

Types of crocodiles in India

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Recently Odisha conducted crocodile census in Bhitarkanika National Park

Highlights of the census

- According to the annual census, the population of the saltwater or estuarine crocodile (*Crocodiles porosus*) has increased in the water bodies of Odisha's Bhitarkanika National Park and its nearby areas in Kendrapara district
- There are around 1757 individuals in this year's annual reptile census.

Types of crocodiles in India

Gharial, Mugger and Saltwater crocodiles can be found in India;

- **Gharial:**
- **Habitat:** It is found in clear freshwater river systems, congregating at river bends where the water is deeper
- Also called as gavials, they are a type of Asian crocodilian distinguished by their long, thin snouts
- They congregate to mate and make nests during the dry season, when females lay eggs in sandbanks along slow-moving sections of water
- These animals do not stalk and lunge at prey like other crocodilians—their snouts contain sensory cells that can detect vibrations in the water.
- **IUCN status:** Critically Endangered

Saltwater Crocodile

- **It is the earth's largest living Crocodilian**
- **Habitat:** The saltwater crocodile inhabits coastal brackish mangrove swamps and river deltas

- The saltwater crocodile has a wide snout compared to most crocodiles.
- **IUCN Status:** Least Concern

Mugger:

- The mugger crocodile is also called as marsh crocodile, broad-snouted crocodile
- **Distribution/Habitat:** . It is principally restricted to the Indian subcontinent where it may be found in a number of freshwater habitat types including rivers, lakes and marshes.
- Females dig holes in the sand as nesting sites and lay up to 46 eggs during the dry season. Sex of hatchlings depends on temperature during incubation
- Its visual, hearing and smelling senses are acute
- **IUCN status:** Vulnerable