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Kunming Declaration on Biodiversity

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Why in News

Recently, the **Kunming Declaration** was adopted by over 100 countries at the ongoing **15th Conference of the Parties** to the **United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity** 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**, signed in Aichi, Japan, in 2010, governments agreed on **20 targets to try to slow biodiversity loss and protect habitats by 2020.**

Key Points

- **About**

- It 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 Target**

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**.

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.

- **Global Initiatives to Save Biodiversity**

- **Convention on Biological Diversity**

- It is a **legally binding treaty to conserve biodiversity** that has been in force since 1993.

- India is a party to the convention.

- **Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora:**

- It provides public, private and **non-governmental organisations** with the knowledge and **tools that enable human progress, economic development and nature conservation** to take place together.

- India is a member of the convention.

- **World Wide Fund for Nature**

- It is an international non-governmental organisation for the conservation, research and restoration of the natural environment..

- **Global Biodiversity Assessment**

- It is an independent, critical, peer reviewed scientific analysis of the current issues, theories and views regarding the main aspects of biodiversity.

- **Man and the Biosphere Program**

- It was **launched in 1970** and has initiated **programmes and activities focusing on the diversity and the resources provided by nature, humans' impacts on biodiversity**, as well as how biodiversity affects human activities.

Climate Financing

- **About**

- Climate finance refers to **local, national or transnational financing**—drawn from public, private and alternative sources of financing—that seeks to **support mitigation and adaptation actions** that will address **climate change**.

- **Some Global Climate Funds**

- **Green Climate Fund (GCF)**

It was established to limit or reduce **Greenhouse Gas (GHG)** emissions in developing countries and to help vulnerable societies adapt to the unavoidable impacts of climate change.

- **Adaptation Fund (AF)**

It was established under the **Kyoto Protocol** in 2001 and has committed USD 532 million to climate adaptation and resilience activities.

- **Global Environment Fund (GEF)**

- GEF has served as an operating entity of the financial mechanism since the Convention came into force in 1994.

- It is a **private equity fund focused on seeking long term financial returns** by investments in clean energy under climate change.

- **Additional Funds:** In addition to providing guidance to the GEF and the GCF, parties have established two special funds:

- The **Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF)** and the **Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF)**.

- Both funds are managed by the GEF.

Source: DTE