Chameleons are among the most distinctive of all lizards, their strongly compressed bodies, spindly limbs with grasping feet, prehensile tails, and independently mobile eyes set them apart from all other lizards.

**CONSERVATION**

One species (Smith’s dwarf chameleon) is critically endangered, while the others are vulnerable.

**HABITAT**

Chameleons are strictly limited to the Old World. They are especially numerous in sub-Saharan Africa and in Madagascar.

**BEHAVIOUR**

Chameleons can change color because they have a set of special cells in their skin and within those cells they have nanocrystals, small crystals with different size and shape. The chameleon can rearrange the organization of this crystals so they reflect different lengths of waves of light, creating different colors. It’s a myth that chameleons change their colors just to blend in with their environment, which they do, but the main reason is to express or communicate with other chameleons. For example, when a female is in sight the male expresses bright colors and when there is a territorial dispute with another male the chameleon expresses that he is angry with warming colors.