

The Strong Peoples-Strong Country framework

For monitoring Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture and heritage values in the Great Barrier Reef

Over many years there have been lots of programs to monitor the condition of Sea Country. But few have included or properly reflected our perspectives and values as Traditional Owners. Now we're partnering with the Great Barrier Reef Foundation, government and scientists to drive the Traditional Owner-led Integrated Monitoring and Reporting Program, using the *Strong Peoples-Strong Country* framework.

What is the Strong Peoples-Strong Country framework?

The *Strong Peoples-Strong Country* framework is grounded in Traditional Owner values. It shows how the health and condition of the Great Barrier Reef is connected to the quality of life for us as Traditional Owners. These connections between Country, People, and Culture are reflected in six strongly connected 'hubs' (shown in the circles). Each hub has attributes (listed below), and the strength of each attribute contributes to the overall strength of the hub.

- Learning from elders
- Ownership
- Greater level of management
- Better policy
- Traditional Owner-led caring for Country
- Better roads, internet and buildings
- More traditional Owner-led businesses
- Employment on Country
- Equity in opportunities
- Rights, interests and goals
- Career opportunity pathways
- Training
- Passion to learn
- Two-way sharing

- Being on Country
- 'You to Country' health
- Healthy animals
- Healthy coral
- Healthy other habitats
- Clean saltwater
- Clean freshwater

- Access to Traditional medicine
- Spirituality
- Social and emotional wellbeing
- Cultural wellbeing
- Access to medical services
- Access to traditional foods
- Know your mob



- Oral history
- Knowledge of culture and heritage
- Managing culture and heritage
- Protecting culture and heritage
- Access to heritage sites
- Traditional Owners' knowledge transfer
- Western science

- Learning from elders
- Career opportunity pathways
- Training
- Passion to learn
- Two-way sharing

- Traditional Owner voices at all levels
- Involvement and ownership of community activities
- Cultural mentorship
- Local mentorship
- Cultural authority
- Language
- Lore and ceremony
- Tool making, hunting and gathering
- Arts, song and dance
- Kinship, family, totems

Strong Peoples-Strong Country framework © Mallie Designs

How the *Strong Peoples-Strong Country* framework was created

The framework is based on more than 25 years of work by Reef Traditional Owners. It was developed in 2017–2018 by the Indigenous Heritage Expert Group as part of the Reef Integrated Monitoring and Reporting Program.

The expert group included:

- Reef Traditional Owners
- Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority
- James Cook University
- CSIRO (Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation, Australian Government)

The expert group looked at other Traditional Owner-driven monitoring frameworks, and found the best frameworks use stories and data to connect Traditional Owner community wellbeing and Country wellbeing.

In May 2018, the expert group tested and discussed the framework with more than 70 Traditional Owners from the Great Barrier Reef, to make sure it reflected our values and perspectives, and to collect baseline information. Find out more in the *Strong Peoples-Strong Country* Indigenous Heritage Monitoring Framework Summary Report 2019 ([Visit GBRMPA – Home](#)).

How we are using the *strong Peoples-Strong Country* framework

In 2020, the Integrated monitoring and reporting Traditional Owner Technical Working Group was formed by the Great Barrier Reef Foundation to co-design the finalisation and implementation of the *Strong Peoples-Strong Country* framework. Selected Reef Traditional Owner groups will be funded to hold pilot projects to test ways to monitor and report on the condition of their community and Country, and to keep track of any changes over time. The framework will guide how we monitor the health and condition of Reef, People and Country in the pilot projects, according to our values, priorities and aspirations.

More information

To find out more about the program, who we are, the *Strong Peoples-Strong Country* Framework, and how to get involved, see these resources:

- [Traditional Owner section on the Great Barrier Reef Foundation website](#)
- Traditional Owners protecting our heritage in the Great Barrier Reef (Fact Sheet 1)
- Traditional Owners leading leading monitoring in the Great Barrier Reef and Catchment (Fact Sheet 2)

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