

'Biodiversity needs legal protection'

Ahmedabad: It is World Ozone Day on September 16. In that context, experts at Gujarat National Law University (GNLU) have opined that biodiversity conservation in India can be ensured only by stronger laws and forceful implementation of them.

GNLU recently organized a symposium on 'Conservation of Biodiversity in India: Issues and Challenges.' "According to the latest UN research report, biodiversity is declining globally at rates unprecedented in human history," said D Shanthakumar, director of GNLU. "And the rate of species extinction is accelerating. Around 1 million species of plants and animals face extinction today." He said that from academic year 2019-20, each incoming student will plant a tree and pledge to conserve it even after graduating.

The experts who participated in the event stressed on the DUS rule — distinctiveness, uniformity and stability — for farming practices. They stressed on better awareness about the state's flora and fauna among farmers and the general population. Participants including activists, lawyers, academicians and students. TNN