RFI SITE STUDIES

The East Asian-Australasian Regional Flyway Initiative (RFI)

Site Studies & Nature Credits

RKSI Seminar
27 May 2026

Duncan Lang, Principal Environment Specialist
Climate Change and Sustainable Development Department

RFI Phased Approach – Development to Implementation

PHASE 1 2022

Initial List Identified

- Scientifically rigorous process
- Extensive consultation with experts.
- Development of methodology by Site Selection Task Team (SSTT)
- Analysis of 400+ sites of international importance for migratory waterbirds.

PHASE 2 2023 - 2024

Refinement

Further Analysis
- Carbon stock assessment
- Ecosystem services assessment

Government and Stakeholders Dialogue
- Government priority sites identified
- Opportunities with Government at local, provincial, and national levels
- Examined obligations under national/ international agreements (i.e. Wetland Acts, Ramsar, CBD, CMS)
- Identified sectors that can contribute (agriculture, aquaculture, tourism, etc.)

Final List

Government endorsement

PHASE 3 2024 – 2026

WE ARE HERE

Project Site Studies

Site studies prepared for **50 Priority Sites**

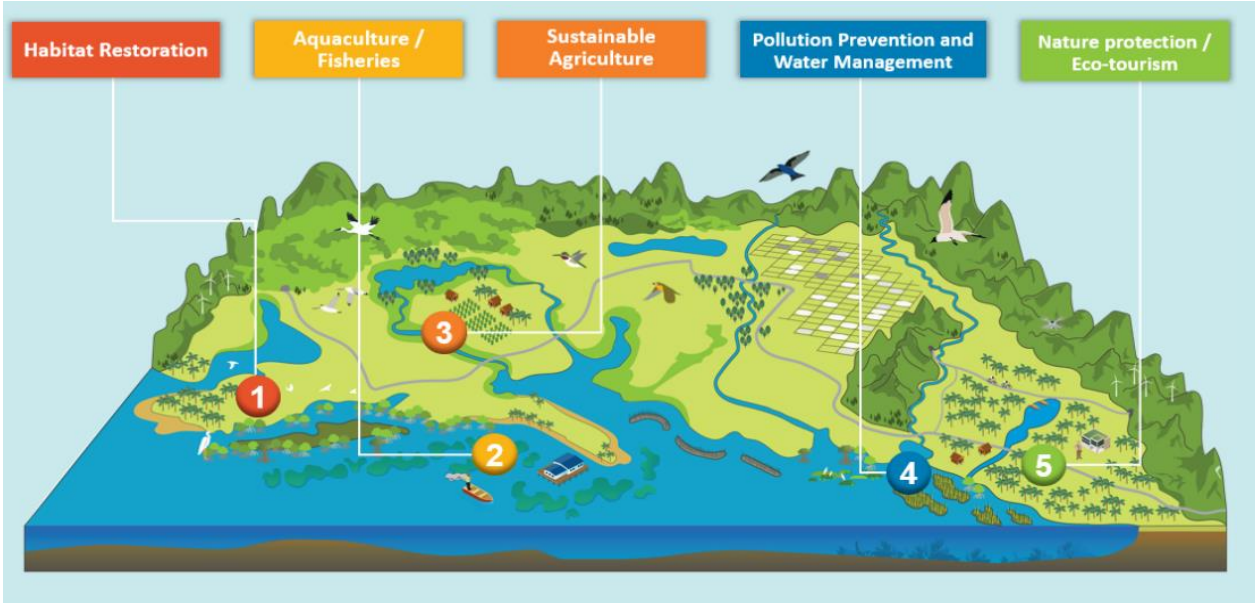
- Nature Credits
- Capacity Building
- GEF Grant Proposals

IMPLEMENTATION PHASE 2024 – 10 yrs+

Full Project Preparation

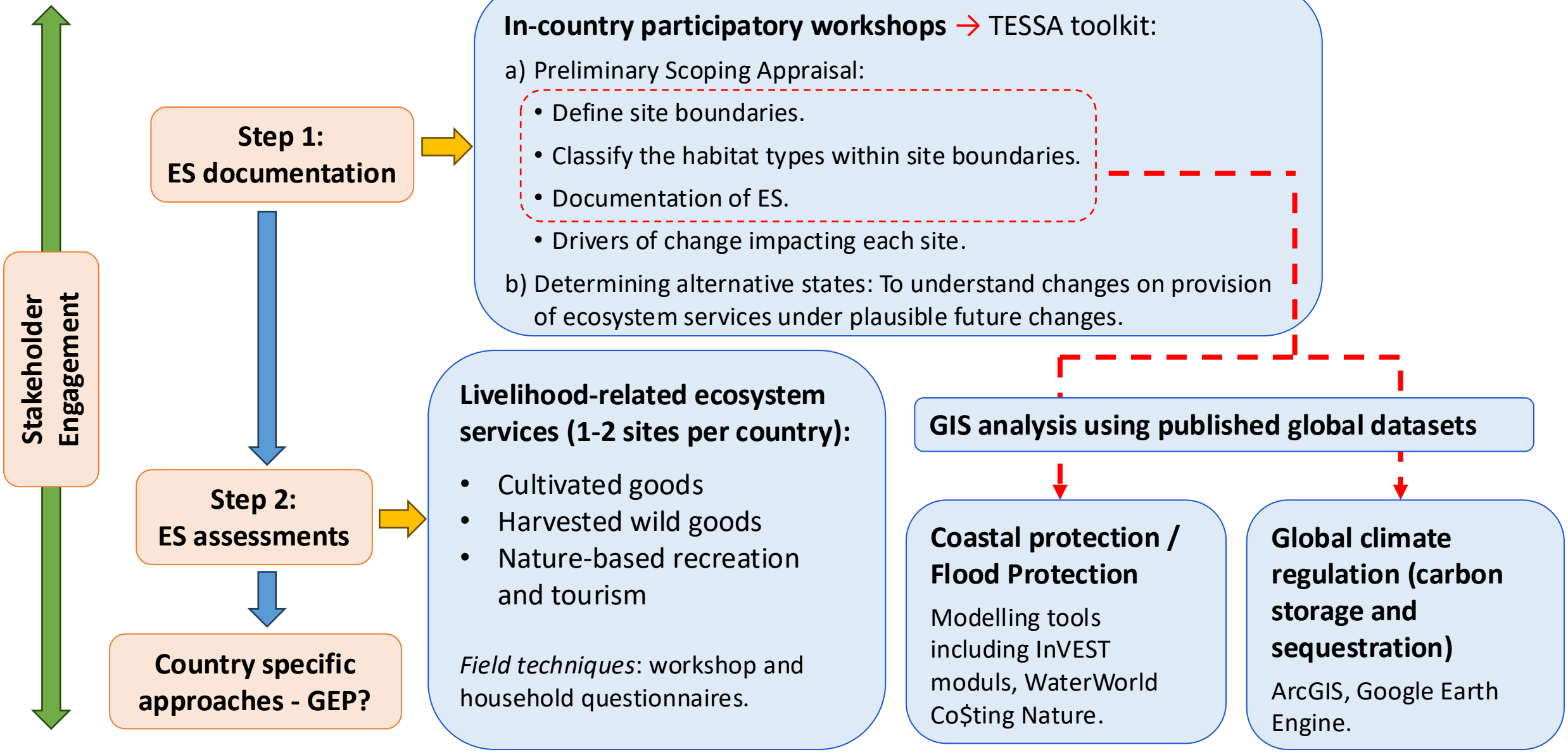
Early support via TA for
- Technical Review
- Project Preparation
- In-country expertise

Additional TA support



Investing in wetlands delivers not only for **nature** but delivers great opportunities for **livelihoods and resilience**

Ecosystem Services Assessment – RFI Approach



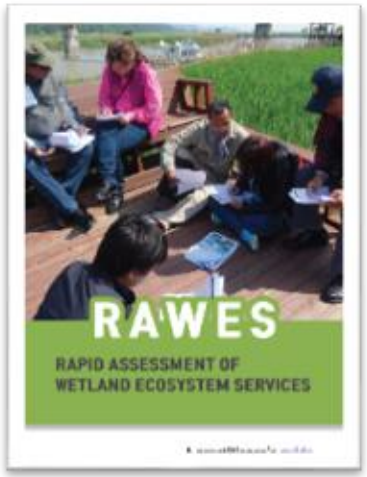
Ecosystem Services Assessment – RFI Approach

- Combination of toolkits and resources:

Participatory workshops

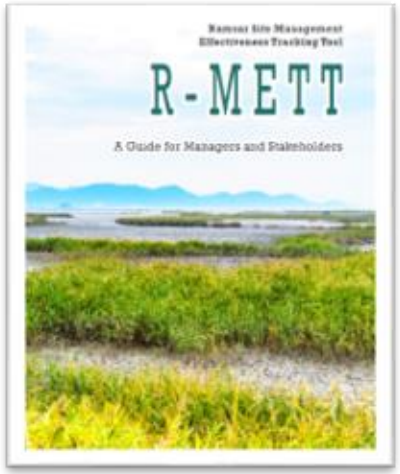
Desk-based

- **Main framework.**
- Documentation of ES.
- Assessments of livelihood-related ES.
- Valuations of ES: current vs. alternative state.

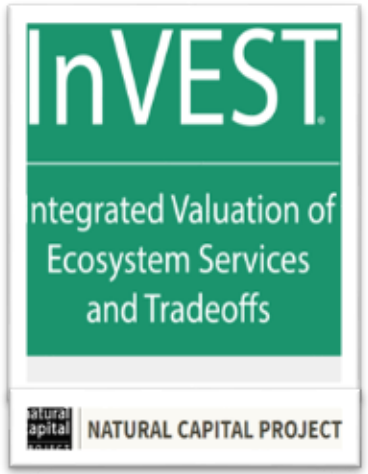


- Classification of ES.
- Tailored for wetlands.

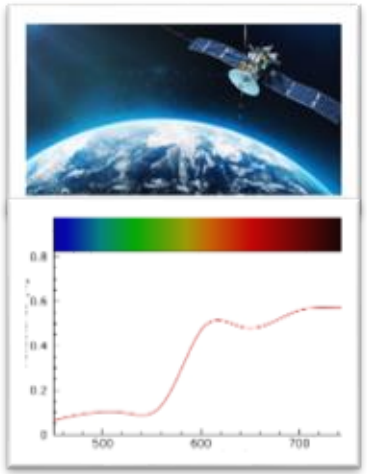
- Recommended fields for ES in KBS.



- Classification of drivers of change.
- Tailored for wetlands.



- Modelling tools using published global datasets.
- For coastal protection & Flood Protection etc.



- Remote sensing methods.
- For carbon storage.

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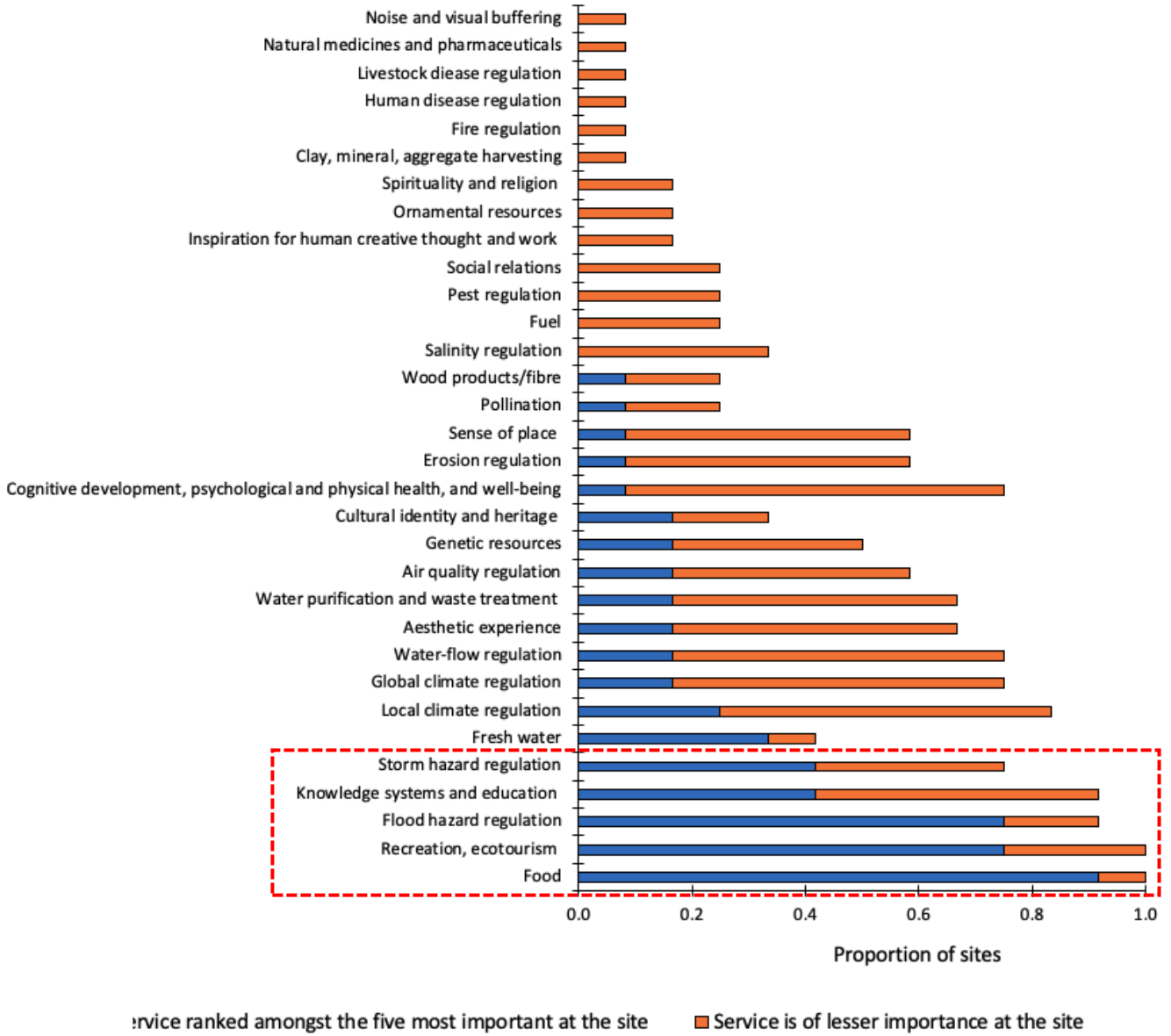
Participation during workshops now held in the Philippines Cambodia, Thailand, Mongolia and Bangladesh

Ecosystem Services Assessment - Philippines Preliminary Results

- Proportion of wetland sites delivering different ES and their relative importance:

Top five ecosystem services:

1. Food (provisioning ES).
2. Recreation and ecotourism (cultural ES).
3. Flood hazard regulation (regulating ES).
4. Knowledge systems and education (cultural ES.
5. Storm hazard regulation (regulating ES).

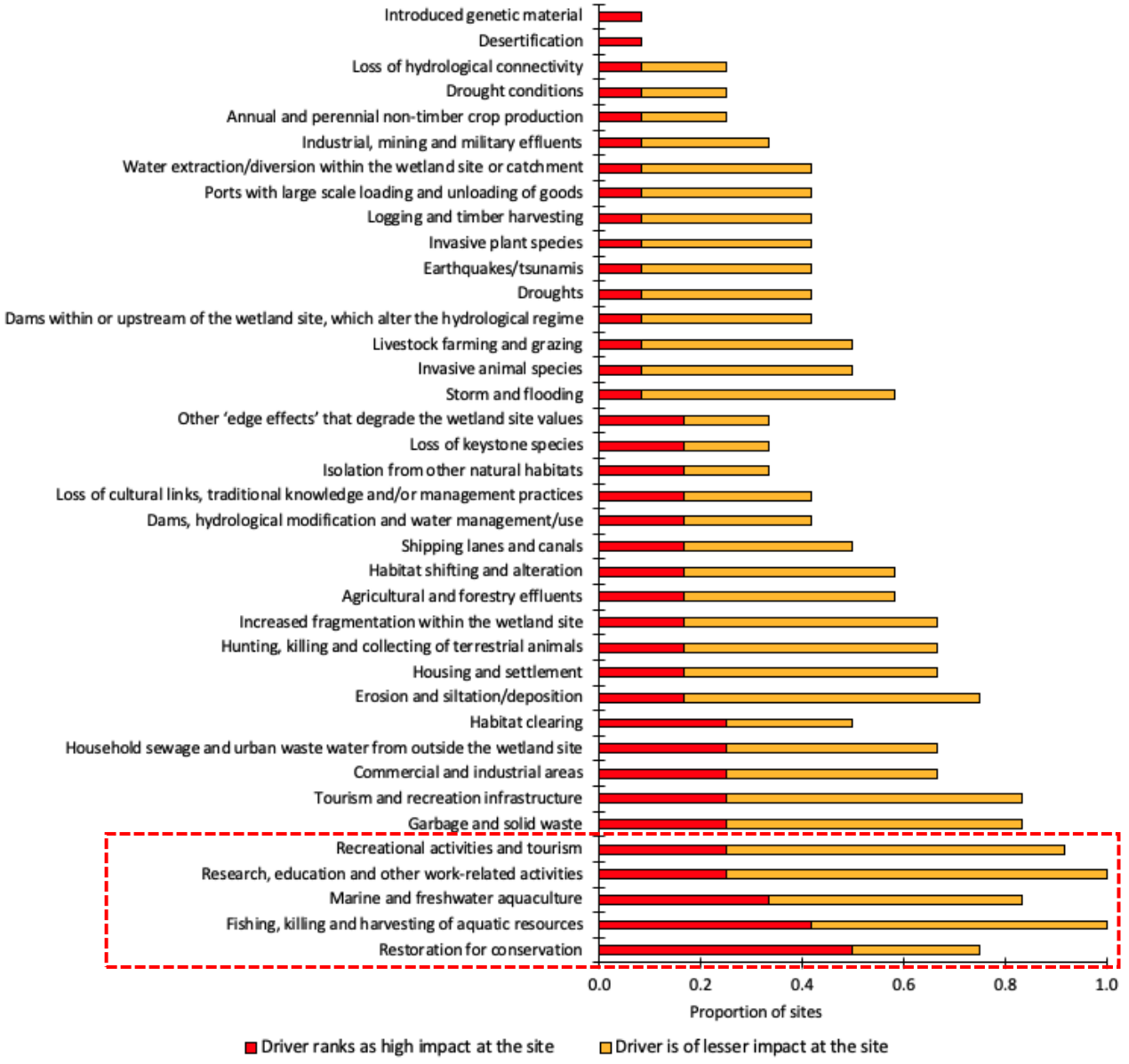


Ecosystem Services Assessment – Drivers of Change

Pressures affecting the delivery of ecosystem services at the wetland sites:

Top five drivers of change:

1. Restoration for conservation.
2. Fishing, killing and harvesting of aquatic resources.
3. Marine and freshwater aquaculture.
4. Research, education and other work-related activities.
5. Recreational Activities and Tourism.



Ecosystem Services Assessment - Philippines Preliminary Results

Estimated economic value of sequestered carbon based on the boundaries of RFI sites

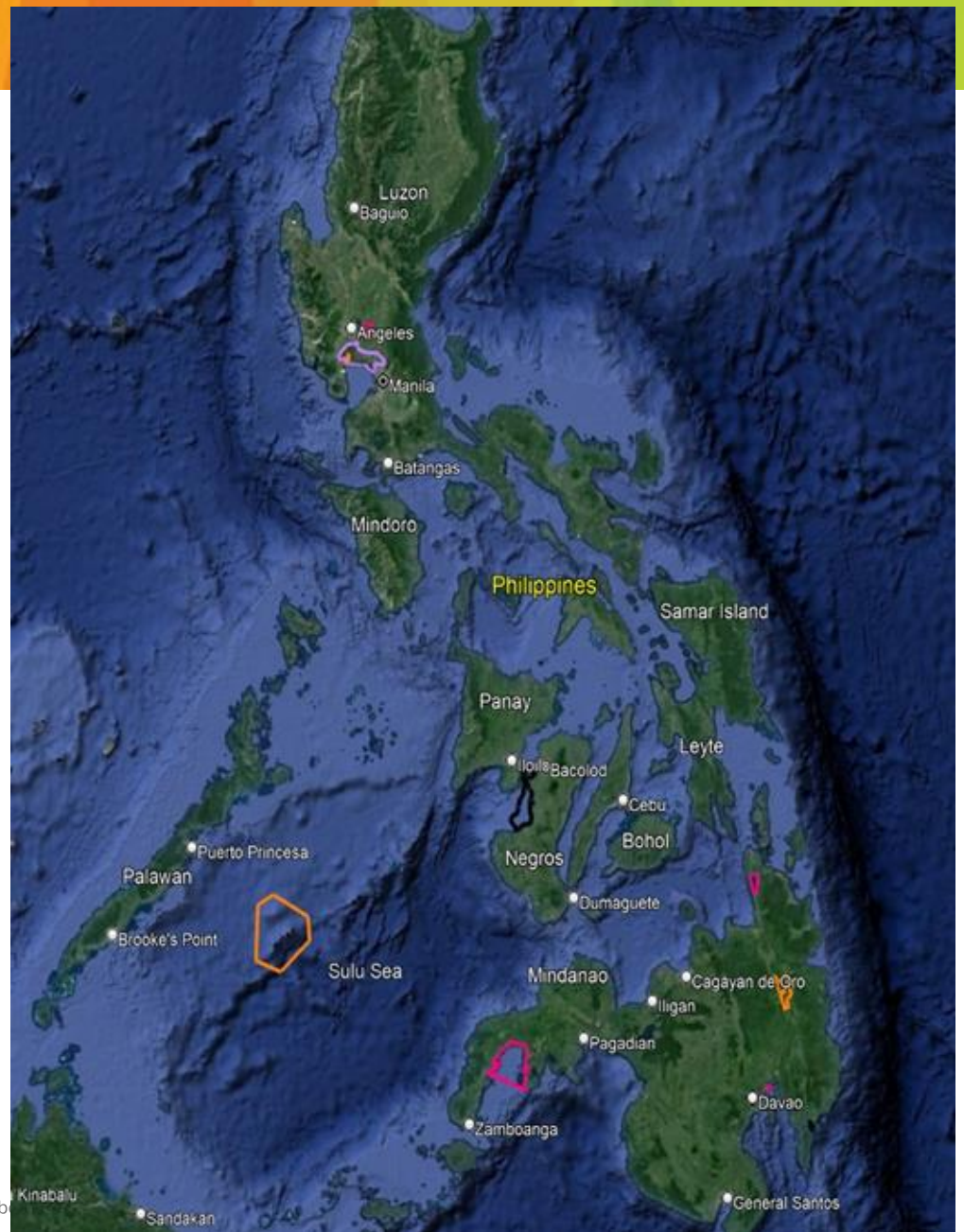
PHILIPPINES 8 out of 12 RFI sites			Wetland Land Cover Types
Area (ha)	Total Mg CO_2e/yr	$ million/yr	
805	48,555	4.674	Mangroves
8,219	5,252	4.483	Grasslands / Savannas
3,047	4,041	0.372	Peatlands
10,100	48,555	4.467	Tidal Flats
43,527	65,269	6.005	Forests
65,698	126,445	11.633	TOTAL

Notes: Sites comprise those with confirmed boundaries; Total Mg CO2e - total carbon dioxide equivalent in megagram; 1 Mg CO2e = US$92, EU Emissions Trading System (EU ETS) mean market price as of 2022.

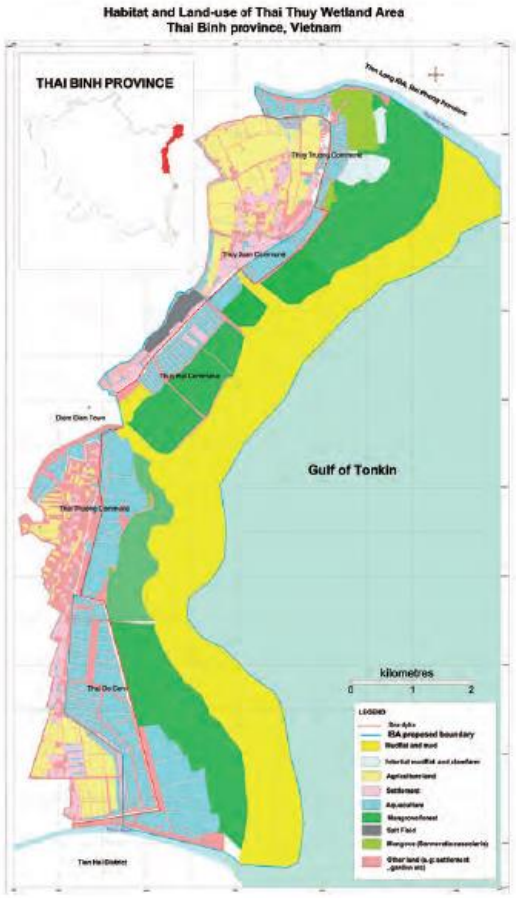
Equivalent cost averted from potential financial losses from flooding and extreme weather events by Mangroves in Philippines

	Annual Expected Benefits to Total Stock	Annual Expected Benefits/ha of mangroves to Total Stock
Ha of Mangroves*	$ million*	$/ha*
3–15	38–162	2,207–19,633

Notes: Total Stock = benefits to people + industrial stock + residential stock



Ecosystem Services results – TESSA output example: Thai Thuy, Viet Nam



Land use	Area (ha)
Intertidal mudflat	3,766
Mangrove forest	1,754
Aquaculture	1,411
Salt farm	50
Total	6,981

Map and land use of Thai Thuy Wetland

Benefit

Harvested Wild Goods $2.2 million/year

Fish harvested in Thai Thuy district $1.37 million/year [1]
Shellfish collected in the mudflat $0.87 million/year

Cultivated Goods $ 11.7 million/year

Fish and Shrimp harvested from semi natural aquaculture $0.58 million/year ($2,524/ha/year) [2]
Fish harvested from intensive aquaculture $8.93 million/year ($7,558/ha/year) [2]
Clam harvested from clam culture in mudflat $ 1.93 m/year
Salt production in the salt farm $0.22 million/year [3]

Disaster Risk Reduction $ 1.1 million/year

Protective benefits of mangrove forest $1.05 million/year [4]

Climate Regulation $60.3 million

The benefit of global climate regulation from the carbon stored in the wetland is $ 60.26 million. This is an one-off stored value, i.e. not an annual value. [5]

Net Benefit : $ 15.0 million / year
Plus $ 60.3 million of carbon storage function

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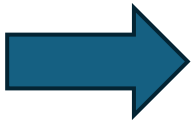
Ecosystem Services Assessment - Contribution to Site Studies and potential Project Concept Development

Ecosystem Services Assessment

- **Identification of key natural assets**
  - ES work identifies key natural assets
  - Establishes monetary value
- **Identification of threats / opportunities**
  - Identifies negative drivers
  - Identified existing degradation and threats
  - Identifies opportunities
- **Stakeholder Feedback**
  - Includes feedback from stakeholders



Early Site Studies

- Rapid Appraisal
- Enabling Environment
- Identify Co-benefits
- Non-committal Recommendations

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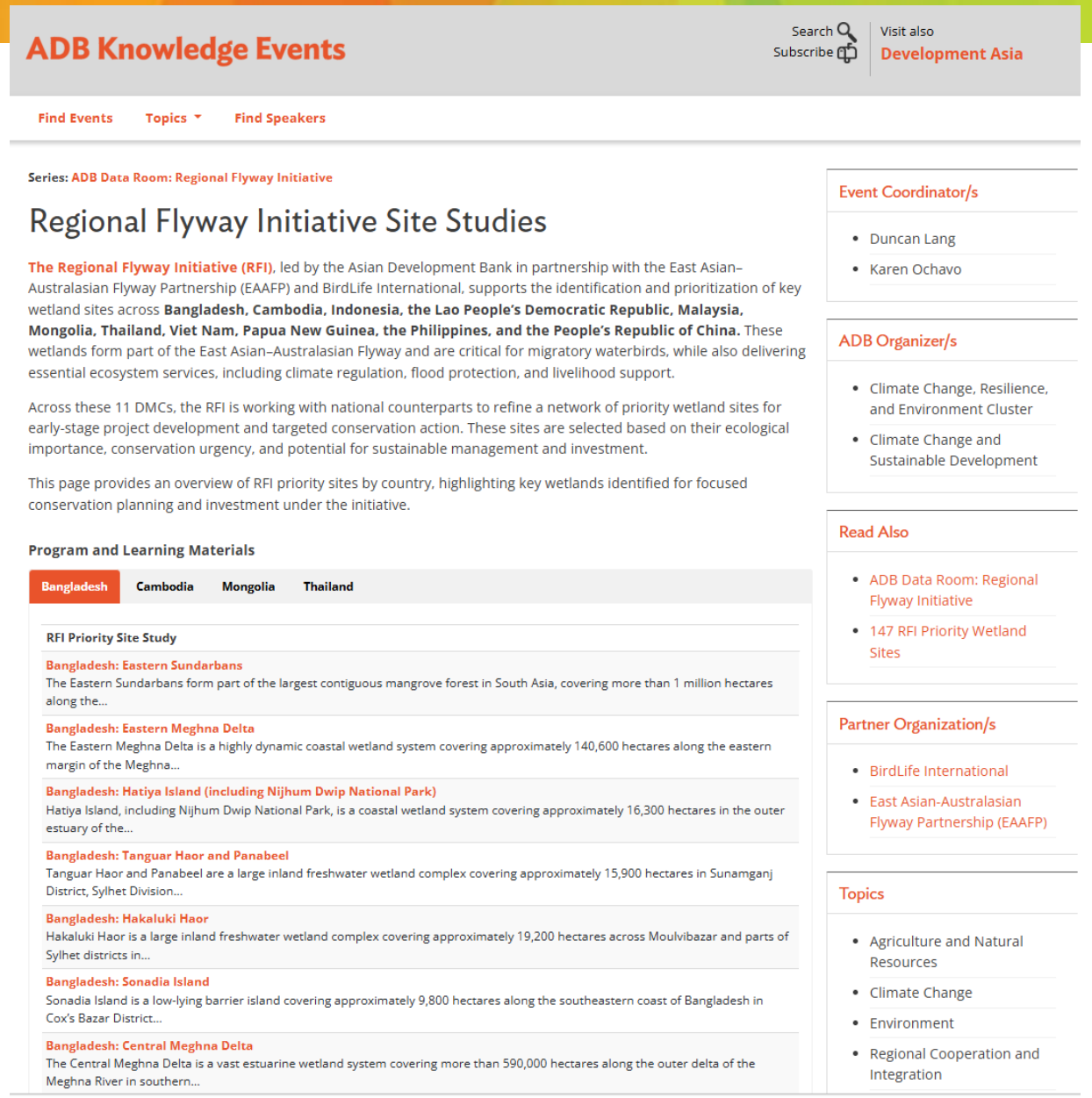
RFI Site Studies

Key Components

- Biodiversity Values of Site
- Ecosystem Services
- Drivers of Change and their potential impacts
- Capacity Needs
- Opportunities, including
  - Recommendations
  - Potential Financing
  - Proposed Institutional Arrangements
  - Risks



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Series: ADB Data Room: Regional Flyway Initiative

Regional Flyway Initiative Site Studies

The Regional Flyway Initiative (RFI), led by the Asian Development Bank in partnership with the East Asian–Australasian Flyway Partnership (EAAFP) and BirdLife International, supports the identification and prioritization of key wetland sites across **Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Mongolia, Thailand, Viet Nam, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, and the People's Republic of China.** These wetlands form part of the East Asian–Australasian Flyway and are critical for migratory waterbirds, while also delivering essential ecosystem services, including climate regulation, flood protection, and livelihood support.

Across these 11 DMCs, the RFI is working with national counterparts to refine a network of priority wetland sites for early-stage project development and targeted conservation action. These sites are selected based on their ecological importance, conservation urgency, and potential for sustainable management and investment.

This page provides an overview of RFI priority sites by country, highlighting key wetlands identified for focused conservation planning and investment under the initiative.

Program and Learning Materials

Bangladesh | Cambodia | Mongolia | Thailand

RFI Priority Site Study

Bangladesh: Eastern Sundarbans
The Eastern Sundarbans form part of the largest contiguous mangrove forest in South Asia, covering more than 1 million hectares along the...

Bangladesh: Eastern Meghna Delta
The Eastern Meghna Delta is a highly dynamic coastal wetland system covering approximately 140,600 hectares along the eastern margin of the Meghna...

Bangladesh: Hatiya Island (including Nijhum Dwip National Park)
Hatiya Island, including Nijhum Dwip National Park, is a coastal wetland system covering approximately 16,300 hectares in the outer estuary of the...

Bangladesh: Tanguar Haor and Panabeel
Tanguar Haor and Panabeel are a large inland freshwater wetland complex covering approximately 15,900 hectares in Sunamganj District, Sylhet Division...

Bangladesh: Hakaluki Haor
Hakaluki Haor is a large inland freshwater wetland complex covering approximately 19,200 hectares across Moulvibazar and parts of Sylhet districts in...

Bangladesh: Sonadia Island
Sonadia Island is a low-lying barrier island covering approximately 9,800 hectares along the southeastern coast of Bangladesh in Cox's Bazar District...

Bangladesh: Central Meghna Delta
The Central Meghna Delta is a vast estuarine wetland system covering more than 590,000 hectares along the outer delta of the Meghna River in southern...

Event Coordinator/s
- Duncan Lang
- Karen Ochavo

ADB Organizer/s
- Climate Change, Resilience, and Environment Cluster
- Climate Change and Sustainable Development

Read Also
- ADB Data Room: Regional Flyway Initiative
- 147 RFI Priority Wetland Sites

Partner Organization/s
- BirdLife International
- East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership (EAAFP)

Topics
- Agriculture and Natural Resources
- Climate Change
- Environment
- Regional Cooperation and Integration

RFI Implementation Phase – Investment Ideas

Projects (e.g., Nature-based Solutions)

RFI INVESTMENT CONCEPT 1
HABITAT RESTORATION AND PROTECTION
Restoring and protecting mangroves and other wetland habitats has clear economic and ecological benefits.

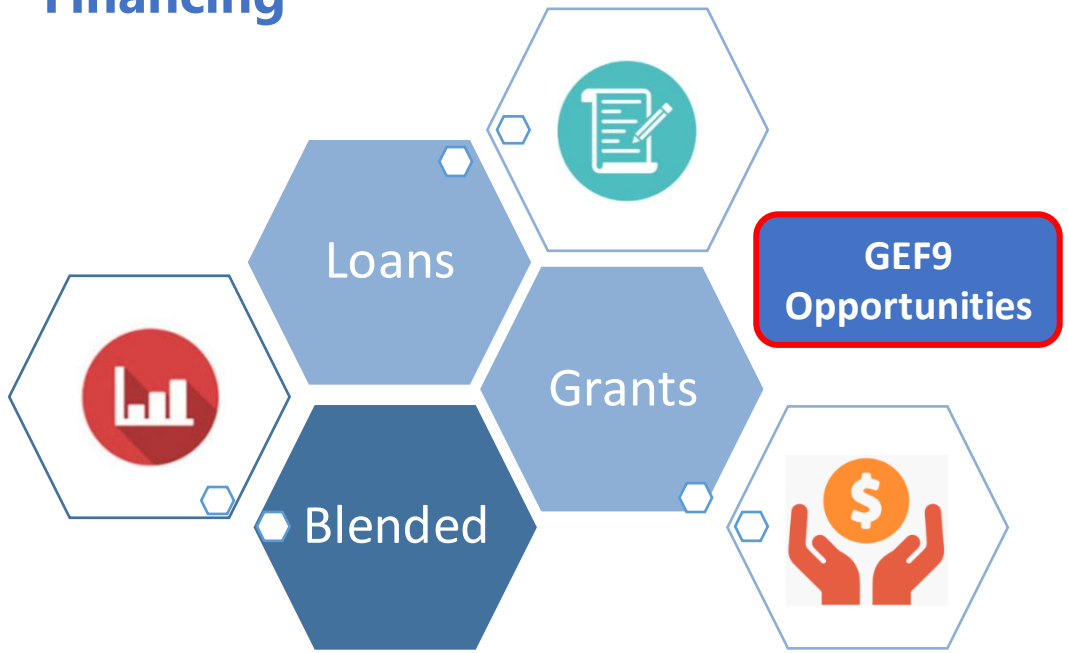
RFI INVESTMENT CONCEPT 2
SUSTAINABLE AQUACULTURE
Sustainable aquaculture and fisheries support food, nutrition and water security for wetland communities.

RFI INVESTMENT CONCEPT 3
SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE
Sustainable agriculture can strengthen long-term food and livelihood security while delivering net gains for biodiversity.

RFI INVESTMENT CONCEPT 4
POLLUTION PREVENTION AND WATER MANAGEMENT
Preventing pollution and sound water governance offers massive benefits

RFI INVESTMENT CONCEPT 5
NATURE PROTECTION AND ECO-TOURISM
Protecting natural wetlands creates massive ecotourism benefits and opportunities

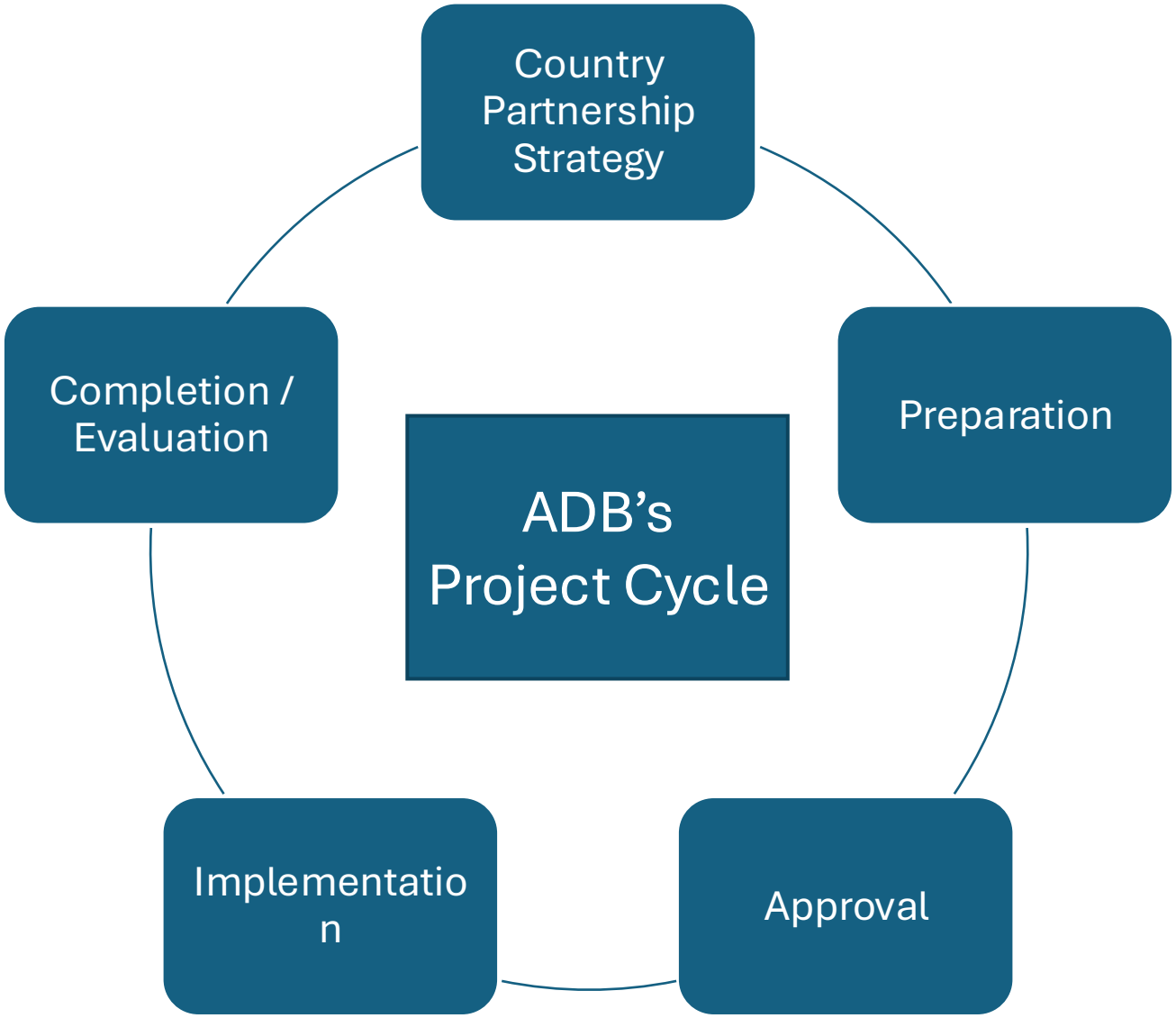
Financing



Innovative Financing Ideas - Key to unlocking investment

Investing in **wetlands** - delivers not only for **nature** and **livelihoods** but delivers great opportunities for **resilience**

ADB Project Cycle



https://www.adb.org/site/public-sector-financing/operations/project-cycle

Project Design and Preparation

Preparation of Project Concept – What is it that we want to achieve?

Stakeholder analysis and engagement

Approval of the Project Concept Paper

Project Preparation, Project Feasibility, Due Diligence and Project Readiness

Project Fact Finding

Board Document Preparation

Ideal Place to Work

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RFI Investment Phase – Indicative Pipeline

Name	Country	Description	Amount	Timeline
Hoar Wetlands Integrated Conservation Project	Bangladesh	Sustainable Wetland Management	$50 million	2028/29
Thailand Blue Economy	Thailand	Coastal Restoration including mangrove restoration, reef restoration, flood (multiple RFI sites)	$150 million	2027
Central Luzon - Pampanga River Flood Control Project - Tranche 1	Philippines	Flood Attenuation Project, linking to 2 RFI sites (Candaba, North Manila Bay)	$150 million	2027
Aimags and Soums Green Regional Development Investment Program - Tranche 2	Mongolia	Green agribusiness for sustainable, resilient, and high-carbon sequestration rangeland management	$52.2 million	2027
Dali Erhai Lake, Yunnan	China	Ecological protection, agricultural non point-source and circular economy, catchment restoration	$200 million (TBC)	2028
Sustainable Rice Production Project	Bangladesh	Sustainable Rice Production	$150 million	2028
Integrated Water Resource Management Tonle Sap	Cambodia	Tonle Sap Wetlands (include 3 or 4 RFI sites).	TBD	2028
Marine Ecosystems for Blue Economy (Phase 2)	Philippines	Policy Actions focused to Sustainable Blue Economy	$500 million	2026/7
Coastal Integrated Resilience Project	Bangladesh	Coastal Resilience	$10 million	2028

Break-Out Discussion to look at Potential Project Opportunities

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Coffee Break

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ADB Nature Credits Study

Project Overview & Key Findings

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Meet the Project Team

International Expert

Guy Williams
Nature Credits Team Lead
Independent Consultant

Country Expert

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Philippines
Principal/Partner, CCaSS
EY Philippines

Country Expert

Dr. Haseeb Irfanullah
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Country Expert

Pituck Jongnarangsin
Thailand
Independent Consultant

Delivery Team

Rebekah Singh
Regional Carbon Credits Expert
EY India

Delivery Team

Ma. Rose Josol
Carbon Markets and Carbon Accounting Expert
EY Philippines

Delivery Team

Goldy Yancha
Development Finance Expert
EY Philippines

Delivery Team

Noele de Ramos
Biodiversity Specialist
EY Philippines

Delivery Team

Ibrahim Redwan
Sustainability Expert
EY Bangladesh

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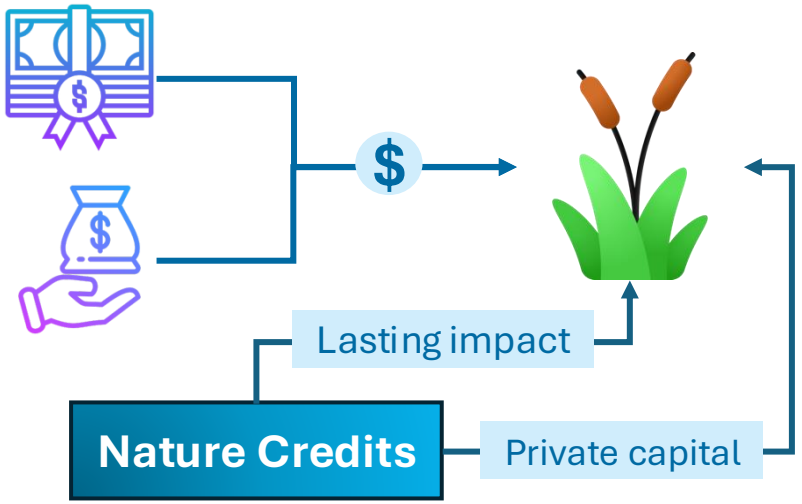
The Nature Credit Study Aims & Objectives:



1 **Explore market-based mechanisms** (specifically Nature Credits) to finance wetland protection, restoration, and community stewardship.

2 Evaluate whether Nature Credit finance can deliver **sustainable, scalable funding** beyond grants or public subsidies.

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Structure of the Nature Credits Study

The study's **First Phase** develops the conceptual foundations, defining:

What Nature Credits are, and:

How they differ from carbon credits

How they could apply to the RFI's wetland ecosystems

The **Second Phase** built an actionable framework for country pilots in:

Bangladesh

The Philippines

Thailand

Analyzing site-specific data and in-country market capacity to test feasibility of Nature Credits.

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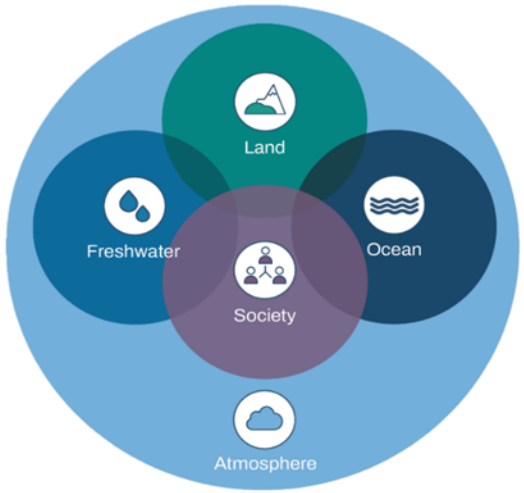
Nature Credits - Key Definitions

Nature Defined



> Nature refers to the natural world with an emphasis on the diversity of living organisms (including people) and their interactions among themselves and with their environment. (Diaz et al (2015)

Díaz, S., Demissew, S., Carabias, J., Joly, C., Lonsdale, M., Ash, N., Larigauderie, A., Adhikari, J. R., Arico, S., Báldi, A., Bartuska, A., Baste, I. A., Bilgin, A., Brondizio, E. S., Chan, K. M. A., Figueroa, V. E., Duraiappah, A., Fischer, M., Hill, R., ... Zlatanova, D. (2015). The IPBES Conceptual Framework–connecting nature and people. Current Opinion in Environmental Sustainability, 14, 1-16. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cosust.2014.11.002

Nature Credits Defined

Current literature: multiple ways to define 'nature-based credits'

- *One quality hectare of biodiversity uplift from a baseline as a result of project interventions*. (Verra, Nature Framework)
- *A certificate that represents a measured and evidence-based unit of positive biodiversity outcome that is durable and additional to what would have otherwise occurred*. (Biodiversity Credit Alliance)

Definition adopted for this study:

Nature credits are evidence-based units of ecological improvement designed to drive and finance the halt and reversal of nature loss.

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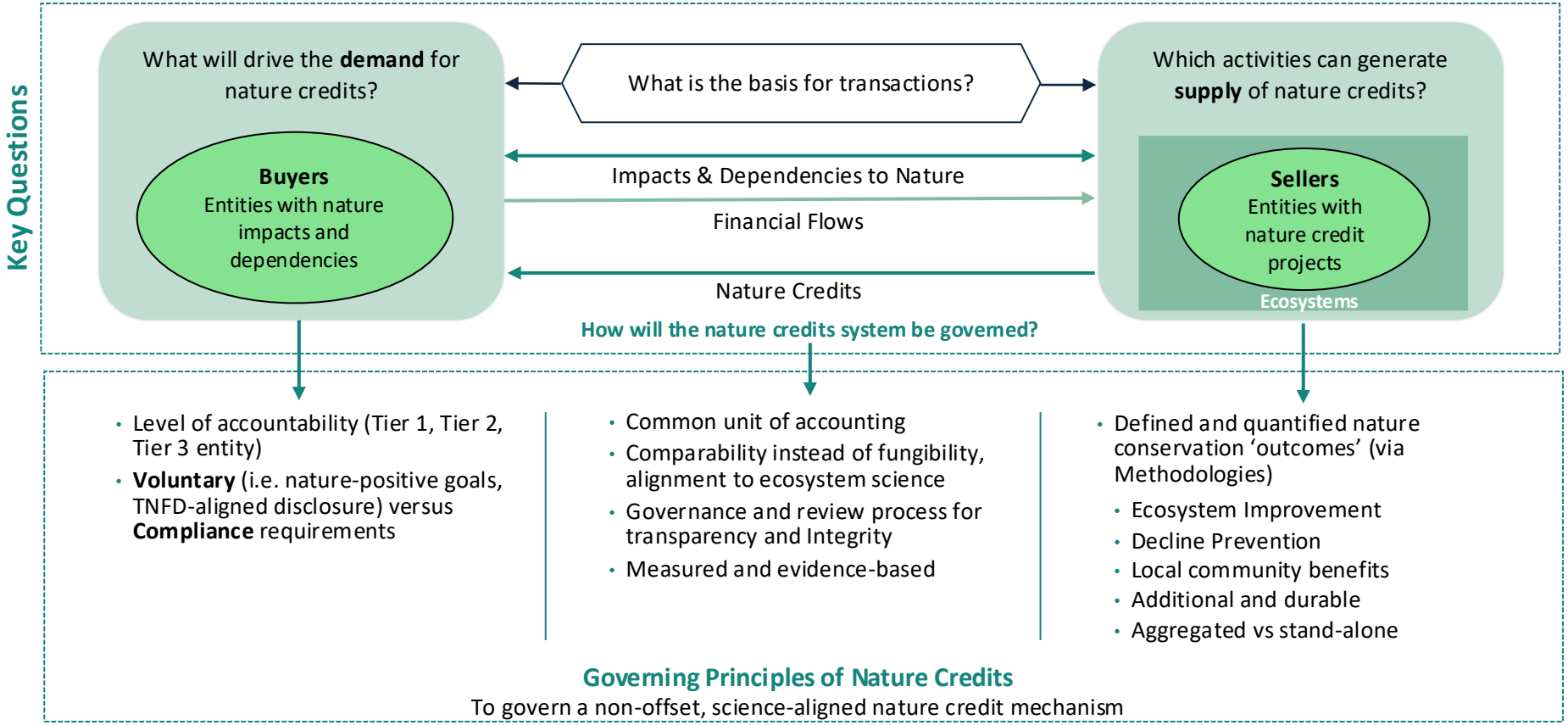
Nature Credits – Market Framework

How can nature credit market be designed, established, and sustained?



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Global Good Practice

The study reviewed a number of global nature credit pilots - Key findings include:

Nature credit schemes are rapidly diversifying, spanning voluntary, compliance, and hybrid systems.

Most focus on terrestrial ecosystems; **few target wetlands** — presenting an innovation gap for RFI

Success depends on **clear metrics**, local **community partnerships**, and **transparent claims**.

Wetland projects could draw from models like Australia's Nature Repair Market and Plan Vivo, which combine verified ecological uplift with community benefit-sharing.

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Report Highlights: Nature Credit Design Principles

Purpose-Driven Finance

Mechanism must be structured to explicitly **mobilize private-sector capital** toward verifiable conservation, restoration, or enhancement outcomes

Buyer-Centric Design

Credits should align with **buyers' business incentives,** not just philanthropic interest.

Outcome-based Recognition

Credits must represent **measurable ecosystem gains** beyond a baseline, not just effort or investment.

Recognition of Scale and Impact

Credit valuation should account for the **size or extent** and ecological significance of the protected or restored area.

Optimized Rigor and Cost Efficiency

Balance scientific **rigor** with the **cost-efficiency** of the crediting process.

Socio-economic Safeguards

Credits must respect community rights and livelihoods, integrating **social safeguards** into design.

Alignment with Broader Frameworks

Examine **interoperability** with global standards (e.g., BCA), while avoiding excessive complexity.

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Market Challenges

The study identifies five major challenges:

1. **Lack of standardized "unit of nature"** - biodiversity metrics remain fragmented.
2. **Limited fungibility** - ecological uniqueness hinders market liquidity.
3. **Complex MRV systems** - high costs, limited data, and technology needs.
4. **Weak regulatory frameworks** - few national policies enable credit recognition.
5. **Governance risks** - ensuring FPIC and equitable benefit sharing.

Addressing these will be **vital for credible, investable RFI pilot sites**.

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Demand and Market Drivers

Anticipated buyers include ESG-oriented corporates, impact investors, and governments. Drivers include:

Policy & disclosure mandates (EU CSRD, ASEAN standards, TNFD, SBTN).

ESG differentiation and brand reputation.

Philanthropic commitments seeking measurable impact.

Buyers seek credits that are **auditable, transparent, rights-based, and locally relevant**. Demand is strongest where credits align with corporate value chains, regulatory exposure, or reputational priorities.

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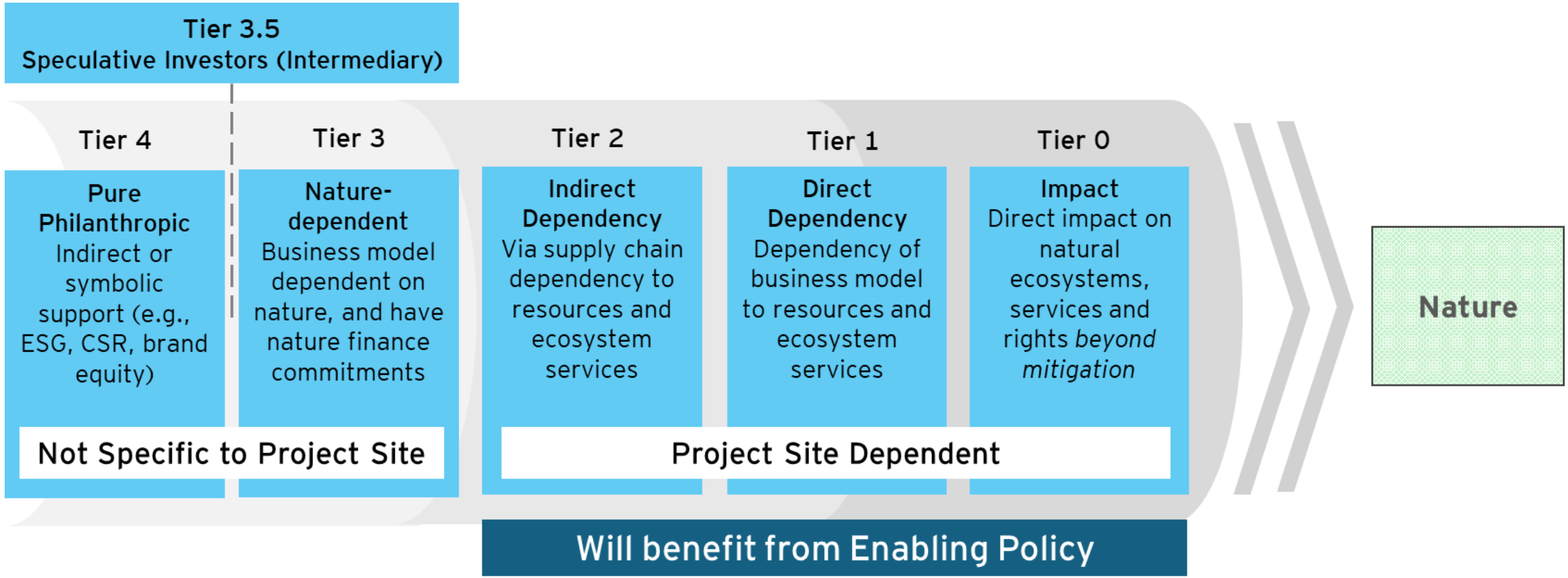
Buyer Archetypes – Willingness to Pay



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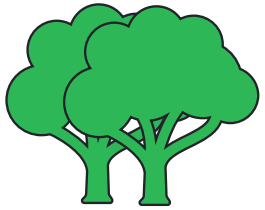
Application to RFI Wetlands

The RFI Nature Credit Study distills two core credit archetypes:

	Activity Archetype	Nature Credits Alignment	Primary Objective
	**Ecosystem Restoration (Restorative Actions)**	Activities that contribute to reversing nature loss; measurable uplift in degraded ecosystems	Restore degraded wetlands to enhance delivery of ecosystem services and improve ecosystem health
	**Loss Avoidance (Maintenance and Protection Action)**	Activities that contribute to halting nature loss; stewardship & threat prevention	Prevent further degradation, maintain ecosystem function, and protect ecosystems from threats to biodiversity, carbon stocks, and hydrological services

Both rely on a baseline: scenario comparisons demonstrating project additionality across ecological, carbon, and hydrological indicators. Preliminary review suggests RFI wetlands hold strong potential for both carbon stacking and nature credit bundling, especially in mangroves, peatlands, and tidal systems.

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Report Highlights: Activities & Archetypes

RFI NATURE CREDIT

=

Quantifiable Improvement or Maintenance and Protection of Wetland Health

Restoration

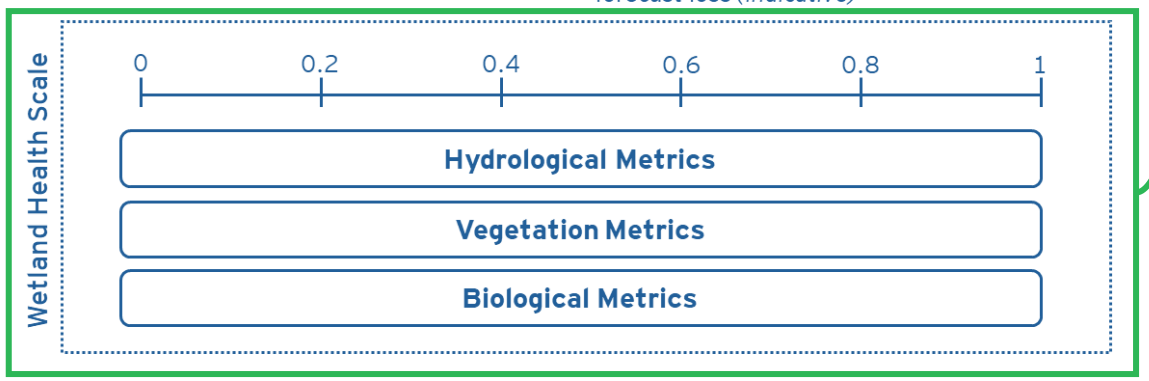
Degree of Improvement X Area Restored

Maintenance and Protection

Area maintained and protected X Time

Improvement = no. of level *'jumps' in the scale*

M&P = model of predicted deviation from a forecast loss *(indicative)*



- **Hydrological Function Metrics**
  - Hydrological regime, (supports seasonal / year-round wetland dynamics- consistent with ecosystem type), tidal amplitude soil moisture, hydrological connectivity
- **Vegetation Cover Metrics**
  - Invasive species dominance, habitat complexity, native regeneration
- **Biological (Key species/ population) Metrics**
  - Habitat Suitability Index (HSI) scores
  - Sighting incidence of waterbirds / indicator fauna, presence of breeding individuals, species richness, presence of threatened species or population

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Country Case Studies



Phase 2 included deep-dive on **three RFI pilot countries**: Bangladesh, The Philippines, and Thailand

1. Country-specific feasibility assessments linking wetland types, governance, and market potential;
2. Potential pilot project blueprints to be co-designed with local partners;
3. Capacity and policy gap analysis; and
4. A regional roadmap for scaling high-integrity nature credit markets under ADB's RFI platform.

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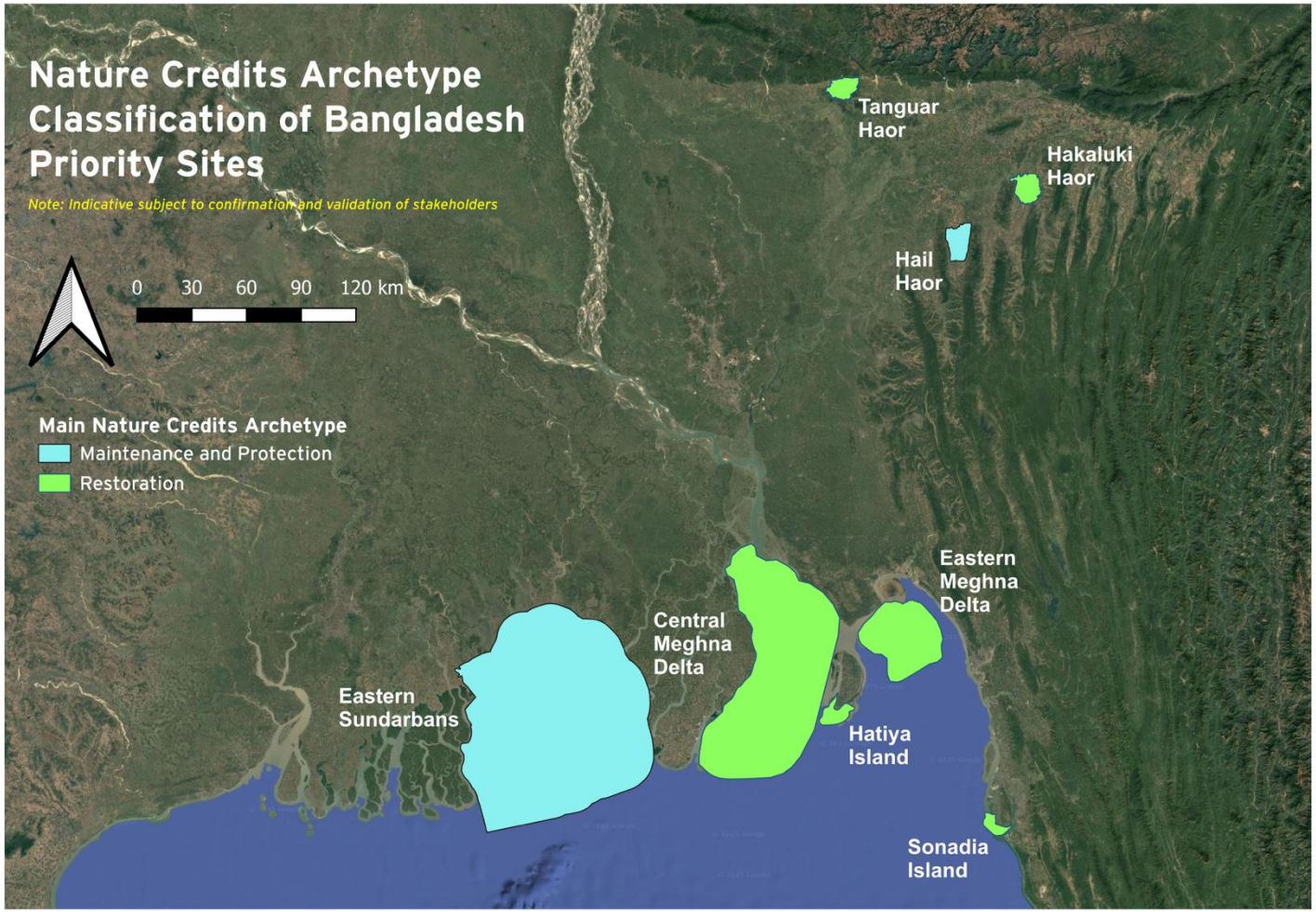
Bangladesh | Restoration and Protection Priorities



Across Bangladesh's priority wetlands, habitat conversion, unsustainable farming and aquaculture, urban growth, and hydrological changes drive wetland loss.

- **Threats is most severe** in the Meghna Deltas, Hakaluki Haor, Hatiya, Sonadia, and Tanguar Haor- sites suited for **Restoration Archetype.**
- In contrast, the Eastern Sundarbans and Hail Haor (Baikka Beel) remain largely intact, fitting **Maintenance & Protection Archetype** focused on stewardship.
- Together, these archetypes highlight where nature finance can target both recovery of degraded systems and long-term protection of resilient ecosystems.

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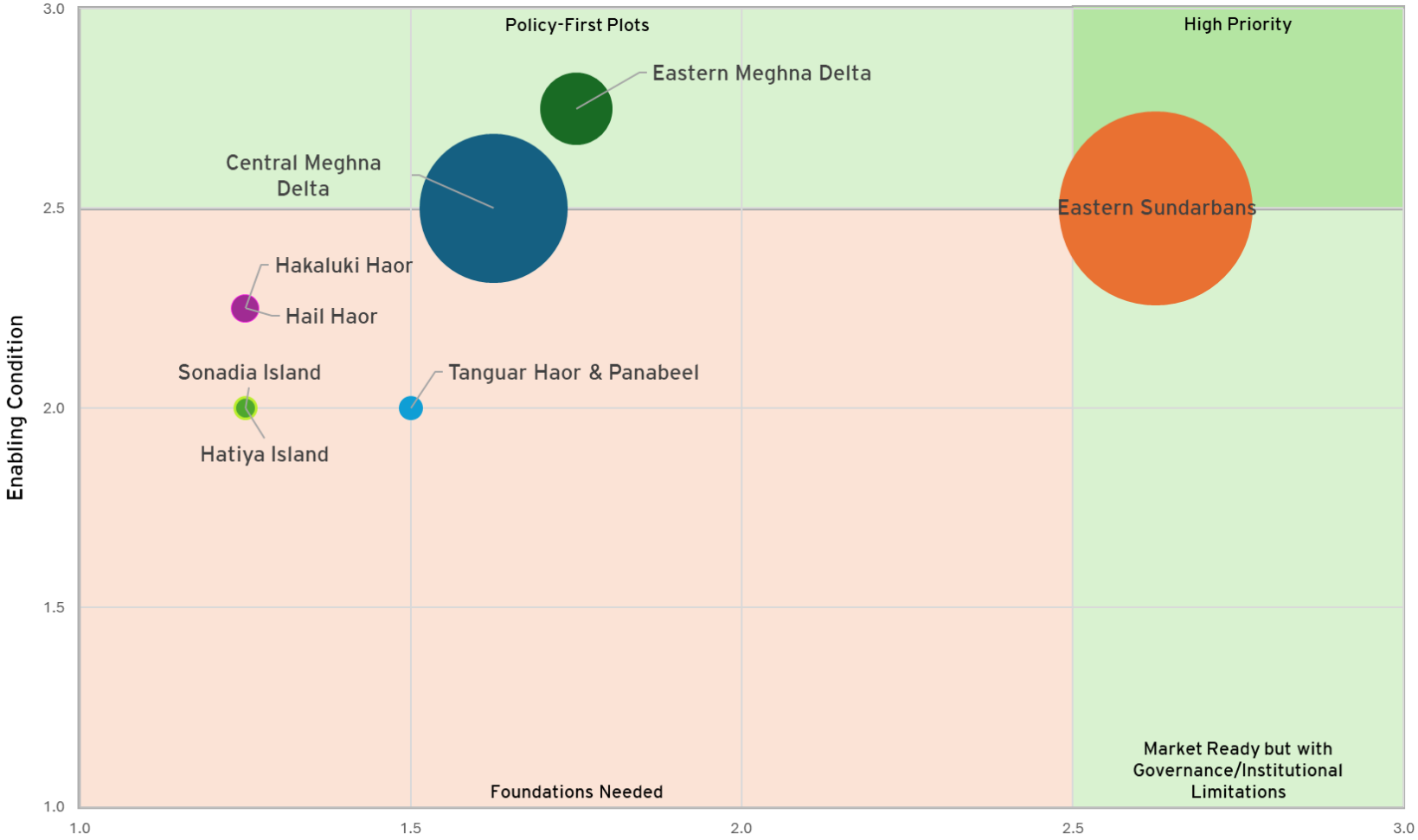
Bangladesh | Prioritisation Matrix

Green shaded areas indicate the upper quartile (scores ~2.5–3.0) *on each axis, representing the highest-performing segments.*



Note:

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Scoring scale (applies to both axes)

0 – Not evident / No readiness
1 – Low / Emerging
2 – Moderate / Developing
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Bangladesh | Demand Driver Analysis

Preliminary mapping of economic dependencies on the priority sites show direct and indirect linkages of domestic and global corporates to the ecosystem services provided in these sites, as well as small-to-medium scale enterprises.

	Not Specific to Project Site		Specific to Project Site		
Wetland Group	**Tier 4 Pure Philanthropic/ Indirect / Symbolic Support**	**Tier 3 Nature Dependent Business Model**	**Tier 2 Supply Chain Dependency**	**Tier 1 Direct Dependency**	**Tier 0 Residual Impacts / Offsetting**
Inland Wetlands (Hail Haor, Hakaluki Hair, Tanguar Haor & Panabeel)	Financial institutions, insurers, and NGOs supporting biodiversity and resilience finance through CSR and ESG commitments.	Small and medium agrifood and processing enterprises with indirect links to wetland productivity and community livelihoods.	Local rice and fish processors dependent on wetland ecosystem services for raw materials.	Fisheries cooperatives and local communities directly reliant on haor ecosystems for sustenance and income.	Minimal industrial footprint; low offset potential but high community-based conservation value.
Coastal Wetlands (Eastern Sundarbans, Central Meghna Delta, Eastern Meghna Delta, Hatiya Island, Sonadia Island)	Large domestic corporates, international buyers, and investors engaging through CSR, ESG, and blended-finance initiatives.	Export-oriented sectors (garments, aquaculture, tourism) integrating biodiversity and climate commitments into supply chains.	Aquaculture processors and seafood exporters directly dependent on healthy coastal ecosystems.	Coastal and fisheries communities with high livelihood dependence on mangroves and nearshore resources.	Port, industrial, and infrastructure expansion (shipping, energy, real estate) driving potential demand for offsets and restoration credit.

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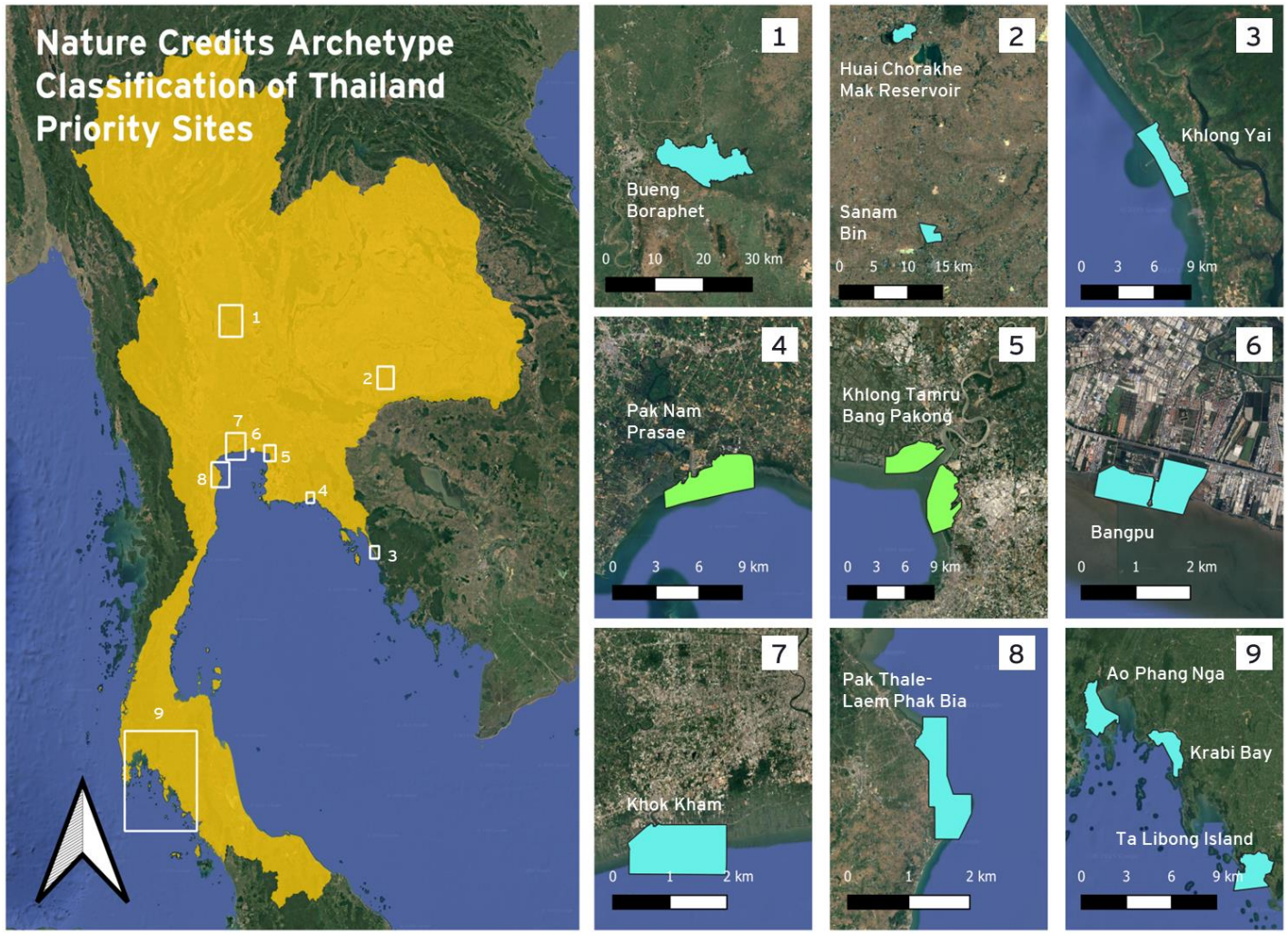
Thailand | Restoration and Protection Priorities



Across Thailand's wetlands, pressures from aquaculture, industrial growth, tourism, and hydrological change shape ecosystem conditions and crediting potential.

- **Restoration Archetypes** best apply to Khlong Tamru and Pak Nam Prasae, where mangrove loss, pollution, and aquaculture conversion create strong Restoration additionality.
- Other sites, including Ko Libong and Hat Chao Mai, Krabi River Mouth, Phang nga Bay, Khlong Yai, Bueng Boraphet, Huai Chorakhe Mak, and Sanam Bin, are better suited for **Management and Protection**, where stewardship and improved governance can prevent further decline.
- Smaller high value Flyway sites such as Bang Pu, Khok Kham, and Pak Thale and Laem Phak Bia also fit **Management and Protection**, focused on safeguarding mudflats, saltpans, and bird habitats.

Note: Both archetypes may occur within each site. The archetype shown reflects the dominant condition based on current data and ***does not imply that the entire area is suitable for project development***. Further on-site validation and feasibility assessment are required before any crediting activity.

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Thailand | Prioritisation Matrix

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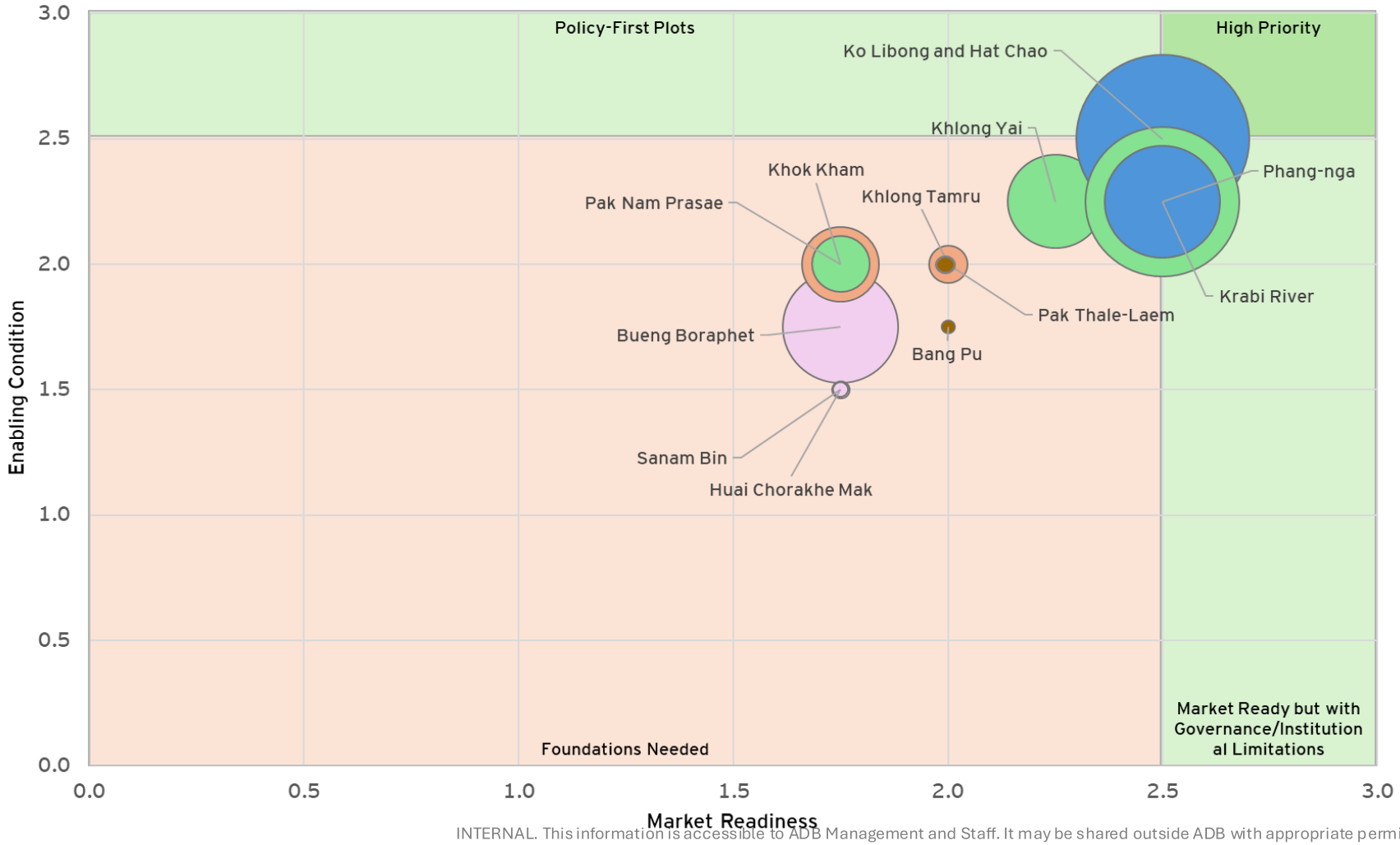

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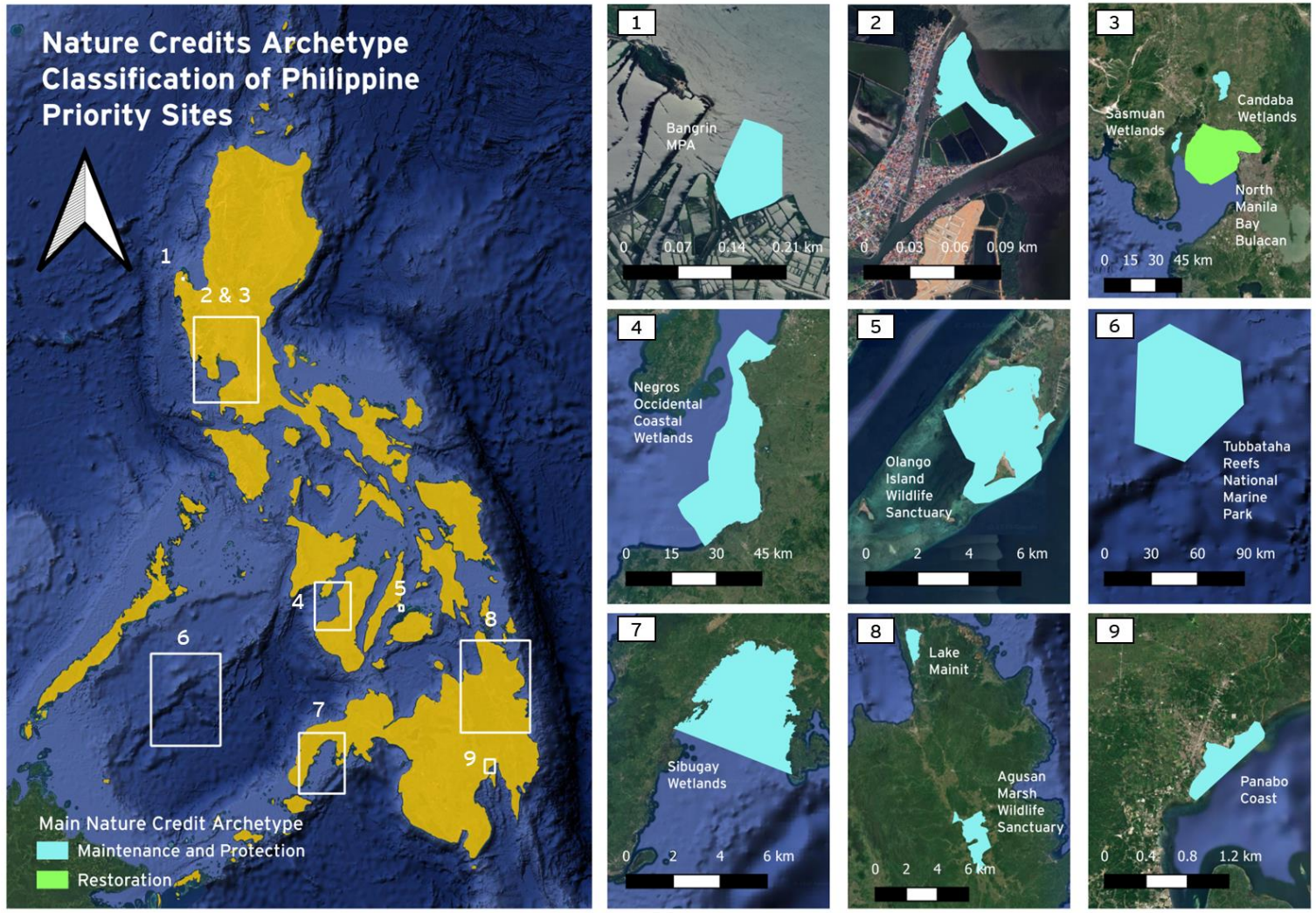
Philippines | Restoration and Protection Priorities



Across Philippine wetlands, ecosystem conditions and crediting potential are shaped by pressures such as aquaculture expansion, coastal and industrial development, tourism, land conversion, pollution, and hydrological change.

- The **Restoration Archetype** best applies to North Manila Bay (Bulacan) due to its high additionality and severely degraded condition driven by intensive human activities, including land reclamation, aquaculture, and infrastructure development.
- Sites such as Tubbataha, Agusan, and Balanga are better suited for a **Management and Protection Archetype**, where strengthened stewardship and governance can help prevent further ecological decline.
- Although Candaba shows a strong need for restoration, the **predominance of privately owned land alters the feasible approach** for nature credits. Based on consultations, Candaba would benefit more from restoration aligned interventions that emphasize sustainable livelihood innovations.

Note: Both archetypes m ay occur within each site. The archetype shown reflects the dominant condition based on current data and ***does not imply that the entire area is suitable for project development***. Further on-site validation and feasibility assessment are required before any crediting activity.

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Philippines | Prioritisation Matrix

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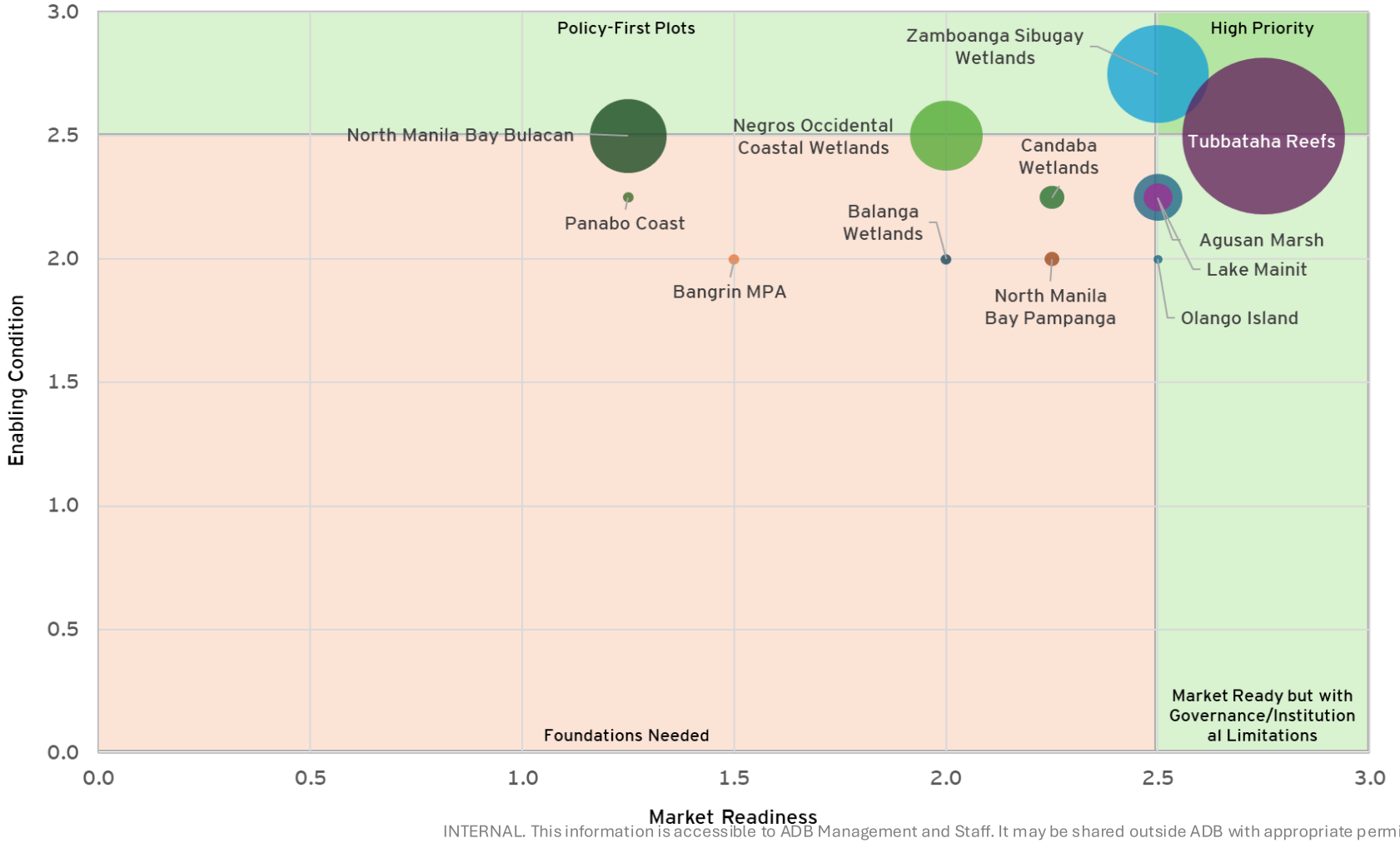

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Inland Wetlands (Candaba; Lake Mainit; Agusan Marsh)	Banks, insurers, CSR, climate and green finance	Agri-finance, climate-resilient farming, hydropower, ecotourism (e.g., Lake Mainit energy, Candaba agri systems)	Agro-processing, rice logistics, irrigation services, energy supply chains	Farmers, fisherfolk, duck raisers, and flood-dependent livelihoods (e.g., Candaba seasonal systems, Agusan flood-pulse agriculture)	Mining, logging, land conversion, runoff pollution, hydrological disruption (e.g., Agusan, Lake Mainit)
Coastal Wetlands (Bang Pu, Khok Kham, Khlong Tamru, Pak Thale–Laem Phak Bia, Pak Nam Prasae, Khlong Yai, Krabi River Mouth, Phang-nga Bay, Ko Libong–Hat Chao Mai)	Corporates, ESG/blue finance, tourism investors supporting conservation and CSR	Tourism, hospitality, ports, shipping, and dive/liveaboard industries reliant on reef and coastal ecosystems (e.g., Olango ecotourism, Tubbataha dive tourism)	Seafood processing, aquaculture, crab/salt value chains, mariculture systems (e.g., Negros crab industry, Panabo mariculture)	Fisheries, aquaculture operators, crabbers, and coastal communities dependent on mangroves, reefs, and water quality (e.g., Bangrin, Zamboanga Sibugay)	Reclamation, port/airport expansion (Bulacan), industrial pollution (Manila Bay), mangrove conversion, overfishing

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Key Takeaways

1) The **RFI Nature Credit Study represents ADB's most comprehensive exploration of market-based conservation finance** to date.
2) Nature credits offer a **pathway to mobilize private finance** while reinforcing community stewardship and ecological integrity.
3) Success will depend on **balancing scientific rigor, market functionality, and social legitimacy**.
4) Work underway to include **nature credit generation value and value forecasting**.
5) A suggested next phase would **test feasibility across selected sites in Philippines, Thailand, and Bangladesh**, focusing on governance, MRV readiness, and buyer engagement.

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Thank you!

ADB BirdLife INTERNATIONAL EAAFP

DATA ROOM
Regional Flyway Initiative

Further Reading:
https://events.development.asia/learning-events/adb-data-room-regional-flyway-initiative

Talk China SEMINAR

ADB

RKSI
ADB-PRC Regional Knowledge Sharing Initiative

Advancing the Regional flyway Initiative:

Lessons from the PRC

Scan the QR code to submit your feedback.

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Talk China SEMINAR

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RKSI
ADB-PRC Regional Knowledge Sharing Initiative

Scan the QR code to download the program and slides.

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