

RAMSAR COMMITMENT FROM NATIONAL PERSPECTIVE

**INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON
CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF
WETLANDS**

8 SEPTEMBER 2014



Kota Kinabalu
Wetland



Lower
Kinabatangan -
Segama



Kuching Wetland



Tasek Bera



Tg. Piai



Pulau Kukup



Sg. Pulai

OVERVIEW:

1. Understanding wetlands and its importance.
2. Malaysia and Ramsar Convention.
3. How Malaysia supports the Convention's goals.
4. Malaysia Ramsar Sites.
5. How the designation of Ramsar Sites benefit Malaysia.
6. Issues and challenges in conserving and managing the sites.
7. Efforts to conserve and manage Ramsar Sites effectively.



Tasek Bera

1. Understanding Wetlands

Definition:

“Areas of marsh, fen, peatland or water, whether natural or artificial, permanent or temporary, with water that is static or flowing, fresh, brackies or salt, including areas of marine water the depth of which at low tide does not exceed six metres”.

(source: Article 1.1 of Ramsar Convention’s Text)

“Land that is submerged or inundated by water all the time or some of the time”.

(source: National Wetland Policy, 2004)

Types of Wetlands

- i. Marine (coastal wetlands)
- ii. Riverine (wetlands along rivers & streams)
- iii. Estuarine (deltas, tidal marshes & mangrove swamps)
- iv. Lacustrine (wetlands associated with lakes)
- v. Palustrine (marshes, swamps & bogs)

(source: Ramsar Convention)

- i. Marine & coastal wetlands
- ii. Inland / freshwater wetlands
- iii. Man-made wetlands

*** In total 31 types.**

(source: National Wetlands Policy)

Why Conserving Wetlands Is Important

Benefit

Non-Use Values – existence values	Direct Use Values	Indirect Use Values	Potential future values
Biodiversity Cultural heritage Bequest values (for future generations)	Wetland products Recreation & tourism Transport Agriculture Peat/energy	Flood control Groundwater recharge Shoreline stabilization & storm protection Water quality improvement Climate change mitigation	Future value of information



Economic Values



Cambodia

- Storm protection and erosion control services: USD 300,000 per year.
- Wetland products: USD 600,000 per year.



Thailand

- Storm protection: USD 10,821 per hectare.
- Wetland products: USD 1,571 per hectare.



Malaysia – Tanjung Piai National Park Johor

- Ecotourism: USD 41,991 per year

2. Malaysia and Ramsar Convention

Signatory to various Multilateral
Agreements & Partnerships



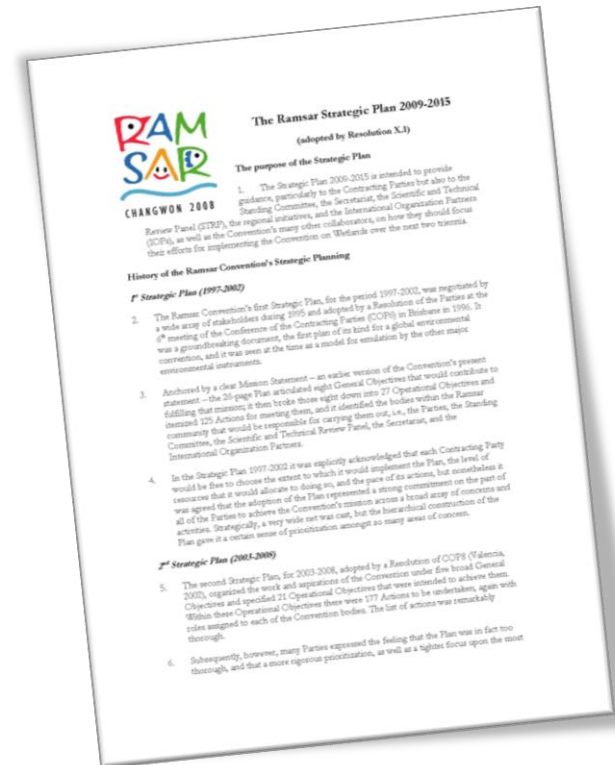
Malaysia: 5.19

Malaysia ratified
Ramsar Convention
on 10 March 1995.

Ramsar

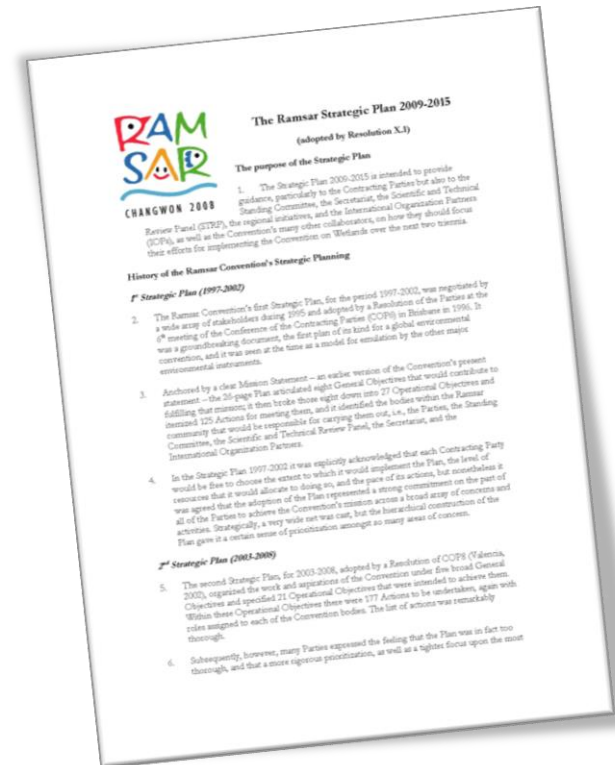
3. Malaysia's Support To Convention's Goals

- **3rd Strategic Plan (2009 – 2015) which provides guidance to Contracting Parties in implementing Ramsar Convention. (1st Strategic Plan, 1997 – 2002; 2nd Strategic Plan, 2003 – 2008).**
 - ✓ To achieve 5 goals through implementation of 28 strategies.

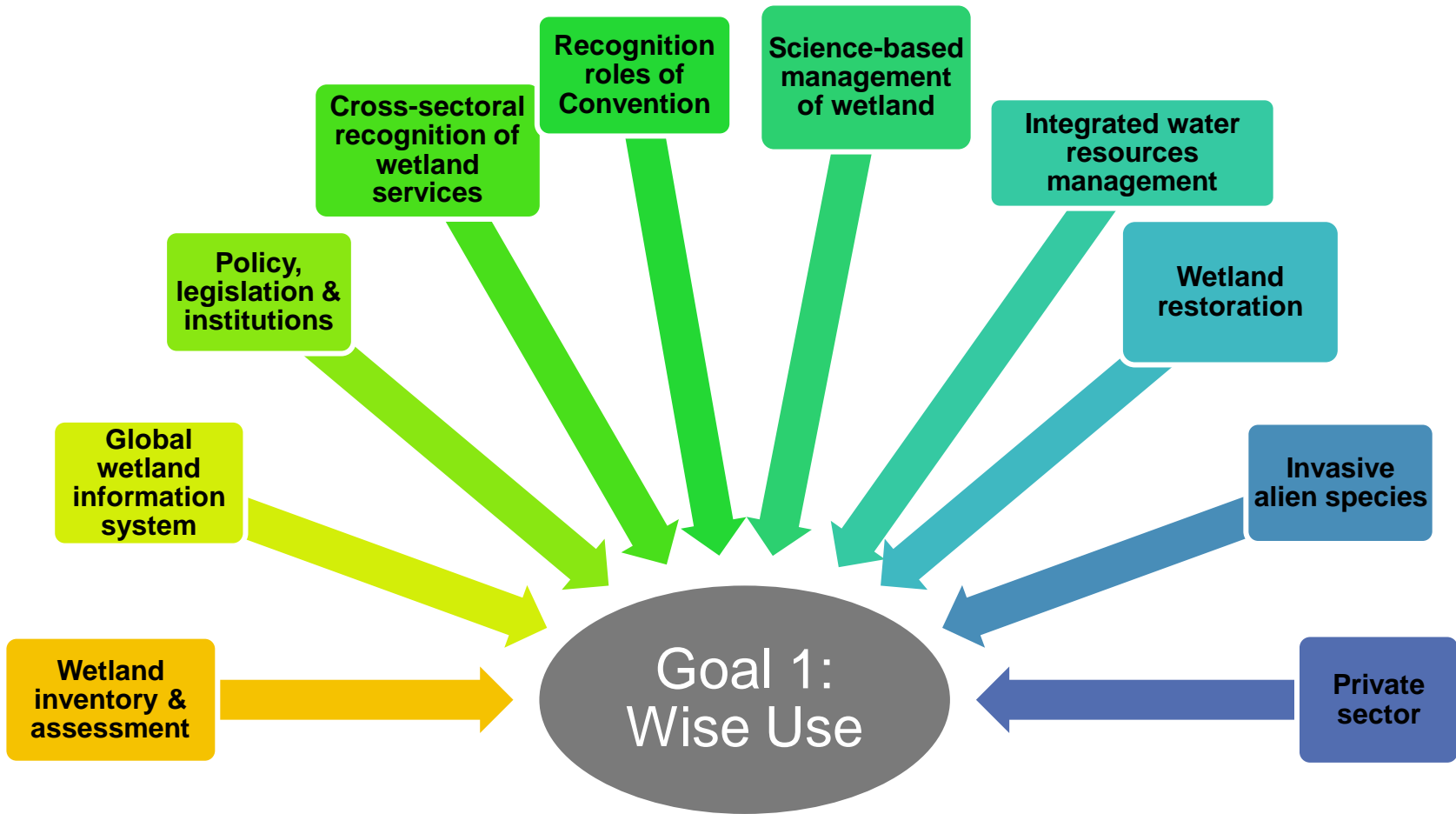


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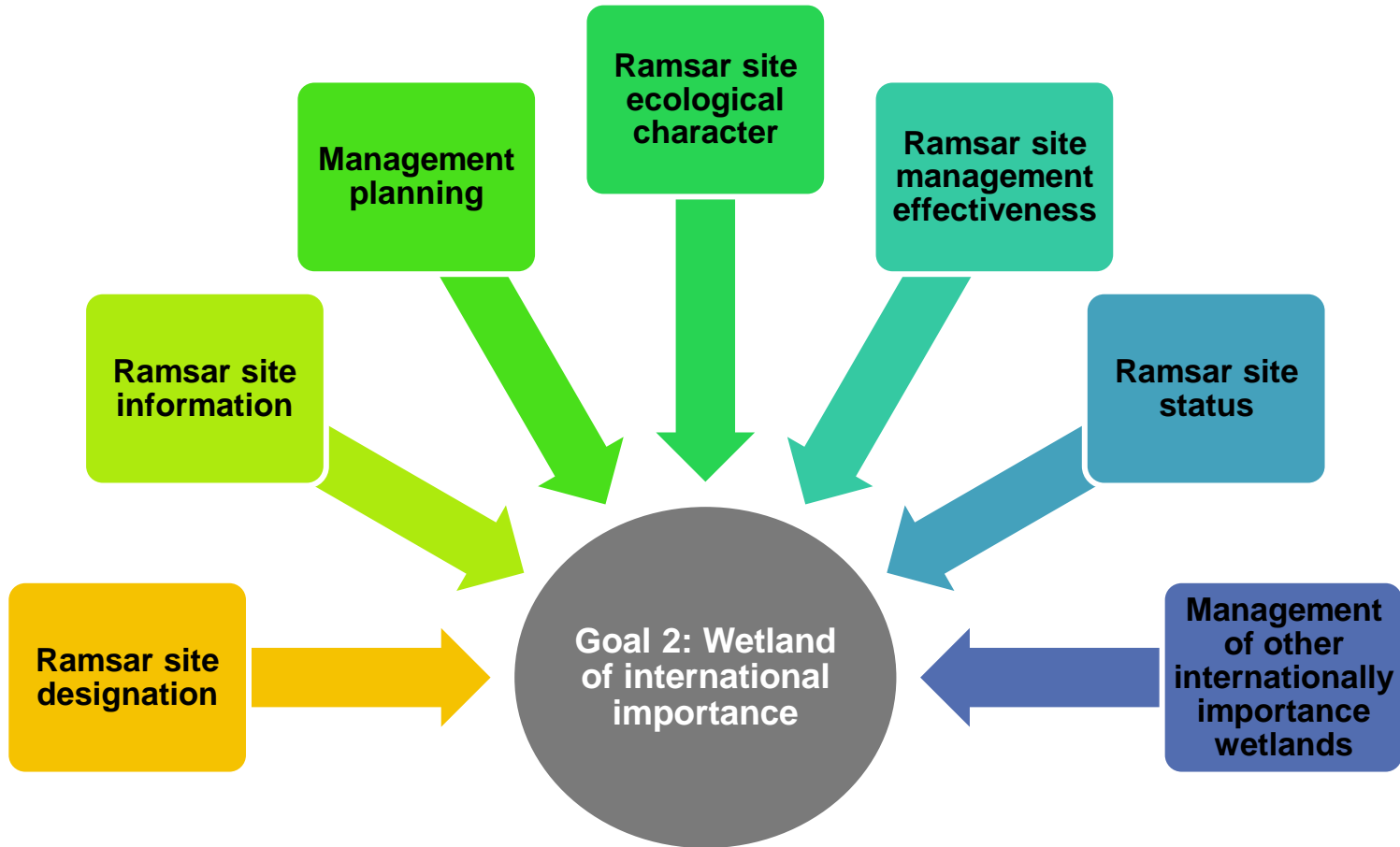
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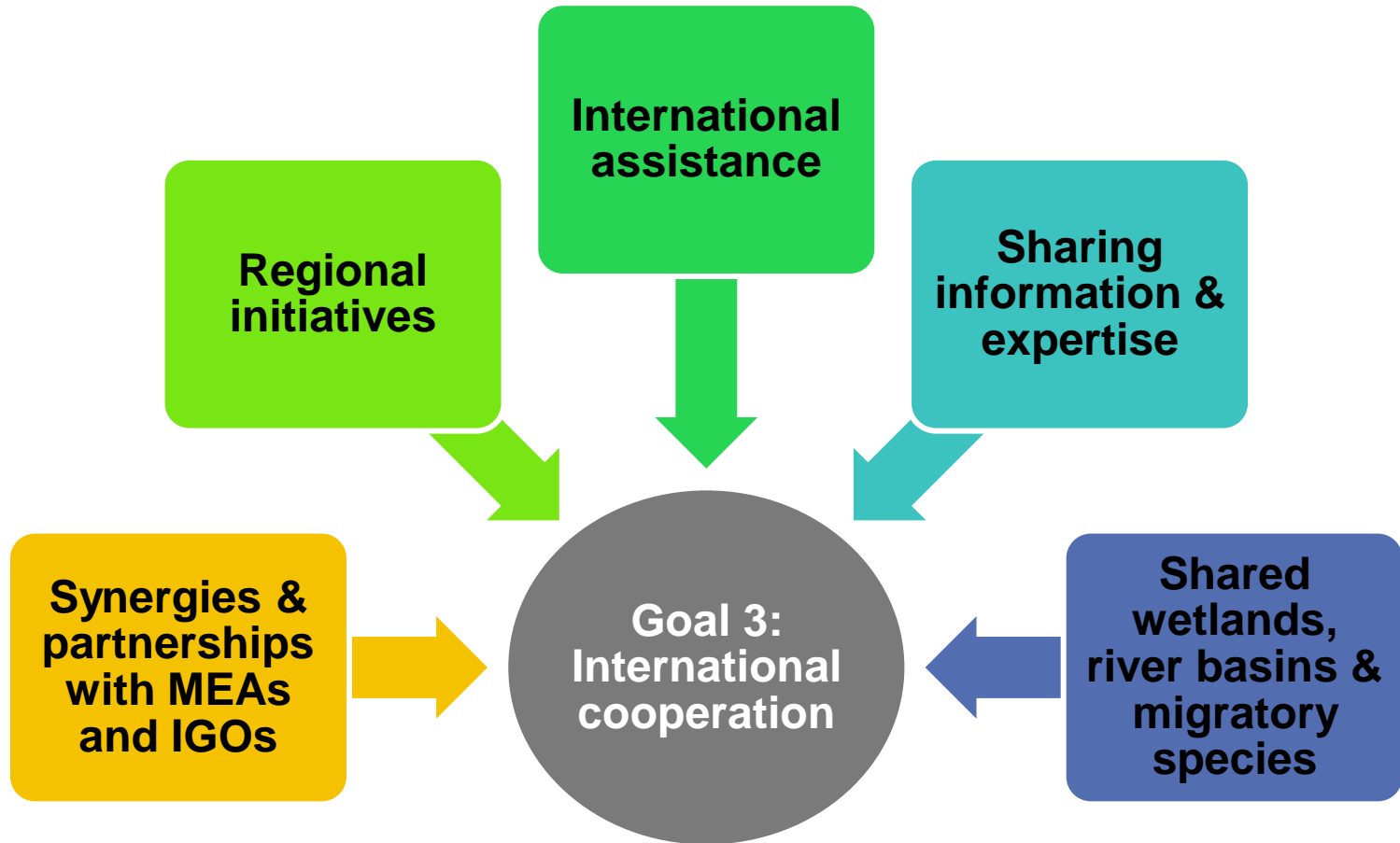
Goals and Strategies



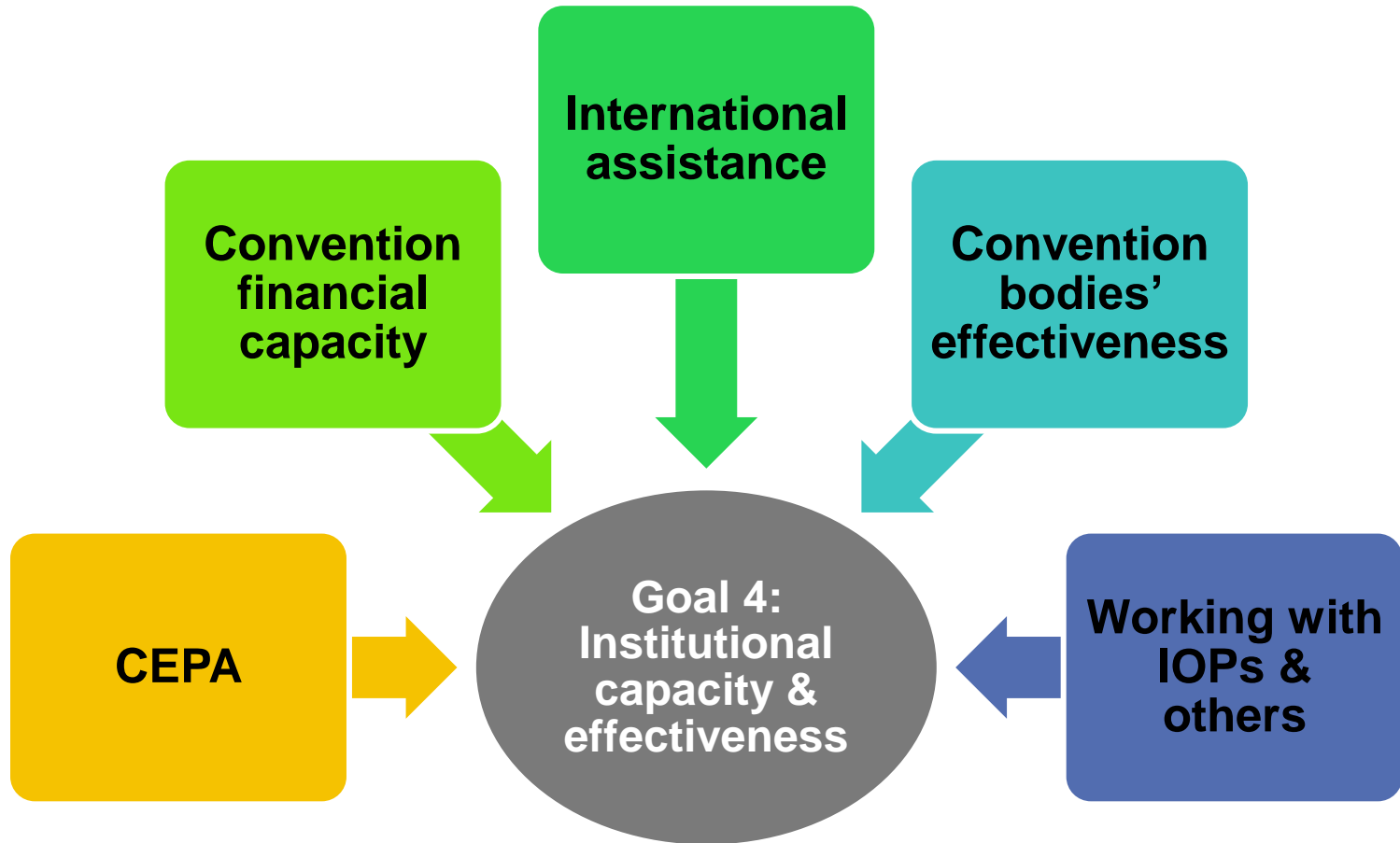
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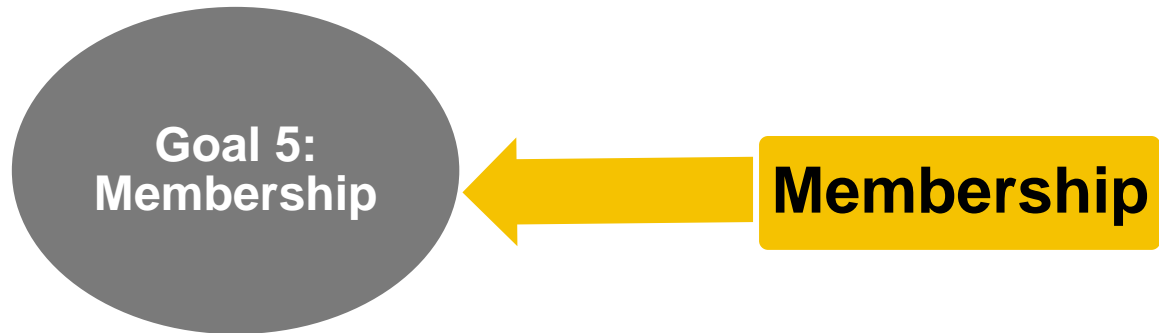
Goals and Strategies



Goals and Strategies



Goals and Strategies



Wetlands Conservation in Malaysia

- **Guided by National Wetlands Policy – provides policies directions.**
- **Mainstreaming of biodiversity in planning and development processes.**

National Wetlands Policy

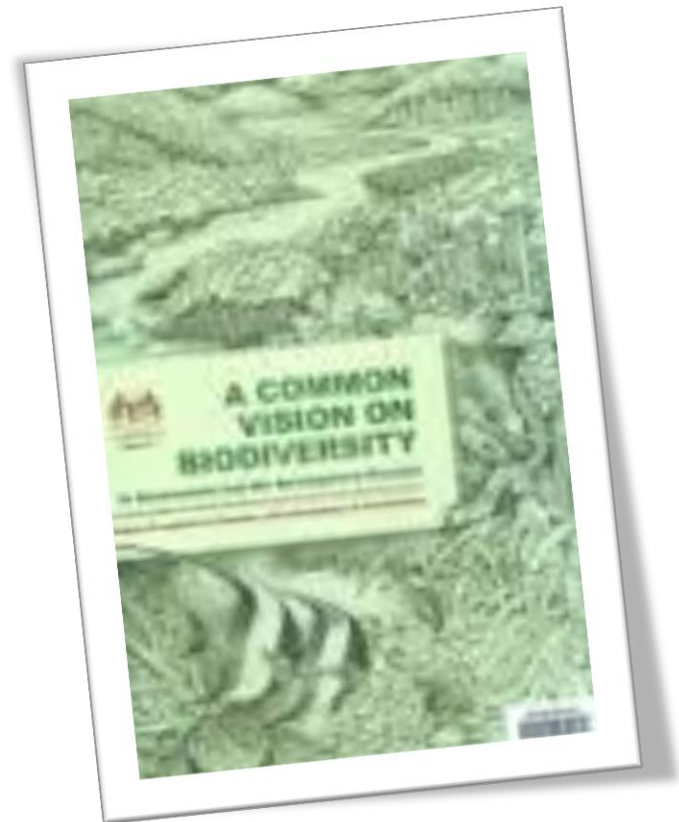
- **National Wetlands Policy (2004)** – serves as overarching guide to wetlands conservation in Malaysia.
 - ✓ **7 objectives:**
 - i. **Protect and conserve each type of wetlands.**
 - ii. **Manage wetlands in integration with water-catchment areas and river-basins.**
 - iii. **Optimize socio-economic benefits of wetlands through sustainable harvesting of wetlands products.**
 - iv. **Integrate wetlands conservation interests into overall natural resource planning, management and decisions.**
 - v. **Increase scientific and technical knowledge on wetlands.**
 - vi. **Increase public appreciation on the functions and benefits of wetlands.**
 - vii. **Restore degraded wetlands.**

National Wetlands Policy

- ✓ **4 strategies and 16 actions plan:**
 - i. Ensure adequate legislation for conservation and wise-use.**
 - ii. Provide coordination for the efforts of all stakeholders.**
 - iii. Encourage research on local wetlands.**
 - iv. Enhance appreciation of the functions and benefits of wetlands respective to stakeholders**

Common Vision On Biodiversity

- **Common Vision on Biodiversity (2010)** – aims to explain what biodiversity is, why it is important, how to maintain it and what measures required to ensure a constant provision of ecosystems services that are essential for human livelihood.
 - ✓ 3 pronged implementation approaches:
 - i. Strengthening protected areas system.
 - ii. Land/ seascape management for biodiversity.
 - iii. Mainstreaming of biodiversity.
 - ✓ Targeted planners and decision-makers.



4. Ramsar Sites In Malaysia

	Site	State	Area (Ha)	Date of Designation
1	Tasek Bera	Pahang	38,446	10 Nov. 1994
2	Tanjung Piai	Johor	526	31 Jan. 2003
3	Sungai Pulai		9,126	31 Jan. 2003
4	Pulau Kukup		647	31 Jan. 2003
5	Kuching Wetlands National Park	Sarawak	6,610	8 Nov. 2005
6	Lower Kinabatangan – Segama Wetlands	Sabah	78,803	28 Oct. 2008

5. Benefits Of Ramsar Listing

- i. Conserve biodiversity.
- ii. Raise local awareness and pride.
- iii. Increase tourism and economic development.
- iv. Increase funding opportunities and wetlands protection (Malaysia Plan & international fundings – GEF, Ramsar Convention).
- v. Increase research/ studies.



6. Issues And Challenges In Conserving And Managing Sites



Awareness & perception

- Zero activity?
- What are the benefits?

Resources

- Financial, human capacity, infrastructure.

Federal-State jurisdiction

- Coordination.
- Land uses/ conversion/ impacts from development.

Clarify Misperception

The ownership remains with the State Government.

Traditional activities can continue.

Wise use approach - use in a sustainable way.

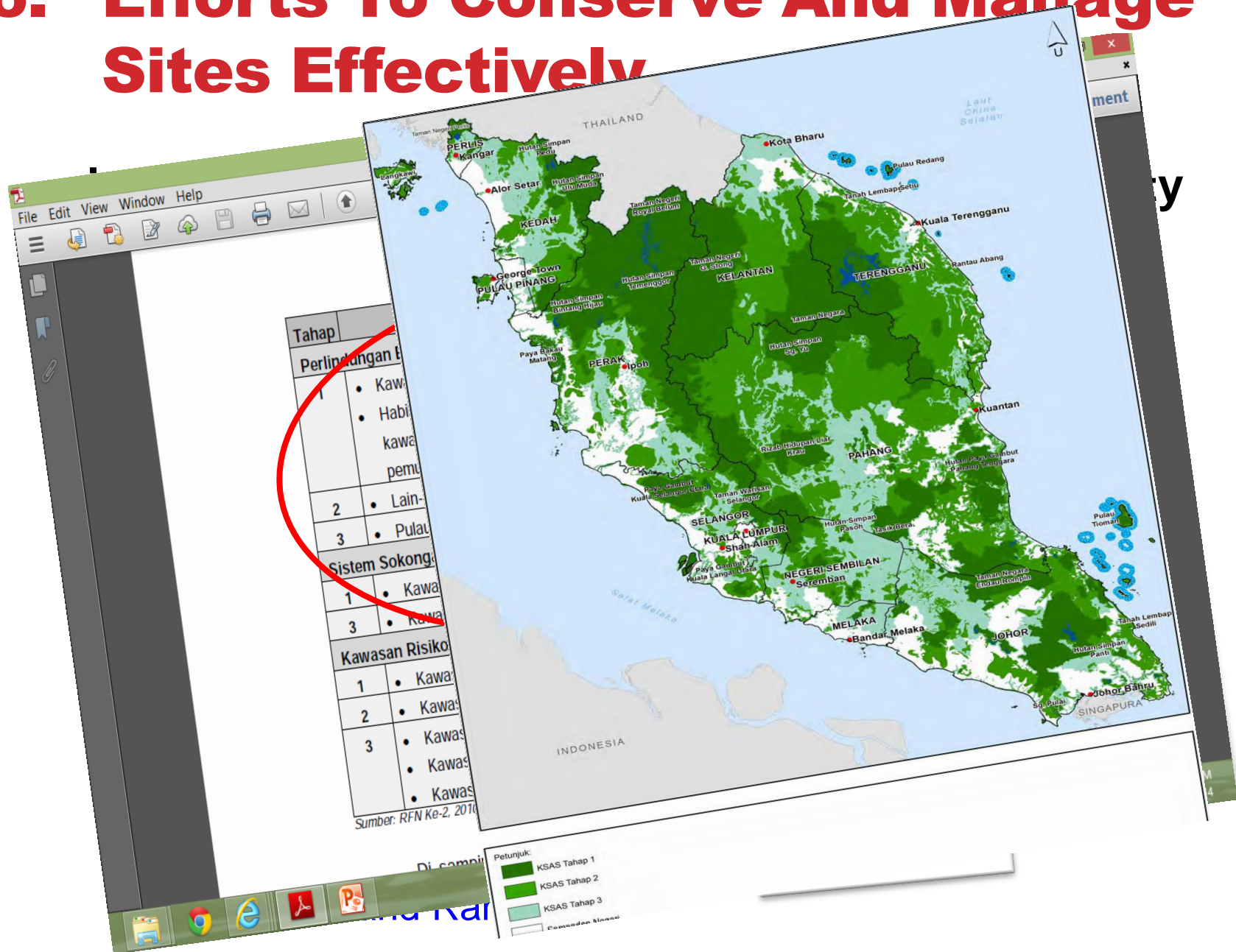
Raise sites profile through international recognition and branding: tourism .

Resources Limitation

- **Financing is short-term & focused on capital investment.**
- **Limited support for sustaining physical structures & institutions.**
- **Limited funding to meet conservation objectives.**
- **Some nomination mooted by aid-projects: issue of sustainability after project end.**



6. Efforts To Conserve And Manage Sites Effectively



ii. Legal frameworks - regulations/ guidelines to support policies implementation.

- ✓ Environmental Quality Act 1974.
- ✓ National Forestry Act 1984.
- ✓ Town and Country Planning Act 1976.
- ✓ Irrigation Act 1952.
- ✓ Enactments and Ordinances at States level.
- ✓ Common Vision on Biodiversity 2010.
- ✓ Integrated Coastal Zone Physical Management Plan 2010.
- ✓ National Peatland Action Plan 2011.
- ✓ Integrated River Basin Management Plan.

iii. Enhance management capacities.

- ✓ Explore options of sustainable financing - annual budget, entrance and services fees, development fund, taxes.
- ✓ Develop management tools – management plan, National Ramsar Information Toolkit.
- ✓ Capacity building trainings for wetland managers – national seminar, regional and international conference, wetlands managers network.

iv. Coordination of wetlands conservation.

- ✓ 2 committees were established at national level:
 - ✓ **National Wetland Committee**, chair by Secretary General NRE
 - ✓ **Technical Wetland Committee**, chair by Undersecretary, Division of Biodiversity & Forestry Management NRE.
- ✓ Promote co-management of wetlands between government and local community/ private company.

v. Enhance science/ knowledge-based support to management.

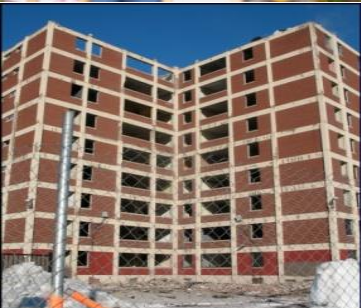
- ✓ Know and understand resources through inventory/ research:
 - ✓ Development biodiversity database – wetland profiling, *Clearing House Mechanism*.
 - ✓ Regular monitoring.
- ✓ Habitat enrichment.
- ✓ Research on ecosystem services – carbon stock.



iv. Outreach programme – to educate and increase appreciation.

- ✓ Multiple approaches to different target groups – policy – makers, general public, student.
 - ✓ Talk.
 - ✓ Education and conservation program.
 - ✓ Celebration of wetland day.
 - ✓ Exhibition and seminar.
 - ✓ Publication of awareness materials.
 - ✓ Mobilise electronic media.





Education
Health care
Climate change
Fair trade
Free trade
Affordable housing
National unity
Energy
Brain drain
Poverty
Flood prevention

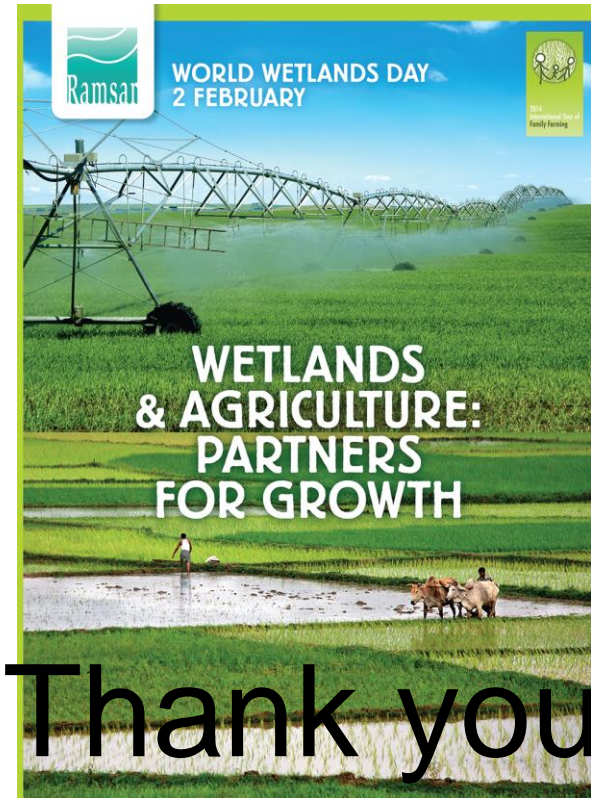
Roads
Drug abuse
Corruption
Crime prevention
Investment
GM food
Transportation
Food production
Defense
Water
Wetland





welcome to a very
competitive world

You are competing for people's time, attention, resources & commitment



Thank you

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