**OCEANIA**

Statistical information (as of 2021)

Land Area: 8.5 million square kilometers

Population: 42 million

Total Countries: 14 sovereign countries

Natural Resources:

Minerals Fisheries Forests

Agricultural Lands

**WATER**

This map depicts water use in Oceania during the last three decades ending 2021.

Substantial increases in water use between 1992 – 2021 were due the rise in population, unpredictable rainfall, rising temperatures, sea-level rise and increased extreme weather occurrences.

A couple extreme water events occurring during the 30 years we analyzed were:

* The Australian Millennium Drought. The Australian Millennium drought lasted for 12 years! Its range impacted the eastern and southeastern areas of Australia. There was little to no rainfall, causing water shortages, dry riverbeds and near depleted water reservoirs. Climate change contributed to the duration of the extremely high temperatures which caused the drought.
* Rising sea-levels and the impact on the island of Kiribati. Ever since the late 20th century and continuing into the 21st, sea-level rise has made life on the island very difficult. The reason ocean water levels are increasing is due in part to thermal expansion of the seawater. When ocean waters absorb heat caused by a warmer climate, it expands. This expansion causes saltwater intrusion. Saltwater intrusion causes decreases in drinking and sanitation water, water for agriculture and livestock.

Common outcomes of these major water events were the destruction of homes, displacement of entire communities, significant agricultural losses resulting in food shortages, infrastructure damage to buildings, roads and bridges and the health risks due to inadequate and poorly managed drainage systems, stagnate water and cholera.

**LAND**

This map depicts land use in Oceania during the last three decades ending 2021.

Urbanization, agriculture expansion, climate changes and coastal development, mining, and natural resource extraction explain the increase in land use between 1992-2021. As the population grows, so must the food supply and water supply. Expansion of land use for agriculture required deforestation. The forests of Oceania represent 26% of its land area. Despite 100% of Oceania being surrounded by water, the region is negatively impacted by droughts which are caused by climate change.

A couple extreme land events occurring during the 30 years we analyzed were:

* Cyclone Winston in 2016. Considered the most powerful cyclone ever recorded in the southern hemisphere. Cyclone Winston devastated the tiny island of Fiji with wind and heavy rainfall and surges of ocean waters. Communities were destroyed and displaced by Cyclone Winston. While cyclones, like hurricanes aren’t caused by climate change, the intensity and frequency of them are.
* Australia’s Black Summer. During 2019-2020, the climatic impact of changes to temperature and precipitation patterns led to catastrophic wildfires. The wildfires burned Millions of acres of land, destroyed thousands of homes, and took the lives of many people and livestock.

**FORESTRY**

This map depicts forestry use in Oceania during the last three decades ending 2021.

Depending on location, the percentage of forestry in Oceania varies. For example, in Papua New Guinea, 70-75% of land are covered by forests. While forest areas in New Zealand is 31% and 17% in Australia. The combined governments of Oceania understand the significance of climate change and the negative affects climate change could have on its continent and border islands. Collectively they have implemented various programs and adopted practices to manage and mitigate climate change.