

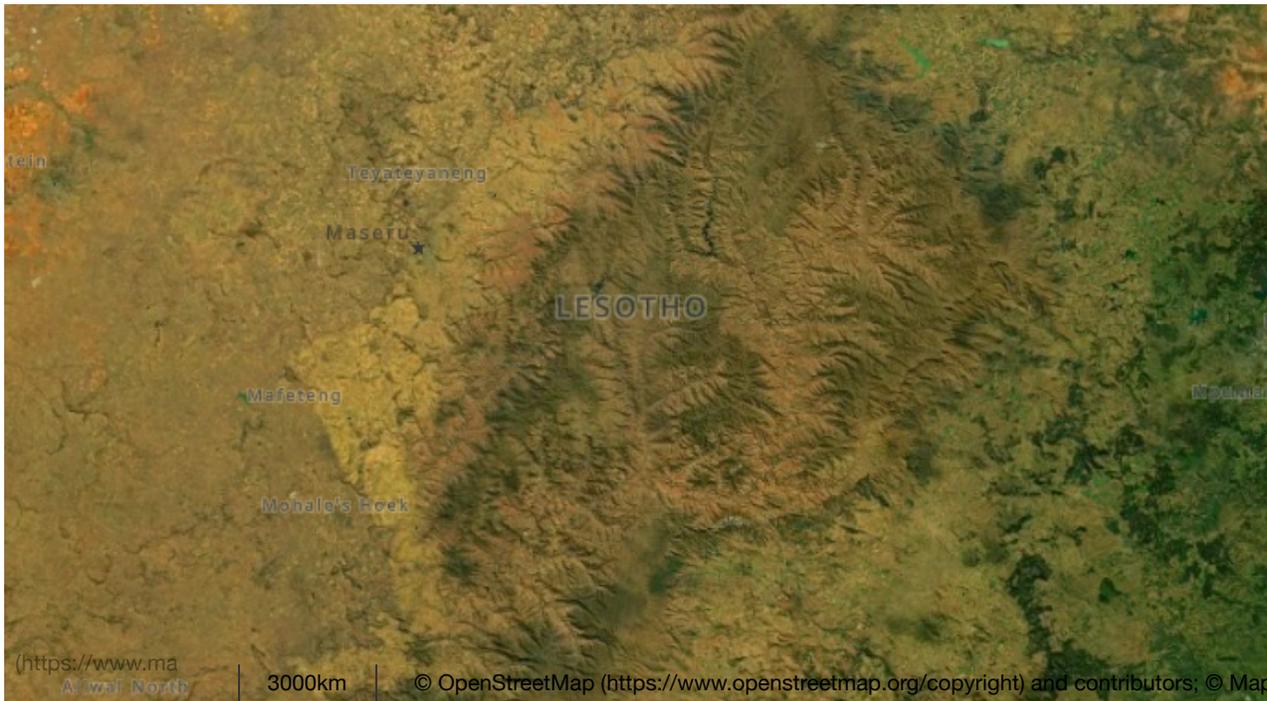


United Nations  
Convention to Combat  
Desertification



G20 GLOBAL  
LAND INITIATIVE

# Lesotho



# Overview

## Background

Lesotho is a small landlocked country in Southern Africa, surrounded by the Republic of South Africa, located between latitudes 28° and 31°S, and longitudes 27° and 30°E. The country's 30,355 square kilometers (km<sup>2</sup>) of land area is characterized by a rugged terrain with elevations ranging from 1,388 m to 3,482 m. Only 10% of the country's land is considered arable. The geography and location of Lesotho exposes the country to climatological patterns from both the Indian and Atlantic Oceans, resulting in significant variability in temperatures. Topographical variability and the microclimatological influences define the ecological zones of the country: the Lowlands (17%), Foothills (15%), Mountains (59%) and Senqu River Valley (9%). These zones are characterized by distinct climatic and ecological differences. The majority of socio-economic activity for Lesotho is restricted to the lowlands, the foothills and the Senqu River Valley, leaving the mostly barren and rugged mountain region mainly for grazing.

Lesotho is a lower-middle-income country with a population of 2.1 million people (2019), has an annual growth rate of 0.8% (2019), and is projected to reach 2.3 million people by 2030 and 2.6 million people by 2050. An estimated 28% of the current population resides in urban areas, which is expected to increase to just 34% and 46% by 2030 and 2050, respectively. Lesotho's geographical characteristics and socio-economic conditions, particularly for its rural population make it one of the most vulnerable countries to the impacts of climate change. The country is additionally vulnerable due to its high dependence on rain-fed agriculture and reliance on regional, imported energy supplies.

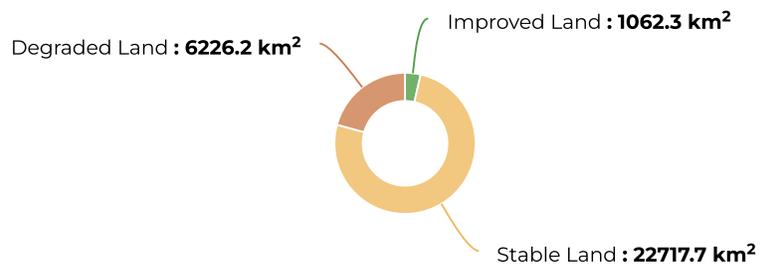
Lesotho's Nationally-Determined Contribution outlines that the country is particularly vulnerable to the negative impacts from climate variability and change on water and food security, as well as adverse conditions to health, human settlements, and the energy sector. The NDC's key areas of focus include the sustainability of the environment, water resources, sustainable land management, 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>)

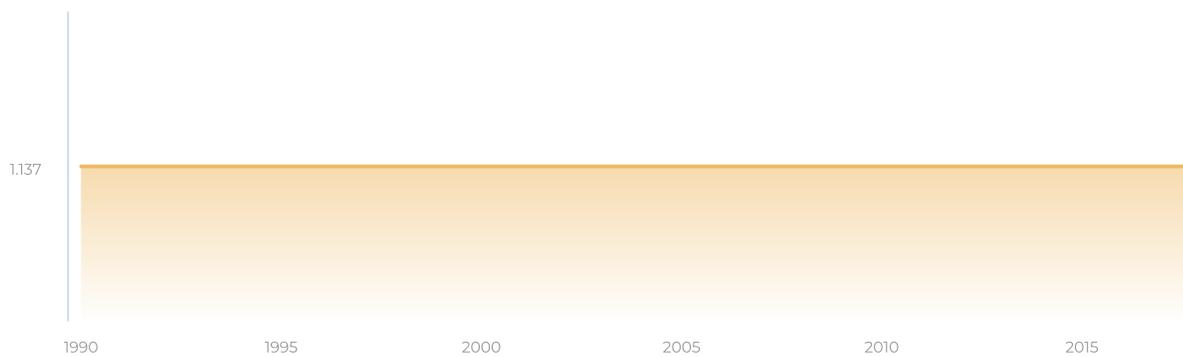


Credits: trends.earth

Forest area

**1.1 % land**

0.0 % change over last 10 years

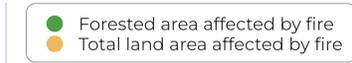


Credits: FAO



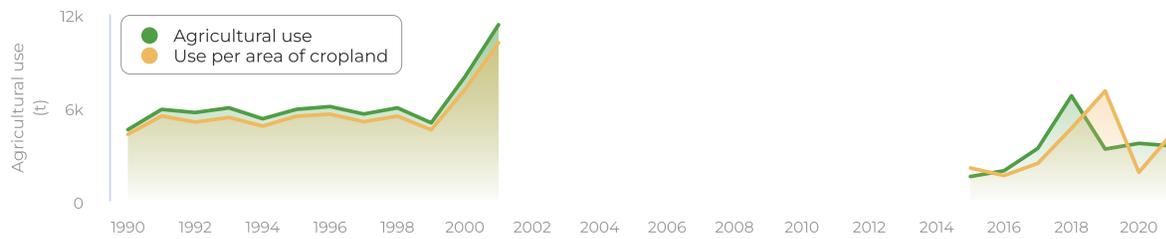
# Stressors

## Area affected by wildfires (kha)



Credits: FAO

## Use of nutrients



Credits: FAO

# Trends

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



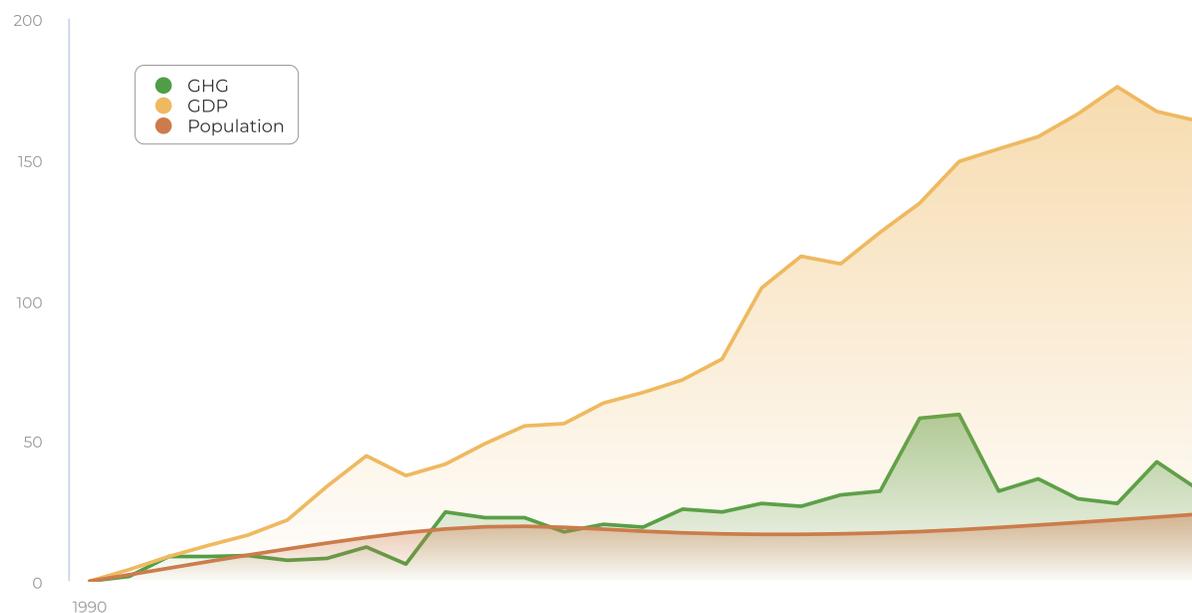
Credits: Climatic Research Unit (University of East Anglia) and Met Office

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



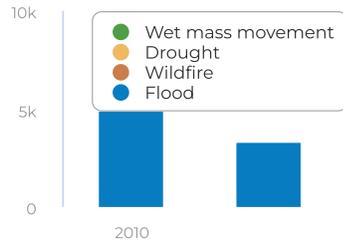
Credits: Climatic Research Unit (University of East Anglia) and Met Office

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



## ↗ Impacts

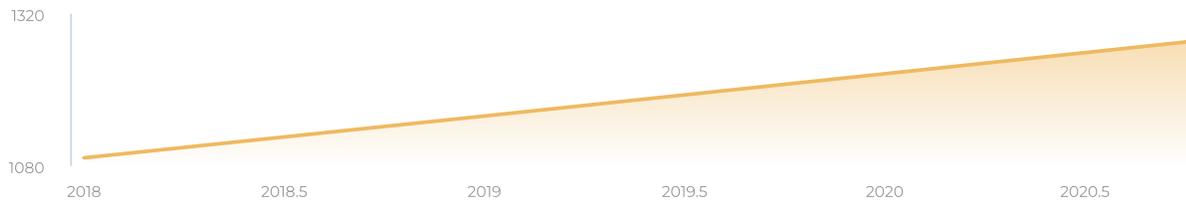
### Human displacements caused by climatic hazards



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

### Number of severely food insecure people - SDG 2.1.2

**1.3K people**



Credits: FAO

# 💡 Solutions

Proportion of terrestrial protected areas

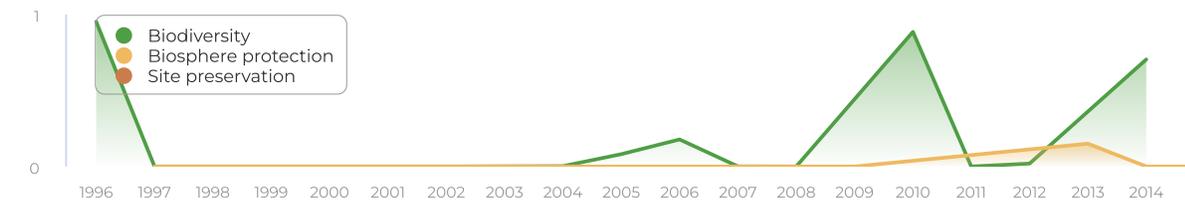
**21.3 % of total land area**

2024

Credits: UNEP-WCMC

Official Development Assistance flows

Biodiversity sector (million USD)



Credits: OECD

# Commitments

**796,925**  
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
Paris Agreement	2016-04-22	2017-01-20	Ratification
Nagoya Protocol		2014-11-12	Accession
Minamata Convention on Mercury		2014-11-12	Accession
Rotterdam Convention		2008-05-30	Accession
Ramsar Convention	2004-11-01	2004-07-01	Ratification
Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora	2003-12-30	2003-10-01	Ratification
Stockholm Convention	2002-01-23	2002-01-23	Ratification
Cartagena Protocol		2001-09-20	Accession
Kyoto Protocol		2000-09-06	Accession
Basel Convention		2000-05-31	Accession
United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification	1994-10-15	1995-09-12	Ratification
Lusaka Agreement		1995-06-20	Accession
United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change	1992-06-11	1995-02-07	Ratification
Convention on Biological Diversity	1992-06-11	1995-01-10	Ratification
International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture	2005-11-21		Accession
Bamako Convention	1991-06-01		

