

The Thames and Ganges Twinning Project

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This story begins in Australia



Thames – International Riverprize winners 2010



- International Riverfoundation
- NGO based in Brisbane, Australia
- Awards the annual World Riverprize - \$350,000 Aus
- Sponsored by Theiss Pty Ltd of Australia

Why the Thames won



- Partnership application from the Environment Agency and TRT
- Demonstrable improvements in the river ecosystem over 60 years
- Plans for further improvements e.g. Thames Super Sewer, Thames 2100 Flood Plan, London Rivers Action Plan, Catchment Sensitive Farming
- Plus close involvement of community groups

Twinning project – River Ganges



- Riverprize money must be used to help another river
- Ganges and Thames face similar issues and challenges
- Working with local partners
The PEACE Institute and
WWF India
- Developing new techniques to help restore other rivers around the world

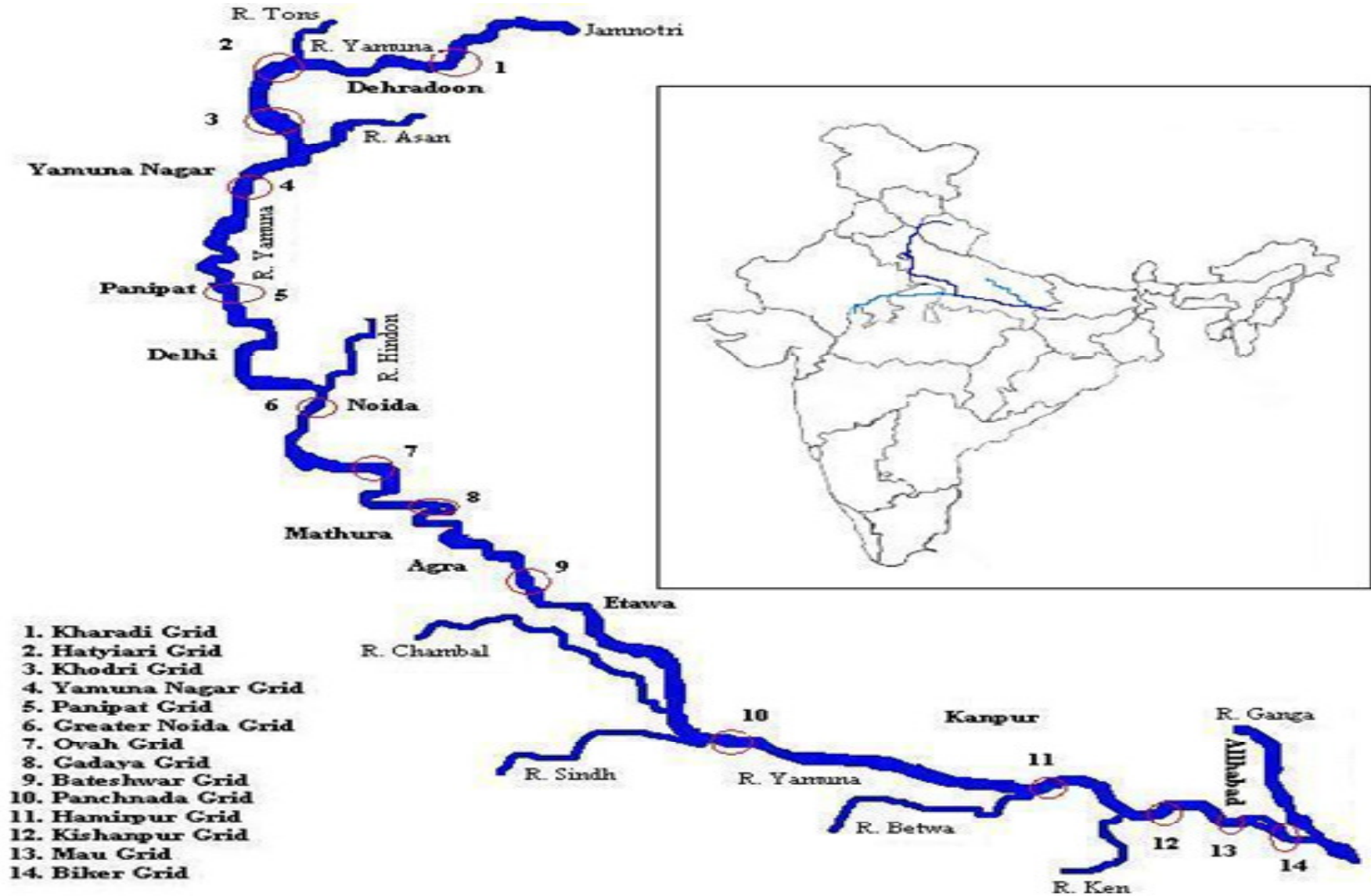


PEACE Institute Charitable Trust

- Well established NGO, based in Delhi
- Track record of good delivery of projects
- Set up Friends of River groups in 10 GRIDS along Yamuna
- Agreed priority grassroots actions for each GRID



MAP OF THE RIVER YAMUNA WITH GRIDS



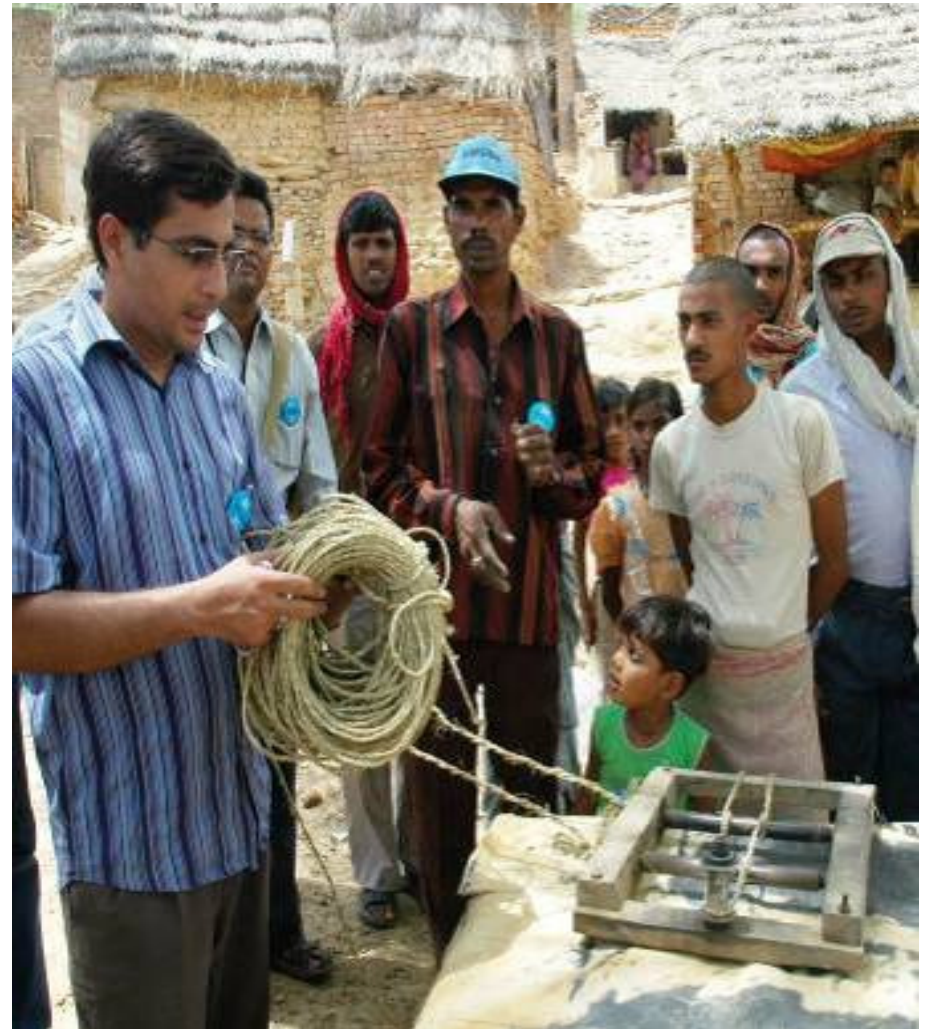
WWF India – Upper Ganges project

- Project started 2009
- Twinning Programme funding 2011 - 2013
- Gharial reintroduction and Turtle hatchery
- Organic farming
- Improved livelihoods



WWF India – lower Yamuna project

- Biodiversity surveys
- Alternative livelihoods
- Organic agriculture
- Capacity building
- Cooperation with PEACE and Friends of River groups



GRID no.	Name	Activities 2011/12	SMART outputs	Activities 2012/13	SMART outputs
3	KANALSI	A. <u>Waste management</u>	Facilitation of the construction of [1] village sewage pond for prevention of liquid and solid waste from reaching the river.	A. <u>Waste management</u>	Diversion of village waste water from accumulating in the school compound into farmlands for irrigation use. School led campaign (1) to prevent use of Polythene in the village
		B. <u>Energy use</u>	Promotion and demonstration of alternate energy source (solar in particular) for light/cooking.	B. <u>Energy use</u>	Installation of 10 alternate energy source (solar in particular) for light/cooking
		C. <u>Catchment restoration</u>	Plantation of 500 local tree species in the river flood plains/riparian areas to prevent erosion of riverbanks and siltation of the riverbed.	D. <u>Catchment restoration</u>	Plantation of 500 local tree species in the river flood plains/riparian areas to prevent erosion of riverbanks and siltation of the riverbed.
		D. <u>River & Catchment Monitoring</u>	<p>Monthly assessment of water availability and flows in river Somb (tributary) as well as in Thapana (natural spring) in the GRID that directly feed the river.</p> <p>Establish base line/s on the aquatic and riparian flora and fauna in river Yamuna, Somb and Thapana</p> <p>Establish baselines in ground water level/s in two (2) villages in the GRID</p>	D. <u>River & Catchment Monitoring</u>	<p>Monitoring of river flows and water quality on a monthly basis, using locally developed standard and replicable methods.</p> <p>Monthly assessment of water availability and flows in river Somb (tributary) as well as in Thapana (natural spring) in the GRID that directly feed the river.</p> <p>Monthly monitoring of aquatic and riparian flora and fauna (presence/absence) in river Yamuna, Somb and in Thapana Monthly monitoring of ground water levels in two villages in the GRID</p>



Knowledge exchange

- Visit to Thames river, May 2012
- Mr Manoj Misra of PEACE and Dr Asghar Nawab of WWF India
- Visited river restoration, biodiversity and water treatment projects



Meeting Friends of the River Kennet



Seeing river restoration in London



Meeting Mrs Margaret Hodge MP – Member of Parliament for Barking



Twinning Programme – some achievements

- 128 SMART targets achieved
- Capacity developed in 10 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 Yamuna 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

These lessons learned will be expanded in the report of the Twinning Programme, to be published in April