

PARTNERS IN GANGA
AQUALIFE CONSERVATION
COMBINED EFFORT OF
WII AND NPCIL

As per the scope of the Component 4 of the project, i.e., Establishment of Rescue and Rehabilitation Centres, WII has partnered with the NAPS and established the Ganga Aqualife Rescue and Rehabilitation Centre (GARRC) for species restoration. The MoU signed between NPCIL and WII is one of its kind; an example of trans-disciplinary biodiversity initiative, never attempted earlier in the country.

SCIENTIFIC UPGRADATION
OF THE TURTLE REARING
CENTRE GANGA AQUALIFE
RESCUE AND REHABILITATION
CENTRE AT NAPS

The existing hatcheries and husbandry ponds developed by NAPS were upgraded by WII. Summer and winter care facilities were installed. Double fencing was also installed to ensure protection from natural predators and to prevent escaping of hatchlings from the pools.

OUR INSPIRATION

ASHOK AND RAJA

Two beautiful rescued male spotted-pond turtles (*Geoclemys hamiltonii*) at GARRC caught the attention of Sushri Uma Bharti Ji, then Minister of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation when she visited the Centre. She named them Ashok and Raja. She visited the GARRC for the second time to see her beloved turtles and expressed her satisfaction in the way this Centre is being managed.

A UNIQUE
PARTNERSHIP MODEL

Under the tenets of its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and as a part of its ESP, NAPS launched a head-start programme for the rehabilitation of endangered freshwater turtles. This existing facility inside the NAPS campus was adopted by WII for upgradation. The Centre is spearheading rescue and rehabilitation operations for aquatic wildlife of the Ganga River.

- Situated inside the Sewage Treatment Plant facility with lush green campus
- Clean water, biologically: Hydroponics based biofiltration of the water for husbandry practices



CARE AND CURE

Trained veterinary doctors and researchers from the WII are monitoring the health of the rescued animals round the year. Proper housing and husbandry practices and periodic health checkup for species under quarantine have been developed. Medicines and dietary supplements to assure survival of the rescued animals are also provided.

CONTRIBUTING TOWARDS
SPECIES RESTORATION

158 turtles of nine species and one mugger (*Crocodylus palustris*) were rescued from Parallel Lower Ganga Canal during concretization drive and released into the Ganga River at Narora during January – March 2017.

NMCG-WII COMMUNITY
BASED CONSERVATION
PROGRAMME IN
THE EXCLUSION ZONE

Memorandum of Agreements (MoAs) were signed with 17 Village Panchayats and Narora Nagar Nigam to ensure continuous and active participation in WII's initiatives. As a part of this, more than 1000 people from various stakeholder groups have been sensitized, covering 50 villages in two adjoining districts.

More than 200 sensitization workshops for various stakeholder groups were conducted. 80 *Ganga Praharis* have been trained to take forward conservation efforts.



CELEBRATION OF SPECIAL
DAYS AND EVENTS BY ESP
AND NMCG-WII PROJECT

Cleanliness Drive and celebration of special days such as World Environment Day, World Corcodile Day, World Turtle Day, Wildlife week are carried out regularly at Narora.

CONSERVING COMMUNITY WETLANDS

- NAPS identified two wetlands in Kashipur village, within the floodplain of the Ganga River. These wetlands have significant populations of *Nilssonia gangetica* and *Nilssonia hurum*.
- Encroachment by villagers, lack of nesting sites and degrading water quality are potential threats for survival of these turtle species. To deal with these threats, NAPS conducts frequent awareness programmes in the surrounding villages.
- Efforts are underway for adoption of these wetlands for future conservation, with the support of the local community.



LIVELIHOOD TRAININGS
AND WORKSHOPS

Linkages have been established with various organizations and institutions for area specific livelihood interventions such as National Rural Livelihood Mission, Department of Science and Technology, Government of India.

FUTURE PLANS
UNDER ESP AND
NMCG-WII PROJECT

- Development of aquatic wildlife rescue and release protocols
- Rearing of select endangered species of turtles
- Conservation of wetlands and village ponds
- *Ganga Praharis* to assist in Ganga biodiversity conservation



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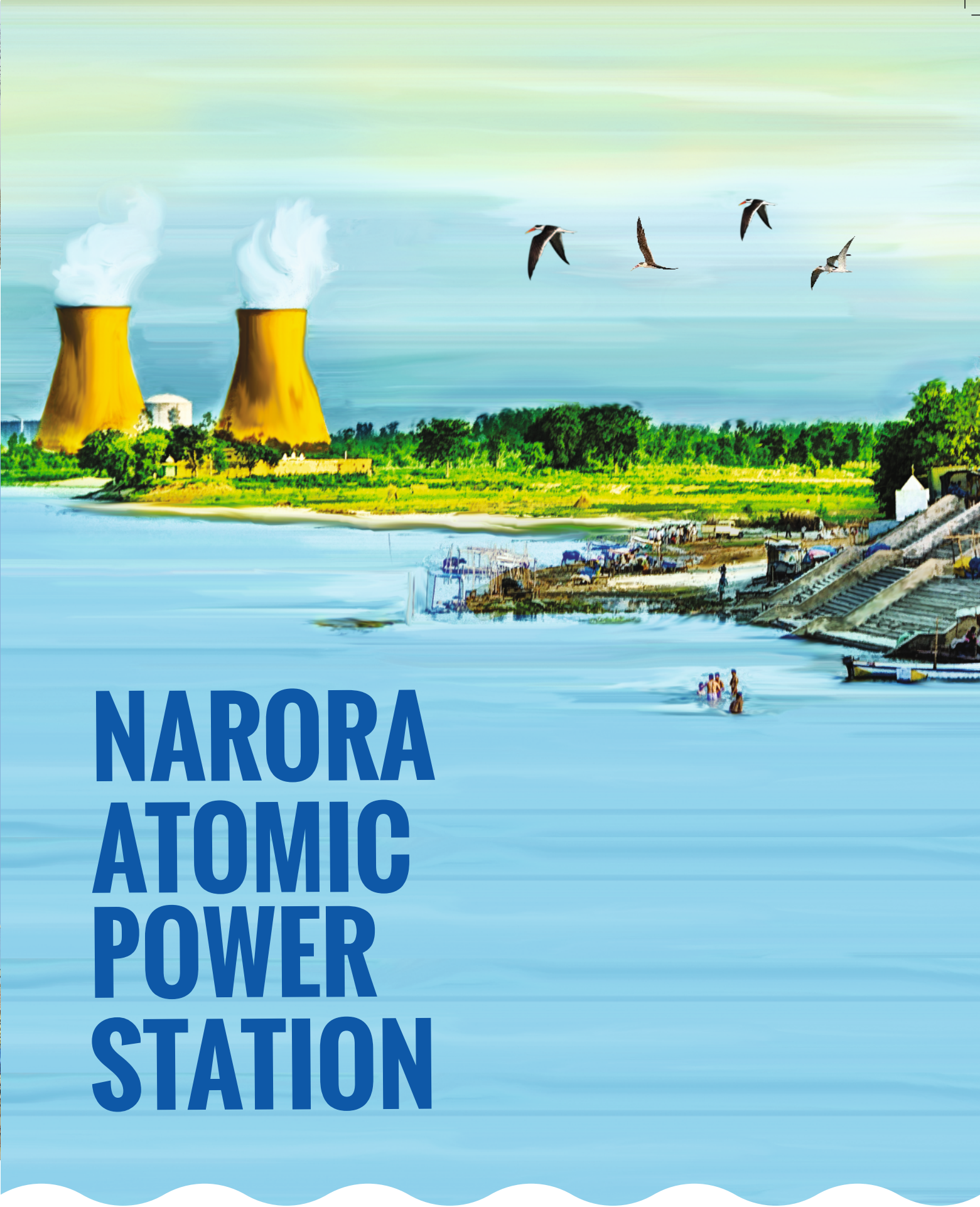
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GANGA
AQUALIFE
CONSERVATION
MONITORING
CENTRE

wii.gov.in/nmcg/national-mission-for-clean-ganga

XPRESSIONS - 9219552563 | DOC. NO. XPS0604181333



Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd.
(A Govt. of India Enterprise)

COMMITTED FOR A CLEAN GANGA



NARORA ATOMIC POWER STATION



The Narora Atomic Power Station (NAPS) at Narora, Uttar Pradesh is located on the banks of the holy Ganga River. The stretch of the river between Brijghat and Narora has been designated by the Government of India as a Wetland of International Importance (Ramsar site). NAPS operates under the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL), a public sector enterprise under the administrative control of the Department of Atomic Energy, Government of India. The electricity generated by NAPS is supplied to the northern power grid of India. In 2000, NAPS became the first ISO-14001 certified atomic power station in Asia and received the Golden Peacock Award from the World Environment Foundation for its efforts in environment preservation.

GREEN ENERGY,
GREEN INDIA,
CLEAN INDIA

NPCIL launched its Environmental Stewardship Programme (ESP) in 2006 with a mission to protect the biodiversity in and around nuclear power plant sites in India. ESP focuses on scientific studies of biodiversity, improvement of habitat and conservation of nature within and around the Exclusion Zone (EZ) of Indian Nuclear plants. These EZs hosts both terrestrial and aquatic biodiversity. Under the tenets of ESP, NAPS is involved in several community education and outreach, and biodiversity conservation programmes.

ESP - NAPS NARORA

- Under its ESP, NAPS partakes in varied activities for environmental conservation, including the following:
- Community outreach programmes
 - Restoration of degraded wetlands at Hakimpur and Kashipur, Bulandsahar district
 - Conservation of endangered aqualife of the Ganga River through headstart programme
 - Conservation of endangered Indian Skimmer through Skimmer club
 - Annual Bird Marathon programme for bird monitoring

WILDLIFE INSTITUTE OF INDIA

An apex body committed towards conservation of Indian wildlife



Established in 1982, the Wildlife Institute of India (WII) is an internationally acclaimed autonomous institute of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India providing teaching, training and advisory services on wildlife conservation. The institute is actively engaged in research across the country on biodiversity conservation and management. The main mission of the institute is to nurture the development of wildlife science and promote its application in conservation, in consonants with our cultural and socio-economic milieu. The Institute has also been recognized as a Category 2 Centre under the auspices of UNESCO for Asia and the Pacific Region for the conservation management of Natural World Heritage.

Establishment of Ganga Aqualife Conservation Monitoring Centre

1

Planning Aquatic Species Restoration For Ganga

2

Capacity Building of Forest Department and other Stakeholders

3

Establishment of Rescue and Rehabilitation Centres

4

Community based Conservation Programmes

5

Nature Interpretation and Education

6



NMCG- WII INITIATIVE: BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AND GANGA REJUVENATION

The project "Biodiversity Conservation and Ganga Rejuvenation" of WII forms an integral part of the vision of the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) for Ganga rejuvenation. The NMCG aims at restoring the ecological integrity of the Ganga River by switching from hard engineering solutions to ecological based restoration activities. Sponsored by the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation through NMCG and its Namami Gange Programme, this project aims to develop a science-based aquatic species restoration plan for the Ganga River by involving multiple stakeholders. There are six intertwined components of the project which are directed to achieve the above mentioned goal.