

State of the World's Forests 2026

Prelims: *Current events of national and international importance| Indices and Reports*

Why in News?

The FAO's State of the World's Forests 2026 report highlighted the growing problem of land and forest degradation.

About the Report

- **Published by** - Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).
- **Titled** - "Restoring Forests and Landscapes: The Way Forward for a Sustainable Future."
- It assesses the global status of forests, land degradation and restoration efforts.

Major Findings

- Global forest area in 2025 was about 4.14 billion hectares, or 32% of the world's land area.
- Around 489 million hectares of forest have been lost due to deforestation since 1990.
- Primary forests declined by about 110 million hectares between 1990 and 2025.
- Naturally regenerating forests declined by 324 million hectares during the same period.
- Asia had about 583 million hectares of degraded land, followed by Africa and South America.
- **Causes of Degradation** -
 - Major causes include climate change, deforestation, agricultural expansion, urbanisation and infrastructure development.
 - Wildfires, soil erosion, overgrazing and unsustainable forest use also contribute to degradation.
- **Forest and Landscape Restoration (FLR)** - FLR aims to restore the ecological, economic and social functions of degraded landscapes.
 - 93 countries and areas were identified as requiring restoration.
- **Global Target** - KMGBF Target 2 aims to place 30% of degraded ecosystems under effective restoration by 2030.
 - About 469 million hectares need restoration to meet this target.



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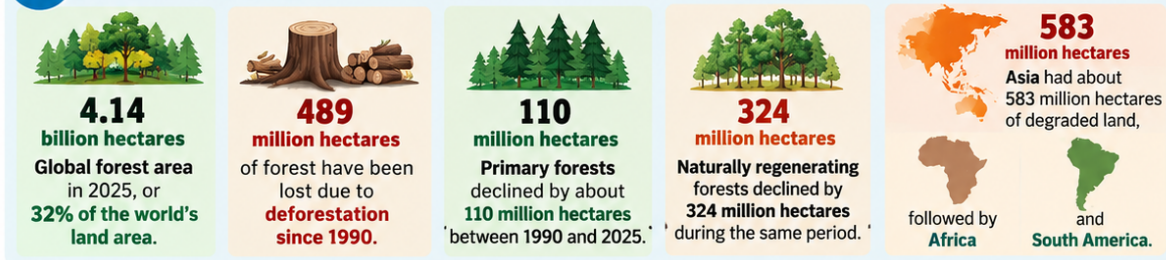
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- Deforestation
- Agricultural expansion
- Urbanisation and infrastructure development
- Wildfires, soil erosion, overgrazing and unsustainable forest use also contribute to degradation.

Forest and Landscape Restoration (FLR)

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Global Target

- Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) Target 2 aims to place 30% of degraded ecosystems under effective restoration by 2030.
- About **469 million hectares** need restoration to meet this target.

30% of degraded ecosystems under restoration by 2030

469 million hectares need restoration

Reference

[Down To Earth| FAO's State of the World's Forests 2026](#)