

CHAPTER 2

LAND USE

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2.1 Current Land Use

2.1.1 Topography

The NBR is located in the northeastern border of the northeastern region of Thailand. Phu Phan Mountain lies in the center of the NBR from southeast to northwest. Phu Phan Mountain divides the NBR into two separate hydrologic regions, which are the Sakon Nakhon Basin and Korat Basin as shown in Figure 2.1.

Phu Phan Mountain is also an important place regarding conservation of water and habitation of wildlife. Forests in the Phu Phan Mountain can make a great contribution to water retention and to prevent soil erosion.

The Sakon Nakhon and Korat Basins are flat plains, resulting from the flat riverbeds of the Mekong River. They cause flooding problem in the areas along the Mekong River. Sakon Nakhon Basin is considered as a high rainfall area with annual rainfall of more than 2,000 mm, while, Korat Basin, a moderate rainfall area, has lower annual rainfall of less than 1,500 mm. Annual rainfall by area is shown in Figure 2.2.

In general, the soil in the NBR principally consists of sandy soil with stronger acidity; soil of the NBR is poor and not so suitable for farming, comparing to other regions. However, the area along the Mekong River has relatively fertile soil suitable for vegetable and fruit cultivation as shown in Figure 2.3.

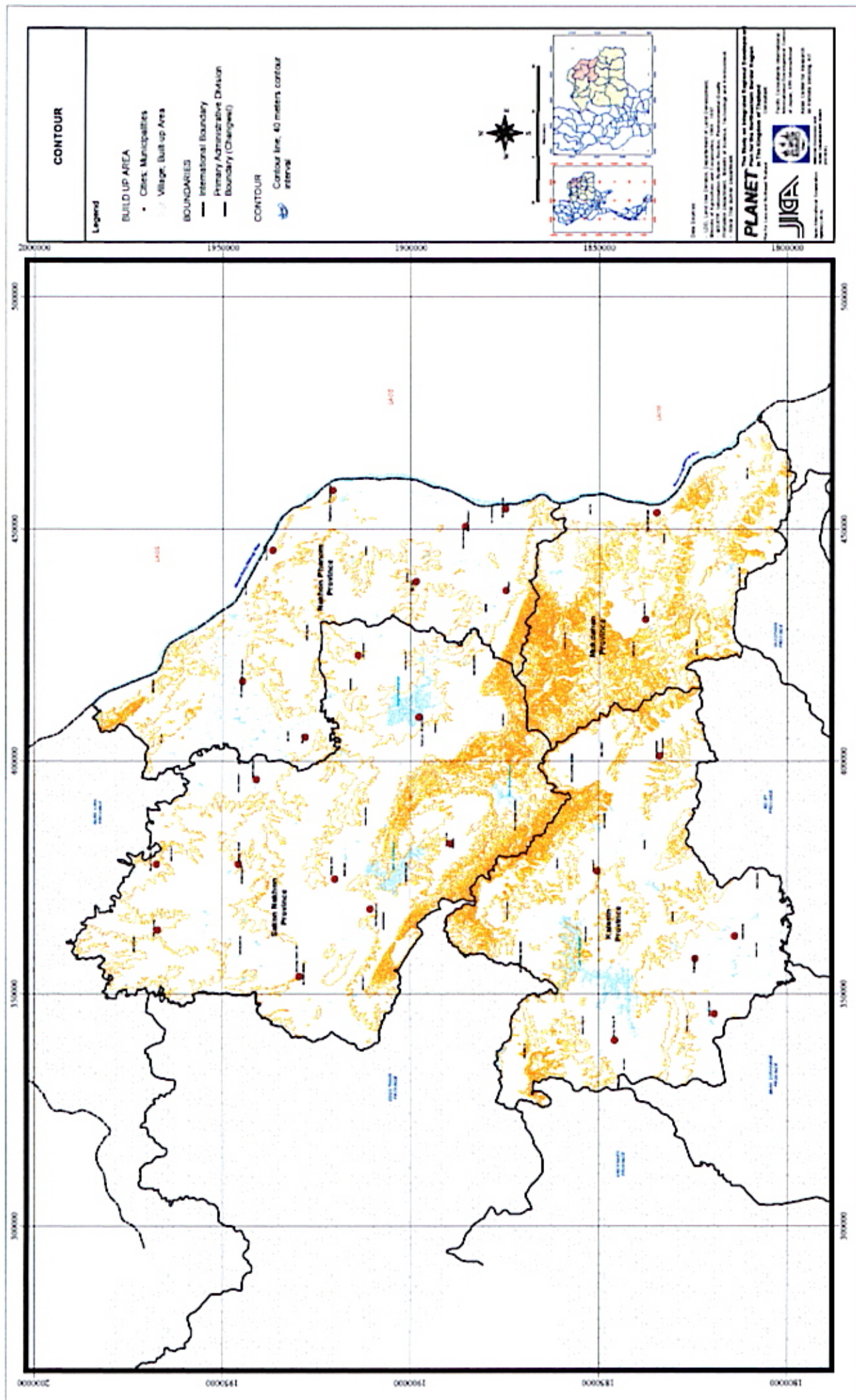


Figure 2.1 Contour Map of the NBR

