



Core Benefits Verification Framework

For the environmental, social and cultural values of carbon farming



Aboriginal Carbon Foundation

The vision of the AbCF is to create life-changing, community prosperity through carbon farming.

It aims to build wealth for Traditional Owners implementing carbon projects that deliver environmental, social or cultural benefits to Aboriginal communities through the ethical trade of Australian Carbon Credit Units (ACCU).

CORE BENEFITS VERIFICATION FRAMEWORK

Central to our vision is the Core Benefits Verification Framework. Developed by the AbCF, it is a new approach that values and certifies the environmental, social and cultural core benefits of carbon farming projects. What makes it unique is Indigenous ownership and the harnessing of Indigenous expertise in the evaluation and verification process.

Utilising international impact measurement best-practice, trained Land and Sea Rangers, Traditional Owners and Indigenous community-based people use their knowledge and experience to identify and verify the environmental, social and cultural benefits of carbon farming projects, eco-system activities and community development initiatives.

ONGOING SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

To strengthen the process, an annual 'forum' will take place for verifiers to come together and share verification experiences and ideas. It will also include skills development so verifiers continue to develop their capacities.



VALIDITY
A verification certificate, valid for two years, is issued by the AbCF.

MARKETING
The visual report produced during verification will belong to project owners. Verified carbon for example, can then be sold as Australian Carbon Credit Units (ACCU). The Indigenous project owners are responsible for the sale of their carbon to a buyer of their choice.



Our philosophy

Indigenous to Indigenous – a peer-led approach where Land and Sea Rangers, Traditional Owners and Indigenous community-based people come together to lead the verification process

• INDIGENOUS OWNERSHIP

Indigenous people deciding what core benefits are important, the processes used to verify them and what data can be shared

• STRENGTH-BASED APPROACH

Drawing on existing talents, assets and strengths of Indigenous people and capitalising on these within the verification process

• CAPACITY BUILDING

Developing verification skills of Land and Sea Rangers, Traditional Owners and Indigenous community-based people that can be transferred to impact measurement of any program

• DATA TRIANGULATION

Mixed-method qualitative and quantitative data collection carried out by independent verifiers

• DATA SOVEREIGNTY

Project owners deciding what information is used and shared

• COST EFFECTIVENESS -

A sliding scale of costs to meet project owners' financial capacity.

WHAT CAN BE VERIFIED

The Core Benefits Verification Framework can be applied to carbon farming projects, ecosystem activities, community development or any program that acknowledges the best people to measure impact are the people closest to the program.

WHO ARE THE VERIFIERS?

Land and Sea Rangers, Traditional Owners and other community-based people who have completed the Cert II 'Aboriginal Carbon Farming and Core Benefits Management' training course. As the training course is rolled out across northern Australia, small teams of verifiers from different regions will form a network of Indigenous verification experts. To ensure independence and integrity, verifiers will be engaged from communities outside of their own.

Customised tools have been designed for people who speak English as a second or third language. The tools support Indigenous Rangers and Traditional Owners to conduct verification in other communities.

A close-up, side-profile shot of a man with a beard, wearing a dark cap and sunglasses, looking down at a photograph of a landscape. He is holding the photo with his right hand. In the background, another person in a light-colored shirt with a circular logo is partially visible.

Core benefits verification governance

Governance of the verification framework is comprised of three tiers: Trained independent verification teams, AbCF management and independent Core Benefits Advisory Body.

Clear levels of rigour and guidance influence the governance mechanisms of the Core Benefits Verification Framework enabling full confidence in the Indigenous owned and led approach.

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What does verification look like in practice?

There are seven key steps in any five-day verification process.

Step 1

WELCOME AND SMOKING CEREMONY

Verification is a celebration of managing country the right way and showcasing the good work of the community and rangers.

Step 2

CREATION OF VERIFICATION TREE

Working together, the verifiers and Aboriginal carbon farmers will determine key core benefits and construct a plan (verification tree) outlining who to speak with, what data exists to draw on, what cultural protocols need to be followed, data sovereignty considerations, and protocols for data sharing.

Step 3

DATA COLLECTION

Verifiers and Aboriginal carbon farmers will conduct interviews and focus groups with key stakeholders and access existing qualitative and quantitative data for triangulation purposes. Sites will also be visited to enable direct observation.

Step 4

DATA ANALYSIS

Post data collection the verifiers and Aboriginal carbon farmers will make sense of the data and identify any further evidence required.

Step 5

VALIDATION WITH COMMUNITY

An important (but often overlooked) step in verification is validating analysis with community and key stakeholders to make sure interpretation of findings is correct. This is an opportunity to fine tune messaging.

Step 6

CONSTRUCTION OF A VISUAL REPORT

The verification report will include a visual summary of the project assessment, photographic records of observation, quantitative examples of evidence and stories that reflect the core-benefits achieved.

Step 7

FAREWELL BBQ

A farewell BBQ will be hosted to thank verifiers, project owners and participants. The visual evaluation will be presented as a celebration as well as a final opportunity to confirm approval of included data.



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