



## Biodiversity & Conservation:

### Key Highlights & Developments:

#### New Species Discoveries (especially in India):

**Dragonfly:** A new dragonfly species, *Lyriothemis abrahami*, was officially documented in the Western Ghats, Kerala, after a decade of fieldwork. It was previously misidentified and highlights the ecological significance of the region. (The Hindu, July 20, 2025)

**Sea Slugs:** Two new, colorful sea slug species, *Phyllidia ovata* and *Phyllidia fontjei*, were discovered in Indonesia, emphasizing the rich, often hidden, marine biodiversity. (SciTechDaily, July 19, 2025)

**Gecko:** A new diurnal gecko species, *Cnemaspis brahmaputra*, was discovered in Assam, named after the Brahmaputra River. This discovery suggests ancient faunal connections between Northeast India and Sri Lanka. (IAS Gyan, July 18, 2025)

**Butterfly:** *Zographetus Mathewi*, a previously undocumented butterfly species belonging to the skipper family, was found in the low-elevation forests of Kerala's Western Ghats, underscoring the need to conserve lesser-known habitats. (Times of India, July 15, 2025)

**Plants (Sri Lanka):** A botanist in Sri Lanka has rediscovered over 100 plant species previously presumed extinct and identified dozens of potentially new species, offering a new light of optimism for biodiversity conservation in the country. A book, "Discovery: Additions to the Flora of Ceylon," detailing 210 species, is

scheduled for publication on July 22, 2025. (Mongabay, July 17, 2025)

### Conservation Efforts & Funding:

**Global Environment Facility (GEF) Effectiveness:** A Mongabay report (July 18, 2025) discusses concerns about the effectiveness of GEF funding in Africa, despite billions spent, as biodiversity loss continues at an alarming rate. GEF defends its model, stating a shift towards integrated approaches that consider both conservation and human systems.

**FAO Biodiversity Knowledge Hub:** The FAO continues to update its Biodiversity Knowledge Hub (latest update July 16, 2025), consolidating information and resources to help countries implement the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) and achieve Sustainable Development Goals.

**Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS):** New sites in the Republic of Korea, Portugal, and Tajikistan were recognized as GIAHS, highlighting the importance of integrated traditional agricultural systems for biodiversity. (FAO, July 14, 2025)

**Southeast Asia and Pacific Primary Forests:** A USD 42 million program was launched in June 2025 to protect primary forests in the Indo-Malaya forest biome, which harbors over 5,000 threatened species. (FAO, June 27, 2025)

**Community-based Conservation:** A Global Biodiversity Framework Fund (GBFF) project in the Democratic Republic of Congo emphasizes putting Indigenous Peoples and local communities at the center of biodiversity conservation and sustainable land use. (FAO, June 13, 2025)



**Water Conservation in India:** The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MNREGS) in Uttar Pradesh has significantly increased its expenditure on water conservation, reaching over 85% of its Natural Resource Management (NRM) allocation. This aims to address water scarcity, improve agricultural productivity, and build climate resilience. (Times of India, July 20, 2025)

**Emergency Conservation Programs (US):** The USDA Farm Service Agency in Michigan is accepting applications for emergency conservation and forest restoration programs to address damages from natural disasters. (USDA FSA, July 21, 2025)

**Shark Awareness Day:** Celebrated on July 14, 2025, this day highlighted the vital role sharks play in oceans and encouraged public participation in conservation efforts, including citizen science projects and informed consumer choices. (Government Science and Engineering, July 14, 2025)

### Policy and Governance (India):

**Water Pollution Guidelines 2025:** India's Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change (MoEFCC) introduced new guidelines, effective January 30, 2025, to strengthen water pollution controls in industrial operations. These include streamlined consent processes, stricter location criteria, and regular monitoring. (LexComply, May 15, 2025)

**Environmental Reforms and ESG:** India's 2025 environmental regulatory reforms, including amendments to the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) framework, Draft Greenhouse Gases Emission Intensity Target Rules, and Environment (Protection) Second

Amendment Rules, signify a shift towards stringent environmental governance and increased corporate ESG compliance. (Hammurabi & Solomon, June 6, 2025)

**Ex-post facto Environmental Clearances:** The Supreme Court of India struck down the practice of issuing retrospective environmental clearances and restrained the government from future legislative attempts to permit such clearances. (Trilegal, June 3, 2025)

**Biological Diversity (Amendment) Rules, 2025:** The MoEF&CC simplified procedures for obtaining certificates of origin for cultivated medicinal plants. (Trilegal, June 3, 2025)

### Upcoming Events:

Several International Conferences on Biodiversity and Conservation, Marine Genetics and Biodiversity, Biotechnology and Biodiversity, and Ecosystems and Biodiversity are scheduled for July 22, 2025, across various global locations. (ConferenceAlerts.co.in)

### MCQS

**1. Which new dragonfly species was recently documented in the Western Ghats, Kerala?**

- a) Phyllidia ovata
- b) Cnemaspis brahmaputra
- c) Lyriothemis abrahami
- d) Zographetus Mathewi

**Answer:** c) Lyriothemis abrahami

The text states, "A new dragonfly species, Lyriothemis abrahami, was officially documented in the Western Ghats, Kerala."

**2. Two new colorful sea slug species, Phyllidia ovata and Phyllidia fontjei, were discovered in which country?**





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- a) India
- b) Sri Lanka
- c) Indonesia
- d) Democratic Republic of Congo

**Answer:** c) Indonesia

The text mentions, "Two new, colorful sea slug species, *Phyllidia ovata* and *Phyllidia fontjei*, were discovered in Indonesia."

**3.The new diurnal gecko species, *Cnemaspis brahmaputra*, was discovered in which Indian state?**

- a) Kerala
- b) Assam
- c) Uttar Pradesh
- d) Michigan

**Answer:** b) Assam

The text states, "A new diurnal gecko species, *Cnemaspis brahmaputra*, was discovered in Assam, named after the Brahmaputra River."

**4.What is the significance of the rediscovery of over 100 plant species in Sri Lanka by a botanist?**

- a) It confirms the extinction of several plant species.
- b) It indicates a decline in Sri Lanka's overall biodiversity.
- c) It offers new optimism for biodiversity conservation in the country.
- d) It primarily focuses on marine plant species.

**Answer:** c) It offers new optimism for biodiversity conservation in the country.

The text says, "A botanist in Sri Lanka has rediscovered over 100 plant species previously presumed extinct and identified dozens of potentially new species, offering a new light of optimism for biodiversity conservation in the country."

### Conservation Efforts & Funding

**5.What concern is raised in a Mongabay report regarding the effectiveness of Global Environment Facility (GEF) funding in Africa?**

- a) The GEF has not spent enough money on conservation.
- b) Biodiversity loss continues at an alarming rate despite billions spent.
- c) GEF funding is primarily focused on marine conservation.
- d) GEF is shifting away from integrated approaches.

**Answer:** b) Biodiversity loss continues at an alarming rate despite billions spent.

The text states, "A Mongabay report (July 18, 2025) discusses concerns about the effectiveness of GEF funding in Africa, despite billions spent, as biodiversity loss continues at an alarming rate."

**6.Which international framework does the FAO Biodiversity Knowledge Hub help countries implement?**

- a) Paris Agreement
- b) Kyoto Protocol
- c) Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF)
- d) Ramsar Convention

**Answer:** c) Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF)

The text notes that the FAO Biodiversity Knowledge Hub helps countries "implement the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) and achieve Sustainable Development Goals."





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**7. The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MNREGS) in Uttar Pradesh has significantly increased expenditure on which specific conservation area?**

- a) Forest restoration
- b) Marine biodiversity
- c) Water conservation
- d) Air quality improvement

**Answer:** c) Water conservation

The text mentions, "The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MNREGS) in Uttar Pradesh has significantly increased its expenditure on water conservation."

**8.What was highlighted on Shark Awareness Day on July 14, 2025?**

- a) The declining population of certain shark species.
- b) The vital role sharks play in oceans.
- c) The dangers posed by sharks to humans.
- d) The need for more shark fishing regulations.

**Answer:** b) The vital role sharks play in oceans.

The text states, "Celebrated on July 14, 2025, this day highlighted the vital role sharks play in oceans."

**9.What is one of the key objectives of India's Water Pollution Guidelines 2025, effective January 30, 2025?**

- a) To relax environmental standards for industries.
- b) To strengthen water pollution controls in industrial operations.
- c) To promote the use of traditional water purification methods.
- d) To privatize water resources.

**Answer:** b) To strengthen water pollution controls in industrial operations.

The text states, "India's Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change (MoEFCC) introduced new guidelines, effective January 30, 2025, to strengthen water pollution controls in industrial operations."

**10.What action did the Supreme Court of India take regarding ex-post facto environmental clearances?**

- a) It approved the practice under certain conditions.
- b) It struck down the practice and restrained future legislative attempts to permit it.
- c) It referred the matter to a higher committee for review.
- d) It issued new guidelines for obtaining retrospective clearances.

**Answer:** b) It struck down the practice and restrained future legislative attempts to permit it.

The text says, "The Supreme Court of India struck down the practice of issuing retrospective environmental clearances and restrained the government from future legislative attempts to permit such clearances."

