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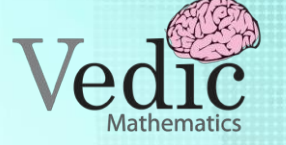
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Biodiversity & Conservation:

Wildlife and Ecosystem Research

Historic Water Structures and Amphibians: A study published in *Ecosphere* reveals that historic man-made water structures like laundry tanks and irrigation channels in Portugal's Peneda-Gerês National Park are providing crucial, stable habitats for local amphibian species, especially as natural wetlands become more unpredictable due to climate change. The research, however, cautions that these structures are complementary and not a replacement for natural habitats, which are still essential for certain species like the Iberian frog.

The Impact of Human Development on Protected Areas: Researchers have found that in wildlife sanctuaries surrounded by human development, particularly in China, there have been "major losses in biodiversity." Apex predators like tigers are disproportionately affected because human-modified environments limit their ability to move and find the large spaces they require to thrive. This highlights the need for wildlife corridors and ample space for animals to move between protected zones.

Celebrating Tiger Conservation: On World Tiger Day 2025, a symposium in India celebrated the country's success in housing over 70% of the world's wild tiger population. Despite this progress, conservationists noted that the battle is "far from over," citing over 20 tiger deaths in the first four months of the year due to habitat loss, poaching, and human-animal conflict.

Conservation Initiatives and Funding

Global Biodiversity Framework Fund: The second programming tranche of the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund (GBFF) is set to open on August 11, 2025, making an additional \$161.8 million available to scale up financing for biodiversity conservation. The first selection round will prioritize projects from Small Island Developing States (SIDS), Least Developed Countries (LDCs), and international financial institutions.

Marine Protected Areas (MPA) Day: Countries worldwide observed MPA Day on August 1, 2025, with events aimed at raising awareness about the importance of marine conservation. The initiative, now in its fifth year, originated in South Africa and focuses on youth engagement and public involvement in citizen science projects.

Innovative Wildfire Response: The XPRIZE competition's semifinal round for a \$5 million prize is focusing on developing autonomous systems, such as drones and solar-powered sensors, that can detect and extinguish wildfires within 10 minutes.

Deforestation and Policy

Vietnam's Forestlands: A report reveals that rapid development is pressuring Vietnam's forests, especially on Phú Quốc Island, where numerous projects are leading to the clearing of "special use" forest within a national park.

India's Anti-Encroachment Campaign: In Assam, a systematic anti-encroachment campaign is underway to reclaim illegally occupied forestland and combat deforestation. The government's efforts have reportedly cleared a





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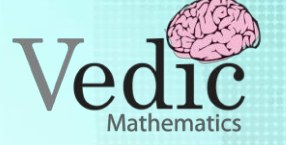
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significant area of land, demonstrating a strong political will to protect its natural heritage.

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MCQS

1. A study published in Ecosphere found that historic man-made water structures in Portugal are providing stable habitats for which type of species?

- a) Fish
- b) Amphibians
- c) Birds
- d) Insects

Answer: b) Amphibians

The news states, "...historic man-made water structures like laundry tanks and irrigation channels in Portugal's Peneda-Gerês National Park are providing crucial, stable habitats for local amphibian species..."

2. Which country is reported to house over 70% of the world's wild tiger population?

- a) China
- b) India
- c) Vietnam
- d) South Africa

Answer: b) India

The news mentions, "...a symposium in India celebrated the country's success in housing over 70% of the world's wild tiger population."

3. The second programming tranche of the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund (GBFF) will make an additional how much funding available for conservation?

- a) \$100 million
- b) \$161.8 million
- c) \$200 million
- d) \$5 million

Answer: b) \$161.8 million





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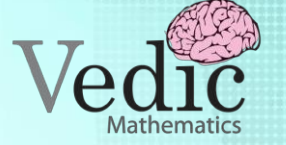
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The news states, "...making an additional \$161.8 million available to scale up financing for biodiversity conservation."

4. The first selection round for the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund (GBFF) will prioritize projects from which countries and institutions?

- a) Developed countries and private companies
- b) Small Island Developing States (SIDS), Least Developed Countries (LDCs), and international financial institutions
- c) G20 nations and NGOs
- d) All member states equally

Answer: b) Small Island Developing States (SIDS), Least Developed Countries (LDCs), and international financial institutions

The news reports, "The first selection round will prioritize projects from Small Island Developing States (SIDS), Least Developed Countries (LDCs), and international financial institutions."

5. What is the main goal of the XPRIZE competition's "\$5 million Autonomous Wildfire Response Track"?

- a) To develop new fire-resistant building materials.
- b) To create autonomous systems that can detect and extinguish wildfires within 10 minutes.
- c) To fund research into the causes of wildfires.
- d) To train human firefighters using virtual reality simulations.

Answer: b) To create autonomous systems that can detect and extinguish wildfires within 10 minutes.

The news mentions, "The goal is to develop autonomous systems that can detect and extinguish wildfires within 10 minutes across a large area."

6. What is the purpose of India's anti-enforcement campaign in Assam, as mentioned in the news?

- a) To promote sustainable tourism
- b) To reclaim illegally occupied forestland
- c) To build new wildlife sanctuaries
- d) To establish new tiger corridors

Answer: b) To reclaim illegally occupied forestland

The news states, "In Assam, a systematic anti-enforcement campaign is underway to reclaim illegally occupied forestland and combat deforestation."

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