

The Bang Pakong River Basin Committee (BPRBC)

Introduction

Thailand's River Basin Committee has been established to manage water resources in a participatory approach. The Bang Pakong River Basin Committee (BPRBC) was established in 2001 and then revised in 2003. It is the only one RBC from 29 RBCs across the country that has a representative of the private sector as its chairman. It comprises representative from every concerned stakeholder groups. In its early stage RBCs work has been designed at central level they were assigned to formulate water resources project in the river basin in order to request budget allocation. However, government agencies at the level of central and provincial could not respond to the projects that were proposed due to lack of sufficient communication between government agencies and people sector, and also lack of data of the projects. Only the projects formulated by government agencies received the budget. At present solutions have been identified and tested to integrate the river basin planning process in order that water resources can be planned at the river basin level.

The RBC has to be strengthened in order to be competent enough for managing water resources in the river basin. Various works need to be performed including equitable water allocation, flood mitigation, and water quality improvement. It is obvious that RBC is not possessed with competency in technical field, most of the members are from layman and its secretariat is not keen with river basin management. Therefore, the capacity building program must be delivered and this should be done to promote good communication and working process of government agencies and people sector in order to definitely delegate water resources management to RBC.

The Bang Pakong river basin is selected for an implementation of the dialogue. The Bang Pakong Dialogue Initiative project was designed to promote consultations in water resources issues in the river basin at the grass root level in order to promote water resources

management that is implemented at the smallest unit of the river basin., BPRBC needs strengthening its capacity. Therefore to facilitate it and to promote the BPRBC learning process, the project approached the BPRBC to be a core mechanism in the dialogue and water allocation would be discussed and identified how it can be introduced in a participatory way.

To be effectively implemented through participatory approach , the process needs the strategy topic to be presented and everybody is a stakeholder in this matter Approaching BPRBC instead of reaching the people at the grass root in an initial stage of the dialogue is appropriate in term of a constraint in the budget and personnel and it will provide BPRBC a technical assistance to learn how equitable water allocation can be implemented at the basin level.

Objectives of The Pilot and Demonstration Activities (PDA) for Thailand:

The Pilot and Demonstration Activities (PDA) for Thailand: Bang Pakong Dialogue Initiatives from ADB in middle of 2004 to implement the Bang Pakong Dialogue Initiative aims to help the BPRBC to create network that will deliver the process of water resources management at the smallest unit of the river basin. The next objectives are to scrutinize the internal process of managing BPRBC in order to make it more competent, and the factors that contribute to BPRBC competency and its weakness. Its other objectives are studying on how water allocation can be implemented by the BPRBC and how it will be perceived and involved by the people at the grass root level, identifying the driving force for people participation, and providing recommendations to the future plan for water resources management in the Bang Pakong river basin and the rest of the country.

Scope of work

- a) Situation Analysis with people in the communities, gathering relevant information on hydrology, ecology, socio-economic baseline, state of experience in water management and stake-holders analysis.
- b) Discussions on alternate water allocation methodologies and strategies, and facilitate dialogue amongst the stakeholders.
- c) Initiation and facilitation of consultations with stakeholders with the participation of the Bang Pakong River Basin Committee - BPRBC.
- d) Formulating water and resources use scenarios with the committee and the community.
- e) Preparation and implementation of information and awareness campaign including small conservation projects to be implemented by the communities.

Bang Pakong-Prachin Buri and Upper Tonelesap River Basins

The basin is located in the eastern Thailand; connected to Saraburi, Nakorn Ratchasima and Buriram in the north; Choburi and Chantaburi in the south; Saraburi, Bangkok and Samut Prakarn in the west and Cambodia in the east. The Basin covers 4 provinces namely Nakhon Nayok, Chachoengsao, Prachin Buri and Sakaeo. In the north of the Basin is the mountain range that divides Nakorn Ratchasima provincial zone from those of Nakhon Nayok and Prachin Buri. In the south, there is a mountain range that originated tributaries of Bang Pakong river.

The Bang Pakong-Prachin Buri and Upper Tonlesap River Basins has a drainage area of 18,670 km², comprised of main Bang Pakong River Basin, Prachin Buri and Upper Tonlesap River Basin. The Bang Pakong river basin has a drainage area of 6,422 km² and consists of three sub-basins: Nakhon Nayok, Thalat and Main Bang Pakong Basins. The Prachinburi Basin River, which has a drainage area of 9,592 km², is comprised of four sub-

basins: Khlong Phra Sathung, Khlong Phra Prong, Mae Nam Hanuman, and Main Prachinburi sub-basin. The Upper Tonlesap has a drainage area of 2,656 km²

The Prachin Buri River Basin is the upstream basin, and has a main Prachin Buri river. It has occurred Khlong Phra Sathung and Mae Nam Hanuman. The Prachin Buri river combines the Nakhon Nayok river as Bank Pakong river and then outflow into the Gulf of Thailand and The Upper Tonle Sap consists of three sub-basins which whole main rivers outflow to the Kingdom of Cambodia

The Bang Pakong river is discharging into the Gulf of Thailand. Tidal influence is pronounced, with brackish water reaching 170 km upstream during the dry season when freshwater runoff is minimal. The basin contains a mixture of land uses ranging from wet and dry season rice, annual and perennial crops, rubber plantations, to tropical forests, and wetlands and settled areas comprising villages with home gardens and mixed orchards. The irrigated area within the basin is estimated at 388,000 ha. The basin's fishery resources are valuable and include both freshwater and marine catches as well as pond-raised fish, oysters, mussels and prawns.

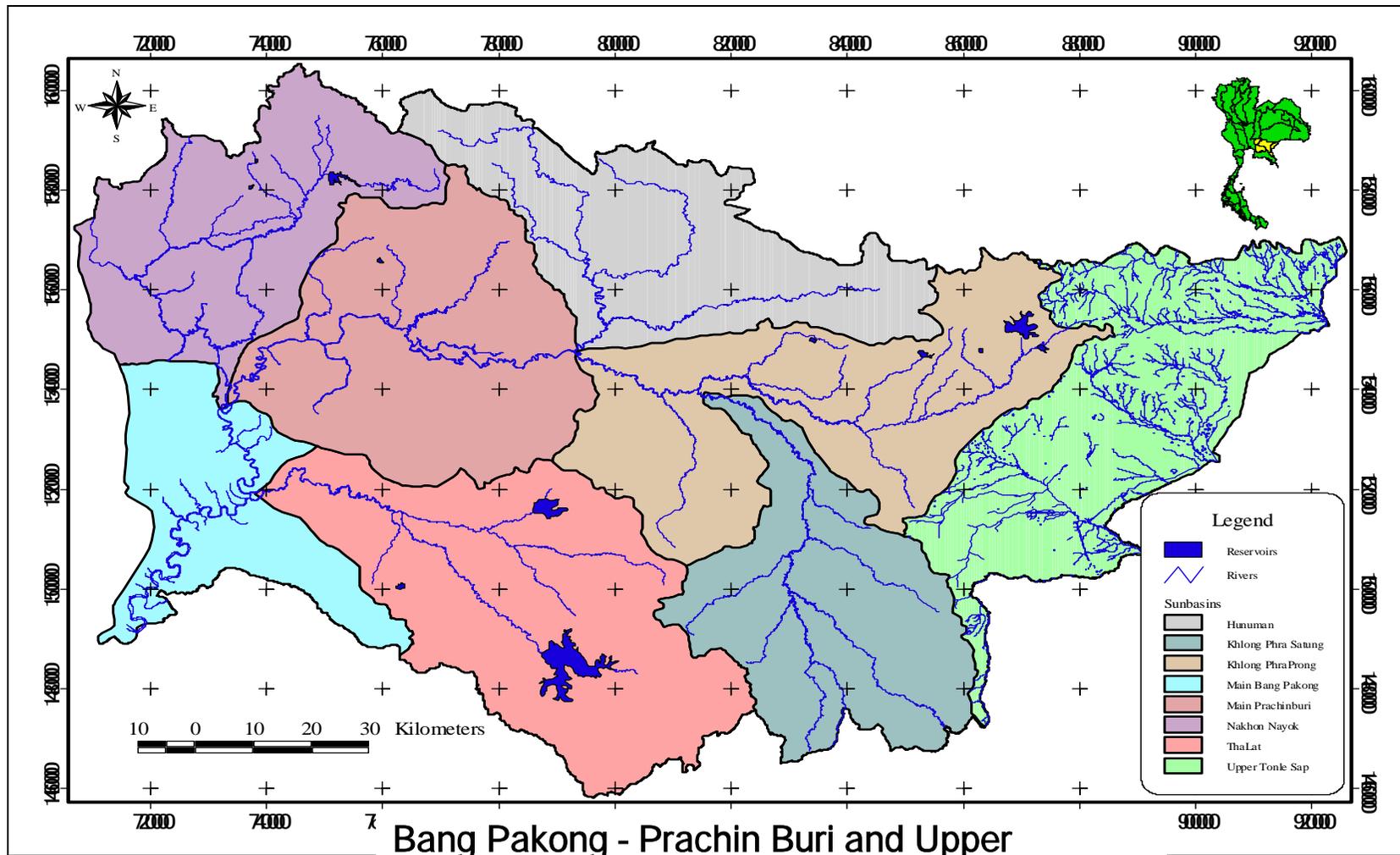
Bang Pakong River Basin supports the livelihoods of a wide range of communities involved in agro-forestry, agriculture and fisheries. It has also seen rapid development of private enterprises, such as pig farms, shrimp and fish farms, and small and medium sized industries. Several water resources infrastructure projects have been implemented to address the region's increasing water needs but their operation has created lot of conflicts among the stakeholders and led to environmental consequences including severe water pollution, river bank erosion, soil degradation, and devastating floods.

The summary of Basin's Water Resources Status

	Unit	Prachin Buri Basin	Bang Pakong Basin	Tonlesap Basin	Total

No. of Sub-basin	No.	4	3	1	8
Sub-basin		1.Khlong Phra Sathung 2.Khlong Phra Prong 3.Mae Nam Hanuman 4.Main Prachinburi	1.Nakhon Nayok 2.Thal at 3.Main Bang Pakong	1. Upper Tonlesap	
Major Tributaries		Prachinburi river, Khlong Phra Sathung tributary, Khlong Phra Prong tributary and Hanuman river tributary	Bang Pakong river, Nakhon Nayok river tributary and Tha Lat tributary		
Mean Annual Rainfall	mm./year	1,499	1,334	1,209	1,347
Mean Annual runoff	MCM./year	4,986	3,667	831	9,484
Combined Storage Volume of Present Large and Medium Scale Reservoirs	MCM.	126	702	74	902
Present Irrigation Area	Million Rai	0.478	1.151	0.082	1.712

Notes: mm. = millimeters
MCM. = Million Cubic Meters
Rai = 0.1538 hectares



**Bang Pakong - Prachin Buri and Upper
Tonlesan Sub-River Basin**

Water Resources Management Organization

National Water Resources Committee (NWRC)

The National Water Resources Committee is a national - level organization establish under the Office of Prime Minister's regulation on the National Water Resources Management ,B.E. 2532 .

The River Basin Sub-committee

River Basin Sub-committee comprises member selected from government officials , state enterprise representative , representatives of local organizations and water users organizations, stakeholders who work or live in the concerned river basins, and qualified persons who have knowledge membership depends on the local situation of each river basin. Chairman and secretary of the Sub-committee are to be appointed from the Sub-committee of the concerned river basin, and assistant secretaries may be included as necessary.

The Working Group

Working group consist of persons who appointed by the River Basin Sub - Committee with specific duties and responsibilities. These people may be members of the River Basin Sub - Committee. However, one of its members must be representative of farmers in each district. Initially, these specific working groups should focus on information, action plan , and public relations as wall as other necessary aspects.

Provincial , District and Tambon Working Groups

Provincial , District and Tambon working groups comprise representatives from government agencies, water users groups from various sector , i.e. agriculture ,industry ,commerce and tourism, local agencies (provincial administion organization , tambon administration organization, and municipality) , educational Institutes , qualified persons , technical experts , and NGOs. These representatives are selected and appoint, in an appoint number, by the River Basin Sub-Committee.

Sub-Committee of Bang Pakong-Prachinburi and Tonle Sap River Basin

Components

- | | | |
|-----|---|-------------------|
| 1. | Governor, Chachoengsao Province | Sub-
committee |
| 2. | Governor, Prachinburi Province | Sub-
committee |
| 3. | Governor, Nakhon Nayok Province | Sub-
committee |
| 4. | Governor, Sa Kaeo Province | Sub-
committee |
| 5. | Representative from Office of the
Permanent Secretary to the Ministry of
Interior | Sub-
committee |
| 6. | Representative from Department of
Groundwater Resources | Sub-
committee |
| 7. | Representative from National Park, Wildlife
and Plant Conservation Department | Sub-
committee |
| 8. | Representative from Royal Irrigation
Department | Sub-
committee |
| 9. | Representative from Forestry Department | Sub-
committee |
| 10. | Representative from Department of Disaster
Prevention and Mitigation | Sub-
committee |
| 11. | Representative from Community
Development Department | Sub-
committee |
| 12. | Representative from Department of Public
Works and City Planning | Sub-
committee |
| 13. | Representative from Marine Department | Sub-
committee |
| 14. | Representative from Provincial Waterworks
Authority | Sub-
committee |
| 15. | Representative from Local Administration
Organization, Chachoengsao Province | Sub-
committee |
| 16. | Representative from Local Administration | Sub- |

6.	Organization, Prachinburi Province	committee
1	Representative from Local Administration	Sub-
7.	Organization, Nakon Nayok Province	committee
1	Representative from Local Administration	Sub-
8.	Organization, Sa Kaew Province	committee
1	Representative from Water User	Sub-
9.	Organizations or Groups from Agricultural Sector, Chachoengsao Province	committee
2	Representative from Water User	Sub-
0.	Organizations or Groups from Agricultural Sector, Prachinburi Province	committee
2	Representative from Water User	Sub-
1.	Organizations or Groups from Agricultural Sector, Nakon Nayok Province	committee
2	Representative from Water User	Sub-
2.	Organizations or Groups from Agricultural Sector, Sa Kaew Province	committee
2	Representative from Water User	Sub-
3.	Organizations or Groups from Business or Industrial Sector, Chachoengsao Province	committee
2	Representative from Water User	Sub-
4.	Organizations or Groups from Business or Industrial Sector, Prachinburi Province	committee
2	Representative from Water User	Sub-
5.	Organizations or Groups from Business or Industrial Sector, Nakon Nayok Province	committee
2	Representative from Water User	Sub-
6.	Organizations or Groups from Business or Industrial Sector, Sa Kaew Province	committee
2	Representative from Civil or Private Sector	Sub-
7.	for Natural Resources and Environment, Chachoengsao Province	committee
2	Representative from Civil or Private Sector	Sub-
8.	for Natural Resources and Environment, Prachinburi Province	committee
2	Representative from Civil or Private Sector	Sub-
9.	for Natural Resources and Environment, Nakon Nayok Province	committee
3	Representative from Civil or Private Sector	Sub-
0.	for Natural Resources and Environment, Sa Kaew Province	committee

3	Representative from Academe or	Sub-
1.	Intellectuals for Natural Resources and Environment, Chachoengsao Province	committee
3	Representative from Academe or	Sub-
2.	Intellectuals for Natural Resources and Environment, Prachinburi Province	committee
3	Representative from Academe or	Sub-
3.	Intellectuals for Natural Resources and Environment, Nakon Nayok Province	committee
3	Representative from Academe or	Sub-
4.	Intellectuals for Natural Resources and Environment, Sa Kaew Province	committee
3	Director, Water Resources Regional Office	Sub-
5.	6, Department of Water Resources	committee
3	Director, River Basin Coordination and	Sub-
6.	Management Division, Water Resources Regional Office 6, Department of Water Resources	committee

Authority and Duties of BPRBC

1. Propose to the National Water Resources Committee the policies, plans, projects, and guidelines for solving problems and obstacles in development, usage, conservation, and any implementation necessary for water resources management, including any implementation of agencies within the jurisdiction area of the river basin.
2. Formulate Water Resources Management Plan within the jurisdiction area of the river basin.
3. Coordinate operation plans from agencies within the jurisdiction area of the river basin to comply with the plan in 2.
4. Consider the prioritization and quantification of water usage and measures for appropriate, equitable, and efficient water allocation.
5. Monitor and evaluate the operation of agencies concerning with water resources within the jurisdiction area of the river basin.
6. Request for documents, information, and facts and figures related to water resources to collate statistic, information, opinions and recommendations concerning

with water resources management, water sources development and conservation, prevention and solution to water shortage, flood, and quality of water within the jurisdiction area of the river basin.

7. Negotiate conflicts and solve problems related to the implementation of water resources management within the jurisdiction area of the river basin.
8. Coordinate operations on water resources with Sub-committees of other related river basins.
9. Disseminate and generate understanding to the public about the results or the implementation of the Sub-committee.
10. Appoint Working Groups to implement operations that may be assigned by the Sub-committee.
11. Operate other tasks that may be assigned by the National Water Resources Committee.
