

TA 6123 – REG. Phase 3
Pilot and Demonstration Activities for Thailand
Bang Pakong Dialogue Initiatives

Inception Report

Overview

The LOA between ADB and MONRE was finalized on 9 July 2004. The IWMI team was mobilized on the 27th July. Regular meetings are being held between the DWR, MONRE; IWMI and Bang Pakong River Basin Committee (BPRBC) representatives to coordinate activities and to ensure the BPRBC is fully engaged in the Pilot Demonstration Activity (PDA). Following review of available background material, an initial field visit was made by the DWR and IWMI team during 5-6 August 2004 with support from the regional representative offices of DWR, RID, and the BPRBC. Detailed field work commenced in early September, the first phase of which is expected to be completed during October 2004.

Scope of work

As indicated in the PDA, The Department of Water Resources (the “IA”) is to serve as the Implementing Agency. The IA will focus on five major interventions, referred to as Work Packages:

- 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.

Progress of work:

The agreed work plan identifies five major interventions to be implemented through the PDA. However there is considerable overlap of the work required in implementing these interventions and therefore, to avoid duplication of effort, we working to ensure that the output of each activity will be available to each work package.

Situation Analysis

Easily available baseline information, project reports and data have been assembled during the initial mobilization period. Additional work is on-going to obtain additional hydrological; meteorological; and other physical and socio-

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economic data. Initial field visits with local line agency staff and members of the BPRBC have established sound working relationships that will enable development of the socio-economic and stakeholder analysis.

Field work was initiated in September to identify attitudes of the BP population and officials concerning water resources, culture, and water allocation options.

Ian W Makin (IWMI Regional Director for SE Asia); Rungnadhee Phonkarm and Ornuma Polpanich (IWMI Research Officers); Mr Theerapong Pintong (Engineer RID, currently a PhD candidate at Kasetsart University); John Herter (MSc Environmental Sciences, Lund University, Sweden) and Mathieu Drean (MSc Agro-Economic Development) have implemented the field work in collaboration with DWR staff and members of the BPRBC. Draft MSc thesis reports, by Drean and Herter, have been submitted during November 2004, contributing to the draft overall project report to be submitted in June 2005 by KU, IWMI and DWR.

Although not included explicitly in the PDA proposal, the inclusion of MSc and PhD candidates in the BP study team has enabled the expeditious collection of field data through the maintenance of an effective continuous presence in the study site from August to November. The study team established strong working relationships with key stakeholders in the basin and was able to interact closely with members of the BPRBC.

Water Allocation

In addition to the field work described in the first work package specific field interviews and observations are being made to identify the views of the local population and officials on water allocation methodologies, including the impact of pricing for water services.

Computer modeling systems for exploration of the impacts of water allocation decisions have been short listed. Initial evaluations will be implemented during October to December by Mr Theerapong Pintong (Engineer RID, currently a PhD candidate at Kasetsart University), supervised by Ian Makin in collaboration with the IWMI Hydrological Group (based in Colombo). Dr Chu Thai Hoanh, Principal Scientist, IWMI Modeling Group will participate in the model evaluation during visits to Thailand in January, 2005 and from May to June 2005. Candidate models¹ currently being considered include, WEAP from Stockholm Environment Institute; Mike Basin from Danish Hydraulics Institute; and AQUATOR from Oxford Scientific Services. Following evaluation of these, and other, models the most appropriate will be demonstrated to key stakeholder representatives, including line agencies and the members of BPRBC. Mr Pintong is preparing

¹ Each of the candidate models has different capabilities. The models also have different licensing arrangements, depending on the numbers of copies of the software required and the status of the users of the models. WEAP is available with license fee for Non-profit organizations in developing countries; Mike Basin and AQUATOR are commercially supported software tools with individual licensing arrangements. For the Bang Pakong study it is intended to utilize a licensed version of Mike Basin owned by Kasetsart University. The AQUATOR model is being made available to the study without a license fee for 12 months; however a charge of US\$ 3,000 is included to cover support costs of the suppliers in training the team to use the model. A single user license for AQUATOR is approximately US\$10,000; however a unlimited license DWR would be US\$25,000 enabling application to all basins in Thailand.

data sets and establishing trial applications of the models in order to maximize the productivity of inputs by senior IWMI and DWR staff. The modeling studies undertaken as part of the PDA will provide the basis for Mr Pintong's PhD thesis.

The work of water allocation is already started in association with IWMI as it was agreed on a discussion between Mr.Wouter Lincklaen Arriens, ADB's Activity Officer and Ms.Sukontha Aekaraj, DWR's contact person. IWMI is an experienced research institute and is providing technical support and researchers to implement the majority of this work package. Regular consultations are held between Ms.Sukontha Aekaraj of DWR and her team and IWMI research team, including the study of documentations and initial investigation in the river basin. The research methodology has been agreed and the teams have worked closely with key stakeholders in the river basin to collect the required information.

A key issue is the absence of a law supporting water allocation and water use efficiency in Thailand. Water allocation has been the sole responsibility of officials and, historically, there have been very limited consultations with stakeholders. As a result the benefits of water resource developments have generally been limited to people who are close to water sources and in upstream areas. Furthermore influential people are usually believed to have been able to derive a larger portion of the available water from the allocation process than is appropriate.

This work package will include analysis of past and potential future water allocation processes with involved stakeholders to identify various scenarios, analyzing allocation rules and regulations to identify and test viable, culturally acceptable, water allocation techniques for application in Bang Pakong river basin. All relevant government agencies will invited to become involved by requesting that their representatives participate in two Workshops to be planned for later in the project.

Consultations with Stakeholders

This component includes consultations; meeting; and workshops to be held with BPRBC and other stakeholder groups in the basin, such as local administrative bodies and water user groups. In addition to the formal consultations regular informal discussions will be held with small groups and individuals in the course of the project work.

The major target group for the consultation efforts will be the BPRBC and the Bang Pakong Dialogue Network (BPDN), key local administrative bodies and major water user organizations and groups. Most of the members of these stakeholder bodies are volunteers, identified during earlier meetings and who have offered themselves as being willing to work with the Department of Water Resources on water and water-related issues. Volunteers are drawn from each of the four provinces crossed by Bang Pakong basins.

The BPRBC have met the field teams and have offered their enthusiastic support, requesting briefings from the team on progress and various water issues. The study team have observed the regular BPRBC meetings and have briefed the members on the progress of the study. The BPRBC has requested

copies of the study reports as these become available. We have agreed with Mr. Chamroon Suaydee, Chair of the BPRBC, summary reports will be provided in Thai to enable maximum accessibility for all stakeholders. These materials, in English, may also be suitable for inclusion on the ADB WAP.

Water and Resources Use Scenarios

The development of water use scenarios is not yet started, but will be implemented once the basic field data and initial modeling studies have been completed. Alternate water allocation and use scenarios will be developed in consultation with the stakeholder groups. These most probable scenarios will be modeled and working sessions held with the BPRBC and other key-stakeholders to evaluate the implications of choosing one or other of the scenarios.

Information and Awareness Campaign

Further to the formal and informal consultations with stakeholder groups the project will implement campaigns to raise awareness amongst the general public in the BPRBC regarding the project and the state of water resources and its use in the basin. A specific element of the awareness campaign will focus on helping the communities and individuals identify their role in water conservation and other activities.

Some informal consultations were already organized with a number of local administrative bodies in order to identify their requirement and test their awareness in water resources field. It can be initially concluded that local administrative bodies are good mechanism for water resources management at local level because they are legally abided and their mandates are providing water, maintaining water sources, and protecting and conserving natural resources including water. Water resources management which should be administered by them will include provisioned of water supplies, water allocation, and conservation of water resources.

The BPRBC is a new institution and, not surprisingly, its institutional basis and capacity to undertake the proposed roles are rather weak. Considering the composition of BPRBC many members are laypersons and must become better acquainted with both the issues regarding water management and the government sector in order to get appropriate cooperation from line agencies etc. For the BPRBC to become more effective in the role of basin regulator the BPRBC Secretariat must possess the necessary skills and tools to be able to guide the members of the committee. The secretariat must be able to provide professional advice on crucial issues to facilitate the RBC to achieve its mandate efficiently. Therefore a training course will be organized for the members of the BPRBC Secretariat on how to conduct meetings and analyze agenda items. This is the first activity within the component scheduled for 28-29 September 2004.

One focal aspect of the formal consultations with the main stakeholder groups will be the development of the target organizations capacity to participate in important decisions at the river basin level; and to communicate such decisions to the grass-root population. To facilitate the dissemination of information from BPRBC to the network of water users and the general public a Trainer-of-trainers

(TOT) will be organized for selected members of the BPRBC and the water user groups to improve delivery of messages to the grass root level.

Training will also be provided in elementary project evaluation, development of rules and regulations in water resources management, water use efficiency, and people's roles in water conservation. These trainers will in the future facilitate water resources management and training of people in the Bang Pakong basin.

Staff of the local administrative bodies will be trained separately and will concentrate on elementary project evaluation. These people are decision-making bodies and they administer the budgets for water management at local level.

Two study visits will be arranged for the selected stakeholder groups to inspect water resources management by local people in river basins in the upper north and central areas of Thailand. It is hoped that this will inspire members of the BPRBC and they will learn from other people's experiences.

Information sharing among stakeholders is an important factor in awareness raising. To help promote such sharing, the project will develop and reproduce documents for distribution at workshops and meetings and to the general public including government agencies. The PMU (project management unit) will work with the stakeholder groups to design the content and format of such publication to ensure they are locally relevant and acceptable.

Financing plan

- a) US\$ 21,000 will be used in Component A: Methodologies and Modeling for Water Allocation. This amount of money will be transferred to IWMI through Kasetsart University.
- b) US\$ 3,000 will be used in Component A as well. This amount of money will be used by DWR to purchase the software called Aquator. It is a water allocation model software and the amount includes its maintenance and support fee for 12 months.
- c) US\$ 8,000 will be used in component B: Capacity Building of Bang Pakong River Basin Committee. This amount of money will be used by DWR in training of BPRBC secretariat, 2 study visits of BPRBC, and training of the trainers courses.
- d) US\$ 18,000 will be used in Component C: Awareness Raising or Promotion of Involvement of Government Agencies and Other Stakeholders. This amount of money will be used by DWR in organizing 5 workshops to be involved with stakeholders:- 3 will be of water allocation and 2 will be of water resources management at local level which will involve local administrative bodies (to implement the project of provision of water supply and water allocation). And it will also be used in publication of materials for awareness raising campaign in water.

Project management and monitoring system

- a) IWMI will take part in situation analysis, water allocation, and water and resources use scenarios. IWMI's Director and staff regularly meet and discuss with DWR staff from the beginning of the project.
- b) DWR has assigned project management unit (PMU) headed by Ms. Sukontha Aekaraj Director of Foreign Relations and International

Cooperation Branch, Bureau of International Cooperation to oversee project implementation and design for any change in the work plan to suit the situation. Flexibility is important to the project because the project aim is to create a procedure of water allocation, capacity building, and awareness raising or promoting of involvement of stakeholders. In such creation, after a study is made then a new solution may be needed.

- c) IWMI research team and PMU make their own survey of related information including believes, requirement and attitudes of the people in the basin toward water and these two team will meet and discuss their findings. Then they will work together in defining water use scenarios and designing a demonstration project of provision of water supply and allocation system.
- d) The project will be reviewed from time to time and the PMU regularly consults with high ranking persons in MONRE and DWR and also experts from Kasetsart University and other key agencies. When considering necessary, the Project Steering Committee will be set up comprising of these people to be the project supervisor.

Contribution to ADB's Water Awareness Program

Materials for dissemination will be prepared occasionally, to be presented via ADB's Water Awareness Program. They will be in the form of series of write-ups.

Summary

The PDA on Water Allocation and Bang Pakong Dialogue activities has commenced in a timely and organized fashion. Field work has begun and good working relationships have been established amongst the research team, the staff of DWR and the major river basin stakeholders (including line agencies and the BPRBC). Some problems remaining formalizing the working arrangements between IWMI and DWR. The project is progressing on schedule.
