



2021 Annual Report

What is the Indigenous Carbon Industry Network?



Initiated by Indigenous carbon businesses at 2018 Savanna Fire Forum



Filling a critical gap in industry coordination



Overseen by Interim Steering Committee of 7 Indigenous organisations engaged in the carbon industry, now a 7 person Aboriginal Board of Directors.



Including 35 Indigenous organisations across north Australia



Broader network including 500 people



Currently joint funded by Australian, NT and QLD Governments with additional support from The Nature Conservancy and the ILSC.



Employs part-time 0.8 Coordinator and 0.6 Communications Officer hosted by Warddeken Land Management.

What is the Indigenous Carbon Industry Network?

The Network includes representatives from 35 Indigenous-owned organisations engaged in the savanna carbon farming industry across north Australia.

Established 2018 as Interim ICIN Steering Committee

- Kimberley Land Council (Kristina Koenig)
- Arnhem Land Fire Abatement NT Ltd (Jennifer Ansell)
- Tiwi Land Council (Willie Rioli/ Yvonne Kelly)
- Northern Land Council (Matt Salmon)
- Warddeken Land Management Ltd (Shaun Ansell/ Dean Yibarbuk)
- Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation (Jonathan Green/Paul Donohoe)
- Wunambal Gaambera Aboriginal Corporation (Tom Vigilante)

In 2020/21 the network was coordinated by Anna Boustead

In September 2021 ICIN Ltd was registered with ASIC following two years of consultation with members, informed by support and advice from Terri Janke and Co Legal.

In February 2022, members will launch ICIN Ltd at the 1st National Indigenous Carbon Forum.

Who We Are

ICIN is a network of Indigenous-owned organisations that operate across Australia, particularly north Australia, to develop and deliver carbon projects, mainly through savanna fire management.

Our mission is to promote and facilitate an active, innovative and Indigenous-led carbon industry supporting healthy country and better livelihoods for Indigenous people.

We do this by:

- 1. Enabling and empowering Indigenous people to benefit from Australian carbon markets;**
- 2. Working towards an Indigenous-led carbon industry supporting the advancements and aspirations of Indigenous people across Australia**
- 3. Supporting an active network of Indigenous carbon businesses, organisations and groups engaged in the Australian carbon industry.**



Current state of the Indigenous Carbon industry

- 33 Indigenous-owned and operated savanna burning projects enabling improved Indigenous fire management over 18 million ha of north Australia
- 4 Indigenous-owned projects under vegetation methods
- Abating over 7.5 million tonnes of emissions since 2012*
- Around 7% of Australia's total carbon credit units are produced by Indigenous carbon businesses (across all methods)
- Producing around 1.2 million ACCUs with a current estimated value of around \$59 million each year.**
- 75% of carbon credits produced by the savanna fire emissions avoidance method are generated by Indigenous carbon businesses.
- Indigenous organisations report an increase in their capacity to care for country, culture and communities as a result of their engagement in the carbon industry.
- Provides hundreds of jobs on country for Indigenous land managers
- Generating social, cultural and environmental benefits of global significance.
- Indigenous carbon credits attract a significant premium above the market price in recognition of these benefits.***

* Source: Clean Energy Regulator Project Register, December 22 2021

** Based on current production at spot price on 22 December of \$49/tonne

*** Source: Market Advisory Group, 2021

Current Members List



- Arnhem Land Fire Abatement Ltd
- APN Cape York
- Arafura Swamp Rangers Aboriginal Corporation
- Balanggarra Aboriginal Corporation
- Balkanu Development Corporation
- Batavia Traditional Owners PBC
- Bawinanga Aboriginal Corporation
- Central Land Council
- Cape York Land Council
- Dambimangari Aboriginal Corporation
- Demed Aboriginal Corporation
- Gundjeihmi Aboriginal Corporation
- Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation
- Jawoyn Association Aboriginal Corporation
- Kakadu National Park
- Kimberley Land Council
- KIRP Kakadu
- Kowanyama Aboriginal Shire Council
- Kullilli Bulloo Aboriginal Corporation
- Laynhapuy Homelands Aboriginal Corporation
- Mapoon Land and Sea Rangers (Aboriginal Shire Council)
- Mimal Land Management Aboriginal Corporation
- Moompa-Awu Aboriginal Corporation
- NAILSMA
- Nitmiluk National Park
- Njanjma
- Northern Land Council
- Nyaliga Aboriginal Corporation
- Old Mapoon Aboriginal Corporation
- Olkola Aboriginal Corporation
- Pormpuraaw Aboriginal Shire Council
- Thamarrurr Development Corporation
- Tiwi Land Council
- Wanjina - Wungurr Native Title AC
- Warddeken Land Management Ltd
- Wilinggin Aboriginal Corporation
- Wujal Wujal Aboriginal Shire Council
- Wunambal Gaambera Aboriginal Corporation
- YACHATDAC



The 2021 ICIN Team

- The 2021 ICIN Team consists of:
 - Coordinator/CEO – Anna Boustead
 - Communications Officer – Benjamin Gertz
- Anna has been working ICIN's establishment in 2018 and works on a 0.8 full time basis.
- Ben started with ICIN in February 2021 and works on a 0.6 full time basis.
- In addition to Anna and Ben, Polly Grace supports ICIN as a Legal and Policy Advisor.
- ICIN Ltd was formally registered as an independent not-for-profit company in September 2021 overseen by an Aboriginal Board of Directors. Initial Directors include Cissy Gore-Birch, Dean Yibarbuk, Neville Gulay Gulay, Catherine Goonack, Abraham Wesan, and Aaron Woolla.
- The Board and Members of ICIN Ltd will formally launch the company at the 1st National Indigenous Carbon Forum on February 16.

Territory NRM Conference

November 2020, Darwin

- ICIN hosted the Indigenous Carbon Industry Showcase featuring presentations by the Coordinator, Thamarrurr Rangers (Uriah Crocombe, Mariah Daly and Jason Jimarin) and Yugul Mangi Rangers (Clarry Rogers and Jana Daniels)
- We also hosted a workshop attended by 50 Indigenous rangers from across the NT, Sharing Your Fire Story



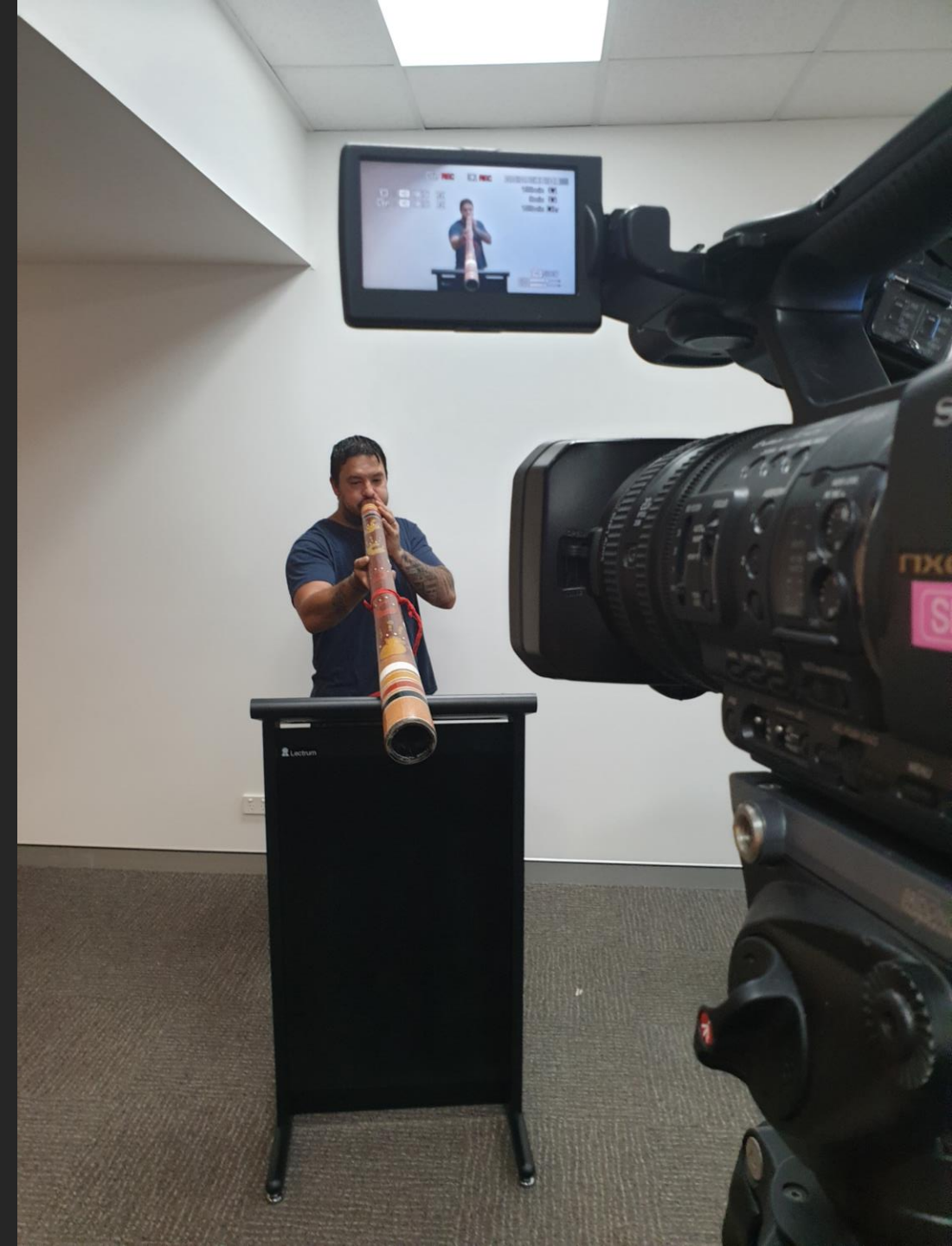
Sharing Your Fire Story Workshop



2021 Savanna Fire Forum

- This year's North Australia Savanna Fire Forum was held online due to COVID-19 restrictions, and held over three days between 9 – 11 February.
- The Savanna Fire Forum was attended by over 200 people from across the savanna fire industry, with representatives from government, research institutions, landowners and land managers, experts in fire management, as well as carbon project developers, aggregators, buyers and sellers attending.
- The 2022 North Australia Savanna Fire Forum will held in person in Darwin on 15 – 17 February 2022.

Pictured right: Larrakia Traditional Owner Trent Lee welcomes participants to the 2021 forum (Photo: ICIN).



Key Lessons from 2021 Forum

1. Genuine and respectful partnerships form the back-bone to success in the savanna carbon industry.
2. There is increasing experience and professionalism of indigenous fire management, with increased sharing, learning and coordination between groups assisting this and targeted mentoring often filling the training gap of formal accreditation.
3. Climate change is impacting fire operations and changing fire practices. Groups are already thinking about and adapting to changing conditions – hotter, more frequent fires.
4. The Savanna carbon industry is fast-paced and rapidly growing – making it a difficult and complex space in which to engage. For this reason, staying informed and accessing good advice and support is key to successful carbon projects and strong partnerships.



Image: Fire management planning meeting at Judburra National Park: Photo ILSC

Key Lessons from 2021 Forum

5. There is a need for people in the industry to actively engage on key issues of importance – such as improvements to the 2018 savanna sequestration method – in order to gather enough momentum for the government to respond.
6. In relation to carbon sales, Indigenous groups need to carefully considering what in fact they are ‘selling’, and make sure they have in place strong media and marketing rules to protect their IP and story.
7. There is a need to improve transparency on sale terms on the carbon market.
8. Direct knowledge sharing is one of the most successful ways to increase skills across the industry, as evidenced by this year’s Savanna Fire Forum workshops across a broad range of issues affecting fire managers.



Key Learnings of NA Savanna Fire Forum

Collaboration, Communication
and Knowledge Sharing

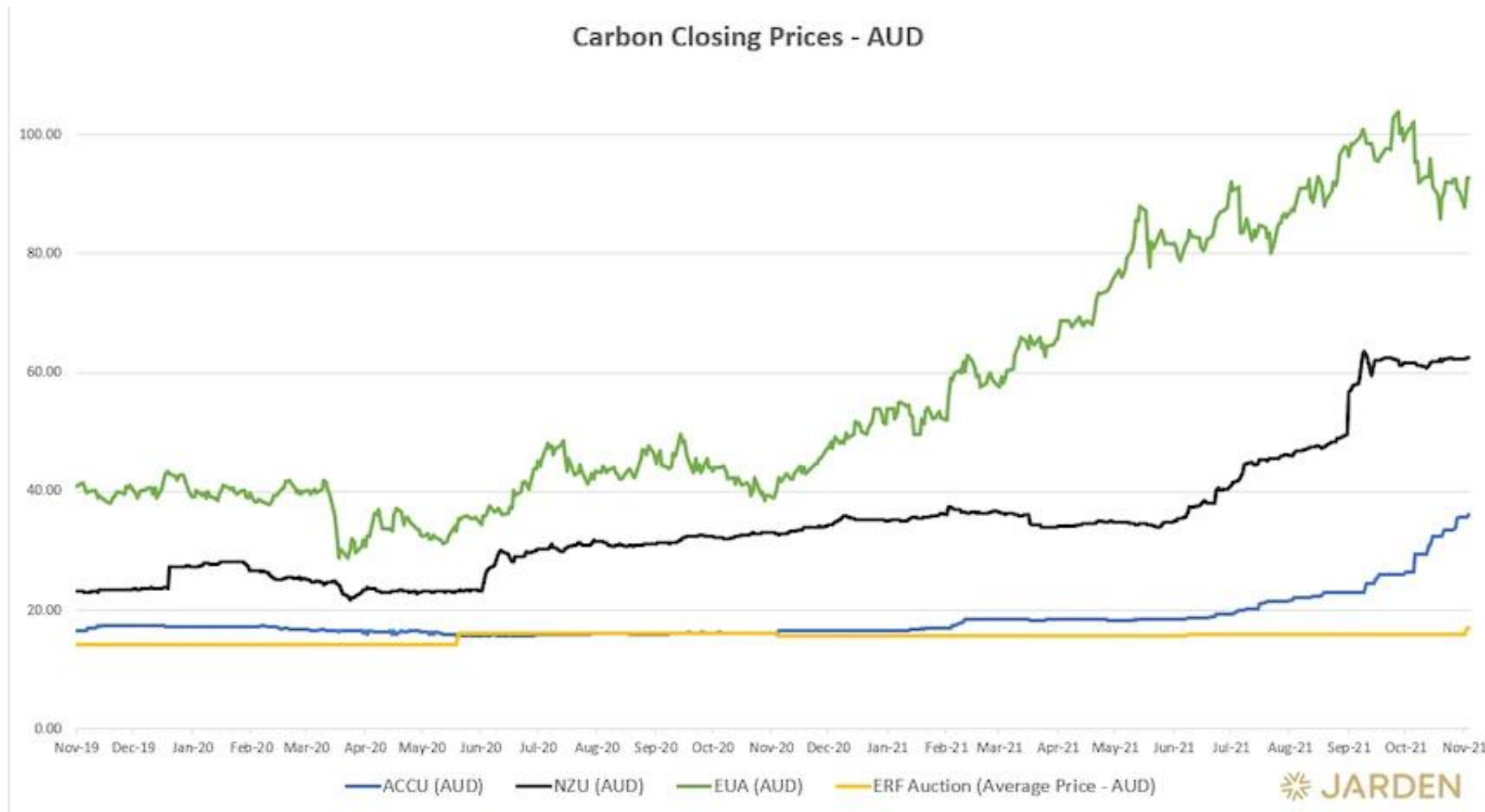
Managing fire for
Healthy Country

Cultural
obligations

Revenue
(Carbon
credits)

Self
Determination

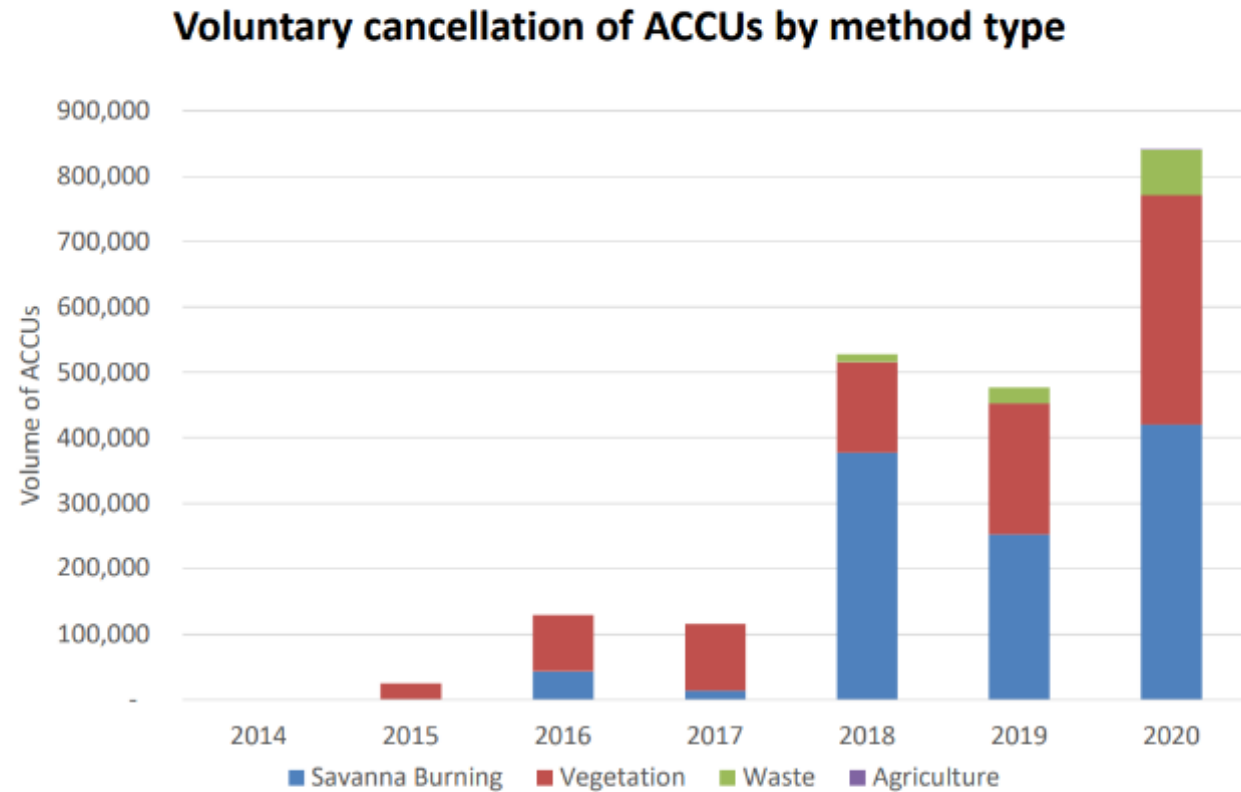
Employment



Source: ABC News, 6 November, 2021 <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-11-06/carbon-price-record-but-why-is-australia-behind-/100595060>

Strong demand for ACCUs on voluntary market

(source: Clean Energy Regulator Emissions Reduction Fund)



Carbon Boom – Market Changes

- Two markets for Carbon Credits (ACCUs); Corporate and Government

Government

(Emissions Reduction Fund)
Lowest price

Average price at last auction

\$16.94 per ACCU

We don't know the exact value of an Indigenous-owned carbon credit. However they generally attract a premium price on the market in recognition of the widespread benefits they bring.
(Source: Market Advisory Group)

Corporate

(Voluntary or Compliance)
Free market

1. One-off sales
Current spot price

\$49 per ACCU

2. Longer term private contracts

(\$ unknown – private sale)

Key Areas for Investment of Revenue from Carbon Projects

Source: ICIN survey of member organisations, August 2019



Governance Review

- As part of ICIN's incorporation process, ICIN undertook a review of its Governance processes, with the purpose of developing a new constitution for ICIN Ltd.
- With support from Terri Janke and Co, a draft constitution for ICIN Ltd was developed in March 2021.
- The ICIN team held three weeks of in person Governance Review sessions between 15 April and 30 April 2021, travelling to Broome & Derby in WA, Darwin, NT and to Cairns, QLD, to meet members, and seek feedback on the draft constitution.
- A fourth and final session was held on the 5th of May 2021, to include members who weren't able to attend in person sessions, and for members to provide final thoughts and feedback on draft constitution.
- Thank you to The Nature Conservancy for funding this vital work.

ICIN members attending the Derby Governance Session, which was held on 15 April



Highlights from ICIN Roadshow



SERA Conference

- ICIN Coordinator, Anna Boustead, and Senior Rembarranga Elder – Arafura Swamp Rangers, Dr Otto Bulmaniya Campion, presented as part of the *“Applying TEK in Carbon Projects to Enhance Restoration?”* panel at the SERA Conference in Darwin.
- The SERA Conference was held in Darwin between 10 – 13 May 2021.
- Other presenters included Parry Aguis, Natasha Hunter and Alison Sentence from Aboriginal Biodiversity Conservation Foundation, Ricky Archer from NAILSMA, Johnathan Green from ILSC, Gillian Mayne from the Land Restoration Fund, and Carolyn Einig from Corporate Carbon.



AIATSIS Summit

- ICIN Coordinator, Anna Boustead, presented as part of the *“Carbon Farming – How can Indigenous Groups benefit?”* panel at the AIATSIS Summit in Adelaide.
- Other panellists to present as part of the *“Carbon Farming – How can Indigenous Groups benefit?”* included Keith Thomas from SA Native Title Services, Melissa Sinclair from APN Cape York, Dominic McGann from McCulloch Roberston Lawyers, and Alison Sentence from Aboriginal Biodiversity Conservation Foundation.
- The AIATSIS Summit was held between 31 May and 4 June, 2021, and was a combination of both the National Indigenous Research Conference, and the National Native Title Conference. The theme of the Summit was *“Footprints for the future – Tracking our journey together.”*



Te Aratini Festival of Indigenous Voices – Dubai Expo, November 17 2021

- Dean Yibarbuk presented a short film to Dubai as a Director of ICIN via a videolink.
- The short film was produced in partnership with the ISFMI project and Coriolis Film and featured Dean, Dr Otto Champion, Dr Cameron Yates of Charles Darwin University and Barry Hunter of Djabugay Traditional Owners explaining north Australian Indigenous savanna fire management and the significant reduction in greenhouse gas emissions caused which has been recognized on the carbon market.
- ICIN informed the film and supported Dean to present it to the Dubai Expo on invitation from the National Indigenous Australians Agency.
- The film is now available to [watch via our YouTube channel](#).



ICIN Projects

The ICIN team are working on the following reports and resources funded through the Australian Government DISER, the QLD Government Land Restoration Fund and Northern Territory Government, which will be made available on our website by June 2022.

- **Understanding the Carbon Industry:** a series of fact sheets, story reports and videos to explain how the carbon industry works, informed through a series of workshops.
- **Scoping the Indigenous Carbon Industry:** a report summarizing the current state of the Indigenous carbon industry, and identifying key opportunities and barriers for Indigenous groups seeking to access these opportunities.
- **Co-benefits and the Indigenous Carbon Industry:** a report summarizing the results of recent consultation workshops with ICIN members discussing how

ILSC

Savanna Fire Management Program Forum - Darwin

Dec 2021

ICIN participated and presented an industry update to groups involved in the program from across the Western Top End region, as well as the Tiwi Islands, Djudbara and Garawa savanna burning carbon projects.





Cape York Fire Forum – Dec 2021

ICIN *Understanding the Carbon Market* Workshop

Griffith Review 71

Remaking the Balance

Clare Wright, Matthew Evans, Nardi Simpson,
John Kinsella, Gabrielle Chan, Barbara Kingsolver,
Ian Lowe, Inga Simpson, Jo Chandler, Trent Parke.

ICIN in the Media

- Griffith Review (Edition 71 – February 2021): [Remaking the Balance](#)
- ABC Rural (10 May 2021, November 2021): [NT Country Hour](#)
- Landline: [Carbon Special, Tiwi Islands Savanna Burning Project](#) (ILSC/Inpex) (November 2021)
- ABC News: [Carbon price hits a record high, but Australia still a long way to go](#)

Advancing Australia

- On June 5, Dr. Otto Champion, Senior Gurruwilling Ranger from Arafura Swamp Rangers, was featured as part of a new Channel 10 technology focused program called Advancing Australia.
- The focus of the Episode 10, was on the impact of bushfires and how they affect communities in different parts of the country. Otto showed how Indigenous Fire Management is vital for the protection of country, and how it can help prevent larger, more devastating dry season fires.
- Advancing Australia premiered in March 2021, and showcases national issues, and the innovative ways being used to solve those issues. It is hosted by the acclaimed actor, Guy Pearce.
- ICIN played a facilitating role in the program, and helped to support both Otto, and the Channel 10 film crew in the production of the episode.



Future opportunities

- Growing number of Indigenous-owned carbon projects
- Savanna Fire Management methods will be remade in 2022 including new carbon pools and less barriers to uptake. ICIN will be hosting workshops to support its members to participate in this process.
- Up to 3 times more carbon is expected to be accounted for from savanna fire management through including these new carbon pools.
- Human-induced Regeneration (on cleared/grazed country)
- On sea country, the Blue Carbon (Tidal Restoration) Method is now finalized and will be released shortly. It measures the carbon benefit of removing a barrier such as bund or sea wall to restore the natural tide and coastal floodplain.
- Opportunity to include feral animal management in coastal floodplain zones in this method in future.
- Soil carbon methods to measure benefit of improved land management practices.
- ICIN will be supporting more Indigenous groups to understand the opportunities and risks of engaging in the carbon market.
- ICIN will continue to advocate for greater recognition of Indigenous rights and interests in carbon and Indigenous leadership of the carbon market.



Recognising the rights and interests of Indigenous people is critical

ICIN published the **Best Practice Guide to Seeking free, prior and informed consent from Indigenous communities for carbon projects** in February 2020.

ICIN strongly recommends that carbon proponents adopt this guide in accordance with the principles stated in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People, which Australia has endorsed.

In July 2021, the guide was [endorsed as best practice in the Carbon Market Institute Code of Conduct](#) as a result of ICIN and its members informing the Independent Review of the Code.

The guide is also referred in advice targeted at new carbon proponents produced by the Carbon Market Institute, the Clean Energy Regulator, as well as the Queensland Government Land Restoration Fund and the Western Australian Government.



ICIN 2021/22 Workplan

This year ICIN aims to:

- Support workshops about Understanding the Carbon Market
- Deliver communication materials (fact sheets, videos, reports) targeted at Indigenous organisations for the Understanding the Carbon Market project
- Complete 3 Scoping Reports on key aspects of the Indigenous Carbon Industry and publish a Summary Report.
- Develop Code of Conduct with members and internal Policies and Procedures
- Ensure all ICIN members transition to formal ICIN Ltd company structure as Full Members and grow Associate Members
- Develop assurance model, brand and policies to support recognition of genuine Indigenous-owned carbon.
- Build on our Member Alerts and Bulletins and linking these with our website and social media.
- Update our information sharing platforms regularly (website, social media, email, videos) supported by Communications Manager.
- Support regular Members-only workshops as well as public Webinars on a range of issues. Improve information sharing by establishing a Scientific Advisory Committee and Policy Working Group
- Host the ICIN Ltd General Meeting (14 Feb), 2022 North Australia Savanna Fire Forum (15 Feb) and 1st National Indigenous Carbon Forum (16 Feb)
- Coordinate Board Meetings and Membership
- Launch ICIN Ltd
- Develop our Strategic Business Plan
- Provide information and a point of connection for Indigenous groups across Australia interested in the carbon industry.

2022 North Australia Savanna Fire Forum 15 February

The 2022 North Australia Savanna Fire Forum will bring together hundreds of Indigenous landholders, Indigenous rangers, pastoralists, fire ecologists, spatial scientists, government representatives, carbon industry representatives and community representatives online on February 15 to share experiences and knowledge to support best practice savanna fire management practices across north Australia.

[Registrations Opening January 4](#)

www.savannafireforum.net

2022 NORTH AUSTRALIA **SAVANNA FIRE FORUM**

Registrations Now Open - 15 February - Online at your Computer - www.savannafireforum.net



1st National Indigenous Carbon Forum 16 February Online

The 1st National Indigenous Carbon Forum will take place after the Savanna Fire Forum online and in Darwin on February 16.

It will provide a focus for discussions and knowledge sharing about the Indigenous carbon industry, carbon market updates, putting a spotlight on Indigenous rights and interests in carbon as well as explore emerging opportunities for Indigenous land and sea managers through new carbon accounting methods.

[Registrations Opening January 4](#)



ICIN

Indigenous
Carbon
Industry
Network

Thank You

Thank you to all of the people and organisations who have contributed so generously to the ICIN, particularly to our Steering Committee members, host and funders for supporting the ICIN in 2020/21.

- Australian Government Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources
- Northern Territory Government Department of the Chief Minister and Bushfires NT
- Queensland Government Department of Environment and Science
- The Nature Conservancy
- Warddeken Land Management Ltd
- The Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation
- All of our members and supporters



Contact

Coordinator, Anna Boustead

icin@warddeken.org.au

p. 0417 989 577

[Facebook/IndigenousCarbonIndustryNetwork](https://www.facebook.com/IndigenousCarbonIndustryNetwork)

Twitter: [@IndigCarbonNet](https://twitter.com/IndigCarbonNet)