

## COP 14 IN NEW DELHI, INDIA: WHAT THE UN CONFERENCE ON DESERTIFICATION ALL ABOUT?

Land degradation combined with climate change and biodiversity loss in the next few years will force around 700 million people to migrate by 2050. The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), a legally binding international agreement linking environment and development to sustainable land management specifically seeks to address this linkage in the most vulnerable ecosystems of drylands. UNCCD COP (Conference of Parties) 14 that was ended on September 13th, 2019 in New Delhi aimed to discuss reversing land degradation and unlocking opportunities for people and ecosystems. After 10 days of meetings, 11 high levels, 30 committees and over 170 stakeholder meetings, UNCCD COP 14 agreed on 36 decisions to ramp up actions to achieve the Convention's goals for 2018-2030.



## COP14 DELHI DECLARATION ADOPTED STRESSES ON LAND-BASED SOLUTIONS FOR CLIMATE ACTION

The COP 14 Delhi Declaration adopted by over 190 countries during the UNCCD COP 14 stressed on the need for land based solutions for climate action and biodiversity in order to achieve the global targets of the Paris Agreement. An atlas published by the Indian Space Research Organisation's Space Application Centre (SAC) shows that around 96.10 million ha or around 30% of India's total area is undergoing degradation. India has pledged to restore 26 million hectares of degraded land by 2030 - an increase of 5 million hectares over the existing pledge to restore 21 million hectares.



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## THE UNCCD: DROUGHT TOOL BOX

As requested in the COP 13, a tool box has been designed to provide stakeholders working on drought with easy access to tools, case studies and other resources to support the design of National Drought Policy Plan as a part of the Drought Initiative. The Drought Policy Plan aims to boost the resilience of people and ecosystems to drought. The toolbox is organised in three modules- Drought Monitoring and Early Warning; Drought Vulnerability and Risk Assessment; and Drought Risk Mitigation Measures.



## READINGS: BRIEF ON LAND DEGRADATION, POVERTY AND INEQUALITY

This brief developed by gathering evidence from over 800 sub-national regions show that areas with the highest proportion of degraded land are also home for the most disadvantaged people in terms of poverty and inequality and hence making the case for investing in Land Degradation Neutrality (Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Target 15.3) for countries to alleviate their current situation or poverty.

