Analysis of Aquatic Warbler (AW) habitats in the Senegales wintering-ground Djoudj National Park

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the Djoudj National Park



sites where AW have been caught in recent years (2007-2009)

sites without AW in recent years (2008-2009)

border National Park

Landsat 7 Band 5 Jan 2009



typical AW habitat with Oryza longistaminata and Sporobolus robustus vegetation near Tiguet village

objectives

- 1. Habitat use habitat size home range size food supply
- 2. Identification of biotic und abiotic site conditions

vegetation (species composition, structure)
water
soil

- 3. Endangerment of the AW sites
- 4. Management recommendation for the AW sites in Djoudj NP

field work periods

1. period

January-March 2008

situation

- low water level in the park (construction work)
- most sites dry
- one habitat with water

activities

- become acquainted with the park
- testing methods

2. period

November 2008 - January 2009

expectations

- recording of the situation in the park while AW arrives in the wintering ground
- better catching success due to more wet sites -failed
- comparison of different habitats –failed partly
- recording of moult -failed
- catching in rice fields –failed

activities

- catching at Grand Lac, Tiguet
- recording of biotic and abiotic conditions
- radio tracking (Tiguet)

AW present in 2007, 2008

AW present in 2007, 2008, 2009

1.Scirpus littoralis

AW present in 2007, 2008, 2009

2. Oryza longistaminata

1. Habitat

tree habitat types with AW presence in Djoudj NP dominated by

1. Scirpus littoralis

3. Eleocharis mutata

- 2. Eleocharis mutata
- 3. Oryza longistaminata

AW presence in 2007, 2008, 2009 proofed by AWCT members

investigated habitat types in the 2. field period

- **1. Tiguet** (Oryza longistaminata)
- 2. Grand Lac (Scirpus littoralis)



catching site Tiguet



catching site Tiguet:

25 Aquatic Warblers ringed10 recaptures12 tagged 10 observed

4 mist net positions size of observed site approx.400 ha

duration 1,5 months



results mist-netting 2. field period



results mist-netting 2. field period

individual numbers increased during the dry season

success of mist-netting depends on good weather conditions (wind)

Grand Lac site is exposed to main wind direction (no correlation)

total individual number

 individual number per catching unit (with regression line)



Radio tracking

graduand (S. Arbeiter, FH Eberswalde)

home range study vegetation structure grazing



home range 2-6 ha

home ranges become smaller while drying out of the area

overlapping average 54% up to 90 %

preference of vegetation density 80-100%

preference of vegetation height 60-90 cm

preference of peripheral structures



food supply

graduand (M.Bulte, University Nijmegen)

dip net samples

comparision of habitat types:

Scirpus littoralis, Oryza barthii, Eleocharis mutata, (Typha australis)



2. Identification of biotic and abiotic site conditions



vegetation record grid

5 repetitions of records during 2,5 months of field work

plot label, Grand Lac habitat with Scirpus littoralis



Vegetation structure at Grand Lac in 2008 2009

3. Endangerment of Aquatic Warbler sites

four of five AW-sites: outside the National Park in the hunting zone (buffer zone)!

the hunting zone is managed by the National Park

rent by a Lebanese from the National Park administration in Dakar for hunting tourism

situation at the moment stable

possible threat: increase of rice cultivation





rice fields next to the National Park border



future prospects

questions to answer:

- Which sites are AW suitable?
- Which size have suitable AW-habitats in the Djoudj NP
- Does the AW use all suitable sites?
- Is it possible to enlarge suitable AW-sites by management?

methods

- satellite image analysis habitat size estimation, vegetation map
- 3. field season until march
- intensification of vegetation structure analysis
- intensification of radio tracking
- proofing presence of AW with mobile mist nets (no more standardised mist netting)

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