Sacred city

Expected project CAPEX : 15’500’000 €

Mandating Authority : Green Rameswaram Project/GPN India

Summary

Important Hindu Pilgrimage site on an island off the coast of Tamil Nadu, India, attracting 10 million pilgrims annually. Key features include management of solid waste and provision of drainage facilities, roads and traffic, water supply; restoration of water bodies, pilgrim and tourist facilities.

Location and population

Rameshwaram, India
44’850 inh.

Social and environmental impact

Rameswaram is part of the first Marine Biosphere Reserve in South East Asia and its numerous water bodies attract a wide variety of birds. Nomination of the island as a UNESCO heritage site is under consideration. Together with social engineering proposed for sustainable development, the project would have a significant socio-env impact.

Main stakeholders

GPN India and its partner, Vivekananda Kendra, the Ramanathapuram District Administration represented by the District Collector, Rameshwaram Municipality, NGOs (including Hand in Hand, REACH Foundation, Basil Energetics), and citizens.
STAGE 1: Concept Development, Site identification

Target population
10 million pilgrims

Surfaces
21 Islands

Climate
Tropical

STAGE 2: Pre-Feasibility Studies

Pre-feasibility study: Yes

STAGE 3: Feasibility Studies

Feasibility study: No

STAGE 4: Permitting / Financing / Contracts

Land concession signed: Tbd

Environmental impact study: Tbd

Identified sources of fundings: Tbd

STAGE 5: Engineering / Construction / Commercial Operation

Engineering, Procurement and Construction Contractor: Tbd

Operation and Maintenance Contractor: Tbd

Comments
Considerable preparatory work, including the development of a vision and steps for the preparation of a feasibility study, has been completed and several activities implemented. The project has the support and commitment of a wide spectrum of stakeholders. The community has been prepared and considerable interest and awareness generated. The project is waiting for a significant financing window which will allow it to take off and establish Rameswaram as a model pilgrimage destination in India.