



State of the World's Forests 2022

For Prelims: State of the World's Forests 2022, FAO

For Mains: State of Forest Resources in India and related concerns

Why in News?

Recently, the State of the World's Forests 2022 (SOFO 2022) was released by the [United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization \(FAO\)](#).

- In January 2022 the Union Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC) released the [India State of Forest Report-2021](#).
- At the [Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forests and Land Use](#), 140 countries pledged to eliminate forest loss by 2030 and to support restoration and sustainable production and consumption.

What is the State of the World's Forests?

- The report is **published bi-annually** and is widely regarded as **one of the most important stock takes on forest ecosystems**.
- The 2022 edition of SOFO **explores the potential of three forest pathways** for achieving green recovery and tackling multidimensional planetary crises, including [climate change](#) and biodiversity loss.
 - Halting deforestation and maintaining forests
 - Restoring degraded lands and expanding [agroforestry](#)
 - Sustainably using forests and building green value chains

What are the Key Highlights of the Report?

- **Loss of Forests:**
 - The **420 million hectares (mha) of forests have been lost between 1990 and 2020**, due to [deforestation](#), though forests cover 4.06 billion ha of the earth's geographical area.
 - Although the **rate of deforestation was declining**, 10 mha of forests were lost every year between 2015 and 2020.
 - An **estimated 289 mha of forests would be deforested between 2016 and 2050** in the tropics alone, resulting in the emission of 169 GtCO₂e if additional action is not taken.
 - The greenhouse gas total is expressed in terms of billions of tonnes of global annual CO₂ equivalent emissions (GtCO₂e/year).
- **Rise in Infectious Diseases:**

- **15% of 250 emerging infectious diseases** have been linked to forests.
 - **Example:** Covid-19, **Drug-resistant infections (Antimicrobials)**, [Zika Virus](#), etc.
- 30% of new diseases, reported since 1960, can be attributed to deforestation and land-use change.
- **Rise in Poverty:**
 - The **cost of global strategies to prevent pandemics** based on reducing the illegal wildlife trade, avoiding land-use change and increasing surveillance was estimated to be **USD22 billion to USD31 billion**.
 - **Approximately 124 million more people fell into extreme poverty after Covid-19 and this may have longer-term impacts on wood-based fuel** (such as firewood, charcoal) due to increase in wood-based fuel use in some countries during the pandemic.
- **Consumption of Natural Resources:**
 - The world population is **projected to reach 9.7 billion people by 2050**, which will increase competition for land, as the demand for food for this large population will rise by 35 to 56% by the 2050s.
 - The **annual global consumption of all natural resources combined** is expected to more than **double from 92 billion tonnes in 2017 to 190 billion tonnes in 2060** due to increases in population size and affluence.
 - **Annual biomass extraction is expected to reach 44 billion tonnes by 2060**, from 24 billion tonnes in 2017.
 - **Demand for forest-based biomass is expected to rise further**, mainly due to construction and packaging.
- **GDP Dependence on Forests:**
 - It is estimated that more than half of world **Gross Domestic Product (GDP)** (USD 84.4 trillion in 2020) depends moderately (USD 31 trillion per year) or highly (USD 13 trillion per year) on **ecosystem services**, including those provided by forests.
 - **Ecosystem services make human life possible by**, for example, providing nutritious food and clean water, regulating disease and climate, supporting the pollination of crops and soil formation, and providing recreational, cultural and spiritual benefits

What are the Suggestions?

- **Conservation, Restoration and Agroforestry:**
 - Forest protection, such as stopping illegal wildlife trade and avoiding land-use change, can help prevent the next pandemic, and the cost is a fraction of the damages that an actual pandemic would cause.
 - Agroforestry holds special potential for boosting biodiversity, food security and even crop production.
- **Sustainable Use:**
 - **Supply chains that incorporate forest products are another way to make sustainable development** a reality, particularly as the world's population is projected to double by 2060 and demand for natural resources will double to 190 billion metric tons.
- **Funding:**
 - **A massive uptick in funding will require**, specifically, a three-fold increase by 2030.
 - Establishing and maintaining forests, for example, may cost USD 203 billion every year by 2050.
- **Supporting Local Producer Organizations:**
 - **Supporting local producer organizations and protecting land tenure rights** are also crucial for allowing small communities and Indigenous groups to continue sustainably managing their forests.
 - For this, governments can **give smallholders long-term rights to their tree products**, which would help de-risk agroforestry, as well as formalize the recognition of customary land rights.

What is FAO?

- **About:**

- FAO is a specialized agency of the [United Nations](#) that leads international efforts to defeat hunger.
- [World Food Day](#) is celebrated every year on 16th October to mark the anniversary of the founding of the FAO in 1945.
- It is one of the UN food aid organisations based in Rome (Italy). Its sister bodies are the [World Food Programme](#) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).
- **Initiatives Taken:**
 - [Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems \(GIAHS\)](#).
 - Monitors the [Desert Locust](#) situation throughout the world.
 - The [Codex Alimentarius Commission or CAC](#) is the body responsible for all matters regarding the implementation of the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme.
 - [The International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture](#).
- **Flagship Publications:**
 - The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture (SOFIA)
 - The State of the World's Forests (SOFO)
 - [The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World \(SOFI\)](#)
 - The State of Food and Agriculture (SOFA)
 - The State of Agricultural Commodity Markets (SOCO)
 - [World Food Price Index](#)

UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Questions

Q. With reference to the 'New York Declaration on Forests', which of the following statements are correct?

1. It was first endorsed at the United Nations Climate Summit in 2014.
2. It endorses a global timeline to end the loss of forests.
3. It is a legally binding international declaration.
4. It is endorsed by governments, big companies and indigenous communities.
5. India was one of the signatories at its inception.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

- (a) 1, 2 and 4
- (b) 1, 3 and 5
- (c) 3 and 4
- (d) 2 and 5

Ans: (a)

Exp:

- The New York Declaration on Forests is a voluntary and non-legally binding political declaration which grew out of dialogue among governments, companies and civil society, spurred by the United Nations Secretary-General's Climate Summit in 2014. Hence, statement 1 is correct and statement 3 is not correct.
- The declaration pledges to halve the rate of deforestation by 2020, to end it by 2030 and to restore hundreds of millions of acres of degraded land. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- The declaration currently has over 200 endorsers including, national governments, sub-national governments, multinational companies, indigenous peoples and local community organizations, nongovernment organizations, and financial institutions. Hence, statement 4 is correct.
- India was not one of the signatories at the time of New York Declaration on Forests inception. Hence, statement 5 is not correct. Therefore, option (a) is the correct answer.

Source: DTE

PDF Reference URL: <https://www.drishtias.com/printpdf/state-of-the-world-s-forests-2022>

