



## CONVENTION ON MIGRATORY SPECIES

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FIRST MEETING OF THE SIGNATORY STATES  
TO THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
CONCERNING CONSERVATION MEASURES FOR  
THE AQUATIC WARBLER (*Acrocephalus paludicola*)  
Criewen, Germany, 25-27 June 2006  
Agenda Item 8.3

### PRIORITY PROJECTS LIST

*(Prepared by BirdLife International in consultation with the Secretariat)*

1. Pursuant to paragraph 2 of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), Signatories are to implement the provisions of the Action Plan as a basis for conserving all populations of the species. The Secretariat's Overview Report (CMS/AW-1/5/Add.1) indicates that significant progress has been made to implement the MoU and Action Plan since the MoU's entry into effect on 30 April 2003. The purpose of this note is to suggest some areas of high conservation concern that still require urgent intervention.
2. Based on the information submitted by Range States in their national reports, and information available to BirdLife International through the BirdLife International National Partners within the Range States, and the BirdLife International Aquatic Warbler Conservation Team members, BirdLife International, in consultation with the Secretariat, has compiled a draft list of priority projects which could address remaining areas of high conservation concern for the Aquatic Warbler, as well as areas where the Action Plan's implementation has not been well-advanced to date.
3. The list would assist in focusing limited international, national and other funds for the most immediate conservation impact. It could also form the basis for targeted fundraising campaigns nationally or internationally.
4. The activities presented in the attached draft priority projects list will implement "high priority" action points within the Action Plan. However, the activities have been further prioritised depending on the threats targeted and other conservation needs. A column on financial considerations is provided, but exact figures have not been indicated pending further development of the project concepts. Funding would be secured through funding applications prepared by lead countries and collaborators.
5. It is foreseen that the Aquatic Warbler Flyway Coordinator would work together with the lead countries and collaborators to secure funding for the projects in the priority list. Relevant intergovernmental, international and national organisations would be invited to consider collaborating on the projects themselves.

6. The Aquatic Warbler Priority Projects List would be updated on a rolling basis and circulated by the Aquatic Warbler Flyway Coordinator, in consultation with the Secretariat, to reflect updated information such as funding secured to implement a particular project. Between meetings new project priorities would be added to the list in consultation with the MoU focal point of the targeted country.

**Action requested:**

The Signatories are invited to:

- Review the Aquatic Warbler Priority Projects List, taking into account national priorities and Action Plan provisions, and provide comments on how it could be improved; and
- Endorse the list and urge interested governmental and non-governmental organisations to generously financially support the projects listed.

**Draft Aquatic Warbler Priority Projects List to Support Implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding concerning Conservation Measures for the Aquatic Warbler (*Acrocephalus paludicola*) and Action Plan**

*(as at 16 June 2006)*

<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Rationale</b>	<b>Other Range States Involved</b>	<b>Action Plan Target</b>	<b>Priority</b>	<b>Est. Cost</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<b>1.0 Breeding Range</b>						
<b>Belarus</b>						
1.1 Implementation of urgent conservation actions at key Aquatic Warbler breeding sites in Belarus	Management plans for three largest Belarus sites have been compiled and require constant habitat management to be implemented		2.4	Very high	\$\$\$'\$\$\$	
1.2 Restoring valuable habitats for globally threatened species – management planning and implementation of conservation actions at degraded or abandoned Aquatic Warbler breeding sites	Many sites have been abandoned because of habitat fragmentation, vegetation succession, etc. A network of breeding sites should be recreated in order to ensure stability of the species		2.4.1	High	\$\$\$'\$\$\$	
1.3 Modelling distribution of globally threatened species confined to non-forest ecosystems by satellite image analysis - mapping potential Aquatic Warbler breeding sites in Belarus, Russia, Ukraine	Identification of potential breeding sites of the Aquatic Warbler by remote sensing can significantly decrease resources needed for ground verification	UKR, RUS	3.1.2	Moderate	\$\$\$\$\$	
<b>Ukraine</b>						
1.4 Management planning and implementation of urgent conservation actions at key Aquatic Warbler breeding sites in Pripyat and Desna-Dniepr floodplains <sup>1</sup>	The project is aimed at developing and implementing priority conservation actions at Aquatic Warbler breeding sites in Ukraine, where active conservation hasn't taken place		2.2	Very high	\$\$\$'\$\$\$	
1.5 Finalization and approval of Aquatic Warbler National Species Action Plans	National Species Action Plans are essential for conservation of the Aquatic Warbler	BLR, POL, UKR	1.1	Moderate	\$\$\$'\$\$\$	
<b>Poland</b>						
1.6 Conservation actions at Chelm marshes and Narew floodplain	Chelm marshes is the second largest Aquatic Warbler breeding site in Poland and the EU, supporting up to 600 vocalizing males	BLR (Narew)	2.1 & 2.2	High	\$\$\$'\$\$\$	

<sup>1</sup> Project on management planning for Desna-Dniepr Population has been submitted to SEPS Ukraine (British Council).

Project Title		Rationale	Other Range States Involved	Action Plan Target	Priority	Est. Cost	Comments
1.7	Identification, restoration plan development and restoration of potential/former AW breeding sites in Pomerania	A network of breeding sites for the endangered Pomeranian population of the Aquatic Warbler must be re-established	GER	2.4.1	Very high	\$\$\$'\$\$\$	
<b>Lithuania</b>							
1.8	Implementation of conservation measures at key Aquatic Warbler breeding sites in Curonian lagoon	All Aquatic Warbler breeding sites in the Baltic region are threatened because of abandonment	LVA, RUS (Kaliningrad)	2.1 & 2.2	High	\$\$\$'\$\$\$	
<b>Latvia</b>							
1.9	see Lithuania						
<b>Russia</b>							
1.10	Identify and check potential AW breeding sites in European Russia on the ground (in course of the annual AWCT activities / field meetings)	So far, no stable Aquatic Warbler breeding sites in European Russia have been identified despite very big potential		A.P. 2.1.1	High	\$\$\$'\$\$\$	
<b>2.0 Migration</b>							
2.1	Inventory of European/African (Morocco, Mauritania) migration sites – their protection status and conservation situation (desk study and site visits)	Detrimental developments at important migration stopovers of the Aquatic Warbler currently pose a serious threat to the species	All countries within migration range	2.3.1; 3.1.3 & 3.1.5	Very high	\$\$\$'\$\$\$	
2.2	Balkan Flyway of the Aquatic Warbler – research and conservation		UKR, BGR	3.1.3 & 3.1.5	High	\$\$\$'\$\$\$	
<b>3.0 Wintering Range</b>							
3.1	Desk study (satellite image analysis) and ground check of known and potential wintering sites of the Aquatic Warbler in Africa (includes AWCT 2007 expedition to West Africa)	Application of remote sensing techniques can help further narrow down potential wintering areas or find similar sites once wintering of the Aquatic Warbler has been confirmed. Ground verification can then be conducted	All countries within wintering range	3.1.4 & 3.1.5	Very high	\$\$\$'\$\$\$	
3.2	Review of protection status and conservation situation of identified AW wintering sites in Africa	Detrimental developments at important wintering sites of the Aquatic Warbler is one of the most serious threats to the Aquatic Warbler	MRT, SEN, MLI, GNB	2.3.1	Very high	\$\$\$'\$\$\$	
3.3	Management planning and urgent conservation measures for identified wintering areas and migration stop-overs in Africa	Once identified, major migration stopovers and wintering sites need to be appropriately managed	MLI, MRT, SEN	3.1.4 & 3.1.5	Very high	\$\$\$'\$\$\$	

<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Rationale</b>	<b>Other Range States Involved</b>	<b>Action Plan Target</b>	<b>Priority</b>	<b>Est. Cost</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<b>4.0 General</b>						
4.1 Second Meeting of Signatories	Signatories meetings should be conducted regularly to assess the implementation of the MoU	All Signatories		High	\$\$\$\$\$	
4.2 AWCT support for annual research work	BirdLife International Aquatic Warbler Conservation Team is taking the lead in research and conservation of the Aquatic Warbler	All Signatories	3.1 & 4.1	High	\$\$\$'\$\$\$	
4.3 AW small grants for monitoring, pilot conservation and action plans	Small grants is a very cost-effective method of stimulating research and conservation	All Signatories	3.1 & 3.2	High	\$\$\$'\$\$\$	
4.4 AW Conservation Officer (includes website AW flyway newsletter, poster, finalization of GIS, management of AW database and organisation of next MoU Signatories meeting)	AW Conservation Officer provides assistance to CMS Secretariat, BirdLife International and national conservation organizations for implementation of the Aquatic Warbler MoU	All Signatories	4.1	Very high	\$\$\$'\$\$\$	