

Preface and acknowledgements

This book charts the ongoing development of methodologies for greenhouse gas emissions abatement and carbon sequestration through savanna fire management for application in remote fire-prone northern Australian settings. In 2009, a precursor to the present volume was published. There we described the cultural, ecological and economic context behind the development of an emissions abatement methodology under higher rainfall (>1000 mm per annum [p.a.]) conditions. A key impetus for that earlier methodology was to afford an opportunity for Indigenous (Aboriginal) land managers to derive economic and enterprise development benefits from implementing strategic prescribed fire management based on a customary model. Since then, that methodology has been formally accredited as part of Australia's National Greenhouse Gas Inventory, and applied increasingly in economically marginal pastoral enterprise settings, both Indigenous and non-Indigenous.

This book describes the technical infrastructure and ongoing research underpinning the development of two further savanna burning methodologies: (1) an extension of the higher rainfall (>1000 mm p.a.) savanna burning abatement methodology to lower rainfall (600–1000 mm p.a.) conditions; and (2) work towards a new methodology addressing carbon sequestration in woody biomass (live and dead) associated with enhanced fire management under higher rainfall conditions. Despite substantial advances towards the development and practical application of savanna burning methodologies, described herein, that development continues to be a work-in-progress.

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