

# Culture and carbon

## Opportunities for Aboriginal-led carbon projects

Carbon farming projects are a great way to get back on Country and to create new jobs. Jobs could include working as rangers or land managers and implementing on-ground project activities. When you register a carbon project with the Clean Energy Regulator (CER), you can restore and protect Country through activities like planting trees. You can receive payment by selling the carbon credits generated by your project. Carbon credits can support multiple social, cultural, environmental and economic benefits, which are called co-benefits. First Nations involvement in carbon projects can help maintain traditional knowledge and practices for current and future generations.

### Cultural renewal

- Protect cultural sites
- Collect bush foods
- Maintain traditional knowledge, language and practices



### Social

- Connected community
- Confidence, purpose and pride
- Meaningful participation



Carbon projects  
can support  
multiple benefits  
(co-benefits)



### Caring for Country

- Healing Country
- More biodiversity and totemic species
- Reducing feral animals and weeds



### Economic

- Community resilience
- Employment opportunities
- Economic independence





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It is important to engage with Elders and other key stakeholders to ensure good governance and leadership throughout the project. Communities can set their own objectives for managing Country to achieve the things that matter to them. This could include cultural, social, economic and environmental priorities. This requires an effective governance structure that includes:

- effective community consultation processes
- networks with leaders and governing boards to make decisions that meet community needs and expectations
- clear decision-making processes, roles and responsibilities
- strong partnerships and agreements with organisations, landholders, neighbours and governments to gain access to resources, recognition and understanding.

Free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) should apply to all carbon projects, especially when negotiating access to land, legal rights and ownership of future carbon credits. FPIC provides a decision-making process and framework to ensure carbon service providers with commercial interests properly engage with Aboriginal organisations and communities in a fair and transparent way that involves organisations and communities in the decision-making process. Consent should only be given after a consultation process that allows organisations to freely seek independent advice and make decisions in their own way. FPIC is one of the central governing principles set out by the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) and should apply for the lifetime of the project. When applied to carbon projects, FPIC helps to establish an ongoing, honest conversation between Aboriginal groups and any external project participants to ensure the best outcomes for the community. For more information on FPIC, visit [icin.org.au/resources](http://icin.org.au/resources).