



CONVENTION ON MIGRATORY SPECIES

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THIRD MEETING OF SIGNATORIES TO
THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
CONCERNING CONSERVATION MEASURES FOR
THE AQUATIC WARBLER (*Acrocephalus paludicola*)
Ventė, Lithuania, 20-21 May 2015
Agenda Item 6.0

SUMMARY OF INFORMATION RELATED TO THE AQUATIC WARBLER FROM THE NATIONAL REPORTS SUBMITTED TO THE 11th CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES (COP11) OF CMS

Prepared by the UNEP/CMS Secretariat

1. Analysis and Synthesis of National Reports (UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.19.3) *(Prepared by the UNEP/CMS Secretariat in collaboration with the UNEP-WCMC)*

Actions relating to the conservation of the Aquatic Warbler were among the actions reported by 11 Parties in relation to existing CMS Agreements.

Actions that benefited the Aquatic Warbler were outlined by Parties who had developed action plans, implemented relevant CMS Agreements, considered national legislation and conducted workshops.

1. National Reports

National Report – Belarus (UNEP/CMS/COP11/Inf.20.BY.rev)

There are currently 14 breeding sites in Belarus with a total of 3100-5557 signing males. Zvaniec mire is the most important site with circa 76% of the national population and 20-30% of the world population of Aquatic Warblers. Whilst the data is unclear due to changes in monitoring methods, it is possible there has been a decrease in the national population of the Aquatic Warbler due to the decrease in area of suitable habitat and abandonment of small peripheral sites.

Habitat decline resulting from the encroachment of bushes into open fen mires is the major pressure on Aquatic Warbler habitat in Belarus.

Belarus undertook the restoration of hydrological regimes at the important breeding sites of Zvaniec, Sporava and Dzikoje mires. Breeding and migratory stop over sites for the Aquatic Warbler in Belarus have been designated as Important Bird Areas (IBAs) and all known Aquatic Warbler habitats have been designated as Special Protected Nature Areas (SPNAs) or have protection certificates. In addition to the monitoring of all aquatic warbler populations, vegetation restoration activities have been undertaken at important sites and an awareness raising campaign amongst stakeholders has been successful in raising the profile of the Aquatic Warbler. Belarus plans to develop a National Action Plan for the Aquatic Warbler.

The Belarus non-government organization APB-BirdLife Belarus (APB) hosted the position of the International Aquatic Warbler Conservation Officer (AWCO). The role of the AWCO was to co-ordinate the Aquatic Warbler MOU implementation, promote information exchange and support partners with development, fundraising and implementation for conservation projects. APB also undertook habitat conservation activities for the Aquatic Warbler.

Belarus requires financial assistance for initial investments in equipment used to undertake habitat management. More generally, Belarus would benefit from financial and professional assistance in the provision of general bird conservation information to the public and the organization of nature protection activities such as habitat protection and population monitoring.

National Report – Belgium (UNEP/CMS/COP11/Inf.20.3.BE)

A Flemish action plan for Aquatic Warbler was completed in December 2007. It aims to create more habitat for the Aquatic Warbler to overcome the threat of habitat decline. Belgium aims to put this plan into action in the near future.

National Report – Bulgaria (UNEP/CMS/COP11/Inf.20.BG)

No actions reported.

National Report – France (Report not submitted)

National Report – Germany (UNEP/CMS/COP11/Inf.20.3.DE)

Populations of Aquatic Warbler in Germany are decreasing and have the status of extinct or close to extinction.

Activities undertaken in the reporting period include research and monitoring, identification and establishment of protected areas, habitat restoration and species protection. Specific projects undertaken include the EU-LIFE Project from 2005 until November 2011 and a research and development project of the Federal Agency for Nature protection in the lower Odra- or Oder-Valley.

National Report – Hungary (UNEP/CMS/COP11/Inf.20.3.HU)

The Aquatic Warbler has not bred at the only former breeding site in Hungary since 2010 and migratory stop overs in Hungary are now rare.

Activities undertaken during the reporting period include research and monitoring at new and potential breeding sites, education and awareness raising, continuation of existing protections for the species and its habitat and the management of the former breeding habitat. Future activities include activities undertaken in the last reporting period and co-operation with other range states such as the beneficiaries of the Baltic Aquatic Warbler LIFE+ project.

National Report – Latvia (UNEP/CMS/COP11/Inf.20.3.LV)

The population of Aquatic Warblers at Latvia's single site is stable at 0-10 pairs. Activities undertaken in the last reporting period include habitat protection at the Lake Liepaja site, involvement in the LIFE project and the continuation of the listing of the Aquatic Warbler as a specially protected species.

Latvia made financial resources available for a co-financed LIFE nature project on the conservation of the Aquatic Warbler in agrarian landscapes as well as general activities related to the Aquatic Warbler.

National Report – Lithuania (Report not submitted)

National Report – Luxembourg (Report not submitted)

National Report – Mali (UNEP/CMS/COP11/Inf.20.3.ML)

Mali signed the Aquatic Warbler MoU in 2010.

Mali requires financial assistance to be able to undertake monitoring of the species and its habitat.

National Report – Mauritania (Report not submitted)

National Report – Morocco (Report not submitted)

National Report – the Netherlands (UNEP/CMS/COP11/Inf.20.3.NL)

Population and distribution of Aquatic Warbler populations is unclear as the species is rare and non-breeding in relation to the Netherlands.

Activities carried out in the last reporting period include monitoring under the Sovon BSP monitoring program for rare migratory species and indirect habitat protection through management measures implemented for related species. Monitoring under the Sovon BSP program is planned to continue.

National Report – Poland (UNEP/CMS/COP11/Inf.20.3.PL)

The size and distribution of the Aquatic Warbler population in Poland is stable at 2636-2673 breeding pairs. The species is under strict species protection and all sites are protected as Natura 2000 sites.

At the time of reporting, Poland was preparing a National Action Plan for the Aquatic Warbler.

Research and monitoring activities undertaken in the last reporting period include a national single species monitoring programme and the coordination of a national conference on the implementation of the National Action Plan for the Aquatic Warbler. Education and habitat restoration activities were also undertaken in addition to the establishment of a National Secretariat for the Aquatic Warbler MOU in 2010. Other projects include a LIFE+ project linking cut biomass to the funding for Aquatic Warbler site conservation activities. Future activities will include the remaining elaboration for the National Action Plan for the Aquatic Warbler, to be followed by its implementation.

During the last reporting period, one private sector organization provided financial support for an Aquatic Warbler conservation project.

National Report – Portugal (UNEP/CMS/COP11/Inf.20.3.PT)

The size and distribution of Aquatic Warbler populations that migrate through Poland are stable. Activities undertaken by Portugal during the last reporting period include the development of a

research project at Aveiro University, monitoring activities and Special Protection Area (SPA) level habitat protection at Aquatic Warbler sites.

National Report – Russian Federation (Not a party to the CMS)

National Report – Senegal (Report not submitted)

National Report – Slovakia (UNEP/CMS/COP11/Inf.20.3.SK)

Size and distribution of Aquatic Warbler populations in Slovakia is not known. Nesting was confirmed only once in 1974 and occurs only during migration.

Activities undertaken by Slovakia during the last reporting period include species and habitat protection, habitat restoration and a regular census of migrating and wintering birds.

National Report – Spain (UNEP/CMS/COP11/Inf.20.3.ES.rev)

Activities have been promoted for the improved management of Natura 2000 sites through the approval of management guidelines where the ecological requirements of bird species included in Appendix I of CMS are taken into account, and through the coordination and/or participation in the publication of manuals of good management practice (at least for Spanish Imperial Eagle, Lesser Kestrel, Houbara Bustard and Aquatic Warbler).

National Report – Switzerland (UNEP/CMS/COP11/Inf.20.3.CH)

In November 2011, Switzerland signed the Aquatic Warbler MOU.

Switzerland considers the Aquatic Warbler to be a rare migrant as there have been only a few records of stopover in Switzerland since 2000.

Activities undertaken by Switzerland during the last reporting period include monitoring, education and awareness raising as well as control of hunting and poaching and habitat protection.

National Report – Ukraine (UNEP/CMS/COP11/Inf.20.3.UA)

The size and population of the Aquatic Warbler population in Ukraine is stable with an estimated 3450-4050 males mainly concentrated between the sites of the Upper Pripyat (and tributaries) and the Kyiv and Chernigiv regions.

Activities undertaken by Ukraine during the last reporting period include the annual monitoring of six key settlements and species protection measures. Habitat protection and restoration has also been undertaken through the ending of traditional land uses such as grazing and through large scale vegetation management at breeding sites. 82.9% of breeding sites in Ukraine are now located in protected areas.

Ukraine plans to continue current monitoring activities and have all breeding sites located in protected areas.

National Report – United Kingdom (Report not submitted)