Aquatic Warbler conservation in France

How does the European program LIFE AWOM feed into the French SAP ?

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MINISTÈRE DE LA TRANSITION ÉCOLOGIQUE

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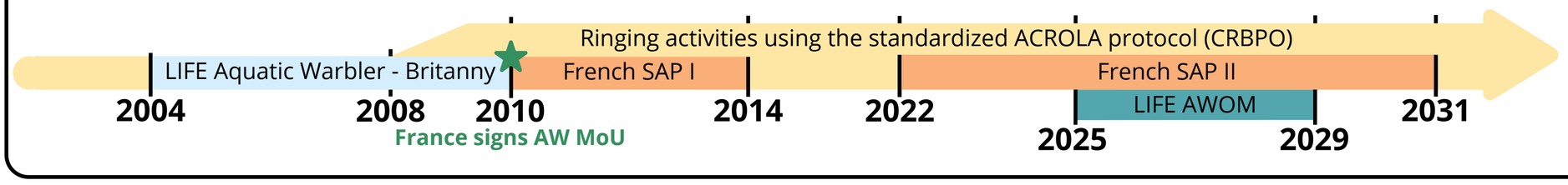
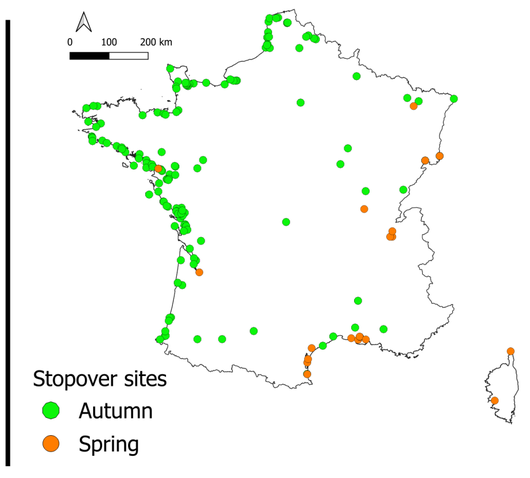
Aquatic Warbler conservation in France

France plays an important role for the Aquatic Warbler during autumn migration, when almost the entire population transits through the country (Jiguet et al. 2011).

Knowledge needs to be deepened about spring migration in France.

Different AW major initiatives & conservation programs developed in France over the past 20 years





French SAP and LIFE AWOM : two complementary tools

French SAP

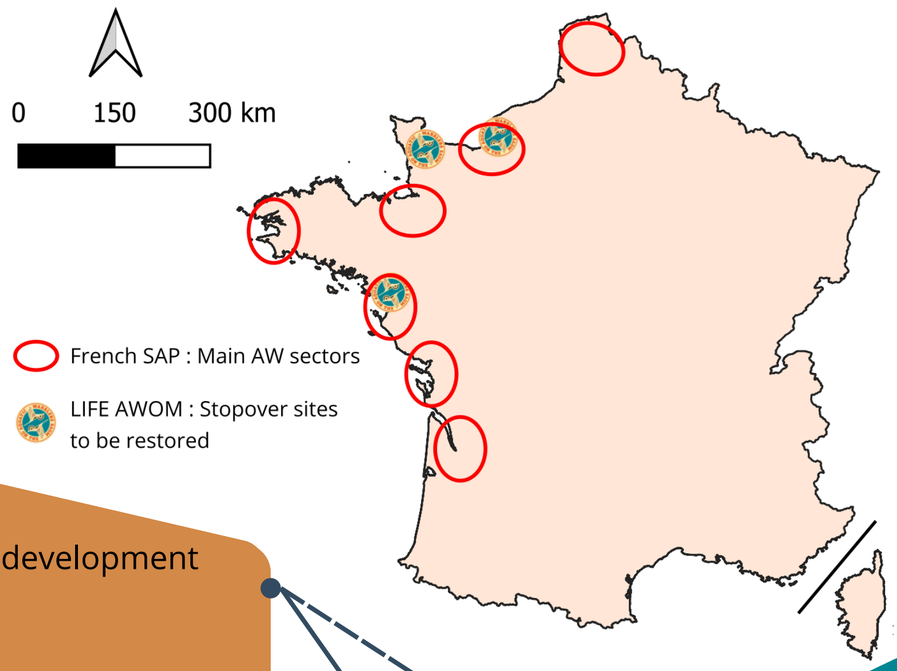
Led by DREAL Bretagne PRÉFET DE LA RÉGION BRETAGNE

Objective : Maintaining feeding habitats at stopover sites for Aquatic Warblers to refatten

Regional SAP coordinators & co

Conservatoire d'espaces naturels Hauts-de-France, GONm, Bretagne Vivante SEPNB, LPO Côte Atlantique, BioSphère Environnement, Pôle-relais lagunes méditerranéennes

Current AW conservation programs at a French scale



LIFE AWOM

NATURA 2000

Objective : Developing a comprehensive, coherent and climate resilient flyway site network for the Aquatic Warbler, along its migration route and wintering grounds

Partners : 14 co-beneficiaries, 5 countries

Wetlands International, natuurpunt, Bretagne Vivante SEPNB, ACROLA, GONm, Maison de l'Estuaire, Pôle-relais lagunes méditerranéennes, Tour du Valat, Fundación Global Nature, ICO Institut Català d'Ornitologia, Migres, Estación Biológica Doñana CSIC, spea, CESAM, Wetlands International

8 actions :

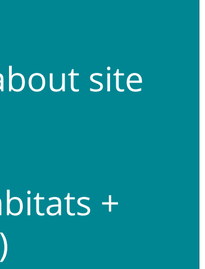
- **Act 1** Stopover site functionality qualification & development of several tools
- **Act 2** Management actions to restore or maintain suitable habitats for the AW
- **Act 3** Site identification (Mediterranean coast) + strong protection & proper management
- **Act 4** Ensure site network resilience through administrative protection to limit pressures
- **Act 5** Age ratio as an indicator of reproduction success
- **Act 6** Wintering sites and collaboration with other countries
- **Act 7** Promotion and making results (knowledge, management…) available to all
- **Act 8** Synergy with other French programs to optimize human and financial resources

6 actions (work packages) :

- **WP 1 :** Global administrative work concerning the project (Lead WI-EA Wetlands)
- **WP 2 :** Compilation & completion of knowledge about site network & climate change exposure (ICO)
- **WP 3 :** Restoration & management of suitable habitats + updated data to national authorities (FGN Fundación Global Nature)
- **WP 4 :** Awareness raising, reaching out to stakeholders & sharing experiences (WI-EA Wetlands)
- **WP 5 :** Implementation of tools to provide information on various indicators for restored sites (BV)
- **WP 6 :** Replication, upscaling & and ensuring of the sustainability of the project's results (Natuurpunt)

FOCUS : LIFE AWOM - Work Package 5 : Monitoring and evaluation

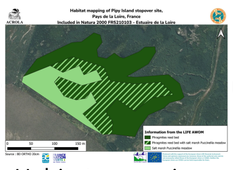
Objectives :
- Assessment of habitat extent and quality, and importance of stopover and wintering sites for the Aquatic Warbler
- Generation of information for the project's KPI



Different indicators

Habitat availability

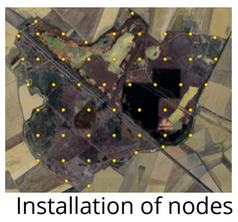
ACROLA Habitat typology ⇨



Habitats mapping before restoration work ⇨

Restoration work ⇨ **Habitats mapping after restoration work**

Use of sites by birds (Telemetry)



Installation of nodes and antennas on AWOM sites to be restored

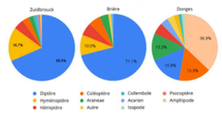
\+ **Equipment of birds with tags** ⇨
- Restoration work success
- Relative importance of equipped stopover sites
- Habitat functionality

Food availability & Fuel deposition

Aim : assess whether the bird can feed adequately at a site

- **Feces collection**

DNAe analysis in laboratory ⇨



Identification of Arthropod prey species ⇨ **Application of suitable Arthropod survey methods on restoration sites**

- **Fuel deposition**

Key Performance Indicators

Main KPIs : "Area of habitats where the loss of biodiversity is being halted and reversed" & "diversified marshland and reedbed habitats"

KPIs linked to social outputs and outcomes : "Website" & "Networking and synergies"

Ringing activities as a tool to feed these indicators

- *Feces collection (food availability)*
- *Biometric measurements (fuel accumulation rates)*
- *Equipment of birds with tags*
- *Importance of stopover and wintering sites*
- *Additional knowledge on stopover sites*

Reference :
Jiguet, F. *et al.*, 2011. How many Aquatic Warbler Acrocephalus paludicola stop over in France during the autumn migration? Acta Ornithologica 46: 135-142

Abbreviations :
AW : Aquatic Warbler
AWOM : Aquatic Warblers on the Move
BV : Bretagne Vivante - SEPNB
FGN : Fundación Global Nature
ICO : Institut Català d'Ornitologia
SAP : Species Action Plan
WI-EA : Wetlands International - Europe

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