

**Minutes**  
**Local Project Appraisal Committee (LPAC) Meeting**  
**Conserving Habitats for Globally Important Flora and Fauna in Production Landscape Project**  
Tuesday 20 January 2015, 14.00-16.00 hrs, UNDP Meeting Room AB, 12th Floor  
United Nations Building, Rajdamnern Nok Avenue

---

**I. List of participants,**

**Zoological Park Organisation (ZPO), MONRE**

Mr. Wisid Wichasilpa	Deputy Executive Director
Mr. Boripat Siriaroonrat, <i>Ph D</i>	Assistant Director, Bureau of Conservation and Research
Ms. Nuchjaree Purchkoon	Zoologist, Bureau of Conservation and Research
Ms. Suwimol Senanok	Researcher, Bureau of Conservation and Research

**Office of Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and Planning (ONEP), Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE)**

Ms. Praopan Ngamsom	Director, Biodiversity Division
Ms. Patama Dorongphol	National Focal Point, Convention on Biological Diversity Conservation, Biodiversity Division
Ms. Krissana Sukniwatchai	Environmental Officer, Biodiversity Division
Mr. Parinya Leeahanon	Environmental Officer, Biodiversity Division

**Office of Permanent Secretary, MONRE**

Mr. Promnarin Timmontha	Project Analyst, Office of International Cooperation
-------------------------	--

**Office of National Economic and Social Development Board (NESDB)**

Mr. Surachai Koomsin	Director, Agriculture and Natural Resource and Environment Planning Office
----------------------	--

**Department of National Parks, Wildlife, and Plant Conservation (DNP), MONRE**

Mr. Narong Mahannop	Director, Forest and Plant Conservation Research Office
Ms. Kantinan Peawsa-ad	Forest Officer, Biodiversity Division, Forest and Plant Conservation Research Office
Mr. Supakit Vinitpornsawan, <i>Ph D</i>	Forest Technical Officer, Wildlife Conservation Office

**Department of Marine and Coastal Resources (DMCR), MONRE**

Mr. Sombat Poovachiranon	Marine Biodiversity Specialist
Mr. Montree Hamontree	Director, Marine and Coastal Resource Conservation Center no.2 (Samutsakorn)



The modality will be Nationally Implemented Modality (NIM) with Letter of Agreement (LOA) for UNDP to facilitate some services for project implementation. ONEP is the implementing partner, and ZPO - the key responsible party. ONEP will lead the pilot activities together with local partners for the Spoon-billed Sandpiper and the Water Lily; while ZPO will lead the pilot activities for the Eastern Sarus Crane.

The aim of the project is to integrate the conservation of globally important and endangered biodiversity into the management of production landscapes through improved management of critical habitats. At the national level, it will develop a legislative, regulatory and enforcement framework to guide endangered species (ES) and critical habitat conservation and management. This will be supported by capacity building within key ministries and agencies to enhance cross sector coordination in critical habitat management, and to effectively monitor critical habitats and ES to better inform decision makers.

These approaches will be piloted for three species namely the Eastern Sarus Crane, the Spoon-billed Sandpiper, and the Water Lily, in three distinct geographical locations. Within each location the project will build the capacity of local authorities, communities, private sector groups, and NGOs to develop environmentally friendly goods and services, which can provide a sound economic basis for ongoing critical habitat management and economic development.

These three globally significant species are strategically used as flagship to draw attention and resources to the conservation of its landscape habitats; namely:

Species	Landscapes
Spoon-billed Sandpiper	Coastal Landscape in the Inner Gulf of Thailand in Petchburi and Samut Sakhon Provinces, which is part of the East Asian Australasian Flyway.
Water Lily	Ridge to Reef Landscape in Ranong Province
Eastern Sarus Crane	Wetlands Complex (including Non-Hunting Areas, and Production Landscape) in Buriram Province, which is on the Eastern Sarus Crane flyway and connected to important habitats in Cambodia.

The project has two outcomes, which are:

**Outcome 1:** *Enabling framework and capacity to manage ES in productive landscapes strengthened.*

This outcome focuses on strengthening the policy and institutional frameworks in place at the national level to manage and support the conservation of endangered species and critical habitats. The component is aimed at directly addressing existing limitations in regulations and legislation, which do not provide clear guidance on the conservation and protection of ES and critical habitats. The approach will address gaps in existing legislation, develop frameworks to guide implementation of legislation, build the capacity of relevant institutions and support cross sector learning of best practice to facilitate the upscaling of ES and critical habitat conservation and protection within production landscapes. The expected outputs are as follows:

**Output 1.1:** *Legislative framework for ES conservation strengthened through development of an ES and Critical Habitat Bill*

**Output 1.2:** *Land Use Planning Framework in place that integrates conservation into land-use planning and allocation decisions*

**Output 1.3:** *ONEP-led cross-sectoral coordination mechanism in place leading to better planning, coordination, monitoring, and enforcement capabilities for ES conservation.*

**Output 1.4:** *Institutional capacity of ONEP to identify ES and monitor its recovery strengthened*

**Outcome 2:** *Critical habitat management demonstrated for three endangered species.*

This outcome focuses on the conservation of the Eastern Sarus Crane, the Spoon-billed Sandpiper and the Water Lily. This will be achieved through both increasing national, provincial and local capacities to protect these species as well as identifying and supporting sustainable financing pathways for their conservation within production landscapes. Achievements in conserving these species will also be utilized as part of a process of sharing best practice in ES and critical habitat conservation throughout Thailand.

**Output 2.1.** *Management and zoning plans implemented for the identified critical habitats of Spoon-billed Sandpiper, Water Lily and Eastern Sarus Crane in Buriram, Samut Sakorn and Ranong Provinces.*

**Output 2.2.** *Long-term financial sustainability strategy for 3 ES habitat sites developed*

**Output 2.3:** *Strengthening of Extension support to help guide land users to adopt biodiversity friendly land-use practices.*

*Please Refer to ANNEX I for full details of the presentation*

## **IV. Summary of Discussion**

### **4.1 On Project Objective and Outcomes**

- Mr. Sombat Poovachiranon, Marine Biodiversity Specialist from the Department of Marine and Coastal Resources (DMCR) supported the project's "Landscape Approach" of habitat conservation: the landscape of the inner gulf of Thailand for the habitats of the spoon-billed pipers, the ridge to reef landscape of Klong Naka for the habitats of the Water Lily, for example. However, he also emphasized the need to specify the clear scope of the project's intervention during the implementation. He also suggested that the outcome on ES bill could be difficult to achieve within the project's life time. The project should also considered using/ strengthening the existing laws, e.g. the Marine and Coastal Resources Law, the regulation on the Environmental Protected Area, to serve the purpose of ES habitats conservation. Mr. Poovachiranon pointed out some of the inaccurate facts and figures in the project document and would provide the information for correction to UNDP.
- Ms. Praopan Ngamsom, Director of Biological Diversity Division, Office of Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and Planning (ONEP) indicated that for the Water Lily Conservation in Ranong Province the landscape approach is essential to keep the habitats intact. In this regard, ONEP has proposed to use the Environmental Protected Area designation to provide the conservation measures to protect Water Lily; and this

project is designed to enable the designation of the Environment Protected Area for the Water Lily.

- Mr. Narong Mahannop, Director of Forest and Plant Conservation Research Office, Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation (DNP), raised the importance of looking into creating breeding grounds for these species, especially the Eastern Sarus Crane; and the crucial success factor of creating the practical incentives for community participation in the conservation of ES and its habitats.
- Mr. Supagit Vinitpornsawan, Ph D, from the DNP's Wildlife Conservation Office, commented that some of the indicators are subject to high uncertainties beyond the project's control. For example, the one on the number of the spoon-billed pipers – which may be lost along their migration pathways, even though the project could indeed conserve their habitats in the inner gulf of Thailand. He suggested that these risk factors and assumptions should be clearly identified and updated for effective and adaptive management.
- Mr. Surachai Koomsin, Director of Agriculture and Natural Resource and Environment Planning Office, Office of the National Economic and Social Development Board (NESDB) pinpointed that creating the practical incentives for community participation in ES conservation is essential. These are not only economic incentives, but also social incentives. It is crucial for the project to demonstrate how the co-existence of communities and the species could be mutually beneficial. He believed the project could provide models for replication for other ES conservation. The project could also provide evidence-based policy information on how development policies and planning in sectors could have impacts on the others and the need to create more policy coherence. This could be good inputs into the formulation of the National Economics and Social Development Plans.
- Mr. Wisid Wichasilpa, Deputy Executive Director, the Zoological Park Organisation (ZPO) seconded that the incentives the project could create could be both economic and social, to demonstrate to communities that the conservation of ES also helps improve their quality of life and sustainable livelihoods. He provided an example that starts to emerge in the works that ZPO is doing in Buriram Province, where the Eastern Sarus Crane has been reintroduced into the habitats which are mostly paddy fields. ZPO encouraged farmers in the areas to turn organic so the areas will be bird-friendly, while incentives are being put in place on marketing this crane-friendly organic rice so they can sell with more profit margin; as well as promoting eco-tourism in the areas to provide supplementary incomes to participating farmers. The project will come in to augment the initial efforts ZPO has made in the past 3 years, to make it sustainable in the long run. Mr. Wichasilpa also emphasized that collaborations with local universities, local government authorities, provincial authorities, as well as tourism authorities, to ensure sustainability of project's intervention.
- Mr. Boripat Siriaroonrat, Ph D, Assistant Director, ZPO's Bureau of Conservation Research and Education, added that ZPO has committed to make these efforts successful. The organization has invested 5 million Thai Baht to initiate the reintroduction of the Eastern Sarus Crane in their natural habitats in Buriram Province in the past 3 years. The partnership with academic institutions such as Mahasarakam University in the Northeast, and Mahidol University in Bangkok, has been forged to provide technical support, capacity building, as well as R&D. ZPO seeks the GEF resources to leverage the efforts for scaling up and for replication in other areas, as well as to strengthening the capacities of ZPO staff in handling these efforts, in exploring applicable incentives, and in working with communities.

- Ms. Kantinan Peawsa-ad, Forest Officer, Biodiversity Division, DNP's Forest and Plant Conservation Research Office, suggested that economic valuation of the species and habitats could provide strong economic incentives/ cases for their conservation. There are a number of on-going projects that DNP is working on economic of ecosystems and she would be willing to participate in knowledge exchanges as the project gets implemented.
- Ms. Kanichaya Rodruangsri, Town Planner, Department of Public Works and Town & Country Planning (DTCP), supported the significance of integrating ES conservation and sustainable utilisation in land-use planning. However, she recognised that this would still require concerted and cross-ministerial efforts. She viewed that this project would provide a good start as well as entry points to strengthen rules and regulations as well as policy frameworks to make the integration happen. She suggested also that the project should look into when the general land-use planning of each pilot area will be renewed and set the interventions' timeframe accordingly.

#### 4.2 On Management Arrangement and Budget

- Mr. Siriaroonrat from ZPO commented that the project took a long time to get approved. He expected that the inception phase would be conducted soon so the project could pick up speed and get implemented.
- Ms. Nittaya Mekaroonrueng, UNDP Thailand's Resource Management Associate, pointed out that the budget allocation for buying equipment is quite substantive; she recommended that the project may be able to look into the option of renting some of the equipment, instead of buying, if deemed more cost-effective.
- Ms. Patama Dorongphol, National Focal Point of the Convention of Biological Diversity, asked if the budget allocation could still be adjusted. It was clarified that the budget allocation could be shifted within outcome, but not across outcomes; the adjustment has to be recorded in the inception report with endorsement of the project board.

#### V. Conclusion

Ms. Marina Walter, Chair of LPAC, concluded that the meeting endorsed the project document with minor corrections to the project document. The Chair thanked to the participants for their valuable inputs and addressed that the comments and suggestions will be recorded in the minutes to guide the inception phase.

*The meeting closed at 16.00 hrs.*

#### Attachment

Annex I: Power Point Presentation on the Project