



United Nations
Convention to Combat
Desertification



G20 GLOBAL
LAND INITIATIVE

Congo, Democratic Republic of the



Overview

Background

The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), is located in central sub-Saharan Africa, within the Congo Basin.

The DRC's territory straddles the Equator, with one-third of its land area to the north and two-thirds to the south.

It is the second largest country in Africa, with a total land area of 2,345,408 km². The DRC shares borders with the Republic of Congo to the northwest, the Central African Republic to the north, South Sudan to the northeast, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi and Tanzania (Lake Tanganyika) to the east, Zambia to the southeast and Angola to the west. The DRC has a largely equatorial climate; however, this varies across the country's extensive land area. Generally, the country is hot and humid in the north and west, an area located within a significant portion of the Congo River Basin. The southern, central and eastern areas are generally cooler and drier. The DRC is home to an exceptionally high degree of diversity biomes, ecosystems, and habitats, notably dry rainforests (Muhulu), open woodland forests (Miombo), savannahs, as well as cloud

and gallery forests. A large network of protected areas, safeguarding this diversity, covers approximately 8% of the national territory. The majority of the land area of the DRC is within the world's second largest area of tropical rainforest, which is documented to store 8% of global forest carbon stocks. It is also characterized by mountain terraces, plateaus, savannahs, grasslands and mountains. The DRC has over 80 million hectares of arable land and over 1,100 listed minerals and precious metals. The country has a significant natural resource base of timber, energy, minerals and gemstones.

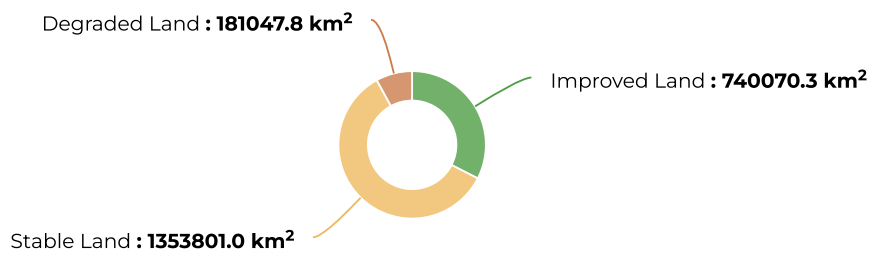
The DRC submitted its Nationally-Determined Contribution to the UNFCCC in 2016, which outlines the country's environmental goals and its sustainable development agenda. It published its Third National Communication to the UNFCCC in 2015. With respect to anticipated climate change impacts, the DRC's primary adaptation efforts are focused on the country's most vulnerable sectors: water resources, agriculture, land use and forestry, sanitation, health, and energy.

Credits: [World Bank](#)

Summary Chart

Current State

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

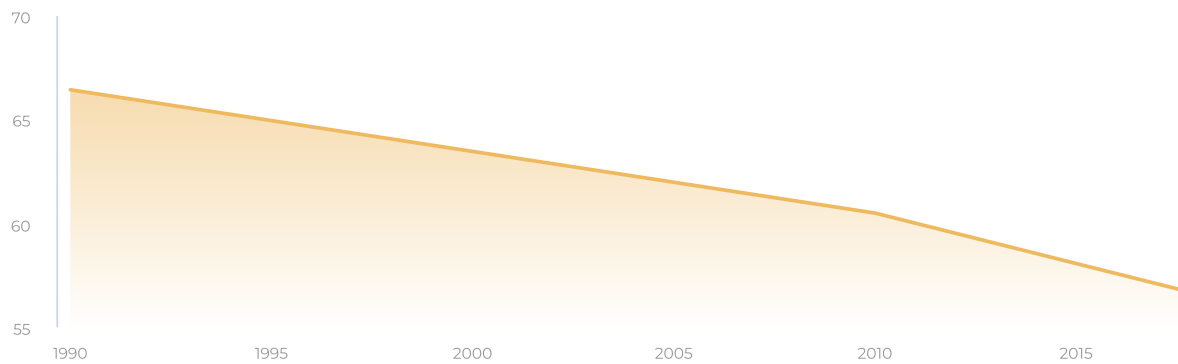


Credits: trends.earth

Forest area

55.6 % land

-8.0 % change over last 10 years

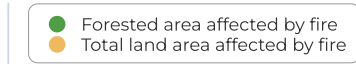


Credits: FAO



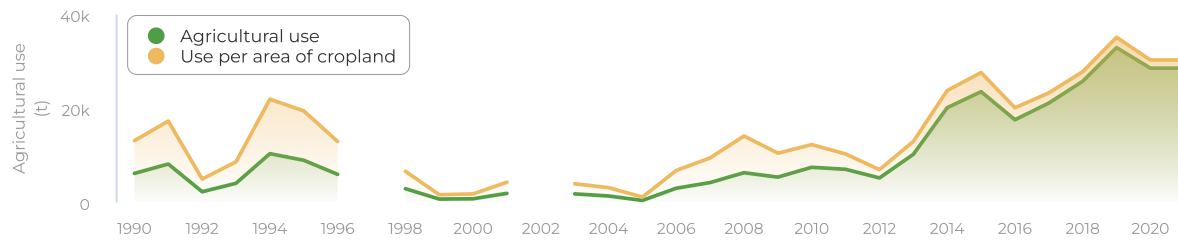
Stressors

Area affected by wildfires (kha)



Credits: FAO

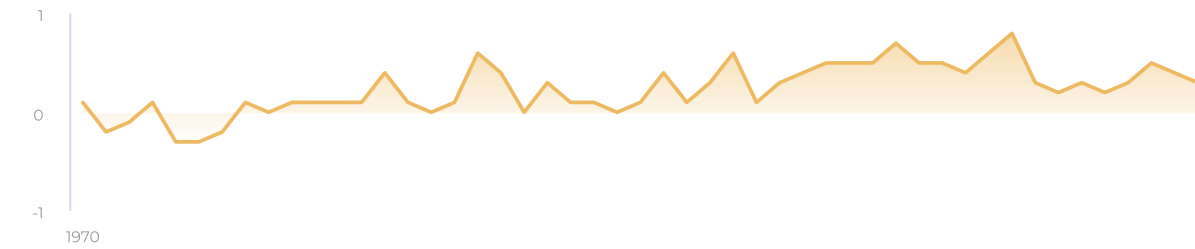
Use of nutrients



Credits: FAO

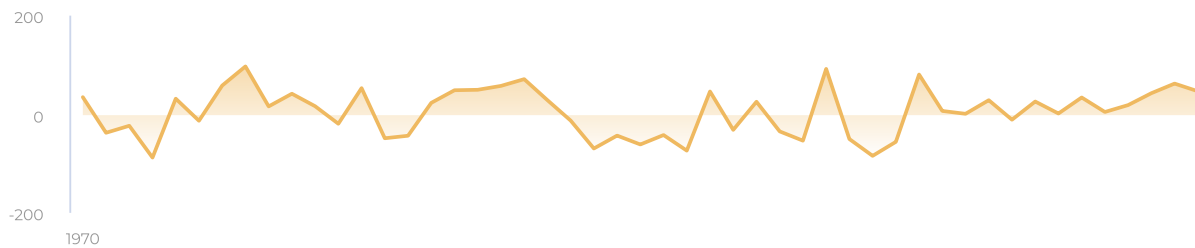
Trends

Annual temperature anomalies against 1901-1920 (°C)



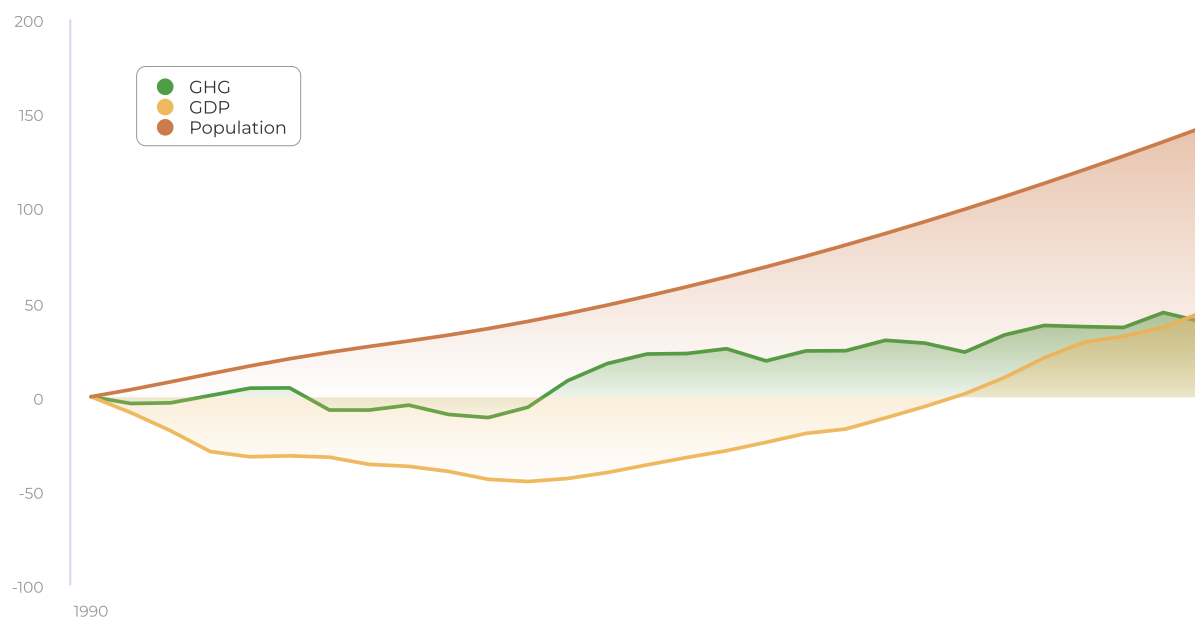
Credits: Climatic Research Unit (University of East Anglia) and Met Office

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

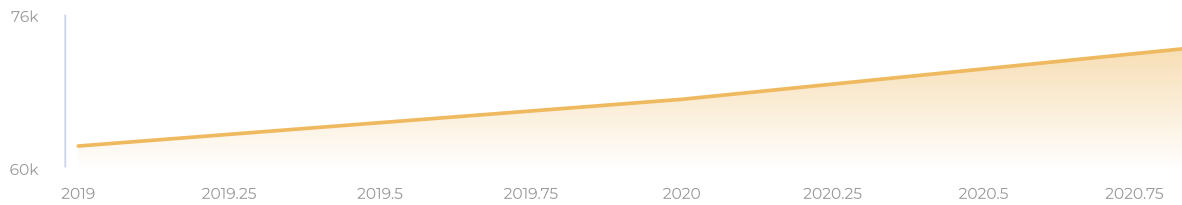
Human displacements caused by climatic hazards



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

Number of severely food insecure people - SDG 2.1.2

73.5K people



Credits: FAO

💡 Solutions

Proportion of terrestrial protected areas

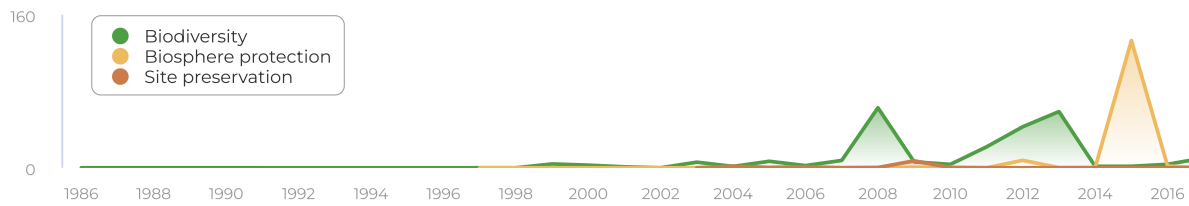
13.8 % of total land area

2024

Credits: UNEP-WCMC

Official Development Assistance flows

Biodiversity sector (million USD)



Credits: OECD

Commitments

31,738,400
hectares

LDN
Land Degradation Neutrality

0
hectares

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

3,000,000
hectares

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

8,000,000
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	2017-12-13	Ratification
Nagoya – Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol		2017-10-04	Accession
Nagoya Protocol	2011-09-21	2015-02-04	Ratification
Stockholm Convention		2005-03-23	Accession
Cartagena Protocol		2005-03-23	Accession
Kyoto Protocol		2005-03-23	Accession
Rotterdam Convention		2005-03-23	Ratification
Basel Protocol on Liability and Compensation		2005-03-23	Accession
United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification	1994-10-14	1997-09-12	Ratification
Ramsar Convention	1996-05-18	1996-01-18	Ratification
Bamako Convention	2010-02-02	1995-04-13	Accession
United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change	1992-06-11	1995-01-09	Ratification
Convention on Biological Diversity	1992-06-11	1994-12-03	Ratification
Basel Convention		1994-10-06	Accession
Convention on Migratory Species	1990-09-01	1990-09-01	Ratification
Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora	1976-10-18	1976-07-20	Ratification
International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture	2003-06-05		Accession

