

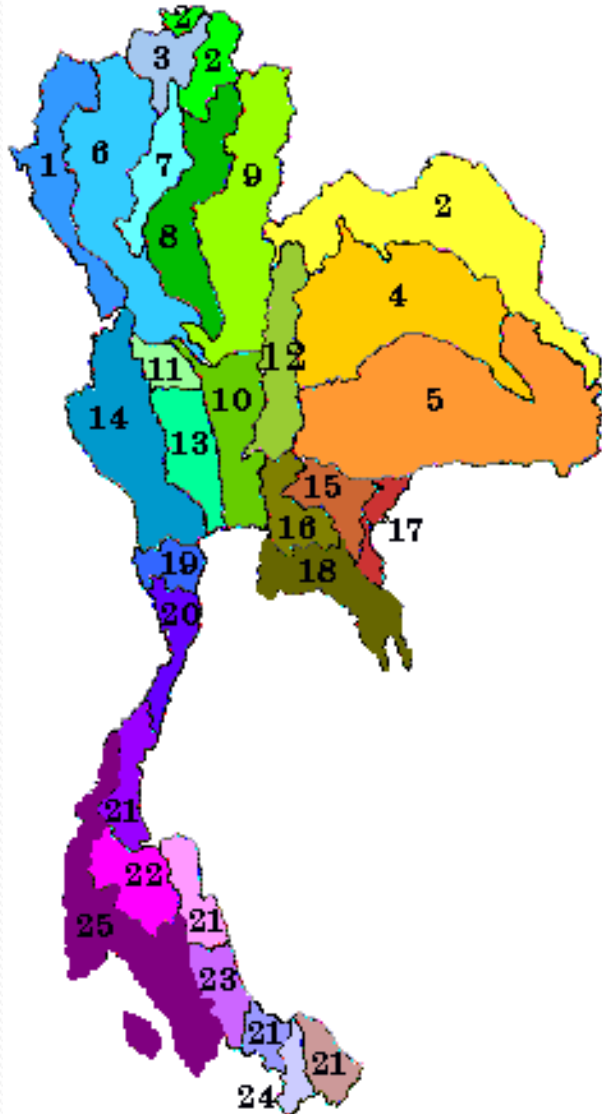


Office of the Auditor General of Thailand

Good Governance in Watershed Management

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25 Main Basins in Thailand



Northern Region

- 1 Salawin River
- 2 Khong River
- 3 Kok River
- 6 Ping River
- 7 Wang River
- 8 Yom River
- 9 Nan River

Northeastern Region

- 2 Khong₂ River
- 4 Chi River
- 5 Moon River

Central Region

- 10 Chao Phraya River
- 11 Sakae Krang River
- 12 Pasak River
- 13 Thachin River

Western Region

- 14 Mae Klong River
- 19 Petchaburi River
- 20 West-Coast Gulf

Eastern Region

- 15 Prachin River
- 16 Bang Prakong River
- 17 Tonle Sap
- 18 East-Coast Gulf

Southern Region

- 21 Peninsula-East Coast
- 22 Tapi River
- 23 Songkhla Lake
- 24 Pattani River
- 25 Peninsula-West Coast

Background

- Performance audit report in watershed management, in 25 main basins
- Budget allocation from 2005 to 2009, more than **5,188.75 million USD**
- water resources management operated by 21 government agencies and state enterprises

Audit Objectives

- To understand whether budget plan for integrated water resources management can be achieved or not and how
- To understand whether water resources projects implemented by relevant agencies can solve critical problems in watershed areas or not and how
- To understand problems, obstacles and constraints of 25 main basins management in order to give beneficial recommendations to the government and relevant agencies

Audit Scope

- Audit budget plans of integrated water resources management from 2005 to 2008
- Audit performances of all levels of water resources management organizations from 2005 to 2009
- Audit water resources projects aiming at finding solutions to four significant problems, i.e., water shortages, floods, water quality and water resources management from 2005 to 2009

Audit Methodology

- Study all related documents
- Audit sampling
 - Non Probability Sampling
 - 171 projects in 14 main basins in 35 provinces
- Interview senior executives and staffs of audited entities, and people in target areas
- Questionnaires
- Observations
- Data collecting
- Data processing and analyzing for making a final report

Audit Finding 1

- Budgeting for integrated water resources management is ineffective.
 - 87.15% of allocated budgets for implementing projects in basin areas are not under the budget plan
 - Integrated watershed management programs/projects are unclear and unable to correctly and appropriately solve problems in basin areas.

Causes

- No law directly related to integrated water resources management as a type of watershed system
- No clarity of yearly budget framework for solving water resources problems
- Lack of in-depth information in basin areas, which is reference database for defining water resources solving programs/projects
- Lack of participation of the local communities in systematic planning and operating water resources management

Audit finding 2

- 96 projects or 56.14% of 171 sample water resources projects implemented by relevant agencies are still unable to systematically and sustainably solve critical problems

Causes

- Water resources management organizations, especially at local community level which is representatives of popular sector, lack strength and cannot follow defined roles.
- Lack of integrated implementations and plans among relevant agencies
- No monitoring and evaluation systems

Effects

- Water resources solving and preventing processes do not achieve government's purposes and policies.
- Budget expenditures according to integrated water resources management plans are not worthwhile, inefficient, and also unable to meet people in target areas' needs.
- Some projects cause more problems, for example solutions to headwater areas possibly affect river mouth areas and lead to long term conflicts among people in the local communities.

Recommendations

- Revise water resources management organizations' structure
- Conduct in-depth information of each basin area through participation process of each level of all related agencies.
- Enhance knowledge and understanding about water resources management
- Establish data collection systems for water resources solutions of all related agencies
- Define practice guidelines for solving water resources problems
- Consider the importance and urgency of law directly related to integrated water resources management as a type of watershed system.

Good Governance Issues

- Public participation: taking into account the participation of all levels
- Responsibility: Specify main responsible agency with its clear authority, especially in coordination with all relevant agencies.
- Worthiness:
 - revise integrated water resources management budgeting whether it's still suitable, if so, have policies, plans and budgets framework clearly set to get all related agencies to solve each of basin area problems
 - monitoring and evaluation system including performance indicators should be in place

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