



Intervening in emergencies

We need to focus our efforts if we are to bring our threatened animals and plants back from the brink. The Australian Government's Threatened Species Strategy identifies emergency interventions as one of its priorities for action.

There will be times when a species may be pushed dangerously close to extinction. The sudden or unexpected convergence of threats, such as disease, pests or habitat changes, could require a quick response. We need to be flexible enough to redirect resources to stabilise and recover species at risk.



Photo: Graeme Chapman

Saving the orange-bellied parrot—TAS

This intervention aims to rebuild the numbers of the critically endangered orange-bellied parrot after beak and feather disease was discovered in its wild population. It will support the captive breeding and recovery programme for the rare migratory parrot at Melaleuca in the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area. This will keep its insurance population safe while looking after birds in the wild. The short-term goal will be to limit the spread of the disease, with the help of more science on its impacts, more monitoring and changed management practices. The longer-term goal will be to increase the parrot's population so it is better able to withstand future threats. This means support for innovations such as customised nesting boxes that help limit disease transmission and ward off predators as well as competitor species.

Funding

\$525 000

Partners

Tasmanian Government and Wildcare Inc.

Taking emergency action for the plains-wanderer—NSW

The critically endangered plains-wanderer is a rare bird indeed, as the only living member of an ancient group of birds. Expert ecologists have advised that its population in New South Wales has declined by more than 90 per cent since 2001, with as few as 200 birds left in the state. The project will target the species' stronghold in the Riverina. It will control the rabbits and weeds that are degrading the plains-wanderer's grassland home there. It will also support a workshop to assess the feasibility of and design options for a captive breeding programme, as an essential step towards building an insurance population for the bird.

Funding

\$100 000

Partner

NSW Government

Creating northern corroboree frog enclosures—ACT

An introduced pathogen, the amphibian chytrid fungus, has devastated populations of corroboree frogs over the past 20 years. In the ACT, only a handful of the frogs are believed to remain in the wild. The project will build five specialised amphibian enclosures at Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve to protect the critically endangered northern corroboree frog. The enclosures will help re-establish breeding populations and allow the frogs to develop natural disease resistance to the amphibian chytrid fungus.

Funding

\$20 000

Partners

ACT Government and Kosciuszko National Park

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