



United Nations
Convention to Combat
Desertification



G20 GLOBAL
LAND INITIATIVE

Kuwait



Overview

Background

Kuwait has a hyper arid desert climate that is highly variable with recurrent extremes. Much of Kuwait is characterized by loose, mobile surface sediments that have very low levels of nutrients and organic matter. While rich in terrestrial and marine biodiversity, these systems are fragile and highly vulnerable to climate change.

The population of Kuwait was over 3 million in 2020 and with over 98% of the population currently living in urban areas which are mostly located along the coast since the discovery of oil in the late 1930s. A modern country with an extensive, modern and well-maintained network of road infrastructure, Kuwait also has a modern healthcare system and a healthy populace; recent trends show a decrease in the incidence of communicable diseases and an increase in life expectancy in the country. Kuwait's economy is fairly small, comparatively rich, semi-open and highly

dependent on oil exports. Kuwait is one of the world's leading oil producers, possessing the world's fifth largest crude oil reserves in the world and has one of the wealthiest economies in the Arabian Gulf region. Throughout its modern history, Kuwait has heavily relied on food imports because only a negligible fraction of food demand can be met by local agriculture.

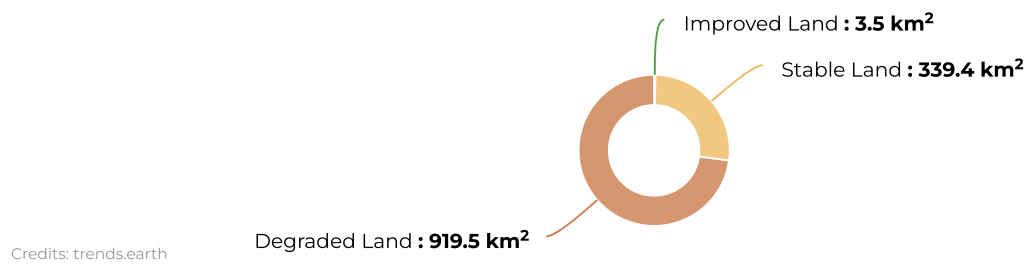
Kuwait is also one of the world's most water-stressed countries, with the lowest per capita renewable internal freshwater availability of any country, requiring extensive seawater desalination to meet the water demand. Kuwait seeks to move to low-carbon economic system and adaptable to climate change to enhance and protect its natural resources and achieve sustainable development standard. The country is working to adapt with the impacts of climate change from higher temperatures, lack of rainfall, sea level rise, lack of water resources and the increasing severity of dust storms.

Credits: [World Bank](#)

Summary Chart

Current State

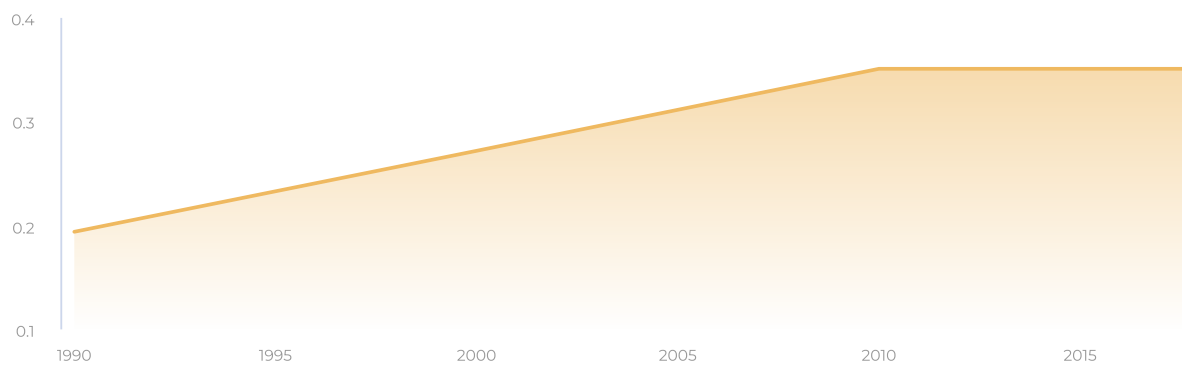
Land degradation between 2001 and 2015 - SDG 15.3.1 (km²)



Forest area

0.4 % land

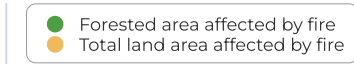
0.0 % change over last 10 years





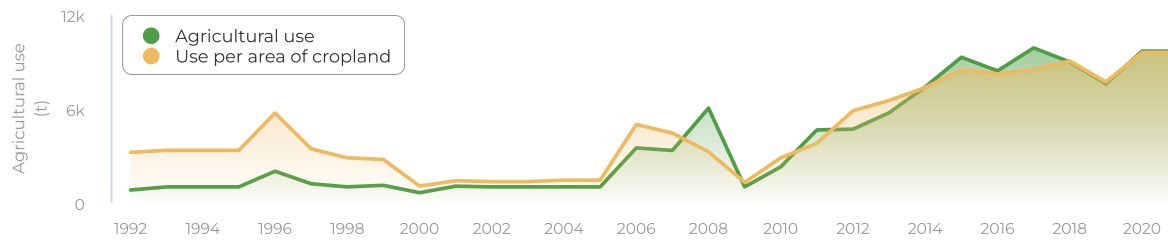
Stressors

Area affected by wildfires (kha)



Credits: FAO

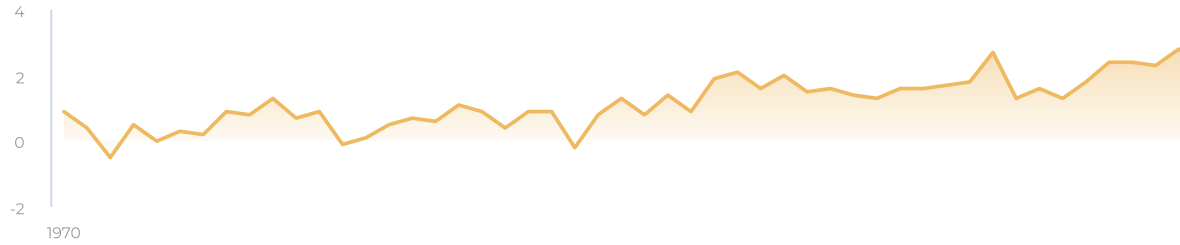
Use of nutrients



Credits: FAO

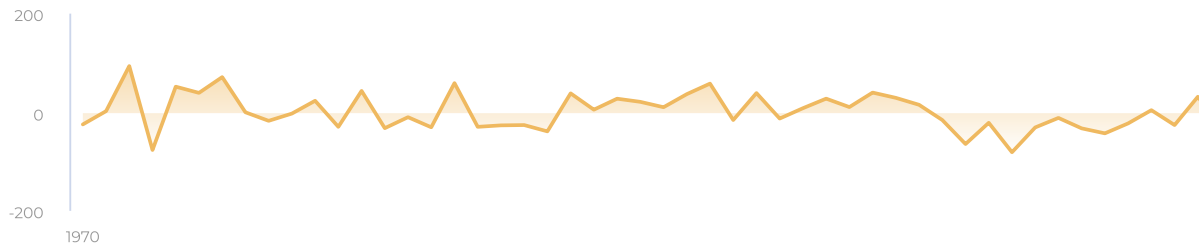
Trends

Annual temperature anomalies against 1901-1920 (°C)



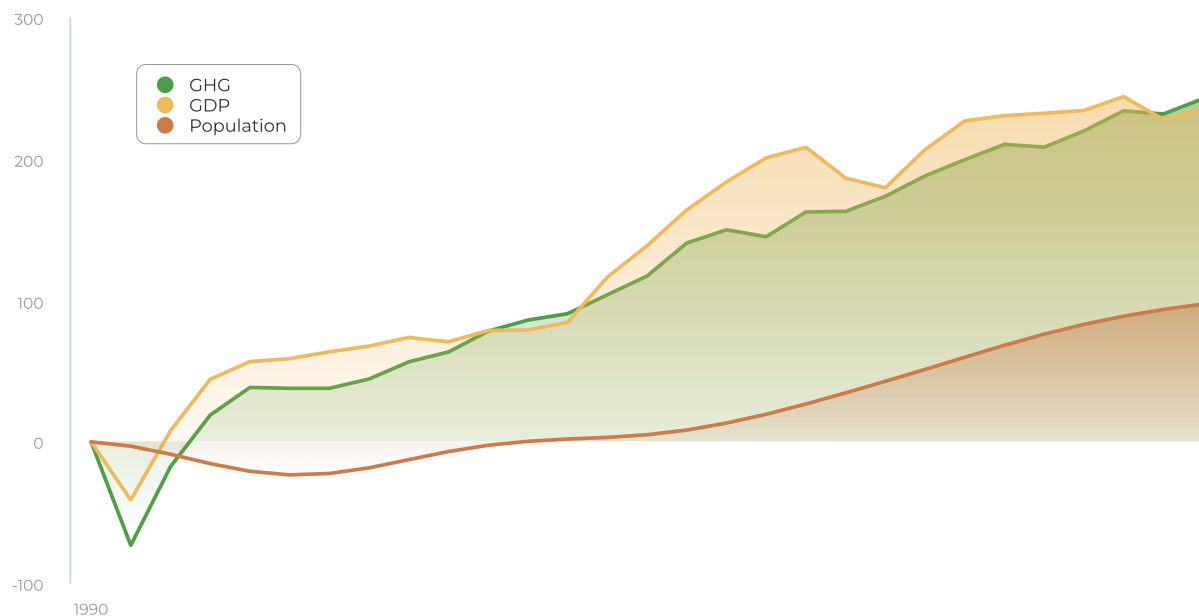
Credits: Climatic Research Unit (University of East Anglia) and Met Office

Annual precipitation anomalies against 1901-1920 (mm)



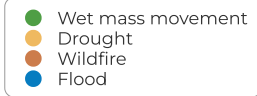
Credits: Climatic Research Unit (University of East Anglia) and Met Office

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



↗ Impacts

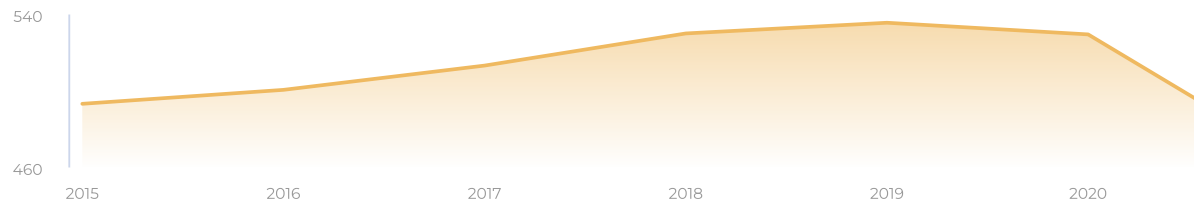
Human displacements caused by climatic hazards



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

Number of severely food insecure people - SDG 2.1.2

466.6 people



Credits: FAO

💡 Solutions

Proportion of terrestrial protected areas

17.0 % of total land area

2024

Credits: UNEP-WCMC

Official Development Assistance flows

Biodiversity sector (million USD)



Credits: OECD

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
Paris Agreement	2016-04-22	2018-04-23	Ratification
Cartagena Protocol		2017-06-01	Accession
Nagoya Protocol		2017-06-01	Accession
Minamata Convention on Mercury	2013-10-10	2015-12-03	Ratification
Ramsar Convention	2015-09-05	2015-05-05	Ratification
Stockholm Convention	2001-05-23	2006-06-12	Ratification
Rotterdam Convention	1998-09-11	2006-05-12	Ratification
Kyoto Protocol		2005-03-11	Accession
Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora	2002-11-10	2002-08-12	Ratification
Convention on Biological Diversity	1992-06-09	2002-08-02	Ratification
United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification	1995-09-22	1997-06-27	Ratification
United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change		1994-12-28	Accession
Basel Convention	1989-03-22	1993-10-11	Ratification
International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture	2003-09-02		Accession

