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## Biodiversity & Conservation:

On September 12, 2025, several notable events and reports are shaping the fields of biodiversity and conservation. Key developments include new funding initiatives, research on marine ecosystems, and ongoing efforts to address global challenges.

### Global Biodiversity Framework Fund (GBFF)

**Funding:** The Global Environment Facility (GEF) has opened the first selection round of the second tranche of the GBFF, a crucial fund designed to support the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. This round prioritizes projects from Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and Least Developed Countries (LDCs), recognizing their vulnerability and the critical role they play in global biodiversity.

### Innovations in Addressing Invasive Species:

A symposium is taking place on this day focusing on "Innovating Against Invasive Species" in the Pacific region. The event highlights how science-driven solutions are being turned into action to combat the spread of invasive species, which are a major threat to native ecosystems. This is a timely effort given a recent report from September 5, 2025, which revealed that all sea turtle species in the Pacific are threatened with extinction.

### Community-Led Conservation in India:

India's Forest and Environment Minister, Wangki Lowang, emphasized that community-led conservation efforts are key to future sustainability. Speaking at an event in Arunachal Pradesh, a region with nearly 79% of its area under forest cover, he praised the active role of local communities in protecting wildlife

and highlighted the "Pakke Declaration" on climate change as a milestone for the state.

**UNESCO Global Geoparks Expansion:** The UNESCO Global Geoparks Council has proposed 12 new geoparks for endorsement, which would expand the global network to 241 sites. These sites are managed to integrate protection, education, and sustainable development, with a focus on linking geodiversity, biodiversity, and human communities. This expansion reflects a growing recognition of the interconnectedness of geological and biological heritage.

**Marine Biodiversity Discoveries:** The Ocean Census, a global collaboration to accelerate the discovery of marine life, has identified 866 new marine species. These discoveries, made from depths ranging from 1 to 4,990 meters, include new species of sharks, sea stars, and a unique guitar shark. The new data will be used to inform conservation strategies and manage marine resources.

**Deep-Sea Snailfish Discovery:** Researchers have discovered and described three new species of deep-sea snailfish in the Pacific Ocean, including the "bumpy snailfish" (*Careproctus colliculi*). This discovery underscores the importance of deep-ocean biodiversity studies as human activity and climate change increasingly impact marine ecosystems.





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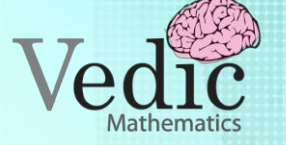
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## MCQS

**1.Which group of countries is being prioritized in the first selection round of the second tranche of the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund (GBFF)?**

- A) High-income countries and countries with vast forest reserves.
- B) Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and Least Developed Countries (LDCs).
- C) Nations with the highest carbon emissions.
- D) Countries with the largest marine territories.

**Answer: B**

The text states, "This round prioritizes projects from Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and Least Developed Countries (LDCs), recognizing their vulnerability and the critical role they play in global biodiversity."

**2.According to India's Forest and Environment Minister, Wangki Lowang, what is key to future sustainability?**

- A) Government-led large-scale projects.
- B) International partnerships and funding.
- C) The use of advanced technology and AI.
- D) Community-led conservation efforts.

**Answer: D**

The section on "Community-Led Conservation in India" directly quotes Minister Lowang, who "emphasized that community-led conservation efforts are key to future sustainability."

**3.What is the total number of UNESCO Global Geoparks that the network will expand to, if the proposed 12 new geoparks are endorsed?**

- A) 12
- B) 241
- C) 229
- D) 253

**Answer: B**

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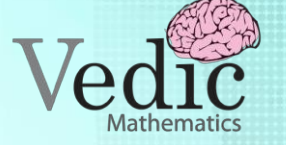
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The text states that the UNESCO Global Geoparks Council has proposed "12 new geoparks for endorsement, which would expand the global network to 241 sites."

**4.What is a major threat to native ecosystems in the Pacific region, as highlighted by the symposium on "Innovating Against Invasive Species"?**

- A) Climate change.
- B) Pollution from plastic waste.
- C) The spread of invasive species.
- D) Overfishing.

**Answer: C**

The "Innovations in Addressing Invasive Species" section focuses entirely on this issue, stating that the symposium is about combating the spread of "invasive species, which are a major threat to native ecosystems."

**5.The "Ocean Census" has identified a significant number of new marine species. What is one of the new species mentioned in the text?**

- A) A new type of blue whale.
- B) A new species of sea star.
- C) A new species of coral.
- D) A new variety of kelp.

**Answer: B**

The "Marine Biodiversity Discoveries" section notes that the 866 new species identified by the Ocean Census "include new species of sharks, sea stars, and a unique guitar shark."

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