



the River Restoration Centre

Working to restore and enhance our rivers

Delivering River Restoration: Recipes for Success

13TH ANNUAL NETWORK CONFERENCE



Restoring Europe's Rivers

The RIVERFOR project is made possible with the contribution of the LIFE+ financial instrument of the European Commission and works in partnership with



ARUP



Re-connecting.....

the blue ribbons &
green grids :

Adding value
through urban river restoration

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Queen Mary, University of London

RRC 13th Annual Conference,
Nottingham University
19th April 2012



the context:

PhD research:

An Interdisciplinary Approach to Assessing, Planning and Managing Urban Rivers in the context of Greater London

Socio-Environmental project:

Bio-physical Habitat Assessment

- Urban River Survey (URS)
- Physical change in Heavily Modified rivers
- Post Project Appraisal



Governance of planning and managing urban river restoration

- Multi-disciplinary cross-sector partnerships
- Integrating multiple objectives
- Integrated funding opportunities



this presentation...

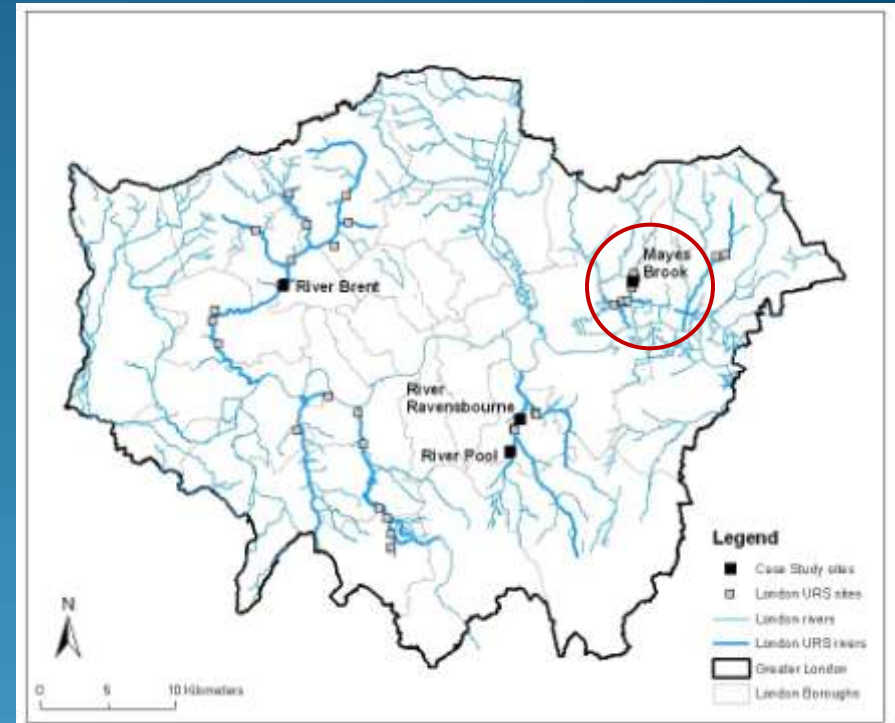
- Planning and delivering **urban river restoration** through **multi-disciplinary & cross-sector partnerships**
- **Who is / who needs to be involved** and why....?
 - river restoration databases & case study evidence
 - examine partnership structures, objectives & project costs
- **What are the challenges of reconnecting blue and green spaces?**
 - integrating multiple social and environmental objectives
- **How can we assess the outcomes?**



the London case study..

- **Urban River Surveys**
 - Public open green spaces
 - Linear parks
- **Restoration case studies**
 - Time-line (1994 -> 2008)
 - Mayes Brook (2011)
- **Multi-disciplinary / Cross-sector partnerships**
- **Integrating green and blue ...**
 - Social / environmental

i.e. sustainable objectives



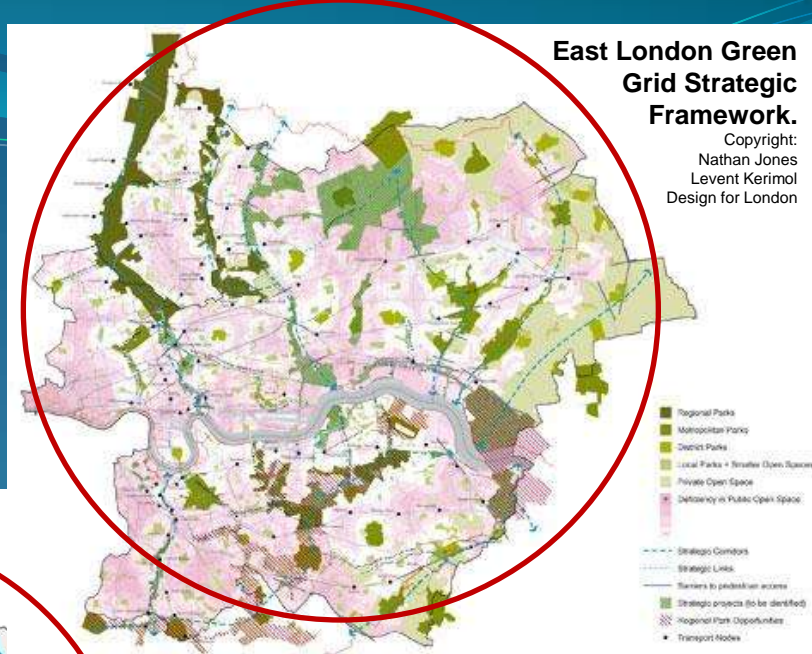
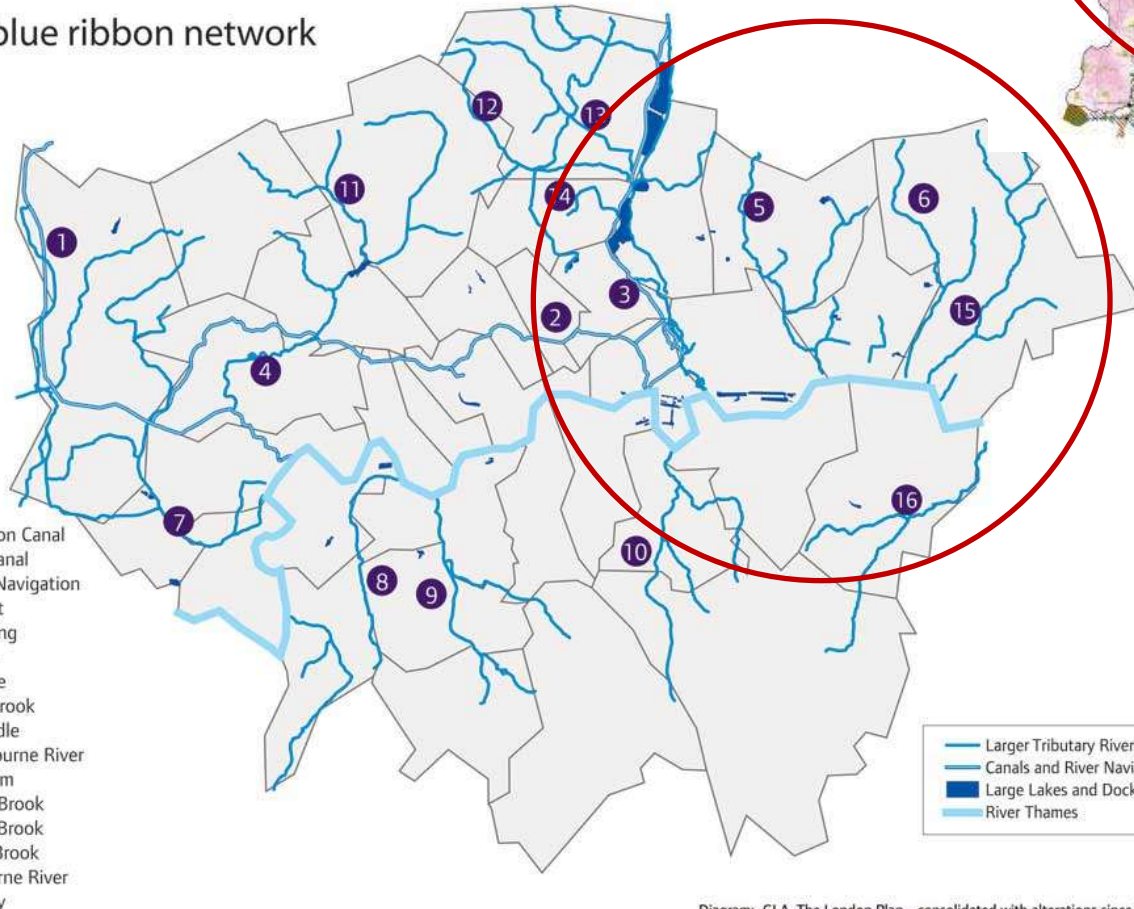
- **Adding value through the combined improvement of**
 - ecological potential
 - ecosystem services
 - public experience

the London Plan

(GLA, 2010)

- Strategic planning
 - Clear links at the regional scale
 - All London Green Grid

The blue ribbon network



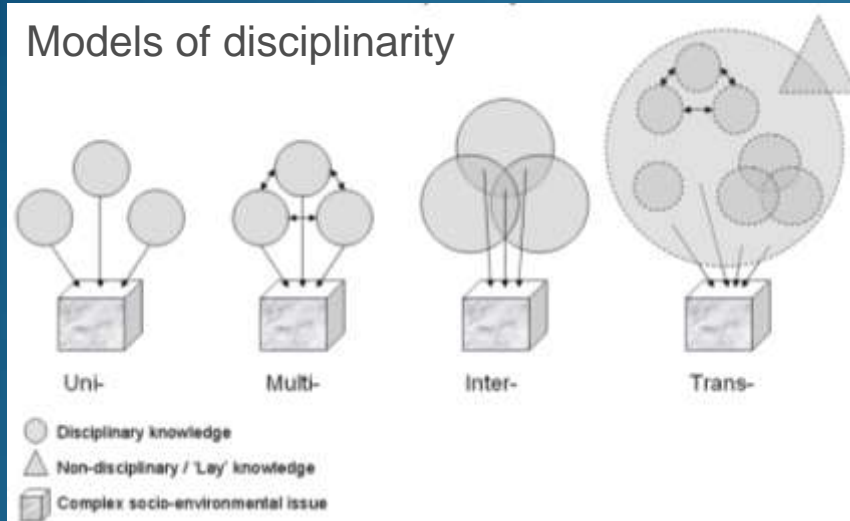
East London Green Grid Strategic Framework.

Copyright:
Nathan Jones
Levent Kerimol
Design for London

- Local planning
 - Opportunistic
- Planning gain
 - Section 106
- Still need..
 - Catchment scale
 - Trans-borough
 - Integrated perspective

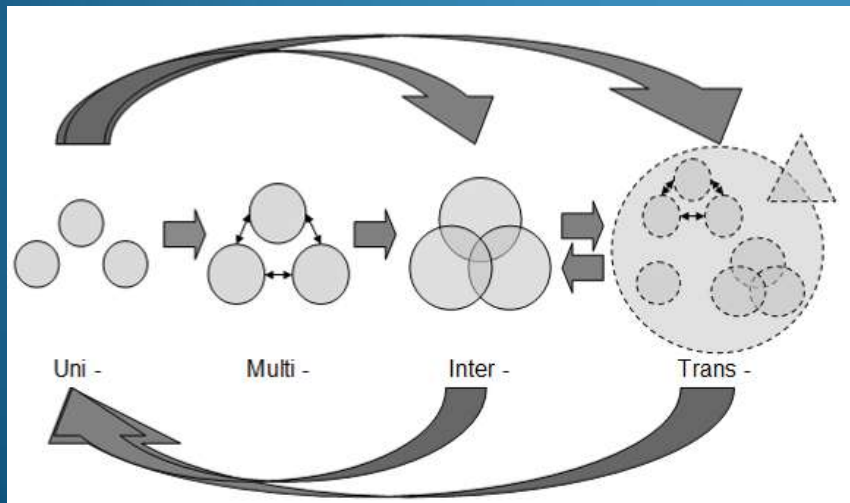
the Challenges..

..of multi-disciplinary partnership



Integrated approaches:

- Have **no clear framework or formula**
- **Need longer** to find common understandings
- Require **translation and interpretation**
 - between languages
 - between value systems
- Benefit from **open and constructive, non-critical** knowledge exchange



Adapted from Ramadier et al (2004) and Klein (2004)

London river restoration partnerships & processes..

- **London-wide data**

- RRC – National River Restoration Inventory (1983-2011)
- London Rivers Action Plan (LRAP, 2008-2011)



- **Case study data**

- Mayes Brook & Mayesbrook Park Restoration
- QUERCUS (Quality Urban Environments for River Corridor Users and Stakeholders), River Ravensbourne, Ladywell Fields

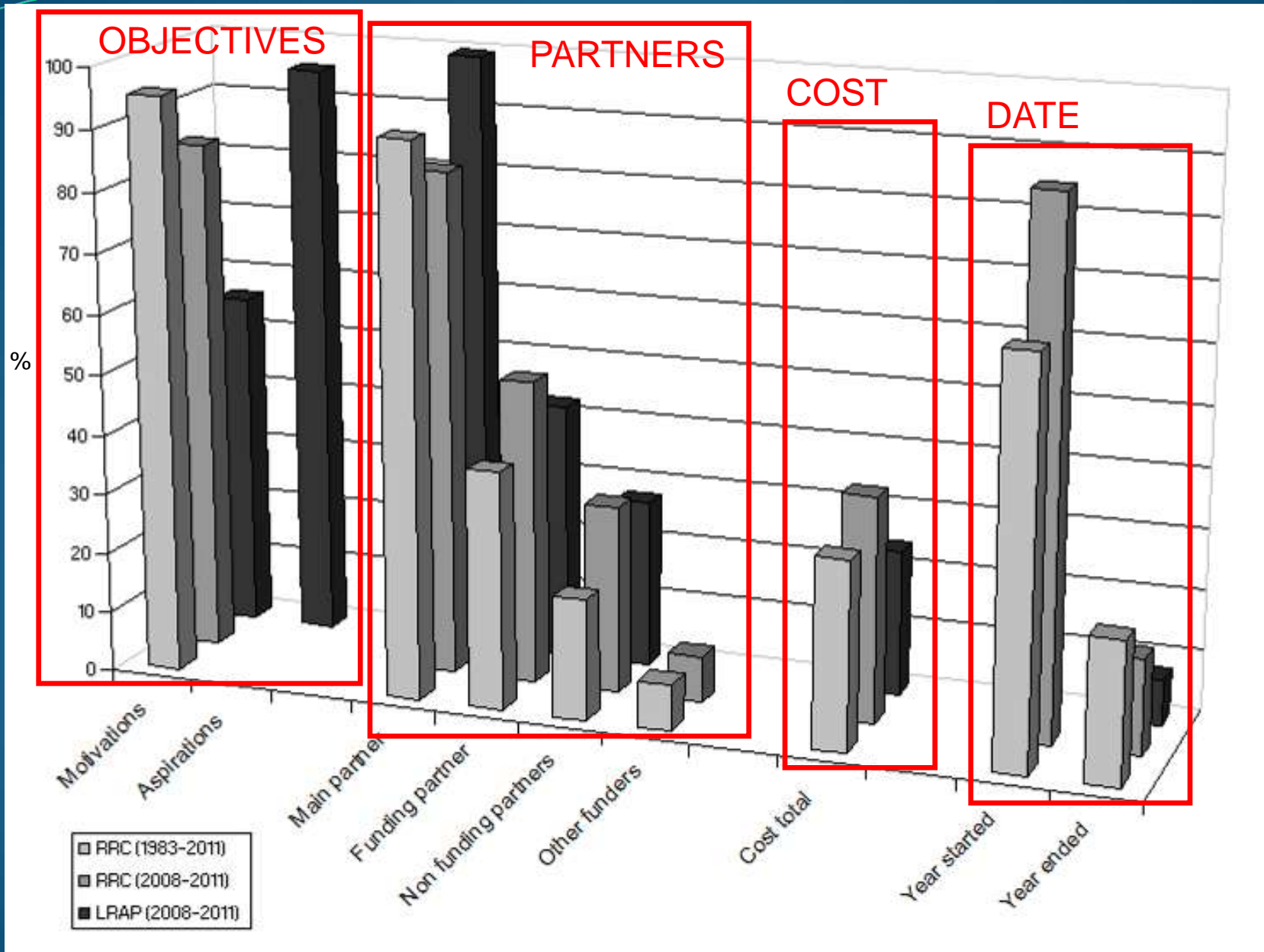
- **Insights into urban river restoration planning**

- Who's involved?
- What are the main objectives?
- Who's paying for all this?
- How much is it all costing?

National River Restoration Inventory (RRC) & London Rivers Action Plan (LRAP) databases

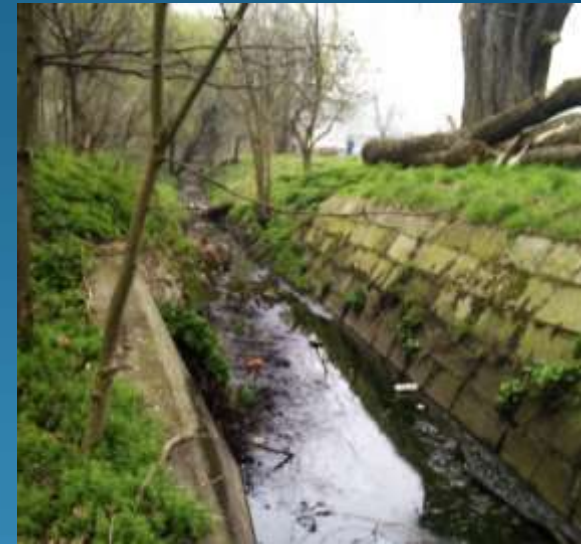
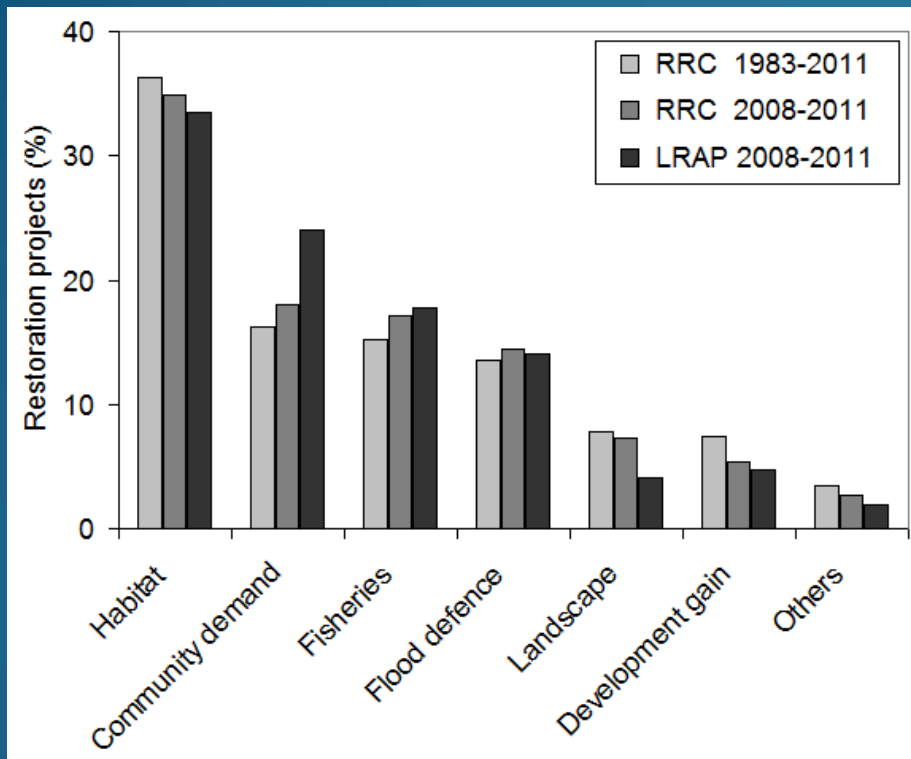
	RRC: London / Full No. records (%)	RRC: London / (Dated 08-11) No. records (%)	LRAP: No. records (%)
Data FILTER:			
Spatial:	County: London	County: London;	-
Temporal:	-	Year Start / End: 2008-11	-
TOTAL number:	285	145	195
Dated records:	1983-2011	2008-2011	2008-2011
Total number dated:	208 (73.0%)	145(100%)	16 (7.7%)
 OBJECTIVES			
- motivations	272 (95.4%)	123 (84.8%)	109 (55.9%)
- aspirations	n/a	n/a	186 (95.4%)
 PARTNERSHIP			
- main contact	260 (91.2%)	121 (83.4%)	194 (99.5%)
- funding organisation	112 (39.3%)	73 (50.3%)	83 (42.6%)
- non funding partners	57 (20.0%)	45 (31.0%)	54 (27.7%)
- other funders	22 (7.7%)	11 (7.6%)	n/a
 COST			
- cost total (values >0)	89 (31.2%)	48 (37.2%)	47 (24.1%)
 YEAR			
- year started	189 (66.3%)	127 (87.6%)	n/a
- year ended	67 (23.5%)	23 (15.9%)	16 (7.7%)

Review of RRC (London) & LRAP data

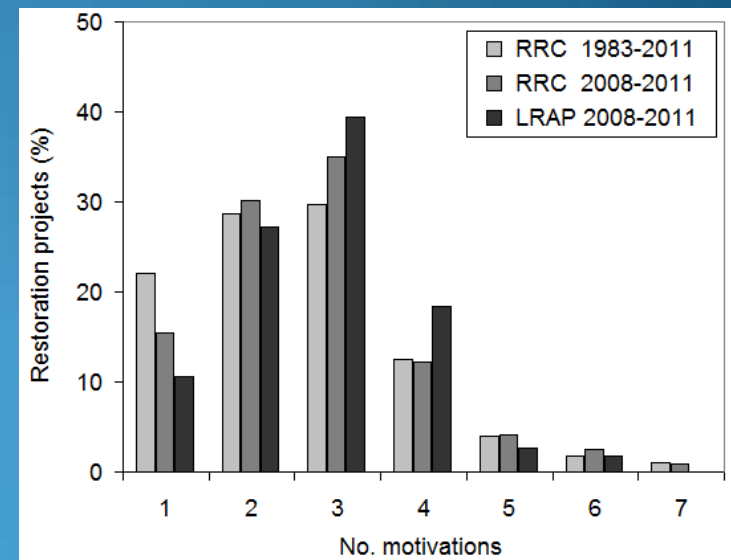


London river restoration drivers?

- Objectives as MOTIVATIONS

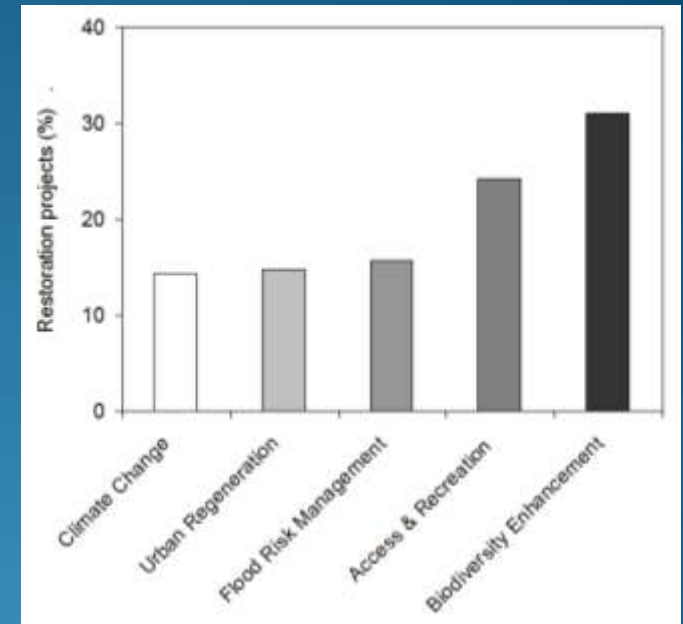
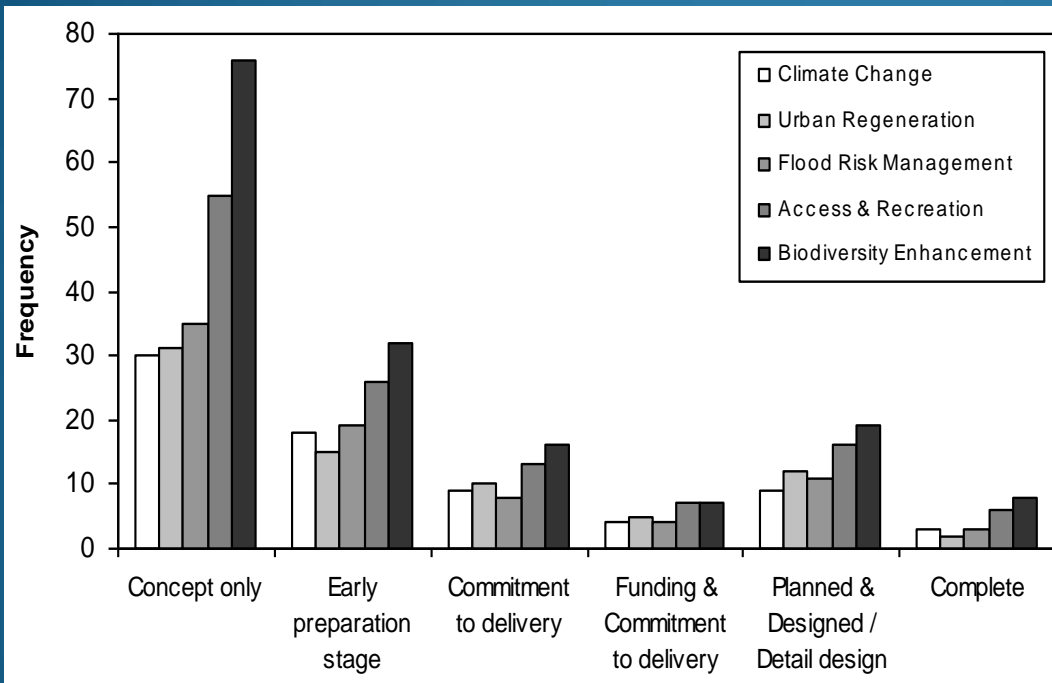


- How many objectives per project?



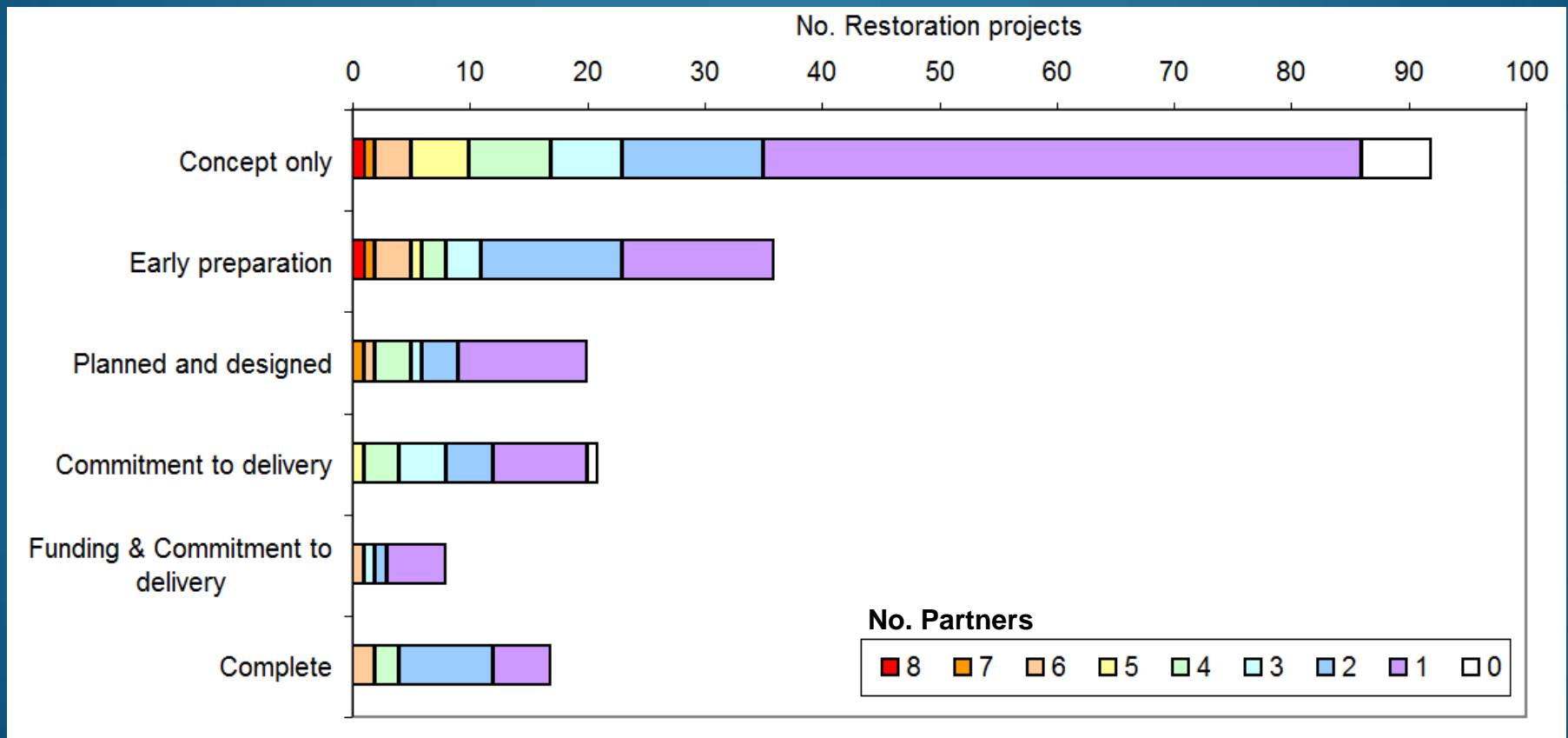
London Rivers Action Plan

- Objectives as ASPIRATIONS
- Project planning stage...?



how many partners ...?

- London Rivers Action Plan projects
- Up to 5-8 partners



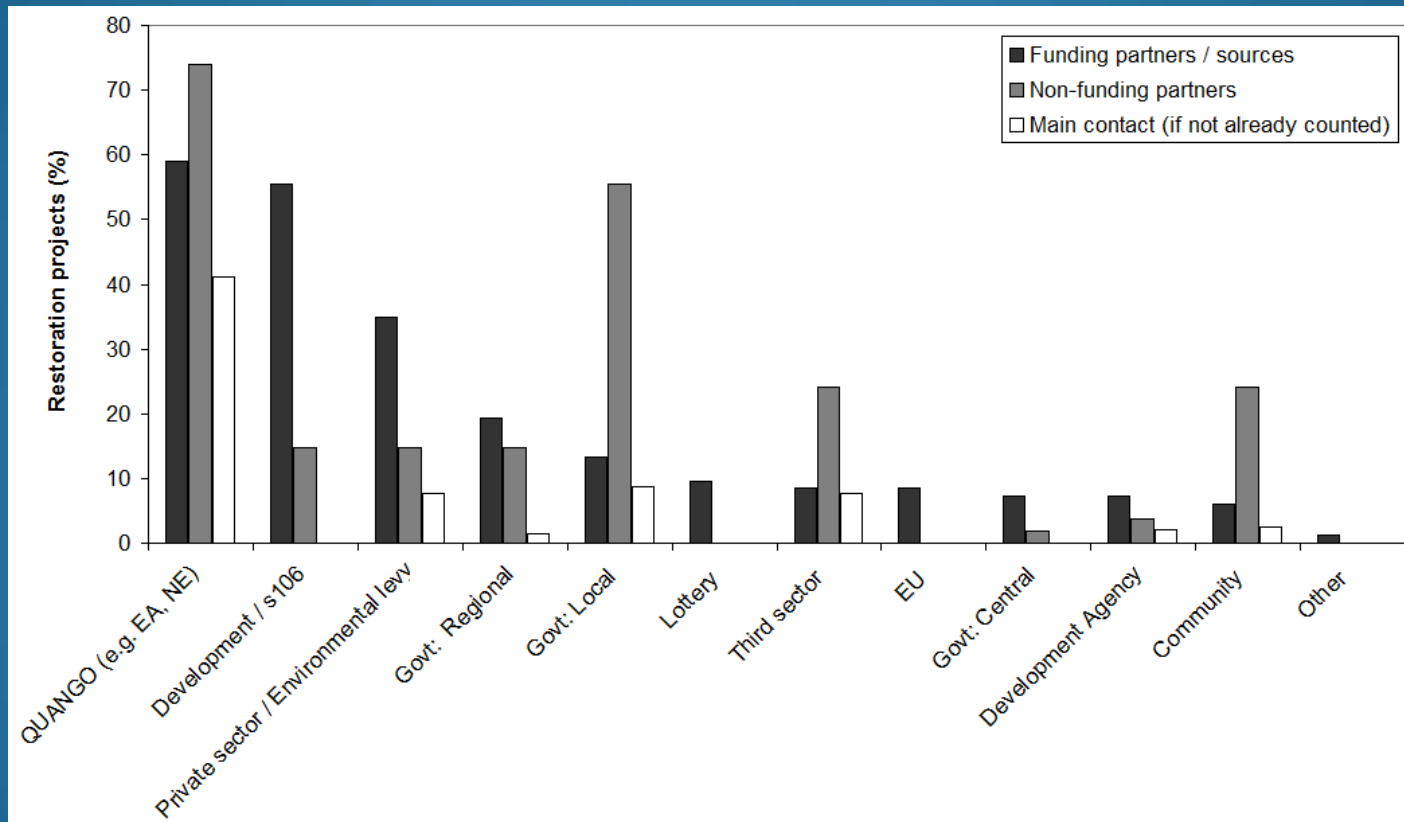
many partners... many objectives..

Mayesbrook Project 2008-2011

			PRIORITY FOCUS			
Source / Fund manager	Fund Description	Objectives / Outputs / Conditions	River	Floodplain	Park	People
CAPITAL			(7)	(4)	(8)	(12)
EA	Flood management / Restoration funds / BAP habitat creation	River restoration; LRAP demonstration; natural flood storage; BAP habitat	✓	✓		✓
GLA	Priority Parks fund	Transformation of park; river and park environments; furniture & entrances	✓		✓	✓
LBBB	Local Authority Parks and Green Space Strategy capital funds;	Park regeneration; increase visitor numbers; BAP habitat.			✓	✓
LTWGS	London Tree and Woodland Grant Scheme	Trees and woodland planting & conservation			✓	
NE	Contributing Third Party (CTP) funding	Contribution required to release SITA grant	✓			
RSA	Royal Sun Alliance environmental fund	River restoration & natural flood storage demonstration	✓	✓		✓
SITA Trust	Landfill environmental funds	Natural environment; conservation	✓			
TfL	Transport for London mitigation funding	Environmental mitigation works and access improvements			✓	✓
REVENUE						
EA	Revenue funding (for consultancy)	Scoping and Feasibility reports	✓	✓		✓
DfL	East London Green Grid / Urban design funding	Connectivity study			✓	✓
LBBB	Revenue funding (for consultancy)	Consultants for landscape design and river engineering			✓	✓
NE	Natural Connections; Access to Nature	People engagement programme (2 phases); People engagement plus 3-yr Park Ranger post			✓	✓
RSA	Royal Sun Alliance environmental fund	People engagement			✓	✓
TRRT	Fund manager and facilitator	River and wetland restoration; people engagement and access; policy development	✓	✓		✓

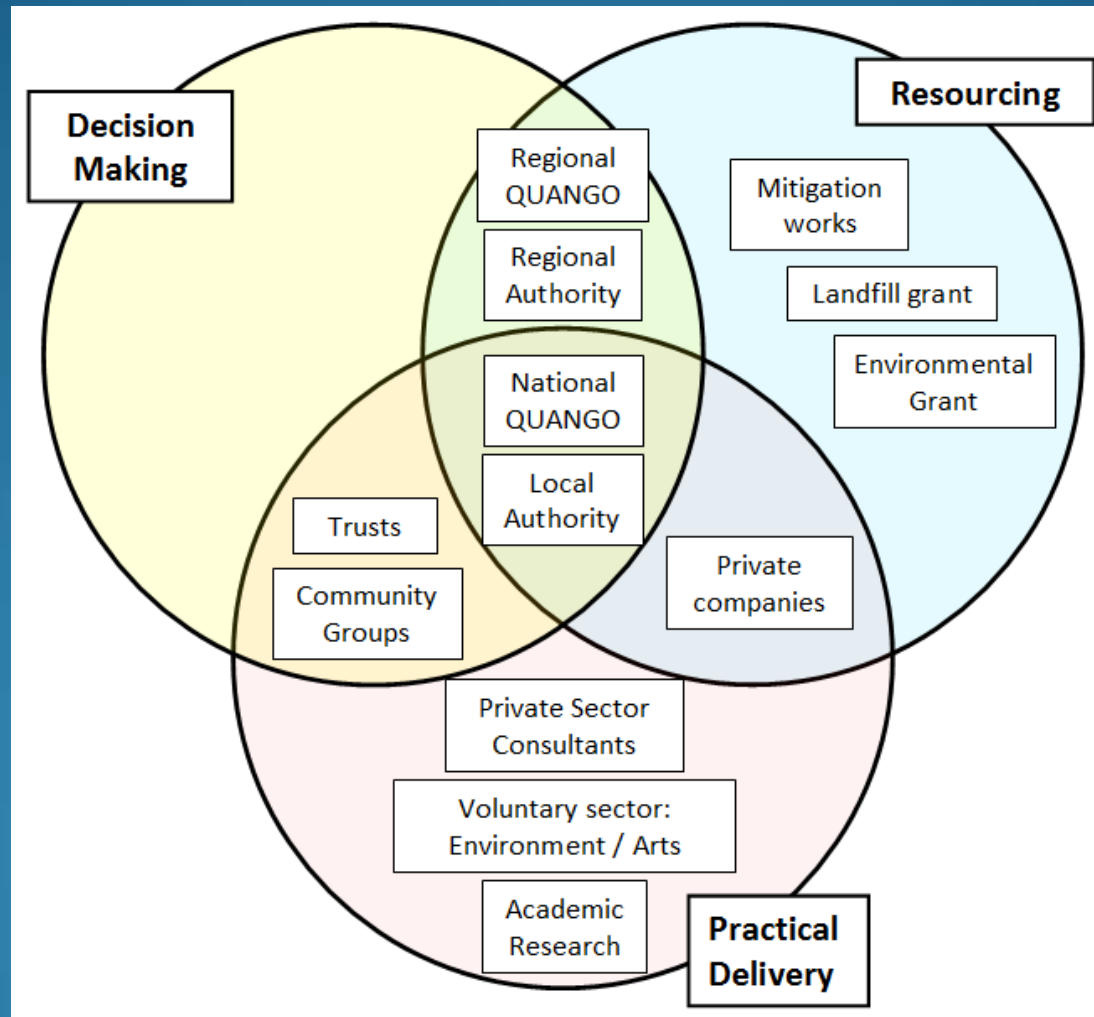
partner roles...

- London Rivers Action Plan projects
- Funding and / or delivery focus



partner roles and relationships

Mayesbrook Project 2008-2011



Shuker et al. (forthcoming)

many partners.. many voices..

- **Risks....** of integrated management

- Building a shared vision takes **extra time**
- Different perspectives and terminologies need **translation**
- Different work cultures need **accommodation**
- **Technical discussions** may be perceived as dominant
- **Expectations** will vary and need managing



- **Solutions** (from interviewees)

- High levels of **personal communication**
- A shared **remote-access project database**
- A variety of technical and general **meetings**
- **Visual tools** are always essential and invaluable
 - aerial maps, masterplans, diagrams, images etc..

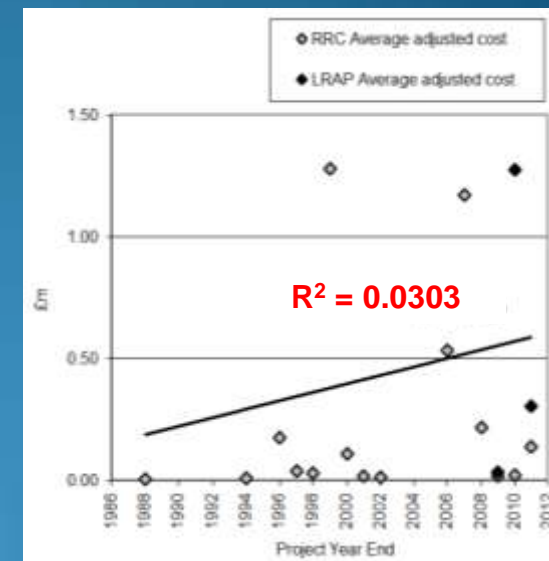
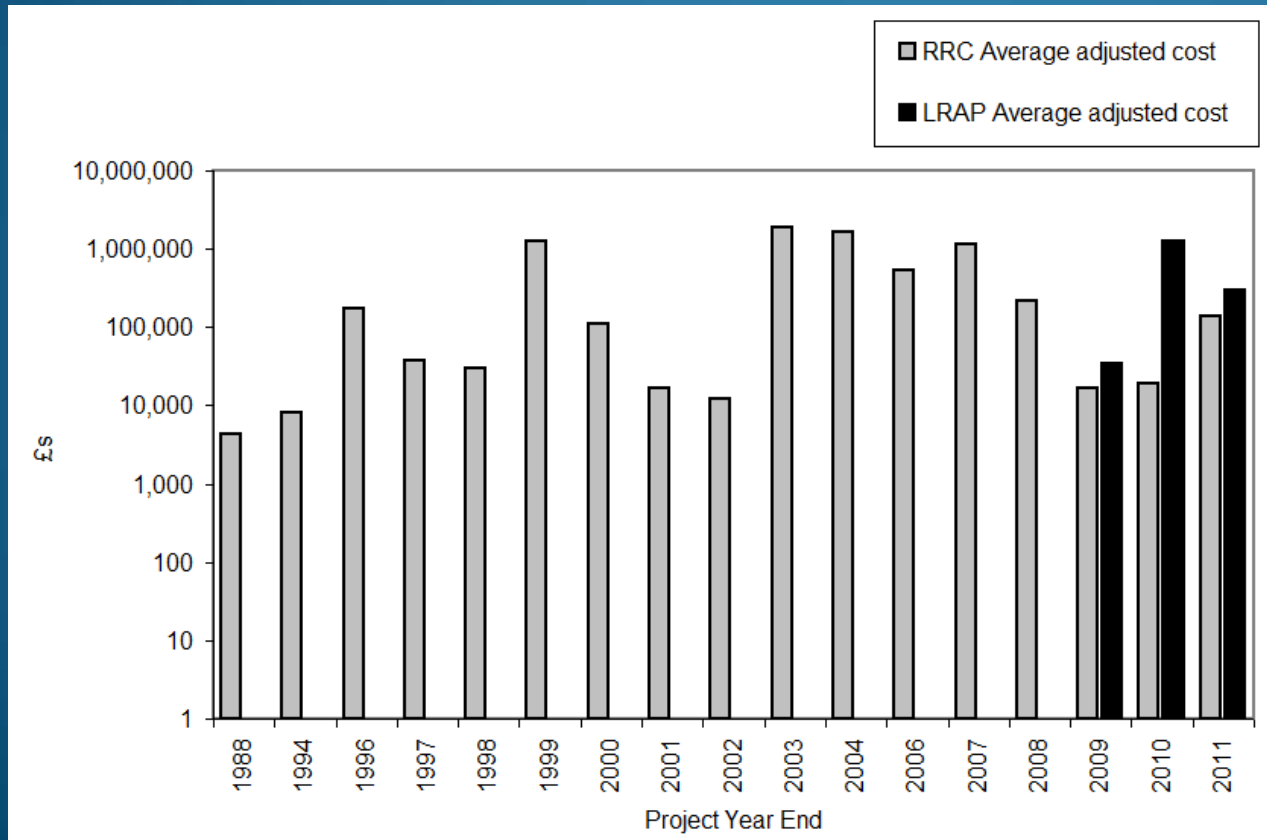


London river restoration costs



- Caveats... 'Year End' data - RRC (49) & LRAP (12)
- Costs are adjusted for inflation
- Financial trend?

- NO statistical significance
 - 1986-2011



CRF effect..

- 2012 onwards?

future of urban river restoration..

- **Reconnecting urban rivers and public green spaces**

- **Combined social and ecological benefits:**

- safer staged channels, wetland & BAP habitat, SUDS, run-off filtration, naturalised flood storage, wildlife refugia, urban cooling, natural play.....



- **Environmental and water safety awareness**

- Opportunities for **community stewardship** activities

- Shared interests in **post project outcomes**



- **Monitoring outcomes and building evidence for the value of urban river services ... is vital!**

- **Ecosystem Services Assessment**

- Can demonstrate uplift in the **value of urban river ecosystem services**
 - Especially **cultural, regulatory & supporting** benefits

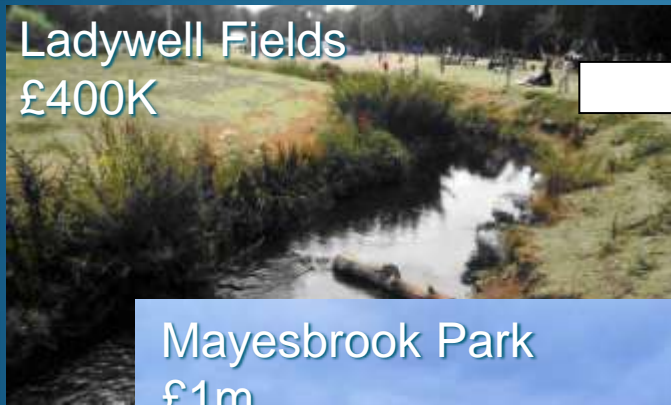


- **Mayes Brook & Mayesbrook Park Restoration ESA**

- Estimated benefits of **£7 for every £1 spent..**

adding value..

- Urban river restorations may be **opportunistic**, but they can also be the **catalyst**...
- ..for wider **catchment-scale, trans-borough** planning....



Many thanks to all who have supported this inter-disciplinary urban river research:



Environment Agency
Natural England
London Borough of Barking and Dagenham
London Borough of Lewisham
Thames River Restoration Trust
Ladywell Fields Park User Group
Quaggy Waterways Action Group
London Wildlife Trust
The Wandle Trust
Thames21
RRC

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