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## Biodiversity & Conservation:

### Global Conservation & Policy

#### Wetlands Conference in Zimbabwe

A major international wetlands conference in Zimbabwe concluded with a series of resolutions aimed at halting and reversing wetland loss by 2034. The "Victoria Falls Declaration" was adopted, with participating countries pledging to create national legislation and policies to protect wetlands from threats like urbanization, invasive species, and pollution. The outcomes of the conference emphasized the importance of combining modern tools like satellite monitoring with traditional knowledge for effective conservation.

### New Finance for Biodiversity

The Cali Fund has published its first guide. This fund is the financial arm of a new multilateral mechanism focused on the fair and equitable sharing of benefits from the use of digital sequence information on genetic resources (DSI). DSI is the data from genetic resources, which is crucial for the rapidly growing life sciences industry in sectors like pharmaceuticals and biotechnology. The fund aims to ensure that profits from this data are shared to support biodiversity conservation.

### Species & Ecosystems

#### Targeted Conservation Successes

A global study published in PLOS Biology in March 2025 revealed that targeted conservation efforts have successfully prevented the extinction of hundreds of species. The study

found that almost all species that moved from a more threatened to a less threatened category on the IUCN Red List benefited from specific interventions such as habitat management, reintroductions, and legal protections. The report highlighted successes with species like the Iberian lynx and the kākāpō parrot, but also warned that the overall biodiversity crisis continues, with far more species still in decline than in recovery.

### IUCN Red List Updates

The 2025-1 IUCN Red List has added over 1,000 fungi species, highlighting new threats from deforestation and urban development. Additionally, the list shows that frankincense trees are facing an increasing risk of extinction. On a positive note, over 100 Green Status assessments have been completed, demonstrating the positive impact of ongoing conservation work.

### New Technology & Infrastructure

#### Australia's New Biodiversity Hub

Australia has opened a new national biodiversity center in Canberra called Diversity. This facility houses over 13 million specimens of Australian and Papuan New Guinean species, bringing together the Australian National Wildlife Collection and the Australian National Insect Collection. The climate-controlled, bushfire- and pest-resistant vaults are equipped with advanced genomics and digitization labs, allowing researchers worldwide to access and study the specimens.





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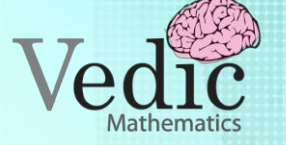
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### AI for Conservation

A report on World Nature Conservation Day highlighted how technology is making conservation more effective. PoachNet, an AI-driven system, uses GPS and location data to predict where poachers are likely to strike next, allowing conservation teams to intervene. Other innovations include AI and satellites for monitoring marine protected areas and new biologging tags with sensors and machine learning to study the movements of rays and other elusive marine animals.

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### MCQS

1. What is the name of the declaration adopted at the international wetlands conference in Zimbabwe?

- A) The Canberra Compact
- B) The Victoria Falls Declaration
- C) The Kishtwar Accord
- D) The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

**Answer:** B) The Victoria Falls Declaration  
The news states that a major international wetlands conference in Zimbabwe adopted the "Victoria Falls Declaration" to protect wetlands.

2. What is the main purpose of the "Cali Fund"?

- A) To finance the creation of national parks.
- B) To provide grants for climate change research.







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C) To ensure the fair and equitable sharing of benefits from digital sequence information on genetic resources (DSI).

D) To fund the construction of new biodiversity research centers.

**Answer:** C) To ensure the fair and equitable sharing of benefits from digital sequence information on genetic resources (DSI).

The text identifies the Cali Fund as the financial arm of a multilateral mechanism focused on the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of DSI.

**3. According to the study in PLOS Biology, what was a key finding about targeted conservation efforts?**

- A) They have been largely ineffective in preventing species extinction.
- B) They have successfully prevented the extinction of hundreds of species.
- C) They have only been successful in marine ecosystems.
- D) They have been proven to be less effective than global policy changes.

**Answer:** B) They have successfully prevented the extinction of hundreds of species.

The global study is cited as having revealed that targeted conservation efforts have successfully pulled hundreds of species back from the brink of extinction.

**4. What new facility in Australia houses over 13 million biodiversity specimens?**

- A) The Australian National Wildlife Institute
- B) The Diversity Biodiversity Hub
- C) The Canberra Climate Vault
- D) The Plos Biology Research Center

**Answer:** B) The Diversity Biodiversity Hub

The news states that a new national biodiversity center called Diversity has opened in Canberra, which houses over 13 million specimens.

**5. What is the function of the AI-driven system "PoachNet"?**

- A) To track the migration patterns of caribou.
- B) To predict where poachers are most likely to strike.
- C) To identify new marine species.
- D) To monitor illegal fishing in marine protected areas.

**Answer:** B) To predict where poachers are most likely to strike.

The text explains that PoachNet uses AI and GPS data to predict where poachers are likely to strike next, allowing conservation teams to act quickly.

**6. Which of the following species were highlighted as having successful conservation efforts in the study published in PLOS Biology?**

- A) Fungi and frankincense trees
- B) Iberian lynx and kākāpō parrot
- C) African rhinos and polar bears
- D) Bowhead whales and caribou

**Answer:** B) Iberian lynx and kākāpō parrot  
The study in PLOS Biology specifically highlighted the Iberian lynx and the kākāpō parrot as examples of species that have benefited from targeted conservation measures.





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