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# Rowmari–Donduwa Wetland Complex, Assam

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## In News:

The Rowmari–Donduwa Wetland Complex, located within the Laokhowa Wildlife Sanctuary, a part of the Kaziranga Tiger Reserve (Assam), has been highlighted for its exceptional avian diversity and ecological significance, making it a strong contender for Ramsar Site designation.

## Location and Overview

Situated within Laokhowa Wildlife Sanctuary, under the Kaziranga Tiger Reserve, Assam.

Forms an interconnected floodplain–marsh system spread over ~2.5–3 sq. km.

Part of the Kaziranga landscape, which is a vital ecological corridor of the Brahmaputra floodplains.

## Biodiversity Significance

Greater avian diversity than existing Ramsar Sites in Northeast India:

- oDeepor Beel (Assam)

- oLoktak Lake (Manipur)

2025 Kaziranga Wetland Bird Census: Recorded 47,000+ birds belonging to 75–88 species.

**Notable species:** Knob-billed Duck, Black-necked Stork, Ferruginous Pochard

## Ecological Importance

Represents a floodplain–marsh ecosystem crucial for:

- oMigratory and resident bird habitats

- oBreeding and feeding grounds for waterfowl

- oFlood mitigation and groundwater recharge

Ensures ecological connectivity within the Kaziranga landscape, supporting tiger, rhino, and wetland-dependent species.

## Conservation Challenges

- oEncroachment and siltation due to human activities.

- oUnregulated fishing and grazing pressures.

- oClimate-induced flooding altering wetland hydrology

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