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Biodiversity & Conservation:

Conservation Initiatives & Discoveries

Saudi Arabia's Terrestrial Biodiversity Study: Red Sea Global, a regenerative tourism developer, published the findings of a large-scale terrestrial baseline survey in Saudi Arabia. The study, conducted in partnership with the University of Porto, identified several species potentially new to science, including a scorpion and two geckos. It also established 11 new local Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs). The data will inform future conservation and land-use strategies, with a goal of achieving a 30% net conservation gain by 2040.

Tortoise Guardians in Nagaland: In a significant community-led conservation effort, Naga youths were appointed as "tortoise guardians" to protect critically endangered Asian giant tortoises in Nagaland, India. Ten captive-bred tortoises were introduced to a community reserve, marking a major step toward recovering the wild population of this species, which plays a crucial role in seed dispersal.

New Species Discovered in India: The Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) and other research bodies announced the discovery of several new species across the country, including a new wolf spider from the Sundarbans, two bent-toed geckos in the Himalayas, and a new species of freshwater barb in Assam. These discoveries highlight the rich but fragile biodiversity of India's ecosystems.

Global Policy and Funding

Ocean Investment Protocol: The UN Global Compact and the UNEP Finance Initiative

launched the 2025 Ocean Investment Protocol. This new framework aims to guide sustainable financing within the "blue economy" and is expected to influence investment decisions in over 60 countries, from fisheries to offshore renewable energy projects.

Global Biodiversity Framework Fund (GBFF): The Global Biodiversity Framework Fund (GBFF) is now operating at full speed, with several new projects approved and funded. A second call for proposals was announced, with a focus on Small Island Developing States and Least Developed Countries in its initial phase.

Species in the News

Primates at Risk: A new list of the 25 most threatened primates was published by the International Primatological Society, drawing attention to species at particularly high risk and aiming to inspire conservation action.

Krill Fishery Closure: The remote krill fishery near Antarctica was shut down early after the seasonal catch limit was exceeded for the first time. Krill is a vital food source for whales and plays a critical role in carbon sequestration. The early closure follows a lapse in the fishery's conservation framework.

Ozone Pollution in India: A study by the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) revealed that Indian mega-cities are experiencing high levels of ozone pollution, posing a threat to both public health and ecosystems.





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MCQS

1. Which organization published the findings of a large-scale terrestrial baseline survey in Saudi Arabia?

- A. UN Global Compact
- B. Zoological Survey of India (ZSI)
- C. Red Sea Global
- D. Centre for Science and Environment (CSE)

Answer: C. Red Sea Global

The text states, "Red Sea Global, a regenerative tourism developer, published the findings of a large-scale terrestrial baseline survey in Saudi Arabia." This initiative, in partnership with the University of Porto, identified new species and established Key Biodiversity Areas.

2. In which country were Naga youths appointed as "tortoise guardians" to protect the critically endangered Asian giant tortoise?

- A. Saudi Arabia
- B. India
- C. United States
- D. Portugal

Answer: B. India

The document explicitly mentions this community-led conservation effort took place in Nagaland, India. The program introduced captive-bred tortoises into a community reserve to aid in the recovery of the species.

3. What is the primary purpose of the 2025 Ocean Investment Protocol?

- A. To fund the discovery of new marine species.
- B. To guide sustainable financing for the "blue economy."
- C. To close all krill fisheries near Antarctica.
- D. To regulate ozone pollution in coastal cities.

Answer: B. To guide sustainable financing for the "blue economy."





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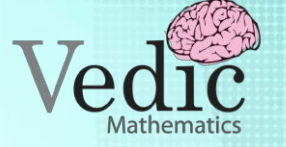
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The text states the protocol's purpose is to "guide sustainable financing within the 'blue economy' and is expected to influence investment decisions in over 60 countries." It was launched by the UN Global Compact and the UNEP Finance Initiative.

4. Why was the remote krill fishery near Antarctica shut down early?

- A. A new marine protected area was established.
- B. The seasonal catch limit was exceeded for the first time.
- C. A study revealed the krill population had collapsed.
- D. The krill were found to be contaminated with ozone pollution.

Answer: B. The seasonal catch limit was exceeded for the first time.

The passage explains that "the remote krill fishery near Antarctica was shut down early after the seasonal catch limit was exceeded for the first time." This highlights a lapse in the fishery's conservation framework, as krill are a vital food source for whales and play a crucial ecological role.

5. What is a key focus of the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund's (GBFF) second call for proposals?

- A. Funding projects in developed countries.
- B. Supporting large-scale industrial projects.
- C. Focusing on Small Island Developing States and Least Developed Countries.
- D. Investing solely in marine conservation.

Answer: C. Focusing on Small Island Developing States and Least Developed Countries.

The text specifies that the second call for proposals has "a focus on Small Island Developing States and Least Developed Countries in its initial phase." The GBFF is now

fully operational and funding new conservation projects globally.

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