

# Darwin Initiative – Final Report

(To be completed with reference to the Reporting Guidance Notes for Project Leaders  
(<http://darwin.defra.gov.uk/resources/reporting/>) -  
it is expected that this report will be a **maximum** of 20 pages in length, excluding annexes)

## Darwin project information

Project Reference	16-013
Project Title	Strengthening partnerships for Ramsar implementation in South-East Asia
Host country(ies)	Malaysia, Thailand, Cambodia and Vietnam
UK Contract Holder Institution	BirdLife International
UK Partner Institution(s)	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
Host Country Partner Institution(s)	Malaysian Nature Society Bird Conservation Society of Thailand Ramsar Administrative Authorities in Malaysia, Thailand, Cambodia and Vietnam
Darwin Grant Value	£ 204,805
Start/End dates of Project	01 July 2007 - 31 March 2010
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Project Website	
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## 1 Project Background

This project covers wetlands in four South-East Asian countries, Cambodia, Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam. The wetlands in this region are immensely rich in biodiversity but are often viewed as unproductive and are threatened with conversion to other land-uses. This project has successfully built government-civil society partnerships to support implementation of the Ramsar Convention and wetland conservation, including progress with the designation of new Ramsar Sites. Activities have included training to build capacity in wetland conservation, collaborative management at six priority wetlands, wetland monitoring, and raising awareness of the value of wetlands and the Ramsar Convention.

## 2 Project support to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

The main focus of the Darwin project has been on supporting the implementation of the Ramsar Convention in South-East Asia. However, many of the project outputs and activities are also relevant to articles and thematic programmes of the CBD. The project has promoted in-situ conservation (CBD Article 8) by supporting the designation of four new Ramsar Sites, and by establishing and supporting local conservation groups that are conducting a wide range of species and habitat protection measures at six priority wetland sites. World Wetlands Day activities have been organised annually in the four countries, as well as national wetland events, which have provided public education and awareness (CBD Article 13) on the value of wetlands and the conservation issues affecting them and has generated extensive media coverage. Training (CBD Article 12) and practical experience has been provided in the implementation of the Ramsar Convention, site conservation techniques and wetland monitoring (CBD Article 7). Activities relating to Sustainable Use of Components of Biological Diversity (CBD Article 10) have been carried out at some of the six priority sites. The project has promoted the Exchange of Information (CBD Article 17) on wetland biodiversity and

techniques to engage local people in wetland conservation. The project is relevant to two CBD thematic programmes, *Inland Waters Biodiversity* and *Marine and Coastal Biodiversity*.

The Darwin project has supported the host country partners to build their capacity to meet CBD commitments through the provision of training in wetland conservation and monitoring, and the practical experience gained by participating in meetings associated with Ramsar COP 10 and other activities. In all four project countries, the Ramsar Administrative Authorities are also the national CBD Focal Points, meaning that project outputs are available to the people who implement the CBD in these countries. In Malaysia, the relationship built between MNS and MNRE through the Darwin project has facilitated collaboration on CBD-related initiatives, including the CBD country reporting processes and a project focusing on the CBD Programme of Work on Protected Areas.

### **3 Project Partnerships**

Collaboration between the UK lead institution and the civil society organisations in the four host countries has been positive, with regular communication maintained during the three years of the project. Project agreements were made between BirdLife International and the Malaysian Nature Society (MNS) and Bird Conservation Society of Thailand (BCST) concerning the implementation of the project, and procedures were agreed with all four countries regarding technical and financial reporting. The regional meetings organised by the project were used to jointly review and revise the project workplans.

The purpose of the project was to strengthen the national-level partnerships 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) MNS and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE) in Malaysia; (2) BCST and the Office of Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and Planning (ONEP) in Thailand; (3) BirdLife Cambodia Programme and the General Department of Administration for Nature Conservation and Protection (GDANCP) of the Ministry of Environment in Cambodia; and (4) BirdLife Vietnam Programme and the Biodiversity Conservation Agency (BCA) within the Vietnam Environmental Administration (VEA).

The support from the Darwin project enabled these national-level partnerships to be greatly strengthened, through regular meetings between the civil society and government partners and the development of joint work programmes, participation in meetings associated with Ramsar COP 10, and collaborative activities such as working for the designation of new Ramsar Sites and holding World Wetlands Day events (see Output 1 in Section 4.3). By bringing the civil society organisations and RAAs together at the regional meetings and COP 10, the project also helped to strengthen regional links and in particular facilitate the sharing of experience between RAAs.

The Darwin project supported the establishment and strengthening of local conservation groups at six priority sites, involving key stakeholders from local communities, government and the corporate sector. The project has also worked with local and international environmental NGOs at these sites, including the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust at one of the sites in Cambodia. These local partnerships have become involved in a wide range of conservation activities at these important wetlands (see Output 3 in Section 4.3). In Malaysia, the project enabled MNS to develop a three-year collaborative agreement with the Sarawak State Government to undertake conservation initiatives at Bako-Buntal Bay, under which government support will continue well beyond the end of the project.

Institutionally, the project is also serving to strengthen the BirdLife Partnership, specifically between the BirdLife Secretariat (in Cambridge and Tokyo) and BirdLife Partners in two countries, Malaysia and Thailand. The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (UK) was also a partner in the project through the participation of David Pritchard (the project's Advisor on the Ramsar Convention, who became an independent consultant during the third year but continued to support the project) and their support to BCST's work in the Inner Gulf of Thailand.

A challenge has been the turnover of staff within the RAAs in Malaysia, Cambodia and Vietnam during the three years of the project. Nguyen Duc Tu, the coordinator in Vietnam, also left the project during the third year. The partnerships have persisted despite this changeover in

personnel, and have actually helped to facilitate the process. For example, the project helped to build the capacity of a new Ramsar Focal Point in Cambodia who had no previous experience in working on the Convention (see Annex 7).

## 4 Project Achievements

### 4.1 Impact: achievement of positive impact on biodiversity, sustainable use or equitable sharing of biodiversity benefits

The wetlands in South-East Asia are immensely rich in biodiversity, and support many species listed as globally threatened on the IUCN Red List, but large numbers of internationally important wetland sites in the region lack appropriate management arrangements. The Darwin project has supported the development of government-civil society partnerships for the implementation of the Ramsar Convention in four South-East Asian countries, and hence helped to strengthen capacity for wetland conservation in the region. Training and information has been provided to the project partners, drawing on UK expertise in the Ramsar Convention and its implementation, and events have been organised to raise public awareness of the value of wetlands and of the key conservation issues affecting them. It is anticipated that this will lead to improved wetland and management in the region in the future.

Substantial progress has been made in supporting the designation of four new Ramsar Sites, and it is anticipated that some or all of these sites will be designated within a year of the end of the Darwin project. These sites are (1) Prek Toal in Cambodia, which has one of the most intact areas of freshwater swamp forest and the largest remaining colonies of storks, pelicans and ibises in mainland South-East Asia, including four globally threatened waterbird species; (2-3) Khok Kham-Panthai Norasing and Laem Phak Bia-Pak Thalay-Bang Khun Sai on the Inner Gulf of Thailand, which support internationally important populations of shorebirds and other waterbirds, including the Critically Endangered Spoon-billed Sandpiper *Eurynorhynchus pygmeus*; and (4) Ba Be in Vietnam, which is the most important site for the Endangered White-eared Night Heron *Gorsachius magnificus* in South-East Asia.

The Darwin project has promoted the establishment and strengthening of local conservation groups (LCGs) – site-based groups of local stakeholders who are committed to conservation and sustainable management of the site – at six wetlands in Malaysia, Thailand and Cambodia. The LCGs have engaged in a many site conservation activities, including actions to address on-going threats, raising awareness of wetlands biodiversity amongst local communities, and site monitoring. A significant conservation achievement was the establishment of (and preparation of a management plan for) one of the project sites in Cambodia, Boeung Prek Lapouv, as a Sarus Crane Conservation Area, based on a proposal from the BirdLife Cambodia programme and the local authorities, and a proposal for a Crane Conservation Area at the other project site, Kampong Trach, is in the final stages of designation.

### 4.2 Outcomes: achievement of the project purpose and outcomes

The project has achieved its purpose, to strengthen government-civil society partnerships to support implementation of the Ramsar Convention in South-East Asia. Joint work programmes were developed between the civil society organisations and the government RAAs in the four countries during the first year of the project, and their working relationships have continued to strengthen and are expected to endure in all four countries after the project ends (see Annex 7). Numerous meetings have been held to advance this collaboration between government and civil society organisations, many of which focussed on preparation for, and follow-up to, the 10<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties to the Ramsar Convention (COP 10), which was held in South Korea in 2008. Participation in these meetings has helped to build the national partnerships, and also helped to strengthen regional links between the civil society organisations and the government RAAs.

The civil society partners have supported in the RAAs with the implementation of the Ramsar Convention in a number of ways, including helping to draft the National Ramsar Reports that the RAAs presented during COP 10 and by helping to prepare for the meetings in South Korea

RAA =  
Ramsar Admin Authority

through discussion and agreement on key COP 10 resolutions. MNS was the national NGO Focal Point for the Ramsar Convention's Programme of Communications, Education, Participation and Awareness (CEPA) from the start of the project, and, as a result of their national partnership, BirdLife Cambodia was appointed by the RAA as the CEPA NGO-Focal Point for Cambodia in early 2010. MNS is supporting the RAA in wetland policy formulation, for example by coordinating a review of the *National Wetlands Policy* and reviewing the *National Peatland Action Plan*, and by advising on the appointment of a new national Ramsar STRP Focal Point for Malaysia.

The civil society partners have prepared documents relevant to wetland policy and Ramsar implementation, in most cases at the request of the RAAs. These have included lists of candidate Ramsar Sites for all four countries, a *National Ramsar Toolkit* for Malaysia, a Vietnamese translation of *The Ramsar handbook 11: Inventory, assessment, and monitoring for the wise use of wetlands* and a Khmer translation of the *Ramsar Strategic Plan 2009-2015* and other key COP10 resolutions.

The Darwin project has made substantial progress in supporting the RAAs with the designation of four new Ramsar sites in three countries, Prek Toal in Cambodia, Ba Be in Vietnam, and Khok Kham-Panthai Norasing and Laem Phak Bia-Pak Thalay-Bang Khun Sai in Thailand. The civil society partners have helped to draft Ramsar Information Sheets for Prek Toal and Ba Be (with support from the UK Project Leader; see Annex 8), conducted a field survey to demarcate the boundary of Prek Toal, and organised meetings to obtain the required endorsements for the proposed Ramsar Sites from local communities and local, provincial and national governments. In Thailand, the project has organised a series of meetings and awareness events involving large numbers of the key stakeholders to promote the designation of the two sites; on WWD in February 2010, 60 local people signed and submitted a petition letter to the government requesting designation of Khok Kham as a new Ramsar Site, which will make it easier for the government to proceed with designation of the site.

The project has promoted collaborative wetland management at six globally important wetland sites, engaging key local stakeholders using BirdLife's 'local conservation group' concept. This has resulted in a wide range of site conservation and management activities at these sites. Training has been provided by the project to build the capacity of the civil society partners and the RAAs at the national level, and the local conservation groups at the site level. The civil society partners have also supported the RAA with the organisation of World Wetlands Day and other awareness raising events.

### **4.3 Outputs (and activities)**

This was a complex project which included activities at the global, national and site-based levels. The outputs and activities were ambitious, and it has not proved possible to achieve all of them with the time and resources available. The targets set for training (output 2) and wetland monitoring (output 4) have not been met fully, but good progress has been made in achieving the other three outputs as laid out in the logical framework.

The following section provides an overview of the five project outputs and the associated activities, with sufficient information to support the progress and achievements that are reported in the logical framework (Annex 1). Additional details on many of these outputs and activities are available in our earlier annual and half-yearly progress reports.

Output 1. Government and civil society organisations develop joint priorities and work plans for enhancing Ramsar implementation in 4 South-East Asian countries (Activity 1. Workshops, meetings and joint planning exercises to facilitate the development of government-civil society partnerships).

During the first year of the project, joint work programmes were developed between the participating civil society organisations and the government RAAs in each of the four countries. The RAAs welcomed NGO support and involvement, and shared work plans were developed following discussion at national wetland committees, and through bilateral meetings. The relationships between the civil society organisations and the government RAAs have continued

to strengthen during the project and are expected to endure in all four countries after the project ends (see Annex 7).

Numerous meetings have been held in each of the four participating countries to advance this collaboration between government and civil society organisations. The focus for many of these meetings was 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 second annual project report) and (2) a summary brief on key decisions adopted at the COP (Annex 2 to second annual project report).

The BirdLife organisations in each of the four countries actively supported the drafting of the National Ramsar Reports that the RAAs presented during COP 10. In Vietnam, Cambodia and Malaysia, they also played a critical role in preparing the RAAs for the meetings in South Korea through prior discussion and agreement on key COP 10 resolutions. Ten participants in the Darwin project attended a Ramsar Asia Regional Preparatory meeting for COP 10 (Bangkok, January 2008), which helped the RAAs and NGO representatives to more fully understand the Ramsar Convention and the priority issues on the COP 10 agenda. The Darwin project also supported five representatives to attend COP 10 (one government, four NGO), which provided an excellent opportunity to demonstrate and strengthen the collaboration between the project's government and civil society partners. The BirdLife Partners and RAAs consulted regularly during COP 10, discussing and agreeing on joint positions, with the BirdLife Partners (officially or unofficially) accepted as part of national delegations in all four countries. The project participated in national meetings in Cambodia and Vietnam to discuss the results of COP 10 and the plans for project activities, for example the designation of new Ramsar Sites and the Vietnam monitoring framework (see output 4).

The project held a four-day round table meeting and study tour in Thailand in March 2009, which involved 11 government and civil society representatives from the four countries (seven government, four NGO). The agenda focussed on the Ramsar Strategic Plan 2009-2015 as adopted at COP 10 and how this would be implemented at national levels (see summary in our second annual Darwin project report). This meeting also provided an opportunity to review the progress of the Darwin project, to share experiences between countries, and to plan for the third year of the project (and after the project end).

The support from the Darwin project has enabled the BirdLife organisations to play a more active role in supporting the RAAs in the implementation of the Ramsar Convention. For example, the RAA in Cambodia requested help from BirdLife in identifying a suitable organisation to become the CEPA NGO Focal Point (as required under Resolution 8 of Ramsar COP 10), and in early 2010 decided to appoint BirdLife Cambodia to take on this role. This has been approved by the Ramsar Secretariat and BirdLife travelled as part of the Cambodian delegation to a CEPA workshop in Thailand in April 2010. In Malaysia, MNS was already the CEPA NGO Focal Point when the project began, and the project has enabled them to organise WWD and other communication and awareness activities. Following discussions with the RAA, MNS was appointed as the coordinator for the development of the National Action Plan for the *National Wetlands Policy*, and is now working with other agencies on this task. MNS is regularly consulted by the RAA on wetland policy issues, for example on the appointment of a new national Ramsar STRP Focal Point, and a review of the *National Peatland Action Plan* (see Annex 9).

The project has helped to prepare several documents relevant to wetland policy and Ramsar implementation at the request of the RAAs, including lists of candidate Ramsar Sites for all four countries. In Vietnam, the RAA consulted the project regarding the identification of four priority sites for Ramsar designation, which were included in their national report for COP 10. These lists were based on information on Important Bird Areas (IBAs), which are sites that BirdLife's global Partnership has identified through national data compilation and review processes but using internationally agreed criteria (see [www.birdlife.org/action/science/sites/index.html](http://www.birdlife.org/action/science/sites/index.html)). MNS has prepared a *National Ramsar Toolkit – a resource for decision-makers*, which includes key information on the Ramsar Convention and its implementation, but unfortunately publication has been delayed. BirdLife Vietnam has published and distributed a Vietnamese translation of *The Ramsar handbook 11: Inventory, assessment, and monitoring for the wise use of wetlands*.

In Cambodia, the Darwin project has translated into Khmer several key Ramsar COP10 resolutions (at the request of the RAA Focal Point, to build the capacity of his staff and others with limited English-language skills), including the entire *Ramsar Strategic Plan 2009-2015*, and has printed and distributed 300 copies.

The Darwin project has made substantial progress in supporting the RAAs with the designation of four new Ramsar sites in three countries. BirdLife Cambodia promoted the designation of Prek Toal in the early stages of the project but this was initially delayed because of a lack of support from the Core Area management team. This issue was resolved, and considerable progress has been made in the third year, but the delay meant that designation was not completed by the end of the Darwin project. The RIS for the site was prepared by the project and the Core Area management team, and in November 2009 the project conducted a field survey to demarcate the boundary of the proposed Ramsar Site (see Annex 10). In January 2010 a community consultation workshop was organized at Prek Toal Core Area Management Centre, involving local and national government, and representatives of local communities, fisheries, NGOs, etc.; the workshop discussed the pros and cons of establishing the Ramsar Site, and decided to strongly endorse the proposal. In March 2010, the project organised a provincial consultation workshop at Battambang to request endorsement from the provincial government, which was attended by representatives of the Ministry of Environment and other relevant national and provincial government agencies, fishery owners and representatives of NGOs active at the site. The provincial government representative strongly endorsed the designation of Prek Toal as a new Ramsar Site as they expected that this will help to maintain and improve the biodiversity and the livelihoods of local people, a view that was shared by the other participants, and the proposed boundary of Prek Toal Ramsar Site was approved. BirdLife Cambodia has agreed a work plan with the RAA for the final stages of the designation of Prek Toal, and they are going to apply for a Ramsar Small Grant to support this work. The project has also worked with the RAA to revise the RISs for the three existing Ramsar Sites in Cambodia, and these have been completed and submitted by the RAA to the Ramsar Secretariat.

In Thailand, BCST is working with the RAA to designate two new Ramsar Sites on the Inner Gulf, Khok Kham-Panthai Norasing in Samut Sakorn Province, and Laem Phak Bia-Pak Thalay-Bang Khun Sai in Phetburi Province. The project has organised a series of meetings and awareness events involving local and national government agencies, and local communities and industries, to promote the designation of these sites (see below under Output 5), and agreement has been reached on the potential boundaries of the new Ramsar Site at Khok Kham. On WWD in February 2010, 60 local people signed and submitted a petition letter to the government requesting designation of Khok Kham as a new Ramsar Site, and this support from the local community will make it easier for the government to proceed with designation of the site. BCST and the RAA are leading a similar series of meetings and awareness events at the second proposed Ramsar Site, where there has also been positive feedback from local communities and government agencies.

In the first year of the Darwin project, BirdLife Vietnam drafted and submitted to the Ramsar Secretariat a RIS for a potential new Ramsar Site, Tram Chim, but unfortunately the designation of this site did not go ahead, primarily because of a lack of support from the local government. The RAA has subsequently decided to proceed with the designation of Ba Be as a new Ramsar Site, in consultation with the local government and the park authorities, and the Provincial People's Committee has issued a letter of endorsement for the proposed designation. A work plan was agreed between the RAA, BirdLife Vietnam and the local government, under which BirdLife prepared the draft RIS for the site. This was reviewed by the RAA and other wetland experts and translated into English, and revised and further improved by the UK Darwin Project Manager in February 2010. At a meeting organised by the RAA in early April 2010, representatives of the relevant ministries (Agriculture and Rural Development, Planning and Investment, Foreign Affairs, etc) were highly supportive of the proposed nomination of Ba Be as a Ramsar site, and a timetable was agreed for the next stages of the nomination of the site (several of which have subsequently been completed, including the review of the revised RIS by other government agencies). In Malaysia, MNS prepared a paper for the Selangor State Executive for Environment about the suitability of the North-central Selangor coast to become a Ramsar Site.

What is  
an RIS?

= Ramsar  
information  
sheet

**Output 2.** Capacity of government and civil society partners in key aspects of Ramsar implementation strengthened (Activity 2. Training for selected government and civil society staff in key areas of Ramsar implementation).

The capacity of the BirdLife and RAA organisations is considered to have been greatly strengthened as a result of project-supported preparations for and participation at COP 10 (and these activities are therefore reported under Standard Measures 6a and 6b in Annex 4). The Ramsar Asia Regional Preparatory meeting for COP 10 in Thailand in January 2008 provided an excellent opportunity for the 10 participants from the Darwin project to more fully understand many key aspects of Ramsar implementation, including the obligations of Contracting Parties (e.g. Ramsar Site designation) and topical issues likely to be covered at the COP (e.g. climate change, poverty reduction, etc.). The Darwin project supported five representatives (one government, four NGO) to attend the COP 10 meeting itself. The four Darwin project countries and the other BirdLife Partners attending the COP held daily meetings for a briefing on key issues, and discussion on progress with advancing BirdLife's agenda for the meeting.

The Preparatory meeting was followed by a Darwin project 'regional consultation', which included sessions on the preparation of national reports for COP 10; how to consult nationally on the COP 10 agenda and proposed resolutions; designation of new Ramsar Sites; completing the Ramsar Information Sheet; and holding World Wetlands Day. This event also provided an opportunity for RAAs to informally share experience across the region, for example Thailand's experience with developing an official candidate list of Ramsar Sites, and Vietnam's experience of inter-ministerial cooperation and working at provincial level. The four south-east Asian countries also benefited from discussions with a representative of the Japanese Ministry of Environment (invited to the meeting by the project), who shared Japan's experience of developing its candidate list of Ramsar Sites, and the designation of 20 new sites in time for COP 9.

The project organised a four-day round table meeting and study tour in Thailand in March 2009, involving 11 participants from the four countries (seven government, four NGO; report in Annex 4 of second annual project report). The meeting was convened by BirdLife International, ONEP (the Thai RAA) and BCST and technical guidance and facilitation was provided by Rebecca D'Cruz (Vice Chair of the Ramsar Scientific and Technical Review Panel – STRP). 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 RAA. 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 (CEPA), specifically the CEPA Programme for 2009-2105; and (5) ensuring sustainability in the implementation of the Convention at national levels. 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 study tour also visited the Ramsar Site at Khao Sam Riot to learn about the difficult history and current experience of Ramsar Site designation.

The project held a regional training workshop on *Site Monitoring and the Ramsar Convention* in Malaysia in November 2009, led by three UK experts (David Pritchard, Simba Chan and Mike Crosby) and with participants from the four project countries and another 11 Asian countries and territories. The objectives were to (1) introduce the Darwin Ramsar project, and the main achievements and lessons learned; (2) consider how the Ramsar Convention can be used to promote wetland conservation more widely in Asia; (3) provide training in BirdLife's Important Bird Area (IBA) monitoring methodology, and investigate how it relates to the Asian Waterbird Census (AWC); (4) consider how IBA monitoring and the AWC can contribute to the implementation of the Ramsar Convention; (5) explore how to develop national site monitoring programmes in Asia; and (6) develop a form that harmonises IBA monitoring with the AWC (to be tested in January 2010). The four Darwin project countries made presentations about their

project activities and the lessons learned regarding developing partnerships and implementing the Ramsar Convention.

Over the course of the project, a wide range of training materials relating to the Ramsar Convention and its implementation have been prepared and disseminated. These included: (1) three input papers prepared in advance of COP 10, which summarise the COP Resolutions and Information documents and the key decisions adopted (Annexes 1-3 to second annual project report); (2) a briefing paper which presents a summary description of the links and potential synergies between the Asian Waterbird Census, Important Bird Area monitoring, and wetland monitoring in the context of the Ramsar Convention (Annex 5 to second annual project report); (3) National wetland monitoring frameworks for Cambodia, Malaysia and Vietnam; (4) *National Ramsar Toolkit* for Malaysia, which includes guidelines on the Ramsar Convention and its implementation; (5) A Vietnamese translation of *The Ramsar handbook 11: Inventory, assessment, and monitoring for the wise use of wetlands* and a Khmer translation of the *Ramsar Strategic Plan 2009-2015* and key COP10 resolutions; (6) Presentations and materials used at the *Site Monitoring and the Ramsar Convention* training workshop in Malaysia in November 2009.

The project has conducted a wide range of training events for the local stakeholders at the six priority sites, including training courses, workshops and study tours, and has prepared a range of training and awareness materials. These are summarised below under Output 3.

**Output 3.** Collaborative wetland management initiatives engaging local government and civil society stakeholders in place at priority sites (Activity 3. Design and implementation of collaborative wetland management initiatives that engage local stakeholders).

The project has promoted collaborative wetland management at six globally important wetland sites, which were selected through consultations with the RAAs in the project countries. It has used the 'local conservation group' (LCG) concept, which was developed by the BirdLife Secretariat in the UK, and is being used by the BirdLife Partnership worldwide to promote the conservation of Important Bird Areas (IBAs; see: [www.birdlife.org/news/news/2008/buildingpartnerships.pdf](http://www.birdlife.org/news/news/2008/buildingpartnerships.pdf)). LCGs are defined as site-based groups, often comprised of volunteers, who are committed to conservation of the site, and connected to the national BirdLife Partner and to a wider national network of LCGs.

LCGs 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). The project has been instrumental in the establishment and development of three of these groups (Bako-Buntal Bay, Chieng Saen Basin and the Inner Gulf), and has greatly helped to consolidate and support the three others. The members of the LCGs include representatives of local communities, government agencies, NGOs, business people and others. Numerous meetings have been held over the course of the project with the LCGs and other local stakeholders at these sites, to raise awareness of the importance of the project sites; to discuss issues of wetland resource use, law enforcement, and site monitoring; and to formulate conservation strategies and work plans. For example, a stakeholder consultation workshop was held at Bako-Buntal Bay in August 2009, hosted by Sarawak State Planning Unit (Ramsar Focal Point in the state) and MNS, where the LCG and several state-wide agencies discussed the biodiversity importance of the site and planned the long-term conservation actions.

The LCGs have engaged in a many site conservation and management activities (see earlier project reports for details). For example, in Cambodia they have had success preventing wildlife trapping, illegal fishing, grassland burning and land encroachment. A significant conservation achievement was the issuing of a decree by the Council of Ministers in Cambodia which announced plans to establish the Boeung Prek Lapouv Sarus Crane Conservation Area, based on a proposal from the BirdLife Cambodia programme and the local authorities, and a proposal for a Crane Conservation Area at Kampong Trach is in the final stages of designation. In Malaysia, MNS has signed MoUs with the Selangor State Government and the Sarawak State Planning Unit to further wetland conservation priorities at North-central Selangor coast and Bako-Buntal Bay respectively, and actions have been taken to address illegal aquaculture expansion and to rehabilitate degraded areas along the North-central Selangor coast.



A wide range of training has been provided to the LCGs through workshops and study tours, covering work planning, law enforcement, management of alien species, survey techniques, site monitoring, etc. At the Inner Gulf of Thailand BCST has held several training for trainers workshops for local students, government staff and NGO members covering field studies of inter-tidal ecosystems and BCST's campaign for the conservation of the Inner Gulf (see below under Output 5). In Cambodia, training courses have included survey and monitoring techniques, exchange visits to other wetland protected areas, and ecotourism.

The potential to establish sustainable financing initiatives has been investigated at some project sites. At the Inner Gulf of Thailand, BCST has held several meetings with the Khok Kham Salt Farming Cooperative to discuss the implications of the proposed designation as a new Ramsar Site in the area and to investigate how saltpans might be managed for the benefit of migratory shorebirds and other waterbirds. BCST has also provided advice to the fishing communities in this area on how they can develop and manage ecotourism. In Cambodia, the project has published guidelines on the establishment of Village Volunteer Committees (VVC) at the two sites, local groups that support Conservation activities and livelihood improvement, and Self Help Groups (SHG), local groups that generate income through saving (micro credit) in order to create job opportunities and improve livelihoods; to date, two VVCs have been established at Boeung Preak Lapouv and six SHGs at Kampong Trach. In Malaysia, MNS has investigated the potential for using ecotourism centred around the spectacular congregations of *Pteroptyx* fireflies that are found on the North-central Selangor coast to promote the conservation of their mangrove habitat.

**Output 4. National wetland monitoring programmes established as an activity of government-civil society partnerships (Activity 4. Establishment of national wetland monitoring programmes covering key wetlands).**

Over the past decade, BirdLife International has developed an Important Bird Areas (IBA) monitoring framework, designed to gather data on the status of these internationally important sites from all regions of the world. This framework uses a State-Pressure-Response model to collect information on the status of key species and habitats, the threats acting on these, and the effectiveness of the conservation actions being taken. It includes a simple standardised scoring system that is used to integrate a wide range of information, which may often be qualitative rather than quantitative. The methodology is designed to be simple enough to allow non-specialists to engage in gathering monitoring data in the field.

It was intended that the BirdLife organisations would start to use the IBA monitoring framework during the Darwin project to collect information on wetland sites that could be used to report on national implementation of the Ramsar Convention, an input that was welcomed by the national RAAs, and that this would help to build the government-civil society partnerships.

Unfortunately, there has been limited progress with this output because of technical difficulties with using the IBA monitoring frameworks (in particular with devising user-friendly field forms that are suitable for non-specialists to use), and consequent delays in organising the training for wetland monitoring. A training workshop was run during the third year of the project, and a new monitoring form tested in early 2010, but this has not allowed enough time for the project to adequately address several of the planned monitoring activities.

The potential value of site monitoring to Ramsar implementation was illustrated by a briefing paper (Annex 5 to our second annual report), prepared for the project by David Pritchard (advisor to BirdLife and member of Ramsar's STRP), which presents a description of the links and potential synergies between the Asian Waterbird Census (AWC), IBA monitoring, and wetland monitoring in the context of the Ramsar Convention. This illustrates that IBA monitoring data, including data collected during the AWC, will be suitable for integrating into national Ramsar Convention reports. During the regional training workshop on *Site Monitoring and the Ramsar Convention* in Malaysia in November 2009, a practical exercise was carried out to design a form that is simple enough for use by AWC coordinators and that gathers information that can be used to calculate IBA monitoring scores. This new form was tested in the field during the AWC in January 2010, and the feedback from several Asian countries indicated that it is suitable for this purpose (see example form in Annex 11). The BirdLife Asia Partnership plans to use and further develop this new form in the future for IBA monitoring in the region.

The project drafted national wetland monitoring frameworks for Cambodia, Malaysia and Vietnam, based upon the BirdLife IBA monitoring framework, Ramsar Site monitoring guidelines and the WWF Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool; the Vietnam framework was developed following a visit to the BirdLife Secretariat by one of the project team (Nguyen Duc Tu), where he worked with UK staff members. The national frameworks were tested at several wetland sites and some training in monitoring techniques was provided to the LCGs and others in all four countries. In Vietnam and elsewhere it was concluded that the national wetland monitoring frameworks were suitable for technical staff but not for use by most local community members, and that the new IBA monitoring form tested in January 2010 is simpler and more practical for them to use.

The BirdLife organisations in all four project countries participated in the AWC in all three years of the project, covering numerous wetland sites. This has produced data that was provided to the RAAs for use in national Ramsar implementation reports and Ramsar Information Sheets.

**Output 5.** The importance of the Ramsar Convention and the achievements of government-civil society partnerships demonstrated at national, regional and global levels (Activity 5. Advocacy and outreach to promote Ramsar and the achievements of government-civil society partnerships).

A formal BirdLife Side Event was held at COP 10 in South Korea in November 2008, which attracted an audience of about 100 people. The Darwin project supported five participants from the four countries to attend the COP (four NGO, one government), who presented case studies on Darwin project activities and achievements (see Annex 7 to second annual project report). In particular, they 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, and to highlight the collaboration between the BirdLife civil society organisations and the government RAAs in the four project countries. Leaflets and posters were produced to communicate these achievements.

The project was highlighted at two regional workshops organised by BirdLife. One of these was supported by the project, a training workshop on *Site Monitoring and the Ramsar Convention* which was hosted by MNS in Malaysia in November 2009. Simba Chan (the project's Training and Wetland Conservation Advisor) and the four countries made presentations about the progress of the Darwin project and the lessons learned to participants from another 11 Asian countries and territories. The topics covered included the development of government-civil society partnerships, supporting RAAs to designate new Ramsar Sites, establishing local conservation groups, site conservation activities, progress with developing wetland site monitoring, and World Wetlands Day and other awareness events. David Pritchard (the project's Advisor on Ramsar Convention) made a series of presentations about the value of the Convention and how it can be used to promote wetland conservation (see workshop report in Annex 12 and photographs in Annex 15). Four people (one from each Darwin project country) also shared experiences from the project with participants from BirdLife Partners in another five Asian countries at a workshop on *Important Bird Areas and local conservation groups: legal/policy and equity/livelihood issues*, held in Mumbai in March 2008. They were able to bring to the workshop their experience of collaborative wetland management, and discuss best practices and key lessons learned during the Darwin project.

The importance of the Ramsar Convention has been promoted as a number of national awareness events in the four countries; a Communication Strategy was prepared for the project in the third year, which helped to guide the preparations for some of these events. For example, MNS organises an annual Festival of Wings at the North-central Selangor coast (one of the priority sites). During the Festival in October 2009, a 'Site dedication' (on a permanent sign-board) was launched by the Selangor State Executive Councillor who highlighted in her speech the international importance of North-central Selangor coast and its potential to become a Ramsar Site (see Annex 15). In Cambodia, the project distributed 250 copies of the Khmer-language *Ramsar Strategy 2009-2015* to local people and government agencies near to the two priority sites, to build local awareness of the Ramsar Convention and its value for wetland conservation.

In Thailand, the Darwin project enabled BCST to hold a series of awareness events as part of its campaign for the conservation of the Inner Gulf and the designation of new Ramsar Sites there (see Output 1). These events disseminated information to large numbers of people in local communities, government agencies and industries about the value of the wetland ecosystems around the Inner Gulf and the benefits of establishing Ramsar Sites, and led to the local community submitting a petition letter to the government requesting that Khok Kham be designated as a new Ramsar Site. The types of events held during the third year of the Darwin project included: (1) provincial-level consultations in Samut Sakorn and Phetburi in June 2009, to raise awareness of the Ramsar Convention and discuss the implications of Ramsar Site designation, attended by 94 and 79 participants from the RAA, local government and NGOs and the LCGs; (2) a study tour in July 2009 for 70 people from Samut Sakorn (including participants from local government, saltpan cooperative, farmers, etc.) to visit the recently designated Ramsar Site at Sam Roi Yod and discuss its management with local people there; (3) a presentation by BCST to the Khok Kham Salt Farming Cooperative in January 2009 about the Ramsar Convention and the proposed designation of Khok Kham; (4) three training for trainers workshops for local students, government staff and NGO members covering field studies of inter-tidal ecosystems and BCST's campaign for the conservation of the Inner Gulf; and (5) environmental education focussed on the conservation of inter-tidal wetlands, involving several thousand pupils at 28 local schools and including youth camps and National Children's Day activities. In Cambodia, the project helped Beoung Chmar Ramsar Site Management Team to prepare a brochure to promote the site and the Ramsar Convention (Annex 13).

World Wetlands Day (WWD) has proved to be an excellent opportunity for the project to promote the Ramsar Convention (see Annex 14 and details in our earlier reports). WWD events were held annually in the four project countries over the three years (but had to be cancelled in Malaysia in the first year), following the global themes provided by the Ramsar Secretariat. The WWD activities were planned and implemented collaboratively by the RAAs and the BirdLife organisations. Many of the events took place at important wetlands, including at all six priority sites and at designated Ramsar Sites. WWD activities organised by the project included presentations on the importance of wetlands and the Ramsar Convention and threats to local sites and the actions required, press briefings, quizzes on wetlands, painting, bird-watching, nature walks, an essay contest and practical conservation actions such as waste collection and mangrove replanting. In total, many thousands of people participated in the WWD events, including national and local government agencies, local communities and NGOs, students and pupils from local colleges and schools, etc. In Cambodia, the project raised additional local financial support for WWD, which enabled more activities to be organized, and will allow WWD events to be held after the Darwin funding has ended. Journalists from national and provincial TV, radio, and newspapers also attended, and there was coverage of the events in the media in all four project countries. The WWD poster provided by the Ramsar Secretariat (see e.g. [www.ramsar.org/pictures\\_2009/wwd/wwd2010\\_adaptation/WWD2010\\_Malaysia\\_Poster.jpg](http://www.ramsar.org/pictures_2009/wwd/wwd2010_adaptation/WWD2010_Malaysia_Poster.jpg)) was translated into local languages and copies were printed and distributed widely, together with other awareness materials such as t-shirts, posters and banners. In Thailand, BCST linked the WWD events in February 2010 to their campaign at the Inner Gulf (see above), including a Shorebird Conservation Festival and the submission of the petition letter by the local community to the government requesting that Khok Kham be designated as a Ramsar Site.

The project encountered several problems in achieving the outputs, as follows:

- The process to designate new Ramsar Sites is complex, requiring numerous meetings to obtain the approval of key stakeholders at site, provincial and national levels. Substantial progress has been made by the project with the designation of four Ramsar Sites in three countries but it did not prove possible to complete the process for any of these sites before the end of the project.
- In Cambodia, a legal study was commissioned by the project which concluded that under current legislation it was not possible for any wetlands under Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAFF) jurisdiction to be designated as Ramsar Sites. As a result: (1) a printed brochure on candidate Ramsar Sites in Cambodia had to be withdrawn; (2) the project had to cease working for the designation of two sites under MAFF administration; and (3) to start new work for the designation of a wetland site that is under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Environment.

- In Malaysia, there has been a long delay in the publication of the *National Ramsar Toolkit* because of changes at the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment. The toolkit was compiled by MNS during the first year of the project, but the Ministry is now expected to publish it later in 2010, after the end of the project.
- Over the three years of the project, there have been staff changes in the Ramsar Administrative Authorities in Cambodia, Malaysia and Vietnam, and the project co-ordinator in Vietnam resigned during the third year of the project. This turnover in staff has led to some delays to project activities, especially as some of the new staff did not have experience of working with the Ramsar Convention, but the project team has aimed to minimise these by arranging meetings with the new staff members to brief them on the Darwin project and the on-going activities.

#### 4.4 Project standard measures and publications

The project standard measures are quantified in Annex 4 and some additional details are given below.

At the regional level, the Darwin project provided training for 34 people from the four project countries for a total of 2.5 weeks. This included practical training for 10 government and civil society participants through involvement in the Ramsar Asia Regional Preparatory meeting for COP 10 and the 'regional consultation' in Thailand in January 2008, and for 11 government and civil society participants the round table meeting and study tour in Thailand in March 2009. It also included the regional training workshop on *Site Monitoring and the Ramsar Convention* in Malaysia in November 2009, which was attended by 13 participants from the project countries plus another 18 people from 11 other Asian countries and territories.

The Darwin project provided a wide range of training at the national level involving large numbers of participants, but the training events were mostly short (of less than three days duration) and they are therefore not reported in Annex 4. In Cambodia, the training included: in the second year of the project, a course for 36 participants (including 11 local conservation group members and 25 other local people) covering management planning, law enforcement, site monitoring, conservation awareness work and the control of invasive species; in the third year, a course in the ecotourism concept (using Sarus Crane as a tourist attraction) for 20 local conservation group members at Kampong Trach, an exchange visit to Kampong Trach for 10 LCG members from Boeung Prek Lapouv; and training for local communities in the identification of birds. In Thailand, the training included: in the second year of the project, a training course for 90 local students at the Inner Gulf in natural resources data collection, two workshops on shorebird identification for 67 local people, and three training workshops on waterbird and wetland monitoring with a total of 210 participants; in the third year, three training workshops in inter-tidal ecosystems and their conservation for a total of 74 university students, three youth camps to provide training in the conservation of the Inner Gulf for a total of 174 students, a study tour to a recently-established Ramsar Site for 70 local people from the Inner Gulf, and a training course in bird identification and site monitoring for 30 participants. In Vietnam, training was provided to five people at Xuan Thuy in site monitoring.

The project produced three manuals relating to the implementation of the Ramsar Convention that are listed in Annex 5, plus briefing documents, PowerPoint presentations and other materials relevant to training in the Ramsar Convention and wetland conservation.

The UK project staff spent a total of 24 weeks in the host countries (plus three weeks in South Korea in conjunction with Ramsar COP 10). Only one formal site management plan was prepared, for Boeung Prek Lapouv in Cambodia, but informal conservation plans have been prepared for the other five priority sites. Site monitoring frameworks have been produced in national languages in Cambodia, Malaysia and Vietnam.

Information about the Darwin project was presented at workshops held for local stakeholders at the project's six priority sites, which provided a basis for reviewing natural resource use and planning new conservation actions at each of the sites. The four countries made presentations about the achievements of the project to participants from 11 other Asian countries and territories at the regional workshop on *Site Monitoring and the Ramsar Convention* that the project organised in Malaysia in November 2009. 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. Presentations were also made about the project's wetland conservation activities at a workshop on *Important Bird Areas and Local Conservation Groups: legal/policy and equity/livelihood issues* organised by the BirdLife Asia Partnership in India in March 2008.

The project supported annual World Wetlands Day events in the four countries, which generated extensive coverage in national and local TV, radio and newspapers. A youth camp run by BCST at the Inner Gulf was also featured on a national TV channel. The BirdLife International UK office issued two News Alerts about the project, at [www.birdlife.org/news/news/2009/03/ramsar\\_meeting.html](http://www.birdlife.org/news/news/2009/03/ramsar_meeting.html) and [www.birdlife.org/news/news/2010/03/thai\\_ramsar.html](http://www.birdlife.org/news/news/2010/03/thai_ramsar.html).

The project has established and supported local conservation groups at the six priority sites, the members of which are key stakeholders from local government, communities and the private sector.

Other project results included inventories of candidate sites for the Ramsar List for all four countries and input from the project partners in each of the four countries to the National Ramsar Reports that the Ramsar Administration Authorities presented during COP 10. The project has also supported the preparation of Ramsar Information Sheets (RISs) for three potential new Ramsar Sites, and revision of the RISs for three existing Ramsar Sites.

#### **4.5 Technical and Scientific achievements and co-operation**

The project produced several technical manuals relevant to the Ramsar Convention and its implementation, including a report by David Pritchard on the links and potential synergies between the Asian Waterbird Census (AWC), IBA monitoring, and wetland monitoring in the context of the Ramsar Convention; a Vietnamese translation of *The Ramsar handbook 11: Inventory, assessment, and monitoring for the wise use of wetlands*; and a Khmer translation of *Ramsar Strategic Plan 2009-2015* and key COP10 resolutions on behalf of the RAAs in these countries. Other technical materials included three input papers prepared in advance of COP 10, which summarise the COP Resolutions and Information documents and the key decisions adopted (Annexes 1-3 to second annual project report); draft inventories of candidate Ramsar Sites for the four project countries; national wetland monitoring frameworks for Cambodia, Malaysia and Vietnam; and a *National Ramsar Toolkit* for Malaysia, which includes guidelines on the Ramsar Convention and its implementation.

A regional training workshop on *Site Monitoring and the Ramsar Convention* was held in Malaysia in November 2009, where three UK experts (David Pritchard, Simba Chan and Mike Crosby) presented information on BirdLife's Important Bird Area (IBA) monitoring methodology and how it relates to the AWC and monitoring under the Ramsar Convention. A practical exercise was carried out during the workshop to design a form that is simple enough for use by AWC coordinators and that gathers information that can be used to calculate IBA monitoring scores. This new form was tested in the field during the AWC in January 2010, and the feedback from several Asian countries indicates that it is suitable for use during the AWC in future years.

#### **4.6 Capacity building**

One of the outputs of this Darwin project was to strengthen the capacity of the government and civil society partners in key aspects of Ramsar implementation through the provision of appropriate training. As described in Section 3.4, this was taken forward during the preparatory meeting for COP 10 and the associated 'regional consultation', and participation in the COP 10 meeting. These meetings provided practical experience regarding the implementation of the Ramsar Convention, including: the obligations of Contracting Parties (e.g. Ramsar Site designation); topical issues that were covered at the COP (e.g. climate change, poverty reduction, etc.); the preparation of national reports for COP 10; how to consult nationally on the COP 10 agenda and proposed resolutions; designation of new Ramsar Sites; how to complete Ramsar Information Sheets; and holding World Wetlands Day

The project organised a round table meeting and study tour in Thailand in March 2009, with technical guidance and facilitation provided by Rebecca D'Cruz (Vice Chair of the Ramsar Scientific and Technical Review Panel – STRP). The topics covered included the implementation in the four project countries of the Ramsar Strategic Plan 2009-2015, the CEPA Programme for 2009-2015 and other outputs from COP 10.

A regional training workshop on *Site Monitoring and the Ramsar Convention* was held in Malaysia in November 2009, led by three UK experts (David Pritchard, Simba Chan and Mike Crosby). Training was provided in BirdLife's Important Bird Area monitoring methodology, and how it relates to the Asian Waterbird Census and monitoring in the context of the Ramsar Convention. A new form that harmonises IBA monitoring with the AWC was developed during the workshop and tested during the AWC in January 2010. The four Darwin project countries made presentations about their activities and the lessons learned regarding developing partnerships and implementing the Ramsar Convention, for the benefit of the workshop participants from 11 other Asian countries and territories.

This capacity building has enabled the project partners to participate in a number of new activities relating to the implementation of the Ramsar Convention (see Annex 7). These have included: participation in COP 10 and national Ramsar meetings; working with the RAAs to designate new Ramsar Sites, including drafting Ramsar Information Sheets; strengthening the conservation of key wetlands through the establishment of local conservation groups and consultations with local government; and raising awareness of wetland conservation through participation in World Wetlands Day.

#### **4.7 Sustainability and Legacy**

The sustainability of this project is judged to be high. The four civil society partners have a deep institutional commitment to wetland conservation and the Ramsar Convention, and they have all developed strong working links with their national RAAs during the project. It is considered that these partnerships will endure into the future, with joint actions by the civil society and government partners to implement the Convention. The designation of four new Ramsar Sites is on-going in three of the project countries and it is believed that some or all of these will be completed within a year, which will provide a strong legacy for wetland conservation in South-East Asia. The capacity that has been built within the civil society partners and the RAAs (and the technical documentation produced) will also help ensure that the implementation of the Ramsar Convention will continue to have been enhanced by the project into the future. Some formal links have been established during the project, notably BirdLife Cambodia becoming the national CEPA NGO-Focal Point.

The local conservation groups (and the partnerships with other environmental NGOs) that have been established and supported at the six project sites are also considered likely to endure, and the BirdLife organisations in the four project countries aim to continue to provide support to them in the future. This will help promote both the conservation of wetland biodiversity at these sites and sustainable use of the wetland resources. All of the project staff members are employed by the BirdLife International Secretariat and partner organisations, and they will continue to participate in the regional activities of the BirdLife Asia Partnership. Through their participation in the Darwin project, they are expected to play a leading role in BirdLife's efforts to promote wetland conservation and the Ramsar Convention in the region.

## **5 Lessons learned, dissemination and communication**

Several key lessons can be drawn from this project, including:

- The government-civil society partnership approach taken by the project has proved to be an effective way to promote the Ramsar Convention (and probably other international conventions). For example, the partnership in Cambodia enabled on-going activities to be continued effectively when a new person with little previous experience of the Ramsar Convention was appointed as the RAA Focal Point (see Annex 7).
- There were some problems with the project design, which was too ambitious to be fully implemented with the time and resources available, e.g. the targets set to establish wetland monitoring during the lifetime of the project were unrealistic. As pointed out in the reviews of

our earlier reports, the Darwin project was not clearly enough defined in relation to the wider programmes of the project partners, which has created difficulties in reporting on some of the project outputs and activities.

- A communications strategy was prepared during the third year of the Darwin project, which helped to guide dissemination activities during the final few months, but it would clearly have been of greater value to have developed this strategy at the start of the project.

Information relating to the Darwin project, the Ramsar Convention and wetland conservation has been disseminated to several target audiences. For example, the side event at Ramsar COP 10 shared the project experiences and achievements with other Ramsar Administrative Authorities and wetland experts and environmental organisations. The presentations made by the four project countries at the regional workshop on *Site Monitoring and the Ramsar Convention* in Malaysia and the workshop on *Important Bird Areas and Local Conservation Groups: legal/policy and equity/ livelihood issues* in India shared their experiences with other members of the BirdLife Asia Partnership, with the aim of promoting similar engagement with the Ramsar Convention and wetland conservation activities in other Asian countries. The training events held at the six project sites were used to raise awareness of the Ramsar Convention and its value for wetland conservation amongst local and regional government agencies and local communities. The project has enabled BCST to successfully build grass-roots support for the designation of two new Ramsar Sites at the Inner Gulf of Thailand, by disseminating information about the value of establishing the Ramsar Site to many thousand of local people including government staff and members of the public.

It is anticipated that dissemination of information about the Ramsar Convention and wetland conservation will continue in the four project countries after the end of the Darwin project. The project partners in Malaysia and Cambodia are the national CEPA NGO-Focal Points and will therefore play an important communication role on behalf of their RAAs. All four countries intend to continue supporting the RAAs in the organisation of WWD events.

## 5.1 Darwin identity

The Darwin Initiative was publicised and acknowledged during project meetings and events, both verbally and through the use of the Darwin logo. The logo was shown on the banners displayed at the side event at Ramsar COP 10, in PowerPoint presentations, and at the other project meetings and workshops, and was included in the project manuals and reports, in web alerts and press releases about the project, on WWD posters, leaflets and other publicity materials, etc. The Darwin logo is also included on a permanent sign-board at the North-central Selangor coast (one of the priority sites) that was erected as part of a 'Site dedication' during MNS's Festival of Wings in October 2009.

The Darwin Initiative support was recognised by the participating organisations as a distinct project made up of the outputs and activities in the project logframe, with co-funding from Japanese sources (Ministry of the Environment, and Keidanren Nature Conservation Fund) which contributed to specific components. The Darwin Initiative is known to many people within the conservation communities within the four project countries, and the publicity generated by the project has helped to expose more people to the Darwin name and logo.

## 6 Monitoring and evaluation

There were no major changes to the project design and logframe during the three years, but some adjustments were made to the timings of activities in the project implementation timetable.

Work plans were developed with each of the four countries in the first year of the project by the UK Project Leader and the national Project Coordinators, based upon the logframe and the project implementation timetable. The UK Project Leader reviewed progress against these work plans on the submission of the six-monthly and annual reports from the four project countries, which provided the basis for discussing progress with the Project Coordinator in each country.

The project meetings provided the opportunity for reviews of progress against the work plans and a sharing of experiences amongst the four countries. During the COP 10 preparatory

meeting and informal consultation in January 2008, priorities for the national partnerships were developed, as were plans for COP 10 activities and regional training. Together with the first annual reports from each country, this made it possible to identify aspects of the project where progress has slipped, and lessons need to be learnt (see table in first annual project report).

Progress against the work plans was reviewed at a project planning meeting with the four countries, held during the COP 10 in October 2008. The round table meeting and study tour in Thailand in March 2009 and the training workshop in Malaysia in November 2009 provided further opportunities to review both the Darwin project work plan and the Ramsar programme of work in each country and to share experience with progress. Some further key issues were identified which needed to be addressed for the project to deliver on its objectives (see table in first annual project report).

### 6.1 Actions taken in response to annual report reviews

The review of our first annual report raised several issues that we responded to in our subsequent half-yearly and annual reports. The review of our second annual report raised several further issues that are responded to in the table below. These reviews were discussed with the project partners and used to help guide the project activities.

	Reviewers comments	Response from Project Leader
1.	<p>It is essential that future reports carefully follow the guidelines for reporting as presented on the Darwin Initiative website. These may change on an annual basis and it is important that the most recent set are downloaded and used for reporting.</p> <p>There should be more emphasis on reporting against the project's <b>outputs</b> and resulting outcomes that can be <b>directly</b> attributed to the Darwin funding.</p> <p>At present it is still difficult to identify the added value that has been derived through the investment of the Darwin Initiative. It should be noted that Darwin projects are expected to have a distinct and clearly identified contribution, even when this is seen as being part of a wider programme with funding from multiple sources.</p>	<p>This Final Report closely follows the most recent guidelines for reporting on the Darwin Initiative website.</p> <p>As noted in our response to reviewer comments in earlier reports, the Darwin project has co-funding from Japanese sources 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.</p> <p>In this report we have aimed to differentiate as clearly as possible between the Darwin project's outputs and resulting outcomes from those, and the associated activities that were supported by the co-funding.</p>
2.	<p>The descriptions of the partnership component of the project are confusing. In order to demonstrate the nature of partnerships built by the project, the Final Report should be co-produced by all members of the consortium and have at least one author from each organisation. In addition, it is recommended that each of the organisations in SE Asia be asked to provide a short annex to the main report (maximum 2 pages) which documents how the Darwin project has enhanced their ability to support the Ramsar Convention and for civil society and government to enhance their collaborative working in support of Ramsar.</p>	<p>This Final Report was co-produced by all members of the project team, with one author from each of the project countries. As recommended, the civil society partners has provided a short annex to the main report (see Annex 7) which documents how the Darwin project has enhanced their ability to support the Ramsar Convention and for civil society and government to enhance their collaborative working in support of Ramsar. A letter of support for the Darwin project was also received from the RAA in Cambodia and is included in Annex 7.</p>



	<p>More responsibility should be given to partners in SE Asia for delivery during the last year of the project. At present it seems that much of the project is being delivered by Birdlife International, when it could be expected that Birdlife's contribution should now be one of an enabler and trainer rather than implementer.</p>	
4.	<p>The project should develop and implement a communications strategy for its last year that clearly identifies target audiences and the types of information that they require. This document should be appended to the next 6 month report.</p>	<p>A communications strategy was prepared by the project team (Annex to third year 6-monthly report), which identifies the main target audiences and their communication needs. This has being used to guide communications activities during the final year of the project (and will be a useful resource for the project partners beyond the project lifetime).</p>
5.	<p>Please report Standard Output Measures as detailed in the reporting guidelines. These should be numeric rather than textual.</p>	<p>Numeric Standard Output Measures are reported in Annex 4 as detailed in the reporting guidelines.</p>

## 7 Finance and administration

### 7.1 Project expenditure

	Original Budget	Expenditure				£ Under / over	% Under / over
		2007/8	2008/9	2009/10	Total		
<b>Salary costs</b>							5%
<b>Rent, rates etc</b>							0%
<b>Office costs</b>							-4%
<b>Travel &amp; subsistence</b>							-16%
<b>Printing</b>							3%
<b>Conferences, Seminars, etc.</b>							3%
<b>Capital Items</b>							0%
<b>Other costs</b>							
Audit							0%
Education & Awareness							-12%
Site conservation action							1%
<b>TOTAL</b>							0%

	Original Budget	Expenditure			
<b>Project team member</b>					
Richard Grimmett					
Simba Chan					
Bou Vorsak					
Nguyen Duc Tu					
Kritsana Kaewplang					
Kanitha Krishnasamy					
Rebecca D'Cruz					
<b>Staff Costs</b>					

The only variation in expenditure of more than 10% from an approved budget line was an underspend (16%) on Travel and subsistence. This occurred because it was possible to cover more travel costs from the co-financing that was originally budgeted.

## 7.2 Additional funds or in-kind contributions secured

<i>Confirmed matching funding</i>	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	Total
Grant from Japanese Ministry of Environment				
RSPB staff costs (UK expert on Ramsar)				
RSPB support for BCST in Thailand				
<i>Funds over and above original project document</i>				
Grant from Keidanren Nature Conservation Fund				
<b>TOTAL</b>				

As outlined in the original project document, matching funding was secured from the Japanese Ministry of Environment (¥ between 2007 and 2010, of which ¥ was available as co-financing for the Darwin project), and from the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds through their support for BCST's wetland management initiative at the Inner Gulf and provision of the services of a leading UK expert on Ramsar (David Pritchard). The application to the Keidanren Nature Conservation Fund that was mentioned in the original project document was successful and secured more funding than had originally been anticipated (¥between 2007 and 2010, of which ¥ was available as co-financing for the Darwin project).

## 7.3 Value of DI funding

The Darwin Initiative has a particular focus on international conventions, and it is unlikely that another donor would have provided this level of support for a regional project to strengthen the capacity for implementation of the Ramsar Convention in Asia. The project funding has enabled the civil society organisations in the four host countries to greatly increase their engagement in the implementation of the Ramsar Convention, and to build long-term partnerships with their national Ramsar Administration Authorities (RAA). The RAAs have received practical support and training during the three years of the project that has significantly increased their capacity to implement the Convention. Except for Thailand, where the RAA is experienced and well resourced, the level of capacity in the RAAs was at a much lower level than we had envisaged during the design of the project, and we believe that Darwin Initiative funding has made a very significant contribution during a vital period for Ramsar implementation in Asia.

## Annex 1 Report of progress and achievements against final project logframe for the life of the project

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2007 - March 2010
<p><b>Goal:</b> 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</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The conservation of biological diversity,</li> <li>• The sustainable use of its components, and</li> <li>• The fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilisation of genetic resources</li> </ul>		<p>The Darwin project has provided training and information to the project partners, drawing on UK expertise in the Ramsar Convention and its implementation. This has supported the development of government-civil society partnerships which are expected to strengthen conservation of the biologically rich wetlands in South-East Asia. Substantial progress has been made in designating four new Ramsar Sites and biodiversity conservation and sustainable use of wetlands resources has been promoted at six priority wetland sites.</p>
<p><b>Purpose.</b> 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 existing or proposed Ramsar Sites;</p> <p>New Ramsar Sites designated in at least 3 countries.</p>	<p>Civil society organisations actively engaged in national Ramsar Committees (or their equivalents) in each of the four countries.</p> <p>Input from civil society partners to the National Ramsar Reports presented by RAAs during COP 10, and to national wetland policies and programmes.</p> <p>Substantial progress made with the designation of four new Ramsar sites in three countries.</p> <p>Local stakeholders engaged in the conservation and management of six priority wetland sites.</p>
<p><b>Output 1.</b> 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>Joint work programmes developed for the Darwin project between the government Ramsar Administrative Authorities (RAAs) and the civil society organisations in all four project countries.</p> <p>Civil society organisations actively involved in national Ramsar/wetland committees in all four countries, and judged to be playing a significant (and supportive) role in three of them (Cambodia, Malaysia and Vietnam).</p> <p>Wetland conservation priorities agreed and implemented, including (1) designation of new Ramsar Sites; (2) updating of Ramsar Information Sheets for existing Ramsar Sites; and (3) completing national reports on Ramsar implementation for COP 10.</p>
<p>Activity 1.1. National priority-setting workshops held (yr 1).</p>		<p>Numerous meetings and workshops regarding the Darwin project and Ramsar Convention implementation held in all four project countries, involving the civil society organisations and RAAs.</p>

Activity 1.2. Official lists of candidate Ramsar Sites drafted (yr 1).	Lists of candidate Ramsar Sites compiled for all four countries.
Activity 1.3. Round-table meetings to formulate and review joint strategies and work plans held (yrs 1-2).	Regional round-table meeting and study tour organised by Darwin project in Thailand in March 2009, to discuss the implementation of the Ramsar Strategic Plan 2009-2015 in the project countries and review the project work plan.
Activity 1.4. Joint position papers on key wetland policies relating to Ramsar drafted (yrs 2-3).	<p>Substantial progress made towards the designation of four new Ramsar Sites in three countries, and Ramsar Information Sheets updated for three existing Ramsar Sites</p> <p>Support for the drafting of National Ramsar Reports and briefing papers for COP 10, joint government-NGO positions on COP 10 resolutions agreed in advance of and advocated at COP 10, and other documents relevant to the Ramsar Convention and national wetland policies.</p>
Activity 1.5. Cross-sectoral consultation meetings to explore linkages to wider poverty reduction initiatives held (yrs 2-3).	No regional cross-sectoral meetings held during project but poverty reduction initiatives were explored at several of the project sites.
<b>Output 2. Capacity of government and civil society partners in key aspects of Ramsar implementation strengthened.</b>	<p>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> <p>Practical experience and training (for 10 government and civil society participants) in key aspects of Ramsar implementation through attending the Ramsar Asia Regional Preparatory meeting for COP 10 in Thailand in January 2008; and a four-day round table meeting and study tour (for 11 participants) in Thailand in March 2009.</p> <p>Regional training workshop on <i>Site Monitoring and the Ramsar Convention</i> held in Malaysia in November 2009 (for 31 participants, including 13 from the four Darwin project countries).</p> <p>Training in wetland conservation and management provided to local stakeholders at the six priority sites.</p>
Activity 2.1. Training needs assessments conducted (yr 1).	Capacity development and training needs of the project participants discussed during the 'regional consultation' meeting in Bangkok in January 2008.
Activity 2.2. Training tools and materials prepared (yr 1).	Training materials relating to the implementation of the Ramsar Convention prepared and disseminated, including briefing papers, site monitoring frameworks, translations of official Ramsar documents, PowerPoint presentations, handouts for meetings, etc.
Activity 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).	Practical experience and training in key aspects of Ramsar implementation provided through attending the Ramsar Asia Regional Preparatory meeting for COP 10, Ramsar COP 10 in South Korea, and a

		round table meeting and study tour. Regional training workshop held in <i>Site Monitoring and the Ramsar Convention</i> .
Activity 2.4. Hands-on training in site action planning and forming partnerships with local stakeholders provided (yrs 2-3).		Training in wetland conservation and management provided to local stakeholders at the six priority sites.
<b>Output 3.</b> 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 (LCGs) supported at six sites in three countries, of which the project established and developed three groups and helped to consolidate and support the other three.  Collaborative management advanced at the six sites, with partnerships developing at each of these and wetland conservation activities underway.
Activity 3.1. Meetings to select priority sites held (yr 1).		Six priority sites selected during meetings with the RAAs in Cambodia, Malaysia and Thailand.
Activity 3.2. Stakeholder workshops at priority sites to identify priority issues and formulate intervention strategies held (yr 1).		Meetings and workshops held with local civil society and government stakeholders at the project sites to formulate conservation strategies and work plans and to discuss the establishment of new LCGs.
Activity 3.3. Training workshops for local stakeholders held (yrs 2 & 3).		Training workshops held for the LCGs and other local stakeholders in site conservation and monitoring.
Activity 3.4. Wetland conservation actions implemented (yrs 1-3).		A wide range of wetland conservation actions implemented at the six project sites.
Activity 3.5. Consultations with sustainable financing initiatives to broker relationships with priority sites held (yrs 2-3).		The potential to establish sustainable financing initiatives investigated at several project sites.
<b>Output 4.</b> 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.	Training in wetland monitoring provided by UK experts during a project workshop in Malaysia in November 2009, where a new form was designed to monitor wetlands during the Asian Waterbirds Census (AWC).  National wetland monitoring frameworks and protocols developed in Cambodia, Malaysia and Vietnam, designed to enable local stakeholders to collect key information on sites, species, habitats and human activities.  Wetlands monitored during the AWC and monitored data used in Ramsar Convention reports.
Activity 4.1. Review of UK-based experience with wetland monitoring conducted (yr 1).		Briefing paper prepared 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.

<p>Activity 4.2. National wetland monitoring frameworks developed and trainers trained by UK experts (yrs 1-2).</p>	<p>Training workshop led by UK experts in <i>Site monitoring and the Ramsar Convention</i> in Malaysia in November 2009.</p> <p>National wetland monitoring frameworks drafted in Cambodia, Malaysia and Vietnam.</p>
<p>Activity 4.3. Local monitoring coordinators identified and trained by national civil society trainers (yr 2).</p>	<p>Training in monitoring provided at the several sites in the four project countries, including training related to the AWC.</p>
<p>Activity 4.4. Annual wetland monitoring undertaken (yrs 2-3).</p>	<p>Wetland site monitoring conducted annually during the AWC, with a new wetland site monitoring form tested during the AWC in January 2010.</p>
<p>Activity 4.5. Monitoring reports prepared and published (yrs 2-3).</p>	<p>Monitoring reports prepared, using data gathered during the AWC and other wetland surveys.</p>
<p>Activity 4.6. Monitoring results integrated into national environmental reporting (yrs 2-3).</p>	<p>Monitoring data collected during the AWC used in national reporting to the Ramsar Convention.</p>
<p><b>Output 5.</b> The importance of the Ramsar Convention and the achievements of government-civil society partnerships demonstrated at national, regional and global levels.</p>	<p>5a. Achievements of gov't-civil society partnerships presented at Ramsar meetings, including COP 10 in yr 2;</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Formal BirdLife Side Event held at Ramsar COP 10 in South Korea in November 2008, with presentations on the achievements of the Darwin project, in particular the value of government-civil society partnerships and site-based local conservation groups.</p> <p>Ramsar Convention and wetland conservation highlighted during national and local events in the four project countries.</p> <p>World Wetlands Day activities organised annually in the four countries to raise awareness of the Ramsar Convention and wetland conservation.</p>
<p>Activity 5.1. Successful government-civil society collaboration for wetland conservation documented (yr 2).</p>	<p>The government-civil partnerships build through the Darwin project promoted at regional meetings in Malaysia in November 2009 and India in March 2008.</p>
<p>Activity 5.2. Presentations made at Ramsar COP 10 (yr 2).</p>	<p>Presentations about the Darwin project achievements made at a formal Side Event at Ramsar COP 10.</p>
<p>Activity 5.3. Public awareness activities implemented during the World Bird Festival in Asia (yr 2).</p>	<p>National and local events in the four project countries used to raise awareness of the Ramsar Convention and wetland conservation.</p>
<p>Activity 5.4. Public awareness activities implemented during World Wetlands Day (yrs 1-3).</p>	<p>Public awareness activities organised annually in all four countries during World Wetlands Day.</p>

## Annex 2 Project's final logframe, including criteria and indicators

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
<p><b>Goal:</b> 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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the conservation of biological diversity,</li> <li>• the sustainable use of its components, and</li> <li>• the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilisation of genetic resources</li> </ul>			
<p><b>Purpose:</b> 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>Joint position papers, memoranda of cooperation and National Reports to Ramsar COPs; Reports of wetland management initiatives; Ramsar Information Sheets and the Ramsar List.</p>	<p>Governments remain open to policy dialogue with civil society on wetland issues; Institutional and policy frameworks enabling local stakeholders to engage in wetland conservation can be strengthened.</p>
<p><b>Outputs:</b> 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; 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>	<p>1a. Published official lists of candidate Ramsar Sites; 1b. Meeting agendas, minutes and reports; 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; 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, developing and advancing wise-use policies and practices, and sustainably financing wetland conservation 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; 3b. Wetland conservation actions underway for at least 4 key wetland sites by end yr 3.</p>	<p>3a. Agreements and joint work plans; 3b. Activity reports and media coverage. 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>
<p>4. National wetland monitoring programmes established as an activity of government-civil society partnerships.</p>	<p>4a. Wetland monitoring frameworks in place for all 4 countries by end yr 1; 4b. Key wetlands monitored by local coordinators in yrs 2 &amp; 3; 4c. Monitoring results included in information presented at Ramsar COP 10 in yr 2.</p>	<p>4a. National wetland monitoring framework documents; 4b. National wetland monitoring reports; 4c. National reports by Ramsar Administrative Authorities. 4d. Revised Ramsar Information Sheets.</p>	<p>Nationwide networks of local stakeholders can be established to ensure monitoring coverage of key wetland sites.</p>

<p>5. The importance of the Ramsar Convention and the achievements of government-civil society partnerships demonstrated at national, regional and global levels.</p>	<p>5a. Achievements of gov't-civil society partnerships presented at Ramsar meetings, including COP 10 in yr 2;</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>5a. COP 10 agenda, national reports and reports of side-events;</p> <p>5b. Media coverage and reports of World Wetlands Day and World Bird Festival in Asia.</p>	<p>Ramsar COP continues to welcome civil society involvement;</p> <p>Opportunities are provided at the COP for joint reports to be given.</p>
<p><b>Activities:</b></p> <p>1. Workshops, meetings and joint planning exercises to facilitate the development of government-civil society partnerships.</p>	<p><b>Activity Milestones:</b></p> <p>1.1 National priority-setting workshops held (yr 1);</p> <p>1.2 Official lists of candidate Ramsar Sites drafted (yr 1);</p> <p>1.3 Round-table meetings to formulate and review joint strategies and work plans held (yrs 1-2);</p> <p>1.4 Joint position papers on key wetland policies relating to Ramsar drafted (yrs 2-3);</p> <p>1.5 Cross-sectoral consultation meetings to explore linkages to wider poverty reduction initiatives held (yrs 2-3).</p>	<p><b>Assumptions:</b></p> <p>Key government and civil society personnel are available to attend national and regional workshops and round-table meetings.</p>	
<p>2. Training for selected government and civil society staff in key areas of Ramsar implementation.</p>	<p>2.1 Training needs assessments conducted (yr 1);</p> <p>2.2 Training tools and materials prepared (yr 1);</p> <p>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 &amp; 3);</p> <p>2.4 Hands-on training in site action planning and forming partnerships with local stakeholders provided (yrs 2-3).</p>	<p>Nominated staff are available to attend training courses and participate in field trips;</p> <p>Trainees remain committed to putting training into practice.</p>	

<p>3. Design and implementation of collaborative wetland management initiatives that engage local stakeholders.</p>	<p>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 (yr 1);  3.3 Training workshops for local stakeholders held (yrs 2 &amp; 3);  3.4 Wetland conservation actions implemented (yrs 1-3);  3.5 Consultations with sustainable financing initiatives to broker relationships with priority sites held (yrs 2-3).</p>	<p>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>
<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)</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 3 Project contribution to Articles under the CBD

### Project Contribution to Articles under the Convention on Biological Diversity

Article No./Title	Project %	Article Description
7. Identification and Monitoring	10	The project has provided training for members of civil society and government organisations in standardised monitoring techniques, including BirdLife's Important Bird Areas monitoring framework, the Asian Waterbird Census and wetland monitoring in the context of the Ramsar Convention. These techniques are designed to gather data on the status of key species and habitats, the threats acting on these, and the effectiveness of the conservation actions being taken, and the training has helped to enhance capacity to collect and manage biodiversity data. Monitoring has been conducted at the project sites and other wetlands, and has provided data that has helped guide conservation actions.
8. In-situ Conservation	25	The project has made substantial progress towards the designation of four new Ramsar Sites in three countries, which will strengthen the protection and management of these sites. The local conservation groups at the six priority sites are conducting a wide range of species and habitat protection measures, for example prevention of illegal and unsustainable exploitation of natural resources, mangrove restoration, control of invasive species, etc.
10. Sustainable Use of Components of Biological Diversity	10	The local conservation groups at the project sites have helped to develop management plans that aim to ensure sustainable use of natural resources by local communities and commercial companies. The potential to establish sustainable financing initiatives involving the private sector has been investigated at some project sites.
12. Research and Training	20	The project has provided practical experience and training in key aspects of implementing the Ramsar Convention to civil society organisations and government Ramsar Administrative Authorities. Training has been provided in BirdLife's site monitoring framework, with the aim of establishing a regional programme in Asia to regularly monitor Ramsar Sites and other wetlands. Training has also been provided to local conservation groups and other local stakeholders in survey and monitoring techniques.
13. Public Education and Awareness	25	The project has supported annual World Wetlands Day events in the four countries, and several national awareness raising events, which have increased understanding of the importance of the Ramsar Convention and wetland conservation issues and have generated extensive coverage in the media. The project's achievements in building partnerships for Ramsar implementation and wetland conservation were promoted at COP 10 and at two regional meetings.
17. Exchange of Information	10	The civil society project partners have provided information to the RAAs and others about biodiversity and conservation issues by contributing to the National Ramsar Reports that were presented at COP 10, by helping to compile Ramsar Information Sheets, etc.

Article No./Title	Project %	Article Description
Other Contribution		The project is relevant to two CBD thematic programmes, <i>Inland Waters Biodiversity</i> and <i>Marine and Coastal Biodiversity</i> .
Total %	100%	Check % = total 100

## Annex 4 Standard Measures

Code	Description	Totals (plus additional detail as required)
<b>Training Measures</b>		
6A	Number of people receiving other forms of short-term education/training (ie not categories 1-5 above)	34 people (regional training for participants from Cambodia, Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam)
6B	Number of training weeks not leading to formal qualification	2.5 weeks (regional training for participants from Cambodia, Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam)
7	Number of types of training materials produced for use by host country(s)	1 type (3 manuals)
<b>Research Measures</b>		
8	Number of weeks spent by UK project staff on project work in host country(s)	24 weeks (plus 3 weeks at Ramsar COP 10 in South Korea)
9	Number of species/habitat management plans (or action plans) produced for Governments, public authorities or other implementing agencies in the host country (s)	1 (site management plan for Boeung Prek Lapouv, Cambodia)
10	Number of formal documents produced to assist work related to species identification, classification and recording.	3 (Cambodia, Malaysia and Vietnam wetland monitoring frameworks)
<b>Dissemination Measures</b>		
14A	Number of conferences/seminars/workshops organised to present/disseminate findings from Darwin project work	7 (6 workshops at priority sites and project workshop in Malaysia)
14B	Number of conferences/seminars/ workshops attended at which findings from Darwin project work will be presented/ disseminated.	2 (Side Event at Ramsar COP 10, and Local Conservation Group workshop in India)
15A	Number of national press releases or publicity articles in host country(s)	1
15C	Number of national press releases or publicity articles in UK	2 (BirdLife Web Alerts)
18A	Number of national TV programmes/features in host country(s)	7
18C	Number of local TV programme/features in host country	4
19A	Number of national radio interviews/features in host country(s)	1
19C	Number of local radio interviews/features in host country (s)	4
<b>Physical Measures</b>		
21	Number of permanent educational/training/research facilities or organisation established	6 (local conservation groups established at 6 sites)
23	Value of additional resources raised for project	£

Code	Description	Totals (plus additional detail as required)
<b>Other Measures used by the project and not currently including in DI standard measures</b>		
Other		<p>Inventories of candidate sites for the Ramsar List drafted for 4 countries.</p> <p>National reports for COP 10 prepared for the 4 countries with input from the project's civil society partners.</p> <p>Ramsar Information Sheets prepared for three potential new Ramsar Sites, and revised for three existing Ramsar Sites.</p>

## Annex 5 Publications

Type * (eg journals, manual, CDs)	Detail (title, author, year)	Publishers (name, city)	Available from (eg contact address, website)	Cost £
Manual	Vietnamese translation of <i>The Ramsar handbook 11: Inventory, assessment, and monitoring for the wise use of wetlands.</i>	BirdLife Vietnam Programme	Pham Tuan Anh (contact details in Annex 6)	-
Manual	Khmer translation of <i>Ramsar Strategic Plan 2009-2015 and key COP10 resolutions.</i>	BirdLife Cambodia Programme	Bou Vorsak (contact details in Annex 6)	-
Manual	<i>Waterbirds, Important Bird Areas and Ramsar sites: links in relation to monitoring and indicators.</i>	Unpublished report by David Pritchard	Richard Grimmett (contact details in Annex 6)	-



## Annex 6 Darwin Contacts

Ref No	16-013
Project Title	Strengthening partnerships for Ramsar implementation in South-East Asia
<b>UK Leader Details</b>	
Name	Richard Grimmett
Role within Darwin Project	Project Leader
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<b>Partner 3</b>	
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Organisation	BirdLife International Cambodia Programme
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<b>Partner 4</b>	
Name	Pham Tuan Anh
Organisation	BirdLife International <i>in Indochina</i> ,

<b>Role within Darwin Project</b>	<b>BirdLife Vietnam Programme Manager (helped compile final report after the Project Coordinator left BirdLife)</b>
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<b>Fax</b>	
<b>Email</b>	