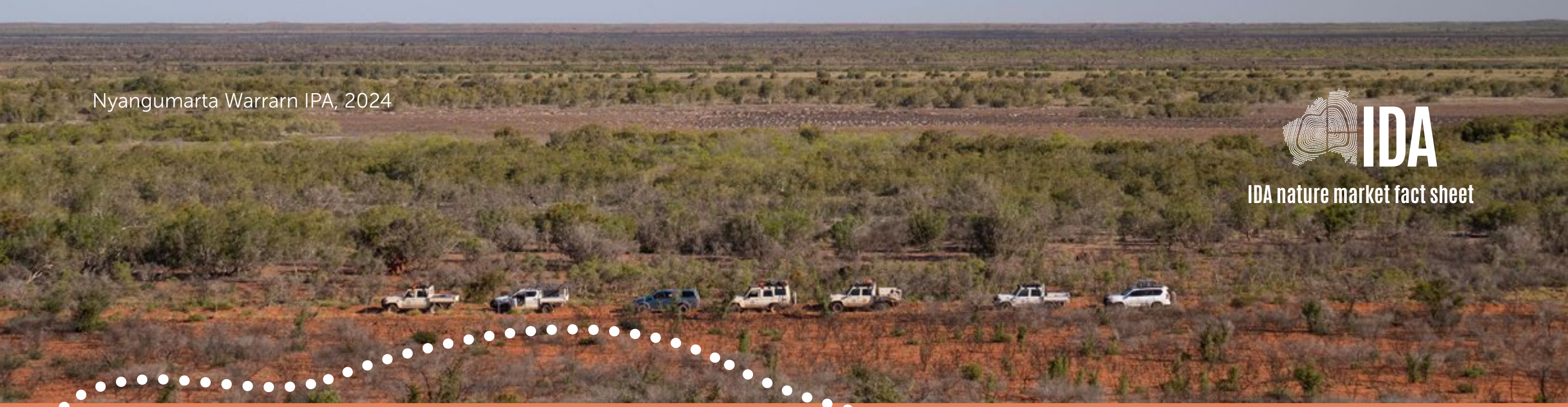


Nyangumarta Warrarn IPA, 2024

Nature markets intro

What are nature markets?

A market is a place where people can buy and sell things or services.

A nature market is a place where people can buy and sell work that improves nature. This work includes projects that restore, protect or care for Country.

Nature market investors are people, companies or organisations that buy, or pay for that work to help the environment. Nature markets encourage private investment in projects that improve nature.

Nature markets can be set up by governments or by private groups. Nature markets can also focus on different types of benefits. In Australia, there are now 2 government-led nature markets. One focuses on reducing carbon in the atmosphere. The other focuses on biodiversity to stop plants and animals disappearing from Country.

1. Australian Carbon Credit Unit Scheme

The government started this carbon market in 2011. It encourages investment in projects that reduce carbon in the atmosphere. Land managers running these projects can sell carbon credits to investors.

2. Nature Repair Market

The government created this new market in 2023. It encourages investment in projects or work that stops plants and animals disappearing from Country. Land managers running these projects can sell biodiversity certificates to investors.

Each nature market approves methods for nature market projects. These methods explain how to measure the project's benefits for nature.

Using an approved method, land management organisations can:

- generate credits or certificates from the benefits their projects produced
- sell those credits or certificates to nature market investors to make money.

Method

A method is a set of rules for running a nature market project and measuring the results of the project. A method tells you:

- the types of land management work that you can do to earn credits or a certificate
- how to monitor your work
- how to report on the results of your work
- what records you need to keep.

Projects must choose an approved method to run their work.

Carbon credits

Land managers can earn carbon credits by running projects that reduce the amount of carbon released into the atmosphere. They can sell these credits to investors through the Australian Carbon Credit Unit Scheme, or ACCU Scheme.

For one tonne of carbon dioxide that has not gone into the atmosphere, you get one carbon credit.

Biodiversity certificates

Projects that help protect or restore plants, animals and ecosystems can earn biodiversity certificates. Biodiversity certificates can represent different benefits for plants, animals and ecosystems. It depends on the work the project does and the method it follows.

Land management organisations can sell biodiversity certificates to investors through the Nature Repair Market. This is the Australian Government's biodiversity market.

New opportunity

Nature markets are a new way for desert Indigenous land management organisations, or ILMOs, to earn money for looking after Country.

When Indigenous land management organisations look after Country, they help restore, protect and maintain Country. Their work may allow them to earn and sell credits or certificates through a nature market. Nature markets can:

- provide funding for the Indigenous land management organisation's work
- help Indigenous land management organisations grow their work
- support ongoing care and management of Country.

Indigenous land management organisations can look at this opportunity and decide if they want to get involved in nature markets.

Desert Habitat Method trial workshop, Kiwirrkurra IPA, 2024

Carbon markets

Carbon markets are one type of nature market. The government set them up to slow down climate change. One of the main causes of climate change is too much carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. Carbon markets encourage people and companies to invest in projects that reduce these gases.

Organisations that want to run carbon market projects need to follow an approved method. The method explains:

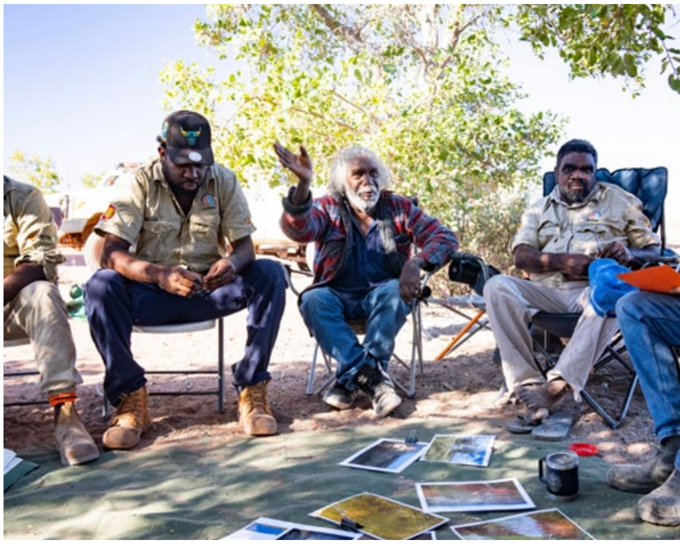
- the type of land management activities you can do to earn carbon credits
- how to calculate the amount of carbon your project has stopped from going into the atmosphere.

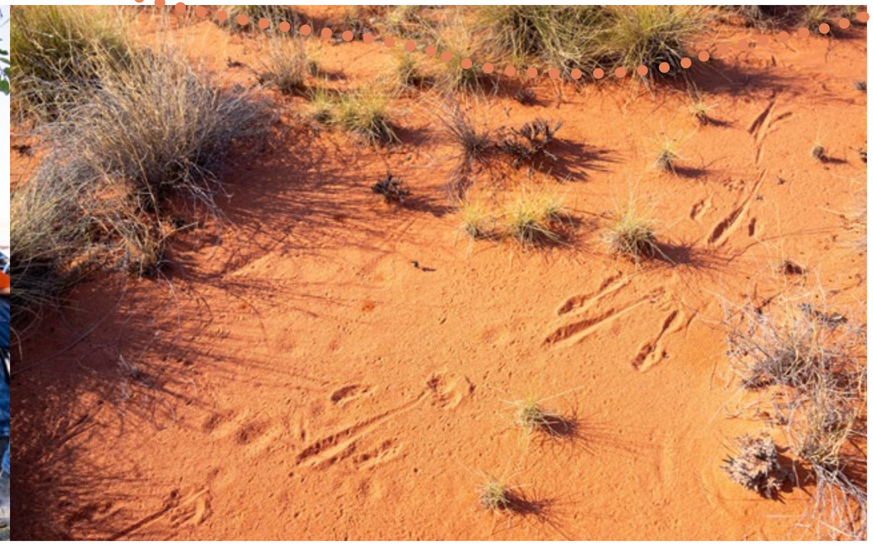
Australian Carbon Credit Unit Scheme

The Australian Government has been running the carbon market in Australia since 2011. It is called the Australian Carbon Credit Unit Scheme, or ACCU Scheme. It encourages people and companies to invest in projects that:

- avoid releasing carbon into the atmosphere, or
- remove carbon from the atmosphere and store it.

One approved method for Australian Carbon Credit Unit Scheme projects is the Savanna Fire Management method.





Elder Robert Barli with Nyangumarta rangers, Ishmail Hunter (L) and Augustine Badal (R), Desert Habitat Method trial workshop, Nyangumarta Warrarn IPA, 2024

Nyangumarta Warrarn IPA, 2024

Biodiversity markets

Governments and non-government organisations are creating biodiversity markets to help stop the loss of plants, animals and ecosystems.

Biodiversity markets encourage companies to invest in work that protects nature and stops plants and animals disappearing from Country.

Biodiversity markets are still new. We do not yet know how they will work. The government is still developing methods to provide the rules for running projects and measuring results.

Until recently, only non-governmental organisations ran biodiversity markets. But now, Australia has the world's first biodiversity market created by law.

Nature Repair Market

The Nature Repair Market scheme, or NRM, is Australia's national biodiversity market. The Australian Government set up the Nature Repair Market to encourage companies to invest in projects that protect and restore the environment.

The Nature Repair Act came into effect in 2023, and the Nature Repair Market started operating in 2025. The Nature Repair Market focuses on projects that use land management practices to maintain or improve biodiversity.

So far, the Nature Repair Market has only approved one method. This method is for planting trees in woodlands. This means desert ranger teams cannot use it. The government needs to develop more methods before desert ranger teams can take part in the Nature Repair Market and earn biodiversity certificates.

Compliance markets vs voluntary markets

Nature markets can be either compliance markets or voluntary markets.

Compliance markets

In a compliance market, the law says that buyers must buy credits to make up for the harm they have caused to the environment.

Governments or international corporations set up and regulate compliance markets.

Voluntary markets

In a voluntary market, buyers buy credits because they want to. They do not have to by law. Investors buy credits for many reasons, such as:

- wanting to care for the environment
- to promote their business as environmentally friendly.

Governments and non-governmental organisations can set up voluntary markets.

Australia's biodiversity markets are voluntary markets.

Australia's carbon market is both a voluntary and a compliance market.

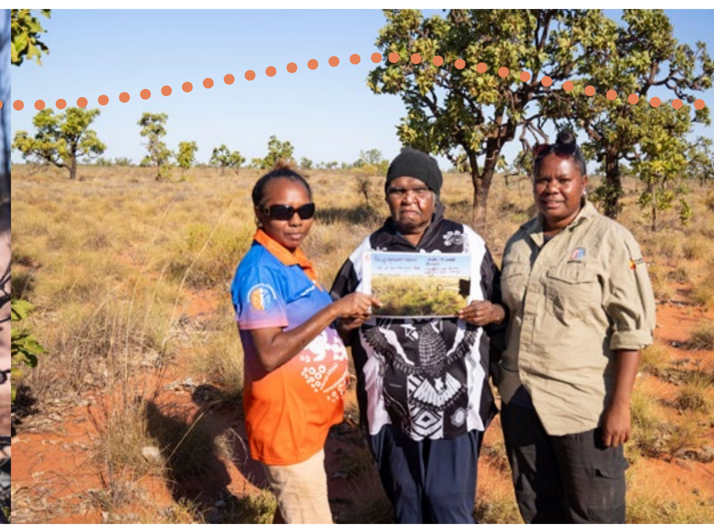
Do land management organisations have to join nature markets?

No. Nature markets are voluntary for land management organisations.

Indigenous land management organisations can choose if they want to:

- register a project in any market
- join a compliance market
- join a voluntary market.

Nyangumarta Warrarn IPA, 2024



Elder Nora Tinker with Nyangumarta rangers, Leesharni Thomas (L) and Romleesha Hunter (R), Desert Habitat Method trial workshop, Nyangumarta Warrarn IPA, 2024

IDA nature market fact sheet series

These documents contain general information only. Groups should seek their own legal, technical and financial advice before making any decisions regarding nature markets.

See more fact sheets **here**

Contact: info@indigenousdesertalliance.com

Photos by Hammersley Productions, Nyangumarta Ranger Team and Kiwirrkurra Ranger Team