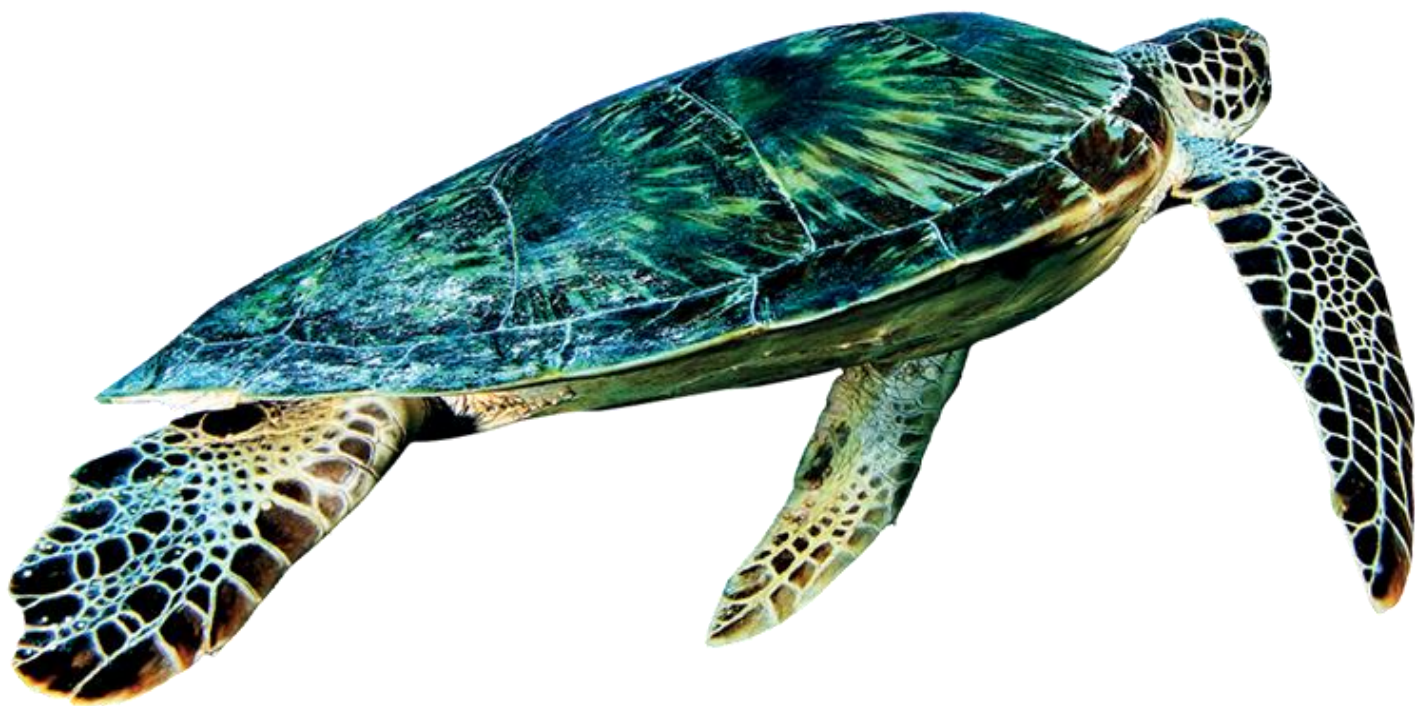


Reef Trust Partnership

Citizen Science for Change Grants

Expression of Interest and Application Guidelines

Issued 20 August 2021



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Acknowledgement of Country

The Great Barrier Reef Foundation extends its deepest respect and recognition to all Traditional Owners of the Great Barrier Reef and Catchment as First Nations Peoples holding the hopes, dreams, traditions and cultures of the Reef.

About the Citizen Science for Change Grants

Climate change is the greatest threat to the Great Barrier Reef (Reef) and reefs around the world, and pose significant challenges for the communities that depend on them. Hand in hand with swift and considerable action to reduce broad-scale climate change emissions, citizen science is one tool for empowering local communities to work with partners to understand Reef health and drive local Reef protection actions.

The goal of this grant round is to: Use citizen science to monitor and build understanding about impacts from climate change and local threats for Reef habitats, wildlife and/or communities, and apply information to enable community-led solutions to build Reef and community resilience.

There are three streams of grants in this round:

- **Major projects** (Minimum funding \$150,000, maximum up to \$350,000) – Collaborative and multi-year strategic projects that deliver substantial on-ground community-led action to build resilience to climate change through protection, mitigation, adaptation, or restoration actions that are informed and measured by citizen science (and other integrated data as beneficial).
- **Innovation projects** (Maximum funding up to \$150,000) – For piloting new ideas and solutions that enable citizen science data applications to deliver on the stated grant round goal. Innovation projects may include innovation in how the work is done to strengthen outcomes (such as existing programs piloting new approaches), as well as technological solutions. Activities could include, but are not limited to, new engagement methods or solutions for data collection, processing, or integration.
- **Enduring Change projects** (Maximum funding up to \$100,000, activity stream only available to citizen science projects funded in 2019) – For building on projects with strong demonstrated outcomes from the initial citizen science grant round to enable high-impact activities aligned with this grant round goal. This stream aims to strengthen organisational capacity to enable enduring project outcomes. We're open to coordinated proposals from multiple organisations.

We're seeking projects that facilitate a full cycle of citizen science and community action. This includes collaborative project design with end data users and communities; targeted data collection activities that address identified needs; thoughtful data synthesis and communication that helps grow understanding and information accessibility (including integration with other data sets as beneficial); using the citizen science data to inform and deliver tangible actions; and celebrating outcomes.

We encourage meaningful project collaborations and genuine engagement with youth as our next generation of Reef champions; and Traditional Owners as custodians and the first scientists leading the way by applying deep and rich local knowledge to protect the Reef for tens of thousands of years.

Potential applicants should read these Guidelines, as well as the Expression of Interest (EOI) or Application Form, before deciding whether to submit an application.

Available Funding

A total of up to \$1.5 million is available through the grants program. Beyond project funding, we're exploring these approaches to support funded projects:

- **Taking steps towards carbon-neutral** – GBRF will explore opportunities with successful applicants to undertake a project emission assessment and contribute to carbon offsets for collective project activities, as reasonable, to enable project activities to offset emissions. Projects will have access to recommendations provided by an accredited climate consultant.
- **Enabling shared approaches** - As part of the application process and through ongoing discussions with funded project partners, we'll be asking for insights on activities that can facilitate greater outcomes. A budget of up to \$300,000 has been set aside to support initiatives (e.g. training, data integration, technology platforms, emissions offsets, bolstering project sustainability) that enable Reef protection outcomes across multiple partners and ideally for the broader sector.

Key dates for Major Projects & Innovation projects

Guidelines available and call for Expressions of Interest (EOI) open	20 August 2021
Call for Expressions of Interest closed	27 September 2021 (12pm AEST)
Successful EOIs contacted and invited to submit an Application	15 October 2021
Call for Applications close	29 October 2021
Applicants are advised of outcomes	November 2021
Projects completed by	May 2024

Key dates for Enduring Change projects

Guidelines available and call for Applications open	20 August 2021
Call for Applications close	27 September 2021 (12pm AEST)
Applicants are advised of outcomes	October 2021
Projects completed by	March 2024

Background

The scale and urgency of action required to forge a better path for the future health of the Reef prompts new approaches for working together to make change happen. Communities are rising to the challenge – wanting to understand more, influence more and do more on-ground actions.

Those who give their time want to see their efforts (data, knowledge, and actions) contribute and inform decisions about Reef management and drive measurable positive change. These grants are designed to take another step towards enabling that aspiration. Beyond information, we need action.

Citizen science projects offer pathways for communities to complement science and management efforts by actively engaging in activities to help monitor, understand, and protect the Reef. Citizen science programs are already contributing a range of benefits. This grant will apply the Australian Citizen Science Association definition of citizen science as ‘public participation in and collaboration in scientific research with the aim to increase scientific knowledge’. We encourage application of the [10 principles of citizen science](#) and application of the [FAIR Guiding Principles](#) for scientific data management and stewardship, and [CARE Principles for Indigenous Data Governance](#) as relevant.

Protecting and improving the health and future trajectory of reefs will require a suite of actions at multiple scales. Swift and significant national and international action to reduce climate change is critical. Hand in hand with large-scale emissions reduction, local actions are important to both reduce pressures on habitats and wildlife, as well as to enable adaptation and restoration actions that help bridge the changes and challenges that we will continue to see. Community-driven mitigation actions can help to deliver measurable change at a local scale and contribute to empowering a broader movement. These local actions also offer a range of social, cultural and economic benefits.

This grant round recognises that community has a valuable role to play in helping to catalyse efforts at various scales in finding solutions for building Reef and community resilience in the face of climate change. It also aims to accelerate the ever-growing momentum, spirit of collaboration and aspirations of community efforts to deliver tangible outcomes for the Reef.

Who can apply?

To be eligible to submit an Application, applicants meet the following requirements:

- be operating in Australia and have an Australian Business Number (ABN)
- confirmation that all actual, perceived or actual conflicts of interest are declared and a management plan is proposed
- hold or be willing to hold the required insurances: Workers Compensation; Public Liability (minimum required: \$20,000,000 per occurrence); Professional Indemnity Insurance (minimum required: \$1,000,000) and Motor Vehicles and Plant and Equipment Insurance (if applicable)
- have developed and implemented comprehensive WHS policies and procedures for the project, or is willing to undergo a WHS risk assessment, take all reasonable steps to manage identified risks, and undergo specific training or qualifications that the Foundation recommends prior to commencing the project
- completes all sections of the application form
- and accepts the terms and conditions of the application and the specified terms in the agreement templates

Applicants may only apply to lead one project.

What can be funded?

Projects must deliver activities to improve the engagement of the broader community in the protection of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area (GBRWA).

A detailed description of the selection criteria is listed under 'How Applications are Assessed'.

In addition to the selection criteria, all projects must comply with any relevant legislation, including the *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cth)* and the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975*. If projects are inside the Marine Park, note that the [Policy on Great Barrier Reef interventions](#) will be a guiding policy when the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority considers applications for activity permissions.

Whilst not exhaustive, the list below provides examples of the categories of activities and expenditures that would be considered eligible or ineligible for funding under the grant program:

Eligible Activities	Ineligible Activities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project Management costs required to deliver the project • Project delivery costs including staff, contractors, consultants, materials and appropriate travel and accommodation • Monitoring and evaluation • Communication and engagement • Data analysis and synthesis • Assets • Administrative costs* required to deliver the project but must not exceed 10% of the funding allocation <p><i>*Administrative costs include but are not limited to, planning, training, insurances and audit costs.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Projects that have commenced prior to funding allocation under this grant program • Project proposals by the applicant with the purpose of distributing funds to other parties who are not contractors to the project and who have not been clearly identified in the grant application • Projects that relates to on-ground activities outside the Reef Catchment as defined by the Queensland Government (see www.reefplan.qld.gov.au) • Activities that are likely to have an adverse environmental impact • Costs incurred in the preparation of a grant application (including this application) or related documentation • Administrative costs that exceed 10% of the funding allocation • Landholder practice change focused on privately owned land with limited broader community engagement.

Other activities or specific expenditure may be ineligible because GBRF determines it does not directly support the achievement of the planned outcomes of the project or they are contrary to the spirit and intention of the grant.

How Applications are assessed

This is a merit-based process with defined funding limits. Applications will be assessed as follows:

Stage one – Eligibility assessment

Each Application will be screened to check that the applicant organisation is eligible to apply. Applications that do not meet the eligibility requirements will not be progressed to Stage two.

Stage two – EOI assessment (for major and innovation project streams)

Eligible EOIs will be preliminarily assessed against the criteria outlined below to identify a short-list of projects to be invited to submit a full proposal. Short-listed EOIs may be asked to explore partnerships with other strongly-aligned projects.

Stage three – Full proposal assessment against criteria (for all project streams)

Eligible applications will be assessed against the assessment criteria.

Eligible applications will be assessed against the following criteria:

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA	WEIGHTING
<p>1. Applicant's capacity to deliver the project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstrated experience, capacity, and capability to deliver the project. Where relevant, responses should reference projects previously funded through RTP and other projects that demonstrate a track-record relevant to the proposed work. 	20%
<p>2. Applicant's proposed project rationale and impact, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The project has a strong rationale that demonstrates alignment with the Reef 2050 Plan and other relevant Reef-wide and regional plans and priorities. The application demonstrates how data collected will <u>monitor and build understanding</u> about impacts from climate change and local threats for Reef habitats, wildlife and/or communities – addressing identified information needs to protect the GBRWHA and associated coastal, estuarine and Reef catchment areas. The project has a <u>clear path to impact</u> for the citizen science data (which may also include historical data sets). There are clear applications for the information to enable community-led solutions to build Reef and community resilience, and a robust approach to measuring outcomes. Major projects must include notable on-ground action to address threat reduction, mitigation, adaptation, or restoration actions (encouraged in other grant project streams). The project offers enduring outcomes and impact beyond this grant funding, with opportunities to be scaled, replicated, and/or empower future work. 	40%
<p>3. Strength of project engagement and partnership design:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The project demonstrates strong collaborative project design and delivery with end data users, project partners and relevant communities, including with Traditional Owners (identify if the project is part of a Community Action Plan). Project partners have clear roles and unique strengths to enhance the project outcomes. The project has a well-defined strategy for meaningfully engaging and/or building leadership of the wider community (ideally including youth) in project activities to improve the engagement of the broader community in the protection of the GBRWHA. The project has a clear strategy for sharing the project outcomes and learnings, and celebrating community Reef protection contribution and partnerships. 	30%
<p>4. Project value for money:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposed costs/costing methodology for delivering the project demonstrate value for investment, including co-contributions*. The project demonstrates complementarity or synergies with other existing initiatives. 	10%

Co-contributions

GBRF encourages projects that demonstrates value for money through the integration of other co-funding or co-investment opportunities, including quantifiable in-kind and cash contributions.

Co-contribution is an investment that is cash or a contractually recognised in-kind services/expenses such as; staff salary, volunteer time, specialist advisory contributions, reduced costs for vessel time, administration costs (electricity, water, gas etc), building costs (meeting rooms, office, labs) and equipment.

In-kind support can include:

- volunteer time (can be valued at \$41.72/hour as per Australian Bureau of Statistics figures, or a value indicated by applicant based on activities)
- partner support
- external support

Applications will be rated by an Assessment Panel against the criteria. All criteria are mandatory and an Application that does not meet the minimum standard for any of the criteria will not progress to the next stage of the assessment process. GBRF shall be the final decision-maker on any Application and it is a condition that the applicant accepts GBRF's decision as final.

Notification of applicants

Applicants will be informed in writing whether their Application was successful or not.

GBRF will keep confidential all confidential information of the applicant which is obtained as part of the grant Application process. However, GBRF may disclose confidential information to its personnel, contractors or advisors for the purposes of administering this grant program; or as required by law; or where GBRF is required to comply with any provision of Reef Trust Partnership Agreement in respect of confidential information.

GBRF may share Applications with relevant Queensland or Federal Government agencies if there is the potential for an otherwise unsuccessful Application to be funded directly by Government. Applicants should **advise if they do not wish** their Application to be shared in this way.

Developing an Expression of Interest

Expressions of Interest open on 20 August 2021 and close on 12pm AEST, 27 September 2021.

Applicants are required to complete an application form and submit supporting documentation online at <https://www.tenders.net/dtp/barrierreef/> by the closing date.

Applicant Checklist

Applicants should take into consideration the guidance and rules provided in these Guidelines, and the Application Form.

Applicants are to ensure they:

- have read and understood the guidelines
- have read, understood, and accept the terms and conditions outlined within the guidelines and under the proposed agreement template
- complete the application form in its entirety
- provide current and accurate information
- only provide attachments that are directly relevant, are concise and clearly labelled
- submit the completed application through Tenders.net, including uploading all supporting documentation necessary for assessment
- provide confirmation that all actual, perceived or potential conflicts of interest relating to the project have been declared
- have not contained information that is false or misleading (applications considered to contain false or misleading information may be excluded from further assessment).

Incomplete or late applications

Late applications will not be accepted. Unless requested by GBRF, no additional written or verbal explanation, or further documentation, will be accepted after the closing date.

Applications that are incomplete; do not include the requested documentation, or do not address the assessment criteria may be deemed ineligible. GBRF will decide whether to accept an amendment or additional information on a case-by-case basis.

Further information

Applicants may consult with the GBRF Grants Office while preparing Applications to ensure their proposal meets basic requirements. Grants Office staff will not be able to provide feedback on draft Applications.

Answers to questions asked during the Application period will be provided as 'Frequently Asked Questions' or Addendums to the Guidelines for the benefit of all potential applicants and will be distributed via GBRF.

Questions can be emailed to the Great Barrier Reef Foundation (GBRF) Grants Office at grants@barrierreef.org

Disclaimer

This publication has been prepared as a guide only and all reasonable steps have been taken to ensure the information contained in this publication is accurate at the time of publication.



About the Partnership and the Community Reef Protection Component

The partnership between the Australian Government and the Great Barrier Reef Foundation (GBRF) is centred on a landmark investment of \$443.3 million to build the resilience of the Great Barrier Reef. Commencing in July 2018 and running over six years, this investment will support the delivery of the Reef Trust Partnership (the Partnership).

The Community Reef Protection Component is a \$10 million dollar investment through the Partnership which aims to improve the engagement of the broader community in the protection of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area. The Partnership defines community broadly as Traditional Owners and GBR stakeholders including, but not limited to, NGO's, businesses, the scientific community and conservation groups.

The actions delivered through this Component seek to turbo-charge the positive impact that local action has for the Great Barrier Reef and for communities. It is intended to build-on and celebrate work already underway through committed groups and individuals across the Reef and catchments. Yet, it also acknowledges that to meet the scale and urgency of the challenges we face, more must be done and we must find new ways to work together to make change happen. As such, a key focus of the Component is on piloting and learnings from different models and tools for enabling community Reef protection work.

Projects will support and enhance community capacity to deliver targeted on-ground actions that reduce Reef threats or increase Reef resilience. This will be achieved by making it easier for people to get involved and stay involved in conservation of the Reef (irrespective of where they live); improving sharing, connection and collaboration between individuals, community groups and Reef management; and providing hope that inspires greater action by demonstrating that the collective efforts of many can and will make a difference.

The [Partnership Monitoring and Evaluation Plan](#) identifies the end of partnership outcomes sought from the Community Reef Protection Component. These are:

- Dynamic suite of tools for enduring funding and partnerships for community action are available.
- Community action is recognised, valued and celebrated
- Community action is delivering effective outcomes for the Reef and community (including other RTP component outcomes)
- Shared knowledge and decision making enhances governance and delivery models

The Foundation released an [Investment Strategy](#) for the Partnership in its first year, and each year we share an [Annual Work Plan](#) which provides a detailed schedule of work for the year ahead, as a subset of our overarching five-year plan.