



**Wise use, development and management
of the coastal and marine environment**

*Northwest Pacific
Action Plan (NOWPAP)*

What is NOWPAP?

The Action Plan for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the North-West Pacific Region (NOWPAP) is a regional intergovernmental mechanism established in 1994. NOWPAP activities focus on the environmental protection of coasts and seas of the North-West Pacific; contribute to a higher quality of life; and support sustainable development within the region and beyond.

NOWPAP activities are implemented by the four Regional Activity Centres (RACs) hosted by Member States : (i) the Special Monitoring and Coastal Environment Assessment RAC; (ii) the Data and Information Network RAC; (iii) the Marine Environmental Emergency Preparedness and Response RAC; and (iv) the Pollution Monitoring RAC. These are coordinated through the Regional Coordinating Unit, with offices in Japan and the Republic of Korea.

Participating Countries

Japan, the People's Republic of China, the Republic of Korea and the Russian Federation

How we support the implementation, review and follow-up of the ocean-related Sustainable Development Goals

NOWPAP members aim to strengthen their efforts to address the regional challenges of marine environmental protection and sustainable development through the implementation of the NOWPAP Medium-term Strategy 2018-2023. This will contribute to the achievement of several Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including, inter alia:

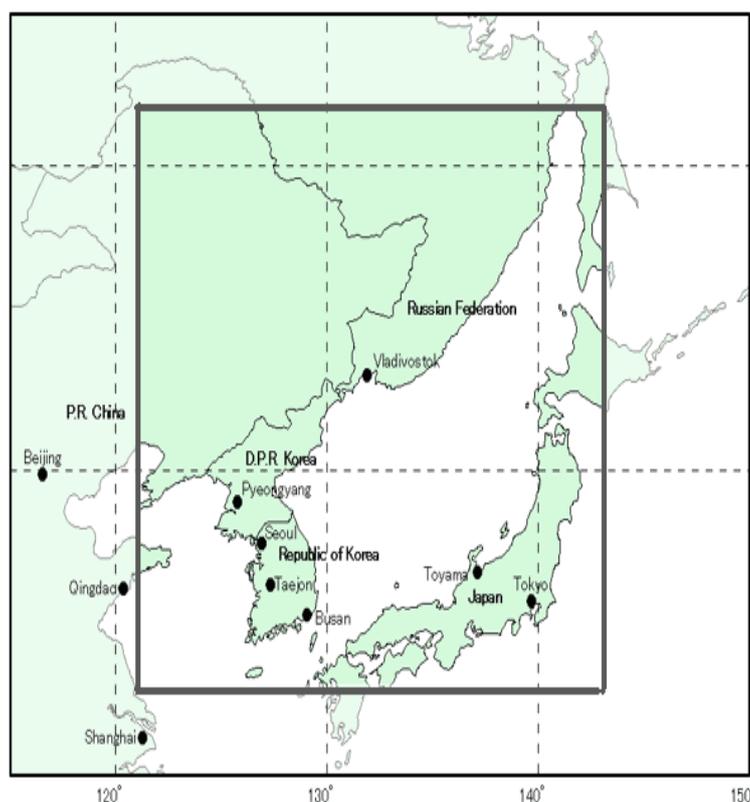
- Preventing and reducing land- and sea-based sources of pollution (SDGs 12 and 14)
- Assessing the status of the marine and coastal environment (SDGs 13,14,15 and 17)
- Supporting integrated coastal and river basin planning and management through an ecosystem-based approach (SDGs 11, 13, 14 and 15)

Key achievements and success stories

- NOWPAP adopted the Regional Oil and Hazardous and Noxious Substances Spill Contingency Plan in 2005 and since then, Member States have conducted Regular Regional Joint Exercises on Oil Spill Preparedness and Response (SDG 14.1)
- NOWPAP was the first Regional Seas Programme to adopt a voluntary Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter in 2008 (SDG 14.1)
- NOWPAP activities increased knowledge and public awareness of the state of marine and coastal ecosystems, including levels of biodiversity in the Northwest Pacific region (SDG 14.1, 14.2 and 14a);
- NOWPAP made significant progress in building the capacities of technical experts and policy specialists through joint training, regular regional dialogues, seminars and expert workshops (SDG 14a).

Buy Back Program in the Republic of Korea

The 'Buy-Back Programme' was implemented by the Government of Korea with the aim of preventing the dumping of marine litter by fishermen, by encouraging them to bring back litter collected during their fishing activities. The key element of the programme was to provide an economic incentive to fishermen to collect and remove marine litter. The Buy-Back Programme saved the Government of Korea US\$36 (KRW 38,000) per ton in litter removal costs and improved the efficiency of marine litter removal activities.



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