The National Action Plan for Odonata
a French contribution to European conservation network for threatened dragonflies

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According to the IUCN, **14% of European dragonflies are in critical danger** of extinction. In France, 50% of the area of wetlands has disappeared since 1950, mainly because of soil drainage or habitat destruction. We have mainly information on Odonata species distribution but the real conservation status is poorly known.

Within the framework of the **National Strategy for Biodiversity**, France decided to develop a national action plan for Odonata. The Office for insects and their environment (OPIE) has been designated by the French Ministry of Ecology to define and implement this National Action Plan from 2010 to 2013. **18 species** of endangered dragonflies are involved. Some of them are also endangered at European level. These species are listed below:

Scientific name	English vernacular name (Dijkstra & Lewington, 2006)	IUCN Red List Europe	Endemic to Europe
Lestes macrostigma (Eversmann,1836)	Dark Spreadwing	Vulnerable	-
Sympecma paedisca (Bauer,1877)	Siberian Winter Damsel	Least Concern	-
Coenagrion caerulescens (Fonscolombe, 1838)	Mediterranean Bluet	Near Threatened	-
Coenagrion lunulatum (Charpentier,1840)	Crescent Bluet	Least Concern	-
Coenagrion mercuriale (Charpentier,1840)	Mercury Bluet	Near Threatened	-
Coenagrion ornatum (Selys & Hagen, 1850)	Ornate Bluet	Near Threatened	-
Nehalennia speciosa (Charpentier, 1840)	Sedgling	Near Threatened	-
Aeshna caerulea (Ström, 1783)	Azure Hawker	Least Concern	-
Gomphus flavipes (Charpentier, 1840)	River Clubtail	Least Concern	-
Gomphus graslinii Ramburg, 1842	Pronged Clubtail	Near Threatened	Endemic
Lindenia tetraphylla (Vander Linden, 1825)	Bladetail	Vulnerable	-
Ophiogomphus cecilia (Foucroy, 1785)	Green Snaketail	Least Concern	-
Oxygastra curtisii (Dale, 1834)	Orange-spotted Emerald	Near Threatened	-
Macromia splendens (Pictet, 1843)	Splendid Cruiser	Vulnerable	Endemic
Leucorrhinia albifrons (Burmeister, 1839)	Dark Whiteface	Least Concern	-
Leucorrhinia caudalis (Charpentier, 1840)	Lilypad Whiteface	Least Concern	-
Leucorrhinia pectoralis (Charpentier, 1825)	Yellow-Spotted Whiteface	Least Concern	-
Sympetrum depressiusculum (Selys, 1841)	Spotted Darter	Vulnerable	-

The main objective of this plan is to assess and **improve the conservation status** of these species in our country. The plan relies on three kinds of actions:
(1) **knowledge improvement** on ecology and conservation management requirements, and on species distribution, (2) **conservation management** at different landscape scales to increase population habitat quality and (3) **communication and training** of concerned actors. For theses actions, we establish priorities taking into account pre-existing knowledge and threat degrees. The more priority actions are:

- **Document data** on species,
- **Organize a national monitoring** of endangered species,
- **Develop and implement specific conservation projects**,
- **Develop a documentary resource centre**,
- **Training technical agents** involved in aquatic areas management.

The national plan is intended to be **declined in 22 regions** of metropolitan France. According to the national specifications, each region will draft its own plan of action for Odonata. Each region has the possibility to expand this program to regionally endangered species. All regional plans will be **synchronized by a national operator** to meet the objectives of the national action plan. Indeed, the conservation of certain populations should be considered on a trans-regional scale and, if necessary, on a trans-national scale.

Présent pour l'avenir

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