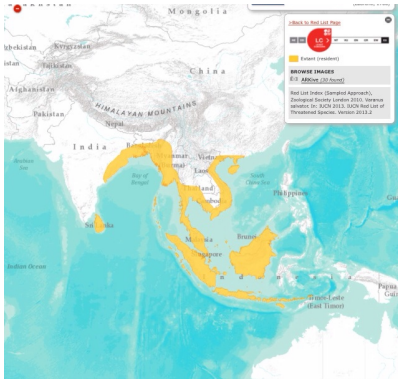


Water Monitor

Varanus salvator



Order: Squamata Family: Varanidae

Range: South China to Indonesia

Size: ♂: 221cm(87 in)

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Weight: ♂: 25 kg (55 lbs)

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Tail: 118 cm (46 in)

Habitat: primary forest near fresh or brackish water

Incubation: 210-360 days

Eggs: 5-40

Dispersal: 2 to 3 years

Sexual maturity: SVL 40 cm (16in)

Nest: holes in rotten trees or termite mounds

Social: Solitary

Lifestyle: amphibious young arboreal

Food: small to medium sized vertebrates, carrion

IUCN: least concern

Subspecies: 6

Longevity: captive: 10 yrs

Wild: unknown

The second largest of all lizards the Water Monitor is smaller than only the Komodo Dragon. This is an extremely widespread and varied species. It is found on both the mainland and islands of Southeast Asia. Being strong swimmers they can be observed in the open ocean.

The taxonomy of this species is undergoing reassessment. At this time there are six recognized subspecies but this is a fluid situation at the moment.

The water monitor is an active hunter. Preferring to chase down prey rather than wait and ambush. Prey items include almost anything it can find. Mammals, reptiles, birds, fish, carrion and even garbage is all eaten.