



LEAF Coalition

Why in News

LEAF (Lowering Emissions by Accelerating Forest Finance) Coalition was announced at the [Leaders Summit on Climate, 2021](#).

- LEAF coalition will be one of the largest ever **public-private efforts to protect [tropical forests](#)** and **intend to mobilize at least USD 1 billion in financing** to countries committed to protecting their tropical forests.

Key Points

▪ About LEAF Coalition:

- It is **a collective of the governments of the USA, United Kingdom and Norway**.
- As it is a public-private effort, thus **also supported by transnational corporations (TNCs)** like Unilever plc, Amazon.com, Nestle, Airbnb etc.
- A country willing to participate would need to fulfil certain predetermined conditions laid down by the Coalition.

▪ Financial Support:

- The **results-based financing model** will be used in LEAF.
- The model **weighs on work by the Environmental Defense Fund** over two decades, in collaboration with Indigenous communities, forest peoples, Brazilian and US NGOs, and other partners, to protect the Amazon and tropical forests globally.
- Performance will be measured against the **TREES Standard (The REDD+ Environmental Excellence Standard)**

▪ Significance:

- **Platform for Private Leadership:** The goal of [net zero emissions](#) cannot be reached without bold leadership from the private sector and commitment to leverage its scale, investment capacity and political power to build a more sustainable, resilient and equitable future.
- **Increases Carbon Sink:** Tropical forests are massive carbon sinks and by investing in their protection, public and private players are likely to stock up on their [carbon credits](#).
 - It will help in achieving [Nationally Determined Contributions \(NDCs\)](#) under the [Paris Agreement](#).
- **Achieve REDD+ Objectives:** It is a step towards concretising the aims and objectives of the [Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation \(REDD+\) mechanism](#).
- **Solve Development versus Ecological Commitment:** Such a financial impetus is crucial as it incentivises developing countries **to capture extensive deforestation and provide livelihood opportunities** to forest-dependent populations.
- **Complements Other Global Goals:** Ending tropical and subtropical forest loss by 2030 is vital to achieving global climate, [biodiversity](#) and [sustainable development goals](#) as well as sustaining the well-being and cultures of Indigenous peoples and other forest communities.

Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation

- REDD+ aims to achieve climate change mitigation by incentivizing forest conservation.
 - It monetises the value of carbon locked up in the tropical forests of most developing countries, thereby propelling these countries to help mitigate climate change.
- REDD+ was created by the [United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change \(UNFCCC\)](#).

Tropical Forest

- Tropical forests are **closed canopy forests growing within 28 degrees north or south of the equator**.
- They are **very wet places**, receiving **more than 200 cm rainfall** per year, either seasonally or throughout the year.
- **Temperatures are uniformly high** - between 20°C and 35°C.
- Such forests are **found in Asia, Australia, Africa, South America, Central America, Mexico** and on many of the Pacific Islands.

Scenario in India

- India's **total forests is 24.56% of the geographical** area of the country.
- Observations made by the [Global Forest Watch](#):
 - India **lost nearly 38.5 thousand hectares (Kha) of tropical forest between 2019 and 2020** making up nearly 14% loss of its tree cover.
 - Meanwhile, the total tropical forest area in India fell by 0.38%.
 - Also, **a 0.67% decrease in tree cover** has also been recorded across the country in the same period.
 - **Mizoram has witnessed the biggest decline** in forest area with a loss of 47.2 Kha , followed by Manipur, Assam, Meghalaya and Nagaland.
- **Conservation Steps Taken:**
 - **Indian Forest Policy, 1952:** It became conscious about the need to increase the forest cover to one-third of the total land area.
 - **National Forest Policy, 1988:** The ultimate objective of the National Forest policy was to maintain environmental stability and ecological balance through conservation of forests as a natural heritage.
 - The National Forest Policy in 1988 made a very significant and categorical shift from commercial concerns to focus on the ecological role of the forests and participatory management.
 - **Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority, (CAMPA Funds):** For every time forest land is diverted for non-forest purposes such as mining or industry, the user agency pays for planting forests over an equal area of non-forest land, or when such land is not available, twice the area of degraded forest land.
 - **Some Legislations that Govern Indian Forests:**
 - [Indian Forest Act 1927](#)
 - [Compensatory Afforestation Fund Act 2016](#)
 - [Forest Conservation Act 1980](#)
 - [Forest Rights Act 2006](#)
 - [Wildlife Protection Act 1972](#)

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