



Biodiversity & Conservation:

Global Biodiversity & Conservation Updates

New Species Discoveries

A new genus and species of dinosaur, Huashanosaurus qini, was discovered in China. The 39-foot-long plant-eater is an early eusauropod, and its fossils predate previously known sauropod findings from the region by about 30 million years. This find increases the known diversity of Jurassic eusauropods in China.

In Arunachal Pradesh, India, the local Bugun community has given a new name to the endangered Bhutan glory butterfly in their language. This initiative, part of the Bhutan Glory Project, aims to foster a stronger connection between the community and the butterfly to aid in its conservation. The butterfly is a Schedule I species in India, and the Eaglenest Wildlife Sanctuary is the only place where both the Ludlow's and Himalayan Bhutan glory butterflies can be found.

Conservation Efforts & Policy

A significant animal exchange program has been agreed upon between the Gujarat and Tamil Nadu forest departments. The Sakkarbaug Zoological Gardens in Junagadh, Gujarat, will send a rare trio of pure-bred Asiatic lions (one male and two females) to the Vandalur Zoo in Chennai. This move is intended to re-establish a pure-bred lion gene pool at Vandalur and strengthen national conservation efforts for the endangered species.

A new study has mapped reforestation hotspots globally, identifying 195 million hectares of land where tree planting and forest regrowth are most likely to deliver combined climate, biodiversity, and community benefits. The research, published in Nature Communications, found that this area is significantly smaller than previous estimates, emphasizing the need for targeted conservation efforts.

The World Economic Forum has also highlighted the importance of osmotic power systems, which generate clean energy from water salinity, and green nitrogen fixation, a sustainable method for fertilizer production, as key emerging technologies for 2025 that can help address environmental and conservation challenges.

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MCQS

1. Where was the new genus and species of dinosaur, Huashanosaurus qini, discovered?

- A) India
- B) China
- C) Arunachal Pradesh
- D) Gujarat

Answer: B) China

The text states, "A new genus and species of dinosaur, Huashanosaurus qini, was discovered in China."

2. What is the purpose of the animal exchange program between the Gujarat and Tamil Nadu forest departments?

- A) To introduce new species to a zoo.
- B) To provide entertainment for zoo visitors.

C) To re-establish a pure-bred lion gene pool at Vandalur Zoo.

D) To study the behavior of Asiatic lions.

Answer: C) To re-establish a pure-bred lion gene pool at Vandalur Zoo.

The article specifies that the exchange of Asiatic lions is "intended to re-establish a pure-bred lion gene pool at Vandalur and strengthen national conservation efforts."

3. According to the text, what is the new name given by the Bugun community to the Bhutan glory butterfly intended to achieve?

- A) To make the butterfly a mascot.
- B) To attract more tourists to the region.
- C) To foster a stronger connection to aid in conservation.
- D) To rename the butterfly's habitat.

Answer: C) To foster a stronger connection to aid in conservation.

The text explains that the initiative "aims to foster a stronger connection between the community and the butterfly to aid in its conservation."

4. A new study has mapped global reforestation hotspots. How large is the area identified where tree planting and forest regrowth are most likely to be beneficial?

- A) 195 million hectares
- B) 30 million hectares
- C) 1 billion hectares
- D) 39 million hectares

Answer: A) 195 million hectares

The article mentions that the study "has mapped reforestation hotspots globally, identifying 195 million hectares of land where tree planting and forest regrowth are most likely to deliver combined climate, biodiversity, and community benefits."





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5. Which of the following is highlighted by the World Economic Forum as a key emerging technology that can help address environmental and conservation challenges?

- A) Genetically modified organisms
- B) Space exploration
- C) Green nitrogen fixation
- D) Nuclear fusion

Answer: C) Green nitrogen fixation

The text explicitly states that the World Economic Forum has highlighted "osmotic power systems... and green nitrogen fixation, as key emerging technologies for 2025 that can help address environmental and conservation challenges."



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