



**AFoCO** REDD+ Fact Sheet Series

# Kazakhstan

*Compiled in 2023*

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Asian Forest Cooperation Organization

## ABBREVIATIONS

FOLU	Forestry and Other Land Use
KBA	Key Biodiversity Area
NDC	Nationally Determined Contribution
SFM	Sustainable Forest Management
WRF	Warsaw REDD+ Framework

# THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN

## SUMMARY

The Republic of Kazakhstan has very small forest cover, an average of 5.0%. Kazakhstan is considering the Forestry and Other Land Use (FOLU) sector as one of the mitigation targets, but no detailed targets have been established. Neither is the Adaptation plan. This country considers the Cooperative Approaches under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement. However, the country did not mention REDD+ as one of its mitigation options in Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) (2016). The Warsaw REDD+ Framework (WRF) factors have not been identified. There also exists no REDD+ projects and REDD+ readiness initiatives.

## 1. COUNTRY OVERVIEW

The Republic of Kazakhstan (Kazakhstan) is a landlocked country with a total land area of 2,724,900 km<sup>2</sup>. Located in Central Asia, the country shares borders with the Russian Federation to the north, China to the east, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, and the Kyrgyz Republic to the south. With a vast territory almost the size of Western Europe, Kazakhstan is endowed with an enormous diversity of mountain ecological systems due to high altitude zones. It has a great diversity of natural conditions, ecosystems and species<sup>1</sup>. Four major ecological systems can be defined: forest (5% of the country), steppe (28%), desert (32%), and mountain (7%). Kazakhstan has one of the lowest population densities in the world, with a population of 20 million (2023). The country has a GDP per capita of \$13,300, growing at 13.80% (2023). (2022 GDP – \$11.476,6)

*Table 1. General status of Kazakhstan*

Official name (ISO code)	Republic of Kazakhstan (KZ)
Capital	Astana
Population	20 000 000
GDP per capita	USD 11,476.6 (National Bureau of Statistics, 2022)
GDP growth (annual)	5,3% (National Bureau of Statistics, 2023)
Climate	Continental, cold winters and hot summers; arid and semi-arid.
Land Area	2,724,900 km <sup>2</sup>
Forest Area	136,735 km <sup>2</sup> (5.0% of land area) (Republic of Kazakhstan Government Portal, 2023)
Important sites for terrestrial biodiversity protected	13.1% (UN, 2020)

Sources: National Bureau of Statistics – <https://stat.gov.kz/>,  
Government Portal – <https://www.gov.kz>

<sup>1</sup>Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Country Profile, URL: Main Details (cbd.int)



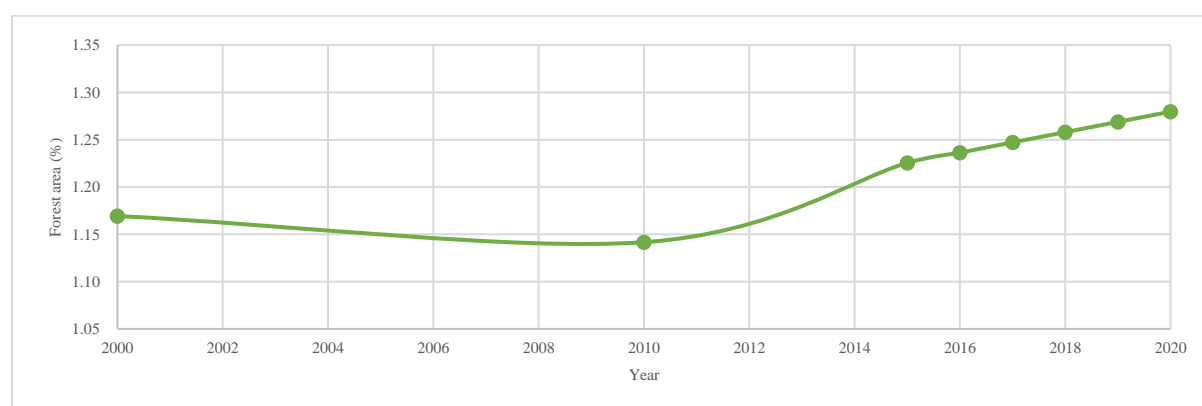
Figure 1. Map of Kazakhstan

Source: <https://www.un.org/geospatial/content/kazakhstan>

## 2. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

According to SDG 15 Life on land, Forest area as a proportion of total land area was 1.17% in 2000, slightly increasing to 1.3% in 2022 (Figure 2).

Figure 2. Forest area as a proportion of total land area (%)

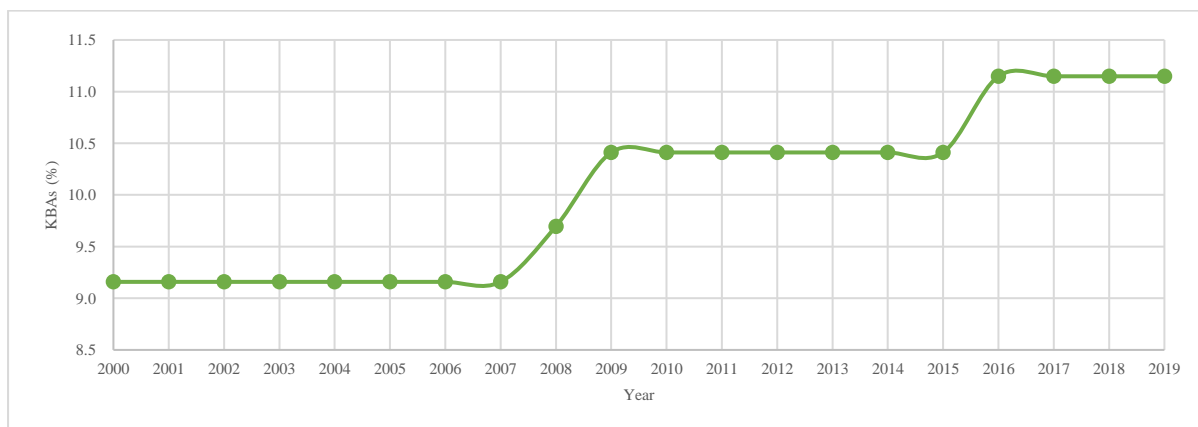


Year	2000	2010	2015					2020	2022
Forest area (%)	1.17	1.14	1.23					1.28	1.3

Raw data: UNSTATS SDG Indicators

The average proportion of Terrestrial Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) covered by protected areas was 9.2% in 2000 and increased to 11.3% in 2022 (Figure 3).

*Figure 3. Average proportion of Terrestrial Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) covered by protected areas (%)*

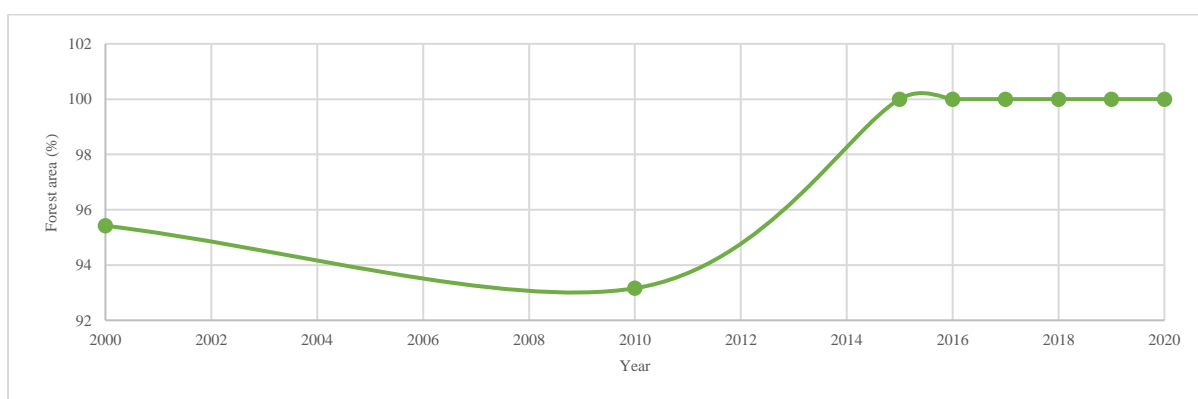


Year	2000	2008	2009	2010	2015	2019	2022
KBAs (%)	9.2	9.7	10.4	10.4	10.4	11.1	11.3

Raw data: UNSTATS SDG Indicators

The proportion of forest area under a long-term management plan was 100.0 % in 2022.

*Figure 4. Proportion of forest area under a long-term management plan (%)*



Year	2000	2010	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2022
Forest area (%)	95.42	93.16	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Raw data: UNSTATS SDG Indicators

### 3. NATIONALLY DETERMINED CONTRIBUTION (2016)<sup>2</sup>

Forestry plays an important role in the NDCs as part of the country's commitment to the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. The Republic of Kazakhstan submitted its first NDC under the Paris Agreement in 2016, and intends to achieve an economy-wide target of 15%-25% reduction in greenhouse gas emission by 2030 compared to 1990. Its unconditional target is a 15% reduction, and conditional target is a 25% reduction in GHG emissions by 31 December 2030 compared to the base year.

*Table 2. Role of forests reported in NDCs*

Mitigation		Adaptation
Unconditional	Conditional	
Y	Y	N

\* Y: reported/ N: unreported

#### 3.1. Mitigation Targets

The Republic of Kazakhstan intends to cover all Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), including energy, agriculture waste, land use, land-use change and forestry. However, forest-based mitigation targets had not been specified in the NDC.

*Table 3. Mitigation Targets for Forestry and Land Use Sector<sup>3</sup>*

Actions	Targets
Conservation of ecosystems and enhancement of forest cover	Following a path of low carbon economy growth

*Table 4. Forest-based mitigation Policies/ Plans/ Actions in NDCs*

Afforestation	Reforestation	Conservation	REDD+	Sustainable Forest Management (SFM)
N	N	N	N	N
N	N	N	N	N
N	N	N	N	Y

\* Y: reported/ N: unreported

<sup>2</sup>Kazakhstan's first Nationally Determined Contribution report, (2016). pp.1-4.

<sup>3</sup>Kazakhstan's first Nationally Determined Contribution report, (2016). pp.1-4.

Source: <https://www.climatewatchdata.org/>

### 3.2. Adaptation Targets

Information not available

### 3.3. International market-based cooperation

Kazakhstan supports inclusion of market-based mechanisms in the 2015 agreement, and the opportunity to use carbon units recognized by the UNFCCC. Kazakhstan retains the option of using market-based mechanisms under the UNFCCC. Kazakhstan will consider adequately discounting international units for compliance to ensure a contribution to net global emission reductions.

### 3.4. Relevance to the Forestry Sector

In order to emphasize its commitment to low carbon growth, Kazakhstan has adopted a Concept on transition to a «Green» Economy. For the implementation of the Concept, an action is developed, under which government programs on waste management, modernization of housing and communal services, development of sustainable transport, conservation of ecosystems and enhancement of forest cover were adopted.

## 4. UNFCCC WARSAW FRAMEWORK FOR REDD+ PROGRESS

Information not available.

*Table 5. Kazakhstan's submission of UNFCCC Warsaw Framework for REDD+ elements*

National Strategy / Action Plan	National Forest Monitoring System	Forest Reference Level / Forest Reference Emission Level	Safeguards Information System
N	N	N	N

\*SFM: Sustainable Forest Management

Source: UN REDD+ web platform (<https://redd.unfccc.int>)

***(Information on REDD+ PROJECTS/INITIATIVES are not available at the time of compilation)***



## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The information contained in this Fact Sheet has been reviewed and validated by Niyaz Zholbarys Arystanuly, 2023 AFoCO Fellowship Official from Kazakhstan (Head of the Republican Dispatching Service of the Kazakh Base of Aviation Protection of Forests and Forestry Services, Forestry and Wildlife Committee, Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Kazakhstan).

## REFERENCES

- Climate Change Laws of the World. (2016). Kazakhstan First NDC. [https://climate-laws.org/documents/kazakhstan-first-ndc\\_ab61?id=kazakhstan-first-ndc\\_9d32](https://climate-laws.org/documents/kazakhstan-first-ndc_ab61?id=kazakhstan-first-ndc_9d32)
- Convention on Biological Diversity. (n.d.). Country Profiles: Kazakhstan. Retrieved November 8, 2023, from <https://www.cbd.int/countries/?country=kz>