

The Ground Truth

A powerful documentary of hope and leadership in Arnhem Land honouring one of the world's most effective climate solutions





**'Fire is a tool that we have
used from the beginning,
from the deep past until
today.'**

Dr Dean Yibarbuk



Overview

The Ground Truth – An ALFA Documentary will tell a powerful story of hope and leadership from Arnhem Land. Through the voices of Elders, rangers, and young leaders, the film reveals how Traditional Owners are restoring balance to the land and leading one of the world’s most effective climate solutions. Guided by cultural fire practices and deep ecological knowledge, Indigenous fire managers are protecting biodiversity, reducing emissions, and strengthening communities across northern Australia.

Led by Arnhem Land Fire Abatement (ALFA), with fundraising support from the Karrkad Kanjdji Trust (KKT), this feature-length documentary will be filmed on Country throughout 2026, capturing the rhythm of the seasons and the enduring connection between people, fire, and land. The project will culminate in a global premiere at COP31, putting Indigenous ingenuity and environmental leadership on the world stage and in front of international decision makers at this pivotal moment for climate action.

The Ground Truth goes beyond storytelling to create tangible impact. It will anchor a national education and outreach campaign that connects schools, corporates, and policymakers with a compelling, human story of climate resilience. The film will help dispel misinformation about carbon markets, demonstrate the rigour of Indigenous-led carbon projects, and build confidence in their role as high-integrity, nature-positive climate solutions.

Beyond its immediate campaign, the documentary will stand as a lasting cultural record, preserving the stories, language, and practices of Traditional Owners for future generations. This is an invitation to philanthropic partners to help bring these voices to the world: to support a project that informs, inspires, and strengthens the foundations of Indigenous environmental governance and intergenerational pride.



Partnership and purpose



A trusted partnership delivering support to Country, community and culture

Karrkad Kanjdji Trust (KKT) works in partnership with Indigenous ranger groups across Arnhem Land to care for Country and culture. Guided by Traditional Owners, we bring together philanthropic and corporate partners to support Indigenous-led land management, education, and women's leadership. From restoring biodiversity and cultural fire practices to strengthening language and two-way learning, our work builds sustainable futures on Country. By combining Indigenous knowledge with contemporary science, KKT helps protect one of the most biodiverse regions on Earth while empowering communities to maintain their deep cultural responsibilities. Every project we support reflects a shared commitment to caring for Country, now and for generations to come.

ALFA (NT) Ltd (Arnhem Land Fire Abatement) is a wholly Indigenous-owned, not-for-profit carbon business supporting Aboriginal ranger groups across 86,000 km² of Arnhem Land, to deliver strategic fire management that cares for Country and supports economic opportunity. Built on traditional knowledge and scientific expertise, ALFA coordinates savanna burning projects that reduce millions of tonnes of carbon emissions each year. The projects generate high-integrity, Indigenous-owned carbon credits that are reinvested in ranger programs, biodiversity programs and community wellbeing. Through this model, ALFA strengthens cultural practice, supports livelihoods on Country, and contributes to global climate action led by the world's oldest continuous custodians.

The story we're telling

Fire, knowledge, and leadership from the heart of Arnhem Land

In the vast savannas of Arnhem Land, fire can be nature's source of renewal. For tens of thousands of years, Aboriginal people have used fire to care for Country, to protect sacred sites, encourage new growth, and maintain balance between people, plants, and animals. This deep ecological knowledge, passed down through generations, has shaped one of the most biodiverse landscapes on Earth.

When people were displaced from their homelands in the mid-twentieth century, those careful cycles of burning stopped. Without the rhythm of cultural fire, large, uncontrolled wildfires began sweeping through the region, destroying habitats and releasing enormous amounts of carbon into the atmosphere.

Today, Indigenous rangers across Arnhem Land are bringing that knowledge back, combining ancient practice with modern science to light the right fires, in the right place, at the right time. These early dry-season burns break up fuel loads, protect wildlife, and drastically cut emissions. The result is one of the world's most successful nature-based climate solutions known as savanna burning.

The Ground Truth – An ALFA Documentary follows this movement through the eyes of the people leading it: Elders sharing memory and ceremony, rangers tending the land, and young leaders stepping forward to keep the knowledge alive. Filmed across Arnhem Land's vast and shifting seasons, the documentary captures the beauty, discipline, and cultural power of fire as a force for healing both land and community.

At its heart, this is a story about Indigenous leadership and ingenuity, and about how reconnecting to ancient ways of caring for Country can offer vital lessons for a planet facing an uncertain climate future.



AC

RANGE

ASRAC

2026 is a pivotal moment for Country, culture, and climate

2026 marks a pivotal moment for the savanna fire method.

To shape the future of fire management we must spotlight its deeper impacts - beyond carbon, into culture, ecology and community.

Climate change is accelerating.

Fire seasons are becoming longer and more destructive, making Indigenous knowledge more vital than ever.

The world is watching.

As global climate talks seek real solutions, Indigenous-led practices offer proven, nature-based impact.

Truth cuts through the noise.

The film confronts carbon market misinformation and showcases the integrity of Indigenous climate leadership.

Leadership needs visibility.

Indigenous fire managers are achieving extraordinary results, yet their stories remain largely unseen.

Before it's too late.

The Ground Truth will bring Indigenous voices to the global stage and shape how the world understands fire, Country, and climate.



- 1 Elevate Indigenous leadership in climate solutions,** bringing Traditional Owners' expertise in fire management to global audiences ahead of COP31.
- 2 Strengthen community pride and intergenerational knowledge,** ensuring cultural and ecological stories are passed down through film.
- 3 Influence public and policy understanding** of Indigenous carbon projects as credible, effective climate action.
- 4 Increase visibility and investment** in Indigenous-led land management through authentic, powerful storytelling.
- 5 Safeguard cultural knowledge and stories,** ensuring they are carried forward for future generations across Arnhem Land.
- 6 Dispel misinformation and strengthen understanding** of Indigenous carbon projects as credible, high-integrity climate solutions.

Our lasting impact

Milestones

Concept and development

Nov 2025-Jan 2026

Confirm production partners, outline documentary treatment, and establish a budget framework.

Pre-production

Jan-April 2026

Script and storyboard development, crew engagement (including Indigenous film crew), and filming logistics.

Filming on Country

May-June 2026

Twenty-day shoot across Arnhem Land communities during early dry season.

Impact and evaluation

Dec 2026-Jan 2027

Delivery of educational materials, investor briefings, and impact assessment.

Global launch

Nov 2026

World premiere at COP31 with Elders and youth leaders; community screenings on Country.

Pre-engagement launch

Mar-Oct 2026

Media partnerships, education content, and campaign planning ahead of COP31.

Post-production

Jul-Oct 2026

Editing, music, and final cut preparation.

Join us

Philanthropic investment will make this project possible. Support will fund on-Country production, Indigenous engagement, and an international campaign that amplifies Indigenous climate leadership. Donors will help ensure the story is told authentically, bringing global recognition to one of Australia's most effective nature-based climate solutions.





'We use fire for many reasons: not only for conservation and management, but also as a healing process for land, for people, for native plants and animals.'

Dr Dean Yibarbuk

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**Karrkad
Kanjdi
Trust**



ALFA
Arnhem Land
Fire Abatement