



Extending the savanna burning method to the frequently burnt areas of the Tanami and southern Kimberley

Presented by

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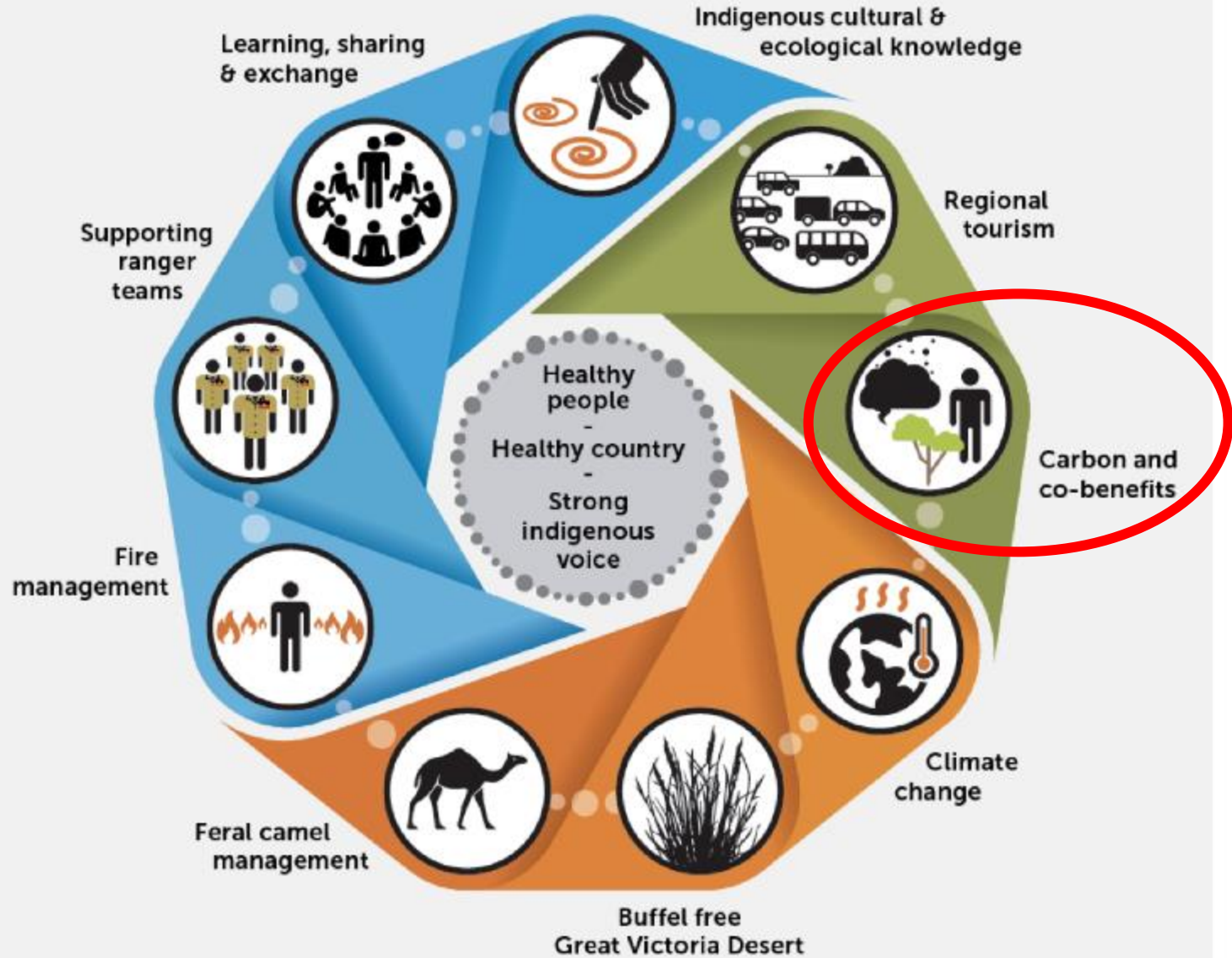
PROJECT STRATEGIES

Building the capacity of indigenous people

Managing key threats

Creating sustainable jobs and income

Collaboration & connectivity





Carbon and co-benefits

- ‘Carbon and co-benefits’ is one of the 10DP strategic themes.
- A new collaborative research and capacity building project to enable carbon market opportunities in the Tanami and southern Kimberley.
 - Capacity building across NT and WA (Ben (CLC) and Kris (KLC) presenting)
 - Collaborative research program (Jarrad presenting)

Project is about supporting indigenous people on country





Supporting TO aspirations

- **Managing fire is important for culture and conservation**
- **Already doing fire work – functioning ranger and IPA programs, including governance**
- **Opportunity to make a more significant change to the regime of late, hot fires**
- **Excited by possibility of being able to increase the amount of work being done and generate income**



Capacity

- Three ranger groups and one IPA in proposal area (in CLC region)
- Annual program of training, planning, burning and reporting
- Strong links between ranger groups and traditional owners, enabling broad-scale fire work





- Supporting collaborative research work
- Continue to develop capacity to be Carbon project ready - additional training, equipment and experience
- 2 year collaborative project (2021/2022)
- Ongoing support of existing carbon project in the far northern Tanami
- Embracing new techniques – recent trial of fixed-wing burning



Gaps



- **Vast area: 100,000+ square km serviced by three ranger groups**
- **Limited resources and time for coverage**
- **Limited knowledge of carbon abatement beyond involved groups**





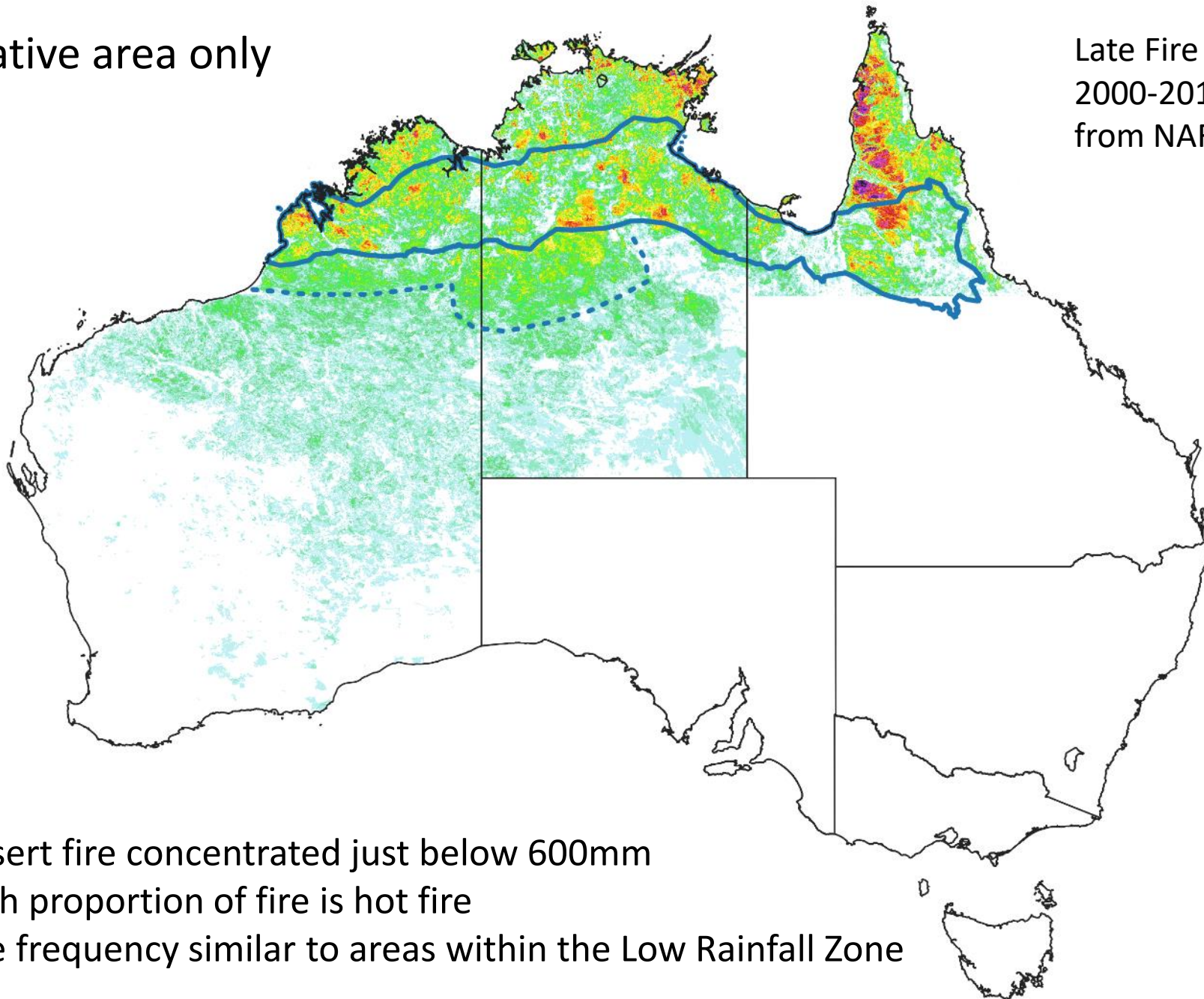
Kimberley opportunity

- **Groups initially involved in workshop at the KLC in Broome – keen to see further development and related capacity-building**
- **Current rainfall line limit crosses splits Native Title areas – extension might make projects viable**
- **Interplay with inclusion of pindan vegetation in the existing methods**
- **Significant potential for upscaling operations and training via KLC**
- **Strong collaboration across boundaries given close cultural linkages**
- **Opportunity to cover costs vs ongoing dependence on annual grants**



Indicative area only

Late Fire Frequency
2000-2019 (sourced
from NAFI)



- Desert fire concentrated just below 600mm
- High proportion of fire is hot fire
- Fire frequency similar to areas within the Low Rainfall Zone



Estimated opportunity

- No field data available below 600mm – preliminary estimates only. Review after year 1.
- Low abatement potential per km², but comparable to areas within the Low Rainfall Zone
- But, very large continuous area of Indigenous owned land, managed by a relatively small number of indigenous ranger groups (good economies of scale)
- Estimating approx. 80,000t/yr of emissions avoidance abatement on Indigenous lands
- Volume of abatement relatively minor in national context, but the estimated carbon income is significant for the people of the northern desert region



Changing the rainfall boundary

- It could be argued that the case for extending the boundary to 500mm has already been made in the Whitehead *et al.* 2014 paper.
- Possibly consider another descriptor (instead of 100mm rainfall bands).
- The same researchers (Darwin Centre for Bushfire Research (DCBR)) that wrote the 2014 paper (used to determine the current 600mm boundary) are coordinating the research component of this project.





The current project

- 2 year collaborative project (2021 and 2022)
- Veg mapping (some different veg types below 600mm)
- Parametrisation, traditional owners and researchers (DCBR and VUA) weighing grass to determine fuel loads, patchiness etc
- Capacity – involvement in research program and getting ‘carbon project ready’
- Significant funding has been committed, some funds still being sought
- On-going communications to promote work so this research is adopted in the next method update

Indigenous partners



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Thankyou.

Please be in touch with any questions, comments, to request additional information
or to offer support

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