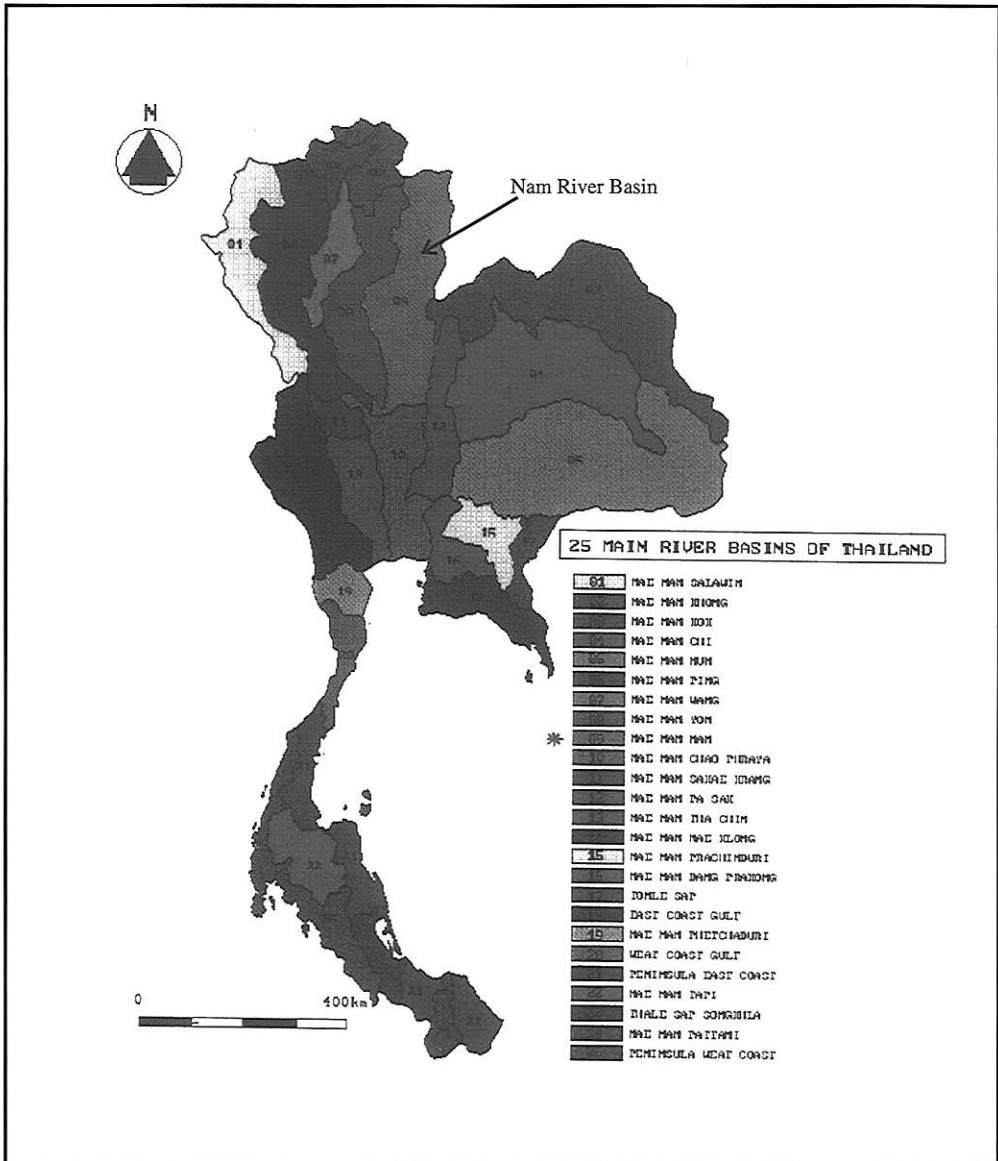


Thailand

Thailand 3: Mae Nam Nan



Introduction

Thailand is situated in the tropical monsoon zone of Southeast Asia and covers an area of 513,115 km² from latitudes 5° 30' to 21° 00' N and longitudes 97° 00' to 105° 30' E. The country is bordered on the west and north-west by Myanmar, on the north-east and east by People's Democratic Republic of Lao, on the south-east by Cambodia and the Gulf of Thailand, and on the south by Malaysia. Thailand has maximum dimensions of about 2,500 km north to south and 1,250 km east to west, with a coastline of approximately 1,840 km along the Gulf of Thailand and 865 km along the Indian Ocean. The topographic features of Thailand comprise of three main types of landform : highlands, plains and plateaus. Highlands include several mountain ranges covered with forest extending from the northern part to the southern peninsula through the entire western length of the north - south direction. The coastal area east of the Gulf of Thailand is another part of the highlands. The central part of the country is occupied by an extensive alluvial plain, while the north-eastern region is formed by the undulated plateau. Thailand is a warm and semi-humid tropical country. The climate is monsoonal, marked by a pronounced rainy season lasting from about May to September and relatively dry season for the remainder of the year. The monsoon season rainfall is around 90 percent of the annual rainfall. The mean annual precipitation is 1,400 mm varying from 1,100 mm in the north-east plateau to over 1,800 mm in the south peninsula. The population in 1996 has been approximately 60 million.

The river catalogued in this volume is the Nan River. It is one of the main tributaries of the Chao Praya River. It flows southward and joins the Ping River at Nakhon Sawan where the Chao Praya River is formed. The Nan River Basin has a catchment area of 34,331 km². According to the Watershed Quality Classification Measure which has 6 classes, the Nan River Basin has 30.2% of class 1A, 2.5% of class 1B, 15.0% of class 2, 10.8% of class 3, 9.5% of class 4 and 31.9% of class 5. The 6 classes are described as follows:

- 1A: Protected or conservation forest and headwater, usually located at high elevation with very steep slopes . These areas must remain permanently covered.
- 1B: Similar in physical and environment features as 1A, but have been cleared to agricultural area by villagers. These areas require special soil conservation and protection measures and if possible should be reforested.
- 2: Commercial forest
- 3: Fruit-tree plantation
- 4: Upland farming
- 5: Lowland farming.

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