



COP16: Global Efforts to Stop Biodiversity Loss Stalling

Description

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Construction at a contentious dam complex in the Amazon Basin

Mario Tama/Getty Images

Since 2020, the extent of land and aquatic environments formally designated for biodiversity conservation has expanded by less than 0.5 percent, leaving humanity significantly off track to achieve the ambitious objective of safeguarding 30 percent of the Earth by 2030.

Inger Andersen, executive director of the UN Environment Programme, stated in a press release, “While some strides have been made over the past four years, our progress is neither sufficient nor swift enough.”

At the COP15 summit held in Montreal in 2022, nations reached a pivotal agreement aimed at curbing biodiversity decline, committing to establish formal protections for 30 percent of terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems, as well as 30 percent of marine environments, by the close of this decade. This commitment was considered the minimum necessary to prevent widespread extinctions and necessitates approximately doubling terrestrial protected areas and tripling those designated for marine environments.

As delegates convene at the COP16 biodiversity summit in Colombia, an official update underscores a stark reality: progress toward the “30 by 30” goal remains agonizingly slow.

As it stands, a mere 17.6 percent of terrestrial and freshwater domains and 8.4 percent of oceanic expanses enjoy formal protection, according to data compiled by the UN Environment Programme and the International Union for Conservation of Nature. This shortfall equates to a land area larger than Brazil and Australia combined, while the ocean still requires a protected expanse equivalent to the Indian Ocean to fulfill the objective.

Compounding the issue, a third of the most ecologically significant regions lack any formal protections, while existing protected areas fail to encompass essential ecosystem types, particularly in the deep blue. Furthermore, few protected regions are interconnected, and only a small proportion have been evaluated to determine the efficacy of these protections.

As Brian O'Donnell from the Campaign for Nature aptly notes, “This lays bare the reality of global inaction. To rectify this, governments must recognize the biodiversity crisis as the emergency it invariably is.”

Additional reports emerging from the COP16 summit highlight the alarming state of biodiversity. The inaugural global assessment of arboreal biodiversity revealed that 38 percent of tree species face extinction risk. As the summit progresses through the week, nations are anticipated to announce fresh commitments regarding protected areas and conservation funding.

Topics:

Vocabulary List:



1. **Biodiversity** /ˌbaɪoʊdɪˈvɜːr.sɪ.ti/ (noun): The variety of life in the world or in a particular habitat or ecosystem.
2. **Extinction** /ɪkˈstɪŋkʃən/ (noun): The state or process of a species family or larger group being or becoming extinct.
3. **Conservation** /ˌkɒn.sərˈveɪ.jən/ (noun): The action of preserving protecting or restoring the natural environment.
4. **Commitment** /kəˈmɪt.mənt/ (noun): The state or quality of being dedicated to a cause or activity.
5. **Ecological** /ˌiː.kəˈlɒdʒ.ɪ.kəl/ (adjective): Relating to the relationship of living organisms to one another and to their physical surroundings.
6. **Significant** /sɪɡˈnɪf.ɪ.kənt/ (adjective): Sufficiently great or important to be worthy of attention; noteworthy.

Comprehension Questions

Multiple Choice

1. What goal is humanity off track to achieve by 2030?
Option: 10% of Earth safeguarded
Option: 20% of Earth safeguarded
Option: 30% of Earth safeguarded
Option: 40% of Earth safeguarded
2. At which summit did nations reach an agreement to establish protections for 30% of ecosystems?
Option: COP12 summit in Beijing
Option: COP15 summit in Montreal
Option: COP18 summit in Tokyo
Option: COP20 summit in Paris
3. What percentage of oceanic expanses currently enjoy formal protection?
Option: 5.2%
Option: 8.4%
Option: 12.1%
Option: 15.7%
4. How much of the most ecologically significant regions lack formal protections?
Option: 10%
Option: 20%
Option: 30%
Option: 40%



5. According to data compiled, what does the shortfall in protected oceanic expanse equate to?

- Option: Pacific Ocean
- Option: Indian Ocean
- Option: Atlantic Ocean
- Option: Arctic Ocean

6. What percentage of tree species face extinction risk according to the inaugural global assessment of arboreal biodiversity?

- Option: 18%
- Option: 24%
- Option: 30%
- Option: 38%

True-False

7. Humanity is currently on track to safeguard 30% of the Earth by 2030.

8. The COP16 biodiversity summit took place in Paris.

9. Brian O'Donnell believes that global inaction on biodiversity is acceptable.

10. Existing protected areas do not encompass essential ecosystem types.

11. The inaugural global assessment of arboreal biodiversity highlighted that 30% of tree species face extinction risk.

12. The COP15 summit aimed to protect 40% of marine environments by the close of the decade.

Gap-Fill

13. The extent of land and aquatic environments formally designated for biodiversity conservation has expanded by less than _____ percent since 2020.

14. The COP15 summit was held in _____ in 2022.



15. A third of the most ecologically significant regions lack formal protections, while _____ of oceanic expanses enjoy formal protection.
16. The ocean still requires a protected expanse equivalent to the _____ to fulfill the objective.
17. The inaugural global assessment of arboreal biodiversity revealed that _____ percent of tree species face extinction risk.
18. Progress towards the "30 by 30" goal remains _____.

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. 30% of Earth safeguarded 2. COP15 summit in Montreal 3. 8.4% 4. 30% 5. Indian Ocean 6. 38%

True-False: 7. False 8. False 9. False 10. True 11. False 12. False

Gap-Fill: 13. 0.5 14. Montreal 15. 8.4% 16. Indian Ocean 17. 38 18. agonizingly slow

Vocabulary quizzes

Multiple Choice (Select the Correct answer for each question.)

1. What is the opposite of approved?
Option: A) Condemned
Option: B) Manipulative
Option: C) Sophisticated
Option: D) Commitment
2. Which word means having an intense but short-lived passion or admiration for someone?
Option: A) Infatuated
Option: B) Significant
Option: C) Adversely
Option: D) Prevalent
3. What term refers to the variety of life in a particular habitat or ecosystem?
Option: A) Regulation



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- Option: B) Biodiversity
Option: C) Conservation
Option: D) Commitment
4. What is the term for the dying out or extermination of a species?
Option: A) Untenable
Option: B) Extinction
Option: C) Reverberating
Option: D) Prohibit
5. Which word relates to the scientific study of interactions among organisms and their environment?
Option: A) Identified
Option: B) Synthesis
Option: C) Ecological
Option: D) Mandate
6. What word means sufficiently great or important to be worthy of attention?
Option: A) Proliferation
Option: B) Burnout
Option: C) Significant
Option: D) Streamline
7. What is a formal order to do something?
Option: A) Acclimate
Option: B) Mandate
Option: C) Integration
Option: D) Prohibiting
8. What is the rapid increase in numbers of something?
Option: A) Burnout
Option: B) Proliferation
Option: C) Identified
Option: D) Synthesis
9. What means to make a process more efficient and effective?
Option: A) Integrate
Option: B) Streamline
Option: C) Elucidating
Option: D) Mandate
10. What is the process of organisms adjusting to a new environment?
Option: A) Embroiled
Option: B) Prevalent



- Option: C) Acclimate
Option: D) Compounds

Gap-Fill (Fill in the blanks with the correct word from the vocabulary list.)

11. The two countries were _____ in a bitter territorial dispute.
12. Water is _____ for human survival.
13. The suspect was _____ by several eyewitnesses at the scene.
14. The _____ of different ideas led to the breakthrough in scientific research.
15. The professor did an excellent job of _____ complex theories in simple terms.
16. It is important to _____ new members into the team smoothly.
17. Constant work pressure can lead to _____ among employees.
18. His argument was _____ in the face of overwhelming evidence.
19. The sound of the explosion was still _____ in their ears.
20. The law _____ smoking in public places.

Matching Sentences (Match each definition to the correct word from the vocabulary list.)

21. The mother's was evident when her child went missing.
22. The new software had a design that impressed the users.
23. efforts are crucial to protect endangered species and their habitats.
24. Her unwavering to her goals propelled her to success.
25. Flu outbreaks are during the winter season.
26. Chemical can have various properties and applications.
27. She sat in silence her next move carefully.



28. The political scandal left the government in controversy.

29. The economic downturn has affected small businesses.

30. Patience is when dealing with difficult situations.

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. A) Condemned 2. A) Infatuated 3. B) Biodiversity 4. B) Extinction 5. C) Ecological
6. C) Significant 7. B) Mandate 8. B) Proliferation 9. B) Streamline 10. C) Acclimate

Gap-Fill: 11. embroiled 12. indispensable 13. identified 14. synthesis 15. elucidating 16. integrate 17.
burnout 18. untenable 19. reverberating 20. prohibits

Matching sentence: 1. anguish 2. sophisticated 3. conservation 4. commitment 5. prevalent 6. compounds
7. contemplating 8. embroiled 9. adversely 10. indispensable

CATEGORY

1. Sci/Tech - LEVEL5

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