



# 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 8.1

## NATIONAL REPORTING AND INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

*(Prepared by the Secretariat)*

1. MoU Paragraph 6 refers to reporting. To facilitate the reporting process, with the assistance of BirdLife International, the Secretariat has developed for the consideration of the meeting a comprehensive draft national report format (annexed to this paper) to be used as the basis for future reporting under the MoU. The report format is based on the Action Plan. The questions presented go beyond the scope of information already requested from CMS Contracting Parties for national reports to the CMS Conference of the Parties (COP).

2. It is foreseen that the report format would provide a basis to make reports from the Signatories more consistent and information-rich, while making the information provided amenable to synthesis and analysis for the Secretariat's Overview Report.

3. It is also hoped that the report format would supplement the information already available to the CMS Conference of the Parties and Scientific Council through the Convention's triennial national reporting process. A summary of national report-related information available on Appendix I species undertaken by the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC) does include a useful synthesis of information on the Aquatic Warbler on pages 131-132. The document is found within the prototype CMS on-line electronic library, a component of the CMS Information Management System (IMS):

< <http://quin.unep-wcmc.org/isdb/cms/2005/library/Uploaded/File65.pdf> >.

4. A key step foreseen by the CMS Strategic Plan and Resolution 8.5 (Existing and Future Agreements) is making the information generated from CMS's specialised Agreement-related fora, including MoUs, available to the larger CMS process. IMS is seen as a key tool to be used in disseminating this information from which the achievement by CMS and its instruments of the target set by the World Summit on Sustainable Development to significantly reduce the loss of biodiversity by 2010 could be measured.

5. The information from the CMS COP national reporting process provided on the Aquatic Warbler by each Party is already input into the CMS IMS by WCMC. But the CMS reporting format is necessarily less detailed than that developed for the more specialised purposes of the MoU. Furthermore, reporting responses for the Conference of the Parties may not be high enough to assure an accurate picture as to what is happening on behalf of the species.

6. In addition to national report information, IMS also compiles useful information on the Aquatic Warbler from a number of other available sources. One can follow the link presented here to see an example:

< [http://www.cms.int/species/aquatic\\_warbler/aquatic\\_warbler\\_links.htm](http://www.cms.int/species/aquatic_warbler/aquatic_warbler_links.htm) >.

7. With this first meeting of the MoU signatories there is a 91 percent reporting rate for the Aquatic Warbler meeting (see below). On face, therefore, the MoU does provide the potential to draw together more detailed information from the Range States about this CMS Appendix I concerted action species. The challenges will be to maintain the response rate, ensure the provision of good quality information, make it easier for Signatories (and perhaps others such as interested organisations and experts) to contribute information and then get the information into IMS where it can be shared and used to produce various information products, such as the Secretariat's Overview Report for the MoU or the CMS Scientific Council's birds review report or its rolling paper on Appendix I species.

8. A key overriding issue is avoiding duplication of reporting effort for CMS Parties, therefore integrating the CMS COP and MoU reporting processes should be examined. The possibility may exist for reporting to be undertaken on-line and on a rolling basis as well, but this would need to be explored.

9. Under this agenda item the meeting may wish to consider these points, as well as other aspects of information management potentially relevant for the MoU, including the ways and means to achieve them. The MoU, for example, could provide the catalyst to create a register or projects database of all on-going and completed projects and their outcomes. This could be a web-based system adapted from CMS's Indian Ocean and Southeast Asia Marine Turtles MoU:

< <http://www.ioseaturtles.org/projectdb.php> >.

10. An electronic library for research reports and other relevant information could also be created as part of the CMS e-library. The BirdLife International Aquatic Warbler Conservation Team would be foreseen to have an important role in providing advice on what would be useful for the research and conservation community. AWCT members and its existing website < <http://www.aquaticwarbler.net/> > could be also foreseen to be an important source of information.

11. This information would not only potentially support the MoU's implementation, but it would also support measuring the achievement of the 2010 target by the Convention and more generally support the Aquatic Warbler research and conservation community.

12. Cross-cutting all of these points is the financing necessary to achieve these various information management objectives.

13. More generally the meeting may wish to consider both the response rate for national reports submitted to this meeting and the quality of information found in the reports submitted. At 31 May 2006, the Secretariat had received reports from all signatories except Spain. A report from the Russian Federation, a non-signatory, had also been received.

14. By all accounts, the reporting response rate has been excellent. It would, however, be useful from the Secretariat's perspective to learn more about the process Signatories undergo in developing their reports, including the sources of information, and any problems they may encounter in the process. The meeting may wish to discuss how the reporting process can be facilitated to make it less burdensome for Signatories.

15. BirdLife International prepared the Overview Report on behalf of the Secretariat in part by drawing on the national reports. It will be asked to comment on the quality of the information presented in the reports. The meeting may wish to discuss how the quality of information can be maintained or improved.

**Action requested:**

The Signatories are invited to:

- Consider the draft national report format, provide feedback on its usefulness and suggest any needed revisions in anticipation of its endorsement at the meeting.
- Identify and consider other reporting issues, as well as general information management issues, potentially relevant for the MoU and the ways and means to address them.

**DRAFT**  
**TEMPLATE FOR SUBMISSION OF NATIONAL REPORTS**  
**FOR THE AQUATIC WARBLER MOU AND ACTION PLAN**

This reporting format is designed to monitor the implementation of the Action Plan associated with the Memorandum of Understanding Concerning Conservation Measures for the Aquatic Warbler *Acrocephalus paludicola*. Reporting on the Action Plan's implementation will support information exchange throughout the range and assist the identification of necessary future actions by the Signatories. The questions presented here go beyond the scope of information already requested from CMS Contracting Parties for national reports to the CMS Conference of the Parties.

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

|   |
|---|
| <b>Which agency or institution has been primarily responsible for the preparation of this report?</b> |
| <b>List any other agencies, institutions, or NGOs that have provided input:</b>                       |
| <b>Reports submitted to date:</b>   |
| <b>Period covered by this report:</b><br>from _____ to _____<br>(dd/mm/yyyy) (dd/mm/yyyy)             |
| <b>Memorandum in effect in Signatory State since (dd/mm/yyyy):</b>                                    |
| <b>Designated Focal Point (and full contact details):</b>   |

*For reasons of economy, this document is printed in a limited number, and will not be distributed at the meeting. Delegates are kindly requested to bring their copy to the meeting and not to request additional copies.*

## 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?
- 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.
- 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  No
- e) If Yes, please provide details.
- f) If No, please describe measures taken to ensure protection of Aquatic Warbler breeding habitats.

##### 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.)?

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.

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.
- 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.
- d) Please advise what assistance you would require to complete or improve existing Site Management Plans.

#### 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?

Yes     No     Country is outside  
of breeding range

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

Yes     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     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  No  Country is outside  
of breeding range

- 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?

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?  
 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.
- 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?

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

2.2.5. *Grazing*

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

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?
  - 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.
- 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.

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

## **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    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?
- c) If No, what are the constraints and which actions should be taken in order to overcome these constraints?

## **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    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?
- Yes (give years) \_\_\_\_\_
- 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?

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

|                  |                  |                  |
|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Year of survey:  | Year of survey:  | Year of survey:  |
| Population size: | Population size: | Population size: |

- d) If Yes, to which extent was the territory of your country covered by the survey:
- 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?
- 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  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)
  - No monitoring is conducted
- g) What are the gaps and what is your country doing to address them?

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  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?
- 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  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?

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

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

Yes       No       Country is outside of breeding range

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.

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

Yes    No

If the research hasn't been conducted, what is your country planning to do to initiate such cooperation?

3.1.7. *Develop and implement an international monitoring programme*

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

Yes    No

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.

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

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
- Mowing
- Water conditions
- Other \_\_\_\_\_ (what)
- No assessment has been conducted

- b) What are the main findings and conservation implications? If available, please give reference to published reports.

- c) Are there any gaps? What limits further assessment of this factor's effects?

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?

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?

- c) What are the main findings and conservation implications?

- d) What are the gaps and what is needed to address them?

#### **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?

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?

- c) What actions does your country undertake to broaden the circle of organisations and individuals committed to conservation of Aquatic Warbler?
- d) What successful experience can other Range States draw on?
- 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?

Yes  No

If Yes, please briefly describe how and provide examples if available.

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.
  - 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.

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.

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**Annex I**

| Name of the site,<br>geographical coordinates | Status<br>(B – breeding,<br>W – wintering<br>P – passage) | Aquatic Warbler population<br>supported (vocalizing males<br>(breeding) or individuals<br>(migration or wintering)) | Year of survey | Total area of<br>the site | Area of the<br>site under<br>protection | Type of protection | Does protection<br>level fully reject<br>possible<br>detrimental<br>developments?<br>[Yes/No] | Site<br>Management<br>Plan<br>(D – developed,<br>A - approved,<br>I – implemented) |
|---|---|---|----------------|---------------------------|---|--------------------|---|--|
|   |   |   |                |                           |   |                    |   |  |
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Seite: 2

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Seite: 3

[E2]

[E3]