

Section B
“Request for Funding” Form

Section B.1
Project Summary and Endorsement Form

- a.** Country requesting support: Cambodia
- b.** Title of project proposal: Enhancing the conservation and wise use of Anlung Pring Protected Landscape in Cambodia
- c.** Category of assistance requested (please consult the Operational Guidelines and indicate one option only):

Contracting Parties:

Implementation of the Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016-2024. Please indicate relevant Goals and Targets (s):

Goal 1: Addressing the Drivers of Wetland Loss And Degradation
Targets 1-3.

Goal 2: Effectively Conserving and Managing the Ramsar Site Network
Target 6.

Goal 3: Wisely Using All Wetlands
Targets 9-11.

Please fill in **either** section **d** or section **e** below:

- d.** If the financial support sought from the NWF is requested to carry out part of a larger project, please indicate:
- Title of the main project: Enhancing and future-proofing the sustainable livelihood, wellbeing and biodiversity values of Anlung Pring Protected Landscape.
 - Duration of the main project: Three years
 - Total cost of the main project: \$294,543
 - Amount requested from the NWF: \$17,816
 - Have the main project and the other funds been approved: Yes
 - If yes, please indicate the sources of these funds, showing whether the source is in-country or external: WWT will underwrite some of these costs on condition that the majority are secured from external sources. In addition to the NWF proposal, applications have been made to the UK Government’s Darwin Initiative, Ramsar Regional Centre – East Asia. Other funding has already been secured from the Ocean Park Conservation Foundation, Hong Kong and the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund.
- e.** If the proposed project is a stand-alone activity, please indicate:
- Duration of the activities to be covered by NWF grant:
 - Amount requested from the Ramsar NWF:
 - Other financial contributions (including in-kind) – indicate whether these are from in-country or external sources:
- f.** Name, address (including phone/fax numbers and e-mail address) and website of the recipient agency, i.e. the institution responsible for the project, specifying the name and contact details of the person responsible for preparing and executing the project.

Name: Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust (WWT)

Address: WWT Slimbridge, Bowditch, Slimbridge, Gloucestershire, GL2 7BT, United Kingdom
Tel: ++44 (0)1453 891900
Email: info.slimbridge@wwt.org.uk
Website: www.wwt.org.uk
Key Contact: Tomos Avent, Head of Conservation Action
Tel: ++44 (0)1453 891243
Email Address: tomos.avent@wwt.org.uk

g. Summary (maximum 500 words)

Describe background, justification, objectives and intended follow-up. Indicate if the project will be carried out in a Ramsar site(s) or how it otherwise contributes to the implementation of the Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016-2024 and the fulfillment of its objectives:

Anlung Pring (AP) Protected Landscape is one of the last remaining seasonally-inundated grasslands in the Cambodian Lower Mekong Delta (CLMD). The site supports vital ecosystem services for over 1500 people and provides habitat for globally threatened biodiversity, including the Greater Adjutant and a third of the regional population of the globally Vulnerable Sarus Crane.

Due to its small size, AP is highly vulnerable to external impacts. The main threats come from high intensity rice production and shrimp farming in the close catchment, which alter the ecological conditions for wildlife and are reducing the quality of water for local communities. Since 2016, AP has been classified as a Protected Landscape, and the international importance of this wetland has been recognised by the Ministry of Environment (MoE), who have selected it as a priority candidate for designation as a Ramsar Site. The Strategic Plan of the MoE's Department of Freshwater Wetlands Conservation aims to achieve this by the end of 2019, which will require the collection and collation of comprehensive socio-economic and ecological data.

The proposed project will conduct the first major integrated assessment of the ecological characteristics, ecosystem services and wider landscape connectivity of AP, in order to enhance understanding of the site's importance and support the MoE to designate it as a Ramsar Site. The project will form part of WWT's wider programme in Cambodia, through which we are partnering with local and international organisations to promote the wise use and management of wetlands. We will continue to provide technical support to the MoE after the end of this project to finalise the process of designating AP as a Ramsar Site, and to develop management plans that promote the conservation of AP and other Ramsar Sites across the country. The learning from this project will be showcased to promote additional Ramsar Site designations in Cambodia in future.

The project will support the Ramsar Strategic Plan by informing the designation of AP as a Ramsar Site, establishing a long-term framework for the conservation, wise use and restoration of the site. It will contribute to each of the three Strategic Goals of the Plan:

SG 1, Targets 1-3. By assessing the wetland resources and multiple ecosystem benefits of AP, the project will enhance understanding of the drivers of wetland loss and degradation at the site, enabling measures to address key threats to be integrated into planning and decision-making processes across all sectors.

SG 2, Target 6. By supporting AP's designation as a Ramsar Site, the project will support the Cambodian Government to meet its commitment under the Ramsar Convention to increase the Site network and maintain the ecological character of internationally important wetland sites.

SG 3, Targets 9-11. The project will promote the wise use of AP wetlands by demonstrating, documenting and disseminating their services and benefits to all stakeholders. Research findings will be disseminated at the local, regional and national levels to inform an integrated approach to natural resource management across the CLMD and beyond.

- h. Endorsement of this project application by the Ramsar Administrative Authority:**
Please confirm the importance of this proposed project in relation to your national Ramsar Convention implementation priorities. **Please tick (✓) only one of the following statements:**

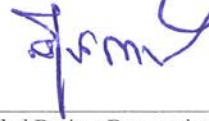
1. The project's outcomes will deliver significantly increased implementation capacity for a high national priority	✓
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Institution/Agency: Department of Freshwater Wetlands Conservation

Name/Title: Dr. Srey Sunleang / Director / Ramsar National Focal Point

Date: 30.03.2018

Signature:



Please return this form along with the Detailed Project Proposal to:
Nagao Wetland Fund (NWF), Ramsar Convention Secretariat,
28 Rue Mauverney, CH-1196 Gland, Switzerland. Fax: +41 22 999 0169, E-mail: asia.oceania@ramsar.org

CONVENTION ON WETLANDS (Ramsar, Iran, 1971)

Rue Mauverney 28, CH-1196 Gland, Switzerland

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Web site: www.ramsar.org

Section B.2

Structure and contents of Detailed Project Proposal

Details of proposal

A. Background and justification

Anlung Pring (AP) is one of the few remnants of seasonally-inundated grasslands in the Cambodian Lower Mekong Delta (CLMD). Although small, at 217 hectares, the site supports vital ecosystem services for over 1500 people and provides habitat for globally threatened biodiversity, including the globally Endangered Greater Adjutant and a third of the regional population of the Vulnerable Sarus Crane. Due to its small size, AP is highly vulnerable to external impacts. The main current threats are unsustainable rice production and high intensity shrimp farming. Recent research to determine the effects of waste water from nearby shrimp farms on water quality in AP found higher than recommended levels of conductivity, turbidity, total dissolved solids, sulphate and ammonium within the shrimp farms, and recommended further research on their ecological impact (Yav N. *et al.* 2017). The high levels of pollution are exacerbated by unsustainable rice farming and inadequate domestic waste disposal practices in the surrounding villages. AP is also vulnerable to the effects of climate change; climate modelling shows that wetlands within the Lower Mekong Basin will experience increased magnitude and frequency of storms, floods and drought over the coming years (ICEM 2013). Since 2010, WWT has been working with the Ministry of Environment (MoE) to conserve the AP wetlands. In 2016, AP was classified as a Protected Landscape, and in the face of increasing threats the MoE have selected it as a priority candidate for designation as a Ramsar Site. The Strategic Plan of the MoE's Department of Freshwater Wetlands Conservation aims to achieve this by the end of 2019.

B. The problem(s) to be addressed

There is currently insufficient up-to-date, reliable data on AP's principal ecological characteristics, socio-economic values and wider landscape connectivity to inform the site's designation as a Ramsar Site. With the support of NWF, the proposed project will undertake a comprehensive social and ecological assessment of AP to collect information that can be used to facilitate assessment of the site against the key Ramsar Criteria, secure the support of key stakeholders, and support the preparation of the Ramsar Information Sheet in order to ensure its designation. The information collected will also be used to raise awareness among local communities of the value of AP's wetlands and to inform initiatives that promote the wise use and management of these important wetlands in future.

C. Objective(s)

General Objective(s): To support implementation of the Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016-24 in Cambodia

The project will support the Ramsar Strategic Plan by informing the designation of AP as a Ramsar Site, establishing a long-term framework for the conservation, wise use and restoration of the site. It will contribute to each of the three Strategic Goals of the Plan as follows:

SG 1, Targets 1-3. By assessing the wetland resources and multiple ecosystem benefits of AP, the project will enhance understanding of the drivers of wetland loss and degradation at the site, enabling measures to address key threats to be integrated into planning and decision-making processes across all sectors.

SG 2, Target 6. By supporting AP's designation as a Ramsar Site, the project will support the Cambodian Government to meet its commitment under the Ramsar Convention to increase the Ramsar Site network and maintain the ecological character of internationally important wetland sites.

SG 3, Targets 9-11. The project will promote the wise use of AP wetlands by demonstrating, documenting and disseminating their services and benefits to all wetland stakeholders. It will take a landscape scale approach, assessing the wider landscape connectivity of AP. Research findings will be disseminated at the local, regional and national levels to inform an integrated approach to natural resource management across the CLMD and beyond.

Specific Objective(s): To conduct a comprehensive wetland site assessment to determine the ecohydrology, ecosystem service values and wider landscape connectivity of the AP Protected Landscape in Cambodia in order to inform its designation as a new Ramsar Site by the end of 2019.

D. Outputs

1. Ecosystem services assessment conducted in AP and wider CLMD landscape and comprehensive reports produced.
2. Ecohydrological assessments conducted in AP and wider CLMD landscape and comprehensive reports produced.
3. Research findings disseminated to key wetland stakeholders and used to inform preparations for the designation of AP as a Ramsar Site.

E. Activities

Under Output 1:

- 1.1 Establish Expert Working Group to determine key factors for investigation
- 1.2 Customise the Toolkit for Ecosystem Service Assessment (TESSA) for use in the CLMD
- 1.3 Share methodology and toolkit with wider conservation community for inputs and approval by Department of Freshwater Wetlands Conservation

- 1.4 Identify local students to support the collection of ecosystem service data
- 1.5 Conduct field research
- 1.6 Finalise research reports

Under Output 2:

- 2.1 Develop ecohydrological research proposal
- 2.2 Study tour to Tram Chim National Park, where water control mechanisms are already in place
- 2.3 Share research proposal and methods with wider conservation community for inputs and approval by Department of Freshwater Wetlands Conservation
- 2.4 Conduct field research at AP and over wider CLMD landscape
- 2.5 Conduct landscape consultation workshop with regional experts
- 2.6 Finalise research reports

Under Output 3:

- 3.1 Present research reports to multi-stakeholder Liaison Panels and Department of Freshwater Wetlands Conservation
- 3.2 Support MoE to integrate research findings into preparations for AP Ramsar Site designation
- 3.3 Hold community awareness events to share information on the benefits of healthy wetlands, impacts of unsustainable practices, and advantages of Ramsar designation
- 3.4 Develop and implement a communications strategy to ensure that the project's research is influencing regional development plans

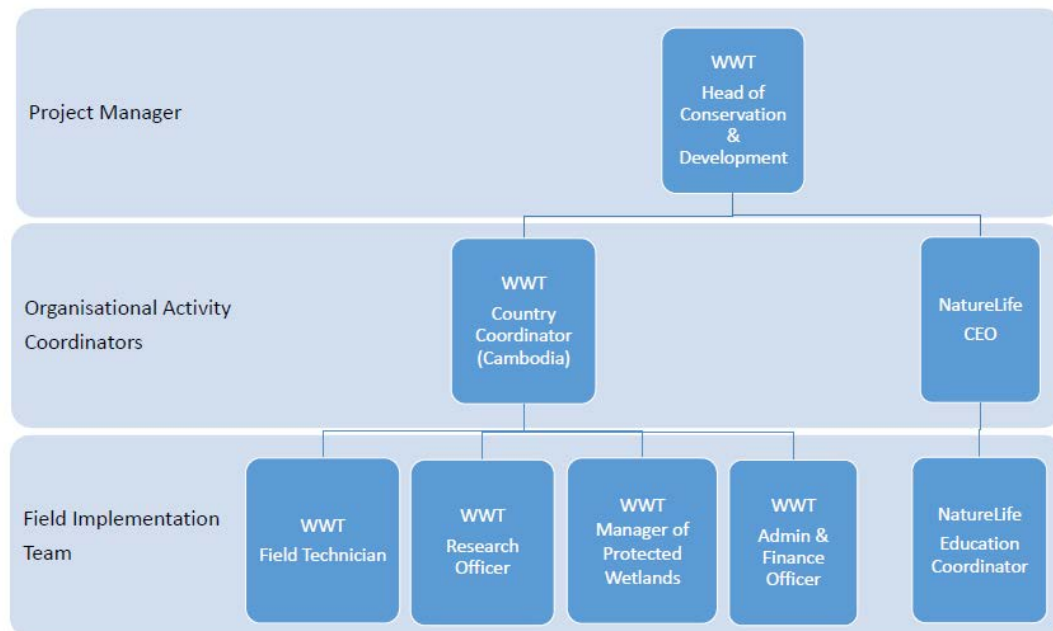
F. Logical frame of the project

Problem/s	Objectives	Outputs	Activities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AP is an internationally important wetland site providing vital ecosystem services for communities and habitat for globally threatened wildlife • Increasing threats necessitate additional protection for the site to prevent further loss and degradation • Insufficient data are currently available to inform the designation of AP as a Ramsar Site 	<p>To conduct a comprehensive wetland site assessment to determine the ecohydrology and ecosystem service values and wider landscape connectivity of the AP Protected Landscape in Cambodia in order to inform its designation as a new Ramsar Site by the end of 2019</p>	1. Ecosystem services assessment conducted in AP and wider CLMD landscape and comprehensive reports produced	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.1 Establish Expert Working Group to determine key factors for investigation 1.2 Customise the Toolkit for Ecosystem Service Assessment (TESSA) for use in the CLMD 1.3 Share methodology and toolkit with wider conservation community for inputs and approval by Department of Freshwater Wetlands Conservation 1.4 Identify local students to support the collection of ecosystem service data 1.5 Conduct field research 1.6 Finalise research reports Present research reports to multi-stakeholder Liaison Panels and Department of Freshwater Wetlands Conservation
		2. Ecohydrological assessments conducted in AP and wider CLMD landscape and comprehensive reports produced	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2.1 Develop ecohydrological research proposal 2.2 Study tour to Tram Chim National Park, where water control mechanisms are already in place 2.3 Share research proposal and methods with wider conservation community for inputs and approval by Department of Freshwater Wetlands Conservation 2.4 Conduct field research at AP and over wider CLMD landscape 2.5 Conduct landscape consultation workshop with regional experts 2.6 Finalise research reports

		3. Research findings disseminated to key wetland stakeholders and used to inform preparations for the designation of AP as a Ramsar Site	<p>3.1 Present research reports to multi-stakeholder Liaison Panels and Department of Fresh water Wetlands Conservation</p> <p>3.2 Support MoE to integrate research findings into preparations for AP Ramsar Site designation</p> <p>3.3 Hold community awareness events to share information on the benefits of healthy wetlands, impacts of unsustainable practices, and advantages of Ramsar designation</p> <p>3.4 Develop and implement a communications strategy to ensure that the project's research is influencing regional development plans</p>
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G. Project management arrangements and stakeholders

The project will be managed by WWT. The activities will be implemented directly through our local team, based in Phnom Penh, also working alongside the newly established NatureLife Cambodia to support their pilot Cambodian environmental education programme. Please see the attached diagram showing the management structure and roles and responsibilities of the project team.



WWT has over 70 years' experience of promoting the conservation, restoration and creation of wetlands, and was recently endorsed as one of only six International Organisation Partners by the Ramsar Convention signatories. We have been working in Cambodia since 2010, during which time we have developed strong partnerships with a number of respected local and international organisations with a long term presence in Cambodia. We have also forged excellent relationships with the local communities in AP, with whom we have been working to promote more sustainable livelihood options, including sustainable fisheries and ecotourism initiatives. We work in partnership with the Ministry of Environment and recently jointly led a consultative multi-stakeholder process to develop national guidance on the wise use and management of wetlands, which will be disseminated nationwide over the coming year. We have good working relations with the Ramsar Administrative Authority and CEPA Focal Point, both of whom have been highly supportive of our work to date.

The Expert Working Group will meet twice over the year to track progress against the planned objective and outputs, and will maintain regular contact in between meetings to provide technical oversight of the research. WWT field staff will convene ad hoc meetings with partners/students /government staff to discuss particular components of the work, and will conduct regular site visits to monitor progress. We have already established a multi-stakeholder Liaison Panel at AP, which meets annually to review progress and provide inputs on all of our projects. The Liaison Panel will play an important role in soliciting stakeholder feedback and evaluating the success of this project.

All of our work is aligned with national priorities and implemented with the support and involvement of government representatives at various levels. This project has been formally endorsed by the DoFW, as it will support the Department's strategic aim to designate AP as a Ramsar site (as included in the Department's 2018/2019 Strategy Plan).

The research methodology and tools will be developed in consultation with the DoFW. Representatives of the DoFW and the Ramsar Focal Point will form part of the Expert Working Group and will participate in key activities such as the landscape consultation workshop with regional experts. The DoFW is also represented on the multi-stakeholder Liaison Panel.

In regard to the formal process of designating AP as a Ramsar Site, we will work closely with the government at all stages. The procedure for designating a Ramsar site in Cambodia requires that a wetland must meet at least one of the Ramsar Criteria and develop required documents such as the Ramsar Information Sheet (RIS) and proposed boundary map. A series of consultative meetings will be organised with local authorities and local communities (commune level, district level and provincial level) to endorse the designation, particularly the proposed boundary. A national consultative workshop will also be organised to obtain endorsement from stakeholders at the national level. The designation proposal will then be submitted by the MoE to other relevant Ministries for their endorsement. Finally, the proposal will be submitted to the Cabinet of the Prime Minister for endorsement and the issuance of a Prime Ministerial Sub-decree, before the official request - RIS, map, and Sub-decree - is submitted to the Ramsar Secretariat. We will provide ongoing support to the government throughout this process to ensure that all formal requirements are met and the designation is accepted.

H. Work Plan

Outputs and activities	Month											
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Output 1												
Activity 1.1 Establish Expert WG	X											
Activity 1.2 Customise TESSA for use in the CLMD	X	X										
Activity 1.3 Share methodology and toolkit for inputs/approval			X									
Activity 1.4 Identify local students to support data collection		X	X	X								
Activity 1.5 Conduct field research				X	X	X	X	X				
Activity 1.6 Finalise research reports								X	X	X		
Output 2												
Activity 2.1 Develop ecohydrological research proposal	X	X										
Activity 2.2 Study tour to Tram Chim National Park		X										
Activity 2.3 Share research proposal and methods for inputs/approval			X									
Activity 2.4 Conduct field research				X	X	X	X	X				
Activity 2.5 Conduct landscape consultation workshop								X				
Activity 2.6 Finalise research reports								X	X	X		
Output 3												
Activity 3.1 Present research reports to Liaison Panels and MoE										X	X	X

Activity 3.2 Support MoE to integrate findings into preparations for AP Ramsar Site designation										X		
Activity 3.3 Hold community awareness events			X			X			X			X
Activity 3.4 Develop and implement a communications strategy	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

I. Budget

i) *Budget summary*

This proposal is a sample for your reference and budget information has been removed from this version of the proposal.

ii) *Overall itemized budget*

J. Follow Up

This project forms part of WWT's wider programme in Cambodia. As part of this long-term programme, WWT and its partners will continue to provide technical support to the MoE after the end of this project to finalise the process of designating AP as a Ramsar Site. When the site has formally been designated, we will support the MoE and other wetland stakeholders to develop and implement a comprehensive site management plan for AP, and also continue to establish a long-term financing mechanism for the site through community-based ecotourism. At the national level, we will continue to work with the MoE to formulate, implement and monitor management plans that promote the conservation of Ramsar and non-Ramsar wetland sites across the country.

K. Bibliography

Yav N., Seng K., Nhim S., Chea V., Bou V. & AVENT T. (2017) 'The impact of shrimp farming on water quality in Anlung Pring, a protected landscape in Cambodia'. *Cambodian Journal of Natural History* 2017 (1) 49–54

ICEM (2013) 'USAID Mekong ARCC Climate Change Impact and Adaptation: Summary. Prepared for the United States Agency for International Development by ICEM - International Centre for Environmental Management', 24