

Belem Declaration

By IASToppers | 2023-08-11 15:55:00



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The **Belem Declaration** was recently released during the **Amazon Summit**.



[ref-the print]

About the Amazon rainforest:

- The Amazon rainforest is a **moist broadleaf tropical rainforest** in the **Amazon** biome that covers most of the **Amazon basin** of **South America**.
- It is also called **Amazon jungle** or **Amazonia**.
- Found in **nine nations** with **decreasing percentage of coverage**- Brazil, Peru, Colombia, Bolivia, Ecuador, French Guiana, Guyana, Suriname, and Venezuela.

Significance of the Amazon rainforest:

- It represents over **half** of the Earth's **remaining rainforests**.
- It comprises the **largest** and **most biodiverse tract** of **tropical rainforest** in the world.
- It has the largest collection of **living plants** and **animal species** in the world.
- **One in ten** known species in the world lives in the **Amazon rainforest**.
- **One in five** of all **bird species** are found in the **Amazon rainforest**.
- **One in five** of the **fish species** live in Amazonian rivers and streams.
- It constitutes the **largest collection** of **living plants** and **animal species** in the world.

About the Belem Declaration:

- The Belem Declaration recognises **indigenous knowledge** as a condition for **biodiversity conservation**.
- It calls for ensuring full and effective participation of **indigenous people** in **decision-making** and **public policy formulation** processes.
- It created an **alliance** for combatting **forest** destruction, in which countries can pursue their

individual deforestation goals.

- Countries have also agreed to cooperate on **water** management, **health** and to have a common **negotiating positions** at **climate summits**, and **sustainable development**.
- The declaration had additionally established a **science body** to meet **annually** and produce authoritative reports on **science** related to the **Amazon rainforest**.
 - This will be akin to the **United Nations' International Panel on Climate Change**.

About the Amazon Summit:

- **Participant eight countries:** Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Suriname and Venezuela.
- It is organised by the **Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO)**.

Key highlights of the summit:

- The leaders had focused on “**initiating a dialogue**” on the sustainability of **mining** and **fossil fuel-related activities**
 - But there was **no** commitment to **stop oil drilling** in the region.
- The countries have failed to **agree** on the goal to protect the Amazon **rainforest**.
- **Colombia** had proposed that **80%** of the **Amazon** should be protected from **deforestation** and **degradation** by **2025**.
 - This was **not** supported by all the members.
- It did **not** fix a **deadline** on ending **illegal gold mining**, even after the countries have agreed to cooperate on the issue.
- It also did **not** include **shared commitments** to **zero deforestation** by **2030**.
- Brazil's “**Amazon fund**” could be expanded to cover the entire **region**.
- A **working group** will be established to discuss **financial needs** and **efforts** needed to **mobilise resources**.

Why protection of Amazon Basin is necessary at this point?

- Scientists have warned that if the **combined deforestation** and **degradation** of the Amazon crosses a **20-25% of threshold**, the forest could reach at an **irreversible tipping point** that may result in the **dieback** of the **entire ecosystem**.
- The failure of consensus on **protected areas** could have implications on the overall **goals** set under the **Global Biodiversity Framework**.
 - Under the **Global Biodiversity Framework** member countries had agreed to protect at least **30%** of **land** and **sea** by **2030**.
 - The framework had emphasised on the greater role of **biodiversity** rich countries, such as those in the **Amazon region**.
 - Global Biodiversity Framework was set by **United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity** in **2022**.

About the Amazon Fund:

- The Amazon Fund is a **mechanism** that aims to reduce **emissions** from **deforestation** and **forest**

degradation.

- It supports conservation, sustainable management, and **enhancement of forest carbon stocks (REDD+)** and forests of the **Amazon Biome**.
- It was created to raise **contributions** so that **investments** can be made to **prevent, monitor** and **combat deforestation**.
- The Amazon Fund is a **private fund**, created by the **government** and **managed** by a **public bank**.
 - **Managed by:** The Brazilian Development Bank
- It was established in **2009**.
- The Fund has supported over **100 projects**.

Other key facts:

- Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO) is an international organisation that aims to promote **sustainable development** of the **Amazon Basin**.
- At the **Global Environment Facility (GEF) Council** available funds were allocated for different areas of GEF's work.
 - GEF is responsible for **finding funds** for the implementation of **GBF**.
 - GEF will also finalise the working of the **Global Biodiversity Framework Fund**.