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## Biodiversity & Conservation:

### Global and Regional Efforts

The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, a historic agreement to halt and reverse nature loss by 2030, is a central focus of global efforts. The European Union has submitted its targets to implement the framework and is doubling its external funding for biodiversity to 7 billion euros. Additionally, the 5th World Congress of Biosphere Reserves is scheduled to convene later in September in Hangzhou, China, to define a new strategic action plan for UNESCO's global network of biosphere reserves. A new treaty on high-seas biodiversity is also open for signature until September 20, 2025, and requires eight more ratifications to enter into force.

A recent study by The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and other institutions has identified specific reforestation hotspots globally. The study mapped 195 million hectares of land (an area the size of Mexico) where tree planting and forest regrowth are most likely to yield significant benefits for climate, biodiversity, and communities, a figure substantially smaller than previous estimates.

### India-Specific Initiatives

India is highlighting its conservation efforts on National Wildlife Day (September 4), emphasizing that the protection of nature is a collective duty. The country's commitment to biodiversity is underscored by its success with Project Tiger, which has more than doubled the wild tiger population in just over a decade, with India now home to 75% of the world's wild tigers. Additionally, the new Biological Diversity

(Access and Benefit Sharing) Regulation, 2025 aims to ensure fair and equitable benefit sharing from the use of biological resources, including digital sequence information (DSI), and mandates benefit-sharing for researchers and intellectual property applicants.

### Emerging Threats and Research

A new study has revealed the profound threat of climate change to thousands of species, particularly ocean invertebrates, which are highly vulnerable to ocean acidification and rising temperatures. Climate change-related events like heatwaves, floods, and storms are directly impacting species survival. Researchers are also raising concerns about the rapid browning and reduced growth rates of vegetation across 59% of vegetated areas globally since the 1990s, a trend linked to reduced atmospheric water vapor.

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2. Which country is now home to 75% of the world's wild tigers, a success largely attributed to "Project Tiger"?

- a) China
- b) The European Union
- c) India
- d) Mexico

**Answer:** c) India

The "India-Specific Initiatives" section highlights that India's "Project Tiger... has more than doubled the wild tiger population... with India now home to 75% of the world's wild tigers."

3. What is a key focus of India's new "Biological Diversity (Access and Benefit Sharing) Regulation, 2025"?

- a) Reducing the wild tiger population to prevent human-animal conflict
- b) Mandating benefit-sharing from the use of biological resources, including digital sequence information (DSI)
- c) Providing more funding for international reforestation projects
- d) Imposing a temporary ban on all biodiversity research

**Answer:** b) Mandating benefit-sharing from the use of biological resources, including digital sequence information (DSI).

The text states this new regulation "aims to ensure fair and equitable benefit sharing from the use of biological resources, including digital sequence information (DSI), and mandates benefit-sharing for researchers and intellectual property applicants."

4. According to a recent study, what is a profound threat to thousands of species, particularly ocean invertebrates?

- a) Habitat loss from reforestation

## MCQS

1. The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework is a historic agreement with the primary goal of:

- a) Doubling global biodiversity funding to 7 billion euros.
- b) Defining a new strategic action plan for UNESCO's biosphere reserves.
- c) Halting and reversing nature loss by 2030.
- d) Creating a new treaty on high-seas biodiversity.

**Answer:** c) Halting and reversing nature loss by 2030.

The first paragraph explicitly states that the "Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, a historic agreement to halt and reverse nature loss by 2030, is a central focus of global efforts."







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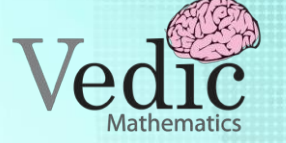
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- b) Plastic waste pollution in coastal ecosystems
- c) Ocean acidification and rising temperatures due to climate change
- d) Reduced growth rates of vegetation

**Answer:** c) Ocean acidification and rising temperatures due to climate change.

The "Emerging Threats and Research" section notes that a new study "revealed the profound threat of climate change to thousands of species, particularly ocean invertebrates, which are highly vulnerable to ocean acidification and rising temperatures."

**5. How much land did a study by The Nature Conservancy (TNC) identify as global "reforestation hotspots"?**

- a) An area the size of India
- b) 195 million hectares
- c) 7 billion euros
- d) 59% of vegetated areas globally

**Answer:** b) 195 million hectares.

The second paragraph states that the study "mapped 195 million hectares of land... where tree planting and forest regrowth are most likely to yield significant benefits."



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