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News: UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)

- Recently, the **UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)** has announced the launch of its first-ever Data Dashboard, which shows that **Land Degradation** is advancing at an astonishing rate across all regions.
- It compiled national reporting figures from 126 countries to provide a comprehensive overview of the Land Degradation situation globally.
- The **21st** session of the UNCCD will take place in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, in **November 2023**.
- This session will focus on reviewing global progress towards achieving **Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN)** and addressing related issues.

Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN)

- Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) is a **simple idea and a powerful tool**, means to secure enough healthy and productive natural resources by avoiding Degradation whenever possible and restoring land that has already been degraded.
- At its core are **better land management practices and better land-use planning** that will improve economic, social, and ecological sustainability for present and future generations.

- LDN provides significant benefits in terms of mitigation and adaptation to climate change. Halting and reversing land degradation can transform the land from being a source of Greenhouse Gas Emissions (GHG) to a carbon sink, by increasing carbon stocks in soils and vegetation.

United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)

- United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) is a legally binding environment convention that links development and environment to sustainable land management established in 1994.
- UNCCD has its secretariat in Bonn, Germany.
- The UNCCD addresses particularly the arid, semi-arid & dry sub-humid areas, called drylands, where some of the most vulnerable ecosystems and peoples are found.
- Aim of UNCCD is to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought through national action programs that incorporate long-term strategies supported by international cooperation and partnership arrangements.
- Desertification is a type of land degradation in dry lands in which biological productivity is lost due to natural processes or induced by human activities whereby fertile areas become increasingly more arid.

- It is the spread of arid areas caused by a variety of factors, such as through climate change (particularly the current global warming) and through the overexploitation of soil through human activity.)
- To help publicize the Convention, 2006 was declared "**International Year of Deserts and Desertification**".
- CoP to the UNCCD was done once in every years from 1997-2001. Now it's done **once in every 2 years**.
- CoP 14 was held between 02/09/2019 and 13/09/2019 at New Delhi which led to the adoption of New Delhi declaration.
- CoP 15 was held on 2022 at Cote d'Ivoire (Western Africa) with the theme: "**Land. Life. Legacy: From scarcity to prosperity**".
- **Global Land Outlook (GLO)** is published by UNCCD. The **first edition of GLO was published at CoP 14 (New Delhi)**. The Global Land Outlook (GLO), the **UNCCD flagship publication, underscores land system challenges, showcases transformative policies and practices, and points to cost-effective pathways to scale up sustainable land and water management.**