Sub-Saharan Africa's Environmental Crossroads: Biodiversity Loss, Water Sc

Environment Africa · Practice Test · 10 Questions

1. According to a recent comprehensive study published in Nature, what percentage of biodiversity has Sub-Saharan Africa lost since pre-industrial times, and what is a key implication regarding the location of remaining wild flora and fauna?

A) Approximately 15% lost; 80% of remaining species are in formally protected areas.
B) Nearly a quarter (24%) lost; 80% of remaining species live outside formally protected lands.
C) Around 30% lost; 95% of remaining species are in formally protected areas.
D) Less than 10% lost; 50% of remaining species live outside formally protected lands.

2. What is a primary driver of deforestation in Sub-Saharan Africa, accounting for approximately 75% of forest loss, and what is a critical consequence highlighted by recent research concerning mining activities?

A) Commercial logging; the rate of forest loss due to mining infrastructure is 5 times that of the mine sites themselves.
B) Agricultural expansion; for every hectare of mine site, 34 hectares of forest are lost to supporting infrastructure.
C) Urban development; deforestation for urban expansion has led to a 60% increase in forest loss in West Africa.
D) Charcoal production; this is the main cause of forest destruction in Zambia, with a yearly loss of about 300,000 hectares.

3. In 2025, African countries added a significant amount of renewable energy capacity. How much capacity was added, and what trend is observed regarding new energy projects announced across Africa in the same year concerning renewables versus fossil fuels?

A) 4.2 gigawatts added; 22 were natural gas projects, and 253 were renewable energy projects.
B) 11.3 gigawatts added; 253 were renewable energy projects, including 173 solar installations, with only 22 natural gas projects announced.
C) 8.5 gigawatts added; 150 were solar projects, and 50 were wind projects.
D) 15 gigawatts added; over 200 were renewable projects, but fossil fuel projects also saw significant growth.

4. The African Development Bank (AfDB) has been increasing its climate finance. In 2024, what amount did the AfDB allocate to climate finance, and what percentage of its total approvals did this represent?

A) $19.5 billion; 78% of total approvals.
B) $5.5 billion; 49% of total approvals.
C) $25 billion; 100% of total approvals.
D) $4.5 billion; 45% of total approvals.

5. What is the estimated annual economic loss for Sub-Saharan Africa due to poor water infrastructure, and what is the estimated return on investment for every dollar spent on water and sanitation improvements?

A) 5% of GDP, equivalent to $170 billion per year; at least seven dollars in benefits.
B) 10% of GDP, equivalent to $200 billion per year; at least five dollars in benefits.
C) 2% of GDP, equivalent to $100 billion per year; at least ten dollars in benefits.
D) 1% of GDP, equivalent to $50 billion per year; at least three dollars in benefits.

6. A 2025 study highlighted that 80% of Sub-Saharan Africa's remaining wild plants and animals live outside formally protected lands. What is a significant implication of this finding for biodiversity conservation strategies?

A) It necessitates a greater focus on expanding existing national parks and reserves.
B) It highlights the insufficiency of protected areas alone and the need for sustainable management of working landscapes.
C) It indicates that conservation efforts should exclusively target urban green spaces.
D) It suggests that biodiversity is no longer a significant concern outside protected areas.

7. According to recent data, by what year are glaciers in several major African mountains, including Mount Kilimanjaro, expected to vanish entirely, and what is a major consequence of this phenomenon?

A) 2030; impacting water supplies for millions.
B) 2040; leading to increased desertification.
C) 2050; jeopardizing water supplies for millions.
D) 2060; causing significant sea-level rise.

8. In 2025, what was the estimated renewable energy capacity added by African countries, and how does this compare to the capacity added in 2024?

A) 4.2 gigawatts, a decrease from 2024.
B) 11.3 gigawatts, an increase from 4.2 gigawatts in 2024.
C) 6.0 gigawatts, a slight increase from 2024.
D) 15 gigawatts, a threefold increase from 2024.

9. What is the primary challenge hindering the significant deployment of utility-scale wind and solar PV facilities in many Sub-Saharan African countries, despite the potential for renewables?

A) Lack of sunshine and wind resources.
B) High cost of solar panels and wind turbines.
C) Electricity utilities lacking investment-grade credit ratings and other investment disincentives.
D) Insufficient technical expertise for installation and maintenance.

10. Recent research indicates that between 2001 and 2020, a significant area of forest was lost to mining activity in Africa. What was this area, and what is the ratio of forest loss due to supporting infrastructure compared to the mine site itself?

A) 187,000 hectares; 10 hectares lost for every 1 hectare of mine site.
B) 250,000 hectares; 20 hectares lost for every 1 hectare of mine site.
C) 187,000 hectares; 34 hectares lost for every 1 hectare of mine site.
D) 100,000 hectares; 15 hectares lost for every 1 hectare of mine site.