

**20– 12 – 2022**

**News:** COP-15 summit adopts historic biodiversity deal

## **Kunming Declaration on Biodiversity**

- Kunming Declaration on Biodiversity was **adopted at the 15<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in China.**
- The adoption of the declaration will **create momentum for a new global biodiversity pact.**
- In a previous agreement, Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 (simply, Aichi Targets), signed in Aichi, Japan, in 2010, governments agreed on 20 targets to try to slow biodiversity loss and protect habitats by 2020.
- The Kunming **Declaration calls for urgent and integrated action to reflect biodiversity considerations in all sectors of the global economy**, but crucial issues like funding conservation in poorer countries and committing to biodiversity friendly supply chains have been left to discuss later.
- It is **not a binding international agreement.**

- It calls upon the parties to mainstream biodiversity protection in decision making and recognise the importance of conservation in protecting human health.
- The theme of the declaration is **Ecological Civilization: Building a Shared Future for All Life on Earth**.
- By adopting this, the nations have committed themselves to support the development, adoption and implementation of an effective post-2020 implementation plan, a capacity building action plan for the Cartagena Protocol on biosafety.
- The **Protocol seeks to protect biological diversity from the potential risks posed by living modified organisms resulting from modern biotechnology**.
- As per the declaration **the signatory nations will ensure that the post-pandemic recovery policies, programmes and plans contribute to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, promoting sustainable and inclusive development**.

### **30 by 30 Targets**

- The declaration made a reference to the '30 by 30' target which is a key proposal being debated at the COP15, that **would afford 30% of the Earth's land and oceans protected status by 2030**.

- Delegates committed to protecting 30% of land and 30% of coastal and marine areas by 2030, fulfilling the deal's highest-profile goal, known as 30-by-30. Indigenous and traditional territories will also count toward this goal, as many countries and campaigners pushed for during the talks.
- The deal also aspires to restore 30% of degraded lands and waters throughout the decade, up from an earlier aim of 20%.
- And the world will strive to prevent destroying intact landscapes and areas with a lot of species, bringing those losses "close to zero by 2030".
- Signatories aim to ensure \$200 billion per year is channelled to conservation initiatives, from public and private sources.
- Wealthier countries should contribute at least \$20 billion of this every year by 2025, and at least \$30 billion a year by 2030.
- This appeared to be the Democratic Republic of Congo's main source of objection to the package.
- Companies should analyse and report how their operations affect and are affected by biodiversity issues. The parties agreed to large companies and financial institutions being subject to "requirements" to make disclosures regarding their operations, supply chains and portfolios.
- Apart from this, the goal to halve the use of chemicals in agriculture and stop creating plastic waste is also being debated.

## **Kunming Biodiversity Fund**

- China has also pledged to inject USD 233 million into a new fund to protect biodiversity in developing countries. The fund is being referred to by China as Kunming Biodiversity Fund.
- It is the right step in this direction. However, some countries have reservations regarding this fund.
- Some countries have called this fund as “a drop in the bucket” given that China is the world’s biggest polluter.
- Further, some rich country donors say a new fund for conservation is unnecessary because the United Nations’ Global Environment Facility already helps developing nations finance green projects.

## **Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)**

- Convention on Biological Diversity is a binding document formed as a result of Earth Summit, 1992. It came to effect from 29<sup>th</sup> December 1993 (at the ratification of 30 states).
- Aim of the convention is the conservation of biological diversity (or biodiversity); the sustainable use of its components; and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from genetic resources.
- The secretariat of CBD is situated in Montreal, Canada.

- CoP to CBD was done once in every year till 2000 now it's done once in every 2 years.
- The COP is assisted by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical, and Technological Advice (SBSTTA), which is made up of government representatives with expertise in relevant fields, as well as observers from non-Party governments, the scientific community, and other relevant organizations.
- SBSTTA is responsible for providing recommendations to the COP on the technical aspects of the implementation of the Convention.
- Global Biodiversity Outlook (GBO) is the flagship publication of the Convention on Biological Diversity. It is a periodic report that summarizes the latest data on the status and trends of biodiversity and draws conclusions relevant to the further implementation of the Convention.
- The Natural Capital Accounting and Valuation of the Ecosystem Services (NCAVES) Project funded by EU, has been jointly implemented by the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Secretariat of the Convention of Biological Diversity (CBD).
- CBD has adopted Living Planet Index as an indicator of progress towards its 2011-2020 targets to conserve biodiversity. Living Planet Index and Living

Planet report is a biennial report published by World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF).

## **Natural Capital Accounting and Valuation of the Ecosystem Services (NCAVES)**

- The Natural Capital Accounting and Valuation of the Ecosystem Services (NCAVES) Project funded by EU, has been jointly implemented by the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Secretariat of the Convention of Biological Diversity (CBD).
- India is one of the five countries taking part in this project - the other countries being Brazil, China, South Africa and Mexico.

The project funded by the European Union through its Partnership Instrument (PI), aims to:

- Improving the measurement of ecosystems and their services (both in physical and monetary terms) at the (sub) national level.
- Mainstreaming biodiversity and ecosystems at (sub) national level policy planning and implementation.

- **Contribute to the development of internationally agreed methodology** and its use in partner countries.
- In India, the NCAVES project is being implemented by the **MoSPI in close collaboration with the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) and the National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC)**.
- MoSPI has coordinated with all the stakeholders through a consultative process by setting in place a mechanism for linking the diverse stakeholders concerned – namely producers and the policymakers using the environmental accounts.
- The participation in the project has helped MOSPI commence the compilation of the Environment Accounts as per the UN-SEEA framework and release environmental accounts in its publication “**EnviStats India**” on an annual basis since 2018. Several of these accounts are closely related to the social and economic attributes, making them a useful tool for the Policy.
- Natural Capital Accounting (NCA) is an umbrella term covering efforts to make use of an accounting framework to provide a systematic way to measure and report on stocks and flows of natural capital. Natural capital is another term for the stock of renewable and non-renewable resources that combine to yield a flow of benefits to people. NCA covers accounting for individual environmental assets or resources, both biotic and abiotic (such as water, minerals, energy,

timber, fish), as well as accounting for ecosystem assets (e.g. forests; wetlands), biodiversity and ecosystem services, in both physical and monetary terms.