

NERP Tropical Ecosystems Hub – Project 10.1 Factsheet

The Social and Economic Long Term Monitoring Program for the Great Barrier Reef Region

Project leader: Dr Nadine Marshall

Project summary

The Social and Economic Long Term Monitoring Program (SELTMP) for the Great Barrier Reef is a dataset of national significance. It has been designed to describe conditions and trends of the human dimension of the Great Barrier Reef (GBR) for better decision-making. Through monitoring existing regional datasets and survey work, we recreate annual snapshots of **coastal communities, national residents, recreational users, the marine tourism industry, the commercial fishing industry, Traditional Owners, ports and shipping, catchment industries and mining**. We monitor human use of and dependency on the GBR, human and community well-being (as they relate to the GBR), as well as a range of socio-cultural drivers such as perceptions, values, attitudes and behaviours. To date, we have survey responses from over 8,000 primary users of the GBR.

Why the research is needed

One of the main uses of the SELTMP will be to assist reef managers in their quest to manage the Great Barrier Reef. Through web-based facilities researchers will also be able to access data for research purposes, industry and community leaders can support decision-making, and Reef managers can understand and test the complex social and economic environment within which they operate. For example, as trends in the human dimension are uncovered and understood, Reef managers will be able to recognise 'normal' behaviour (as opposed to 'abnormal'), understand impacts associated with planned or unplanned interventions (using 'before' and 'after' data), gauge public support for proposed environmental management initiatives and seriously consider the social and economic trade-offs associated with regional decision-making.

Outcomes

- Updates on status and temporal trends for the main user groups of the Great Barrier Reef region.
- Baseline knowledge of social conditions prior to any change event or intervention.



Like the Reef itself, the relationships, values and perceptions people hold for the Great Barrier Reef are complex and diverse



For many Australians, the Great Barrier Reef represents a source of inspiration, a place of recreation and/or a significant part of their livelihood and wellbeing

Research-user focus

SELTMP offers substantial insights into the human dimension of any natural resource system. Its value depends on the indicators chosen to represent the human dimension, the frequency with which those indicators are monitored, the extent to which end-users are involved in the process, and the ability of end-users to access and interpret data. The NERP-funded SELTMP has been designed with these values in mind. Over 100 people representing government, community and industry act as technical and strategic advisors for the program.

Find this project at www.nerptropical.edu.au
Theme 3: Managing for resilient tropical ecosystems
Program 10: Socio-economic value of GBR goods and services
Project: 10.1 Social and economic long-term monitoring program

For more information about this project, please contact:
Dr Nadine Marshall (Senior Social Scientist,
CSIRO Ecosystem Sciences):
nadine.marshall@csiro.au



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JAMES COOK
UNIVERSITY
AUSTRALIA