



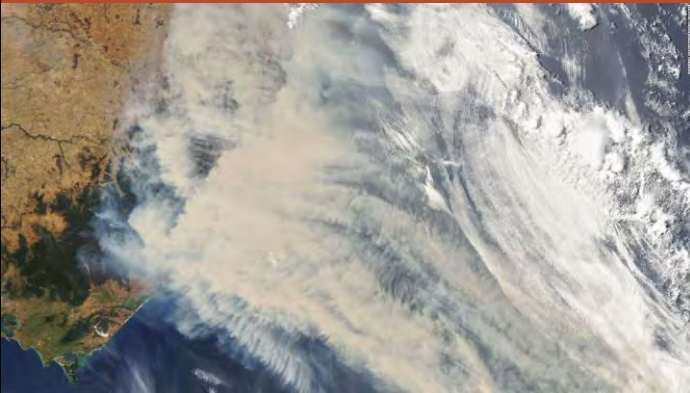
Die Buschbrände Australiens 2020

Die Ausmaße und ihre Folgen

Die Ausmaße

01 Das Klima

Der Rauch der Waldbrände zieht um die ganze Erde und sogar der Himmel verfärbt sich ins gelblich rote. Das heißt der Smog ist bis in die Atmosphäre oder noch höher gestiegen: Eine globale Klimaschädigung.



02 Die Feinstaubbelastung

Die Feinstaubbelastung des ganzen Kontinents wird drastisch erhöht! Schon bevor COVID-19 in Australien seine Welle schlägt, tragen viele Menschen Masken um sich vor den <1 Mikrometer kleinen Staubpartikeln, welche sich so stark in den Lungenbläschen absetzen, sodass sie nur noch schwer entfernbar sind.



03 Das CO₂ Problem

Die CO₂ Belastung nur durch die abgebrannten Bäume beläuft sich auf ca. 830 Millionen tonnen zum vergleich im Jahr 2018 hatte gesamt Deutschland einen Emissionswert von knapp 850 Millionen Tonnen in einem ganzen Jahr.



Ein weiteres großes Problem

Koalas und viele weitere Tierarten sind vom Aussterben bedroht!

Durch die Waldbrände, welche Monate lang in einem unglaublichen Ausmaß brannten und alles mitnahmen ging, wurden natürlich auch Millionen von Eucalyptusbäumen niedergebrannt. Da sich Koalabären jedoch ausschliesslich von Eucalyptusblättern ernähren, starben tausende Tiere an Hunger oder den Bränden selbst.

Sogar ganze Auffangstationen brannten ab und konnten nur vereinzelt die Koalas retten

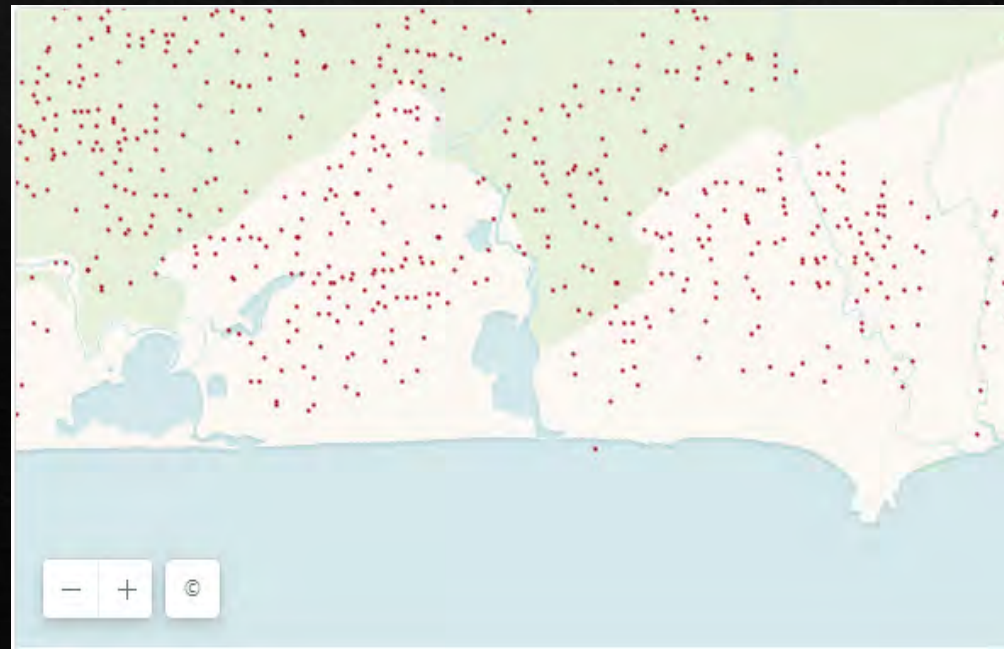


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Das Interview

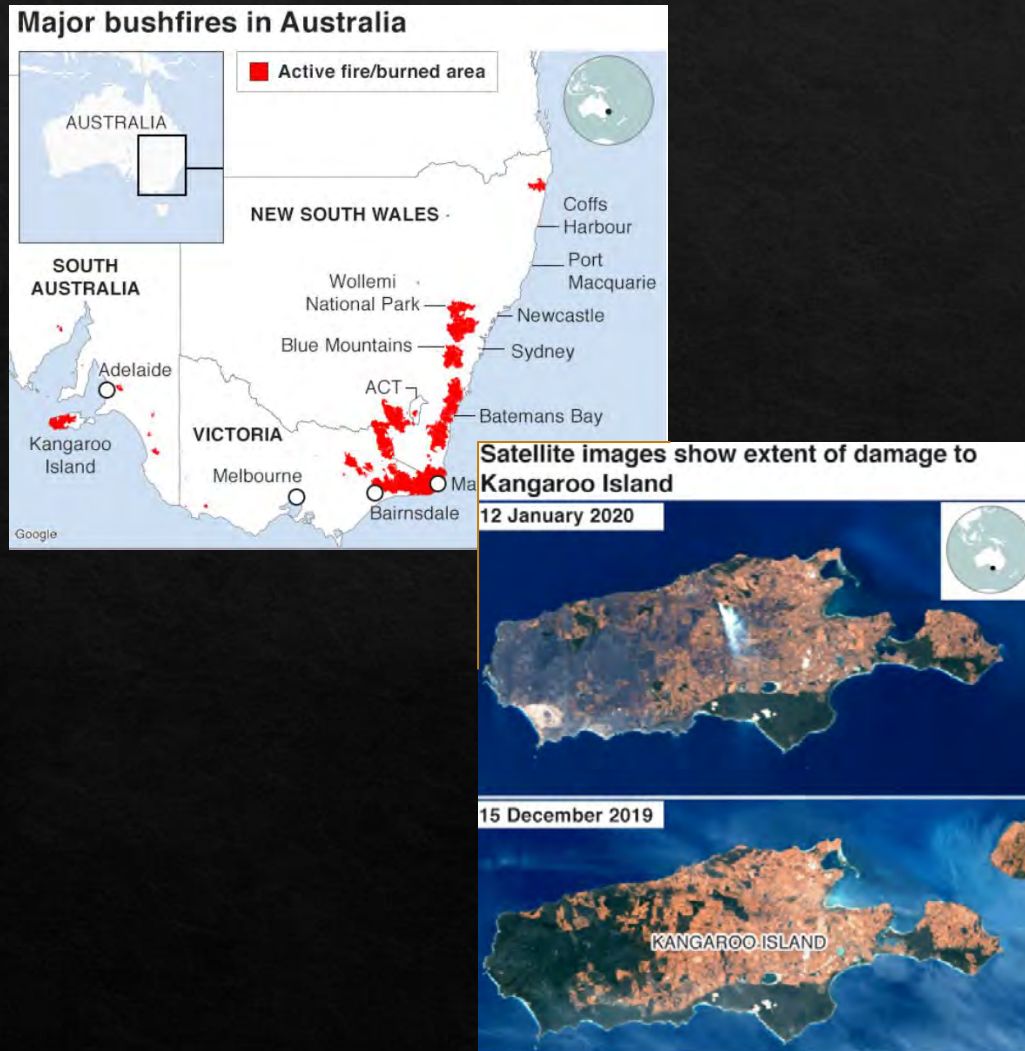
Erklärung: Durch meine Verwandtschaft in Australien konnte ich dieses Projekt mit einem Interview verknüpfen. Ich führte es mit Robyn Korn, welche in Australien als Firefighterin und im Management dieses Berufes eingestellt ist. Sie lebt genau in dem Bereich, in welchem die Brände sehr stark und unfassbar verheerend waren. Sie wurde samt ihrer Familie öfters evakuiert. Ihre Kinder mussten zu den Großeltern und sie und ihr Mann kämpften gegen die Feuer vor Ort an. Ich habe größtenteils individuelle Fragen zu ihr und ihrer Lage gestellt. Alle Fragen wurden von ihrer ganzen Familie beantwortet.

Hier zu sehen ihr Wohnort Bemm River in Victoria



Hier zu sehen die Brandkarte der Umgebung

Die Ausmaße der Feuer



J: What are your impressions about the fire in Australia in 2020?

R: The fire was such an incredible event to experience. Both traumatic and unifying for parts of the community. The fire hovered around the area for a month and pretty much eventually burnt everywhere. We had groceries delivered by chinook helicopter and the whole area was cut off from the rest of the world. We are lucky to have our own town power system but most people lost power which meant they had to throw away fridges and freezers.

J: Oh okay, interesting to hear that! How was the fire different from other years?

R: This fire was many times bigger than previous fires, it was also preceded by drought which meant that more fuel in the forest was available to burn. Because the fire was so huge, it also meant that resources (people and equipment available to help fight the fire) were very thinly spread.

How did the fire this year effected your life?

R: In so many ways! We were unable to leave our local area as the main highways were closed. We had to have our food bought in by the army, smoke filled the air for a month. When the fire was very intense, day turned to night. Overall it meant that our summer holidays were very different from our expectations eg really down to survival mode. James and I both work in fire response so work was very busy and very long exhausting hours.

J: That's incredible! Your were working hard to get through this time, surely!

Do you think fires of this huge size will break out more often in the next few years?

R: Yes I do think that climate change will bring hotter weather and greater frequency of catastrophic fires.

J: Oh no that sounds terrible. I hope you are going to stay safe the next years!

Evakuation

J: Have you been evacuated? If so, how did you felt and how close was the fire to you?

R: Yes, we had to evacuate twice. It felt quite scary, but it's also not very nice to leave your home not knowing if it will still be there when you return. It's also difficult managing little kids in such high stress times. Fortunately the evacuation centre was the school and both Claire and Elliott were familiar with the school. The fire did burn very close to our house. Some of the fences on our property were destroyed by fire.

J: Yes that sounds definitely scary. I think this year was very stressful regarding COVID-19 and the fires, especially for the kids, but also for you.



J: What was your job while the fires had their highest peak in January/February this year?

R: Normally in a fire response effort, roles are very structured and I work in the planning unit. With this fire, it was so busy and there were so few people, everybody did what they could. I spent a lot of time in the radio room, making contact with crews, helping to organise and keep track of where people were and updating situation reports. Later in the event, I worked on trying to re-open and assess the damage to the Park sites.

J: Okay that sounds like your position was very important.

My next question is, how fast was the fire spreading and what exactly was the dangerous part about it?

R: The fire spread very quickly on the 30th December. It moved approximately 30km overnight. It becomes very dangerous when the fire begins to 'crown' (move through the canopy of the forest). This creates excessive amounts of radiant heat which can essentially make the forest explode (rapidly ignite the gasses and volatile oils in the forest).



Die Folgen der Brände



R: Downsides to the fire have been the damage to built and natural assets, trauma to people and communities. Also financial cost.

J: Do you think the nature is going to recover from this big damage?

R: Australian plants and animals are quite well adapted to fire. The size of the fire meant that large areas of nature have been impacted and while they would recover from a once off event, it is the accumulation of impacts that need to be considered as a whole. By this I mean habitat destruction, climate change etc... Also when/if the next catastrophic fire comes, it may mean that some species are unable to recover.

Die jetzige Situation

J: Are the fires now controlled or are they still going on?

R: The fires are now controlled and we are currently experiencing a relatively cool, wet summer.

J: That's nice to hear! Does the normal fire has a good impact on the environment?

R: Yes for sure! Australia is a continent that has evolved with fire. This means that in the absence of fire, many species of plants would die out. Animals dependent on those plants would also suffer, so you can definitely say that fire does have a place in the Australian environment.

J: That's interesting to hear, because everyone thinks that fire is bad for everything but this is a very good example that it isn't.

Die Zerstörung und Angst vor den nächsten Bränden

J: How do you feel with the situation now?

R: It has been a very challenging year, with many of the National Park sites destroyed and still not repaired. E.g. if you can remember going to Pt. Hicks lightstation, you can no longer get there as the bridge was burnt. I also do wonder when the next big fire might be.



Firefighter*innen und ihr Beruf

J: What is your normal job in relation to fire in a normal year with normal fires?

R: My normal job is firefighter or part of the incident management team as a situations officer in the planning unit.

J: Thank you Robin and your family for answering all of my questions and stay safe!

Erklärung zu Firefighter*innen:

Firefighter sind in Australien nicht nur ganz normale Feuerwehrmänner*innen sondern sie arbeiten meist mit Buschbränden oder Brennen auch systematisch Wälder ab um präventiv gegen die Großbrände anzukämpfen. Diese Aufgabe ist für das ganze Land sehr wichtig. Jedoch können sie solche Riesenfeuer auch nur bedingt bekämpfen. Die Organisation dieser äusserst elementaren Aufgabe ist ebenso sehr wichtig. (Auf der nächsten Folie gibt es noch ein paar Bilder zu diesem Thema)



← Hier zu sehen ein Video des 31.12.2019. Hier erkennt man deutlich das Ausmaß welchen zu diesem Zeitpunkt noch nicht einmal an seinem Höhepunkt war. Man kann sich gar nicht vorstellen wie groß die Angst der Menschen war alles in ihrem Leben zu verlieren.

Auf diesem Bild, ist ein Firefighter abgebildet, welcher absichtlich ein Feuer entflammt um die Folgen der sonst sich viel schneller ausbreitenden Feuer zu vermeiden. Das ist eines der Hilfsmittel um solch große Feuer zu stoppen. Jedoch hilft es auch nur bedingt, wenn das Feuer noch nicht groß genug ist oder noch gar nicht fortgeschritten ist.

