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Geographical range

Amazing Species: Red-Crowned Roof Turtle

The **Red-Crowned Roof Turtle**, *Batagur kachuga*, is listed as Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™. Endemic to South Asia, the last known stronghold for this river turtle is on the Chambal River in central India, however, small isolated populations may still exist in the Ganges and Brahmaputra river basins.

High levels of hunting and habitat degradation, including pollution and large-scale water extraction projects for agriculture and human consumption, have decimated populations of Red-crowned Roof Turtles. The Ganges River is considered one of the most polluted rivers in the world and the sandbars along the river, used by the turtles for nesting, have been heavily impacted by sand mining and for growing seasonal crops. Drowning in illegal fishing nets and irregular flow from upstream dams are also a threat to this species.

The Red-crowned Roof Turtle is listed as schedule 1 of the Indian Wildlife Protection Act 1972 and is listed on Appendix II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), making it an offence to trade this species internationally without a permit. A joint conservation programme, established in 2005 in the National Chambal (River) Sanctuary, has been very successful in producing over 4,000 individuals for reintroduction.

Knowledge
Experts
Action
Get Involved



The production of the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™ is made possible through the IUCN Red List Partnership.