

## The Three Basins Summit

By IASToppers | 2023-10-27 15:40:00



### The Three Basins Summit

**Summit of the Three Basins** congregate in Brazzaville, Republic of Congo to strengthen South-South governance for **three ecosystems** (Amazon, Congo, Borneo-Mekong and Southeast Asia).



[ref- downtoearth]

### **About The Three Basins Summit:**

- The Three Basins Summit will bring together leaders from the **Amazon, Congo and Borneo-Mekong-Southeast Asia regions** to form a global coalition.
- The **first Summit** of the Three Tropical Forest Basins was held in **Brazzaville in 2011** and resulted in the **Declaration of the Summit** of the Three Tropical Forest Basins, which recognised the need to establish a platform to **promote cooperation** among the countries of the three basins.

### **Congo Basin:**

- The Congo Basin represents the **second largest tropical forest** in the world in terms of area, after the Amazon Basin.
- It extends over **6 countries in Central Africa**: The Republic of Congo, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Gabon, and Equatorial Guinea, representing 6% of the world's forest area.
- It plays a crucial role in the **stability of the global climate**, with its forest cover and peatlands sequestering the equivalent of 10 years of global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

### **The Amazon Basin:**

- The Amazon Basin is the **largest tropical forest on the planet**, crossed by the **world's largest river** in terms of volume and the second longest, the Amazon River.
- It extends over **9 countries in South America**, including Brazil, representing 60% of the Amazon rainforest, Peru, Ecuador, Colombia, Venezuela, Bolivia, French Guiana, Suriname, and the Republic of Guyana.
- It **contains 550 million** hectares of dense forests, one third of the remaining tropical rainforests on

the planet, with nearly 390 billion trees representing 13% of the world's trees.

### The Borneo Mekong Southeast Asia basin:

- It the world's **third largest carbon sink**, is composed of two sub-regions, the island of Borneo and the Mekong River.
- The **Mekong River** is one of the largest rivers in the world, **crossing 6 countries**: China, Myanmar, Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, and Vietnam, which share the natural resources and land surrounding it.
- **Borneo**, the **fourth largest island in the world**, is divided between **Brunei, Malaysia, and Indonesia**.
- It **represents only 1% of the world's land**, but holds about **6% of the world's biodiversity** in its tropical forests, which are the habitat of local populations and indigenous peoples who depend on them for their food and clean water supply.

### Significance of these Regions:

- These regions alone account for **80% of the world's tropical forests** and **two-thirds of terrestrial biodiversity**, playing an essential role in **regulating the carbon balance**.
- **Tropical forest nations** play a central role in **combating tropical deforestation** and **shaping global climate and biodiversity governance**.

### Purpose of the Summit:

- The purpose of the Summit is to implement, within the framework of **the United Nations Decade for Ecosystem Restoration**, the **first global coalition** to restore 350 million hectares of **terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems**.
  - The **UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration**, running from 2021 until 2030 urges global action to safeguard and restore ecosystems.

### South-South Cooperation and Alternative Governance:

- The Three Basins Summit represents an opportunity to **strengthen South-South cooperation** and build an **alternative governance pathway**.

### Challenges faced by these basins:

- These basins are seeing **extensive forest loss** and are moving towards a **systemic ecosystem breakdown** that affects global climate stability, biodiversity and the **livelihoods of millions of indigenous peoples** and local communities.
- Nearly 20% of intact tropical forests in the three basins are now in active and potential oil and **gas concessions** and nearly 25% in the **Amazon and Congo** basins are now in active or potential **mining concessions**.
- In **Indonesia**, 50% all **nickel concessions** overlap with natural forests and a fivefold risk of deforestation / degradation is possible if nickel mining permits expand to cover the full deposit area.
- In Southeast Asia, nearly 20% of **undisturbed Tropical Moist Forests** are in oil and gas blocks

designated for production or exploration.