

International RiverFoundation

THIESS INTERNATIONAL
Riverprize

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THIESS FOUNDATION

Riverprize – Frequently
Asked Questions



Please read the Entry information and Riverprize terms and conditions.

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1. What are the benefits of submitting an application for the Riverprize?

The benefits of winning the Riverprize are far greater than prize money. Organisations who have previously won the Riverprize have reported increased recognition of their activities at local, regional and international levels, increased profile and credibility of their activities, greater ability to leverage additional funds for further river restoration and management activities, and greater opportunities to build relationships with other river management groups and experts regionally and internationally.

Entering Riverprize also provides your organisation with the opportunity to:

- Reflect on the achievements of your river restoration and management programs, and improve relationships with stakeholders
- Vie for recognition as a Riverprize finalist or winner.

Becoming a Riverprize finalist enables you to:

- Join a global river leaders network of Riverprize Alumni.
- Be recognised regionally and internationally for your achievements in river management.
- Present your achievements at the International Riversymposium.

Winning the Riverprize allows you to:

- Showcase your world-class river management practices, leadership and innovation in river management and commitment to sustainable practices.
- Present your achievements at the International Riversymposium in the year you win and host a workshop/feature session at the following Riversymposium.
- Showcase your leadership and learn from the Riverprize Alumni network.
- Become a valued member of the IRF Riverprize Alumni Network.

Past winners have also had success in attracting new funding due the increased awareness and award recognition.

2. Does it cost anything to enter?

There are **no** fees to submit an application for the Riverprize. However, finalists must register, attend and participate in the 22nd International Riversymposium, 20 – 24 October, Brisbane, Australia.

The winners must also attend the International Riversymposium the following year with a delegation of 5 or more delegates (in 2020 the location is still to be confirmed) with the aim to share their knowledge, experiences and lessons learned.

See the Riverprize Terms and Conditions for full details.

3. What supporting material is needed?

You must be able to provide evidence of your river health maintenance and/or improvements, to support your responses to the selection criteria, e.g. management plans, water quality monitoring data, communication strategies, educational materials, indigenous engagement plans, etc.

All supporting material needs to be provided in electronic form, as this information is given to each panel member. Please don't send hard copies of documents or books.

The following are some examples of supporting material needed to back up your claims:

- River or Catchment Management Plans
- Annual reports
- Partnership agreements
- Water quality monitoring data
- Environmental Management Plans
- Education programs
- Communication strategies
- Photographs from events held and on-ground activities on the river
- Media articles focused on the program
- Journal articles

4. Can the same supporting data be used for more than one selection criteria?

Yes, using the same data for two different criteria is acceptable. It is recommended that you have at least one supporting document for each criterion.

5. Can I include extra documentation not referenced in the application form?

No. The only "extra documents" in the supporting material should be images/photographs of your project. All other supporting material should be referenced in your responses. The judges get many applications, so be concise, with clear referencing. Ensure that the judges can easily understand how your references relate to your application and that they are easy to find.

Ask someone not too closely related to the program to read your submission.

6. How do I reference documents in my application?

An example:

The chemical quality of the rivers within the Prize River catchment classed as ‘Very Good’ or ‘Good’, has improved from 48% in 1990 to 83% in 2008; a 35% improvement (reference X).

Nineteen species of freshwater fish, including salmonids are found (reference Y) whilst the estuary supports viable shell-fisheries and is a nursery ground for commercial sole and bass stocks. Overall fish diversity is increasing, with 125 species recorded, including internationally important cod and bass (reference Z). Since April 2005, 393 habitat enhancement projects have been delivered at a cost of \$17 million (reference D).

References X, Y, Z, D should then be listed in a table of contents.

7. Who are the judges?

Applications are judged by an independent panel comprising natural resource managers, representatives from water industry, government agencies, environmental organisations and eminent scientists from all across the world. Please refer to <https://riverfoundation.org.au/our-programs/riverprize/international-riverprize/> for the list of judges.

8. I feel uncomfortable including some of my company’s confidential information – how can I be sure it is kept confidential?

The judges are committed to a confidentiality agreement with IRF to ensure they do not divulge any information from the submissions. They are also requested to declare any conflicts and that they have no interest in the outcome of any particular river or organisation. If revealing dollar amounts are a concern, you may use percentages. *The IRF never shares past applications with other applicants or organisations.*

9. Who should complete the submission?

In most cases the successful submissions are a team effort. It is **strongly not** recommended that a junior member of staff or consultant complete the submission as the task requires collation of knowledge and an intimate understanding of the project/s.

The application can be viewed as a communications exercise, selling the achievements of your project to a panel of judges who don’t know what you don’t tell them.

The CEO, Director or a senior representative of the organisation must sign off the submission acknowledging that it is a true and accurate record of facts.

If the submission is from a number of organisations, an organisation should submit it on behalf of the others but need to indicate the other partners in the submission.

10. What is the difference between International RiverFoundation and the International Riversymposium?

The **International RiverFoundation** is a not-for-profit organisation that builds river leadership and strong networks for the restoration, protection, sustainable management and resilience of the world's rivers.

The International RiverFoundation manages the **International Riversymposium**. The objectives for the *Riversymposium* include networking and professional development, knowledge building and sharing information and influencing policy and practice to achieve healthy and resilient rivers.

The *Riversymposium* provides a unique global forum for river managers, policy developers, scientists, consultants, students, NGOs, indigenous and community organisations and business and industry representatives to share their knowledge, learn from others and collaborate to improve the sustainable management of river basins all over the world.

11. What happens after I lodge my application online?

You can save your online application at any point in time while you are working on it. If you have any problems or questions while preparing your submission, please contact us via the links on the website.

Once you have submitted the online application, an automated email will be sent to your nominated address confirming that the application has been successfully lodged.

You will be notified if your application has been shortlisted for Stage 2. The Stage 2 Application Form will then be made available via the online portal for you to access and complete. Additionally, you will be able submit all supporting documentation via the online portal. There is a limit of 25 documents with a total 1 GB for uploading items. If you have any issues uploading supporting documents, please contact us via the links on the website.

Applications not shortlisted will also be notified.

12. How do I choose a referee?

A Referee is someone who is independent of your program/projects but is familiar with the outcomes and benefits. Referees may be contacted to verify information in the applications in lieu of supporting materials.

It is advisable to notify your nominated referee that they may be contacted by the judging panel and that they may be asked to provide a referee's report.

Please choose your referees carefully as the judging panel will consider the information provided by referees in determining the winner.

13. Do I include the video in our application?

No. Only finalists need to provide a video. The video will be requested from the finalists by mid-August, and finalists are given a few weeks to send it to IRF. In anticipation of this request, you may like to compile your video footage and capture implementation of your projects.

14. Can I access previous winner's submissions?

RiverFoundation does not provide previous winner's submissions. You can see videos of the types of winning projects on our [Youtube Channel](#).

15. What do I do if I have questions?

If you've read the entry information and have more questions, contact info@riverfoundation.org.au and we'll respond within 3 business days.

16. What do I do if I require assistance understanding the materials?

All applications must be submitted in English. The preferred language for the supporting material is English. However, if (part of) your supporting information is in another language and cannot be easily translated, you can upload this documentation. We understand that this may be an obstacle in some instances, so if you have concerns regarding this, please contact us as we may be able to provide guidance, clarify any questions or have a local IRF ambassador or Alumni in your area who may be able to help.

17. What happens if I don't receive my online link?

Firstly, check your spam or junk mail folder. If it is not there, please email the IRF office via the online contact form and your link will be resent to you manually. Do not lose your link as it is your only access to your online application form.

18. What happens if I can't push the 'Submit' button online?

Usually this means that not all parts of the application have been completed. You can tick a box near the top left hand corner of the application tabs that will highlight any incomplete sections or questions. Once you have filled these in, the "Submit" button should become active. If you don't wish to fill in all of these fields, you can insert "dummy" information (e.g. 'xxxx') so that there is something written in the box. Some applicants choose to do this for the third contact person if there is no suitable person. IRF recommends filling in each field with accurate, useful information and answers. If you have completed all sections and the submit button still does not become active, please contact the IRF office via the contact box in the online application.

Good luck with your *Riverprize* application!