

## Darwin Project Information

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Host country Partner Institution(s)	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
Other Partner Institution(s)	Malaysian Nature Society Bird Conservation Society of Thailand Ramsar Administrative Authorities in Malaysia, Thailand, Cambodia and Vietnam
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Project website	
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### 1. Project Background

South-East Asia's wetlands are very important for biodiversity, national economies and the wellbeing of human communities. Unfortunately, wetlands have frequently been viewed as unproductive areas, and converted to other land-uses. Although reduced in extent, South-East Asia's remaining natural and semi-natural wetlands support tremendous biodiversity wealth, including many threatened and endemic species.

The framework for national action and international cooperation for the conservation and wise use of wetlands is provided by the Ramsar Convention. Parties to the Convention have obligations to designate wetlands of international importance as Ramsar Sites, and to promote the conservation of these sites and the wise use of all wetlands in their territory. To date, however, implementation of the Ramsar Convention in many South-East Asian countries has been limited. Many countries have only designated a few Ramsar Sites, and many wetlands that have been designated still lack appropriate management arrangements. Furthermore, the technical knowledge generated by national civil society rarely informs strategic planning and policy making, and the potential for engaging local civil society in enhancing wetland site conservation remains largely untapped.

The Asia Regional Meeting prior to the 9<sup>th</sup> Ramsar Conference of the Parties (COP 9) in May 2005 identified limited capacity of Ramsar Administrative Authorities as a substantial challenge to Ramsar implementation in Asia. Further insights into constraints to Ramsar implementation were provided by the national reports to COP 9 submitted by South-East Asian governments, which identified a need for strengthened capacity of wetland management agencies, and greater engagement of local stakeholders in wetland conservation.

A review published by BirdLife in 2005 identified priority sites that qualify as potential Ramsar Sites based on their importance for wetland birds, the majority of which are not yet designated as Ramsar Sites. The review recommended that governments should designate more of these wetlands as Ramsar Sites, and that, in the interim, they should receive the same degree of protection as Ramsar Sites.

This Darwin project aims to address the needs outlined above, by strengthening government-civil society partnerships to support Ramsar implementation in four South-East Asian countries. This will be achieved through: supporting national civil society partners to develop joint priorities and work plans with the relevant Ramsar Administrative Authority; strengthening the capacity of national government and civil society partners in key aspects of Ramsar implementation; developing collaborative wetland management initiatives involving site management authorities and local civil society; and supporting the establishment of national site monitoring programmes for wetlands of international importance. Finally, the project will include a communication component, aimed at demonstrating the importance of the Ramsar Convention and disseminating the project's achievements, in order to promote replication. In this context, Ramsar COP 10, which is scheduled for November 2008 in South Korea, will be a key focus of activities.

## **2. Project Partnerships**

The principle partnerships which are being developed by this project are at national level, between the civil society organisations involved in this project and the national Ramsar Administrative Authorities (RAAs) in the respective countries. Specifically, these partnerships are between: (1) Malaysian Nature Society and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE) in Malaysia; (2) Bird Conservation Society of Thailand and the Office of Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and Planning (ONEP) in Thailand; (3) BirdLife Cambodia Programme and the Department of Nature Conservation and Protection (DNCP) of the Ministry of Environment in Cambodia; and (4) BirdLife Vietnam Programme and the Vietnam Environmental Protection Agency (VEPA). By bringing these civil society organisations and RAAs together, the project is aiming to strengthen regional links and in particular facilitate the sharing of experience between RAAs. Important partnerships are also developing between the national civil society organisations and stakeholders at some priority sites which have been selected for conservation activities.

As one of Ramsar's International Organisation Partners, BirdLife has a long history of providing technical and scientific support to the implementation of the convention. BirdLife is represented on the Standing Committee and the Strategic and Technical Review Panel of the Convention, and one of the key partnerships supported by this project is the partnership between BirdLife and the Convention Secretariat. In particular, this project is expected to significantly strengthen the relationship between the Secretariat and BirdLife in the South-East Asia region.

Institutionally, the project is also serving to strengthen the BirdLife Partnership, specifically between the BirdLife Secretariat (in Cambridge and Tokyo) and BirdLife Partners in three countries, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (UK), the Malaysian Nature Society (MNS) and the Bird Conservation Society of Thailand (BCST).

## **3. Project progress**

### **3.1 Progress in carrying out project activities**

#### **Activity 1 Workshops, meetings and joint planning exercises to facilitate the development of government-civil society partnerships**

Meetings have been held in each of the four participating countries to advance collaboration between government and civil society organisations. The focus for these meetings has been the preparation for, and follow-up to, the Conference of the Parties to the Ramsar Convention which was held in Changwon, South Korea from 28 October to 4 November 2008 (herein after referred to as COP10). In support of national level discussions, the Darwin project prepared two key input papers: (1) a summary brief on the Draft COP Resolutions and Information documents (Annex 1 to this report) and (2) a summary brief on key decisions adopted at the COP (Annex 2 to this report).

National meetings of particular significance are outlined below:

### Cambodia

With the support of the Darwin project, the Birdlife Cambodia Programme and the Watershed, Wetlands and Coastal Zone Office (Ministry of Environment) (Ramsar Administrative Authority - RAA - for Cambodia) organized a national workshop on Ramsar implementation on 16 January 2009. The workshop was attended by 23 participants from government and NGOs who are working to conserve wetlands in Cambodia. Participants included representatives from the Forestry Administration, Fisheries Administration, Ministry of Water Source, Mekong Committee, Department of International Conventions, Ramsar Site managers, IUCN, WWF, World Fish Center, and Conservation International. The main objectives of this national workshop were: (1) to share the lessons learned and the main outcomes of the COP 10; (2) to discuss the results of the legal review - commissioned by the Darwin project - of ministerial responsibility for Ramsar Site designation and management, and (3) to explain the theme and outline plans for World Wetland Day 2009 including a presentation on river basin management (in view of the WWD theme '*upstream downstream wetland connect us all*').

### Malaysia

Two key meetings were convened by the Ministry of Natural Resources & Environment (MNRE), RAA for Malaysia, with the active support and participation of the Malaysia Nature Society (MNS). A national preparatory meeting for COP 10 was held on the 19<sup>th</sup> Sept 2008. This ran through the draft COP 10 resolutions, highlighted background issues, and discussed the Malaysian position on the resolutions. With the support of the Darwin project, MNS prepared a detailed brief for this meeting which provided an important basis for the discussions (Annex 3 to this report). Following COP 10, a further meeting was held with MNRE on 23 Jan 09 to discuss the following key issues: (1) WWD 2009 celebrations; (2) National Wetlands Committee and National Wetlands Working Committee - actions up until December 2009, including follow-up to COP 10; and (3) plans for the Darwin project's regional workshop in Bangkok in March 2009. MNS prepared an input paper for the January 09 meeting on Malaysia's participation at the COP. Following up from this, MNS will prepare an overview of the COP 10 Resolutions as a guide to key activities/priorities for national-level implementation.

The post COP 10 national meeting for Vietnam was postponed to 8<sup>th</sup> May 2009. This will cover: (1) outcomes from COP10 (especially strategic plan and resolutions); (2) draft national monitoring framework; (3) progress with the designation of new Ramsar Sites; and (4) collaborative activities for the third year of the project.

### **Activity 2 Training for selected government and civil society staff in key areas of Ramsar implementation**

During the second year, the main focus for delivering training was through a Darwin-funded round table meeting and study tour on the implementation of the Ramsar Convention in South-east Asia, which was held in Thailand, 12<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup> March 2009, Thailand was chosen as the location for this meeting and study tour because of its excellent record of Ramsar implementation, the good progress made with the designation of Ramsar Sites, and the very active programme of the Thai Ramsar Administrative Authority.

The meeting was convened by BirdLife International, the Office of Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and Planning (Government of Thailand and the Thai RAA), and the Bird Conservation Society of Thailand. The meeting was attended by representatives from governments and the BirdLife organisations from four countries in the region (Cambodia, Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam), including the RAAs for three of these countries. Technical guidance and facilitation was provided by Rebecca D'Cruz (Vice Chair of the Ramsar Scientific and Technical Review Panel – STRP).

The agenda focussed on the following: (1) the Ramsar Strategic Plan 2009-2015 as adopted at COP 10; (2) Goal 1 of the Strategic Plan on the wise use of wetlands; (3) Goal 2 of the Strategic Plan on wetlands of international importance; (4) Resolution 8 from COP 10, on the Convention's Programme of Communications, Education, Participation and Awareness (CPEA), specifically the CEPA Programme for 2009-2015; and (5) ensuring sustainability in the implementation of the Convention at national levels. The round table meeting was followed by a study tour to the Inner Gulf of Thailand and the Ramsar Site at Khao Sam Rirot (14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> March). A report on this round table and study tour is attached as Annex 4. Further details are given below.

### **Activity 3 Design and implementation of collaborative wetland management initiatives that engage local stakeholders**

The Darwin project is focussing on six important wetland sites in three countries where collaborative wetland management initiatives are being supported and advanced: Kampong Trach and Boeung Prek Lapouv (Cambodia); Bako-Buntal Bay and North-central Selangor coast (Malaysia), and Chieng Saen Basin and the Inner Gulf (Thailand). Further information is given by country.

#### Cambodia

The Darwin project is supporting wetland conservation activities by local conservation groups at two key wetlands in the south of country; Boeung Prek Lapouv and Kampong Trach. These are two of the three sites for the eastern population of Sarus Crane during the non-breeding season. A wide range of activities have been supported by the Darwin project at these two sites including: (1) monthly site and species monitoring – including recording of threatened species; (2) population counts of Sarus Crane; (3) monitoring and controlling of invasive alien species (*Mimosa pigra* and *Impomoea* sp); (4) capacity building of local stakeholders –covering *inter alia* work planning, law enforcement, monitoring, and awareness raising on the importance of wetlands; and (5) the development of an operational management plan (for Boeung Prek Lapouv). In January 2009, the project organized a provincial meeting with representatives from village, commune, district and provincial level, as well as civil society organisations, to consult on and finalise the five-year operational management plan.

#### Malaysia

The Darwin project is supporting wetland conservation activities by local conservation groups at two globally important intertidal wetlands, Bako-Buntal Bay, Sarawak and North-central Selangor coast (Malaysia).

At Bako-Buntal Bay, consultative meetings were held in May and July 2008 to discuss and advance the activities planned under the project. The May meeting was held jointly with the Sarawak Economic Development Corporation with the aim of presenting details about the development of a visitor centre by SEDC. A joint steering committee has been formed, comprising three members of the MNS-Kuching Branch Task Group and five members from Buntal village, chaired by the Honorary Secretary of the Village Development and Security Committee.

At North-central Selangor coast, activities carried out have included: (1) study tour for private sector partners and media representatives to highlight the importance of the area and to promote implementation of the Ramsar Convention; (2) consultations with the Selangor State Fisheries Department regarding aquaculture expansion along the Kuala Selangor Coast, which is encroaching the coastal boundaries (protected according to the land-use plan); and (3) migratory waterbird monitoring.

#### Thailand

With support from the Darwin project, BCST is working with local stakeholders at two sites in Thailand: freshwater wetlands in the Chieang Saen Basin (which includes the Nong Bon Khai Non Hunting Area and the unprotected Nong Lom wetland), and the Inner Gulf of Thailand to the south of Bangkok.

For the Chieang Saen Basin, BCST supported the Center of Biodiversity Studies of Rachapat Chieng Rai University to conduct a survey on natural resources in the Nong Lom Wetland from August 2008 to October 2008. BCST has also been supporting the activities of the local Lana Conservation Club. On 26 September 2008, the municipal government organized a meeting on a development plan for Cheang Sean Basin wetlands, with over 50 participants. BCST, Lana Conservation Club and the Center of Biodiversity Studies gave presentations to the meeting on the biological and socio-economic importance of the Cheang Sean Basin wetlands.

BCST has undertaken a number of activities in the Inner Gulf in order to strengthen conservation and awareness at this important wetland site, and promote designation of the area as a Ramsar Site. BCST started a School Visit Programme as an education initiative with 22 schools in the Inner Gulf area. School visits took place in July, August and September of 2008, and February and March of 2009. BCST reached almost 2000 students during the five months of the programme. Between 8-10 October 2008, and 20-22 March 2009, BCST also organized youth camps for seven schools in the Inner Gulf, which were attended by 94 students. BCST also organised a study tour for village leaders and local organisations to the Klong Klom Mangrove Forest Conservation Center (Part of Dan Hoi Lot Ramsar Site). Forty-two participants joined the study trip, and shared experience on ecotourism and mangrove restoration initiatives and the pros and cons of Ramsar Site designation.

#### **Activity 4 Establishment of national wetland monitoring programmes covering key wetlands**

Two important documents have been prepared as a basis for strengthening national wetland monitoring, and to support the capacity-building and knowledge-exchange elements of the Darwin project. The first is a briefing paper, prepared by Dave Pritchard (advisor to BirdLife and member of Ramsar's STRP), which presents a summary description of the links and potential synergies between the Asian Waterbird Census, Important Bird Areas monitoring, and wetland monitoring in the context of the Ramsar Convention. This briefing paper is attached as Annex 5 to this report.

The second document is a national wetland monitoring framework, which has been developed for Vietnam, following a visit to the BirdLife Secretariat by one of the project team (Nguyen Duc Tu). In addition, the Ramsar handbook 11, 'Inventory, assessment, and monitoring for the wise use of wetlands', has been translated into Vietnamese and will be published shortly. This wetland monitoring framework is currently being reviewed by Secretariat staff, and the RAA for Vietnam. It will then be piloted at the Xuan Thuy Ramsar Site. The framework will then be offered as guidance to the other three countries participating in the Darwin project, and will form an important input paper to a planned training workshop to be held in Malaysia (currently scheduled for October 2009). This draft national wetland monitoring framework is attached as Annex 6 to this report.

All four participating countries took part in the Asian Waterbird Census (AWC) in January 2009. In Cambodia, 10 sites were covered by the AWC, of which four were covered with project funding. A standard monitoring protocol has been adopted for monthly wetland monitoring at the two project sites, Boeung Preak Lapouv and Kampong Trach. In Malaysia, the AWC was conducted at a total of 26 sites in 2009 with coordination by MNS. Twenty-four of these sites were covered by MNS volunteers. In Thailand, the AWC is coordinated by the Department of Natural Resources and Planning with the active support of BCST (270 BCST volunteers joined the AWC in 2009). In preparation for this, BCST produced an identification guide for waterbird monitoring, sponsored by Red Bull, and held three training workshops on waterbird and

wetland monitoring (Bangkok, Buriam, Trang), with 210 people attending. The BirdLife Vietnam Programme was only able to cover three sites in 2009 (from four in 2008).

### **Activity 5 Advocacy and outreach to promote Ramsar and the achievements of government-civil society partnerships**

The main activity during the period was the holding of an official side event at COP 10 (held on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2008). The Darwin project supported five participants from the four countries to attend COP 10 (four NGO representatives and one government representative from Cambodia). Government and civil society participants used this opportunity to demonstrate and promote their work with local conservation groups as an effective contribution to the implementation of the Ramsar Convention in the Asia. The side-event attracted an audience of about 100. Case studies, supported by the Darwin project, were presented for each of the four countries. The agenda for the side event is attached as Annex 6 to this report.

Three of the four countries held World Wetland Day (WWD) activities in February 2009, to promote the Ramsar Convention and wetland conservation more generally, following the *'upstream downstream wetland connect us all'* theme. In each of the countries, WWD activities were planned and implemented in collaboration with the RAAs. Further details are provided below:

#### Cambodia

The BirdLife Cambodia programme and the RAA approached ten companies in Cambodia to raise funds for World Wetlands Day preparations; although only one response was received (an offer to consider funding in the future), this was the first time the private sector had been approached to support wetland conservation activities. A fundraising appeal to NGOs in the country was more successful, with six NGOs contributing US\$ 2255 towards WWD preparations. With funding support from the Darwin project and NGOs in Cambodia, 1000 posters, 15 banners, and 400 T-shirts were produced, adapting and translating templates provided by the Ramsar Secretariat. The awareness materials were circulated widely for use at six important wetlands (the three existing Ramsar sites, plus Preak Toal, Boeung Preak Lapouv, Kampong Trach and Western Siem Pang). In Phnom Penh, the poster and banners were placed in front of important government offices including the Ministry of Environment, Forestry Administration and Fisheries Administration, in part to ensure that the key messages about river basin management and wetland services would reach decision makers.

To reflect the WWD theme, the RAA in collaboration with civil society partners, and with the support of the Darwin project, organised a coordinated event to link Preak Toal with the Ramsar Site at Stung Treng. Prek Toal is a candidate Ramsar Site (see below) and is 'down-stream' on the Mekong and Stung Treng is 'up-stream' on the Mekong. The event at Preak Toal was presided over by the Secretary of State for the Ministry of Environment, with the participation of primary school students, representatives of relevant government and non-government organisations, local authorities and community members. At Stung Treng, the project organised a speech parade, waste collection, distribution of posters, and a number of wetland learning groups (covering painting, bird watching, nature walks, a quiz, and catchments stories). About 300 people participated, and news coverage by a popular radio programme reached at least 10 provinces (a 15 minute radio slot was broadcast five times in each of 10 provinces). There was coverage of WWD on national television news.

Another World Wetland Day event was the organization of a national essay contest on the effects of wetland destruction on livelihoods in Cambodia, in collaboration with Pannasastra University of Cambodia and Cambodia Youth Environment Network. Students from three universities were selected for prizes (Royal University of Phnom Penh, Royal University of Law and Economic and Pannasastra University of Cambodia), with the awards ceremony at Pannasastra University attended by 100 participants. This event was covered in two prestigious local newspapers, Reak Smei Kampuchea and Kosan Thepheap.

## Malaysia

The WWD poster was modified for use in Malaysia, and one thousand copies were printed for distribution to local schools, local communities, government agencies (including Ministry of Natural Resources & Environment, MNRE, Forest Department, Department of Wildlife and National Parks, Sarawak State Planning Unit, and all Ramsar sites in Malaysia). Distribution included 380 schools within the MNS School Nature Club Programme, MNS Nature Education Centres and private sector partners. MNS has compiled a summary of Malaysia's activities for WWD (as the CEPA Focal Point for Malaysia), and this will be sent to the Ramsar Secretariat (for uploading to the Ramsar website).

MNS conducted the WWD 09 activities at the Kuala Selangor Nature Park. Activities included: (1) talks on mangroves and threats they currently face in Kuala Selangor; (2) mangrove replanting; (2) mangrove cruise along the Kuala Selangor coast (for government agencies and members of the media). The planned WWD event in Bako-Buntal Bay was cancelled because of the severe flooding following heavy rains. MNS are currently in discussions with the Village Development and Security Committee to decide on an alternative date and theme for this event.

## Thailand

A wide range of WWD activities were organised by the RAA in Thailand, with a particular focus on activities at priority wetland sites. BCST undertook some WWD activities in the Cheang Sean Basin, in collaboration with a wide range of local organisations. About 300 participants attended the activity.

## Vietnam

The Ramsar WWD poster was translated into Vietnamese and printed. However, WWD activities could not be held on 2<sup>nd</sup> February because of the reorganisation that was taking place inside the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources. An event is now planned for World Environment Day (5<sup>th</sup> June), and the RAA has issued guidance on this event to its provincial departments.

### **3.2 Progress towards Project Outputs**

#### **Output 1 Government and civil society organisations develop joint priorities and work plans for enhancing Ramsar implementation in 4 South-East Asian countries**

Joint work programmes are being implemented between the civil society organisations and the government RAAs that are participating in the Darwin project in each of the four countries. The relationships between the participating RAAs and NGOs have strengthened during the second year. Shared agendas were reviewed and redefined during the Darwin-funded round table meeting in Thailand, 12<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup> March 2009 (and these are summarised in tables 1-3).

Table 1: Actions to be taken to deliver the Ramsar Strategic Plan and in particular the strategies under Goal 1 'Wise Use of Wetlands'

<b>Cambodia</b>	<b>Malaysia</b>	<b>Thailand</b>	<b>Vietnam</b>
CEPA (financial support, CEPA Action Plan, Educational Centre, Awareness tool kit, media coverage on wetland importance) (*)	Complete national inventory  Awareness and capacity building actions for local communities (*)	Update/review wetland inventory (to be covered region by region, one per year over four years):  - ecological character (birds,	Complete wetland inventory and establish monitoring system (*)  Develop models for wise use of wetlands

<p>Establish examples of alternative livelihood options at wetlands (expertise, sustainability mechanisms)</p> <p>National Action Plan (funding, technical support) (updating previous action plan)</p> <p>Law enforcement (capacity building, enforcement and materials, experts, involvement of local, national and international NGOs)</p> <p>Capacity building (RAA staff, Wetland and Ramsar Working Group) (*)</p>	<p>Engage with private sector with regards to wetland management (upstream of Kinabatang Ramsar Site)</p> <p>Develop a national wetlands action plan (funding) (*)</p>	<p>fish; conservation status of species, alien species) - use Important Bird Areas data (*)</p> <p>Improve Cabinet Resolution (1<sup>st</sup> August 2000), especially to address engagement of private sector</p> <p>Incorporate wetland related provisions from other sectoral policies into the national wetland plan</p> <p>Mainstream conservation and wise use of wetlands in the national biodiversity plan</p> <p>Partnership programme (financial and technical) for wetland sites (*)</p>	<p>(identify, collect and share good models from different sites, and develop for national level and for use at other sites) and share from other countries (*)</p> <p>Mainstreaming wise use of wetlands into sector and inter-sector policies and strategies</p> <p>Wetland legislation</p> <p>International cooperation on wetland management</p> <p>[BirdLife also assist with CEPA]</p>
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(\*) = Assistance from BirdLife Partnership being provided and/or requested

Table 2: Actions to be taken to deliver the Ramsar Strategic Plan and in particular the strategies under Goal 2 on 'Wetlands of International Importance'

<b>Cambodia</b>	<b>Malaysia</b>	<b>Thailand</b>	<b>Vietnam</b>
<p>New Ramsar Site designation (Prek Toal) (*)</p> <p>Ramsar Management Plan for three existing Ramsar Sites</p> <p>Annual wetland monitoring (Asian Waterbird Census at Ramsar Sites) (*)</p> <p>Management plan for additional specific wetlands sites (*)</p>	<p>Develop management plan for all Ramsar Sites</p> <p>Complete Ramsar Ecological Character sheet</p> <p>Update RIS (one is missing) and Ramsar Site status</p> <p>National plan/priority sites identified for designation</p> <p>CEPA (as tool for managing Ramsar Sites)</p>	<p>Identify priorities for new Ramsar Sites (5 new sites, and launch new policy (one province, one Ramsar Site) (*)</p> <p>Updating RIS (ONEP has financial support for 2009; BCST provide information on birds) (*)</p> <p>Management planning (working with local university and local authorities to maintain ecological character (CEPA and technical support from BCST) (*)</p>	<p>Updating the RIS for Xian Thuy (check current status, because was updated in 2006, but perhaps not submitted) (*)</p> <p>Finalising the RIS for Tram Chim and Ba Be (*)</p> <p>Building the database of wetlands focusing on potential for Ramsar Sites and for wetland monitoring (*)</p> <p>Seek government approval for a list of potential Ramsar Sites (*)</p> <p>Applying wetland classification</p>

		<p>Hold national wetland committee and technical committee</p> <p>Facilitate financial support from relevant agencies</p> <p>Seek resolution for zoning for larger potential Ramsar Sites (e.g. Inner Gulf – split into smaller areas) (*)</p>	<p>Develop master plan for wetlands</p> <p>Mapping for wetlands</p> <p>Strengthen capacity for local and national authorities working on wetlands (education, raising awareness etc) (*)</p>
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(\*) = Assistance from BirdLife Partnership being provided and/or requested

Table 3: Actions to be taken to deliver the 2009-2105 CPEA Programme

<b>Cambodia</b>	<b>Malaysia</b>	<b>Thailand</b>	<b>Vietnam</b>
Engage academic institutions	Training & awareness for local communities	Integrate CEPA into national wetland plan	Develop Clearing House Mechanism (need focal point/moderator, and regulation to provide information)
Approach UNESCO for CEPA Fund	Multipurpose wetland education centre	Organise workshop to share experience and lessons learned on CEPA (e.g. school curriculum)	Website on wetlands
Exchange study tour (national, regional)	Develop website	Meeting between CEPA Focal Point and government and NGO (workshop)	CEPA Network (managers, policy network, experts, civil society)
Capacity building for local communities	Produce interpretive materials	Wetland Education Center	Forums (different topics)
Involvement of more government and NGO in CEPA	Sign-up to CEPA lists server, register with Wetlands Link International	World Wetland Day	Strengthen CEPA Focal Points (government, NGOs)
Private sector involvement in CEPA (including funding)	Celebrate/promote Ramsar Site during World Forestry Day	Wetland tool kits to support CEPA	Support two existing Ramsar Sites to become CEPA demonstration sites
Education Centre at Ramsar Sites	Develop packages to promote Ramsar Sites	Publish 'Discover Wetlands' to support CEPA	[WWD, 2 <sup>nd</sup> February, is not a good day because of Tet]
Wetland debate on TV, radio, etc	Training/capacity building sessions for wetland monitoring	Produce manual for shorebird/waterbird identification for distribution/sale	
Appoint NGO CEPA focal point		National competition (painting and story writing) on wetland birds on a national scale	
Wetland Awareness Toolkits			

**Specific achievements of these government-civil society partnerships realised during the second year were as follows:**

- The BirdLife organisations actively supported the drafting of the National Ramsar Reports in each of the four countries (due prior to COP 10).
- In Vietnam, Cambodia and Malaysia, the BirdLife organisations played a critical role in preparing the RAAs for COP 10 through prior discussion and agreement on key COP 10 resolutions.
- The Ramsar Wetland Working Group in Cambodia was reconstituted.
- A multi-stakeholder agreement was reached to proceed with the steps necessary to designate Prek Toal – one of the most important waterbird colonies in Asia – as Cambodia's fourth Ramsar Site; local stakeholder consultation was undertaken, supporting documentation has been gathered, and material is now in place to submit to the Minister of Environment for comment and approval.
- Ramsar Information Sheets (RIS) were prepared by the project for three Ramsar Sites in Cambodia (the RIS were more than six years old) and these were submitted to the Ramsar Secretariat.
- The project helped the RAA for Vietnam draft the RIS for a proposed Ramsar Site at Tram Chim; this was submitted to the Ramsar Secretariat and informal comments back have been received.
- A draft RIS for Ba Be (in Vietnamese) was prepared and is now being reviewed by the RAA; a round-table was held on 11 February 2009 to consult on the RIS; consensus has been reached amongst local and national stakeholders to nominate Ba Be as a new Ramsar Site (and official letters have sent by provincial authorities and the site manager to confirm their support for Ramsar Site designation).
- A leaflet on potential Ramsar Sites in Vietnam was published in Vietnamese.
- The project has provided assistance to the Xuan Thuy Ramsar Site in the preparation of awareness materials (a poster on bird protection, a leaflet on birdwatching and a bird guide in Vietnamese and English).
- The Ramsar handbook 11: Inventory, assessment, and monitoring for the wise use of wetlands, was translated into Vietnamese and will be published soon.
- An Operational Management Plan was finalized at provincial level for Boeung Preak Lapouv Sarus Crane Conservation area, Cambodia.
- An RIS has been drafted for the Inner Gulf, Thailand and for Bako-Buntal Bay, Sarawak (for the latter site, gaps in information have been identified, and will be discussed at a multi-stakeholder workshop planned for Year 3 of the project).

**Some disappointments and set-backs were as follows:**

- A legal study was commissioned by the project to clarify whether sites under the authority of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAFF) in Cambodia can be designated as Ramsar Sites (MAFF was unwilling to allow important wetland sites under their jurisdiction to be included in a list of candidate Ramsar Sites, nor sanction any feasibility studies to assess their suitability for Ramsar Site designation - five sites had been identified for feasibility studies). The study concluded that under current legislation it was not possible for any wetlands under MAFF's jurisdiction to be designated as Ramsar Sites.
- A printed brochure on candidate Ramsar Sites in Cambodia had to be withdrawn, as a result of the above-mentioned legal study and opposition by MAFF, despite the approval of this list by the RAA (Ministry of Environment).
- Due to changes in the Ministry of Natural Resources & Environment, Malaysia, the Ramsar Tool Kit (referred to in the year 1 report to Darwin), which includes a candidate list of Ramsar Sites, has still not been published.

## **Output 2 Capacity of government and civil society partners in key aspects of Ramsar implementation strengthened**

The capacity of government and civil society organisation is considered to have been greatly strengthened as a result of project-funded preparations for and participation at COP 10. As outlined above, the project provided guidance on the draft COP 10 resolutions and information documents, and a summary of the main outcomes of the COP, and this enabled national dialogues to take place in each of the participating countries.

The Darwin-funded round table meeting and study tour, referred to above, enabled the sharing of knowledge and understanding about key aspects of Ramsar implementation following COP 10, and greatly benefitted from the technical input and facilitation by Rebecca D'Cruz.

Sessions at the round table covered the following key aspects of the Ramsar Convention, through powerpoint presentations, hand-outs, discussions and break-out groups:

- The Ramsar Strategic Plan 2009-2015, focussing on four (of the five) Strategic Goals: (1) Wise Use; (2) Wetlands of International Importance; (3) International Cooperation, and (4) Institutional capacity and effectiveness.
- Goal 1 of the Strategic Plan on 'Wise Use', focussing on seven (of the 11) strategies: (1) wetland inventory and assessment; (2) policy, legislation and institutions; (3) cross-sectoral recognition of wetland services; (4) integrated water resources management; (5) wetland restoration; (6) invasive alien species, and (7) private sector.
- Goal 2 of the Strategic Plan on 'Wetlands of International Importance', specifically the strategies on: (1) Ramsar Site Designation; (2) Management Planning; (3) Ramsar Site Ecological Character; (4) Ramsar Site Management Effectiveness; (5) Status of Ramsar Sites; and (6) Ramsar Information Sheets.
- Describing the ecological character of wetlands, specifically the guidance provided by COP 10 Resolution 15, including use of the 'Ramsar ecological character description sheet', which provides a format for describing a wetland's ecological character.
- The Ramsar Convention's Programme of Communications, Education, Participation and Awareness (CPEA), specifically the CEPA Programme for 2009-2105.
- Sustaining wetland conservation and Ramsar implementation, specifically: (1) sustainable financing; (2) the roles and responsibilities of national Ramsar focal points, and (3) institutional structures to support implementation of the Convention at national and local levels (e.g. national wetland committees, Ramsar site management committees).

The study tour visited four sites in the Inner Gulf of Thailand, including one Ramsar Site (Dan Hoi Lot), and provided an opportunity for participants to learn about the activities and organisational structure of local conservation groups, and their experiences with awareness and conservation activities (particularly mangrove restoration and combating coastal erosion). The participants discussed the pros and cons of Ramsar Site designation. The study tour also visited the Ramsar Site at Khao Sam Riot to learn about the difficult history and current experience of Ramsar Site designation.

## **Output 3 Collaborative wetland management initiatives engaging local government and civil society stakeholders in place at priority sites**

There has been progress with advancing collaborative management at the six sites covered by the project, with partnerships developing at each of these, and wetland conservation activities underway. Initiatives which delivered results of particular significance include the following:

### Cambodia

At Beoung Preak Lapouv, the local conservation group has arranged commune and village meetings to raise awareness about the importance of site and to try and address illegal activities. More than 420 villagers from six villages of Takeo province attended these meetings. As part of this awareness campaign, the local conservation group has produced and distributed more than 600 posters to communities and local authorities.

During the second year, the local conservation group at Boeung Prek Lapouv has been able to greatly reduce incidences of illegal activities such as poisoning and trapping, grass burning, forest clearing, wildlife hunting, and illegal fishing. However, land encroachment remains a serious issue despite the fact that this site is now designated as a protected area.

The local conservation group at Kampong Trach has been able to greatly reduce incidences of illegal activities such as grassland burning, wildlife hunting and land encroachment.

With technical and financial support from the International Crane Foundation, the local conservation group at Boeung Preak Lapouv has been successful at controlling the invasive *Mimosa pigra*. Areas cleared during year 1 of the project remain clear of the weed, and in June 2008 villagers cleared a further 195 ha. However, another invasive species *Impomoea* sp. has been found, and in January 2009 the local conservation group working with villagers cleared 158 ha of this invasive vine.

The project has made progress (although slower than envisaged in the Year 1 report to Darwin) with the designation of a second Sarus Crane Conservation Area at Kampong Trach, covering 212 ha. The Ministry of Land Management has reviewed claims of land-ownership inside the proposed area, and found them to be fraudulent. A report from the Ministry will go to the Prime Minister and it is expected that this will be followed by an inter-ministerial meeting to make a final decision prior to the issuing of a Prime Ministerial sub decree. This designation is considered to be essential to prevent land encroachment at Kampong Trach by big private firms.

In Boeung Preak Lapouv, 20 boundary posts were placed to demark core zones. This is the first action to demarcate the area on the ground, following its official designation as a Sarus Crane Conservation Area. Prior to placing the boundary posts, a boundary demarcation committee was set up comprising representatives of the Forestry Administration, the provincial governor and relevant departments, the district governors, and commune leaders.

A crane census was conducted twice at Kampong Trach (17 -19 January and 25- 28 February 2009). Two hundred and twenty-nine cranes were recorded, the highest count since surveys started in 2004.

Training has been provided to members of the local conservation groups at Boeung Preak Lapouv and Kampong Trach in work planning, law enforcement, wetland monitoring, raising awareness about the importance of wetlands, alien species management, and waterbird monitoring.

### Malaysia

At Bako-Buntal Bay, MNS has provided guidance and support to local stakeholders on the establishment and functioning of local conservation groups, as an input to a multi-stakeholder workshop (planned for April 09). Training needs have been identified, which MNS will aim to address between May and November 2009. The Kuching Branch of MNS has prepared a list of local MNS members who, based on experience, are well-placed to support this training programme as well as provide hands-on assistance with the implementation of activities.

At North-central Selangor coast, activities carried by MNS have been focussing on addressing the aquaculture expansion along the Kuala Selangor coast through press and media work and meetings with the Selangor State Fisheries Department. Position papers and proposals have

been submitted to the State Executive Council member for Environment regarding the potential designation of North-central Selangor coast as a Ramsar Site.

Staff at MNS's Kuala Selangor Nature Park (KSNP) have investigated encroachment of the park boundary and determined that the infringement was by the State Agriculture Development Authority. Following a KSNP Steering committee meeting, the Authority has been given orders to replant lost areas with mangroves, and to address this issue in consultation with the KSNP management authority.

#### Thailand

A natural resources assessment has been carried out for the wetlands in Chieang Saen Basin, as an input to the development planning for the Basin.

BCST has been undertaking surveys, promotional and educational work to promote conservation of key sites in the Inner Gulf.

### **Output 4 National wetland monitoring programmes established as an activity of government-civil society partnerships**

During year 2, a draft national wetland monitoring framework has been developed for Vietnam, with technical advice from the BirdLife Secretariat. The framework was drafted and discussed at a round-table in February. Principles for testing the framework were discussed and agreed with the Xuan Thuy National Park Management Board.

A standard monitoring protocol has been developed for the two sites covered by the Darwin project in Cambodia, as a basis for expanding this to cover further sites in the country.

The Asian Waterfowl Census was undertaken in each of the four countries, led by the BirdLife Partners in these countries.

### **Output 5 The importance of the Ramsar Convention and the achievements of government-civil society partnerships demonstrated at national, regional and global levels**

COP 10, and particularly the side event held on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2008, provided an excellent opportunity to demonstrate and strengthen the collaboration between the project's government and civil society partners. Case studies, supported by the Darwin project, were presented for each of the four countries (see Annex 6 to this report). Leaflets and posters were produced to communicate achievements.

See activities above, for information on promotion of Ramsar during World Wetland Day activities in three of the four countries.

### **3.3 Project Standard Output Measures**

Code No.	Description	Year 1	Year 2
8	Total of 48 weeks spent by UK experts on project work in the host countries.	A total of 3 weeks has been spent by UK experts in the project countries. Regrettably, this description appears to have been overambitious.	A total of 13 weeks has been spent by UK experts in the project countries during year 2, plus an additional 3 weeks in South Korea in conjunction with Ramsar COP 10
14A	Workshops held at four sites to enable local stakeholders to	Workshops and stakeholder consultations have been held at six sites, which have provided a basis for reviewing natural resource use,	Further workshops and stakeholder consultations have been held at the project sites

	review past conservation experience, identify current conservation issues and examine wise-use and sustainable financing options.	and planning new conservation actions at each of the sites. Consultation on this scale undertaken by the project has been initiated for the first time at three of the sites, and has built on past experience and activities at three sites.	
21	Site conservation partnerships involving local government, private sector and local land-users forged at four sites as outcome from these workshops.	Local conservation group have been established and supported at six sites, with key stakeholders involved in each case. The scale and organised nature of the partnerships is perhaps greatest at the Bakol-Buntal Bay, in Sawarak, where a range of government agencies, community representatives, and private sector interest groups are involved.	These site conservation partnerships have been maintained and enhanced during the second year of the project
9	Site conservation strategies prepared for at least four sites, drawing on Ramsar guidelines on wise-use of wetlands and site management planning.	Whilst conservation plans have been developed for each of the six sites mentioned above, these are not yet in a formal state, and further work is needed	There has been no further formal development of conservation plans for these sites, except for Boeung Prek Lapouv (Cambodia) where an operational management plan has been finalized at provincial level. The operational management plan for Kampong Trach will be developed in late 2009 once it has been officially designated by government as a conservation area.
7	Four sets of training tools and materials on Ramsar Convention implementation prepared and available in English, Khmer, Thai and Vietnamese; based on Ramsar Convention Technical Guidelines,	No formal training materials have been produced, and these are planned for year 2 and 3 of the project. Briefing documents and powerpoint presentations were prepared and distributed at the 'regional consultation on Ramsar implementation' (Bangkok, Jan 08) (covering national Ramsar reporting, the Ramsar Information Sheet, and criteria for Ramsar designation)	The Darwin project prepared two key papers, prior to and following COP 10: (1) a brief on the Draft COP Resolutions and Information documents, and (2) a brief on key decisions adopted at the COP. These were used to prepare inputs to the national meetings in Cambodia and Malaysia  Hand-outs from the round table meeting covered: (1) the Ramsar Strategic Plan 2009-2015 as adopted at the 10 <sup>th</sup> Conference of Parties; (2) Goal 1 of the Strategic Plan on the wise use of wetlands; (3) Goal 2 of the Strategic Plan on wetlands of international importance'; (4) the COP 10 Resolution 8, on the Ramsar Conventions Programme of Communications, Education, Participation and Awareness (CPEA), specifically the CPEA Programme for 2009-2105; and (5) ensuring sustainability in the implementation of the convention at national levels.  The Ramsar handbook 11:

			Inventory, assessment, and monitoring for the wise use of wetlands, was translated into Vietnamese
6A, 6B	Capacity of 24 government and civil society staff (Malaysian, Thai, Cambodian and Vietnamese) enhanced through attending two three-day regional training workshops covering key issues for effective Ramsar Convention implementation.	No formal training was organised during the period. However, the project helped to support 10 people from the four countries (four government, 6 NGO) to attend the Ramsar Asia Regional Preparatory meeting for COP 10 (Bangkok, January 08). This was followed by an informal 'regional consultation', organised by BirdLife. Participation at the Regional Preparatory meeting for COP 10 provided an excellent opportunity for the project partners to more fully understand the Ramsar Convention, its obligations, and its current priorities. Four people (one from each Darwin project country) shared experience with other Asian NGOs at a workshop on 'Important Bird Areas and local conservation groups: legal/policy and equity/livelihood issues', held in Mumbai (March 08).	The four-day round table meeting and study tour involved 11 government and civil society representatives from the four countries (seven government, four NGO).  The Darwin project also supported five representatives to attend COP 10 (one government, four NGO)
10	National wetland monitoring frameworks published in English, Khmer, Thai and Vietnamese. 50 copies available for each country.	A wetland monitoring framework has been developed, for Malaysia, incorporating key information on sites, species, habitat and people (local stakeholder involvement). Modules for training in monitoring have been developed, and training has been conducted during the January 08 Asian Waterfowl Census. This monitoring framework will be shared with the other three project countries, and MNS will provide a presentation on the framework when the project partners next meet (at COP 10). In Vietnam, discussions have been held at national Ramsar meetings on the needs of a national monitoring framework, and how to incorporate Ramsar monitoring guidelines into current national environmental monitoring systems. The annual Asian Waterbird Census (AWC) was conducted in January this year, involving volunteers in all four of the countries. Data from participation in the AWC census has been provided to the RAAs for national reporting and for the updating of Ramsar Information Sheets. The scale of civil society participation in the AWC provides an excellent opportunity for this to feed into	A draft national wetland monitoring framework has been developed for Vietnam, with technical advice from the BirdLife Secretariat. It will be further discussed at a national workshop in May 2009.  The annual Asian Waterbird Census (AWC) was conducted in January this year, involving volunteers in all four of the countries. Data from participation in the AWC census has been provided to the RAAs for national reporting and for the updating of Ramsar Information Sheets.

		wider wetland monitoring in the four countries.	
18A, 18C	Four national and four local TV features on wise use of wetlands and the Ramsar Convention broadcast in the host countries during World Wetlands Day events.	WWD activities in Vietnam were covered by national and provincial TV, radio, and newspapers. WWD activities in Cambodia were shown on three national TV channels (TVK, Bayon, and CTN).	WWD activities in Cambodia received press coverage in 10 provinces, plus national TV channels, local newspapers and e-magazine.  There was also media coverage of WWD activities in the other three countries, but no details have been received.
Other	Inventories of candidate sites for the Ramsar List drafted for four countries. 100 copies available for each country.	Progress has been made during the course of the project with the drafting of wetland inventories as candidate sites for the Ramsar List. These are now available as draft documents, and are being used by each country either to work on 'official' shadow lists or to provide guidance on the selection of priority sites for Ramsar designation. As mentioned, Malaysia will be using this resource in the preparation of the Ramsar 'tool-kit'. The draft inventories, compiled from information sources readily available to BirdLife, are attached as an annex to this report.	A brochure listing candidate Ramsar Sites in Cambodia was published, in cooperation with the RAA (Ministry of Environment) but had to be withdrawn following a disagreement with the Forestry Administration (Ministry of Agriculture) (which disagreed with the proposal that sites under their jurisdiction could be listed as candidate Ramsar Sites).  A leaflet on candidate Ramsar Sites in Vietnam has been published.  The Ramsar 'tool-kit' for Malaysia – which contains a candidate list of Ramsar Sites - has still not been published due to a reorganisation of the Ministry of Natural Resources & Environment
Other	National Reports from Ramsar Administrative Authorities for COP 10 prepared with input from civil society partners and drawing on collaborative work supported by Darwin Project.	BirdLife Vietnam has translated the COP10 national report format into Vietnamese. The report was filled in Vietnamese by the RAA, followed by consultation, facilitated by the project, during the 'round-table' meetings and national workshop. The final draft of the national report has been circulated for comments to other relevant ministries. It will then be translated into English and submitted to the Ramsar Secretariat by the end of April.  MNS as member of the Malaysia wetland working group, played an important role in the national reporting process, together with other selected stakeholders. The Darwin project is expected to be mentioned in the national report in recognition of its contribution to national Ramsar implementation. The report is being finalised by the RAA and the Secretary-General of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE). Once finalised, it will be submitted to the	The Vietnam National Report was completed, translated and submitted to Ramsar Secretariat with considerable input and support provided by the BirdLife Vietnam programme.  The Malaysian National Report was submitted. The Darwin project is mentioned in recognition of its contribution to national Ramsar implementation.

		<p>Ramsar Secretariat and available on the Ramsar website.</p> <p>BirdLife Cambodia has assisted the RAA in the updating of Ramsar Information Sheet for the three existing Ramsar Sites as well as completion of the national report for COP 10. This has been completed and submitted by the RAA to the Ramsar Secretariat.</p> <p>BCST has provided the RAA with information on wetlands and waterbirds for inclusion in Thailand's national report.</p>	
6A, 6B	<p>At least 80 local stakeholders (Malaysian, Thai, Cambodian and Vietnamese) each attend two three-day training courses on site conservation and wetland wise-use.</p>		<p>Training courses have been held at two sites in Cambodia involving 11 local conservation group members and more than 25 local people. Refresher training has been provided on planning, law enforcement, monitoring and awareness, and wetland values. Additional training has covered the control and clearance of invasive alien species</p> <p>In the Inner Gulf region of Thailand, BCST ran a Natural Resources Data Collection Training course for local students. A total of 90 participants from three colleges attended.</p> <p>Workshop on shorebird identification were held in December 2008 and March 2009 for local bird groups in the Inner Gulf, Thailand - mainly students and local people who enjoy bird watching and are interested in conservation issues. There were 67 participants.</p>
Other	<p>Ramsar Information Sheets prepared with support from civil society partners for: (1) any new sites to be added to the Ramsar List; and (2) any existing sites covered by Darwin Project activities where updating is required.</p>		<p>Ramsar Information Sheets have been revised for the three existing Ramsar Sites in Cambodia, and submitted to the Ramsar Secretariat.</p> <p>RIS have been prepared for two new Ramsar Sites in Vietnam</p> <p>Draft RIS have been prepared for two project sites (Inner Gulf Thailand, and Bako-Buntal Bay, Sarawak</p>
6A, 6B	20 government		Nothing to report further to what has

	and civil society staff (Malaysian, Thai, Cambodian and Vietnamese) each receive eight weeks' hands-on training in site action planning and forming partnerships with local stakeholders.		been reported above
6A, 6B	Eight national civil society trainers (Malaysian, Thai, Cambodian and Vietnamese) attend five-day training workshop on wetland monitoring organised by UK experts.		This has been delayed and is now planned for October 2009 in Sabah, Malaysia
6A, 6B	40 local monitoring coordinators (Malaysian, Thai, Cambodian and Vietnamese) trained by national civil society trainers at three-day training workshops		BCST, Thailand, has held three training workshops on waterbird and wetland monitoring (Bangkok, Buriam, Trang), with 210 people attending. In preparation for this, BCST produced an identification guide for waterbird monitoring, sponsored by the drinks company Red Bull and the Department of Natural Resources and Planning
Other	Four joint government/civil society position papers on key wetland issues relating to Ramsar drafted.		No formal position papers, but good national agreement on draft COP 10 Resolutions prior to arrival in Korea, and collaboration at COP 10 itself on key resolutions, e.g: Resolution 22 'Promoting international cooperation for the conservation of waterbird flyways' ; Resolution 21 'Guidance on responding to the continued spread of highly pathogenic avian influenza' and Resolution 31 on Enhancing biodiversity in rice paddies as wetland systems
14B	Presentations by four countries at the Ramsar Conference of Parties on successful government-civil society collaboration for wetland conservation (four posters, one		A formal BirdLife Side Event was held at COP 10, attended by around 100 people, with presentations on the collaboration between BirdLife organisations and RAAs in the four countries, with a particular focus on local conservation groups. The agenda is presented as Appendix 6.

	side event, and at least one presentation).		
18A, 18C	Two national and two local TV features on wise use of wetlands and the Ramsar Convention broadcast in the host countries during the World Bird Festival.		No World Bird Festival activities were held in Asia because of the overlap with the BirdLife World Conference which was held in Argentina in October 2008
15A, 15C	Four national press releases in the host countries and one national press release in the UK on Darwin project activities and achievements.		A BirdLife News Alert was issued concerning the round table meeting and study tour held in Thailand in March 2009, and a more detailed report on this event was posted on the Ramsar website. In Vietnam, the press release was translated into Vietnamese
Other	Wetland monitoring reports prepared and published and input to national environmental reporting.		The reports on the AWC have been prepared and submitted to the relevant government agencies

### Publications

Type * (eg journals, manual, CDs)	Detail (title, author, year)	Publishers (name, city)	Available from (eg contact address, website)	Cost £
Please provide any details of published outputs activities.	Once again, a variety of leaflets and posters have been produced and some of these are provided in Annex 7. The handbook 11: Inventory, assessment, and monitoring for the wise use of wetlands, was translated into Vietnamese			

### 3. 4 Progress towards the project purpose and outcomes

The government-civil society partnerships in support of Ramsar implementation in South-East Asia have been maintained during the second year. This collaboration has been held back however by changes in all but one of the RAAs since the start of the project. There were major changes in two of the RAAs (Vietnam and Malaysia) during the second year. Evidence of strong partnerships includes major input to and support for the drafting of Ramsar National Reports, the updating of Ramsar Information Sheets and collaboration during COP 10. Joint work plans have been maintained between the civil society organisations and the RAAs in each

of the four countries, with some common themes including: (1) designation of new Ramsar Sites; (2) updating of the Ramsar Information Sheets for existing Ramsar Sites; (3) CEPA activities including World Wetland Day; and (4) development of wetland monitoring frameworks. Progress was less than had been envisaged with regard to the designation of new Ramsar Sites. There was further consultation on one proposed Ramsar Site in Vietnam (Tram Chim), and it has been submitted to the Ramsar Secretariat for comments, and there has been progress with a second Vietnamese site (Ba Be). A consensus has been reached on a new Ramsar Site for Cambodia (Prek Toal) following a disagreement (now legally clarified by the Darwin project) between two government ministries about whether the Forestry Administration can have management control over Ramsar Sites (they can't).

There has also been some progress (although again less than planned) with the development of national wetland monitoring frameworks; Vietnam now has a draft national framework and the project will aim to build on this during the third year.

These national level partnerships were significantly strengthened in the second year through preparations for, and follow-up to, COP 10. BirdLife prepared briefing papers in advance of the COP, and a summary of the COP Resolutions. As a result of this briefing, the preparations for and attendance at the COP, and the Bangkok round table, we believe government and civil society representatives involved in the project now have a much stronger understanding of and commitment to Ramsar implementation.

### **3. 5 Progress towards impact on biodiversity, sustainable use or equitable sharing of biodiversity benefits**

The report highlights the progress being made with conservation at six important wetlands. Most significant is the progress at the two sites in Cambodia, where threats to the sites have been reduced, boundary markers are now in place at one site (with the agreement of local stakeholders) and there has been further progress in the designation of a Crane Reserve at the other site.

### **4. Monitoring, evaluation and lessons**

Progress against work plans was reviewed at a project planning meeting with the four countries, held during COP 10 in October 08. The Bangkok round table meeting provided a further opportunity to review both the Darwin project workplan and the Ramsar programme of work in each country and to share experience with progress.

The submission of year 2 reports by each country, and the review of these, has provided the basis for discussing progress in each country and this will be advanced once this report has been submitted to Darwin.

Some key issues have been identified during the second year, which will need to be addressed if the project is to deliver on its objectives. These are outlined below.

Issue	Proposed solution
National and international press coverage is still less than was planned, and countries have not been good at reporting on national coverage.	BirdLife Secretariat needs to put in place a clear plan for publicising Darwin activities and ensuring national plans are in place and reported on.
The project is behind schedule at putting in place national monitoring frameworks and the provision of related training	The BirdLife Secretariat will focus on this over the coming months and in the run up to the planned regional training workshop which is scheduled for October 2009
Staff restructuring has resulted in less capacity to provide technical support to the project than was envisaged, and has weakened links between BirdLife and the Ramsar Secretariat	This was addressed during the second year of the project, with significant input from David Pritchard.
Progress reports received from the four countries have continued to provide less information than needed to fully judge (and report on) progress with the project.	Further guidance will be given on reporting against the outputs and activities of the project.

## 5. Actions taken in response to previous reviews (if applicable)

Reviewers comments (in response to Year 1 report)	Response from Project Leader in Year 2, mid-term report (October 08)	Further comments from project leader (Year 2 report)
<p>1. It is a little unclear from the report what specific contribution the Darwin project has made on various activities. This should be elaborated e.g. Was it expertise from UK partners? Who facilitated/conducted activities from the Darwin project side? How was the Darwin contribution acknowledged? Specific areas for clarification are: 1. Where it states that the project <i>helped greatly</i> with the final stages of the declaration of the Sarus Crane Conservation area in Cambodia. 2. Local stakeholders are engaged in conservation activities for 6 sites in 3 countries and the Darwin project <i>was instrumental</i> in 3 sites and <i>helped to consolidate</i> the 3 others. 3. In two of the countries Darwin <i>contributed to the scale</i> of activities carried out in the World Wetland Day</p>	<p>As I see it the Darwin Project is the sum of the activities described in the report for the period in question. There is co-funding, coming from Japanese sources (Ministry of the Environment, and Keidanren Nature Conservation Fund), which is contributing to specific components (site conservation work, development of candidate Ramsar Lists and proposals for Ramsar Sites), but all participating organisations understand that all outputs and activities, set out in the log frame, comprise the Darwin project. I can provide an overview of how these separate 'projects' fit together if this would be helpful. Re the specific points: (1) our work to propose the designation of the Sarus Crane reserve was initiated several years prior to the Darwin project, but vital actions were undertaken in the first year of the Darwin project which made the designation possible, (2) some site-based activities had been initiated by the participating organisations prior to the Darwin project (at three sites). Work commenced from scratch at an additional three sites, (3) The World Wetland Day is a collaborative event, and in some countries the Darwin supported activities were part of a wider programme of activities coordinated by the RAA (in Malaysia and Thailand). In the other two countries, the Darwin supported activities represented much of what happened across the country for WWD.</p>	<p>No further comments to make on this point</p>
<p>2. Sometimes the language regarding progress is rather vague. E.g. the report says that the wetland</p>	<p>Will aim to be more specific in the second year report.</p>	<p>Hopefully the current report is an improvement in this regard.</p>

<p>management plans are being '<i>advanced in Vietnam</i>' and in another case there is '<i>movement towards them</i>'. Please be more specific with evidence/indicators to back up what progress has been – and be explicit about any shortcomings.</p>		
<p>3. As these sites are integral to the project it is important to spell out how and with whom were the 26 candidate sites identified as potential new Ramsar sites in the review conducted and published by Birdlife International in 2005? What degree of national and local (eg by local resource users) interaction of site identification has there been?</p>	<p>The lists of candidate Ramsar Sites are based on information on Important Bird Areas (IBAs). IBAs are identified through national processes, using internationally agreed criteria. Their identification will have involved a series of workshops, followed by data compilation from national and international sources. Each IBA inventory will have been coordinated by a small team of compilers/editors. The candidate Ramsar Sites are those IBAs which contain wetland habitats and internationally important waterbird species/values, and meet the criteria for designation (wholly or partly) as Ramsar Sites. This initial selection, and subsequent more detailed presentation, was initially compiled in Cambridge. These lists will have undergone further national review. In the case of Vietnam and Malaysia, this process is not yet finalised. In the case of Cambodia, the list was agreed with the RAA, but was not acceptable to the Ministry of Agriculture (see above for further background). In the case of Thailand, their official shadow list is well established, but data on candidate sites has provided additional (particularly bird-related) material. Advancing Ramsar designation for sites will involve considerable additional data gathering and consultation.</p>	<p>Further to the comments made in October 2008:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- a leaflet listing candidate Ramsar Sites has been published for Vietnam;</li> <li>- the Tool Kit for Malaysia contains a candidate list which has been agreed with the Government</li> <li>- A brochure with the candidate list for Cambodia had to be withdrawn due to opposition from one of the key government ministries (see main report for further explanation)</li> </ul>
<p>To make it clearer what activities are being conducted and by whom there needs to be a further elaboration on</p>	<p>This report is being compiled in Korea, at the 10<sup>th</sup> Conference of Parties to the Ramsar Convention. I am unable to access further</p>	<p>No further comment on this.</p>

<p>the budget and also on roles and responsibilities of project staff over the last year. The report does not make clear the exact roles of the UK staff. How many weeks input/trips are UK staff making? What were the inputs of RSPB UK etc?</p>	<p>details relating to the budget. I do however feel that the budget is clearly set out in the project proposal. The RSPB Ramsar expert provided considerable input and guidance to me, on frequent occasions, on the provisions and operations of the Ramsar Convention, on the sources of information, with briefings and advice as requested. He attended the Ramsar STRP and Standing Committee and thus was party to (and played a key role in) the workings of the Convention. As Project Manager, I am responsible for regular liaison with the four countries, on all aspects of project administration and management (work planning, budgeting, contracting, reporting etc.) as well as provision of technical information to the four countries on Ramsar matters. I do not have my diary with me to provide any further elaboration (than in the report) on weeks input/trips.</p>	
<p>In the table on p13, it mentions that staff restructuring has resulted in less capacity to provide technical support to the project than was envisaged, and that links are thus weakened between Birdlife and the Ramsar Secretariat. This information is welcome but please elaborate/provide detail on the implications this had during the reporting period and outline mitigation measures to deal with this change.</p>	<p>BirdLife continues to receive technical support from the Ramsar expert (now a part-time consultant to RSPB). There was a period when he was not available to provide support, but the situation has improved (including the provision of detailed advice and assistance in the run-up to COP 10). I have nevertheless needed to take on greater responsibilities relating to Ramsar (this has included being Head of Delegation at COP 10).</p>	<p>In the end, this had no significant implications during year 2 of the project. A combination of myself, Simba Chan and David Pritchard were able to provide the planned input</p> <p>We are currently looking at the staff situation for year 3, and some adjustments may be needed</p>

## 6. Other comments on progress not covered elsewhere

Nothing to add to the issues raised above

## 7. Sustainability

As reported in Year 1, the sustainability of this project is judged to be high. The participating organisations have a deep institutional commitment to wetland conservation and the Ramsar Convention, and will build on the partnerships that are being developed at national level. Similar levels of commitment exist in relation to the priority wetland sites covered by the project.

## 8. Dissemination

The activities and outputs from this project have been shared with audiences at COP 10, and at national Ramsar and wetland meetings.

## 9. Project Expenditure

We understand that financial reports do not need to be submitted until the end of May, and are not able to provide a statement on expenditure at this point. We expect expenditure to be broadly in line with the Year 2 budget.

## 10. OPTIONAL: Outstanding achievements of your project during the reporting period (300-400 words maximum). This section may be used for publicity purposes

I agree for LTS and the Darwin Secretariat to publish the content of this section

The following is a news alert on the round table  
[http://www.birdlife.org/news/news/2009/03/ramsar\\_meeting.html](http://www.birdlife.org/news/news/2009/03/ramsar_meeting.html)

The screenshot shows a Windows Internet Explorer browser window displaying a news article on the BirdLife International website. The browser's address bar shows the URL: [http://www.birdlife.org/news/news/2009/03/ramsar\\_meeting.html](http://www.birdlife.org/news/news/2009/03/ramsar_meeting.html). The page title is "South-East Asian nations share Ramsar experiences". The article is dated 26-03-2009. The main text discusses a round table and study tour in Thailand, involving government and civil society organisations from Cambodia, Malaysia, and Vietnam. It highlights the importance of wetlands for biodiversity and human well-being, and mentions the Ramsar Convention. A sub-headline reads: "We wanted the other countries to benefit from Thailand's experience in gaining support and communicating the benefits of Ramsar designation" - Simba Chan, BirdLife International. The article also mentions the Ramsar Programme of Communications, Education, Participation and Awareness (CEPA) and the Ramsar Administrative Authority (RAA). A small image of a bird is visible on the right side of the article. The browser's taskbar at the bottom shows several open windows, including "Final Year 1 report", "Year 2, annual rep...", "BirdLife Internation...", and "South-East Asia...". The system tray shows the time as 10:36.

## Report of progress and achievements against Logical Framework for Financial Year: 2008/09

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2008 - March 2009	Actions required/planned for next period
<p><b>Goal:</b> <i>To draw on expertise relevant to biodiversity from within the United Kingdom to work with local partners in countries rich in biodiversity but constrained in resources to achieve</i></p> <p><i>The conservation of biological diversity,</i></p> <p><i>The sustainable use of its components, and</i></p> <p><i>The fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilisation of genetic resources</i></p>			<p><i>(do not fill not applicable)</i></p>
<p>Purpose To strengthen government-civil society partnerships to support implementation of the Ramsar Convention in South-East Asia.</p>	<p>Civil society organisations participating in wetland policy formulation &amp; implementation in at least 3 countries; Local stakeholders engaged in conservation of at least 4 existing or proposed Ramsar Sites; New Ramsar Sites designated in at least 3 countries.</p>	<p>Civil society organisations continue to be actively engaged in national Ramsar Committees (or their equivalents) in each of the four countries and this is providing them with opportunities to formulate and assist in the implementation of national wetland policies and programmes. Active engagement and collaboration in the run-up to, during, and following the Ramsar COP 10</p> <p>Local stakeholders are engaged in conservation activities for six sites, two of which are currently accepted as candidate Ramsar Sites by the RAAs.</p> <p>A Ramsar Information Sheet has been drafted for two proposed Ramsar Sites</p>	<p>Major activities planned for third year include:</p> <p>(1) Finalisation of RIS for at least three proposed Ramsar Sites (2) Formalisation of wetland monitoring frameworks and plans for wetland monitoring for each of the project countries (3) Regional and national wetland monitoring training course held (4) Planning and implementation of World Wetland Day activities in Feb 2009</p>

		in Vietnam, and there has been progress with the designation of a further site in Cambodia	
Output 1. Government and civil society organisations develop joint priorities and work plans for enhancing Ramsar implementation in 4 South-East Asian countries.	1a. Wetland site conservation priorities agreed in all 4 countries by end yr 1; 1b. Civil society organisations actively involved in national Ramsar/wetland committee meetings or equivalent in at least 3 countries by end yr 1; 1c. Joint strategies and work plans developed by end yr 1.	<p>Joint work programmes, including site conservation priorities, have been developed between the participating civil society organisations and the government Ramsar Administrative Authorities (RAAs) in each of the four countries covered by the project.</p> <p>Civil society organisations are actively involved in the national Ramsar/wetland committees in each of the four countries; they are judged to be playing a significant (and supportive) role in three of these (Cambodia, Malaysia and Vietnam).</p> <p>Joint work plans have been developed between the civil society organisations and the RAAs in each of the four countries. Common themes which remain current for the four countries include: (1) designation of new Ramsar Sites; (2) updating of the Ramsar Information Sheets for existing Ramsar Sites; (3) holding World Wetland Day; and (4) development of wetland monitoring frameworks;</p>	
Output 2. Capacity of government and civil society partners in key aspects of Ramsar implementation strengthened.	2a. At least 24 national government and civil society staff trained in Ramsar commitments and priorities, developing and advancing wise-use policies and practices, and sustainably financing wetland conservation by end yr 2.	<p>The four-day round table meeting and study tour held in March 09 involved 11 government and civil society representatives from the four countries (seven government, four NGO). The agenda focussed on the following: (1) the Ramsar Strategic Plan 2009-2015 as adopted at the 10<sup>th</sup> Conference of Parties; (2) Goal 1 of the Strategic Plan on the wise use of wetlands; (3) Goal 2 of the Strategic Plan on wetlands of international importance'; (4) Resolution 8 from COP 10, on the Convention's Programme of Communications, Education, Participation and Awareness (CPEA), specifically the CEPA Programme for 2009-2105; and (5) ensuring sustainability in the implementation of the Convention at national levels.</p> <p>The Darwin project also supported five representatives to attend COP 10 (one government, four NGO). The capacity of government and civil society organisation is considered to have been greatly strengthened as a result of project-funded preparations for and participation at COP 10. As outlined above, the project provided guidance on the draft COP 10 resolutions and information documents, and a summary of the main outcomes of the COP, and this enabled</p>	

		national dialogues to take place in each of the participating countries.
Output 3. Collaborative wetland management initiatives engaging local government and civil society stakeholders in place at priority sites.	3a. Local conservation partnerships established for at least 4 key wetland sites by end yr 2; 3b. Wetland conservation actions underway for at least 4 key wetland sites by end yr 3.	Local conservation groups have been supported at six sites in three countries: Kampong Trach and Boeung Prek Lapouv (Cambodia); Bako-Buntal Bay, Sarawak and North-central Selangor coast (Malaysia), and Chieng Saen Basin and the Inner Gulf (Thailand).  Wetland conservation actions are underway at each of the six sites
4. National wetland monitoring programmes established as an activity of government-civil society partnerships.	4a. Wetland monitoring frameworks in place for all 4 countries by end yr 1; 4b. Key wetlands monitored by local coordinators in yrs 2 & 3; 4c. Monitoring results included in information presented at Ramsar COP 10 in yr 2.	National wetland monitoring frameworks are in place for Malaysia, and in draft form for Vietnam. Progress with the standardising of monitoring has also been made for Cambodia  Comprehensive Asian Waterfowl Census coverage of wetland was achieved for Malaysia and Thailand in January 09 (including all Ramsar Sites), and there was an increase in the number of wetland covered in Cambodia (to 10 sites). The number of sites covered in Vietnam fell from 4 to 3  Data from wetland monitoring was fed into National Reports, with BirdLife organisations actively involved in the drafting of these reports .
5. The importance of the Ramsar Convention and the achievements of government-civil society partnerships demonstrated at national, regional and global levels.	5a. Achievements of gov't-civil society partnerships presented at Ramsar meetings, including COP 10 in yr 2; 5b. Importance of the Ramsar Convention promoted as a key message of the World Wetlands Day activities during yrs 1-3 and the World Bird Festival in Asia during yr 2.	A formal BirdLife Side Event was held at COP 10, attended by around 100 people, with presentations on the collaboration between BirdLife organisations and RAAs in the four countries, with a particular focus on local conservation groups.  World Wetland Day activities, held in three of the four countries (Cambodia, Malaysia and Thailand) have greatly helped to promote the importance of the Ramsar Convention. In two of the three countries, the Darwin project greatly contributed towards the scale of the activities carried out. Activities in Cambodia were much more comprehensive than in Year 1 of the project.
Activity 1. Workshops, meetings and joint planning exercises to facilitate the development of government-civil society partnerships.		Frequent meetings have been held in each of the four countries. These meetings have included the development of joint work plans (which are summarised above) and preparations for WWD and Ramsar COP 10.  Two national wetland meetings were held in Cambodia and Malaysia, and a national meeting will be held in Vietnam in May 09

Activity 2. Training for selected government and civil society staff in key areas of Ramsar implementation	During the second year, the main focus for delivering training was through a Darwin-funded round table meeting and study tour on the implementation of the Ramsar Convention in South-east Asia, which was held in Thailand, 12 <sup>th</sup> - 15 <sup>th</sup> March 2009. The meeting was convened by BirdLife International, the Office of Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and Planning (Government of Thailand and the Thai RAA), and the Bird Conservation Society of Thailand. Technical guidance and facilitation was provided by Rebecca D'Cruz (Vice Chair of the Ramsar Scientific and Technical Review Panel – STRP).
Activity 3. Design and implementation of collaborative wetland management initiatives that engage local stakeholders.	Collaborative wetland management initiatives have been initiated and supported at the six sites covered by the project. At all six sites a wide range of stakeholders have been involved in consultations, and the planning and implementation of activities.
Activity 4. Establishment of national wetland monitoring programmes covering key wetlands.	Two important documents have been prepared. The first is a briefing paper on the links and potential synergies between the Asian Waterbird Census, Important Bird Areas monitoring, and wetland monitoring in the context of the Ramsar Convention.  The second document is a national wetland monitoring framework, which has been developed for Vietnam, following a visit to the BirdLife Secretariat by one of the project team.
Activity 5. Advocacy and outreach to promote Ramsar and the achievements of government-civil society partnerships.	Three of the four countries held World Wetland Day (WWD) activities, to promote the Ramsar Convention and wetland conservation more generally, following the ' <i>upstream downstream wetland connect us all</i> ' theme'. WWD activities were planned and implemented in collaboration with the RAAs. WWD events were planned for Vietnam, but had to be postponed due to government reorganisation (they have been rescheduled for June 09)

## Project's full current logframe

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
<p>Goal:</p> <p>To draw on expertise relevant to biodiversity from within the United Kingdom to work with local partners in countries rich in biodiversity but poor in resources to achieve</p> <p>the conservation of biological diversity,</p> <p>the sustainable use of its components, and</p> <p>the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilisation of genetic resources</p>			
<p>Purpose:</p> <p>To strengthen government-civil society partnerships to support implementation of the Ramsar Convention in South-East Asia.</p>	<p>Civil society organisations participating in wetland policy formulation &amp; implementation in at least 3 countries;</p> <p>Local stakeholders engaged in conservation of at least 4 <u>existing or proposed</u> Ramsar Sites;</p> <p>New Ramsar Sites designated in at least 3 countries.</p>	<p>Joint position papers, memoranda of cooperation and National Reports to Ramsar COPs;</p> <p>Reports of wetland management initiatives;</p> <p>Ramsar Information Sheets and the Ramsar List.</p>	<p>Governments remain open to policy dialogue with civil society on wetland issues;</p> <p>Institutional and policy frameworks enabling local stakeholders to engage in wetland conservation can be strengthened.</p>
<p>Outputs:</p> <p>1. Government and civil society organisations develop joint priorities and work plans for enhancing Ramsar implementation in 4 South-East Asian countries.</p>	<p>1a. Wetland site conservation priorities agreed in all 4 countries by end yr 1;</p> <p>1b. Civil society organisations actively involved in national Ramsar/wetland committee meetings or equivalent in at least 3 countries by end yr 1;</p> <p>1c. Joint strategies and work plans developed by end yr 1.</p>	<p>1a. Published official lists of candidate Ramsar Sites;</p> <p>1b. Meeting agendas, minutes and reports;</p> <p>1c. Strategies and work plans of participating civil society organisations.</p>	<p>Civil society organisations and government agencies can reach agreement on priorities for Ramsar implementation;</p> <p>Governments remain willing to engage with civil society on Ramsar implementation.</p>
<p>2. Capacity of government and civil society partners in key aspects of Ramsar implementation strengthened.</p>	<p>2a. At least 24 national government and civil society staff trained in Ramsar commitments and priorities, <u>developing and advancing wise-use policies and practices, and sustainably financing wetland conservation</u> by end yr 2.</p>	<p>2a. Training materials, needs assessments, evaluation reports, course agendas and participant lists.</p>	<p>Trainees remain in relevant positions after the project lifetime and are able to pass on skills to colleagues.</p>
<p>3. Collaborative wetland management initiatives engaging local government and civil society stakeholders in place at priority sites.</p>	<p>3a. Local conservation partnerships established for at least 4 key wetland sites by end yr 2;</p> <p>3b. Wetland conservation actions underway for at least 4 key wetland sites by end yr 3.</p>	<p>3a. Agreements and joint work plans;</p> <p>3b. Activity reports and media coverage.</p> <p>3c. National reports by Ramsar Administrative Authorities.</p>	<p>Wetland management issues of common concern to site managers and local civil society stakeholders can be identified and addressed at the site level.</p>

4. National wetland monitoring programmes established as an activity of government-civil society partnerships.	4a. Wetland monitoring frameworks in place for all 4 countries by end yr 1; 4b. Key wetlands monitored by local coordinators in yrs 2 & 3; 4c. Monitoring results included in information presented at Ramsar COP 10 in yr 2.	4a. National wetland monitoring framework documents; 4b. National wetland monitoring reports; 4c. National reports by Ramsar Administrative Authorities. 4d. Revised Ramsar Information Sheets.	Nationwide networks of local stakeholders can be established to ensure monitoring coverage of key wetland sites.
5. The importance of the Ramsar Convention and the achievements of government-civil society partnerships demonstrated at national, regional and global levels.	5a. Achievements of gov't-civil society partnerships presented at Ramsar meetings, including COP 10 in yr 2; 5b. Importance of the Ramsar Convention promoted as a key message of <u>the World Wetlands Day activities during yrs 1-3</u> and the World Bird Festival in Asia during yr 2.	5a. COP 10 agenda, national reports and reports of side-events; 5b. Media coverage and reports of <u>World Wetlands Day</u> and World Bird Festival in Asia.	Ramsar COP continues to welcome civil society involvement; Opportunities are provided at the COP for joint reports to be given.
Activities: 1. Workshops, meetings and joint planning exercises to facilitate the development of government-civil society partnerships.	Activity Milestones: <u>1.1</u> National priority-setting workshops held (yr 1); <u>1.2</u> Official lists of candidate Ramsar Sites drafted (yr 1); <u>1.3</u> Round-table meetings to formulate and review joint strategies and work plans held (yrs 1-2); <u>1.4</u> Joint position papers on key wetland policies relating to Ramsar drafted (yrs 2-3); <u>1.5</u> Cross-sectoral consultation meetings to explore linkages to wider poverty reduction initiatives held (yrs 2-3). [Previous activity 1.1 (Regional meeting of national partners held) deleted]		Assumptions: Key government and civil society personnel are available to attend national and regional workshops and round-table meetings.
2. Training for selected government and civil society staff in key areas of Ramsar implementation.	2.1 Training needs assessments conducted (yr 1); 2.2 Training tools and materials prepared (yr 1); 2.3 Regional training workshops in Ramsar commitments and priorities, developing and advancing wise-use policies and practices, and sustainably financing wetland conservation held (yrs 1 & 3); 2.4 Hands-on training in site action planning and forming partnerships with local stakeholders provided ( <u>yrs 2-3</u> ).		Nominated staff are available to attend training courses and participate in field trips; Trainees remain committed to putting training into practice.
3. Design and implementation of collaborative wetland management initiatives that engage local stakeholders.	3.1 Meetings to select priority sites held (yr 1); 3.2 Stakeholder workshops at priority sites to identify priority issues and formulate intervention strategies held ( <u>yr 1</u> ); 3.3 Training workshops for local stakeholders held ( <u>yrs 2 &amp; 3</u> ); 3.4 Wetland conservation actions implemented ( <u>yrs 1-3</u> ); 3.5 Consultations with sustainable financing initiatives to broker relationships with priority sites held (yrs 2-3).		Local stakeholders with sufficient skills and motivation to lead collaborative wetland management initiatives can be identified. Opportunities exist to support priority sites through sustainable financing initiatives.

<p>4. Establishment of national wetland monitoring programmes covering key wetlands.</p>	<p>4.1 Review of UK-based experience with wetland monitoring conducted (yr 1);  4.2 National wetland monitoring frameworks developed and trainers trained by UK experts (yrs 1-2);  4.3 Local monitoring coordinators identified and trained by national civil society trainers (yr 2);  4.4 Annual wetland monitoring undertaken (yrs 2-3)  4.5 Monitoring reports prepared and published (yrs 2-3);  4.6 Monitoring results integrated into national environmental reporting (yrs 2-3).</p>	<p>Local monitoring coordinators can be identified at key wetland sites;  Opportunities to integrate monitoring results into national environmental reporting arise during the project lifetime.</p>
<p>5. Advocacy and outreach to promote Ramsar and the achievements of government-civil society partnerships.</p>	<p>5.1 Successful government-civil society collaboration for wetland conservation documented (yr 2);  5.2 Presentations made at Ramsar COP 10 (yr 2);  5.3 Public awareness activities implemented during the World Bird Festival in Asia (yr 2);  5.4 Public awareness activities implemented during World Wetlands Day (yrs 1-3)  [Previous activity 5.4 (Briefings for key government and civil society stakeholders organised) deleted]</p>	<p>BirdLife is invited to present at Ramsar COP 10 and/or a side event;  Key government and civil society stakeholders are available to attend briefings on Ramsar.</p>

Annex 1: Brief on the Draft COP Resolutions and Information documents

Annex 2: Brief on key decisions adopted at the COP (Annex 2 to this report).

Annex 3: MNS on the Draft COP Resolutions and information documents

Annex 4: Report on round table meeting and study tour on the implementation of the Ramsar Convention in South-east Asia, Thailand, 12<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup> March 2009.

Annex 5: Briefing paper on the links and potential synergies between the Asian Waterbird Census, Important Bird Areas monitoring, and wetland monitoring in the context of the Ramsar Convention.

Annex 6: Draft national wetland monitoring framework for Vietnam.

Annex 7: Agenda for BirdLife side event at Ramsar COP 10

Annex 8: Selected materials produced by the project