

Global Resources Outlook 2024

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Environment, Ecology & Disaster Management

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United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) released Global Resources Outlook 2024 report titled, 'Bend the trend: Pathways to a liveable planet as resource use spikes'.



[Ref: DTE]

About the Report:

- The "Global Resources Outlook 2024" report by UNEP focuses on the importance of resource management in tackling the triple planetary crisis: **climate change, pollution, and biodiversity loss**.
- It highlights how the global production and consumption of resources have increased more than three times over the **last 50 years**.
- It underscores the significant **role of upper-income countries** in driving the demand for resources.
- It points out the **critical impacts of resource extraction and processing on GHG emissions, particulate matter pollution, biodiversity loss, and water stress**.
- Its forecasts suggest resource exploitation could surge by almost **60% from 2020 levels by 2060**.

Key Highlights of the Report:

- The report shows a vast global inequality, with low-income countries consuming six times less material than wealthy countries but causing ten times less climate impact.
- It notes a more than threefold increase in global resource production and consumption over the **last 50 years**, growing at an average of more than **2.3%** annually, significantly contributing to the **triple planetary crisis**.
- Mainly driven by upper-income countries, over **55%** of GHG emissions and **40%** of particulate matter pollution come from the extraction and processing of resources like fossil fuels, minerals, and biomass.
- Additionally, **90%** of land-related biodiversity loss and water stress, plus a third of GHG emissions, are linked to the agriculture and forestry sectors.
- Fossil fuels, metals, and non-metallic minerals (**e.g., sand, gravel, clay**) contribute to **35% of global emissions**.
- The report warns that resource exploitation could surge by **nearly 60% by 2060**, increasing from **100 to 160 billion tonnes**, underscoring the urgent need for sustainable resource management.

