



Forum: Sustainable Development Goals 13

Issue: Measures to combat forest fires in Australia

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Introduction

There is no country that is not experiencing the drastic effects of climate change. Greenhouse gas emissions are more than 50 percent higher than in 1990. Global warming is causing long-lasting changes to our climate system, which threatens irreversible consequences if we do not act.

The annual average economic losses from climate-related disasters are in the hundreds of billions of dollars. This is not to mention the human impact of geo-physical disasters, which are 91 percent climate-related, and which between 1998 and 2017 killed 1.3 million people, and left 4.4 billion injured. The goal aims to mobilize US\$100 billion annually by 2020 to address the needs of developing countries to both adapt to climate change and invest in low-carbon development.

Supporting vulnerable regions will directly contribute not only to Goal 13 but also to the other SDGs. These actions must also go hand in hand with efforts to integrate disaster risk measures, sustainable natural resource management, and human security into national development strategies. It is still possible, with strong political will, increased investment, and using existing technology, to limit the increase in global mean temperature to two degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, aiming at 1.5°C, but this requires urgent and ambitious collective action. Cited by:

<https://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/sustainable-development-goals/goal-13-climate-action.html>.

Sustainable Development Goal 13 (SDG 13 or Global Goal 13) about climate action is one of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals established by the United Nations in 2015. The official wording is to "Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts". The Goal has targets to be achieved by 2030. Progress towards targets is measured by indicators.

Targets linked with the SDG 13:

- Target 13.1: Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries.
- Target 13.2: Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning
- Target 13.3: Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning



- Target 13.a: Implement the commitment undertaken by developed-country parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to a goal of mobilizing jointly \$100 billion annually by 2020 from all sources to address the needs of developing countries in the context of meaningful mitigation actions and transparency on implementation and fully operationalize the Green Climate Fund through its capitalization as soon as possible
- Target 13.b: Promote mechanisms for raising capacity for effective climate change-related planning and management in least developed countries and small island developing States, including focusing on women, youth and local and marginalized communities.

Definition of Key Terms

Climate Change

Climate Change is the characterizing issue within recent memory and we are at a pivotal turning point. From moving climate designs that compromise food creation, to rising ocean levels that expand the danger of cataclysmic flooding, the effects of environmental change are worldwide in scope and remarkable in scale.

Forest Fires

Wildfires, also called forest fire, can be depicted as any uncontrolled and non-recommended ignition or consuming of plants in a characteristic setting, for example, a backwoods, prairie, brush land or tundra, which devours the regular energizes and spreads dependent on natural conditions

Global Warming

Global Warming is the drawn out warming of Earth's atmosphere framework saw since the pre-mechanical period because of human exercises, principally non-renewable energy source consuming, which expands heat-catching ozone harming substance levels in Earth's environment.

Background Information

Bushfires in Australia are a far reaching and customary event that have contributed fundamentally to forming the idea of the mainland for more than a huge number of years. Eastern Australia is one of the most fire-inclined districts of the world, and its transcendent eucalyptus woodlands



have developed to blossom with the marvel of bushfire. However the flames can cause critical property harm and loss of both human and creature life. Bushfires have slaughtered roughly 800 individuals in Australia since 1851, and billions of creatures. The progressive drying of the Australian landmass throughout the last 15 million years has delivered a biology and climate inclined to fire, which has brought about many particular transformations among widely varied vegetation. A portion of the nation's verdure has advanced to depend on bushfires for propagation. Native Australians used to utilize fire to clear meadows for chasing and to clear tracks through thick vegetation, and European pilgrims have additionally needed to adjust to utilizing fire to improve agribusiness and backwoods the board since the nineteenth century. Fire and timberland the board has developed again through the twentieth and 21st hundreds of years with the spread of public parks and nature holds, while human-caused an Earth-wide temperature boost is anticipated to keep expanding the recurrence of blasts.

Impact of forest fires

An uncontrolled woodland fire can wreck everything in its way, spread for a significant distance, going across waterways and streets. Every year, somewhere in the range of 60,000 and 80,000 woods fires happen, pulverizing somewhere in the range of 3 and 10 million hectares. While timberland fires impacts affect the climate, contingent upon their size and recurrence, the causes are additionally different.

Impact on flora and fauna

At the point when the recurrence of woodland fires in a given zone is high, the outcomes can be destroyed. In the event that a few experts believe fire to be a benefit for the biological system (end of unhealthy plants and plants, expanded plant and creature variety, and so forth.), we should not overlook that the characteristic patterns of backwoods are upset and that a few animal groups vanish, while obtrusive plants multiply. Woods fires increment carbon dioxide levels in the air, adding to the nursery impact and environmental change. Likewise, cinders devastate a great part of the supplements and dissolve the dirt, causing flooding and avalanches.

Impact on human life

The effects of expanded out of control fires won't just influence populaces legitimately in fierce blaze inclined regions, however may likewise influence populaces found great many miles downwind through smoke inward breath. The organization of rapidly spreading fire smoke is basically made of carbon dioxide, water fume, carbon monoxide, particulate issue, hydrocarbons and other natural synthetic compounds, nitrogen oxides, and numerous other minor components. In any case, smoke organizations can shift, contingent upon the fuel type, fire temperature, and wind conditions. Of these toxins, particulate issue (PM) is the most concerning, given their minuscule size and capacity to be breathed in profoundly into the lungs. Introduction to PM



created from rapidly spreading fires has been related with a wide scope of human wellbeing impacts, for example, wheezing, hacking, sore eyes and throats, and windedness, to more unfavorable wellbeing results, extending from increments in asthma-related hospitalizations, constant and intense respiratory and cardiovascular wellbeing results, and sudden passing.

Top 5 Major Bushfires in Australia



Major Forest Fires in Australia from 1974 - 2020

Major Countries and Organizations Involved

Australia

The state's Rural Fire Service announced the most exceedingly terrible fire season ever, during which 25 individuals in NSW were murdered, authoritatively finished. In those eight months, 6 percent, or 13.6 million sections of land, of the express that 33% of Australians call home had been burned. The world's consideration, bolted on the flames not long ago, has justifiably moved to the continuous Covid emergency. Be that as it may, the staggering fire season has left exercises afterward. As Australia looks toward a fate of more regular and hazardous fires, researchers and authorities are cooperating to create fire-expectation innovations that will empower firemen to work quicker and all the more securely when the following season — expected to be maybe similarly overwhelming — starts in only a couple of months.



New Zealand

The disastrous bushfires in Australia have additionally influenced New Zealand. In light of the effect of trans-limit air contamination (and its impacts on different nations), there are legitimate ramifications to be thought of. There have been different variables, which have exacerbated the conditions over Australia and had sway downstream on New Zealand's pre-summer and late-spring atmosphere. The immediate bushfire impacts on New Zealand delivered an orange smoke murkiness in skies over the whole nation and turned its notorious ice sheets a caramelized pink. The bitter smelling smoke caused the sun to show up as either a red or brilliant ball, contingent upon the smoke thickness. Effectively five such occasions have dirtied the New Zealand environment, which is extraordinary.

United Nations Children's Fund

Raging bushfires wreaking havoc across Australia have prompted the UN Children's Fund, UNICEF, to offer its support to the Australian Government and its partners which are battling the "unprecedented disaster". Hailing its involvement with giving pivotal long haul backing to kids over the world through the three phases of help, recuperation and recovery, UNICEF communicated its "genuine want" to help Australia. "UNICEF has critical ability and experience universally in reacting to crises, including catastrophic events", the announcement said. "From many years of work with a huge number of individuals around the globe, we realize that kids are consistently among the most helpless in conditions, for example, these". By and large, UNICEF included that environmental change is making situations "more awful and all the more persevering".

Australian Wildfire Relief Fund

All funds to this reserve will uphold help and recuperation endeavors for individuals and creatures influenced by the bushfires. At first, the reserve will enable specialists on call to meet survivors' prompt requirements for food, fuel, clean water, cleanliness items, and haven. The reserve will change to help longer-term recuperation endeavors run by neighborhood, considered associations in the area. We screen the effect on influenced networks and work with accomplices on the ground to designate assets to where they're required most.

Timeline of Events

Date

Description of Event

26th October 2019

Lightning bolt starts a mega fire in Gospers Mountain, New South Wales. It became the epicentre of the biggest forest fire to have



	started from a single ignition point that Australia has ever known, with 444,000 had been destroyed.
20th November 2020	Fire breaks out in Yorke Peninsula, South Australia. It threatened the towns of Yorketown and Edithburgh. It destroyed at least 11 homes and was believed to have started from a sparking electrical transformer.
26th December 2020	Lightning sparks fire in the Sterling Ranges, Western Australia, tearing through more than 40,000 of parkland.
31th December 2020	Currowan, Charleys Forest and Clyde Mountain, New South Wales, fires have joined, forming a large fire that has burnt through more than 257,000 hectares.
02th January 2020	Fires spread and engulfed East Gippsland, Victoria and surrounds destroying 780 ha. The Currowan fire, along the NSW South Coast, burns more than 258,000 ha.

Relevant UN Treaties and Events

- The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change entered into force on 21 March 1994.
- The establishment of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change IPCC was endorsed by the UN General Assembly in 1988.
- UN General Assembly Resolution 43/53 of 6 December 1988 (A/RES/43/53).

Previous Attempts to solve the Issue

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is an association of governments that are individuals from the United Nations or WMO. The IPCC presently has 195 individuals. A huge number of individuals from everywhere around the world are added to the IPCC. For the appraisal reports, IPCC researchers volunteer their chance to evaluate the great many logical papers distributed every year to give a far reaching outline of what is thought about the drivers of environmental change, its effects and future dangers, and how transformation and moderation can lessen those dangers.

UNEP is the main worldwide ecological power that sets the worldwide natural plan, advances the intelligible execution of the natural component of supportable improvement inside the United Nations framework, and fills in as a legitimate promoter for the worldwide climate. Environmental Change is one of the seven topical regions tended to by UNEP. UNEP established the Intergovernmental Panel on



Climate Change (IPCC), along with the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), in 1988. With help from the Swiss Federal Office of the Environment, UNEP drives the Geneva Environment Network, an agreeable association of more than 75 climate and maintainable improvement associations situated in the Geneva area whose secretariat arranges and has gatherings on the climate and feasible turn of events and advances public mindfulness.

DESA is home of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which remembers Goal 13 for climate change, and maintains the advancement mainstay of the United Nations, helping nations settle on educated choices through their distributions, information bases and backing fo global consultations at the United Nations General Assembly, Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), Commissions, Forums and different bodies.

Possible Solutions

All countries can start raising awareness about the ill effects of climate change and adhering to the guidelines put forward by the IPCC. All the governments should control all activities adding on to the increasing change in climate. Climate change is focused upon because it is one of the leading factors for the bushfires in Australia.

Having rescue operations to reduce the death rates caused by these fires of both humans and animals. Having vacant animal shelters to treat the injured animals and taking care of them until they are healthy. All countries should have an emergency relief fund just in case any natural disaster takes place. All countries and their citizens should donate to the Australian Relief Fund especially when they face atrocities like that if forest fires. To help prevent forest fires in or close to woods land during the woodland fire season, the accompanying advances ought to be followed:

- Check neighborhood guidelines with respect to allow prerequisites and "consume boycott" limitations. These are accessible from your region, local group of fire-fighters or division of regular assets. They may include:
 - Acquiring a consuming grant for consuming grass, brush, slice or different garbage in or inside an endorsed separation of backwoods land;
 - A pit fire grant and the landowner's authorization for an open pit fire, cooking fire or campfire in or close to woods land;
 - A work grant for any work in timberland land including at least two individuals.
- Consume just common vegetation or untreated wood items.
- Consume heaps are in any event 50 feet from structures and 500 feet from any woodland cut.
- Clear the zone around the consumed heap of any combustible flotsam and jetsam.



- Keep firefighting gear helpful - an associated water hose or possibly five gallons of water and a digging tool ought to be close by.
- Try not to consume if it's too blustery to even think about burning - if trees are influencing, banners are broadened, or waves show up on vast water.
- Be set up to douse the fire in the event that it turns into an aggravation.
- Go to the fire until it is totally out.
- Smoking ought not be done while moving starting with one spot then onto the next in woods land. Ensure your butt is out - "dead out!"
- Force saws must have a legitimate suppressor and be joined by a round point digging tool or fire douser.
- Vehicles, trucks and apparatus must have legitimate fumes frameworks when worked in or close to backwoods land. Fumes flash arresters are a necessity on specific machines.
- Realize your nearby crisis phone number if a fire gets wild.

Guiding Questions

1. How is your delegation affected by this?
2. Is climate change affecting the finances of your country?
3. Does your country help Australia when they are battling with forest fires?
4. Does your country have enough funds in case of any natural disaster?
5. Has any of the previous attempts to prevent forest fires helped your delegation?

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Appendix or Appendices

- I. <https://www.agriculture.gov.au/> (Agriculture Department of the Australian Government)

This website has all the official reports of the Australian wildfires and their impact on the agriculture sector of Australia. Very useful to understand the actual condition of Australian forests and how they are during each season.