

Borjuli Wetland

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Borjuli Wetland Latest News

Recently, the Borjuli wetland in Assam's Sonitpur district has been declared a Biodiversity Heritage Site (BHS) by the National Biodiversity Authority.

About Borjuli Wetland

- **Location:** It is located in the state of **Assam**.
- It is known for harbouring a **disease and pest-resistant** variety of wild rice known as **Oryza rufipogon**.
 - Oryza rufipogon, is the progenitor of present-day cultivated rice, **Oryza sativa**.
 - It is **resistant to pests and diseases** and can **tolerate flooding and saline conditions**, making it a valuable genetic resource for developing climate-resilient crop varieties.
 - It is **photosensitive in nature and flowers** during short days during the months of November and December.
 - The seeds have a **tendency to shatter as soon as they mature**.

Key Facts about Biodiversity Heritage Site

- BHS are **unique ecosystems** having rich biodiversity comprising of any one or more of the following components:
 - **Richness of wild** as well as domesticated species or intra-specific categories.
 - **High endemism**
 - **Presence of rare and threatened species**, keystone species, and species of evolutionary significance.
 - Wild ancestors of domestic/cultivated species or their varieties.
 - Past pre-eminence of biological components represented by fossil beds and having significant cultural, ethical or aesthetic values and are important for the maintenance of cultural diversity, with or without a long history of human association with them.
- **Under Section-37** of the **Biological Diversity Act, 2002**, the State Government, in consultation with **local bodies**, may notify areas of biodiversity importance as BHS.
- The purpose of declaring BHS is to enhance the quality of life of the local communities through the conservation of such sites.
- In 2007, the **Nallur Tamarind Grove in Bengaluru**, Karnataka, was designated as India's first BHS.

Source: DD News

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