



Desertification



What is it?

It is the process by which natural or human causes reduce the biological productivity of drylands.

Causes for Desertification

- ❑ **Man Made Causes:**
 - Overgrazing
 - Deforestation
 - Farming Practices
 - Urbanization and other types of land development
 - Climate Change
 - Stripping the land of resources
 - Overexploitation of Resources
 - Overpopulation
- ❑ **Natural Causes:**
 - Natural Disasters
 - Water erosion
 - Wind Erosion
 - Climate Variations

Impacts of Desertification

- ❑ **Environmental Impacts:**
 - Destruction of Vegetation
 - Soil infertility
 - Increased Soil erosion
 - Increased vulnerability to natural disasters
 - Land Degradation
 - Water Pollution
 - Extinction of Species
 - Loss of Biodiversity
- ❑ **Economical Impacts:**
 - Increased occurrences of Natural Hazards like,
 - Floods
 - Landslides
 - Draughts
 - Threatens Agricultural productivity
 - Repercussive impacts increases Poverty
 - Overall productivity of the economy decreases
- ❑ **Social Impacts:**
 - Rise of famine, poverty, social conflicts
 - Forces mass migrations i.e. Environmental Migration
 - Food Security Issues
- ❑ **Political Impacts:**
 - Repercussive impacts also arises political instability

Desertification

Status of Desertification of India

- ❑ 29% of India's area is undergoing degradation.
- ❑ Currently degraded land constitutes almost 32% of India's areas.
- ❑ More than 80% of the country's degraded land are in nine states.

Measures Taken by India to Curb Desertification

- ❑ Command Area Development (1974)
- ❑ Integrated Watershed Management Programme (1989-90)
- ❑ Desert Development Programme (1995)
- ❑ Signatory to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) in 1994 and ratified in 1996
- ❑ Soil Conservation in the Catchment of River Valley Projects and Flood Prone Rivers (2000)
- ❑ National Afforestation Programme (2000)
- ❑ National Action Programme to combat desertification (2001)
- ❑ Fodder and Feed Development Scheme (2010)
- ❑ National Mission on Green India (2014)
- ❑ Desertification and Land Degradation Atlas of India, 2016 (released by ISRO)

Global Efforts to Prevent Desertification

- ❑ The Bonn Challenge
- ❑ Goal 15 of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), 2030
- ❑ United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)
- ❑ The World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought observed every year on 17th June
- ❑ Great Green Wall

Steps To Be Taken

- ❑ Sustainable Land Use
- ❑ Protection of vegetative cover which would prevent soil erosion
- ❑ Alternative Farming and Industrial Techniques
- ❑ Establish economic opportunities outside drylands
- ❑ Practice of Sustainable Agriculture
- ❑ Practice of Eco Forestry
- ❑ Use of recycled paper
- ❑ Raise awareness about Desertification

Way Forward

- ❑ Collective responsibility
- ❑ Balance between Environment and Development



PDF Refernece URL: <https://www.drishtias.com/printpdf/desertification-mind-map>

