

The Thames and Ganges Twinning Project

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International Riverprize winner 2010



- International Riverfoundation, NGO based in Australia
- Award the annual World Riverprize
- Thames won \$350,000 in 2010

Why the Thames won



- Partnership application by the government Environment Agency and an NGO –TRT
- Demonstrable improvements in the Thames ecosystem over 60 years
- From biologically dead in 1950s to 125 species of fish today
- Plans for further improvement with involvement of community groups

Twinning project – Thames & Ganges



- Riverprize money must be used to help another river
- Ganges and Thames face similar problems – pollution, abstraction, loss of wildlife
- Twinning project with local NGO partners - The PEACE Institute & WWF India
- Develop low tech methods for local people to help restore their own rivers



CHINA

TIBETAN PLATEAU

Lhasa

Brahmaputra

HIMALAYAS

Mt. Everest

BHUTAN

Kathmandu

Gandak

Ghaghara

Upper Ganges

Ganges

Chambal

River Yamuna

Brahmaputra

Patna

Allahābād

Vārānasi

Kosi

Bhagalpur

BAHGLADESH

Dhaka

Padma

Son

Yamuna

Betwa

Ganges

Hugli

Kolkata

INDIA

PEACE Institute Charitable Trust

- Based in Delhi, north India
- Set up Friends of the River groups along 1,440 km of Yamuna
- Managed delivery of SMART targets set for each group
- Building capacity in poor villages to better manage water, waste, biodiversity, crops and education



WWF India – Upper Ganges project

- Focus on biodiversity restoration
- Reintroduction of Gharial, worlds rarest crocodile
- Turtle hatchery
- Organic farming
- Improved livelihoods



Visit to River Thames May 2012

- Mr Manoj Misra of PEACE and Dr Asghar Nawab of WWF India
- Visited river restoration, biodiversity and water treatment projects
- Advised Thames NGOs and Environment Agency on our work
- Many helpful suggestions for engaging local communities and people of Indian origin



Ganges - achievements in the first two years

- 128 of 132 SMART targets achieved
- Capacity developed in 14 Friends of the River groups
- 3,500 volunteers involved
- 6,000 trees planted
- 32 events involving school students
- 15 river and village clean up events
- 12 capacity building workshops
- 150 gharial released
- The first River Action Plan for a Ganges tributary is being written



10 Lessons learned from this Programme

1. NGOs from different countries can work together well
2. A small amount of funds can go a long way
3. Good local knowledge of a river is essential
4. Local political support is essential
5. River ecosystems can be improved at the local level
6. Local Friends of the River groups are key to success
7. Local people must see benefits from river restoration
8. NGOs are trusted by local people to lead projects
9. Involving government agencies strengthens a project
10. A River Action Plan is needed for long-term improvements



Thames Rivers Trust



Effects of the twinning programme

- The twinning is helping to develop ongoing technical assistance and knowledge exchange between the regions
- There are many people from India living in London /UK. TRT is working to promote the twinning project to them and get support
- The long term effect of this twinning on TRT is to encourage us to develop our role as the 'international face' of the Thames?
- The long term effect of this twinning on the Environment Agency is to encourage them to invest even more in improving the Thames
- The long term effect of this twinning project on the International Riverfoundation is to help us fundraise for more work in Ganges

Tips to make twinning successful

- The lead organisation must have the capacity to manage the project over its funded lifetime, and to continue it beyond
- The lead organisation must have a project manager with the necessary skills and experience in international project management
- Select one or two lead delivery partners with good track records in the twinning country
- Visit the twinning country and negotiate detailed contracts with the delivery partners, based on SMART outputs.
- Put a good monitoring process in place, with visits to the projects.
- Listen to your local partners, they are the experts on their river

The end – thank you



The Goddess Ganga on her gharial crocodile