

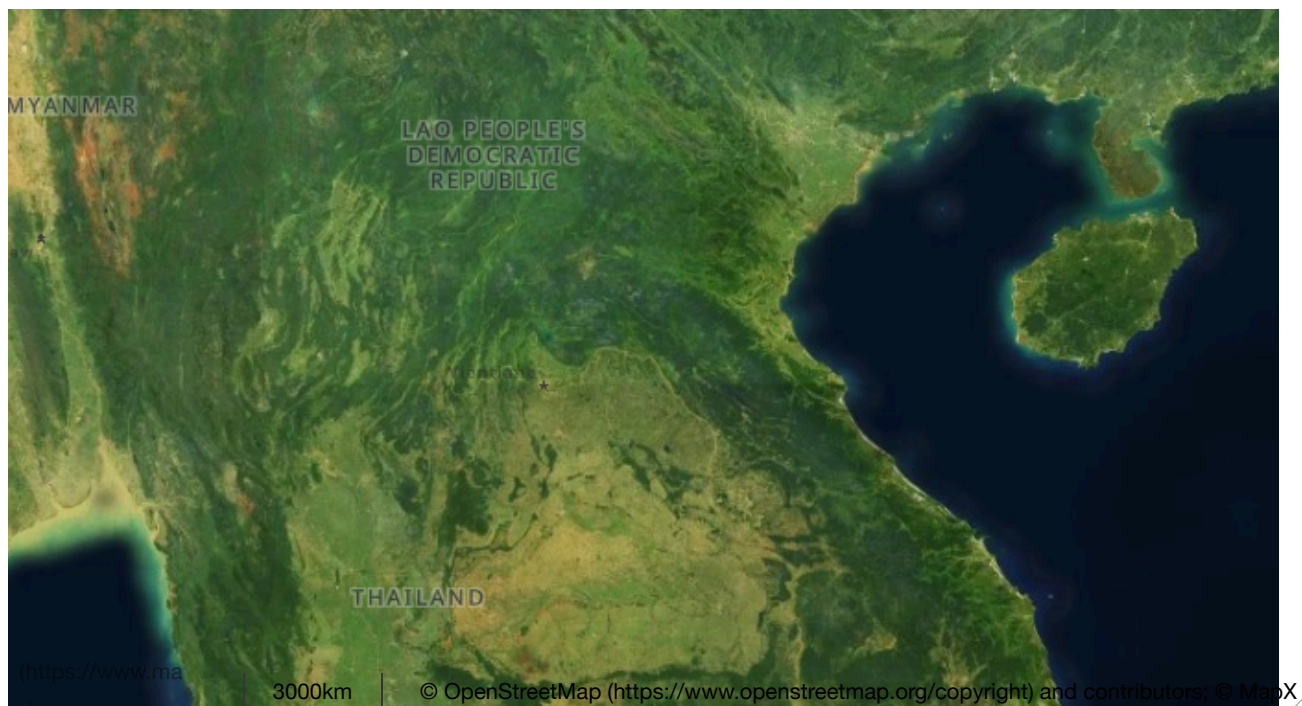


United Nations  
Convention to Combat  
Desertification



G20 GLOBAL  
LAND INITIATIVE

# Lao People's Democratic Republic



# Overview

## Background

Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR), is a landlocked country in Southeast Asia, located between latitudes 14° and 23°N and longitudes 100° and 108°E.

The nation, which shares borders with five other countries, lies in the lower Mekong Basin of the Indochina Peninsula. The country stretches 1,700 km from north to south and 100 km to 400 km from east to west, with a total surface area of 236,800 km<sup>2</sup>.

Approximately 80% of the country's land area is mountainous. The remaining 20% is low lying plains along the Mekong River and threatened by annual floods. The altitude ranges from 104 m above sea level in Attapeu to 2,820 m in Xiengkhuang, at Phoubia Mountain. Laos population reached 7.5 million in (2020). More than two-thirds of the population lives in the southern and central parts of the country.

Lao PDR is endowed with abundant natural resources, such as water, forests, minerals and biodiversity. Relative to other Asian nations, many of these assets remain in a

comparatively healthy state. However, since the turn of the 21st century, exploitation of natural resources has accelerated, including construction of a cascade of new hydropower dams on the Mekong River and its tributaries. Lao PDR's topography and landlocked location makes the country heavily dependent on road transportation for trade and economic growth. The country's East-West and North-South economic corridors connect Lao PDR with its Southeast and East Asian neighbors.

Flood and drought events occur frequently in Lao PDR. Poverty and malnutrition remain prevalent and with such a large proportion of Lao PDR's population relying on agricultural activities as the primary source of livelihood, climate change is likely to impact on the country and its inhabitants strongly. The impacts of climate change are identified as being particularly important to the country's water and forestry resources, agriculture, energy, and health sectors.

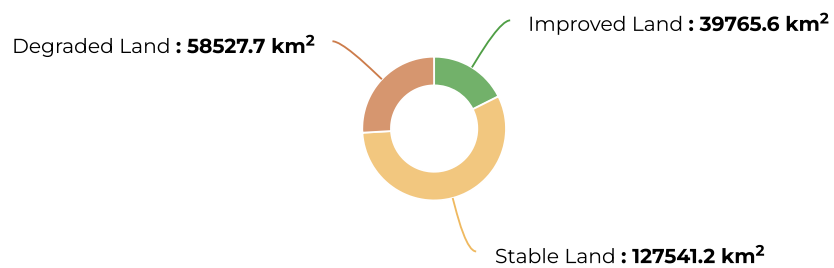
Credits: [World Bank](#)

## Summary Chart



### Current State

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

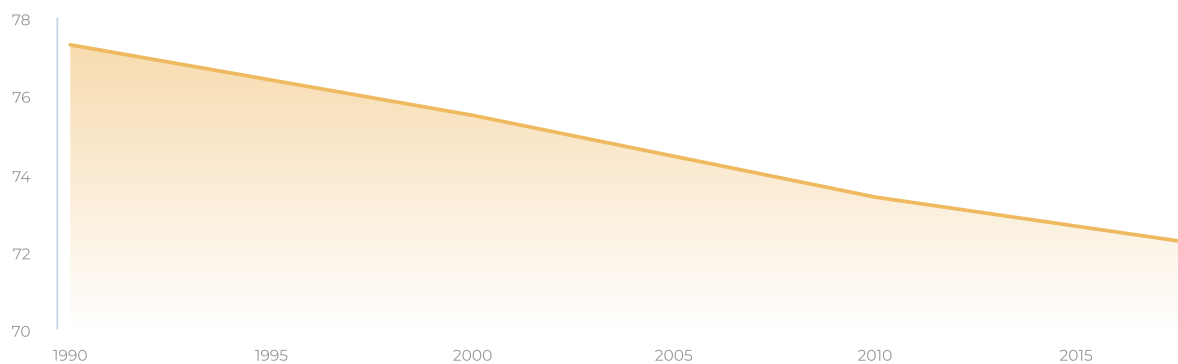


Credits: trends.earth

Forest area

**71.9 % land**

-2.0 % change over last 10 years

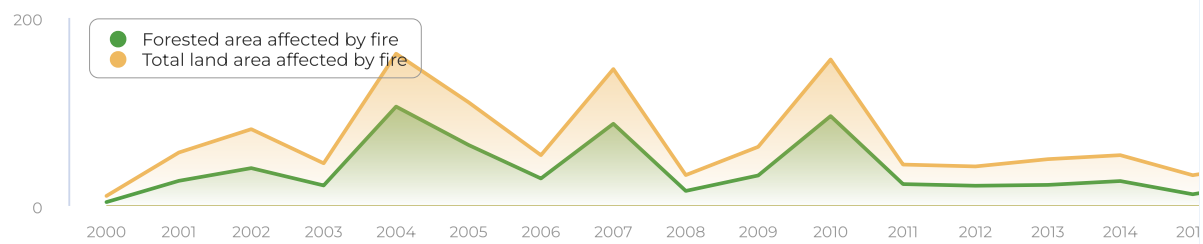


Credits: FAO



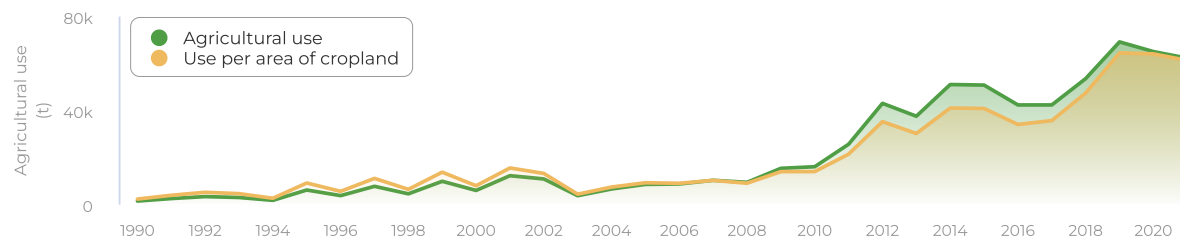
## Stressors

### Area affected by wildfires (kha)



Credits: FAO

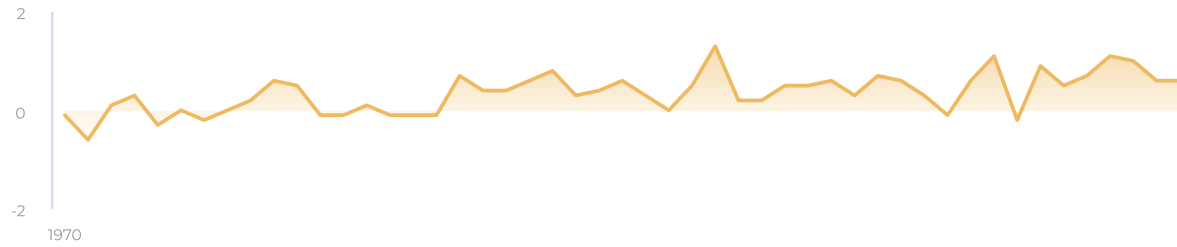
### Use of nutrients



Credits: FAO

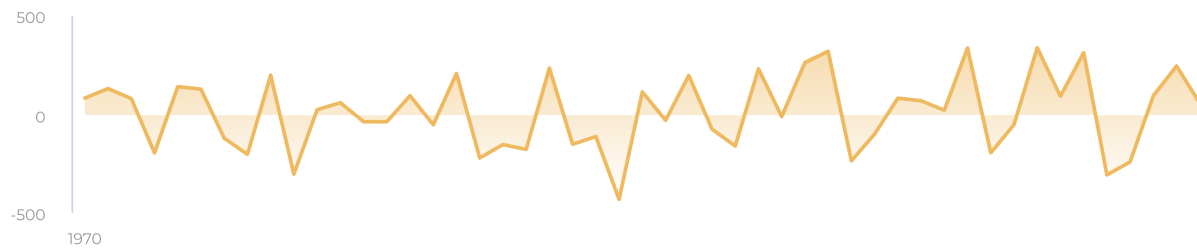
## Trends

Annual temperature anomalies against 1901-1920 (°C)



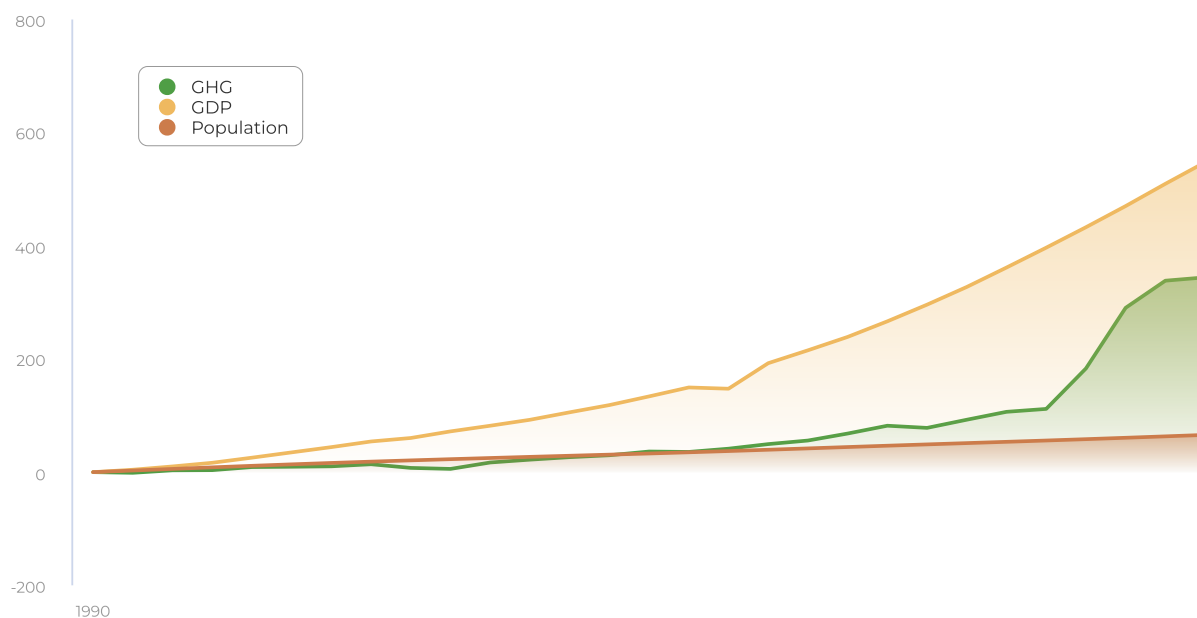
Credits: Climatic Research Unit (University of East Anglia) and Met Office

Annual precipitation anomalies against 1901-1920 (mm)

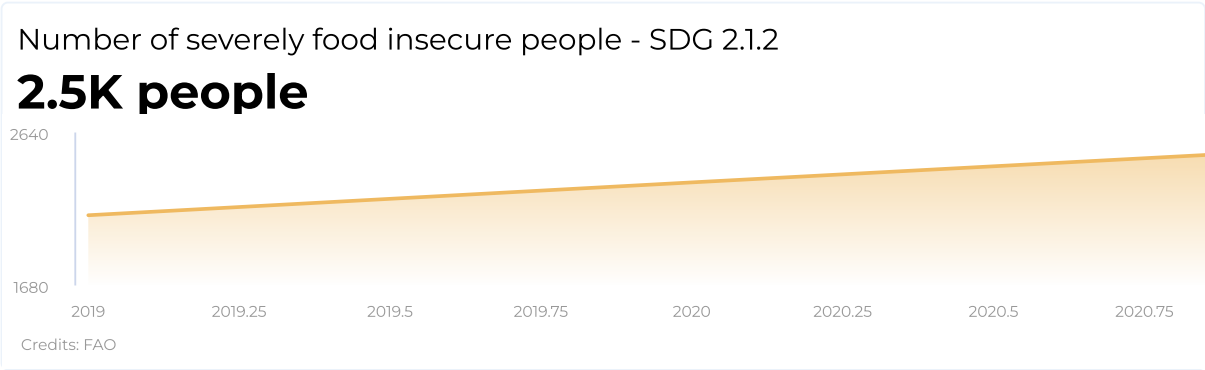
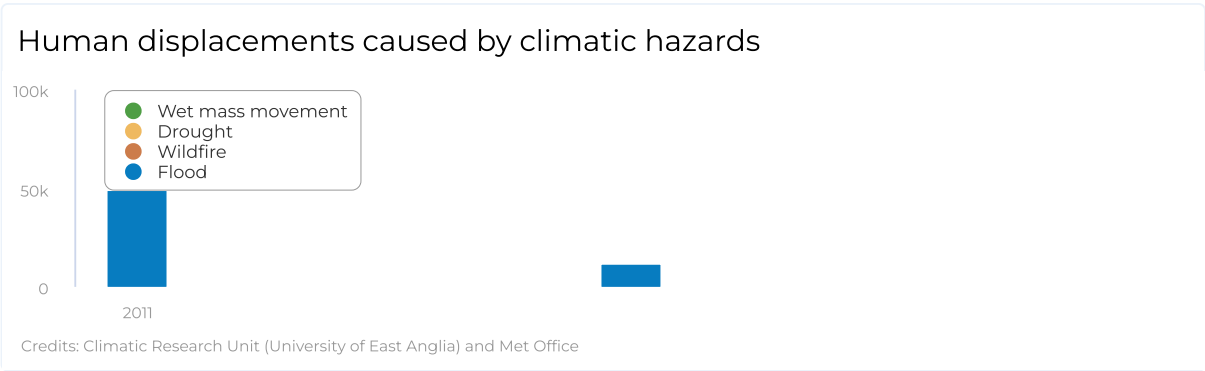


Credits: Climatic Research Unit (University of East Anglia) and Met Office

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



↗ Impacts



## 💡 Solutions

Proportion of terrestrial protected areas

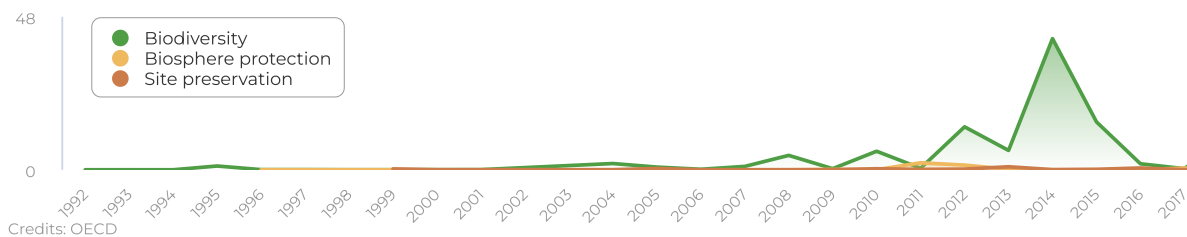
**19.0 % of total land area**

2024

Credits: UNEP-WCMC

Official Development Assistance flows

Biodiversity sector (million USD)



# 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.

**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		2017-09-21	Accession
Paris Agreement	2016-04-22	2016-09-07	Ratification
Nagoya Protocol		2012-09-26	Accession
Basel Convention		2010-09-21	Accession
Rotterdam Convention		2010-09-21	Accession
Ramsar Convention	2010-09-28	2010-05-28	Ratification
Stockholm Convention	2002-03-05	2006-06-28	Ratification
Cartagena Protocol		2004-08-03	Accession
Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora	2004-05-30	2004-03-01	Ratification
Kyoto Protocol		2003-02-06	Accession
Convention on Biological Diversity		1996-09-20	Accession
United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification	1995-08-30	1996-09-20	Acceptance
United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change		1995-01-04	Accession
International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture	2006-03-14		Accession

