

# Peru declares 'environmental emergency'

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**In news-** Recently, the Peruvian government on Saturday declared a 90-day "environmental emergency" in damaged coastal territories, after an oil spill that saw 6,000 barrels of crude oil pour into the sea.

## **What is an environmental emergency?**

- It is defined as a "sudden-onset disaster or accident resulting from natural, technological or human-induced factors, or a combination of these, that causes or threatens to cause severe environmental damage as well as loss of human lives and property".
- According to UNEP, Countries facing an environmental emergency, that cause severe environmental damage and threaten human lives and livelihoods, often require technical support and specialized expertise to respond effectively, minimize adverse impacts, and recover rapidly.

## **What is oil spill?**

An oil spill is the **release of a liquid petroleum hydrocarbon into the environment**, especially the marine ecosystem, due to human activity, and is a form of pollution. The term is **usually given to marine oil spills, where oil is released into the ocean or coastal waters**, but **spills may also occur on land**.

## **About Peru-**

- Peru is a country in western South America.
- The name Peru is derived from a Quechua word implying 'land of abundance', a reference to the economic wealth

produced by the rich and highly organized Inca civilization that ruled the region for centuries.

- It is **bordered in the north by Ecuador and Colombia, in the east by Brazil, in the southeast by Bolivia, in the south by Chile, and in the south and west by the Pacific Ocean.**
- It is a megadiverse country with habitats ranging from the arid plains of the Pacific coastal region in the west to the **peaks of the Andes mountains** extending from the north to the southeast of the country to the **tropical Amazon Basin rainforest in the east with the Amazon river.**
- Peru is essentially a tropical country, with its **northern tip nearly touching the Equator.**
- The **cold Peru Current (or Humboldt Current)**, flows along its Pacific shoreline.



- The Tropical rain forests in the eastern part of Amazonia are referred to as the **Selvas.**