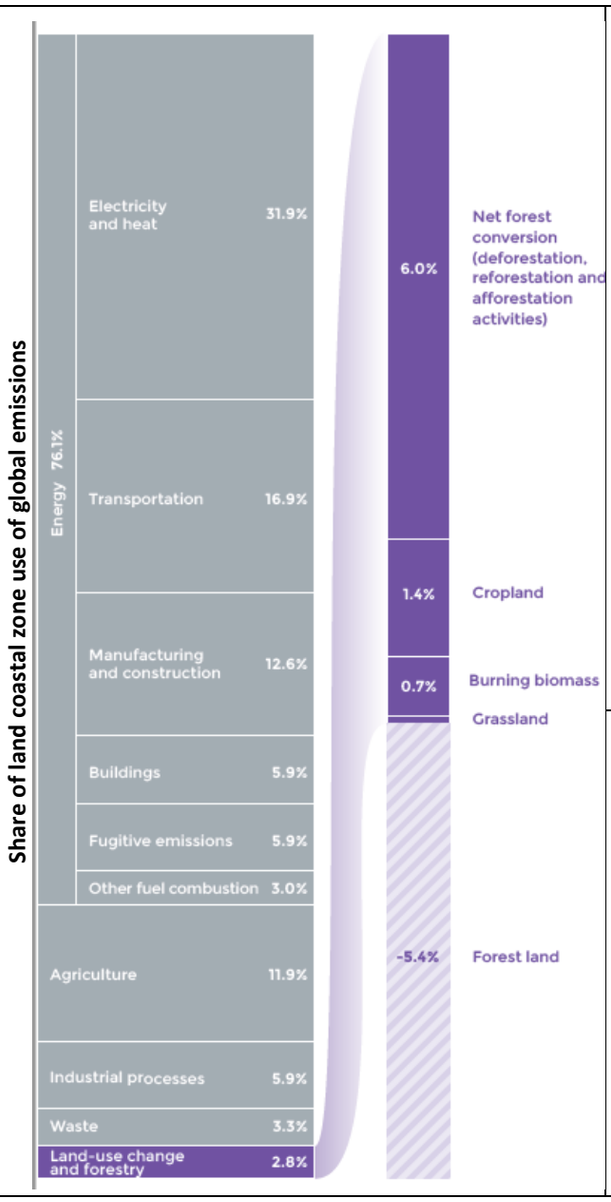
State of Climate Action 2021

Summary of the assessment of climate action in the land sector - This factsheet is an excerpt from State of Climate Action 2021. All references, data sources, authors and methods can be found in the full report.



Key features of land use and coastal zone management in climate change mitigation

Land is a both a **carbon sink, as well as a major source of GHG emissions.** Agriculture, forestry and other land use activities, for example, account for nearly a quarter of net anthropogenic emissions of GHGs, globally.
Climate change mitigation in the land sector, then, **closely links to agriculture and forestry**, and other sectors that use natural resources (e.g. construction industry or mining).
Actions to protect and restore these carbon-rich ecosystems come with tremendous co-benefits, for example forests **support the livelihoods of millions of people** across the globe and help **ensure water availability**. Land use and coastal zone management can help communities better **adapt to the impacts of climate change by building resilience and reducing vulnerabilities** to extreme weather events. At the same time, trade-offs can emerge in the land sector. With an **increasing global population, there is a growing demand for food, fuel, and fiber**, which has resulted in the ongoing expansion of agricultural land onto forests and other ecosystems.

The Paris-compatible benchmarks for land use and coastal zone management:

1- **Reduce global deforestation rate** 70% by 2030 and 95% by 2050, relative to 2018
2- **Reforestation** reaches 259 Mha by 2030 and 678 Mha by 2050, relative to 2018
3- **Increase rate of carbon removal from reforestation** to 3.0 $GtCO_2e/a$ by 2030 and 7.8 $GtCO_2e/a$ by 2050
4- **Reduce degradation and destruction of peatlands** 70% by 2030 and 95% by 2050, relative to 2018
5- **Restore 22 Mha of peatlands** by 2030 and 46 Mha by 2050
6- **Reduce coastal wetlands conversion** 70% by 2030 and 95% by 2050, relative to 2018
7- **Restore 7 Mha of coastal wetlands** by 2030 and 29 Mha by 2050

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Enablers of climate action in land use and coastal zone management:

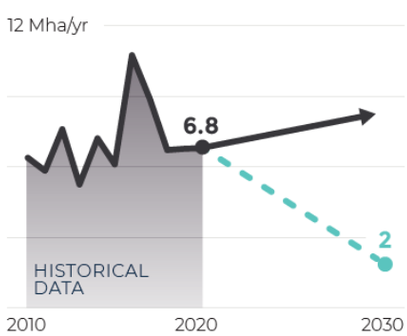
- Strengthening protection policies, as well as the institutions charged with enforcing them, boosting public finance for conservation, and improving monitoring of forests, peatlands, and coastal wetlands
- Reducing competing pressures on these ecosystems, particularly from agriculture, by improving the productivity of existing croplands and pastures, shifting to more sustainable diets, and reducing food loss and waste
- Clarifying land tenure regimes and simplifying the processes to secure land rights
- Meaningfully engaging communities in reforestation and restoration decision-making processes
- Improving data availability on peatland and coastal wetlands
- Raising the public's awareness of the many, often undervalued benefits these ecosystems provide to nearby communities

The state of climate action in land use and coastal zone management

Annual deforestation and associated emissions have risen since 2010. This trend needs to change to reduce deforestation drastically.

LAND USE AND COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT N/A

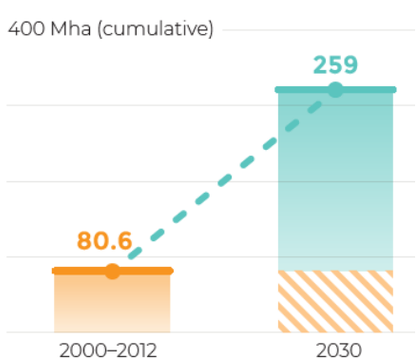
Reduce the rate of deforestation by 70%, relative to 2018



The **annually reforested area** needs to grow about three times faster than the historical pace of change.

LAND USE AND COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT 3.2x

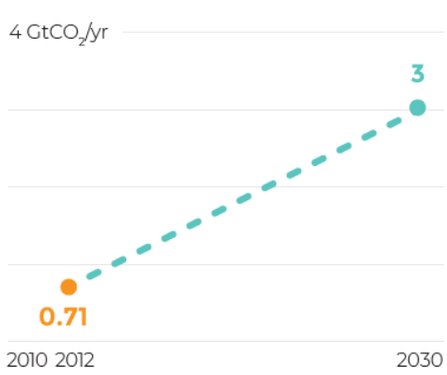
Reforest 259 Mha of land, relative to 2018



Reaching the benchmarks entails the **removal** of an additional 0.25 GtCO2 annually through 2030 and 0.24 GtCO2 annually from 2030 to 2050—rates of change more than quadruple the historical pace of progress.

LAND USE AND COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT 4.2x

Remove 3.0 $GtCO_2$ annually through reforestation



Note: For peatland and wetland conversion and restoration data is very limited, so we have omitted them in this illustration