Anna Boustead, Coordinator

ICIN Indigenous Carbon Industry Network

What is the Indigenous Carbon Industry?

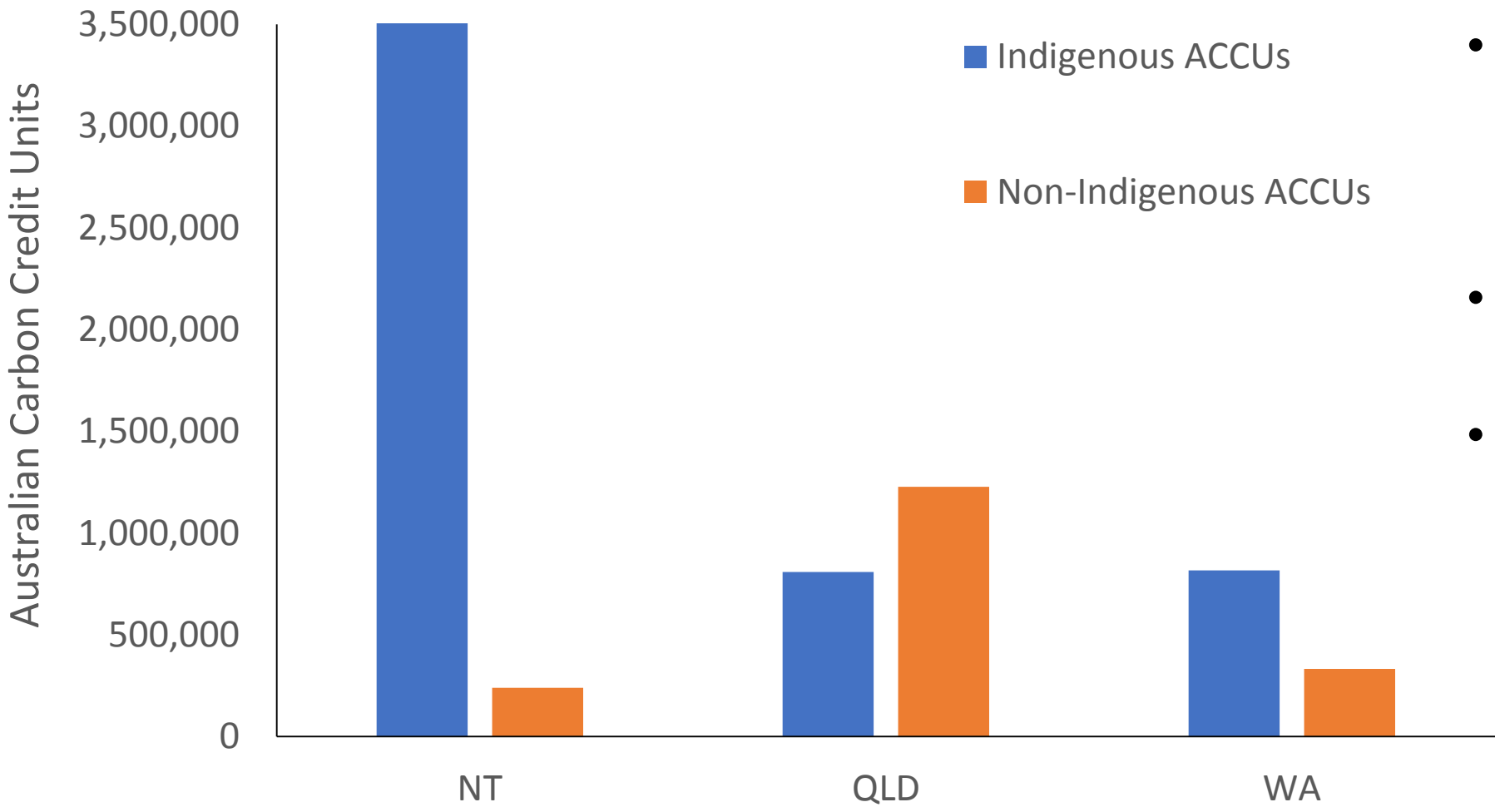
- A major emerging industry rapidly expanded from the successful West Arnhem Land Fire Abatement (WALFA) project across north Australia
- Traditional Landowners and Indigenous ranger groups undertake early dry season burning to limit the extent of destructive late dry season wildfire
- Scientists worked together in partnership with Indigenous land managers to develop the methodology for measuring the savanna burning carbon abatement
- Registered Eligible Offsets Projects can earn and sell Australian Carbon Credit Units (ACCUs) through the Carbon Farming Initiative (CFI) Act
- Current buyers include the Australian Government via the Emissions Reduction Fund or to corporate buyers seeking to offset their carbon emissions (compliance/voluntary)

Benefits

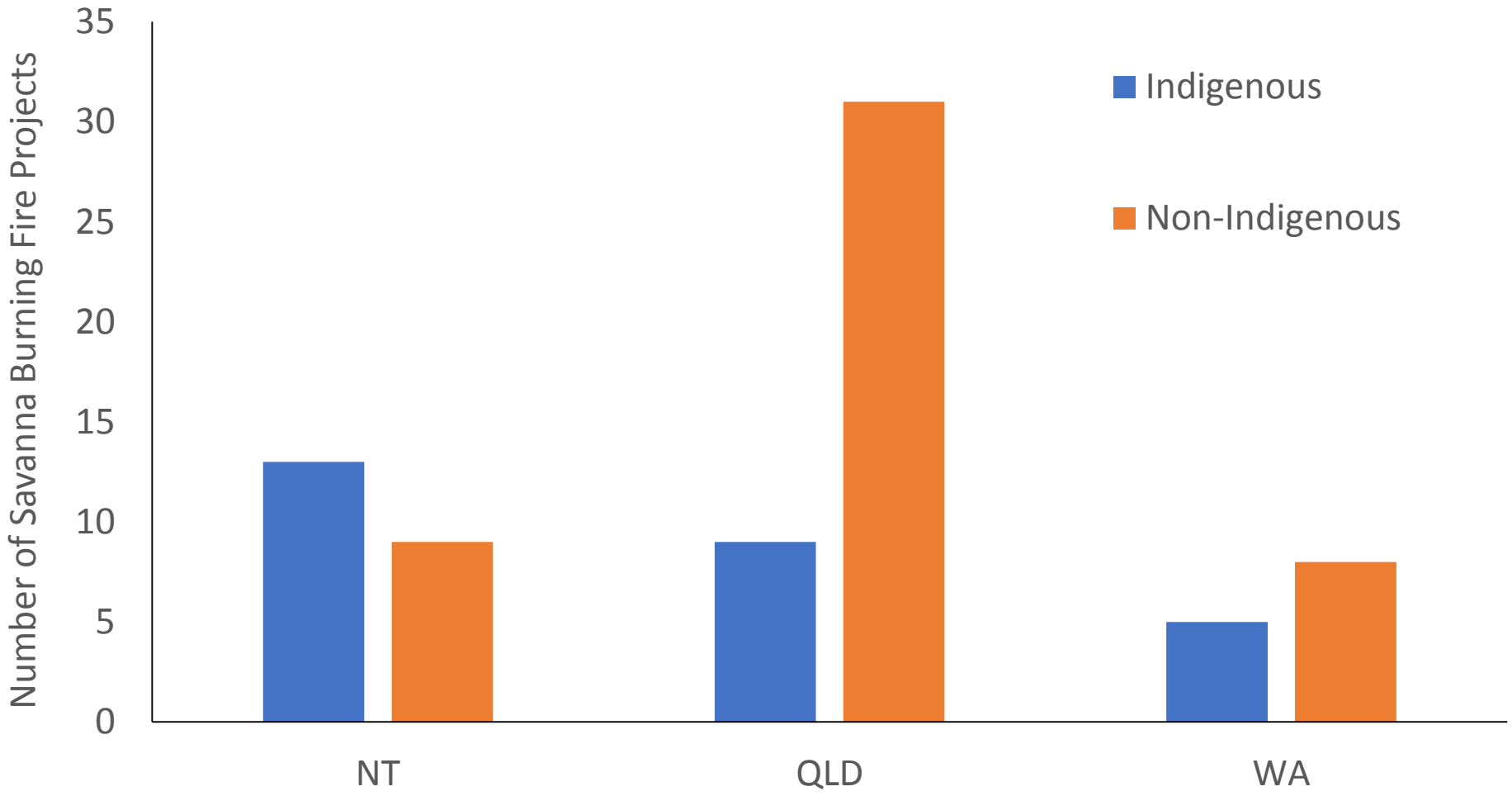
- Unique in that it generates multiple environmental, cultural and social benefits as well as significantly abating greenhouse gas emissions.
- Provides meaningful training and employment opportunities on country in very remote areas where jobs are scarce.
- Enhances opportunities to access country, intergenerational exchange of traditional knowledge and practices.
- Offsets the costs of fire management.
- Empowers land managers by providing an independent source of income.
- Improved biodiversity outcomes of global significance.

State of the Indigenous Carbon Industry

- Over 27 Indigenous-owned and operated savanna fire projects
- Enabling improved Indigenous fire management over 17.3 million hectares of north Australian savanna
- Abating approximately 1.2 million tonnes of CO2e each year
- Generating over $16 million worth of ACCUs in the 2017/18 year
- Over 10% of all ACCUs produced (across all methods) are from Indigenous carbon businesses
- Around ¾ of ACCUs produced by the savanna fire emissions avoidance method are generated by Indigenous carbon businesses.
- 68% of this production occurs in the Northern Territory (828,069 tonnes).
- 16 % each in Western Australia and Queensland



- Almost 7 million ACCUs issued to savanna burning methodology
- 10 % of total ACCU issuance
- 74 % of ACCUs have been produced by Indigenous savanna burning projects


Number of Savanna Burning Fire Projects
35
30
25
20
15
10
5
0
NT
QLD
WA
Indigenous
Non-Indigenous

New methodologies in development (standing dead wood, living biomass).

Better coordination and communication resources (ICIN).

Developing climate change policies delivering more certainty for the industry

Growing voluntary and compliance markets.

Growing ‘willingness to pay’ for carbon credits generated by Indigenous carbon businesses as recognition of co-benefits and demand increases.

Potential for trading mechanisms to deliver a price on carbon in response to emissions targets.

New training courses available to build capacity of fire managers and carbon farming practitioners (Aboriginal Carbon Foundation, Skills Impact and CDU).

Industry Growth

What is the Indigenous Carbon Industry Network?

- Initiated by Indigenous carbon businesses at 2018 Savanna Fire Forum
- Filling a critical gap in industry coordination
- Supported by an Interim Steering Committee of members
- Including 35 member organisations across north Australia
- Broader network including 200 people
- Currently funded by Australian Government Department of the Environment and Energy, Northern Territory Government and Queensland Government.
- Employs part-time Coordinator hosted by Warddeken Land Management.

Objectives

Building capacity through knowledge sharing among Indigenous practitioners.

Setting best-practice standards and guidelines for Indigenous engagement.

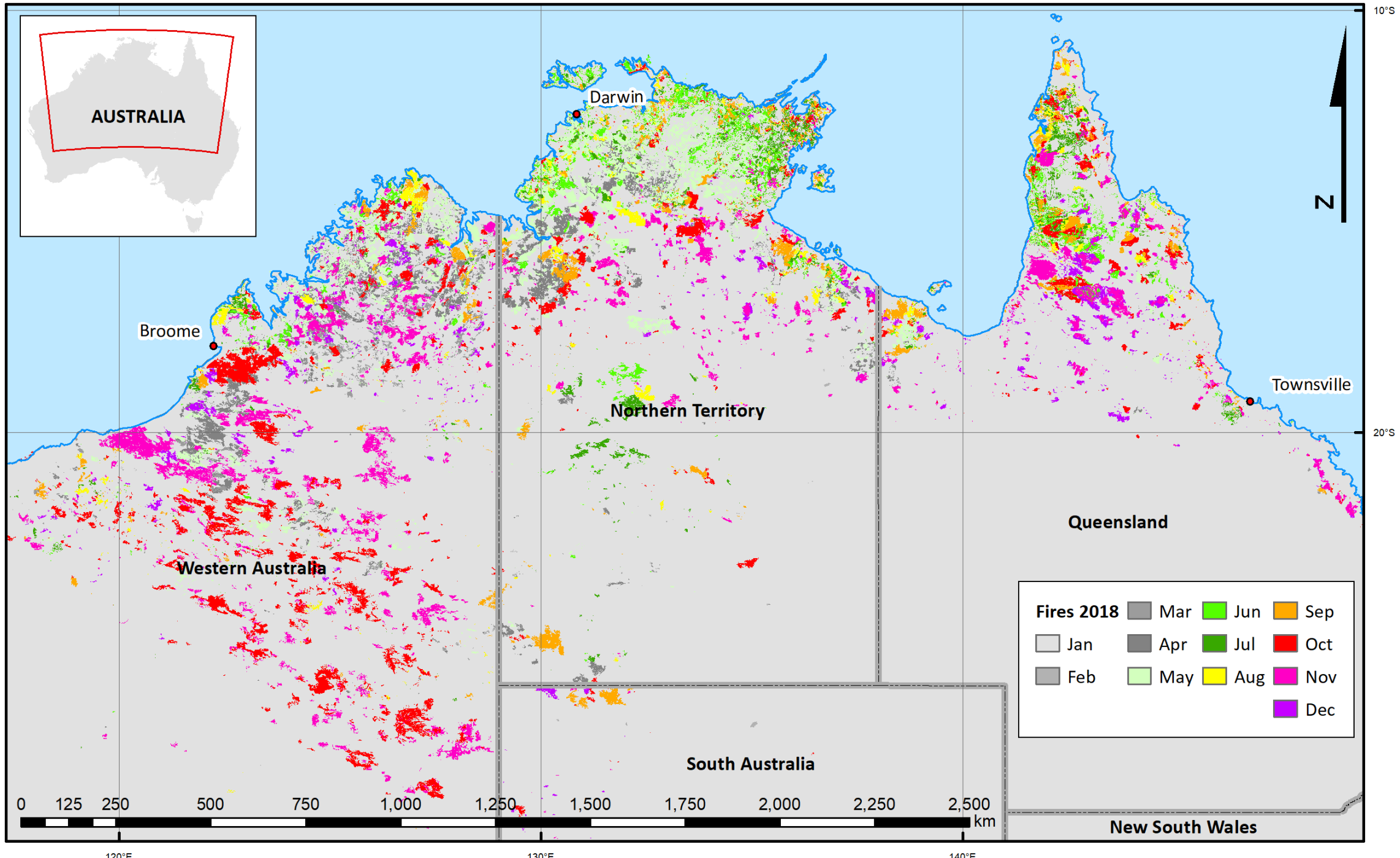
Facilitating engagement and collaboration with state, territory and Australian governments in policy development.

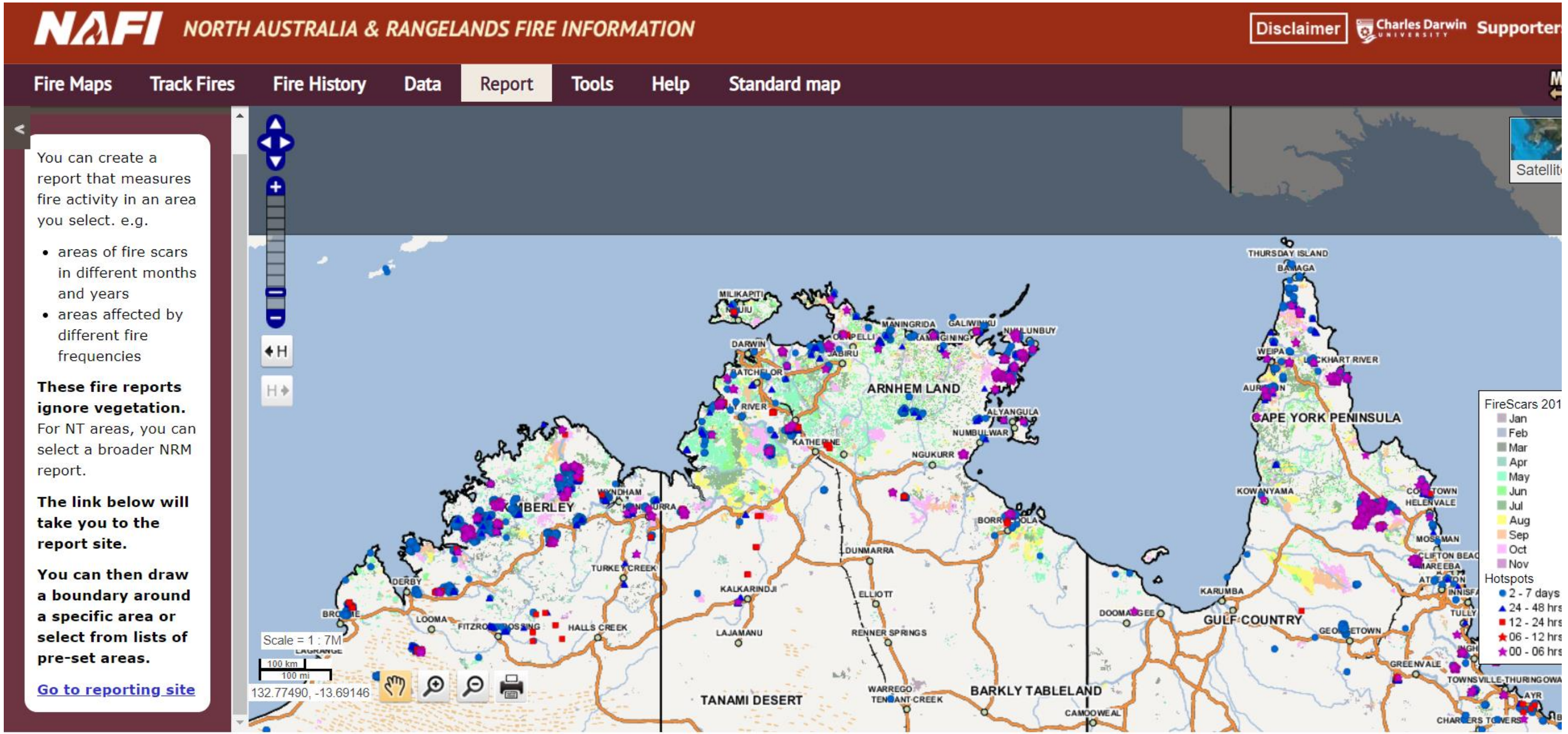
Increasing access and engagement by Indigenous projects with the corporate sector.

Strengthening the role of the network.

Risks of Climate Change Impacts to Carbon Industry

- More extreme hot days (record temperatures in the Top End, 2017 and 2019)
- More frequent heat waves 3-5 days
- Significantly more days over 35 deg each year
- More intense droughts and flooding events
- Seasonal changes
- Communities more vulnerable to extreme weather events such as flooding, drought, storm surge, heat waves
- Likely to result in hotter and more frequent fires, particularly when combined with the spread of fire weeds such as gamba grass (although tempered by EDS fire management)


AUSTRALIA
Darwin
Broome
Townsville
Northern Territory
Queensland
Western Australia
South Australia
New South Wales
N
10°S
20°S
Fires 2018
Jan
Feb
Mar
Apr
May
Jun
Jul
Aug
Sep
Oct
Nov
Dec
0
125
250
500
750
1,000
1,250
1,500
1,750
2,000
2,250
2,500
km
120°E
130°E
140°E


NAFI
NORTH AUSTRALIA & RANGELANDS FIRE INFORMATION
Disclaimer
Charles Darwin UNIVERSITY
Supporter
Fire Maps
Track Fires
Fire History
Data
Report
Tools
Help
Standard map
You can create a report that measures fire activity in an area you select. e.g.
areas of fire scars in different months and years
areas affected by different fire frequencies
These fire reports ignore vegetation. For NT areas, you can select a broader NRM report.
The link below will take you to the report site.
You can then draw a boundary around a specific area or select from lists of pre-set areas.
Go to reporting site
ARNHEM LAND
CAPE YORK PENINSULA
GULF COUNTRY
BARKLY TABLELAND
TANAMI DESERT
DARWIN
KATHERINE
NGUKURR
DUNMARRA
KALKARINDJI
ELLIOTT
RENNER SPRINGS
TURKEY CREEK
HALLS CREEK
LAJAMANU
DERBY
WYNDHAM
KUNUNURRA
NUMBULWAR
ALYANGULA
NHULUNBUY
MANINGRIDA
GALIWINKU
JABIRU
PINE CREEK
KARUMBA
DOOMADGEE
KOWANYAMA
THURSDAY ISLAND
WEIPA
LOCKHART RIVER
CAMOOWEAL
TENNANT CREEK
WARREGO
GREENVALE
MOSSMAN
FireScars 201
Jan
Feb
Mar
Apr
May
Jun
Jul
Aug
Sep
Oct
Nov
Hotspots
2 - 7 days
24 - 48 hrs
12 - 24 hrs
06 - 12 hrs
00 - 06 hrs
Scale = 1 : 7M
100 km
100 mi
132.77490, -13.69146

Potential Impacts on the Carbon Industry

- More resources allocated to fire suppression in LDS = less resources available for EDS fire management burning.
- Less carbon credits generated from EDS fire management burning means less income for next year's fire season.
- Longer fire season due to hot and dry conditions (eg 2019) uses more land management resources
- Hot, hard work - less comfortable conditions resulting in heat exhaustion
- Changing fire behaviour when combined with fire weeds such as gamba grass presents risks to fire managers
- Low morale, staff turnover

How the Indigenous carbon industry supports Australia to respond to climate change

- Abates at least 1.2 mill ton CO2 equivalent, or 10% of Australia's total carbon credits.
- Supports handing down of Traditional Knowledge to younger generations
- Supports two-way learning
- Improves resilience of remote communities and outstations by empowering Indigenous people to live and work on country.
- More income to support Indigenous land management = increased resilience to climate change.
- More rangers out on country = better monitoring and management of climate impacts.
- Government funding for ranger groups is vital, eg. NT Aboriginal Ranger Group grants, IPA funding, Working on Country

Future outlook

This industry already delivers environmental benefits of global significance, for both the climate and biodiversity

Growing recognition of the numerous positive social, cultural and economic outcomes for Indigenous communities.

Carbon credits generated by Indigenous carbon businesses are highly sought after, so can attract a premium price.

Potential recognition of increased carbon benefit through new sequestration method (long-term commitment).

Growing the Indigenous Carbon Industry

- Clear, consistent government policy to cut emissions and grow the carbon market
- Support new carbon project development with start-up funding grants
- Remove barriers to uptake of new carbon methods to increase supply ACCUs
- Listen to advice from Indigenous carbon businesses, through ICIN
- Support our homegrown marketing strategy
- Increased long-term funding to support Indigenous ranger groups
- Recognition of native title rights and interests in carbon.
- Support for better control and management of fire weeds
- Increased funding to support R&D of new methods and NAFI Fire North service
- Engage our industry in broader policy discussions and industry engagements

Thank You

ICIN Indigenous Carbon Industry Network

Warddeken Rangers (*Photos: David Hancock*)

www.savannafireforum.net