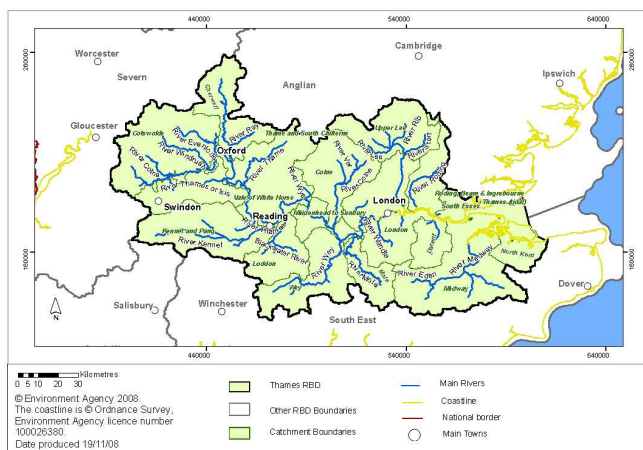


THE THAMES BASIN

The Thames basin in the UK covers an area of 13,000 km², representing 4% of the UK land area. However, it houses one fifth of the UK's population with 12 million people, and generates more than one quarter of the GNP. This creates intense pressure on the natural environment through the demand on land for homes, offices and other developments, stress on the basin's water resources and waste disposal. In particular, the Thames has had a long history of pollution, especially in the London area. Campaigns have been aimed at improving water quality, attacking, firstly, gross organics pollution and, latterly, nutrient enrichment. However, whilst river water quality may be improving, groundwater pollution is a progressively more important issue with nitrate concentrations in groundwater across the Thames basin continuing to increase slowly. These issues have long been recognised by the UK Environment Agency, the government body responsible for licensing surface and groundwater abstraction, and effluent discharges, and for all aspects pertaining to water quality and ecology within the basin. The current growth in population, the reducing size of household units, and new housing developments, as well as the predicted impacts of climate change, mean that the sustainable management of water resources within the Thames basin will become increasingly important in the future.

The Thames river basin includes the main Thames and tributaries such as the Cherwell and Kennet. The river flows for 330 km from its source in a remote Gloucestershire meadow to its confluence with the North Sea at Shoeburyness in Essex. The non-tidal Thames is 237 km long. There are 5330 km² of floodplain in the basin. The basin area represents some 4% of the area of the United Kingdom.



TWINLATIN PROJECT

The Latin American and Caribbean region is highly heterogeneous in terms of climate zones, hydro-ecology, socio-political systems etc. Numerous problems in relation to water quality and water availability arise. Flooding occurs frequently and erosion and pollution pressures have also become major problems. Management strategies, legal framework and stakeholder involvement needs to be improved. Activities and research tasks will be conducted within several fields of IWRM; hydrology, modelling of pollution flow, impact assessment, socio-economic impacts, climate change effects, scenario analysis and action efficiency.

The project addresses the goals of the EU Water for Life, and builds on the methods and guidelines developed for the EU WFD.

No further research work were carried out for the Thames in the TwinLatin project. Instead, the lesson learnt and methods developed are used to assist decision makers in the other case study basins to move towards better IWRM.

(ADDITIONAL INFO ON [HTTP://TWINLATIN.IVL.SE/INDEX.HTML](http://TWINLATIN.IVL.SE/INDEX.HTML))



ABOUT TWIN2GO

Twin2Go reviews, consolidates, and synthesises research on adaptive and integrated water resources management in basins around the world. The aim is to draw insights relevant to policy and research on issues around adaptive water governance in the context of climate change, and to make them transferable to other basins. Twin2Go further promotes sharing of research results with practitioners and high level decision makers through effective dialogue.