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Q16

One of the following regions has the world's largest tropical peatland, which holds about three years worth of global carbon emissions from fossil fuels; and the possible destruction of which can exert detrimental effect on the global climate. Which one of the following denote that region ? (a) Amazon Basin (b) Congo Basin (c) Kikon Basin (d) Rio de la Plata Basin Official key: B.

UPSC Civil Services Prelims 2024 · General Studies · 2 marks · Environment and Ecology
Environment, ecology, climate, biodiversity - Prelims GS Paper I.

Explanation

(a)

Amazon Basin. Huge forest carbon; the "three years of fossil emissions" peat claim is the Congo Cuvette.

(b) Official key

Congo Basin. World's largest tropical peatland complex.

(c)

Kikon Basin. Not a standard name for this peat store.

(d)

Rio de la Plata. Estuary of Paraná-Uruguay; not that peatland.

Summary

Official key is (b) **Congo Basin**. The central Congo peatlands (**Cuvette Centrale**) are the world's largest tropical peatland and store on the order of three years of global fossil-fuel carbon emissions. Draining or burning them would matter for climate. Amazon carbon is mostly in trees, not this peat statistic.

Related possible facts

These can be asked in a future Prelims paper.

Cuvette Centrale

Congo peat swamp forest spanning RoC and DRC.

Tropical peat

Also extensive in Indonesia; Congo is the largest single tropical complex.

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