

Governance in Watershed Management

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Mekong Program on Water
Environment and Resilience

What is water governance?

- The ways in which society shares power with respect to **decisions** about how **water resources** (watershed) are to be developed and used, and the distribution of benefits and involuntary risks from doing so. It includes the full spectrum of influences from shaping agendas and deliberating options through the design of **institutions** and laws through the way these are implemented in the practices of day-to-day management of water (watershed).
(Lebel et al,2010)

Why are watersheds important?



- ✓ Quality of water
- ✓ Nutrition -- sedimentation
- ✓ Rich Biodiversity
- ✓ Carbon sequestration
- ✓ Flooding control --
desired flow
- ✓ Recreation resources
- ✓ Livelihoods of the people
living in and using the
watershed resources
- ✓

How do “We” define watershed



- “Drainage” areas that contain:
 - Forest
 - Soils
 - Source of water
 - Wild life habitat
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- Many still overlook watersheds as places where other people – ‘they’ – live, interact with, and depend on ecosystem service

“They” define watersheds

- As a place to live
 - sources of food
 - sources of income
 - sources of cultural practices
 - Sources of water, NTFP,
- “We” and “they” value watersheds differently



“We” blame them for

- Deforestation
- Causing floods, soil erosion, loss of biodiversity
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- We perceived problems often without evidence-based support

“We” try to manage watersheds

- Through overlapping-function public entities by
 - Classification, but can we separate them from where they live?
 - Zoning, but can we zone their diverse sources of livelihoods?
 - Logging ban or Quota, are we able to limit their access to various sources?
 - Payment for their environment services, can we separate different services and providers?

“They” try to

- Manage watersheds by
 - Custom-laws
 - Cultural practices
 - Community leader/clan
- Respond to public pressures and resource use competition by
 - Redefining culture practices
 - Setting up committee (within or cross villages)
 - Setting up network

New Approach Needed

- The differences to watershed management between “Us” and “Them” include:
 - Interests
 - Perceptions
 - Aims and means
- And require a new approach, Multi-Stakeholder Platforms (MSPs), to help ‘we’/’they’ or ‘us’/’them’ have proper conversations and negotiate fair ways to move forward.

How do the multi-stakeholder platforms work?



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Thank You!