



Species

ISSUE 64

2023 Report of the IUCN Species Survival Commission and Secretariat



Stand-alone report
IUCN SSC Dragonfly Specialist Group

The IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC)

The IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC) is a science-based network of thousands of volunteer experts from almost every country of the world, all working together toward achieving the vision of “a just world that values and conserves nature through positive action to both prevent the loss and aid recovery of the diversity of life on earth.”

Members of SSC belong to one or more of near 200 Specialist Groups, Red List Authorities, Action Partnerships, Task Forces, and Conservation Committees that make up the Network, each focusing on a taxonomic group (plants, fungi, mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, fishes, and invertebrates), national species, or a disciplinary issue, such as sustainable use and livelihoods, translocation of species, wildlife health, climate change, and conservation planning.

Framed by the Species Conservation Cycle, SSC's major role is to provide information to IUCN on biodiversity conservation, the inherent value of species, their role in ecosystem health and functioning, the provision of ecosystem services, and their support to human livelihoods. This information is fed into the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.

2021-2025 Species Strategic Plan

The IUCN Species Strategic Plan encompasses the joint work of the IUCN Species Survival Commission and a number of partnerships to achieve more than 2,700 targets proposed by the Network during the 2021-2025 quadrennium.

To accomplish those targets, the Species Conservation Cycle was established, which is the conceptual framework for the Network activities. The Species Conservation Cycle's main purpose is to guide efforts for valuing and conserving biodiversity through three essential components that are linked to each other:

ASSESS: Understand and inform the world about the status and trends of biodiversity.

PLAN: Develop collaborative, inclusive and science-based conservation strategies, plans and policies.

ACT: Convene and mobilise conservation actions to improve the status of biodiversity.



Their implementation requires two transversal components:

NETWORK: Enhance and support our immediate network and alliances to achieve our biodiversity targets.

COMMUNICATE: Drive strategic and targeted communications to enhance our conservation impact.

SSC Species Report

Annual progress in the implementation of the 2021-2025 Species Strategic Plan is documented in the SSC *Species Report*, which consists of a comprehensive description and analysis of the activities and results generated by the members of the SSC Network and Centers for Species Survival (CSS) each year. Each SSC and CSS group contributes to this document by providing a yearly summarised description of their achievements, which is presented in stand-alone reports.

Structure of the IUCN SSC and CSS Stand-alone Reports

Stand-alone reports summarize the activities conducted and results generated by each group member of the SSC and CSS. Following, is the structure of the stand-alone report and the contents under each session.

Title of the group

Photograph(s) of the Chair/Co-Chairs

Group information

Includes names of Chair/Co-Chairs, Vice-Chairs, Deputy Chairs, Red List Authority Coordinators, Program Officers, Species Survival Directors, and Species Survival Officers, their institutional affiliations, number of members and social networks currently active.

Logo of the group

Mission statement

Includes the mission of the group.

Projected impact for the 2021-2025 quadrennium

Includes the description of the impact on species conservation resulting from the implementation of the targets formulated by the group for the 2021-2025 quadrennium.

Targets for the 2021-2025 quadrennium

Includes the targets planned by the SSC or CSS group for the 2021-2025 quadrennium ordered alphabetically by component of the Species Conservation Cycle. Each target is labeled with a numerical code (e.g., T-001, T-012) that identifies it in the SSC DATA database and its status for the reported year is indicated (Not initiated, On track or Achieved).

Activities and results

Includes the targets for which activities were conducted and results were generated during the reported year, ordered alphabetically, first by component of the Species Conservation Cycle, and second by Activity Category. Description of activities and results includes the indicator that best describes progress, its associated quantitative or qualitative result, and the narrative description of the activity conducted or result obtained. Each activity or result reported is linked to the Key Species Result to which it is mainly associated (e.g., KSR#1, KSR#5).

Acknowledgements

Includes the acknowledgements to funding agencies, partners, and persons who contributed to the progress of the targets of the group.

Summary of achievements

Summarises information of the group's strategic plan for the quadrennium and progress achieved implementing targets for all the components of the Species Conservation Cycle during the reported year.

Animalia

Fungi

Plantae

National Species

Disciplinary

Action Partnership

Task Force

Red List Authority

Committee

Center for Species Survival

Example for the recommended citation:

Clausnitzer, V. and Lozano, F. 2024. 2023 Report of the Dragonfly Specialist Group. In: IUCN SSC and Secretariat. *2023 Report of the IUCN Species Survival Commission and Secretariat*. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN. 6 pp.

2023 Report

IUCN SSC Dragonfly Specialist Group



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NUMBER OF MEMBERS
42

SOCIAL MEDIA AND WEBSITE

Facebook: IUCN Dragonfly Specialist Group

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

<https://www.iucn.org/our-union/commissions/group/iucn-ssc-dragonfly-specialist-group>

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 protect threatened species.

Projected impact 2021–2025

In March/April 2021, we wanted 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 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.
Status: Achieved

T-005 Develop a Dragonfly Biotic Index for Argentina.
Status: On track

T-006 Develop a National Red List of Argentina.
Status: On track

T-008 Reassess South American species.
Status: Not initiated

T-009 Obtain more information on *Andinagrion saliceti* to assist conservation planning.
Status: Not initiated

T-011 Research and produce a scientific publication on dragonflies of Manu National Park (Peru).
Status: On track

T-012 Develop a National Red List for Rwanda.
Status: Not initiated

T-013 Update and expand the National Red List of Brazil.
Status: Not initiated

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

T-020 Update/reassess the European Red List.
Status: On track

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

T-029 Conduct African Odonata assessments.
Status: On track

PLAN

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

T-022 Conduct Area of Habitat (AOH) mapping for the freshwater Species Threat Abatement and Restoration (STAR) project.
Status: Not initiated

T-024 Deliver reports and technical documents to the Brazilian government, law enforcers, policy-makers and regional committees to promote freshwater conservation of the Brazilian Cerrado.
Status: Not initiated

T-028 Protect freshwater biodiversity in Akagera National Park, Rwanda.
Status: On track



Africa's largest dragonfly (*Ictinogomphus ferox*). Training African Parks staff in Akagera NP, Rwanda, November 2023
Photo: Viola Clausnitzer

ACT

T-025 Implement a species conservation plan for *Roppaneura beckeri* and *Minagrion ribeiroi*.

Status: Not initiated

NETWORK

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

Status: On track

T-023 Provide training on the use of endangered species to enforce law and policy-making in the context of freshwater basin management in the Brazilian Cerrado.

Status: Not initiated

COMMUNICATE

T-003 Provide vernacular names and photos for as many dragonfly species as possible to be included in the Red List.

Status: On track

T-007 Produce a field guide of dragonflies of Buenos Aires (Argentina).

Status: On track

T-016 Produce an informative guide of dragonflies of Manu Learning Centre (Peru).

Status: On track

T-018 Promote dragonfly knowledge among non-specialists in Argentina.

Status: On track

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).

Status: Achieved

T-026 Communicate the efforts of the project 'Conservation of *Franciscobasis franciscoi* from South America', its successes and the role of flagship species on the conservation of water resources in the Cerrado.

Status: Not initiated

T-027 Dragonflies represented in overall discussions on SIS, Red Listing, re-assessments, etc.

Status: On track

Activities and results 2023

ASSESS

Red List

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. (KSR 6)

Number of new global Red List assessments completed: 6,223

Result description: The [Global Dragonfly Assessment](#) was completed, and news was shared through an [IUCN press release](#).

T-006 Develop a National Red List of Argentina. (KSR 6)

Number of new national Red List assessments published: 0

Result description: The political situation in Argentina interrupted the workflow with local government and funding could not be obtained. However, partial improvements were made. A regional assessment of 78 species of Odonata from Buenos Aires was finished. This information will be used as input for developing the National Red List.

T-021 Ensure dragonflies are represented in overall discussions on SIS, Red Listing, reassessments, etc. (KSR 6)

Number of co-authoring reports and scientific publications: 3

Result description: In 2023, dragonflies were included in discussions through a book chapter: 'Update of National Argentinean checklist includes Red List Categories for all species'; Muzón, J. *et al.* (2023). Odonata. In: Claps LE, Roig-Juñent S.A. and Morrone, J.J. (Dirs.). Biodiversidad de artrópodos argentinos. 1 ed. San Miguel de Tucumán: Universidad Nacional de Tucumán; and two oral presentations were given at the National Congress: (1) Lozano, F. *et al.* (2023). 'Lista Roja Nacional de Odonata: hacia la primera categorización de invertebrados de Argentina'. VII Congreso Nacional de Conservación de la Biodiversidad. Puerto Iguazú, Misiones,

Argentina, (2) Ramos, L., *et al.* (2023).
'Proxies ambientales para la gestión de
reservas urbanas'. VII Congreso Nacional
de Conservación de la Biodiversidad.
Puerto Iguazú, Misiones, Argentina.

Research activities

T-005 Develop a Dragonfly Biotic Index for Argentina. (KSR 5)

Number of scientific publications about
species research that acknowledge SSC
affiliation: 0

Result description: Funding has been a
major drawback to achieving it. Partial
improvements were made. A regional
assessment of 78 species of Odonata from
Buenos Aires was finished. This information
will be used as input for developing the DBI
of Pampasic aquatic environments.

T-011 Research and produce a scientific publication on dragonflies of Manu National Park (Peru). (KSR 5)

Number of research projects completed or
supported by SSC members per taxonomic
group and region: 0

Result description: Odonatological surveys
were carried out in 2023. Specimens are
under study.

PLAN

Planning

T-028 Protect freshwater biodiversity in Akagera National Park, Rwanda. (KSR 8)

Number of species conservation plans/
strategies developed: 1

Result description: In October and November
2024 freshwater taxa of the Akagera Rivers
ecosystem in the Akagera National Park
will be surveyed in a collaboration between
African Parks, Senckenberg Research
Institute and the Center of Excellence in
Biodiversity and Natural Resources; a
focus will be the globally red-listed species.
Based on the results a monitoring and



Training African Parks staff in Akagera NP, Rwanda
in dragonfly identification (November 2023)
Photo: Viola Clausnitzer

management plan for threatened freshwater taxa will be developed and implemented by African Parks. The survey is funded by the Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund and the Volkswagen Stiftung.

NETWORK

Capacity building

T-002 Provide Red List training to group members and local conservationists for global and national assessments. (KSR 2)

Number of people trained in assessment tools: 75

Result description: In 2023, Viola Clausnitzer provided three 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.

COMMUNICATE

Communication

T-003 Provide vernacular names and photos for as many dragonfly species as possible on the Red List. (KSR 12)

Number of photos uploaded: 50

Result description: This project is ongoing and coordinated by KD Dijkstra, who is in contact with the wider odonatologist community. A final list is expected in 2024.

T-007 Produce a field guide of dragonflies of Buenos Aires (Argentina). (KSR 13)

Digital Field Guide of Dragonflies of Buenos Aires produced: 0

Result description: This target is still active, and the final edition of the Field Guide is underway.

T-016 Produce an informative guide of dragonflies of Manu Learning Centre (Peru). (KSR 13)

Number of print communications materials distributed in relation to specific taxonomic groups: 0

Result description: This target is still active and in 2024, brochures are going to be made.

T-018 Promote dragonfly knowledge among non-specialists in Argentina. (KSR 13)

Number of digital communication outputs developed in relation to specific taxonomic groups: 1

Result description: Federico Lozano participated in the Biodiversity Festival organised by the Ministerio de Desarrollo Agrario de la Provincia de Buenos Aires. An informative stand, a talk about dragonflies and how to observe them in nature and a field trip were organised. The Laboratorio de Biodiversidad y Genética Ambiental has launched an Instagram account in which information on aquatic environments and dragonflies is posted.

T-027 Dragonflies represented in overall discussions on SIS, Red Listing, re-assessments, etc. (KSR 12)

Number of media articles mentioning IUCN Species theme: 5

Result description: In 2023, Viola Clausnitzer participated in meetings and publications concerning the [sDIV platform](#). This platform is operating and [online now](#). We will have a meeting in February 2024 with African odonatologists and a member from the IUCN Red List Unit in Nairobi, to reassess all African Odonata using the sRedList platform and eventually hand over the responsibility to maintain and update the assessments to our African colleagues. Publications made in 2023 included: Cazalis, V. *et al.* (2023) "[Prioritizing the reassessment of data deficient species on the Red List](#)". *Conservation Biology*, and Cazalis, V. *et al.* (2022). "[Bridging the](#)

[research-implementation gap in IUCN Red List assessments](#)". *TREE* 37(4): 359-370.

Viola Clausnitzer gave two training workshops at the International Conservation Academy in Vilm, Germany to conservation practitioners from Eastern Europe Western and Central Asia on the IUCN Red List. Federico Lozano participated in the Patagonian Conservation Training Course talking about the importance of red listing for conservation and the improvements in Odonata red listing.

Acknowledgements

We thank the [Worldwide Dragonfly Association](#) for supporting the DSG in every respect, the [Sociedad de Odonatología Latinoamericana](#), and the Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund for supporting survey and planning work for threatened freshwater species in Akagera NP, Rwanda.

Summary of achievements

Total number of targets 2021–2025: 26

Geographic regions: 6 Global, 3 Africa, 14 America, 1 Asia, 2 Europe

Actions during 2023:

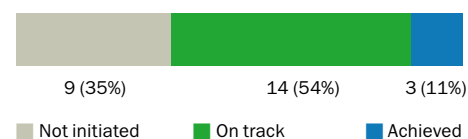
Assess: 5 (KSR 5, 6)

Plan: 1 (KSR 8)

Network: 1 (KSR 2)

Communicate: 5 (KSR 12, 13)

Overall achievement 2021–2025:



Lactifluus neotropicus
Photo: Aida Vasco



Sternberia lutea
Photo: Hayri Duman



Tetra Parnaiba
Photo: Karina Molina



Egretta rufescens
Photo: Ernesto Gómez



Mayfly nymph (*Ecdyonurus* sp.)
Photo: Astrid Schmidt-Kloiber
and Wolfram Graf



Nothobranchius fuscotaeniatus
Photo: Csenge Nagy



Trioceros hoehnelii
Photo: Christopher V. Anderson

