

Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (UN-REDD)

The United Nations Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (UN-REDD) is a collaborative program of Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) & United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). This article helps one understand Carbon stocks, causes of forest degradation, and major carbon sinks.

Aspirants would find this article very helpful while preparing for the IAS Exam. REDD+ is a voluntary climate mitigation path developed by Parties to the United Nations Framework for Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The primary objective of REDD is to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation. The objective of REDD+ is to conserve forest carbon stocks, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks.

REDD+ was first negotiated under in 2005, with the objective of mitigating climate change through reducing net emissions of greenhouse gases through enhanced forest management in developing countries. Most of the key REDD+ decisions were completed by 2013, with the final pieces of the rulebook finished in 2015.

According to the proponents, REDD+ is an effective, efficient, and equitable mechanism for reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation

What are Carbon Stocks?

Forest carbon stock is the amount of carbon that has been sequestered from the atmosphere and is now stored within the forest ecosystem. This carbon is stored in the above-ground biomass, below-ground biomass, soil, deadwood and litter.

What Causes Forest Degradation?

Deforestation is completely clearing or removing forests in a location may be for agricultural activities. Whereas in forest degradation means forests still exist but it is no longer able to sustain people, wildlife. It will no longer be able to filter the air we breathe, the water we drink or provide animals with food. The reasons behind forest degradation are high temperatures, climate change, forest fires, forests getting infested with pests and diseases.

What are the Major Carbon Sinks?

Carbon sinks are natural systems that suck up and store carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. The major carbon sinks are listed below.

1. Plants
2. Soil
3. Oceans