



# Reef Trust Partnership

*Traditional Owner Integrated  
Monitoring and Reporting  
Pilot Project*

*Strong Peoples-Strong Country  
Framework*

## Expression of Interest (EOI) Guidelines

Issued 21 September 2021

## *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.*

Artwork by Keisha Leon, Leon Design



### **Integrated Monitoring and Reporting**

This symbol looks at the importance of sharing and storing knowledge for future generations. The symbol has two representations; the first being the literal idea of keeping track of life within the Reef (the cycle of life); the section being knowledge from past, present and future working together to care for the Reef. The dots represent the importance of the cycle



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Great Barrier  
Reef Foundation

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## Queries

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

Applicants must not initiate direct contact with any other Great Barrier Reef Foundation personnel regarding the Grant during the application or assessment phase. All enquiries about the application process must be via the GBRF Grants Office.

Answers to questions asked during the application period will be provided as 'Frequently Asked Questions' and posted on the Great Barrier Reef Foundation website.

## 1. About the Great Barrier Reef Foundation

The Great Barrier Reef Foundation (GBRF) is the lead charity dedicated to protecting the Great Barrier Reef (the Reef) by funding science, technology, engineering solutions, and on-ground action to ensure its long-term conservation.

The partnership between the Australian Government and 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 delivery of the Reef Trust Partnership (the Partnership).

The Partnership includes an investment of \$51.8 million to improve Traditional Owner engagement in the management of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area. The partnership allocates funding to five distinct work areas:

- Healthy Water (Water Quality) (\$20M)
- Crown-of-Thorns Starfish control (\$5.8M)
- Reef Restoration and Adaptation Science (\$10M)
- Integrated Monitoring and Reporting (\$4M)
- Traditional Owner Futures Fund (\$10M).

See the Foundations website ([Great Barrier Reef Foundation](#)) for more information.

## 2. About the Partnership and Traditional Owner Component

This investment of \$443.3 million is the largest single government investment in protecting the Reef and its Outstanding Universal Value and importantly has secured Australia's largest Traditional Owner Reef Protection Program with \$51.8m of investment dedicated over the life of the Agreement. This investment acts to catalyse and accelerate important activities that Traditional Owners have planned to look after Country, maintain cultural practice and build strong foundations for the future.

The funding under the Traditional Owner Reef Protection Component will be allocated to a broad range of on-ground actions across the Reef Trust Partnership. You can read more about the Traditional Owner Reef Protection Component in the [Annual Work Plan 2021-2022](#).

### 3. About this Expression of Interest

These guidelines are designed to provide potential Traditional Owner groups/communities with the information needed to make an informed decision about whether to apply to pilot the *Strong Peoples – Strong Country Framework* in their community.

Potential applicants should read these Guidelines and documentation listed under the complete package in their entirety before deciding whether to apply.

The complete package comprises:

- Guidelines
- Application Form
- Proposed Agreement Template (including terms and conditions of the funding)
- Draft Position Description for the Community Research Assistant

### Objectives & Purpose

This call for expressions of interest (EOI) is to invite, via an open and transparent process, applications from Great Barrier Reef and Catchment Traditional Owner groups who would like to participate in the Integrated Monitoring and Reporting Pilot Project within their community, by testing the *Strong Peoples – Strong Country Framework*.

This grant opportunity is looking to invest in Traditional Owner groups who are monitoring or wish to monitor the health of their country to understand the condition and trend of their culture and heritage values and to better inform adaptive management decision-making by testing the *Strong Peoples – Strong Country Framework* through a pilot project.

We know all Traditional Owners have been monitoring their land and sea Country for millennia. This project aims to align with Traditional Owner priorities, and value-add to existing data collection work to allow you as Reef Traditional Owners to tell and share your story, in the way you want, to whom you want – through a data sharing negotiation process (see [Proposed Commitments](#) in this document for more details).

### Expected Outcomes

Groups assessed and selected as eligible communities in this pilot project will be supported to identify and employ a part-time Community Research Assistant, collect data, and establish data management, sharing and reporting systems to report on the condition and trends of Traditional Owner heritage in their region, and to tell the story that's important to them.

### Available Funding

The Foundation has secured dedicated funding under the Reef Trust Partnership for Traditional Owner Integrated Monitoring and Reporting. This grant opportunity commits up to \$2.1 million dollars across three financial years 2021-24.

Investment will target between 4 to 6 Traditional Owner communities to pilot the *Strong Peoples – Strong Country Framework* as part of monitoring Indigenous heritage values of the Great Barrier Reef and Catchment areas.

Depending on needs and resourcing, successful applicants may negotiate up to a value of \$120,000 per year, each year from commencement to participate in this pilot project. All pilot projects must conclude by May 2024.

Table 1. Available funding.

Program	Available funding
Reef Trust Partnership Traditional Owner Integrated Monitoring and Reporting Component	Up to \$120,000 per annum over 3 financial years, but not exceeding May 2024.

## Co-contributions

The Great Barrier Reef Foundation encourages projects that demonstrate value for money through the integration of other co-funding or co-investment opportunities, including quantifiable in-kind and cash contributions.

## Administration Costs

Projects funded under this opportunity must not have administration costs that exceed 10% of the funding allocation. Further guidance on administrative cost activities is detailed within the Eligibility criteria of these guidelines.

## Key Dates

Table 2. Key dates.

<b>Call for Expressions of Interest open</b>	<b>Wednesday 22 September 2021</b>
Information session (by webinar)	Wednesday 13 October 2021 at 11:00 am
<b>Call for Expressions of Interest close</b>	<b>11:59pm (AEST) Monday 1 November 2021</b>
Assessment against criteria and applicants advised of shortlisted EOI's	By Friday 3 December 2021
Due diligence checks and contract negotiation for successful applicants undertaken	By Friday 17 December 2021
Successful applications notified, pending contract negotiations	By Tuesday 21 December 2021
Successful applications contracts distributed for review, pending contract negotiations	By Monday 18 February 2022
Estimated time for contracted applicants to commence on-ground works, pending contract negotiations	From Thursday 31 March 2022

## Information Session

During the application period, an online information session will be held via a webinar to provide an overview of the process, documents, and expectations as well as to answer questions from potential applicants. We have also defined key terms used in these Guidelines in the glossary at Appendix A.

Attendance is recommended but not mandatory. The information session will be recorded and will be accessible shortly after the event via the Foundations website ([Great Barrier Reef Foundation](#)). The details of the information session are:

Table 3. Information session.

Time	Commencing 11:00 AM AEST
Date	13 October 2021, 11:00 AM AEST
Format	Webinar
Register	<a href="https://barrierreef.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_t4cZMNNISFK7IQ9tP5q0-Q">https://barrierreef.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_t4cZMNNISFK7IQ9tP5q0-Q</a>

Questions can be emailed to [grants@barrierreef.org](mailto:grants@barrierreef.org). Questions emailed by Monday 11 October 2021 will be addressed during the information session where possible.

In addition, information on the Traditional Owner Integrated Monitoring and Reporting Component and the *Strong Peoples – Strong Country Framework* and pilot project can also be found on the Foundations website ([Great Barrier Reef Foundation](http://GreatBarrierReefFoundation.org.au)). Information and answers to questions asked in the Information Session will be added to this page.

#### 4. About the Pilot of the *Strong Peoples – Strong Country Framework*

A total investment of \$4 million is dedicated towards the Reef Trust Partnership Traditional Owner Integrated Monitoring and Reporting Component. This grant opportunity offers a total investment of up to \$2.1 million over two years and three months in support of Traditional Owner communities interested to pilot (test) the implementation of the *Strong Peoples – Strong Country Framework*. Refer to the [Strong Peoples – Strong Country Indigenous Heritage Monitoring Framework \(gbrmpa.gov.au\)](http://StrongPeoples-StrongCountryIndigenousHeritageMonitoringFramework.gov.au).

Traditional Owners of the Great Barrier Reef, together with staff from the Foundation have established an Integrated Monitoring and Reporting Codesign Working Group. CSIRO is engaged within this governance arrangement to provide research support.

The Working Group have co-designed important program features developed to support successful on ground implementation of Traditional Owner-led monitoring and reporting under the Reef Trust Partnership and Reef 2050 Plan using the *Strong Peoples – Strong Country Framework*. This co-design approach has informed development of these Guidelines and Application Form.

The Traditional Owner approach designed to test the *Strong Peoples – Strong Country Framework* aims to create a sustainable and enduring integrated monitoring program for current and future generations to show holistically how their health and well-being is linked to that of their land and sea Country.

Groups selected to pilot the *Strong Peoples – Strong Country Framework* will be supported to identify and employ a part-time Community Research Assistant, collect data, and establish data management, sharing and reporting systems to report on the condition and trends of their heritage values, and tell the story that's important to them. Traditional Owners will be seen, heard, and valued for their unique contributions and understandings of their Country and their communities. Through becoming a *Strong Peoples – Strong Country* pilot community, Traditional Owners will also have the opportunity to benefit from innovations, learning new skills, leading new industries and creating jobs for and within their communities.



## What are the expected benefits for my community to take part in the *Strong Peoples – Strong Country* pilot project?

The below six areas summarise the types of benefits that are possible for communities who become a *Strong Peoples – Strong Country* pilot community.

<b>1. Access to Traditional Knowledge and Community Decision Making</b>  RECOGNISE, PROTECT, RESPECT, CONTROL	Traditional Owners will be able to come together to make joint decisions about monitoring important heritage values, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• how traditional knowledge is used to make decisions</li> <li>• which information to collect, how it's collected and who collects it</li> <li>• what information is shared with young people, other Traditional Owner groups and outside agencies</li> </ul>
<b>2. Support for Managing Data &amp; Information</b>  SKILLS, TRAINING, SYSTEM UPDATES	High-quality, expert training and support will be provided on new ways to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• enter, store and protect information</li> <li>• control and examine (analyse) information</li> <li>• share and report on information</li> </ul> The training and support will respect and include cultural protocols.
<b>3. Community-Based Research</b>  INCREASING ABILITY TO DO OWN TRACKING (MONITORING)	Training and employment of a community member to be a Community Research Assistant based in their community to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• coordinate and provide technical support for local data collectors</li> <li>• collect <i>Strong Peoples-Strong Country</i> survey data</li> <li>• manage community databases</li> <li>• work with the <i>Strong Peoples-Strong Country</i> pilot project Coordinator and Data Management Service Provider to identify ongoing training needs, connect into existing monitoring resources (data collectors) and identify any additional funding and other support needs</li> </ul>
<b>4. Legal Advice</b>  DATA OWNERSHIP, RECOGNISING VALUE OF TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE	Professional legal services will help with a final independent review of material that will assist communities to negotiate agreements that aim to share and protect information and data knowledge and support Indigenous Intellectual and Cultural Property (ICIP) protocols. They will make sure it's: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Free – given voluntarily without force, intimidation, or manipulation</li> <li>• Prior – consent requested well in advance of being needed</li> <li>• Informed – understanding what the information will be used for</li> <li>• Consent – decided through community decision-making processes</li> </ul>
<b>5. Genuine Partnerships</b>  RESPECT, UNDERSTANDING, EQUITY	The Foundation will work in respectful and genuine partnership with Traditional Owner communities.  The Foundation, through its codesign process, is supporting benefits from shared values, shared knowledge, and equal decision-making.  New opportunities will help build mutual respect and trust.
<b>6. Leadership in Monitoring and Reporting</b>  EMPOWERMENT and FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES	Traditional Owners will have opportunities to work with experts to gain skills in cutting edge digital technologies. This will include traditional knowledge and intellectual property (ownership of information).  Traditional Owners will take control of tracking (monitoring) and reporting their own information at local and community levels, regional, national, and international levels.  Traditional Owners will be positioned to negotiate data and information sharing agreements.

## Proposed Commitments

Traditional Owner communities successful under this pilot project opportunity will commit to:

<b>Sound project management</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Competent implementation of a <i>Strong Peoples – Strong Country</i> pilot project for the duration of the life of the project.</li> <li>• Management of key project deliverables within agreed timeframes.</li> <li>• Completion of all stipulated reporting requirements within agreed timeframes and acquitting your expenditure.</li> <li>• Agree to participate in discussions about lessons learned from implementing a <i>Strong Peoples – Strong Country</i> pilot project in your community. These learnings will contribute to the long-term goal of the Reef Trust Partnership Traditional Owner Integrated Monitoring and Reporting program, that is to continue monitoring in Traditional Owner pilot communities for long-term monitoring and reporting under the Reef 2050 Plan, and to expand the program into other Traditional Owner communities across the Great Barrier Reef Region (subject to ongoing funding).</li> </ul>
<b>A data sharing agreement (as negotiated)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Undertake a supported data and information negotiation and agreement process that aims to share agreed monitoring data and information for mutual benefit with the view to inform adaptive management and decision making under the Reef 2050 plan through the Reef Integrated Monitoring and Reporting Program (RIMReP).</li> <li>• Understand that knowledge, information and data sharing will only occur through negotiation and development of a data sharing agreement and any other shared agreement necessary, and, in accordance with your cultural protocols and governance structure/s. Refer to <a href="#">how will your important information be safeguarded and shared</a>.</li> </ul>
<b>Working openly and transparently with the Foundation and service providers</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Being open and willing to foster partnerships and relationships with the Foundation and other relevant Reef 2050 partners.</li> <li>• Commit to work with the Foundation and <i>Strong Peoples – Strong Country</i> Coordinator and Data Management Service Provider to co-design the pilot process for and with your broader community.</li> <li>• Agree to work closely with the <i>Strong Peoples – Strong Country</i> Coordinator and Data Management Service Provider to establish and meet key reporting and feedback requirements with the contracting body (i.e., the Foundation), to achieve project goals.</li> <li>• Dedicated to collaboration and co-design with the Foundation, through the Traditional Owner Integrated Monitoring and Reporting Codesign Working Group and other partners.</li> </ul>
<b>Strengthening and increasing community capabilities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Employ a part time Community Research Assistant, to work on the project for its lifetime (2021 – 2024), and to work closely with the Foundation through the <i>Strong Peoples – Strong Country</i> Coordinator and Data Management Service Provider.</li> </ul>

- Being willing and open to discussing and implementing a *Strong Peoples – Strong Country* pilot project through community governance, protocols and decision making in alignment with your community’s cultural values, goals and aspirations.

## Proposed Governance

Work on this project has very strong Indigenous leadership, which elevates Traditional Owner perspectives and lived experiences.

To embody the spirit of co-design, project research is led by two Great Barrier Reef Traditional Owners’ as Co-Chief Investigators. One acting as the Chair to the Integrated Monitoring and Reporting Codesign Working Group and the other in the capacity of a Foundation staff member.

The Co-Chief Investigators are supported by the identified project team, as outlined in Appendix B. The project team also includes a provision of professional services from the CSIRO as research support, along with data management and coordination services (to be appointed) and in-situ Community Research Assistants (to be appointed – refer to Appendix C). The relationship between key roles and participating organisations can be found at Appendix D.

## Duration and Timeframes

The *Strong Peoples – Strong Country* pilot community project is anticipated to run from 2021 – 2024.

Individual projects and/or activities under the program must be completed by 30 May 2024 and acquitted within 30 days.

\*Variations are reviewed by GBRF on a case-by-case basis and must be requested prior to the program end date.

## Monitoring and Evaluation

Successful grant recipients will be required to collect and report project data and information generally consistent with The Partnership Monitoring and Evaluation Plan.

Progress reporting for successful projects will be six monthly and final project report and financial acquittal using templates provided will be required to be submitted within 30 days of the project end date.

For the purposes of preparing an EOI for this grant round, applicants should consider the minimum monitoring and reporting obligations and ensure these are captured within the costings.

## How will your important information be safeguarded and shared?

The Foundation and the Integrated Monitoring and Reporting Codesign Working Group understand how important it is that Traditional Owners’ knowledge and data are **properly valued and safeguarded** in line with cultural protocols. Work in the *Strong Peoples – Strong Country* pilot communities will be based on existing ethical standards of practice, including **Free, Prior and Informed Consent** and the recognition and protection of Traditional Owners’ Intellectual Property, as recognised under the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) [United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples | United Nations For Indigenous Peoples](#), and in line with any Indigenous Intellectual and Cultural Property (ICIP) rights and responsibilities.

The project has attained research ethics approval from the AIATSIS (Australian Institute for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies) Research Ethics Committee [HREC Reference number: E0237-20210114]. Additionally, as the research support partners to the *Strong Peoples – Strong Country* pilot project, CSIRO will also adhere to research ethics by attaining a reciprocal research ethics clearance from the CSIRO Social and Interdisciplinary Science Human Research Ethics Committee.

Traditional Owner *Strong Peoples – Strong Country* pilot communities will be able to control what information they want to share with the Reef 2050 Partners and negotiate certain benefits in return. All of this will be set out in a legal data sharing agreement between the participating Traditional Owner community through chosen governance arrangements and Reef 2050 Partners, including the Foundation.

Traditional Owner *Strong Peoples – Strong Country* pilot communities will be supported to negotiate data sharing agreements, including through professional legal review of documents by external independent experts separate to the Foundation to ensure their Intellectual Property is protected, and where it is clear, which data is to be shared, how it will be shared, with whom it will be shared, and which data will not be shared.

The Foundation will not ask for, or expect to be given, information that does not form part of the agreement, even when it is collected and managed under the *Strong Peoples – Strong Country* pilot project. Traditional Owner pilot communities will be free to enter into other agreements to share data and obtain other benefits with other partners should they wish to do so.

The negotiation of data sharing agreements to ensure Traditional Owner ownership and control of their knowledge in the pilot project will follow a six-step process in Figure 1 below. Further details on each step can be found in Appendix E.

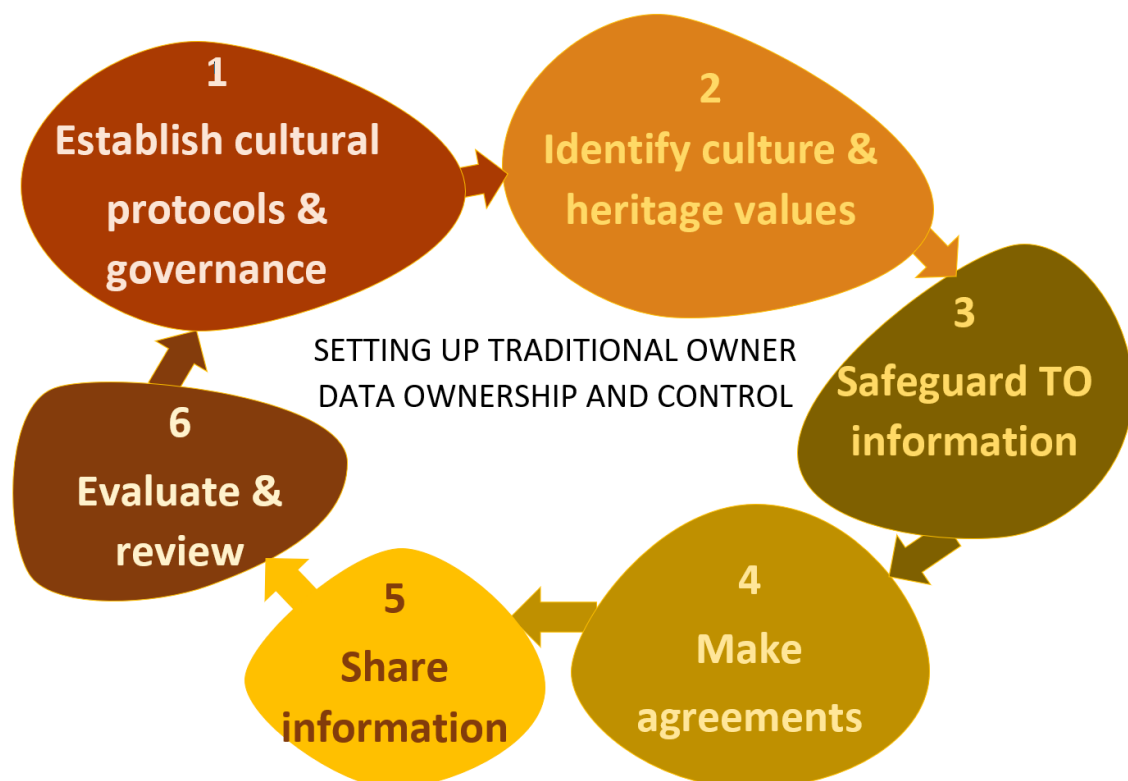


Figure 1. The six steps of data sharing agreement negotiation and practice to ensure the Traditional Owners retain control and ownership of their data and knowledge.

## 5. Eligibility criteria

### Who can apply?

Eligibility criteria for communities piloting the *Strong Peoples – Strong Country Framework*:

- Traditional Owner groups that hold cultural responsibility for land and sea within the Great Barrier Reef and/or Catchment areas.
- Traditional Owner groups that are able to nominate what governance structure they would like to use to engage with the project, for example, Elders Council, Prescribed Body Corporate, Land Council, Traditional Owner Group, Land Trust, Cultural Heritage Body, or other arrangement.
- Traditional Owner groups that are able to provide endorsement of the application through their local governance structures and arrangements that represent the cultural authority for the project.

**To be eligible** Traditional Owner groups that apply to be a pilot community must meet **all of** the following criteria:

1. Applicants who apply for this must be a Traditional Owner legal entity, **or**  
Traditional Owner groups without legal entities at the closing date for applications must be represented or sponsored by a legal entity who may apply on their behalf (this includes but is not restricted to a peak body or regional natural resource management organisation). The legal entity will be legally responsible for meeting the contractual obligations of the agreement with the Foundation. Traditional Owner groups can nominate what type of entity they would like to use to engage with the project for instance:
  - a. an incorporated association
  - b. a body corporate
  - c. a company
  - d. a cooperative society
  - e. an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander corporation or incorporated association, or
  - f. a trust duly constituted.
2. Be a Traditional Owner group of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area and/or Reef catchment, see map in Appendix F, who are willing and able to undertake a pilot project.
3. Be operating in Australia and have an Australian Business Number (ABN).
4. Accept the terms and conditions of the application and the specified terms in the agreement templates.
5. Confirm that that all actual, perceived or actual conflicts of interest are declared, and a management plan is proposed.
6. Completes all sections of the application form.
7. 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: \$5,000,000) and Motor Vehicles and Plant and Equipment Insurance (if applicable).

*PBCs or Aboriginal Corporations that represent more than one Traditional Owner group may apply for selection as a pilot community, but that does not exclude an individual Traditional Owner group applying separately.*

## Who is not eligible?

The following entities are not eligible to apply to host or sponsor a *Strong Peoples – Strong Country* pilot project:

- Any entity which cannot demonstrate Traditional Owner connection to the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area and/or Reef Catchment area.
- Individuals.
- Organisations that have at the application closing date, any overdue final reports or acquittals for other grant programs administered by the Great Barrier Reef Foundation.

*\*This is not an exhaustive list of ineligible applicants; it is at the discretion of GBRF to evaluate on a case-by-case basis against the eligibility criteria.*

## What activities and expenses can be funded?

Only projects that clearly meet the objectives and outcomes of this EOI will be eligible for funding under the grant program.

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

Eligible Activities	Eligible Expenditure
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Employment of a part-time Community Research Assistant, who will have opportunities for training, with a view to accreditation, see Section 4 for further information on this role.</li><li>• Establish, develop and/or upgrading of data and information management systems for the purpose of delivering on this project.</li><li>• Payments for governance arrangements required to oversee this project, where these are not funded by another program or project.</li><li>• Training for the Community Research Assistant and other relevant community members to undertake activities directly applicable to the project.</li><li>• Negotiation of data sharing agreements supported by experts in the management of natural and cultural information management who will work with each community to support negotiations and agreement making in accordance with steps outlined in Section 4.</li><li>• Access to an independent legal advisor. This is a capped service to be negotiated and is directly funded by the Foundation.</li><li>• Be supported by <i>Strong Peoples – Strong Country</i> Coordinator and Data Management Service Provider and relevant Foundation staff. This service is directly funded by the Foundation</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Administrative costs* required to deliver the project but must not exceed 10% of the funding allocation.</li><li>• Salary and on-costs for a part-time Community Research Assistant directly employed for the project activities.</li><li>• Costs of establishing or updating data and information management systems directly related to this project.</li><li>• Costs relevant to training for the Community Research Assistant and other relevant community members directly related to this project.</li><li>• Contractor costs as detailed below will be directly funded by the Foundation:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ <i>Strong People – Strong Country</i> Coordinator and Data Management Service Provider</li><li>○ Independent legal advisor for the purpose of supporting Indigenous Cultural Intellectual Property**</li></ul></li></ul> <p><i>*Administrative costs include but are not limited to, planning, training, insurances and audit costs.</i></p> <p><i>**This is a capped service to be negotiated and is directly funded by the Foundation.</i></p>

*\*\*\*If your application is successful, we will negotiate a contract with specified budget according to your data monitoring needs.*



## What are ineligible activities and expenses?

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

Ineligible Activities	Ineligible Expenditure
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Projects that have commenced prior to funding allocation under this grant program</li><li>• Monitoring and governance activities that are already funded by another grant program or funding provider</li><li>• 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</li><li>• Projects that relate to on-ground activities <i>outside</i> the Reef Catchment as defined by the Queensland Government (see <a href="http://www.reefplan.qld.gov.au">www.reefplan.qld.gov.au</a>)</li><li>• Projects that relate to on-ground and in-water activities <i>outside</i> the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area as defined by the Australian Government (see <a href="#">Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area</a>)</li><li>• Activities that are likely to have an adverse environmental impact</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Establishing and/or maintaining an Indigenous land and sea ranger program in your community.</li><li>• Establishing and/or maintaining an Indigenous green corps crew in your community.</li><li>• Community governance arrangements within your community / group that are already funded by another project, program or funding arrangement.</li><li>• Activities, equipment or supplies which are already being supported through other sources.</li><li>• Costs incurred prior to the date of your letter of offer.</li><li>• Non-project related staff training and development costs.</li><li>• Building and construction expenses.</li><li>• Purchase of land.</li><li>• Maintenance costs.</li><li>• Insurance costs other than those outlined in eligible expenditure.</li><li>• Depreciation of equipment.</li><li>• Costs incurred in the preparation of a grant application (including this application) or related documentation</li><li>• Administrative costs that exceed 10% of the funding allocation</li></ul>

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.

## 6. How applications are assessed

This EOI is a merit-based, competitive process with defined funding limits. EOIs will be assessed through the following stages.

### Stage one – Eligibility Assessment

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

### Stage two – Assessment Against Criteria

An independent assessment panel will assess the Reef Trust Partnership Traditional Owner Integrated Monitoring and Reporting *Strong Peoples – Strong Country* pilot project applications.

The assessment panel consists of at least one Foundation staff member, an independent Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person and a key partnership member. All panel members will demonstrate sound knowledge and understanding of management and monitoring of Aboriginal and / or Torres Strait Islander values within the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Region.

The Foundation's Traditional Owner members to the Integration Monitoring and Reporting Codesign Working Group will not participate in the selection or assessment process.

All independent panel members will:

- declare any conflicts of interests and have management plans in place
- base their scoring and decisions on the criteria provided in Section 6 of this Guideline, the information submitted in the application form and the supporting documentation provided by applicants.

Eligible applications will be assessed against the following criteria:

Criteria	Description of Criteria	Weighting	
Capability and experience	<b>Data:</b> The applicant has experience in monitoring programs/ projects at community and/ or a regional level. They are able to demonstrate an understanding of data indicators or monitoring priorities for their country. The applicant has demonstrated resources/ capacity for primary data collection/ processing/ sharing, with demonstrated experience in data management including the use of spatial data systems, databases and project management systems	10%	30%
	<b>Project Management:</b> The applicant has proven project management experience, and experience in monitoring, evaluation and reporting skills. The applicant has demonstrated experience in the management and delivery of projects that meet intended objectives, including monitoring, evaluation and reporting.	10%	
	<b>Partnership Approach:</b> The applicant has experience working in a partnership approach with relevant organisations and has demonstrated their involvement with existing networks in the region. The applicant has worked collaboratively with managers, government or researchers on projects with positive outcomes. The applicant has demonstrated sound communications skills	10%	
Infrastructure for CRA recruitment and support	The applicant is aware that the recruitment and employment of a community research assistant is part of the contracted outcome of the project, and they have provided a description of the infrastructure and/or support that could be available for that position during the term of the project.	20%	
Planning and Governance	Existence of a country-based plan or similar (e.g. management plan, IPA, TUMRA, ILUA etc) that outlines the community's values and aspirations for country. The existence of governance (decision making) systems already established by the Traditional Owner group (eg Native Title Representative Body, Prescribed Body Corporate Board, Indigenous Land Use Agreements, Aboriginal Corporation Board, Elders Council, Steering Committees ie Traditional Use of Marine Resources Agreements, Indigenous Protected Areas)	20%	
Traditional Owner Community Support	The applicant has been able to demonstrate support and awareness of the project by the community by supplying letters of support/ endorsement from community elders or leaders through recognised or accepted cultural authority/ governance arrangements	20%	
Ability to undertake Data Sharing	The applicant has agreed to negotiate a level of data sharing that is culturally appropriate for their Traditional Owner group	10%	



### Requests for further information

\*Where applicants are requested to submit further details, they will be advised what information is needed and what assessment criteria it relates to.

### Stage four – Notification of applicants

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

Successful communities will be publicly announced and may be published on the Foundation's website. Published details may include:

- name of the successful applicant organisation / sponsoring organisation
- Traditional Owner group name
- location of the successful applicant / Traditional Owner group
- project
- amount of funding awarded.

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.

## 7. How to apply

Expressions of Interest open on **22 September 2021** and close on **11:59pm (AEST) Monday 1 November 2021**.

Applicants are required to complete an application form and submit supporting documentation to [applications@barrierreef.org](mailto:applications@barrierreef.org) 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 by email to [applications@barrierreef.org](mailto:applications@barrierreef.org), 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.

## 8. 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](mailto: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.

## Appendix A: Glossary of Terms

### Great Barrier Reef and Catchment:

Describes the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area and its land/terrestrial based Catchment areas. The map in Appendix F, provides a better understanding of the various jurisdictions and boundary areas.

### Monitoring:

Is a core part of the Reef 2050 Integrated Monitoring and Reporting Program (RIMReP).

### Outstanding Universal Value:

Are the values that the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area are recognised for its international significance under the World Heritage Convention.

### Reporting:

Traditional Owner Pilot Communities are required through their commitment and agreement to the contractual arrangements to report back to the funder, the Great Barrier Reef Foundation. This is to ensure lessons are learnt and shared and for reasons outlined in the agreed contract.

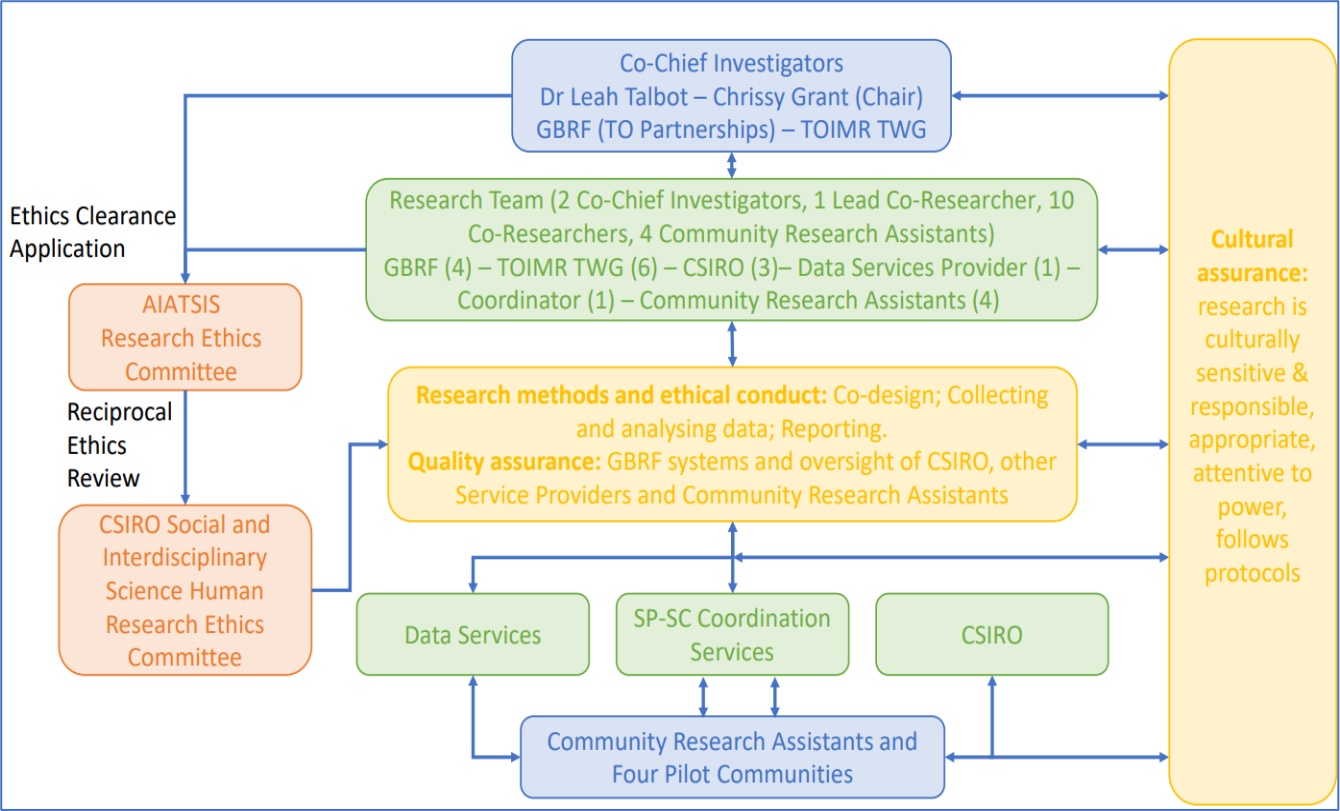
### *Strong Peoples-Strong Country Framework:*

Is a Traditional Owner monitoring and well-being framework, that helps us to understand the condition, health and trends of Country and People, by collecting data under six high level areas: People's Health, Country Health, Empowerment and Economics, Culture and Community, Heritage and Knowledge and Education.

### World Heritage Property:

The principal Acts relevant to the World Heritage Area are the National Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act) which puts into law Australia's obligations under the World Heritage Convention, the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975* and the *Marine Parks Act 2004* (Queensland). The main object of the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975* is: *To provide for the long-term protection and conservation of the environment, biodiversity and heritage values of the Great Barrier Reef Region.*

# Appendix B: Strong Peoples-Strong Country Framework – Project Team Governance Outline



## Appendix C: Role of the Community Research Assistant

Each pilot community participating in this project will identify and employ a Community Research Assistant. This role is essential to implementation of the pilot project in their community. A roles and responsibilities statement for the Community Research Assistant position will be provided by the Foundation as a guide to be further developed with the successful Traditional Owner groups selected to pilot the *Strong Peoples – Strong Country Framework*.

The Community Research Assistant is expected to have an effective working relationship with and be supported by the *Strong Peoples – Strong Country* Coordinator and Data Management Service Provider. The Community Research Assistant will be directly employed by the Pilot Organisation representing the Traditional Owner *Strong Peoples – Strong Country* pilot community, see diagram in Appendix D. Community Research Assistants will receive training through the *Strong Peoples – Strong Country* Coordinator and Data Service Provider and will benefit from having effective working relationships within their community.

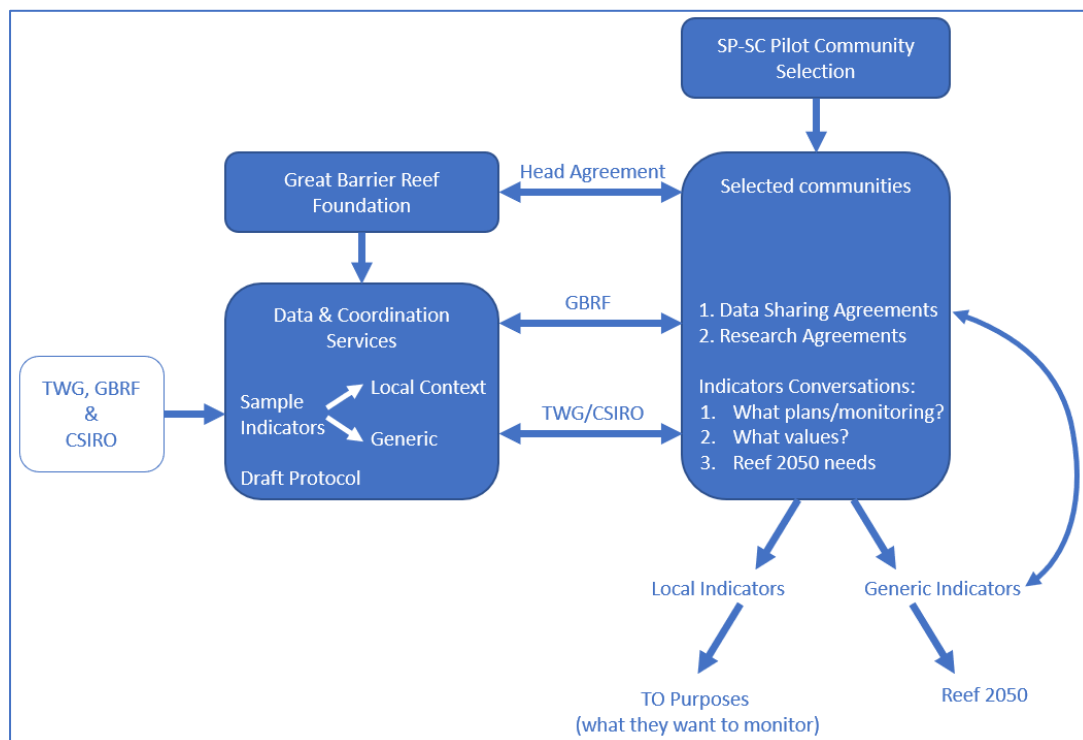
The Community Research Assistant will be paid in accordance with the Research Assistant classification of the Market and Social Research Award (\$27.25 per hour, part-time) to support and progress the Traditional Owner *Strong Peoples – Strong Country* pilot in your community.

Areas of support they will provide include:

- Technical support: data collection techniques, data entering, management and analysis
- Logistical support: coordinating data collection activities, liaising, and managing relationships with community members; the *Strong Peoples – Strong Country* Coordinator and Data Management Service Provider; the Foundation and representatives from the Integrated Monitoring and Reporting Codesign Working Group as agreed.

A draft position description can be found in the application pack on the Foundations website ([Great Barrier Reef Foundation](#)).

## Appendix D: Traditional Owner-led Integrated Monitoring and Reporting Pilot Projects – Participating organisations and roles



## Appendix E: Details of the six steps of data sharing agreement negotiation and practice to ensure the Traditional Owners retain control and ownership of their data and knowledge.

### 1. Establish cultural protocols and governance structure/s

High-level meeting(s) with community members involved in administration of the pilot project, and/or have governance roles or cultural authority to:

- Build trust and mutual understanding of aspirations for the pilot project.
- Establish protocols for conducting a pilot project that is consistent with cultural authority and governance structures, following Free, Prior and Informed Consent processes
- Discuss appropriate types and timing of project communications.
- Clarify administration of and participation in pilot.

Project support from the *Strong Peoples – Strong Country* Coordinator and Data Management Service Provider, where necessary and appropriate, together with the Community Research Assistant will be on offer throughout the project life.

### 2. Identify significant culture and heritage values

*Strong Peoples – Strong Country* Coordinator and Data Management Service Provider and Community Research Assistant will:

- Meet with people with cultural authority and/or in governance roles (e.g., Elders Council) to build understanding of cultural heritage values, the information Traditional Owners want to collect, and the stories Traditional Owners want to tell.
- Start to scope data sharing agreements based on the community needs and requests ready for negotiation.
- Meet with organisations involved in data collection and/or management, where agreed, to build understanding of indicators currently being collected, alignment with cultural heritage values, and uses of data, as well as of the potential support required to develop data management capacity.

Project support from the *Strong Peoples – Strong Country* Coordinator and Data Management Service Provider, where necessary and appropriate, together with the Community Research Assistant will be on offer throughout the project life.

### 3. Safeguard Traditional Owner information

- Develop community capacity for Traditional Owner ownership and control of data collection, storage, access, reporting, sharing, etc. Assess the ability of current data equipment, staffing, training and so on, including incorporating the needs of the community on any upgrades or other support required.
- Organisations involved in data collection and/or management, cultural authority and governance structures will be key contributors. Reef 2050 partners may be involved in discussions about practical aspects of sharing data between organisations.
- External training providers may also be called upon to deliver support for this stage.

Project support from the *Strong Peoples – Strong Country* Coordinator and Data Management Service Provider, where necessary and appropriate, together with the Community Research Assistant will be on offer throughout the project life.

#### 4. Make agreements

Ensure Free, Prior and Informed Consent and provide legal and cultural assurance and other support to negotiate data sharing agreements that set out:

- the information that Traditional Owners want to share
- how Traditional Owners can be confident that their data will be safeguarded
- who Traditional Owners want to share the information with and whether/how third parties can have access
- desired benefits to Traditional Owner communities for data sharing (monetary and/or non-monetary)
- administration and division of benefits where necessary
- processes for sharing data
- mutual obligations

Project support from the *Strong Peoples – Strong Country* Coordinator and Data Management Service Provider, where necessary and appropriate, together with the Community Research Assistant will be on offer throughout the project life.

An Independent legal advisor, where necessary and where appropriate, will be on offer to review the Traditional Owner Data Sharing Agreements. This service is capped and will form a part of contract negotiation and agreement.

#### 5. Share information

- Traditional Owners continue to collect the information that is important to them and manage their data system/s to tell their own stories, e.g., lead reporting on their heritage values.
- Traditional Owners can confidently share their data as agreed because it is appropriately secured and safeguarded, and Traditional Owner communities can negotiate benefits for data sharing (monetary and/or non-monetary).
- Traditional Owners information is included to make decisions about the management of the Great Barrier Reef.

Project support is ongoing and provided by the Community Research Assistant where necessary and where appropriate and will be on offer throughout the project life.

#### 6. Evaluate and review

- The skills and capacity developed within Traditional Owner communities participating in the *Strong Peoples-Strong Country* framework can be used to support Traditional Owners ownership and control of information in future to help inform other Traditional Owner communities wishing to use this framework to monitor important heritage values.
- Lessons learned are used to support systems of Traditional Owner data ownership and control in other reef and catchment Traditional Owners communities.



## Appendix F: Map of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area and Catchment boundaries



Source: Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (2014), *Great Barrier Reef Outlook Report 2014*. Available: [https://elibrary.gbrmpa.gov.au/jspui/bitstream/11017/2856/5/InBrief\\_accessible\\_low%20res.pdf](https://elibrary.gbrmpa.gov.au/jspui/bitstream/11017/2856/5/InBrief_accessible_low%20res.pdf), accessed 22/02/2021.



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