



Coringa Wildlife Sanctuary

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Subject Preference: GS I (Geography) | GS III (Environment & Ecology)

- **The News:** The 40th Asian Waterbird Census (AWC) will be conducted here to track the health of the wetland and its avian residents.
- **Basics:** Located in **Andhra Pradesh** (East Godavari district), it is the **second-largest mangrove formation** in India after the Sundarbans. It sits at the confluence where the Godavari River meets the Bay of Bengal.
- **Ecosystem & Conservation:** * **Adaptations:** Home to 24 mangrove species (e.g., *Rhizophora*, *Avicennia*) featuring unique adaptations like **pneumatophores** (breathing roots) and **stilt roots**.
- **Key Fauna:** It is a rare habitat for the **Fishing Cat** and the **Smooth-coated Otter**. Its 18-km sandpit is a vital nesting site for the **Olive Ridley Sea Turtle**.
- **Avian Importance:** It is a critical stopover on the **Central Asian Flyway**, hosting endangered species like the **White-backed Vulture**.