

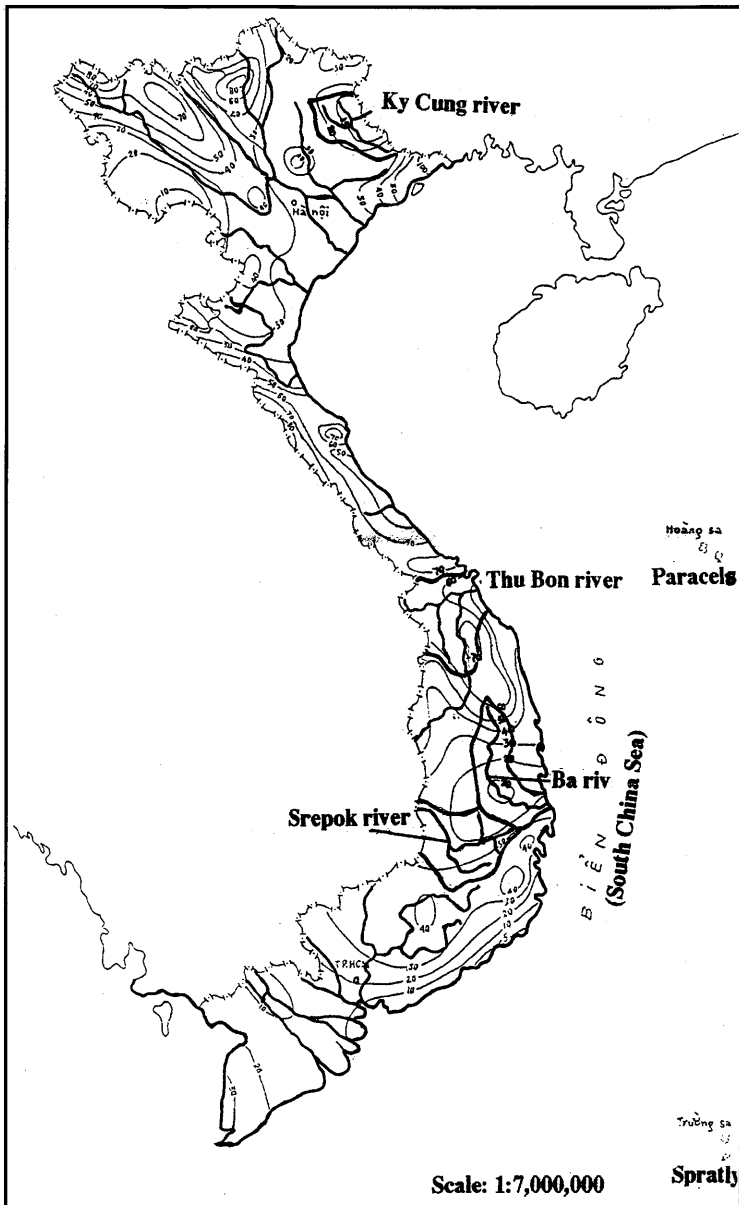
Vietnam

Vietnam-1: Song Ky Cung

Vietnam-2: Song Thu Bon

Vietnam-3: Song Ba

Vietnam-4: Song Srepok



Introduction

Vietnam is located in the inter-tropical zone, on the eastern part of the Indochina peninsula. The total area of the country is 331 000 km², three quarters of which consist of mountains and hills, and the remainder alluvial plain, most of which lies in the Red River and Mekong deltas.

The country is influenced by tropical monsoon climate with two clear cut rainy (April/May to October/November) and dry seasons. The mean annual precipitation is 1 960 mm varying from 4 760 mm in Bac Quang (in the northern part) to 650 mm in Phan Rang (Central Vietnam). The annual river runoff volume in Vietnam is 880 km³ of which 556 km³ is generated outside Vietnam and only 324 km³ generated in Vietnam (or 980 mm runoff, 4 630 m³ per capita). The unit flow for Vietnamese territory is 980 000 m³/km² or 0.031 m³/s/km².

Most Vietnamese rivers are of small and medium sizes except the Red River and the Mekong River. The forest cover is about 26% (1992 Ministry of Forestry). The urban population makes about 15% of the nation's total.

Ky Cung River basin is located in the north bordering with China in the region with water scarcity (unit runoff 0.017 m³/s/km²). Thu Bon River has unit runoff 0.060 m³/s/km² (Twice the country's average). Ba River has a normal unit runoff of about 0.0216 m³/s/km². The two rivers, Thu Bon and Ba are both located in Central Vietnam. The Srepok river flows from central Highlands to Mekong mainstream in Cambodia with unit runoff of 0.0313 m³/s/km².

There are many small and medium size reservoirs built in the 4 river basins. Most of them are about 30 - 40 years old. Major water problems in the basins are water supply, flood protection and mitigation, inundation and waterlogging, salinity intrusion control in coastal areas and pollution control in urban and industrial areas.

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