

UNEP Colombo declaration

April 4, 2020

Why in news?

Spearheaded by Sri Lanka with support from the UNEP, UN member states endorsed a proposed roadmap for action on nitrogen challenges called the **Colombo Declaration on Sustainable Nitrogen Management**.

About the declaration:

- The declaration **aims to halve nitrogen waste by 2030**.
- Though Nitrogen is a critical element for building structures of living organisms, its **overuse has negative impacts on the planet**, biodiversity and is a **contributor to the climate crisis**, as well as **promoter of eutrophic zones** affecting fishing and tourism industries.
- As part of the Declaration, environment ministers and officials representing the governments of **more than 30 countries** endorsed UN plans for a campaign on sustainable nitrogen management called **“Nitrogen for Life”**.
- This campaign stems from the **Sustainable Nitrogen Management Resolution** which was adopted during the fourth session of the UN Environment Assembly held in March, 2019 at the UNEP headquarters in **Nairobi, Kenya**.
- The Colombo Declaration has been **developed with the technical support of the International Nitrogen Management System (INMS)**, a joint activity of the UNEP and the International Nitrogen Initiative supported by the Global Environment Facility.
- It **provides \$100 billion opportunity to mobilize innovation for the nitrogen circular economy**, while contributing to the environment, health and livelihoods.
- It further urges countries to conduct a comprehensive assessment on nitrogen cycling covering policy, implementation, regulation and scientific aspects at a

national level.

- This is the first time governments have agreed to work together on a major quantitative global goal for improved nitrogen management.