

The Western Ghats or 'Sahyadris' is home to some very unique flora, fauna and fungi. *Sahyadri's* freshwater ecosystem and biodiversity are highly diverse supporting livelihoods, providing invaluable ecosystem services and sustaining more than 400 million people in the world's highest concentration of humans in a biodiversity hotspot.

Fish species have evolved differently for life adapted to different aquatic habitats ranging from marine to brackish to freshwater ecosystems and form a critical link in the food chain of these ecosystems. Freshwater fish live in a variety of habitats such as rivers, streams, ponds, lakes, wetlands, swamps and marshes. They form a big share of the food consumed by man and also offer aesthetic pleasure as aquarium pets.

Globally, about 15,000 freshwater fish species are recorded including brackish water species. In India there are about 760 freshwater fish species of which 73 are in cold freshwaters, 544 are in warm freshwaters and 143 in brackish waters. The Western Ghats harbours 332 fish species of which 202 are endemic (60%).

Some major threats for freshwater fishes are: pollution of freshwater habitats, construction of dams and other structures that alter the natural flow of the water body, there by restricting migration of fishes for the purpose of breeding, over-exploitation for food, and increasingly from alien invasive fish and crustacean species. More than 1/3rd (37%) of freshwater fishes are threatened with extinction, and more than 50% of endemic species are threatened with extinction in the Western Ghats.

The Sahyādri FRESHWATER FISH

WILD ZOO

ZOO/WILD Field-out #13 - Sep2013

The Sahyādri

Freshwater Fish

CRITICAL ECOSYSTEM PARTNERSHIP FUND

Threatened Taxa



Carinotetraodon travancoricus



Lepidopygopsis typus



Tor khudree



Monopterus indicus



Mesonoemacheilus petrubanarescui



Nemacheilus menoni



Pethia pookodensis



Botia striata



Sahyadria denisonii



Garra surendranathanii



Channa diplogramma



Gagata itchkeea



Glyptothorax davissinghi



Parapsilorhynchus elongatus



Travancoria jonesi



Parapsilorhynchus discophorus



Eechathalakenda ophicephala



Hemibagrus punctatus



Balitora mysorensis

Series Editors
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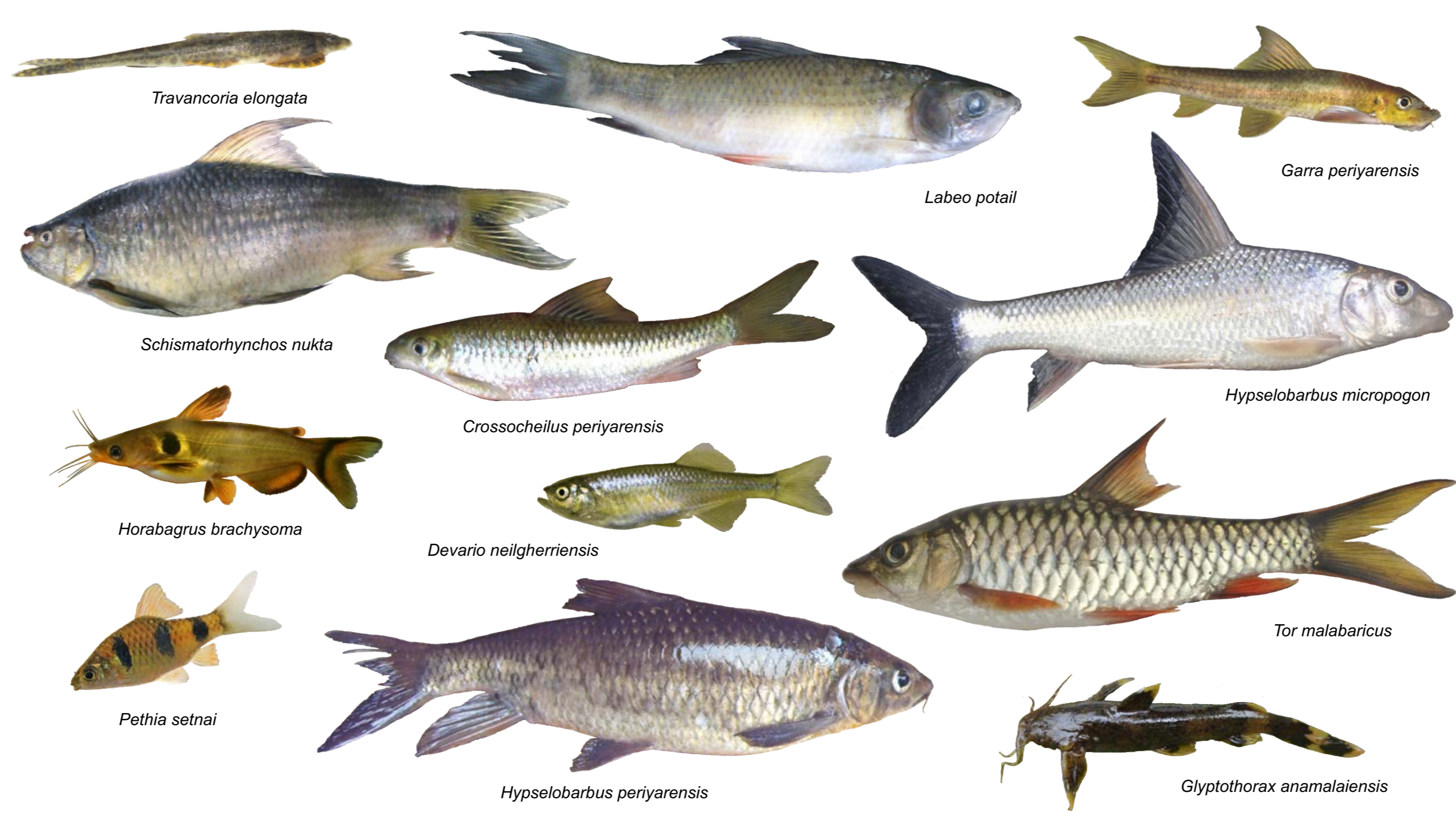
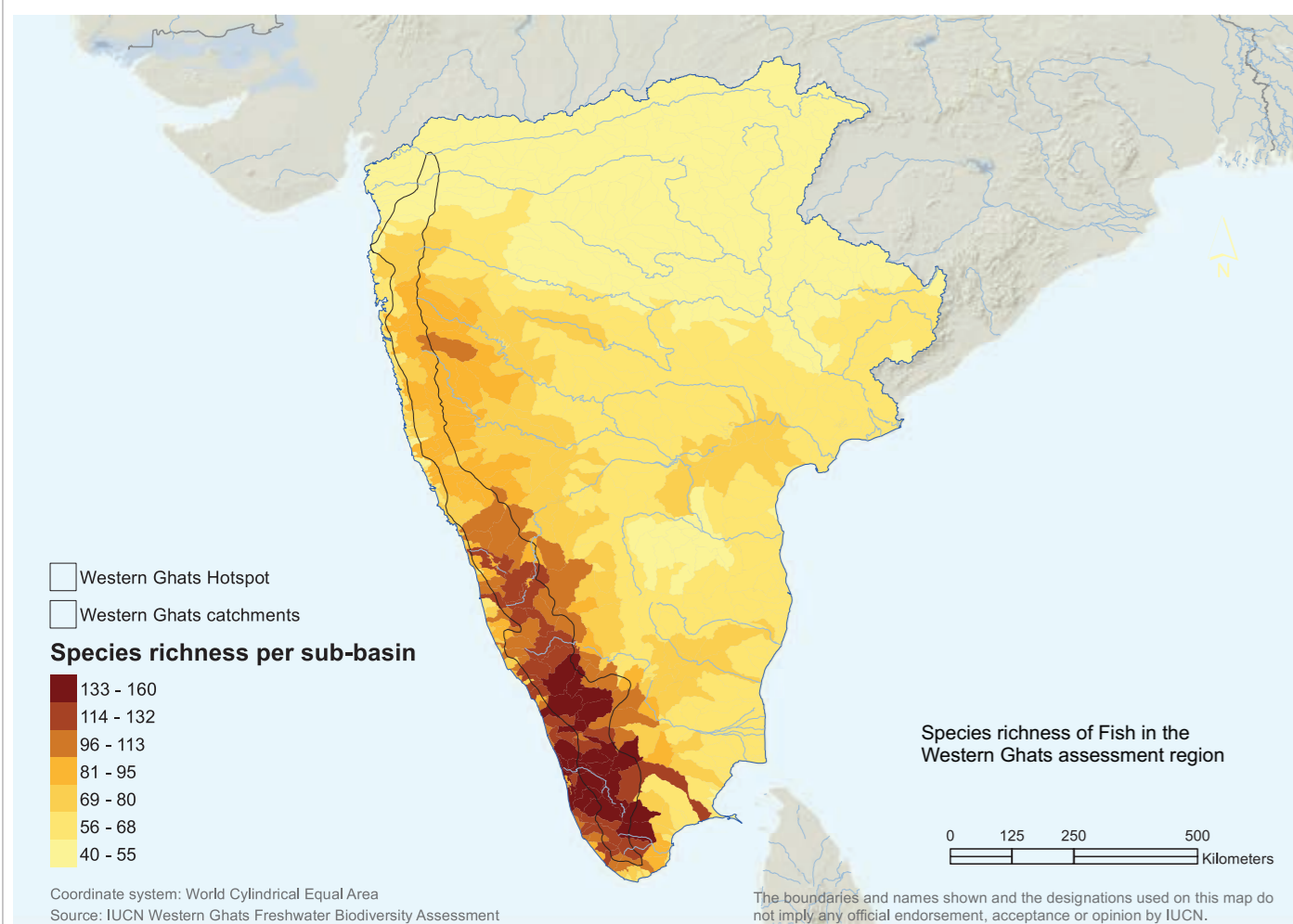
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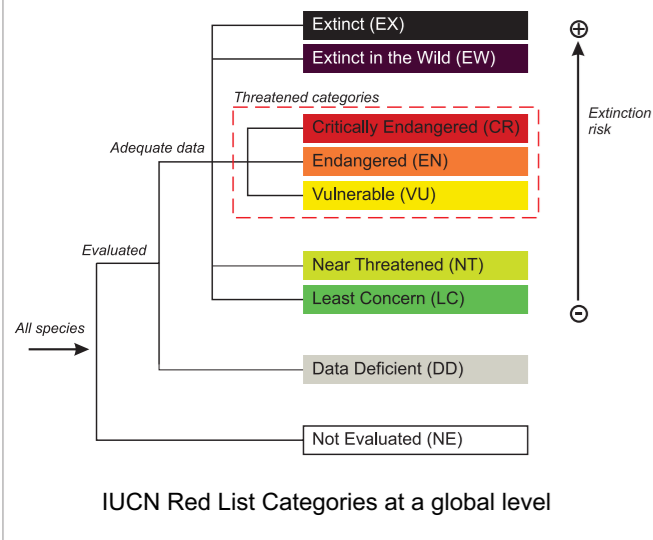




Threatened Endemic Freshwater Fishes of the Western Ghats

Beloniformes: Hemiramphidae		<i>Parapsilorhynchus prateri</i>	CR (PE)
<i>Hyporhamphus xanthopterus</i>	VU	<i>Pethia pookodensis</i>	CR
Cypriniformes: Balitoridae		<i>Pethia setnai</i>	VU
<i>Balitora mysorensis</i>	VU	<i>Pethia sharmai</i>	EN
<i>Homaloptera montana</i>	EN	<i>Puntius arenatus</i>	VU
<i>Homaloptera santhampariensis</i>	EN	<i>Puntius cauveriensis</i>	EN
<i>Indoreonectes keralensis</i>	VU	<i>Puntius crescentus</i>	EN
<i>Mesonoemacheilus herrei</i>	CR	<i>Puntius decanensis</i>	CR (PE)
<i>Mesonoemacheilus menoni</i>	VU	<i>Puntius fraseri</i>	EN
<i>Mesonoemacheilus pambarensis</i>	VU	<i>Puntius mudumalaiensis</i>	VU
<i>Mesonoemacheilus periyarensis</i>	VU	<i>Sahyadria chalakkudiensis</i>	EN
<i>Mesonoemacheilus petrubanarescui</i>	EN	<i>Sahyadria denisonii</i>	EN
<i>Mesonoemacheilus pulchellus</i>	EN	<i>Salmostoma belachi</i>	VU
<i>Nemachilichthys shimogensis</i>	EN	<i>Salmostoma horai</i>	VU
<i>Schistura kodaguensis</i>	VU	<i>Schismatorhynchus nukta</i>	EN
<i>Schistura nagodiensis</i>	EN	<i>Thynnichthys sandkhol</i>	EN
<i>Schistura sharavathiensis</i>	VU	<i>Tor khudree</i>	EN
<i>Schistura striata</i>	EN	<i>Tor kulkamii</i>	EN
<i>Travancoria elongata</i>	EN	<i>Tor malabaricus</i>	EN
<i>Travancoria jonesi</i>	EN	Cypriniformes: Psilorhynchidae	
Cypriniformes: Cobitidae		<i>Psilorhynchus tenura</i>	CR
<i>Barilius canarensis</i>	EN	Perciformes: Channidae	
<i>Botia striata</i>	EN	<i>Channa diplogamma</i>	VU
<i>Cechathalekenda ophicephalus</i>	EN	Perciformes: Cichlidae	
<i>Cirrhinus cirrhosus</i>	VU	<i>Eetroplus canarensis</i>	EN
<i>Crossocheilus periyarensis</i>	EN	Perciformes: Osphronemidae	
<i>Dawkinsia arulius</i>	EN	<i>Pseudosphromenus dayi</i>	VU
<i>Dawkinsia assimilis</i>	VU	Siluriformes: Bagridae	
<i>Dawkinsia exclamatio</i>	EN	<i>Batasio sharavatiensis</i>	EN
<i>Dawkinsia rohani</i>	VU	<i>Batasio travancoria</i>	VU
<i>Dawkinsia tambraparniei</i>	EN	<i>Hemibagrus punctatus</i>	CR (PE)
<i>Devario fraseri</i>	VU	<i>Horabagrus brachysoma</i>	VU
<i>Devario neilgherriensis</i>	EN	<i>Horabagrus nigricollaris</i>	EN
<i>Garra hughi</i>	EN	Siluriformes: Schilbeidae	
<i>Garra kalakadensis</i>	EN	<i>Pseudeutropius mitchelli</i>	EN
<i>Garra menoni</i>	VU	<i>Silonia childreni</i>	EN
<i>Garra periyarensis</i>	VU	Siluriformes: Siluridae	
<i>Garra surendranathanii</i>	EN	<i>Pterocryptis wynaadensis</i>	EN
<i>Horabiosia arunachalami</i>	CR	Siluriformes: Sisoridae	
<i>Horabiosia joshuai</i>	EN	<i>Gagata itchkeea</i>	VU
<i>Horabiosia palaniensis</i>	VU	<i>Glyptothorax anamalaiensis</i>	EN
<i>Hypselobarbus curmuca</i>	EN	<i>Glyptothorax davissinghi</i>	EN
<i>Hypselobarbus dubius</i>	EN	<i>Glyptothorax housei</i>	EN
<i>Hypselobarbus micropogon</i>	EN	<i>Glyptothorax kudremukhensis</i>	CR
<i>Hypselobarbus mussullah</i>	EN	<i>Glyptothorax madraspatanus</i>	EN
<i>Hypselobarbus periyarensis</i>	EN	<i>Glyptothorax poonaensis</i>	EN
<i>Hypselobarbus pulchellus</i>	CR	<i>Glyptothorax trewasasae</i>	VU
<i>Hypselobarbus thomassi</i>	CR	Synbranchiformes: Synbranchidae	
<i>Labeo potail</i>	EN	<i>Monopterus fossorius</i>	EN
<i>Laubuca fasciata</i>	VU	<i>Monopterus indicus</i>	VU
<i>Lepidopygopsis typus</i>	EN	Tetraodontiformes: Tetraodontidae	
<i>Neolissochilus bovanicus</i>	CR	<i>Carinotetraodon travancoricus</i>	VU
<i>Neolissochilus wynaadensis</i>	CR		
<i>Osteochilichthys bhimensis</i>	EN		
<i>Osteochilichthys longidorsalis</i>	EN		
<i>Parapsilorhynchus discophorus</i>	VU		
<i>Parapsilorhynchus elongatus</i>	EN		

Red List Categories:
EX-Extinct; EW-Extinct in the Wild; CR-Critically Endangered;
EN-Endangered; VU-Vulnerable; NT-Near Threatened;
LC-Least Concern; DD-Data Deficient; PE-Possibly Extinct.



Number of fish species of Western Ghats under each IUCN Red List category (2013).

Global Red List Category	Number of fish species		
	Endemic	Non-endemic	Total
Extinct (EX)	0	0	0
Extinct in the Wild (EW)	0	0	0
Critically Endangered (CR)	12	0	12
Endangered (EN)	53	1	54
Vulnerable (VU)	31	0	31
Near Threatened (NT)	3	3	6
Least concern (LC)	66	95	161
Data Deficient (DD)	24	2	26
Total species	189	101	290

The highlighted rows (CR, EN and VU) are the 'threatened' categories.