



India needs to double rate of forest cover expansion to achieve Paris Agreement target

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The pledge made by India in the [Paris Agreement 2015](#), to contribute to reducing global climate change is “insufficient”, said a [report](#) released on November 5. It added that for achieving the targetted carbon sink by 2030, India would need to “more than double its current rate of forest cover expansion.”

Under the Paris Agreement, India had committed to creating a cumulative carbon sink of 2.5-3 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent by 2030. Currently, India's forest and tree cover is about 24 percent of its geographical area, according to [India's State of Forest Report 2017](#) and India has repeatedly highlighted that it wants to bring at least 33 percent of its total area under green cover. The draft of India's National Forest Policy 2018 also [mentions](#) that to achieve the national goal for eco-security, the country should have a minimum of one-third of the total land area under forest and tree cover.

The report, ‘Truth Behind the Climate Pledges’, published by the [Universal Ecological Fund](#), a United States of America-based nonprofit research organisation working on issues related to climate change, provided an examination of climate pledges by a panel of experts from the United Kingdom, United States, Argentina and Austria. The experts consisting of climate scientists and representing scientific organisations, ranked the countries based on their commitments to reducing emissions of greenhouse gases and identified weaknesses in the voluntary pledges.

The team analysed the 184 voluntary pledges by countries under the Paris Agreement and assessed that almost 75 percent of the total climate pledges made under the agreement are “inadequate to slow climate change,” and some of the world's largest emitters like the U.S., China and India will continue to increase emissions.

The analysis looked at the adequacy of the pledges to contribute to reducing greenhouse gas emissions globally by 50 percent by 2030, and whether these pledges are likely to be implemented. Other than pledges, the report authors used data from other official reports submitted by governments and reports by international agencies, for the analysis.

The Paris Agreement aims to limit the global temperature rise well below two degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase even further to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

Source: <https://india.mongabay.com/2019/11/paris-agreement-goals-india-needs-to-double-forest-cover-expansion-rate/>