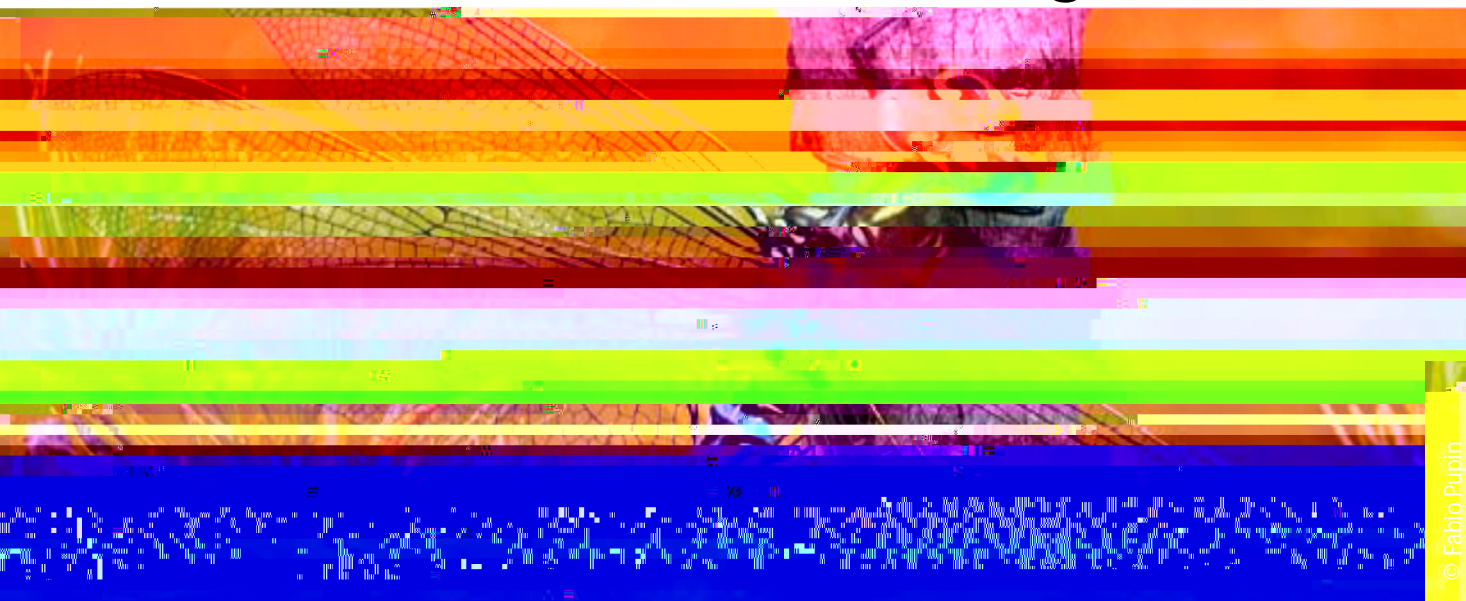Red List of

Mediterranean Dragonflies

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Key facts

Dragonflies and damselflies (odonata) are a well known group of insects whose life depends strictly on the presence and good quality of wetlands. It is in fact in running and still waters where they spend the most important phases of their life history: the reproduction and the larval development. This is why they are often used as indicators of environmental health and conservation management, for the evaluation of long and short term environmental changes.

The Mediterranean region is known to host the world's highest level of endemism and the highest portion of threatened dragonflies. Mediterranean dragonflies' species richness distribution largely coincides with precipitation patterns. It is in mountainous areas that it reaches its highest level, also influenced by the greater diversity of habitats there found.

Out of these 166 dragonfly species occurring in the Mediterranean basin, 19% (31 species) is classed as threatened with extinction. Furthermore, several species are only marginally present in the Mediterranean basin and four are already regionally extinct, and cannot be found in the basin anymore.

Some 23 (14%) of the assessed species are endemic, being unique to the region. Of these, nine are threatened and one is classed as Data Deficient, which underlines the importance of conservation measures to prevent a global extinction.

Habitat loss and degradation caused by humans is the main threat to dragonflies affecting 110 species. Long-term coordinated actions are required at regional, national and international level to integrate biodiversity conservation into all policy sectors. Though some species are already receiving some conservation attention under international laws, others are not protected at all, despite their high risk of extinction.

The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species ™
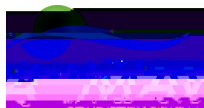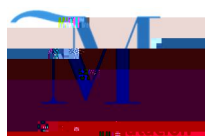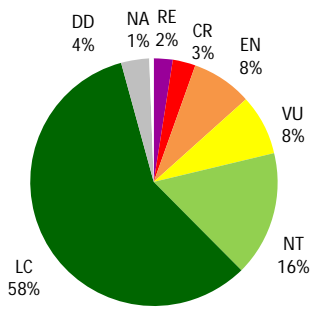
Categories	No. of Species
RE Regionally Extinct	4*
CR Critically Endangered	5
EN Endangered	13
VU Vulnerable	13
NT Near Threatened	27
LC Least Concern	97
DD Data Deficient	6

Pie chart labels:
DD 4%
NA 1%
RE 2%
CR 3%
EN 8%
VU 8%
NT 16%
LC 58%