



SAVANNA FIRE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM | **ANNUAL REPORT 2021**



Australian Government
Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation



The ILSC GROUP

PEOPLE. COUNTRY. OPPORTUNITY.



SAVANNA FIRE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM ANNUAL REPORT 2021

Introduction	1
SFM Program Manager Activities in 2021	2
SFM Project areas by phase	4
By the numbers	5
Outcomes of all SFM Projects undertaken during 2021	6
Phase 1 Project Funding Agreements	9
Phase 2 Project Funding Agreements	10
ACCU's generated by SFM Program Operators	20
SFM Program Financial Summary 2021	21
Summary of Variance from 2020 Budget	21
Performance Evaluation of the SFM Program	22



Rangers and community leaders planning coordination of fire management across the region

Introduction

This annual report describes the achievements of the fifth year of the Savanna Fire Management Program (SFM Program) and its partners in 2021. The Program aims to establish new savanna fire management businesses on Aboriginal Land in the Northern Territory.

The SFM Program is resourced by INPEX Operations Australia (INPEX) on behalf of Ichthys LNG joint venture partners via a discretionary trust (SFM Trust) managed by Perpetual Trustee Company Ltd (Perpetual). INPEX committed these funds as part of a voluntary agreement with the NT Government to offset greenhouse gas emissions associated with the Ichthys onshore LNG facility in Darwin. INPEX appointed Perpetual to manage the SFM Trust and engaged the Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation (ILSC) as the Program Manager to deliver the SFM Program. The ILSC and Perpetual entered the SFM Services Agreement on 12 December 2016, and operations commenced in April 2017.

Savanna fire management generating carbon credits provides opportunity to deliver multiple benefits for Indigenous people including establishing a nature-based business, training, creating jobs, facilitating cultural practices, as well as supporting and promoting caring for country. Projects funded through the SFM Program apply Savanna Fire Management Methodologies approved by the Clean Energy Regulator (CER) for areas that receive over 600mm annual rainfall, to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from wildfires and generate Australian Carbon Credit Units.

Savanna Fire Management is based on the principle of early dry season burning in a fine scale mosaic, a method informed by the traditional Aboriginal fire management practiced across northern Australia for millennia by Indigenous people. The multiple benefits associated with the application of this method underpin the purpose of the SFM Program and continue to be supported by the Program. These benefits include:

- increased training and capacity building,
- culturally appropriate employment in fire management activities,
- improvements for biodiversity conservation,
- protecting cultural values,
- steps to improve governance arrangements and sustainable business models for Projects, and
- generation of Australian Carbon Credit Units (ACCU's).

The SFM Program is targeted to develop projects within the Northern Territory and represents an extension of ILSC engagement in the savanna carbon industry. The ILSC's role in establishing the Indigenous savanna fire management industry has been foundational, with business development support for the Arnhem Land fire project and the establishment of the Fish River fire project as a demonstration site and the first savanna fire project in Australia to earn carbon credits in 2012.

Program operations for 2021 have been affected by the ongoing global COVID-19 pandemic. Fortunately, critical fire work was completed to ensure a successful year of burning, due to the commitment and flexibility of the Project groups undertaking the fire work. COVID-19 has challenged communications and particularly the governance of SFM Projects. Free, prior and informed consent is foundational to the SFM Program and Indigenous decision making more broadly, involving consultations and meetings that bring people together to discuss important issues. Measures to avoid transmission of the virus have resulted in many meetings being cancelled. Remote online meetings have enabled much of the practical planning to be undertaken, but many of the more complex consultations and long-term decision-making events have been postponed for most Projects. The Program will continue to adapt as necessary and extend its use of remote equipment where possible.

“Being able to harness that connectivity and knowledge I think is something indigenous people are very well placed to gain a premium price on these kinds of credits, because it's not just about carbon per se, this is about ancient knowledge, this is about 65,000 years of connectivity, this is about biodiversity – and importantly, this is about the transferability of that knowledge to future generations”.

Joe Morrison, ILSC Group CEO

Summary of Savanna Fire Management Program Manager Activities in 2021

2021 was an exciting year for the SFM Program, with the addition of the Wardaman project registered in 2021 as the fifth SFM project registered with the Clean Energy Regulator. An additional two Projects are also active in the feasibility assessment phase. The SFM Program now supports landscape scale fire management, and the subsequent abatement of greenhouse gas emissions, over nearly 40,000 square kilometres. With an additional 6,000 square kilometres in the feasibility phase, the SFM Program is now operating over more than 45,000 square kilometres.

An important objective for Projects is the establishment of a culturally appropriate and robust entity to successfully manage the carbon enterprise. For several projects, building effective governance arrangements is complex and will remain a focus for several years. The SFM Program will continue to support the process of establishing appropriate governing entities

through guidance and facilitation of the Projects to work through land ownership issues, cultural responsibilities, land management aspirations, combined funding models and potential income distribution arrangements.

The SFM Program has assisted groups in holding consultation meetings with Traditional Owners from their wider region, facilitating the inclusion of key partners and relevant expertise to help groups build their governance and operational capacity. This includes strategic planning, WH&S plans, risk assessment and standard operating procedures, setting up a governing body, checking project progress and budgets, project administration and information management, complying with CER registration and auditing requirements and facilitating community engagement.

Another key role of the SFM Program is to build capacity and to engage with the broader fire management and carbon network of technical experts and practitioners.

The Program hosted a forum targeted to the SFM Projects in December 2021. The forum was held online to reduce COVID-19 transmission risk, and enabled Project participants to share their achievements and stories and learn about key areas of focus such as effective fire management planning, using the Northern Fire and Information Services (NAFI), satellite imagery and other information tools, fire suppression for late season fires and governance considerations.

The Communications Strategy for the SFM Program was agreed to by all governing parties in mid-2021, with a key objective to support projects to communicate and promote their projects. During the year the ILSC facilitated the Tiwi Project to feature on ABC Landline with a story about their savanna fire project.

The Wardaman and Judbarra Projects also featured in the Northern Land Council Quarterly Land Rights News and the Western Top End Project featured in 'Territory Q' Magazine.



Rangers and community leaders planning burn off areas across the region



Important regional meetings such as this one in February 2021 are essential to collaboration and coordination of fire management across the region



Tiwi Rangers conducting interviews to help develop communication products about their Project

A 5-year review of the Program was conducted in the first half of 2021, with Perpetual engaging independent consultant Ernst & Young. The review provided a valuable opportunity to engage SFM Program partners in assessing the overall performance of the SFM Program. The review recognised the Program's success in engaging eligible groups to overcome participation barriers to access the emerging Indigenous carbon industry and clarified the priorities for future work. These future priorities include encouraging sustainable Indigenous governance structures, standardising impact metrics for projects, formalising communications between governing parties and building resilience.

As the Program transitions to consolidating Projects in the operational phase and supporting the emergence of sustainable enterprises, the Program has developed an approved multi-year work program (2021-24) and budget. The budget outlines a commitment to improved communication resources to assist with understanding the carbon market and audits, training in using the Northern Fire and Information Services (NAFI), fire mapping services, developing governance arrangements for Projects and improving impact metrics over the next 4 years.

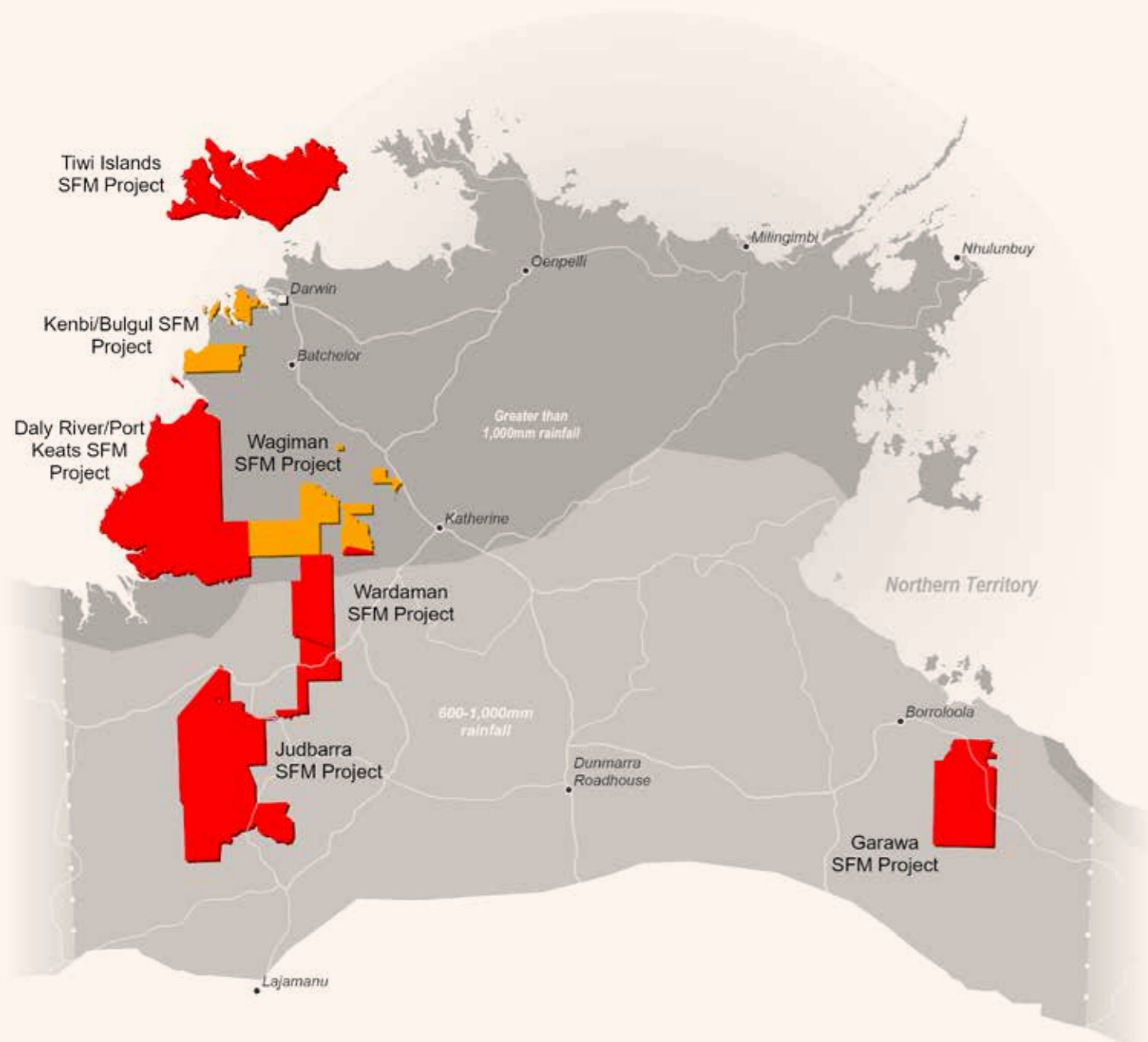
Establishing the SFM Projects has been a key focus of the first 5 years of the SFM Program. With rapid growth in the demand and value of Indigenous provenance Australian Carbon Credit Unit's (ACCU's), the Projects are in a strong position to transition to successful independent carbon enterprises. The SFM Program is committed to assisting the groups on their journey, and in early 2022 will develop a strategic plan for the next phase of the Program to ensure that the resilience and sustainability of these emerging enterprises enables them to achieve the transformational outcomes envisaged at the outset of the Program.

Savanna Fire Management Program

Project areas by phase (ILSC January 2022)

The map below shows the location of project areas during 2021, showing progress in the Savanna Fire Management Program – Phase 1 & Phase 2.

- Phase 1 Project Funding Agreement (current)
- Phase 2 Project Funding Agreement (current)



By the numbers

3,000 KM²
NEW AREA UNDER FIRE
MANAGEMENT
IN 2021

39,000 KM²
TOTAL AREA UNDER FIRE
MANAGEMENT (PHASE 2 PROJECTS)
IN 2021

ONE
NEW CARBON PROJECT
REGISTRATION
IN 2021

**12 INDIGENOUS
RANGER GROUPS**
ENGAGED THROUGH PROGRAM
IN 2021

**36 INDIGENOUS
PEOPLE TRAINED**
IN FIRE/CARBON RELATED WORK
IN 2021

77%
OF FUNDING
FOR PHASE 2 OPERATIONS

187,533
TOTAL ACCUs
FROM SFM PROJECTS

129,128
ACCUs GENERATED
IN 2021
(FROM 2020 YEAR)

**6 INDIGENOUS
ORGANISATIONS**
DIRECTLY FUNDED
THROUGH PROGRAM

**81 INDIGENOUS
EMPLOYEES**
ON COUNTRY IN 2021
(MIX OF F/T & CASUAL)

Summary of the outcomes of all SFM Projects undertaken during 2021

PHASE 1 PROJECT FUNDING AGREEMENTS

Projects in Phase 1 have been supported to build knowledge about fire management and how this aligns with carbon abatement. The support provided at this stage of Project development aims to contribute to appreciating the Savanna Fire Management industry and more effective fire management activities, but no credits can be earned until projects are registered with the CER, which generally occurs during Phase 2.

All Phase 1 projects are developed with local Indigenous enterprises where possible. Alternatively, where a local organisation doesn't exist the Project can proceed via an external Indigenous organisation as the host. Traditional Owners are consulted extensively about the proposed hosting organisation before contracts are executed. Where a hosting entity is proposed for specific Projects, such as NAILSMA for the Wagiman, Garawa and Judbarra Projects, SFM funds are directed to establish or develop a local Indigenous entity to govern the SFM Project.

PHASE 2 PROJECT FUNDING AGREEMENTS

If Phase 1 requirements are met, a Phase 2 Project Funding Agreement can be negotiated for the SFM Program to fund savanna fire management operations and broader project development activities to establish sustainable Indigenous Savanna Fire Management enterprises.



“I’m screaming out for more guys now, I’m hoping to get a couple more land ranger guys in the program – but definitely a women ranger group, because you know Tiwi doesn’t have a women’s ranger group, so in the future I would really love to have a women’s ranger group – to be supporting that would be fantastic”.

Willie Rioli, Tiwi Ranger Manager

The following table provides a summary of active SFM projects in 2021:

Phase	SFM Projects involved in the SFM Program over calendar year 2021
1	Wardaman - Northern Land Council - S19 Agreement finalised
1	Wagiman Project - Northern Land Council - feasibility assessment completed; S19 Agreement consultations postponed to 2022
1	Kenbi/Bulgul Project - NAILSMA - ongoing feasibility investigations
2	Tiwi Islands Fire Project - Tiwi Resources - fourth year of operation as an SFM Project
2	Garawa Fire Project - NAILSMA -with a service agreement to NLC - third year of operation as a CER registered Project
2	Daly River/Port Keats Land Trust Project / Western Top End Project - Thamarrurr Development Corporation - second year of operation as a CER registered Project
2	Judbarra Fire Project - ILSC - second year of operation as a CER registered Project
2	Wardaman - Northern Land Council - first year of operation as a CER registered Project

A DETAILED OUTLINE OF EACH SFM PROJECT FOLLOWS.





Jabul Huddleston and Wagiman Rangers preparing for some early dry season burning with a drip torch.

Phase 1 Projects

WAGIMAN PROJECT: PHASE 1

Land Management Group: Wagiman Rangers hosted by the Northern Land Council

The potential Wagiman Fire Project covers the Upper Daly and Wagiman Aboriginal Land Trust in the vicinity of Pine Creek. A Phase 1 Project Funding Agreement (PFA) for Wagiman was finalised in May 2020 with the NLC as the proponent. The business and feasibility report completed in 2021 for the Wagiman Project indicates a strong opportunity for the Wagiman people to engage in the Savanna Fire Management industry. To join the SFM Program and move into Phase 2, a Section 19 License Agreement (s19) through the Northern Land Council will be required. The required consultation event for the s19 was delayed this year due to the high risk of regional scale meetings promoting COVID transmission across remote communities of the Northern Territory. It is expected that the NLC will complete consultations in 2022 meaning the Project will be registered and eligible to earn ACCUs from fire management work in 2022. A fire management plan for 2022 has been drafted with input from NT Bushfires in preparation for the Project moving to Phase 2.

KENBI-BULGUL PROJECT: PHASE 1

Land Management Groups: Kenbi & Bulgul Rangers hosted by the Northern Land Council

The SFM Program has continued to explore a viable Project with Kenbi Aboriginal Land Trust and Delissavale/Wagait/Larrakia Aboriginal Land Trust. A Phase 1 Project Funding Agreement was executed in December 2020 with NAILSMA as the host organisation. NAILSMA completed a feasibility analysis for the Kenbi and Bulgul land areas in 2021, indicating the relatively small area (for landscape scale Savanna Fire Management) and fire history of the area would require sophisticated fire management and extensive community engagement (given the proximity to urban areas) to render the project viable. Traditional Owners and the host organisation continue to give the Project concept careful consideration. The ILSC has granted an extension for Phase 1 activities to be continued into 2022.

Phase 2 Projects

WARDAMAN PROJECT: PHASE 2

Land Management Groups:

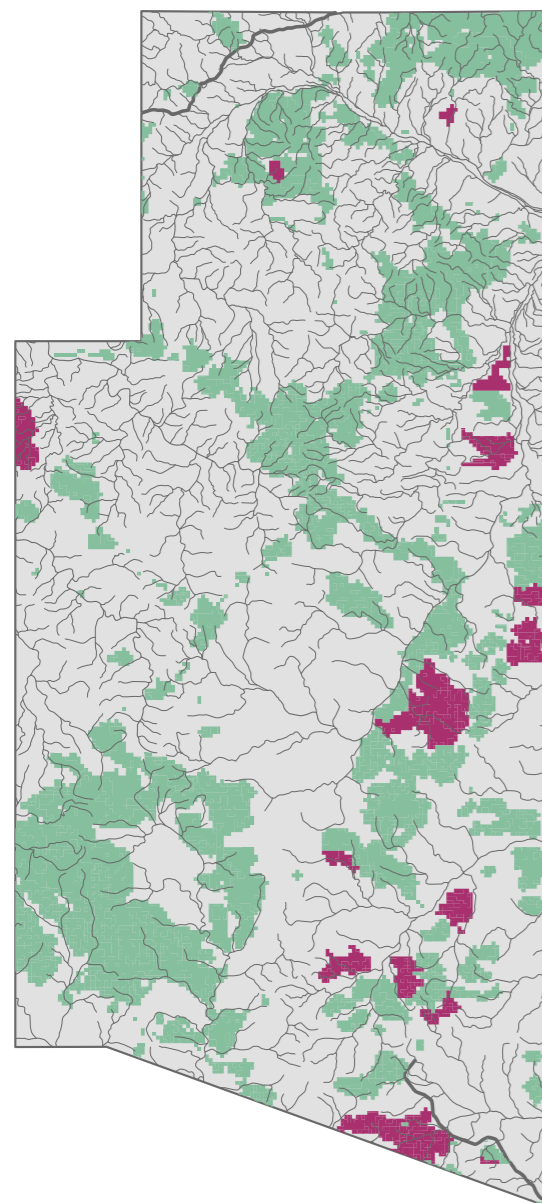
- Wardaman Rangers

Training Received:

- Workplace Health and Safety
- Safe Use of Aerial Incendiary Machine

Ranger Participation:



- 8



The Wardaman Project (ERF 170671) includes the Menggen Aboriginal Land Trust (ALT) and Yibulyawun ALT. The Wardaman Project transitioned to Phase 2 operations in August 2021 and was successfully registered with the CER in December 2021. Eight rangers received fire management training in 2021. Rangers participated in accredited training in Workplace Health and Safety, as well as Safe use of aerial incendiary machine. The Wardaman Rangers implemented their fire plan (April to May) using a combination of ground burning and aerial incendiaries.

2021 Fire Scars By Season (NAFI 2022)

Within project eligible vegetation class area

-  early dry season
-  late dry season



Wardaman Ranger, conducting early dry season roadside burning

JUDBARRA NATIONAL PARK PROJECT - NAILSMA: PHASE 2

Land Management Groups:

- Timber Creek Rangers hosted by Northern Land Council
- Wardaman Rangers hosted by Northern Land Council
- Daguragu Rangers hosted by Central Land Council
- NT Parks & Wildlife Rangers, Northern Territory Government

Ranger Participation:

- 10 Rangers & Traditional Owners

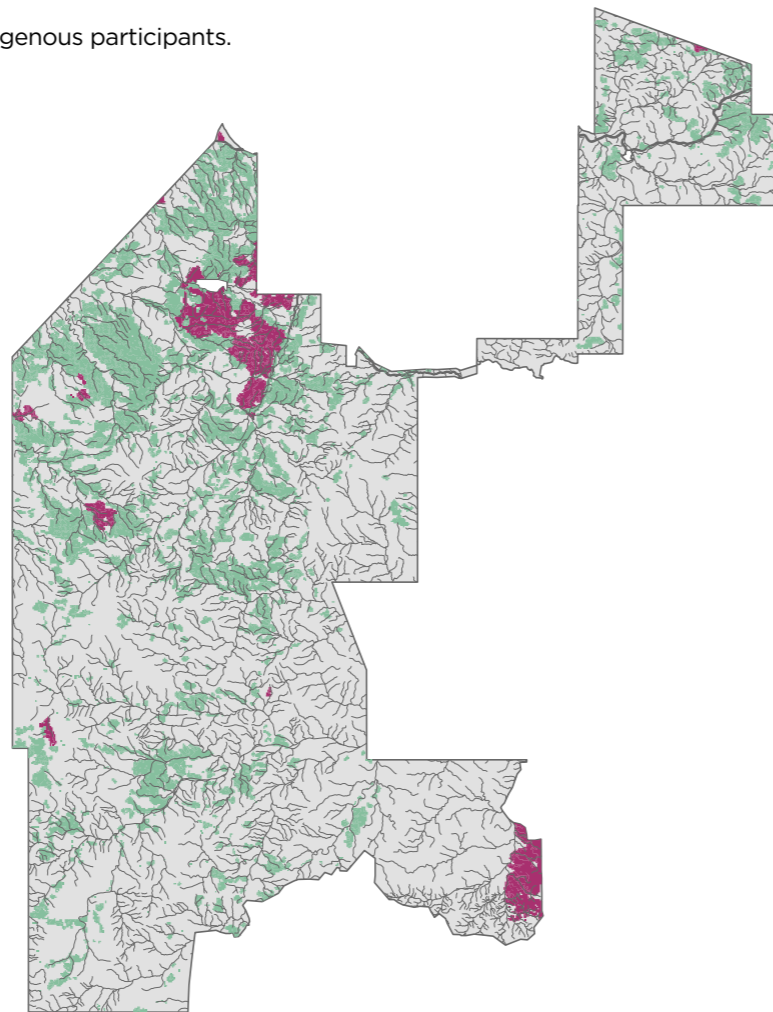
Additional activities:

- Cultural Camp at Stoneyard's Campsite with 13 Indigenous participants.

The Judbarra Project (ERF161545) was registered with the CER by the ILSC on behalf of the Traditional Owners in December 2020. This year (2021) marked the second year of operating as a registered Project, however the SFM Program only commenced funding operations in 2021.

Judbarra represents a ground-breaking Project with a broad collaboration of stakeholders. The Aboriginal Land Trusts (ALTs) are leased to the Northern Territory Government as a National Park and managed through a Joint Management arrangement with Traditional Owners. The fire management is carried out by a collaboration of Ranger groups representing Aboriginal ownership of the Project area and the Parks & Wildlife Rangers managing Judbarra National Park. In-lieu of the longer-term Phase 2 Agreement, interim funding was provided to support fire management operations for 2021. In December 2021, a Project Funding Agreement was executed with NAILSMA to deliver operations for the next 4 years.

There has been strong collaboration between the Project partners. Mid-year (21st-25th June) NLC and NT Parks facilitated a Women's Cultural Camp to Stoneyard's Campsite with 13 Indigenous participants. For several Traditional Owners this was their first time to visit one of the most significant cultural sites for the Northern/Central part of the Park which is now only readily accessible by helicopter.



2021 Fire Scars By Season (NAFI 2022)

Within project eligible vegetation class area

- early dry season
- late dry season



Planning and Collaboration is key to successful fire management

WESTERN TOP END SFM PROJECT - PHASE 2

Land Management Groups:

- Thamarrurr Rangers hosted by Thamarrurr Development Corporation
- Wudicupildiyerr Rangers hosted by Northern Land Council
- Peppimenarti Rangers hosted by Deewin Kirim Corporation
- Emu Point Rangers (emerging)

Training received:

- Working safely around aircraft, and
- Operate aerial ignition equipment in an aircraft.

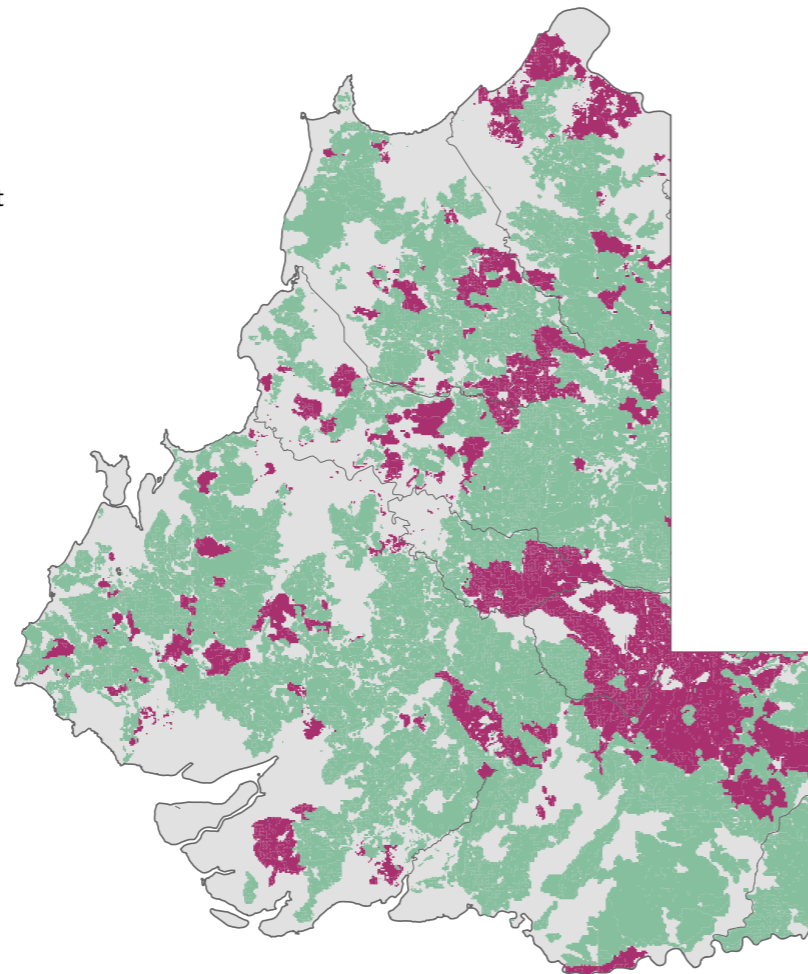
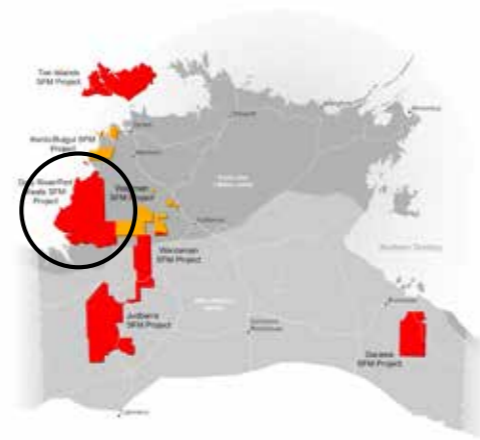
Ranger Participation:

- 38 Rangers + 16 casuals

The Western Top End (WTE) Fire Project (ERF160973), which covers the Daly River Port Keats Aboriginal Land Trust was registered with the CER by Thamarrurr Development Corporation (TDC) in December 2020. The Project commenced a Phase 2 Funding Agreement in April 2020. Thamarrurr Development Corporation (TDC) manage the funding and overall Project delivery via sub-contracted agreement with the land management groups.



A key objective for the Project is to build a separate Carbon business with a governing body of Traditional Owners to oversee project delivery and management of ACCU's generated. Other important aspects for this project include maintaining a fire exclusion zone for bush plum harvesting, increasing community awareness and engagement with the benefits in reducing late season fires together with actions to reduce the total area of land which is burnt each year. There is also a focus on building skills, experience and equipment to employ fire suppression to pull up late season wildfires.

Fire planning for 2021 involved 30 rangers from the Project area. Approximately 70 casuals/consultants were engaged in 2021, who contributed to fire work in addition to the full-time ranger staff. Eight staff from the participating ranger groups also undertook accredited training including, 'work safely around aircraft' and 'Operate aerial ignition equipment in an aircraft'. Aerial burning was completed between April and June with some further fire suppression work in July to hold back late season fires.



2021 Fire Scars By Season (NAFI 2022)

Within project eligible vegetation class area

-  early dry season
-  late dry season



Conducting extensive ground burning around infrastructure and sacred sites is integral to the annual fire management program

GARAWA FIRE PROJECT - PHASE 2

Land Management Group:

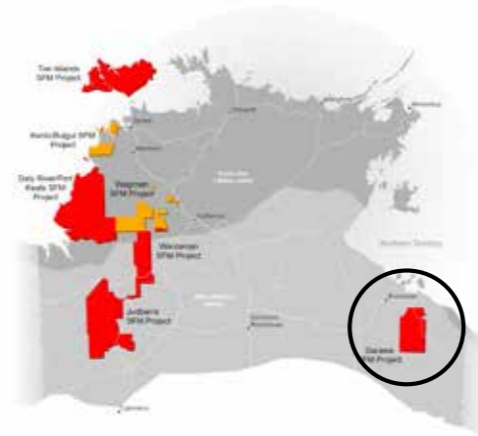
- Garawa Rangers hosted by Northern Land Council

Ranger Participation:

- 6 casual Rangers

Additional Activities:

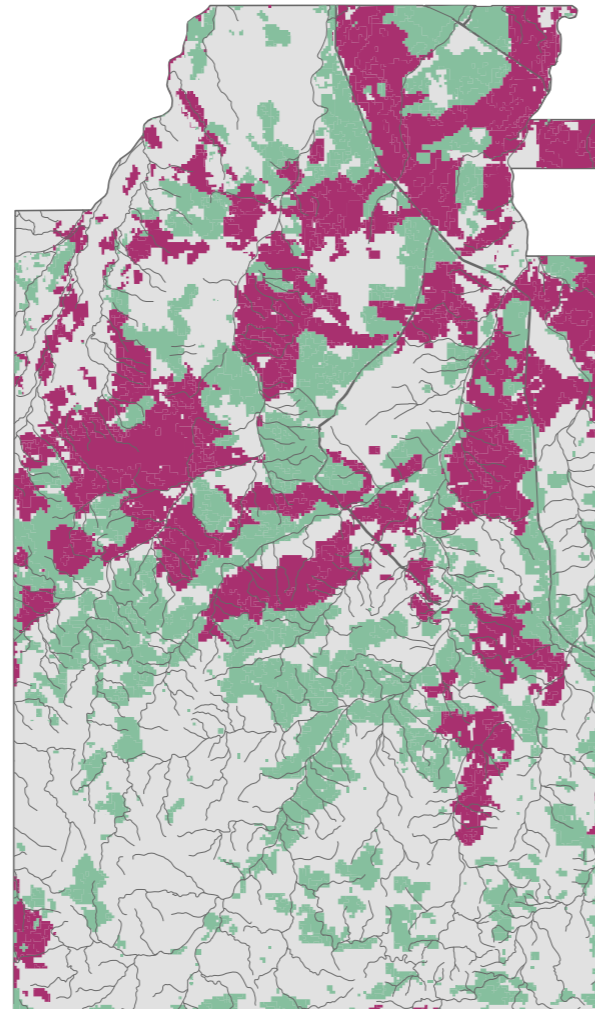
- Healthy Country Planning undertaken to document Traditional Owner aspirations for land management.



The Garawa Fire Project (ERF130950), located south east of Borroloola, covering the Garawa ALT (Robinson River area), completed a third year of operating a registered savanna burning Project. The Project is hosted by NAILSMA and operates with a Service Agreement for NLC to deliver the project via the NLC hosted Garawa Ranger group. The Project is supported with a Phase 2 Project Funding Agreement, commencing June 2019 and to be completed December 2023.

Important aspects for this Project include forming a Traditional Owner governing body to oversee Project implementation and management of ACCU's, ensuring consistent support to the Ranger group to build management capacity and broader understanding of the carbon market and associated co-benefits as well as a focus on building a strategic approach to addressing late season wildfires.

Gaining access to the Project area, in particular suppressing late season fires, is a significant challenge for this Project with most rangers based in Borroloola. As with the prior year (2020), fire operations for 2021 were implemented with the guidance of an experienced fire manager to mentor and support the ranger team and this mentoring is set to continue through 2022. Severe fire weather conditions late in the dry season included record high temperatures, strong winds and low humidity in late 2021. Late season fires in the region suggests that without the network of early dry season prescribed burning the late season wildfires in 2021 would have been much more extensive and damaging.



2021 Fire Scars By Season (NAFI 2022)

Within project eligible vegetation class area

- early dry season
- late dry season



Garawa Rangers use leaf blowers to assist with controlling prescribed burning operations

TIWI ISLANDS PROJECT - PHASE 2

Land Management Group:

- Tiwi Rangers hosted by Tiwi Resource Corporation.

Training Received:

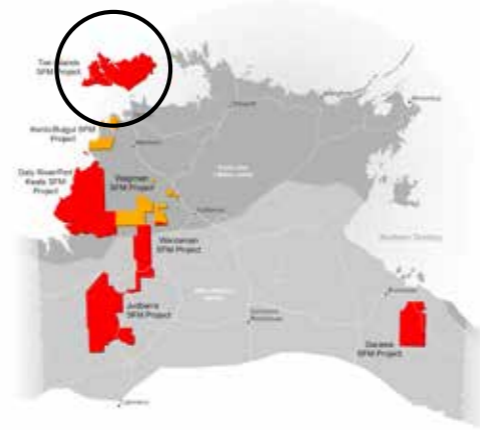
- Delivery of governance expertise to Tiwi Resources Board for future SFM planning
- Updated Fire Level 1 training with Bushfires NT

Ranger Participation:

- 11 Rangers

Additional Activities:

- Tiwi Rangers delivered a community education roadshow on the environmental and cultural benefits of cool burning

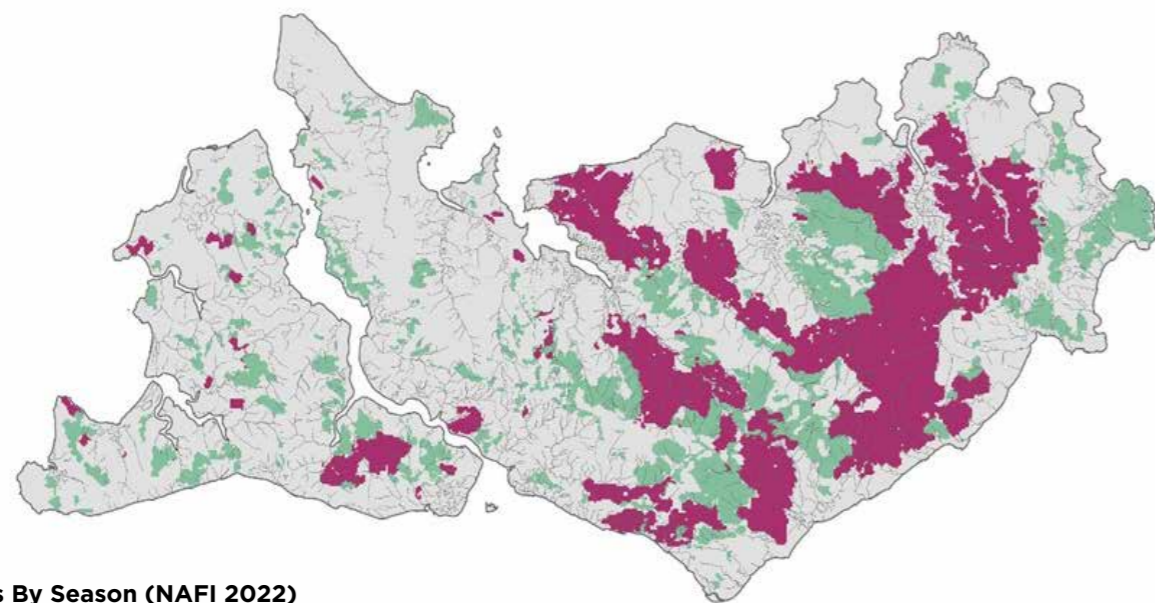


The Tiwi Fire Project (ERF105045), just north of Darwin, completed a sixth year of operating since registering as a savanna burning Project in December 2016. The Project, managed by Tiwi Resources, joined the SFM Program for support in June 2018. Support for the Tiwi Project has been extended with a further Phase 2 funding agreement scheduled to be completed by the end of 2023.

Priorities for the Tiwi Project include building and refining an appropriate governance framework to oversee the carbon business and management of ACCU's, developing a sustainable business plan to transition away from program support, refining fire management skills particularly planning and aerial burning as well as expanding appreciation of the carbon market and particularly acknowledging co-benefits which can be verified.

The Project has also been supported to develop a threatened mammal monitoring program to inform the impacts of fire on nationally threatened species. This biodiversity monitoring program involves collaboration with researchers from Charles Darwin University (CDU) which aims to build the capacity for Indigenous rangers to monitor and report upon impacts of fire for threatened species.

The monitoring work in 2021 involved some of the Tiwi rangers and casual employment of two residents from Pitjamirra outstations, each contributing approximately 100hrs and leading to one participant completing accredited training in Profession Practice in Science (via CDU). The 2021 fire management operations for Tiwi were delayed with an extended wet season and unseasonal rain in June which resulted in delays for multiple stakeholders in securing fire breaks to protect infrastructure and forest plantation. In September, the ranger team carried out a three-day community consultation event (covering both Islands) and promoting the benefits of early dry season fires and the disadvantage of late dry season fires including the interactions between fire and feral cats and impacts to native fauna.



2021 Fire Scars By Season (NAFI 2022)

Within project eligible vegetation class area

- early dry season
- late dry season



"It's not only just about burning and earning money, like people say - its looking after your country and all the animals and the birds, all the bush tucker that is out there".

Willie Rioli, Tiwi Ranger Manager

The Tiwi Rangers use both helicopters and boats to access country for early dry season burns

ACCU's generated by SFM Program Operators

The SFM Program had five projects that were registered with CER and therefore eligible to earn ACCUs in 2021. The ACCU result from the 2021 fire season will not be known until Project Offset Reports are generated in April 2022. The Program accounts for ACCU's for 2021 (relating to the four previously CER registered Projects) refer to the results for the 2020 fire season as there is a lag between the completion of a fire season and the submission of offset reports and accrediting of ACCUs. As per CER regulations the ACCUs are not credited to Projects until they have passed an initial Project audit. Only Tiwi Resources were issued ACCUs in 2021 (from the 2020 operations) and transferred to INPEX in 2021. The Thamarrurr, Garawa and Judbarra Projects are expected to complete audits in early 2022, after this ACCUs will be issued for previous operational years.

The Judbarra NP project successfully registered with the Clean Energy Regulator in December 2020 and produced ACCU's in 2020, however the Project results had not been funded for operations (i.e. Phase 2) from the SFM Program so the ACCUs from 2020 will not be transferred through to the SFM Program Funder.

The ACCUs produced by the four operational (Phase 2) Projects in 2020 are reported and have been processed as per the SFM Services Agreement as follows:

ACCU's generated by the SFM Project Operators under Phase 2 PFA 2020 (transferred in 2021)

Project	Total ACCU's From 2020	Proportion Attributed To SFM Funding	ACCU's Transferred To Inpex In 2021
Tiwi	44,269	69.8%	29,615
Garawa	7,778*	TBD	0
Western Top End	35,522#	TBD	0
Judbarra	40,837**	TBD	0
TOTAL	129,128		29,615

TBD - Project o be determined due to delays with formal credits of ACCU's or proportional calculations crossing over two years and awaiting on audited reports.

- * - Garawa - NAILSMA Project must resubmit an audit to the CER before receiving the ACCU's described above.
- # - Thamarrurr Project must submit a project audit and reports to the Clean Energy Regulator before receiving the ACCUs as described above.
- ** - Judbarra project was not funded for operations in 2020 by the SFM Program and is therefore unlikely to have credit transfer obligations to the Program Funder from 2020.

SFM Program Financial Summary 2021

A signed Statement of Income and Expenditure is included as an attachment to the report.

INCOME	
Q1 SFM Payment	\$668,709
Q2 SFM Payment	\$668,709
Q3 SFM Payment	\$668,709
Q4 SFM Payment	\$1,081,980
Total Payments (2021)	\$3,088,107
Balance held by SFM Program (1 Jan 2020)	\$114,390
TOTAL INCOME	\$3,202,497

EXPENSES			
	BUDGET	YTD ACTUAL	VARIANCE
PHASE 2 PFAs	\$2,433,403	\$2,056,538	\$376,865
Judbarra Phase 2	\$482,005	\$218,740	(a) \$263,265
NAILSMA Garawa Phase 2	\$180,000	\$180,000	\$
Wardaman (NLC) Phase 2	\$276,100	\$276,100	\$
Thamarrurr Development Corporation	\$861,740	\$748,140	(b) \$113,600
Tiwi Resources	\$633,558	\$633,558	\$
PHASE 1 PFAs	\$89,000	\$77,000	\$12,000
Kenbi/Bulgul (NAILSMA)	\$15,000	\$12,000	\$3,000
Wagiman (NLC)	\$74,000	\$60,000	(c) \$14,000
Wardaman (NLC)		\$5,000	-\$5,000
Third Party Service Providers	\$50,000	\$23,588	\$26,414
SFM Project Direct Costs	\$375,500	\$350,391	\$25,109
Staff Salaries & On costs	\$260,000	\$273,145	(d) -\$13,145
Office- Accommodation & Expenses	\$48,000	\$42,982	\$5,108
Recruitment	\$5,000	\$0	\$5,000
IT and comms equip	\$2,000	\$4,159	-\$2,159
Conferences and meetings	\$6,000	\$1,002	\$4,998
Vehicle Running Costs	\$8,000	\$3,238	\$4,762
Fuel	\$6,500	\$3,425	\$3,075
Travel	\$32,000	\$18,070	(e) \$13,930
Staff - Corporate Training	\$4,000	\$0	\$4,000
Marketing & Comms	\$4,000	\$4,370	-\$370
ILSC Overhead Costs (fixed)	\$159,040	\$159,040	\$0
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$3,106,943	\$2,666,554	\$440,389
BALANCE at 31 Dec 2021			535,943

Summary of Variance from 2021 Budget

Movement restrictions due to Covid has presented different challenges to each project. Despite the challenges, the overall expenditure was close to the amended 2021 budget. The following details any significant variance in expenditure against the budget:

- (a) The Judbarra Phase 2 project was executed in December 2021 with NAILSMA. Interim funding was provided in 2021 to carry out necessary fire management operations but at a lower level than the full Phase 2 contracted activities budgeted.
- (b) TDC project has not spent all funds in 2021 so a payment will be reallocated to 2022 activities.
- (c) Wagiman Phase 1 requires s19 land-use consultations with NLC as the final activity. This was scheduled for November 2021 but has been delayed again due to COVID-19 movement restrictions.
- (d) Wages were slightly overspent due to extra ILSC staff working on governance and other initiatives identified in the Program 5-year Review
- (e) Travel was underspent due to a lower level of staff travel to remote areas due to ongoing COVID travel restrictions in 2021.

Performance Evaluation of the SFM Program

Performance self-evaluation against SFM Program Principles.

SFM Program Principles	Notes	Evaluation
Avoiding negative reputational risk to key stakeholders and maximising the potential to reflect positively on the reputations of all stakeholders	There has been no reputational risk incurred through the SFM Program in 2021 - conversely, the projects continue to attract positive media attention for the multiple benefits and innovative use of traditional mosaic fire management practices.	Excellent
Supporting and enabling the development of sustainable, viable Indigenous enterprises and the delivery of economic, environmental, social, and cultural benefits for Indigenous people;	Successful application of the SFM Method has resulted in economic, cultural, social, and environmental benefits for Indigenous people engaged in the Program. Despite the constraints of the COVID-19 restrictions, the foundations of culturally appropriate fire management of the SFM Projects have continued to be strengthened in 2021.	Excellent
Providing business and employment opportunities for Indigenous people via SFM Project Operators;	Significant employment opportunities for Indigenous Rangers were created by the Program across the Projects including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 3 Fulltime Tiwi Rangers - 0.5 FTE - Tiwi Ranger Coordinator - 8 casual rangers on Wardaman Project - 10 casual rangers on Judbarra Project - 38 Rangers involved in the Project in the Western Top End Project - 16 new casuals engaged on the Western Top End Project - 6 casual rangers on the Garawa Project <p>Business opportunities will continue to be cultivated through governance development. COVID-19 has reduced the opportunities for employment participation in some projects, but it is envisaged once the risk of COVID-19 transmission is acceptable this number will return to previous participation levels.</p>	Good
Promoting the use of sound land and environmental practices; and: Improving biodiversity outcomes through savanna fire management activity;	The SFM Program directly supports Indigenous Land and Sea Management groups working as the SFM Program operators best practice fire management activities through support in fire training, knowledge sharing, project support and planning. Results of research by Charles Darwin University scientists on the Tiwi Islands suggests that the work of Tiwi Rangers through the SFM Program is having a positive effect on mammal numbers.	Excellent
Spreading community and social benefits of the Ichthys Project beyond Darwin into regional areas of the Northern Territory;	The community and social benefits of the SFM Program include neighbour meetings to discuss fire planning, community discussions of culturally valuable assets and priorities, sharing traditional knowledge about burning practices and significant sites and improved community education about the environmental benefits of early season burning. The events of note in 2021 include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Judbarra Project - Women's Cultural Camp (21st-25th June) to Stoneyard's Campsite with 13 indigenous participants Judbarra Women's Camp. - Tiwi Fire Management education Roadshow - a collaboration of Science and Tiwi Rangers delivering 'Healthy Country' and Fire Management messages to schools and community across the Tiwi Islands. 	Excellent

SFM Program Principles	Notes	Evaluation
Developing the capacity of Indigenous groups and SFM Project Operators;	Delivery of capacity building has been constrained by COVID-19; travel to remote areas has been interrupted during the pandemic and has affected traditional delivery of training, facilitation, and planning activities for many SFM Projects. Online remote discussions have still occurred, and where possible expertise and training has been delivered to Projects where transmission risk has been deemed low. An online Forum was coordinated by the SFM Program involving over 20 participants with all projects represented. The Forum built Project capacity by enabling Projects to engage with the broader network of fire management and carbon practitioners and technical experts.	Good
Minimising, managing and mitigating all relevant risks appropriately, particularly workplace health and safety risks;	There were no reported WHS or environmental incidents related to the SFM Program in 2020. A risk management workshop was facilitated by the SFM Program in Katherine as part of the commencement of the new Wardaman Fire Management Project.	Excellent
Enhancing the skills and knowledge of all stakeholders in carbon management, including carbon policy and implementation of practical carbon farming projects; and	The inaugural SFM Annual Forum successfully delivered Fire Management Planning, GIS remote sensing software training, governance training and peer to peer knowledge sharing on online platform, and training was delivered as outlined in the Project summaries. The annual ICIN SFM Forum is supported by the ILSC to enhance knowledge sharing across all stakeholders in northern Australia. The SFM Program maintains a network of carbon and fire management expertise to enhance overall Program delivery.	Excellent
Protection of Indigenous cultural and heritage sites.	Through the fire planning meetings held before EDS burning senior Traditional Owners are consulted on their priorities for burning, incorporating culturally and environmentally sensitive sites into their fire planning. These priorities are translated into the burning program to ensure that sensitive areas are protected from destructive fires, and the appropriate person is conducting the burn.	Excellent
Generating ACCUs; and avoiding emissions and thereby having a positive impact on climate change mitigation.	ACCU generation has commenced for 5 of the SFM Projects, with 2 projects issued ACCU's in 2021. The remaining 3 projects are yet to complete the initial audit that makes them eligible to apply for generated ACCU's to be released.	Fair

Excellent - principles and purpose being met beyond expectations

Good - expectations of principles and purposes are being met

Fair - expectations of principles and purposes are not currently being met but progress towards these is apparent.

Poor - expectations are not being met and look unlikely to be met.



Australian Government
Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation



The **ILSC GROUP**

PEOPLE. COUNTRY. OPPORTUNITY.



Wardaman Rangers navigate and advise on burn lines on their country

**Western Division
(WA)**

Level 20, 140 St Georges Terrace
Perth WA 6000

PO Box 7502 Cloisters Square
Perth WA 6850

T (08) 9420 6300

F (08) 9467 2800

E westernoffice@ilsc.gov.au

**Central Division
(SA, VIC, TAS, NT)**

Level 7, 70 Franklin Street,
Adelaide SA 5000

GPO Box 652
Adelaide SA 5001

T (08) 8100 7102

F (08) 8100 7150

E centraloffice@ilsc.gov.au

**Eastern Division
(QLD, NSW, ACT)**

Level 18, 100 Creek Street
Brisbane QLD 4000

GPO Box 5212
Brisbane QLD 4001

T (07) 3854 4600

F (07) 3056 3394

E easternoffice@ilsc.gov.au



www.ilsc.gov.au
FREECALL 1800 818 490