

Participatory Basin Wide process for Hindon River Rejuvenation

Background

Hindon, a tributary of Yamuna River, originates in Saharanpur District, from Upper Shivalik Hills in Lower Himalayan Range and flows through six districts of Uttar Pradesh namely Saharanpur, Muzaffarnagar, Meerut, Baghpat, Ghaziabad and Gautambudh Nagar until its confluence with Yamuna River towards south of Tilwara village in Gautambudh Nagar district, downstream of Delhi. The River is entirely rainfed and has an approximate catchment area of 5975 km². The Hindon River in the past years had clean and safe water, but in the recent years due to substantial water abstraction & severe pollution loads, the river and its tributaries are now at the verge of dying. A lot of efforts has been made by the Government of Uttar Pradesh, NGOs, VO's and the people in the past, however a holistic basin level approach is still needed to rejuvenate the River and its tributaries.

Process for Hindon Rejuvenation



India Water Partnership and 2030 Water Resources Group (2030 WRG) started initiatives in the basin with stakeholder mapping for inclusiveness and engagement with administration, line department, farmer groups civil society etc. since 2015. A high-level vision was developed with intensive stakeholder consultation through the Hindon Yatra exhibition & workshops in every Hindon District. The exhibition and compendium of good practices was also launched by the then Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh in June 2016. Wide stakeholder engagement culminated into constitution of one state level committee on March 21, 2016 by Chief Secretary, Uttar Pradesh and one Hindon basin committee chaired by Divisional Commissioner, Meerut & Saharanpur. 2030 WRG and India Water Partnership represented and participated as a member of Committee constituted by Government of Uttar Pradesh. Further, an agreement to establish multi-stakeholders River Rejuvenation Partnership (RRP) was signed on August 25, 2017 between WAPCOS Limited, International Finance Corporation (on behalf of 2030 Water Resources Group) and India Water Partnership for following:-

Activities Undertaken with involvement of IWP, WAPCOS & 2030 WRG

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ District wise stakeholder identification ➤ Primary data collection ➤ Hindon work plan and roadmap ➤ Capacity building & awareness generation among stakeholders | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Technical expertise for basin wide programs and individual project development and execution ➤ Monitoring & evaluation of impact towards achieving the vision of a healthier river |
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Divisional Commissioner, Meerut took a note of all these initiatives and supported Hindon Rejuvenation efforts by giving a new name to the existing program as "Nirmal Hindon Initiative (NHI)". The NHI Secretariat is functioning from the Office of Divisional Commissioner, Meerut.

Actions taken under NHI

In 2017

- India Water Partnership (IWP), in collaboration with local stakeholders has facilitated plantation from 31.07.2017 to 01.08.2017 in two districts (Ghaziabad and Baghpat).

- Total 500 trees (teak, seesham, katchnar, amla) were planted in consultation with the local stakeholders with the aim that each stakeholder will take care of plant.

In 2017-18

- IWP in association with Hindon stakeholders carried out 'Water and Climate Resilience Youth in Hindon' program to generate and communicate knowledge in Hindon Basin on safe water, water security and climate resilience.
- Under Phase 1 & Phase 2 (in 5 districts - Baghpat, Ghaziabad, Saharanpur, Meerut & Shamli) of the program, 1000 students were engaged in the quiz, 160 youth were trained as Hindon Youth Champions of Change (HYCC), 180 women were trained on climate change & water security and 180 farmers were empowered through capacity building to undertake organic farming.

Outcomes:

- Change in the attitude & behavior of the people around the basin towards keeping the Hindon clean.
- Learning ways to achieve water security while adapting to climate change.
- The innovative interactive strategy was much appreciated by the stakeholders.



- On the advice of District Magistrate (DM), Shamli IWP prepared the Detailed Project Report (DPR) on SLWM for 7 gram panchayats of Shamli District (U.P) in 2018 in consultation with local stakeholders and respective panchayat officials and presented by IWP to DPRO, Shamli in presence of concerned Gram Pradhan, District Magistrate and Chief Development Officer at Vikas Bhawan, Shamli, Uttar Pradesh. Now Gram Pradhans are taking up activities at panchayat level to execute the plans.

In 2018

- Based on the stakeholders engagement by IWP and 2030 Water Resources Group and initiative by DC Meerut, a Road Map on **five verticals viz; Afforestation, Organic Farming, Ponds Rejuvenation, Waste Management; and Participation and Governance** was developed in a Technical workshop on "**Knowledge Sharing & Capacity Building of Stakeholders for preparing a Road Map for Collective Action for Hindon River Rejuvenation**" convened in the office of Divisional Commissioner, Meerut (Uttar Pradesh) on 9th June, 2018. The consultation was attended by 85 participants (state govt representatives, research organizations, NGOs & private sector officials).
- Based on the consultative process, 5 verticals i.e., **afforestation, pond rejuvenation, organic farming, solid & liquid waste management and governance** were finalized and for the same NHI, IWP & 2030 WRG team members presented the framework to operationalizing the road map planning through concerned departments of government of U.P. It was also suggested that concerned department while formulating the action plan of their existing schemes will incorporate the actions & activities in the govt. plan for River Rejuvenation.



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