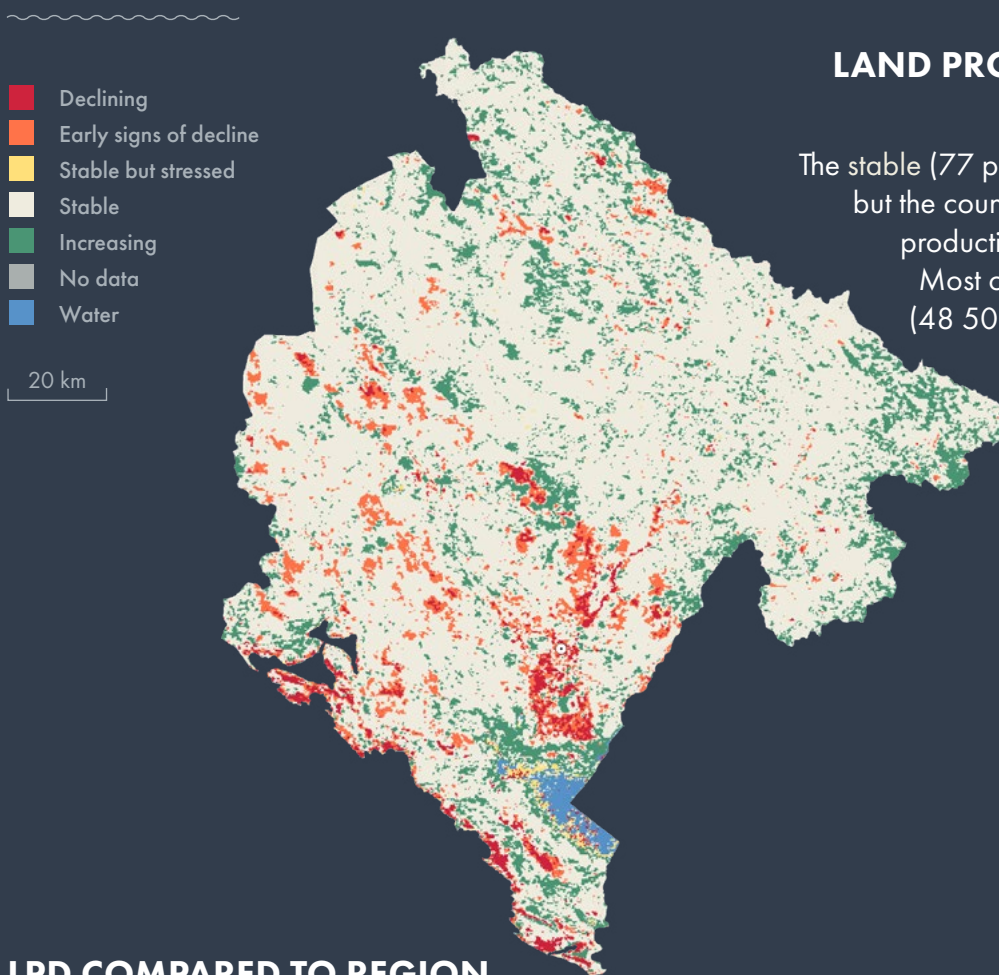




LDN IN MONTENEGRO

- Population: 621 718 people (2020)
- Total area: 1 381 000 ha
- Gross domestic product: 4.78 billion USD (2020)
- Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use: 6.39% of GDP (2019)
- Poverty (% of population below national poverty line): 24.5% (2018)
- Key biodiversity area: 12.6%

Montenegro is a mountainous country situated in southeast Europe along the Adriatic Sea, on the Balkan Peninsula. The diversity of the geological base, landscape, climate, and soil, created the conditions for high biological diversity, putting Montenegro among the «hot-spots» of European and world biodiversity. Smallholder farmers rely heavily on traditional agriculture practices for their livelihoods. Abandonment of ancient farming systems has caused an overgrowth of abandoned agricultural lands by shrubs and trees. National experts of the LDN working group established that the main driver of degradation are wildfires. Water erosion is particularly severe in the north of the country.



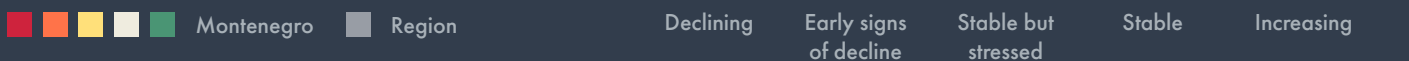
LAND PRODUCTIVITY DYNAMICS (LPD) (2001–2020)

The stable (77 percent) category is the dominant, but the country presents **declining** or **stressed** productivity in 117 000 ha (8.5 percent). Most of these affected areas are forests (48 500 ha), followed by 33 000 ha of grasslands and 25 000 ha of croplands, and are generally associated to higher fire frequencies in the same period (2001–2020).

Source: UN. 2020. Map of the World [online] <https://www.un.org/geospatial/>, modified with Google Earth Engine Application developed for the region. <https://projectgefao.users.earthengine.app/view/reu-ldn-assessment>

LPD COMPARED TO REGION

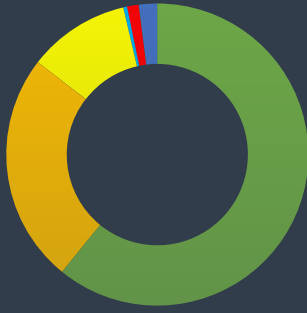
Percentage of area



DOCUMENTED SUSTAINABLE LAND MANAGEMENT (SLM) TECHNOLOGIES AND APPROACHES IN WOCAT DATA BASE



197 145 239 TONNES OF SOIL ORGANIC CARBON

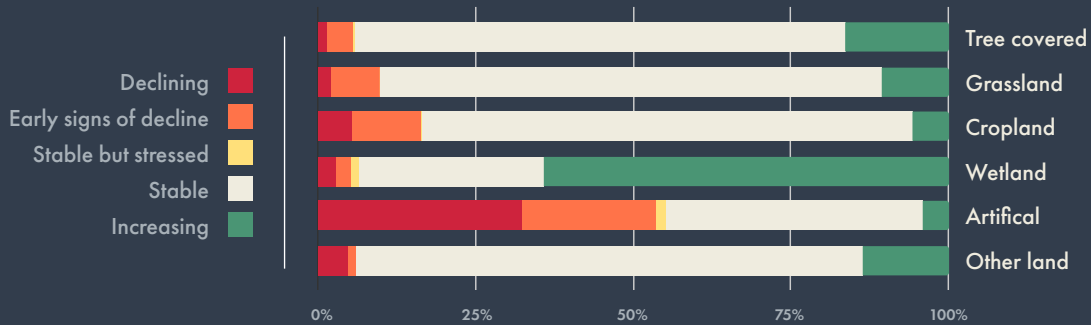


LAND COVER (2019)

61 percent are **tree covered** lands, followed by 25 percent **grasslands** and 11 percent **croplands**.



DISTRIBUTION OF LPD CLASSES FOR LAND COVER



MONEY ALLOCATED BY THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY (GEF) THROUGH THE SYSTEM FOR TRANSPARENT ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES (STAR)

Total STAR allocation for GEF 6 and GEF 7 cycles in millions of dollars



SOME STEPS FORWARD TO ACHIEVE LDN IN MONTENEGRO

[Four targets and twenty-five measures](#) were defined to achieve LDN in Montenegro by the national LDN working group. These measures are related to enhancement of LDN monitoring systems, environmental legislation, social awareness, and direct measures to prevent or minimize land degradation and restore degraded land, including sustainable agriculture and forestry.

Protection and sustainable use of broad-leaved forests is key to prevent soil erosion and conserve biodiversity in the mountains of Montenegro. Given the relevance of wildfires as drivers of degradation, protecting natural ecosystems from wildfires is one of the national LDN targets, and four measures were identified to achieve this, including better monitoring of fire risk.

The recently adopted Law on Spatial Planning and Building Construction, creates an opportunity to integrate the neutrality mechanism into spatial planning. Promotion of agro-tourism provides an opportunity to reduce the current trends of [abandonment of rural and mountainous landscapes](#), through the diversification of farmers income in small villages. A [project supported by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations \(FAO\) and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development](#) is currently working on the promotion of traditional practices and local communities are getting recognition for preserving centuries-old culinary traditions.

Note: This factsheet is part of the publication «Overview of land degradation neutrality (LDN) in Europe and Central Asia» and all the sources of the presented data here is available and explained in Further Resources.