

IUCN SSC Dragonfly Specialist Group



2020 Report



Viola Clausnitzer



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Co-Chairs

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⁽¹⁾ Senckenberg Research Institute,
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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steps towards assessing all species globally against the criteria of The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, while outdated assessments are updated.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 Southeast 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.



Plan

Planning: (1) produce a Species Conservation Action Plan for Yellow Waxtail (*Ceriagrion citrinum*); (2) produce a Species Conservation Action Plan for Maathai's Longleg (*Notogomphus maathaiae*); (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) carry out capacity building and training of Red List assessors worldwide (several people trained in workshops on various continents); (2) maintain a 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; (4) conduct capacity building and training of a Red List facilitator.

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/>).

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

Activities and results 2020

Assess

Red List

i. Global dragonfly assessments are more or less completed; the last assessments are done and reviewed, and all species are in the IUCN Species Information Service database (SIS). (KSR #1)

ii. Assessments for Kenya are finished; Rwanda will start soon; Brazil has started its update; Argentina is going to start soon; and Peru has assessed and included some species within its national Red List process, which are still under revision (2021). (KSR #2)

iii. All species of dragonflies assessed in Southeast Asia are in SIS, most in review. (KSR #1, 2, 4)

iv. The remaining species of dragonflies assessed globally are in SIS, most in review. (KSR #1, 2, 4)



After travel restrictions finally field work
in Rwanda in 2021
Photo: Viola Clausnitzer, August 2021



Training Field Guides of the Nyungwe National Park
Photo: Viola Clausnitzer, August 2021



Vulnerable Yellow-sided Jewel, *Stenocypha jacksoni*,
a montane stream species in the Albertine Rift
Photo: Viola Clausnitzer, August 2021



Vulnerable Yellow-sided Jewel, *Stenocypha jacksoni*, a montane stream species in the Albertine Rift
Photo: Viola Clausnitzer

Research activities

- i.** Development of an Atlas of the dragonflies of Bhutan/the eastern Himalaya is on track, but COVID-19 might postpone completion in 2021. (KSR #1, 3, 7, 14, 15)
- ii.** Use of the Atlas of the dragonflies of Bhutan/the eastern Himalaya to develop a Dragonfly Biotic Index for the eastern Himalaya is on track, but COVID-19 might postpone completion in 2021. (KSR #1, 3, 7, 14, 15)
- iii.** Research on the impacts of climate change on mountainous dragonflies in the Andes, Colombia, is on track, but COVID-19 might postpone completion in 2021. (KSR #38)
- iv.** Discussions between K.D. Dijkstra, Dennis Paulson and John Abbott on the creation of an open online database for Odonata continued and the database is on its way. (KSR #1, 2, 12, 32, 43)
- v.** Report delivered to the KBA Mediterranean office: 'Final report of activities to assess the conservation status of species and habitats in freshwater Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs), and key additional sites from the River Sebou basin in Morocco'. (KSR #22)

Plan

Planning

- i.** Species Conservation Action Plan for Yellow Waxtail (*Ceragrion citrinum*): publications, sign boards and rules for local stakeholders have been prepared. (KSR #12, 15, 20)
- ii.** The Species Conservation Action Plan for *Platycypha amboniensis* was produced. (KSR #12, 15, 20, 34, 39)

Policy

- i.** Dragonfly Biotic Index for Monitoring and Prioritising Restoration Sites within the Congo-Nile Crest Watershed, Rwanda: the PhD from Erasme Uyizeye was published. (KSR #31, 34)
- ii.** A proposal to develop a Dragonfly Biotic Index for Monitoring and Prioritising Restoration Sites within Europe is under revision. (KSR #22)

Act

Technical advice

- i.** The book on New Zealand Odonata species was published (<https://www.nhbs.com/en/dragonflies-and-damselflies-of-new-zealand-book>). (KSR #43)

Network

Capacity building

- i.** Capacity building and training in South America: all Latin American Odonata are in SIS and assessed, and national Red Lists are starting. (KSR #5)
- ii.** Capacity building and training in Africa: there is frequent contact between African scientists/conservationists and Viola Clausnitzer and K.D. Dijkstra with respect to identification, help in projects and proposals. (KSR #5)
- iii.** Six people were trained in Red List assessment. (KSR #1, 2, 4)

Proposal development and funding

- i.** Proposals have been submitted to fund scientific and research projects for dragonflies globally, e.g. for Zambian Wetlands.

Acknowledgements

The Senckenberg Research Institute enables Viola Clausnitzer to work on SSC/IUCN matters as an affiliated scientist. All work for the IUCN SSC Dragonfly Specialist Group is done voluntarily by various researchers.

Summary of activities 2020

Species Conservation Cycle ratio: 4/5

Assess	9	
Plan	4	
Act	1	
Network	4	

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

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

KSR: Key Species Result