REGIONAL FLYWAY INITIATIVE TRAINING SERIES:
From Wetland Ecosystem Services to Nature-based Solutions
ADB HQ on 27–30 June 2023

The ADB Regional Flyway Initiative · A Quick Recap

GOAL

Will deliver 50+ flyway sites under Protection / Sustainable Management providing a coherent network of priority sites with favorable conservation status with species numbers maintained or enhanced on the EAAF.

Partnership

ADB,
EAAFP,
BirdLife International
(BLI)

Delivery Timeframe

Comprising of 2 stages:

i) DEVELOPMENT STAGE Grant finance 2021 – 2023 (2yrs)
$1 million secured

ii) INVESTMENT STAGE Loan / Grant Blend 2023 onwards (10+yrs)
$3 billion target

Development Stage Delivery

Implemented by consortium led by BLI with an international team including EAAFP, Wetlands International, Paulson Institute, NUS, & others

Stakeholder Group

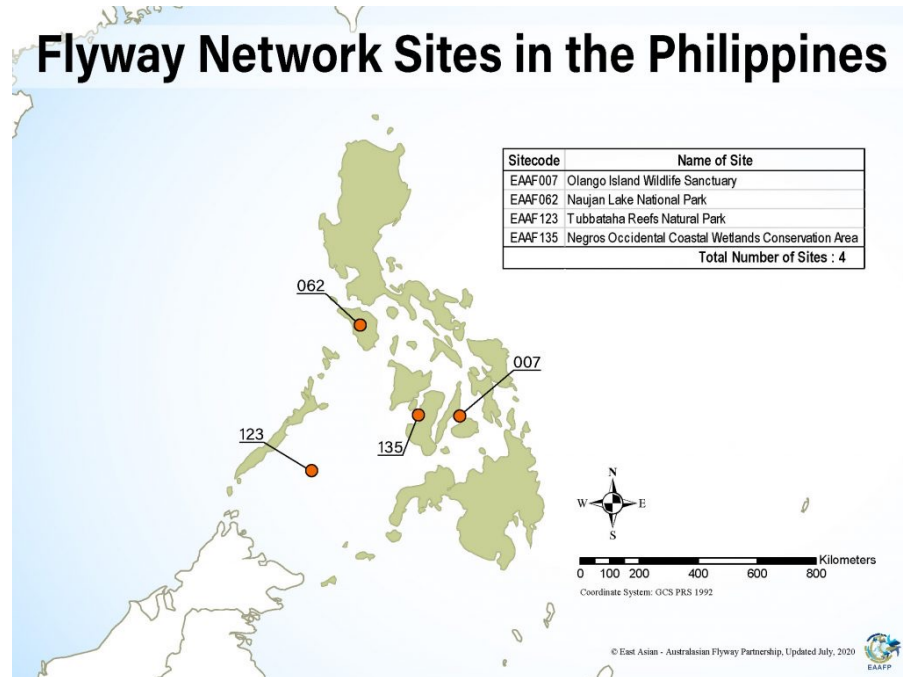Established including WWF, UNEP, ICF, IUCN, WI, USAID, AFD amongst others.

IDENTIFY: The Priority Sites Selection Process

- The **Philippines** is a key country for migratory waterbirds in EAAF
- More than 20 species in significant flyway congregations
- Regular **Great Knot**, **Spotted Greenshank** and **Chinese Crested Tern**, occurring at well-known sites (e.g. NOCWCA, Panabo)
- Nearly 30 wetland sites identified for assessment based on available data and expert consultations, including seabird colonies (e.g. Apo, Tubbataha)

REGIONAL FLYWAY INITIATIVE Building a Business Case for Sustainable Wetlands

East Asian–Australasian Flyway Priority Sites

Internationally Important Wetlands for Migratory Waterbirds

Flyway Network Sites in the Philippines

Sitecode	Name of Site
EAAF 007	Olango Island Wildlife Sanctuary
EAAF062	Naujan Lake National Park
EAAF123	Tubbataha Reefs Natural Park
EAAF135	Negros Occidental Coastal Wetlands Conservation Area
	Total Number of Sites : 4

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Code	Name of Site	Year of Joining
EAAF007	Olango Island Wildlife Sanctuary	1996
EAAF062	Naujan Lake National Park	1999
EAAF123	Tubbataha Reefs Natural Park	2014
EAAF135	Negros Occidental Coastal Wetlands Conservation Area	2017

- 4 EAAFP Flyway Network Sites
- 8 Ramsar sites (including the 4 Flyway Network Sites)
- Important sites for threatened EAAF key species, *i.e.*, Spoon-billed Sandpiper (CR), Chinese Crested Tern (CR)

- **PBSAP Conservation Target 6:** By 2028, the population of migratory bird species identified in selected inland and coastal wetlands along the East Asian-Australasian Flyway will be maintained.

The Priority Sites Selection Process

Identifying the most important wetland sites in the Philippines

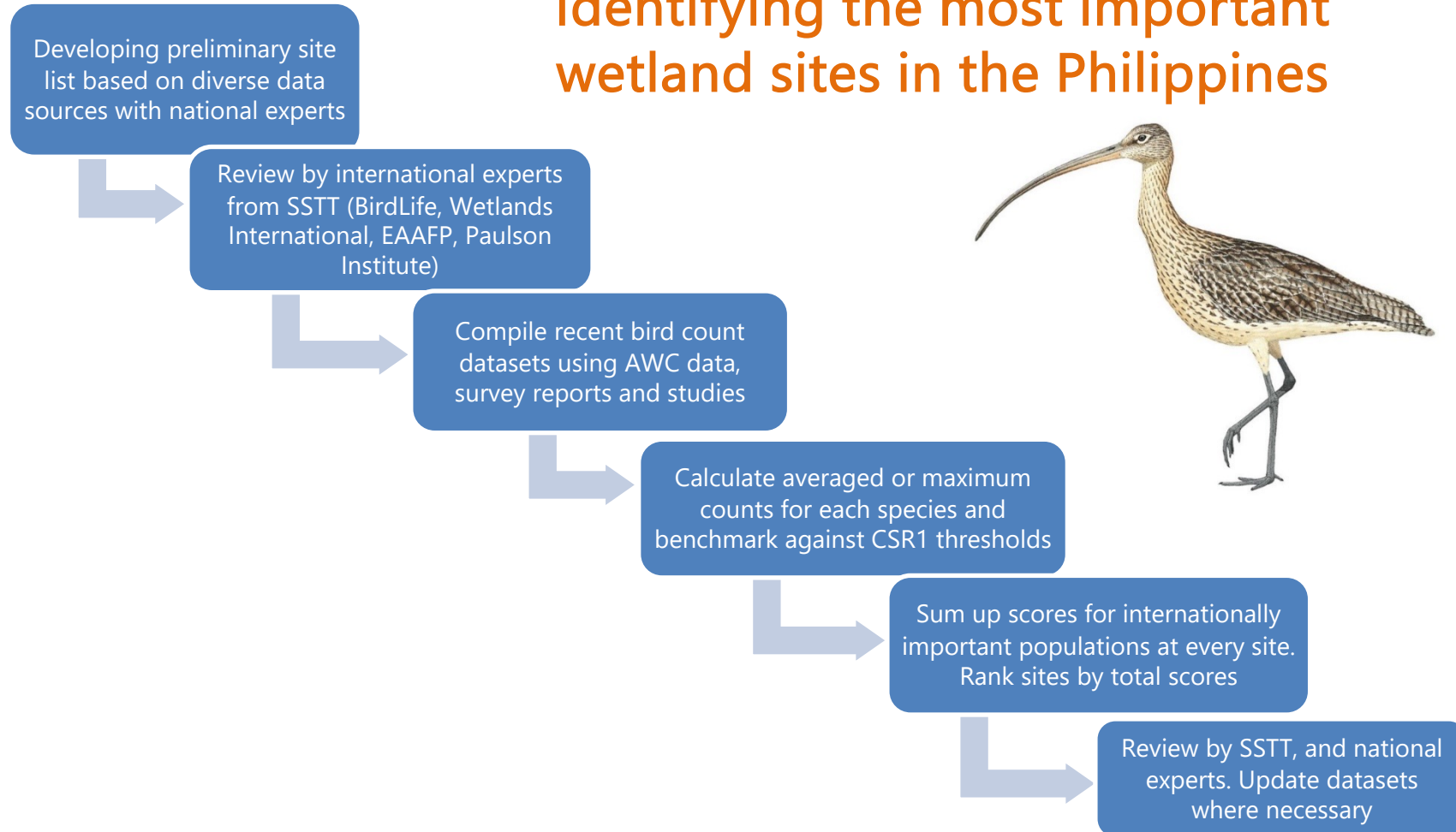### Criteria for site prioritisation

Biodiversity
- EAAF migratory bird congregations using 1% thresholds based on EAAF conservation status review (CSR1)
- Key waterbird life cycle components at sites (e.g. staging, wintering habitat)
- Critical for ecological connectivity for threatened species
- High quality intertidal and associated habitats present

Conservation potential
- Opportunities for conservation and management
- Opportunities to take effective action because of local context (local government or communities)

Developing preliminary site list based on diverse data sources with national experts

Review by international experts from SSTT (BirdLife, Wetlands International, EAAFP, Paulson Institute)

Compile recent bird count datasets using AWC data, survey reports and studies

Calculate averaged or maximum counts for each species and benchmark against CSR1 thresholds

Sum up scores for internationally important populations at every site. Rank sites by total scores

Review by SSTT, and national experts. Update datasets where necessary

The Priority Sites Selection Process

Data sources on internationally important sites for migratory waterbirds in the Philippines

- Asian Waterbird Census *viz* the **Biodiversity Management Bureau, Regional Offices and CENRO of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Wetlands International Philippines,** and the **Wild Bird Club of the Philippines**
- Site Information Sheets (**East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership**)
- Ramsar Information Sheets (**Ramsar Convention**)
- Project reports from **ASEAN Biodiversity Centre**, **Haribon Foundation**, **Philippine Biodiversity Conservation Foundation, Inc (PhilBio)**, **Mindoro Biodiversity Conservation Foundation, Inc (MBCFI)**, **Naujan Lake National Park - Protected Area Management Office** (NLNP-PAMO), **Apo Reef Natural Park - Protected Area Management Office** (ARNP-PAMO)
- Published reports and peer-reviewed papers by researchers

Experts to compile and review data

- Lead data compilation – Arne Jensen
- Supporting experts: Cynthia Layusa, Elyza Tan, Grace Diamante, Lisa M. Paguntalan, Gregorio de la Rosa, Josiah David Quimpo, Mike Lu, Anson Tagtag, John Berhel Doria

The Priority Sites Selection · distribution of RFI sites

RFI wetland sites in Luzon

Internationally important
wetland sites for migratory
waterbirds in the Philippines
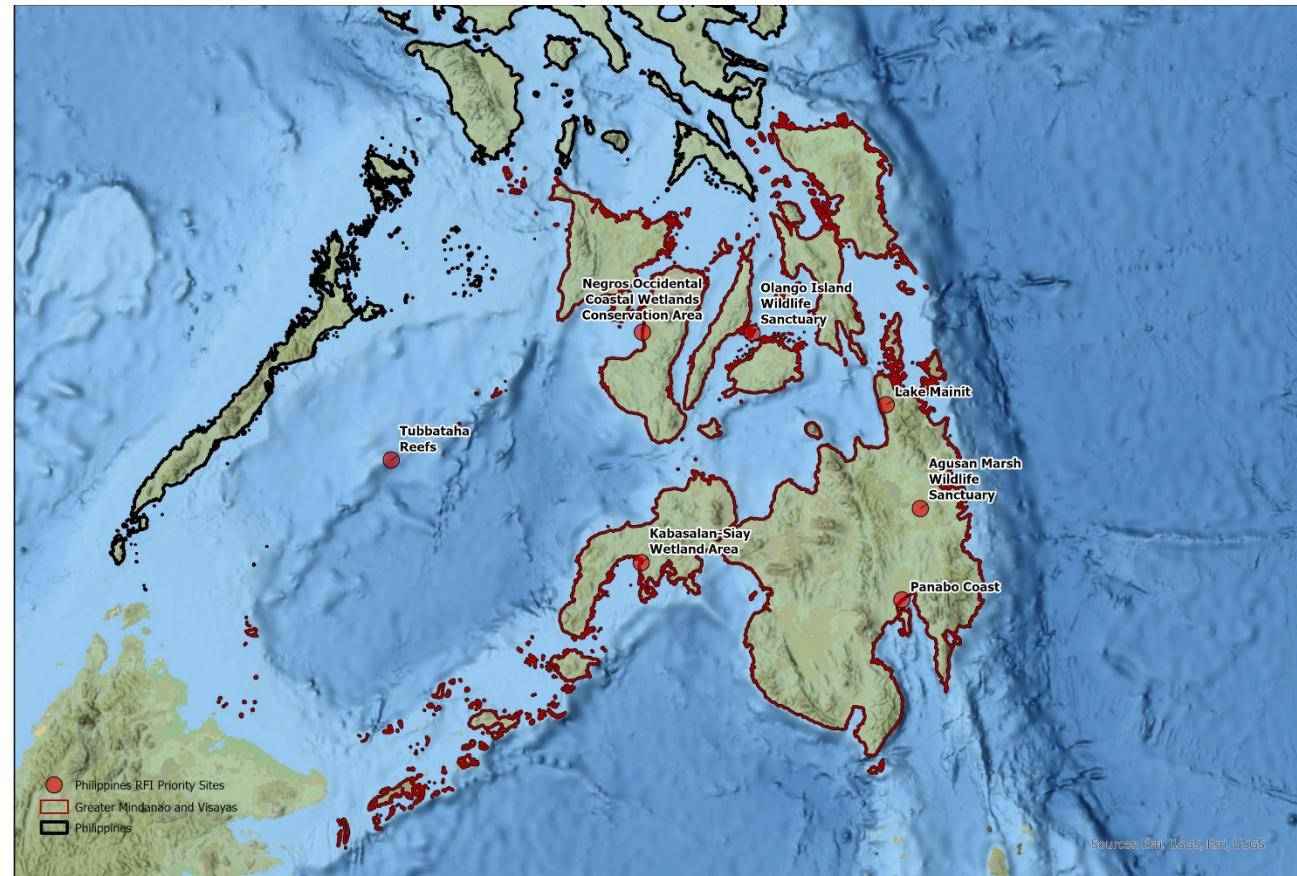
RFI wetland sites in Visayas, Palawan, & Mindanao

The Priority Sites Selection · Results of Analyses

Site	Province	Species	Summed score for species meeting 1% thresholds (CSR1)
North Manila Bay (includes Pampanga River East Bank-Santa Cruz-Caliligawan-Pamawaran-Navotas-Taliptip-Tanza)	*Bulacan*	Kentish Plover, Pacific Golden Plover, Lesser Sand Plover, Marsh Sandpiper, Whiskered Tern, Common Redshank, Curlew Sandpiper, Caspian Tern	24.6
Olango Island Wildlife Sanctuary	*Cebu*	Lesser Sand Plover*, Common Tern, Grey-tailed Tattler (NT), Ruddy Turnstone, Kentish Plover, Whimbrel, Red-necked Stint (NT)	24.6
Bangrin Marine Protected Area	*Pangasinan*	Intermediate Egret*, Great White Egret	24.1
Negros Occidental Coastal Wetlands Conservation Area (NOCWCA)	*Negros Occidental*	Little Egret, Black-tailed Godwit (NT) Kentish Plover, Caspian Tern, Chinese Egret (VU), Broad-billed Sandpiper, Great Knot (EN), Pacific Golden Plover, Intermediate Egret	14.6
Lake Mainit	*Agusan del Norte, Agusan del Sur*	Tufted Duck*	13.8
North Manila Bay (Pampanga) (includes Pampanga River Westbank-Sasmuan Pampanga Coastal Wetlands)	*Pampanga*	Kentish Plover, Intermediate Egret, Whiskered Tern, Great White Egret, Black-headed Gull	12.2
Agusan Marsh Wildlife Sanctuary	*Agusan del Sur*	Intermediate Egret	6.9

Internationally important wetland sites for migratory waterbirds in the Philippines

* Exceeding 1% of CSR1 estimates
# CSR1 estimates unavailable but large populations known
Sites in **bold** overlap with nationally protected area(s), incl. **Ramsar sites**
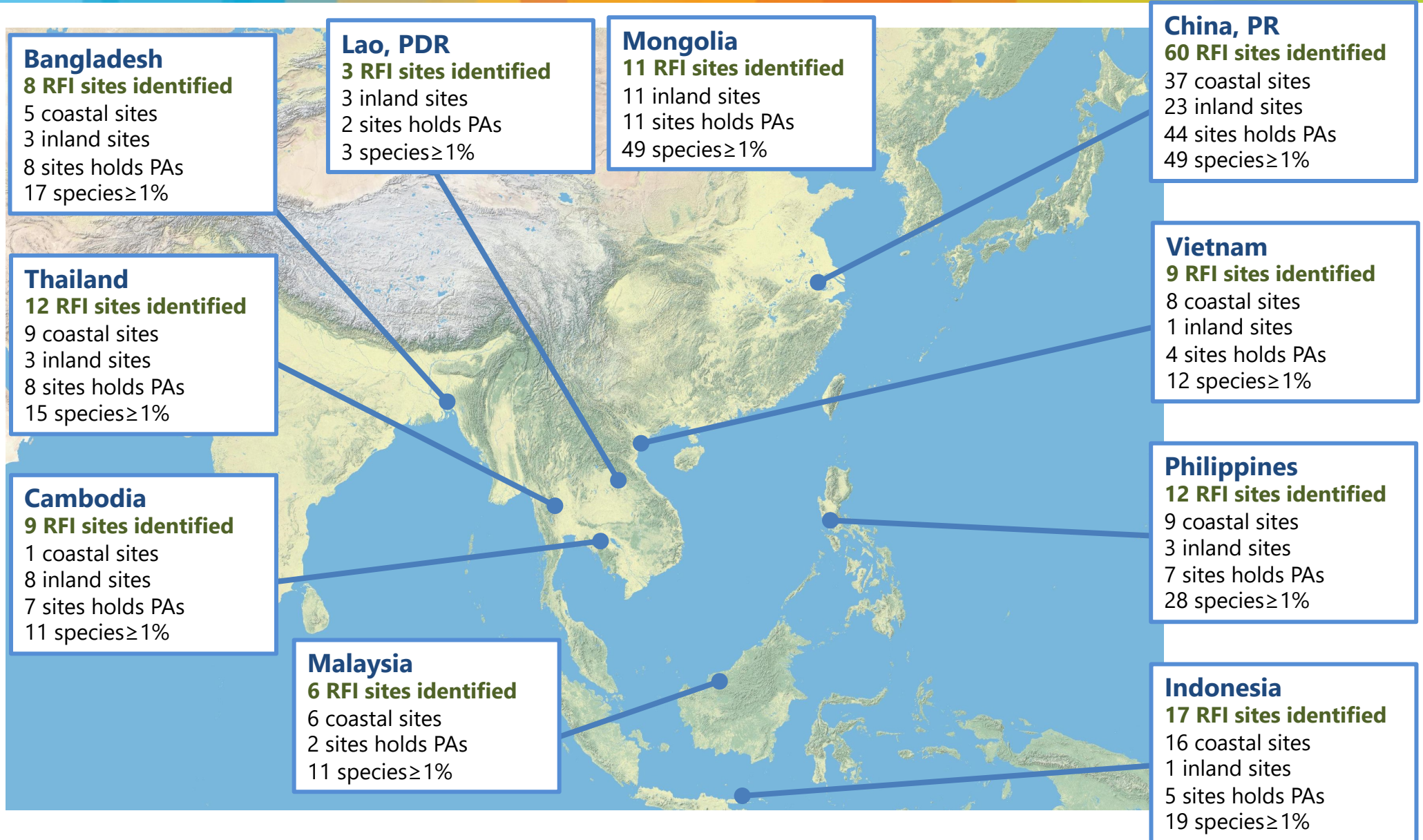
The Priority Sites Selection · Results of Analyses

Site	Province	Species	Summed score for species meeting 1% thresholds (CSR1)
Candaba Wetlands	*Pampanga*	Garganey	5.2
Kabasalan-Siay Wetland Area (also known as Sibugay Wetlands)	*Zamboanga Sibugay*	Great White Egret, Intermediate Egret Far Eastern Curlew*	3.1
Panabo Coast	*Davao del Norte*	Chinese Crested Tern (CR)	3.0
North Manila Bay (Bataan) – Balanga Wetlands Park-Pilar Wetlands	*Bataan*	Kentish Plover, Great White Egret	2.6
Tubbataha Reef Natural Park	*Palawan*	Greater Crested Tern, Black Noddy[#]	1.5

Internationally important wetland sites for migratory waterbirds in the Philippines

* Exceeding 1% of CSR1 estimates
# CSR1 estimates unavailable but large populations known
Sites in **bold** overlap with protected area(s)

The Priority Sites Selection · the Big Picture

Bangladesh
8 RFI sites identified
5 coastal sites
3 inland sites
8 sites holds PAs
17 species≥1%

Lao, PDR
3 RFI sites identified
3 inland sites
2 sites holds PAs
3 species≥1%

Mongolia
11 RFI sites identified
11 inland sites
11 sites holds PAs
49 species≥1%

China, PR
60 RFI sites identified
37 coastal sites
23 inland sites
44 sites holds PAs
49 species≥1%

Thailand
12 RFI sites identified
9 coastal sites
3 inland sites
8 sites holds PAs
15 species≥1%

Vietnam
9 RFI sites identified
8 coastal sites
1 inland sites
4 sites holds PAs
12 species≥1%

Cambodia
9 RFI sites identified
1 coastal sites
8 inland sites
7 sites holds PAs
11 species≥1%

Philippines
12 RFI sites identified
9 coastal sites
3 inland sites
7 sites holds PAs
28 species≥1%

Malaysia
6 RFI sites identified
6 coastal sites
2 sites holds PAs
11 species≥1%

Indonesia
17 RFI sites identified
16 coastal sites
1 inland sites
5 sites holds PAs
19 species≥1%

COMMIT: Next Steps, Q&A

Moving Forward

SUPPORT
- Continued dialogue with the RFI team.

FOCAL POINT
- Identify focal points to move forward with dialogue on RFI development

CLARIFICATION
- Questions/clarification on Phase 1 Activities to date and 12 initial priority sites identified

RESPONSE TO PHASE 2 ACTIVITIES
- Initial Response on Phase 2 Activities and arrangements for dialogue moving forward

KNOWLEDGE & CAPACITY BUILDING
- Questions on other RFI activities including knowledge and capacity building

Thank you for soaring with us!

Say HELLO
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