



REGIONAL FLYWAY INITIATIVE TRAINING SERIES: Workshop on Wetland Ecosystem Services and Nature-based Solutions **BANGLADESH**

27–29 May 2024



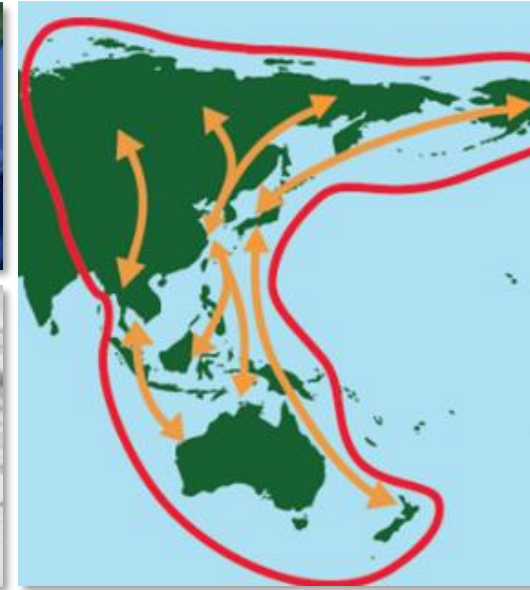
East Asian-Australasian Flyway - Regional Flyway Initiative

QUICK OVERVIEW

Duncan Lang, Asian Development Bank

Regional Flyway Initiative (RFI) – AIM: Mobilize \$3 billion of investment in 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 Bangladesh.
- **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 early project concepts for 50,
- 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

PHASE 1
2022

Initial List Identified

- Scientifically rigorous process
- Extensive consultation with experts.

PHASE 2
2023

Refinement

Further Analysis

- Carbon stock assessment
- Ecosystem services assessment

Government and Stakeholders Dialogue

- Government priority sites identified
- Opportunities with Government at local, provincial, and national levels
- Examined obligations under national/ international agreements (i.e. Wetland Acts, Ramsar, CBD, CMS)
- Identified sectors that can contribute (agriculture, aquaculture, tourism, etc.)

Final List

Government endorsement

WE ARE HERE

PHASE 3
2023 – 2024

Project Concepts

Concepts prepared for **50 Priority Sites**

- Nature Credits
- Capacity Building
- Grant Proposals

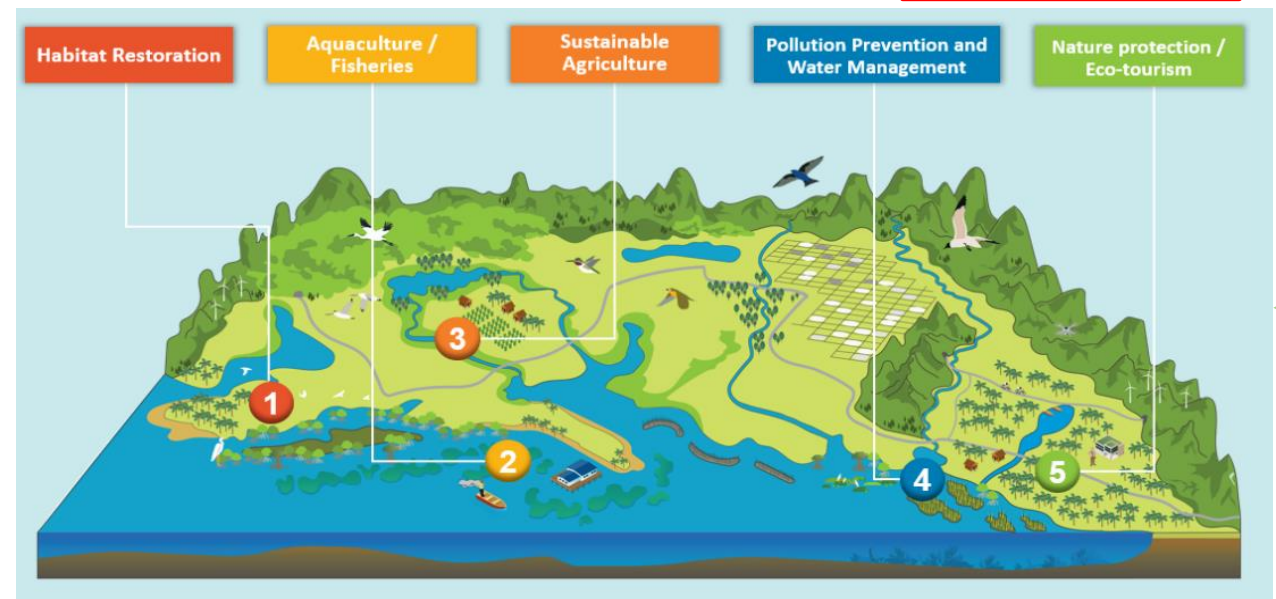
IMPLEMENTATION PHASE
2024 – 2025+

Full Project Preparation

- Early support via TA for
- Technical Review
 - Project Preparation
 - In-country expertise

Additional TA support

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



Development Phase Activities - 1: Knowledge Sharing, Capacity Building

- Profile Raising



- Knowledge Sharing



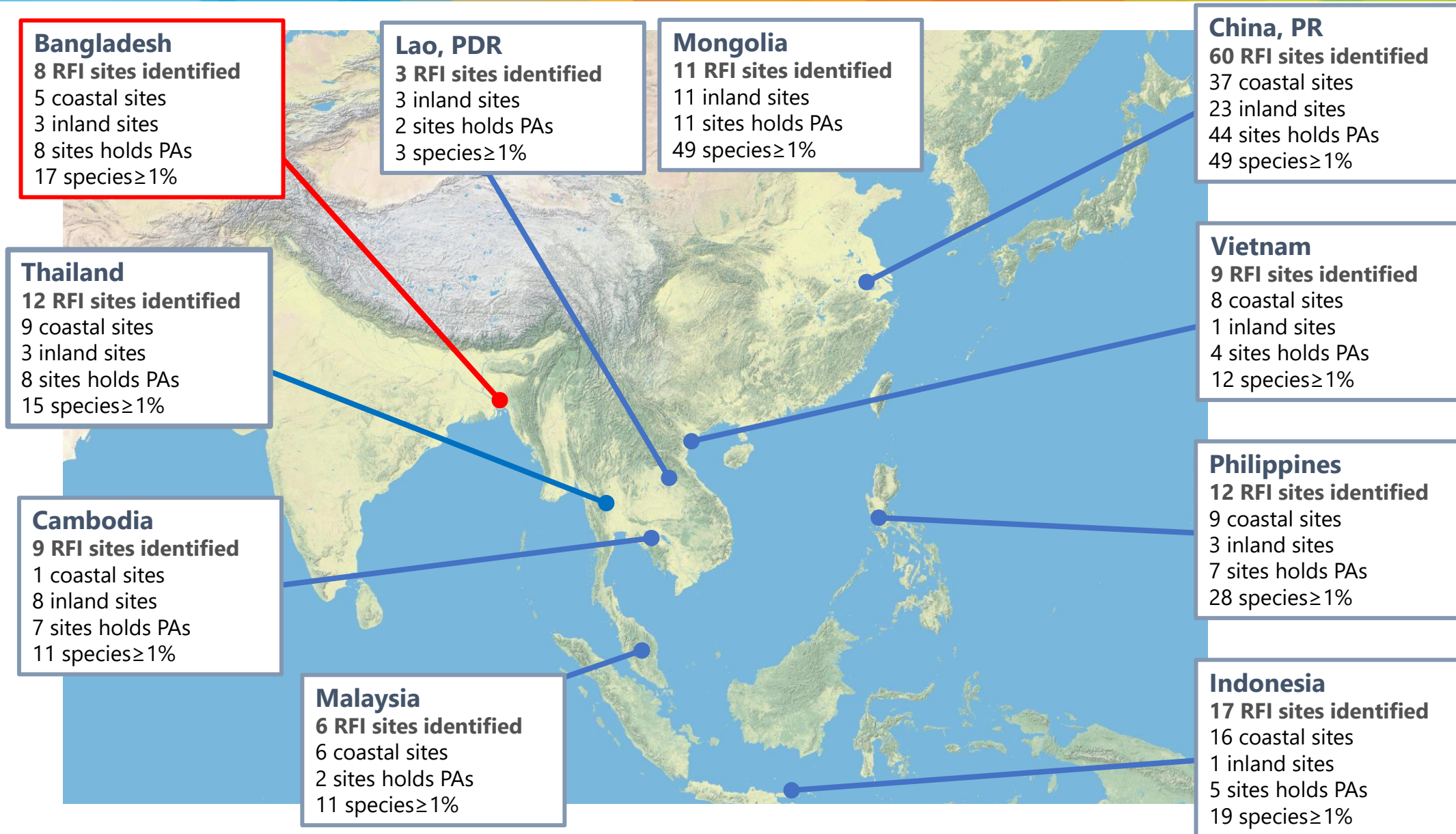
- Capacity Building



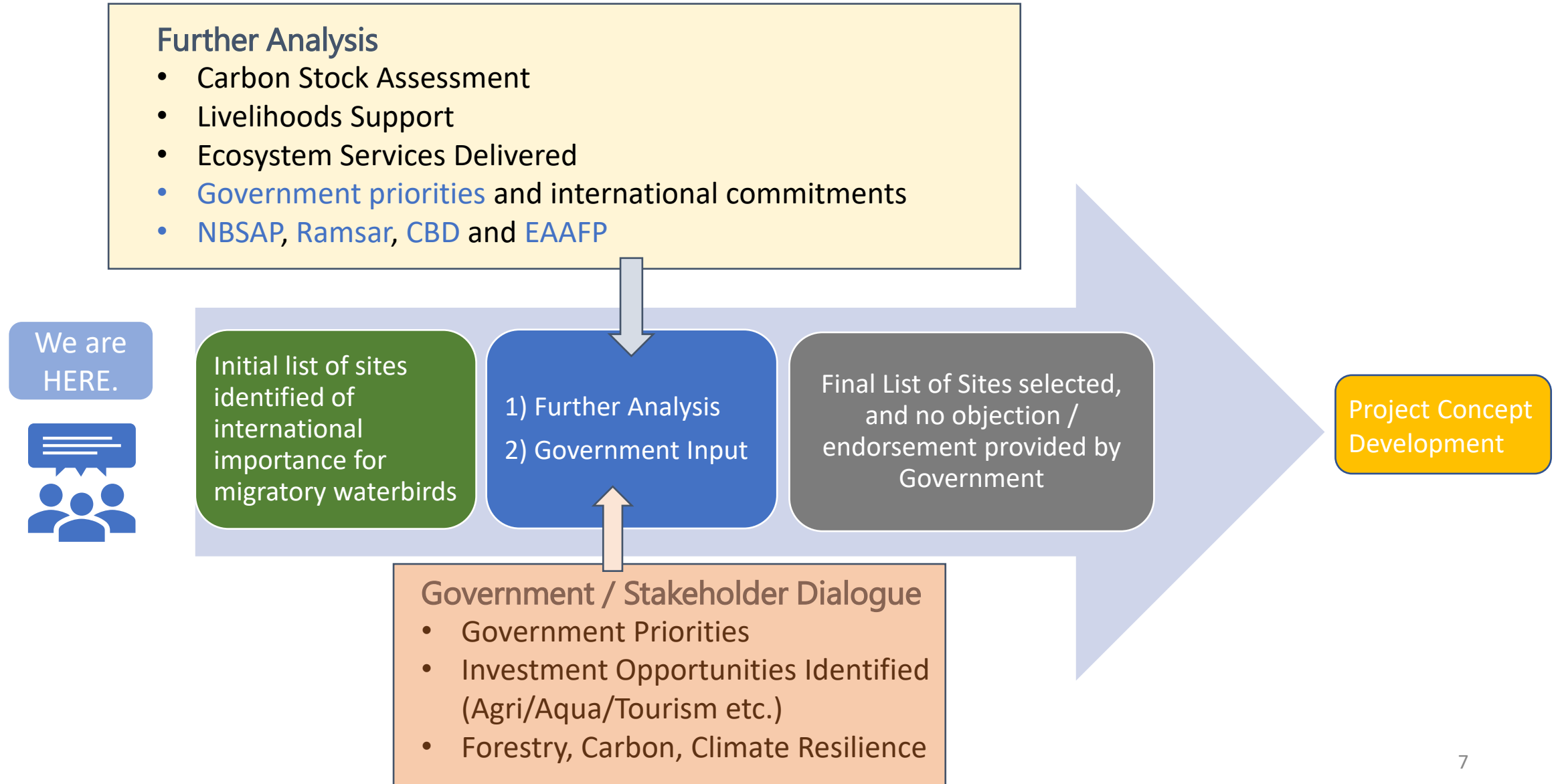
- Building Support



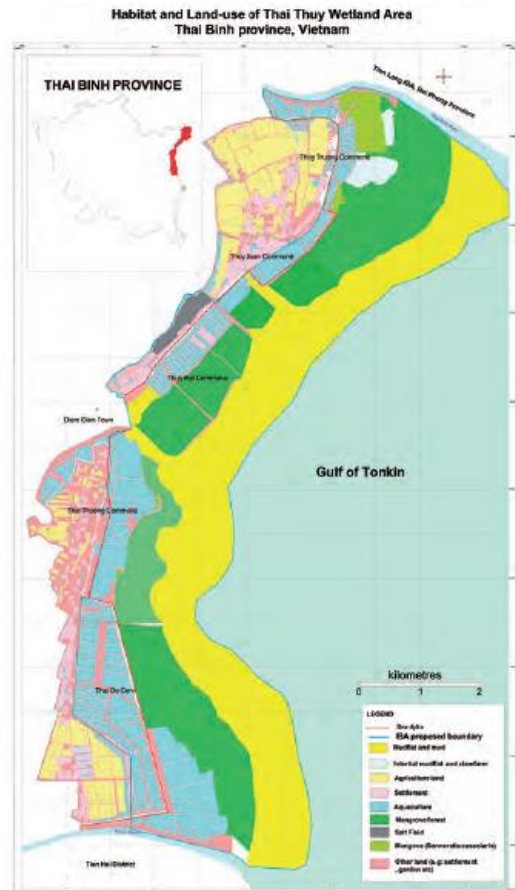
2: Site Selection Results RFI Priority Sites across the EAAF



2: Site Selection Process – Next Steps



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

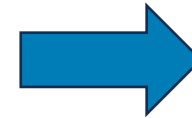
The benefit of global climate regulation from the carbon stored in the wetland is \$ 60.26 million. This is an one-off stored value, i.e. not an annual value.⁵

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

2: 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



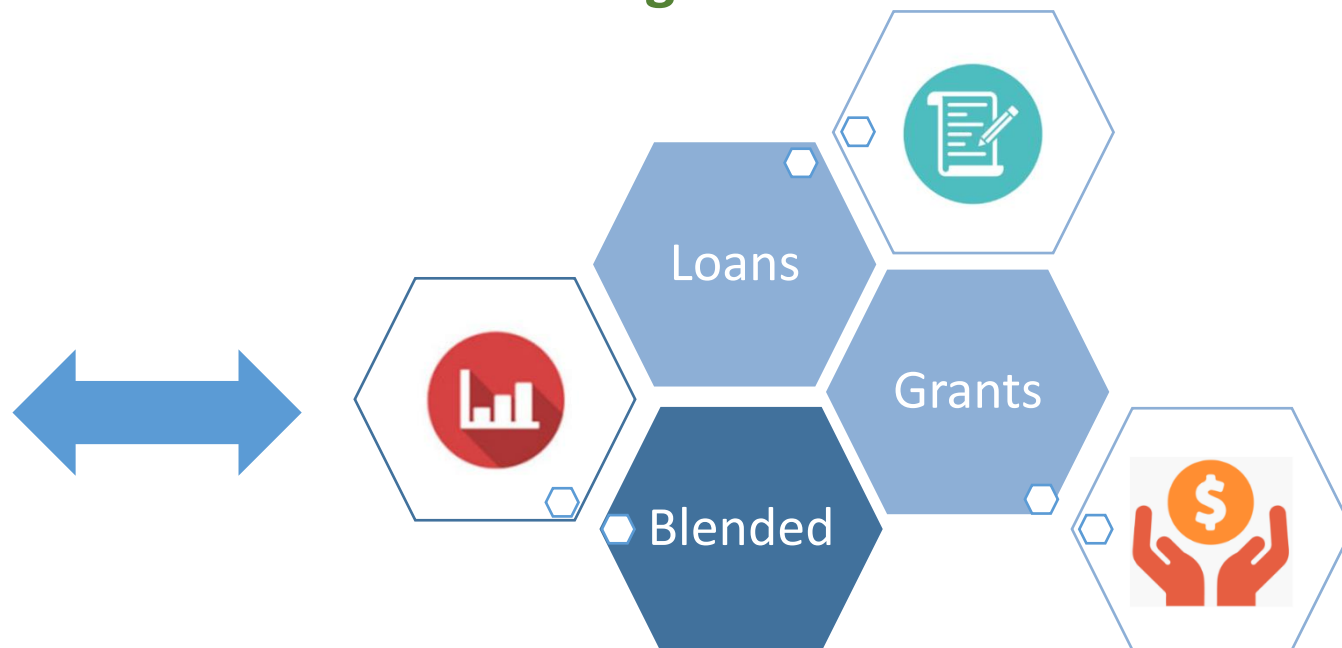
Preventing pollution and sound water governance offers massive benefits

RFI INVESTMENT CONCEPT 5 NATURE PROTECTION AND ECO-TOURISM



Protecting natural wetlands creates massive ecotourism benefits and opportunities

Financing



**Innovative Financing Ideas -
Key to unlocking investment**

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

Case Study Example – 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!

Conclusions & Next Steps

- **Analysis & Concept Development**

- Undertake the Ecosystem Services Assessment and use this to develop the project concepts for the priority sites.

- **Partnerships**

- Build on existing strong partnerships with government and CSOs and link to other projects working in wetlands in Bangladesh such as WB, GIZ and IUCN/AFD/GCF.

- **Link With Existing ADB Project Program**

- ADB is already working on a Climate Adaptation and Resilience Program – The RFI should be integrated into this existing program.

Thank You!



RFI – Further Reading

<https://events.development.asia/learning-events/data-room-regional-flyway-initiative>

Data Room: Regional Flyway Initiative

01 October 2020 to 02 February 2024

