



United Nations  
Convention to Combat  
Desertification



G20 GLOBAL  
LAND INITIATIVE

# Australia



# Overview

## Background

Australia is the sixth largest country in the world, with a land area of 7.7 million km<sup>2</sup> and the third largest marine jurisdiction. Australia's population is 25.7 million people (2020). Most people live in urban areas along the eastern and western coastal regions. Over 85% of Australians live within 50 km of the coastline. Australia has a strong and open economy that has grown continuously for over 25 consecutive years. GDP per capita was approximately \$51,812 in 2020. Australia has a service-based economy with services accounting for 66% GDP (2020). The country is an exporter of natural resources, energy and food.

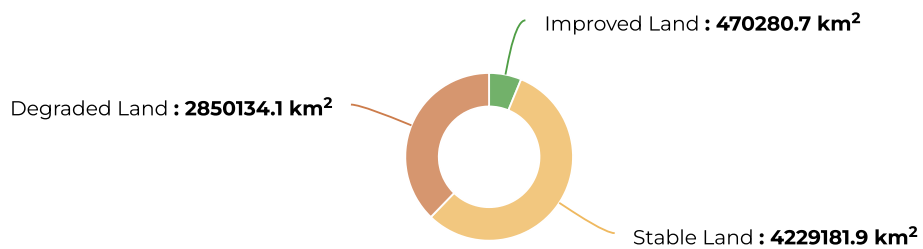
The Australian continent covers a large range of climate zones, from the tropics in the north to the arid interior and temperate regions in the south. Overall, Australia is the driest of all inhabited continents, with considerable rainfall and temperature variability both across the country and from year to year. Australia's geography, coastal population concentrations and biodiversity render it particularly vulnerable to small variations in climate. Australia submitted its updated Nationally Determined Contribution to the UNFCCC in 2020, and its Seventh National Communication in 2018.

Credits: [World Bank](#)

# Summary Chart

## Current State

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

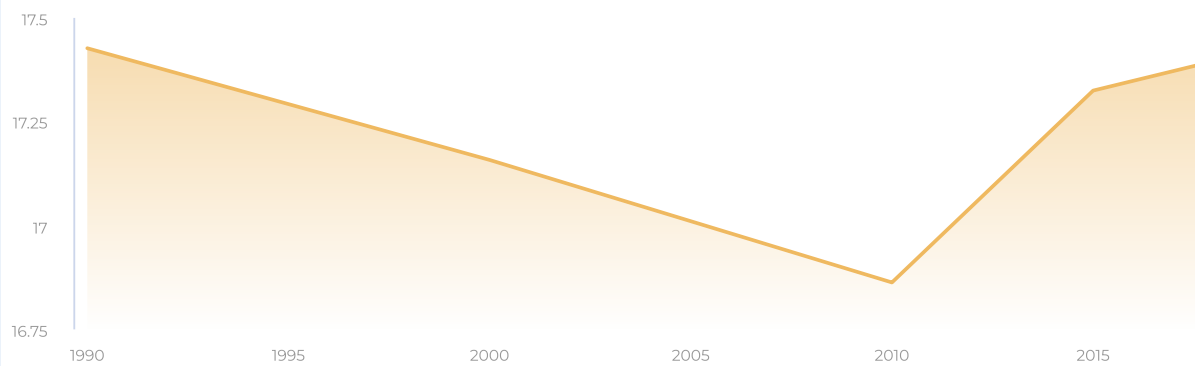


Credits: trends.earth

Forest area

**17.4 % land**

3.4 % change over last 10 years

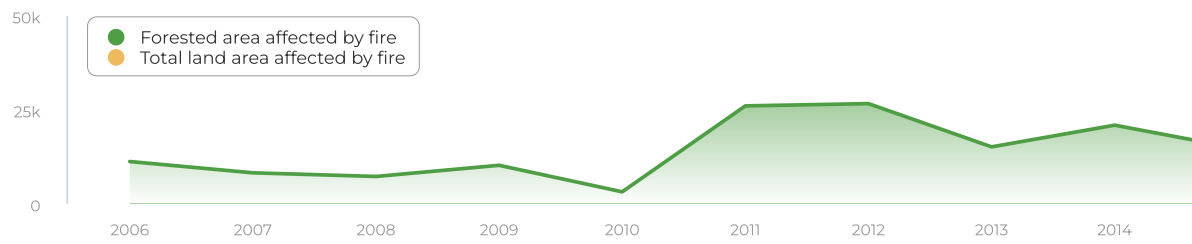


Credits: FAO



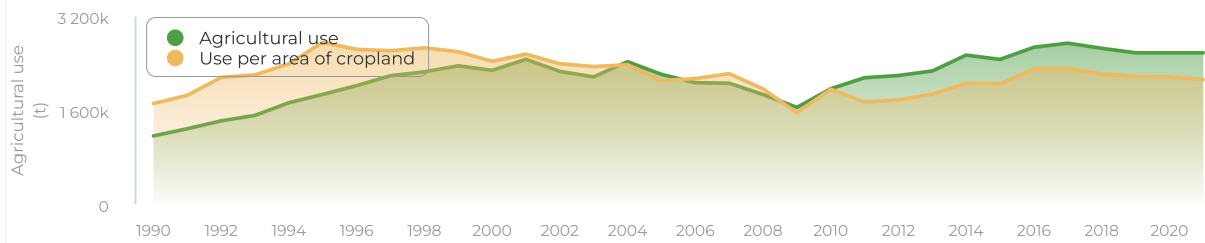
# Stressors

### Area affected by wildfires (kha)



Credits: FAO

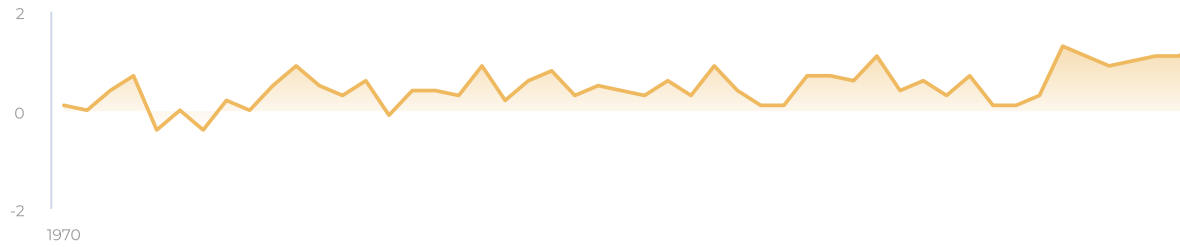
### Use of nutrients



Credits: FAO

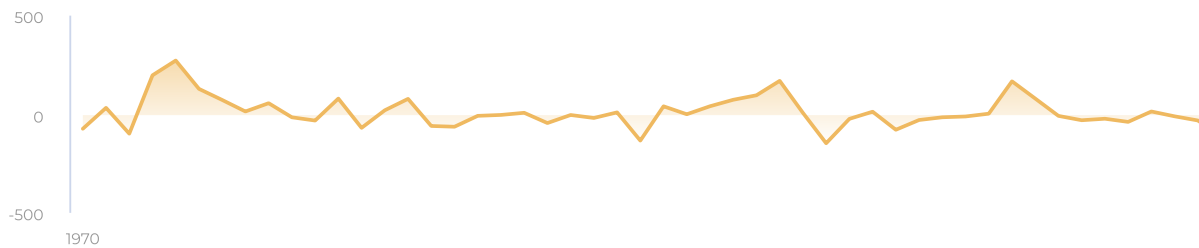
# Trends

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



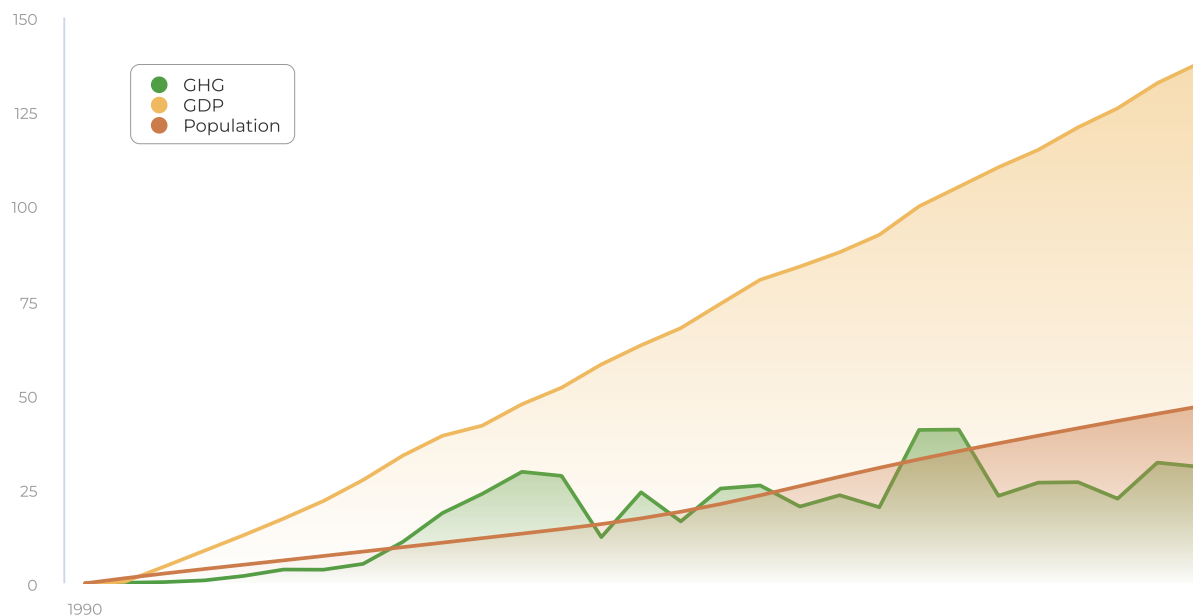
Credits: Climatic Research Unit (University of East Anglia) and Met Office

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



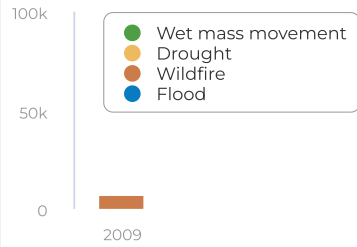
Credits: Climatic Research Unit (University of East Anglia) and Met Office

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



# ↗ Impacts

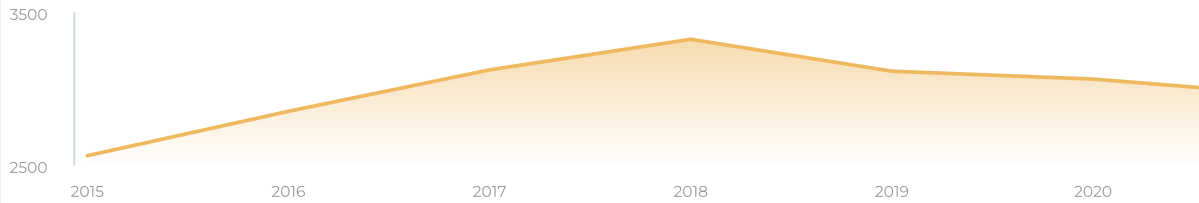
## Human displacements caused by climatic hazards



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

## Number of severely food insecure people - SDG 2.1.2

### 3K people



Credits: FAO

# 💡 Solutions

Proportion of terrestrial protected areas

**20.4 % of total land area**

2024

Credits: UNEP-WCMC

Official Development Assistance flows

Biodiversity sector (million USD)



Credits: OECD

# Commitments

**0**  
hectares

**LDN**  
Land Degradation Neutrality

**60,100,000**  
**0**  
hectares

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

**0**  
hectares

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

**0**  
hectares

**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	2013-10-10	2021-12-07	Ratification
Paris Agreement	2016-04-22	2016-11-09	Ratification
Kyoto Protocol	1998-04-29	2007-12-12	Ratification
International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture	2002-06-10	2005-12-12	Ratification
Stockholm Convention	2001-05-23	2004-05-20	Ratification
Rotterdam Convention	1999-07-06	2004-05-20	Ratification
United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification	1994-10-14	2000-05-15	Ratification
Convention on Biological Diversity	1992-06-05	1993-06-18	Ratification
United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change	1992-06-04	1992-12-30	Ratification
Basel Convention		1992-02-05	Accession
Convention on Migratory Species	1991-09-01	1991-09-01	Ratification
Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora	1976-10-27	1976-07-29	Ratification
Ramsar Convention	1975-12-21	1974-05-08	Ratification
Nagoya Protocol	2012-01-20		Signatory

