

Three Basins Summit A Critical Moment For Forests

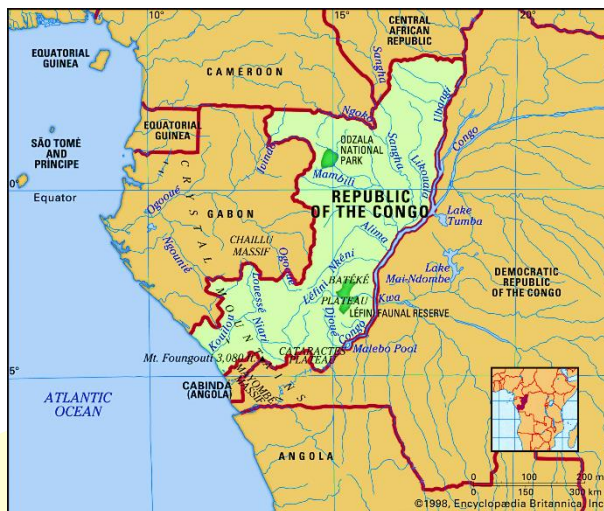
Why In News

- Indigenous and civil society organisations have called on world leaders gathering at the Summit of the Three Basins from October 26 to 28, 2023, in **Brazzaville, Republic of the Congo**, to commit to protecting tropical forests in these critical basins and to scale up rights-based legal protections.
- **WWF welcomes the efforts** of the countries to unite for nature and people. This alliance is critical to drive urgent action needed to deliver a future with more thriving forests that benefit humanity and our planet.
- 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).
- The planet's largest tropical forest basins, the Amazon and Congo, face tipping points that risk abrupt loss of the forest, and could threaten the income, food security and social structure livelihoods of the already vulnerable communities who depend on them and lead to global climate impacts.



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.



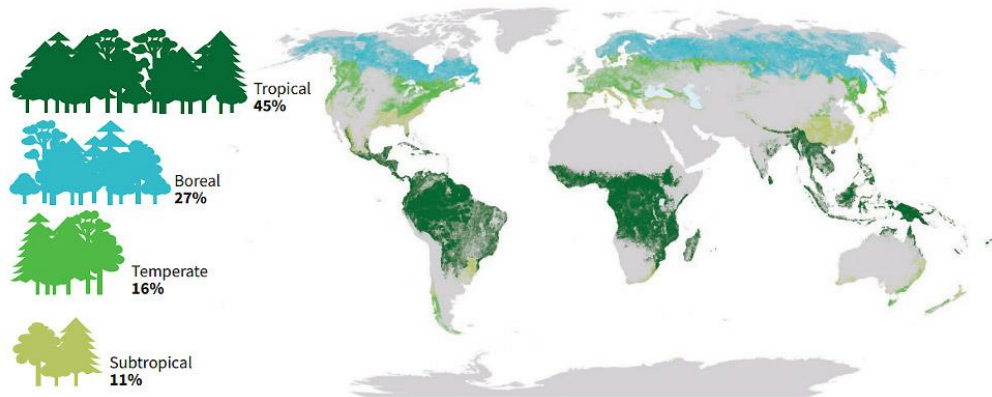
Significance of the Regions:

- 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.
- 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.

The Tropical Forest Tipping Point

Press briefing on fossil fuel and extractive threats to forests and climate in advance of the Summit of the Three Basins

October 24th

- 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.

UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration

- The **2021-2030 Decade**, Proclaimed By The United Nations For Ecosystem Restoration, Calls For Global Mobilization In The Face Of The Environmental And Climate Emergency That Threatens Our Precious Planet.
- To Preserve The 350 Million Hectares Of Tropical Forests, Which Represent A Colossal Investment Of 1 Trillion Dollars According To United Nations Experts' Estimates.

