



Red List of

Mediterranean Amphibians



Key Facts

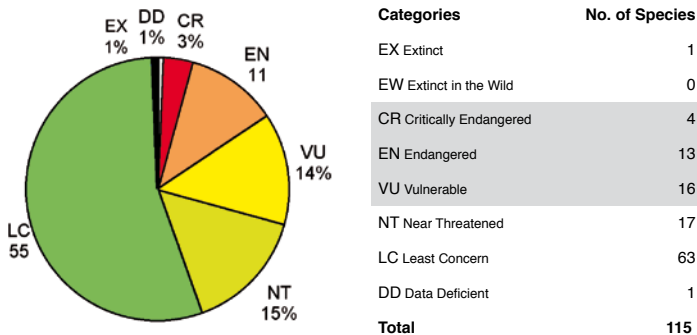
- ❑ Mediterranean amphibians are very distinctive, as 64% of them are not found anywhere else in the world.
- ❑ 115 species of amphibians (frogs, toads, newts and salamanders) are found in Mediterranean countries, a much higher number than that found in central and northern Europe.
- ❑ 28.7% of the Mediterranean's amphibians are threatened with extinction.
- ❑ One species is already extinct: the painted frog *Discoglossus nigriventor*, an endemic of Israel.
- ❑ Amphibians' disappearance is mainly due to habitat loss and degradation, as most species rely on freshwater habitats, which are under severe pressure from human activities in the region.
- ❑ A major global initiative, "The Amphibians' Ark", has been launched to ensure the global survival of amphibians, a joint effort of IUCN/SSC Amphibian Specialist Group, the IUCN/SSC Conservation Breeding Specialist Group and the World Association of Zoos and Aquarium.

The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™

Conservation Status Assessment

Of the 115 amphibian species evaluated, one species is already extinct: the painted frog *Discoglossus nigriventris*, and 28.7% are threatened, of which 3.5% are Critically Endangered, 11.3% Endangered and 13.9% Vulnerable.

Summary of conservation status for all amphibians of the Mediterranean basin (2008)



Main Threats

Apart from habitat loss and degradation - for example through water extraction - the main threats facing amphibians are over-harvesting, human disturbance, pollution and invasive alien species.

Chytridiomycosis - a fungal disease - has been implicated in declines of the Mediterranean populations of the midwife toad *Alytes obstetricans* and the fire salamander *Salamandra salamandra* and could become a more serious menace in the future.

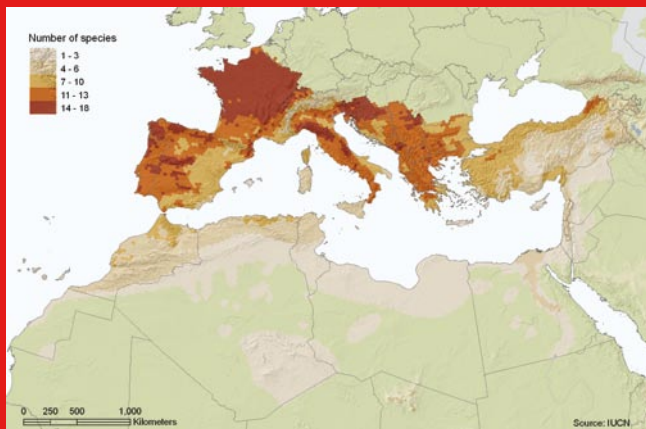
Success Story

The Mallorcan midwife toad or Ferreret *Alytes muletensis* is a very rare species endemic to the island of Mallorca (Spain). It is threatened by predation of introduced species, as well as by habitat loss due to the development of tourism and human settlements. The Conselleria de Medi Ambient in Mallorca carried out a conservation project for the species, together with captive breeding and reintroductions. The toad was recently downlisted to Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List, as its status has improved.



Species Richness

The greatest diversity is clearly found in areas of higher rainfall in the Western Mediterranean.



Species richness of amphibians in the Mediterranean basin.

Although the percentage of threatened amphibian species is high in the Mediterranean basin, there are only a few places with concentrations of species at risk, namely Sardinia, northern Algeria, western Slovenia, and southwestern Turkey.



Species richness of threatened amphibians in the Mediterranean basin.

For More Information

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

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