



Biodiversity & Conservation:

Wildlife Protection & Policy

The European Parliament downgraded the protection status of wolves, moving them from "strictly protected" to "protected." This decision, reflecting a remarkable 58% increase in the European wolf population over the past decade, allows member states more flexibility in managing their wolf populations. Experts from the University of York and Stockholm Resilience Centre noted this change highlights the need for more adaptive conservation frameworks that move beyond a "crisis mindset" and focus on coexistence with species that are recovering.

In a separate development, India's Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) in Patna apprehended two individuals involved in the trafficking of endangered species. The seizure included a leopard skin and "Hatha Jodi," the reproductive organ of the protected monitor lizard. Both species are listed under the highest protection status of India's Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, and CITES Appendix-I, which bans their international trade.

Ecosystem Management & Restoration

A new study published in the journal Biological Conservation from the University of Göttingen argues that to effectively restore biodiversity in agricultural landscapes, a variety of measures is needed beyond simple flower strips. The research highlights the necessity of creating a diverse range of habitats, including a variety of crops, natural areas for perennial plants, and reduced field sizes to create more edge habitats. The study emphasizes the importance of

collaboration across all stakeholder groups to achieve a truly species-rich landscape.

In Africa, experts and policymakers gathered in Nairobi for a forum emphasizing the need for a more integrated and coordinated approach to managing the continent's biodiversity and ecosystems. Speakers stressed that forests, water bodies, and wildlife are deeply interconnected and that a comprehensive approach, backed by data and science, is crucial to address the triple crisis of climate change, pollution, and biodiversity loss.

Endangered Species & Community Efforts

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and its partners hosted an event in Bangladesh to mark International Vulture Awareness Day. The event, held near the Rema-Kalenga Wildlife Sanctuary, focused on raising awareness about the plight of the critically endangered White-rumped Vulture. Local communities and officials were encouraged to protect nesting trees and discourage the use of harmful veterinary drugs like flunixin, which is a major threat to vulture populations. The initiative underscores the critical role of community involvement in conservation.

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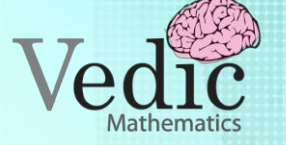
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MCQS

1. Why did the European Parliament downgrade the protection status of wolves?

- a) The wolf population had been declining rapidly.
- b) To allow for hunting to control their numbers.
- c) The European wolf population increased by 58% over the last decade.
- d) Wolves were found to be a threat to human life.

Answer: c) The European wolf population increased by 58% over the last decade.

The text states that the decision to downgrade the protection status of wolves was a reflection of a "remarkable 58% increase in the European wolf population over the past decade."

2. What two endangered species products were seized by India's Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI)?

- a) Tiger claws and elephant ivory.
- b) Rhino horn and "Hatha Jodi."
- c) Leopard skin and "Hatha Jodi."
- d) Bear bile and pangolin scales.

Answer: c) Leopard skin and "Hatha Jodi."

The text specifies that the seizure included a "leopard skin and 'Hatha Jodi,' the reproductive organ of the protected monitor lizard." Both are under the highest protection status in India and CITES.

3. According to a study from the University of Göttingen, what is needed to effectively restore biodiversity in agricultural landscapes beyond simple flower strips?

- a) A complete ban on farming in certain areas.
- b) The use of more pesticides to control invasive species.
- c) Creating a diverse range of habitats, including varied crops and reduced field sizes.
- d) Focusing solely on planting trees.

Answer: c) Creating a diverse range of habitats, including varied crops and reduced field sizes. The study from the University of Göttingen argues that effective biodiversity restoration requires a "diverse range of habitats, including a variety of crops, natural areas for perennial plants, and reduced field sizes to create more edge habitats."

4. What is the major threat to the critically endangered White-rumped Vulture mentioned in the text?





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- a) Habitat loss from deforestation.
- b) Poisoning from consuming carcasses contaminated with veterinary drugs.
- c) Illegal poaching for their feathers.
- d) Competition for food with other scavenger species.

Answer: b) Poisoning from consuming carcasses contaminated with veterinary drugs. The event held in Bangladesh highlighted the plight of the White-rumped Vulture and encouraged local communities to discourage the use of harmful veterinary drugs like flunixin, which is a "major threat" to the vulture populations.

5. In which country did experts and policymakers gather to discuss a more integrated approach to managing biodiversity?

- a) India
- b) Germany
- c) Bangladesh
- d) Kenya

Answer: d) Kenya

The text mentions that experts and policymakers gathered in Nairobi, which is the capital city of Kenya, to discuss an integrated approach to managing biodiversity and ecosystems in Africa.

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