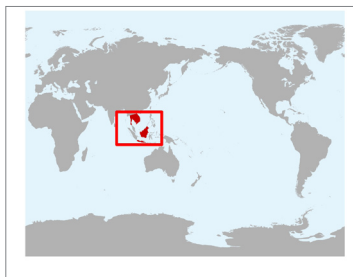




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Geographical range

Amazing Species: Siamese Crocodile

The **Siamese Crocodile**, *Crocodylus siamensis*, is listed as 'Critically Endangered' on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™. It is one of the world's most endangered crocodylians and, in 1992, was reported as virtually 'Extinct in the Wild'. Once found throughout South East Asia, today it mainly occurs in Cambodia where there are no more than 5,000 individuals. Small populations are also found in Laos and Indonesia, but it is almost extinct in Thailand and Viet Nam.

The Siamese Crocodile is threatened by human disturbance, the conversion of rainforest habitat to agricultural use, incidental capture or drowning in fish traps. In addition, the hunting of adult females for crocodile farm stock is reported to be widespread in Cambodia.

This species is extensively maintained and bred in captivity, in Thailand, Cambodia and Vietnam, where it is farmed for meat and skins. A large trade in live specimens for food occurs with China. Reports indicate that some local people protect the crocodiles, as they are viewed as sacred. Restocking programmes are possible and are already underway in Thailand and Vietnam, although the issue of human crocodile conflicts is likely to impact on their success.

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