

# Stepping stones towards ensuring long-term favourable conservation status of Aquatic warbler in Lithuania



*LIFE15 Kick-off Meeting, Oct. 6, Brussels*



**PROJECT LOCATION: Lithuania and Belarus****BUDGET INFO:****Total amount: 4 097 038 eur****% EC Co-funding: 75%****DURATION:****Start: 07/07/2016 - End: 31/01/2023****PROJECT'S IMPLEMENTORS:****CB: Baltic environmental forum  
(Lithuania)****ABs:**

- Kretinga State Forest Enterprice
- Zuvintas Biosphere Reserve Directorate
- Scientific and Practical Center of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus for Biological Resources



## OBJECTIVES & SCOPE:

- Reduce fragmentation of aquatic warbler breeding habitats and stimulate connectivity between isolated population;
- Develop and apply new conservation measures;
- Setting up long-term socio-economic preconditions to maintain AW breeding habitats;



Project area coverage: 20 509 ha

## EXPECTED IMPACTS

- Habitat restoration: bush removal (992 ha), reed elimination (232 ha), controlled burning (605 ha), water management level (16 824 ha);
- Rehabilitation of exploited peatland (1029 ha);
- Development and testing conservation translocation of AW (never been done again!);
  
- Functioning bussiness sollution for late-cut biomass use;

## **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

**EU biodiversity strategy:** target 1, target 2, target 3

**EU Birds directive, Bonn and Bern Conventions** –  
conservation of Europe's rarest migratory songbird

**Memorandum of Understanding concerning  
conservation measures of the Aquatic warbler** –  
related EU species conservation action plan

## SUSTAINABILITY

- utilizing special agri-env. measure (under RDP);
- self-sustaining biomass processing facility;
- setting up management systems requiring low resources for maintenance;

## REPLICABILITY

**(conservation translocation, biomass processing, rehabilitation of peatland, management of polders)**

- *Task force, scientific advisory meetings, international aquatic warbler conservation group (and MoU);*
- *Natura 2000 communication platform;*
- *Scientific publications, guidance documents;*
- *Conferences, networking among experts;*

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