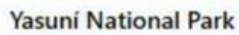


Natural Resources in Ecuador: Yasuní, Machalilla and Cajas National Parks



Read the text and answer questions 1–5.

Yasuní: Biodiversity Under Pressure

Yasuní National Park, located in the Ecuadorian Amazon, is internationally recognized for its extraordinary biodiversity. Its tropical rainforests provide habitats for countless species of plants, insects, birds, mammals, and amphibians. The park also plays a crucial role in maintaining ecological balance and protecting the traditional territories of Indigenous peoples, including communities that live in voluntary isolation.

Despite its ecological importance, Yasuní faces significant challenges. Oil extraction can generate economic revenue, but it may also cause habitat fragmentation, water pollution, and the disruption of local communities. Building roads through previously undisturbed forests can make remote areas more accessible to illegal logging and other human activities.

Conservation, therefore, requires more than protecting wildlife. It involves balancing economic interests with environmental responsibility, respecting Indigenous rights, and developing sustainable alternatives. The future of Yasuní depends on decisions that recognize the long-term value of its natural resources.

1. What is the main idea of the text?

- A. Oil extraction is the only way to improve life in the Amazon.
- B. Yasuní's biodiversity must be protected while addressing economic and social challenges.
- C. Indigenous communities should leave the rainforest.
- D. Building roads is the most effective conservation strategy.

2. What does the expression "habitat fragmentation" refer to?

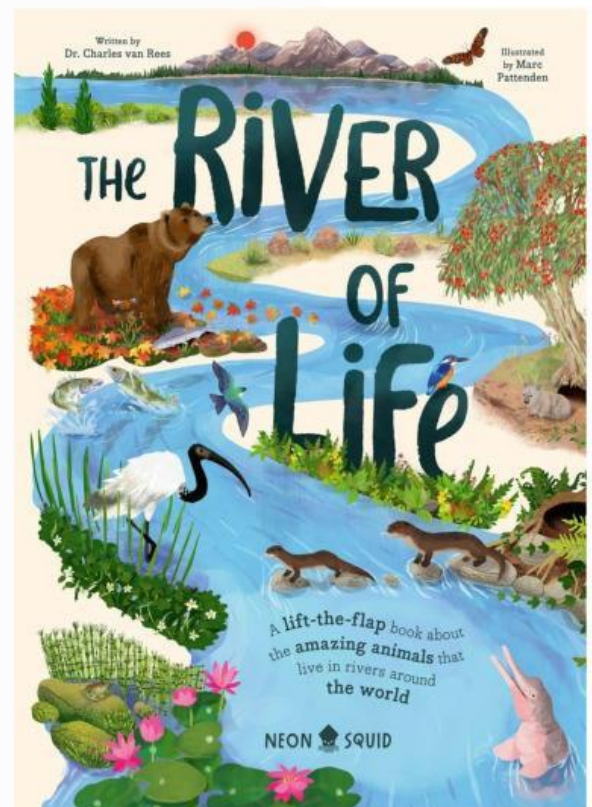
- A. The creation of larger and more connected ecosystems.
- B. The natural migration of animals between continents.
- C. The division of habitats into smaller, disconnected areas.
- D. The complete recovery of damaged forests.

3. Why can road construction threaten Yasuní's biodiversity?

- A. It prevents all human activities in the forest.
- B. It can facilitate access to previously undisturbed areas.
- C. It automatically increases the number of endangered species.
- D. It eliminates the need for environmental regulations.

4. What can be inferred about oil extraction in Yasuní?

- A. Its economic benefits may involve environmental and social costs.
- B. It has no connection to environmental conservation.
- C. It always improves water quality.
- D. It is the only sustainable source of income for local communities.



5. Which strategy would best support the long-term conservation of Yasuní?

- A. Increasing extraction without environmental assessments.
- B. Replacing the rainforest with agricultural land.
- C. Ignoring Indigenous communities in decision-making.
- D. Promoting conservation, Indigenous rights, and sustainable economic alternatives.

Part 2. Reading Comprehension: Machalilla National Park



Read the text and answer questions 6–10.

Machalilla: Where Land Meets the Ocean

Located in Manabí Province, Machalilla National Park is an important protected area that includes terrestrial, coastal, and marine environments. Its landscapes feature dry forests, beaches, islands, and diverse marine habitats. This combination supports a wide range of species and creates opportunities for scientific research, ecotourism, and environmental education.

The park's natural resources also support local livelihoods. Artisanal fishing provides food and income for coastal communities, while tourism creates employment for guides, accommodation providers, and small businesses. However, these activities must be carefully managed. Overfishing, plastic waste, irresponsible tourism, and damage to sensitive marine ecosystems can undermine the very resources on which local communities depend.

Sustainable tourism offers a possible solution. Visitors can contribute to the local economy while respecting wildlife, reducing waste, and following conservation guidelines. Likewise, responsible fishing practices can help maintain marine populations over time. Protecting Machalilla requires cooperation among local residents, authorities, tourists, and businesses. [keybiolodiversi... +1](#)

6. What makes Machalilla National Park particularly significant?

- A. It consists exclusively of high-altitude wetlands.
- B. It combines terrestrial and marine ecosystems in a protected area.
- C. It contains no human settlements or economic activities nearby.
- D. It is primarily dedicated to industrial development.

7. According to the text, how do natural resources benefit local communities?

- A. They eliminate the need for employment.
- B. They guarantee unlimited fishing opportunities.
- C. They support livelihoods through fishing and tourism.
- D. They prevent all economic competition.



8. What does the word “undermine” most nearly mean in the text?

- A. Strengthen.
- B. Protect.
- C. Restore.
- D. Weaken or damage.

9. Why should tourism activities be carefully managed?

- A. Uncontrolled tourism may damage the ecosystems that attract visitors.
- B. Tourism always reduces local employment.
- C. Visitors should be prohibited from learning about nature.
- D. Tourism has no relationship with environmental quality.

10. Which action best represents sustainable tourism?

- A. Leaving plastic waste on the beach.
- B. Disturbing wildlife to take photographs.
- C. Supporting local businesses and minimizing environmental damage.
- D. Collecting marine organisms as souvenirs.

Part 3. Reading Comprehension: Cajas National Park



Read the text and answer questions 11–15.

Cajas: A Natural Reservoir for the Future

Cajas National Park, located in Azuay Province, is a high-altitude Andean ecosystem characterized by páramo vegetation, mountain landscapes, and numerous lakes and wetlands. These environments are essential for regulating the water cycle, storing and gradually releasing water, and maintaining habitats for native species.

The park is particularly important for water security in the region. Its waters contribute to river systems that supply communities, including the city of Cuenca. Consequently, damage to wetlands and páramo vegetation can have consequences far beyond the boundaries of the protected area.

Climate change, inappropriate land use, pollution, and other human pressures may affect the quality and availability of water. Conservation efforts therefore focus on protecting water sources, monitoring aquatic ecosystems, and encouraging responsible visitor behavior. Although lakes and rivers may appear abundant, clean freshwater is a limited resource that requires careful management.

Cajas demonstrates that natural resources are not valuable solely because they can be extracted or sold. They also provide essential ecosystem services that support human well-being, biodiversity, and economic activities over the long term. GAD Municip... +1

11. What is one of the most important functions of Cajas National Park?

- A. Producing petroleum for industrial use.
- B. Supporting water regulation and protecting freshwater resources.
- C. Providing land for intensive urban development.
- D. Increasing the salinity of freshwater lakes.

12. What could happen if páramo vegetation and wetlands were seriously damaged?

- A. Water resources could be affected beyond the park itself.
- B. All water pollution would immediately disappear.
- C. The region would no longer depend on rivers.
- D. Freshwater would become an unlimited resource.

13. In the text, the phrase "water security" refers to:

- A. The construction of fences around lakes.
- B. The prevention of all recreational activities.
- C. Reliable access to sufficient and safe water.
- D. The commercial ownership of every river.

14. Why does the author describe clean freshwater as a limited resource?

- A. Because lakes contain only salt water.
- B. Because water has no ecological value.
- C. Because freshwater cannot support human activities.
- D. Because its availability and quality can be threatened.



15. Which statement best expresses the author's perspective on natural resources?

- A. Their only value lies in their commercial price.
- B. Their ecological services are essential for long-term human well-being.
- C. They should be used without restrictions.
- D. Their conservation is unrelated to economic development.

Part 4. Vocabulary: Accidents, First Aid and Natural Landscapes

Instructions: Choose the correct answer (A, B, C, or D) to complete each sentence.

A. Accidents, injuries and first aid

26. If a snake _____ someone, the person should seek medical attention immediately.

- A. rescues
- B. bites
- C. trips
- D. treats

27. If you cut your finger deeply, it may _____ for several minutes.

- A. bleed
- B. crash
- C. summit
- D. stream

28. After running for a long time at high altitude, hikers may find it difficult to _____ normally.

- A. bite
- B. rescue
- C. breathe
- D. run over

29. The driver lost control of the vehicle, causing it to _____ a tree.

- A. treat
- B. crash into
- C. trip over
- D. bleed

30. The cyclist was seriously _____ when the car hit him.

- A. injured
- B. rescued
- C. conscious
- D. precautionary

31. The hiker fell down the slope and _____ after hitting his head.

- A. took precautions
- B. lost consciousness
- C. reached the summit
- D. crossed the shore

32. The rescue team worked for hours to _____ the tourists trapped in the mountains.

- A. run over
- B. bite
- C. rescue
- D. crash into

33. The pedestrian was lucky not to be _____ by the speeding motorcycle.

- A. treated
- B. run over
- C. bitten
- D. breathed

34. Before exploring a remote nature reserve, visitors should _____ to avoid accidents.

- A. take precautions
- B. lose consciousness
- C. crash into
- D. trip over

35. The paramedics arrived quickly to _____ the injured climber.

- A. hit
- B. bleed
- C. treat
- D. run over

36. Be careful when walking on rocky trails because you might _____ a tree root.

- A. trip over
- B. crash into
- C. rescue
- D. breathe

37. The falling branch could _____ a hiker who is walking underneath it.

- A. treat
- B. hit
- C. bleed
- D. lose

B. Natural landscapes and protected areas

38. Machalilla National Park includes a beautiful coastal _____ where seawater enters the land.

- A. summit
- B. stream
- C. bay
- D. peak

39. Tourists walked along the _____, enjoying the sand and the sound of the waves.

- A. shore
- B. summit
- C. habitat
- D. range

40. After several hours of climbing, the mountaineers finally reached the _____ of the mountain.
- A. waterfall
 - B. bay
 - C. stream
 - D. summit
41. The highest _____ in a mountain range may attract experienced climbers.
- A. shore
 - B. peak
 - C. habitat
 - D. stream
42. The Andes form an extensive mountain _____ that stretches along western South America.
- A. range
 - B. bay
 - C. waterfall
 - D. shore
43. A small _____ flows through the forest, providing water for many organisms.
- A. summit
 - B. peak
 - C. stream
 - D. shore
44. The tourists admired the spectacular _____ as water plunged from the rocky cliff.
- A. habitat
 - B. waterfall
 - C. range
 - D. bay
45. Yasuní and Machalilla are examples of protected areas established to conserve Ecuador's natural heritage. They are both _____.
- A. nature reserves
 - B. mountain peaks
 - C. coastal streams
 - D. artificial habitats
46. The tropical rainforest provides a natural _____ for monkeys, birds, insects, and countless other species.
- A. summit
 - B. shore
 - C. habitat
 - D. bay

C. Vocabulary in context: Critical thinking

47. A hiker notices that another visitor has fallen and is bleeding. What should the hiker do first?

- A. Ignore the injured person and continue walking.
- B. Take appropriate precautions, assess the situation, and seek help.
- C. Move the person immediately without checking for serious injuries.
- D. Leave the nature reserve without informing anyone.

48. Why is it important to protect the habitats found in Yasuní National Park?

- A. To encourage the uncontrolled destruction of forests.
- B. To make all wildlife dependent on human assistance.
- C. To preserve biodiversity and the ecosystems that support living organisms.
- D. To replace natural vegetation with roads.

49. Which sentence uses *run over* correctly?

- A. The waterfall ran over the mountain summit.
- B. The driver nearly ran over a turtle crossing the road.
- C. The rescue team ran over the injured climber to help him.
- D. The tourists ran over the bay to admire the shore.

50. Which statement best describes responsible behavior when visiting Cajas National Park?

- A. Climb steep peaks without preparation.
- B. Leave waste near streams and waterfalls.
- C. Approach wild animals to feed them.
- D. Take precautions, respect wildlife, and protect natural habitats.



