



Biodiversity & Conservation:

International Efforts

New Zealand Bat Conservation: The New Zealand Department of Conservation is undertaking a predator control operation to protect a vulnerable population of lesser short-tailed bats (pekapeka). The operation, which will use aerial drops of 1080 bait, is a proactive measure to prevent a predicted surge in rat populations following a heavy forest seeding event this summer. The bats are particularly vulnerable as they forage on the forest floor.

Norway Fund Divests from Indonesian Mine: Norway's massive state pension fund has divested its shares in French miner Eramet. The decision was based on an "unacceptable risk" of severe environmental damage and human rights violations at a nickel mine in Indonesia's Wallacea Biodiversity Hotspot. The mine's operations are accused of clearing rainforest at a faster rate than planned, threatening endemic species, and impacting the territory of an uncontacted Indigenous group.

Biodiversity Partnership Call for Proposals: The European Biodiversity Partnership, Biodiversa+, has announced a new research call for proposals. The focus is on "Restoration of ecosystem functioning, integrity and connectivity" to help reverse biodiversity loss, with a global budget of over 40 million euros provisionally reserved for the initiative.

Indian Conservation IN

Haryana's New Environment Plan: Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini has launched the State Environment Plan 2025-26. The plan

aims to improve air quality, reduce pollution, and enhance waste management. It includes measures to control industrial pollution with clean fuels, increase the number of air quality monitoring stations, and procure electric buses.

Kerala Wildlife Bill Controversy: A group of environmental organizations in Kerala, known as the Coexistence Collective, has condemned the proposed Kerala Wildlife Protection (Amendment) Bill, 2025. They argue that the bill is "anti-science" and "anti-conservation," and could lead to the indiscriminate killing of wild animals by giving a Chief Wildlife Warden "unrestricted power" to order a kill. The collective asserts the bill bypasses existing legal and scientific safeguards.

Gene Pool Eco Park Debate: In Tamil Nadu's Western Ghats, there is an ongoing debate about the Gene Pool Eco Park. Originally established as a research-focused reserve for in situ conservation of endemic species, the recent addition of eco-tourism elements has raised concerns among environmentalists who believe these two functions are "contradictory" and could harm the fragile ecosystem.

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- B. Unacceptable risk of environmental damage and human rights violations.
C. A shift in the fund's investment strategy toward renewable energy.
D. The company's expansion into a new, unregulated market.

Answer: B. Unacceptable risk of environmental damage and human rights violations.
Norway's pension fund decided to sell its shares in Eramet due to what it termed an "unacceptable risk" of severe environmental damage and human rights violations at a nickel mine in Indonesia's Wallacea Biodiversity Hotspot.

3. In which Indian state is the proposed Wildlife Protection (Amendment) Bill, 2025, facing condemnation from environmental organizations for being "anti-conservation"?

- A. Tamil Nadu
B. Haryana
C. Kerala
D. Karnataka

Answer: C. Kerala

The Coexistence Collective, a group of environmental organizations in Kerala, has publicly condemned the proposed Kerala Wildlife Protection (Amendment) Bill, 2025, arguing that it is "anti-science" and could lead to the indiscriminate killing of wild animals.

4. What is the core of the debate surrounding the Gene Pool Eco Park in Tamil Nadu's Western Ghats?

- A. A dispute over land ownership.
B. The introduction of new species to the park.
C. The addition of eco-tourism elements, which some believe are "contradictory" to the park's research purpose.
D. The park's name.

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1. What is the name of the vulnerable bat species being protected in New Zealand through a predator control operation?

- A. Pekapeka
B. Myotis daubentonii
C. Lasiurus borealis
D. Tadarida brasiliensis

Answer: A. Pekapeka

The New Zealand Department of Conservation is carrying out a predator control operation to safeguard a population of lesser short-tailed bats, also known as pekapeka, which are especially vulnerable to predators like rats.

2. What is the main reason Norway's state pension fund divested from the French miner Eramet?

- A. Financial instability of the company.





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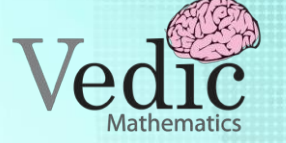
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Answer: C. The addition of eco-tourism elements, which some believe are "contradictory" to the park's research purpose. The controversy surrounding the Gene Pool Eco Park centers on the recent inclusion of eco-tourism activities, which environmentalists argue are "contradictory" to the park's original purpose as a research-focused reserve for in situ conservation.

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