



MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT
AND CLIMATE CHANGE



University of
Southampton



REGIONAL FLYWAY INITIATIVE TRAINING SERIES:

Workshop on Wetland Ecosystem Services and Nature-based Solutions

MONGOLIA 28–29 November 2024

The East Asian-Australasian Regional Flyway Initiative: Delivering for Climate, People and Nature

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AMBITION – a regional initiative to mobilize \$3 billion of investment for wetland protection and management to have flyway level impact

- **Aligned with** EAAFP Strategic Plan, UNCBD, Paris Agreement, Ramsar, CMS, 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.
- **RFI timeframe. Phase 1 (2021–2025):** project development, **Phase 2 (2023–2033+):** implementation
- **Goal.** Improved management of **50 wetlands** (>2 million ha) → build a network of wetland habitats with species numbers maintained or enhanced
- **Co-benefits.** Healthy wetlands: natural capital and ecosystem services; nature-based solutions; livelihoods.



RFI – Development and Implementation Approach

- **Development Phase 2021 - 2025**

- Needs assessment and capacity building
- Identify highest priority sites and develop 50 early project concepts
- Develop granting mechanism.

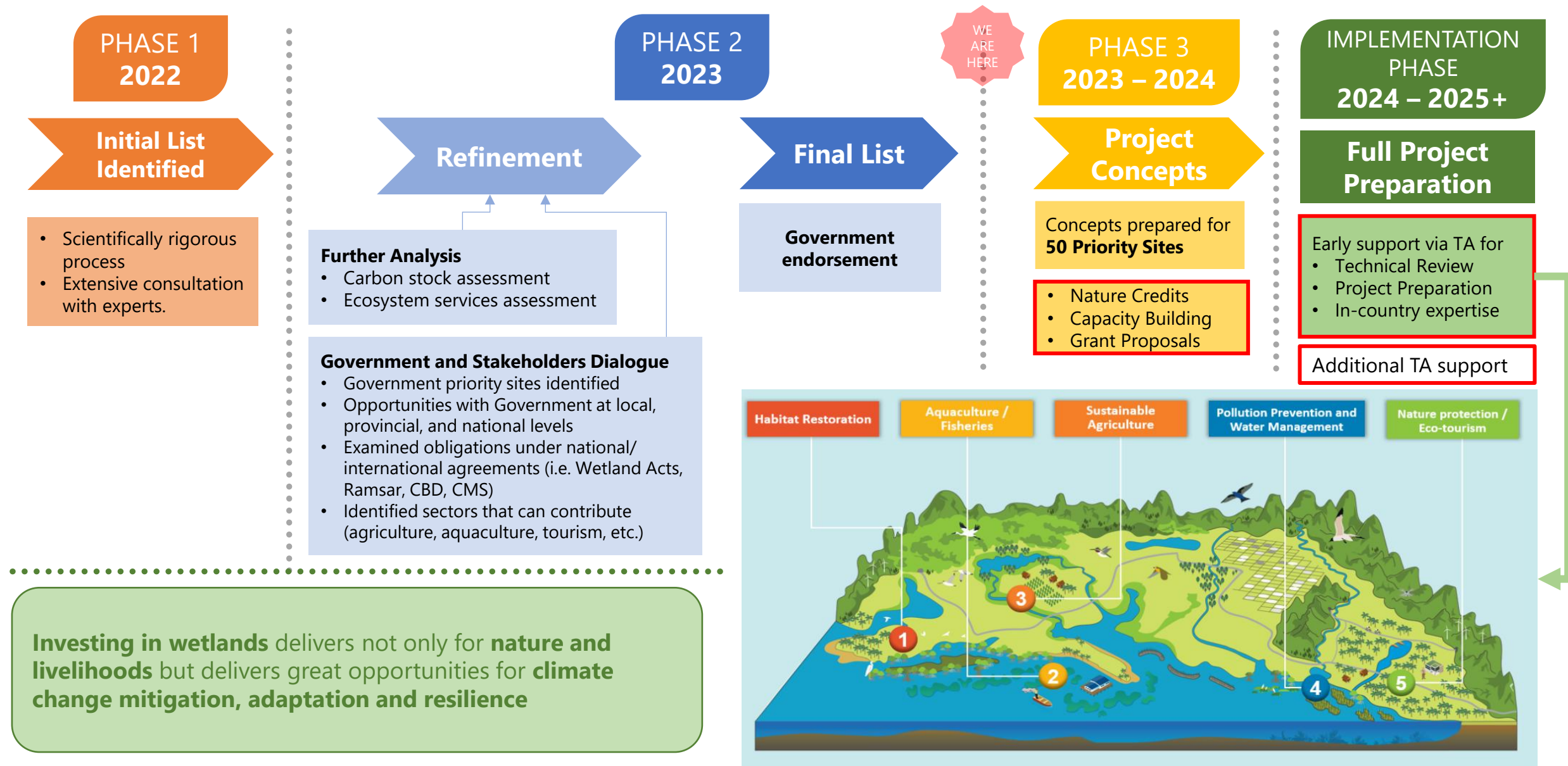
Financed through
existing \$1.7
million grant

- **Implementation Phase 2024 – 2034+**

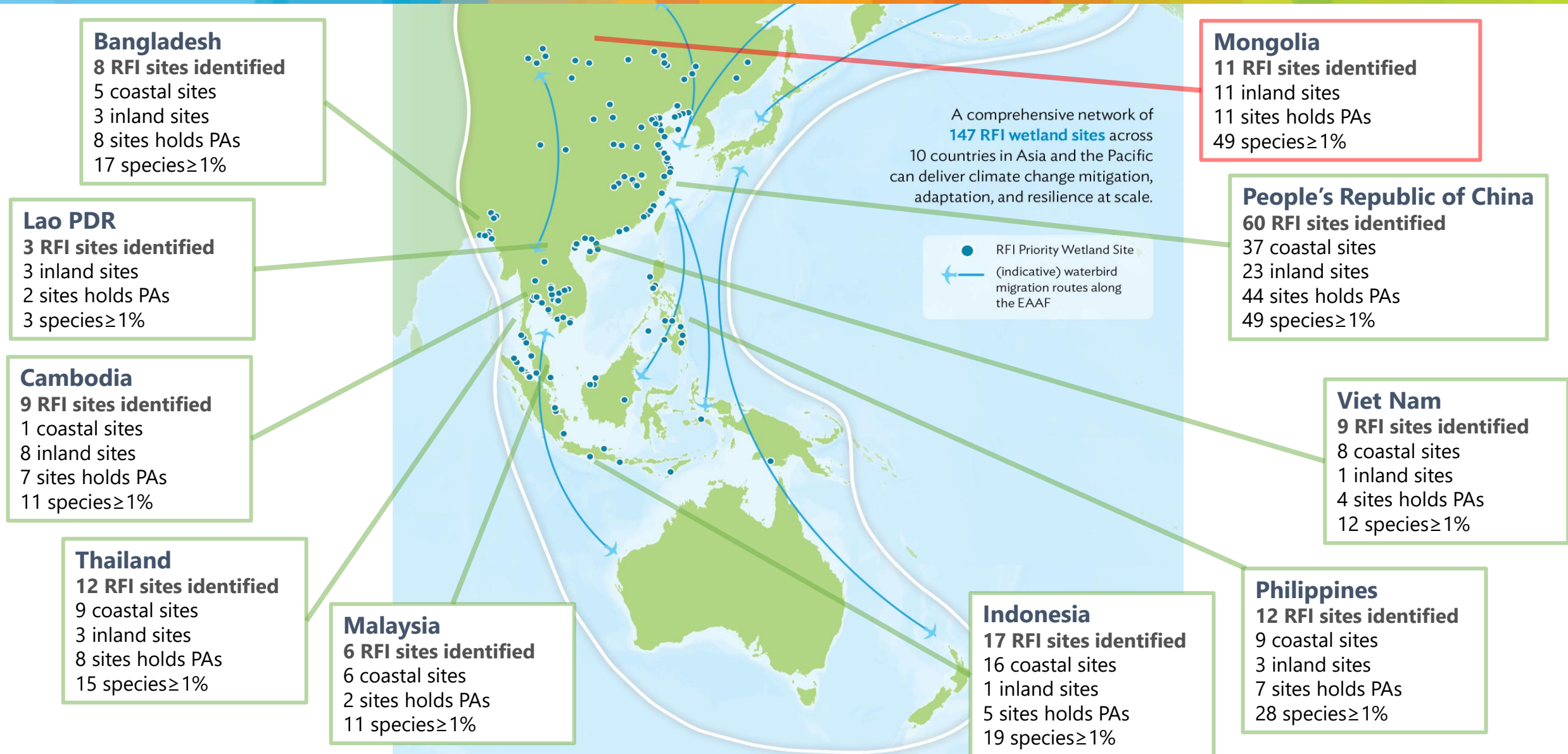
- Develop investment projects at RFI priority sites,
- Establish partnership to monitor and verify delivery of the RFI and support project preparation and scaling up.
- Implement granting mechanism to complement investment projects

Will be financed
through blended
loan and grant
resources

RFI Phased Approach – Development to Implementation



Site Selection Results - 147 Priority Wetland sites across the EAAF



Phased Approach to Sites Selection Process

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

Phase 2 – Indicative*

3 Sites

2 Sites

3 Sites

7 Sites

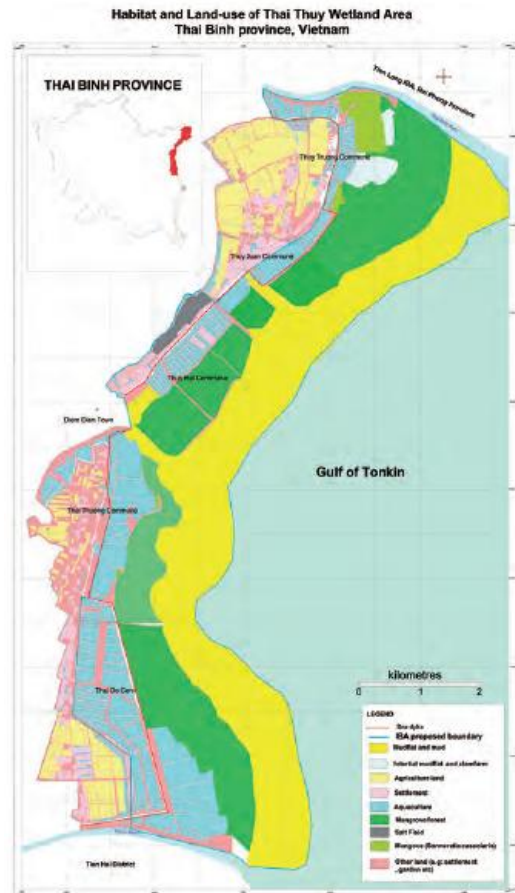
7 Sites

*Indicative only – Stakeholder Engagement and Ecosystem Services Assessment ongoing.

[147 RFI Priority Wetland Sites - Development Asia link](#) and QR



Ecosystem Services results – TESSA output example: Thai Thuy, Viet Nam



Land use	Area (ha)
Intertidal mudflat	3,766
Mangrove forest	1,754
Aquaculture	1,411
Salt farm	50
Total	6,981

Map and land use of Thai Thuy Wetland

Benefit



Harvested Wild Goods \$2.2 million/year

Fish harvested in Thai Thuy district \$1.37 million/year¹
Shellfish collected in the mudflat \$0.87 million/year



Cultivated Goods \$ 11.7 million/year

Fish and Shrimp harvested from semi natural aquaculture \$0.58 million/year (\$2,524/ha/year)²
Fish harvested from intensive aquaculture \$8.93 million/year (\$7,558/ha/year)²
Clam harvested from clam culture in mudflat \$ 1.93 m/year
Salt production in the salt farm \$0.22 million/year³



Disaster Risk Reduction \$ 1.1 million/year

Protective benefits of mangrove forest \$1.05 million/year⁴



Climate Regulation \$60.3 million

The benefit of global climate regulation from the carbon stored in the wetland is \$ 60.26 million. This is an one-off stored value, i.e. not an annual value.⁵

Net Benefit : \$ 15.0 million / year
Plus \$ 60.3 million of carbon storage function

Stakeholder engagement during workshops in the Philippines, Cambodia, Thailand, and Bangladesh



Ecosystem Services Assessment – Contribution to Project Concept Development

Ecosystem Services Assessment

- **Identification of key natural assets**
 - ES work identifies key natural assets
 - Establishes monetary value
- **Identification of threats / opportunities**
 - Identifies negative drivers
 - Identified existing degradation and threats
 - Identifies opportunities
- **Stakeholder Feedback**
 - Includes feedback from stakeholders



Early Project Concept

- Rapid Appraisal
- Enabling Environment
- Identify Co-benefits
- Non-committal Recommendations

RFI Implementation Phase – Investment Ideas

Projects [e.g. Nature-based Solutions]

RFI INVESTMENT CONCEPT 1 HABITAT RESTORATION AND PROTECTION



Restoring and protecting mangroves and other wetland habitats has clear economic and ecological benefits.

RFI INVESTMENT CONCEPT 2 SUSTAINABLE AQUACULTURE



Sustainable aquaculture and fisheries support food, nutrition and water security for wetland communities.

RFI INVESTMENT CONCEPT 3 SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE



Sustainable agriculture can strengthen long-term food and livelihood security while delivering net gains for biodiversity.

RFI INVESTMENT CONCEPT 4 POLLUTION PREVENTION AND WATER MANAGEMENT

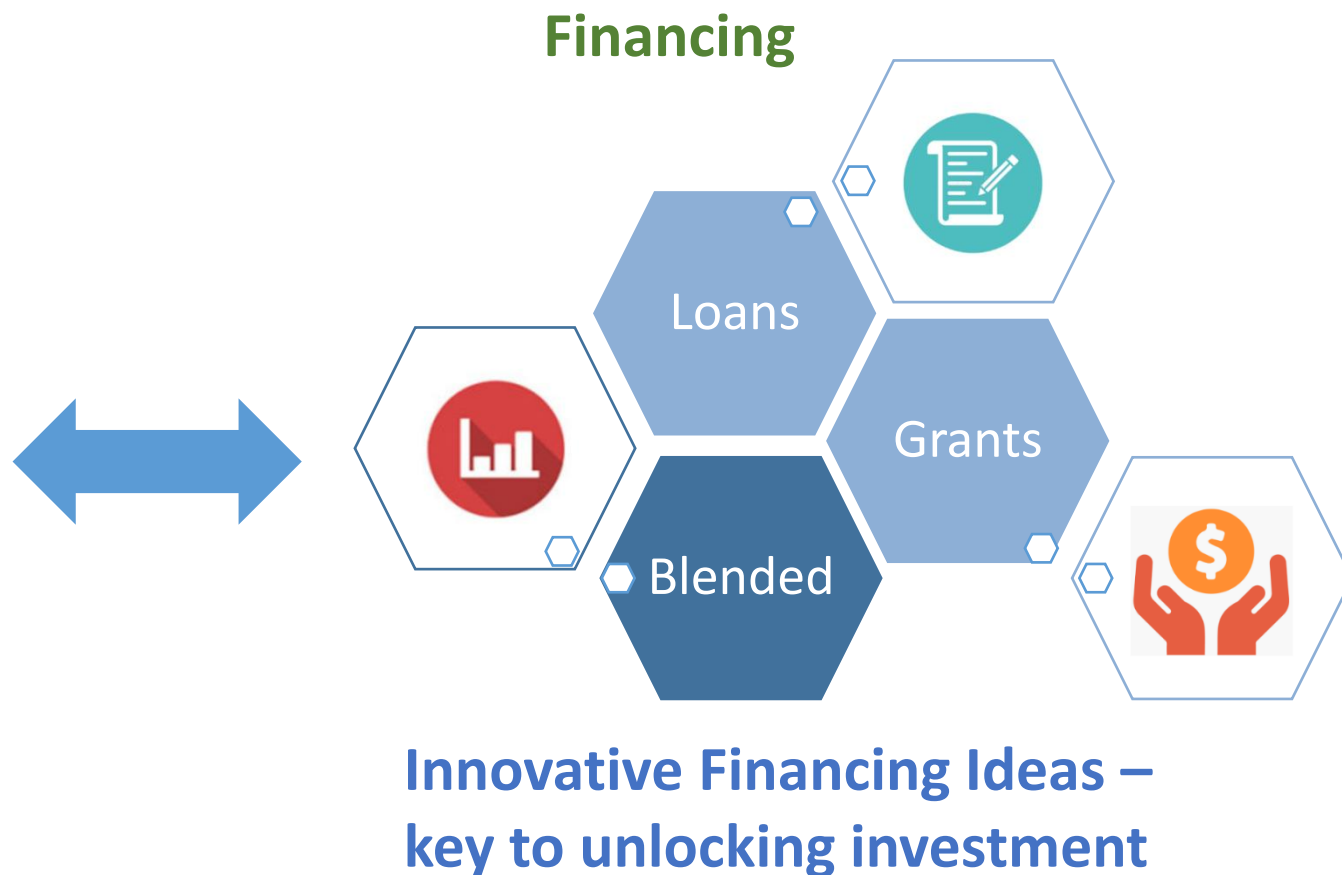


Preventing pollution and sound water governance offers massive benefits

RFI INVESTMENT CONCEPT 5 NATURE PROTECTION AND ECO-TOURISM



Protecting natural wetlands creates massive ecotourism benefits and opportunities



Investing in **wetlands** delivers not only for **nature** and **livelihoods** but delivers great opportunities for **climate mitigation**, **adaptation** and **resilience**

Jiangsu Yancheng Wetlands Protection Project

An Integrated Approach to Preserving the Wetlands in the People's Republic of China

TOTAL
PROJECT
COST:



- ADB: \$27.2 million
- GEF: \$1.4 million
- Government counterpart funding: \$30.5 million



- **Loan** - Sovereign Loan with some nominal blended grant financing and government co-finance
- **Payment for Ecosystem Services** - Model used to reduce pollution and support livelihoods.
- **Community Benefit** - 2,900 people benefited from project through direct employment, 40 hotels opened 1 million visitors per year
- **Nature Conservation** - 4,554 ha wetland restored and rehabilitated; 365% increase in bird population in Rare Bird Nature Reserve
- **UNESCO WHS Listing** - Project contributed to 2019 listing of Yancheng as Natural World Heritage Site
- **Spring Festival Update** - 2023 launch of World Coastal Forum in Yancheng; 11,700 ha restored in 2023 alone!



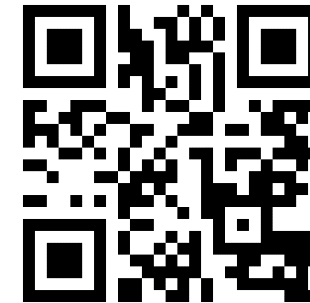
DATA ROOM

Regional Flyway Initiative



Further Reading

[ADB Data Room: Regional Flyway Initiative - Development Asia link](#) and QR



Thank You!