

intersect the region, along with other water channels. This forms about 335.7 square km of marsh vegetation

- **Flora:** The Sanctuary in the estuary of river Godavari supports rich mangrove vegetation with species like Rhizophora, Avicennia, Sonneratia, Aegiceros.
- **Fauna:** Otter, Fishing Cat, Jackal, Marine Turtle and Estuarine Crocodile. Most common birds are Sea Gulls, Storks, Herons, Snipes, Ducks and Flamingos. It is home for the rare, endangered Smooth Indian Otter, Fishing Cat, Estuarine Crocodile

The white-backed vulture

It is an Old World vulture in the family Accipitridae, which also includes eagles, kites, buzzards and hawks. It is closely related to the European griffon vulture, *G. fulvus*. Sometimes it is called African white-backed vulture to distinguish it from the Oriental white-backed vulture – nowadays usually called white-rumped vulture – to which it was formerly believed to be closely related.

It has been listed as 'Critically Endangered' on the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List.

Long billed vulture

IT is an Old World vulture native to India, Pakistan and Nepal.

It breeds mainly on hilly crags in central and peninsular India.

It has been listed as Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List since 2002, as the population severely declined.