

SAP Action No.	Target	Priority SAP	Measures taken since the last report to reach target	Implementation Score	Estimate for number of birds affected by the action	Population response	Comments
1.1.1	Full national species protection given to the Aquatic Warbler.	4	The Aquatic Warbler is protected by law according to art. 7 of the Federal Act on Hunting and Protection of Wild Mammals and Birds (1986, SR 922.0).	4	n.e. *	n.e. *	* Not estimated, n.e.: The species is classified as a regular rare migrant in Switzerland. There is <b>only a few number of individuals observed and reported (less than 10 individuals per year)</b> . It can be expected, that nearby the entire population is affected by protection and conservation measures for habitats and species in the areas of lakes, rivers & streams and wetlands, which are potentially used as stop-over sites.
1.1.2	Full national habitat protection given to habitat types used by the Aquatic Warbler.	4	In Switzerland, important bird habitats in the areas of lakes, rivers & streams and wetlands are in a way or another protected on national, regional or communal level with several overlaps of different protected area classification systems. Due to incomplete area statistics and the partially deficient quality of available georeferenced area information, it is difficult to produce a precise overview of the protected areas in Switzerland. A large number of bird reserves of water fowl and migratory species was delineated so far, 10 of international and 26 of national significance. There are 11 Ramsar sites (IUCN category IV) and 37 Emerald sites. Based on the range of the 29 IBA bird species in Switzerland, L'ASPO/Birdlife Switzerland has identified, in cooperation with the Swiss Ornithological Institute, a total of 31 Important Bird Areas. Legal basis: The establishment of protected areas for migratory waterfowl is a specific objective of the Ordinance of 21 January 1991 of the reserves of waterfowl and migratory species of international and national importance (OROEM) RS 922.32. The Federal Act on the Protection of Waters WPA (SR 814.20) protects water and our lakes and rivers against harmful effects. It ensures, among other things, that the natural habitats of animals and plants in and around water bodies are preserved. According to the Federal Act on the Protection of Nature and Cultural Heritage (NCHA) SR 451. Special protection shall be given to riparian zones, fenlands and mires. With the following ordinances of the NCHA, habitats are defined and protection goals are formulated: For the habitats of the Aquatic warbler the most relevant are the Ordinance on Alluvial Zones of National Importance (1992, SR 451.31), the Ordinance on Raised Bogs and Transitional Mires of National Importance (1991, SR 451.32), the Ordinance on Fenlands of National Importance (1994, SR 451.33), the Ordinance on Amphibian Spawning Areas of National Importance (2001, SR 451.34), and the Ordinance on Mire see 1.1.2	4	n.e.	n.e.	
1.2.1	A legal framework exists that triggers formal protection for sites regularly used by Aquatic Warblers.	3	see 1.1.2	4	n.e.	n.e.	
1.3.1	An Environmental Impact Assessment Procedure exists that applies to all activities that potentially damage sites used by the Aquatic Warbler.	4	The <b>Federal Act on the Protection of the Environment</b> (1983, SR 814.01) protects people, animals and plants, their biocenosis and their biotopes against harmful impacts. Further, the Act stipulates the sustainable management of natural resources, in particular regarding biological diversity and the fertility of soils. The Act imposes environmental impact assessment. The Ordinance on the Environmental Impact Assessment (1988, SR 814.011) includes a list of installations subject to environmental impact assessment and stipulates the decision-making process.	4	n.e.	n.e.	
1.3.2	The national Environmental Impact Assessment Procedure is being effectively implemented for all activities that potentially damage sites used by the Aquatic Warbler.	4	The principal characteristics of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) are the obligation for the applicant to collaborate actively by providing the necessary data, the participation of the specialised service of the protection of environment in the decision-making process, and a procedure open to the public. The EIA contributes in a significant	4	n.e.	n.e.	

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1.4.1	A National Species Action Plan or an equivalent strategic document exists and has been approved by the relevant authorities.	3	The aquatic warbler is classified as a regular, rare migrant. During the past 20 years, the number of records per year, accepted by SAK (in Switzerland), amounted to less than 5. The number of records is too low for a National Species Action Plan. Conservation efforts are focused on habitat conservation (see 1.1.2).	0	n.e.	n.e.	
1.4.2	The National Species Action Plan or equivalent strategic document is actively being implemented.	3	See 1.1.2	0	n.e.	n.e.	
1.5.1	Suitable policies and incentives exist to promote suitable farming practices at sites whose sustainability depends on continued extensive land use.	4	In 1993, the Confederation introduced ecological compensation in its agricultural policy as an instrument and incentive to counteract the depletion of agricultural landscapes and species decline.	3	n.e.	n.e.	
1.6.1	Under the current national legislation it is possible to obtain permission for controlled burning to manage Aquatic Warbler sites.	3	Burning of fields and embankments as well as excessively large fires are prohibited in Switzerland. However, Exceptionally, exceptions are granted for conservation issues. (e.g. controlled burning of heavily encroached rocky steppe (3 ha total) was approved as a conservation measure within the framework of the recovery programme for the ortolan bunting).	4	n.e.	n.e.	
2.1.1	All sites regularly holding Aquatic Warblers are included in formally designated protected areas.	4	See 1.1.1 and 1.1.2	4	n.e.	n.e.	
2.2.1	Each Aquatic Warbler site has a management plan considering the special conservation needs of the species.	3	Protected areas established under the Ordinance of 21 January 1991 of the reserves of waterfowl and migratory species of international and national importance (OROEM) may have management plans. However, due to the low number of Aquatic Warbler records, they are focused on the conservation of habitats suitable for the Aquatic warbler rather than on specific conservation needs of the species.	0	n.e.	n.e.	
2.3.1	No activities, projects or programmes threatening the population of Aquatic Warblers at sites regularly used by the species are implemented	4	Most of the sites regularly used by Aquatic Warblers are protected by virtue of the Ordinance of the reserves of waterfowl and migratory species of international and national importance (OROEM). The ordinance prohibits many activities, projects or programmes disturbing the fauna.	3	n.e.	n.e.	
2.4.1	All Aquatic Warblers sites have a favourable hydrological condition.	4	NGOs reported the disappearance of temporary water bodies at the shore of Lake Bielersee. This could be due to lower lake water levels when compared to earlier decades. Further inquiries suggest that all reserves for waterbirds and migratory birds located on lakeshores (with exception of Lake Constance) might be affected by low lake water levels. Discussions with the relevant water management and nature conservation authorities have been started.	2	n.e.	n.e.	See 1.1.1; Because of the relatively short period since the signing of the MoU and the small population size, no species-specific measures have been implemented so far.
2.5.1	All Aquatic Warbler sites have suitable mineralisation levels close to their natural trophic levels.	2	Inputs of pollutants and nutrients into lakes have declined considerably with the expansion of wastewater treatment facilities and the use of new treatment processes. Phosphorus concentrations have declined markedly since the mid- 1970s. However, phosphorus levels remain excessive in certain lakes exposed to inputs from intensive cattle farming or extensive cropping.	3	n.e.	n.e.	
2.6.1	Active management keeps all Aquatic Warbler sites open that are threatened by successional overgrowth.	4	Successional overgrowth is effectively tackled in protected areas.	3	n.e.	n.e.	
2.6.1.1	Aquatic Warbler sites threatened by successional overgrowth are regularly mown at dates and intensities beneficial for the species.	4	An overview of the mowing practices within the different sites is lacking.	not known	n.e.	n.e.	

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2.6.2.1	Where grazing can be a suitable tool to maintain Aquatic Warbler breeding sites, grazing dates and intensities are adjusted beneficially for the species.	2	Grazing is a practice used in some protected areas. An overview, however, is lacking.	not known	n.e.	n.e.	
2.6.3.1	Aquatic Warbler sites threatened by successional overgrowth are burnt when necessary at dates and under conditions beneficial for the species	3	Not relevant, see also 1.6.1	0	n.e.	n.e.	
2.6.4.1	Realistic concepts for sustainable long-term management of Aquatic Warbler sites exist.	4	Realistic concepts for sustainable long-term management of protected areas exist.	3	n.e.	n.e.	
2.6.4.2	The suitable management of all Aquatic Warbler sites is secured for the foreseeable future	4	The management of protected areas is secured.	3	n.e.	n.e.	
2.7.1	Wild and illegal fires do not occur at dates and under conditions unfavourable for the Aquatic Warbler.	3	Not relevant, see also 1.6.1	0	n.e.	n.e.	
2.8.1	The sites where the use of pesticides negatively affect the Aquatic Warbler have been identified.	1	-	1	n.e.	n.e.	
2.8.2	The use of pesticides in the catchment areas of these sites has been limited to amounts not harmful for the Aquatic Warbler.	1	According to the Federal Act on the Protection of Waters WPA (SR 814.20), the use of pesticides in the immediate environment of waters (defined area / space provided for waters) is prohibited or strictly regulated by law. The law determines that this space must be managed extensively.	3	n.e.	n.e.	
2.9.1	Aquatic Warbler sites that would otherwise deteriorate have been bought, leased or been transferred to the appropriate management authority of sympathetic bodies able to guarantee suitable and sustainable management.	2	-	1	n.e.	n.e.	
3.1.1	Area of suitable habitat at existing Aquatic Warbler sites has been increased.	4	-	1	n.e.	n.e.	
3.1.2	Potential sites for restoration have been identified.	4	-	1	n.e.	n.e.	
3.1.3	Former and potential sites have been restored to favourable habitat conditions for the Aquatic Warbler.	4	-	1	n.e.	n.e.	
4.1.1	A set of standard monitoring methodologies has been developed and agreed.	3	-	1	n.e.	n.e.	
4.1.2	The standard monitoring methodology is used across the species' range.	3	-	1	n.e.	n.e.	
4.2.1	Each year an accurate estimation of the species' world and national populations can be produced.	3	-	1	n.e.	n.e.	

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4.2.2	All breeding, stop-over and wintering sites are subject to regular population monitoring (from annual to once every 6 years – depending on importance).	3	Results of the regular population monitoring is available: Swiss Ornithological Institute - Birds of Switzerland: Aquatic Warbler   Acrocephalus paludicola   <a href="http://www.vogelwarte.ch/aquatic-warbler.html">http://www.vogelwarte.ch/aquatic-warbler.html</a> .		n.e.	n.e.	
4.3.1	All regular breeding sites in Europe and West-Siberia are identified.	3	So far, there are no breeding activities reported in Switzerland.	0	n.e.	n.e.	
4.4.1	All major regular stop-over sites in Europe and northern Africa have been identified.	3	Relevant stop-over sites in Switzerland are identified (see Swiss Ornithological Institute - Birds of Switzerland: Aquatic Warbler   Acrocephalus paludicola   <a href="http://www.vogelwarte.ch/aquatic-warbler.html">http://www.vogelwarte.ch/aquatic-warbler.html</a> ).		n.e.	n.e.	
4.5.1	All key wintering sites in western Africa have been identified.	4	-		n.e.	n.e.	
4.6.1	Research results needed to improve conservation work for the Aquatic Warbler exist.	3	Switzerland is supporting research on flyways and migratory connectivity. E.g. Salewski V., Flade M., Poludga A., Kijan G., Liechti F., Lisoovski S., Hahn S. 2013. An unknown migration route of the 'globally threatened' Aquatic Warbler revealed by geolocators. Journal of Ornithology 154: 549–552. Dr. rer. nat. Steffen Hahn is researcher at the Swiss Ornithological Institute, specialised in geolocation. The study has been conducted with geolocators developed by the Swiss Ornithological Institute.	-	n.e.	n.e.	
5.1.1	The CMS MoU continues to serve as a platform coordinating national states' efforts to conserve the Aquatic Warbler and holds regular signatory state meetings.	3	-	-	n.e.	n.e.	
5.1.2	The BirdLife International Aquatic Warbler Conservation Team (AWCT) continues to be supported by the RSPB and serves as a platform coordinating expertise in the field of Aquatic Warbler conservation.	3	-	-	n.e.	n.e.	
5.2.1	National networks of public bodies, conservation organisations and experts committed to the conservation of Aquatic Warblers exist.	2	Bird conservation in Switzerland is well organised and of a great importance. National networks exist. The need for conservation activities in favour of specific species is assessed by mean of the Swiss species recovery programme. Once a need is detected, specific projects for the conservation and restoration e.g. of Aquatic Warbler habitats could be launched quickly, either on private basis (e.g. L'ASPO/Birdlife Switzerland, Swiss Ornithological Institute) or by a national programme in in collaboration with the organisations mentioned.	-	-	-	
5.3.1	Funding is available for priority projects needed to advance the conservation of Aquatic Warblers.	3	-	-	-	-	
5.3.2	Range states continue to financially support priority projects in other range states.	3	-	-	-	-	
5.4.1	Aquatic Warbler conservation information is readily available for anybody with an interest in the conservation of the species.	2	Information on state and trend of the Aquatic Warbler in Switzerland is publicly available: Swiss Ornithological Institute - Birds of Switzerland: Aquatic Warbler   Acrocephalus paludicola   <a href="http://www.vogelwarte.ch/aquatic-warbler.html">http://www.vogelwarte.ch/aquatic-warbler.html</a>	-	-	-	

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5.5.1	Local stakeholders at Aquatic Warbler sites and interested sectors of the wider public are aware of the conservation needs of the species.	3					
<b>Additional measures taken at national level, but not related to any of the targets defined in the action plan:</b>							
-							
-							
-	<b>Completed</b>						
-							
-							
-	Federal Office for the Environment FOEN, Wildlife and forest biodiversity Section						
Contributors (name, organization)	Swiss Ornithological Institute, L'ASPO/Birdlife Switzerland, NosOiseaux						
Date (dd.mm.yy yy)							
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