

## 2021 Report

# IUCN SSC Dragonfly Specialist Group



#### CO-CHAIR

**Viola Clausnitzer**  
Senckenberg  
Research Institute,  
Goerlitz, Germany



#### CO-CHAIR

**Federico Lozano**  
Universidad Nacional  
de Avellaneda,  
Argentina

#### RED LIST AUTHORITY COORDINATOR

**Viola Clausnitzer**  
Senckenberg  
Research Institute,  
Goerlitz, Germany

#### NUMBER OF MEMBERS

42

#### SOCIAL MEDIA AND WEBSITE

Facebook: IUCN Dragonfly Specialist Group

Website: <https://worlddragonfly.org/>

#### Mission statement

The mission of the IUCN SSC Dragonfly Specialist Group (DSG) is to increase the knowledge on taxonomy, ecology and biogeography of all Odonata (damselflies and dragonflies). Based on this information we are currently working on the final steps towards assessing all species globally against the criteria of The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, while outdated assessments are updated. In parallel, we help conservationists and countries to protect threatened species.

#### Projected impact 2021–2025

In March/April 2021, we want to see all Odonata assessed on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. We hope to be able to help more countries with their National Red Lists and their endeavours with Biodiversity Action Plans. Hopefully more conservation projects and capacity building, not only for threatened species, can be established. Another goal is to establish dragonflies as 'guardians of the watershed', enabling a better understanding of biodiversity, a healthy environment and human well-being.



*Chlorocypha cyanifrons*  
Photo: Jens Kipping

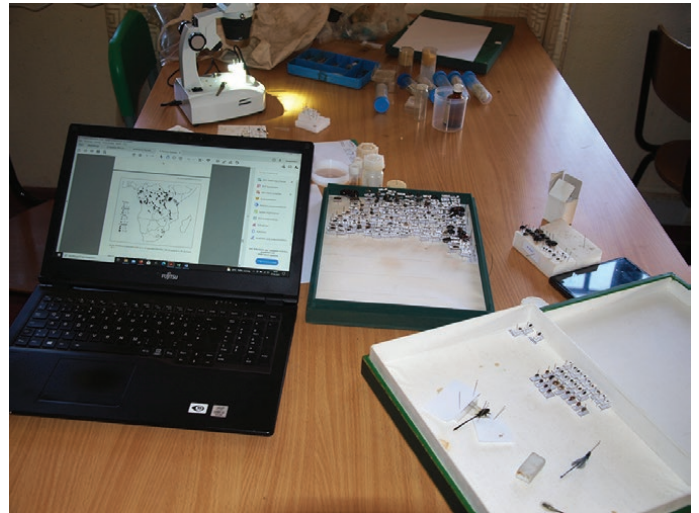
*Stenocypha jacksoni*, Nyungwe NP, Rwanda, August 2021  
Photo: Viola Clausnitzer



Field course in Nyungwe NP, Rwanda, August 2021  
Photo: Viola Clausnitzer



Field course in Nyungwe NP, Rwanda, August 2021.  
Dragonfly identification and preparation  
Photo: Viola Clausnitzer



Collecting dragonflies. Field course in Nyungwe NP, Rwanda, August 2021  
Photo: Viola Clausnitzer

## Targets 2021–2025

### ASSESS

- T-001 Global dragonfly assessment (6,320 species): all dragonfly species as listed on the World Odonata List are entered in the IUCN Species Information Service (SIS) and assessed against the Red List Criteria.
- T-005 Develop a Dragonfly Biotic Index for Argentina.
- T-006 Develop a National Red List of Argentina and Kenya.
- T-008 Reassess South American species.
- T-009 Obtain more information on *Andinagrion saliceti* to assist conservation planning.
- T-011 Research and produce a scientific publication on dragonflies of Manu National Park (Peru).
- T-012 Develop a National Red List for Rwanda.

T-013 Update and expand the National Red List of Brazil.

T-017 Contribute to the National Red List of Peru.

T-020 Update/reassess the European Red List.

T-021 Ensure dragonflies are represented in overall discussions on SIS, Red Listing, reassessments, etc.

### PLAN

T-004 Provide technical and scientific support in measuring the pulse of European biodiversity using the Red List Index.

T-010 Develop a species conservation plan for *Andinagrion saliceti*.

T-014 Develop a species conservation plan for *Roppaneura beckeri* and *Minagrion ribeiroi*.

T-022 Conduct Area of Habitat (AOH) mapping for the freshwater Species Threat Abatement and Restoration (STAR) project.

### ACT

T-015 Implement a species conservation plan for *Roppaneura beckeri* and *Minagrion ribeiroi*.

### NETWORK

T-002 Provide Red List training to group members and local conservationists for global and national assessments.

### COMMUNICATE

- T-003 Provide vernacular names and photos for as many dragonfly species as possible on the Red List.
- T-007 Produce a field guide of dragonflies of Buenos Aires (Argentina).
- T-016 Produce an informative guide of dragonflies of Manu Learning Centre (Peru).
- T-018 Promote dragonfly knowledge among non-specialists in Argentina.
- T-019 Publish the atlas of the Odonata of West and Central Asia (Turkey, Cyprus, Sinai and Yemen to Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan and the South Caucasus).



*Chlorocypha trifaria*, Uganda  
Photo: Viola Clausnitzer

## Activities and results 2021

### ASSESS

#### Red List

T-001 (KSR 6)

**Number of new global Red List assessments completed:** 1,124

**Result description:** All Odonata are in SIS. During 2021, over 1,500 assessments were reviewed and a total of 1,124 species were published on the IUCN Red List; most of these species were from Latin America. The remaining 250 species will be published with the next Red List update. The global dragonfly assessment was completed in 2021!

T-006 (KSR 6)

**Number of new national Red List assessments published:** 0

**Result description:** The assessments of the Argentinean and Kenyan species have started. Information is being compiled and assessments are on track. The Kenyan assessments will be published in 2022 and endemic species will be re-assessed for the global Red List. The Argentinean assessments will be published during 2023.

T-017 (KSR 6)

**Number of new national Red List assessments published:** 25

**Result description:** A total of 25 species were assessed during 2021. This was done in the framework of the updating of

the National Red List of the fauna of Peru. It was coordinated by Servicio Nacional Forestal y de Fauna Silvestre (SERFOR). Results are awaiting publication.

T-020 (KSR 6)

**Number of global Red List reassessments completed:** 1,146

**Result description:** A total of 1,146 global Red List assessments have been published in 2021, while several hundreds more are in the publication queue.

#### Research activities

T-005 (KSR 5)

**Number of scientific publications about species research that acknowledge SSC affiliation:** At least 10, but most likely far more.

**Result description:** This is an ongoing work and at least the publications by Viola Clausnitzer in 2021 all acknowledge SSC affiliation, while publications by Tchibozo, Dow, Zia, van Damme also mention SSC affiliation.

T-011 (KSR 5)

**Number of research projects completed or supported by SSC members per taxonomic group and region:** At least 5.

**Result description:** Globally, there is a rather large network of Odonatologists, not all who contribute to the IUCN/SSC Dragonfly



Pristine habitat, Cuemba, Angola  
Photo: Jens Kipping



Sampling freshwater invertebrates  
in Nyungwe NP, Rwanda, 2021  
Photo: Viola Clausnitzer

Specialist Group are necessarily a member. Hence, it is difficult to get a true picture of projects completed. There are numerous projects focusing on regions and taxa worldwide and it would consume too much time to get them all listed. Some examples follow: (1) Peru - Research within the area was done during 2020–2021. Specimens collected are being studied and identified. Field work was done with the aid of CREES, a Peruvian NGO; (2) Indonesia - Hening Triandika Rachman worked on "Preserving The Last Remaining Populations of Javan Endemic Damselfly (*Rhinagrion tricolor*) in Nusakambangan Island" with a grant by the Rufford Foundation; (3) Rwanda - Erasme Uyizeye completed another publication about his work on Rwandese Odonata (amongst others funded by National Geographic). Viola Clausnitzer led a Field Course Rwanda, training scientists and conservationists in dragonfly taxonomy and monitoring; (4) Kenya - Laban Njoroje and his team did a lot of surveys countrywide, resulting in new data for conservation planning for Kenya's endemic Odonata; (5) Nigeria - KD Dijkstra joint a team of Nigerian Odonatologists for field work – they got new information and new records for the country.

#### PLAN

##### Policy

T-004 (KSR 9)

**Number of documents provided to support/guide policy making:** ongoing

**Result description:** This is still a work in progress; Geert de Knijff is leading on this.

#### NETWORK

##### Capacity building

T-002 (KSR 2)

**Number of people trained in assessment tools:** Over 50.

**Result description:** During 2021, a brief online course on Red Listing was provided by Federico Lozano during the III Encuentro de la Sociedad de Odonatología Latinoamericana (24–26 November 2021). This course was virtual, taking into account the global health situation. It consisted of seven sessions which covered the basic topics related to the Red Listing process and a final session of questions and examples. This course was taken by 24 participants. Viola Clausnitzer also provided two IUCN Red List training courses to an international group of conservationists at the International Academy for Nature Conservation Isle of Vilm, German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation ('44<sup>th</sup> International Postgraduate Course on Environmental Management' and 'International Nature Conservation').

#### COMMUNICATE

##### Communication

T-003 (KSR 12)

**Number of photos uploaded:** ongoing

**Result description:** Work is still ongoing; KD Dijkstra has prepared a list for all Odonata and is liaising with the various experts concerning appropriate vernacular names.

T-007 (KSR 13)

**Digital Field Guide of Dragonflies of Buenos Aires produced:** ongoing

**Result description:** This is still a work in progress. Federico Lozano is leading this. A sample of a page of the field guide is provided in the SSC DATA site of this Specialist Group.

T-016 (KSR 13)

**Number of print communications materials distributed in relation to specific taxonomic groups:** ongoing

**Result description:** Research within the area was done during 2020–2021. Specimens collected are being studied and identified. Field work was done with the aid of CREES, a Peruvian NGO.

T-019 (KSR 13)

**Number of print communications materials distributed in relation to specific taxonomic groups:** 1

**Result description:** The 'Atlas of the dragonflies and damselflies of West and Central Asia' was published: [https://www.researchgate.net/publication/355479299\\_Atlas\\_of\\_the\\_dragonflies\\_and\\_damselflies\\_of\\_West\\_and\\_Central\\_Asia](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/355479299_Atlas_of_the_dragonflies_and_damselflies_of_West_and_Central_Asia).

#### Acknowledgements

We thank the Worldwide Dragonfly Association for their ongoing support of DSG work.

#### Summary of achievements

**Total number of targets 2021–2025:** 22

**Geographic regions:** 5 Global, 1 Africa, 13 America, 1 Asia, 2 Europe

**Actions during 2021:**

Assess: 6 (KSR 5, 6)

Plan: 1 (KSR 9)

Network: 1 (KSR 2)

Communicate: 4 (KSR 12, 13)

**Overall achievement 2021–2025:**

