

Red List of

# Mediterranean Reptiles



## Key Facts

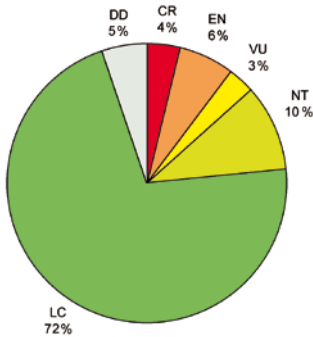
- ❑ 355 reptile species (excluding marine turtles) occur in Mediterranean basin countries. Most of these are lizards (67%) or snakes (30%), although the group of reptiles also includes crocodiles and tortoises.
- ❑ The arid and semi-arid habitats found in the Mediterranean region are an ideal habitat for these reptiles, and almost half of the region's species (170 in total) are endemic – in other words, they are unique to the Mediterranean and inhabit nowhere else in the world.
- ❑ Currently 13 % (46) of the reptile species in the Mediterranean are threatened.
- ❑ One species was previously listed as Extinct, the giant lizard from La Palma in the Canary Islands *Gallotia auaritae*. This species was rediscovered in 2007 and reassessed as Critically Endangered.
- ❑ The main threat affecting reptiles is habitat loss and degradation, related to changes in land use.

The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™

# Conservation Status Assessments

Of the 355 reptile species found in the Mediterranean, 13% are threatened, with 3.9% Critically Endangered, 6.2% Endangered and 3.1% Vulnerable.

Summary of conservation status for all non-marine reptiles of the Mediterranean basin (2008)



Categories	No. of Species
EX Extinct	0
EW Extinct in the Wild	0
CR Critically Endangered	14
EN Endangered	22
VU Vulnerable	11
NT Near Threatened	36
LC Least Concern	253
DD Data Deficient	19
<b>Total</b>	<b>355</b>

## Main Threats

As for most species, habitat loss, fragmentation and degradation is the most important threat to Mediterranean reptiles. Over-harvesting has the second largest impact. Human disturbance, pollution and invasive alien species are also significant threats. Many species, especially snakes, are persecuted and vehicle collision causes mortality in several snake and turtle species, but not normally at levels that would cause them to qualify as globally threatened.

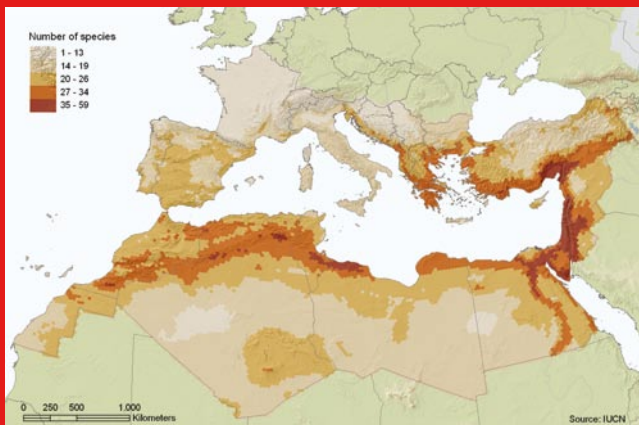
## Special Story

The Aran rock lizard *Iberolacerta aranica* is a rare species that inhabits the rocky mountains of Central Pyrenees of France and Spain. It is recognised by two dark stripes on the back. Due to its restricted distribution, it was assessed as "Critically Endangered" on the IUCN Red List. Legal protection of the species and its habitat, together with an effective enforcement of this legislation, is essential to avoid the extinction of this lizard.



## Species Richness

The semi-arid landscapes of the Eastern Mediterranean are home to a great diversity of reptile species.



Species richness of reptiles in the Mediterranean basin.

Two particular areas were identified as holding important concentrations of threatened species: one in Lebanon, Israel and Palestinian Territories, extending to the northern part of Sinai in northeastern Egypt and the other north of Morocco and Algeria.



Species richness of threatened reptiles in the Mediterranean basin.

## For More Information

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**The Status and Distribution of Reptiles and Amphibians of the Mediterranean Basin.**

Download the report in English, French or Spanish from the publications section.

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