

**Cooperation Fund for the Water Sector
Pilot Demonstration Activity
Request Form**

Activity Title: Bang Pakong Dialogue Initiative	
Proposer: Mr. Surachai Sasisuwan, Director-General, Department of Water Resources	
Request Date:	
Region: Southeast Asia	Country: Thailand
Activity Start Date: April 2004	Activity End Date: May 2005
Cost Estimate: US\$ 50,000	
Implementing Organization Contact: Ms. Sukontha Aekaraj, Bureau of International Cooperation, Department of Water Resources	
Consultant Identified? No	If so, Consultant(s) contact:

Short Description:

1. Background and Rational:

Bang Pakong river basin supports a great number of communities, mainly involved in agroforestry, irrigated crops, livestock, fisheries and industries. Apart from this, it contains an important estuarine ecosystem with remarkable biological diversity.

Quite a great number of conflicts between different users occur especially in area where there are intense activities. Some instances of misunderstanding and distrust between government agencies and stakeholders about water resources infrastructure projects already exist and others will emerge in the absence of acceptable water allocation mechanisms. In order to prevent a further extension of conflicts and misunderstandings mechanisms for conflict resolution must be explored, tailored to the particular context of the basin, and implemented.

2. Objectives:

To strengthen the work of integrated water resources management in the river basin and to strengthen the capacity of the river basin committee to fulfill its mandate in reducing conflicts within the river basin.

3. Project Overview:

The proposed PDA will complement the Bang Pakong Dialogue activities. These activities will have an estimated budget of USD 1,235,950 over the next three years (See attached project document). The PDA and Dialogue will involve collaboration between government, agencies, academicians, members of the Bang Pakong RBC and other stakeholders to ensure mutually effective use of existing information and local knowledge. The PDA budget is USD 50,000.

4. Scope of Work/Description of Activities:

The water resources of the Bang Pakong basin are already heavily exploited for productive use in agriculture, industry and tourism. The basin has been selected as one of the pilot areas for development of an effective river basin organization, to be responsible for management of the basin water resources. By means of integration, consideration will be

given to the various functions of water including its use for production and environment and also its relationship with coastal zone. The development of acceptable rules and procedures for allocation of water to different uses will be critical in the future management of the river. The developing river basin organization will involve the communities in the basin through a program of people participation focused at the level of communities up to the level of river basin committee. The PDA will include:

- 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. A draft basin profile was prepared as background material for the initial stakeholder meetings during 2003. Further studies to refine the profile will focus on specific types of water use that are impacting on other water users and sectors.
- Alternate water allocation methodologies will be evaluated for discussions by the Bang Pakong RBC and the stakeholder community, with the most acceptable being pilot tested in Bang Pakong. Appropriate modeling tools will be used to illustrate the impacts of alternate allocation strategies and to facilitate dialogue amongst the stakeholders.
- Initiation and facilitation of consultations with stakeholders with the participation of the BPRBC.
- Formulating water and resources use scenarios with the committee and the community.
- Preparation and implementation of information and awareness campaign including small conservation projects to be implemented by the communities.

5. Implementation Schedule, Institutional Management Arrangements, and Proponent Qualifications:

Implementation Schedule

- Workshop to identify potential water allocation methodologies, with participation of academics, government agencies and BPRBC members Evaluation of methodologies - month 1
- Consultation on allocation methods with community and stakeholder groups through:
 - Small group consultations: one per month (12 meetings)
 - Meetings in each province: 4 meetings
- After initial feedback make trial water allocations for discussion with stakeholders - month 5
- Working with people from communities in analysing water situation Evaluation of community response to allocation methodologies and recommendations for basin water allocations - month 12
- Finishing with the report and future work plan - month 13

Institutional Management Arrangements

This PDA will introduce new water allocation principles to one basin in Thailand. The PDA will be implemented through a Project Management Unit (PMU) within the Department of Water Resources that will undertake supervision and coordination of the activities. The PMU will continue beyond the PDA to replicate the procedures and methodologies with other basin committees to expand sound allocation strategies.

Proponent Qualifications

The Department of Water Resources of the Ministry of Natural Resources is responsible - for implementation of integrated water resources management in Thailand. The Dept of Water Resources is mandated to implement improved water management procedures in all river basins in Thailand. This PDA will support the department in promoting stakeholder participation in river basin management, strengthening the newly formed BPRBC; and increasing awareness of IWRM principles and practices with the line agencies and other stakeholders.

6. Expected Results (Outputs/Outcomes/Impacts):

Development and testing of generalized water allocation principles and, guidelines within Bang Pakong through dialogue with BPRBC and stakeholders. The allocation methodologies recommended will include specific attention to prioritization rules with respect to periods of water shortage and the impact of alternate uses on water quality. Traditional water use rights will be respected.

The PDA will support the development and testing of mechanisms and procedures for resolving conflicting claims to water through a river basin dialogue conducted by a strengthened river basin committee.

In addition to the main outputs above, the PDA will also support the development of:

- a platform for all stakeholders to discuss water resources management;
- improved access to data and information for stakeholders in the basin;
- greater awareness on water resources issues and demands in the basin among local stakeholders and government agencies

7. Measurable Performance Indicators:

The impact of the, PDA will be evaluated, through surveys within the basin, of the stakeholder acceptance of:

- (i) water allocation principles and guidelines; and
- (ii) mechanisms and procedures for resolving conflicting claims to water;

Specific measures of the PDA will include monitoring of:

- Number of participants in the Dialogues
- Number of problems considered and resolved
- Number of projects identified
- Number of sub-basin networks established

8. Stakeholder Participation:

The active involvement of stakeholders will be ensured through regular interactions with the BPRBC and communities in the basin. Proposals for allocation methods and dispute resolution mechanisms will be developed through consultations with the BPRBC and other stakeholder meetings. The PDA work plan will be finalized in consultation with the BPRBC and progress discussed with the committee regularly.

9. Scope of Replication/Use in Other DMCs:

The PDA findings and recommendations will be replicated within Thailand through the PMU and in collaboration with other basin committees. Results of the PDA, will be made available to the other member DMC through the ASEAN Working Group on Water Resources Management (AWGWRM): The project documentation of the procedures implemented, from the inception to the establishment of effective mechanism for allocation, consultation and dispute resolution will be made available for other countries to adapt to their specific context. The findings of the PDA and other activities in the basin will be presented at workshops and conferences in the region.

10. Cost Estimate:

The PDA budget is USD 50,000 consisting of USD 40,000 for activities specific to the establishing appropriate water allocation and dispute resolution procedures and regulations in consultation with the Bang Pakong River Basin Committee; and approximately USD 10,000 for the activities of the Project Management Unit that will support the replication of similar activities in other basins in Thailand.

Development and testing of water allocation and dispute resolution mechanisms in the Bang Pakong basin:	US\$ 40,000
Support to Project Management Unit:	US\$ 10,000
Total:	US\$ 50,000