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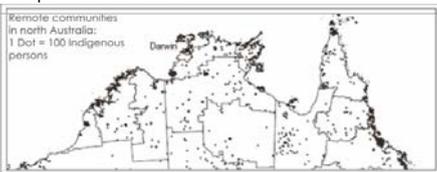
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THIS PROJECT DEVELOPS BNH TRAINING BUILT ON LEARNINGS FROM BNHCRC RESEARCH AND TAILORED TO NORTH AUSTRALIAN NEEDS. IT EMPLOYS A DIDACTIC APPROACH TO BUILD UNDERSTANDING OF DIFFERING WORLD VIEWS ABOUT FIRE AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT. ITS DELIVERY MODE IS DESIGNED TO INCREASE LEVELS OF COMPETENCE, CONFIDENCE AND RESILIENCE PARTICULARLY IN REMOTE REGIONS.

SIX REASONS FOR NEW TRAINING

1. The project is a response to north Australian stakeholder concerns that current training is not relevant to north Australia.
2. The geography and demography of north Australia are different from the south, dominated by remote communities spread thinly through the tropical savannah.



3. There is a different world view in the north; fire is not something we need to learn to live with, it is a tool we use to create the landscape patterns we want.

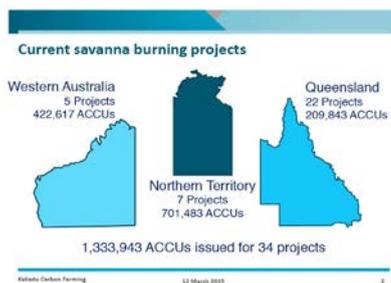
"The secret of fire in our traditional knowledge is that it is a thing that brings the land alive again...But it is not a thing to play with..."

Yibarbuk and Cooke, Tropical Savannas CRC, 2001

4. New economic opportunities are emerging in fire management / carbon abatement and Payment for Environmental Services.

"...caring for country reflects a growing global trend towards intercultural approaches that combine Western scientific and Indigenous knowledges."

Morrison, 2007 in AIATSI 2009



5. Research shows land management approaches combining Indigenous and non-Indigenous knowledge are most effective.

6. National Strategy for Disaster Resilience (2011) states that:

"Disaster resilience is the collective responsibility of all sectors of society... "

Remote North Australia is a sector that has, until recently been neglected in terms of BNH Mgt capability.

In addition to these 6 drivers, several priorities need to be met by BNH training

PRIORITIES FOR LAND, FIRE & NATURAL HAZARD MANAGEMENT IN THE NORTH

Indigenous Priorities:

ARNET¹ research program shows that Indigenous priorities are a) focused on the 'daily disasters' of community life and b) deal with fire and hazards through a wider ontological engagement with the environment.

People see themselves as part of the ecosystem. They must work with nature to ensure ecological health and minimise disasters. Safety is important but preferably without leaving the community.

Government Agency Priorities

Natural hazards and their impacts need to be controlled through effective management. Saving lives is paramount. Resilience incorporating shared responsibility is central to managing disasters within budgetary constraints.

Economic Priorities

Natural disasters, and fire in particular are potential 'show stoppers' for any economic activity in the north. Ironically, management of these can provide economic opportunities where few previously existed.

THE TRAINING MATERIALS

The full qualification consists of 14 units, most new as well as a Trainer's Manual. Five Unit Descriptors using the VET format, and teaching materials for delivery including assessment tasks, have been developed. The adaptable design allows for content tailored to the local environment and the work context of participants. Arguably it is the collaborative process that will reap the greatest rewards.

Didactic approach

While most training sequentially works through a knowledge set 'to be learnt' this new suite of units is created to establish understanding of the application of the skills and knowledge in context. This context includes the north Australian savannas, the cultural mix of the north, ancient fire and natural hazard management traditions.

Learning embedded in community

The primacy of local knowledge is valued by being incorporated into training on the ground. Senior local 'experts' will be part of the education, using their own language and examples.

Both Ways – two tool box

The north has seen a widespread adoption of a blend of traditional knowledge and modern science based. This will be formalized within the training, capturing BNHCRC research and where feasible, using the researchers themselves in training delivery.

Notes:

1. ARNET: The Aboriginal Research Practitioners Network.

