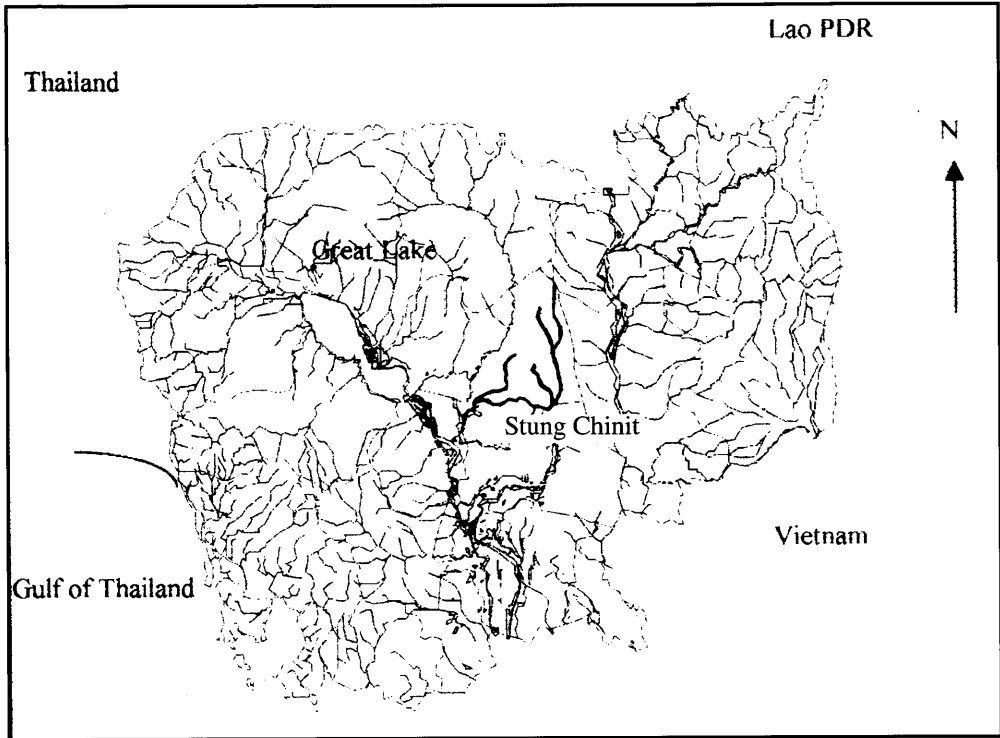


# Cambodia

## Cambodia 2: Stung Chinit



## **Introduction**

Cambodia consists of three main topographical regions. One of them is the Central Plains, which form 75% of the land area and lies between 10 to 30 meters above sea level. They are drained by the Mekong, Tonle Sap and Bassac rivers, and a number of small tributaries. The main feature of the Central Plains is the Great Lake. It covers an area varying from between 2,700 km<sup>2</sup> during the dry season with an average depth of less than 2 m, to more than 16,000 km<sup>2</sup> at the end of the wet season with a maximum depth of 8-10 m. The Great Lake drains into the Mekong through the 100 km long channel of the Tonle Sap River.

During the peak monsoon period from about the end of May each year, the capacity of the Mekong is inadequate to convey the flood waters, and water level at the Mekong/Tonle Sap confluence rises to about 10 m. At this time of the year, the flow direction in the Tonle Sap reverses and flood water from the Mekong flows to the Great Lake adding to the flood runoff from the Great Lake catchment, storing some 72x 10<sup>9</sup> m<sup>3</sup>. Consequently, the lake surface area increases to more than 16,000 km<sup>2</sup> inundating the adjacent land for up to five months of the year. When the flow in the Mekong reduces sufficiently, usually in October, the Tonle Sap reverses direction and drains the stored flood waters from the Great Lake back to the Mekong.

The Stung Chinit River is one of the tributaries of the Tonle Sap River in the central area of Cambodia. The annual rainfall varies from about 1,420 mm in the west of the catchment to about 1,770 mm in the East. The higher floods usually occur between July to October while the lower ones occur between March to April.

A feasibility study of the Stung Chinit Multipurpose Development Project was carried out in 1971 on soil, farm management, water utilization, power demand etc. covering an area of some 48 000 ha.

## **Acknowledgements**

The following are thanked for their assistance and advice in the preparation of Volume II, Catalogue of Rivers:

Mr. Veng Sakhon, Deputy General Director, General Directorate of Irrigation, Meteorology and Hydrology,

Mr. Te Navuth, Engineer-Hydrologist, General Directorate of Irrigation, Meteorology and Hydrology,

Mr. Mao Hak, Irrigation Engineer, General Directorate of Irrigation, Meteorology and Hydrology, and

Dr. Neu Bonneu, Ministry of Environment.