Great Barrier Reef Citizen Science and Stewardship

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Overview

In 2024-25, the Australian Citizen Science Association (ACSA), funded by the Australian Government's Reef Trust, reviewed Great Barrier Reef (GBR) Citizen Science projects. New tools were developed including a projects list, guideline, data protocols and scientist list to support future citizen science, enhance partnerships, and increase Reef stewardship.

Methodology and Findings

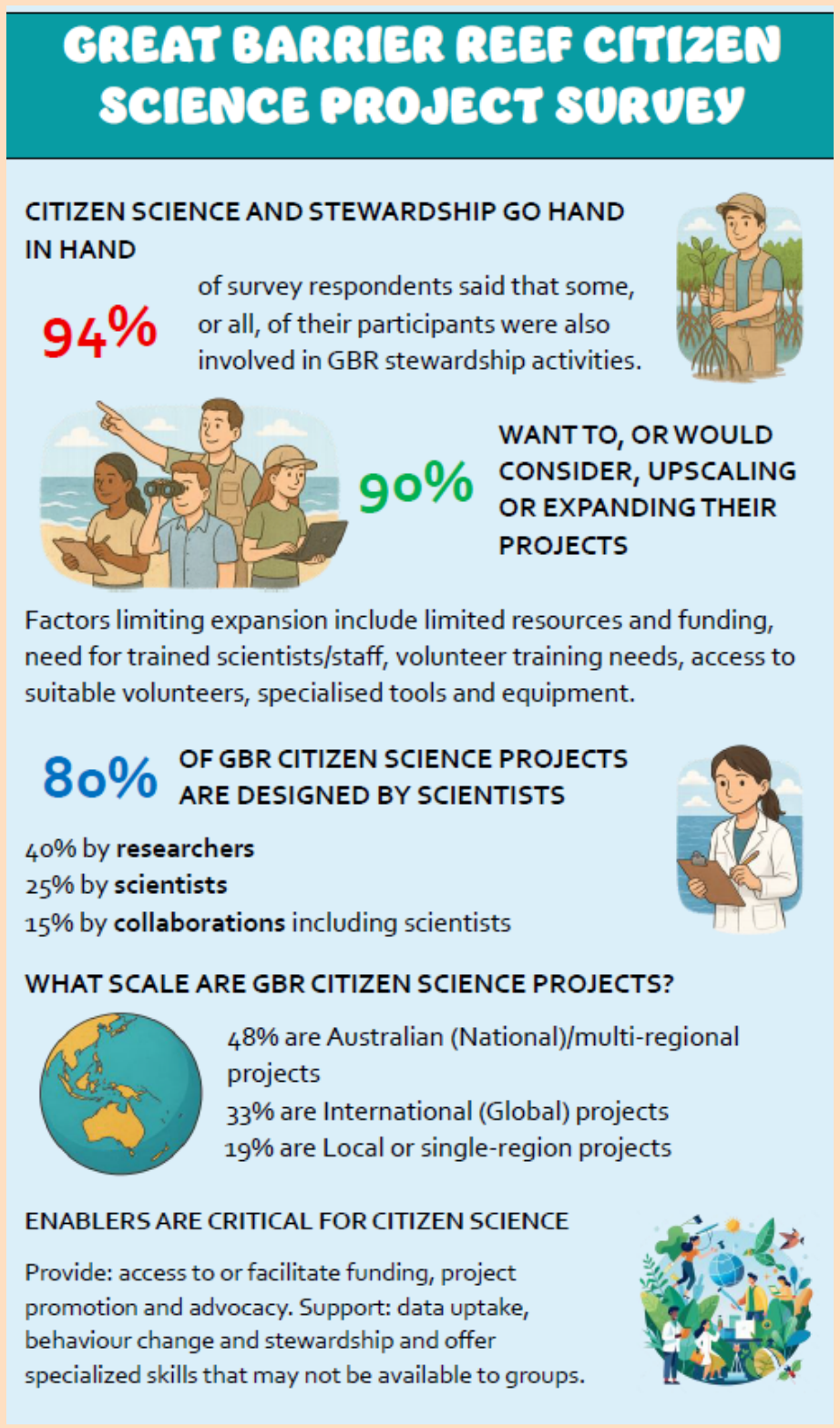
The review identified 52 projects along with 92 groups (hosts/hubs) that were delivering one or more GBR citizen science projects. Seven of the projects were recently completed or inactive. An online survey was distributed to the 46 active GBR citizen science project leaders followed by a 'deep dive' through semi-structured interviews with eight project leaders with Qualitative Analysis Coding (after Seth Tucker, 2023).

Learnings shared by the highly experienced GBR citizen science project leaders were incorporated into a series of **new tools.** These included a guideline for new citizen science projects (a first for Australia), data protocols, and a scientist/ technical experts list. The tools, along with a current project list (to enable greater volunteer participation) have been published on ACSA's website to benefit future GBR citizen science projects and goals such as Reef stewardship.

ACSA suggests the guideline will be useful for all groups conducting citizen science and associated stewardship activities across Australia.

By increasing support and strengthening the community's role in citizen science, we not only increase knowledge, but empower communities to increase their stewardship for, and resilience of, the species and systems that they study - including the Great Barrier Reef.

For more information or to download the **FREE tools**, please click on the QR Code.



Thanks are extended to the project's Critical Friends Group, survey contributors, interviewees and Reef Check Australia, AUSMAP-Tangaroa Blue, Sharks And Rays Australia and Earthwatch's Saltmarsh Savers for providing the photos used in this poster.

Australian Government
Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water

Australian Citizen Science Association