



Kimberley Land Council
P.O. BOX 2145 BROOME WA 6725
Phone: (08) 9194 0100 Facsimile: (08) 9193 6279 Website: www.klc.org.au
ABN 96 724 252 047 ICN 21

Kimberley Land Council: Submission to Climate Change Authority on the Carbon Farming Initiative Review October 2014

1. The Kimberley Land Council ('KLC') has a long history of working with the Australian Government on Indigenous cultural and natural resource management initiatives, and has actively engaged with Government in the development of the Carbon Farming Initiative ('CFI') and more recently the Direct Action Plan and Emission Reduction Fund ('ERF').
2. Carbon projects provide an opportunity for Indigenous people to engage in business opportunities that improve livelihoods and allow people to maintain and strengthen connection with country. In addition to carbon abatement, projects on Indigenous land deliver environmental benefits such as biodiversity, weed reduction and landscape linkages, and social benefits such as looking after cultural sites, strengthening connections with country and providing training and employment opportunities. However, these opportunities can only be realised where the policy and legislative landscape actively provide support for Indigenous participation, and it will be essential that the final form of the ERF achieves this support for carbon projects.

Achieving the objects of the CFI Act

3. Indigenous participation in the CFI is one measure of the success of the Act in meeting the objectives of incentivizing people to carry on offset projects and reducing emissions in a way that protects the natural environment and improves resilience to climate change.
4. Indigenous participation in carbon offset projects is only possible through the support of the federal Government, including recognition of the right of exclusive possession native title holders to carry out projects. The jurisdictional arrangements put in place under the CFI Act, which recognise the right of exclusive possession native title holders to carry out carbon projects, have been key to enabling Indigenous people to participate in the scheme, and should be maintained and strengthened under the ERF.

Policy Interactions and longer term issues

5. Indigenous carbon projects provide an example of the successful partnering of government and private sector funding to achieve social, cultural and environmental outcomes which support sustainable livelihoods for remote Indigenous communities.
6. The North Kimberley Fire Abatement Project is an example of an Indigenous carbon project which the KLC is facilitating with four native title groups in North West Australia. This

CORPORATE SERVICES
BROOME
PO Box 2145, WA 6725
TEL: (08) 9194 0100
FAX: (08) 9193 6279

REGIONAL OFFICE
DERBY
PO Box 377, WA 6728
TEL: (08) 9194 0175
FAX: (08) 9193 1163

REGIONAL OFFICE
KUNUNURRA
PO Box 821, WA 6743
TEL: (08) 9194 0190
FAX: (08) 9168 1509

SUB OFFICE
PARAKU IPA, MULAN
PO Box 157, WA 6765
TEL: (08) 9168 8259
FAX: (08) 9168 8170

project reduces emissions from savannah fires through managing the intensity and spread of late dry season fires. This project has already successfully abated over 200,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent, while providing jobs, training, and supporting cultural aspirations for native title holders.

7. The success of the North Kimberley Fire Abatement Project has been the result of a number of factors, including the strong relationships between project partners, investment in governance and business planning processes and prioritisation of training and capacity building for Traditional Owners. This success has been made possible through access to support from multiple channels, including Working on Country and IPA programs, the Biodiversity Fund and the sale of carbon credits.
8. Complementary Government funding is crucial to the success of Indigenous carbon projects. Under a proposed least-cost purchasing model, revenue from a potential ERF contract would likely be insufficient to support the operations of an Indigenous carbon project, or at minimum would force projects to operate on a diminished scale substantially reducing the opportunity for these projects to deliver complementary benefits. Similarly, while projects could pursue credit sales within a voluntary or 'make good' carbon market, the voluntary price of carbon credits is unlikely to fully support the cost of Indigenous carbon projects in remote communities. The provision of support through complementary Government programs, as well as enabling access to private-sector funding through the voluntary market, is an important model for facilitating Indigenous participation in the carbon market.
9. In addition, Indigenous carbon projects will also face unique challenges in meeting the administrative requirements of the proposed ERF, and their participation within the scheme should be supported by the establishment of discrete arrangements for Indigenous carbon projects.