

# DRYLANDS

Drylands are enormous, delicate systems, home to many habitats such as grasslands and deserts. As climate change alters the weather, these habitats may die out and shift. Animals living in those environments would have to move rapidly over many, many miles – or face extinction. As models predict that drylands would also face increasing drought, encouraging fires, storms and sandstorms, adapting to change will be even tougher.

Bactrian camel



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Subsistence farmers and nomadic people will find it increasingly hard to survive, human and wildlife conflict would result as animals are forced onto farmland in search of food.

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PREDICTION

Dramatic shifts will occur if we allow forests to rapidly transform into grasslands and grasslands into deserts. Migration patterns established over thousands of years by animals like these wildebeest, will break down as new man-made and shifting natural barriers get in the way.

Some incredibly rare animals like the Asiatic lion and Bactrian camel depend on drylands for survival – and so do about a third of the human population. If everything is forced to move, conflict and competition is sure to result, no-one wants to share their home with a lion, given the choice! As well as tackling climate change head on we need to identify new conservation areas to support vulnerable species.

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The Gir Forest, India is the last stronghold of the critically endangered Asiatic Lions. Surrounded by villages and farms, as the vegetation changes, they will be unable to naturally move to remaining habitats



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