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Wildfires result in loss of forests and pollution, but what about wildlife

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Last year, when Australia witnessed megafires, what scientists called one of the worst wildfires in modern history, the cost of the disaster amounted to billions of dollars. Initial estimates put the costs at around \$100 billion, making the bushfire Australia's costliest natural disaster ever.

The forest fire, which raged for months, killed at least three dozen people, while more than 445 more deaths were linked to smoke from the massive bushfires. Besides, the bushfire also burned down millions of hectares of forests.

Another irreplaceable loss was that of wild animals.

According to the World Wildlife Fund, nearly 3 billion animals were harmed—either killed or displaced—in the bushfire that raged across Australia from June 2019 to February 2020. The global conservation body estimated that 143 million mammals, 2.46 billion reptiles, 180 million birds, and 51 million frogs were affected.

Thousands of kilometres away from Australia, Nepal is also witnessing one of the worst wildfires in its recorded history.

“The forest fire which has come down with a brief rainfall nearly two weeks ago once again picked up in the following week,” said Sundar Prasad Sharma, an expert on forest fires and an under secretary with the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority. “There are still around 200-300 forest fires breaking out every day on average.”

And the fires are not concentrated in any geographical area but burning across the country—from the east to the west.

Source: <https://kathmandupost.com/climate-environment/2021/04/15/wildfires-result-in-loss-of-forests-and-pollution-but-what-about-wildlife>