ABORIGINAL CARBON FOUNDATION

PAROO RIVER NORTH ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECT

Carbon Farming Methodology
Human-Induced Native Forest Regeneration

Location - Humeburn Station
52,903 ha property near Cunnamulla in South West Queensland

Traditional Owners
Budjiti

PROJECT SUMMARY

The Paroo River North Environmental Project is a registered Emissions Reduction Fund (ERF) project that began in 2016 and is contracted for 25 years. The project is focused on re-establishing native forest in the South West Darling Downs region of Queensland.

Prior to the project's commencement, intensive beef cattle grazing which saw large numbers of cattle roaming free within small spaces, caused significant damage to the property. A conscious decision was made to change the farming management and practices on the property which saw the cessation of harmful chemicals and mechanical equipment. This enabled a shift of focus to the regeneration of local native plants and forests located on property.

In the past the property has also had a problem with feral goats. Feral goats impact on native vegetation through soil damage and overgrazing of native plants and trees. This grazing can cause erosion and prevent regeneration. Managing the timing and extent of grazing and removing feral animals, allows native vegetation to regenerate, which will see 70% of the property eventually populated with native plants and trees, of which the dominant species is Mulga (Acacia Aneura).

DIRECT OUTCOMES OF THE PROJECT

The project generates Australian Carbon Credit Units (ACCUs) which can be sold to the Australian Government Clean Energy Regulator or to the voluntary market (corporates and institutions). Direct outcomes of implementing the HIR carbon methodology are:

- Sequestering of more than one million tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions over the 25 year life of the project
- 38,000 ha of native forest will be regenerated through project activities on the property

WHAT CO-BENEFITS DOES THE PROJECT DELIVER?

- As Native Title holders the Budjiti Traditional Owners also share in the project revenue.
- An Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA) exists between the property owners and the Budjiti Traditional Owners who possess Native Title rights and interests over a portion of the property. Through the project, Budjiti have gained access to their traditional lands for cultural and heritage purposes, such as the harvesting of 'bush tucker' animals and plants.
- The project results in the protection of 18km of riparian zones along the Paroo River. The river is one of the most pristine rivers in SW Qld and feeds into the Ramsar wetlands of the Currawinya Lakes. The cessation of harmful chemical use on the property means there is no longer any toxic runoff into the river.
- Active management of feral animals, particularly goats, as well as less intensive cattle grazing practice, assists with the stabilisation of riverbanks and the reduction of soil runoff.
- The regeneration of native plants and trees will assist with the increase in biodiversity over time.
- One of the most significant social and cultural co-benefits of this project is working with the Commonwealth Government program 'Stronger Families, Stronger Communities', Cunnamulla branch. The property is being used to host cultural camps for Indigenous men from multiple Traditional Owner groups. This coming together promotes knowledge sharing across Indigenous groups and revitalises cultural practice essential for well-being.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

OUR VISION

The Aboriginal Carbon Foundation (AbCF) is a not-for-profit organisation with a vision to catalyse life-changing, community prosperity through carbon farming.

"The project provides a wide range of benefits, including an improvement of water quality in the Paroo River through changed management practices. Such a simple project activity, as shifting operational practices, has a broad impact. Notably, the flow on effect allows for improved ecosystems down river, including the Currawinya Lakes- a wetland of international importance."

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