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## Biodiversity & Conservation:

### Key Events and Themes:

#### World Nature Conservation Day (July 28, 2025):

This day was widely celebrated, emphasizing the critical need to conserve nature, promote sustainability, and support initiatives like the "Lifestyle for Environment (LiFE)" concept. The theme for 2025 was "Connecting People and Plants, Exploring Digital Innovation in Wildlife Conservation," highlighting the use of technology like GIS mapping, AI, and smart monitoring systems for conservation.

**Ramsar COP15 (July 23-31, 2025):** The 15th Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands is underway in Victoria Falls, focusing on "Protecting Wetlands for Our Common Future." This is a crucial event given the warning from the Global Wetland Outlook 2025 that over 35% of wetlands have been lost since 1970, threatening biodiversity and climate resilience.

**FAO Biodiversity Knowledge Hub Updates (July 16, 2025):** The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations continues to update its Biodiversity Knowledge Hub, providing resources to help countries implement the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF). This framework is a key international agreement aimed at halting and reversing biodiversity loss.

**India's Conservation Efforts:** India, a mega-diverse country, continues to advance its biodiversity conservation efforts. Recent highlights include:

Celebrating International Day for Biological Diversity (May 22, 2025) with an exhibition and focus on "Harmony with Nature and Sustainable Development."

Expanding wetland protection with 89 Ramsar sites.

Notifying 49 Biodiversity Heritage Sites.

The "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam" (Plant4Mother) campaign, which has resulted in 142 crore (1.42 billion) plantations globally.

Releasing its updated National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP 2024-2030) and Seventh National Report (NR7) to the CBD.

**IUCN World Conservation Congress 2025 (October 9-15, 2025):** Preparations are underway for this major global gathering in Abu Dhabi, which will bring together conservation experts, leaders, and decision-makers to shape global priorities for nature conservation and climate change.

### Major Threats to Biodiversity:

**Habitat Loss and Degradation:** Deforestation, particularly for large-scale agriculture (e.g., cattle farming in Brazil's Cerrado), continues to be a primary driver of biodiversity loss. Urbanization, industrial development, and unsustainable land use also contribute.

**Pollution:** Plastic waste, chemical pollutants, and toxic substances are contaminating terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems, with significant impacts on marine life and human health. Air and water pollution remain major concerns.





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**Climate Change:** Accelerating global warming leads to melting glaciers, rising sea levels, increased frequency of droughts, heatwaves, and wildfires, all of which directly threaten diverse ecosystems and species. Coral reef bleaching is a stark example.

**Overexploitation:** Illegal poaching, overfishing, and unsustainable harvesting of natural resources continue to push many species towards extinction.

**Invasive Alien Species:** These species contribute to a significant percentage of species extinctions and cause substantial economic damage.

### Conservation Strategies and Solutions:

#### International Cooperation and Frameworks:

The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) remains a central guiding document for global action, with targets to be achieved by 2030, including restoring 30% of degraded ecosystems and conserving 30% of land and seas.

**Nature-Based Solutions (NBS):** There's a growing emphasis on NBS, such as reforestation, wetland restoration, and sustainable land management, to address both biodiversity loss and climate change.

**Financial Investment:** Increasing finance for biodiversity from all sources (public and private) to mobilize at least USD 200 billion per year by 2030 is a key goal. There's also a focus on reducing harmful subsidies.

**Community Involvement and Indigenous Knowledge:** Projects are increasingly putting Indigenous Peoples and local communities at the center of conservation efforts, recognizing their vital role in managing biodiverse areas.

**Technological Innovation:** Digital tools like GIS mapping, AI, and smart monitoring systems are being explored and utilized to enhance conservation efforts and track progress.

**Policy and Legislation:** Strengthening environmental protections, revising wetland rules, and ensuring effective implementation of biodiversity acts are crucial.

**Sustainable Practices:** Promoting sustainable agriculture, circular economy practices, waste reduction, and the shift to renewable energy sources are seen as essential for long-term conservation.

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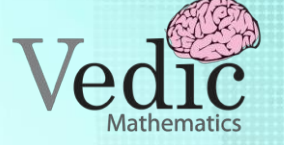
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- b) Protecting Oceans and Marine Life
- c) Connecting People and Plants, Exploring Digital Innovation in Wildlife Conservation
- d) Sustainable Agriculture for Biodiversity

**Answer:** c) Connecting People and Plants, Exploring Digital Innovation in Wildlife Conservation

The text specifies, "The theme for 2025 was 'Connecting People and Plants, Exploring Digital Innovation in Wildlife Conservation,' highlighting the use of technology like GIS mapping, AI, and smart monitoring systems for conservation."

**3. The 15th Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar COP15) is taking place in which location?**

- a) Abu Dhabi
- b) Victoria Falls
- c) New Delhi
- d) Geneva

**Answer:** b) Victoria Falls

The text states, "Ramsar COP15 (July 23-31, 2025): The 15th Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands is underway in Victoria Falls..."

**4. According to the Global Wetland Outlook 2025 mentioned in the text, approximately what percentage of wetlands have been lost since 1970?**

- a) Over 20%
- b) Over 35%
- c) Over 50%
- d) Over 60%

**Answer:** b) Over 35%

The text highlights, "This is a crucial event given the warning from the Global Wetland Outlook

## MCQS

**1. Which international conservation day was celebrated on July 28, 2025, emphasizing the critical need to conserve nature?**

- a) International Day for Biological Diversity
- b) World Wetlands Day
- c) World Nature Conservation Day
- d) Earth Day

**Answer:** c) World Nature Conservation Day

The text explicitly states, "World Nature Conservation Day (July 28, 2025): This day was widely celebrated, emphasizing the critical need to conserve nature..."

**2. What was a key theme for World Nature Conservation Day 2025, as mentioned in the text?**

- a) Restoring Degraded Ecosystems





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2025 that over 35% of wetlands have been lost since 1970..."

**5. Which international framework is the FAO Biodiversity Knowledge Hub primarily helping countries to implement?**

- a) Paris Agreement
- b) Kyoto Protocol
- c) Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF)
- d) Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety

**Answer:** c) Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF)

The text states, "The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations continues to update its Biodiversity Knowledge Hub, providing resources to help countries implement the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF)."

**6. How many Ramsar sites does India currently have, as per the provided information?**

- a) 49
- b) 89
- c) 142
- d) 200

**Answer:** b) 89

Under "India's Conservation Efforts," the text mentions, "Expanding wetland protection with 89 Ramsar sites."

**7. Which of the following is NOT listed as a major threat to biodiversity in the provided text?**

- a) Climate Change
- b) Habitat Loss and Degradation
- c) Sustainable Resource Management
- d) Invasive Alien Species

**Answer:** c) Sustainable Resource Management

"Sustainable Resource Management" is a conservation strategy or solution, not a threat. The other options are explicitly listed under "Major Threats to Biodiversity."

**8. What is a key target of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) by 2030, as mentioned in the text?**

- a) Reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 50%
- b) Restoring 30% of degraded ecosystems and conserving 30% of land and seas
- c) Establishing 100 new national parks
- d) Eliminating all plastic waste from oceans

**Answer:** b) Restoring 30% of degraded ecosystems and conserving 30% of land and seas

Under "Conservation Strategies and Solutions," the text states, "The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) remains a central guiding document for global action, with targets to be achieved by 2030, including restoring 30% of degraded ecosystems and conserving 30% of land and seas."

**9. What is the approximate annual financial investment goal for biodiversity, to be mobilized from all sources by 2030, according to the text?**

- a) USD 100 billion
- b) USD 200 billion
- c) USD 300 billion
- d) USD 500 billion

**Answer:** b) USD 200 billion

The text specifies under "Financial Investment": "...to mobilize at least USD 200 billion per year by 2030 is a key goal."

**10. Where is the IUCN World Conservation Congress 2025 scheduled to take place?**

- a) Victoria Falls
- b) New Delhi







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- c) Abu Dhabi  
d) Geneva

**Answer:** c) Abu Dhabi

The text states, "IUCN World Conservation Congress 2025 (October 9-15, 2025): Preparations are underway for this major global gathering in Abu Dhabi..."

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