

# Chinese Alligator

## *Alligator sinensis*



**Range:** China

**Size:** ♂:150-210cm (60-84 in )

♀:150-210 cm (60- 84 in)

**Weight :**♂: 36-45kg (80-100 lbs)

♀ : 80 - 100 kg (80-100 lbs)

**Teeth:** 72-76

**Habitat:** slow moving freshwater

**Incubation:** 70 days

**Eggs:** 10-50

**Dispersal:** N/A

**Sexual maturity:** ♀: 4-5 years

**Nest:** mound of plant material

**Social:** solitary

**Breeding:** polygynous

**Food:** snails, mussels and fish

**IUCN:** Critically Endangered

**Subspecies :** monotypic

**Longevity:**captive: 70yrs

Wild: unknown

Order:Crocodylia Family:Alligatoridae

One of the smallest crocodilians in the world the Chinese Alligator is also one of the most endangered. With a population numbering fewer than 150 individual<sup>1</sup> this species is listed as Critically Endangered by the IUCN. It is also listed on the USFWS Endangered species List and CITES Appendix I. Habitat destruction due to dam building is the major threat to the species. The range of the Chinese Alligator is limited to the lower Yangtze River valley.

The Chinese alligator feeds mainly on aquatic invertebrates including snails and mussels. Fish also provide an important part of the diet. Only larger adults will take other larger vertebrates. The Chinese alligator spends a large part of its life in a burrow dug in riverbanks. From late October to mid April these alligators hibernate in the burrow.

This species has a reputation of being the most docile of the crocodilians.

<sup>1</sup>[www.iucnucg.org](http://www.iucnucg.org)