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## Biodiversity & Conservation:

**Biodiversity & Conservation on September 20, 2025**

**Historic Marine Treaty Ratified** Morocco became the 60th nation to sign on to the world's first treaty to protect international waters, paving the way for the High Seas Treaty to take effect next year. This landmark agreement is a legal framework to protect marine diversity in international waters, which lie beyond the jurisdiction of any single country and account for nearly two-thirds of the ocean. This is a major step toward protecting these vulnerable areas from threats like over-fishing, climate change, and deep-sea mining.

**Jodhpur Consultation on Open Ecosystems** A state-level consultation was held in Jodhpur, India, to create a roadmap for conserving Rajasthan's Open Natural Ecosystems (ONEs), such as deserts and grasslands. The meeting, which brought together senior officials from the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE) and other organizations, highlighted the ecological and economic value of these ecosystems. Experts stressed the need for cross-sectoral coordination and the inclusion of ONEs in official land-use records to mitigate the adverse impacts of climate change.

### 3. Urban Conservation Challenges in Bengaluru

A recent report on Bengaluru's biodiversity has brought to light the city's struggle to protect its green spaces amidst rapid urbanization. The report notes that while some institutional areas have green cover, they lack biodiversity, and the city's tree cover is only 14.78%. The study also revealed that while some bird species are adapting to urbanized zones, others are

declining and can only be found in the city's larger, cooler green spaces. The report suggests prioritizing the planting of native, broad-canopy tree species to support biodiversity and mitigate the urban heat island effect.

### New Discoveries and Global Initiatives

**New Wasp Species:** Researchers have discovered two new species of parasitic wasps in the U.S., tracing their origins to Europe. Their presence raises new questions about biodiversity, ecological risks, and their role in the local ecosystem.

**Giraffe Conservation:** A new AI-powered model is helping conservationists better understand and protect giraffe populations by analyzing their movement and behavior in the wild.

**Rhino Assessment:** The latest assessment from the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) shows that while two rhino species are recovering, three others continue to decline, underscoring the ongoing need for conservation efforts.

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A report on Bengaluru's biodiversity noted the city's struggle with urbanization and stated that its tree cover is only 14.78%.

**3: What type of ecosystems were the focus of a state-level consultation in Jodhpur, India?**

- a) Open Natural Ecosystems (ONEs)
- b) Coastal Ecosystems
- c) Wetland Ecosystems
- d) Mountain Ecosystems

**Answer:** a) Open Natural Ecosystems (ONEs). The consultation in Jodhpur, India, was held to create a roadmap for conserving Rajasthan's Open Natural Ecosystems (ONEs), such as deserts and grasslands.

**4: What is helping conservationists understand and protect giraffe populations?**

- a) A new satellite tracking system.
- b) A new AI-powered model.
- c) A new genetic mapping technique.
- d) A new drone surveillance program.

**Answer:** b) A new AI-powered model.

The prompt mentions that a new AI-powered model is helping conservationists better understand and protect giraffe populations by analyzing their movement and behavior in the wild.

**5: According to the latest IUCN assessment, how many rhino species are recovering, and how many are declining?**

- a) One recovering, four declining.
- b) Two recovering, three declining.
- c) Three recovering, two declining.
- d) Four recovering, one declining.

**Answer:** b) Two recovering, three declining. The latest assessment from the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) shows

## MCQS

**1: How many nations have signed the High Seas Treaty, paving the way for it to take effect?**

- a) 50
- b) 60
- c) 70
- d) 80

**Answer:** b) 60.

Morocco became the 60th nation to sign on to the High Seas Treaty, which is a significant step toward its entry into force.

**2: Which Indian city's biodiversity report revealed that its tree cover is only 14.78%?**

- a) Mumbai
- b) Delhi
- c) Bengaluru
- d) Chennai

**Answer:** c) Bengaluru.







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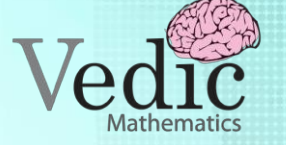
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