



for a living planet®



# *Living Ganga Programme*



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Living Ganga Programme

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## Programme Goal and Scope

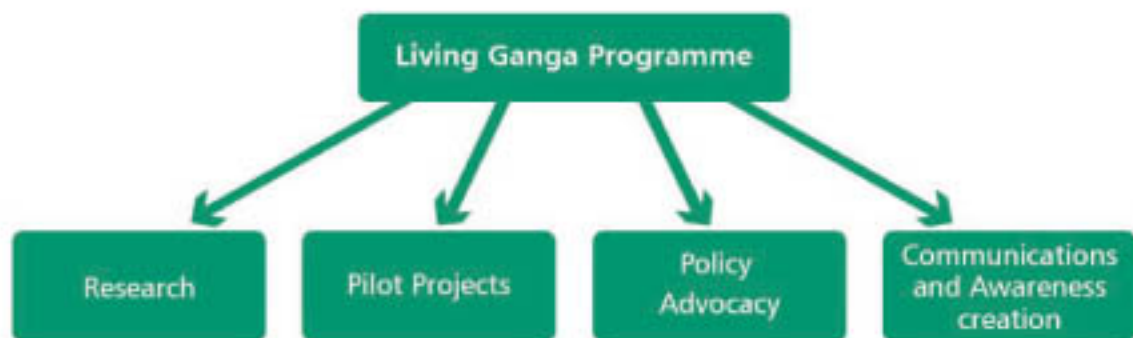
An emblem of India's rich culture and ecology, The Ganga, is unarguably one of the world's major rivers. But, the river is exploited without remorse and the resulting story is one of severe threat to the river ecology, water security and thereby to the lives of millions who are dependant on it. Much of the river water is siphoned off for irrigation, partial and untreated sewage and toxic industrial effluents are dumped into it, dams and barrages are being built on it's course, making the river lifeless. All this in turn makes it more vulnerable to the emerging threats posed by climate change.

The goal of the Living Ganga Programme is to develop and implement strategies for sustainable energy and water resources management within the Ganga basin, in the face of climate change. Specifically, the programme will work on key sites and a critical stretch of the river- of approximately 800 km from Gangotri in Uttarakhand to Kanpur in Uttar Pradesh.

(See map on reverse).

## Approach

The Living Ganga Programme brings together components of climate adaptation, vulnerability assessment, environmental flows and water allocation coupled with pollution abatement and co-management of water and energy. The programme aims to establish partnerships with key stakeholders with a focus on river restoration, community education and engagement, business and government involvement, and biodiversity conservation.



The programme consists of 6 work components.

## 1. Sustainable Water Management

Develop and promote sustainable water management approaches, including environmental flows, which conserve biodiversity and support livelihoods taking into account climate change

- Develop a methodology for estimating environmental flows in the Indian context
- Enhance understanding of climate change scenarios and impacts on water flows in the Ganga
- Integrate climate scenarios and flow models to develop water allocation recommendations
- Promote the sustainable water management approaches among key decision makers

## 2. Climate Adaptation

Determine vulnerability of people, livelihoods and biodiversity to prioritize adaptation strategies

- Develop vulnerability assessment(VA) indices for identified areas in the Ganga basin
- Integrate VA processes into project components for developing adaptation strategies
- Implement site specific adaptation pilots
- Share knowledge of field adaptation strategies and best practices





### 3. Pollution Abatement

Develop and implement pollution abatement strategies, demonstrating benefits for key stakeholders

- Implement pilot projects and scale up models to demonstrate optimal use of agro-chemicals and reduced pollution load on water resources
- Promote pilot measures for managing industrial effluents from key industries in the Ganga basin
- Develop recommendations for effective waste water management systems within important cities in the Ganga basin

### 4. Water – Energy Co-management

Promote and advocate measures for water and energy co management in agriculture, urban and industrial sectors

- Implement pilots in selected agricultural areas to demonstrate reduced energy and water consumption from irrigation
- Promote pilot measures for effective water and energy management in key industries in the Ganga basin
- Demonstrate energy efficiency in water supply & distribution and waste water disposal within important cities in the Ganga basin

## 5. Sustainable Hydropower

Influence Government, public and private sector towards sustainable hydropower development

- Assess the status and impact of planned and proposed hydropower development in the Uttarakhand Himalayas.
- Develop models for optimal hydropower development scenarios, taking into account climate change and viability of the river systems
- Advocate for best practices towards sustainable hydropower development

## 6. Communications & Business Engagement

Develop and implement communication strategies that create awareness and mobilize action by key stakeholders

- Engage with key stakeholders for shared understanding, implementation and scaling-up of programme objectives
- Establish a cross-cutting multi stakeholder platform to promote sustainable water resource management in the Ganga basin
- Support policy advocacy work towards creating an impact and enabling shifts in policy and practice
- Organize campaigns, events, publicity and promotion towards mobilizing action and affecting change



# LIVING GANGA PROGRAMME

