GMS Core Environment Program Technical Workshop:
Strengthening Partnerships to Increase Natural Capital Investments in the GMS
11 November 2014, Bagan, Myanmar

Session 2 - Building A Partnership for Investing in Natural Capital: Workshop Report

Dr Andy Brown, 25 November 2014

1. INTRODUCTION

The 9th Semi-Annual Meeting of the Great Mekong Subregion (GMS) Working Group on Environment (WGE) was preceded by a Technical Workshop, *Strengthening Partnerships to Increase Natural Capital Investments in the GMS* on 11 November 2014, in preparation for the 4th GMS Environment Ministers' Meeting in January 2015. A short (2 hour) Session 2, entitled "Building a Partnership for Investing in Natural Capital", was held during this Technical Workshop to explore the merits of developing some form of Natural Capital Partnership.

A document entitled "Concept for a GMS Natural Capital Partnership" was prepared by the Environment Operations Centre (EOC) and circulated prior to the workshop (**Annex 1**). The concept note introduces the rationale for, and potential contribution of, a proposed natural capital partnership for the GMS.

The workshop was attended by members of WGE, development partners and members of the EOC. A list of the 56 participants is provided at **Annex 2**. Some preliminary discussion on the idea of a Natural Capital Partnership had been held with WGE and also some development partners but this workshop provided the first opportunity to explore the idea with a wider group of stakeholders in an open, participative manner.

The workshop was facilitated by Dr Andy Brown, an independent environmental advisor from the UK. The slides used by the facilitator are provided in **Annex 3**.

Given the short duration of the workshop a questionnaire was prepared by the facilitator for each participant to complete after the workshop. This would ensure that everybody had a full opportunity to contribute their views and would also allow some semi-quantitative information to be collected. The questionnaire is provided at **Annex 4**. A total of 22 questionnaires were completed and returned; and they included responses from WGE members in all six GMS countries. The full results from the questionnaire are provided in **Annex 5** and specific information is incorporated into the body of this report.

2. WORKSHOP OBJECTIVE

The workshop objective was to "Explore the merits of establishing some kind of GMS Natural Capital Partnership". If the answer was "yes" then the workshop would go on to explore in a little more detail the possible work that could be undertaken by the Partnership, who should be involved and how it might be organised.

3. WORKSHOP RESULTS

3.1 Plenary discussion

The workshop began with a brief introduction from the facilitator to explain the objective and to set out the workshop process. The workshop would incorporate plenary discussion, work around tables and some individual work. A brief overview of other natural capital projects, initiatives and partnerships was provided and it was noted that some were very long running, although at the time they started natural capital was not a phrase that was used. More recent projects often incorporate natural capital into their title and many of these are particularly focussed on valuation of natural capital and the creation of natural capital accounts. There was much to learn from some of these projects. It was also noted that if a new partnership was established in the GMS then it would be pioneering in two important respects:

- First, it would be firmly embedded in the GMS Economic Cooperation Program agenda from the outset, unlike the majority of others around the world which sit outside national or regional development agenda although still seek to influence it.
- Second, it would be operating on a sub-regional basis, allowing ecosystems to be managed as a whole rather than divided by country boundaries.

In the first plenary session participants were invited to express their initial thoughts on a natural capital partnership and the following key points emerged.

- We need to generate stronger dialogue and action across public, private and civil society sectors.
- A greater voice and capacity is required to mobilise investments and increase influence.
- We need stronger, evidence based arguments to make a more convincing case for natural capital in the development arena.
- The partnership should 'open the door' to natural capital being integrated into ADB and country development processes and portfolios.
- Partnership should stimulate even greater collaboration between GMS countries to share experiences in investing in natural capital.
- Partnership together with ADB needs to set direction for work on natural capital valuation and accounts and be clear on roles in setting technical standards, facilitating information sharing, implementing pilots and formulating green growth plans.
- It should link with academia and help translate science for policy makers.
- Engagement with business is crucial and business would require a clear focus on potential benefits before joining the partnership.
- Business budgets are tight but there are lots of investors with an appetite for collaboration.
- Businesses and investors require clear policies and messages on what can be expected from Governments so they can manage risk and plan with confidence.
- Youth can play a part through lobbying, campaigns and community action.
- It should support capacity building and training.
- Partnership should be leading but also facilitate and support other actors so that all stakeholders are able to work together to find innovative solutions that are tailored to local needs and situations.
- Partnerships are about relationships - building mutual understanding and trust.

3.2 Table discussion

Table discussions then followed and focussed on what a partnership should or should not do. Tables were asked for their top 2 priorities. In summary:

The Partnership should:

- Establish a platform for stakeholder communication and information sharing.
- Calculate the costs and benefits of partnership investment in natural capital.

- Design a monitoring system which tracks natural capital stocks and flows.
- Provide a platform for multi-sectoral engagement and develop roadmaps.

- Promote knowledge sharing and tools,
- Engage cross-sectoral groups such as transport, energy, water and agriculture, and translate value of natural capital to other sectors.

- Find natural capital solutions which are context specific.
- Share information across countries and sectors

- Promote transboundary benefit sharing mechanisms.
- Influence policy and help establish clear direction.

The partnership should not:

- Deal with occupied natural capital.
- Lead to negative impacts on neighbouring countries.
- Promote investments which lead to negative impacts on natural capital.

3.3 Vision statements

Each participant was asked to look ahead 10 years and write down in a short statement their vision for the Natural Capital Partnership. The full list of statements is provided at **Annex 6**. They reflect a diversity of views but after careful analysis the following themes emerge.

1. Natural capital should be firmly embedded in investment decision-making processes.
2. Investments in natural capital would be promoted widely across the region.
3. The Partnership would be playing a strong role in facilitation, sharing and exchanging best practice.
4. The Partnership would be involving all stakeholders and all economic sectors affecting the natural environment.

3.4 Level of support for a Natural Capital Partnership

On a quick show of hands a large majority of participants were supportive of creating a natural capital partnership. This view is reinforced through the questionnaire responses where 90% of responses either ‘strongly agreed’ or ‘agreed’ that a natural capital partnership is needed. Also 95% of responses thought their organization would be interested in participating in a partnership.

These findings bode well for the establishment of a partnership although it should be recognized that the business sector was not directly represented at the workshop.

3.5 Priorities for a Natural Capital Partnership

A wide range of views were expressed during the workshop on what the Partnership needed to do and this was repeated in the questionnaire responses. However, the five highest priorities (in order) from the questionnaire were:

1. Helping to develop national natural capital accounts
2. Raising political awareness
3. Working with business
4. Raising public awareness
5. Improving understanding of methodologies for valuing nature

3.6 Geographic scope

It was clear from the discussions that the geographic scope of the Partnership was the GMS. It should involve all 6 countries.

3.7 Who should be involved

It was clear from both the workshop discussions and the questionnaire responses that a broad based, cross-sectoral partnership including Governments, businesses and civil society was the preferred model.

3.8 Managing the Partnership

The workshop did not explore this in any detail but the questionnaire results indicate strong support for the establishment of a secretariat, particularly because of the complexity of working on a -regional basis and the cross-sectoral nature of the partnership. Any secretariat that was created would need to assist with arranging meetings and recording minutes; supporting governance arrangements; distributing knowledge products. Fund raising, collecting and making accessible data were also supported by many, although one response noted that these were challenging areas of work for a Secretariat. Six responses to the questionnaire specifically suggested the Environment Operations Centre could provide or host a Secretariat.

Views on whether or not a steering group or committee was required were divided, although a small majority were in favour in order to provide direction and establish clear priorities.

3.9 Resourcing the Partnership

Again this was not discussed during the workshop but the questionnaire results indicated a strong preference either for the partnership to be partially self-financing but Governments and other agencies to contribute to any Secretariat or for the partnership to be fully supported by Governments.

4. CONCLUSIONS

The following high level conclusions are drawn by the facilitator based on the workshop discussions and questionnaire results.

i. There is strong support for the establishment of a natural capital partnership

ii. Its over-arching aim is unlock investments in natural capital.

iii. The business case for investing in natural capital is not yet as strong, clear or supported by evidence as it needs to be.

iv. The geographical scope of the partnership is the GMS.

v. Public, private sector and civil society should be involved.

vi. It should be cross-sectoral.

vii. It will require a Secretariat.

viii. Technical support can be provided by EOC.

ix. A steering committee or Board may be required but it depends on the details of the Partnership.

x. Resources will need to be provided by all participants in the partnership.

xi. Its work needs to be well focused and directed in ways that make a real difference to natural capital and society.

xii. The following areas are critical to its work:

    a. Raising awareness and increasing understanding of the value of natural capital.
    b. Providing a platform for communication and knowledge exchange amongst stakeholders.
    c. The value of natural capital must be integrated into development planning and investment decisions.

xiii. The development of more specific proposals is a high priority and urgent task.

5. Next steps

The following next steps were identified at the workshop and in subsequent discussions of WGE.

- A workshop report would be prepared by the facilitator and would be circulated to participants within two weeks.
- Consideration will be given to revising the questionnaire and circulating it to a wider group of stakeholders.
- The natural capital partnership concept note would be revised and circulated to participants by the end of November.
- Further consultations would be carried out between now and EMM4 and a specific partnership proposal developed for discussion and eventual endorsement.

Annex 1: Concept for a GMS Natural Capital Partnership

This concept note introduces the rationale for, and potential contribution of, a proposed natural capital partnership for the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS). It is neither definitive nor detailed, aiming primarily to initiate discussions among like-minded stakeholders on whether such a partnership is needed, what form it might take, and what it might achieve.

Natural Capital is Essential for GMS Prosperity

The GMS[1] is endowed with rich natural capital – including land, forest and water resources –that have underpinned rapid economic growth in recent decades and, potentially, will continue to support the subregion's prosperity for the foreseeable future.

Land and water for agriculture provide a clear example of natural capital's contribution to the six GMS economies. Agricultural production is the largest user of water in all GMS countries, consuming between 68% and 98% of total withdrawals (IWMI and World Fish, 2010). It also occupies large proportions of land areas, from 19% in Myanmar to 55% in PRC (FAO, 2014). This primary sector contributes some 30% of GDP to each of Cambodia, Lao PDR, and Myanmar, and employs 38% to 48% of the workforces of Thailand, Viet Nam, and PRC (ADB, 2011). The Mekong River also supports the largest inland fishery globally with an annual turnover of $1.4-3.9 billion (WWF, 2013).

Natural capital also supports many fast-growing manufacturing and service sectors, such as the furniture industry in Viet Nam, as well as nature-based tourism and hydropower development throughout the GMS.

Natural capital is crucial to food, water, and energy security in the GMS and essential to the livelihoods and income generation of millions of rural, often poor, people. For instance, fisheries make up between 47% and 80% of animal protein consumed by the GMS population; and more than 80% of Cambodian and Lao households depend on biomass for cooking and lighting (ADB, 2012). Around 54 million of the 60 million people who live in the lower Mekong Basin cultivate rice for income and sustenance, and rice from the Basin feeds 100 million people, both within the region and worldwide (FAO, 2012).

Less tangible but also of immense economic, societal and environmental value are the ecosystem services generated from natural capital. These include non-timber forest products, carbon storage, watershed protection, water quality regulation, and soil erosion, all of which play an important role in human well-being in the subregion.

Current Trends and Future Outlook

Despite ongoing efforts to promote green and equitable development in the GMS, natural capital is declining rapidly at a rate that threatens to undermine future economic growth and the wellbeing of its people. An estimated 10% to 12% of GDP in the GMS is lost every year through the overexploitation of forests, land, wildlife, fisheries, as well as from ecosystems pollution. Eight million hectares of GMS forest – an area one third the size of Lao PDR – were destroyed between 1990 and 2010 (FAO, 2010). If current trends of ecosystems loss continue, forgone services over the next 25 years could cost the subregion $55 billion (OSLO Consortium Initiative, 2013).

The outlook is far from reassuring and, unless better planned and managed, projected economic growth will continue to increasingly erode natural capital stocks. Several trends suggest that pressures on natural capital in the GMS will continue to rise. First, rapid economic growth in the GMS is likely to continue, with Myanmar potentially achieving a 9.5% GDP growth rate by 2030 (Roland-Holst and Park, 2014). With an expanding economy, household income and consumption will also increase. Exacerbated by inefficient resource use, this will further increase competition for land, energy, food and water, resulting in a growing set of ecological constraints in the subregion.

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[1] The GMS countries are Cambodia, PRC (specifically Yunnan and Guangxi provinces), Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam.

The GMS will also host a suite of large regional investments. Among key initiatives are the GMS Regional Investment Framework (RIF), a pipeline of investment loans and technical assistance projects for the third decade of the GMS Economic Cooperation Program. Mainly focused on infrastructure development, the RIF amounts to $51.5 billion for 2013-2022, three times the investment in half the time compared to the initial 20 years (1992–2012) of cooperation (ADB, 2013). While aiming to create new economic opportunities through improved regional connectivity, these sizable investments also carry environmental and social costs which are yet to be understood and accounted for in terms of their potential impacts on natural capital in the subregion.

Climate change also puts additional pressures on the GMS natural capital, further threatening both its quantity and quality. More frequent, extreme climatic events and shifting rainfall patterns are among the key threats, which could reduce agricultural yields and available freshwater, and further degrade biodiversity and ecosystem services.

Most at risk from these projected trends are the local communities whose livelihoods are directly reliant on natural capital. For instance, tributary dams to generate hydroelectricity on the Mekong River are expected to reduce total fish stocks by 10 % to 20% by 2030 and dams proposed for the mainstream of the lower Mekong basin may reduce fish catches by a further 60% to 70% (Orr et al., 2011). These will result in a huge drop in income and employment opportunities for fishing communities in Tonle Sap Lake, Cambodia and rice farmers in the lower Mekong, Viet Nam. Reinvestments in natural capital, therefore, are needed to protect the livelihoods of these vulnerable populations, as well as to safeguard the very foundation of GMS economic prosperity.

Increasing Investments in Natural Capital

Current investments to protect and enhance natural capital in the GMS are well short of those needed to turn the tide of environmental degradation. Between 1992 and 2012, investments in environment and natural resources were about $23 million[2], less than 1.4% of the total of $16 billion[3] invested under the GMS Economic Cooperation Program. The domestic expenditure on environment of GMS governments is also low, and further constrained by weak institutional and technical capacity to effectively plan and manage the environment.

To secure development gains and move towards a green and equitable future, the GMS needs to urgently and significantly scale up investments in natural capital. The key to unlocking such investments is through common recognition by GMS governments and development stakeholders that natural capital is not a free good but has an economic value in terms of its contribution to economic growth and human wellbeing. Such economic value needs to be captured in decision making in order to safeguard and promote sustainable use of natural capital.

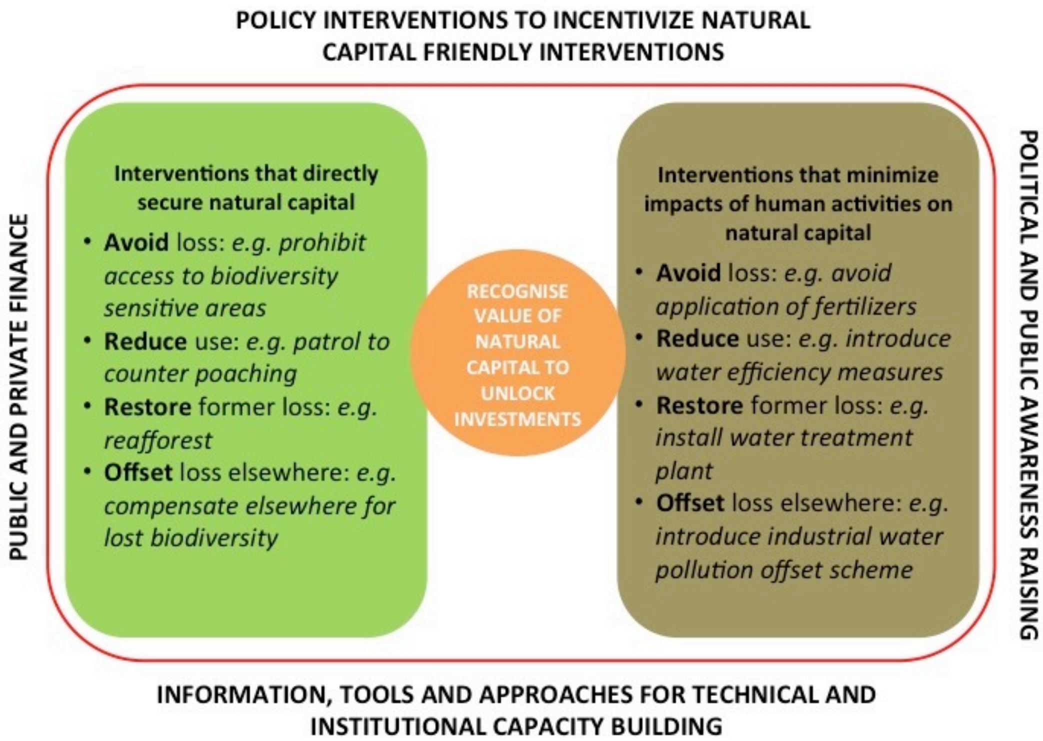
Two streams of natural capital investments need to be promoted in the GMS. One stream includes interventions that directly protect and enhance natural capital such as maintaining and increasing protected areas, reforestation, watershed rehabilitation, and reintroducing indigenous species. The other includes interventions that promote resource use efficiency and reduce the impact of economic development on natural capital. These interventions include more efficient use of water in agriculture, avoiding infrastructure construction in high value biodiversity areas, and adopting holistic development planning approaches. To promote these investments, four enabling conditions need to be strengthened:

- greater political and public awareness and support;
- more effective policy interventions;
- more public and private finance; and
- stronger institutional and technical capacities.

[2] This figure includes investments in both agricultural and natural resource sectors. Investments made in other economic sectors (i.e. infrastructure development and transport), which may have a proportion contributing to environmental objectives, are not included in this estimate.

[3] Excluding technical assistance provided by the Asian Development Bank.

A Framework for Unlocking More Investments in Natural Capital



A GMS Natural Capital Partnership

New and more effective ways are needed to unlock natural capital investments to achieve green and equitable growth in the GMS.

A natural capital partnership is one such approach. By bringing together like-minded stakeholders in the GMS – from government, businesses, development organizations, and civil society – partners can develop a shared vision and collaborate to unlock investments in natural capital.

Such a partnership could achieve the following:

- **More integrated and coherent approach** – a partnership could help harmonize ongoing efforts to increase investments in natural capital, ensuring more consistent and effective policy making, more relevant research, and greater complementarity among environment and development initiatives.
- **More visibility** – a partnership approach could bring more visibility to the natural capital agenda, being better equipped to generate public and political awareness and support.
- **Stronger capacity** – by working together, partners will collectively have the information, tools, and approaches needed to scale up investments, and be able to more readily identify and address gaps in capacity.
- **Better leverage** – partners working together could have greater access to a wider range of resources, including financing.
- **Larger scale** – a partnership approach can accommodate larger scale interventions, with partners simultaneously coordinating their activities geographically and multi-sectorally.
- **Greater operational efficiency –** a partnership approach could lower operational costs and reduce administrative costs for governments who regularly work with multiple partners.

To achieve the above, the partnership would need to focus on practical, collaborative activities such as:

- Raising public and political awareness and support through strategic communications.
- Identifying and addressing technical and institutional capacity needs, as well as research gaps.
- Identifying public and private financial needs and funding opportunities.

- Sourcing, developing, and promoting more effective environmental planning and management tools and approaches.
- Providing platforms for data gathering, information generation and knowledge exchange.
- Identifying opportunities for collaborative and complementary work.

Benefits for the main stakeholder groups who might participate in the partnership may include:

GMS governments –opportunities to exchange ideas and learn from other countries' experiences, practices and lessons learned. It could also provide a platform for countries to share their strategies in promoting natural capital investment and identify specific areas where they may need international financial and technical assistances to realize these strategies.

Non-GMS governments – opportunities to better understand where development assistance and foreign investments are most needed and where they could generate the most economic and social returns in the GMS. The partnership could become a 'one-stop shop' to find natural capital friendly initiatives in which to invest and target future technology transfer and capacity development efforts.

International organizations – opportunities to share research findings with GMS countries in order to strengthen environmental policies and decisions relating to large investments planned in the GMS.

Research community – opportunities to identify research gaps and knowledge needs to strengthen science-policy linkages.

Businesses and entrepreneurs – opportunities to provide knowledge services on green business practices, as well as innovative investment ideas and opportunities. The partnership would provide good access to government decision makers and relevant financing organizations.

Civil society groups – opportunities for local communities, women, youth, and children to access policy makers and donors to ensure investments in natural capital maximize socioeconomic benefits.

Next steps

The GMS Environment Operations Centre (secretariat to the GMS Working Group on Environment) has initiated consultations with GMS governments and some development partners on the concept of the partnership. A technical workshop on 11 November in Bagan, Myanmar, immediately prior to the forthcoming WGE Ninth Semi-Annual Meeting, will provide a first opportunity for potential partners to come together to discuss this partnership. Further consultations will continue through to the Fourth GMS Environment Ministers' Meeting (EMM4) on 29 January in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar, at which the partnership is expected to be endorsed. Following EMM4, committed organizations will come together to agree on a plan and timeline to initiate the partnership, focusing in particular on the institutional arrangements and a set of initial partnership activities that would begin by mid-2015.

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23 October 2014

Annex 2: List of Natural Capital Partnership Workshop Participants

Cambodia HE Mr Sao Sopheap HE Mr Chuop Paris HE Mr Khieu Borin HE Mrs Chamroeun Katika Ms Meas Chanthyda **People's Republic of China** Mr Wang Yong Ms Hu Yunfang Mr Zhou Bo Ms Chen Chao Mr Lin Weidong Ms Lin Bingmei **Lao PDR** Mr Phetsamone Dalalom Mr Sounadeth Soukchaleun Mr Chanpana Heuan Mr Sakounsit Sengkhamyang **Myanmar** Dr Thet Thet Zin Mr Nay Aye Dr San Oo Dr Naing Zaw Htun Mr Saw Yan Shin Mr Htun Zaw Ms Khin Thida Tin Mr Lin Aung Mr Paing Htet Oo Mr Nway Ei Aung Ms Aye Cho Cho Zaw Ms Kyal Sin Htun Mr Htin Aung Kyaw **Thailand** Dr Rungnapar Pattanavibool Dr Nawarat Krairapanond Ms Benya Suphanithasnaporn Mr Thammanoon Temchai Mr Vudthidech Chamnikij	**Viet Nam** Mr Hoang Viet Khang Dr Nguyen The Chinh Ms Kim Thi Thuy Ngoc Ms Nguyen Thi Ngoc Anh **Asian Development Bank** Mr Javed Hussain Mir Mr Sanath Ranawana Ms Rafaelita Jamon **Development Partners** Mr Alex Smajgl Mr Phillip Fulton Ms Hanna Helsingen Mr Nguyen Van Duyen Mr Simone Quatrini Mr Teak Sang **Environment Operations Centre** Mr Duncan McLeod Ms Georginia Nepomuceno Mr Iain Watson Ms Jirapar Boonyasurakul Ms Maria Arlene Tadle Dr Michael J. B. Green Ms Ornsaran Manuamorn Ms Rawiwan Sribhibhadh Mr Teo Dang Do Ms Tin Win Win Ei **Facilitator** Dr Andy Brown

Annex 3: Slides presented by Facilitator

Session 2

Building Partnerships for Investing in Natural Capital

Andy Brown

Objective

Explore the merits of establishing some kind of GMS Natural Capital Partnership

Do you think it is a good idea or not?

What are the potential benefits?

What are the concerns, challenges, issues that need to be addressed?

Maybe it is a good idea in principle but it depends on the detail?

If the answer is yes, in principle, it is a good idea, then we will explore:

What might it focus on?

Who should be involved?

What would encourage you to be involved?

How should it be managed?

How might it be resourced?

The Partnership Matrix

Adapted from "Strategic solutions for Nonprofit organisations" by La Piana Associates

Simple Partnerships	Strategic Alliances	Corporate Integrations
• No permanent organisational commitments	• Ongoing commitments to joint work	• Commitment to permanent corporate changes
• Decision making remains with individual organisations	• Decision making is shared and agreement driven	• Involves legal and structural changes to organisations
Greater Autonomy		Greater Integration
Examples:	Examples:	Examples:
• Information sharing • Joint planning • Programme coordination	• Shared services • Joint funding and programmes • Joint contracting	• Joint ventures • Parent/subsidiary arrangements • New co-owned bodies

Keys to strong partnerships

- Unite around a shared passion for something and shared values
- Be clear about what you are collectively trying to achieve
- Ensure everybody understands roles and responsibilities
- Work to build trust and understanding
- Share risks, costs and rewards
- Build early momentum
- Allow the partnership to evolve

Next steps

- People not attending Task Force meeting can continue discussion
- Flip charts available until tomorrow morning
- Questionnaire to gather further information
- Workshop report will be prepared and circulated
- Revised questionnaire could be used to collect views from wider group of stakeholders
- Further consultations can continue to EMM4
- If endorsed, work with all committed stakeholders to get up and running by mid 12015

Annex 4: Natural Capital Partnership Questionnaire

11 November 2014

Dear Colleague

In the 3rd Task Force Meeting[4] for the preparation of the 4th GMS environment Ministers' meeting, a session was held on the 11 November 2014 entitled "Building Partnerships for Investing in Natural Capital". This short workshop explored the merits of developing some form of Natural Capital Partnership and there was broad support to develop this further. Some initial thought was given at the workshop to the kinds of activities that such a partnership would address, together with views on who should be involved, how we could encourage involvement and how a partnership might be organised and resourced.

This questionnaire has been designed to gather more specific information from delegates following the short workshop.

The questionnaire will provide semi-quantifiable views from a range of key stakeholders for use in developing the proposals for a natural capital partnership. This is achieved mainly through multiple choice questions, with opportunities also to provide comments. Please try to complete all questions even if you have already expressed some views during the workshop.

Please do provide your personal views. Any comments made will be confidential and will not be attributed to you in any papers that follow. The aggregated information will only be used to guide the development of proposals for the partnership.

If you wish to discuss any aspect of the natural capital partnership please do speak to Andy Brown over the next few days.

Many thanks for your help.

Dr Andy Brown
Facilitator for Natural Capita Partnership discussion

Please return this questionnaire directly to Andy Brown before the start of the WGE meeting tomorrow.

[4] Reference to the 3rd Task Force meeting at the start of this document is incorrect. It should have referred to the Technical Workshop.

GMS NATURAL CAPITAL PARTNERSHIP: QUESTIONNAIRE

Notes on completing the Questionnaire

1. Where you are given a choice of answers, please draw a circle around the answer that is most appropriate.
2. Please add comments where you wish to amplify your answer.
3. Please provide your personal (and frank) views. All answer are confidential and will only be seen by Andy Brown. Comments will not be attributed to you in any papers or reports which develop the partnership idea.

PART A.
INFORMATION ABOUT YOU

Name:
Country:
Organisation:

Position:
E-mail address:
Telephone Number:

Q A1. What is your role in the GMS Core Environment Program? (please circle)

1. Government official
2. Non-governmental organisation
3. Donar/financing organisation
4. Business
5. Civil society group
6. Other, please specify…………………………………………………………………..

Q A2. How long have you been in the work of the GMS Core Environment Program (years)?..

PART B.
YOUR VIEWS ON THE NATURAL CAPITAL PARTNERSHIP

Q B1. Do you agree that a GMS Natural Capital Partnership is needed? (Please circle)

1. Strongly agree
2. Agree
3. Neutral
4. Disagree
5. Strongly disagree
6. I don't know

Provide any comments here, especially if you answer 4, 5 or 6

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(If you answered 4 or 5 you may not wish to answer any further questions but please still hand the questionnaire back to Andy Brown)

Q B2. Do you think your organisation would be interested in participating in a partnership? (Please circle)

1. Yes
2. No
3. Maybe

Provide any comments here, especially if you answer 2 or 3

…………………………………………………………………………………………………

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Q B3. What do you think should be the top 3 priorities for a natural capital partnership? (Please circle)

1. Raising public awareness
2. Raising political awareness
3. Working with business
4. Addressing technical and institutional capacity needs
5. Developing more effective environmental planning
6. Helping to develop national natural capital accounts
7. Improving understanding of methodologies for valuing nature
8. Improving data gathering and knowledge exchange
9. Facilitating opportunities for collaborative and complementary work
10. Other

Please provide any comments here, especially if you answer 10

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Q B4. Who would you like to see involved in any partnership? (Please circle as many as you like)

1. GMS Governments
2. Non GMS Governments
3. International NGOs
4. Local NGOs
5. Research community
6. Business
7. Civil society groups
8. Other

Please add any comments here

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Q B5. Do you think any partnership that is formed will require some kind of secretariat to support its working? (Please circle)

1. Definitely yes
2. Yes
3. Maybe
4. No
5. Definitely no

Please add any comment here

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Q B6 If you answered 'yes' to question above please indicate what you think the secretariat should do (Please circle as many as you wish)

1. Arrange partnership meeting and record minutes
2. Support any governance arrangements
3. Undertake fund raising
4. Collect, manage and make accessible data
5. Distribute knowledge products
6. Other

Please add any comment here

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Q B7. Do you think the partnership will need a steering group or committee to give direction, set priorities and drive the work forward? (Please circle**)**

1. Yes
2. No
3. I don't know

Please elaborate your answer here

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Q B8. What relationship might any natural capital partnership have with the Environment Operations Centre? (Please circle)

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Q B9. How do you think the Partnership should be resourced? (Please circle)

1. Partnership should be entirely self-financing and raise its own money for projects and to cover the costs of any secretariat
2. Partnership should be partly self-financing but Governments and other agencies should contribute to any secretariat that is required
3. Partnership should be fully supported by Governments and/or development agencies
4. Other

Please add any comments here:

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Q B10. Would you like to be involved in the further development of a natural capital partnership? (Please circle)

1. Yes
2. No
3. I don't know

Please add any comments here

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THANK YOU FOR COMPLETING THE QUESTIONNAIRE

PLEASE HAND YOUR COMPLETED QUESTIONNAIRE TO ANDY BROWN BEFORE THE START OF THE WGE MEETING TOMORROW

Annex 5: Natural Capital Partnership Questionnaire Report

INTRODUCTION

As part of the preparation of the 4th GMS Environment Ministers' meeting, a Technical Workshop was held on the 11 November 2014 entitled "Strengthening Partnerships to Increase Natural Capital Investments in the GMS. One short workshop explored the merits of developing some form of Natural Capital Partnership.

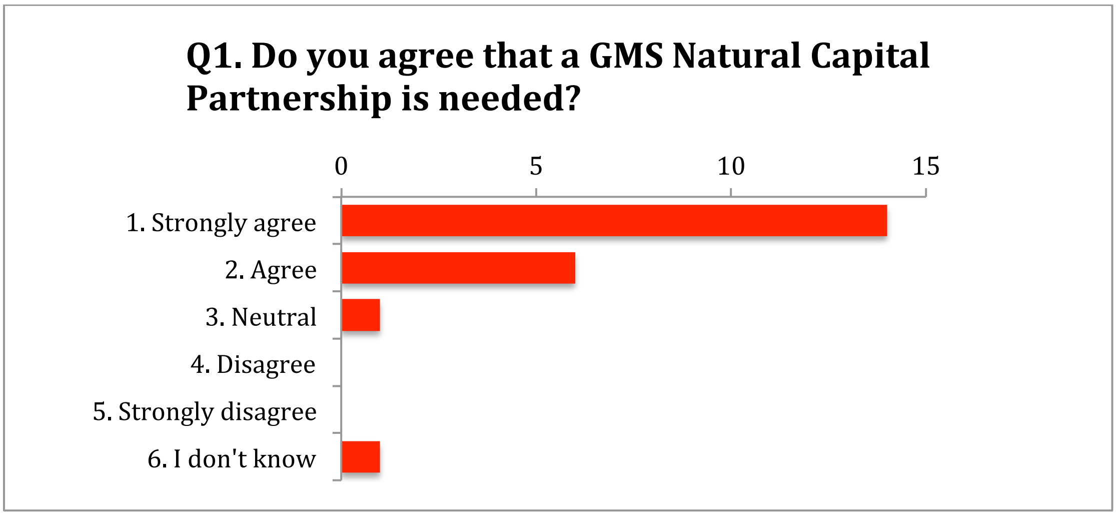
Following the workshop a short questionnaire was distributed to all participants to be completed on a personal basis. The questionnaires were returned direct to the facilitator. The individual questionnaire responses are confidential but this report provides an overview of results. Comments are included only when they cannot be attributed to individuals.

RESULTS

A total of 22 questionnaires were returned. Of these 15 were from GMS country officials and 7 from others. All 6 GMS countries returned questionnaires.

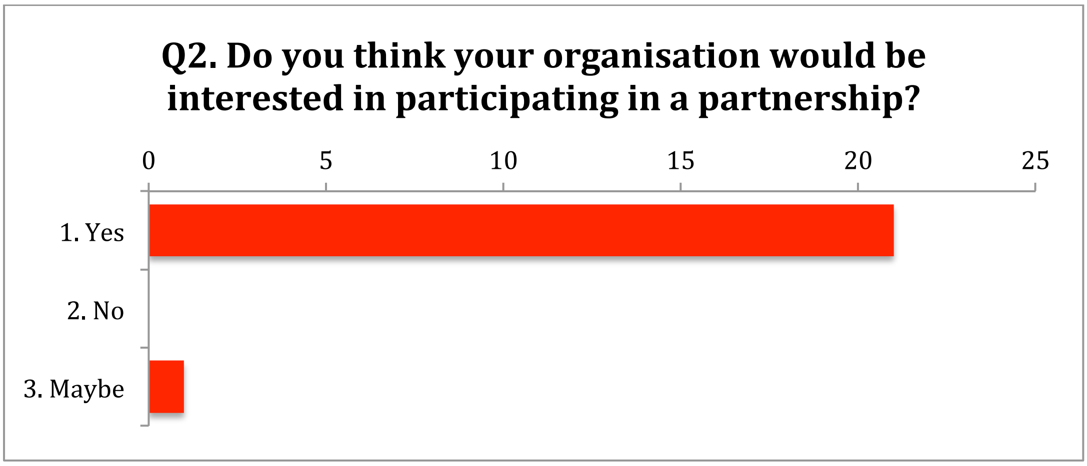
In all graphs the horizontal axis is number of responses and vertical axis corresponds to the questionnaire categories.

Question1



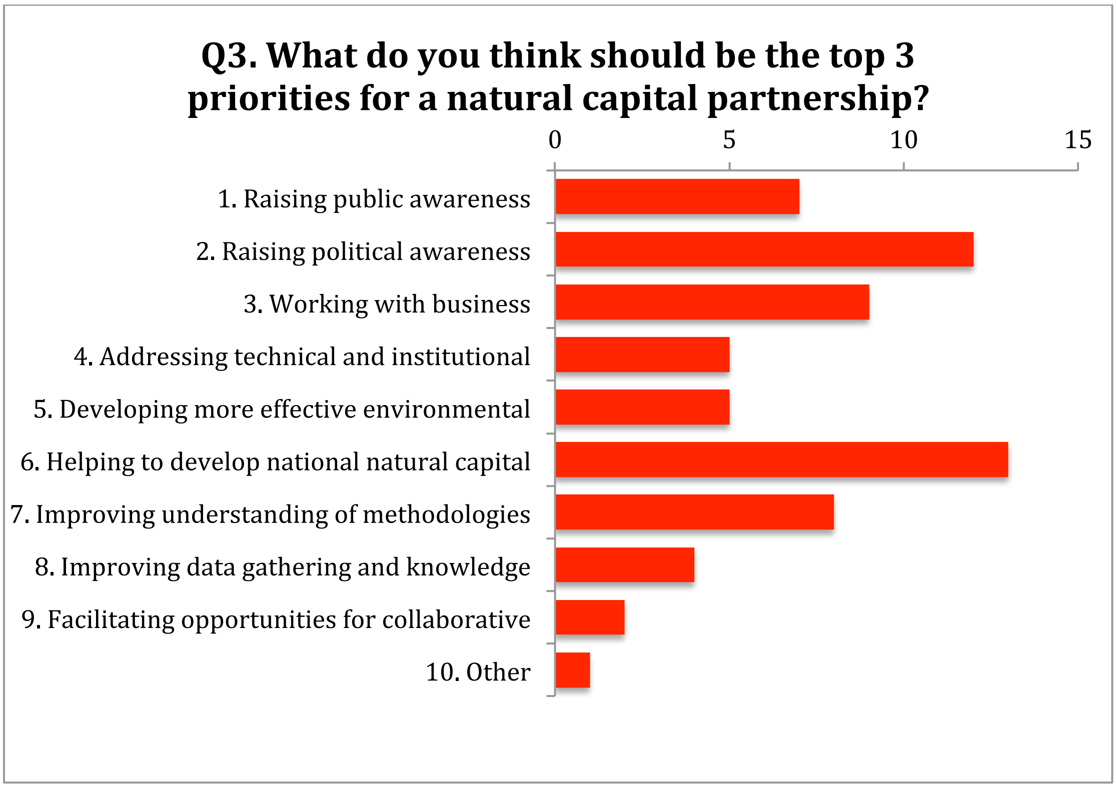
Over 90% of participants either strongly agreed or agreed that a natural capital partnership is needed. Several responses felt that a natural capital partnership responds well to the need for generating dialogue and action across public, private and civil society sectors and would also assist transboundary and more coordinated responses. A couple of responses made their support conditional on having a clear picture/roadmap for the nature of the partnership and what it will do.

Question 2



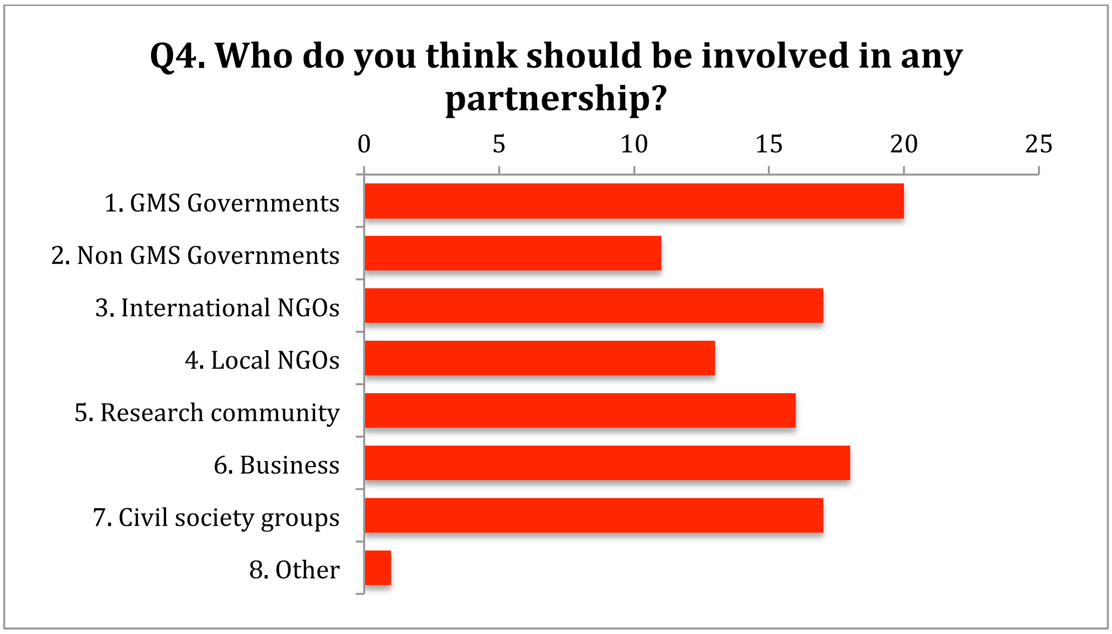
95% of responses felt their organisation would be interested in participating in a natural capital partnership. Several indicated that participation was conditional on having a clear understanding of what it would do and what benefits would be obtained from participation. More information on aims and objectives of the partnership, how it will be organised, who will participate and how it will be resourced will be needed in due course.

Question 3



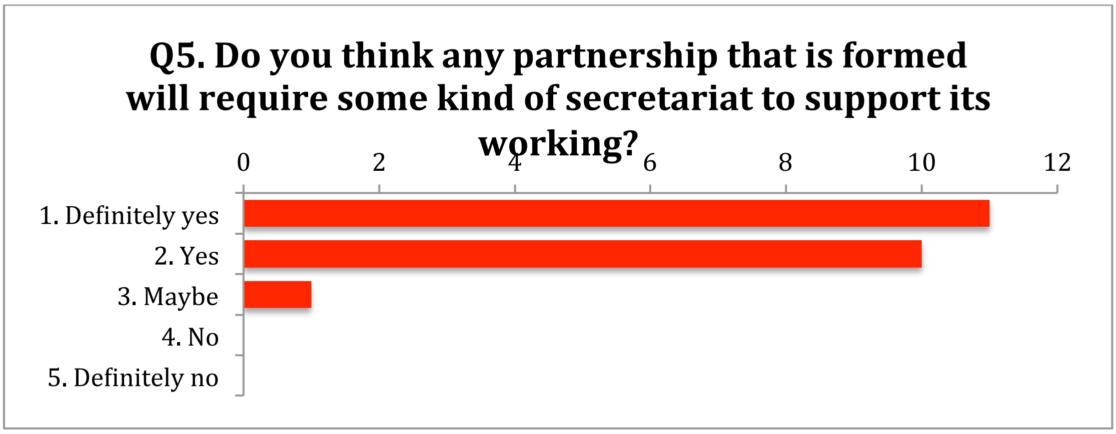
The top 3 categories were: helping to develop national natural capital accounts, raising political awareness and working with business. However, there was clear support for a broad spectrum of work. In comments the need to develop financing mechanisms was mentioned, together with measures to reduce conflicts between development and natural capital and benefit sharing.

Question 4



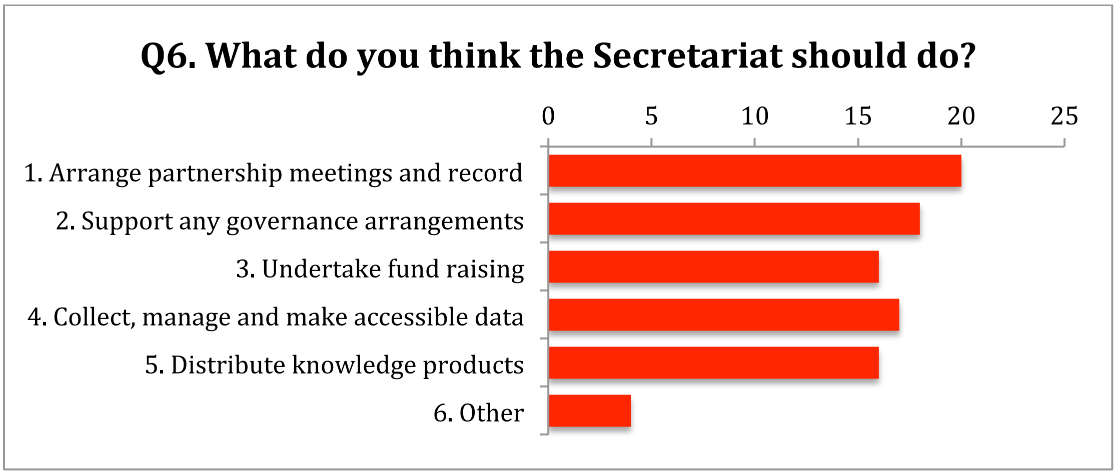
There was a clearly expressed view that the partnership should include all the categories identified. There was an interesting comment about the need for visionary people in the partnership. Others specifically mentioned local communities and development partners. Somebody felt that a mix of sectors would improve information sharing and lead to innovative solutions being developed. Whilst another felt that GMS Governments should have senior representatives who can make decisions from ministries such as finance, planning, land management, forests and water management. There was a helpful cautionary note that you do not get momentum from bringing in more people, and more people do not necessarily lead to success.

Question 5



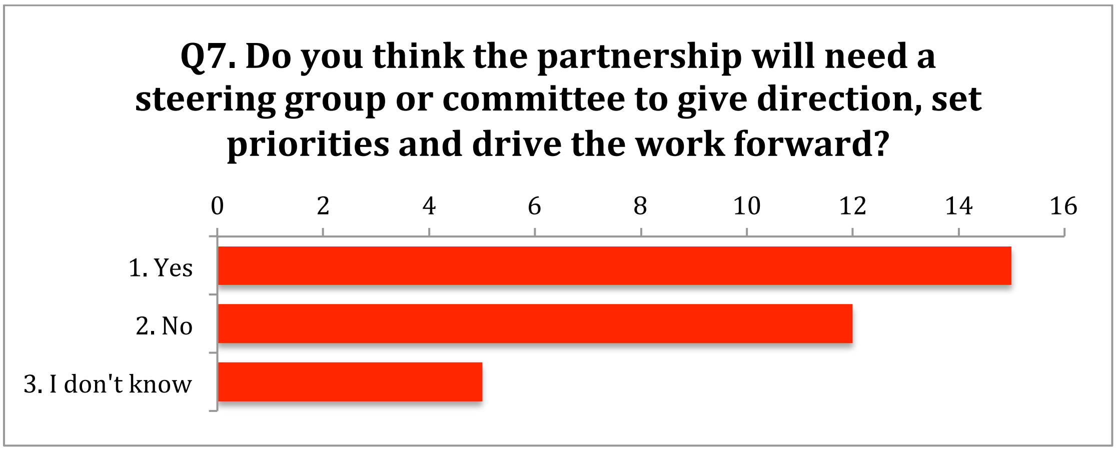
95% of responses agreed that some kind of secretariat was required to support the partnership. Many stressed the importance of good communications and effective coordination, as this was a complex, crosscutting partnership. A couple mentioned the benefit of not creating something new but rather using existing institutional arrangements to provide or host the secretariat. One stressed the need to keep it small and slim whilst another stressed the need for a permanent body to take care of the partnerships' business.

Question 6



The full spectrum of work was considered appropriate for the secretariat. A variety of work was stressed in comments including the need for connecting different members of the network; tracking and reporting on agreed action points and KPIs; production of guidelines and procedures; recruitment of experts; exchange of information and lessons learned. A number highlighted the importance of having a technical arm for advice and expertise. One highlighted that fund raising and collecting, managing and making accessible data were good but were too challenging.

Question 7



A small majority felt that a steering group or committee was required to drive forward the partnership and in particular to set direction and establish priorities. Others felt that whether a steering group or committee was required depended on how the secretariat was set up or what the mandate of the partnership was. One commented that arrangements needed to be as simple as possible. Several noted that participants had not yet had much opportunity to explore such issues.

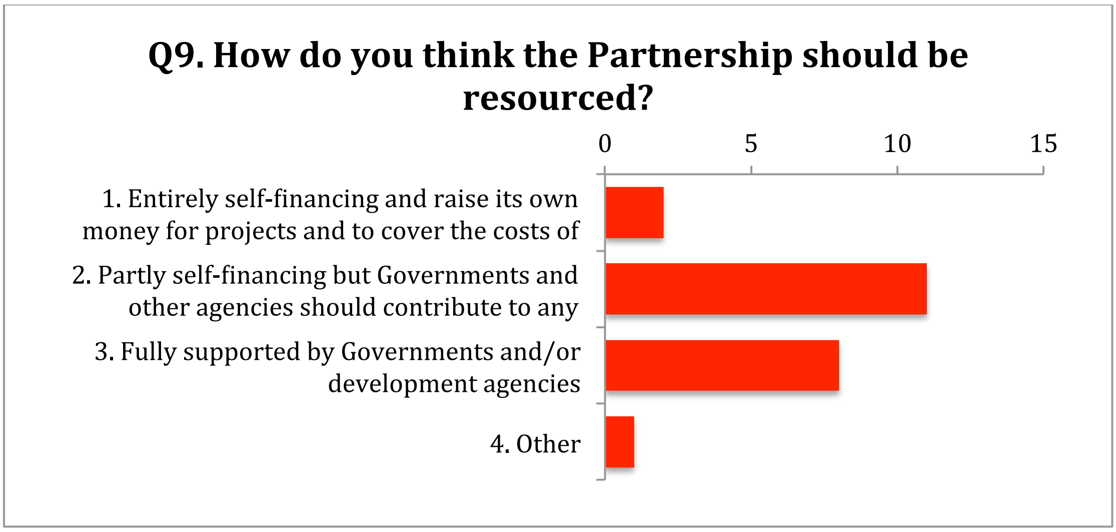
Question 8

Q 8. What relationship might any natural capital partnership have with the Environmental Operations Centre?

There was no multiple choice question and hence no graph

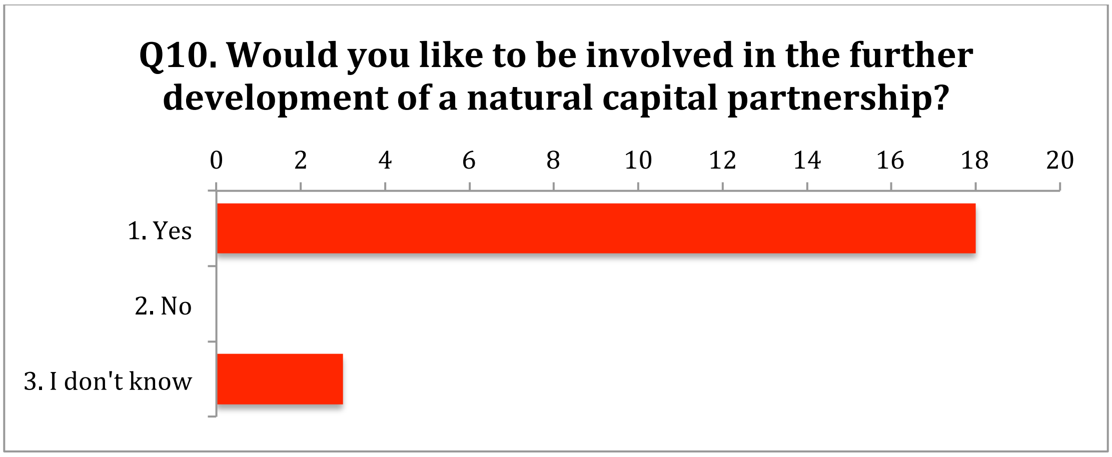
8 responses specifically mentioned EOC acting as technical support for the partnership, including data management and knowledge exchange. 6 responses felt that EOC could provide the Secretariat. One felt that EOC was not the first choice for providing or hosting the Secretariat. One mentioned EOC helping with fund raising and another felt that this relationship needed more thought.

Question 9



The majority of responses felt that the partnership should either be partly supported by Governments and other agencies contributing to the secretariat or it should be fully supported by Governments. One did feel that to be entirely self-financing was the best option but partly self-financing was a reasonable option. One felt that all the organisations that get some benefit from participating in the partnership should contribute resources. Another suggested a phased approach to resourcing with donor agencies playing a part at the start but then Governments increasingly taking responsibility. It was noted that securing commitments from Governments would be a challenge but would give a lot of credibility to the partnership.

Question 10



Virtually everybody would like to be involved in the further development of the partnership. One felt that there would need to be some financial support to help their participation. One person recognised that it was important to push forward something with such obvious merits and necessity and several felt that establishing the partnership was now a top priority.

Annex 6: Natural Capital Partnership Vision Statements - looking ahead 10 years

33 individual statements were returned. They read as follows:

1. The natural capital partnership will make national capital a top priority for decision makers in the GMS
2. An inclusive platform that has enabled GMS to achieve sustainability/neutrality through concrete measurable actions and implementation
3. Raise awareness and promote investments in natural capital though working together in synergy
4. Mobilising investment for economic growth while ensuring environmental sustainability and social justice in GMS
5. A partnership that facilitates knowledge and sharing and promotes investments in the sub-regions natural capital through joint action between governments, private sector and civil society (including youth)
6. Effectively represents partners and has substantial political and public influence in the GMS
7. The partnership should have produced a very rich interactive, GIS linked user friendly decision support platform on the value of natural capital in the GMS, which could be readily used in analysis supporting investment decisions
8. GMS countries are working together to increase investments on the sustainable use of natural capital and for mutual benefit
9. We get policy development all together, and our countries grow up all together
10. In next 10 years all partnership will be strong network manager for natural capital
11. In 10 years the natural capital partnership will have facilitated the convergence of a new asset class: natural capital
12. Stable and sufficient funding good operating mechanism, mutually agreed objectives and all stakeholder involved
13. I think the natural capital would be sustainable use if we could have good partnership among the stakeholders (donors, communities and government)
14. Vision in 10 years natural capital will be mainstreamed into all economic development planning
15. It is still there; working in a mature and pragmatic way, bring feasible benefits to those who are involved. That would be great
16. Sustainability and strong
17. International cooperation could be firmly established to achieve global sustainability

18. Natural capital and ecosystem services are protected, maintained and restored for long term economic growth in GMS

19. One GMS and one policy across all sectors

20. In 10 years time I envision the natural capital partnership functioning as a one-stop shop for government (planners, decision makers and policy makers), private sector and public to find information. Progress, solutions and challenges with regards to the GMS countries and their natural capital

21. In next 10 years, the natural capital partnership will be a forum for GMS countries to share their best practices

22. Sustainable financing for business in the GMS whose business model includes natural capital mitigation, maintenance and enhancement

23. The partnership will be an important platform in the GMS region

24. More common understanding in natural capital investment and [articular meeting is held to make a statement by each partner

25. Natural capital partnership is a common practice in all local government

26. Ability to work together as one, to share the same vision across boundaries and demonstrate political will to implement it

27. Sustain and contribute natural capital when investments started

28. Sharing information on natural capital and cooperation for investment

29. Natural capital partnership become effective platform for raising awareness and knowledge in value of natural capital and benefit of investment in natural capital (both at country and regional level)

30. Mobilising public and private finance and investments

31. GMS sustainable financing mechanism to be established and operational. GMS natural capital conservation areas to be created and operational

32. By 2025 GMS is a home for 30 eco-regions

33. In 10 years from now, thanks to the natural capital partnership and the responsible investments it will have promoted and facilitated in the region the GMS will be land degradation neutral

Strong themes that emerge are as follows:

- Natural capital should be firmly embedded in investment decision-making processes.
- Investments in natural capital would be widely promoted across the region.
- The partnership would be playing a strong role in facilitation, sharing and exchanging best practice.
- The partnership would be involving all stakeholders and all economic sectors affecting the environment.