

NEWSLETTER

36 Pembroke Road | PO Box 2145 | Broome WA 6725 | Ph: (08) 9194 0100 | Fax: (08) 9193 6279

..... JULY 2014

Registration of North Kimberley Fire Projects



In February 2014, the Dambimangari, Wilinggin, Wunambal Gaambera Uunguu and Balangarra Fire Projects were officially registered under the Government's Carbon Farming Initiative.

These four projects are the first carbon farming projects on exclusive possession native title in Australia, and North Kimberley Traditional Owners have worked hard to get them registered.

The projects work by doing strategic early dry season burning on country to reduce the intensity of late dry season fires. This reduces polluting greenhouse gas emissions from the smoke and takes care of country.

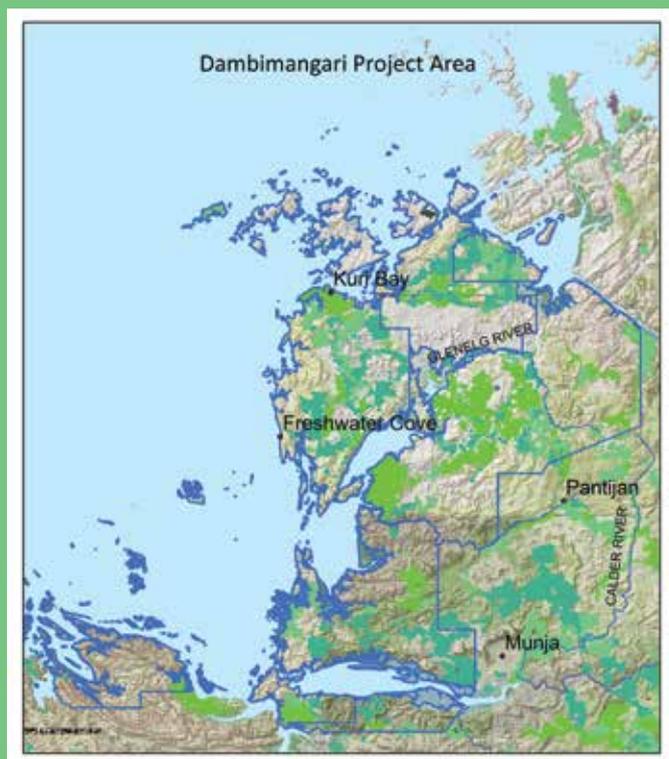
The four Aboriginal Corporations are now working with a business consultant to better understand how they can use these projects to establish long-term and sustainable carbon businesses in the future.



North Kimberley Fire Abatement Project update

The North Kimberley Fire Abatement Project (NKFAP) has had a very busy and productive burning season in 2014.

Following fire planning meetings with each of the native title groups and stakeholders, we began burning operations at the very beginning of the dry season in early April. In fact, the Traditional Owners and rangers who came on the early trips this year may argue that the wet season had not technically finished during our first weeks of burning because on several occasions our camps got hit by late wet season storms and we had some hot, and occasionally wet nights while camping on country!



Undeterred by the long wet season, a lot of very good fire management has been achieved across the NKFAP area over the months of April, May and June, as you can see in the North Australia Fire Information (NAFI) fire scar maps.

These maps use information from satellites to show the areas of country that have been burnt in the early dry season. You can look at maps of the NKFAP burning operations by visiting the NAFI website. Looking at these maps, you can see the burning that happened each month and see that through many hours of aerial burning, we have created a network of strategic early dry season burns including firebreaks and mosaic burns.

The maps on these pages show the areas burnt for the early 2014 dry season for each of the native title groups in the project, Balanggarra, Dambimangari, Wilinggin and Wunambal Gaambera.

Due to the hard work and effort of many people we have achieved some major objectives this year; including around 350 hours of aerial burning undertaken.

Many different Traditional Owners and rangers have worked on the project with the equivalent of 187 Traditional Owner people days working across the 3 months.



During these months, there have been approximately 40 nights remote camping with rangers, Traditional Owners and senior Traditional Owners on country.

In addition to the extensive early dry season aerial burning, each of the native title groups also did ground burning during day walks and Wilinggin and Wunambal Gaambera undertook longer, multi-day walks burning on country.

What do I need to do now my Carbon Farming project is registered?

The Carbon Farming Initiative is an Australian Government scheme that allows people to earn money for projects that reduce carbon pollution. These are called carbon offset projects.

Once a carbon project is registered, there are still some things you need to do to make sure all information stays up to date.

NOTIFICATION

When you are doing a carbon project, you are required to notify the Clean Energy Regulator within specified times if any of the events in the table below occur:

THE PROJECT PROPONENT (PERSON DOING THE PROJECT)

- If the project proponent changes name, business name or other contact details (within 28 days)
- If the project proponent is no longer responsible for undertaking the project or ceases to hold the legal right to carry out the project (within 90 days)
- If the project proponent passes away, their legal representative must notify (within 90 days)
- If the project proponent is no longer considered a "fit and proper person" (for example because they have been convicted of a dishonesty offence or become bankrupt) (within 90 days)

THE CARBON PROJECT

- As a result of a change to your project, your project becomes inconsistent with the applicable natural resource management plan (within 90 days)

THE CARBON PROJECT REPORTS

- You discover an error in an offsets report (within 90 days)
- Any matters and information that the applicable methodology determination requires the regulator to be notified of

RECORD KEEPING

When you are doing a carbon project, you also have to keep records of certain things. You have to keep these records for **seven** years.

The types of things you must keep records of include:

VEGETATION MAP

- The date used to make vegetation maps and how they were validated;

CALCULATING BASELINE AND PROJECT EMISSIONS

- Seasonal fire maps for each year in the baseline period and reporting periods
- All monthly fire maps and supporting data sets used to develop maps to calculate baseline and project emissions

RECORDS OF PROJECT ACTIVITIES

- Records of early dry season burning activities undertaken, including location, timing and method
- Evidence of fuel use, including invoices and receipts and, in the case of helicopter use if fuel use receipts are not available, record of hours of flight

OTHER RECORDS REQUIRED

- Correspondence with the Clean Energy Regulator in relation to your project
- Information about your legal right to carry out a project
- Information in relation to any decision made in relation to your obligations under the Act or the Regulations, including the reasons for the decision
- Information about any variations to the project
- Information about regulatory approvals required and/or obtained in relation to the project
- If the proponent is not an individual, information about the following:
 - the proponent's organisational structure, and any changes it undergoes
 - the individuals with decision-making authority within the organisation, and any change of those individuals

A full list of the records you need to keep for savanna burning projects is available on the Clean Energy Regulator website at www.cleanenergyregulator.gov.au



Carbon Farming updates - 600mm Savanna Burning Methodology

The Carbon Farming Savanna burning methodology combines good fire business with good carbon business to manage and reduce big late season wildfires.

Currently, you can only do fire burning projects in areas which get over 1000mm average rainfall a year. But a new set of rules is being developed which will extend this to areas that get between 600mm and 1000mm – you can see these areas on the map below.

This means that some groups may be able to start doing new carbon projects and other groups that already have projects could extend the area of the projects further south.

It is expected that these new rules will be ready by the end of the year. So now is a

good time to start thinking about whether you might want to use the new rules.

Doing a carbon project involves many steps. These include running the fire operations to do good strategic burning in the early dry season; registering to do a project with Government; monitoring the burning and submitting project reports; keeping the right records; and getting and selling carbon credits.

The KLC is available to work with groups to look at the viability of setting up a new carbon project, or extending an existing carbon project.

For more information, you can contact the KLC Carbon Outreach Officer Polly Grace on (08) 9194 0100, via mobile on 0417 219 485 or email at polly.grace@klc.org.au.



Carbon Farming updates - Emission Reduction Fund

The Government in Canberra is making a lot of changes to the laws about carbon projects. These changes will affect people who are already doing carbon projects and also people who are thinking about doing a carbon project.

The Government has said that it will get rid of the carbon tax. This would mean that big companies will no longer have to pay the carbon price for their pollution. It also means that companies will no longer need to purchase carbon credits from people doing carbon projects on the land. Some companies may still want to buy carbon credits voluntarily to 'offset' their emissions.

To replace the carbon tax, the Government plans to introduce the 'Emission Reduction

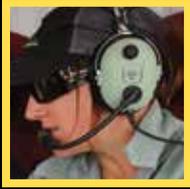
Fund'. This lets people – including companies, industry and land holders – do projects to reduce carbon emissions and get carbon credits. This is similar to what projects can currently do under the Carbon Farming Initiative. People with carbon credits can then approach Government to sell these credits.

The Parliament is currently considering all of these changes. Until these things become law, there is a lot of uncertainty about how carbon projects will work in the future. The KLC is talking to Government to try to make sure these changes have the best possible outcome for Kimberley people and will provide further updates once these changes come through.



New faces working in the NKFAP team

There are lots of people involved in the North Kimberley Fire Abatement Project. Earlier this year, some new staff came on to help out with carbon and fire work.



Jessica O'Brien

KLC Invasive Species
and Fire Officer



Rona Charles

Fire Management and
Carbon Business Officer



*The carbon farming opportunities for Indigenous land owners' project
is supported by funding from the Australian Government.*

NORTH KIMBERLEY FIRE ABATEMENT PROJECT

