

International RiverFoundation

THIESS INTERNATIONAL
Riverprize

BY THE BERT AND VERA
THIESS FOUNDATION

Entry Information



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1. Introduction

The Thiess International Riverprize (the Riverprize) is the world's most prestigious environmental award, bringing recognition to organisations (or groups of organisations) who have achieved remarkable outcomes for rivers, river basins and their communities. The Riverprize is awarded every two years at the Riverprize Gala Dinner, as part of the International Riversymposium in Brisbane, Australia.

The Thiess International Riverprize is generously supported by the Bert & Vera Thiess Foundation as a legacy and recognition of the long-term efforts of the late Bert and Vera Thiess to encourage sustainable management of the world's rivers.

The International RiverFoundation (IRF) is a not-for-profit organisation that envisions a future in which people and ecosystems benefit from sustainably managed rivers. The IRF builds river leadership and strong networks for the restoration, protection, sustainable management and resilience of the world's rivers. IRF awards the Thiess International Riverprize every two years.

This year marks the 20th Thiess International Riverprize to be awarded.

1.1 The IRF Alumni – a global network of river leaders

Riverprize finalists and winners, or "Alumni", represent their high-achieving river initiative and are leaders in their field. They have the opportunity to connect with other river leaders across the world to tackle major emerging river basin issues, and develop personal relationships to share lessons learned and technical resources. The IRFs Alumni Network promotes opportunities to connect virtually in educational forums, receive technical support from fellow global river managers, and meet in-person at the annual International Riversymposium.

1.2 Twinning - a Riverprize legacy

The winner will be able to seek funding to support a Twinning project (subject to availability of funds and approval of a Twinning Program Business Plan) to enable their knowledge and experiences to be shared with others.

Twinning projects have demonstrated there is no more effective way to build capacity, transfer skills and support restoration efforts than through sharing expertise. Twinning is about peer to peer learning; sharing decades of experience with a group faced with similar challenges in another part of the world. Twinning breaks down cultural and geographic barriers and biases, and the Riverprize winners often learn as much from their twinning partner as they have themselves to teach.

2. Riverprize – What does it take to win?

First awarded in 1999, the Thiess International Riverprize recognises excellence in river management and restoration. IRF has awarded 19 International Riverprizes and after examining what it takes to be a winner, these five key elements have been identified as the recipe for success:

1. An emphasis on long term commitment
2. Collaboration and partnerships

3. Equality, diversity and inclusiveness
4. A holistic and integrated approach
5. Planning, evaluation and monitoring

This year an emphasis on building community and river resilience rather than recovery will also be key.

The entry process allows you to reflect on achievements and progress made towards your goals. Visit IRF's youtube channel to see the achievements of previous winners and finalists: <https://www.youtube.com/user/ReviveRivers>. And IRF's [River Journeys](#) book showcases past winners, twinning projects and other initiatives.



3. Eligibility

Organisations, or groups of organisations, responsible for their river and involved in river management, restoration and/or protection can enter. Applications are invited from any river, lake, or wetland, that has demonstrated outstanding achievements in the last two years (although work may have been commenced earlier).

The size of your organisation, budget or project is not a barrier to winning; it's the integration of programs, innovations used and most critically, the judges are looking for the achievements demonstrated towards maintained or improved river ecosystem health.

Who is not eligible to enter?

- Any organisation that has won the Thiess International Riverprize in the last 10 years
- Anyone who does not wish to comply with the Riverprize terms and conditions
- Any organisation that has been prosecuted for a violation of any environmental, social or commercial law in Australia or overseas in the past 5 years.

Finalists can reapply in any category at any time. Winners of a regional Riverprize in one year (e.g. 2018), automatically qualify for Stage 2 of the Thiess International Riverprize the following year (e.g. 2019).

4. Recognition

Financial reward, public recognition and increased resources are powerful incentives for river groups to further their efforts to repair damaged rivers and the health of their catchments and river basins. This recognition has proved invaluable to finalists and winners in their ability to attract further resources and financial support.

The process of applying for Riverprize allows the applicant to reflect on achievements, document their innovations and share their lessons learned. By telling their stories of success and challenges overcome, they inspire other global river initiatives and river leaders.

Finalists will be celebrated, and the winner announced at the Riverprize Gala Dinner on Tuesday 22 October 2019. All finalists will be showcased via the short videos provided, to an audience of VIPs, dignitaries, government representatives, sponsors and conference delegates.

The Thiess International Riverprize winner will receive the cash prize (within 12 months of the award ceremony) and trophy. Finalists will also receive a trophy.

5. Selection Criteria

2019 Thiess International Riverprize Selection Criteria

1. Demonstrated achievements in river / catchment / basin health (30%)
2. Achievements aligned with a long-term strategic planning (20%)
3. Collaboration, partnerships and co-investment (10%)

4. Stakeholder engagement, communication and outreach (10%)
5. Monitoring and evaluation (10%)
6. Innovation and degree of difficulty (10%)
7. X Factor – an integrated approach for resilience (10%)

For more details on selection criteria, see Appendix 1.

6. How to Apply

Applying is a two-staged process, providing an efficient method of determining whether applications meet the criteria and will be competitive.

Applicants should visit the [Riverprize webpage](#), read the Riverprize FAQs and register. Applicants will be emailed a unique link to complete the online application. This is a secure link and can be sent to multiple people, if needed. Access to applications are only available via this link. If the link is lost or misplaced, it can be re-supplied to the designated contact person.

Applicants must read and accept the Terms and Conditions. Please ensure you understand the responsibilities of finalists and the winner.

Stage 1 closes 31 March 2019.

Stage 2 applications (open to short listed applications only) close 9 July 2019.

See appendices 1 and 2 for more details.

Riverprize applications must comply with the following:

Electronic	All applications must be submitted via the online portal in the requested format and within the word limit (including supporting materials).
Language	All applications must be in English. Additional documentation may be in another language, however, providing documents in other languages may result in those documents not being understood.
General	Applications must spell out acronyms and abbreviations in the first instance of it appearing in the submission.
Criteria	Judges will assess applications against the Riverprize criteria. All questions must be completed in the corresponding section.
Appendices and supporting documents	Appendices and supporting documents can be attached to the online application and should be referenced in the application. Supporting documentation should include a table of contents and 5 - 10 high resolution images (300+dpi) that are representative of the project, A maximum of 25 documents can be uploaded with a maximum file size of 1GB in total.

6.1 Application Process and Key Dates

Step 1	Applicants register on the Riverprize Online Portal.
Step 2	Submit Stage 1 application by 31 st March 2019. Applications are assessed, and short-listed applicants notified by mid-May 2019
Step 3	Stage 2 application submitted by 9 July 2019 (Short-listed applicants only). Finalists announced mid-August.
Step 4	Finalists register for the 22 nd International Riversymposium by mid-September.
Step 5	Finalists provide a 2 min video for promotional purposes by 1 October 2019.
Step 6	Finalists present at Riversymposium in a Riverprize session.
Step 7	The Riverprize winner is announced at the Gala Dinner on 22 October, 2019

7. Judging Process

The Thiess International Riverprize judging panel consists of eminent scientists and river experts from around the world who participate on a voluntary basis. This independent judging panel is convened by the IRF. Judges must absent themselves from judging any entry for which they have a conflict of interest.

Judges will consult referees and independent experts to verify the authenticity of applications at any stage of the judging process. The judges' decision will be final.

The chair of the 2019 Thiess International Riverprize Judging Panel is Professor Paul Greenfield, Chair of the IRF.

Riverprize applicants are not to contact members of the judging panel regarding the Riverprize process or their entry. This type of contact may result in disqualification from the prize.

8. More Information

You can find FAQs, supporting links and materials on the Riverprize webpage www.riverfoundation.org.au/our-programs/riverprize/international-riverprize/

If you have more questions, contact info@riverfoundation.org.au or call +61 7 3002 9062

9. Terms and Conditions

1. All applications, supporting material and images remain the property of the IRF and may be utilised for educational, promotional and/or fundraising purposes.
2. Entries found to be misleading may be withdrawn from the judging process or have the prize revoked.
3. IRF accepts no responsibility for entries that are not received, late, incomplete or are lost due to a technical problem.
4. IRF reserves the right to cancel the prize if an insufficient number of entries has been received, the quality of entries does not meet the criteria, or the entries are deemed inappropriate for any reason.
5. All **Riverprize finalists must** submit a short video showcasing their story, to be screened at the Riverprize Gala dinner in Brisbane on 22 October 2019. This must be a single, high-definition video that gives an overview of the project and achievements. This material is required for publicity purposes (e.g. awards ceremony, IRF's website and YouTube page). The video does not influence the judging process and will not be returned.
6. All **Riverprize finalists must** register to attend and present their work during the 2019 International Riversymposium. Finalists may also be asked to participate in panel discussions, provide video testimonials and other marketing/media opportunities. *IRF is unable to provide financial assistance to attend the symposium. However, finalists will be eligible for early-bird registration fees.*
7. All **Riverprize finalists must** attend the 2019 Riverprize Gala dinner in Brisbane, Australia. IRF is unable to provide financial assistance to attend this event.
8. **Riverprize finalists are encouraged** to become members of the Riverprize Alumni Network and are encouraged to develop a close working partnership with other Riverprize finalists and winners to exchange knowledge and skills.
9. **Riverprize Winners must** attend the 2020 International Riversymposium with a delegation of five or more representatives. Winners are expected to participate in various sessions, functions and networking events to share their knowledge, experiences and lessons learned. Winners are encouraged to bring emerging leaders to the 2020 International Riversymposium to participate in the emerging water professionals program and submit an abstract to present in their area of expertise.
10. **Riverprize Winners agree** to document their award-winning processes as a case study and make it available for IRF to share with other groups (e.g. IRF website and printed publications). Winners also agree to provide testimonials about the impacts of winning the Riverprize and how prize money has been invested.
11. **Riverprize Winners**, if willing to twin, must complete a Riverprize Twinning Application form for IRF approval within six months of winning.
12. **Riverprize Winners are expected** to be active members of the Riverprize Alumni Network and Network and are encouraged to develop a close working partnership with other Riverprize finalists and winners to exchange knowledge and skills.

13. Applicants may only enter one Riverprize category each year.
14. Regional Riverprize winners are not eligible to re-apply for ten years in their winning regional category. Thiess International Riverprize winners are not eligible to re-apply in any category for ten years. Finalists are welcome to re-apply at any time.
15. Applicants must not contact any member of the Riverprize judging panel during the judging process, either verbally or in writing, about the Riverprize process or any specific entry for their chosen category. This type of contact will render the associated entry of the person contacting the judging panel invalid. The judging panel can be found on the Riverprize website - <https://riverfoundation.org.au/our-programs/riverprize/international-riverprize/>
16. The cash component of the prize will be paid to the winner within 12 months of winning.
17. Members of the Riverprize judging panel, or their nominated delegate, may contact referees and make enquiries of acknowledged river and waterway systems scientists and independent experts in regards to any of the entries. The judges' decision will be final.
18. The winners of the Regional Riverprizes will immediately qualify for stage 2 in the next round of the Thiess International Riverprize. The winner will have access to their entry to make any changes prior to finalisation. They must still comply with all terms and conditions in the year that they are eligible for the Thiess International Riverprize, timelines and the judges' decision.
19. IRF reserves the right to use entry photos and videos for Riverprize marketing and promotion and any other relevant materials

10. Appendix

10.1 Appendix 1 - Stage 1 Application A-C

STAGE 1	
Section	Information to be provided
SECTION A	<p>Administrative details pertaining to your entry, including Terms and Conditions.</p> <p>Insert your river name and country.</p> <p>Contact details</p>
SECTION B	<p>Provide an overview of your River:</p> <p>B.1 Describe the catchment characteristics – population, threats and risks (250 words)</p> <p>B.2 Describe environmental, social, economic values of your river (250 words)</p> <p>B.3 Organisational overview – Background/history (250 word limit)</p> <p>It is important to set the context for your entry through a clear organisational overview. You may include information such as your organisation's history or timeline, the catalyst for your (project/program) activities or involvement with the river, any major organisational milestones you have achieved or challenges you have overcome so far, and any overarching goals.</p> <p>B.4 Roles of other parties as they relate to the project (250 word limit)</p> <p>Managing rivers involves many stakeholders. The Riverprize entry may be submitted on behalf of a group of organisations, for example by the lead agency. Please outline the roles and responsibilities of the various participating parties involved in the (project/program) activities.</p> <p>Emphasise the roles and responsibilities of the stakeholders and how they work together (e.g. is there a governance structure or signed commitments, memorandum of understanding).</p> <p>B.5 Summary of achievements (300 word limit)</p> <p>This summary should briefly describe your initiative, detail its impact and clearly demonstrate why it is unique or ground breaking.</p> <p>Include what the program or project achievements are, where they are implemented, why they were needed and how activities improved or preserved the aquatic ecosystem health of your river, estuary, lake or wetland and its catchment or basin.</p>
RIVER AND ENTRANT DETAILS	
SUMMARY OF ACHIEVEMENTS	

	<p>Specific achievements and activities can then be detailed further in section C.</p> <p>This summary be used for promotion purposes and included in promotional materials should you become a finalist or a winner.</p>
SECTION C EVIDENCE OF OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENTS	<p>C.1 Demonstrated achievements in integrated river basin management</p> <p>Provide details of key achievements in integrated river basin management which have led to the protection, maintenance or improvement in the aquatic ecosystem health of your river, wetland, estuary, lake and its catchment/watershed/basin.</p> <p>This includes on-ground results in water quality, biodiversity and ecosystem health, but also social, cultural and economic results and achievements in health and liveability.</p> <p>Examples of demonstrated outstanding achievements which have led to a better ecosystem health include, but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Measures for ecological river restoration • Monitoring data that demonstrate the achievements (e.g. water quality and/or biodiversity) • Survey results and other statistics which demonstrate the achievements • Management studies and plans • Indigenous/cultural engagement • Community engagement and/or education programs • Partnership agreements • Letters or notes of acknowledgement <p>Where possible, please provide web-based references. All referenced documents and reports will be requested as supporting material in the Stage 2 Entry. Do not send books or other paperwork.</p> <p>C.2 (optional) Supporting documents detailing your stated achievements</p> <p>Provide up to three (5) images, maps or documents to support the achievements outlined in sections A – C1. You are not obliged to submit any materials in this section; however, any materials provided here will be used to judge your submission.</p>
STAGE 1 CLOSES 24 March 2019. Shortlisted entrants notified mid-May 2019	

10.2 Appendix 2 – Stage 2 Application D-F

STAGE 2	
Open to shortlisted entrants only	
Section	Information and documentation to be provided
SECTION D EFFECTIVE, INTEGRATED AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF PROGRAM ACTIVITIES	<p>D.1 Describe your long term vision and strategic plans (300 word limit)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the vision? Include short, medium, and long-term targets to achieve the vision. • Demonstrate your plans and/or processes to ensure outcomes are maintained into the future and sustainable management plans are in place to achieve anticipated outcomes • Examples include river basin master plans; an agreed vision document, strategic plans/planning processes, schedules for funding and continuous program/business improvement, plan or program effectiveness evaluation and stakeholder engagement processes. Water source protection, Water Security, Flood management plans, flood risk planning. • Active participation by all relevant stakeholders in well-informed and transparent planning and decision-making <p>D.2 Provide evidence of stakeholder engagement, communication and outreach incorporated into your stated achievements (300 word limit)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building on SDG5 (gender equality) demonstrate diversity, inclusion and equality in your program or project. • How have you embraced diversity including gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, age and disability? • Demonstrate inclusiveness that promote behaviours that welcome and embrace diversity in enhancing river management. • Demonstrate any gender equity aspects and the inclusion of any indigenous groups and other minorities. • Include supporting documents such as corporate and community engagement plans, education programs, investment plans for improved land management practices or industry environmental plans etc. <p>D.3 Demonstrate an integrated approach to river management (300 word limit)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate your collaboration, partnerships and co-investment. • Provide evidence of social and economic aspects incorporated into river management • Include evidence of participatory planning, communications and interdisciplinary collaboration.

	<p>D.4 Describe your monitoring and evaluation program (300 word limit)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How are the project outcomes measured, e.g. monitoring plans, project evaluations, surveys? • Include supporting documents such as report cards or other documents detailing the health, river management plans and processes aimed at improving or maintaining the aquatic ecosystem health. • How does your monitoring and evaluation feedback into your planning? • Demonstrated policies, plans or processes to ensure achieved outcomes are maintained into the future. <p>D.5 Describe your approach for building river resilience (300 word limit)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In line with the 22nd International Riversymposium theme, this criterion is asking how you are building resilience into environmental, social and infrastructure elements of river management. <p>D.6 What have been the challenges and lessons learned (300 word limit)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe the challenges and difficulties faced. • What were the innovations you implemented? • What are your key lessons learned to share with peers. <p>D.7 If you were to win, how would you invest the prize money? (300 word limit) – Note: this criterion is not judged</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are potential programs, activities or aspects of your current project/program that could be funded with the prize money?
SECTION E	Three independent referees must be supplied regardless of the scale of the project or the number of partner organisations involved.
VERIFICATION OF AUTHENTICITY	<p>Referees may be contacted by the chair or a member of the judging panel. These referees must be qualified to attest to the authenticity of the content submitted.</p> <p>Referees should be able to provide comment from the perspective of science, policy, practice, collaboration and community participation, as well as proposed or achieved outcomes.</p>
SECTION F	<p>Include technical and scientific reports and other documents that are referred to both in Stage 1 and Stage 2 entry material.</p> <p>You can also include any other documentation, such as plans, policies, strategies, media reports, letters and maps to support your project achievements. These documents must be provided electronically via the online entry portal.</p>

	<p>Note that the judges will be primarily English speaking, so providing documents in other languages may result in those not being fully appreciated.</p> <p>You can upload up to 25 attachments with a total size of max 1 GB.</p> <p>It should also include 5 to 10 high resolution images (300dpi) that can be used to promote your activities if you become a finalist.</p>
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