

IUCN SSC Dragonfly Specialist Group



2019 Report



Viola Clausnitzer



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Co-Chairs

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Location/Affiliation

(1) Senckenberg Research Institute,
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(2) Inbo, Belgium

Number of members

54

Social networks

Facebook: IUCN Dragonfly Specialist Group
Website:
<https://worlddragonfly.org/>;
<https://www.iucn.org/ssc-groups/invertebrates/dragonfly>



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steps towards assessing all species globally against the criteria of The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, while outdated assessments are updated.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 for the 2017-2020 quadrennium

By the end of 2020, 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.

Targets for the 2017-2020 quadrennium

Assess

Red List: (1) complete the global dragonfly assessment (6,300 species); (2) add assessments focusing on African and South American dragonflies to National Red Lists; (3) contribute to the Barometer of Life by completing the assessments of ca. 500 dragonflies in South-east Asia; (4) contribute to the Barometer of Life by completing the remaining assessments of ca. 1,000 dragonflies globally; (5) gather data in North America through Odonata Central to feed into global Red List assessments.

Research activities: (1) gain more information on *Lestes umbrinus* to assist conservation planning; (2) research and produce a scientific publication on dragonflies in Tatamá National Park and its buffer area in the Colombian western Andes; (3) contribute to the process of delineating Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) for freshwater conservation; (4) delineate KBAs for freshwater conservation in Lake Tanganyika Catchment, Africa; (5) develop an Atlas of the dragonflies of Bhutan/the Eastern Himalaya; (6) use the atlas to develop a Dragonfly Biotic Index for the Eastern Himalaya; (7) develop a field guide for the odonates in the Tatamá region; (8) conduct research on impacts of climate change on mountainous dragonflies in the Andes, Colombia; (9) delineate KBAs for freshwater conservation in Lake Malawi Catchment, Africa; (10) create an open online database for Odonata; (11) contribute to producing a KBA monitoring plan; (12) contribute to KBA assessment for Greece.

Slender Jewel, *Stenocypha tenuis*, common along pristine forest streams in eastern Africa
Photo: Jens Kipping



Ethiopian Highlander, *Atoconeura aethiopica*, an endemic dragonfly of Ethiopia's clear montane forest streams
Photo: Viola Clausnitzer

Plan

Planning: (1) produce a Species Conservation Action Plan for *Ceriagrion citrinum* (Yellow Waxtail); (2) produce a Species Conservation Action Plan for *Notogomphus maathaiae* (Maathai's Longleg); (3) produce a Species Conservation Action Plan for *Platycypha amboniensis*.

Policy: (1) develop a Dragonfly Biotic Index for Monitoring and Prioritising Restoration Sites within the Congo-Nile Crest Watershed, Rwanda; (2) develop a Dragonfly Biotic Index for Monitoring and Prioritising Restoration Sites within Europe.

Act

Conservation actions: (1) implement conservation action for *Lestes umbrinus*; (2) implement conservation actions for endemic dragonflies in the Cape Region.

Technical advice: publish a book on New Zealand Odonata species.

Network

Agreements: develop a scientific research collaboration to generate conservation information for the Sarawak Forestry Corporation.

Capacity building: (1) capacity building and training of Red List assessors worldwide (several people trained in workshops on various continents); (2) continued focus on capacity building and training in Africa and South America for Red Listing and on-the-ground conservation work; (3) increase the number of Red List trainers in the DSG.

Proposal development and funding: increase funding for scientific and research projects for dragonflies globally.

Scientific meetings: plan a meeting of the European DSG members at the European Congress on Odonatology, <https://ecoo2016.wordpress.com/>.

Hairy-legged Highlander, *Atoconeura pseudeudoxia*,
shady forest streams in eastern Africa
Photo: Jens Kipping



Synergy: expand the network of odonatologists and freshwater conservationists in Africa as members of the DSG.

Activities and results 2019

Assess

Red List

- i.** Over 5,000 dragonfly assessments are in the IUCN SIS database. (KSR #1)
- ii.** At the moment, our focus for Red List assessments is to complete the global assessment. This is ongoing for some countries (Brazil, Rwanda, Kenya). (KSR #1, 2)
- iii.** Over 500 assessments in Southeast Asia are completed. (KSR #1, 2, 4)
- iv.** We contributed to the Barometer of Life with over 500 assessments completed. (KSR #1, 2, 4)
- v.** All North American Odonata species are on the global Red List. (KSR #1, 12, 26)

Research activities

- i.** Fifty-three sites were visited, but *Lestes umbrinus* was only found at one place. (KSR #12)
- ii.** A research project on determination of new Odonata species in a Colombian Tropical rainforest is ongoing (see <https://www.researchgate.net/project/Determination-of-new-Odonata-species-in-a-Colombian-Tropical-rainforest-an-integrative-approach>). (KSR #11, 12)
- iii.** Odonata were included in all African KBA assessments and in the European KBA approach. (KSR #22)
- iv.** The Atlas of the dragonflies of Bhutan/the Eastern Himalaya is currently in preparation. (KSR #1, 3, 7, 14, 15)

v. A Field guide for the odonates in the Tatamá region was published: see https://www.researchgate.net/publication/334119212_LIBELULAS_DE_LA_CORDILLERA_OCCIDENTAL_COLOMBIANA_una_mirada_desde_el_Tatama_DRAGONFLIES_OF_THE_COLOMBIAN_CORDILLERA_OCCIDENTAL_a_look_from_Tatama. (KSR #28, 43)

vi. Publications and references are available on the SOL (Sociedad Odonatológica Latinoamericana) website: <https://www.odonatasol.org/boletin-cientifico-de-la-sol/>. (KSR #38)

vii. One map of Lake Malawi was produced: see <https://www.iucn.org/theme/species/our-work/freshwater-biodiversity/what-we-do/lake-malawi-catchment>. (KSR #22)

viii. An open online database for Odonata is completed for some regions, e.g. Africa (see <http://addo.adu.org.za/>). (KSR #1, 2, 12, 32, 43)

ix. Odonata are included in the KBA assessment in Greece. (KSR #22)

Plan

Planning

i. Ojonugwa Ekpah from Nigeria got funding from the International Dragonfly Fund (IDF) to work on a Conservation Plan for *Ceriatrion citrinum*. (KSR #12, 15, 20)

ii. A Conservation Action Plan for *Platycypha amboniensis* was done by Laban Njoroge, National Museums of Kenya, with new sites found. (KSR #12, 15, 20, 34, 39)

Policy

i. Publications of the Dragonfly Biotic Index for Monitoring and Prioritising Restoration Sites within the Congo-Nile Crest Watershed, Rwanda, are being prepared by Erasme Uyizeye. (KSR #31, 34)

Act

Conservation actions

i. Conservation actions for *Lestes umbrinus* were prepared together with the villagers of the village Phagora in Batagram, with actions ongoing. Several workshops and meetings took place in Phagora. (KSR #33, 34, 35, 43)

ii. Conservation actions for endemic dragonflies in the Cape region are ongoing (<https://jrbsiodiversity.org/grants/odonatafr2019/>). All South African Odonata are on the National Red List (new assessments and updates finished in 2019, including conservation recommendations). (KSR #22)

Technical advice

i. Publication of book on New Zealand Odonota species is still ongoing (<http://www.perfectlyworded.co.nz/dragons/dragons.html>). (KSR #28)

Network

Capacity building

i. Capacity building and training of facilitators in Africa for Red Listing and on-the-ground conservation work: two at Ethiopian Biodiversity Institute and two at Rwanda University. (KSR #5)

ii. Training and Red Listing in South America is ongoing (<http://www.odonatasol.org/>). (KSR #5)

iii. Capacity building and training in Africa is ongoing: Jens Kipping joined Erasme Uyizeye in Rwanda, KD Dijkstra and Viola Clausnitzer trained a team in Ethiopia. Ten people in Ethiopia were trained (members of the Ethiopian Biodiversity Institute, scientists and rangers), three people in Guinea were trained, and three people in Rwanda were trained. (KSR #5)

iv. New people were largely trained in South America. (KSR #1, 2, 4)

Proposal development and funding

i. Several proposals were written for research projects for dragonflies globally; some were



Papyrus Wisp, *Agriocnemis palaeforma*, a habitat specialist; only found in papyrus swamps with clean and running water in Rwanda and Uganda
 Photo: Jens Kipping

granted (National Geographic Society – Rwanda, International Dragonfly Fund – Nigeria) and many are still pending. Around 10 proposals were written (including to National Geographic Society, Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund, International Dragonfly Fund, Rufford Small Grants, SSC).

Scientific meetings

i. We are planning a meeting of the European DSG members at the European Congress on Odonatology, scheduled for 29 June to 2 July 2020; it is still open, if it can be facilitated. (KSR #28, 31, 32)

Synergy

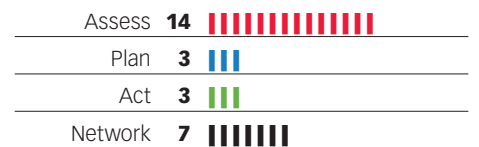
i. The next term will see many new members and a new Co-Chair in the DSG.

Acknowledgements

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Summary of activities 2019

Components of Species Conservation Cycle: 4/5



Main KSRs addressed: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 11, 12, 14, 15, 20, 22, 26, 28, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 38, 39, 43

Resolutions addressed: WCC-2016-Res-016, WCC-2016-Res-041

KSR: Key Species Result