



## 5.1 Regional perspective: the Ramsar Convention in Asia

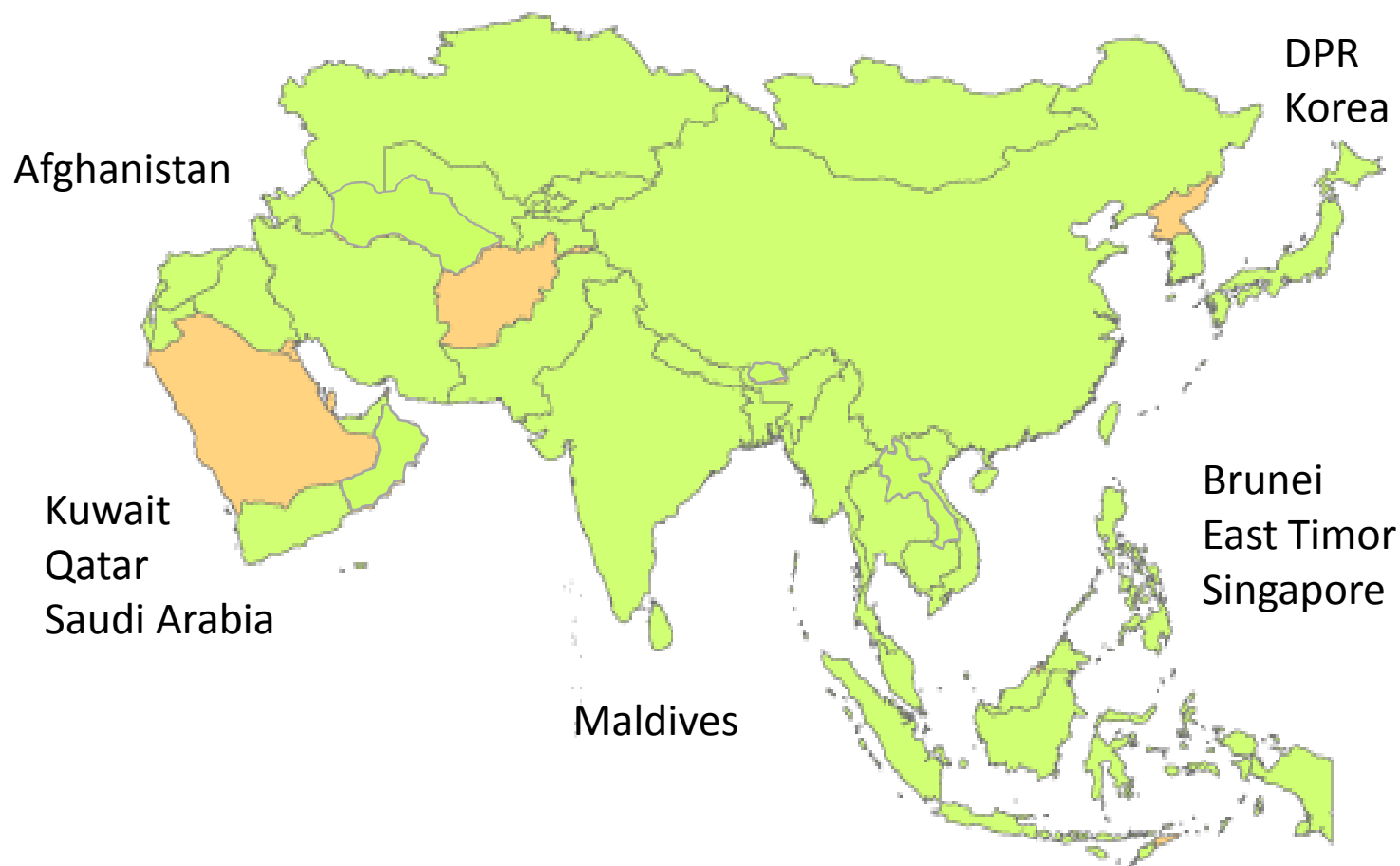
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# Asian Contracting Parties



## Awareness raising

- What are wetlands and their value?
- Role of the Ramsar Convention

## Accession

### Action (national)

- AA nominated and NFP's appointed and engaging actively;
- National Wetland Committee established and functioning;
- National Wetland Inventory developed;
- Process in place to designate priority wetlands as Ramsar Sites;
- National environmental legislation policies, guidelines (e.g. on environment, planning, NBSAP's development, etc.) reviewed and action taken to ensure that wetlands are safeguarded;
- Cooperation and engagement with other key wetland stakeholders (e.g. government departments, MEA focal points, business sector, media, NGOs, etc.)
- Development of a National CEPA Strategy

### Action (site)

- Ecosystem services provided by the site identified
- Awareness raising amongst local stakeholders;
- Local stakeholders engaged;
- Site management committee formed and functioning;
- Sustainable financing mechanism for the site identified and operating
- Site designation;
- Site management plan developed;
- CEPA programme developed and implemented, including the establishment of a 'Wetland Centre';
- Site management and restoration implemented;
- Monitoring and research conducted.

### Action (regional and international)

- Active engagement on wetland issues with relevant:
  - Ramsar Regional Initiatives;
  - Regional and international organizations
  - Other MEAs,



# Ramsar Implementation in Asia



National policy activities	% of Contracting Parties reporting
National Wetland Committee	11
National Wetland Inventory	33
National Wetland Strategy	28

Ramsar Site level activities	% of Contracting Parties reporting
Site management Committee	22
Site management plan	28
Monitoring programme	22

# Ramsar Implementation in Asia



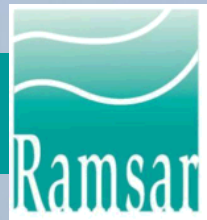
Challenges	% of Contracting Parties reporting
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Insufficient human resources</li><li>• Lack of awareness</li></ul>	44
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Lack of government policy for wetland conservation</li><li>• Insufficient funding</li><li>• Insufficient coordination</li></ul>	33

Future priorities	% of Contracting Parties reporting
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Develop national inventory</li><li>• Develop national wetland policy</li></ul>	44
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Improve communication such as by developing national wetland committee</li></ul>	22



# National level support



## National wetland policies and strategy

- Only 28% of Contracting Parties reporting to COP11 reported having a national wetland policy or strategy
- Provide technical advice to Contracting Parties, e.g. Prof. Gardner visiting Oman (Oct) and UAE (Dec) to help review their existing environmental legislation to see if the conservation and wise use of wetlands is adequately addressed.

## National wetland inventories

- Only 33% of Contracting Parties reporting to COP11 reported having national wetland inventories
- Projects planned for a) Luzon Island (Philippines) and b) Kiribati, Palau and Vanuatu
- Update the template for collecting data for the inventory
- Collaboration with the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity



# Ramsar Sites in Asia



- 285 Ramsar Sites in Asia
- 107 (38%) are coastal
- 13 (11%) support coral communities
- 225 (79%) sites are nationally protected
- Designation of unprotected sites as Ramsar Sites would help to contribute to Aichi Target 11, to extend the protected area system to 17% of terrestrial area and 10% of marine areas.

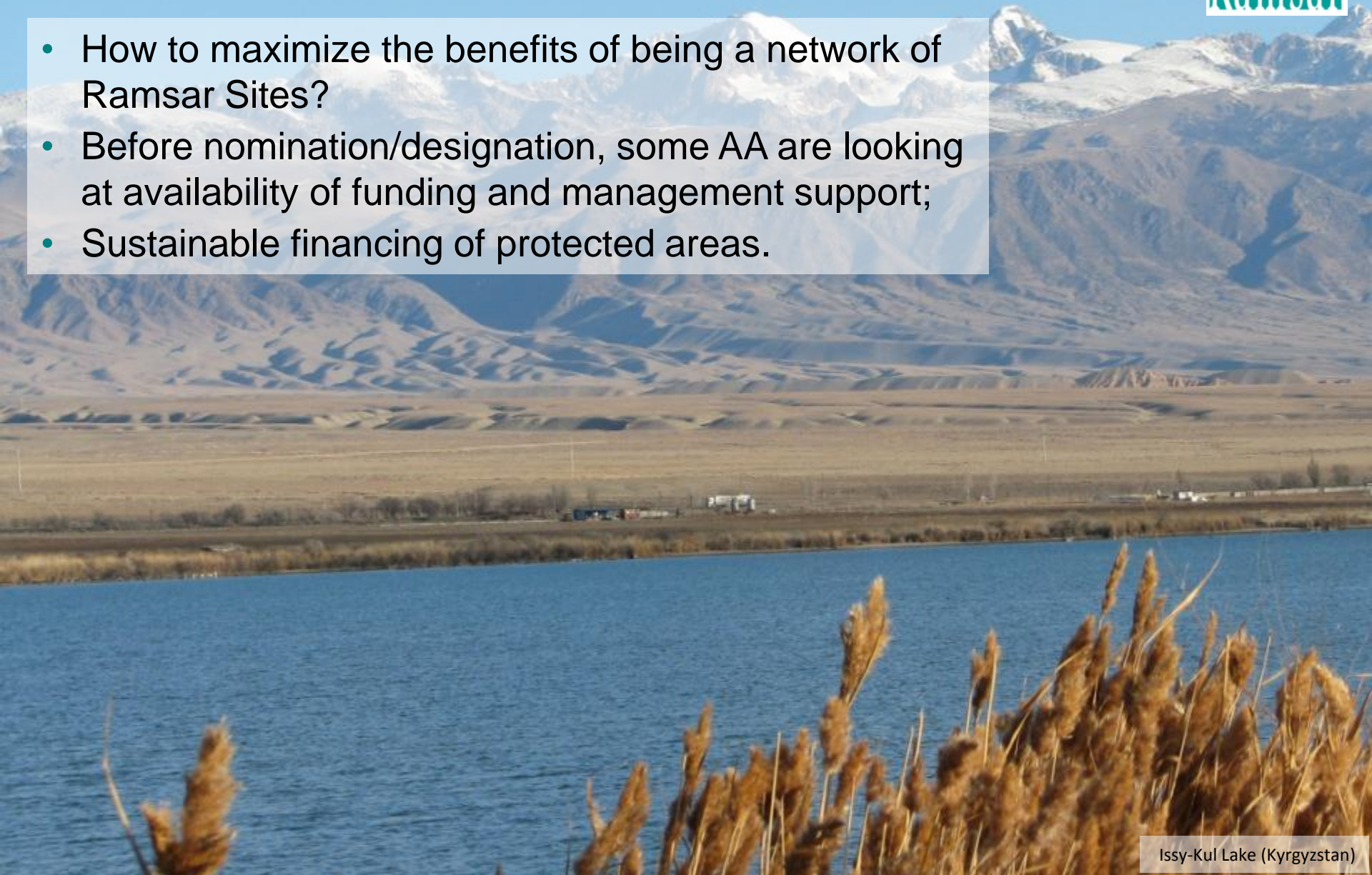




# Ramsar Sites designation



- How to maximize the benefits of being a network of Ramsar Sites?
- Before nomination/designation, some AA are looking at availability of funding and management support;
- Sustainable financing of protected areas.





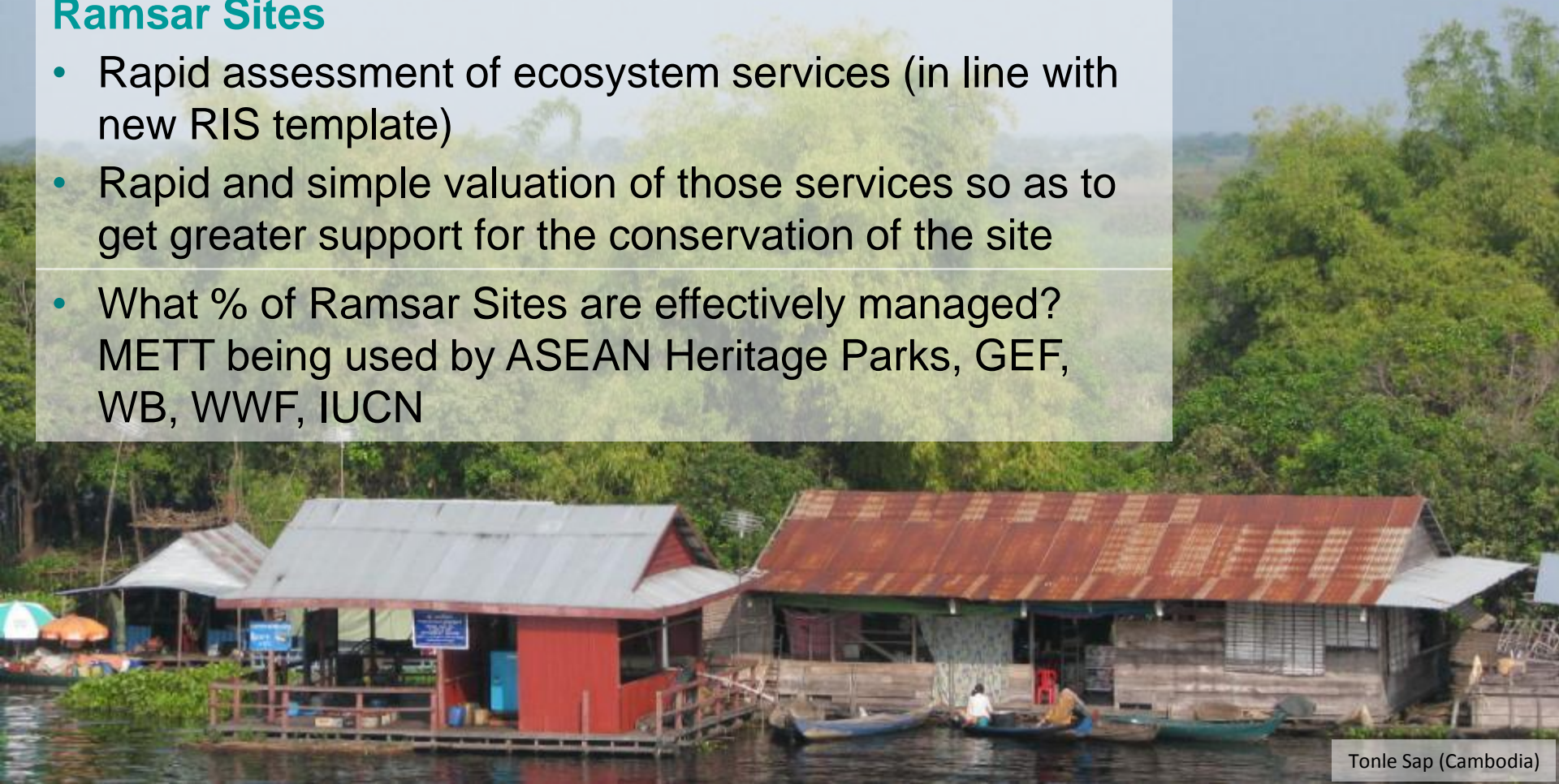
# Ramsar Sites management

## World Parks Congress (12-19 Nov 2014, Australia)

To position parks and protected areas firmly within broader goals of economic and community wellbeing.

### Ramsar Sites

- Rapid assessment of ecosystem services (in line with new RIS template)
- Rapid and simple valuation of those services so as to get greater support for the conservation of the site
- What % of Ramsar Sites are effectively managed?  
METT being used by ASEAN Heritage Parks, GEF, WB, WWF, IUCN

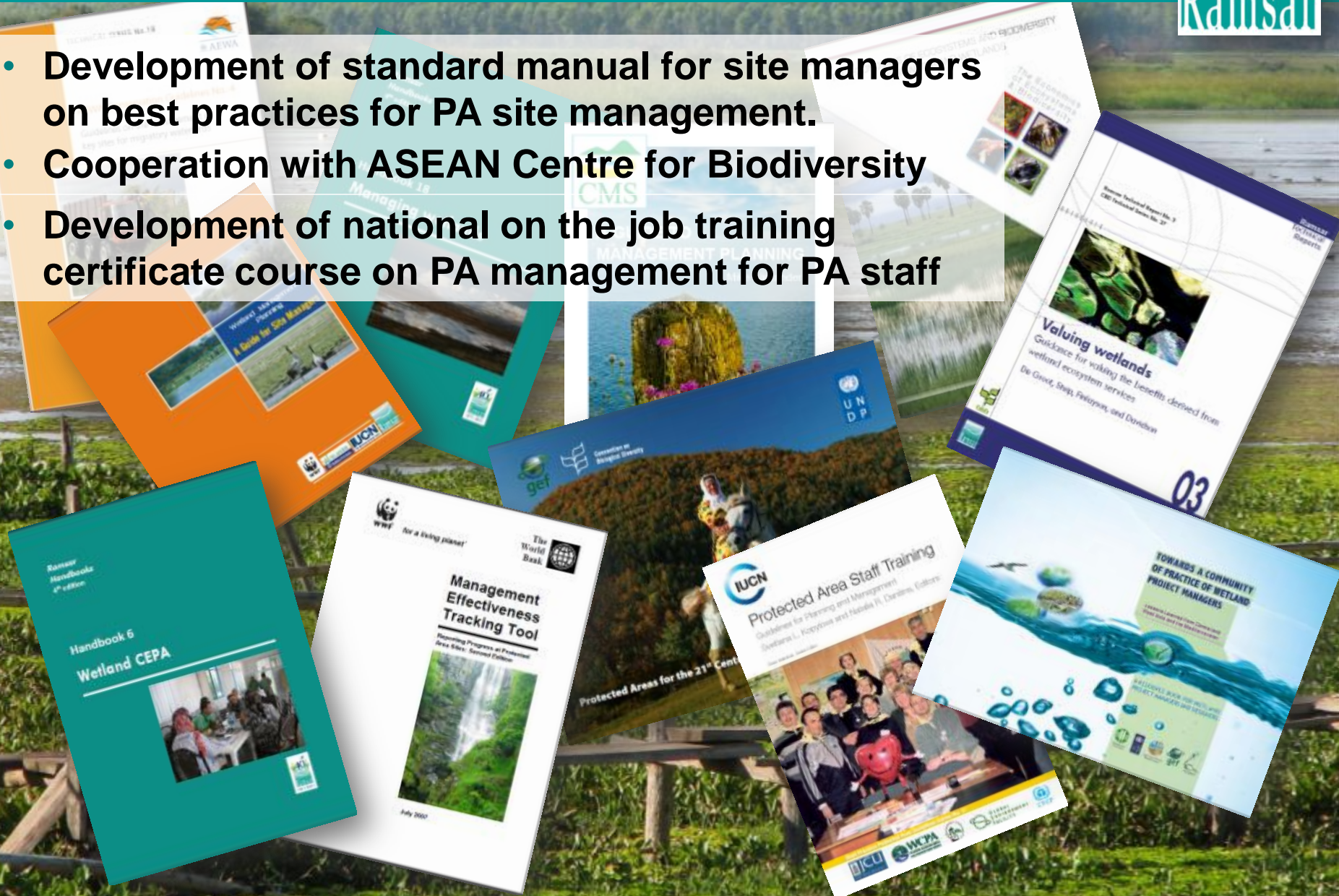




# Support to Ramsar Site managers



- Development of standard manual for site managers on best practices for PA site management.
- Cooperation with ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity
- Development of national on the job training certificate course on PA management for PA staff





# Summary



- Update the template for data collection and presentation for the national wetland inventory (collaboration with ACB);
- Opportunities for STRP members to provide on the ground technical assistance to CP's (e.g. Prof. Gardner )
- Review of sustainable financing mechanism for use at Ramsar Sites (collection of case studies)
- Review methodologies for conducting rapid assessment of ecosystem services provided by wetland sites and valuation of those services, and trial of selected methodologies at pilot Ramsar Sites; (collection of case studies)
- Review and identify methodologies for tracking management effectiveness of Ramsar Sites, and trial of selected methodologies at pilot Ramsar Sites; (collection of case studies)
- Development of standard manual for site management (collaboration with ACB, IUCN, WWF etc)
- Assist CP's in developing national courses on PA management



# THANK YOU!





