

Computer No: 135034

**Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
CENTRAL ZOO AUTHORITY**

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22/12/2020

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Guidelines on stocking density of various crocodilian species in Indian zoos.

In partial modification of the Guidelines for Establishment and Scientific Management of Zoos in India (2008) circulated vide this office Circular 26-2/2008-CZA(M) dated August 25, 2008, the guidelines on stocking density of various crocodilian species in Indian zoos is revised.

To this effect, the revised guidelines on the permissible stocking density of various crocodilian species in Indian zoos, placed at Annexure – I, will be applicable henceforth.

The revised guidelines on stocking density of various crocodilian species in Indian zoos is effective from date of issue of this O.M. The rest of Guidelines for Establishment and Scientific Management of Zoos in India (2008) remains unchanged.

This issues with approval of the competent authority.

Sd/-

22/12/2020
(Sonali Ghosh)
Dy Inspector General Of Forest

Distribution:

1. The Chief Wildlife Warden of all States / UTs.
2. The Officer in charge of all recognized zoos.

ANNEXURE 1: GUIDELINES ON STOCKING DENSITY OF VARIOUS CROCODILIAN SPECIES IN INDIAN ZOOS

No.	Common Name	Species	Total Length	Length	Width	Minimum land area/individual	Minimum water pond area	Depth of water pond	Permissible individuals in 400 sq.m	Incremental area/individual	Land	Water
			m	m	m	m ²	m ²	m	number		m ²	m ²
1	Mugger *	<i>Crocodylus palustris</i>	4	8	8	64	19	4	6	19	6	13
2	Saltwater crocodile **	<i>Crocodylus porosus</i>	6	18	18	324	122	6	1	97	32	65
3	Gharial	<i>Gavialis gangeticus</i>	5	10	10	100	38	5	4	30	10	20
4	Morelets Crocodile	<i>Crocodylus moreletii</i>	3	6	6	36	14	3	11	11	4	7
5	Siamese Crocodile	<i>Crocodylus siamensis</i>	4	8	8	64	24	4	6	19	6	13
6	Nile Crocodile	<i>Crocodylus niloticus</i>	5	10	10	100	38	5	4	30	10	20
7	Cuban Crocodile	<i>Crocodylus rhombifer</i>	3.5	7	7	49	18	3.5	8	15	5	10
8	Australian Freshwater Crocodile	<i>Crocodylus johnstonii</i>	3	6	6	36	14	3	11	11	4	7
9	Philippine Crocodile	<i>Crocodylus mindorensis</i>	3	6	6	36	14	3	11	11	4	7
10	Orinoco Crocodile	<i>Crocodylus intermedius</i>	5	10	10	100	38	5	4	30	10	20
11	New Guinea Crocodile	<i>Crocodylus novaeguineae</i>	3.5	7	7	49	18	3.5	8	15	5	10
12	American Crocodile	<i>Crocodylus acutus</i>	5	10	10	100	38	5	4	30	10	20
13	Broad snouted Caiman	<i>Caiman latirostris</i>	3.5	7	7	49	18	3.5	8	15	5	10
14	Spectacled Caiman	<i>Caiman crocodilus</i>	2.5	5	5	25	9	2.5	16	8	3	5
15	Yacare caiman	<i>Caiman yacare</i>	3	6	6	36	14	3	11	11	4	7
16	Black caiman	<i>Melanosuchus niger</i>	4	8	8	64	24	4	6	19	6	13
17	Cuvier's Dwarf Caiman ***	<i>Paeleosuchus palpebrous</i>	1.6	3.2	3.2	10	4	1.6	39	3	1	2
18	Smooth Fronted Caiman	<i>Paeleosuchus trigonatus</i>	2.6	5.2	5.2	27	10	2.6	15	8	3	5
19	American Alligator	<i>Alligator mississippiensis</i>	4	8	8	64	24	4	6	19	6	13
20	Chinese Alligator	<i>Alligator sinensis</i>	2	4	4	16	6	2	25	5	2	3
21	West African Dwarf Crocodile	<i>Osteolaemus tetraspis</i>	2	4	4	16	6	2	25	5	2	3
22	African Slender Snote Crocodile	<i>Mecistops cataphractus</i>	4.2	8.4	8.4	71	26	4.2	6	21	7	14
23	Tomistoma	<i>Tomistoma schelegelii</i>	5	10	10	100	38	5	4	30	10	20

* In the case of Mugger housed in rescue centres, the permissible limit may be up to 33 individuals in 400m² in accordance with the previous correspondence dated October 09, 2020.

** In the case of Salt-water Crocodile (*Crocodylus porosus*), being the largest crocodile in the world, the minimum enclosure size for a pair should be 650m².

*** In the case of Cuvier's Dwarf Caiman (*Paeleosuchus palpebrous*), it is recommended to keep the pond depth at 2m.