

GS-III: Conservation, environmental pollution and Degradation, Environmental Impact Assessment.

1. What do you understand by the term desertification? Discuss the various steps taken by UNCCD to combat desertification along with the causes and concerns posed by it.

Why this Question:

IPCC released a special report, "Climate Change and Land: an IPCC special report on climate change, desertification, land degradation, sustainable land management, food security, and greenhouse gas fluxes in terrestrial ecosystems".

Key demand of the Question:

One has to discuss in detail the concept of Desertification, causes and the concerns posed by it and then evaluate the role played by UNCCD in addressing these concerns so far.

Directive:

It is the most frequently asked term and it means you write anything what you want. You write whatever you know but most important thing is write as if you are talking to the examiner. It is mostly used in framing questions and you can include different opinion into that picture.

Structure of the Answer:

Introduction:

Write what is meant by desertification. Then write why it has been in news recently.

(Desertification according to United Nations: Desertification is the degradation of land in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas. Desertification does not refer to the expansion of existing deserts.)

Body:

Discussion should include the following:

- ✚ Write about the various causes (both natural and manmade) behind the process of desertification.
- ✚ Write the various concerns posed by the expansion of desertification to the environment and mankind.

- ✚ Write about UNCCD and its background.
- ✚ Write down the various steps taken by UNCCD along with various governments in combating desertification.

Conclusion:

Conclude with way forward and various suggestions that could be incorporated in combating the environmental degradation.

