

Darwin Initiative Annual Report

Important note:

To be completed with reference to the Reporting Guidance Notes for Project Leaders – it is expected that this report will be about 10 pages in length, excluding annexes

Submission deadline 30 April 2008

Darwin Project Information

Project Ref Number	16-013
Project Title	Strengthening partnerships for Ramsar implementation in South-East Asia
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
Reporting period (1 Apr 200x to 31 Mar 200y) and annual report number (1,2,3..)	01 July 2007 - 31 March 2008, Annual Report No.1
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Project website	
Author(s), date	Richard Grimmett, 30 th April 2008

1. Project Background

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

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

The Asia Regional Meeting prior to the 9th Ramsar Conference of the Parties (COP 9) in May 2005 identified limited capacity of Ramsar Administrative Authorities as a substantial challenge to Ramsar implementation in Asia. Further insights into constraints to Ramsar implementation were provided by the national reports to COP 9 submitted by South-East Asian governments,

which identified a need for strengthened capacity of wetland management agencies, and greater engagement of local stakeholders in wetland conservation.

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

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

2. Project Partnerships

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

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

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

3. Project progress

3.1 Progress in carrying out project activities

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

Frequent meetings have been held in each of the four countries. These meetings have included the development of joint work plans (see report on output 1) and preparations for World Wetland Day (WWD) 2008 and the 10th Conference of Parties to the Ramsar Convention (COP

10). It is not possible to report on all of these meeting; those especially noteworthy, and supported by the Darwin project, have included:

Cambodia

Birdlife and the Watershed, Wetlands and Coastal Zone Office (of DNCP) held a national meeting on Ramsar implementation at the Ministry of Environment, bringing together a wide range of participants from government agencies and non-government sectors (Feb 08, attended by 25 people). The meeting covered preparation for WWD and COP10 (including revising the Ramsar Information Sheets for Cambodia's three Ramsar Sites, and compilation of the national report on Ramsar implementation).

Vietnam

Three 'round-table' discussions were organised and attended by VEPA, BirdLife and other members of National Wetland Expert Group. These 'round-table' discussions covered the development of joint activities, preparations for COP 10, and the development of a national monitoring framework. These discussions will lead into a national workshop 'Implementation of Ramsar Convention in Vietnam' which is planned for April 2008, organised by VEPA and BirdLife, which will cover (1) national report for COP10; (2) preparation by the Vietnam delegation for COP10; (3) indicators for wetland monitoring, and (4) priority sites for designation as new Ramsar Sites in Vietnam.

Malaysia

National meetings were held with the RAA, Department of Wildlife and Ramsar site managers. Key discussions were on WWD 08 celebrations (which had to be postponed due to national elections in March), and compilation of the national report on Ramsar implementation. More national meetings are being planned during April, and then more frequently and periodically until COP10.

Thailand

BCST has participated in National Ramsar Committee meetings, and provide bird expertise to technical committee meetings. It has submitted progress reports on the two sites where it is working (Chieang Saen Basin and Inner Gulf).

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

The project supported participation by the project partners at the Ramsar Asia Regional Preparatory meeting for COP 10, which was held in Bangkok, Thailand 14-18 January 2008. This was followed by an informal 'regional consultation on the implementation of the Ramsar Convention', organised by BirdLife, involving the RAAs and civil society partners, held 19-20 January. Ten persons from the four countries attended.

Whilst this can not be regarded as formal training, the Pre COP 10 meeting provided an excellent opportunity for government and NGO staff to learn about priorities for the next triennium, understand the process for development and input to COP 10 resolutions, learn about the latest thinking (and opportunities) for financing wetland conservation, and understand current thinking on topical issues for the Convention (wetlands in relation to climate change, human health, poverty reduction, agriculture and avian influenza).

The 'regional consultation' included sessions on the preparation of national reports for COP 10; consulting nationally on the COP 10 agenda and proposed resolutions; designation of new Ramsar Sites; completing the Ramsar Information Sheet, and sharing experience with holding World Wetlands Day. The regional consultation included a session on identifying the capacity development and training needs, and the priorities for future national and regional cooperation on Ramsar implementation.

Representatives from the four countries were supported to attend a BirdLife organised workshop 'Important Bird Areas and local conservation groups: legal/policy and equity/livelihood issues', which was held in Mumbai, 3-4 March 2008. They were able to bring to the workshop their experience of collaborative wetland management (see below), and discuss best practices and key lessons from Asia with other BirdLife Partners and with the

Indian NGO Kalpavriksh. Four people (one from each Darwin project country) attended the workshop.

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

There has been good progress with designing and implementing collaborative wetland management at six sites covered by the project: 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). Further information is given by country:

Cambodia

The project is supporting wetland conservation activities by local conservation groups at two sites in the country; Boeung Prek Lapouv and Kampong Trach. Monthly meetings have been held with these groups to discuss issues of wetland resource use, law enforcement, conservation awareness and site monitoring. With project support, both groups have appointed teams to strengthen law enforcement.

Malaysia

A stakeholder meeting to discuss site level issues and plan future activities for Bako Buntal Bay was held on 29th Sept 07 with 25 people. Participants included members of the MNS Kuching Branch, representatives from the Kampung Buntal Village Committee, and representatives from provincial government ministries (Development Corporation, Natural Resources and Environment Board, State Planning Unit, Forestry Corporation, Forest Department), as well as restaurant owners and tour operators. The meeting finalised the composition of a local conservation group for the area and this group has developed an activity plan. The Sept 07 meeting was followed-up by meetings with government, and key government agencies have given support and expressed interest in collaborating with the group towards better management of the Bay.

For the Kuala Selangor coast, MNS has brought together members of the MNS Selangor Branch Bird Group, the Friends of Kuala Selangor Nature Park, and local village representatives.

Thailand

BCST is working closely with local stakeholders in the Inner Gulf to strengthen conservation and awareness at this important wetland site, and promote designation of the area as a Ramsar Site. BCST has helped to establish the local 'Bird and Nature Conservation Club of Petchaburi', and has provided equipment and funding support to two other local groups in the area, the Khok Kham Conservation Club and the Natural Resources Conservation and Recovery Club of Eastern Mahachai.

In the Chieang Saen Basin, which includes the Nong Bon Khai Non Hunting Area and the unprotected Nong Lom wetland, BCST is helping to bring together a number of civil society groups, to advance a conservation agenda for the wetland, including the Center of Biodiversity Studies of Rachapat Chieng Rai University, the 'Friends of Birds Club ("Klum Puen Nok")' and the Yonok Wetland Conservation Group. A stakeholders meeting to prepare an action plan for Chieng Saen Basin management was organized on 28th February 08 with 81 participants, representing local government agencies, schools and local conservation groups.

Activity 4 Establishment of national wetland monitoring programmes covering key wetlands

David Pritchard (RSPB) has been advancing a "Watching the Wetlands" initiative with the Ramsar Secretariat and Standing Committee on behalf of BirdLife, and Ramsar's other International Organization Partners. This proposed joint initiative is designed to support the work of the Convention with wetland monitoring issues. As part of this, BirdLife is exploring ways in which its Important Bird Areas (IBA) monitoring framework, and WWF's site management effectiveness tracking tool, can contribute towards monitoring the status, trends and performance of Ramsar Sites. The Darwin project will explore ways in which this initiative might be advanced in the four participating countries.

A wetland monitoring framework has been developed by MNS in Malaysia, based on the IBA monitoring framework. It is designed to collect key information on sites, species, habitat and people (local stakeholder involvement). Modules for training in monitoring have been developed, and training has been conducted during the January 08 Asian Waterbird Census. MNS has shared this experience with the RAA, and reported on progress at national wetland meetings.

Progress has also been made in Vietnam. Discussions have been held at national Ramsar meetings on the need for a national monitoring framework, and how to incorporate Ramsar monitoring guidelines into existing national environmental monitoring systems.

In Thailand, BCST has provided data to the RAA for wetland monitoring, drawing on its waterbirds surveys carried out during the Asian Waterbird Census. There has not been any significant activity in relation to wetland monitoring in Cambodia.

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

Three of the four countries held World Wetland Day (WWD) activities, to promote the Ramsar Convention and wetland conservation more generally, following the 'Healthy Wetlands, Healthy People' theme. In each of the countries, WWD activities were planned and implemented in collaboration with the RAAs. WWD events were planned for Malaysia, but had to be postponed due to a clash with the national elections. Further details are provided below:

Vietnam

The WWD poster was translated and 1,500 copies were printed and distributed to wetland provinces in Vietnam. A public event on WWD was held in Van Long Wetland Nature Reserve, Ninh Binh Province. The event involved over 3,000 people from Youth Union of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MoNRE), the Youth Union of Ninh Binh Province, local people from two communes in Van Long area, students and pupils from local colleges and schools, and journalists from national and provincial TV, radio, and newspapers. Speeches were given by the Vice-Minister of MoNRE, Vice-Chairman of Ninh Binh Provincial People's Committee, and BirdLife International.

Cambodia

The national WWD poster was translated into Khmer and a T-shirt with the WWD theme was prepared and distributed. A national WWD event was held, organised by BirdLife Cambodia, Ministry of the Environment and university students. The event included presentations on the importance of wetlands and the Ramsar Convention, a quiz on wetlands, and a waste collection. The WWD activities were shown on three national TV channels namely: TVK, Bayon and CTN channels.

Thailand

A wide range of WWD activities were organised by the RAA in Thailand, with a particular focus on activities at priority wetland sites. BCST undertook some WWD activities in the Inner Gulf (although details have not been provided in time for inclusion in this report).

BirdLife is in contact with the Ramsar Secretariat regarding plans for COP 10 with a view to holding a side event, or making presentations, to promote the joint activities supported by the Darwin project.

3.2 Progress towards Project Outputs

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

Joint work programmes have been developed between the participating civil society organisations and the government RAAs in each of the four countries. The RAAs have welcomed NGO support and involvement, and these plans have been developed following discussion at national wetland committees, and through bilateral meetings. Further details by country are given below:

Cambodia

Collaboration between BirdLife and DNCP is focussing on: (1) designation of new Ramsar Sites; (2) updating of the Ramsar Information Sheets for existing Ramsar Sites; (3) holding World Wetland Day; and (4) completing the Cambodia National Report for COP 10. For the designation of new Ramsar Sites, this will include: (1) completing the process for at least one new site (documentation, consultation, endorsement) (perhaps Prek Toal, Tonle Sap); and (2) feasibility studies for at least five priority sites, based on the BirdLife Ramsar 'shadow list' – see below.

During the reporting period, BirdLife worked with the RAA to revise the Ramsar Information Sheet for the three existing Ramsar Sites, and the preparation of the national report for COP 10, and these were completed and submitted by the RAA to the Ramsar Secretariat.

Malaysia

Collaboration between MNS and MNRE is focussing on: (1) development of a wetlands 'tool kit' for each of the states in Peninsular Malaysia –see below for details; (2) continuation of MNS's role as the Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA) Focal Point; (3) support to the RAA with compilation of the national report for COP 10; (4) development of wetland monitoring frameworks; (5) holding World Wetlands Day; and (6) action plan for implementing the national wetlands policy.

MNS is preparing the Ramsar 'tool kit' on behalf of MNRE. The 'tool kit' will cover (1) importance of wetlands, including ecological services; (2) overview of the Ramsar Convention and implementation of the Convention in Malaysia; (3) Ramsar Sites and benefits of site designation in Malaysia; and (4) a list of important wetland sites in Malaysia.

Thailand

Collaboration between BCST and ONEP is focussing on: (1) designation of new Ramsar Sites – with ONEP endorsement, BCST is working with local groups, local government, local and national NGOs, and relevant research institutes to designate two new Ramsar Sites (Inner Gulf of Thailand and Nong Lom, Chiang Saen Basin); (2) holding World Wetlands Day; (3) wetland monitoring.

Vietnam

Collaboration between BirdLife Vietnam and VEPA is focussing on: (1) designation of new Ramsar Sites – four new sites are proposed: Tram Chim National Park; Ba Be National Park; Con Dao National Park, and U Minh; (2) development of a national 'shadow list' of sites qualifying for Ramsar Designation; (3) wetland monitoring; (4) holding World Wetland Day.

A focus during the reporting period has been the compilation of a Ramsar Information Sheet for a new Ramsar Site (Tram Chim), which has been sent to the Ramsar Secretariat as well as relevant ministries for consultation. Official submission is planned for May 2008. There are plans to designate at least two more sites over the next three years. Good progress has also been made with the 'shadow list', combing BirdLife data with other wetland data held by the RAA.

Progress has been made during the course of the project with the drafting of wetland inventories as candidate sites for the Ramsar List. These are now available as draft documents, and are being used by each country either to work on 'official' shadow lists or to provide guidance on the selection of priority sites for Ramsar designation. As mentioned, Malaysia will be using this resource in the preparation of its Ramsar 'tool-kit'. The draft inventories, compiled from information sources readily available to BirdLife, are attached as an annex to this report.

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

Participation at the Ramsar Asia Regional Preparatory meeting for COP 10 (Bangkok, January 2008) provided an excellent opportunity for the RAAs and NGO representatives to more fully understand the Ramsar Convention. Of the 10 participants involved in the project, only two had previously attended a Regional Preparatory meeting. As a result, participants will now have a better understanding of Contracting Party obligations (e.g. Ramsar site designation,

maintaining up-to-date Ramsar Information Sheets for existing Ramsar Sites) as well as being better prepared for national consultation in advance of COP 10 on topical issues likely to be covered by Conference Resolutions (such issues as wetlands in relation to climate change, human health, poverty reduction, agriculture and avian influenza).

The 'regional consultation' provided an opportunity for RAAs to informally share experience across the region. For example, RAA Thailand's experience with developing an official candidate list of Ramsar Sites, and securing cabinet-level approval for this, proved to be of great interest to other countries in the region, particularly Malaysia. RAA Vietnam's experience of inter-ministerial cooperation, and working at provincial level, was of great interest to Cambodia, where there are overlapping and competing competencies between government ministries. The four south-east Asia countries also benefited from discussions with a representative of the Japanese Ministry of the Environment, who was invited to the meeting, and shared Japan's experience of developing its candidate list of Ramsar Sites, and the designation of 20 new sites in time for the COP 9 in Uganda.

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

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

Cambodia

During the reporting period, local conservation groups at Boeung Prek Lapouv and Kampong Trach have had success preventing wild life trapping, illegal fishing, grassland burning, and land encroachment). With funding from the International Crane Foundation, the local conservation group and villagers succeeded in removing the alien invasive species *Mimosa pigra* from c100 ha of the wetland at Boeung Prek Lapouv.

There has been a significant conservation achievement for Boeung Prek Lapouv, which the Darwin project has helped to bring about. On 14th September 2007 the Council of Ministers in Cambodia issued a Decree which announced plans to establish the Boeung Prek Lapouv Sarus Crane Conservation Area, under the authority of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries. This is based on a proposal prepared and submitted by the BirdLife Cambodia programme and the local authorities. This important Decree was recently signed by Prime Minister Hun Sen. The Sarus Crane Conservation Area covers 8305 ha with a core zone of 919 ha. The Sanctuary protects one of the three most important wintering flocks of the Eastern Sarus Crane in Cambodia (and the world).

The BirdLife Cambodia programme is also promoting a proposal for a Crane Conservation Area for a second site, Kampong Trach, covering 238 ha. The proposal has the support of local leaders and relevant local government agencies. Two meetings were held (November and December 2007) at the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries to discuss a draft of the decree to designate the Crane Conservation Area, and it is now expected that the area will be designated a protected area in the second quarter of 2008 by *Prakas* (sub decree) of the Prime Minister or Deputy Prime Minister.

A study tour was organised, Dec 07, for local conservation group members (4 persons) from Boeung Prek Lapouv and Kampong Trach, to the Ang Tropeang Thmor (ATT) Sarus Crane Conservation Area. The purpose of this visit was to provide an opportunity for LCG members to share and exchange experiences and lesson learned in wildlife management and wetland conservation with the ATT team. In particular, useful experience was shared on measures to address illegal fishing.

A six day training course (March 2008) was organised for the Boeung Prek Lapouv local conservation group members by BirdLife and the Ministry of Environment which covered wildlife identification, use of field equipment, and development of monitoring skills. Nine persons attended the course

Malaysia

MNS has brought together a number of stakeholders to advance conservation at Bako-Buntal Bay, Sarawak, including representatives from local communities and key government ministries. A local conservation group has been established, which has multi-stakeholder endorsement, and this has developed an activity plan. A management plan is being developed for the Bay, a management planning team is being formed, and its members will receive relevant training to develop and implement the plan.

For the Kuala Selangor coast, MNS has brought together members of the Selangor Branch Bird Group, the Friends of Kuala Selangor Nature Park, and local village representatives.

Thailand

BCST is working closely with local stakeholders in the Inner Gulf and the Chieang Saen Basin to strengthen conservation and awareness at these important wetland sites, and promote their designation as Ramsar Sites. In the Inner Gulf, BCST has helped to establish the local 'Bird and Nature Conservation Club of Petchaburi', and has provided equipment and funding support to two other local groups in the area.

BCST has also established a mobile education centre which visited 10 schools in the Inner Gulf Area in August and September 07, the aim being to provide knowledge and to create an understanding of the importance of Inner Gulf to teachers and students in the area. BCST has also conducted a survey of the Endangered Spoon-billed Sandpiper (November 2007 - April 2008) in the Inner Gulf, and the area is proving to be increasingly important for the species.

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

The four countries plan to use the IBA monitoring framework alongside participation in the Asian Waterbird Census, and to contribute and integrate information from these into national wetland monitoring processes. This approach is most advanced in Malaysia where MNS has developed a wetland monitoring framework. Wetland monitoring training modules have been developed, and training has been conducted during the January 08 Asian Waterfowl Census.

The three other countries also participated in the Asian Waterbird Census and are developing wetland monitoring. BCST has facilitated the work of local institutes in wetland monitoring, has organised a workshop on wetland monitoring for local communities, NGOs and students. BCST has contributed Asian Waterbird Census to the RAA for updating the 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

World Wetland Day activities, held in three of the four countries (Vietnam, Cambodia and Thailand), have greatly helped to promote the importance of the Ramsar Convention. In two of the three countries, the Darwin project greatly contributed towards the scale of the activities carried out. It is envisaged that with more planning time available, and the experience from this year, that more impressive WWD activities will be organised for February 2009.

Plans are being developed for profiling the project at the forthcoming COP 10.

3.3 Standard Measures

Table 1 Project Standard Output Measures

Code No.	Description	Year 1
8	Total of 48 weeks spent by UK experts on project work in the host	A total of 3 weeks has been spent by UK experts in the project countries. Regrettably, this description appears to have been overambitious.

	countries.	
15A, 15C	Four national press releases in the host countries and one national press release in the UK on launch of the Darwin project	This was not organised, for which we apologise, but a press release is planned to coincide with participation by the four countries at COP 10.
14A	Workshops held at four sites to enable local stakeholders to review past conservation experience, identify current conservation issues and examine wise-use and sustainable financing options.	Workshops and stakeholder consultations have been held at six sites, which have provided a basis for reviewing natural resource use, and planning new conservation actions at each of the sites. Consultation on this scale undertaken by the project has been initiated for the first time at three of the sites, and has built on past experience and activities at three sites.
21	Site conservation partnerships involving local government, private sector and local land-users forged at four sites as outcome from these workshops.	Local conservation groups have been established and supported at six sites, with key stakeholders involved in each case. The scale and organised nature of the partnerships is perhaps greatest at the Bakol-Buntal Bay, in Sawarak, where a range of government agencies, community representatives, and private sector interest groups are involved.
9	Site conservation strategies prepared for at least four sites, drawing on Ramsar guidelines on wise-use of wetlands and site management planning.	Whilst conservation plans have been developed for each of the six sites mentioned above, these are not yet in a formal state, and further work is needed
7	Four sets of training tools and materials on Ramsar Convention implementation prepared and available in English, Khmer, Thai and Vietnamese; based on Ramsar Convention Technical Guidelines,	No formal training materials have been produced, and these are planned for year 2 and 3 of the project. Briefing documents and powerpoint presentations were prepared and distributed at the 'regional consultation on Ramsar implementation' (Bangkok, Jan 08) (covering national Ramsar reporting, the Ramsar Information Sheet, and criteria for Ramsar designation)
6A, 6B	Capacity of 24 government and civil society staff (Malaysian, Thai, Cambodian and Vietnamese) enhanced through attending two three-day regional training workshops covering key issues for effective Ramsar Convention implementation.	No formal training was organised during the period. However, the project helped to support 10 people from the four countries (four government, 6 NGO) to attend the Ramsar Asia Regional Preparatory meeting for COP 10 (Bangkok, January 08). This was followed by an informal 'regional consultation', organised by BirdLife. Participation at the Regional Preparatory meeting for COP 10 provided an excellent opportunity for the project partners to more fully understand the Ramsar Convention, its obligations, and its current priorities. Four people (one from each Darwin project country) shared experience with other Asian NGOs at a workshop on 'Important Bird Areas and local conservation groups: legal/policy and equity/livelihood

		issues', held in Mumbai (March 08).
10	National wetland monitoring frameworks published in English, Khmer, Thai and Vietnamese. 50 copies available for each country.	<p>A wetland monitoring framework has been developed, for Malaysia, incorporating key information on sites, species, habitat and people (local stakeholder involvement). Modules for training in monitoring have been developed, and training has been conducted during the January 08 Asian Waterfowl Census. This monitoring framework will be shared with the other three project countries, and MNS will provide a presentation on the framework when the project partners next meet (at COP 10).</p> <p>In Vietnam, discussions have been held at national Ramsar meetings on the needs of a national monitoring framework, and how to incorporate Ramsar monitoring guidelines into current national environmental monitoring systems.</p> <p>The annual Asian Waterbird Census (AWC) was conducted in January this year, involving volunteers in all four of the countries. Data from participation in the AWC census has been provided to the RAAs for national reporting and for the updating of Ramsar Information Sheets. The scale of civil society participation in the AWC provides an excellent opportunity for this to feed into wider wetland monitoring in the four countries.</p>
18A, 18C	Four national and four local TV features on wise use of wetlands and the Ramsar Convention broadcast in the host countries during World Wetlands Day events.	<p>WWD activities in Vietnam were covered by national and provincial TV, radio, and newspapers.</p> <p>WWD activities in Cambodia were shown on three national TV channels (TVK, Bayon, and CTN).</p>
Other	Inventories of candidate sites for the Ramsar List drafted for four countries. 100 copies available for each country.	Progress has been made during the course of the project with the drafting of wetland inventories as candidate sites for the Ramsar List. These are now available as draft documents, and are being used by each country either to work on 'official' shadow lists or to provide guidance on the selection of priority sites for Ramsar designation. As mentioned, Malaysia will be using this resource in the preparation of the Ramsar 'tool-kit'. The draft inventories, compiled from information sources readily available to BirdLife, are attached as an annex to this report.
Other	National Reports from Ramsar Administrative Authorities for COP 10 prepared with input from civil society partners and drawing on collaborative work supported by Darwin Project.	<p>BirdLife Vietnam has translated the COP10 national report format into Vietnamese. The report was filled in Vietnamese by the RAA, followed by consultation, facilitated by the project, during the 'round-table' meetings and national workshop. The final draft of the national report has been circulated for comments to other relevant ministries. It will then be translated into English and submitted to the Ramsar Secretariat by the end of April.</p> <p>MNS as member of the Malaysia wetland working group, played an important role in the national reporting process, together with other selected</p>

		<p>stakeholders. The Darwin project is expected to be mentioned in the national report in recognition of its contribution to national Ramsar implementation. The report is being finalised by the RAA and the Secretary-General of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE). Once finalised, it will be submitted to the Ramsar Secretariat and available on the Ramsar website.</p> <p>BirdLife Cambodia has assisted the RAA in the updating of Ramsar Information Sheet for the three existing Ramsar Sites as well as completion of the national report for COP 10. This has been completed and submitted by the RAA to the Ramsar Secretariat.</p> <p>BCST has provided the RAA with information on wetlands and waterbirds for inclusion in Thailand's national report.</p>
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In Table 2, provide full details of all publications and material produced over the last year that can be publicly accessed, eg title, name of publisher, contact details, cost. Mark (*) all publications and other material that you have included with this report.

Table 2 Publications

Type * (eg journals, manual, CDs)	Detail (title, author, year)	Publishers (name, city)	Available from (eg contact address, website)	Cost £
Please provide any details of published outputs activities.	A variety of posters, leaflets and other outreach materials have been produced by the four countries. These will be collated and copies provided to the Darwin Secretariat during year 2 of the project			

3.4 Progress towards the project purpose and outcomes

Considerable progress is judged to have already been made in strengthening government-civil society partnerships to support implementation of the Ramsar Convention in South-East Asia. Joint work plans have been developed between the civil society organisations and the RAAs in each of the four countries (significance judged to be greatest in Vietnam and Cambodia, significant in Malaysia, and least significant in Thailand). Common programmes of collaborative work include: (1) designation of new Ramsar Sites; (2) updating of the Ramsar Information Sheets for existing Ramsar Sites; (3) holding World Wetland Day; (4) completing the national report on Ramsar implementation for COP 10; and (5) development of wetland monitoring frameworks. Significant progress has already been made with respect to the updating of Ramsar Information Sheets for existing sites, and input to (and mobilisation of consultative processes for) the preparation of the reports on national Ramsar implementation for COP 10. Some progress has been made with the designation of new Ramsar Sites; a Ramsar Information Sheet has been drafted for one proposed Ramsar Site in Vietnam, and designation

is proposed for later in 2008. Vietnam has short-listed a further three sites for Ramsar designation over the next three years. There has also been some progress (although less than envisaged) with the development of national wetland monitoring frameworks (Malaysia). It is hoped that conservation activities at wetland sites in Cambodia, Thailand and Vietnam, will provide an opportunity to advance Ramsar designation for some of these during the course of the Darwin project.

These national level partnerships were further strengthened in the first year through participation at the Ramsar Asia Regional Preparatory meeting for COP 10 (Bangkok, January 2008) and the subsequent informal 'regional consultation', organised by BirdLife. This provided the RAAs and NGO representatives with an opportunity to more fully understand the Ramsar Convention, its obligations, and its current priorities. As a result, we believe the four countries are now better prepared for national consultation in advance of COP 10 on topical issues likely to be covered by Conference Resolutions. The 'regional consultation' in particular provided an opportunity for RAAs to informally share experience across the region. For example, RAA Thailand's experience with developing an official candidate list of Ramsar Sites, and securing cabinet-level approval for this, proved to be of great interest to other countries in the region, particularly Malaysia. RAA Vietnam's experience of inter-ministerial cooperation, and working at provincial level, was of great interest to Cambodia, where there are overlapping and competing competencies between government ministries. We firmly believe that the sharing of experience of this kind represents an excellent way for countries to find solutions to some entrenched problems that are holding back Ramsar implementation in the region.

3.5 Progress towards impact on biodiversity, sustainable use or equitable sharing of biodiversity benefits

The most significant concrete progress for biodiversity conservation has been progress with the designation of Sarus Crane Conservation Sanctuaries in Cambodia (one site legally designated, a second designation expected during 2008) (see below). At all of the sites where the project is working, wise use principles are being advanced, and local stakeholders are involved in the activities of the local conservation groups.

4. Monitoring, evaluation and lessons

Work plans have been developed with each of the four countries, and progress against these was reviewed in October 07 on the submission of six-month progress reports. The COP 10 preparatory meeting and informal consultation provided an opportunity for a review of progress against the workplans and a sharing of progress amongst the four countries. Priorities for the national partnerships were developed, as were plans for COP 10 activities and regional training. The submission of year 1 reports by each countries, and the review of these, has provided the basis for discussing progress in each country and this will be advanced once this report has been submitted to Darwin.

Whilst no formal evaluation of progress has taken place, it is possible to identify aspects of the project where progress has slipped, and lessons need to be learnt (see table below). We will more formally review progress when the project participants come together for COP 10 in October 08.

Issue	Proposed solution
National and international press coverage of the project has not been advanced	BirdLife Secretariat needs to plan in advance for this, and identify key stories. Preparations will be made for promoting the project in the run-up to COP 10. Secretariat will need to prepare guidelines and text, for use in each country.

National monitoring frameworks have not advanced in a coordinated or supported manner, and the countries have not received enough support from the BirdLife Secretariat	More comprehensive technical support by the BirdLife Secretariat is needed, backed up by a training session. We will also share Malaysia's monitoring framework with other countries.
Late planning for World Wetland Day activities resulted in fewer national activities than had been envisaged	Planning for WWD needs to start six months or more prior to the event; further sessions are needed to share WWD experience between countries.
Staff restructuring has resulted in less capacity to provide technical support to the project than was envisaged, and has weakened links between BirdLife and the Ramsar Secretariat	The loss of capacity will need to be filled by other staff at the BirdLife Secretariat.
More work is needed to address the training aspect of the project	Activities will be planned to ensure more structured training, alongside provision of training material, during the second year of the project. The main event will be a training course and study tour in Thailand in January 09.
Progress reports received from the four countries have provided less information than needed to fully judge (and report on) progress with the project. The reporting framework for the project has not proved to be effective.	More guidance will be given on reporting against the outputs and activities of the project.

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

Not applicable

6. Other comments on progress not covered elsewhere

There is a concern that the RAAs will change over the next year (key people in government in Vietnam and Cambodia have already changed since the project started).

7. Sustainability

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

8. Dissemination

Nothing significant to report, except for sharing of experience at the Pre-COP 10 meeting and regional consultation.

9. Project Expenditure

Table 3 Project expenditure during the reporting period (Defra Financial Year 01 July to 31 March)

Description	Budget	Actual expend.	Balance
Staff costs			
Rent, rates, heating, lighting, cleaning			
Postage, telephone, stationery			
Travel and subsistence			
Printing			
Conferences, seminars etc			
Capital items			
Others :			
Grants – education and awareness			
Grants – site conservation activities			
Annual financial audit			
TOTAL			

Highlight any agreed changes to the budget and explain any variation in expenditure where this is +/- 10% of the budget.

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

The Darwin project has helped greatly with the final stages of declaration of the Boeung Prek Lapouv Sarus Crane Conservation Area. On 14th September 2007 the Council of Ministers in Cambodia issued a Decree which announced plans to establish the Crane Conservation Area, and placing it under the authority of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, and this Decree was signed by Prime Minister Hun Sen in October 2007. The Sarus Crane Conservation Area covers 8305 ha with a core zone of 919 ha. The area protects one of the three most important wintering flocks of the Eastern Sarus Crane in Cambodia (and the world). Conservation activities implemented at Beung Preak Lapouv, supported by the Darwin project, have succeeded in preventing illegal wetland drainage and grass burning, and the local conservation group and villagers have removed the invasive weed *Mimosa pigra* from an area of 100 ha (with funding support from the International Crane Foundation).

The project is also helping to promote a second Sarus Crane Conservation Area at Kampong Trach covering 238 ha. This proposal is strongly supported by the Kampot Provincial Authority and Forestry Administration. The local conservation group, supported by the project, regularly monitors the area for illegal activities such as wildlife hunting, illegal fishing activities, forest clearing and grass burning, and land encroachment. During the reporting period, the group was able to prevent bird trapping, and an attempt at land encroachment.

I agree for ECTF and the Darwin Secretariat to publish the content of this section (please leave this line in to indicate your agreement to use any material you provide here)

Annex 1 Report of progress and achievements against Logical Framework for Financial Year: 2007/08

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements July 2007 - March 2008	Actions required/planned for next period
<p>Goal: <i>To draw on expertise relevant to biodiversity from within the United Kingdom to work with local partners in countries rich in biodiversity but constrained in resources to achieve</i></p> <p><i>The conservation of biological diversity,</i></p> <p><i>The sustainable use of its components, and</i></p> <p><i>The fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilisation of genetic resources</i></p>			<p><i>(do not fill not applicable)</i></p>
<p>Purpose</p> <p>To strengthen government-civil society partnerships to support implementation of the Ramsar Convention in South-East Asia.</p>	<p>Civil society organisations participating in wetland policy formulation & 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 are actively engaged in national Ramsar Committees (or their equivalents) in each of the four countries and this is providing them with opportunities to formulate and assist in the implementation of national wetland policies and programmes.</p> <p>Local stakeholders are engaged in conservation activities for six sites, two of which are currently accepted as candidate Ramsar Sites by the RAAs.</p> <p>A Ramsar Information Sheet has been drafted for one proposed Ramsar Site in Vietnam, and designation is proposed for later in 2008. Vietnam has short-listed a further three sites for Ramsar designation over the next three years</p>	<p>Major activities planned for second year include:</p> <p>(1) Formalisation of site conservation plans for wetland sites covered by the project</p> <p>(2) Formalisation of wetland monitoring frameworks and plans for wetland monitoring for each of the project countries</p> <p>(3) Participation by all project participants at COP 10, with opportunity for review of project progress</p> <p>(4) Planning and implementation of World Wetland Day activities in Feb 2009</p> <p>(5) Study tour and training course for all project partners to Thailand, hosted by the RAA (to benefit from Thailand's considerable experience in Ramsar implementation, and to learn about its approach in the</p>

			<p>designation and management of Ramsar Sites).</p> <p>Further details are provided in the project proposal</p>
<p>Output 1. Government and civil society organisations develop joint priorities and work plans for enhancing Ramsar implementation in 4 South-East Asian countries.</p>	<p>1a. Wetland site conservation priorities agreed in all 4 countries by end yr 1;</p> <p>1b. Civil society organisations actively involved in national Ramsar/wetland committee meetings or equivalent in at least 3 countries by end yr 1;</p> <p>1c. Joint strategies and work plans developed by end yr 1.</p>	<p>Joint work programmes, including site conservation priorities, have been developed between the participating civil society organisations and the government Ramsar Administrative Authorities (RAAs) in each of the four countries covered by the project.</p> <p>Civil society organisations are actively involved in the national Ramsar/wetland committees in each of the four countries; they are judged to be playing a significant (and supportive) role in two of these (Cambodia and Vietnam).</p> <p>Joint work plans have been developed between the civil society organisations and the RAAs in each of the four countries (significance judged to be greatest in Vietnam and Cambodia, and least in Thailand). Common themes running through the joint work plans for the four countries include: (1) designation of new Ramsar Sites; (2) updating of the Ramsar Information Sheets for existing Ramsar Sites; (3) holding World Wetland Day; (4) completing the national report on Ramsar implementation for COP 10; and (5) development of wetland monitoring frameworks;</p>	
<p>Output 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>The project helped to support 10 people from the four countries (four government, 6 NGO) to attend the Ramsar Asia Regional Preparatory meeting for COP 10 (Bangkok, January 2008). This was followed by an informal 'regional consultation', organised by BirdLife.</p> <p>Participation at the Regional Preparatory meeting for COP 10 provided an excellent opportunity for the RAAs and NGO partners to more fully understand the Ramsar Convention, its obligations, and its current priorities. As a result, participants are felt to be better prepared for national consultation in advance of COP 10 on topical issues likely to be covered by Conference Resolutions. The informal 'regional consultation' provided an opportunity for RAAs to informally share experience across the region.</p> <p>Four people (one from each Darwin project country) shared experience with other Asian NGOs at a workshop on 'Important Bird Areas and local conservation groups: legal/policy and equity/livelihood issues', held in</p>	

		Mumbai (March 08).
Output 3. Collaborative wetland management initiatives engaging local government and civil society stakeholders in place at priority sites.	3a. Local conservation partnerships established for at least 4 key wetland sites by end yr 2; 3b. Wetland conservation actions underway for at least 4 key wetland sites by end yr 3.	Local conservation groups have been supported at six sites in three countries: Kampong Trach and Boeung Prek Lapouv (Cambodia); Bako-Buntal Bay, Sarawak and North-central Selangor coast (Malaysia), and Chieng Saen Basin and the Inner Gulf (Thailand). The Darwin 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 (and BirdLife support for two in Cambodia may not have continued without Darwin support). Wetland conservation actions are underway at each of the six sites, with major progress being achieved for one of these (the designation of Boeung Prek Lapouv as a Sarus Crane Conservation Area).
4. National wetland monitoring programmes established as an activity of government-civil society partnerships.	4a. Wetland monitoring frameworks in place for all 4 countries by end yr 1; 4b. Key wetlands monitored by local coordinators in yrs 2 & 3; 4c. Monitoring results included in information presented at Ramsar COP 10 in yr 2.	The project plans to support wetland monitoring through its Important Bird monitoring framework and participation in the Asian Waterbird Census. A wetland monitoring framework has been developed by MNS in Malaysia, based on the IBA monitoring framework, and wetland monitoring plans have been advanced in Vietnam. A number of key wetlands were surveyed during the Asian Waterfowl Census, which was implemented in each of the four participating countries. This has provided valuable data for national wetland monitoring and input to the preparation of national Ramsar implementation reports.
5. The importance of the Ramsar Convention and the achievements of government-civil society partnerships demonstrated at national, regional and global levels.	5a. Achievements of gov't-civil society partnerships presented at Ramsar meetings, including COP 10 in yr 2; 5b. Importance of the Ramsar Convention promoted as a key message of the World Wetlands Day activities during yrs 1-3 and the World Bird Festival in Asia during yr 2.	Plans are being developed for profiling the project at the forthcoming COP 10. World Wetland Day activities, held in three of the four countries (Vietnam, Cambodia and Thailand) have greatly helped to promote the importance of the Ramsar Convention. In two of the three countries, the Darwin project greatly contributed towards the scale of the activities carried out. It is envisaged that with more planning time available, and the experience from this year, that more impressive WWD activities will be organised for February 2009.

<p>Activity 1. Workshops, meetings and joint planning exercises to facilitate the development of government-civil society partnerships.</p>	<p>Frequent meetings have been held in each of the four countries. These meetings have included the development of joint work plans (which are summarised above) and preparations for WWD and Ramsar COP 10.</p> <p>The scale and significance of the meetings, and scale of contribution by the Darwin project, has varied between the countries, ranging from meetings which would probably have happened anyway (Malaysia and Thailand) to where the Darwin project has been the catalyst for national wetland meetings involving a multitude of government and NGO participants (Cambodia).</p>
<p>Activity 2. Training for selected government and civil society staff in key areas of Ramsar implementation</p>	<p>No formal training was organised during the period.</p> <p>Selected government and civil society staff attended the Ramsar Asia Regional Preparatory meeting for COP 10 (Bangkok, January 2008) as well as an informal 'regional consultation', organised by BirdLife. These were felt to be excellent indirect approaches to building capacity in key areas of importance for Ramsar implementation.</p> <p>Similarly, participation at a BirdLife organised workshop 'Important Bird Areas and local conservation groups: legal/policy and equity/livelihood issues' was successful at sharing experience in site management and resource use.</p>
<p>Activity 3. Design and implementation of collaborative wetland management initiatives that engage local stakeholders.</p>	<p>Collaborative wetland management initiatives have been initiated and supported at the six sites covered by the project. At all six sites a wide range of stakeholders have been involved in consultations, and the planning and implementation of activities.</p>
<p>Activity 4. Establishment of national wetland monitoring programmes covering key wetlands.</p>	<p>A wetland monitoring framework has been developed by MNS in Malaysia, based on the IBA monitoring framework. It is designed to collect key information on sites, species, habitats and people (local stakeholder involvement).</p> <p>Progress has also been made in Vietnam. Discussions have been held at national Ramsar meetings on the need for a national monitoring framework, and how to incorporate Ramsar monitoring guidelines into current national environmental monitoring systems.</p> <p>In Thailand, BCST has provided data to the RAA for wetland monitoring, drawing on its waterbird surveys carried out during the Asian Waterbird Census. There has not been any activity in relation to wetland monitoring</p>

	in Cambodia.
Activity 5. Advocacy and outreach to promote Ramsar and the achievements of government-civil society partnerships.	Three of the four countries held World Wetland Day (WWD) activities, to promote the Ramsar Convention and wetland conservation more generally, following the 'Healthy Wetlands, Healthy People' theme. In each of the countries, WWD activities were planned and implemented in collaboration with the RAAs. WWD events were planned for Malaysia, but had to be postponed due to a clash with the national elections. Good media coverage was achieved for WWD activities in Cambodia and Vietnam

Annex 2 Project's full current logframe

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
<p>Goal:</p> <p>To draw on expertise relevant to biodiversity from within the United Kingdom to work with local partners in countries rich in biodiversity but poor in resources to achieve the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components, and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilisation of genetic resources</p>			
<p>Purpose:</p> <p>To strengthen government-civil society partnerships to support implementation of the Ramsar Convention in South-East Asia.</p>	<p>Civil society organisations participating in wetland policy formulation & implementation in at least 3 countries;</p> <p>Local stakeholders engaged in conservation of at least 4 <u>existing or proposed</u> Ramsar Sites;</p> <p>New Ramsar Sites designated in at least 3 countries.</p>	<p>Joint position papers, memoranda of cooperation and National Reports to Ramsar COPs;</p> <p>Reports of wetland management initiatives;</p> <p>Ramsar Information Sheets and the Ramsar List.</p>	<p>Governments remain open to policy dialogue with civil society on wetland issues;</p> <p>Institutional and policy frameworks enabling local stakeholders to engage in wetland conservation can be strengthened.</p>

<p>Outputs:</p> <p>1. Government and civil society organisations develop joint priorities and work plans for enhancing Ramsar implementation in 4 South-East Asian countries.</p>	<p>1a. Wetland site conservation priorities agreed in all 4 countries by end yr 1;</p> <p>1b. Civil society organisations actively involved in national Ramsar/wetland committee meetings or equivalent in at least 3 countries by end yr 1;</p> <p>1c. Joint strategies and work plans developed by end yr 1.</p>	<p>1a. Published official lists of candidate Ramsar Sites;</p> <p>1b. Meeting agendas, minutes and reports;</p> <p>1c. Strategies and work plans of participating civil society organisations.</p>	<p>Civil society organisations and government agencies can reach agreement on priorities for Ramsar implementation; Governments remain willing to engage with civil society on Ramsar implementation.</p>
<p>2. Capacity of government and civil society partners in key aspects of Ramsar implementation strengthened.</p>	<p>2a. At least 24 national government and civil society staff trained in Ramsar commitments and priorities, <u>developing and advancing wise-use policies and practices, and sustainably financing wetland conservation</u> by end yr 2.</p>	<p>2a. Training materials, needs assessments, evaluation reports, course agendas and participant lists.</p>	<p>Trainees remain in relevant positions after the project lifetime and are able to pass on skills to colleagues.</p>
<p>3. Collaborative wetland management initiatives engaging local government and civil society stakeholders in place at priority sites.</p>	<p>3a. Local conservation partnerships established for at least 4 key wetland sites by end yr 2;</p> <p>3b. Wetland conservation actions underway for at least 4 key wetland sites by end yr 3.</p>	<p>3a. Agreements and joint work plans;</p> <p>3b. Activity reports and media coverage.</p> <p>3c. National reports by Ramsar Administrative Authorities.</p>	<p>Wetland management issues of common concern to site managers and local civil society stakeholders can be identified and addressed at the site level.</p>

<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 & 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; 5b. Importance of the Ramsar Convention promoted as a key message of <u>the World Wetlands Day activities during yrs 1-3 and the World Bird Festival in Asia during yr 2.</u></p>	<p>5a. COP 10 agenda, national reports and reports of side-events; 5b. Media coverage and reports of <u>World Wetlands Day and World Bird Festival</u> in Asia.</p>	<p>Ramsar COP continues to welcome civil society involvement; Opportunities are provided at the COP for joint reports to be given.</p>

<p>Activities: 1. Workshops, meetings and joint planning exercises to facilitate the development of government-civil society partnerships.</p>	<p>Activity Milestones: <u>1.1</u> National priority-setting workshops held (yr 1); <u>1.2</u> Official lists of candidate Ramsar Sites drafted (yr 1); <u>1.3</u> Round-table meetings to formulate <u>and review</u> joint strategies and work plans held (yrs 1-2); <u>1.4</u> Joint position papers on key wetland policies relating to Ramsar drafted (yrs 2-3); 1.5 Cross-sectoral consultation meetings to explore linkages to wider poverty reduction initiatives held (yrs 2-3). [Previous activity 1.1 (Regional meeting of national partners held) deleted]</p>	<p>Assumptions: 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); 2.2 Training tools and materials prepared (yr 1); 2.3 Regional training workshops in Ramsar commitments and priorities, developing and advancing wise-use policies and practices, and sustainably financing wetland conservation held (yrs 1 & 3); 2.4 Hands-on training in site action planning and forming partnerships with local stakeholders provided (<u>yrs 2-3</u>).</p>	<p>Nominated staff are available to attend training courses and participate in field trips; 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 (<u>yr 1</u>); 3.3 Training workshops for local stakeholders held (<u>yrs 2 & 3</u>); 3.4 Wetland conservation actions implemented (<u>yrs 1-3</u>); 3.5 Consultations with sustainable financing initiatives to broker relationships with priority sites held (yrs 2-3).</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 (<u>yrs 1-2</u>); 4.3 Local monitoring coordinators identified and trained by national civil society trainers (yr 2); 4.4 Annual wetland monitoring undertaken (yrs 2-3) <u>4.5</u> Monitoring reports prepared and published (yrs 2-3); <u>4.6</u> Monitoring results integrated into national environmental reporting (yrs 2-3).</p>	<p>Local monitoring coordinators can be identified at key wetland sites; Opportunities to integrate monitoring results into national environmental reporting arise during the project lifetime.</p>
<p>5. Advocacy and outreach to promote Ramsar and the achievements of government-civil society partnerships.</p>	<p>5.1 Successful government-civil society collaboration for wetland conservation documented (yr 2); 5.2 Presentations made at Ramsar COP 10 (yr 2); 5.3 Public awareness activities implemented during the World Bird Festival in Asia (yr 2); 5.4 Public awareness activities implemented during World Wetlands Day (yrs 1-3) [Previous activity 5.4 (Briefings for key government and civil society stakeholders organised) deleted]</p>	<p>BirdLife is invited to present at Ramsar COP 10 and/or a side event; Key government and civil society stakeholders are available to attend briefings on Ramsar.</p>

Annex 3 – 6

Draft inventories of candidate Ramsar Sites for Cambodia, Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam

Checklist for submission

	Check
Is the report less than 5MB? If so, please email to Darwin-Projects@ectf-ed.org.uk putting the project number in the Subject line.	
Is your report more than 5MB? If so, please advise Darwin-Projects@ectf-ed.org.uk that the report will be send by post on CD, putting the project number in the Subject line.	
Do you have hard copies of material you want to submit with the report? If so, please make this clear in the covering email and ensure all material is marked with the project number.	
Have you completed the Project Expenditure table?	
Do not include claim forms or communications for Defra with this report.	