

International RiverFoundation

AUSTRALIASIA

Riverprize

BY THE BERT AND VERA
THIESS FOUNDATION

Entry Information



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1. Introduction

Riverprize, the world's most prestigious environmental award, has been awarded since 1999. The award alternates between the International *Riverprize* which is awarded every second year and a regional *Riverprize* bringing recognition to organisations (or groups of organisations) who have achieved remarkable outcomes for rivers, river basins and their communities.

Riverprize is awarded by the International RiverFoundation (IRF), a not-for-profit organisation that envisions a future where healthy, resilient rivers support thriving communities, ecosystems and economies. Our mission is to build a global community of River Leaders to champion the health and resilience of rivers around the world through the pillars of leadership, collaboration and celebration.

The Australasia *Riverprize* is generously supported by the Bert & Vera Thies Foundation as a legacy and recognition of the long-term efforts of the late Bert and Vera Thies to encourage sustainable management of the world's rivers. The 2020 Australasia *Riverprize* will be awarded during the World Rivers' Day Gala Dinner on Thursday, 24th September at Customs House, Brisbane, QLD Australia.

1.1 The IRF *Riverprize* Alumni Network – a global network of river leaders

The *Riverprize* Alumni Network comprises *Riverprize* finalists and winners – a prestigious group of award-winning river leaders who have demonstrated outstanding commitment and expertise to restore, protect and sustainably manage rivers around the world. They showcase high-impact river initiatives. The alumni will have opportunity to connect with other river leaders across the world to tackle emerging river basin challenges and develop personal relationships to share lessons learned and technical resources. The Alumni Network promotes opportunities to connect virtually through educational forums, receive technical support from fellow global river managers, and meet in-person at the annual International *Riversymposium* and other meetings.

1.2 River Resilience

Resilience is the capacity of our rivers and its communities to adapt to disturbances and withstand shocks without collapsing; to quickly recover from such disturbances and to improve when possible. The International RiverFoundation, in collaboration with our partners¹, is currently preparing a Resilient Rivers Blueprint with a vision *to enable the resilience of our rivers by addressing the complex social, economic and ecological pressures associated with global change*. The journey to achieve the vision of resilience of our rivers is underpinned by four key principles: a) whole-of-system approach; b) effective institutional arrangements; c) effective financial mechanisms; and d) cross-sectoral and flexible solutions. River basins are encouraged to leapfrog recovery to resilience.

1.3 River *Twinning*

Riverprize winners will be encouraged to participate in *RiverTwinning* – building capacity, transferring skills, supporting restoration efforts and 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.

¹ Deloitte, Healthy Land and Water, University of Maryland Centre for Environmental Sciences, and the International Waters Learning Exchange and Research Network

1.4 Bankable projects

The *Riverprize* also aims to inspire the acceleration towards resilient rivers. We encourage prize winners to think of concepts of future “bankable” or investment-ready projects to achieve the resilience of their rivers and communities. Bankable projects can provide effective solutions to meet the vision of resilience for our rivers. Guidelines are currently being drafted to assist future winners and our network to scope bankable projects to achieve resilient rivers for future generations.

2. *Riverprize* – What does it take to win?

First awarded in 1999, the *Riverprize* recognises excellence in river management and restoration. IRF has awarded 20 International and 22 Regional *Riverprizes*. The key elements for success of the past 20 years of winners include:

1. Partnerships and Collaboration
2. Community Mobilisation
3. Holistic Approaches in river management
4. A commitment towards planning, evaluation and monitoring
5. Emphasis on Long-term Sustainability
6. Perseverance to make a difference for our rivers

This year, we are encouraging applications that reflect a journey towards the resilience of the rivers, including the following:

1. A whole-of-system and integrated approach
 - Planning across multiple scales
 - Evaluation and monitoring
 - Actively engaged stakeholders
2. Effective institutional arrangements
 - River leadership
 - Sound decision making and governance framework
3. Flexible cross-sector solutions
 - Embracing/piloting innovation
 - Adaptive, ecosystem-based
 - Reflective and flexible
4. Effective financial mechanisms
 - Sufficient financing to implement plans (e.g. investments towards recovery and resilience)
 - Incorporates value of social and ecosystem services

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, waterway or wetland, that has demonstrated outstanding achievements in the last two years (although work may have been commenced earlier).

To be considered for the Australasia *Riverprize*, the river must be located in:

- Australia
- New Zealand
- New Caledonia
- Papua New Guinea
- Vanuatu
- Solomon Islands

The size of your organisation, budget or project is not a barrier to winning. The integration of programs, innovations used and most critically, achievements demonstrated towards maintained or improved river ecosystem health and resilience are among the critical features that the Judges will be looking for.

Who is not eligible to enter?

- Any organisation that has won any *Riverprize* (International or Regional) 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 at any time. Winners of the Australasia *Riverprize* in one year (e.g. 2020), automatically qualify for Stage 2 of the Thies International *Riverprize* the following year (e.g. 2021).

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 World Rivers Day Gala Dinner to be held in Brisbane on 24th September 2020. All finalists will be showcased via the short

videos provided, to an audience of VIPs, dignitaries, government representatives, river management professionals and sponsors. Finalists will also be asked to present their work in a forum preceding the Gala Dinner. Details of this forum will be provided to finalists in August 2020.

The Australasia *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

Australasia *Riverprize* Selection Criteria

1. Demonstrated achievements in river / catchment / basin health (30%)
 - Adaptive on-ground solutions that make a difference
 - Cross-sectoral solutions
 - Evaluation and monitoring
2. Achievements aligned with a long-term strategic planning and incorporates whole-of-system and integrated approach (20%)
3. Collaboration, partnerships and co-investment (20%)
4. Stakeholder engagement, communication and outreach (15%)
5. Demonstrated commitment to achieving resilience (15%)

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 Tuesday, 7 April 2020.

Stage 2 applications (open to short listed applications only) close Friday, 3 July 2020.

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 <i>Riverprize</i> criteria. All questions must be completed in the corresponding section.
Appendices and supporting documents	<p>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,</p> <p>A maximum of 25 documents can be uploaded with a maximum file size of 1GB in total.</p>

6.1 Application Process and Key Dates

Step 1	Applicants register on the <i>Riverprize</i> Online Portal.
Step 2	Submit Stage 1 application by Tuesday, 7th April 2020. Applications are assessed, and short-listed applicants notified by late-May 2020
Step 3	Stage 2 application submitted by Friday, 3rd July 2020 (Short-listed applicants only). Finalists announced end of July 2020.
Step 4	Finalists provide a 2 min video for promotional purposes by 31st August 2020
Step 5	Finalists register for the 2020 Australasia <i>Riverprize</i> Gala Dinner by 31 st August 2020.
Step 6	Finalists present their work immediately before gala dinner
Step 7	The <i>Riverprize</i> winner is announced at the Gala Dinner on 24th September 2020.

7. Judging Process

The Australasia *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.

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 with the exception of confidential information as marked.
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 24th September. 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 will be requested by the IRF to** attend and present their work during a Forum preceding the gala dinner organised by the IRF. Finalists may also be asked to participate in panel discussions, provide video testimonials and other marketing/media opportunities for the event. *IRF is unable to provide financial assistance to attend the forum. However, finalists will be eligible for complimentary registration fees to the forum and dinner.*
7. All **Riverprize finalists must** attend the 2020 World Rivers Day/ Riverprize Gala dinner in Brisbane on 24th September, Australia. IRF is unable to provide financial assistance to attend this event.
8. **Riverprize Winners must** attend the 2021 International Riversymposium with a delegation of two 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 2021 International Riversymposium to participate in the emerging water professionals' program and submit an abstract to present in their area of expertise.

9. **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.
10. **Riverprize Winners** will be eligible to participate in any call for either Twinning or "Bankable" project concepts by the IRF.
11. **Riverprize Winners are expected** to be active 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.
12. Applicants may only enter one Riverprize category each year.
13. 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.
14. 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/>
15. The cash component of the prize will be paid to the winner of within 12 months of winning.
16. 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 regarding any of the entries. The judges' decision will be final.
17. The winners of the Regional Riverprizes will immediately qualify for stage 2 in the next round of the International Riverprize by the Bert and Vera Thiess Foundation. 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.
18. 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 RIVER AND ENTRANT DETAILS SUMMARY OF ACHIEVEMENTS	<p>Provide an overview of your River:</p> <p>B.1 Describe the catchment characteristics – population, threats and risks (250 words limit)</p> <p>B.2 Describe environmental, social, economic values of your river (250 words limit)</p> <p>B.3 Organisational overview – Background/history (250-word)</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 <i>Riverprize</i> 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> <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>

10.2 Appendix 2 – Stage 2 Application D-F

STAGE 2	
Open to shortlisted entrants only	
Section	Information and documentation to be provided
<p>SECTION D</p> <p>EFFECTIVE, INTEGRATED AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF PROGRAM ACTIVITIES</p>	<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 engagement and participation by all relevant stakeholders in well-informed and transparent 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 and collaborative approach to river management (300-word limit)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate your collaboration, partnerships and <u>co-investments</u>. • 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 vision and approach for leapfrogging recovery to resilience of your river system (300-word limit)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In line with the IRF’s Resilient Rivers Blueprint, describe how you are building resilience into environmental, social and infrastructure elements of river management – ensuring healthy rivers for future generations. <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? • Do you have a “bankable” or impact-investment ready idea that can be pitched to achieve resilience of your river system?
<p>SECTION E</p> <p>VERIFICATION OF AUTHENTICITY</p>	<p>Three independent referees must be supplied regardless of the scale of the project or the number of partner organisations involved.</p> <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>
<p>SECTION F</p> <p>SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION</p>	<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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