



# Designing your carbon project

Carbon projects take time to plan, develop, implement, maintain, manage and monitor. The carbon project cycle shows the steps involved.



## Carbon on Country

- 1 The cycle starts by assessing your land and identifying a suitable carbon project method. You establish legal right to run a project and receive Australian Carbon Credit Units (ACCUs).
- 2 Walk Country with Elders and knowledge holders to learn more about your Country and how a carbon project might impact cultural sites and traditional practices.
- 3 Getting governance right before you start will ensure that agreed decision-making processes, structures and rules are in place. Make sure your project aligns with existing priorities, business and land management practices. Good governance frameworks can support participation, allocate resources effectively, ensure accountability and provide a foundation for healthy partnerships based on the principles of Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC). See [www.icin.org.au/resources](http://www.icin.org.au/resources) for more information.
- 4 A feasibility study is essential to determine the type of carbon project, costs, and returns that can be expected. The feasibility study will estimate the potential carbon credits that could be generated from your project. Advisers can support this task and calculate the cumulative abatement, costs, revenue schedule, risks and benefits over the duration of the proposed project.
- 5 Consider project risks including potential governance, cultural, legal, property, financial and environmental risks.
- 6 If you, your organisation or Board are satisfied with the feasibility study, it is time to review proposed agreements and seek independent legal and financial advice.
- 7 The project must be registered with the [Clean Energy Regulator \(CER\)](#). This is done online via the CER Client Portal, where you provide information about the project participants, the project and evidence of legal right to undertake the project. You can also use the Portal to create an Australian National Registry of Emissions Units (ANREU) account for future transfer of ACCUs.
- 8 A project management plan is recommended to implement and manage your project. This will include budgets, project activities, delivery schedules and deadlines, resource management, responsibilities, risk mitigation plans and monitoring activities.
- 9 Monitoring requirements are different for every method and will require data to be recorded. For example, the environmental planting method requires records of planting dates, design and spacing, stocking density, planting type and species, tree height and other measurements. Maintenance and management activities will need to be conducted at regular intervals.
- 10 A project offsets report must be submitted periodically to the CER that includes the monitoring data and calculations to estimate the number of ACCUs. Some projects require audits to confirm the accuracy of information and to ensure the project meets all requirements from the CER.
- 11 Once your report is submitted to the CER it is reviewed to ensure all requirements are met. Once approved, the CER will issue the ACCUs and transfer them to your ANREU account. ACCUs can be sold into regular Emissions Reduction Fund auctions or to voluntary buyers that want to offset their carbon emissions.