

Forest landscape restoration

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Why in news?

- India has launched a pilot project to restore degraded forest landscapes in five states under forest landscape restoration (FLR) project.

What is it?

- In the first phase, the pilot project will be conducted in **Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Nagaland and Karnataka.**
- It is **launched in partnership with the IUCN** which aims to enhance the capacity on forest landscape restoration (FLR) by developing and adapting best practices for sustainable land management following protocols to **combat desertification.**
- The project is part of the **Bonn Challenge pledge**, which was **undertaken by India** in 2015, to **restore 13 million hectares of degraded and deforested land by 2020**, and **another 8 million hectares by 2030.**
- This is one of the **highest targets among all Asian countries.**

About Bonn challenge:

- The Bonn Challenge is a **global effort to bring 150 million hectares of the world's deforested and degraded land into restoration by 2020**, and **350 million hectares by 2030.**
- It was **launched in 2011** by the Government of Germany and IUCN.
- It was later **endorsed and extended by** the New York Declaration on Forests at the 2014 UN Climate Summit.
- Underlying the Bonn Challenge is the FLR approach, which aims to restore ecological integrity at the same time as

improving human well-being through multifunctional landscapes.

- The Bonn Challenge is **not a new global commitment but rather a practical means of realizing many existing international commitments**, including the CBD Aichi Target 15, the UNFCCC REDD+ goal, and the Rio+20 land degradation neutrality goal.

About FLR:

- Forest landscape restoration (FLR) is the **ongoing process of regaining ecological functionality and enhancing human well-being across deforested or degraded forest landscapes**.
- FLR aims to **meet present and future needs and to offer multiple benefits** and land uses over time.
- A majority of restoration opportunities are found on or adjacent to agricultural or pastoral land.
- **FLR manifests through different processes such as:** new tree plantings, managed natural regeneration, agroforestry or improved land management to accommodate a mosaic of land uses, including agriculture, protected wildlife reserves, managed plantations, riverside plantings etc...