

FAO Committee on Forestry (COFO 28)

Prelims: Current events of national and international importance | Environment

Why in News?

Recently, India highlights progress in forest cover, restoration and climate action at COFO 28.

28th Session of FAO Committee on Forestry (COFO 28)

SHANKAR
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COFO

Committee on Forestry

	Full form	Committee on Forestry
	Organisation	FAO
	Nature	FAO's highest global intergovernmental body on forestry
	Members	128 Members
	Frequency	Meets every 2 years
	COFO 28	28 Sept–2 Oct 2026
	Venue	FAO Headquarters, Rome, Italy
	Role	Global forestry policy dialogue, technical guidance & strategic direction
	Regional mechanism	6 Regional Forestry Commissions
	Special working group	Working Group on Dryland Forests and Agrosilvopastoral Systems



 Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

FAO Headquarters, Rome, Italy

- **Held in** - Rome, Italy, from 28 September-2 October 2026.
- India highlighted its progress in **forest & tree cover, landscape restoration, sustainable forest management and climate action**.
- India also reaffirmed its support for the proposed **United Nations Decade for Afforestation and Reforestation (2027 to 2036)**.

India's Position at COFO 28

India emphasized the following priorities:

- **Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) should be adopted** as an integrated approach to restoration.
- Restoration efforts should account for **national circumstances and the needs of local communities**.
- There is a need for increased **technology transfer and capacity building**.
- **Restoration programmes should deliver measurable outcomes**.
- Sustainable and effective financing mechanisms are particularly important for developing countries.
- Improved access to **climate, biodiversity, and blended finance is essential**.
- Enhanced coordination is required among **FAO forestry initiatives, Global Forest Goals, and other international forest processes**.
- Strengthening **South-South and triangular cooperation remains a priority**.
- Support is expressed for the proposed United Nations **Decade for Afforestation and Reforestation, 2027 to 2036**.

India's Key Forest & Restoration Indicators

	Forest & tree cover	82.74 million ha
	Share of geographical area	25.17%
	Global rank – forest area	9 th
	Global rank – net annual forest area gain	3 rd
	Additional carbon sink created by 2021	2.29 billion tonnes CO ₂ e
	Enhanced carbon-sink target by 2035	3.5–4 billion tonnes CO ₂ e
	Bonn Challenge restoration target	26 million ha by 2030
	Area already under restoration	21.76 million ha
	Ramsar Sites	101
	Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam	>3.5 billion saplings planted



Key Indian Restoration Initiatives

- **Aravalli Green Wall** - Approximately **6.45 million hectares** of degraded land have been identified for restoration.
 - The initiative focuses on restoring degraded landscapes within the **Aravalli region**.
- **MISHTI** - This programme is dedicated to the restoration of mangrove ecosystems.
 - It also aims to enhance **climate resilience** and support **local livelihoods**.
- **Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam - Plant4Mother** - This is a comprehensive tree-planting campaign involving both government and society.
 - **Over 3.5 billion saplings** have been planted under this initiative.
- **Bonn Challenge** - India has committed to restoring **26 million hectares** of degraded and deforested land by **2030**.
 - **To date, 21.76 million hectares** have been brought under restoration.

Climate Action: Key Metrics

- By 2021, India had created an **additional carbon sink of 2.29 billion tonnes of CO₂ equivalent**.
- The enhanced target is to achieve a carbon sink of 3.5 to 4 billion tonnes of CO₂ equivalent by 2035, relative to **2005 levels**.
- Forests and trees are therefore critical to India's **climate commitments and Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) actions**.

Reference

[DD India | COP28](#)

