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Biodiversity & Conservation:

Biodiversity & Conservation News

Antarctic Ecosystems at Risk: A study from the University of Wollongong has highlighted that Antarctica's fragile ecosystems are under threat from climate change and a lack of comprehensive, long-term monitoring. The researchers are urging a shift in focus to include the microscopic organisms and plants that are vital to the continent's entire food web, rather than just well-known species like penguins.

Marine Conservation: The International Conference on Biodiversity, Ecology and Conservation of Marine Ecosystems (BECOME-2025) has begun. The conference, a key event for the UN Ocean Decade, brings together global experts to discuss and collaborate on marine conservation, with a particular focus on informing policies and fostering international research.

World Orangutan Day: August 19 is recognized as World Orangutan Day. This day aims to raise awareness about the critical threats facing these great apes, particularly habitat loss due to deforestation for palm oil plantations and the illegal pet trade. Events are being held at zoos and sanctuaries around the world to highlight their plight and conservation efforts.

New Conservation Center: The Big Cat Sanctuary in the UK, in partnership with the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), has been designated as the world's first Centre for Species Survival dedicated specifically to wild cats. This center will serve as a hub for research, fieldwork, and conservation

strategies to protect the world's 40 wild cat species.

Carbon Stocks Depletion: New research indicates that human activity has caused a significant depletion of global vegetation and soil carbon stocks, a quantity equivalent to a quarter of the carbon released from fossil fuel emissions since the mid-1970s.

Coastal Protection in India: In a collaborative effort, a ₹4 crore project has been launched in Tamil Nadu's Cuddalore district to create a "bio-shield" using mangroves and coastal plants. The goal of this initiative is to combat the effects of sea-level rise and coastal erosion.

Compostable Bags: In a move to combat plastic pollution, an eco-brand in Malaysia has introduced 100% plastic-free, compostable bags.

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- a) World Marine Day
- b) World Cat Day
- c) World Carbon Day
- d) World Orangutan Day

Answer: d) World Orangutan Day
The news explicitly mentions, "August 19 is recognized as World Orangutan Day."

3. What is the name of the world's first Centre for Species Survival dedicated to wild cats?

- a) The Big Cat Sanctuary
- b) The IUCN Wild Cat Center
- c) The Tamil Nadu Coastal Protection Project
- d) The BECoME-2025 Conference

Answer: a) The Big Cat Sanctuary
The provided text states that "The Big Cat Sanctuary... has been designated as the world's first Centre for Species Survival dedicated specifically to wild cats."

4. What is the goal of the "bio-shield" project in Tamil Nadu's Cuddalore district?

- a) To create a new wildlife sanctuary.
- b) To generate clean energy.
- c) To combat the effects of sea-level rise and coastal erosion.
- d) To increase carbon stocks in the region.

Answer: c) To combat the effects of sea-level rise and coastal erosion.
The news explains that the project in Cuddalore was launched "to create a 'bio-shield' using mangroves and coastal plants... to combat the effects of sea-level rise and coastal erosion."

5. How much have human activities depleted global vegetation and soil carbon stocks, according to new research?

- a) A quantity equivalent to all fossil fuel emissions since the mid-1970s.

MCQS

1. According to a study from the University of Wollongong, what are the primary threats to Antarctica's ecosystems?

- a) Overfishing and pollution
- b) Tourism and invasive species
- c) Climate change and insufficient long-term monitoring
- d) Volcanic activity and natural disasters

Answer: c) Climate change and insufficient long-term monitoring

The provided text states that a study from the University of Wollongong "highlighted that Antarctica's fragile ecosystems are under threat from climate change and a lack of comprehensive, long-term monitoring."

2. August 19 is recognized as which conservation-themed day?



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- b) An amount equal to a quarter of all fossil fuel emissions since the mid-1970s.
- c) Half of all fossil fuel emissions since the mid-1970s.
- d) A quarter of the total carbon on Earth.

Answer: b) An amount equal to a quarter of all fossil fuel emissions since the mid-1970s.
The provided information notes that research has revealed humans have depleted carbon stocks by "about a quarter, an amount of carbon comparable to all fossil fuel emissions since the mid-1970s."

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