



Development of the Programme

This facts sheet highlights the process of development of the Mekong Wetlands Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Use Programme (MWBP) and its objectives and components.

HISTORY

- 1995/1996 – First discussions and concepts developed between IUCN, Wetlands International and the four governments
- 1997/1999 – GEF PDF A funding secured to define the concept
- 1999-2002 – GEF PDF B process to develop the programme brief
- End 2001 – IUCN WANI Mekong Coordinator appointed to assist with the process of development of the full MWBP
- March 2002 – GEF Council approves the programme brief to be granted in two phases 1. Phase A - Creating the enabling environment; and 2. Phase B - Full implementation. Phase B to be dependent upon mid-term evaluation and proposal of Phase B programme document.
- June 2002 – IUCN secures interim funding (\$600,000) for development of programme document from Netherlands Embassy in Thailand, through UNDP
- June 2002 – July 2004 – Development of programme document, agreements reached with UNDP, MRC and IUCN and the four governments.
- October 2002 – Appointment of three field project officers in demonstration sites in Cambodia, Thailand and Viet Nam, and with IUCN Lao providing support in Lao demonstration site.
- November 2002 – UNDP carries out institutional capacity assessment of IUCN and MRC
- Participatory Poverty Assessments (with Action Aid), Training Needs Assessments (with RECOFTC) and Institutional Analyses conducted in each site.
- Funds mobilised from Wetlands International for wetland work in Songkhram Basin, Thailand
- January 2003 MWBP Team Leader takes up position in Phnom Penh
- January – June 2003 discussions between UNDP, MRC and IUCN to identify the institutional framework of the MWBP. Developed a framework with all three institutions as equal partners, the UNDP as GEF executing agency and IUCN and MRC as implementing agencies under co-operation agreements with UNDP. Structure aims to play to the strengths of all three organisations. UNDP Team Leader (seconded from IUCN) with an IUCN Programme Manager and MRC Programme Manager
- April 2004 – Project Management Unit moves to Vientiane, to collocate near the MRC (moved to Vientiane in June 2004). UNDP Lao takes over responsibility for overall programme administration
- May 2004 – GEF CEO approves the programme document
- 19 July 2004 – Signing Ceremony and first Regional Steering Committee. UNDP, MRC, IUCN and governments of Cambodia, Lao PDR and Thailand sign. Viet Nam starts process of approval. MWBP implementation starts in three countries.
- Jan 5 2005 – Viet Nam Prime Minister approves programme document and implementation in Viet Nam starts.
- April 2005 – Second Regional Steering Committee
- Oct 2005 – Sixth Programme Management Committee approves extension of Phase A to end Dec 2006
- February 2006 – Third Executive Regional Steering Committee approves strategy for Phase B development

MWBP – PHASING

- Phase A: July 2004 - June 2006 (extended to December 2006)
- Phase B: January 2006 – December 2009

A JOINT UNDP - IUCN - MRC GEF-FUNDED PROGRAMME



CAMBODIA



LAO PDR



THAILAND



VIETNAM



IUCN
The World Conservation Union





MWBP Principle, Goal and Purpose

Principle – It is not possible to conserve the biodiversity of Mekong wetlands without addressing issues of sustainable use, livelihoods and poverty

Goal - Conservation and sustainable use of wetland biodiversity in the Lower Mekong Basin

Purpose - To strengthen capacities for conservation and sustainable use of wetlands in the Lower Mekong Basin at regional, national and provincial levels

MWBP Five Root Causes and Themes

	Root cause of wetland degradation and loss	MWBP Theme
1	Lack of integration between sectors in development planning	Multi-sector planning at national and regional level
2	Lack of supportive policies and incentives for wetland conservation and sustainable use	Strengthened policy and economic framework
3	Lack of knowledge about wetland biodiversity and its use and lack of awareness amongst decision makers and the public	Increased awareness and information
4	Lack of capacity for wetland management and wise use at all levels	Enhanced human and technical resources
5	Lack of viable livelihood alternatives for local communities using wetland resources	Four sustainable resource use demonstration projects

MWBP Five Components

The components of the MWBP are the divisions of outputs and budgets. The Country components are divided into outputs and activities at national and provincial levels

Component 1.- Regional

- **Programme Management Unit** hosted by IUCN Lao

Component 2.- Cambodia,

- **National** – hosted by Ministry of Environment (MoE)
- **Provincial** - Stung Treng Ramsar Site demonstration site

Component 3.- Lao PDR,

- **National** – hosted by Living Aquatic Resources Research Centre (LARReC), Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
- **Provincial** –Attapeu Province demonstration site

Component 4. - Thailand

- **National** – hosted by Office of Natural Resources and Environment Policy and Planning (ONEP) of Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment
- **Provincial** –Lower Songkhram Basin demonstration site

Component 5. - Viet Nam

- **National** – hosted by Viet Nam Environment Protection Agency (VEPA) of Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment
- **Provincial** – Plain of Reeds: Tram Chim National Park and Lang Sen Provincial Nature Reserve, Mekong Delta demonstration site