

The International RiverFoundation (IRF) is guided by the vision “to become a truly global leader in supporting best practice river management and restoration” and is a successful model to celebrate, recognise, reward, inspire and transfer knowledge along the journey to achieve resilient rivers.

The International Resilient Rivers Blueprint will inspire a global transformation to resilient rivers.

Our goal is to develop a Blueprint which will be applicable to rivers worldwide.

We look forward to your support on our journey to resilient rivers.

# A Blueprint for the Resilience of Our Rivers

Rivers, wetlands and lakes are often referred to as the planet’s circulatory system, transporting, for thousands of kilometres, the water that people and ecosystems depend on all around the world. With our partners, we will enable our rivers and waterways to become resilient – resisting and recovering quickly from disturbances, ensuring water security for communities and contributing to the reduction of poverty.

## Achieving resilient rivers

River resilience is the capacity of our rivers and communities to recover from disturbances, like extreme weather events, to a healthy state. The road to resilience can be a complex journey with the interdependence of environmental, social and economic outcomes.

The International RiverFoundation (IRF) proposes to develop an International Resilient Rivers Blueprint for organisations around the world to commit to and transform their rivers into resilient rivers.

## What is the Resilient Rivers Blueprint?

The Resilient Rivers Blueprint will identify the key actions that we will take to improve the capacity of our rivers and communities to recover from disturbances and return to a healthy state.

The Blueprint will be developed by IRF together with a small group of Founding Partners by utilising existing tools and identifying innovative new approaches and technologies to build a river resilience network.

The Blueprint will be used to develop Resilient Rivers Roadmaps for river basin organisations worldwide and will include:

- Integrated planning frameworks for total water cycle management (river resilience);
- Evidence based solutions of river recovery (river science);
- Innovative financial mechanisms (river economics);
- Decision support tools (river modelling);
- On-ground restoration and rehabilitation (river rehabilitation);
- Evaluation and reporting (river monitoring);
- Strong policy, institutional arrangements and leadership (river governance); and
- Informed and engaged stakeholders (river community).



River basin organisations from around the world will be invited to become signatories to the Blueprint, identifying their commitment to developing river basin-specific roadmaps in their respective areas/regions.

# There are three critical phases to developing the Blueprint.

**OCTOBER  
2018**

## Phase 1: Resilient Rivers Framework (Oct 2018 - May 2019)

Steering Committee convenes Independent Expert Panel and develops draft Resilient Rivers Framework. Resilient Rivers Blueprint announced at 21st International Riversymposium in Sydney, October 2018

**MARCH  
2019**

## Phase 2: Resilient Rivers Roadshow (May 2019 - Sep 2019)

IRF promotes the Resilient Rivers Framework and development of the Blueprint to key international organisations and conferences. International organisations encouraged to become signatories to the Blueprint.

**SEPTEMBER  
2019**

## Phase 3: Resilient Rivers Blueprint (Dec 2018 - Dec 2019)

The Framework will be finalised and developed into the Resilient Rivers Blueprint, which will be launched at the 22nd International Riversymposium in Brisbane, 2019. Once finalised, River Basin Organisations will be encouraged to become signatories to the Blueprint and formally announce their commitment to River Resilience.

**DECEMBER  
2019**

## How can you get involved?

### Become a Founding Partner

IRF will lead the development of the Resilient Rivers Blueprint in partnership with a small number of Founding Partners chosen for their leadership in river management, their desire to move from river recovery to river resilience, and their expertise in aspects such as governance and institutional arrangements, finance mechanisms and collaborative partnerships.

As a Founding Partner, you will be required to provide a financial contribution and you will play an integral role in determining the direction of the Blueprint. You will automatically gain a place on the Steering Committee and have ongoing opportunities to contribute to development of the Blueprint (through staff secondment) on specific areas of expertise.

You will receive international credibility and recognition through your contribution to the Blueprint and through IRF's role in showcasing your expertise as a global leader in river resilience. You will also receive automatic status as Signatory to the Blueprint and will commit to sharing your expertise and experience with other Blueprint Signatories to assist them with developing river basin specific roadmaps.

### Become a Signatory

By becoming a Signatory you commit to operationalising the Blueprint in your respective region, by calling on the expertise, assistance and advice of Founding Partners to develop your river basin specific roadmaps.

There is no financial contribution to become a Signatory. You can choose to provide in-kind support to develop specific case studies for IRF to showcase to an international audience, providing increased opportunities for collaboration and knowledge exchange with other river basin organisations.

Register your interest on our website *here*: <https://riverfoundation.org.au/our-programs/resilient-rivers-blueprint/>

**For more information or to become involved, please contact  
Dr Eva Abal, CEO, International RiverFoundation:  
eva@riverfoundation.org.au / +61 7 3002 9061**

