

PROPOSAL FOR INCLUSION OF SPECIES ON THE APPENDICES OF THE CONVENTION ON THE  
CONSERVATION OF MIGRATORY SPECIES OF WILD ANIMALS

**A. PROPOSAL:** Inclusion of *Acrocephalus paludicola* in Appendix I

**B. PROPONENT:** Government of the Republic of Hungary

**C. SUPPORTING STATEMENT**

**1. Taxon**

1.1 Classis	Aves
1.2 Ordo	Passeriformes
1.3 Familia	Sylviidae
1.4 Genus/Species/Subspecies	<i>Acrocephalus paludicola</i> (Vieillot) 1817, Monotypic
1.5 Common (English) name	Aquatic Warbler

**2. Biological data**

2.1 Distribution

The breeding range is restricted to the Western Palearctic between 50° and 60°N from Germany to Central Russia. Its wintering range includes Western Africa south of the Sahara. During passage it occurs widely over Europe.

2.2 Population

The range has contracted sharply eastwards since the turn of the century with corresponding decline in numbers. With new estimates corresponding to previously unknown breeding population in Belarus (M. Flade pers. com.) the total global population is probably in the range of 7,000 - 15,000 pairs.

2.3 Habitat

The species breeds in open but dense grassy marshes with scattered sedge *Carex*, and also in partially drained hay meadows and salt-tolerant sedge-like communities at coastal sites. During migration it also occurs in reed-beds and other lake-fringe vegetation.

**3. Threat data**

3.1 Direct threats to the population

Disturbance from people and mowing is a problem in some breeding areas, although of low importance (Heredia 1996).

3.2 Habitat destruction

Main problems are related to loss and degradation of breeding habitat mostly through the drainage of wet grasslands, uncontrolled burning and in some places due to lack of grazing (Heredia 1996). =20

3.3 Indirect threats

Not known

### 3.4 Threats connected especially with migration

Drought and habitat alteration (drainage, overgrazing) in the winter quarters can be a major problem for the species, although their total impact is currently not known (Heredia 1996).

### 3.5 National and international utilisation

Irrelevant.

## **4. Protection status and needs**

### 4.1 National protection status

The species is legally protected in Germany (and in other countries of the EU), Hungary and Poland. It is included in the corresponding Red Data Book in Latvia and Lithuania. No information is available from other countries.

### 4.2 International conservation status

The species is listed under Annex I of the EEC Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds (79/409/EEC) and under Appendix II of the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern Convention). Global Conservation Status: Vulnerable (IUCN criterion A2b)

### 4.3 Additional protection needs

There is an international Action Plan prepared by BirdLife International with support from the European Union LIFE funds and Council of Europe. Main breeding sites of species are protected in Hungary, Lithuania, Poland and Germany.

Conservation measures required include broader habitat conservation measures to maintain the species' habitats, full legal protection of species and its key areas in all range states, adequate management of breeding areas, research and monitoring.

## **5. Range States (parties and signatories to the Convention in bold)**

The species breeds in Belarus, **Germany, Hungary**, Latvia, Lithuania, **Poland**, Russian Federation and Ukraine.

During passage and winter it occurs in **Belgium, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, France, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Netherlands, Portugal, Senegal, Spain, Switzerland, United Kingdom.**

## **6. Comments from Range States**

## **7. Additional remarks**

## **8. References**

Heredia, B., Rose, L. and Painter, M. eds. (1996) Globally threatened birds in Europe: Action plans. Strasbourg: Council of Europe.