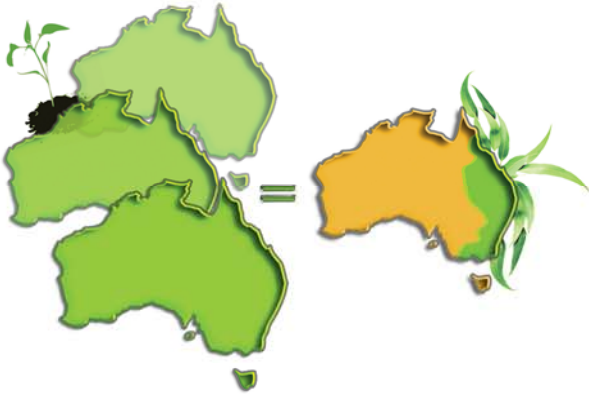


The Australian Koala Foundation wants the urgent protection of existing koala forests and recognition of an appropriate economic value on them.

**At Copenhagen, AKF will argue two things:-**

- 1. Protecting the koala forests of Australia is an imperative step towards reducing greenhouse emissions in Australia and,**
- 2. AKF science shows it will be impossible to replace the carbon in those forests if they are destroyed.**



#### **WHAT THE KOALA HAS LOST**

Since 1788, nearly 65% of the koala forests of Australia have been cleared – over 116 million hectares.

The remaining 35% (41 million hectares) remains under threat from land clearing for agriculture, urban development and unsustainable forestry.

Existing forests play a vital role in carbon sequestration and storage; eucalypt forests are some of the most valuable carbon sinks in the world. Australian landholders could lead the world by protecting these forests for their immense carbon value.

If the remaining koala forests of Australia were to be cleared, we would need to plant 22 trillion saplings to remain carbon neutral. These saplings would cover three times the area of Australia.

#### **No Tree No Me**

The AKF brings world-famous mapping expertise and more than twenty years of working to protect the eucalypt forests of Australia to show both developed and developing countries simple solutions to global climate change.

The Australian Koala Foundation's mapping is underpinned by data from 2000 field sites and individual measurements from more than 80,000 trees. The organisation now has one of the richest data sets in the world to guide the protection of existing forests for their carbon value.

The Australian Koala Foundation argues that the simple solution lies in rewarding the landholder who protects their trees. Once this logic has been adopted, voluntary markets will move into place to ensure the carbon savings are safe in the bank of trees.



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## **CARBON AND KOALAS COLLIDE**

**The Science of Trees,  
Mapping and the  
Carbon Economy**



Australian Koala Foundation  
[www.savethekoala.com](http://www.savethekoala.com)





## 1. Money in the Bank

Existing forests are our 'carbon vault' – money in the bank so to speak. What is the point of attempting to reduce our carbon emissions if the carbon already locked up, the carbon 'in the bank,' is not protected?

As these forests continue to grow and thrive, we can be assured of a good rate of return; these forests will sequester and store significant stocks of carbon and augment other climate change prevention measures.



## 2. Mapping with integrity leads to good solutions

Mapping biodiversity is easy, and knowing each and every tree on the Australian landscape is not actually impossible. In fact the AKF's current data comes close to doing just that.

The next logical step from that is to use those maps to broker relationships between companies around the world who want to voluntarily offset their emissions, and landholders wanting to protect their biodiversity. We believe that high quality mapping can bring much needed credibility to carbon offsets.

## 3. Investing in our wild places

It is critical that we are able to attract the necessary funds to provide proper management of our existing forests and landscapes. We believe there is a voluntary market ready to provide funds for the protection of the forests of Australia, and the world.

The AKF wants to broker partnerships with the landowners of Australia and responsible businesses. Bringing these people together will provide a strong investment in our future, and the future of the planet.

### THE AKF HAS DONE THE MATHS

Giving a carbon value to the trees means rewarding the Earth, and the people living on it too.

An old tree in the suburbs of Brisbane, Australia, a *Eucalyptus tereticornis*, was measured. This tree, named after a character from Tolkien's Lord of the Rings, *Treebeard*, is immense. We estimate he is more than 200 years old and holds 180 tonnes of carbon.



This carbon has taken hundreds of years to sequester. On a global carbon market, this tree could be worth at least \$AU 6,000 (at \$AU35 per tonne).

A much younger nearby tree, a *Corymbia maculata*, was known to have been planted on 1st February, 1988. To continue with the literary reference, we called him *Quickbeam*. The AKF measured this tree, and we estimate it contains 0.7 tonnes of carbon, equivalent to \$AU24.50.



*Quickbeam* has been growing for more than 20 years, yet still does not even hold 1% of the carbon contained in *Treebeard*. Similarly, a new plantation sapling does not contain even 0.1% of the carbon held in *Quickbeam*.

The older the tree, the more valuable it is in the fight against climate change. We should be seeking to protect trees such as *Quickbeam*, so that one day they can be as imposing as *Treebeard*.

