

# Tomistoma

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**In news**– A new study has revealed that increasing human intrusion into Tomistoma's habitat may be causing it to attack people(usually shy).

## About Tomistoma-

- The false gharial, also known by the names Malayan gharial, Sunda gharial and tomistoma (*Tomistoma schlegelii*) is a large, **slender-snouted crocodilian species native to southeast Asia**.
- It is distributed across **part of Borneo** (divided between Indonesia, Malaysia and Brunei), peninsular Malaysia and Sumatra.
- It is a **freshwater species and is frequently associated with peat swamp forest**.
- It is currently listed as **Endangered** on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.
- Although long believed to be primarily **piscivorous (fish eating)** due to its slender snout, in recent decades it has been found that the species has a much broader diet and is likely more of an **opportunistic predator**.
- In addition to fish, adult tomistoma **also prey on birds, monitor lizards, monkeys and deer**, as well as one record of attempted predation upon cattle.
- Increasing conflict with humans could be grave for the tomistoma which has specialised habitat requirements and a limited distribution.
- According to most studies, the tomistoma is a **shy and reclusive species** that typically retreats from areas with a high degree of human activity.
- Unlike the gharial, the false gharial's snout broadens considerably towards the base and so is more similar to those of true crocodiles than the gharial, whose osteology indicated a distinct lineage from all other

living crocodilians.