

Profile of Viola Clausnitzer (September 2019)

Viola Clausnitzer has worked widely in Africa, starting with an MSc on dragonflies in Kenya, followed by a PhD about afro-alpine rodents in Uganda and after that on various projects from surveys, capacity buildings, training workshops to Red List and Key Biodiversity Assessments in Angola, Ethiopia, Rwanda, South Africa and Tanzania. She is chair of the IUCN/SSC Dragonfly Specialist Group and member of different IUCN committees and has been involved in the global assessment of all African dragonfly species on the IUCN Red List (www.iucnredlist.org) and co-authored the field guide to the dragonflies of Eastern Africa (Dijkstra & Clausnitzer 2014).

Training local researchers and providing tools for environmental impact assessments and monitoring biodiversity and ecosystem health has become the main part of Viola Clausnitzer's work in Africa. She has been training and supporting local researchers on various levels, e.g. as lecturer at the Tropical Biological Association, as PhD supervisor, as referee for conservation projects and with providing free access to the biotic value, ecology, distribution and identification of all 770 African Odonata species via ADDO "African Dragonflies & Damselflies Online" (<http://addo.adu.org.za/>). She co-organized the first African Freshwater Entomology Workshop (AFRESH1), at Midmar in South Africa in February 2016, which hosted 69 aquatic entomologists representing 21 African countries and was supported by the JRS Biodiversity Foundation. Since 2019 Viola Clausnitzer is member of the BIOPAMA Regional Advisory Committee for Eastern Africa.