



Commonwealth adopts 'Living Lands Charter'

For Prelims: Commonwealth Nations, Living Lands Charter

For Mains: Living Land Charter, Conservation

Why in News?

Recently, the Commonwealth members have agreed to voluntarily dedicate **'living land' in their respective countries to future generations**, in line with the strategy set for the [United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration](#).

- The 'Living land' charter was announced at the conclusion of the **2022 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in Kigali (Rwanda)**.

What is the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration?

- The United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration runs from 2021 to 2030.
- Its purpose is **to promote the United Nation's environmental goals**.
- Specifically, to facilitate global cooperation for the restoration of degraded and destroyed ecosystems.
- It calls for **protection and revival of ecosystems** across the world.

What is the Living Land Charter?

- The **non-binding 'Living Lands Charter'** mandates that **member countries will safeguard global land resources** and arrest land degradation while acting against [climate change](#), [biodiversity loss](#) and towards sustainable management.
- The Living Lands Charter helps to encapsulate the combined effort **to hold the global average temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius**.
- The charter **aims to achieve climate goals through a mixture of policy influence**, financing, technical assistance, governance and sharing knowledge across nations.
 - Commonwealth governments have been asked to submit their emission reduction targets by 23rd September, 2022.
- It is aimed to **support member countries to effectively deliver their commitments under the three Rio conventions** — [UN Convention on Biological Diversity](#), [UN Convention to Combat Desertification \(UNCCD\)](#) and [UN Framework Convention on Climate Change](#).

What are the Highlights of the CHOGM 2022?

- The Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting is **a biennial summit** meeting of the heads of government from all Commonwealth nations.

- CHOGM2022 was **taken place in Rwanda, with theme:** 'Delivering a Common Future: Connecting, Innovating, Transforming.'
- It has raised **more than USD 4 billion in pledges for the battle against [malaria](#) and other [tropical diseases](#).**
- There have been 24 CHOGMs since 1971, with the most recent one taking place in the United Kingdom (UK) in 2018.

What is the Commonwealth?

- It is an **international intergovernmental organization of countries** that were mostly former **territories of the British Empire** and dependencies.
- It was established by the **London Declaration in 1949.**
- **Queen Elizabeth II is the head** of the Commonwealth.
- Many countries from Africa, Asia, Americas, Europe and the Pacific have joined the commonwealth.
- The **current membership includes 56 Countries.** The membership is based on free and equal voluntary co-operation.
 - The two African countries, **Gabon and Togo, were admitted to the Commonwealth of Nations, as its 55th and 56th members,** respectively, at the CHOGM 2022.
- It is **Headquartered in London.**

Source: DTE

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