



## 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.  
Ministerial Decree (Arrêté ministériel) of 17<sup>th</sup> April 1981 establishing the list of protected birds on the whole territory, as amended by the Ministerial Decree of 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2007.  
This text prohibits: the destruction or removal of eggs and nests, mutilation, capture or removal of individuals alive or dead, as well as their stuffing, transport, peddling, use, offering for sale, sale or purchase.  
It is linked to the articles L411-1 and L411-2 of the Code of the environment that protect the habitats of species.
- 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.  
Code of the environment, articles:  
L411-1, R411-15 = protection of species and their habitats  
L411-4 = protection of species and habitats in Natura 2000 sites (according to a document from Auvergne local services, DDT, DRAAF and DREAL)  
Planification and management documents subjects to prefectural approval legally binding: e.g.:  
  - Documents of objectives (DOCOB) for Natura 2000 sites according to « Bird »s and « Habitat » directives
  - Master Plans for water management (SDAGE) and Plans for water management (SAGE) in particular all the measures aiming at wetlands conservation.
- 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/migration/wintering sites which are impacted by drainage or threatened by succession*

Are there any national or international policy incentives to maintain suitable farming practices at sites occupied by the Aquatic Warbler in your country (agro-environmental schemes, etc.)?

Yes  No  Country is outside of breeding range

France is one of the main countries for the migration of Aquatic Warbler, mainly post-nuptial migration, according to the current knowledge.

The role of France for pre-nuptial migration could be more important than we think today, given a lack of research and studies.

Incentive points: presence of Aquatic Warbler in standard data forms (SDF) of Natura 2000 sites. This presence should prompt considering the species and the preservation of its habitat in the actions proposed in Natura 2000 sites.

Provisional assessment as of 04/14/2015:

Since 1980, **228** sites are known in France for having hosted staging Aquatic Warbler (post and pre-nuptial migration).

The status of these sites in relation to the Natura 2000 network:

Table: Aquatic Warbler home sites in the French Natura 2000 network			
		Number of sites	%
ZPS	<i>Acrocephalus paludicola</i> in SDF	89	39
	<i>Acrocephalus paludicola</i> NOT in SDF	54	23,7
ZSC	<i>Acrocephalus paludicola</i> NOT in SDF	43	18,9
Not in Natura 2000 site		22	9,6
Not known at the moment		20	8,8

Nota: SDF are not always updated, thus there are additional DOCOBs taking into account the requirements of the Aquatic Warbler.

**Cf. technical and financial assessment of the national action plan (NAP) for the Aquatic Warbler 2010-2014, in prep.**

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.

Negative points: specifically, measures are lacking in agricultural policies for taking into account the Aquatic Warbler habitats (and associated species using the same habitat) as well as incentives so as to keep these habitats in areas of "economic" vocation.

A process is underway to change the situation.

## 2.0 SPECIES AND HABITAT PROTECTION

### 2.1. *To promote adequate protection of sites occupied by the Aquatic Warbler and remove key factors adversely affecting the habitat*

#### 2.1.1. *Seek designation as protected areas of all sites regularly holding breeding Aquatic Warblers.*

#### **Not applicable**

- a) In the table attached (Annex I), please provide details for all regularly occupied Aquatic Warbler sites in your country and indicate their protection status (*please expand the table if necessary*).
- b) If Aquatic Warbler 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 sites, please describe what hinders development of Management Plans and what your country is doing to ensure

development, approval and implementation of Site Management Plans for regular Aquatic Warbler 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 sites it regularly occupies for breeding/migration/wintering.*

In the Natura 2000 sites where the species has been identified, every project is submitted by French law to the impact assessment regime. If impacts are identified the project is either refused or revised (eg modification in the dates of the works...) in order to meet the requirements of the species and its habitats.

Since the signature of the memorandum, in the framework the NAP, France has expanded the list of habitats to be considered for taking into account the interests of the species.

- a) Are new *development* projects that could potentially have a detrimental effect on current or potential Aquatic Warbler sites (such as drainage, peat extraction, construction of highways, etc.) subject to environmental impact assessment in your country?

Yes  No

- b) Have there been any potentially detrimental projects *implemented* in any Aquatic Warbler habitat in your country since signing the Aquatic Warbler 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.

*Cf. technical and financial assessment of the national action plan (NAP) for the Aquatic Warbler 2010-2014, in prep.*

2.2. *To manage the breeding habitat to increase numbers, productivity and distribution and migration and wintering sites.*

2.2.1. *Regulate water levels and restore natural water conditions*

- a) Has water management been implemented at Aquatic Warbler breeding/migration/wintering sites in your country?

Yes  No

- b) If Yes, please describe actions taken, sites involved and effects expected/achieved.

*This action has been set up at different sites within the NAP Aquatic Warbler 2010-2014.*

*Cf. technical and financial assessment of the national action plan (NAP) for the Aquatic Warbler 2010-2014, in prep.*

*Actions already conducted on this subject are available in the collection of experiences of the Life project "Conservation of Aquatic Warbler in Brittany" 2004-2009 LIFE 04NAT / FR / 00086REV, Le Neve A; Bargain & B. (2009) - Collection of experiences: Ecology and Management of habitats of staging Aquatic Warbler. LIFE-Nature "Conservation of Aquatic Warbler in Brittany" 2004-2009. Bretagne Vivante-SEPNEB. Brest. 104p.*

- b) What constraints are limiting implementation of these activities at other sites in need of effective water management?

Cf. technical and financial assessment of the national action plan (NAP) for the Aquatic Warbler 2010-2014, *in prep.*

#### 2.2.2. Prevent natural succession of the vegetation by undertaking management where necessary

- a) Has vegetation management been undertaken at Aquatic Warbler breeding/migration/wintering sites in your country to prevent natural succession?

Yes  No

- 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.

Cf. technical and financial assessment of the national action plan (NAP) for the Aquatic Warbler 2010-2014, *in prep.*

See actions 1.2, 1.3, 1.4 of the NAP. For example: delay in summer mowing, grazing management, opening of the habitat...

- 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?

Cf. technical and financial assessment of the national action plan (NAP) for the Aquatic Warbler 2010-2014, *in prep.*

Currently there is no overall adequacy of agri-environmental measures with the requirements in terms of functional habitats for the Aquatic Warbler.

#### 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

- 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.

Cf. technical and financial assessment of the national action plan (NAP) for the Aquatic Warbler 2010-2014, *in prep.*

- d) What constraints are limiting hand-scything and mowing at sites where extensive habitat management is needed?

Cf. technical and financial assessment of the national action plan (NAP) for the Aquatic Warbler 2010-2014, *in prep.*

#### 2.2.4. Controlled burning

- a) Is controlled burning a legal habitat management tool in your country?

Yes  No

Yes, but only carried out in some French regions and it does not concern a priori the Aquatic Warbler habitats.

- 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?

This is not a practice deemed relevant to the management of the species' habitat in France.

#### 2.2.5. *Grazing*

- a) Has grazing been used for habitat management at Aquatic Warbler sites in your country?  
 Yes  No
- 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.

Cf. technical and financial assessment of the national action plan (NAP) for the Aquatic Warbler 2010-2014, *in prep.*

#### 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.

Two methods:

Communication tools, especially following the LIFE project:

- Collection of experiences of the LIFE project available online <http://www.bretagne-vivante.org/content/view/338/66/>
- Papers for the diffusion of knowledge acquired during the LIFE project in different media:
  - Le Nevé A., Hily C., Le Floch P et Bargain B., 2011. Pourquoi et comment introduire une démarche de développement durable dans la conservation d'une espèce menacée ? Le cas du Phragmite aquatique. *Sciences Eaux & Territoires* n°5 : 42-46
  - Le Nevé A., Hily C., Le Floch P et Bargain B., 2010. De la conservation d'une espèce menacée à une expérience de développement durable : l'exemple du Phragmite aquatique. *Revue Bretagne Vivante-SEPNB*, n°20.

The implementation of the action 1.1 of Aquatic Warbler NAP (see part II).

This action considers:

- (a): vegetation mapping within the perimeter of the site (functional habitats for the Aquatic Warbler)
- (b): the drafting of a document containing all available knowledge in terms of: land tenure, protection status, use, existing management, location of the site, general and specific naturalist data regarding the Aquatic Warbler, analysis of the situation of habitats based on the map drafted, and **management recommendations**.

This diagnosis is a proposal of specifications for those in charge of the site to reflect the needs and stakes of the Aquatic Warbler in their management of the site.

The aim is that these recommendations are contained in management documents (eg DOCOB Natura 2000 sites, national natural reserve management plans ...)

- c) If No, then what constraints are limiting dissemination of habitat management recommendations and what should be done to overcome these constraints?
- d) Please outline any successful experience that other Range States could draw on and what assistance your country would require to help share this information.

Cf. technical and financial assessment of the national action plan (NAP) for the Aquatic Warbler 2010-2014, *in prep.*

### **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*)

The monitoring of the migration carried out in the framework of the NAP allowed to confirm and / or discover new migration sites and identify the major host sites for this species in France.

- a) 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.

Cf. technical and financial assessment of the national action plan (NAP) for the Aquatic Warbler 2010-2014, *in prep.*

- 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?

Actions should be run in the long term.

### **2.4. To restore habitats for the Aquatic Warbler**

#### **2.4.1. Undertake the ecological restoration of potential breeding sites of the Aquatic Warbler** Not applicable

- 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*

Not applicable

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 your country is 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?

The ringing aims at studying the migration strategies: migration routes, age ratio, residence time, fattening, biometrics, sex ratio and date of migration.

A national protocol (Protocol ACROLA) has been implemented under the guidance of the National Museum of Natural History (MNHN) / Centre for Research on the biology and bird populations (CRBPO)

Tracking for monitoring the length of time birds spend in any one place and the habitats used  
Study of habitats around the areas of capture and comparison between sites

For further details: Cf. technical and financial assessment of the national action plan (NAP) for the Aquatic Warbler 2010-2014, *in prep.*

- c) What are the main findings and what conservation implications do they have?

▶ Almost all the population migrate across France, at least during post-nuptial migration:

- JULLIARD R., BARGAIN B., DUBOS A., JIGUET F. (2006). Identifying autumn migration routes for the globally threatened Aquatic Warbler *Acrocephalus paludicola*. *Ibis* 148: 735-743.
- JIGUET F., CHIRON F., DUGUÉ H., PROVOST P., GUYOT G., LAIGNEL J., MUSSEAU R., SÉCHET E., FONTANILLES P., LATRAUBE F., GRUWIER X., LE NEVÉ A. (2011). How many Aquatic Warblers *Acrocephalus paludicola* do stop in France during the autumn migration? *Acta Ornithologica*. Vol 46 (2) : 135-142.

▶ The role of France for pre nuptial migration is perhaps more important than we think, but studies are lacking to confirm it (Le Nevé A. 2013 – Plan national d'actions du Phragmite aquatique 2010-2014 ; Recherche de la migration pré-nuptiale de l'espèce sur le littoral méditerranéen français en avril 2012. Bretagne Vivante – SEPNEB / Dréal Bretagne. 64 p.)

▶ Details on the habitats used. NAP allowed to gain an in-depth knowledge of foraging habitats and thus to better consider habitats to foster.

▶ Assessment of the potential productivity on the breeding sites through proper capture pressure. 80 to 95% of the catches made in France are the young of the year.

- d) If Yes, to what extent are major known Aquatic Warbler passage sites being monitored in your country?

Cf. technical and financial assessment of the national action plan (NAP) for the Aquatic Warbler 2010-2014, *in prep.*

- Fully (> 90% of known sites)
- High (60-90 % of known sites)
- Medium (30-60 % of known sites)
- Low (< 30 % of known sites)



Map of the sites monitored in France between 2010 and 2014 (during the five years of implementation of the NAP). The technical and financial assessment of the national action plan (NAP) will provide data for each year.

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

Cf. technical and financial assessment of the national action plan (NAP) for the Aquatic Warbler 2010-2014, *in prep.*

Answer is between « high » and « fully » for the major sites hosting Aquatic Warbler in France

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 extent 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?

Many actions have been carried out by France since at least 2008.

Part of these actions will be detailed in the technical and financial assessment of the national action plan (NAP) for the Aquatic Warbler 2010-2014.

- f) What are the gaps and what needs to be done to help address them?

More funding.

The project of ACROLA association, considered very important and well drafted by AWCT, is waiting for financial support (application to the François Sommer Foundation ongoing).

### 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.

Cf. technical and financial assessment of the national action plan (NAP) for the Aquatic Warbler 2010-2014, *in prep.*

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

Important clarifications were made on staging habitats.

- d) What are the remaining gaps and what needs to be done to address them?

Funding is needed for further analysis of data on habitats around the areas of capture and to be able to sustain migration on a minimum number of sites.

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

Not concerned

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.

[Cf answer 3.1.4. - f](#)

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*  
[Not applicable](#)

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*  
[Not applicable](#)

a) In your country which of the following factors and potential breeding habitat management techniques was assessed for effects?

- 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

No, but it is being considered for the future, particularly regarding the cooperation with Belgium and Spain so as to put together countries which study and host migration.

- 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?

Funding and follow-up of the NAP

#### 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?

Cf part II of the present report

- 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?  
Sites' networking and NAP animation will be put forward at national level.
- e) What would be needed to establish a network if it does not already exist or to improve an existing one?  
More funding, in particular so as the NAP could be applied in all the regions concerned, notably in key regions such as Poitou-Charente.
- f) In the table attached (Annex II), please list key people in your country (scientists, conservationists, etc.) who are dealing with Aquatic Warbler conservation, research and implementation of the Aquatic Warbler MoU and Action Plan.

##### 4.2. *To use the Aquatic Warbler as a flagship species*

- a) Has the Aquatic Warbler been used as a flagship species in your country for the inventory and protection of wetlands?

Yes  No

- b) If Yes, please briefly describe how and provide examples if available.  
**This issue will be addressed in the assessment of the NAP.**
- c) 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.  
Dans le cadre du Life et aussi en marge du PNA
- Yes, the Aquatic Warbler is included into materials with a broader context.
- No, Aquatic Warbler is not covered in educational and promotional materials.

- b) If Yes, please describe the nature of such materials and how they were disseminated. Please give reference to published materials if available.

- A 26-minute movie: *Wodniczka: the seducer of the marshes*. Director Yvon Le Gars. Made in France by Vocations Records.
- Review for children *Bretagne Vivante: L'hermine vagabonde n°34*. Acrocéphale Le Phragmite aquatique
- A tale: « Rencontre avec Joanna, le Phragmite aquatique (Meeting with Joanna, the Aquatic Warbler) ». 19p. Production Biosphère Environnement / De contes en musique ».
- Internet website NAP: <http://www.bretagne-vivante.org/content/view/499/111/>
- Internet website Life : <http://www.life-moule-perliere.org/film-le-seducteur-des-marais.php>
- *Le grand jeu de la migration (The big game of migration)*: board game developed by Bretagne Vivante, available from the association

- c) 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 it was 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.

Details of conservation programmes for Aquatic Warbler in France.

### January 2004 – April 2009: "Conservation du Phragmite aquatique en Bretagne" 2004-2009 LIFE 04NAT/FR/00086REV.

Details on actions and results in: Le Nevé A; & Bargain B. (2009) – Recueil d'expériences : écologie et gestion des habitats du Phragmite aquatique en halte migratoire. Life-nature "Conservation du Phragmite aquatique en Bretagne" 2004-2009. Bretagne Vivante-SEPNB. Brest. 104 p.

**2010-2014 Plan National d'Actions pour le Phragmite aquatique** (LE NEVÉ A., BARGAIN B., PROVOST P. & LATRAUBE F. (2009). Le Phragmite aquatique *Acrocephalus paludicola* ; Plan national d'actions 2010–2014. *Ministère de l'Écologie, de l'Énergie, du Développement durable et de la Mer, Direction régionale de l'Environnement Bretagne, Bretagne Vivante – SEPNB*. 177 p.).

The strategy for the plan period is divided into three main objectives:

- Increase the surface area of the habitat for staging Aquatic Warbler,,
- Improve knowledge of the migration functioning in France,
- Contribute to the overall conservation of the species.

The long-term objective for the next fifteen years is to obtain favourable habitats for food and rest, in any staging sites that have hosted the species since 1980.

For the plan period the three main objectives have been translated into 7 action sheets concerning national actions (1-4) international actions (4-6) and transverse actions (7).

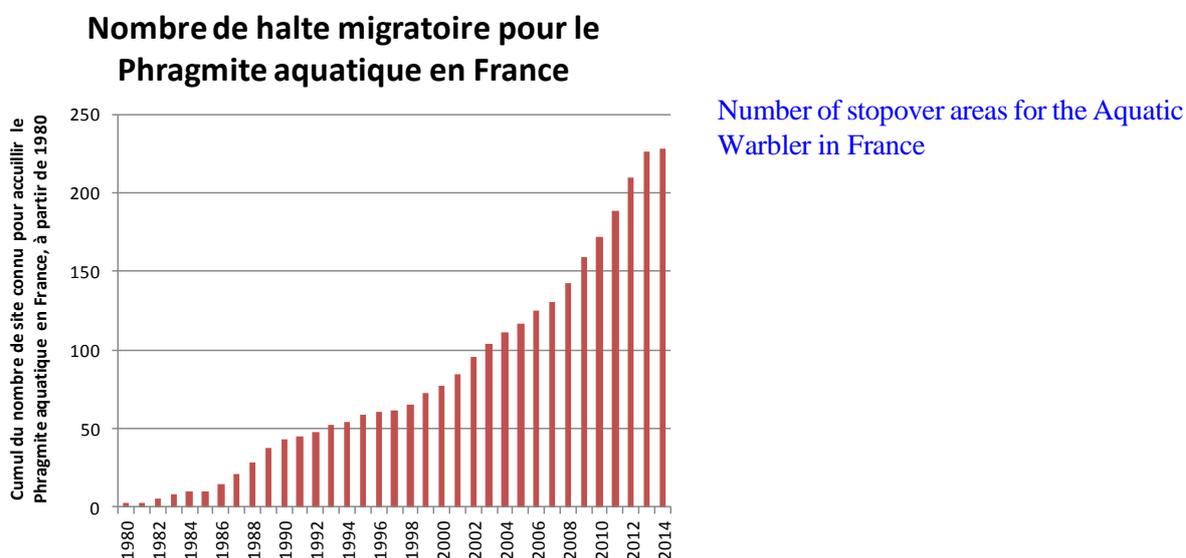
- 1: Maintain or restore a satisfactory network of staging sites
  - 1.1: Ecological monitoring of staging sites = mapping of functional habitats for the Aquatic warbler and site diagnosis
  - 1.2: Works on vegetation only
  - 1.3: Experimental vegetation management through summer mowing
  - 1.4: Experimental vegetation management through grazing
  - 1.5: Management works and hydraulic structures
  - 1.6: Water management: favourable management of water levels
- 2: Protect sustainably staging sites
  - 2.1: Regulatory protections of staging sites
  - 2.2: Control of land and use for environmental purposes
- 3: Implement the plan
  - 3.1: Integration of conservation challenges in natural areas management documents
  - 3.2: Coordination and facilitation of the plan
- 4: Improve the monitoring and the knowledge of the migratory functioning :
  - 4.1: Exhaustive survey of staging sites in France
  - 4.2: Migration monitoring in France and abroad, animation and annual analyses
  - 4.3: Collateral environmental benefits
- 5: Contribute to the protection of wintering areas in Francophone Africa
- 6: Contribute to the international action plan
- 7: Communicate on the national action plan and ensure exchanges with existing planning tools

In 1980, the reference year for the consideration of proven halts for the Aquatic Warbler, 3 sites are hosting the species while staging.

It took 26 years (1980 to 2005) to reach 50% of sites known as of today.

With the development of the work and studies on the Aquatic Warbler, a new impetus is focused on this species and increasing knowledge.

With the establishment of the NAP on Aquatic Warbler including action 4.1, the number of sites goes from 172 to 228 locations, or a 25% increase in 5 years.



At the time of drafting of the NAP, through knowledge by banding and bibliographic research made by the editors (see The Neve et al., 2009), the regions covered by the declination of the PNA were determined. Thus, this national action plan concerns 14 régions and 37 départements (Ledard M. & Blaize C., 2014. Le plan national d'actions du Phragmite aquatique *Acrocephalus paludicola*, enjeux et synthèse nationale. *Alauda*. 82 (4) : 283-290)

### Organisation

The NAP written by a group (called the Monitoring Committee) is validated by CNPN.

Then a Regional Directorate of Environment, Planning and Housing (DREAL) is designated to carry out the NAP at national level; each relevant DREAL designs a declination at regional level.

The DREALs can choose to name a coordinator (at national and / or regional level) to facilitate the implementation of the plan. In the case of the Aquatic Warbler, the association “Bretagne Vivante” was commissioned to lead and coordinate the NAP at national level.

A guide has been produced by the national coordination group so as to formalize and mostly standardize regional levels [Le Nevé A., (2011). Guide pour la rédaction de la déclinaison régionale. *Plan National d'Actions du phragmite aquatique*. DREAL Bretagne & Bretagne Vivante-SEPBN. Brest 6 p.]:

- Make a list of the sites included in the declination (sites known to host the migration and potential sites);
- Provide a schedule of actions by site of the declination, on 5 years for the implementation of all the actions under the NAP, adapted to the sites.

The list of sites and the planning of actions are presented, possibly modified according to the results, each year as part of a regional steering committee.

The evolution of the plan is evaluated annually by a national steering committee.

Six regions have actually performed a breakdown of the implementation of the NAP at the regional level, and only five have applied it.

On the other hand, five départements, in regions that have not arranged a regional form of the plan, have nevertheless carried out actions of research or management for the Aquatic Warbler (Ledard & Blaize, op.cit.), on their own funds or with other financial resources.  
In addition, sharing of knowledge through exploration by banding was also implemented by the national coordination in four départements.

All the elements regarding the study and conservation of the Aquatic Warbler territories during the period 2010-2014, must now be synthesized in a document called "Technical and Financial Report" then assessed against the objectives and criteria of realisation of actions, foreseen in the NAP.  
This work is ongoing and will be available by the end of 2015.

**Annex I**

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

**Cf. technical and financial assessment of the national action plan (NAP) for the Aquatic Warbler 2010-2014, in prep.**

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