

NEWS LINE

A Multi-stakeholder Approach to Rejuvenate Hindon River

Background

A multistakeholder approach provides a practical framework to integrate all the different pockets of development into a larger picture for maximizing the impact. Multi-stakeholder partnerships involve organizations from different societal sectors working together, sharing risks and combining their unique resources and competencies in ways that can generate and maximize value towards shared partnership and individual partner objectives, often through more innovative, more sustainable, more efficient and / or more systemic approaches.

India Water Partnership is working with 2030 Water Resources Group (an innovative public private civil society platform) since 2015 for Hindon river rejuvenation. The 2030 Water Resources Group and India Water Partnership brought together stakeholders across the Hindon River basin, to develop a collective approach to river rejuvenation. Good practices examples by State Government, NGOs, Research Organizations, and Citizen Action Groups were recorded and shared with the stakeholders. To integrate all the efforts (research, activism and field work) a holistic approach to rejuvenate Hindon River and its tributaries was felt utmost importance. State government with all stakeholders developed an integrated vision that focus on entire river eco-system across different water user sectors. The Government acknowledged that unless tributaries are cleaned up, the Ganga River basin will not get entirely rejuvenated. Since Hindon River basin is one of the most polluted tributaries of River Ganga, effective abatement of pollution and maintaining minimum ecological flows in the Hindon River Basin is of highest priority.

MSP for Ganga/Hindon River Rejuvenation

- **Creation of multi-stakeholders platform for rejuvenation of Hindon River and its tributaries**

The continuous efforts of stakeholders led by 2030 WRG and IWP persuaded Government to constitute a multi-stakeholder platform. A Ganga tributary management approach is being developed by Government of Uttar Pradesh with the Hindon sub-basin as demonstration area. For this purpose, a multi-stakeholder platform has been established vide Government Order (No-4912/9-5-2018-474sa/18) dated 18 February 2019. The MSP secretariat is hosted under the state mission for clean Ganga, with the support of 2030 WRG (Water Resource Group). After the Govt. order MSP steering board was constituted and India Water Partnership has been selected as one of the members in steering board. IWP Vice President is representing as member in the steering board of formation of MSP. An inter-departmental round table workshop about Ganga Tributary Management and Hindon Vision Development was organized on 8th April 2019 at Directorate, Urban Bodies and Training Center, Lucknow. The main objective of this meeting was to collect inputs for a vision as starting point for Integrated River Basin Management in the Hindon Basin. IWP also provided facilitation to TTC Consultants for organizing interviews and discussions with selected Hindon stakeholders across six districts of U.P. for vision document development.

Purpose of MSP

- **Basin-wide information sharing, coordination, knowledge exchange and collaboration.**
- **Develop tangible project proposals to ensure implementation of the Hindon Vision.**
- **Provide a feedback loop with inputs into the formal government process.**

- **Launch of multi-stakeholders platform for ganga/Hindon Tributary Management – 19th June, 2019 at Lucknow (Uttar Pradesh)**

The formal launch of innovative multi-stakeholder partnership for Ganga/Hindon tributary management was held on 19th June, 2019 at Lucknow by Chief Secretary, Uttar Pradesh, for catalyzing collective action for Hindon River rejuvenation. Prior to launch of MSP, the discussions were led by Principal Secretary, Urban Development and Clean Ganga, Mr. Manoj Kumar Singh, Government of Uttar Pradesh who was leading this initiative for a robust tributary level governance mechanism through a multi-stakeholder approach for collective action and to provide scientifically grounded solutions for effective program/project development in the Hindon sub-basin and other Ganga River tributaries. Prior to launch meeting an interactive session was held with all the stakeholders to know their views & suggestions. Executive Secretary IWP presented the experience of stakeholders and provided following recommendations:-

- **Institutionalize a basin level co-ordination mechanism to ensure that district action plans are reflecting the MSP priorities and regular progress review takes place at basin level.**
- **Make operational budget available to support local initiatives.**
- **Appoint a senior (IAS) officer to head MSP secretariat at Meerut/Saharanpur representing SMCG & managing MSP funds for implementation of the program activities on ground.**

Chief Secretary expressed appreciation for the MSP and steering board meeting and officially launched the Hindon MSP and confirmed the appointment of the steering board members, appointed core group experts and (Co-) chairs of working groups. Following action points and decisions were taken by the chief secretary:-

- **River Basin Management (RBM) Cycle adopted for Hindon river basin rejuvenation.**
- **Chief Secretary will pursue budget approval for allocation of funding for undertaking pilot programs for Hindon Rejuvenation through the MSP.**
- **Relevant departments to appoint a senior-level nodal officer to chair the respective working groups and execute the vision document through the MSP process.**
- **Departments to share data with the MSP on an ongoing basis for Hindon River Basin.**
- **Appreciation and encouragement of the contribution by the Private Sector for developing projects in the Hindon basin.**
- **Vision document to be officially released after forewords are inserted**
- **MSP Steering Board to meet again in 6-month time.**



The Chief Secretary of the UP Government, Shri Anup Chandra Pandey during MSP launch



Principal Secretary, Urban Development and Clean Ganga, Mr. Manoj Kumar Singh, Govt. of Uttar Pradesh interacting with MSP participants

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