



World Wildlife Fund

Australia Fire Emergency

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Australia is being ravaged by one of the most devastating bushfire seasons the country has ever seen. Record-breaking temperatures and months of severe drought have fueled flames in every single state. As of January 11, over 10 million hectares have burned—more than the Brazilian Amazon and Californian fires combined.

The impacts are devastating. Dozens of people—including several volunteer firefighters—have died. Thousands of homes have been destroyed, and the mass evacuation of communities is one of the largest-ever emergency movements of people in Australia. Most of the people fighting the fires are unpaid volunteers, giving their time and risking their lives to help address this crisis.

It is a crisis with epic implications for Australia's wildlife and wild places too, as massive areas of native bushland, forests, and parks have been scorched. Australia is filled with creatures found nowhere else in the world: koalas, kangaroos, wallabies, and kookaburras among them. The fires have laid waste to vast stretches of earth, leaving such animals killed or injured. Until the fires subside, the full extent of damage will remain unknown, but experts are already predicting the death of billions of animals.

And there is more to come. Australia is less than half-way through its fire season.

Together, we can make a difference. Your generous donation will help support immediate response and longer-term efforts to secure Australia's natural resources in the wake of these fires.

Join us.



Australia on Fire

Australia knows bushfires. The hot, dry, summers make it easy for blazes to start, usually because of lightning strikes.

But this season's bushfire catastrophe is not normal.

While climate change may not cause bushfires, it does make them worse. Australia has been experiencing more frequent and intense heatwaves, prolonged droughts, and unusual wind patterns have created tinder box conditions. The devastation we're experiencing now is a clear departure from "normal" to a hotter, drier world.

Without help, critical habitat and beloved species may not survive. Many forests will take decades to recover. Even eucalyptus trees, which have evolved to survive bushfires, are dying under the extreme heat. In some places, it's hard to imagine recovery. For example, the damage on fire-ravaged Kangaroo Island may have pushed some native species over the brink. More than 50% of the island's koala population perished.

Across the country, the fires are exasperating the koalas' challenges. Before this summer, WWF estimated that in eastern Australia koalas could be extinct in the wild in as little as 30 years, primarily due to excessive tree-clearing for agricultural and urban development, as well as the impacts of climate change. The fires that raged through koala habitat in this area likely accelerated this timeline. But koalas are not functionally extinct—and long-term efforts can help them avoid that fate.



Support Our Efforts

Visit worldwildlife.org/AustraliaFires

Your donation to WWF will help support efforts to:



Address immediate needs.

WWF is responding to the urgent needs of partners dealing directly with fire impacts, including wildlife response organizations, communities, and scientists. Activities change daily but include providing extensive care to injured koalas and other species.



Recover critical habitats.

WWF will take a science-based approach to restore, connect, and protect forests, bushland, and other native habitats. WWF will also engage Indigenous and rural communities to improve management of critical ecosystems and fire response.



Prepare for future emergencies.

WWF seeks to ensure recovery, reconstruction, and management responses are based on the best available climate science, promote resiliency, incorporate natural infrastructure, help mitigate climate change, and work towards securing Australia's natural resources for people and nature over the long-term.



Stewardship

WWF is committed to exercising the highest level of integrity in stewarding the funds so generously provided by donors looking to address the bushfires in Australia. We bring to bear our partnerships with local organizations on the front lines, global expertise in embedding environmental responsibility into disaster response and recovery, and our commitment to responsibly and effectively manage the influx of incoming resources associated with the fires. We will direct the resources towards the most appropriate mix of activities related to: urgent response, forest restoration, fire prevention, program management, and other critical conservation work associated with recovery.

WWF will publicly report on activities supported by these funds through periodic updates to worldwildlife.org. We will continue to transparently report out on the activities until all monies have been allocated.

Other Organizations

There are many other organizations and charities coordinating donations to help people and wildlife impacted by the bushfires:

- * [Australian Red Cross](#) is supporting thousands of people in evacuation centers and recovery hubs
- * [Salvation Army](#) has launched a disaster appeal to support communities affected by the bushfires around Australia
- * [St Vincent De Paul Society](#) is running a bushfire appeal to help those affected rebuild their lives with food, clothing, furniture, other essentials, and funds to pay bills
- * [WIRES](#) is seeking donations to help their efforts to support displaced and injured wildlife
- * [The Rescue Collective](#) is collecting donations on behalf of smaller rescues to help badly burned wildlife who have been impacted by the bushfires
- * [Victoria's Country Fire Authority](#) and the [NSW Rural Fire Service](#) are accepting donations for those wanting to support the volunteer firefighters.



Thank You.

We hope you will join us however you can.