



Coringa Mangroves

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The Andhra Pradesh Government has constituted a seven-member committee for fulfilment of norms required **for proposing the Godavari Mangroves** (Mada forests), **at Coringa, as a World Heritage Site**.

- Godavari Mangroves at the Coringa Wildlife Sanctuary (CWLS) are touted to be the **second largest mangroves** in India. The **largest** mangrove forest in the world is **Sundarbans**, West Bengal.
- The **mangrove forests in Andhra Pradesh** are located in the **estuaries of the Godavari and the Krishna rivers**. The Godavari mangroves are located in Godavari estuary of East Godavari district.
- Located in Andhra Pradesh, **the CWLS** is home to numerous **endangered species** including the **fishing cat**, otter, jackal, sea turtles, sea gull, pelican, stork, heron, snipes, flamingos among others.
- Along with the mangrove forest, **the Hope Island**, a naturally formed sandy stretch amidst the sea that turned into a synonym for biodiversity, too comes under the purview of the sanctuary.
- The sanctuary also has a site where **Olive Ridley Sea Turtles** nest from January to March every year.
- Once the Coringa sanctuary gets the heritage site tag, UNESCO will help develop tourism and protect the wildlife in the mangroves.

Mangroves

- Mangroves are the plant communities occurring in **inter-tidal zones** along the coasts of **tropical and subtropical countries**.
- Mangrove forests perform **multiple ecological functions** such as production of woody trees; provision of habitat, food, and spawning grounds for fin-fish and shellfish; provision of habitat for birds and other valuable fauna; protection of coastlines and accretion of sediment to form new land.
- According to the India State of Forest Report, 2017, **India has nearly 3.3% of the world's mangrove vegetation**.

