

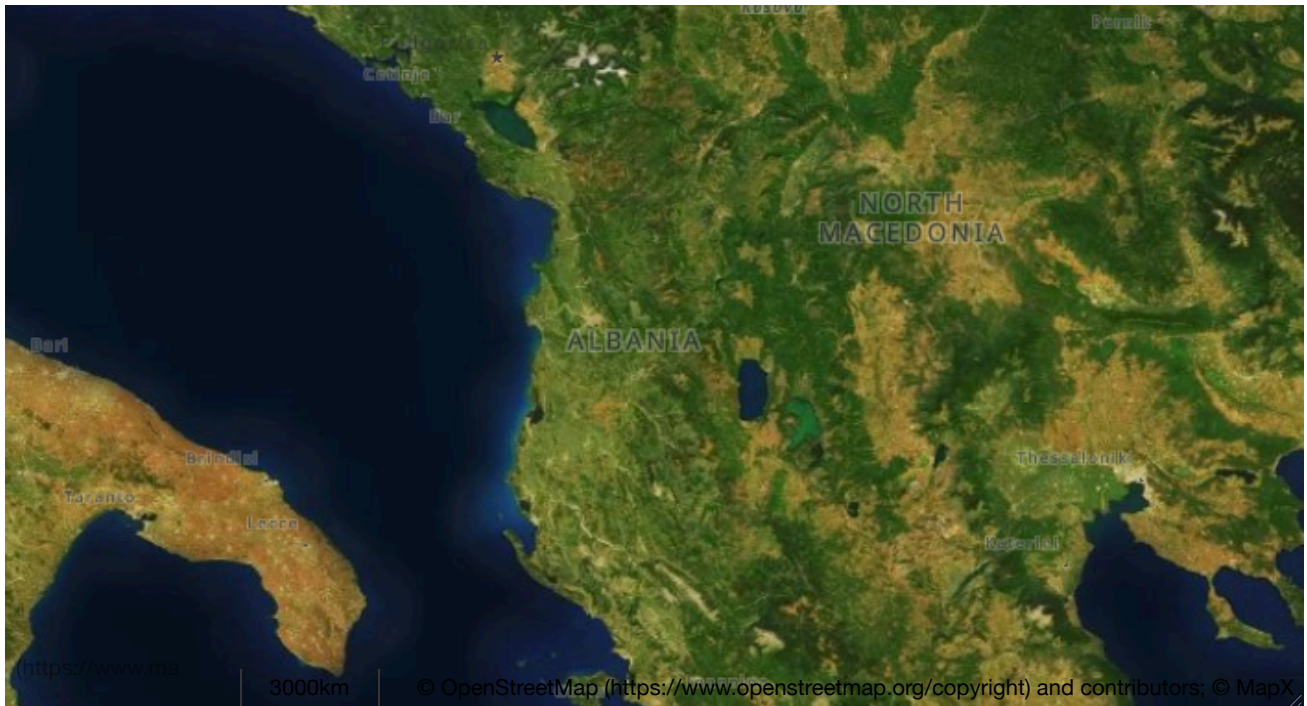


United Nations  
Convention to Combat  
Desertification



G20 GLOBAL  
LAND INITIATIVE

# Albania



# Overview

## Background

Albania is a small mountainous country on the western side of the Balkan Peninsula in Southeastern Europe, with a land area of 28,748 km. Albania shares borders with Montenegro to the northwest, Kosovo to the northeast, Republic of North Macedonia to the east and Greece to the south. The country has a long coastline along the Adriatic Sea which forms the majority of its western border. 70% of Albania's territory is mountainous with an average altitude of 700m above sea level. Albania enjoys a Mediterranean climate, with mild and humid winters followed by hot and dry summers. The country experiences rainfall primarily during the second half of the year, though climate conditions differ considerably between agro-ecological zones. The coastal plains experience a strong maritime influence, causing a gradient of lower temperatures and reduced precipitation eastwards from the coast.

Albania is classified as a middle-income country and became an official candidate for accession to the European Union in 2014. Albania has a population of 2.9 million people (2019) with an annual population growth rate at -0.4% (2018). Albania is projected to reach 2.7 million people by 2030 and 2.3 million people by 2050. An estimated 69.5% of the country's population currently resides in urban areas, which is expected to increase to 78.2% by 2050. The country has a Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of \$15.2 billion (2019), growing at a rate of 2.2% annually, as of 2019. The country has realized strong economic growth performance over the last 30 years, growing from the poorest nation in Europe in the early 1990s to middle income status in 2008;

poverty declined by half during that period. The country continues to focus on increasing its economic competitiveness through enhanced regional connectivity and access to regional and global markets for further market diversification. As such, the Government of Albania has embarked on a broad-based reform program focused on macroeconomic and fiscal sustainability, financial sector stabilization, energy concerns, pensions, and territorial administration.

Albania submitted its Nationally-Determined Contribution (NDC) to the UNFCCC in 2016. Through its NDC commitments, Albania is working to support its wider development goals, which are geared to increase resilience to climate change impacts. The focus is on key sectors such as energy, industrial development, agriculture, public health, and biodiversity. Albania is addressing the vulnerability of key sectors and prioritizing adaptation efforts through integrated policy, research and investment in key areas such as the protection of coastal zones and urban planning, increasing awareness of the agricultural and health communities to climate change risks. Strategic review and policy integration is currently led through the country's National Adaptation Planning, which started in 2015 and is expected to be adopted circa 2020.

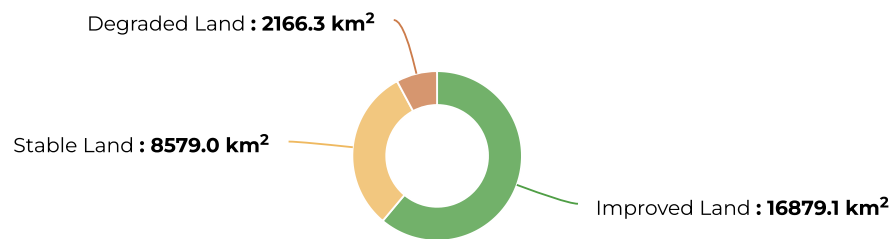
Albania's climate change action is also defined through its Third National Communication (NC3), which it published in 2016. Albania remains committed to developing a long-term, low carbon development strategy as well as reducing its current greenhouse gas emissions.

Credits: [World Bank](#)

# Summary Chart

## Current State

Land degradation between 2001 and 2015 - SDG 15.3.1 (km<sup>2</sup>)

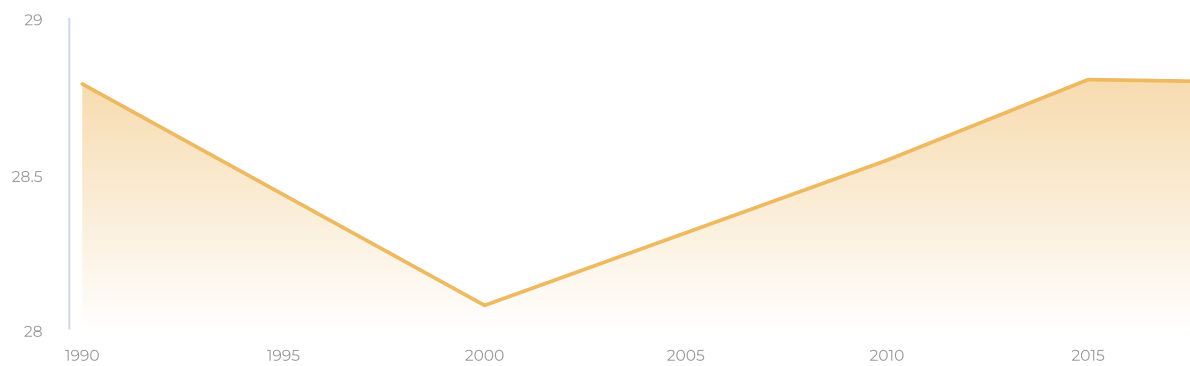


Credits: trends.earth

Forest area

**28.8 % land**

0.9 % change over last 10 years

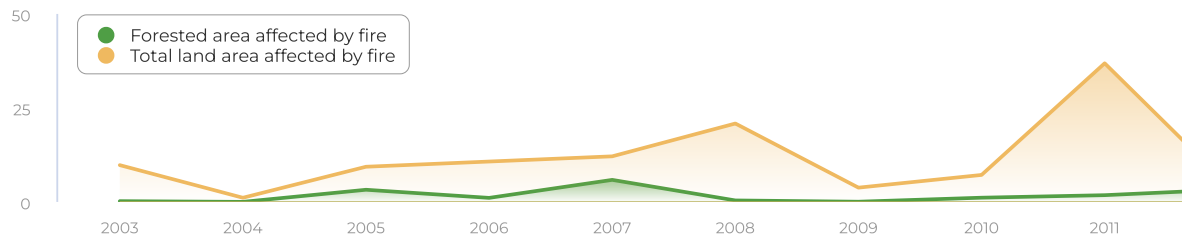


Credits: FAO



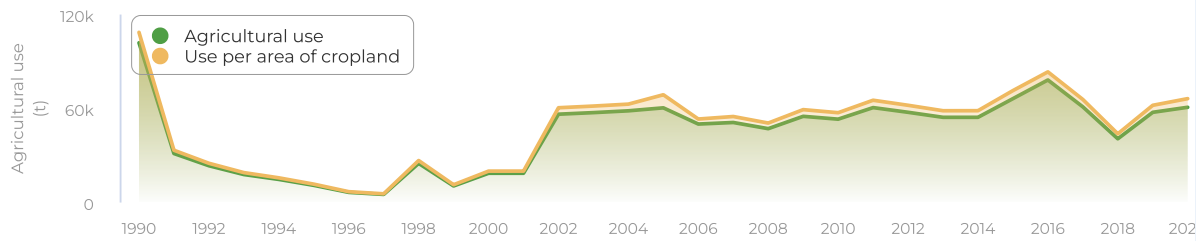
# Stressors

### Area affected by wildfires (kha)



Credits: FAO

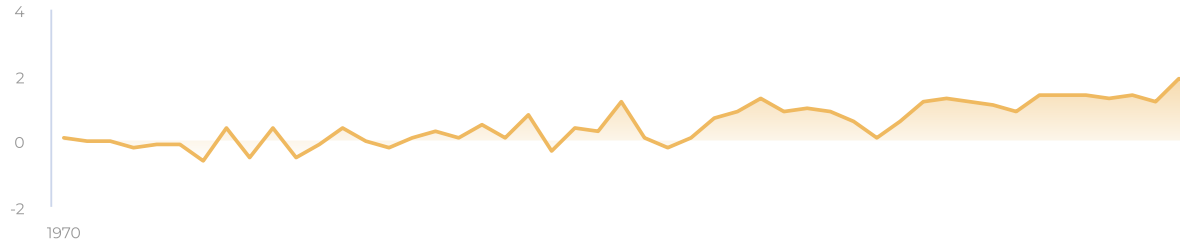
### Use of nutrients



Credits: FAO

# Trends

### Annual temperature anomalies against 1901-1920 (°C)



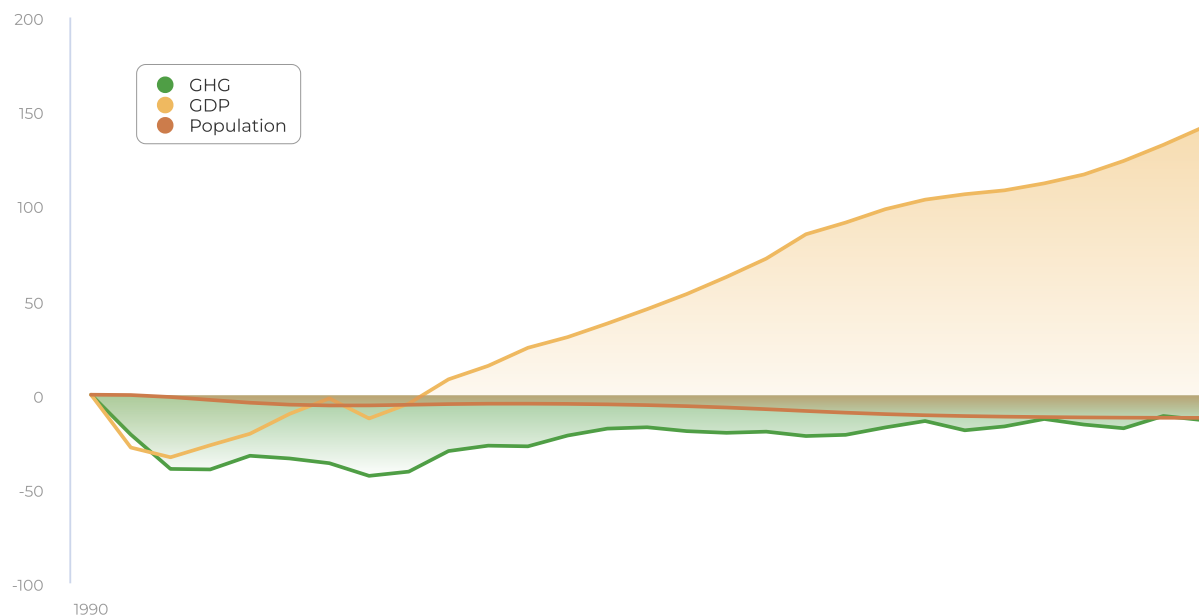
Credits: Climatic Research Unit (University of East Anglia) and Met Office

### Annual precipitation anomalies against 1901-1920 (mm)



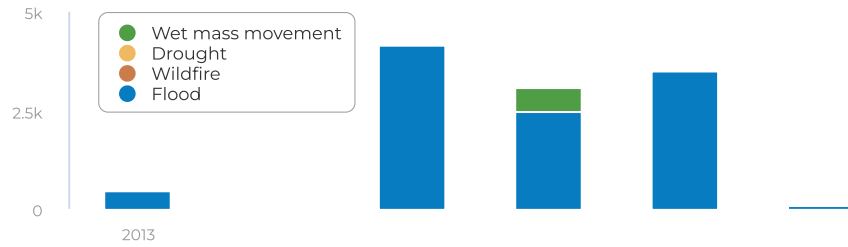
Credits: Climatic Research Unit (University of East Anglia) and Met Office

### Population / Gross domestic product / Greenhouse Gases - change in % since 1990



# ↗ Impacts

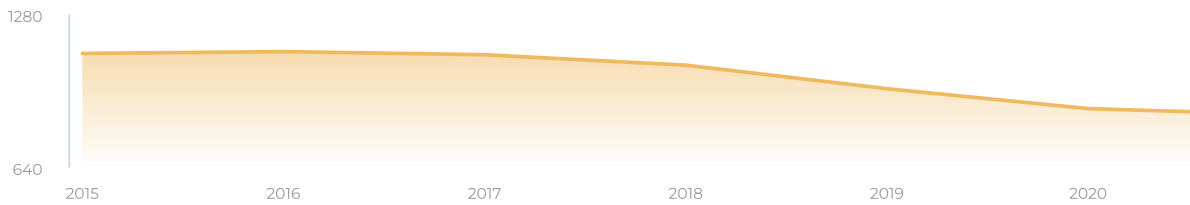
## Human displacements caused by climatic hazards



Credits: Climatic Research Unit (University of East Anglia) and Met Office

## Number of severely food insecure people - SDG 2.1.2

# 860.9 people



Credits: FAO

# 💡 Solutions

Proportion of terrestrial protected areas

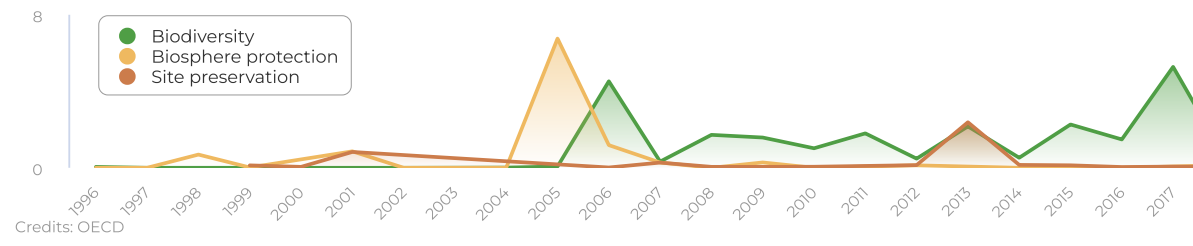
**18.6 % of total land area**

2024

Credits: UNEP-WCMC

Official Development Assistance flows

Biodiversity sector (million USD)



# Commitments

**No data  
available**

## **LDN**

Land Degradation Neutrality

**No data  
available**

## **NBSAP**

National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans under the Convention on Biological Diversity

**No data  
available**

## **NDC**

Nationally Determined Contributions embody efforts by each country to reduce national emissions and adapt to the impacts of climate change.

**No data  
available**

## **Bonn Challenge**

Bring 150 million hectares of degraded and deforested landscapes into restoration by 2020 and 350 million hectares by 2030



# Treaties

Treaty	Signature	Ratification	Party status
Minamata Convention on Mercury	2014-10-09	2020-05-26	Ratification
Paris Agreement	2016-04-22	2016-09-21	Ratification
Nagoya Protocol		2013-01-29	Accession
Nagoya – Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol		2013-01-29	Accession
Rotterdam Convention		2010-08-09	Accession
Kyiv Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers		2009-06-16	Accession
Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution		2005-12-02	Accession
Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment	2003-05-21	2005-12-02	Ratification
Kyoto Protocol		2005-04-01	Accession
Cartagena Protocol		2005-02-08	Accession
Stockholm Convention	2001-12-05	2004-10-04	Ratification
Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora	2003-09-25	2003-06-27	Ratification
Protocol on Water and Health	1999-06-17	2002-03-08	Ratification
Convention on Migratory Species	2001-09-01	2001-09-01	Ratification
Specially Protected Areas and Biodiversity Protocol	1995-06-10	2001-07-26	Accession
Offshore Protocol		2001-07-26	Ratification
Hazardous Wastes Protocol		2001-07-26	Ratification

<b>Treaty</b>	<b>Signature</b>	<b>Ratification</b>	<b>Party status</b>
Aarhus Convention	1998-06-25	2001-06-27	Ratification
United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification		2000-04-27	Accession
Basel Convention		1999-06-29	Accession
Ramsar Convention	1996-02-29	1995-10-31	Ratification
United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change		1994-10-03	Accession
Convention on Biological Diversity		1994-01-05	Accession
The Water Convention	1992-03-18	1994-01-05	Ratification
Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents	1992-03-18	1994-01-05	Ratification
Barcelona Convention		1990-05-30	Accession
Dumping Protocol		1990-05-30	Acceptance
Prevention and Emergency Protocol		1990-05-30	Accession
Land-Based Sources Protocol		1990-05-30	Accession
International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture	2010-05-12		Accession
Agreement on the Conservation of Populations of European Bats			

