

GREAT BARRIER REEF TRADITIONAL OWNER WORKING GROUP

COMMUNIQUE FROM THE TRADITIONAL OWNER'S WORKSHOP, TOWNSVILLE - 31 October and 1 November 2019

ATTENTION GREAT BARRIER REEF TRADITIONAL OWNERS

NEW AND REVISED TARGETS AND INDICATORS: REEF 2050 PLAN

- This Communique is to keep you informed of the progress on the review of specific targets and indicators for Traditional Owners in the updated Reef 2050 Plan. The work undertaken at the Traditional Owner's Workshop in Townsville recently aligned the work and outcomes with the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and other international obligations including and national and state legislation.
- In the past 5 years, a significant number of Traditional Owners with the appropriate knowledge base and expertise have been working to inform Reef 2050 structures including the development of Traditional Owner frameworks such as Strong Peoples: Strong Country, Sea Country Program Logic, Targets and Indicators. The integrity and aspirations of these Traditional Owner products was respected and provided the basis for the two-day workshop.
- Because of a very tight timeframe, a Traditional Owner group met in Townsville to revise the targets and indicators to be incorporated in the updated Reef 2050 Plan from the Australian and Queensland Governments for the 5-year review of the Reef 2050 Plan which will be presented to the World Heritage Committee at their next meeting in July 2020 in Fuzhou, China.
- The aim of the workshop was to map out all the targets and recommendations against existing targets in the Reef 2050 Plan, developed frameworks, recommendations from Reports, and a Program Logic to identify where the gaps were as well as strengthening targets from other sectors so that they addressed Traditional Owner's concerns and interests.
- The Traditional Owner group felt that although the existing targets were relevant, there was an opportunity to strengthen them, as well as develop new targets to address the gaps highlighted by the many consultations, gatherings and reports that have been produced in good faith.
- It was very clear after deliberation, that the December 2018 Traditional Owner Program Logic is the overarching framework to deliver Traditional Owner aspirations.
- For your reference, we attach a page showing all the relevant reports produced by Traditional Owners, governments and consultants from 2012 until 2019, including the

Program Logic and Strong People: Strong Country Framework. The resulting targets and next steps are also attached for your reference.

Recent Government reports highlight a decline in the health of our collective Sea Country. The cultural knowledge and expertise of the Reef's First Nations and Traditional Owners was excluded from these reports.

We the Great Barrier Reef's First Nations and Traditional Owners stand strong and ready to take affirmative action to conserve, protect and manage our home, for the benefit of all.

Chrissy Grant (Chair, Indigenous Heritage Expert Group)

Brian Singleton

Dennis Ah-Kee

Duane Fraser

Gavin Singleton

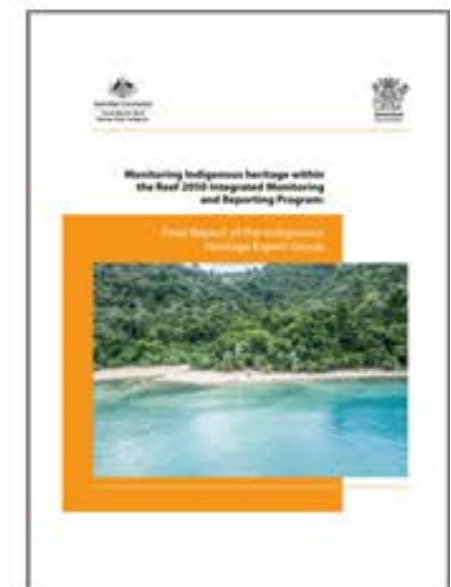
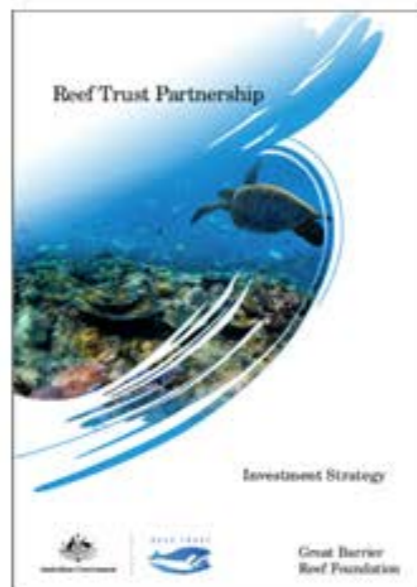
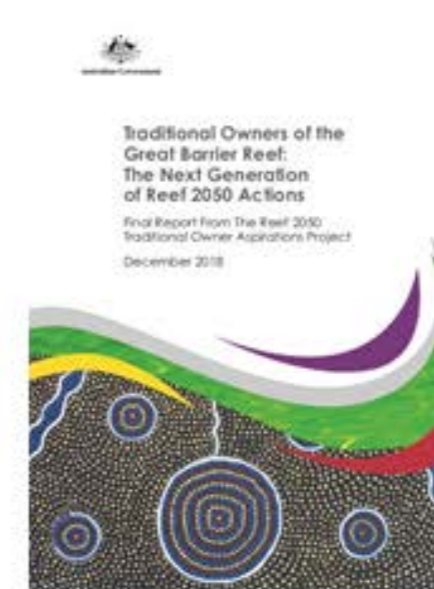
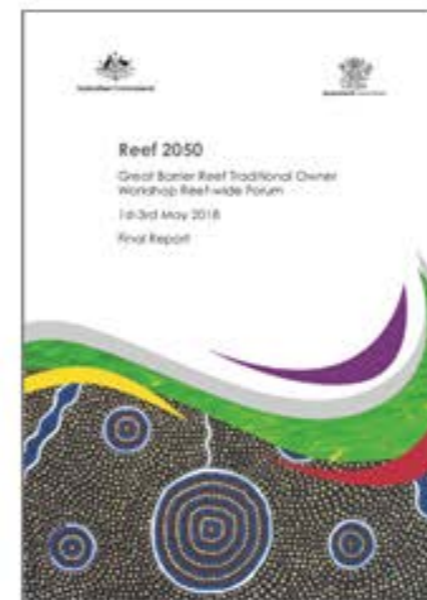
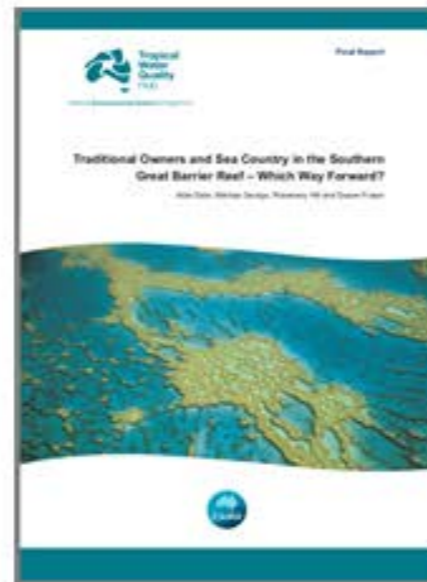
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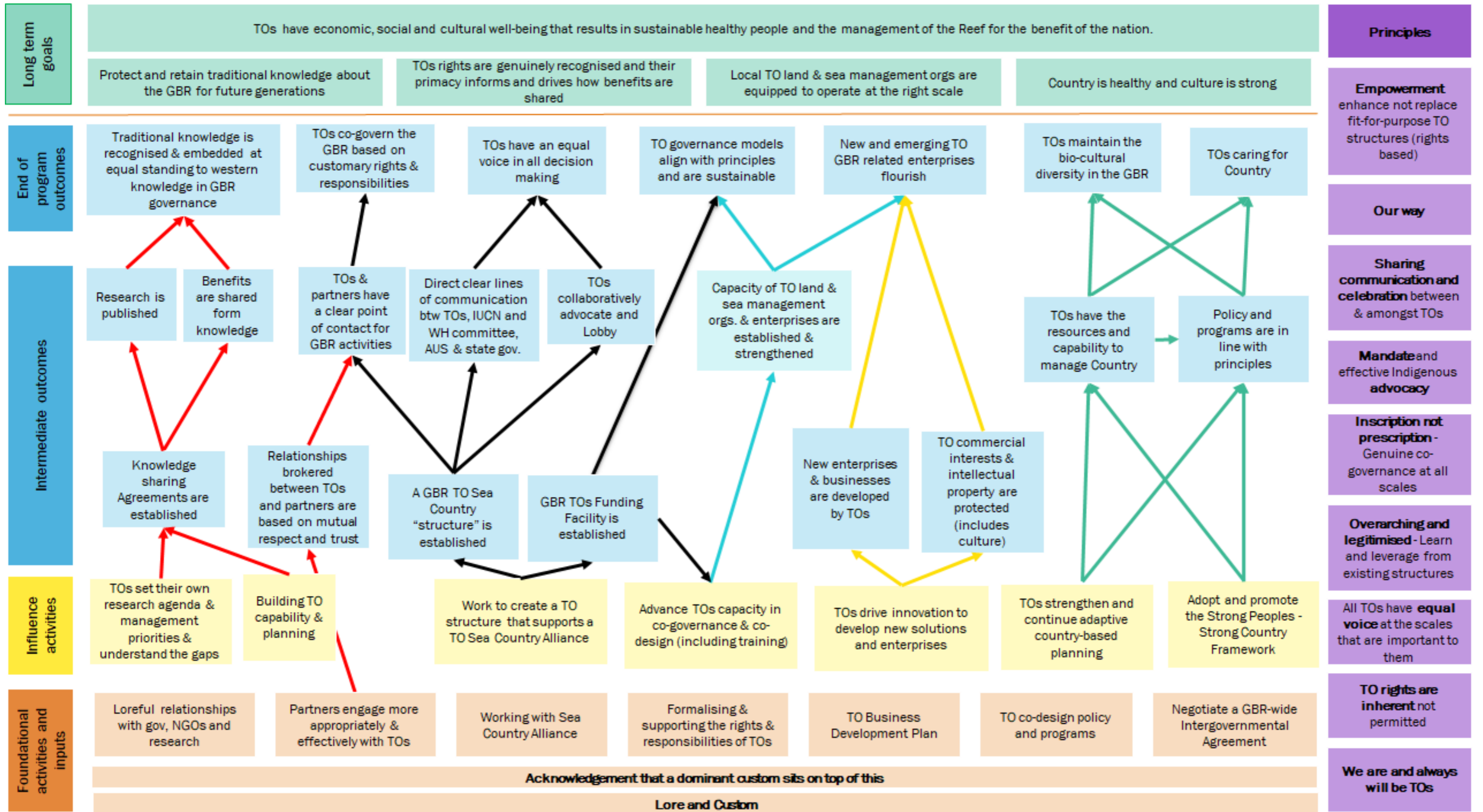
Samarla Deshong

Traceylee Forster



Traditional Owner Workshops and Reports that have informed development and implementation of the Reef 2050 Plan







Framework for Traditional Owner wellbeing through connections to Country developed from Traditional Owner concepts within the Great Barrier Reef land and sea country

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Resource Condition Targets

- Populations of species of cultural significance to Traditional Owners are healthy.
- Populations of bio-culturally important fish and invertebrate species are healthy and stable.
- Populations of fish and invertebrate species that are important for recreational, commercial and culturally based fisheries are healthy and stable.
- Protect and retain traditional knowledge about the Great Barrier Reef for future generations.
- Traditional Owners rights are genuinely recognised and their primacy informs and drives how benefits are shared.
- Local Traditional Owner land & sea management organisations are equipped to operate at the right scale.
- Country is healthy and culture is strong.

Management Targets

- Increase in Traditional Owner led co-designed and co-delivered water quality projects.
- Traditional Owner Indigenous heritage, rights and responsibilities are incorporated into all facets of management.
- Formal and informal partnerships between Traditional Owners and all stakeholders are increased to ensure key Reef heritage values are identified, documented, protected and monitored to be measured by the Strong Peoples - Strong Country framework.
- Indigenous Knowledge Management Systems for collecting, handling and / or sharing of Indigenous heritage and knowledge information are developed by Traditional Owners and Traditional Owner protocols for managing information and agreements are adopted by Reef 2050 partners and stakeholders.
- The number of formal and informal agreements with Traditional Owners addressing management of ecosystems within their traditional estate is increased in line with the Strong Peoples - Strong Country framework.
- Increase in co-design and co-delivery in the management, conservation and ecologically sustainable use of cultural keystone species and biocultural resources.
- Customary use of biological resources, in accordance with traditional cultural practices that are compatible with conservation or cultural use requirements, are formally recognised and adopted by Reef 2050 partners and stakeholders.
- The rights of Traditional Owners to derive benefits from the conservation and cultural use of biological resources are recognised and the number of benefit-sharing initiatives and agreements with Traditional Owners is increased.
- The number of employment opportunities for Traditional Owners in sea country management and Reef-based industries increases annually.
- There is an annual increase in the number of Traditional Owner service providers and viable businesses.
- The rights of Traditional Owners to derive economic benefits from the conservation and cultural use of biological resources are recognised and access, benefit sharing initiatives and agreements with Traditional Owners is increasing.

- Traditional Owner Governance capacities in sea country is enhanced and measured against the Strong Peoples: Strong Country Framework.
- A GBR Traditional Owner-led Sea Country Alliance is established by 2021 to ensure an equal voice in all decision-making.
- A Tripartite Agreement is negotiated between the Australian and Queensland Governments and the GBR Traditional Owners within their free, prior and informed consent.
- Cultural competency of Reef 2050 partners and stakeholders is improved.