

Question 2: Analyze an Environmental Problem and Propose a Solution**10 points****(a) (i) Identify** the latitudinal range with the greatest amphibian species richness.**1 point**

Accept one of the following:

- Between the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn
- The range between 30 degrees N and 30 degrees S latitude
- The range between 10 degrees N and 15 degrees S latitude

(ii) Identify what biome this range most likely represents.**1 point**

- Tropical Rainforest

(iii) Describe one reason amphibian species richness would tend to be highest in this region.**1 point**

Accept one of the following:

- More rainfall/warm temperatures year-round are the preferred conditions for amphibians.
- Greater biodiversity/higher NPP provides more habitat/food sources/niches.

Total for part (a) 3 points**(b)** There are many environmental threats facing amphibians today, such as deforestation.**1 point****Describe** one possible anthropogenic reason for deforestation.

- Human demand for agriculture/housing/firewood/forest products (medicine/food/lumber).

(c) (i) Explain how the species richness of an ecosystem influences its response to environmental stressors.**1 point**

- An ecosystem with greater species richness/diversity is more resilient/resistant to environment stressors because some species will survive helping to restore/stabilize the ecosystem.

(ii) **Explain** why amphibian biodiversity is declining globally, other than from deforestation. **1 point**

Accept one of the following:

- Increasing water pollution including:
 - Pollution from pharmaceuticals that cause reproductive harm/decrease reproductive success.
 - Pesticide pollution that is absorbed via the skin and is toxic to amphibians leading to death.
 - Endocrine disruptors (such as atrazine) can alter reproductive development leading to decreased number of successful offspring.
- Pesticide use reduces food sources for amphibians (insects), leading to decreasing population size.
- Microclimatic changes from overall global climate change (e.g., warmer, drier conditions in previously cool, moist areas, loss of wetlands) decreases available habitat leading to a decline in population size.
- Illegal amphibian trafficking removes species from an area leading to a decline in population sizes.
- Introduction of invasive species that compete for niche space leading to a decline in population sizes.
- Habitat fragmentation from human activity would limit range/reduce the ability to access resources, decreasing survival.
- Fungal infections (such as Chytrid) cause their skin to dry out, and they cannot breathe.

Total for part (c) 2 points

(d) (i) **Identify** one specific piece of legislation that has been designed to protect species threatened by extinction. **1 point**

Accept one of the following:

- Endangered Species Act (ESA)
 - Convention on the International Trade of Endangered Species (CITES)
 - Lacey Act
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- (ii) **Explain** how the requirements of the legislation identified in part (d)(i) specifically protect species threatened by extinction. **1 point**

Accept one of the following:

Legislation identified in (d)(i)	Explanation of requirements that specifically protect species threatened by extinction
Endangered Species Act (ESA)	- Lists endangered/threatened plant and animal species and prevents them from being killed or harmed. - Designates/protects critical habitat to promote survival and recovery of listed species. - Creates plans to restore populations to healthy sizes. - Identifies species that are threatened before they become endangered to provide protections.
Convention on the International Trade of Endangered Species (CITES)	A global agreement that protects endangered/threatened plants and animals (including goods such as ivory, shark fins, or rhinoceros' horns) by banning/regulating the trade of these species.
Lacey Act	Prohibits the trade of wildlife, fish, and plants that have been illegally taken, possessed, transported, or sold.

Total for part (d) 2 points

- (e) (i) **Propose** a viable solution that will result in the protection of the endemic frog species while still allowing for maximum profit of the property development. **1 point**

Accept one of the following:

- Move/transplant the frog populations to an adjacent undeveloped area prior to development.
- A portion of the wetland can be designated as a park/preserve.
- Wildlife corridors (land/bridges) can be built/created on a portion of the wetlands.
- Restrict development within a minimum setback away from the wetland.
- Project developers can group buildings together/can build up, not out.

- (ii) **Justify** the solution proposed in (e)(i) by describing a potential advantage of the plan, other than frog protection. **1 point**

Accept one of the following:

Solution proposed in (e)(i)	Justification of how solutions offer potential advantages, other than frog protection
Move/transplant frogs	- Developers will only have a one-time disruption during the removal but will not have to deal with continued disruptions (such as increasing human population, increasing use of fertilizer/pesticides). - Developer will have the maximum amount of land available.
Designate as a park/preserve	- By protecting areas, animal species will have more food and space availability increasing survival rates. - Potential educational/environmental draw of living near a park/preserve may allow the developer to charge higher rents for the apartments. - There is aesthetic value of the wetland and its species for the people that live there. - The preserved wetland area will help prevent flooding.
Use of wildlife corridors	- By establishing corridors, the other species will also not be as greatly affected by multiple habitat fragments. - The animal species can continue to move back and forth for food, shelter, and reproduction by way of the habitat corridors.
Setback	- By establishing setbacks, a buffer zone will be created between the development and the wetland area, filtering runoff into the wetland. - A buffer zone will add privacy for residents between the two developments.
Project development	By developing the apartments in groups/clusters and leaving preserved wetlands, the species will not be as affected by multiple habitat fragments.

Total for part (e) 2 points

Total for question 2 10 points