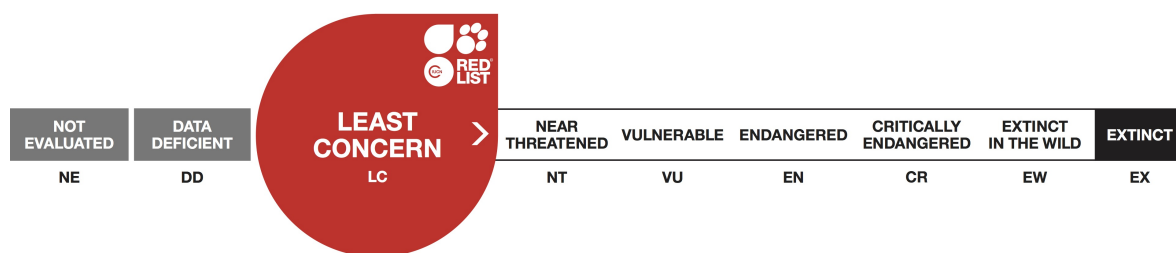


## *Chamaeleo chamaeleon*, Mediterranean Chameleon

Assessment by: Vogrin, M., Corti, C., Pérez Mellado, V., Sá-Sousa, P., Cheylan, M., Pleguezuelos, J., Baha El Din, S. & Al Johany, A.M.H.



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## Taxonomy

Kingdom	Phylum	Class	Order	Family
Animalia	Chordata	Reptilia	Squamata	Chamaeleonidae

**Taxon Name:** *Chamaeleo chamaeleon* (Linnaeus, 1758)

### Synonym(s):

- *Lacerta chamaeleon* Linnaeus, 1758

### Regional Assessments:

- [Europe](#)

### Common Name(s):

- English: Mediterranean Chameleon
- Spanish: Camaleón Común

## Assessment Information

**Red List Category & Criteria:** Least Concern [ver 3.1](#)

**Year Published:** 2012

**Date Assessed:** February 7, 2012

### Justification:

This species is listed as Least Concern in view of its wide distribution, tolerance of a degree of habitat modification, presumed large population, and because it is unlikely to be declining fast enough to qualify for listing in a threatened category.

## Geographic Range

### Range Description:

This species is found in southern Europe, northern Africa and southwestern Asia. In Europe it is found in Malta, and on Crete (although this requires confirmation), Samos and Chios (both in Greece), and in southern coastal Spain and Portugal where it is probably introduced before 1500. It was reportedly introduced to the island of Sicily, Italy, but its presence was never confirmed; a small, probably introduced, population is reported to be present in Apulia in southwestern Italy (not mapped here) (Sindaco *et al.* 2006). There are old reports of an introduced population in Crete, Greece but there are no specimens. In North Africa it occurs along the Atlantic coast of Western Sahara, is widely distributed in Morocco, and is present in northern Algeria, northern and central Tunisia, northern Libya and northern Egypt. In southwestern Asia it occurs on the island of Cyprus, in southern Turkey (and as isolated populations in the Marmaraa region [Sindaco *et al.* 2000; Sindaco *et al.* 2006]), through the Levant region of western Syria, Lebanon, Israel and western Jordan, western and southwestern Saudi Arabia and northern Yemen. It can be found from sea level up to 1,850 m asl.

### Country Occurrence:

**Native:** Algeria; Cyprus; Egypt; Greece; Iraq; Israel; Jordan; Lebanon; Libya; Malta; Morocco; Saudi Arabia; Syrian Arab Republic; Tunisia; Turkey; Western Sahara; Yemen

**Introduced:** Italy; Portugal; Spain

# Distribution Map



## *Chamaeleo chamaeleon*

NE DD **LC** > NT VU EN CR EW EX  
LEAST CONCERN

### Range

- Extant (resident)
- Introduced
- Probably Extant (resident)

Compiled by:  
International Union for  
Conservation of Nature (IUCN),  
Conservation International



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply any official endorsement, acceptance or opinion by IUCN.

## Population

It is a common species in most of its native range. In Spain, the species is most commonly found in densities of 10 to 25 animals per hectare, although up to 50 animals per hectare may be found. It is rare in Western Sahara. In Egypt, it is fairly common in coastal areas, but uncommon in more inland arid areas. In Turkey, it is uncommon (Avci and Kumlutaş pers. comm. 2008). It is a common, but patchily distributed species in Saudi Arabia.

**Current Population Trend:** Stable

## Habitat and Ecology (see Appendix for additional information)

It is a diurnal species found climbing in bushes in dry to humid habitats. It inhabits shrubland, plantations, open pine woodland, orchards (such as almonds and olive groves) and gardens. In Egypt, it also occurs on vegetation in sparsely vegetated open gravel plains. The females produce a single clutch of between five and forty-five eggs per year; these are buried in the soil.

**Systems:** Terrestrial

## Use and Trade (see Appendix for additional information)

This species is collected for the pet trade and local medicinal use.

## Threats (see Appendix for additional information)

It is threatened locally by loss of habitat through urbanization and the development of tourist facilities, agricultural intensification, predation by domestic animals, accidental mortality on roads and by illegal collection of animals. It may be used for remedies or as a talisman in North Africa (not in Egypt). Animals are caught, sometimes illegally, for the international pet market and are offered to tourists at local markets. In Turkey, forest fires are also a threat.

## Conservation Actions (see Appendix for additional information)

It is listed on Annex II of the Bern Convention and on Appendix II of CITES. Its range includes many protected areas, for example the following ones in Morocco: Tamga, Saghro, Chekhar, Talassemtane, Trois fourches, Sebkhah Bou Areg, Gourougou, Embouchure Moulouya, Béni Snassen, Jbel Moussa, Perdicaris, Bouhachem, Brikcha, Koudiat Tidighine, Lalla Outka, Lalla Chafia, Bou Iblane, Bou Naceur, Jbel Tichoukt, and Jaaba. There is a need to monitor and regulate the collection of animals in Egypt (S. Baha El Din pers. comm.). In Spain, barriers have been created in an attempt to prevent mortality on roads.

## Credits

**Assessor(s):** Vogrin, M., Corti, C., Pérez Mellado, V., Sá-Sousa, P., Cheylan, M., Pleguezuelos, J., Baha El Din, S. & Al Johany, A.M.H.

**Reviewer(s):** Cox, N.A. & Tolley, K.

**Facilitators(s) and Compiler(s):** Cox, N.A.

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# Appendix

## Habitats

(<http://www.iucnredlist.org/technical-documents/classification-schemes>)

Habitat	Season	Suitability	Major Importance?
1. Forest -> 1.4. Forest - Temperate	-	Marginal	-
3. Shrubland -> 3.5. Shrubland - Subtropical/Tropical Dry	-	Suitable	-
3. Shrubland -> 3.8. Shrubland - Mediterranean-type Shrubby Vegetation	-	Suitable	-
14. Artificial/Terrestrial -> 14.3. Artificial/Terrestrial - Plantations	-	Suitable	-
14. Artificial/Terrestrial -> 14.4. Artificial/Terrestrial - Rural Gardens	-	Suitable	-

## Use and Trade

(<http://www.iucnredlist.org/technical-documents/classification-schemes>)

End Use	Local	National	International
Medicine - human & veterinary	Yes	No	No
Pets/display animals, horticulture	No	Yes	Yes

## Threats

(<http://www.iucnredlist.org/technical-documents/classification-schemes>)

Threat	Timing	Scope	Severity	Impact Score
1. Residential & commercial development -> 1.1. Housing & urban areas	Ongoing	-	-	-
	Stresses:	1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.1. Ecosystem conversion 1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.2. Ecosystem degradation		
1. Residential & commercial development -> 1.3. Tourism & recreation areas	Ongoing	-	-	-
	Stresses:	1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.1. Ecosystem conversion 1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.2. Ecosystem degradation		
2. Agriculture & aquaculture -> 2.1. Annual & perennial non-timber crops -> 2.1.3. Agro-industry farming	Ongoing	-	-	-
	Stresses:	1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.1. Ecosystem conversion 1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.2. Ecosystem degradation		
4. Transportation & service corridors -> 4.1. Roads & railroads	Ongoing	-	-	-
	Stresses:	2. Species Stresses -> 2.1. Species mortality		
7. Natural system modifications -> 7.1. Fire & fire suppression -> 7.1.3. Trend Unknown/Unrecorded	Ongoing	-	-	-

	Stresses:	1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.2. Ecosystem degradation
8. Invasive & other problematic species & genes -> 8.1. Invasive non-native/alien species -> 8.1.1. Unspecified species	Ongoing	- - -
	Stresses:	2. Species Stresses -> 2.1. Species mortality

## Conservation Actions in Place

(<http://www.iucnredlist.org/technical-documents/classification-schemes>)

<b>Conservation Actions in Place</b>
In-Place Land/Water Protection and Management
Occur in at least one PA: Yes
In-Place Education
Included in international legislation: No
Subject to any international management/trade controls: No

## Conservation Actions Needed

(<http://www.iucnredlist.org/technical-documents/classification-schemes>)

<b>Conservation Actions Needed</b>
3. Species management -> 3.1. Species management -> 3.1.1. Harvest management
3. Species management -> 3.1. Species management -> 3.1.2. Trade management
5. Law & policy -> 5.1. Legislation -> 5.1.2. National level

## Research Needed

(<http://www.iucnredlist.org/technical-documents/classification-schemes>)

<b>Research Needed</b>
1. Research -> 1.1. Taxonomy
1. Research -> 1.2. Population size, distribution & trends

## Additional Data Fields

<b>Distribution</b>
Lower elevation limit (m): 0
Upper elevation limit (m): 1850
<b>Population</b>
Population severely fragmented: No

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