Case Study

Savanna Burning Abatement Tool

The Australian Government is committed to reducing Australia's greenhouse gas emissions to meet international emission reduction targets; developing a plan for a cleaner environment; and adapting to the impacts of climate change

The Emissions Reduction Fund (ERF) provides incentives for businesses and the community to improve practices, invest in new technologies, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions through a range of activities across the Australian economy. Under the ERF, greenhouse gas abatement is achieved either by reducing or avoiding emissions, or by removing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and sequestering carbon (such as in soil or trees). Approved greenhouse gas abatement projects generate saleable carbon credits.

SavBAT, the Savanna Burning Abatement Tool, is a web-based application that automates the calculations required to estimate carbon credits for savanna fire management projects conducted under the Emissions Reduction Fund. The ERF savanna fire management projects aim to reduce the incidence of high intensity late dry season fires by increasing the proportion of cooler, early dry season fires. Fires in the early dry season tend to be lower intensity and burn smaller areas, which can reduce greenhouse gas emissions from fire, improve biodiversity protection and lower the risk of damage to assets. In addition, the carbon credits can then be sold at auction to people and businesses wishing to offset their emissions.

Customer Profile
www.environment.gov.au

Company
Department of Environment

Location
Australia

Industry
Government

Product
SavBAT

Solution
SavBAT is a web-based application that automates the calculations required to estimate carbon credits for savanna fire management projects conducted under the Emissions Reduction Fund

Benefits

- Significantly reduces the time and cost required to calculate carbon abatement from savanna fire management

- Encourages land managers to take part in activities that have positive outcomes for the environment

- Easier for landowners to access the financial benefits of fire management through carbon credits

The Solution

SavBAT dramatically reduces the time taken and cost of performing calculations for estimating ERF savanna project abatement, making savanna projects more competitive in ERF auctions. To participate in ERF savanna fire management projects and to use SavBAT, land managers must develop a fine resolution vegetation fuel type map for their project area that identies where eligible project vegetation exists on their land. This map is required as input for SavBAT. SavBAT then takes a couple of minutes to complete all required project calculations for a single average project year.

The Benefits

- The use of SavBAT signicantly reduces the time and cost required to calculate carbon abatement from savanna fire management, which has direct implications for land managers in Australia's northern savannas.

- By streamlining carbon credit calculations, SavBAT encourages land managers to take part in activities that have positive outcomes for the environment, such as reduced greenhouse gas emissions through promoting fire regimes with res of lower intensity and smaller size, as well as improved biodiversity outcomes.

- In addition, as SavBAT makes it easier for landowners to access the nancial benets of fire management through carbon credits, the tool improves employment and economic opportunities for people living in the region, particularly for Indigenous Australians.

SavBAT represents an innovative GIS tool that Spatial Vision has been proud to take part in developing.

Find out more.

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