



Biodiversity & Conservation:

Global Conservation & Policy

A recent study published in Science found that more than half of the world's forests became more fragmented between 2000 and 2020. The fragmentation, which is the breaking up of large, intact forests into smaller pieces, was highest in tropical regions. However, the study also provided a positive note, indicating that protected areas experienced significantly less fragmentation compared to unprotected forests. This highlights the effectiveness of establishing and maintaining protected zones.

The **Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF)**, adopted in 2022, continues to be a focal point for international conservation efforts. With five years remaining until the 2030 deadline, countries are working to meet ambitious goals, including the "30 by 30" target, which aims to protect at least 30% of the world's land and ocean. A new U.N. high seas treaty is a critical step toward protecting the vast and largely unprotected international waters, which are vital for achieving this goal.

The theme for **International Day for Biological Diversity 2025** was "Harmony with nature and sustainable development," emphasizing the connection between the KMGBF and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This underscores the need for a holistic approach to address both biodiversity loss and sustainable development.

Innovations in Conservation

New discoveries are being made at a rapid pace. The Ocean Census, a global collaboration, has

identified over 850 new marine species, including a new guitar shark and venomous sea snail. These discoveries underscore the vast amount of undiscovered biodiversity and the need for its protection.

In India, a number of new species have been discovered, including a new wolf spider, two new bent-toed geckos, and several new plant and fish species. This highlights the rich, yet fragile, biodiversity of the Indian subcontinent.

The use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) is being explored to revolutionize conservation efforts. AI can help to rapidly analyze large datasets, improve species tracking, and map species distributions. The Indian government is also using AI and geospatial mapping to tackle issues like forest fires and human-wildlife conflicts.

In a landmark move, India is expanding its conservation efforts by establishing a National Referral Centre for Wildlife and promoting the use of technology to track and manage wildlife. The country is also making progress on its cheetah reintroduction project, with the birth of 12 cubs.

Challenges and Threats

A recent study revealed that 95% of beers tested in the U.S. contained "forever chemicals" (PFAS), with the highest concentrations found in beers from regions with known water contamination. This highlights the pervasive issue of these persistent chemicals in the environment and food chain.

Conservationists are opposing a plan in Peru to build a prison in a sensitive ecosystem, demonstrating the ongoing conflict between development and habitat preservation.





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Fatal elephant attacks in a Nigerian community highlight the increasing threat of human-wildlife conflict, a common problem in areas with shrinking habitats.

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MCQS

1. According to the study mentioned, which type of forest area experienced significantly less fragmentation between 2000 and 2020?

- A. Unprotected forests
- B. Tropical forests
- C. Protected areas
- D. Forests in Asia and Europe

Answer: C

The text states, "the study also provided a positive note, indicating that protected areas experienced significantly less fragmentation compared to unprotected forests."

2. What is the "30 by 30" target within the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF)?

- A. To reduce carbon emissions by 30% by the year 2030.
- B. To protect at least 30% of the world's land and ocean by 2030.
- C. To reduce global biodiversity loss by 30% by 2030.
- D. To restore 30% of degraded ecosystems by 2030.

Answer: B

The text explicitly mentions that the "30 by 30" target "aims to protect at least 30% of the world's land and ocean."

3. The theme for the International Day for Biological Diversity 2025 emphasizes the connection between which two concepts?

- A. Climate change and economic growth
- B. Conservation and technology
- C. The KMGBF and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- D. Forest fragmentation and human-wildlife conflict





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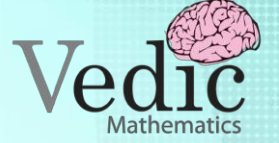
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**Answer: C**

The text states that the theme "emphasizing the connection between the KMGBF and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)."

4. The Ocean Census, a global collaboration, has identified over 850 new marine species. What is one example of a newly identified species mentioned in the text?

- A. A new species of elephant
- B. A new species of wolf spider
- C. A new bent-toed gecko
- D. A new guitar shark

Answer: D

The text provides "a new guitar shark and venomous sea snail" as examples of new discoveries made by the Ocean Census.

5. How is the Indian government using Artificial Intelligence (AI) and geospatial mapping in conservation efforts?

- A. To track the movement of invasive species
- B. To create new protected areas
- C. To tackle issues like forest fires and human-wildlife conflicts
- D. To analyze global biodiversity trends

Answer: C

The text states, "The Indian government is also using AI and geospatial mapping to tackle issues like forest fires and human-wildlife conflicts."

6. What is one of the new conservation initiatives being undertaken by India, as mentioned in the text?

- A. Reducing the use of plastics in national parks
- B. Establishing a National Referral Centre for Wildlife
- C. Banning development projects in sensitive ecosystems
- D. Partnering with a global organization to restore coral reefs

Answer: B

The text says, "India is expanding its conservation efforts by establishing a National Referral Centre for Wildlife..."

7. A recent study revealed that what percentage of beers tested in the U.S. contained "forever chemicals" (PFAS)?

- A. 30%
- B. 60%
- C. 85%
- D. 95%

Answer: D

The text states, "A recent study revealed that 95% of beers tested in the U.S. contained "forever chemicals" (PFAS)..."

8. The fatal elephant attacks in a Nigerian community are cited as an example of what kind of threat?

- A. Habitat loss
- B. Poaching
- C. Human-wildlife conflict
- D. Deforestation

Answer: C

The text explicitly identifies the attacks as highlighting "the increasing threat of human-wildlife conflict, a common problem in areas with shrinking habitats."

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