

North-East Asian Marine Protected Areas Network (NEAMPAN) Workshop **“Sharing experiences and challenges in sustainable management of MPAs”**

11:00-17:00 (GMT+9), 15 July 2021, Virtual

Background

North-East Asian Marine Protected Areas Network (NEAMPAN) was established in 2013 within the framework of North-East Asian Subregional Programme for Environmental Cooperation (NEASPEC) with overall goal “to establish an effective, functional representative network of MPAs in North-East Asia for conservation of marine and coastal biodiversity and more efficient MPA management”.

As envisaged in terms of reference, NEAMPAN promotes the social or human network of MPAs managers, relevant officials and experts, through such activities as experience sharing workshops and field visits.

One of the priority activity themes of NEAMPAN is effective MPA management. At present, NEAMPAN has 12 MPA sites nominated by member States; six MPAs in China, three in the Republic of Korea, two in the Russian Federation, and one in Japan. While they vary in sizes, conservation status, managerial structure, etc., the nominated MPAs are one of the most well protected areas with established framework to monitor the ecological status of the sites in the respective country. Nonetheless, the local anthropocentric impact is a concern that all MPAs face. Some environmental challenges are beyond the control and responsibility of individual MPAs. However, there are also challenges within the sphere of influence of MPA managers which require balancing the conservation and local interest (such as resource use for livelihood, tourism development), often involving awareness-raising and engagement of local community for effective management of MPAs.

In this context, this workshop aims to provide a forum to share experiences in sustainable management of NEAMPAN sites, with particular attention on managing tourism in and sustainable use of MPAs and surrounding areas.

Goals:

- To promote the exchange of knowledge, information, experiences and good practices with regard to strengthen MPA management effectiveness in line with the objective of the NEASPEC Strategic Plan 2021-2025; and
- To develop joint activities in connection with the study, “Management Plans, Monitoring and Assessment of Marine Protected Areas” and the practices and needs of the target MPAs

Modality

- Virtual (KUDO platform)
- Simultaneous interpretation for Chinese, Japanese, Korean and Russian

Prospective participants:

- Managers of NEAMPAN sites
- NEAMPAN Steering Committee members
- Representatives of local stakeholders
- Interested researchers, NGOs and international organizations (e.g., NOWPAP, PEMSEA, EAAFP, etc.)

Sessions

- Sustainable management of MPAs based on findings from the NEAMPAN study; and
- Experience sharing and lessons learned on sustainable management of MPAs

Annex. NEAMPAN site

