

Water Resources Management in Cambodia

Prepared by :

SAO SAMPHOIS

CHHUN BUNNARITH

Ministry of Water Resources and Meteorology

June 2004

Contents

- ☞ General Information
- ☞ Water Resources Policies
- ☞ Institutional Base
- ☞ Legal Base
- ☞ Mekong River in Cambodia
- ☞ Conclusion

I. General Information

1.1 Geography



I. General Information (2)

1.1 Geography (2)

MAP OF CAMBODIA



Land: 181035KM²

20 provinces & 4

Municipalities



I. General Information(3)

I.2 Population

- ☞ 12 million (2003)
- ☞ 80% is farmer
- ☞ Khmer 90%, Chinese & Vietnamese 5% and rest number is Hill tribes
- ☞ GDP US\$ 200 (1993) – US\$ 240 (1998)

I.3 Climate

1.3.1 Temperature

☞ Season

- ☒ Dry season (November – April)
- ☒ Rainy season (May – October)

☞ Temperature

- ☒ The hottest month is April (25⁰c – 40⁰c)
- ☒ The coldest month is January (21⁰c – 31⁰c)



I. General Information(4)

1.3 Climate

1.3.2 Rainfall

Annual rainfall

- ✂ The central Plain (1,500 mm)
- ✂ The surrounding mountains (1,500 - 2,500 mm)
- ✂ The coastal zone (3,000 mm)

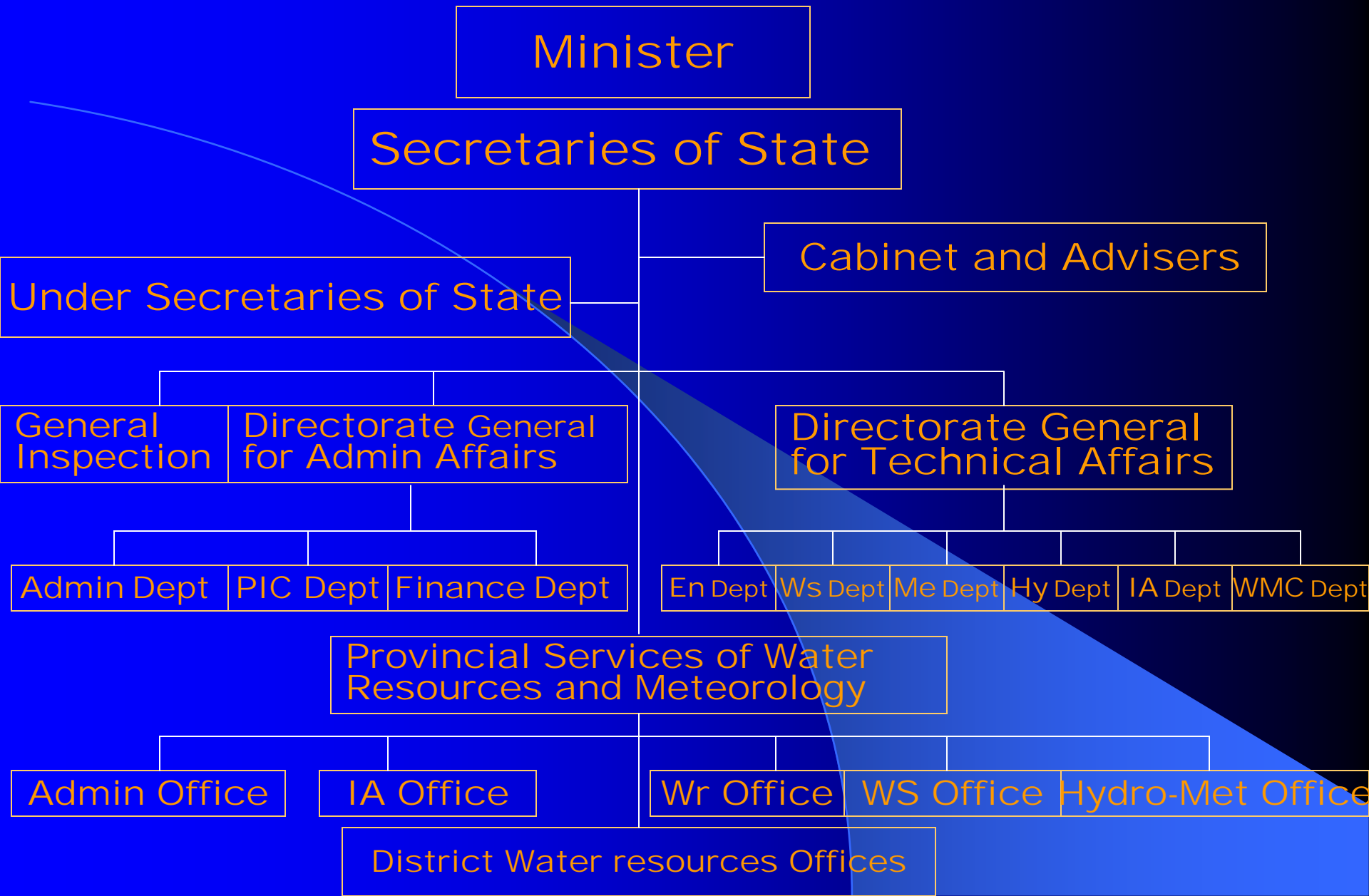
1.3.3 Humidity

- ☞ Max humidity (87% - 98%)
- ☞ Min humidity (38% - 75%)

1.3.4 Wind speed

- ☞ Max wind speed of the year is 11m/s

STRUCTURE OF MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES AND METEOROLOGY



II. Water resources Policy

2.1 Policy

- ✗ All water resources are owned by the State and managed by the Government
- ✗ Water resources plans shall be formulated by basin, sub-basin or aquifer and coordinated by a national plan
- ✗ Everyone has the right to use water resources freely for drinking, washing, bathing and other domestic purposes
- ✗ The use of water is subject to the payment of water use fees
- ✗ The discharge, disposal or deposit of polluting substances... shall be subject to a wastewater discharge license
- ✗ Without prejudice to the principle of Cambodian sovereignty, Cambodia has the right to use, develop and manage the international river basins on her territory

II. Water resources Policy⁽²⁾

2.2 Goals and Priority

- ✘ The Government's Socio- economic requirements and proposal refer to investment plans for the water sector
- ✘ The national target is to increase area of irrigated cropland
- ✘ The draft Law on Water Resources Management does not explicitly set priority for water, except that **free water use** not subject to a license as drinking..., **other uses** needed to a license
- ✘ At present there is limited competition among water users

III. Institutional Base

3.1 Political System

- ✗ Cambodia is a constitutional monarchy
- ✗ Cambodia has been a member of UN since December 1998, and was admitted to ASEAN in April 1999
- ✗ The Royal Government is working to devolve ministerial functions, budget responsibility, and decision making to the provincial authorities and communes

3.2 National/Federal and Sub-national Institutions

✗ Cambodia National Mekong Committee

- Advise the Cambodian representative to the MRC council on all matters relating to activities within the Mekong River basin that could affect Cambodian interests
- Review proposals prepared by RGC agencies
- Liaise between MRC and RGC agencies

III. Institutional Base(2)

3.2 National/Federal and Sub-national Institutions(2)

✕ Ministry of Water Resources and Meteorology

- Defining policies relating to and strategic development of water resources
- Research and investigations of water resources,
- prepared plans for water resources development and conservation
- Managing direct and indirect water resource use and mitigate water-related disasters
- Draft water law and monitor its implementation
- Gather and manage hydro-meteorological data and information

III. Institutional Base⁽³⁾

3.2 National/Federal and Sub-national Institutions⁽²⁾

✗ Ministry of Industry, Mines and Energy

- Water supply provision to provincial towns
- Administration of single-purpose schemes involving hydro-power

✗ Ministry of Rural Development

- Water supply, sanitation and land drainage in rural areas

✗ Ministry of Public works and Transport

- Sanitation and land drainage in Phnom Penh and provincial towns
- Water transport

✗ Phnom Penh Water Supply Authority

- Water supply in Phnom Penh
- Water resources in Phnom Penh region

III. Institutional Base⁽⁴⁾

3.2 National/Federal and Sub-national Institutions⁽³⁾

✂ Ministry of Environment

- mandate to protect Cambodia's natural resources and environment from degradation

✂ Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forests

- engaged in development of policies and strategies for agriculture, forestry and fisheries that have significant implications for the management of the water resources required for irrigation and capture fisheries/aquaculture
- Responsibilities for forestry also have relevance to catchment condition, hydrological regime and water quality issues

✂ Ministry of Economics and Finance

- Responsibilities for compiling the RGC's Socio-Economic Development Program and public investment Program

III. Institutional Base

3.3 Inter-agency Coordination

✗ The principal vehicles for inter-agency coordination are:

- CNMC and the process of preparing the Royal Government's Socio-economic Development (central and provincial level)

3.4 Community, NGOs and other Participation

✗ Rural Development, coordinated and planned by MRD

✗ Farmer water user community supported by MOWRAM

IV. Legal Base

4.1 Body of water law and Regulations

✗ The water law in Cambodia was submitted by minister in September 2001, and reviewed and approved in February 2002, but has not been submitted by the national assembly

4.2 Property Rights and Tenure

✗ All water resources are own by state

4.3 Water Allocation and Conflict Resolution

✗ Cambodia has abundant water, so competition and conflicts rarely occur

V. Mekong River in Cambodia

5.1 Introduction

- ✗ The Mekong flows 4800km from Tibet
- ✗ The lower Mekong has a total area of 795,000 km² and the average flow is 15,000m³/s
- ✗ In Cambodia, the Mekong flows 480km through 6 provinces, and covers 86% of the total area

5.2 Mekong River for Economic Development

- ✗ The Mekong River system plays an important role in sustaining ecosystems and providing a resource base for economic development, including Irrigation...

5.3 Mekong River Commission's main roles

- ✗ Ministerial level representation from member countries for the council
- ✗ The joint committee, which consists of departmental level
- ✗ The secretariat, which executes the instruction of the joint committee

VI. Conclusion

- ☞ Cambodia is a country that is considered to have abundant water
- ☞ Water resources policy is a part of a comprehensive framework that provides a basis for the protection, management and use of freshwater, brackish water, and marine water resources
- ☞ Water law provides guidelines for the way in which the nation develops and manages its water resources

Friday, 8 September, 2000, 11:42 GMT 12:42 UK **Flood waters threaten Cambodian capital**



Friday, 8 September, 2000, 11:42 GMT 12:42 UK
Flood waters Mekong River, National Road N 6



THANK YOU

