



FALL 2021

# AUSTRALIAN WILDLIFE & NATURE RECOVERY FUND

RESPOND, RESTORE, AND BUILD A RESILIENT FUTURE



# AUSTRALIAN WILDLIFE & NATURE RECOVERY FUND

In January 2020, WWF launched the global Australian Wildlife and Nature Recovery Fund and began mobilizing an urgent response to the bushfire emergency. Working with scientists across Australia, we established a framework to address the full scope of work required to recover what had been lost and put in place safeguards for the future. Thanks to the generous support we received from Australia and around the world, we raised **over \$50 million** for bushfire recovery and resiliency.

During **Phase I** – the emergency response – we formed partnerships at a grand scale, ensuring that as much wildlife could be saved and rehabilitated as possible.

We are now realizing our **Phase II** long-term recovery plan of mitigating natural hazards and protecting Australian nature. Regenerate Australia will be the largest landscape restoration and wildlife program in Australia's history.



# WWF AUSTRALIAN WILDLIFE & NATURE RECOVERY FUND

## THEMATIC ALLOCATION OF THE BUSHFIRE FUND



### WILDLIFE RESPONDERS

Partner with reputable wildlife response organizations to enhance Australia's capacity to allow a swift and effective wildlife response

*Number of projects approved or in the pipeline: 51*

**\$6.0M FUND ALLOCATION**



### SPECIES RECOVERY & ADAPTATION

Identify key species across high-risk landscapes and habitats that provide refuge to trial innovative solutions that will better enable recovery & resilience to climate warming

*Number of projects approved or in the pipeline: 41*

**\$9.0M FUND ALLOCATION**



### LANDSCAPE RESTORATION

Protect critical unburnt habitat, accelerating WWF-Australia's Towards Two Billion Trees plan and working to restore what we lost with urgency

*Number of projects approved or in the pipeline: 30*

**\$6.0M FUND ALLOCATION**



### STRENGTHEN NATURE LAWS

Harness the *Environment Protection & Biodiversity Conservation Act* internal review opportunity to enhance the effectiveness of protecting Australia's natural resources

*Number of projects approved or in the pipeline: 10*

**\$2.0M FUND ALLOCATION**



### GLOBAL CLIMATE CRISIS

Collaborate with global partners and experts in best practice fire and climate disaster management

*Number of projects approved or in the pipeline: 4*

**\$3.0M FUND ALLOCATION**



### STABILIZE CLIMATE CHANGE

Draw on leading climate science to assist in mobilizing critical and urgent interventions to help stabilize our climate and support WWF network climate initiatives

*Number of projects approved or in the pipeline: 15*

**\$8.0M FUND ALLOCATION**



### INDIGENOUS RANGER CAPACITY

Enhance the number of Indigenous rangers, bolster the capacity of Indigenous ranger groups, and draw on traditional owner knowledge

*Number of projects approved or in the pipeline: 31*

**\$10.0M FUND ALLOCATION**



### INNOVATION & ENGAGEMENT

Support global innovative solutions by positioning Australia as a model for impactful and regenerative community-led solutions

*Number of projects approved or in the pipeline: 6*

**\$6.0M FUND ALLOCATION**



# THIS WORK WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE WITHOUT YOU

Thanks to the generosity of supporters around the world, we continue to provide essential funds to an increasing number of initiatives that will protect, restore, and future-proof our landscapes to benefit people and wildlife both now, and for future generations. On-the-ground and funding partnerships are essential. Since the start of the bushfires, we have welcomed dedicated partners and worked together to develop collaborative, creative solutions for high-impact conservation.

WWF's bushfire response is already helping key groups including:

## Injured wildlife and their wildlife care professionals

- We supported 14 wildlife hospitals and 80 veterinarians to improve their wildlife care facilities and treatment of animals impacted by the fires.

## Fire-affected species

- We targeted interventions and supported 31 threatened species including koalas, superb parrots, and platypuses.

## Fire-affected landscapes and their communities

- We supported Ecotourism Australia to help 11 bushfire-affected communities to develop eco-destinations. Through projects on the ground, we're working with partners to actively restore 311 acres of fire-affected landscapes.

*The following stories provide a snapshot of some of our current projects and the impacts made in Phase II of our bushfire response, from January to June 2021.*







## TREE PLANTING WITH BANGALOW KOALAS

Koala populations in Richmond Valley, Lismore, Kyogle, and Ballina are severely fragmented. Currently, suitable feed and rest trees for koalas only exist as small pockets across the floodplains along Richmond River / Bungawalbin Creek on Crown and private land, around highly built-up areas. It is essential to reconnect fragmented koala habitat through wildlife corridors, which will increase diversity of this local population.

Our tree planting project, in partnership with Bangalow Koalas, a non-profit based in northern New South Wales, addresses the serious problem of koala habitat destruction and loss. Through this partnership, we will be planting **more than 100,000 koala food and habitat trees over three years**. This will improve landscape connectivity and provide habitat for vulnerable koala populations, while providing community volunteer tree planting education and engagement opportunities for individuals and businesses.

Landholder workshops provided by Bangalow Koalas will equip the Richmond Valley, Lismore, Kyogle, and Ballina communities with the expertise, knowledge, and appreciation for threatened species, especially koalas, increasing their sense of ownership and stewardship for maintaining the local habitat.

**“Our goal is to create this wonderful corridor connecting fragmented habitat for koala populations, engaging the community in wildlife protection and conservation, educating kids, families and landholders.”**

- Linda Sparrow  
*President, Bangalow Koalas*

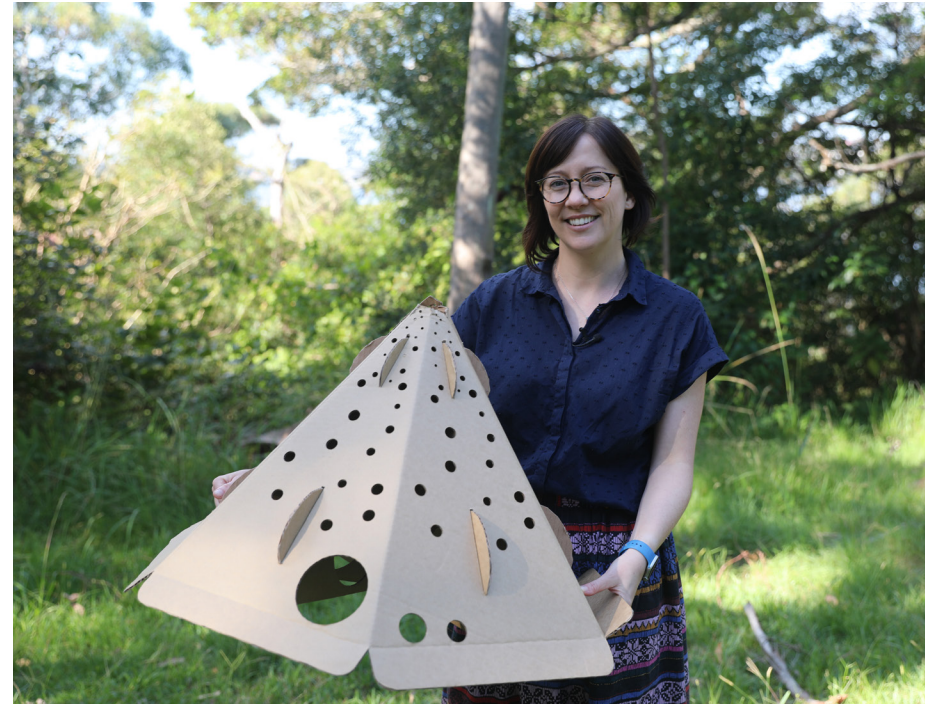


# INNOVATIVE HABITAT PODS TO PROTECT WILDLIFE

Fire and feral predators are two major interacting threats to Australian wildlife. When bushfires clear dense vegetation, native fauna is left exposed and highly vulnerable to non-native predators, including feral cats and foxes. With nowhere to hide, native, small ground-dwelling mammals, birds, and reptiles experience increased predation rates, limiting population recovery, and potentially causing local extinctions. Vegetation often recovers too slowly to protect fauna in the critical months immediately after a fire.

WWF's **Bushfire Regeneration Innovation Challenge** inspired a possible solution to the problem: 'Habitat pods' are modular, artificial wildlife shelters designed to provide interim shelter for wildlife, while encouraging native vegetation recovery. Native seeds are embedded into the cardboard pulp molds of the pod. After decomposing, the pulp and seeds boost both soil nutrients and vegetation growth. WWF-Australia is now working alongside a team of multidisciplinary ecology experts to test and implement these habitat pods.

The Bushfire Regeneration Challenge is a great example of the outcomes that can be achieved through taking risks, collaborating, and embracing new ideas and technologies.

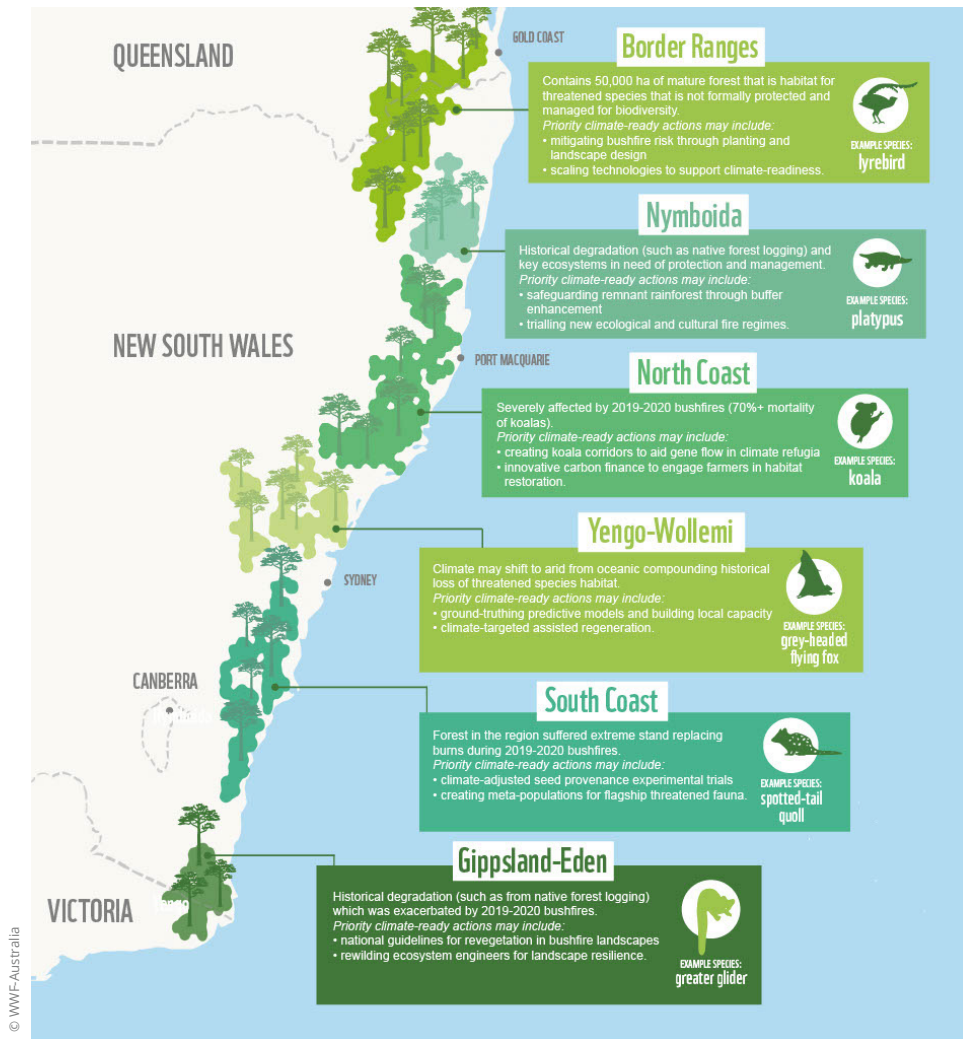


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## DEFENDING THE UNBURNT

### Partnership with the Environmental Defenders Office

In the wake of the bushfires, the protection of critical unburnt habitat emerged as a priority for securing the future of many threatened species. Animals that escaped the bushfires remain vulnerable to threats from land clearing and logging. Some threatened species have had more than 90% of their known or potential habitat impacted by fire. Protecting what remains is crucial, particularly for areas outside national parks or still without regulatory protection.

WWF-Australia partnered with the Environmental Defenders Office (EDO) to save these intact areas of forest to provide safe havens for threatened species. This partnership addresses the need to defend six high-priority landscapes, which include valuable unburnt areas of land that serve as vital refuges for **62+ species of plants, 21 animal species, and over 18 ecological communities** listed as threatened.





## PROVIDING CRITICAL WILDLIFE CARE WITH ANIMAL RESCUE

Wildlife hospitals are key elements in modern wildlife care and threatened species conservation. They provide facilities staffed by trained vets and vet nurses that specialize in providing care and cutting-edge treatment to animals in distress. They also attract significant, passionate, and committed volunteer support from the community.

As part of the wildlife responders' program of work within our bushfire response framework, WWF-Australia contributed equipment and operational support to the set up the Western Australian Native Animal Rescue as a fully-functional registered Veterinary Hospital. This provides native wildlife with more effective diagnosis, treatment, pain, and relief. Since November, they have rehabilitated and released **730 injured birds, mammals, marsupials, and reptiles**.

**"The burns sustained by this wildlife were horrific and having the Veterinary support at the hospital has been beneficial to all. After the fire we were able to have the vets examine a joey kangaroo and a Brushtail possum who both had sustained burns due to the fire. We also had Bobtails that we monitored and were able to release after a short stay in the hospital."**

- Kelli Ellemor  
*CEO, Native Animal Rescue*







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## THANK YOU

We could not do any of this work without the generosity of our supporters in Australia and around the world. While the bushfires were a watershed moment for Australia - their causes and impacts are connected to all the work we champion. With your help, we are adapting our targets, strategically extending partnerships, growing programs of work, and amplifying our vision for the long-term conservation of our planet's natural habitats. Thank you.

To learn more, visit: [wwf.help/AustraliaBushfireFund](https://www.wwf.org.au/help/AustraliaBushfireFund)