

## Communications Training for Regional Professionals

NINE regional professionals will gather in Vientiane this week to take part in a training seminar aimed at improving communication skills.

The training, organised by the Mekong Wetlands Biodiversity Programme (MWBP), will be attended by staff of the programme from Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and Viet Nam.

Focusing on topics such as communication strategy development, writing skills, dealing with the media and branding, the training aims to increase the general and technical communications capacity of the participants.

"This is a unique opportunity to provide sustainable skills transfer through the Mekong Wetlands Biodiversity Programme," Ms Sarah Wood, Regional Communications and Networks Coordinator, said.

"Communications is an integral component of every organisation, programme and project, and we should concentrate on improving capacity across the region," she continued.

Over the four days participants will be exposed to a number of communication topics through presentations from communication

professionals. Learning will be highly interactive through the use of exercises, group work and an excursion. Group participation and creative thinking will be highly encouraged.

The Mekong Wetlands Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Use Programme (MWBP) is a joint programme of the four riparian governments of the Lower Mekong Basin – Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and Viet Nam – managed by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), IUCN – The World Conservation Union and the Mekong River Commission (MRC), in collaboration with other key stakeholders.

With funding from the Global Environment Facility (GEF), UNDP, the Royal Netherlands Government, MRCS, the Water and Nature Initiative (WANI) and other donors, the programme addresses the most critical issues for the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources in the Mekong wetlands.

MWBP aims to strengthen the capacity of organisations and people to develop sustainable livelihoods and manage wetland biodiversity resources wisely.