



World Environment Day 2024 :
Land restoration, desertification and drought resilience

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Outline

- History of environment day
- Desertification, its causes and effect
- Drought resilience
- Successful land restoration

History of World Environment Day

World Environment Day's unique history includes many firsts. **Proposed by Sweden in 1968 for a conference on humanity's environmental impact, it unfolded in 1972 after 4 years of planning and \$30 million investment, led by Canadian Maurice Strong.** The 1974 inaugural event with the slogan **"Only One Earth"** marked a new global movement.

In conclusion, World Environment Day annually reminds us of our collective duty to protect the planet, celebrating progress while compelling meaningful actions to preserve nature for future generations.



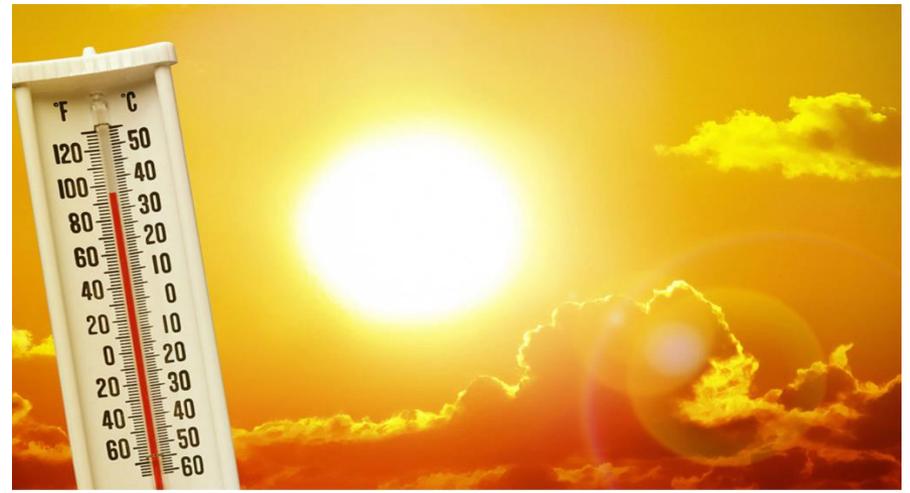
- All over the world, ecosystems are threatened. From forests and dry lands to farmlands and lakes, natural spaces on which humanity's existence depends are reaching a tipping point.
- This is why World Environment Day 2024 focuses on land restoration, halting desertification and building drought resilience under the slogan “***Our Land. Our Future. We are #Generation Restoration.***”
- Successful land restoration requires an approach that uses knowledge, drive and ambition across all generations. Everybody alive now is part of a generation that is the first to witness the devastating effects of environmental degradation and the last to take measures to counter it and be on track to achieving global goals on climate and biodiversity.

- Globally, more than 2 billion hectares of land are degraded – an area nearly the size of India and the Russian Federation combined. Every year, an estimated 12 million hectares of land are lost to degradation, impacting food and water supplies across the globe. 55 million people are directly affected by droughts every year, making it the most serious hazard to livestock and crops in nearly every part of the world.
- . Land degradation affects 3.2 billion people, or 40 per cent of the world's population.. Land degradation could reduce global food productivity by 12 per cent, causing food prices to soar by up to 30 per cent by 2040.
- Climate change and a broken food system exacerbate drought and desertification.
- To counter desertification and land degradation, the world must restore damaged ecosystems.
- World Environment Day is a chance to shine a spotlight on solutions to drought, desertification and land degradation

Last year, temperatures records were shattered. Much of the world felt the impacts, not just in heat but in storms, floods and drought. Restoring land without tackling climate change would be like giving with one hand and taking away with the other.

5th June 2024

World Environment Day on June 5 is a chance to protect the planet. This urgent day reminds us to be good caretakers of nature. This special day inspires us to make changes big and small, from recycling to stopping climate change.



What is desertification?

Desertification is the degradation process by which a fertile land changes itself into a desert by losing its flora and fauna, this can be caused by drought, deforestation, climate change, human activities or improper agriculture. Desertification is a process of degradation of the land. It occurs because of man-made activities and climate change. Desertification occurs when a particular biome type converts into a desert biome.



Desertification Causes

Overgrazing

Deforestation

Farming Practices

Urbanization

development

Climate Change

Stripping the land off resources

Natural Disasters

Effect of desertification

- Farming becomes difficult or even impossible in the area
- Flooding chances are more
- Hunger – because of no farming
- Poor quality of water
- Poverty as a result of the above



Drought resilience

The ability to anticipate, cope with, or recover from drought.

Drought resistant crops, also known as drought-tolerant or water-efficient crops, are varieties that can withstand prolonged periods of water scarcity or limited irrigation. These remarkable crops have been meticulously developed through years of dedicated scientific research and breeding programs.

Examples –Sorghum, SnapBUTTER BEANS, etc

Drought Resistant Crops



Success stories in land restoration

- Sundarbans Mangrove Restoration: Protecting the World's Largest Mangrove Forest (West Bengal, India).
- The Sunderbans (a UNESCO World Heritage Site) straddles India and Bangladesh. It is one of the largest mangrove forests in the world. This initiative is primarily aimed at restoring the mangrove ecosystem.

Here's how they are doing it:

- Planting more Mangroves: They are replanting and protecting mangrove saplings to revive the area's health.
- Tiger and Biodiversity Conservation: They protect the Bengal tiger population and enhance the habitat for other wildlife species.
- Dealing with Climate Change: They are building new infrastructure to safeguard against rising sea levels and extreme weather events.
- Helping local communities: They encourage local residents to engage in sustainable jobs like fishing





What Can We Do?

- Individual actions: reduce water usage, support sustainable products
- Community actions: local restoration projects, awareness campaigns
- Policy advocacy: support for environmental legislation

Thank you