Biodiverse Carbon Conservation

Registry link: **https://cer.gov.au/schemes/australian-carbon-credit-unit-scheme/accu-project-and-contract-register/project/EOP101147**

TEM

Project description

Biodiverse Carbon Conservation was registered in April 2015 and is located approximately 13km southwest of Jerramungup, in the south of WA. This project establishes permanent plantings of a mix of native tree species on land that was predominantly used for agricultural purposes for at least five years prior to project commencement. The tree species are native to the local area. The property of the project was originally purchased by Greening Australia and Bush Heritage Australia in 2007 and neighbours Beringa Reserve.

Sustainable Development Goals

Project proponent

CANOPY NATURE BASED
SOLUTIONS PTY LTD

State

Western Australia

Project standard

Emissions Reduction Fund

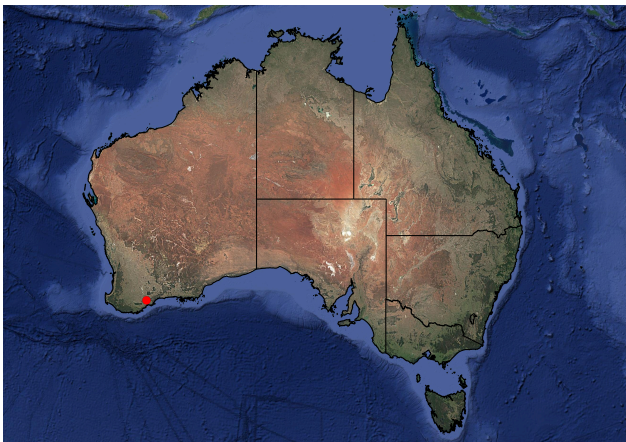## Project type

Vegetation

Registration date

2015-04-27

Methodology

Reforestation by Environmental or Mallee Plantings - FullCAM, Version 2014

Project eligibility

Climate
Active

Project location and mapping

Project Assessment Results

How TEM implements due diligence for ACCU projects

The Clean Energy Regulator does not make all project documentation publicly available. As a result, TEM's internal carbon project development team conducts due diligence using the information available combined with a geospatial satellite analysis. Without all project information available, the DD assessment focuses on the risk of non-compliance with the specific methodology and likelihood of risks in various categories being present. All projects offered by TEM have met or meet our minimum due diligence standard, ensuring quality and reliability for our customers.

Project design and eligibility risk

Risk parameter	Finding
Baseline land eligibility risk	CEA and project area data are available and have been analysed through a GIS timeseries change analysis indicating a substantial portion (at least 60%) of CEAs meet baseline land eligibility requirements. Some small areas may need further analysis and/or potential discrepancies may be a result of differences in TEM and the project developer's internal geospatial tools used to create mapping files, or the data on this project's registry page may not be the most updated version.
Forest cover potential risk	CEA and project area data are available and have been checked through a GIS analysis to show that almost all (at least 90%) of CEAs meet the forest cover potential requirement at the time of registration.
Project boundary and exclusion area risk	CEA and project area data are available and have been checked against the existing ACCU project database to show the project does not cross over with any existing projects. Almost none (less than 10%) of CEAs cross over with exclusion zones (roads, water bodies, infrastructure).
Land cover classification change risk	CEA and project area data are available and have been checked through a GIS timeseries change analysis to show forest cover change as below: Project registered 0-5 years ago: -5 to +5% change in forest cover; Project registered 5-11 years ago: between 0-15% positive change in forest cover across CEAs.
Additional commentary	Sentinel-2 shows a ~6% increase in tree cover from 2017 to 2023 which looks to be underestimating the forest growth for this project. Sentinel-2 data does not exist earlier than 2017, and this project started in 2015, and Sentinel-2's definition of "trees" may not be reflective of the method requirements. The lines of successful plantings can be seen very clearly in GIS with very few gaps. Historical imagery analysis also shows there are some early plantings within the baseline period (in 2013, baseline period is the 5 years before registration). As there is no access to documentation, the reasoning for this cannot be verified by TEM but it may be because the plantings do not yet count as the method's definition of forest cover.

Regulatory and Policy risk

Risk parameter	Finding
Additionality risk	The project has had multiple successful issuances, meaning it has past offsets reports and had at least its first audit approved, indicating additionality has likely been checked and confirmed by the CER and an independent auditor.
Eligible Interest Holder Consent (EIHC) risk	The project has had multiple successful issuances, meaning it has past offsets report and had at least its first audit approved, indicating eligible interest holder consent has been likely been checked and confirmed by the CER and an independent auditor.
Native Title risk	The project is not on Native Title land.
Regeneration growth risk	Not applicable to methodology under analysis, or (for HIR projects) the project was registered less than 5 years ago and hence is not up to its 5-year regeneration check.
Auditing risk	The project has issued credits indicating it has passed its first audit.
Additional commentary	The project has issued a total of 68,644 ACCUs since first issuance in FY 2017/18.

Reputational risk

Risk parameter	Finding
Media coverage risk	There is positive media coverage about the project (design, implementation, outcomes, impacts) from a reputable source other than the project proponent, developer, or other stakeholders.
Stakeholder reputation risk	There is positive media coverage about the project stakeholders (proponent, developer or other stakeholders) from a reputable source other than any direct stakeholders. The proponent is CANOPY NATURE BASED SOLUTIONS PTY LTD, which is a company of Greening Australia. Greening Australia is a well established company that works in carbon projects and other land restoration initiatives. It is a registered charity. Canopy is the carbon project development arm that reinvests any profit made from selling ACCUs and other credits back into Greening Australia's environmental restoration projects. The property of the project was originally purchased by Greening Australia and Bush Heritage Australia in 2007.
Community engagement risk	There is no media coverage about the project or stakeholders in local community posts, news or non-local media channels that relates to carbon projects or this specific carbon project.
Additional commentary	An article about the project, posted on Greening Australia, illustrates the company and Bush Heritage Australia's efforts in purchasing, restoring and receiving ACCUs for the property. Although this is on the project proponent site, it reflects well on the project as it is a shared effort between two environmental charity organisations. Link: https://www.greeningaustralia.org.au/first-carbon-credits-flagship-revegetation-project-signals-new-era-greening-australia/ Gondwana Link also details the large-scale restoration at Peniup, the name of the property, in a positive light with links on the restoration plan and ecological management. Link: https://gondwanalink.org/gond_projects/large-scale-restoration-at-peniuppeniup-restoration/

Environmental risk

Risk parameter	Finding
Rainfall risk	There is high (370-450mm) long-term average rainfall in the region to support the vegetation growth.
Vegetation types risk	The land includes >80% spatial coverage of vegetation type classes that typically grow to forest cover (20% crown cover at 2m tall), indicating the land can support forest cover. CEA data is available and has been mapped using a geospatial analysis incorporating on-ground data showing a majority of CEAs (>90%) are mapped over or around areas classified as a forest cover vegetation type. CEAs are not mapped over any high-risk vegetation class areas unlikely to reach forest cover such as such as grasslands and sandy plains.
Additional commentary	The main vegetation type for this property is mallee woodlands and shrublands and according to Gondwana Link the restoration is designed for the establishment of yate woodlands, mallee systems and moort thickets.