

In search of the sub-Saharan non-breeding areas of the Aquatic Warbler *Acrocephalus paludicola*



Volker Salewski, Martin Flade & Ibrahima Diop

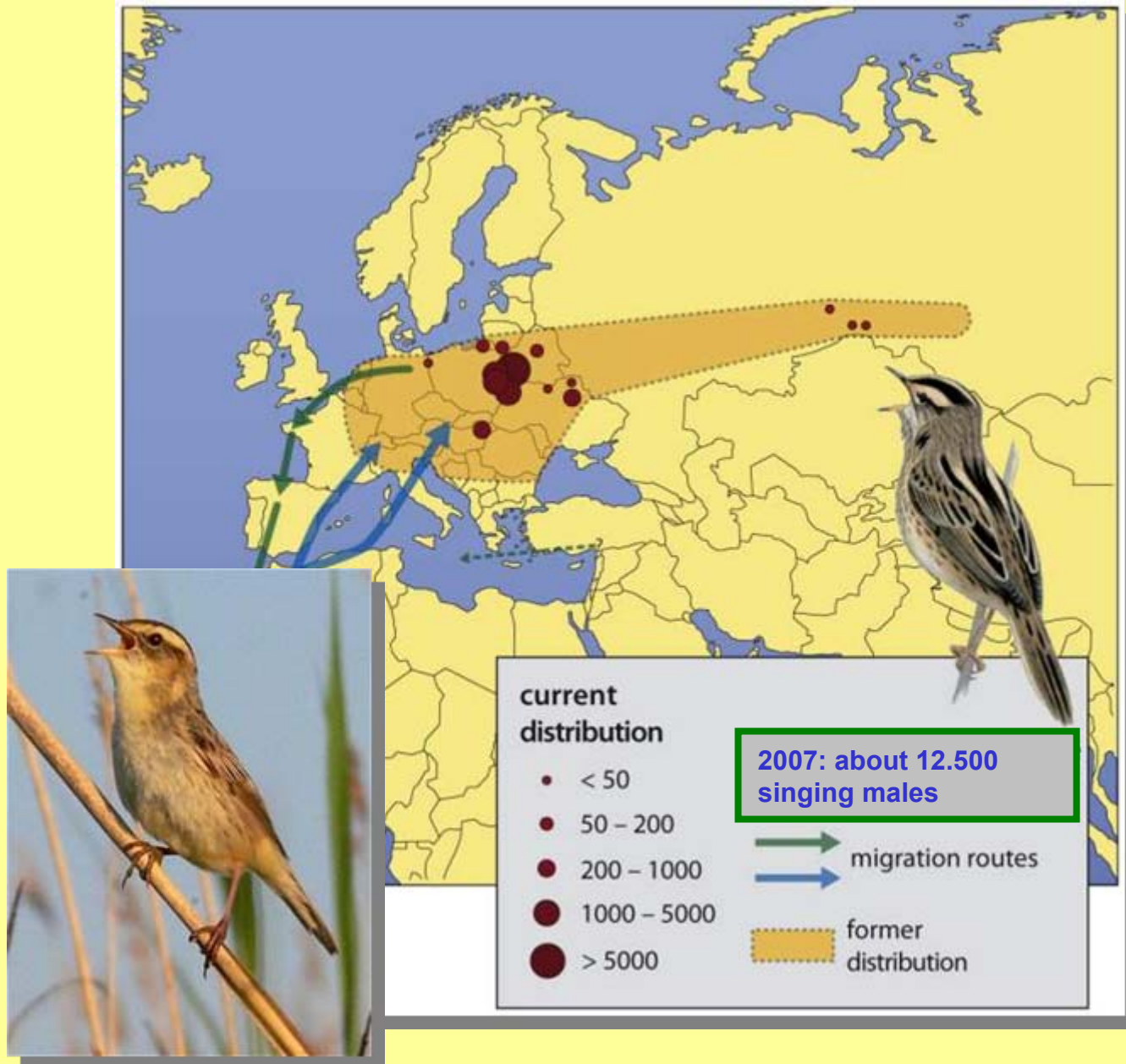
BirdLife International Aquatic Warbler Conservation Team



The Aquatic Warbler *Acrocephalus paludicola*



Aquatic Warbler range



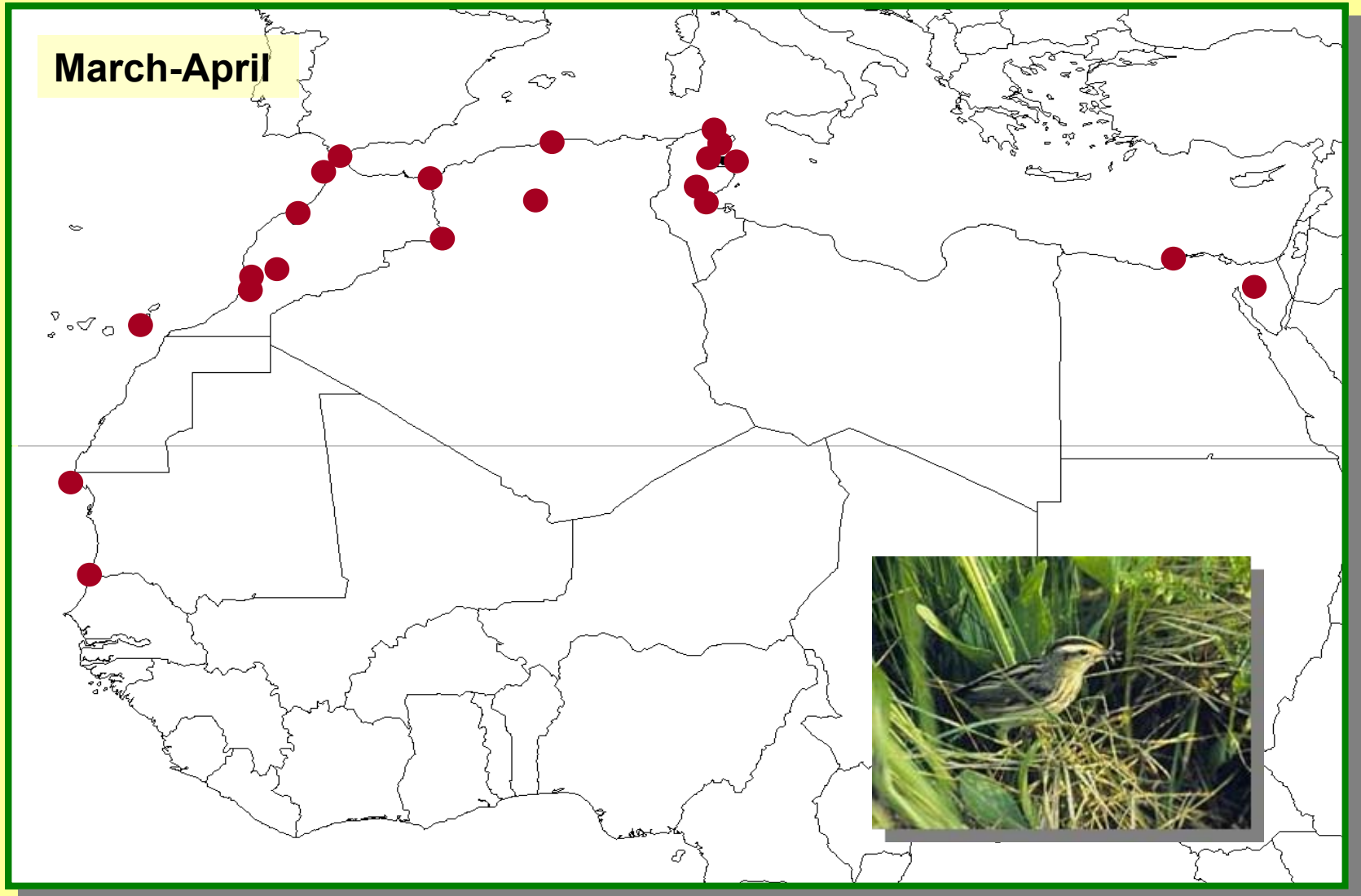
The BirdLife International Aquatic Warbler Conservation Team

**Successful habitat rehabilitation
and initiation of conservation
measures in the breeding areas**

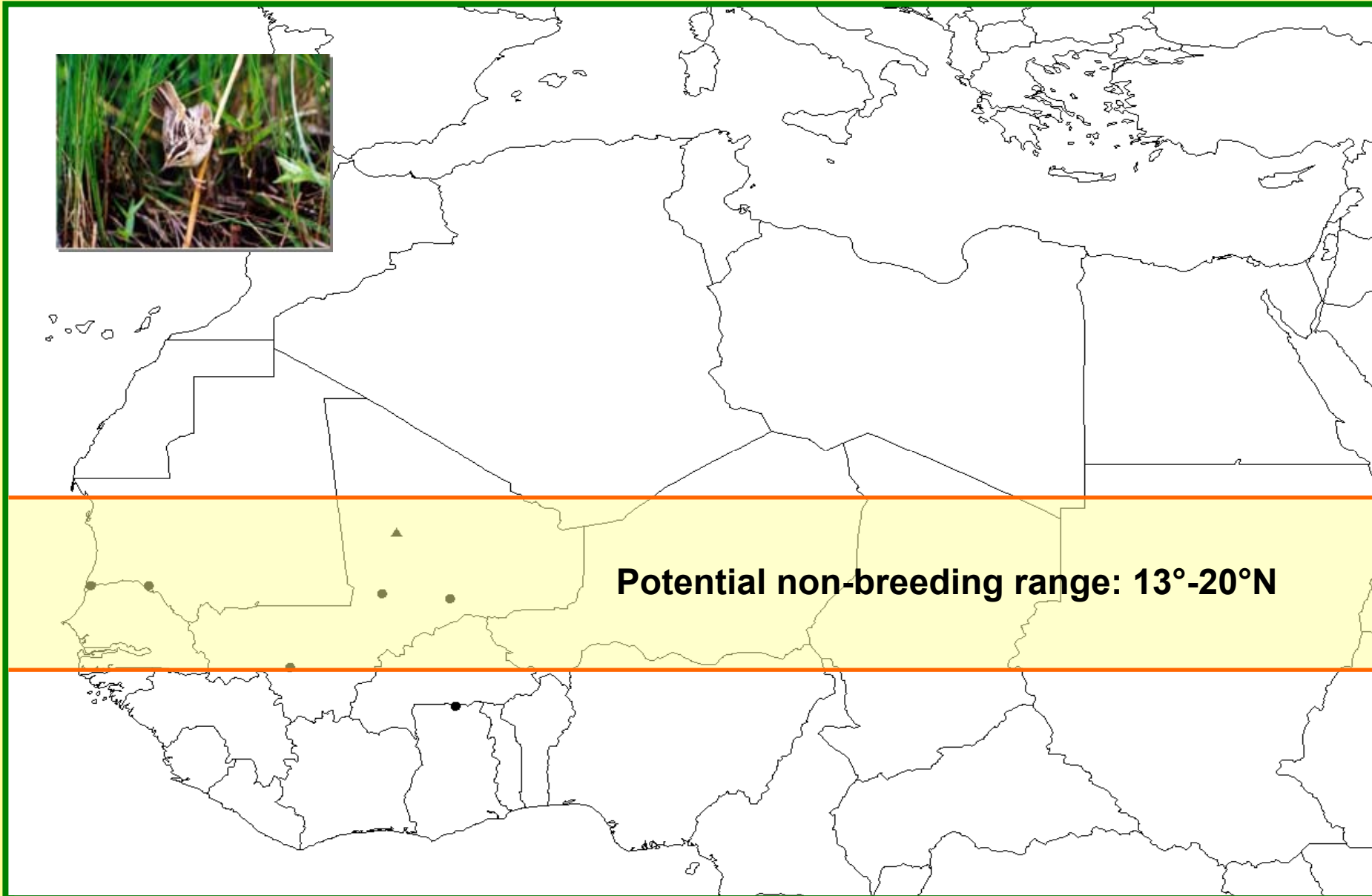


**But: Aquatic Warblers
spend only four months
in the breeding areas!**

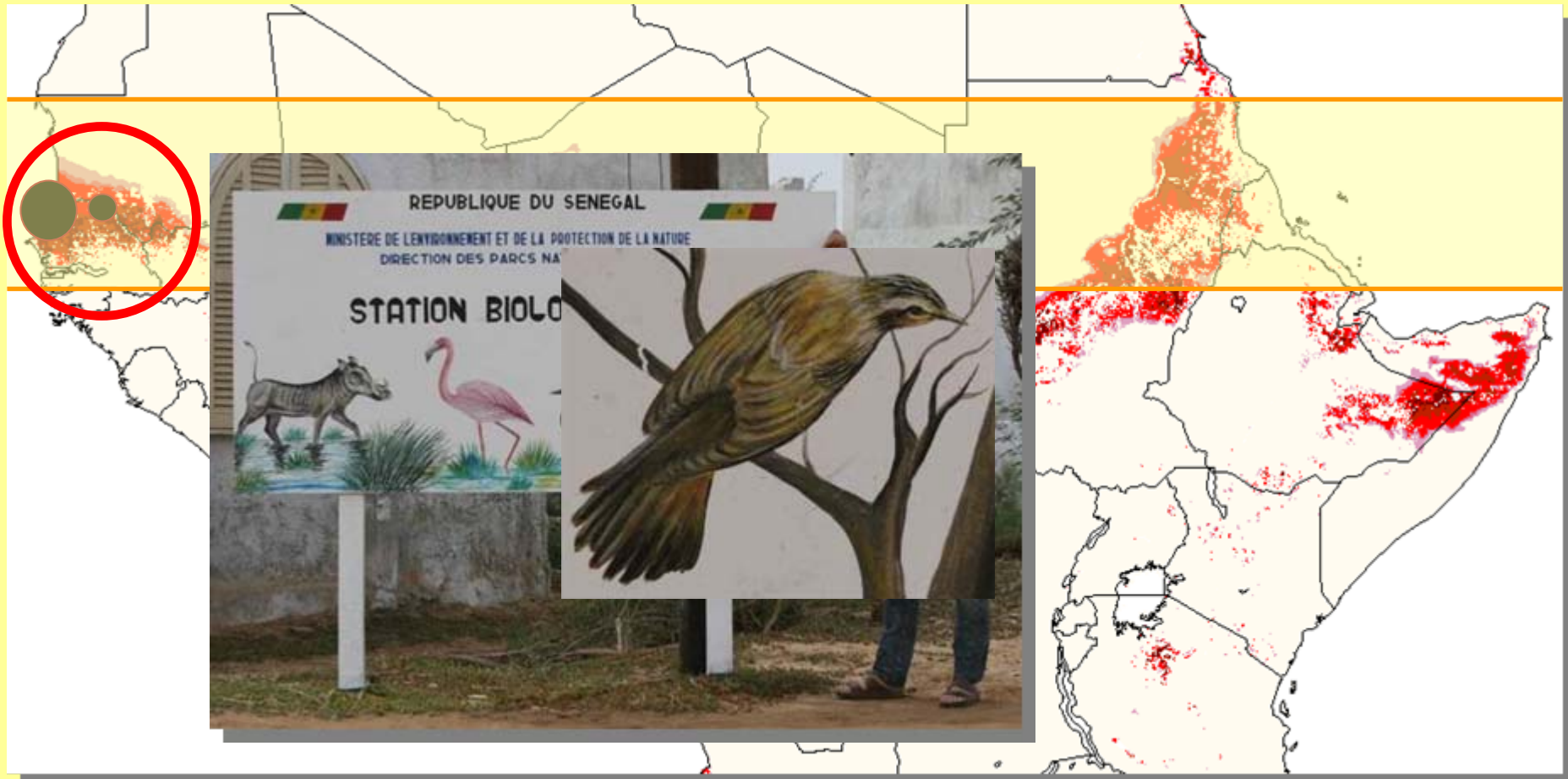
Desk study # 1: Collecting records during the non-breeding period (Schäffer et al. 2006)



Desk study # 2: $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ isotope analysis (Pain et al. 2004)



Desk study # 3: BIOCLIM modelling of non-breeding distribution (see also Walther et al. 2007)



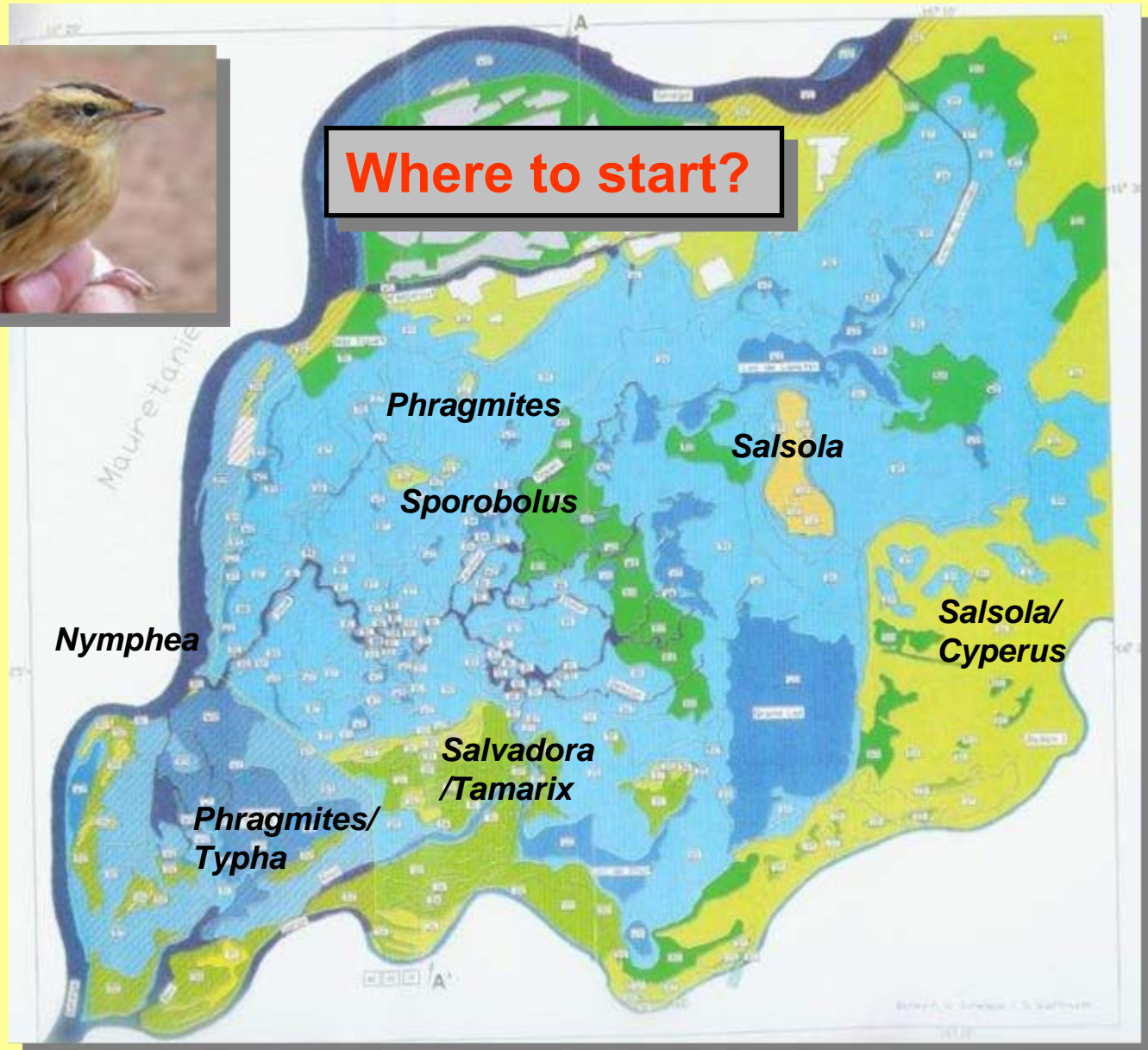
**Djoudj Expedition January-February 2007:
39 participants from 12 countries from 2 continents**



Vegetation map of Djoudj National Park (Schwöppe 1994)



Where to start?



Mistnetting in Typha: - no success



Mistnetting between *Tamarix*: - no success



Mistnetting in *Scirpus/Sporobulus* marshes:

- SUCCESS!



Fifty-six Aquatic Warblers mistnetted within two weeks



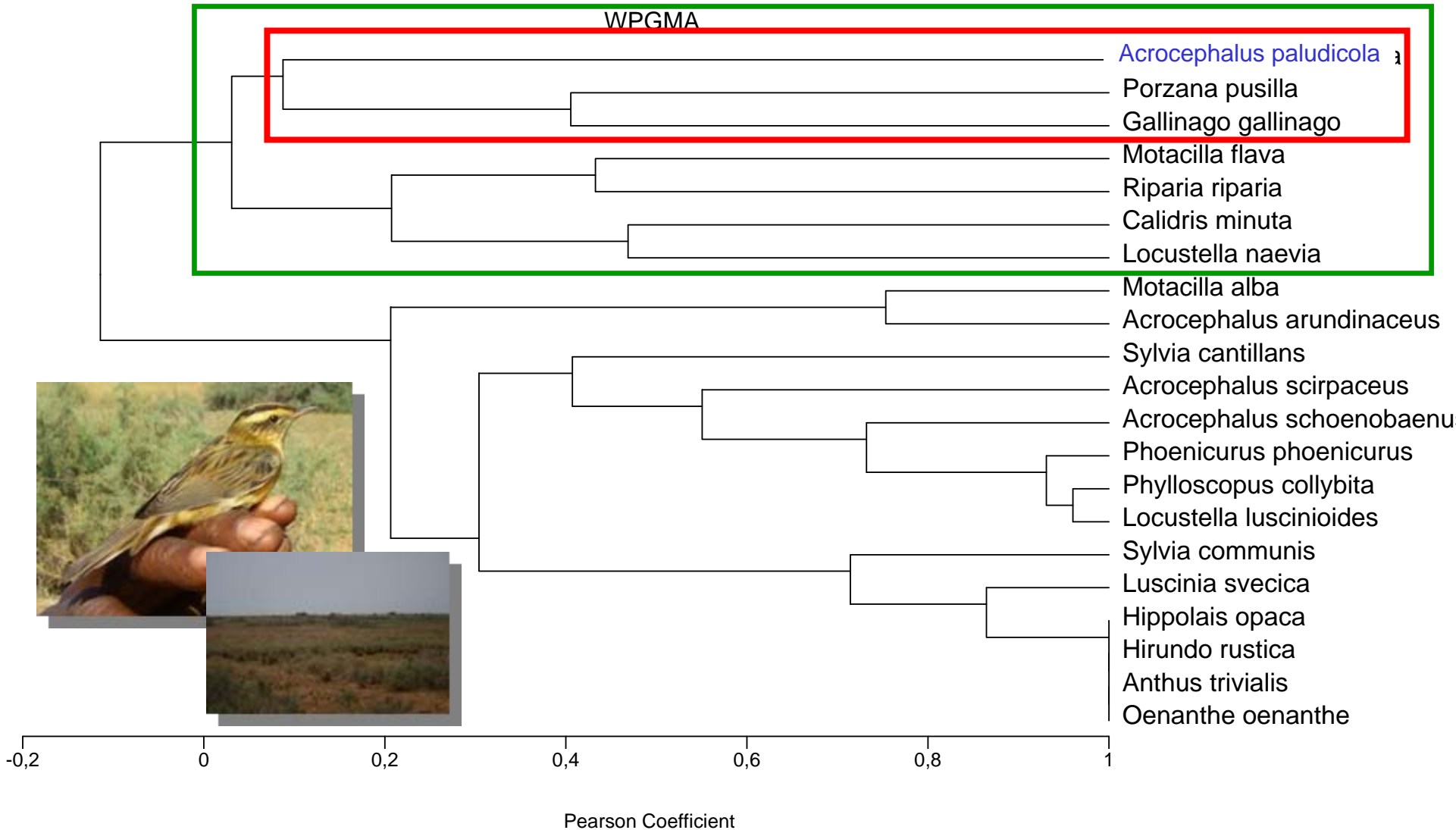
Blood and feather
samples for genetic
and isotope studies

Fifty-six Aquatic Warblers mistnetted within two weeks

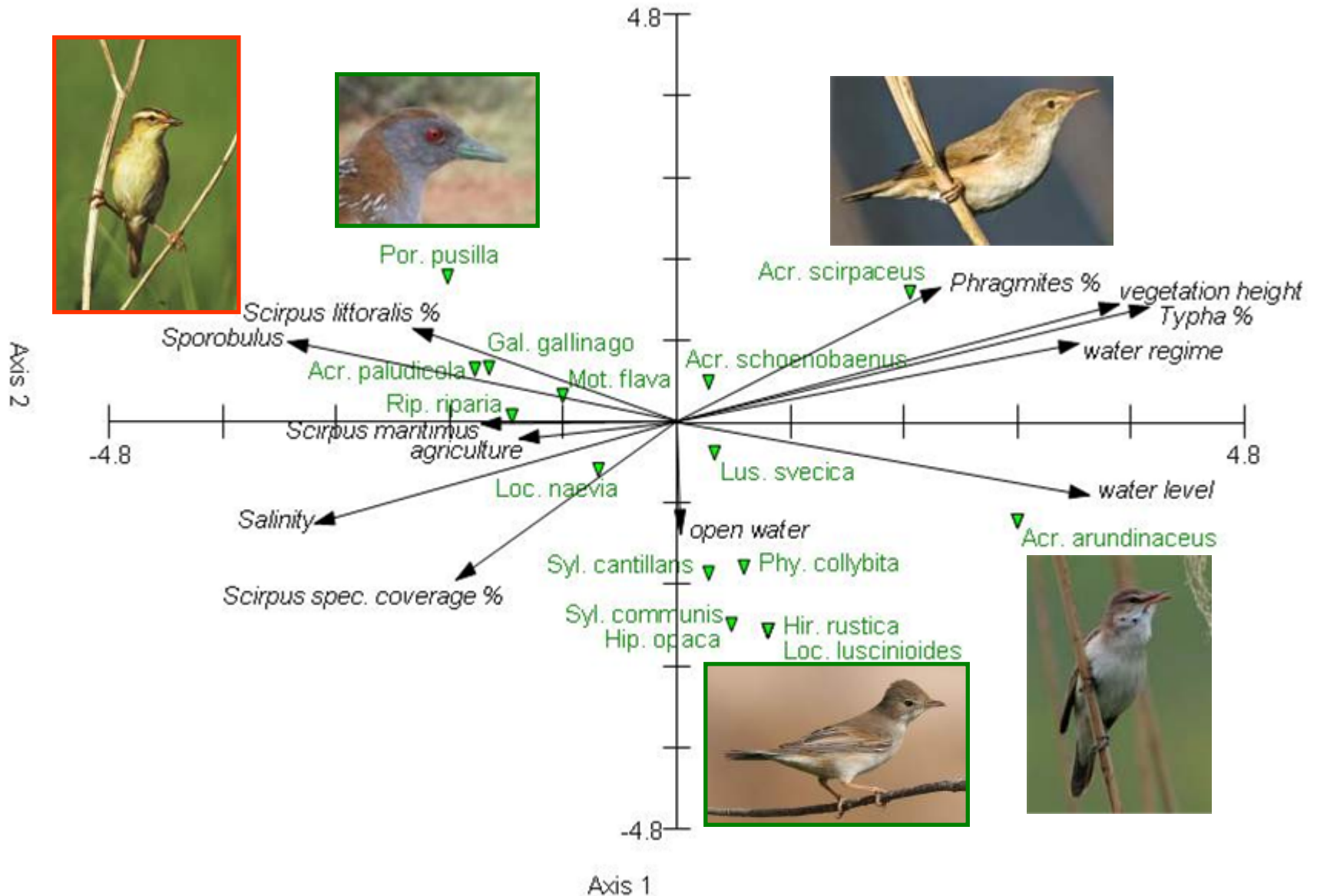
1 963 individual of 22 migrant species ringed in different habitats



Cluster analysis of European bird species according to the occurrence at the trapping sites



Canonical Correspondence Analysis of habitat parameters



Catching birds with claptraps

Baillon's Crake

Porzana pusilla



Sixteen captured

**Two former Senegalese
records**

Rope method to catch Aquatic Warblers:

Suitable habitat: 10 000 – 13 000 ha.

Density: 0.5 - 1.0 Aquatic Warblers/ha.

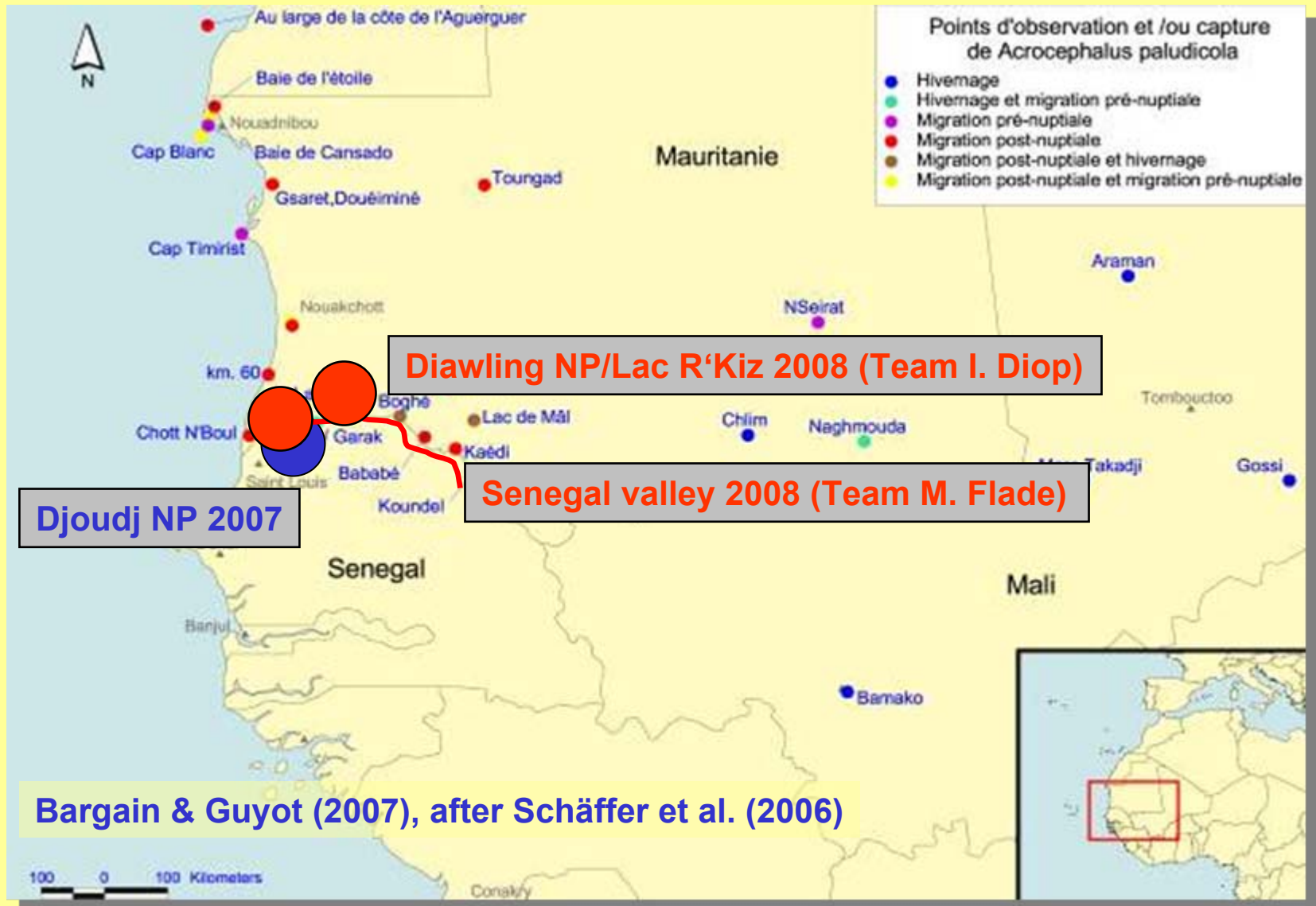


5 000 – 10 000 Aquatic Warblers on Senegalese side of the Senegal delta; same in Mauritania?

The Senegal delta holds at least 20%, eventually up to 70% of the global population!

Where is the rest?

Known records of Aquatic Warbler in 2007 Senegal/Mauritania Expedition January 2008



Mauritania:

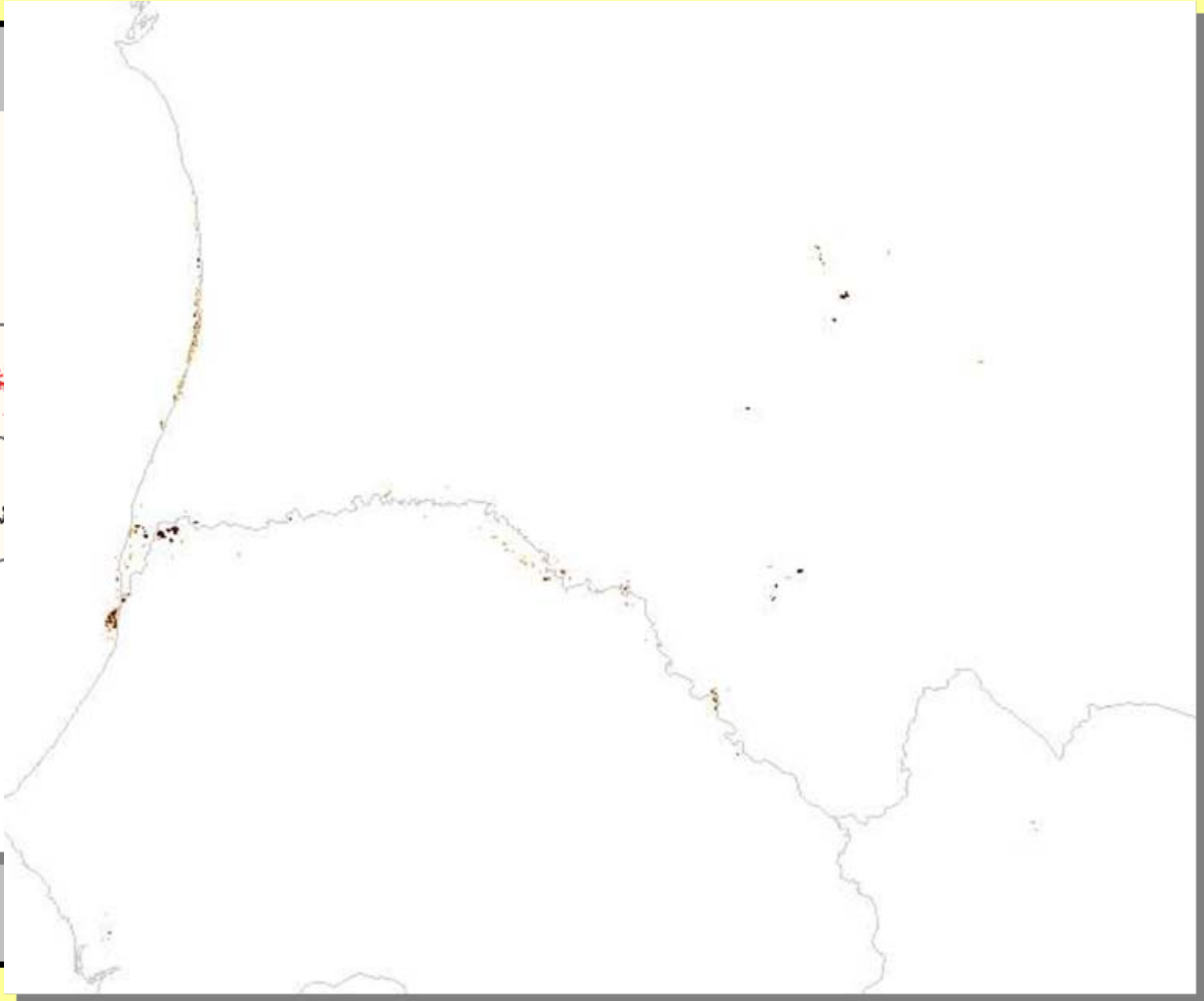


Senegal Valley:



Lac Ndiael near Ross Betio

Modelling of non-breeding distribution



Main threat: habitat destruction



Telemetry study to assess habitat use and requirements of Aquatic Warblers



A model for successful inter-continental co-operation to protect globally threatened migratory species:

