Overview of the Regional Flyway Initiative

GOAL: Will deliver 50+ flyway sites under Protection / Sustainable Management providing a coherent network of priority sites with favorable conservation status with species numbers maintained or enhanced on the EAAF.

Partnership

ADB, EAAFP, and BirdLife International with an international team including University of Southampton, NUS, Wetlands International, Paulson Institute, & others

Delivery Timeframe

Comprising of 2 stages:

i) DEVELOPMENT STAGE
Grant finance
2021 – 2023 (2yrs)
$1 million secured

ii) INVESTMENT STAGE
Loan / Grant Blend
2023 onwards (10+yrs)
$3 billion target

Focus Countries

Mongolia, Viet Nam, Cambodia, Philippines, Thailand, People's Republic of China, Indonesia and Malaysia Bangladesh, Papua New Guinea and Lao PDR.

International Agreements

Contributes towards key agreements including **EAAFP Strategic Plan, Paris Agreement, Ramsar, CMS, CBD Post-2020 biodiversity framework** and **UNESCO World Heritage** obligations

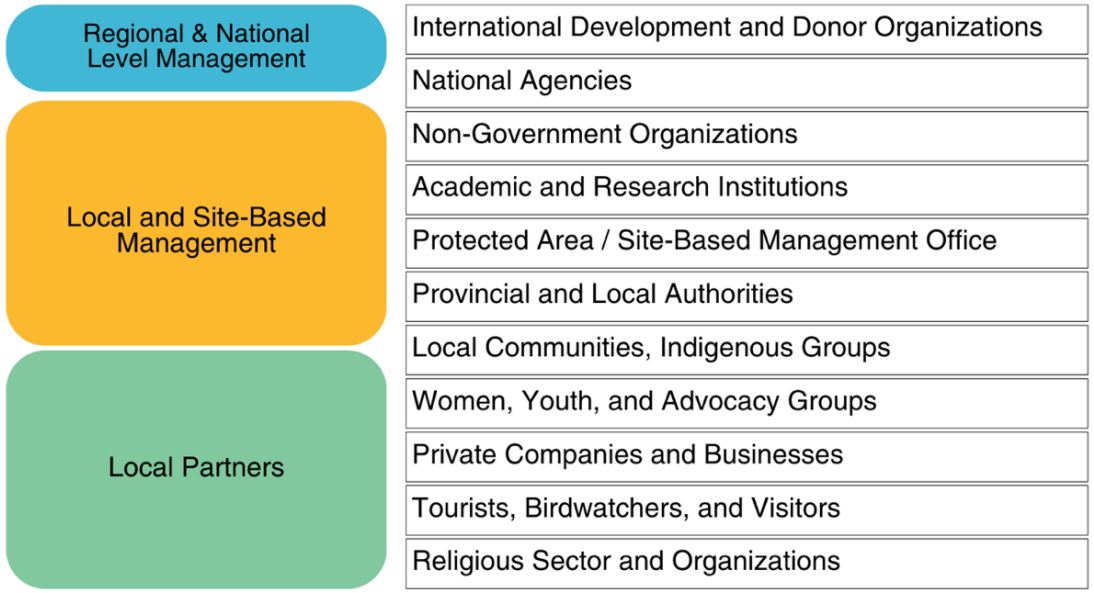
Assessing capacity gaps and needs – methodology

- Broad-based, semi-structured questionnaire to consult stakeholders on the capacity gaps and needs for wetland conservation, policy and management (before RFI workshops)

- 3-hour workshop session at each of (5) RFI workshops to evaluate capacity and stakeholder needs at both country and site level (findings from this assessment is reported separately in each site's concept proposal)

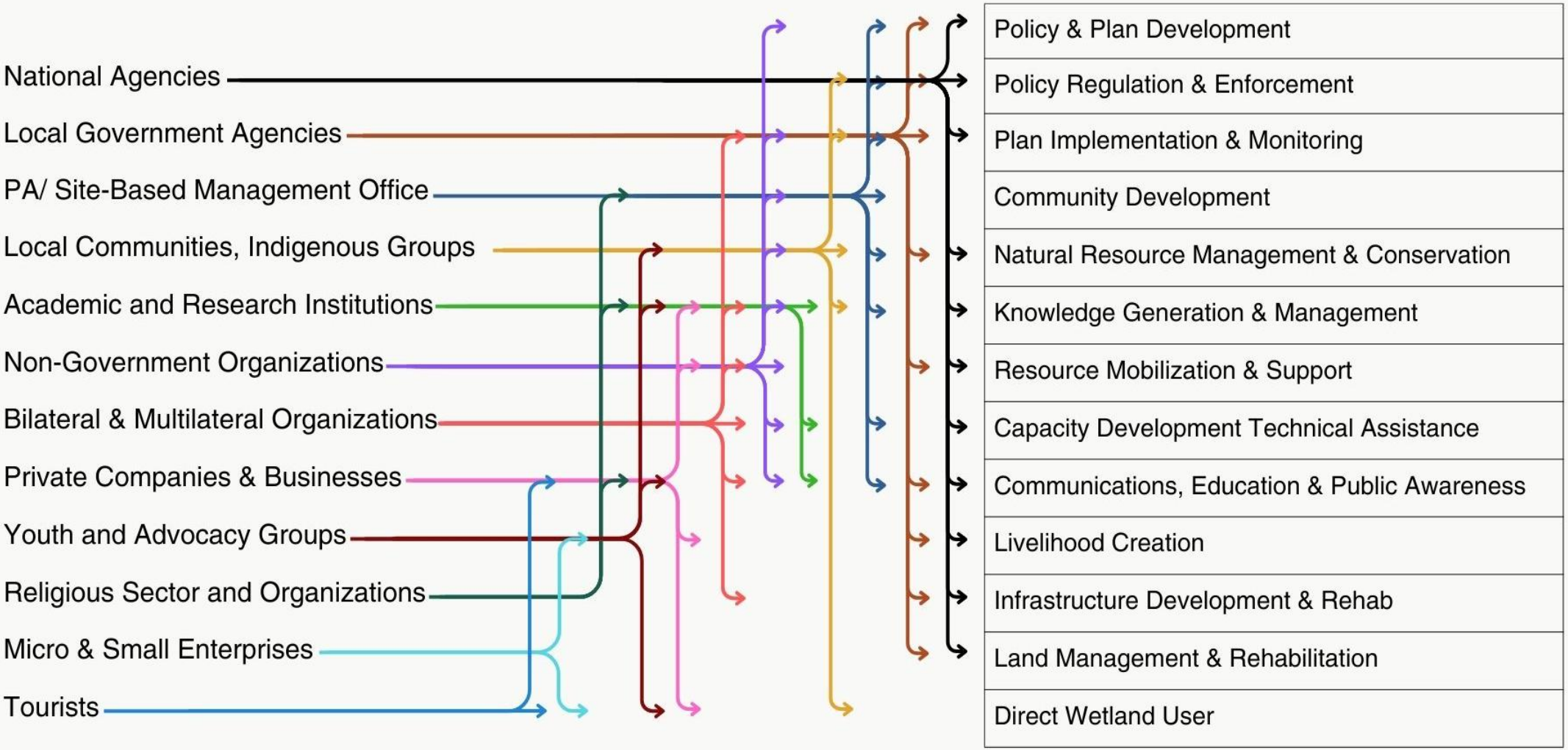
- Pre- and post-workshop survey questionnaires targeted at all workshop participants (including government officers, researchers and conservation practitioners) administered before and after each RFI workshop.

Role of stakeholders in wetland management

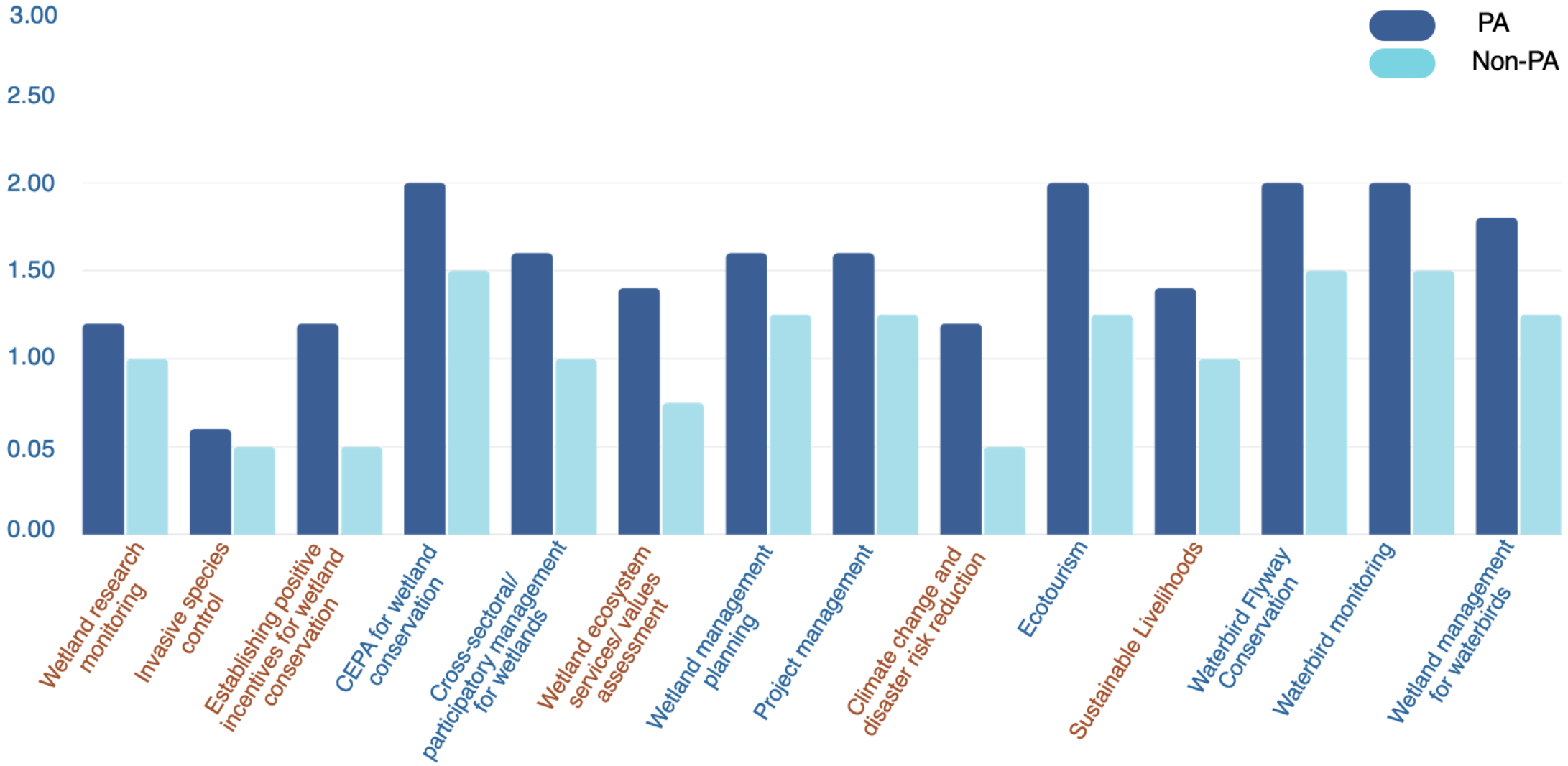


- At least 13 roles identified for stakeholders involved in wetland management
- Most countries in RFI (geographic region) plugged into key policy frameworks such as the Ramsar Convention. Most have developed policies, plans, and programs to integrate these international obligations into their national agendas. **Many gaps in wetland policy at the national level** in all RFI countries
- Local governance, particularly at the commune or village level, empowers communities to take an active role in the management and conservation of wetlands, ensuring that direct users engage in managing these resources effectively, emphasized in surveys.

Role of stakeholders in wetland management



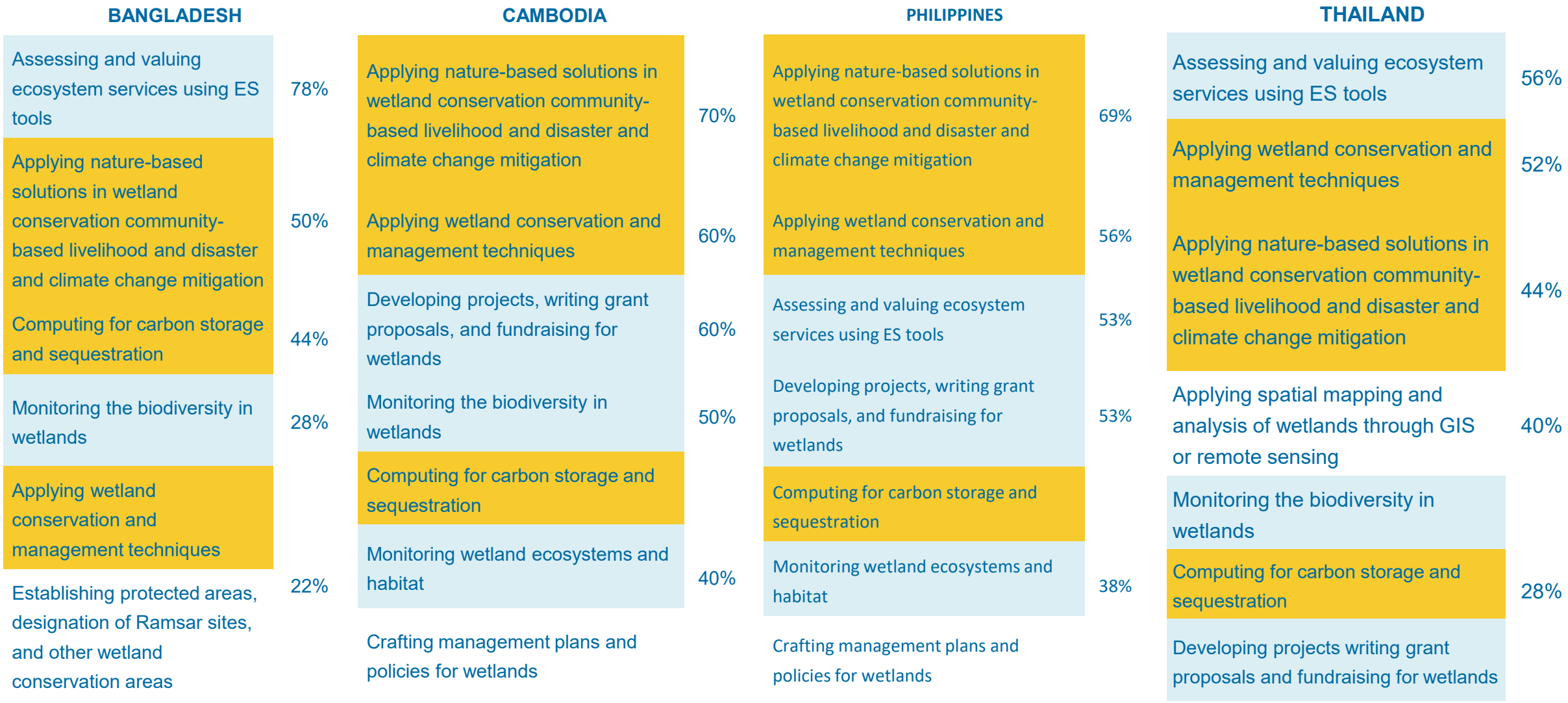
Site management capacities across RFI sites



Site manager capacity gaps (all countries)

Topic Areas	Competency	None	Beginner	Intermediate	Expert
Ecosystem service theory and practice	Knowledge	19%	**48%**	28%	4%
	Skill	27%	**45%**	22%	5%
Carbon storage and sequestration	Knowledge	29%	**42%**	27%	3%
	Skill	35%	**42%**	18%	5%
Nature-based solutions in wetland	Knowledge	9%	**44%**	35%	12%
	Skill	15%	**46%**	28%	11%
Wetland conservation and management techniques	Knowledge	11%	**38%**	**38%**	13%
	Skill	15%	**42%**	31%	12%
Wetland habitat and ecosystem assessment and monitoring	Knowledge	12%	38%	**41%**	10%
	Skill	12%	**37%**	**37%**	14%
Wetland characterization and classification	Knowledge	12%	**44%**	33%	11%
	Skill	13%	**43%**	28%	15%
Wetland biodiversity survey and monitoring	Knowledge	12%	**40%**	34%	14%
	Skill	9%	**41%**	36%	14%
Spatial mapping and analysis of wetlands	Knowledge	27%	**46%**	21%	5%
	Skill	29%	**40%**	23%	8%
Management planning and policy development on wetlands	Knowledge	13%	**47%**	29%	11%
	Skill	20%	**41%**	24%	15%
Project development, proposal writing	Knowledge	21%	**41%**	27%	11%
	Skill	24%	**36%**	27%	13%
Designating PAs, Ramsar sites, and other conservation areas	Knowledge	9%	**44%**	35%	12%
	Skill	8%	**48%**	30%	14%

What capacities do RFI stakeholders want to improve on?



In summary

- **Institutional development** – institutional and organizational development, including budget and resource allocation for manpower, incentives, facilities and infrastructure development, and equipment
- **Policy development and integration** – development of policies, plans, and programs for wetlands sites
- **Policy implementation and enforcement** – law enforcement, including regulations for wetland users, ground patrol and monitoring
- **Management planning and interventions** – management plan formulation and conservation planning
- **Research and knowledge management** – research and surveys, monitoring, and creation of knowledge and database
- **Wetland management and restoration** – management of threats and other restoration activities, including the designation of new Ramsar/ conservation sites
- **Sustainable and climate-smart livelihoods** – provision of alternative livelihoods including eco-tourism, sustainable fishing and agriculture, and other biodiversity-friendly livelihood options
- **Resource mobilization** – fundraising and mobilization of resources for site management, which includes proposal writing, project development, and private-public partnerships