



United Nations
Convention to Combat
Desertification



G20 GLOBAL
LAND INITIATIVE

Azerbaijan



Overview

Background

Azerbaijan is the largest of the three countries of the southern Caucasus by area, lying at the boundaries of Europe and Asia. The country is bounded to the east by the Caspian Sea with an 850 km coastline and to the north by the Greater Caucasus mountain range. The country is covered by a substantial river network as part of the Caspian Sea basin. Azerbaijan had an estimated population of 9.9 million in 2018 and has been classified as an upper-middle income country since 2016. This classification reflects the very high GDP per capita growth, which in 2014 stood at over eight times its 2004 level. Economic growth and relative prosperity is primarily as a result of the substantial increase in oil and gas production. The oil and gas sector represented 88% of the country's exports in 2016. In terms of employment, the services sector represented 49.3% of jobs in 2017, followed by the agricultural (36.4%) and industrial (14.4%) sectors. Since the 1990's significant progress has been made on key social indicators, such as the prevalence of poverty, undernourishment, and infant mortality in Azerbaijan.

Azerbaijan has signed and ratified the Paris Climate Agreement. In its Nationally Determined Contributions (2017), the country has outlined climate change mitigation actions in its energy, oil and gas, residential and commercial, transport, agricultural, and waste sectors. Azerbaijan's NDC is currently under review and an updated NDC is expected to be released by the end of 2021. Azerbaijan is also planning to align its climate

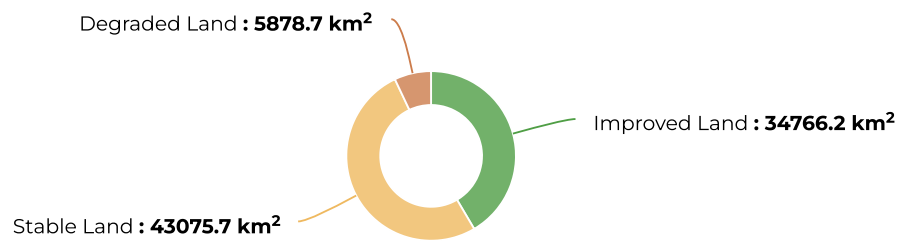
change legislation with the EU standards and develop industry-specific guidelines for the implementation of the Paris Agreement across various sectors, in particular agriculture and energy sectors. These actions primarily entail technological improvements to reduce the negative environmental impact of various sectors of the economy, together with some regulatory changes and public awareness measures. Additionally, adaptation measures in the areas of agriculture, water supply, forestry, coastal communities, human health and tourism have been identified in the country's Third National Communication to the UNFCCC (NC3) (2015). Azerbaijan has begun its National Adaptation Plan (NAP) process, which is anticipated to be in place by 2024. While Azerbaijan's National Communications address a wide range of sectors in relation to projected climate change impacts and related adaptation measures, the NAP will focus on three areas, as defined by the Ministry of Ecology: water, agriculture, and coastal areas.² Azerbaijan has also developed and implemented its Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMA), which primarily target three key sectors: energy efficiency in buildings (retrofitting), transport through the modification of transport fleet (introduction of hybrid cars) and eco-driving, and oil industry through capturing and use of associated gas. Azerbaijan's first NAMA projects were piloted with SOCAR (State Oil Company, major GHG emitter) and are being considered for replication across the country and sectors.

Credits: [World Bank](#)

Summary Chart

Current State

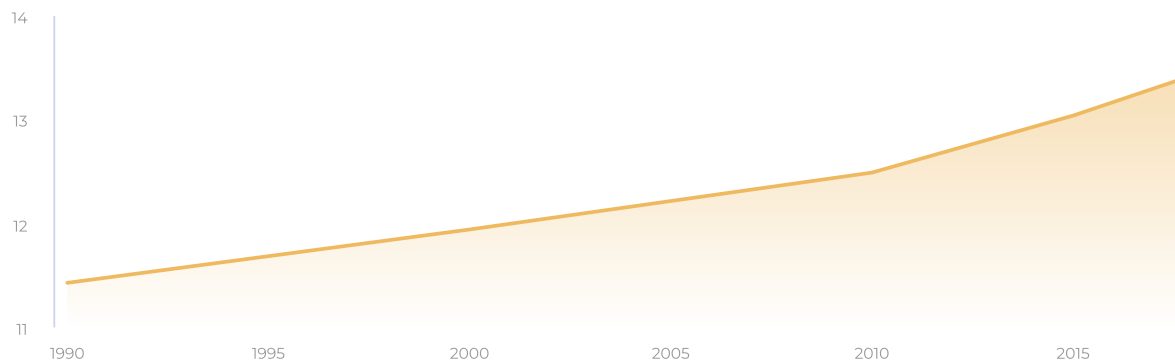
Land degradation between 2001 and 2015 - SDG 15.3.1 (km²)



Forest area

13.7 % land

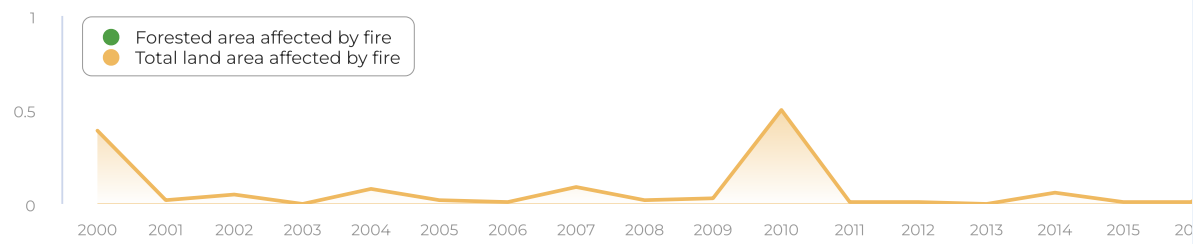
9.6 % change over last 10 years





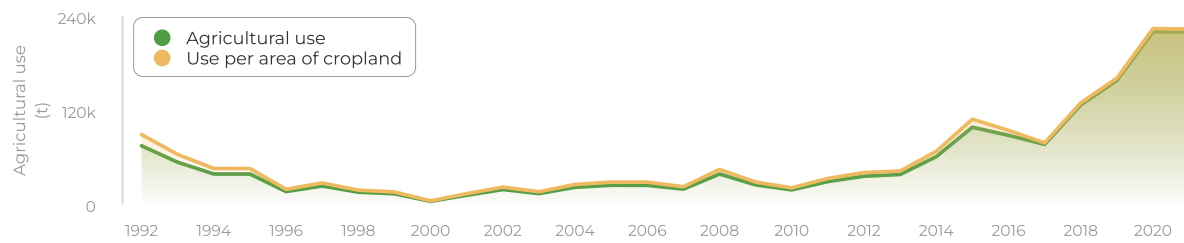
Stressors

Area affected by wildfires (kha)



Credits: FAO

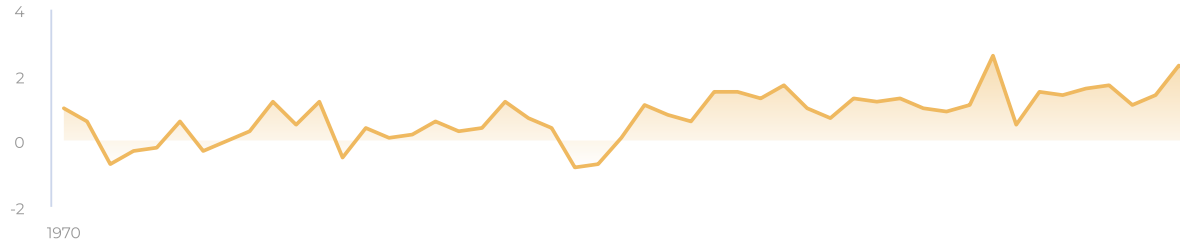
Use of nutrients



Credits: FAO

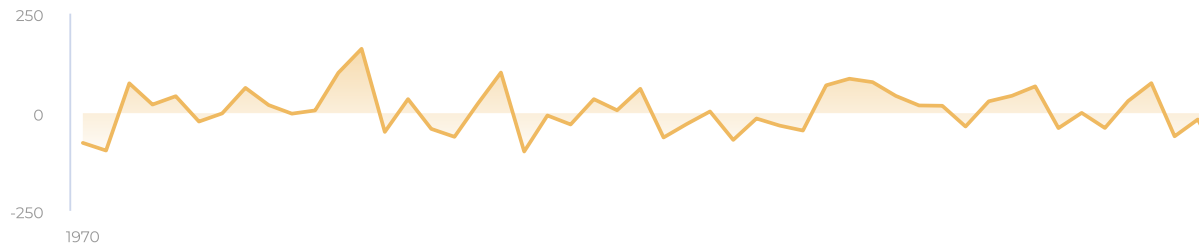
Trends

Annual temperature anomalies against 1901-1920 (°C)



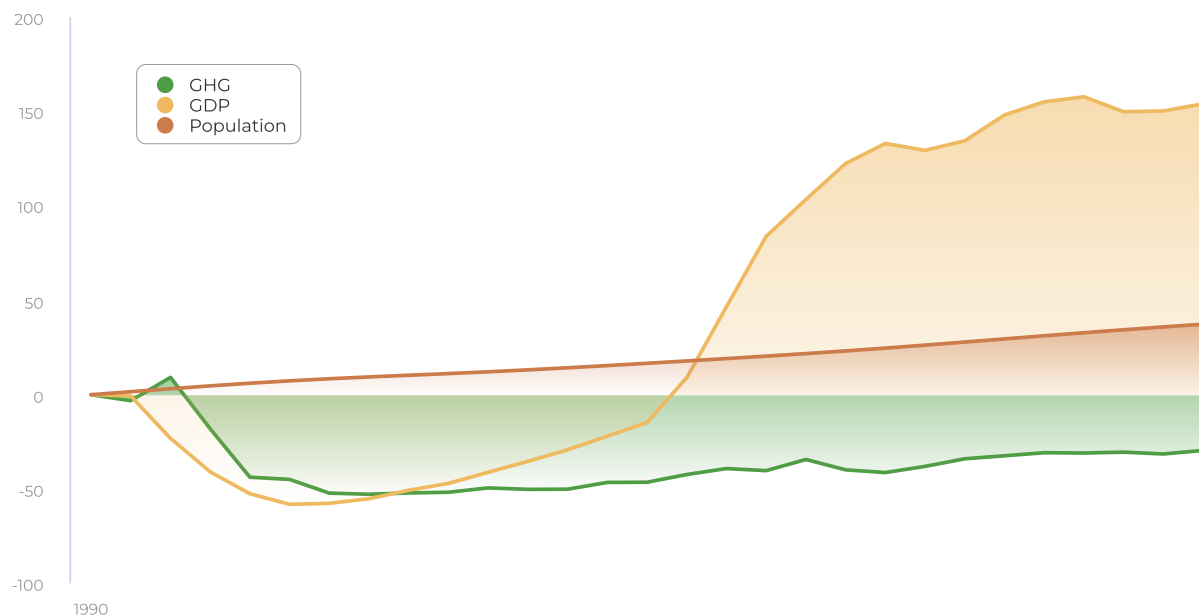
Credits: Climatic Research Unit (University of East Anglia) and Met Office

Annual precipitation anomalies against 1901-1920 (mm)



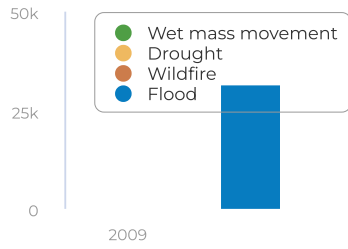
Credits: Climatic Research Unit (University of East Anglia) and Met Office

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



↗ Impacts

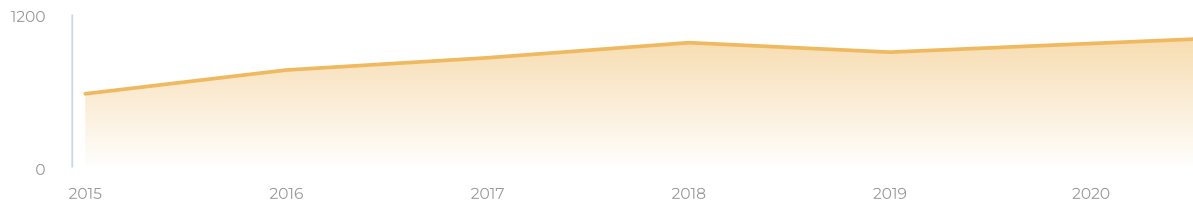
Human displacements caused by climatic hazards



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

Number of severely food insecure people - SDG 2.1.2

1K people



Credits: FAO

💡 Solutions

Proportion of terrestrial protected areas

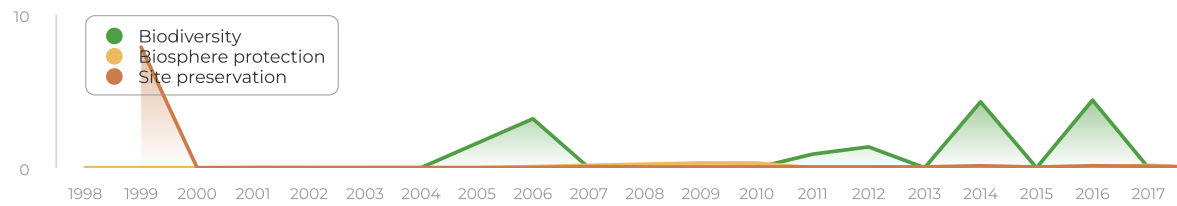
10.2 % of total land area

2024

Credits: UNEP-WCMC

Official Development Assistance flows

Biodiversity sector (million USD)



Credits: OECD

Commitments

0 hectares	LDN Land Degradation Neutrality
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.
270,000 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
Paris Agreement	2016-04-22	2017-01-09	Ratification
Cartagena Protocol		2005-04-01	Accession
Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents		2004-06-16	Accession
Stockholm Convention		2004-01-13	Accession
Protocol on Water and Health		2003-01-09	Accession
Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution		2002-07-03	Accession
Basel Convention		2001-06-01	Accession
Ramsar Convention	2001-09-21	2001-05-21	Ratification
Kyoto Protocol		2000-09-28	Accession
Convention on Biological Diversity	1992-06-12	2000-08-03	Approval
The Water Convention		2000-08-03	Accession
Aarhus Convention		2000-03-23	Accession
Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora	1999-02-21	1998-11-23	Ratification
United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification		1998-08-10	Accession
United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change	1992-06-12	1995-05-16	Ratification

