

Resilient Urban Centres and Surrounds (RUCaS)

MISSION SUMMARY REPORT – THAILAND (18–23 MARCH 2024)

Background

RUCaS aims to improve the value generated by investment in urban infrastructure by better integrating conventional large 'grey' infrastructure (e.g. levee banks, pipelines, treatment plants, roads, railways) with nature-based solutions (e.g. wetlands, mangroves, catchment protection, green walls, multifunctional parks and transport corridors). RUCaS program outputs include case studies demonstrating application in different urban contexts and scales, as well as training in the tools and principles applied, and strategies to upscale nature-based solutions (NbS).

Purpose

This Thai mission had the following objectives:

- Facilitate On Nut Case Study Technical Working Group (TWG) meeting.
- Co-convene and participate in *Scaling Nature-Based Solutions in the Mekong* MAP-WEC partner workshop.
- Engage with DFAT Thailand on program progress.

Activities

- **Third On Nut Case Study Technical Working Group meeting** –The Department of Climate Change and Environment (DCCE) hosted a meeting including project partners PTT GC, BMA and Kasetsart University. The TWG discussed the benefits and costs of various NbS options proposed to rehabilitate and activate the On Nut waste transfer site in Bangkok. The group also considered what is involved in safely implementing recommendations and supporting wider application to other rehabilitation sites in Thailand noting the wide range of possible soil qualities and potential contamination issues. The final case study will be considered by the Thai Steering Committee in July.
- **Scaling Nature-Based Solutions in the Mekong workshop** – WSCA co-facilitated this workshop with other lead MAP-WEC partners, WWF and Oxfam. We focused on the 'how' and 'why' of including GEDSI centrally in considering options for new infrastructure, including NbS. The workshop explored the following key themes:
 - How sustainable development must consider fairness and equity, and fundamentally recognise the rights of those often marginalised or lacking power in development. In particular, we explored how improved disability inclusion and empowerment build resilience to compounding pressures of growing water insecurity and climate change.
 - Presentations by the Stockholm Environment Institute, IUCN and DP Hanoi/WWF that looked at their work in promoting NbS, and the context and opportunities for upscaling. We discussed the importance of evidence and inclusive practices to stimulate investments beyond pilots for scaling NbS. In particular, we explored how upscaling to impact was different across our programs – working to landscape scale outcomes; or influencing

regulations and codes; or realising models of stewardship and economic value from protecting natural resources.

- The workshop convened partners of the Mekong Australian Partnership for Water, Energy and Climate with Climate Resilient by Nature and WWF leading the logistics and organising.
- **Meetings with Australian Embassy officials** – We discussed RUCaS and MAP -WEC programming, as well as progress in supporting the Eastern Economic Corridor team.
- Meeting with the Eastern Economic Corridor Office – This meeting progressed work on a water balance and future scenario project.

We would like to thank Dwight Ronan for facilitating the opening panel of the Scaling NBS workshop, and for opening remarks by Mr John Francis. Our thanks to Rutmanee Ongsakul and staff at the Australian Embassy, Thailand for their support.



Michael Simon (WSCA), Shreya Gawahli (AWP) and Trinh Thi Thu Thuy (DP Hanoi) led discussions and presentations on gender equality and disability inclusion in water security and climate change



WSCA, WWF and Oxfam presenting in opening panel chaired by DFAT the Scaling Nature-Based Solutions in the Mekong workshop



On Nut Technical Working Group meeting



Next steps in Thailand and Vietnam

The immediate next steps are summarised below:

Action	Timing
On Nut case study TWG meeting 3	29 April 2024
Makkasan case study TWG meeting	29 May 2024
RUCaS to prepare and deliver Knowledge Exchange	July 2024
RUCaS team to complete On Nut and progress Makkasan case studies	July 2024

