



FISHING CAT: ENVIRONMENT

NEWS: Time to collar the cat

WHAT'S IN THE NEWS?

India's first Fishing Cat Collaring Project is a groundbreaking initiative to study and conserve the endangered fishing cat, threatened by habitat destruction and hunting, with key habitats in the Eastern Ghats and mangroves like Coringa and Krishna Wildlife Sanctuaries.

Fishing Cat Collaring Project

- **Executing Body:** Wildlife Institute of India-Dehradun.
- **Objective:** Study the species' behavior, habitat, and ecology.
- **Timeline:** 3-year project; collaring to be completed by March-April 2025.
- **Collaring Plan:** 10 fishing cats to be collared with lightweight GIS devices.



Fishing Cat (*Prionailurus viverrinus*)

- **Physical Features:** Twice the size of a house cat; excellent swimmer.
- **Habits:**
 - Nocturnal; feeds on fish, frogs, snakes, birds, and scavenges carcasses.
 - Breeds year-round; thrives in dense vegetation near water bodies.
- **Habitat:**
 - Found in estuarine floodplains, tidal mangroves, and inland wetlands.
 - Key regions: Sundarbans, Chilika Lagoon, Coringa, Krishna mangroves.
- **Threats:**



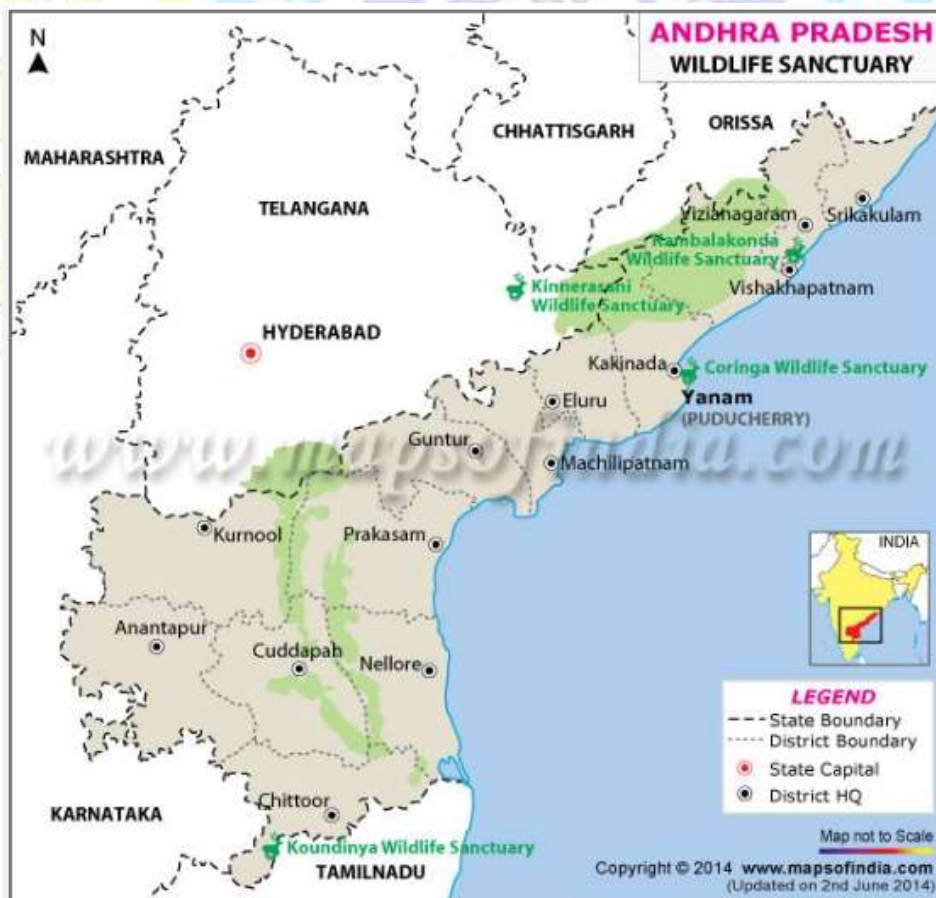
- Wetland destruction and shrimp farming.
- Hunting for meat, skin, and ritual practices.

Conservation Status

- **IUCN Red List:** Vulnerable.
- **CITES:** Appendix II.
- **Indian Wildlife Protection Act, 1972:** Schedule I.

Coringa Wildlife Sanctuary

- **Location:** Godavari estuary, Andhra Pradesh.
- **Features:**
 - Second-largest mangrove habitat in India.
 - Home to the endangered fishing cat.
 - Lies at the confluence of Coringa River and Bay of Bengal.





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