

CROCODILES OF INDIA

PHYLUM: CHORDATA

CLASS: REPTILIA

ORDER: CROCODYLIA

Family – 2 / Genus – 2 / Species – 3 (2+1)

Family: Crocodylidae

Superfamily: Crocodyloidea / **Subfamily:** Crocodylinae

S.No.	G & S	Genus (G)	Species (S)	Name – English / Tamil	Author's & year	Distribution	IWPA 1972 & 2022 / IUCN
1	1/1	<i>Crocodylus</i>	<i>palustris</i>	Mugger Crocodile சதுப்பு நில முதலை	Lesson, 1831	Throughout India	VU & Schedule - I
2	1/2		<i>porosus</i>	Saltwater Crocodile உவர்நீர் முதலை	Schneider, 1801	Bengal Coast, Andaman & Nicobar Islands	LR/LC & Schedule - I

Family: Gavialidae

Superfamily: Gavialoidea / **Subfamily:** Gavialinae

S.No.	G & S	Genus (G)	Species (S)	Name – English / Tamil	Author's & year	Distribution	IWPA 1972 & 2022 / IUCN
1	2/1	<i>Gavialis</i>	<i>gangeticus</i>	Gharial நீள்வாய் நண்ணீர் முதலை	Gmelin, 1789	Northern Flood Plains	CE & Schedule - I

Note: G – Genus / S – Species / IWPA – Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act / IUCN – International Union for Conservation of Nature

The Wildlife (Protection) Amendment Act of 2022 amended the original 1972 Act to align with the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) and address new challenges like invasive species. Key changes include establishing a framework for CITES compliance by creating Management and Scientific Authorities for permits, and prohibiting or regulating the import and trade of **invasive alien species**. The Act also rationalizes the **schedules of protected species** from six to four and removes the "vermin" schedule.

The **IUCN** classifies species into nine categories based on their risk of extinction and also has categories for protected areas. IUCN classification: Endangered / Extinct in the wild / Vulnerable / Critically endangered / Least concerned / Data deficient / Near threatened / Not evaluated / Extinct (ex). The IUCN protected area categories are numbered from Ia (strict nature reserve) to VI (protected area with sustainable use of natural resources).

References:

1. A TAXONOMIC CHECKLIST OF INDIAN REPTILES, Reptiles of India Website. <https://www.indianreptiles.org/species-list>
2. FAUNA OF INDIA CHECKLIST, Online Version 1.0, July 2024, Zoological Survey of India.
3. FAUNA OF INDIA CHECKLIST, A checklist of Reptiles of India, updated: May 2018, Zoological Survey of India.