

Spardhaguru India Private Limited Biodiversity & Conservation

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Biodiversity & Conservation:

Conservation & Research Highlights

A significant finding from a three-year camera trapping study in Jammu and Kashmir reveals that snow leopards are not only present yearround but also have a thriving breeding population in the region. The study identified at least 12 adult snow leopards and a mother with cubs, underscoring the importance of the Kishtwar Himalayas as a key habitat. This discovery is a major step forward for highaltitude biodiversity and aligns with the goals of Project Snow Leopard and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. The research also documented 16 other mammal species, including the rare Himalayan brown bear and Himalayan wolf.

In the Sundarbans, a population survey has shown an increase in saltwater crocodiles, with 213 direct sightings in 2025. The report from the West Bengal Forest Department highlights an increase in all demographic classes, including hatchlings, indicating the success of long-term conservation and breeding efforts.

In Vietnam, a biodiversity survey in Đắk Lắk Province has led to the rediscovery of the critically endangered Vietnamese mouse-deer. The survey also documented hundreds of other rare and endangered species of plants, birds, and mammals, which will help local authorities in developing effective conservation strategies.

Global Policy & Threats

Delegates at the United Nations are currently discussing the establishment of a "Clearing-House Mechanism" for the Marine Biodiversity

of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) treaty. This platform aims to centralize and information about treaty-related activities, with the treaty nearing the 60 ratifications needed to enter into force.

A new study by the Australian Antarctic Program reveals that Antarctic sea-ice coverage is declining at an alarming rate—1.9 times faster in the summer than the Arctic's decline over the past 46 years. This loss of sea ice has serious implications for species like emperor penguins and contributes to global sea-level rise.

On a positive note, a recent report from the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) indicates that while drought and other threats persist, poaching of African rhinos has decreased since 2021.

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hatchlings and a total of 213 direct sightings in 2025? A) Tiger conservation

2. Which conservation effort has shown success

in the Sundarbans, as indicated by an increase in

- B) Saltwater crocodile conservation
- C) Dolphin population survey
- D) Rhino poaching reduction

Answer: B) Saltwater crocodile conservation A population survey conducted by the West Bengal Forest Department showed an increase in saltwater crocodile sightings, including a rise in all demographic classes, confirming the success of long-term conservation and breeding efforts for the species in the Sundarbans.

3. What has been the recent trend for the poaching of African rhinos, according to a report from the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)?

- A) It has increased dramatically since 2021.
- B) It has remained stable since 2021.
- C) It has decreased since 2021.
- D) The IUCN has not published a report on this topic.

Answer: C) It has decreased since 2021.

The IUCN report indicates a positive trend in African rhino conservation, noting poaching has decreased since 2021 despite

persistent threats like drought.

4. What critically endangered species was rediscovered in Vietnam's Đắk Lắk Province?

- A) The Sumatran rhinoceros
- B) The Vietnamese mouse-deer
- C) The Javan rhinoceros
- D) The Giant Ibis

Answer: B) The Vietnamese mouse-deer

MCQS

1. What significant discovery was made about the snow leopard population in Jammu and Kashmir?

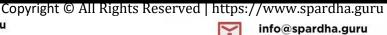
- A) They are only present during the winter months.
- B) A thriving breeding population exists yearround in the Kishtwar Himalayas.
- C) Their population is declining rapidly due to human-wildlife conflict.
- D) The species has gone extinct in the region.

Answer: B) A thriving breeding population exists year-round in the Kishtwar Himalayas. A three-year camera trapping study found a year-round and thriving breeding population of snow leopards, including a mother and cubs, in the Kishtwar Himalayas, highlighting the region's importance as a key habitat.

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A biodiversity survey in Vietnam's Đắk Lắk Province led to the rediscovery of the critically endangered Vietnamese mouse-deer, along with hundreds of other rare species.

- 5. What is the purpose of the "Clearing-House Mechanism" being discussed for the BBNJ treaty?
- A) To enforce sanctions on nations that violate the treaty.
- B) To centralize and share information about treaty-related activities.
- C) To provide a platform for delegates to debate the treaty.
- D) To fund new marine research projects.

Answer: B) To centralize and share information about treaty-related activities.

The news states that the mechanism is a platform designed to centralize and share information about activities related to the Marine Biodiversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) treaty.





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