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- News: Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework
- A recent symposium organised by the University of Arizona highlighted concerns about the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) and its potential impact, particularly on India's indigenous tribes.

Kunming Declaration on Biodiversity

- Kunming Declaration on Biodiversity was **adopted at the 15th 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.**

30y 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.