



JANUARY 2021

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# AUSTRALIAN WILDLIFE & NATURE RECOVERY FUND

RESPOND, RESTORE, AND BUILD A RESILIENT FUTURE





# AUSTRALIAN WILDLIFE & NATURE RECOVERY FUND

In January 2020, WWF-Australia responded to the bushfires launching the global Australian Bushfire Recovery Fund and mobilized urgent response. We could not do any of this work without the generosity of our supporters in Australia and around the world. Thanks to you, we raised **\$45 million** for the WWF Australian Wildlife & Nature Recovery Fund.

The WWF-Australia Wildlife and Nature Recovery Fund was established with three goals:

- **Respond:** Respond to the needs of fire-impacted wildlife and species with urgency.
- **Protect:** Protect what remains and deploy interventions that mitigate the processes that will increase the frequency and severity of both current and future fires.
- **Restore:** Restore Australia's scorched landscapes drawing upon leading climate adaptation science so that our flora and fauna can flourish, and Australians can rely on vital ecosystem services long into the future.



# AUSTRALIAN WILDLIFE & NATURE RECOVERY FUND

## PHASE I

### Respond with Urgency

*January 2020 - July 2020*

At the peak of the fires, our focus was to get emergency support to our frontline partners, rescuing and caring for fire-impacted wildlife. During this time, we committed **\$8 million** of emergency funding to 64 bushfire response projects, including partnering with over 40 wildlife rescue and care organizations across Australia.

## PHASE II

### Protect & Restore Wildlife and Landscapes

*July 2020 - Present*

Phase II focusses on our long-term national wildlife and nature recovery plan, to future-proof Australia against the bushfire seasons ahead. Thanks to the generosity of our supporters in Australia and abroad, we are working tirelessly with our partners on the ground to restore what has been lost in the fires and protect remaining wildlife.







## KOALA RESTORATION IN PORT STEPHENS

Port Stephens, located in New South Wales, is critical koala habitat. The bushfires were a catastrophic event that revealed the lack of needed resources to care for koalas in this region. Other than bushfires, koalas face many threats. The number one concern for koalas is loss of habitat. One of the results of habitat loss is the threat of being hit by cars.

After the bushfires, Kevin, for example, a local Port Stephens koala was hit by a car. He suffered injuries to his head and claws because koalas often dig their claws into the road as they get hit. His walking was very unsteady, so the vets were able to use the X-rayed supplied through WWF funding, to check his skull and jaw. Thankfully, nothing was broken or damaged internally. He is one of the few lucky ones to get hit by a car and walk away from it with just a few bumps and bruises.

Thanks to our supporters, WWF was able to provide significant emergency resources. We have continued this support and engagement post emergency to ensure this region is equipped for both future disasters and for year-round koala care, both through equipment and staff training.

**“TO HAVE EVERYTHING ON-SITE SO THAT WE DON'T NEED TO MOVE THE KOALAS AROUND, THAT WE CAN SEDATE THEM AND TAKE THE X-RAYS AND THEN RECOVER THEM SAFELY AND WITH MINIMAL STRESS TO THE ANIMAL IS JUST FANTASTIC. IT'S CRITICAL TO HAVE A LOCAL HOSPITAL WHERE KOALAS CAN BE TREATED IN THE GOLDEN HOUR. THE FIRST HOUR AFTER INJURY. WWF HAS PROVIDED THE FUNDING FOR US TO CLINICALLY FIT OUT THE HOSPITAL. SIMPLY PUT, NO WWF FUNDING, NO KOALA CLINIC.”**

Dr. Donald Hudson  
One of Australia's top koala vets.



# THANK YOU

We couldn't do any of this work without the generosity of our supporters across the world. Thanks to you, we were able to provide emergency funding to wildlife rescue and care organizations, enabling a quick and effective response at scale, and to restore natural habitats.

2020 made it abundantly clear that solution focused, science-based and community engaged projects and strategies are needed, and wanted, as we move forward.

Together, we responded to the 2019-2020 bushfire crisis and are helping to secure Australia's natural resources for people and nature well into the future. Thank you.

To learn more, visit [worldwildlife.org/AustraliaBushfireFund](https://worldwildlife.org/AustraliaBushfireFund)







*Photo Credits:*

*Cover: Koala mother and joey released to the wild after the bushfires © Doug Gimesy / WWF / naturepl.com*

*Page 2: New South Wales Rural Fire Service © James Manning / WWF-Australia*

*Page 3: Koala mother and joey © Suzi Eszterhas / WWF / naturepl.com*

*Page 4: Top left clockwise: Maryanne the koala in recovery © Trudi Timbs / WWF-Australia, Jack the flying bat at Milton Village Vet © Leonie Sii / WWF-Australia, Bushfire in Jervis Bay © Bryce Harper / WWF-Australia, Bushfire at Broulee Beach © mattywilliamsphoto / WWF-Australia, Bushfire in Jamison Valley © Andrew Merry / WWF / Getty, Abigail Sexton (WWF-Australia) observes the aftermath of the bushfires near Surfs Beach © Leonie Sii / WWF-Australia, Aerial of the Kangaroo Island bushfire aftermath © Sii Studio / WWF-Australia, Food drop targeting brush tail rock wallabies © Veronica Joseph / WWF-Australia*

*Page 5: Kevin the koala in recovery © Judi and Brendon Gray / WWF-Australia*

*Page 6: Top left clockwise: Kangaroo in Jervis Bay © Paul Fahy / WWF-Australia, Koala mother and joey © Alizada Studios / WWF / Shutterstock, New South Wales Rural Fire Service © James Manning / WWF-Australia*

*Page 7: Top left clockwise: Koala in care with RSPCA Queensland © Peter Wilson / RSPCA QLD, Bushfire impacted ringtail possum in recovery © Leonie Sii / WWF-Australia*

