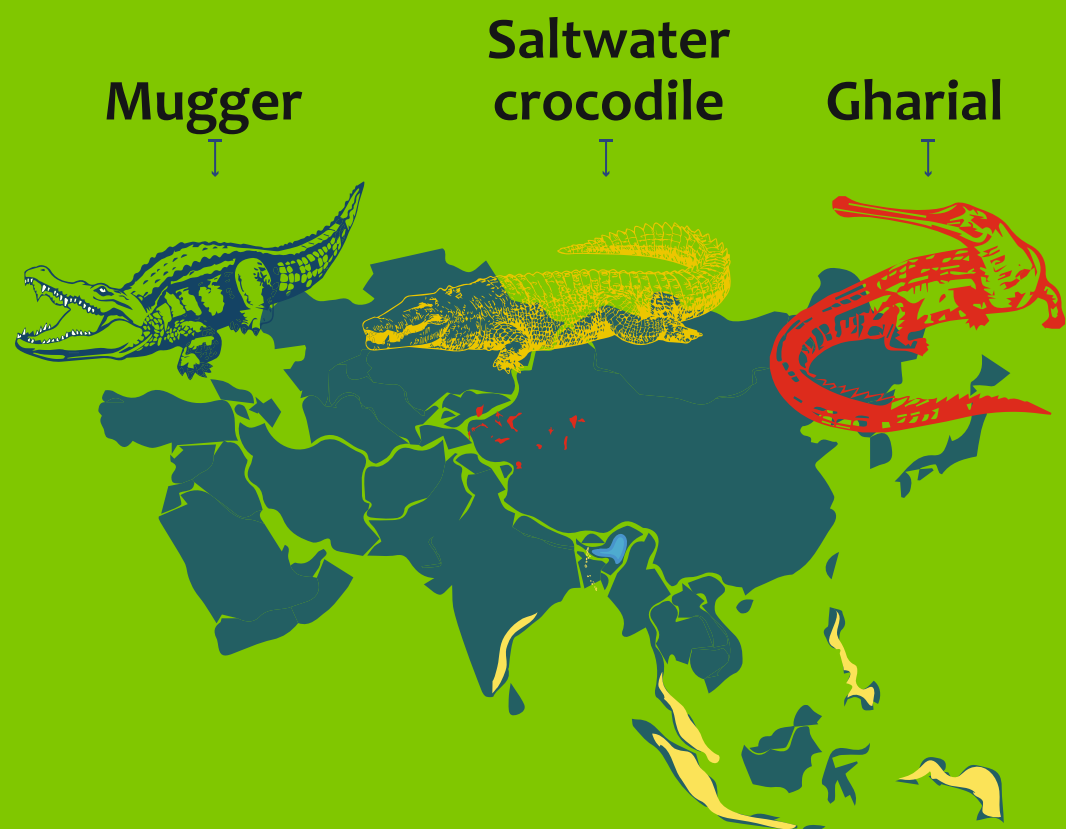


CROCODILE



Mugger

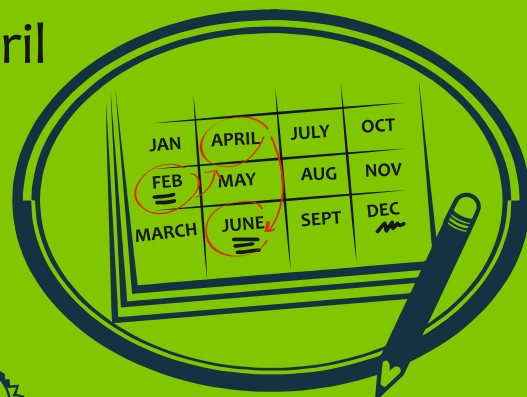
IUCN Status: Vulnerable

Habitat

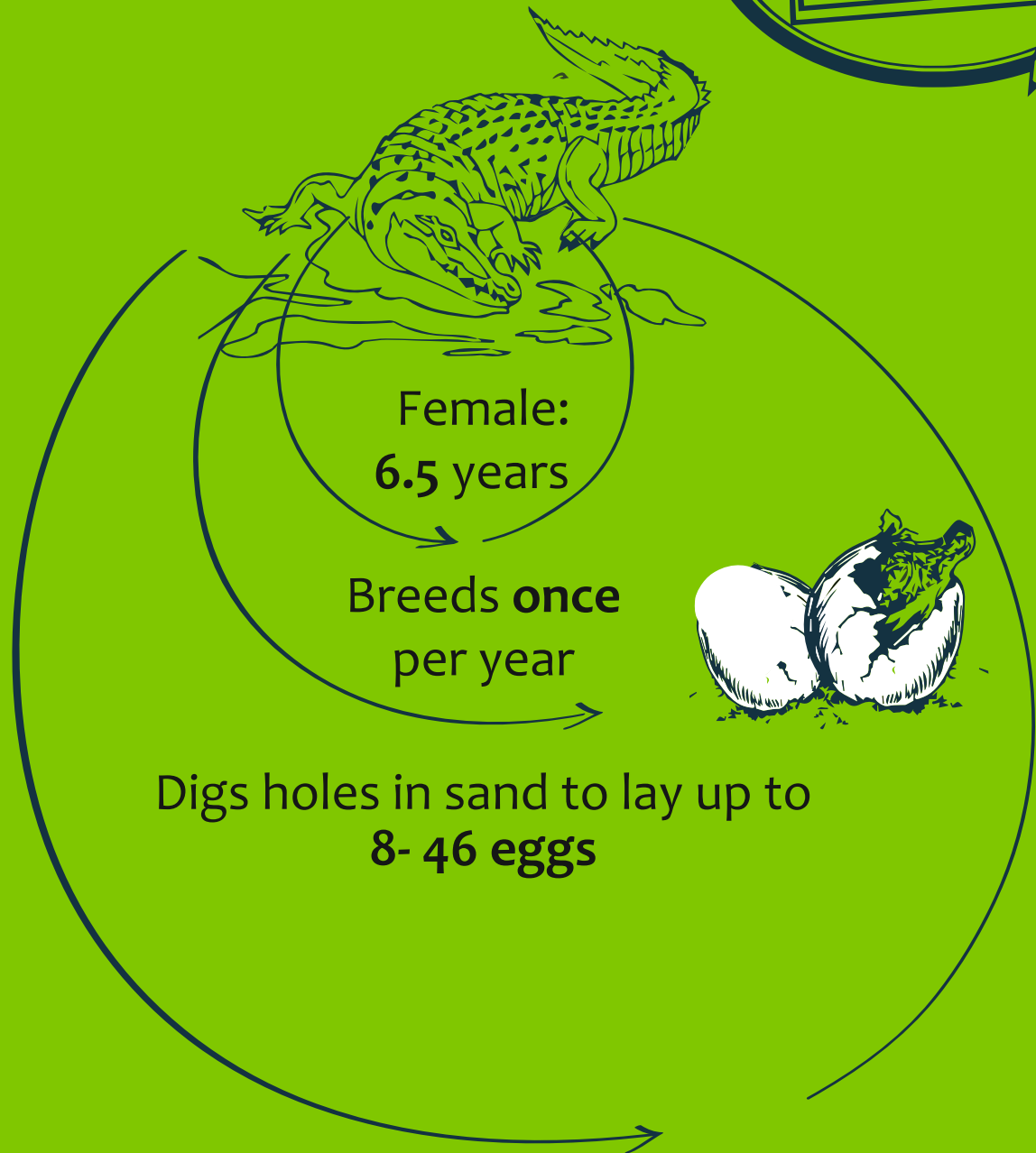
Freshwater and brackish water ecosystems

Breeding

Lays eggs: February - April
Eggs hatch: April - June

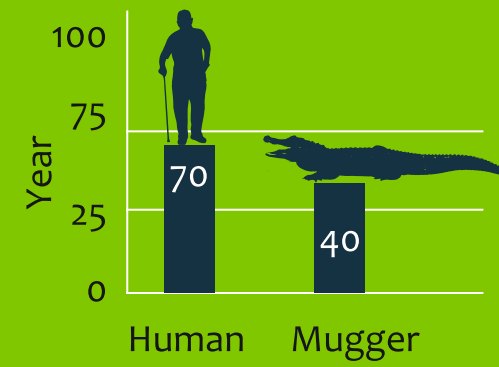


Reproductive age

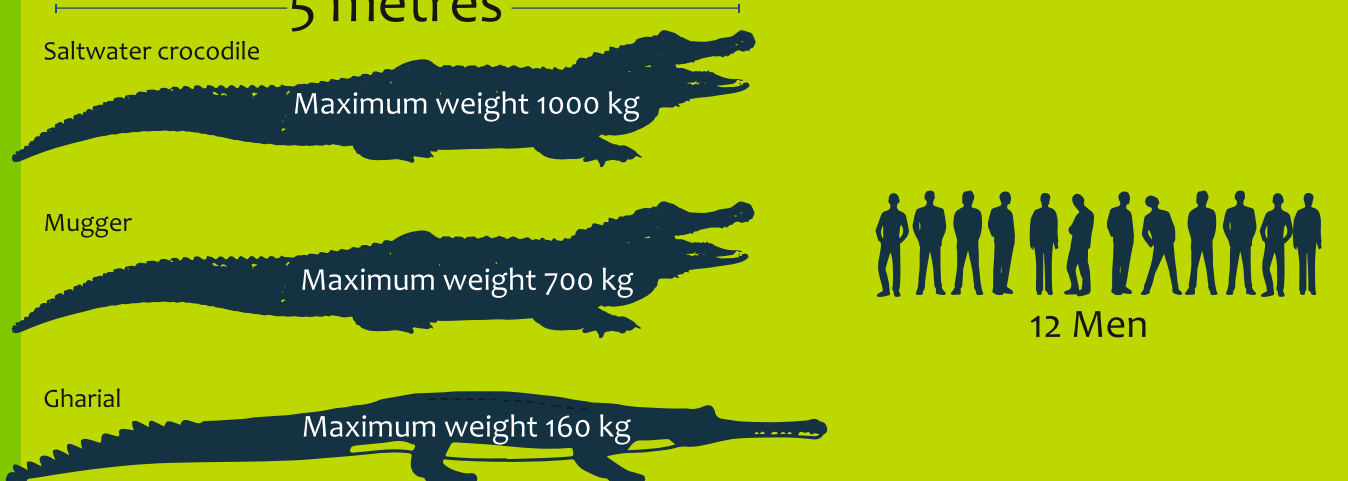


- Nocturnal but can hunt during the daytime
- Lives in freshwater lakes, rivers and marshes
- Can live on both land and water
- Not easily visible; camouflages well on land and stays submerged in water
- Cold-blooded, basks on shores to warm itself in the sun
- Digs burrows to retreat, when it gets hot or cold
- Can suddenly charge with speed over short distances
- Has very sharp teeth, strongest bite among animals
- Ambush predator, waits for prey to come close before launching a surprise attack
- Can turn aggressive when provoked

Average lifespan



Maximum Length



Gharial

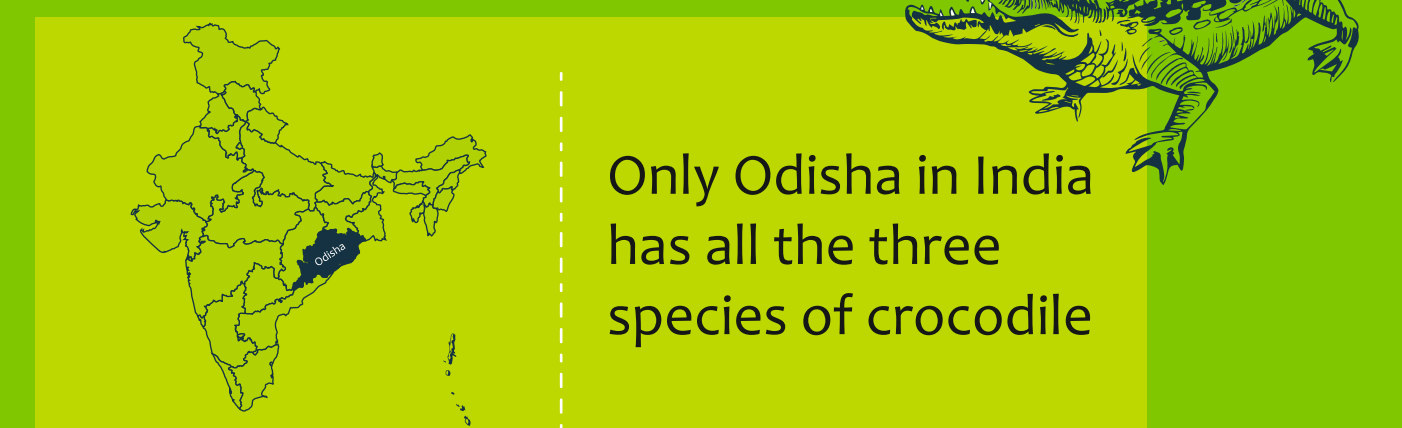
IUCN status: Critically Endangered

- Harmless to humans, preys on fish
- Gets its name from bulbous growth on its snout, which looks like a 'ghara' or Indian earthen pot
- An important indicator of clean waterbodies
- Cannot walk long distances on land, cannot disperse to other waterways in case of a threat
- Drastic decline in population, Critically Endangered

Saltwater crocodile

IUCN status: Least Concern

- Found mainly on the east coast of India and in the Andaman & Nicobar islands; lives in saline water of estuaries
- Rare in India, faced a big decline in population in 1960s due to hunting and habitat destruction
- Makes nest in vegetation mounds unlike the mugger and gharial



Presence of crocodiles is a good indicator of a healthy waterbody

Habitat loss, hunting and retaliatory killing are the leading threats to crocodiles

Clearing of mangroves for agriculture and aquaculture is causing habitat loss

During droughts, crocodiles can travel long distances in search of waterbodies

DO YOU KNOW?

Crocodiles were once widespread and very abundant, but today their population is severely depleted

They are killed for meat and leather

People graze livestock in crocodile habitats, which can cause conflicts

During floods, crocodiles can get washed out to streets and homes in urban areas. The mugger especially travels via temporary pools created during the monsoon.

The sex of a hatching depends on the temperature during incubation

Indo-German Cooperation on Human-Wildlife Conflict Mitigation in India
2017-2023
Taking a Harmonious Co-existence approach to Human-Wildlife Conflict Mitigation in India

