and concrete recommendations are suggested to be elaborated.

⁵ Integrated River Basin Management (IRBM)

VII. Estimate budget by activities

Activities	Type of expenditure	Estimate budget
Research and analysis: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Literature review of the management plans and strategies of selected NEAMPAN sites 2. Review and analysis of methodologies applied in the respective MPAs for <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. monitoring and assessment of the current state of MPAs b. assessment of environment and socio-economic pressures c. sustainable management of marine resources 	In-kind contribution by participating agencies / consultant' fee 2500 x 4 countries	10,000
Research and analysis: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Case studies of monitoring and assessment results and corresponding measures in the selected MPAs 	In-kind contribution by participating agencies / consultant' fee (10000 x 4 countries)	40,000
Expert group meetings and knowledge sharing workshop	meetings 12,000 x 3	36,000
Reporting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Editing • Translation of materials • Printing 	Editing (est. \$3500) Translation (est. \$12,000)	15,500
Printing	Printing	4,000
Communication	Operational expenses	700
SUBTOTAL		106,200
Programme Support Cost (13%)		13,806
TOTAL		120,006