



Resilient Reefs: Improving outcomes for the World's Coral Reefs

The Resilient Reefs project is a bold initiative that goes to the heart of protecting the world's coral reefs by building their resilience to climate change.

The need for resilient reefs

Coral reefs are globally significant ecosystems.

- They are the most biodiverse of all ocean ecosystems supporting 25 per cent of all marine life in the oceans and rivalling the Amazon Rainforest for biodiversity.
- Spread across 101 countries, reefs support the wellbeing and livelihoods of almost one billion people.
- Reefs provide an estimated \$10 trillion in ecosystem services based on the provision of food, recreation and protection from storms.

However, coral reefs are at risk on a global scale. An estimated 75 per cent of all coral reefs are under threat from the combination of local stresses and global climate change.

Resilient Reefs project approach

Building resilience is the new imperative for coral reef management. This is the capacity of coral reef ecosystems and the individuals, businesses and communities that depend upon them to survive, adapt and thrive in the face of the stresses and shocks they experience.

With the support of the BHP Foundation's Environmental Resilience Global Signature Program, the *Resilient Reefs* project will support five of the world's most treasured World Heritage-listed coral reef sites and the communities that depend on them, to identify and prioritize actions to give the reefs the best possible chance to survive and adapt in the face of great change, complexity and uncertainty.



Great Barrier
Reef Foundation

RESILIENT REEFS – ENVIRONMENTAL RESILIENCE GSP

In partnership with the Great Barrier Reef Foundation (GBRF), the project aims to improve outcomes for the world's coral reefs and the communities they support. Resilient Reefs funds resilience planning, capacity building and implementation in the five pilot sites. This includes funding and training for a new leadership role—a Chief Resilience Officer—in the local reef management authority, as well as technical support in creating a Resilience Strategy with coral reef managers and local communities, customized to the unique needs and conditions of each site.



An integrated model

The Resilient Reefs project is the first integrated model for building the resilience of reefs and the communities they support. Healthy reef ecosystems depend on people and people depend on healthy reef ecosystems. Resilient Reefs is bringing together local communities, reef managers, and resilience experts to develop new solutions for combatting the effects of climate change. This is a bold, new approach. By putting people at the center and learning from the global resilience practice to innovate, the project is building capacity and driving a whole-of-community approach to the challenges facing our treasured reefs.

The four-year pilot project will inspire and influence the wider global coral reef community to get involved through a global knowledge network of reef resilience leaders at coral reef sites around the world.

World Heritage listed pilot sites

World Heritage listed coral reef sites are the jewels in the crown of the world's coral reefs. A UNESCO World Heritage listing demonstrates a site's ecological significance, outstanding universal value, exceptional biodiversity and natural beauty. Five World Heritage listed coral reef sites have been selected for the pilot: Australia's Great Barrier Reef and Ningaloo Reef, Palau's Rock Islands, the Belize Barrier Reef, and the Lagoons of New Caledonia.



GBRF propose to combine site-specific coral reef expertise with the proven resilience-building model of the **100 Resilient Cities*** initiative. The result will be the first fully integrated and transferable model for institutionalizing resilience-based management for coral reefs and the communities they support.

This project focuses on institutionalizing resilience-based management to ensure outcomes are enduring and will develop a model that can be transferred to any coral reef site globally.

**100 Resilient Cities is dedicated to helping cities around the world become more resilient to the physical, social and economic challenges that are a growing part of the 21st century. www.100resilientcities.org*

Building the resilience of coral reefs

Projects such as *Resilient Reefs*, bring together key partners, aligning aspirations behind a common goal to achieve lasting change.

Through this Project, the Foundation seeks to:

- deliver a high-impact, enduring intervention in this area of international significance;
- engage with the people who live in this landscape to build their capacity and support their livelihoods;
- pilot new approaches towards environmental resilience and share learnings; and
- develop replicable environmental policy frameworks to advance the future of conservation.

The result of this project will be to build the resilience of coral reefs; to give them, and the communities that depend on them, the tools to adapt and achieve environmental outcomes in the face of unprecedented change and uncertainty.

For more information on the BHP Foundation and the Environmental Resilience Global Signature Program, visit bhp.com/foundation.