



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 7.1

RECOGNITION OF ADDITIONAL RANGE STATES

Prepared by the Aquatic Warbler Conservation Officer (AWCO)

1. The geographical scope of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is the geographical area to which the MoU applies. The geographical scope corresponds to part or all of the range of the species that the MoU targets (as defined by Article I paragraph 1.f of the Convention, i.e. the areas of land or water that a migratory species inhabits, stays in temporarily, crosses or overflies at any time on its normal migration route);
2. The Memorandum of Understanding concerning Conservation Measures for the Aquatic Warbler does not explicitly define its geographical scope, however, paragraph 10 stipulates that all Range States of the Aquatic Warbler are eligible to sign the MoU. The MoU currently applies to 22 Range States identified at the time of the MoU's conclusion in Minsk in 2003, on the basis of the state of knowledge on the distribution of the species at that moment. In this regard however, the Minsk Declaration concerning Conservation Measures for the Aquatic Warbler (30 April 2003) recognizes that owing to a lack of information at the time of the adoption of the MoU a Range State not originally listed in the instrument could be identified in the future. Should this occur, the meeting advised the CMS Secretariat, acting as the Depositary, to find an appropriate solution to include these new Range States in the MoU.
3. The Second Meeting of Signatory States to the Memorandum of Understanding concerning conservation measures for the Aquatic Warbler (Biebrza National Park, Poland, 13-15 May 2010) discussed this topic under agenda item 7.1, and recommended to consider the recognition of additional Range States according to expert knowledge and advice;
4. The MoU's present coverage of the breeding range of the Aquatic Warbler is complete. All countries with a potential to re-establish the Aquatic Warbler as a breeding bird are in any case already covered by the MoU as part of the species' range during migration;
5. In contrast, the migration and wintering ranges of the Aquatic Warbler are presently not fully covered by the MoU. Since the conclusion of the MoU in 2003, new knowledge and expert discussions are suggesting the recognition of the following two additional countries as Range States with regular annual occurrence of Aquatic Warblers:

Czech Republic

The paper by Flousek & Cepák.(2013) summarizes data on occurrence of the Aquatic Warbler in the territory of the present Czech Republic in 1946–2011. Long-term trend in the number of captured Aquatic Warblers, in relation to ringing effort, suggests that the number of birds passing through the country has declined since 1960. Despite that, the obtained data confirm that there are still important stopover sites of the Aquatic Warbler in the country and the Czech Republic thus ranks among the range states of this species.

Ghana

This country is considered as a likely wintering Range State. Aquatic Warbler was caught or observed in an old river bed near Tono in 1987 (Hedenström et al. 1990) and 2012 on the shore of a reservoir near Tono (Aquatic Warbler Conservation Team, unpublished data).