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Blueprint for Local Citizen Science Action

Townsville, Central GBR

Priority Initiatives

Action 1: Co-partner delivery

Action 2: Support complementary methods

Action 3: Collaborative Database

Action 4: Enhance communications

Action 5: Improve support for Indigenous and youth engagement

Action 6: Citizen Science Volunteer Register

Reef Health & Resilience

INSPIRATION

In 2017 the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority convened reef scientists to develop the Reef Blueprint for Resilience, an action plan designed to support the health and ongoing resilience of the Reef.

Over the last two years Reef Ecologic has partnered with citizen science organisations, community members, industry and Traditional Owners to implement and strengthen collaboration across citizen science programs in the region. We collated results from multiple workshops and lessons learned to produce this 'Blueprint for Local Citizen Science Action' designed to build on and support GBRMPA's Reef Blueprint.

Actions to Support

1. Fostering partnerships for action and innovation
2. Building awareness and support
3. Accelerating actions to address climate change
4. Active localised restoration

Source: Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority 2017, Great Barrier Reef Blueprint for Resilience, GBRMPA, Townsville

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We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the Moo'ga, (Great Barrier Reef)
04-2021

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These Priority initiatives were developed from multiple stakeholder workshops and lessons learned throughout Reef Ecologic's Integrated Coral Reef Citizen Science Program.

These six proposed initiatives below support four priority initiatives (left) outlined in the GBRMPA's Reef Blueprint for Resilience.

1. Co-Partnering Delivery
Working with partners to deliver outcomes can maximise logistics and enhance camaraderie. Recommend a review of existing collaborative programs such as the Reef Citizen Science Alliance or Australian Citizen Science Association.

2. Complementary methods
Recognising that there are at least four key methods for underwater surveys we propose reviewing survey techniques and providing cross-training to enhance participant capacity. We aim to measure carbon emissions of field activities and aspire to carbon neutrality by 2023.

3. Collaborative Database
Improved connection between citizen scientists and management would be assisted with a centralised database. Potential for partnerships with the Atlas of Living Australia (https://www.ala.org.au/) or GBRMPA's Reef Knowledge platform.

4. Enhance communications
Improved communication of data and results will raise awareness throughout the community. Promote marquee events for citizen scientist participation (eg. World Oceans Day, Earth Day etc).

5. Improve support for indigenous and youth engagement
Indigenous and youth participation and enthusiasm has been substantial throughout our citizen science program. Review participatory models with linkages to training opportunities. For example ATSIMS, Reef Leadership Workshop and Reef Ranger programs.

6. Citizen Science Volunteer and Project Register
A centralised database providing up-to-date information on current projects, participation opportunities with lists of volunteers and their skills.