

Improved Management of Extreme Events through Ecosystem-based Adaptation in Watersheds

Background

As a result of climate change, floods and droughts in Thailand will increase in frequency as well as intensity. Local water management institutions lack technical capacity and innovative concepts to address such extreme events. Therefore the population of Thailand is expected to face large economic losses due to crop failure and loss of production. Water providing and regulating ecosystem services present untapped adaptation potential for cost effective and sustainable prevention measures.



Objectives

- To support the local water departments in the Chi and Tha Di basin in planning ecosystem-based adaptation measures against the effects of extreme events
- To facilitate in implementing ecosystem-based adaptation measures for the prevention of flooding and drought in the Chi and Tha Di catchment To reflect experiences into the national adaptation strategy for the water sector
- To support staff of the relevant water authorities to be able to design and evaluate ecosystem-based adaptation measures

Approach

The project's approach starts out in two pilot watersheds threatened by the impacts of climate change. To increase the adaptive capacity of the two watersheds, relevant professionals (from government, universities, etc.) will be advised to combine their expertise, activities and sources of information in order to exploit synergies and therewith improve the efficiency of the water management in the corresponding catchment area on the base of a common information management.

Inclusion of population is ensured by their involvement in stakeholder platforms. These platforms are based on the existing "River Basin Management Committee".

Innovative ecosystem-based adaptation approaches will be implemented for demonstration purposes of adaptation measures in catchment areas. This is supported by training courses for relevant stakeholders in ecosystem-based adaptation.

Based on the experiences gained from the intervention in the pilot watersheds, ecosystem-based adaptation approaches for the development of adaptive capacities are fed into the national level. At the same time ecosystem-based adaptation education and training formats are anchored on in the target region as well as the national level.

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