



Saltwater Crocodile

Why in News?

Saltwater [Crocodiles](#) (*Crocodylus porosus*), used to be found in Vietnam and southern China, became extinct in these areas due to human activity.



What do we know about the Saltwater Crocodile?

▪ About:

- It is the **largest of the 23 species** of 'extant' or living crocodylians. This includes **'true crocodiles', alligators and caimans**.
- The saltie is also called the **'estuarine crocodile'** and as the name suggests, is typically found in the **brackish water of estuaries**.
- It can also **tolerate saltwater in the oceans** and can travel long distances over the open ocean, making use of tidal currents.

▪ Habitat:

- The **'saltie'** is today found in three locations in India — **the Sundarbans, Bhitarkanika National Park and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands**.
- It is one of the three crocodiles **native to the Indian Subcontinent**, along with the **mugger crocodile** (*Crocodylus palustris*) and the **gharial** (*Gavialis gangeticus*).
- It is also found in **Bangladesh, Malaysia, Indonesia, Brunei, the Philippines**, Papua New Guinea, Australia and the **Solomon Islands**.
- During antiquity the **species' range extended from the Seychelles** and Kerala, India in the west through to southeastern China, Palau and Vanuatu in the east.

▪ Threats:

- Habitat destruction, fragmentation, and transformation, fishing activities and use of crocodile parts for medicinal purposes.

What is the protection Status of Saltwater Crocodiles?

- [IUCN List of Threatened Species](#): Least Concern
- [CITES](#): Appendix I (except the populations of Australia, Indonesia and Papua New Guinea, which are included in Appendix II).
- [Wildlife Protection Act, 1972](#): Schedule I

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