

Solutions & Adaptations Working Group

Looking at new ways in which reefs can adapt to climate change

The cornerstone of the Foundation's research framework is its vision of "understanding and maximising the resilience of coral reefs, in the face of climate change".

To realise this vision, the Foundation has decided to focus its efforts on both solutions and adaptation strategies for coral reefs. This dual focus is essential, given that even the most concerted *mitigation* efforts will not be enough; the concentrations of GHG in the atmosphere have already wrought changes in both temperature and pH that place the future of ecosystems, like coral reefs, more at risk than ever before. There are thresholds of tolerance, well documented by leading scientists, beyond which we are testing critical ecosystems.

To generate new solutions and adaptation strategies for the Reef, the Foundation has convened a working group of experts from a wide range of fields, spanning science, business, social, economic, management and reef-related industries. The Solutions and Adaptations Working Group is charged with the identification of both solutions (which seek to minimise or reduce a threat to the Reef and associated habitats) and adaptation strategies (to manage impacts to the ecosystem and society) across the biophysical, institutional, social and economic domains.

The Working Groups brief

- Has climate change and the Reef's viability as its primary focus;
- Takes as its starting point the Attributes of a Sustainable Reef identified by the Attributes Working Group
- Into contribute, wherever possible, to management and policy as it affects the Reef;
- Has been designed to develop new investment and project opportunities for the Foundation and its ZooX Fund;
- Will leverage existing science initiatives and products generated by the sector including GBRMPA and MTSRF to the maximum extent possible.

Scope

The group is considering (but is not limited to):

- Biological and chemical interventions (e.g. genetic modification of coral species with heightened resilience qualities);
- Physical interventions on the Reef (e.g. storm protection barricades);
- Dynamic Zoning plans;
- Governance & management recommendations (including coastal governance);
- Policy recommendations;
- Initiatives aligned with terrestrial initiatives being undertaken through the Reef Water Quality Protection Plan; and
- Appropriate social and industry interventions or changes.

Progress to date

Over two meetings a list of ideas has been developed evaluated and ranked. Discussion papers have been commissioned from the group to test a range of proposed solutions and adaptations concepts. The Working Group will present a draft Solutions and Adaptations strategy to the Foundation's International Science Advisory Committee at its September meeting. A new project list for investment expected to be available for approval by December.

Working group expertise

• Climate adaptation	• Coral adaptation
• Corporate sustainability	• Coral reef ecology
• Sustainable development	• Engineering
• Indigenous communities	• Conservation planning
• Tourism	• Business
• Natural Resource Management	

Working Group Members

Dr Andrew Ash (CSIRO) - Chair	Mr Allan Dale (Terrain NRM)
Dr Madeleine van Oppen (AIMS)	Ms Margaret Johnson (GBRMPA)
Prof. Jennifer Westacott (KPMG)	Ms Henrietta Marrie (JCU)
Mr Peter Meurs (Worley Parsons)	Mr Daniel Gschwind (Queensland Tourism Industry)
Prof Bob Pressey (JCU)	Mr Leo Akee (Dept. of Education, Training & the Arts)
Mr John Marlay	Mrs Judy Stewart (GBRF)
Prof. Ove Hoegh-Guldberg	Dr Eva Abal (GBRF)
Prof Chris Cocklin (JCU)	