
# East Asian-Australasian Flyway - Regional Flyway Initiative

## Overview

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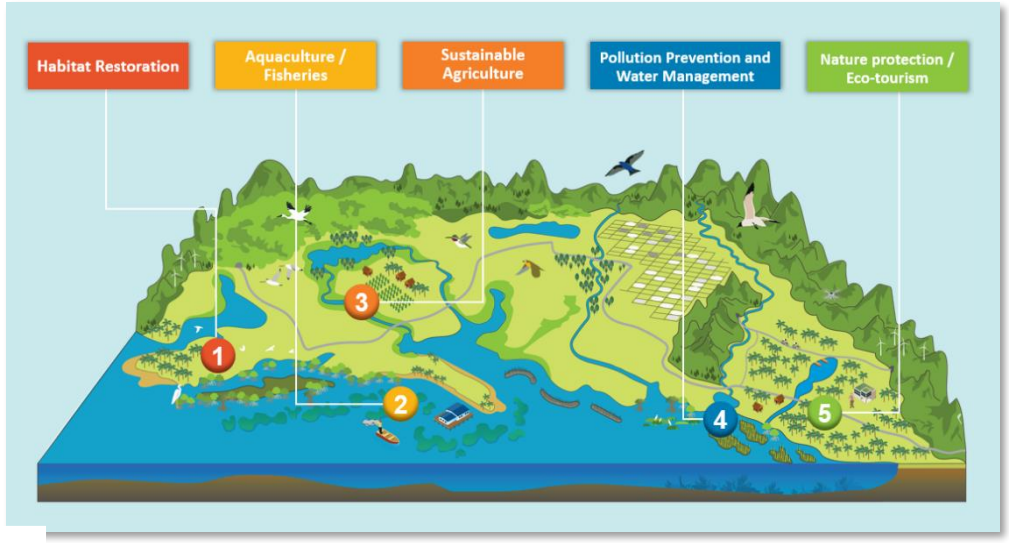
Asian Development Bank

# Regional Flyway Initiative (RFI) - AIM to mobilize $3 billion of investment in wetland protection and management to have flyway level impact

- **Aligned with** EAAFP Strategic Plan, UNCBD, Paris Agreement, Ramsar, UNESCO
- **$100 Billion Climate Commitment** ADB target cumulative investment by 2030 – Nature will be key to deliver climate adaptation and resilience
- **Regional.** East, Central, Southeast Asia and Pacific. Initial focus on 8 countries including the PRC.
- **RFI timeframe. Phase 1 (2021–2024):** project development, **Phase 2 (2023–2033+):** implementation
- **Goal.** Improved management of **50 wetlands** (>2 million ha) → a network of habitats with species numbers maintained or enhanced
- **Co-benefits.** Healthy wetlands: natural capital and ecosystem services; nature-based solutions; livelihoods.



# RFI Development Phase – Grant Details

- **Status and Schedule** – ADB Knowledge Sharing Technical Assistance (TA) Grant - 55056-001 'Scaling Up the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Initiative':
  - Approved on 14 July 2021. Delivery period from July 2021 – **December 2024**
  - Launch events at CBD COP15 and UNFCCC COP26 both in 2021
- **Financing** –
  - ADB grant financing of **$1.7 million** to facilitate development phase
  - USG in-kind contribution $100,000
- **Development Phase Delivery** - TA to be administered by ADB and implemented by consortium led by BirdLife International with an international team including Wetlands International, Paulson Institute, NUS, James Cook University, University of Southampton amongst others.

**Grant Delivery Schedule to Dec 2024:**

- December 2021 - Inception Workshop with DMCs
- May 2022 - Site Selection Framework Endorsed
- May 2022 – Mar 2023 DMC engagement on site selection
- June 2023 - Consensus on 50 priority sites
- Nov 2022 – Dec 2024 Develop Project Concepts

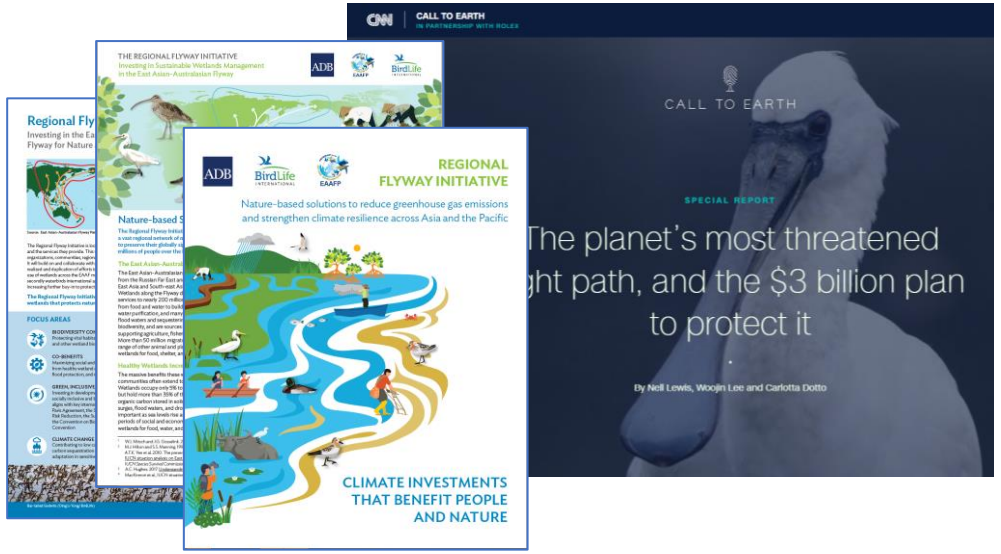
# RFI – Phased Approach

- **Development Phase 2021 - 2024**
  - Needs assessment and capacity building,
  - Identify highest priority sites and develop early project concepts for 50,
  - Develop granting mechanism.
- **Implementation Phase 2024 – 2034+**
  - Develop investment projects at RFI priority sites,
  - Establish partnership to monitor and verify delivery of the RFI and support project preparation and scaling up.
  - Implement granting mechanism to complement investment projects

# Output 1: Capacity Development - Activities

- **Profile Raising**


- **Knowledge Dissemination**

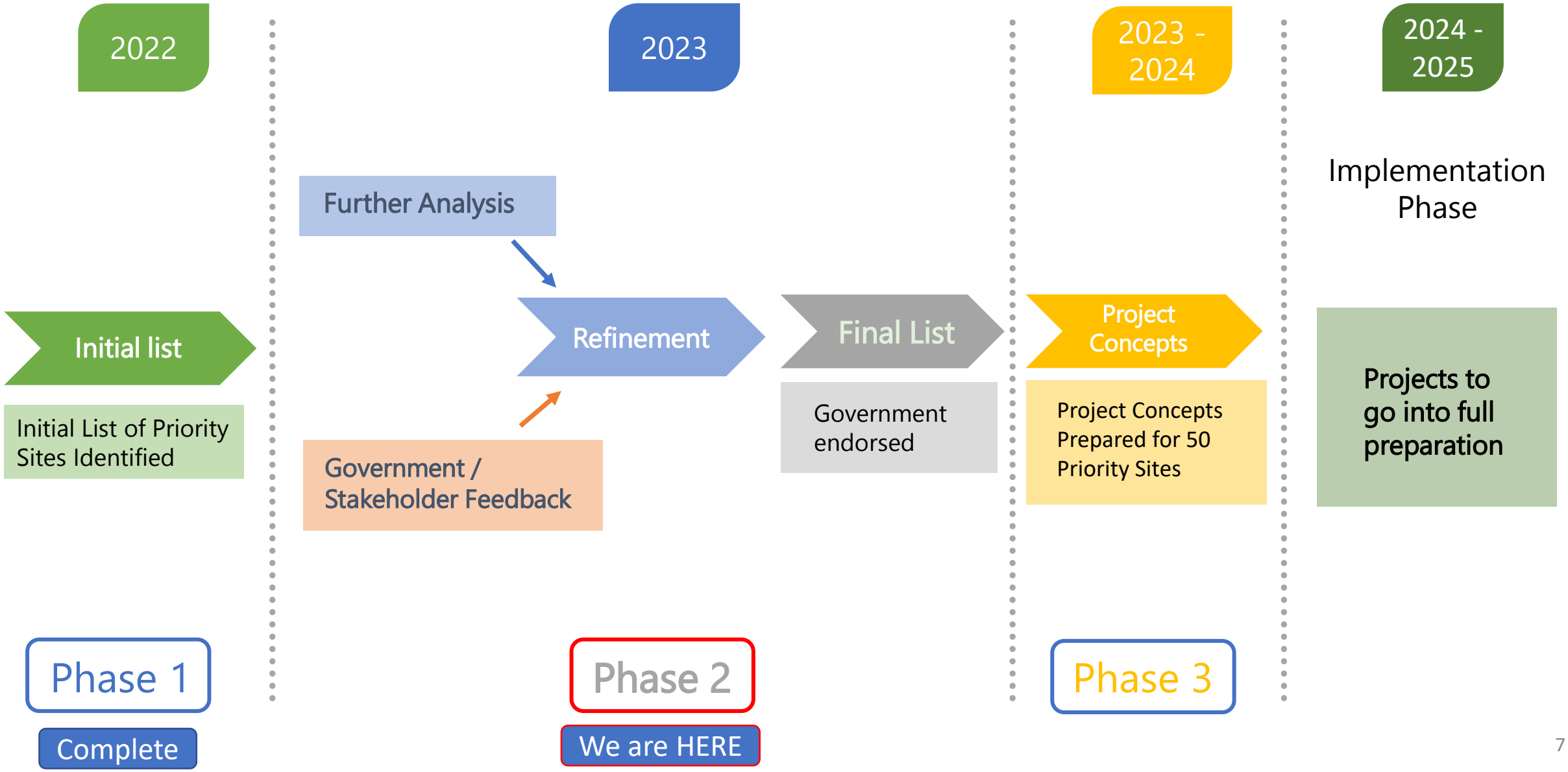



- **Capacity Building**

- **Building Support**



# Output 2: Site Selection Process – Phased Approach



# Phase 1 - The Priority Sites Selection Process – initial findings

Phase 1

| Country | No. of Priority Sites (Totals) | No. of Coastal | No. of Inland |
|---|---|---|---|
| Cambodia | 9 | 1 | 8 |
| Bangladesh | 8 | 5 | 3 |
| Indonesia | 17 | 16 | 1 |
| Thailand | 12 | 9 | 3 |
| Philippines | 12 | 9 | 3 |
| Malaysia | 6 | 6 | 0 |
| Vietnam | 9 | 8 | 1 |
| Lao PDR | 3 | 0 | 3 |
| PRC | 60 | 37 | 23 |
| Mongolia | 11 | 0 | 11 |
| TOTAL | 147 | 91 | 56 |

**Development Asia Site Selection Data Room - Now Live**

*Indicative only – Stakeholder Engagement and Ecosystem Services Assessment to be completed before site confirmation.

# Phase 2: Site Selection

**Further Analysis**

- Carbon Stock Assessment
- Livelihoods Support
- Ecosystem Services Delivered
- Principles such as equity, readiness, etc.
- Provide information on government priorities, focusing on international commitments through NBSAP, Ramsar, CBD and EAAFP

We are HERE.

Initial list of sites identified of international importance for migratory waterbirds

1) Further Analysis
2) Government Input

Final List of Investment Sites selected, and no objection / endorsement provided by Government

Project Concept Development

**Government / Stakeholder Dialogue**

- Investment Opportunities Identified (Agri/Aqua/Tourism etc.)

# Phase 2: Project Concepts – what they deliver

## ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

Investment **conceptualization /design** (drawing from meaningful stakeholder engagement, technical expertise and analysis)

## NON-COMMITAL but ANCHORED ON SHARED GOALS

**Recommendations** only but founded on shared objectives

## RAPID APPRAISAL

Identify what needs to be done and initial cost estimates

Opens door to more **opportunities for finance**

## MULTI-LEVEL

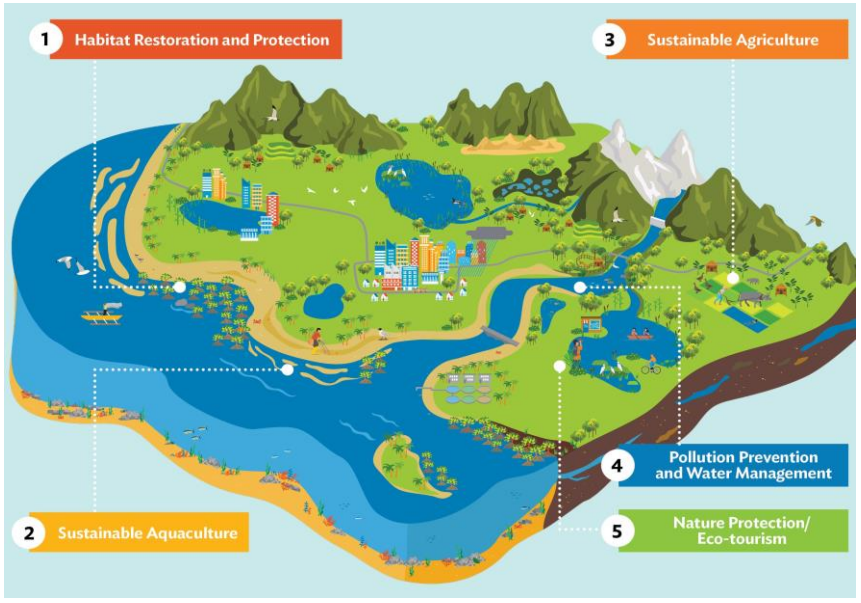
RFI will deliver multiple-level benefits (e.g., climate, livelihood and nature)

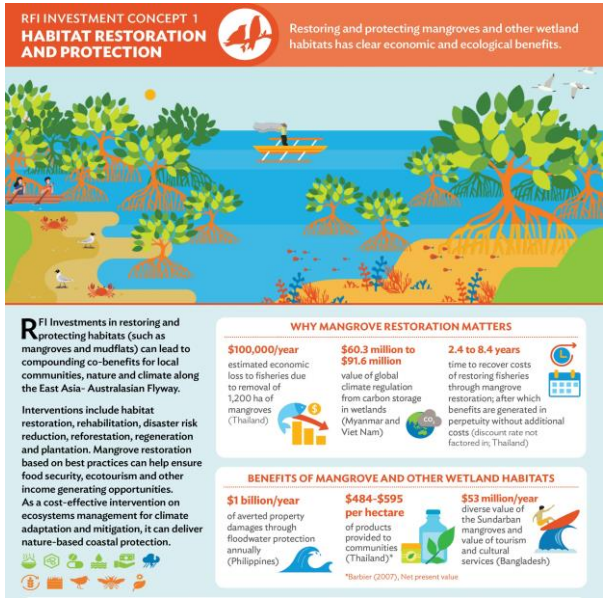
Allowing exploration of opportunities with **Non-traditional** government **partners**

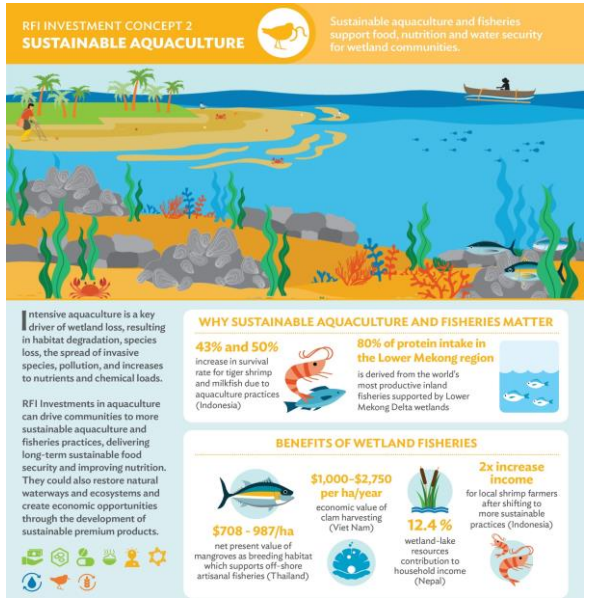
# What RFI projects may look like – 5 indicative models

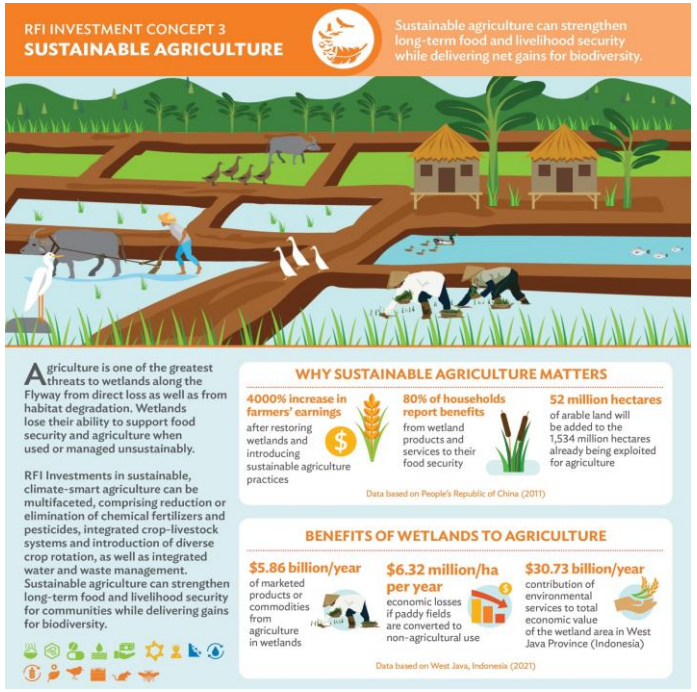
## Ecosystem Services and Co-Benefits in Wetlands

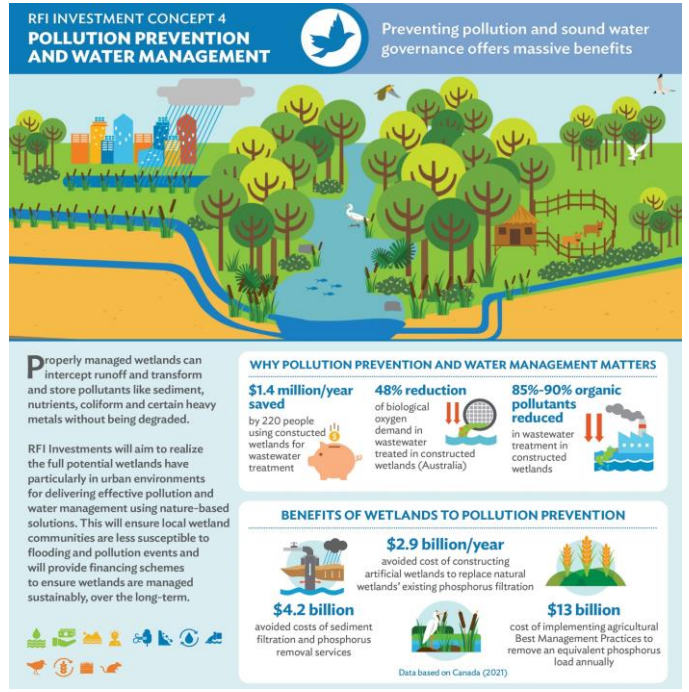

Source: ADB adapted from TEEB Europe




# Output 3: Sustainable Financing Mechanism

## Activities Completed

- Consultation
  - Detailed consultation regarding the financing mechanism has been undertaken based on more of a dozen interviews with civil society, philanthropic organizations, international finance institutes and multilateral donors.
- Desk Study
  - Literature review on conservation finance was undertaken and lessons-learned/challenges and opportunities were compiled as key findings.
- Options Appraisal
  - Three possible mechanism designs are in the final stages of preparation and will be ready to issue for consultation with stakeholders by the end of Q3 2023.
- Donor Identification
  - Significant interest from donor organizations in various capacities. GEF/GCF particularly have potential.

# RFI Key Activities and Next Steps in 2023-2024

- **Existing Project Opportunities**
  - Support project teams with existing pipeline projects.
  - Continue to support other opportunities, particularly on GEF projects.
- **Project Concept Development**
  - Focus on getting endorsement for final list of 50 sites and then developing the early project concepts by the end of 2024. Concepts are critical for taking the RFI forward.
- **Stakeholder Engagement**
  - Undertake 3 key workshops in 2023: Philippines (June); Cambodia (September) and Thailand (Q4). These will allow further detailed input for concept development.
- **Donor / Grant Financing**
  - Continue to explore opportunities for donor / grant financing with key organizations.