



CONVENTION ON MIGRATORY SPECIES

Distr: General

CMS/AW-1/5
31 May 2006

Original: English

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 7.0

REVIEW OF MOU AND ACTION PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

(Note prepared by the Secretariat)

1. Every meeting of the Signatories is to review the conservation status of the Aquatic Warbler and the implementation of the Action Plan, taking into consideration reports submitted by the Signatories of the Range States, the Secretariat's Overview Report and any recommendation or scientific advice relating to the Aquatic Warbler that may have been made by the CMS Conference of the Parties or the Scientific Council (CMS Articles III (6), VII (5) (e) and VIII (5) (a)).
2. With the assistance of BirdLife International, the Secretariat has prepared an overview report compiled on the basis of information at its disposal pertaining to the Aquatic Warbler, pursuant to MoU paragraph 6, as of 30 May 2006. The Overview Report is noted as document CMS/AW-1/5/Add.1.
3. The Overview Report has been communicated to all Signatories, the signing organisations and to all other non-signatory Range States. In addition, the Secretariat has also communicated all national reports which have been received from the Signatory (MoU paragraph 6).
4. Agenda item 7.0 will be considered in two parts during the meeting: (1) conservation status of the Aquatic Warbler and (2) status of implementation of the MoU and Action Plan.

Conservation Status of the Aquatic Warbler

5. Every meeting of the Signatories is to review the conservation status of the Aquatic Warbler taking into consideration the information sources listed in MoU paragraph 9. "Conservation status" is not defined in the MoU, but is defined in the Convention as "the sum of influences acting on the migratory species that may affect its long-term distribution and abundance" (CMS Article I (1)(b)). The Overview Report provides a brief summary of the Aquatic Warbler's conservation status within the agreement area. The meeting is invited to consider the Overview Report's treatment of the Aquatic Warbler's conservation status and provide comments or any other additional information.

6. In anticipation of preliminary discussions on expanding the geographical scope of the MoU under agenda item 8.4, the meeting may also wish to briefly consider the conservation status of the Aquatic Warbler outside of the agreement area and invite interventions from any observer Range States and signing organisations.

Action requested:

The Signatories, and where appropriate other meeting participants, are requested to *inter alia*:

- Take note of the Secretariat's Overview Report and provide additional information not yet reflected, as well as guidance on how it could be improved if necessary.
- Provide additional information on the Aquatic Warbler's conservation status outside of the agreement area in anticipation of the discussion on agenda item 8.4.

Status of Implementation of the MoU and Action Plan

7. The MoU and Action Plan (Part I) provide the general substantive framework for action within the agreement area. The MoU's substantive provisions are found in paragraph 1 (provide strict protection to Aquatic Warbler and conserve essential wetland habitats); paragraph 2 (implement the Action Plan subject to the availability of resources) and paragraph 3 (facilitate exchange of scientific, technical and legal information to coordinate conservation measures; co-operate with recognised experts of international organisations and other Range States).

8. Part I of the Action Plan comprises 10 range-wide objectives. Part II of the Action Plan, describing country-specific actions agreed by each Signatory, supplements this. Each Signatory should have reported on the status of implementing country-specific actions in its national report submitted to the Secretariat.

9. The Secretariat's Overview Report summarizes the information received and available as of 31 May 2006. The available information was supplemented by any information available from the national reports submitted to the Eighth Meeting of the CMS Conference of the Parties (Nairobi, November 2006) by Signatories from Range States that are also CMS Contracting Parties and information generally available to BirdLife International and the Secretariat. The Overview Report attempts to create a general picture of the status of the MoU and Action Plan's implementation and, where possible, their effectiveness.

10. In order to maximise the very limited time available it is proposed that, in lieu of a summary of national reports and activities, each Signatory:

- (a) Identify those actions where there has been a gap in implementation highlighting any problems encountered and any steps taken or solutions found to overcome them; and
- (b) Indicate informally the need to amend Part II of the Action Plan for their country, taking into consideration that any amendment proposals require a formal notification process (pursuant to MoU paragraph 12).

11. Finally, the meeting may also wish to consider how to best measure progress achieved under the MoU and Action Plan. Is there a need for example to note national level actions that still need further work? Is the present format of the Overview Report appropriate for this? One additional question the meeting may wish to consider is whether additional tools are necessary to

measure the effectiveness of the MoU and Action Plan in achieving desired conservation and management outcomes for the Aquatic Warbler?

Action requested:

The Signatories and where appropriate other meeting participants, are requested to *inter alia*:

- Share information on the status of the MoU and Action Plan's implementation within the agreement area and at national levels.
- Identify implementation gaps by country and the possible means to fill the gaps.
- Provide informal indications as to the need to amend the country-specific actions under Part II of the Action Plan.
- Suggest how best to measure progress under the MoU and Action Plan, both in terms of national level actions and overall conservation and management outcomes for the Aquatic Warbler, and the extent to which the present Overview Report's format is appropriate for reflecting this.
- Provide guidance as to the need for additional tools to measure the MoU and Action Plan's effectiveness in achieving desirable conservation and management outcomes for the Aquatic Warbler.