



Severe Climate Disasters of 2022 and COP27

For Prelims: Climate Disasters, malaria, diarrhoea, cyclones, droughts, heat waves, lightning, floods, landslides

For Mains: Climate Change and its impact, Environmental Pollution & Degradation

Why in News?

While the developing and vulnerable nations continue to demand climate finance at COP27, **it is important to realise that the lives have also been severely affected by global catastrophes, especially in the year 2022.**

How have Past Global Catastrophes Devastated the Planet?

▪ **Pakistan Floods:**

- Pakistan **recorded 62% less than normal rainfall in the month of March, 2022** and the warmest April preceding the monsoon season.
 - Glaciers melted as a result of these heat waves, which led rivers to swell. Access to basic necessities became difficult for 33 million people of Pakistan's 220 million population.
- Extreme rainfall further triggered the most devastating floods from June to September.
 - The flood was the worst in the country's recent history.
 - Over 1,500 people were killed, with millions being displaced and developing serious health issues such as skin infections, [malaria](#) and [diarrhoea](#).

▪ **Hurricane Ian in the US:**

- NASA data revealed that **warm ocean waters in the Gulf of Mexico powered Hurricane Ian in the US towards the end of September, 2022** making it one of the strongest hurricanes to hit the country in recent memory.
 - It **resulted in the loss of 101 lives** and monetary losses of more than USD 100 billion.
 - The disaster was the costliest climate-induced disaster of the year.
- The **escalation brought severe floods**, relentless rains and strong winds to southwestern Florida.

▪ **European Droughts**

- In June and July, 2022, **Europe was hit by two extreme heat waves**, which claimed approximately 16,000 lives.
 - This year's drought is likely to be the worst in 500 years.
- Water levels in Europe's biggest rivers - Rhine, Po, Loire, and Danube - shrunk, and dry conditions continue to prevail in different parts of the continent.

▪ **Spain and Portugal:**

- An atmospheric high-pressure system, which causes dry air to descend over subtropical regions in the Northern Hemisphere during winter and spring seasons, called **Azores high**, has the ability to block wet weather outlets.
- This caused dry conditions in Iberian Peninsula in southwestern Europe, and the

Mediterranean region.

- Spain and Portugal hence faced the driest weather in 1,200 years, along with wildfires.

▪ **Natural Disasters in India:**

- India recorded **natural disasters almost every day in 2022.**
- India recorded **“extreme weather events on 241 of 273 days”** in the first nine months of the year.
 - Thunderstorms, persistent rains, [cyclones](#), [droughts](#), [heat waves](#), [lightning](#), [floods](#) and [landslides](#) occurred all throughout these months.
 - **Himachal Pradesh recorded the highest number of deaths** followed by Assam and Madhya Pradesh.
- Overall, these **disasters claimed about “2,755 lives, affected 1.8 million hectares (ha) of crop area,** destroyed over 416,667 houses and killed close to 70,000 livestock.”

What are the Major Outcomes of the COP27?

▪ **“Loss and Damage” Fund for Vulnerable Countries:**

- The United Nations Climate Change Conference COP27 **signed an agreement to provide [“loss and damage” funding](#) to vulnerable countries.**

▪ **Technology:**

- At COP27, a **new five-year work program was launched to promote climate technology solutions** in developing countries.

▪ **Mitigation:**

- A mitigation work programme was **launched aimed at urgently scaling up mitigation ambition and implementation.**
- The **work programme will start immediately following COP27** and continue until 2030, with at least two global dialogues held each year.
- Governments were also **requested to revisit and strengthen the 2030 targets** in their national climate plans by the end of 2023, as well as accelerate efforts to phase down unabated coal power and phase-out inefficient fossil fuel subsidies.

▪ **Global Stocktake:**

- Delegates at the UN Climate Change Conference COP27 wrapped up the second technical dialogue of the first global stocktake, a mechanism to raise ambition under the [Paris Agreement](#).
- Prior to the conclusion of the stocktake at COP28 next year, the UN Secretary-General will convene a 'climate ambition summit' in 2023.

▪ **Sharm-El-Sheikh Adaptation Agenda:**

- It outlines **30 Adaptation Outcomes to enhance resilience** for 4 billion people living in the most climate vulnerable communities by 2030.

▪ **Action on Water Adaptation and Resilience Initiative (AWARe):**

- It has been launched to reflect the importance of water as both a key climate change problem and a potential solution.

▪ **African Carbon Market Initiative (ACMI):**

- It was launched to support the growth of carbon credit production and create jobs in Africa.

▪ **The Global Renewables Alliance:**

- It brings together, for the first time, **all the technologies required for the energy transition in order to ensure an accelerated energy transition.**
- As well as ensuring targets are met, the Alliance also aims to position renewable energy as a pillar of sustainable development and economic growth.

[Source: TH](#)

