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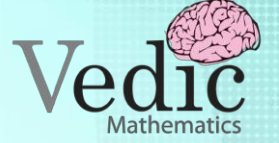
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Biodiversity & Conservation:

Corporate Behavior and Conservation Zones

A new study from the University of Auckland, co-authored by Dr. Marty Pham, has revealed a nuanced and concerning effect of protected biodiversity areas on nearby businesses. While companies located near these zones do reduce their toxic emissions, they do so not by adopting cleaner technologies, but by cutting production and jobs. The research, titled "The real effects of protecting biodiversity," is the first of its kind to investigate how businesses respond to the heightened regulatory and public scrutiny associated with protected areas. The study highlights that these localized disruptions also have financial consequences at the parent-company level, contributing to declines in profitability and stock market valuation. This suggests that the pressure from conservation efforts influences a business's operational strategy, but in a way that may not lead to long-term sustainable innovation.

Biodiversity Management in India

In India, a key focus is on empowering local communities to manage and conserve their natural resources. The Chairman of the Arunachal Pradesh State Biodiversity Board (APSBDB), Hawa Bagang, emphasized the importance of "fictionalization" (likely a typo for "functionalization") of over 1,800 Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) across the state. These committees are seen as crucial for the conservation and promotion of state biodiversity. He also stressed the need to prepare "Peoples Biodiversity Registers" (PBRs), which are vital records of available bio-resources. This initiative is part of a broader

strategy to strengthen local governance of natural resources and ensure the effective implementation of the Biological Diversity Act.

Global Efforts and Progress

Despite the ongoing challenges, there are signs of progress in global conservation efforts. The EU is a key player, committed to protecting and restoring biodiversity as agreed in the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. This includes a goal to halt and reverse biodiversity loss by 2030, which involves restoring 30% of degraded ecosystems and conserving 30% of land and sea. The EU's Biodiversity strategy and Nature Restoration Law are part of a comprehensive plan to achieve these targets.

The Ongoing Crisis and the Role of Businesses

Reports continue to highlight the severity of the global biodiversity crisis. The WWF's Living Planet Report, for instance, has shown a staggering 73% decline in the average size of wildlife populations between 1970 and 2020. This stark reality underscores the urgency of transformative action. The World Economic Forum has also highlighted the increasing role of the private sector in addressing this crisis, with businesses and ventures helping to fund innovation and restoration efforts. One example is a Swedish tech company collaborating with local communities to restore urban nature, fostering a greater connection between employees and the environment. This demonstrates a shift towards more collaborative, multi-stakeholder approaches to conservation.





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Effectiveness of Conservation Measures

A first-of-its-kind meta-analysis of conservation actions has provided strong evidence that conservation works. The study, published in the journal Science, found that a majority of conservation interventions, such as protected areas, invasive species control, and habitat restoration, have successfully improved the state of biodiversity or slowed its decline. This finding is crucial as it provides a robust scientific basis for scaling up conservation efforts globally to meet ambitious targets like the UN's 30-by-30 goal.

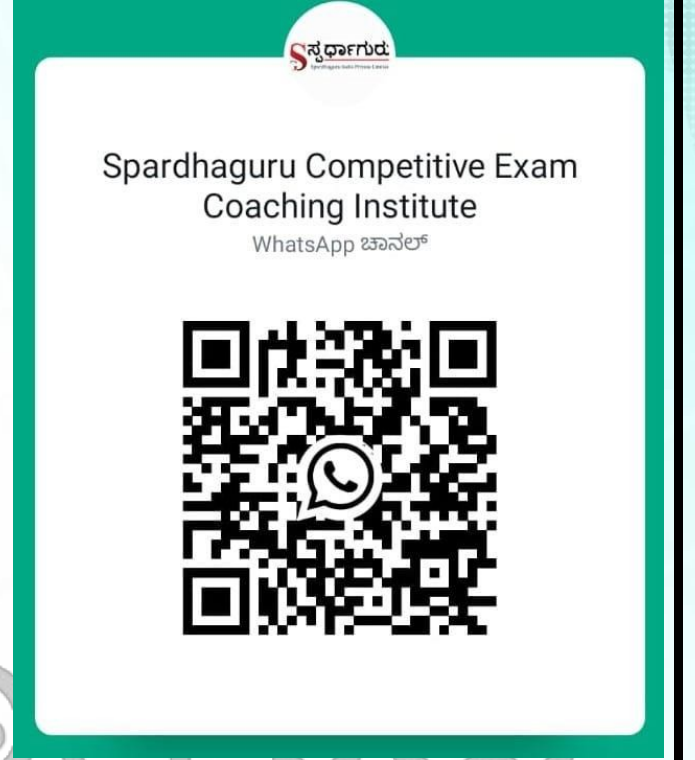
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MCQS

1. According to the University of Auckland study, how do companies near protected biodiversity areas primarily reduce their toxic emissions?

- A) By adopting new, cleaner technologies.
- B) By cutting production and jobs.
- C) By relocating their operations.
- D) By increasing investment in local communities.

Answer: B) By cutting production and jobs.
The text explicitly states that companies reduce emissions "not by adopting new green technologies. Instead, they cut production and jobs." This indicates that downsizing is their primary method for emission reduction, rather than technological innovation.





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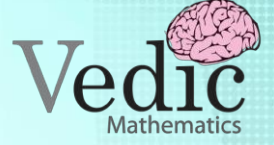
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2. In India, what is the main purpose of the Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) and Peoples Biodiversity Registers (PBRs)?

- A) To streamline the process for industrial development.
- B) To centralize biodiversity data at the national level.
- C) To empower local communities to manage and conserve natural resources.
- D) To regulate international trade of biological products.

Answer: C) To empower local communities to manage and conserve natural resources.

The Chairman of the Arunachal Pradesh State Biodiversity Board emphasized the importance of these committees and registers for "strengthening local governance of natural resources" and for "conservation and promotion of state biodiversity." This highlights the focus on community-led management.

3. The EU's commitment to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework includes which of the following key targets for 2030?

- A) Halting all economic development in biodiversity hotspots.
- B) Restoring 50% of degraded ecosystems.
- C) Conserving 30% of land and sea.
- D) Banning the use of all single-use plastics.

Answer: C) Conserving 30% of land and sea.

The text mentions that a key goal of the framework is to "halt and reverse biodiversity loss by 2030, which involves restoring 30% of degraded ecosystems and conserving 30% of land and sea." This is a specific target mentioned in the provided text.

4. The Ongoing Crisis and the Role of Businesses
Question: The WWF's Living Planet Report highlights the severity of the biodiversity crisis

by reporting what decline in the average size of wildlife populations between 1970 and 2020?

- A) 25%
- B) 50%
- C) 73%
- D) 90%

Answer: C) 73%

The text states, "The WWF's Living Planet Report, for instance, has shown a staggering 73% decline in the average size of wildlife populations between 1970 and 2020." This is a direct factual piece of information from the provided content.

5. What was the key finding of the meta-analysis published in the journal Science regarding conservation interventions?

- A) Conservation efforts have largely failed to halt biodiversity decline.
- B) Only protected areas are effective in conserving biodiversity.
- C) Most conservation actions have successfully improved or slowed the decline of biodiversity.
- D) Invasive species control is the only measure that has shown no positive impact.

Answer: C) Most conservation actions have successfully improved or slowed the decline of biodiversity.

The text states that the study "found that a majority of conservation interventions...have successfully improved the state of biodiversity or slowed its decline." This contradicts the other options, which suggest failure or limited effectiveness.

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