



## Partners and Stakeholders

This facts sheet highlights the partners and stakeholders of the Mekong Wetlands Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Use Programme (MWBP) and the different roles that they play.

### Partnership Strategy

The tasks involved with strengthening capacity for wetland conservation and sustainable use are very big and complex. It is not possible for one organisation or programme to cover all the required aspects, and yet there is an urgent need for coordination and for inclusion of the different projects and activities that are being undertaken by different organisations. The MWBP has developed a partnership strategy and mechanisms for involving both government organisations and NGOs as partners in the programme. The mechanisms include:

- Principal Government Partners – working through the government focal points and National Programme Offices
- Other Government Departments, Institutes and Agencies – working through departmental focal points and through contractual arrangements for specific pieces of work
- Networking partnership with NGOs for information sharing, training and communication purposes
- Participation of NGOs in the Regional Wetlands Coordination Forum
- Co-financing partnerships in which the programme and NGOs work together to develop, raise funds for and implement sub-projects in line with the objectives of the programme and the partner organisation
- Parallel partnerships in which the partner organisation (NGO or Government organisation) is carrying out activities that are directly in line with the programme objectives and outputs, and which may be considered as a form of co-finance. The Programme might provide staff-time to assist, would share information and would provide a route to decision makers through the Steering Committee structures.
- Contractual partnerships in which the programme contracts a partner organisation to undertake specific pieces of work identified by the Programme or by the partner, in line with Programme objectives and outputs.

### Roles played by partner organisations

The activities and linkages with some key partner organisations are described below:

**Care in Viet Nam** is working with the MWBP on livelihoods and community development issues in the Plain of Reeds Demonstration Sites. In addition to a direct contract with MWBP for this work, they have also sourced DANIDA funds to contribute to this work

**Health Unlimited** is a UK-based NGO specialising in health-care development and is working with MWBP in both Stung Treng and Attapeu demonstration sites. They are addressing the links between wetlands and health and nutrition, water supply and sanitation, providing training for community health workers and local mother and child clinics.

**VSO** is collaborating with the MWBP in the provision and support of two of the Technical Advisers in Stung Treng PPO and in the Plain of Reeds PPO.

**TRAFFIC** – as a lead into the anticipated involvement of TRAFFIC Phase B, an initial survey of wildlife use and trade in both Attapeu and Stung Treng provinces has been carried out in both dry and wet season under contract from MWBP.

**RECOFTC** carried out the initial training needs assessments for the MWBP during the development of the programme document. They have been working with the Regional Training Coordinator to provide training courses for programme staff (e.g. communication and facilitation skills, conflict management) and to carry out action research on training for collaborative wetland management.

**Wetlands Alliance** is a joint project of AIT, WWF, Wetlands International and WorldFish recently supported by SIDA, with which the MWBP is anticipating close collaboration. The project aims to work on local community and sustainable use of wetland natural resources.

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**Wetlands International and World Commission on Dams (WCD)** provided the funds for the initial work to be carried out in the Songkhram during the preparatory assistance phase. To date there has not been a direct involvement in implementation of MWBP, but discussions continue. They are part of the Wetlands Alliance.

**International Water Management Institute (IWMI)** are working with the MWBP on environmental flows, providing much of the technical and hydrological support to this work. They are also working on wetland economic issues, especially on the socio-economic studies on wetlands and irrigation.

**Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)** are working with the MWBP on two of the Species Conservation Plans for both the Irrawaddy Dolphin and the Siamese Crocodile in Cambodia and Lao PDR. They have carried out surveys for crocodiles in Lao and Viet Nam, and are part of a joint sub-project with WWF for dolphin conservation in Cambodia.

**WWF** are working with the MWBP, both through their Living Mekong Programme (part of the WWF Greater Mekong Programme), and through the Dolphin conservation work in Cambodia. They also have projects starting in Attapeu and on the Sekong River with which the MWBP will be closely collaborating. They are part of the Wetlands Alliance.

**Oxfam** is working with the MWBP through their regional Mekong River Basin Management Programme. They have participated in the work on upper Mekong surveys in Lao PDR, and in the stakeholder consultations in the wider basin.

**WorldFish Centre** was a part of the wetlands approach project in Cambodia and Lao PDR. They have also carried out fishery economic studies in Stung Treng and other parts of Cambodia. They are part of the Wetlands Alliance.

**Mahidol University Network for Wetland Ecology and Conservation Trainings in the Mekong Region** – is a network of eight universities in the Lower Mekong countries that organise an annual three-week training course on wetlands ecology. MWBP have supported this training course by sending two persons from each of the four countries to take part each year. MWBP staff have also provided lectures on particular aspects of the programme.

**International Crane Foundation** is the leading organisation on crane conservation worldwide. Over the past decade they have been working in Tram Chim and the Mekong Delta and in Cambodia. ICF has been contracted by MWBP to develop the Species Conservation Plan for the Sarus Crane.

**Royal Holloway College, London** has been running a Darwin Initiative project in the Mekong Delta with Can Tho University. They have carried out various studies in Tram Chim and Lang Sen leading to a Decision Support System for land-use planning and running training courses on Ecosystem Management.

**Imperial College, London** is carrying out a Darwin Initiative project aimed at conservation of the Giant Mekong Catfish. Two joint workshops have been run to develop the SCAP for the catfish.

**SEARIN** - the Southeast Asia Rivers Network provided support to establish the Tai Bann research in Songkhram and links with similar local initiatives in other parts of Thailand. MWBP/IUCN also provided support to SEARIN and partners of Tai Bann research in north Thailand looking at impacts of upper Mekong development.

#### **Regional Wetlands Coordination Forum (RWCF)**

The RWCF is a mechanism for coordination between different international and regional organisations working on wetland issues in the Mekong. It will consist of an annual gathering to discuss wetland issues and contribute to policy debates on such issues. An electronic mailing for this network is being developed to raise issues, circulate papers and further discussions amongst these organisations – see networking strategy.

Other partners include, but are not limited to, James Cook University for work related to the Irrawaddy Dolphin; Khon Kaen University for work related to economic and irrigation in northeast Thailand; and M-POWER for research related to the improvement of water governance.