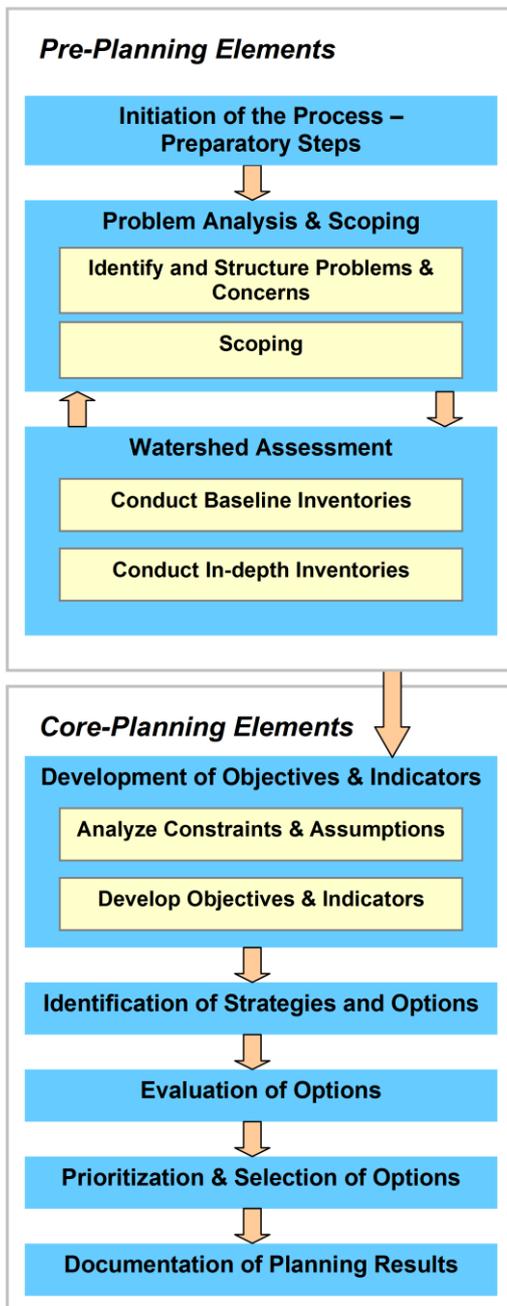


Technical Bulletin #71:

Watershed Management Planning

The Context

Watershed Management Planning attempts to solve specific problems by identifying options and selecting a course of action considered the most suitable to reach the desired objectives. It is *cyclic* in nature and an *ongoing and dynamic* process that should respond and adapt to changing conditions and expectations.



The *planning process* itself comprises a sequence of activities, which have been highlighted in the figure on the left. The planning process commonly begins with *preparatory activities*, such as the creation of problem awareness, the formation of a facilitation team, and the initiation of dialogue with authorities and stakeholders.

Problem analysis is required. It begins with the identification of the known problems and issues of concern in a given watershed, and is followed by their detailed analysis and structuring. An essential part of the problem analysis is a *stakeholder analysis*, which helps to more clearly identify the stakeholders and their specific concerns, interests and capacities.

As a next step, there is a prioritization of watershed areas that most urgently require intervention. This process is called *scoping*. It establishes broad agreed priorities and targets, and gives the subsequent planning process overall direction. Scoping can be a challenging exercise, because of the differences in problem perception among the different stakeholders as well as the different priorities that they may have.

Watershed Level Planning

The *degree to which the stakeholders participate* in planning processes can vary between two opposite extremes: the *top-down* planning approach is characterized by a low level of participation, whereas *bottom-up* planning entails the self-mobilization and empowerment of the local stakeholders. *Modern watershed management attempts to combine both the bottom-up and the top down-planning approaches.*

There are *basic options* for planning at the watershed level. Firstly it can take place entirely within the watershed, as a stand-alone process, which results in a



watershed management plan. Alternatively it may take place entirely within administrative units, such as districts or communes, as a fully integrated part of drafting their socioeconomic development plan.

Planning in a watershed context is a multi-stakeholder process that aims to balance the usually differing and conflicting interests of concerned stakeholders through negotiation and dialogue. Therefore it has to involve all of those whose interventions have an impact on the maintenance of watershed functions, namely the government, the private sector, and civil society. A multi-disciplinary planning team should facilitate it in order to be most effective.



Watershed management planning requires the dialogue and negotiation of many stakeholders who will potentially be affected by the management of a watershed. Pictured here are stakeholders from the government, private sector, and civil society engaged in the watershed management planning process.

Cambodia HARVEST

No. 46 Street 310 | Sangkat, Beong Keng Kang 1
Khan Chamkamorn | Phnom Penh, Cambodia
Tel: 855 (0) 23 996419

This bulletin is made possible by the support of the American People through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The content is the sole responsibility of Fintrac Inc. and does not necessarily reflect the views of USAID or the United States Government.