NATIONAL REPORT

FOR THE AQUATIC WARBLER MOU AND ACTION PLAN

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

GENERAL INFORMATION

Which agency or institution has been primarily responsible for the preparation of this report?

Landesumweltamt Brandenburg, Staatliche Vogelschutzwarte (Brandenburg State Office for Environment, Bird Conservation Centre)

List any other agencies, institutions, or NGOs that have provided input:

- Aquatic Warbler Conservation Team
- University of Greifswald, Institute of Botany and Landscape Ecology

Reports submitted to date:

30.04.2006

Period covered by this report:

from _____01.01.2001_____ to _____31.12.2005_____
(dd/mm/yyyy) (dd/mm/yyyy)

(last BirdLife survey covered the period till 2000)

Memorandum in effect in Signatory State since (dd/mm/yyyy):

30.04.2003

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OBJECTIVES

1.0 POLICY AND LEGISLATIVE

1.1. To promote national and international broad policies and legislation which favour the conservation of the Aquatic Warbler and its habitat

1.1.1. Promote the full protection of the Aquatic Warbler and its habitats through national and international legislation

a) Is the Aquatic Warbler protected under national legislation in your country?
X Yes, the species is protected and protection level is sufficient
☐ Yes, the species is protected, but protection level is not sufficient
☐ No, the species is not protected

b) If Yes, please describe the state of protection and limitations and conservation responsibilities this protection status imposes on the state, conservationists and land-users.

- protected according to the EU Bird's Directive, Annex I
  - all important breeding sites and habitats have to be protected
  - conservation status of the population must not deteriorate.
- strictly protected under the federal conservation law (Bundesnaturschutzgesetz) → highest conservation category
  - forbidden are catching, injuring or killing the birds as well as any disturbance at the breeding, feeding and resting sites (all kinds of refuges) or damaging or destroying the nests
- critically endangered in the German Red Data Book (without legal relevance)

c) If the Aquatic Warbler is not protected or protection level is not sufficient, please describe what your country is planning to do to ensure highest possible protection of the species.

d) Is there national legislation in place in your country that ensures effective protection of Aquatic Warbler habitat (breeding, stop-over and wintering sites), including prevention of potentially detrimental activities (drainage, mineral extraction, industry, etc.).

☐ Yes X No

e) If Yes, please provide details.

f) If No, please describe measures taken to ensure protection of Aquatic Warbler breeding habitats.
Legal habitat protection on the federal level (Bundesnaturschutzgesetz) as well as on the state level (Brandenburgisches Naturschutzgesetz) is focussing at selected habitat types which cover most of the last breeding sites in the lower Oder valley. For conservation of the breeding habitats it is not strict enough, first of all regarding water management. However, for parts of the National Park "Lower Oder Valley" a Water Management Feasibility Study has been developed and is currently under consideration by the National Park administration. The National Park Act focuses mainly at wilderness at least in the core zone whereas single species are not mentioned. However, following § 3 wet habitats and meadows have to be preserved, protected and developed. § 6 fixes that the National Park administration and other authorities have to guarantee an agricultural management in zone II that considers the needs of target plant and animal species

In Mecklenburg – Western Pomerania, the restoration of potential Aquatic Warbler habitats is targeted by government-funded restoration projects such as the Mire Conservation Programme (Moorschutzprogramm) and the major conservation project „Peene Valley/Peene-Haff-Peatlands". The Ministry of Environment Mecklenburg – Western Pomerania supports the EU-LIFE-project „Conserving *Acrocephalus paludicola* in Poland and Germany" and has recommended to incorporate the site management plan elaborated within the project into the future management plans for Lower Peene Valley.

1.1.2. Seek national or international policy incentives to maintain suitable farming practices at breeding sites which are impacted by drainage or threatened by succession

Are there any national or international policy incentives to maintain suitable farming practices at breeding sites in your country (agro-environmental schemes, etc.)?

X Yes ☐ No ☐ Country is outside of breeding range

If yes, please describe briefly the nature of the incentives and whether they are effectively applied or used by farmers and land-managers.
Agri-environmental schemes used in Brandenburg are:

- Art. 16 VO (EG) 1257/1999 (EU co-funded)
- "Kulturlandschaftsprogramm Brandenburg" (KULAP, EU co-funded)
- Nature conservation contracts with farmers

The available tools are sufficiently used in the period covered by the report.

If no, please describe what measures are being taken to ensure availability of such incentives.

2.0 SPECIES AND HABITAT PROTECTION

2.1. *To promote adequate protection of the breeding sites and remove key factors adversely affecting the breeding habitat*

2.1.1. Seek designation as protected areas of all sites regularly holding breeding Aquatic Warblers.

a) In the table attached (Annex I), please provide details for all regularly occupied Aquatic Warbler breeding sites in your country and indicate their protection status (*please expand the table if necessary*).

b) If Aquatic Warbler breeding sites currently are not fully protected or protection level is not sufficient, please provide information about constraints and what your country is planning to do to ensure full and adequate protection of these sites.
A paradoxical situation results from the fact that all remaining breeding sites are situated in a national park. Therefore the demands of the AW which depends on agricultural used habitats in Germany have to be met within the framework of a conservation category that primarily focuses at wilderness. Approximately half of the AW territories are at the moment located in the future core area (without any use and management). The resulting conflicts are tried to solve by 1) a reduced percentage of core (wilderness) areas aiming at 50 % instead of 75 % as claimed by IUCN and 2) by consideration of AW breeding sites in the national park strategy. Additionally there is a study in preparation which looks for potential replacement sites on the basis of a detailed ecological analysis of current and former AW breeding sites.

c) If Site Management Plans have not been developed for all Aquatic Warbler breeding sites, please describe what hampers development of Management Plans and what your country is doing to ensure development, approval and implementation of Site Management Plans for regular Aquatic Warbler breeding sites.
A site management plan for the potentially restored former breeding site Peene Valley will be elaborated within the EU-LIFE-project „Conserving *Acrocephalus paludicola* in Poland and Germany“ until 2009. The Ministry of Environment of Mecklenburg – Western Pomerania has recommended to incorporate this plan into future management plans for Lower Peene Valley.

d) Please advise what assistance you would require to complete or improve existing Site Management Plans.
No assistance necessary.

2.1.2. Prevent habitat alteration, habitat fragmentation, pollution and other factors that could be detrimental to the Aquatic Warbler in its breeding sites

a) Are new *development* projects that could potentially have a detrimental effect on current or potential Aquatic Warbler breeding sites (such as drainage, peat extraction, construction of highways, etc.) subject to environmental impact assessment in your country?

X Yes ☐ No ☐ Country is outside of breeding range

The National Park Act considers the possibility of a new border crossing with new traffic lines across the national park. Up to 4 AW territories, i. e. depending on the year up to half of the population, would be affected.

b) Have there been any potentially detrimental projects *implemented* in any Aquatic Warbler habitat in your country since signing this Memorandum of Understanding?

☐ Yes X No

c) If yes, indicate sites involved, give details and describe the outcome of impact monitoring if available.

d) Has implementation of any potentially detrimental project in any Aquatic Warbler habitat in your country been *halted* since signing this Memorandum of Understanding?

☐ Yes X No

e) If Yes, please give details.

2.2. To manage the breeding habitat to increase numbers, productivity and distribution

2.2.1. Regulate water levels and restore natural water conditions

a) Has water management been implemented at Aquatic Warbler breeding sites in your country?

☐ Yes X No ☐ Country is outside of breeding range

The existing water management in the National Park “Lower Oder Valley” does not focus at AW habitat requirements.

b) If Yes, please describe actions taken, sites involved and effects expected/achieved.

c) What constraints are limiting implementation of these activities at other sites in need of effective water management?
Constraints are interests of the agricultural lobby and measures for flood prevention. For parts of the National Park "Lower Oder Valley" a Water Management Feasibility Study has recently been developed and is currently under consideration by the National Park administration.

2.2.2. Prevent natural succession of the vegetation by undertaking management where necessary

a) Has vegetation management been undertaken at Aquatic Warbler breeding sites in your country to prevent natural succession?

X Yes ☐ No ☐ Country is outside of breeding range

b) If Yes, please describe actions taken (mowing, bush-removing, etc), what equipment was used for vegetation management and how efficient it was. Please refer to reports if available and comparative analysis of different types of equipment if it was conducted.
Breeding sites in Brandenburg have been agriculturally used so far (mowing and grazing). A former and potential new breeding site in Mecklenburg – Western Pomerania (Peene Valley) will be mown again by 2006.

c) If No, what constraints are limiting vegetation management at other sites where it is needed and what is your country doing to ensure proper vegetation management at Aquatic Warbler breeding sites?
Vegetation management is not possible in current and limited in future core areas of the National Park "Lower Oder Valley". Brandenburg supports a research project (University of Greifswald) studying Aquatic Warbler habitat selection and suitable vegetation management techniques, in order to create new suitable breeding habitats for AW outside the core areas.

2.2.3. Hand-scything and mowing

a) If historical information is available, please describe to which extent current Aquatic Warbler breeding sites were hand scythed and mown.
Hand scything and mowing is for decades without any importance. Even prior to World War II most plots were mown with machines.

b) Are hand-scything and mowing being applied for habitat conservation for the Aquatic Warbler in your country?

☐ Yes X No ☐ Country is outside of breeding range

c) If Yes, please describe how this was approached, which sites were involved and the area covered. Please provide details if conservation effect of hand-scything and mowing has been evaluated. Please refer to published materials if available.

d) What constraints are limiting hand-scything and mowing at sites where extensive habitat management is needed?

2.2.4. Controlled burning

a) Is controlled burning a legal habitat management tool in your country?

☐ Yes X No

b) If Yes, is burning used as a habitat management tool for Aquatic Warbler? Please describe actions taken, sites involved and effects achieved or expected. Please refer to published materials if information regarding the effects of controlled burning has been summarized and published.

c) If No, then what actions are being undertaken to legalize controlled burning?
The present state of knowledge does not suggest a need of burning in the existing breeding areas in Brandenburg. However, 90 ha are planned to be burnt biannually for Aquatic Warbler habitat restoration in the Peene valley within the framework of the running LIFE-project (see 2.4.1.!).

2.2.5. Grazing

a) Has grazing been used for habitat management at Aquatic Warbler breeding sites in your country?

X Yes ☐ No ☐ Country is outside of breeding range

b) If yes, please describe which animals are used, which sites are involved and what effects are expected/achieved. Please give reference to published materials if information regarding the effects of grazing has been summarized and published.
Grazing (mainly by cows) is not the optimal management measure but is used in Brandenburg 1) as a provisional measure when it is an alternative to abandonment and 2) for second use of the vegetation. The predominant method used in the region is mowing.

2.2.6. Disseminate habitat management recommendations to land managers

a) Are Aquatic Warbler habitat management recommendations being disseminated to land managers and other interested parties in your country?

X Yes ☐ No ☐ Country is outside of breeding range

b) If Yes, please describe ways of dissemination of habitat management recommendations to land managers used: events, publications, etc. Please give reference to published materials.
Co-operation between conservationists and farmers is considered very good from both sides. Due to the small breeding range information are spread mainly by regular personal contacts or written circulars. There is no published material existing with habitat management recommendations.

c) If No, then what constraints are limiting dissemination of habitat management recommendations and what should be done to overcome these constraints?

d) Please advise if there is successful experience other Range States can draw on and what assistance your country would require to help share this information.
Where AWs breed in agriculturally used habitats a very close co-operation between farmers and conservationists has proved to be successful. That requires respective capacities for monitoring (which is essential for delineating protected areas around potential nesting sites which will be mown only after the breeding season), contacts in the field and altogether a good atmosphere between the partners.

2.3. To protect the Aquatic Warbler and its habitat in the winter quarters and along the migration route

2.3.1. Promote the protection and appropriate management of wintering and passage sites

a) In the table attached (Annex I), please provide details about major Aquatic Warbler passage and wintering sites in your country (*please expand the table if necessary*)
Various ringing programmes in wetlands and increased birding activities in most parts of Germany provided no evidence or even indication for the existence of any important passage sites.

b) Are primary Aquatic Warbler passage/wintering sites appropriately managed in your country?

☐ Fully ☐ Partially X No

c) Please list on-going and implemented projects and provide brief information about results achieved.

d) What are the remaining gaps and what is your country planning to do to ensure sufficient protection and management of primary passage/wintering sites?
See a)! Most places where sometimes AWs are registered are in conservation areas anyway.

2.4. To restore habitats for the Aquatic Warbler

2.4.1. Undertake the ecological restoration of potential breeding sites

a) Have potential or irregularly occupied Aquatic Warbler breeding sites in your country been evaluated?

☐ Fully X Partially ☐ No ☐ Country is outside of breeding range

b) If Yes, what initiatives aimed at ecological restoration of potential breeding sites have been undertaken in your country? Which sites are involved and what effects are expected/achieved?
Participation in EU-LIFE-Nature project "Conserving *Acrocephalus paludicola* in Poland and Germany" (2005-2010) – project site Peene Valley, Mecklenburg – Western Pomerania. Actions are e. g.: 142 ha mown annually and 90 ha burnt biannually for Aquatic Warbler habitat restoration, management and biomass use planning, Aquatic Warbler and habitat monitoring.

c) If No, what are the constraints and which actions should be taken in order to overcome these constraints?
Water management is in most potential breeding sites a limiting factor.

3.0 MONITORING AND RESEARCH

3.1. To develop and implement a monitoring programme enabling population trends to be tracked

3.1.1. Distribution of a methodology for counting Aquatic Warblers

a) Is the methodology adopted for counting Aquatic Warblers used on the national level *different* to what is advised in the Aquatic Warbler Species Action Plan?

☐ Yes X No ☐ No methodology is adapted

b) If Yes, please describe briefly possible differences and amendments.

c) Does your country have experience applying this methodology and what can be learned from this experience?

d) What does your country do to distribute and familiarize relevant institutions/specialists with this methodology?

3.1.2. Undertake national surveys to estimate breeding populations

a) Have national (all-country) surveys of Aquatic Warbler breeding population been undertaken in your country?

X Yes (give years) Annually full counts over the reporting period.
☐ No
☐ Country is outside of breeding range

b) If Yes, what methodology is used (full counts, transect counts, etc.) and what organization was coordinating the survey?
Synchronised counts (2 x per year) of the whole population organised by the Bird Conservation Centre together with the national park administration and with assistance of National Park rangers and volunteers; additionally intensive search for vocalising males by volunteers and rangers from May-July coordinated by the National Park.

c) What is the size and trend of the national breeding population (vocalizing males (vm))? Please refer to published materials if applicable.

Year of survey	Population size
2001	13 vm
2002	15 vm
2003	8 vm
2004	9 vm
2005	8-10 vm

d) If Yes, to which extent was the territory of your country covered by the survey:

X Fully (> 90 % of suitable habitats surveyed)
☐ High (60-90 % of suitable habitats surveyed)
☐ Medium (30-60 % of suitable habitats surveyed)
☐ Low (< 30 % of suitable habitats surveyed)

e) When is the next national (all-country) survey of the Aquatic Warbler planned in your country?
2006

f) If no national surveys have been conducted, please indicate existing constraints and what you country going to do to ensure that national surveys of the Aquatic Warbler are conducted?

3.1.3. Collect data at the major known passage sites and identify further resting sites

a) Have studies at known Aquatic Warbler passage sites been conducted in your country?

☐ Yes X No

b) If Yes, please describe briefly, which major passage sites are being monitored, what monitoring is being conducted (Aquatic Warbler population, habitat parameters, impact assessment, migration strategy, etc) and which organizations are involved?

c) What are the main findings and what conservation implications do they have?

d) If Yes, to what extent are major known Aquatic Warbler passage sites are being monitored in your country?

☐ Fully (> 90% of known sites)
☐ High (60-90 % of known sites)
☐ Medium (30-60 % of known sites)
☐ Low (< 30 % of known sites)

f) To what extent have major Aquatic Warbler passage sites been identified in your country?

☐ Fully (> 90 % of suitable habitats surveyed)
☐ High (60-90 % of suitable habitats surveyed)
☐ Medium (30-60 % of suitable habitats surveyed)
☐ Low (< 30 % of suitable habitats surveyed)
X No monitoring is conducted

g) What are the gaps and what is your country doing to address them?
No regular passage sites known despite a lot of birding activities in wetlands and several existing programs for ringing migrating passerines.

3.1.4. Identify major wintering areas

a) Have studies aimed at identifying Aquatic Warbler wintering areas have been conducted in your country?

☐ Yes ☐ No X Country is outside of wintering range

b) If Yes, what are the main findings and conservation implications? If available, please refer to published reports.

c) If Yes, To what extent was the territory of your country covered by the survey of wintering areas?

☐ Fully (> 90 % of suitable habitats surveyed)
☐ High (60-90 % of suitable habitats surveyed)
☐ Medium (30-60 % of suitable habitats surveyed)
☐ Low (< 30 % of suitable habitats surveyed)

d) If wintering sites have been identified, to what extend are these sites being monitored during migration?

☐ Fully (> 90% of known sites)
☐ High (60-90 % of known sites)
☐ Medium (30-60 % of known sites)
☐ Low (< 30 % of known sites)
☐ No monitoring is conducted

e) If your country is outside of Aquatic Warbler wintering range, which international initiatives aimed at identification of Aquatic Warbler wintering grounds has your country been involved in? What are the main findings?
None.

f) What are the gaps and what needs to be done to help address them?

3.1.5. Research into habitat characteristics at migration and wintering sites

a) Has research into habitat characteristics at migration and/or wintering sites been conducted in your country?

☐ Yes X No

b) If Yes, please provide a list of on-going and completed studies with references if results are already published.

c) What are the main findings and conservation implications?

d) What are the remaining gaps and what needs to be done to address them?
No regular passage sites known.

3.1.6. Research on movements during the breeding season / exchange of subpopulations

a) Has research on Aquatic Warbler movements during breeding season/exchange of subpopulations been conducted in your country?

☐ Yes X No ☐ Country is outside of breeding range

b) If Yes, please describe which territories were covered, what methods were used (colour ringing, radio-tagging, etc.) and what were the main findings. Please give reference to published materials if available.

c) If Yes, was the research on movements during the breeding season coordinated with researchers from neighbouring Aquatic Warbler Range States.

☐ Yes ☐ No

d) If the research hasn't been conducted, what is your country planning to do to initiate such co-operation?

Research has not been conducted and is not planned for conservation reasons to avoid any disturbance of the last individuals. Only one finding of a ringed bird from Poland by chance (2002).

3.1.7. Develop and implement an international monitoring programme

a) Is your country participating in development and/or implementation of international Aquatic Warbler monitoring programmes?

X Yes ☐ No

b) If Yes, please list on-going and completed projects and indicate which areas they focus on and which other countries are involved. Please provide reference to published results if available.

Participation in monitoring planning of the EU-LIFE-Nature project "Conserving *Acrocephalus paludicola* in Poland and Germany" (2005-2010) – ornithological, botanical, hydrological and entomological monitoring schemes for project countries Poland and Germany (and possibly others).

c) Are there areas that haven't been properly addressed, if so, what needs to be done to assist your country in addressing these gaps?

No remaining gaps.

3.2. To promote research useful for the conservation of the Aquatic Warbler in the future

3.2.1. Undertake comparative studies on breeding success and population recruitment in different habitats

a) Have studies on breeding success and population recruitment in different habitats been conducted in your country?

☐ Yes, in collaboration with other Range States
☐ Yes, on the national scale
X No comparative studies have been conducted
☐ Country is outside of breeding range

b) If available, please list on-going and completed studies and give reference to published reports.

c) What are the main findings of these studies?

d) Are there any future comparative studies your country is able to initiate? What would be needed to do this?

e) If no comparative studies are being implemented, what is your country planning to do to stimulate this research and what assistance would be required?

Research has not been conducted and is not planned for conservation reasons to avoid any disturbance of the very last individuals. Nevertheless, all observations by chance, in particular of feeding females, will be documented carefully.

3.2.2. Assess the effect of burning, scything, mowing, grazing and water conditions on breeding populations

a) Effect of which of the following factors and potential habitat management techniques on Aquatic Warbler breeding population was assessed in your country?
- ☐ Controlled burning
- ☐ Scything
- X Mowing
- X Water conditions
- X Grazing
- ☐ No assessment has been conducted

b) What are the main findings and conservation implications? If available, please give reference to published reports.
Within the past and present AW breeding area in Lower Oder Valley National Park, the birds select for areas with lower, less dense vegetation and with higher insect abundance. Habitat quality is negatively affected by the cessation of land use and positively affected by late mowing. 80-90 % of the AW breeding areas in Lower Oder Valley National Park have been either mown or grazed in the year before occupation.

c) Are there any gaps? What limits further assessment of this factor's effects?
Yes – missing data on short-term grazing events after mowing and short-term shifts of AW during breeding season within the National Park; very small number of samples for statistical analysis; missing information on breeding success.

3.2.3. Develop collaborative research and monitoring programmes between range-states

a) Is your country involved in international collaborative and monitoring programmes on the Aquatic Warbler?

X Yes ☐ No

b) If yes, please provide brief details about on-going and completed projects. Which Aquatic Warbler range states are involved? What fields studied?
Participation in monitoring planning of the EU-LIFE-Nature project "Conserving *Acrocephalus paludicola* in Poland and Germany" (2005-2010) – ornithological, botanical, hydrological and entomological monitoring schemes for project countries Poland and Germany (and possibly others).

c) What are the main findings and conservation implications?
EU-LIFE-Nature project monitoring will start in 2006 only.

d) What are the gaps and what is needed to address them?
EU-LIFE-Nature project monitoring will start in 2006 only.

4.0 PUBLIC AWARENESS

4.1. To ensure development of a strong network of organisations and individuals committed to the conservation of the Aquatic Warbler

a) Does a network of organisations/individuals committed to the conservation of the Aquatic Warbler exist in your country?

X Yes ☐ No

b) If Yes, how broad is this network and what organizations/individuals are taking the lead in facilitation and coordination of its development?
- Leadership: Brandenburg State Office for Environment
  - Department of Large Protected Areas
  - administration of the National Park "Lower Oder Valley"
  - Bird Conservation Centre
- NABU (German BirdLife partner)
- ABBO, the ornithological NGO of Berlin and Brandenburg
- Aquatic Warbler Conservation Team (German members)
- "Association of Friends of the Polish-German Europe-National Park Lower Oder Valley"
- Assistance by national park rangers and volunteers
- "Association of Friends of Nature Conservation in Peene Valley" (Förderverein Naturschutz im Peenetal e. V.) and Administrative Union Peene Valley Landscape (Zweckverband Peenetal-Landschaft)
- land owners and farmers

c) What actions does your country undertake to broaden the circle of organisations and individuals committed to conservation of Aquatic Warbler?
Organisations involved are sufficient but there is always need for more volunteers.

d) What successful experience can other Range States draw on?
AW conservation does not work without an efficient network.

e) What would be needed to establish a network if it does not already exist or to improve an existing one?

4.2. To use the Aquatic Warbler as a flagship species

Has the Aquatic Warbler been used as a flagship species in your country for the inventory and protection of wetlands?

X Yes ☐ No

If Yes, please briefly describe how and provide examples if available.
- AW is one of the target species of the National Park "Lower Oder Valley"
- EU-LIFE-Nature project "Conserving *Acrocephalus paludicola* in Poland and Germany" (2005-2010)
- In the federal state of Brandenburg AW is considered one of the three bird species of highest priority (regarding rarity, existing threats, population trend and regional responsibility) (besides Great Bustard and Lesser Spotted Eagle)
- A lot of contributions in the media focus at AW.

If No, what limits promotion and use of the Aquatic Warbler as a flagship species and how does your country plan to address this?

4.3. To prepare educational materials promoting and giving information

a) Have any educational and promotional materials about Aquatic Warbler been developed in your country?
- ☐ Yes, specifically devoted to the Aquatic Warbler.
- X Yes, the Aquatic Warbler is included into materials with a broader context.
- ☐ No, Aquatic Warbler is not covered in educational and promotional materials.

If Yes, please describe the nature of such materials and how they were disseminated. Please give reference to published materials if available.
A leaflet focusing on AW conservation in Germany and on habitat restoration in Peene Valley will be produced within the LIFE project, possibly in 2006.

If No, please describe what limits development of such materials and give details about what your country is planning to do to promote Aquatic Warbler and its conservation.

PART II. COUNTRY-SPECIFIC ACTIONS

Please report on the implementation of the country-specific actions listed for your country in Part II of the Action Plan and provide information if that is not already covered by your answers under Part I. Please describe not only the measures taken but also their impact on the Aquatic Warbler or its habitat in the context of the objectives of the Memorandum of Understanding and the Action Plan. Where you have already answered on country-specific actions in Part I, please only add a reference to the relevant answer here.

- Draft version of a habitat management plan for the National Park "Lower Oder Valley" has been elaborated in 2003 and will be finalised taking into account results of recent counts and of the PhD study on AW habitat selection and restoration potential.
- Recently abandoned AW breeding site Freesendorfer Wiesen to date suffers from intensive grazing (short-term rotation throughout the breeding season – Struck 20.-43. calendar week, Freesendorfer Wiesen 1.-52. calendar week)

Annex I

Name of the site, geographical coordinates	Status (B – breeding, W – wintering P – passage)	Aquatic Warbler population supported (vocalizing males (breeding) or individuals (migration or wintering))	Year of survey	Total area of the site	Area of the site under protection	Type of protection	Does protection level fully reject possible detrimental developments? [Yes/No]	Site Management Plan (D – developed, A - approved, I – implemented)
National Park Lower Oder Valley (State of Brandenburg) 52°59'N 14°09'E	B	8-15	annually 2001-2005	10500 ha	10500 ha	National Park; IBA; SPA	No	In preparation
Lower Peene Valley (Unteres Peenetalmoor, Peenehaffmoor) (State of Mecklenburg – Western Pomerania) 53°51'N 13°47'E	B	0	annually 2001-2005	27800 ha (for AW only 800 ha suitable)	27800 ha	partly Nature Reserve (Naturschutzgebiet); IBA; SPA	No	No
Freesendorfer Wiesen/Halbinsel Struck (State of Mecklenburg – Western Pomerania) 54° 9' 55" N, 13° 41' 59" E	B	0	annually 2001-2005	ca. 600 ha (terrestrial area)	ca. 600 ha (terrestrial area)	Nature Reserve (Naturschutzgebiet); IBA; SPA	No	No