



Biodiversity & Conservation:

Walia Ibex Population Decline: The population of the Walia ibex, an endangered species endemic to Ethiopia's Simien Mountains, has dropped significantly. A new study reveals the population has fallen to around 306 individuals in 2024, down from 865 in 2015. This decline is pushing the species closer to extinction and is attributed to factors like poaching and political instability.

Green Skills in India: The CSIR-National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI) in India is spearheading a program to develop "green skills." This initiative aims to train a specialized workforce to address pressing environmental challenges and support new environmental industries, aligning with the country's sustainable development goals.

Large Marine Protected Areas: A new study on the Chagos Archipelago Marine Protected Area (MPA) provides compelling evidence for the value of vast MPAs. The research, which tracked sea turtles, manta rays, and seabirds, found that the 640,000 square kilometer area is large enough to provide vital protection for these highly mobile species throughout their lives.

Cross-Border Environmental Crime: A recent cross-border operation, "Operation Green Shield," involving law enforcement from Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru, has successfully targeted environmental crimes in the Amazon rainforest. The operation, which was coordinated by the United Arab Emirates, led to numerous arrests and seizures of assets, highlighting the need for international cooperation to combat illegal activities like mining and wildlife trafficking.

Wildlife Rescue in Nepal: According to the National Trust for Nature Conservation (NTNC) in Nepal, more than 600 wild animals were rescued during the 2024/25 fiscal year. This reflects the increasing human-wildlife encounters in the country and underscores the importance of rapid response teams and the need for more rescue and rehabilitation centers.

Sustainable Agriculture Conference: The M.S. Swaminathan Centenary International Conference, inaugurated by PM Narendra Modi, is taking place in New Delhi. Themed "Evergreen Revolution – The Pathway to Bio happiness," the conference brings together scientists and policymakers to discuss the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and natural resources.

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MCQS

1. According to the provided text, what is the primary reason for the sharp decline in the Walia ibex population?

- A) Climate change and habitat loss
- B) Poaching and political instability
- C) A new disease affecting the species
- D) Increased competition from other wild animals

Answer: B) Poaching and political instability
The text explicitly states that the decline of the Walia ibex population "is attributed to factors like poaching and political instability."

2. What is the main purpose of the "green skills" program initiated by CSIR-NEERI in India?

- A) To create new parks and wildlife sanctuaries

- B) To train a specialized workforce for environmental challenges
- C) To enforce laws against poaching and environmental crime
- D) To conduct research on endangered species

Answer: B) To train a specialized workforce for environmental challenges

The report indicates that the "green skills" program "aims to train a specialized workforce to address pressing environmental challenges and support new environmental industries."

3. The study on the Chagos Archipelago Marine Protected Area (MPA) provides evidence for the value of large MPAs. What did the research find that highlights this value?

- A) The MPA has led to a complete end to illegal fishing.
- B) The large size provides vital protection for highly mobile species.
- C) The area is a new breeding ground for critically endangered species.
- D) The MPA has successfully reversed the effects of pollution.

Answer: B) The large size provides vital protection for highly mobile species.

The text states that the research "found that the 640,000 square kilometer area is large enough to provide vital protection for these highly mobile species throughout their lives."

4. Which countries were involved in the "Operation Green Shield" to combat environmental crimes in the Amazon rainforest?

- A) Brazil, Argentina, and Chile
- B) Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru
- C) United Arab Emirates and Brazil
- D) Peru, Bolivia, and Venezuela

Answer: B) Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru





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The report specifies that "Operation Green Shield" involved "law enforcement from Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru."

5. The M.S. Swaminathan Centenary International Conference, themed "Evergreen Revolution – The Pathway to Bio happiness," focuses on which two key areas?

- A) Renewable energy and water conservation
- B) Climate change and global warming
- C) The conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and natural resources
- D) Urban development and pollution control

Answer: C) The conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and natural resources

The text describes the conference's purpose as bringing together scientists and policymakers "to discuss the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and natural resources."

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