

Item 5(c) - Annex IV.

Activity plan for marine protected areas in 2025

Approach and modality: The focus will be on enhancing understanding of climate change impacts on Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and exploring the role of MPAs and MPA networks in mitigating these impacts. In addition to conducting targeted research and studies, the plan emphasizes capacity-building, expert engagement, and strategic planning to strengthen regional cooperation. Outreach and networking with regional and global mechanisms will further enhance visibility and partnerships.

Key Activities

Research projects

- **A.1: Publication of the Study on “Challenges and impacts of climate change on MPAs and relevant ocean-based solutions in the Republic of Korea” (Q1, 2025)**

The secretariat plans to engage a vendor for layout design and release the e-copy for distribution upon finalization by December 2024. (Approximate budget: \$2,000)

- **A.2: Studies on “Challenges and impacts of climate change on MPAs and relevant ocean-based solutions” (Q4 2024 -)**

Building on previous studies conducted in the Republic of Korea, the secretariat will continue research focusing on China, followed by Japan and/or the Russian Federation. The study on China will take place between Q4 2024 and Q1 2025 (\$5,000), with its publication scheduled for Q2 2025 (\$2,000). Experts for the study on Japan and/or the Russian Federation will be identified in 2025, with research continuing from Q3 2025 (\$5,000). (Approximate total budget: \$12,000)

Knowledge sharing and capacity building

- **B.1: Organization of Expert Group Meetings on Marine Mammals (Q1-Q4, 2025)**

The Secretariat will convene one in-person meeting and online discussions on marine mammal conservation, focusing on Spotted Seals and East Asian Finless Porpoises. (Approximate budget: \$12,000)

- **B2: Organization of a session on Coastal Cities during the 5th International Forum on Low Carbon Cities (Q2 or Q3, 2025)**

The Secretariat plans to organize a dedicated session on coastal cities as part of the 5th International Forum on Low Carbon Cities. The session will target NEAMPAN sites and other coastal cities with marine protected areas, aiming to foster dialogue on sustainable urban and marine ecosystem management in the context of addressing climate change.

- **B.3: Discussions on the Development of a NEAMPAN Strategic Framework and Action Plan (Q1-Q4, 2025)**

The Secretariat will facilitate online discussions with Steering Committee members, NEAMPAN site managers, experts, and stakeholders to draft a strategic framework and action plan. These discussions will be reflected into the NEASPEC Strategic Plan for 2026-2030.

Outreach Activities

- **C.1: Outreach Activities and Networking with Regional/Global Mechanisms (Q1 - Q4, 2025)**

The Secretariat aims to expand partnerships with national, regional, and global mechanisms to enhance NEAMPAN's visibility. Planned activities include, but are not limited to, organizing side events at conferences such as the Our Ocean Conference (April 2025, Busan, Republic of Korea) and engaging in joint activities or meetings with national, regional and international organizations focused on MPAs. (Approximate budget: \$8,000)