



Assiniboine Park Conservancy to Contribute \$10,000 toward Wildlife Relief Efforts in Australia

For immediate release: Winnipeg, January 14, 2020 – In recognition of the devastation caused by the Australian bushfires, the Assiniboine Park Conservancy has committed to donating \$10,000 from the organization’s Conservation Fund toward wildlife rescue, rehabilitation and recovery efforts in Australia and launched an emergency fundraising campaign to give others in the community the opportunity to participate.

“As an organization and community of people dedicated to animal care, wildlife conservation, and environmental education, we have an opportunity to lead by example by contributing directly to wildlife relief efforts in Australia and inspiring others to do the same,” said Dr. Chris Enright, Director, Veterinary Services & Animal Welfare, Assiniboine Park Conservancy. “We have invited our staff, volunteers, members and community to join us and come together to match our donation.”

In less than 24 hours, the campaign has raised over \$5,000 in additional donations.

Australia is being ravaged by the worst wildfires seen in decades, with tragic consequences for the people of Australia and Australian wildlife. More than 7.3 million hectares of land have burned and over 1 billion mammals, birds and reptiles — some of them found nowhere else on Earth — may have been affected or killed by the fires. Many point to climate change as a contributing factor in the escalation of this natural disaster.

“This is a catastrophic natural disaster resulting in unprecedented habitat destruction and loss of animal life. Some species may be wiped out entirely and others will be vulnerable due to habitat loss,” said Dr. Stephen Petersen, Director, Conservation & Research, Assiniboine Park Conservancy. “There is an immediate need to help injured animals, but in long term there is much work to be done to restore and protect the habitat needed to rebuild wild populations.”

People wishing to support APC’s Australian Bushfire Emergency Wildlife Campaign can make a [donation online](#) or by calling APC’s donation line at (204) 927-8080 or toll-free at 1-877-927-6006. 100% of donations to this fund received between now and January 22 – including APC’s \$10,000 contribution – will be divided evenly and distributed to the following organizations:

- [Zoos Victoria, Bushfire Emergency Wildlife Fund](#): Donations will go towards ensuring long-term care for bushfire impacted animals, including endangered species, such as supplementary feeding and habitat restoration in conjunction with the Australia Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, Parks Victoria, and associated recovery teams.
- [World Wildlife Fund Canada](#): As well as immediate wildlife response, WWF-Australia is building out on post-fire recovery plans, including restoring forests and other damaged wildlife habitat, stopping deforestation, cultivating habitat connectivity and improving Indigenous and rural fire management. Donations to WWF-Canada in support of these efforts will be distributed directly to WWF-Australia.

This is a one-time campaign and donations will be accepted until January 22, 2020. All donations (over \$10) are eligible for a Canadian charitable tax receipt.