

TEMPLE, Helen J. & CUTTELOD, Annabelle (compilers) (2009). *The Status and Distribution of Mediterranean Mammals*. Gland, Switzerland and Cambridge, UK, IUCN. vii + 32 pp. ISBN 978-2-8317-1163-8. Available from IUCN, Publications Services, 28 Rue Mauverney, 1196 Gland, Switzerland.

This booklet presents the results of a Mediterranean Mammal Red List workshop held in Malaga, Spain, in 2007. This workshop was embedded in the Mediterranean Biodiversity Assessment and in Global Mammal Assessment activities of the IUCN, in cooperation with experts from around the world. The aim of this workshop was to assess the taxonomy, distribution, and conservation status of all mammal species living in the 31 countries bordering the Mediterranean Basin from Albania to Turkey, and including the Atlantic Islands and Western Sahara. A total of 297 species was assessed, excluding species of marginal occurrence in the region.

16.5% of the Mediterranean mammals are threatened with extinction at the regional scale, and a further 8% are

Near Threatened. By comparison, 56% of dolphins and whales, and 5% of birds are threatened with extinction. More than one-quarter (27%) of the Mediterranean mammals have declining population, and 31% are stable. The mammals of the Magreb region were included in the assessment, and this region holds a large number of endemic species, unique to the Mediterranean and found nowhere else. In the Sahara, species richness is relatively low, but a high proportion of Saharan species are threatened.

The booklet includes many more interesting data and maps showing the geographic distribution of species richness and endemic species richness in the Mediterranean Region. An appendix lists all mammal species considered and their Red List status. Copies of this useful summary can be obtained from IUCN.

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Zoologisch-Botanische Datenbank/Zoological-Botanical Database

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