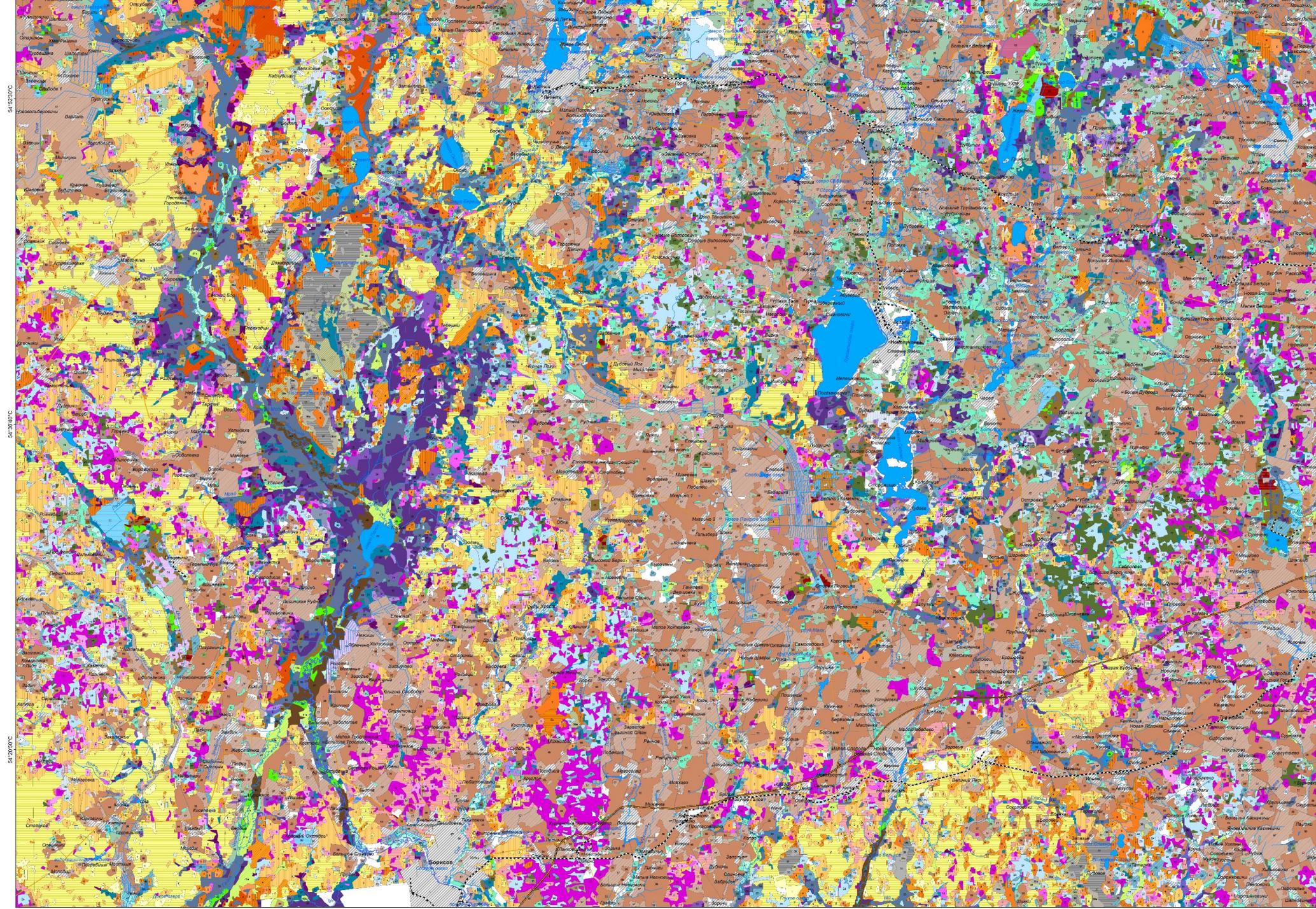


Metapopulation of Aquatic Warbler in Belarus: small breeding sites

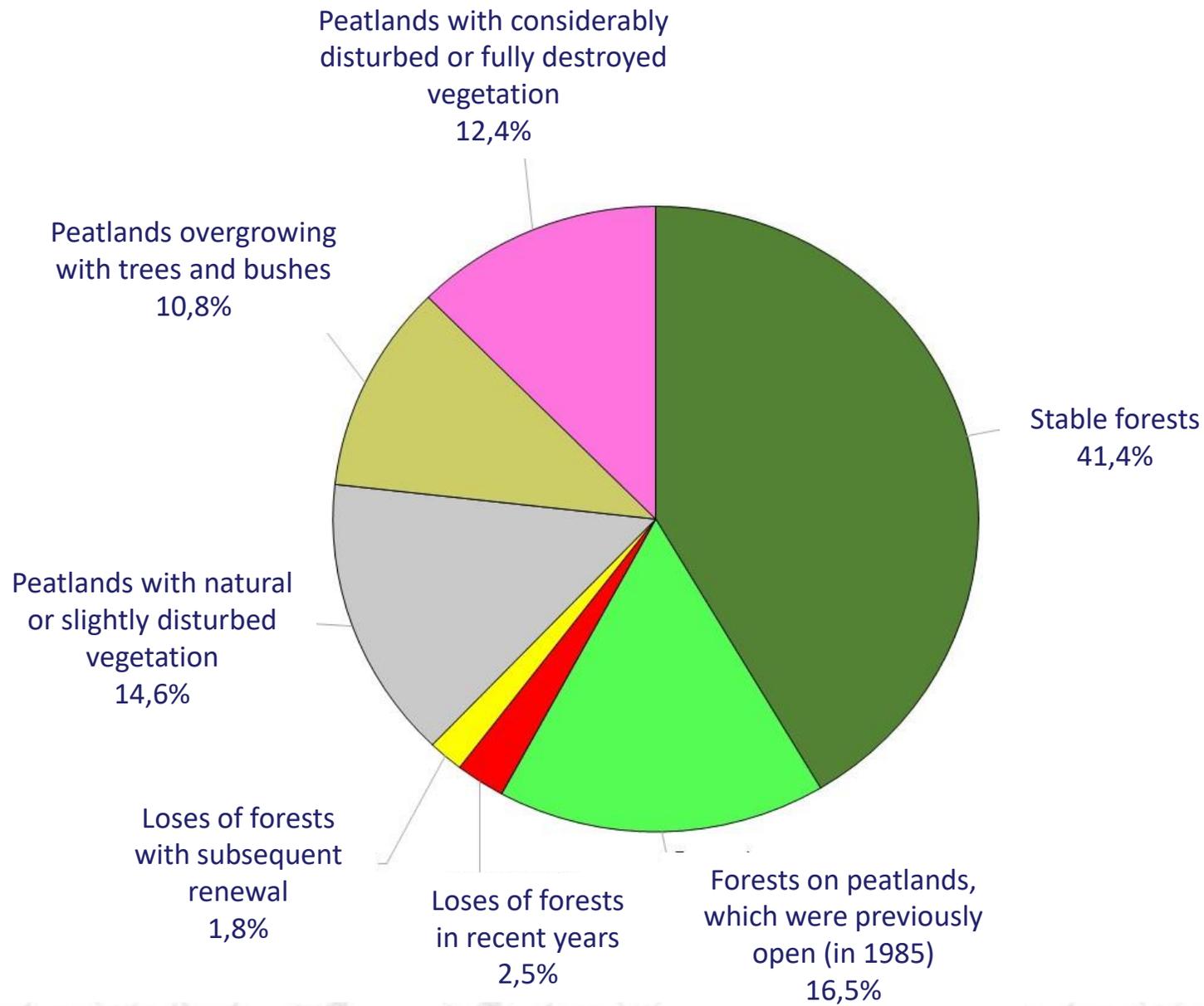


Uladzimir Malashevich
APB-BirdLife Belarus



Fragments of detailed
vegetation map

by Dmitry Grummo, 2021



Dynamics of peatland ecosystems in Belarus
by Dmitry Grummo, 2021

AW breeding sites in Belarus



- At present there are only 3 key Aquatic Warbler breeding sites (Zvaniec, Sporava and Dzikoje) left in Paliessie region, holding **c. 2 750 - 5 200 singing males (years 2010-2013)**.
- The rest of the national population breeds at 5 permanent sites with low numbers (Dzivin, Prostyr, Ščara, Servač and Svislač) resulting in 100 - 200 males and at 7 suboptimal sites holding 50-100 males in total.
- So, altogether 15 breeding sites were hosting **2 900-5 500 singing males in the years 2010-2013**.

Small breeding sites

During the last decade a number of conservation projects and monitoring actions were implemented at the 3 key breeding sites of the species. At the same time most of the medium and small breeding sites/localities have not been monitored since 2010-2014.

Review of satellite images and stakeholders' interviews showed crucial habitat changes at some of them located outside of protected areas.



Habitat change



The canal and dam were built through **Sporava/Bielaje**.

52.416444, 25.163173

14 singing males in 2012.

9.2007



Image © 2021 Maxar Technologies

Google Earth

7.2012

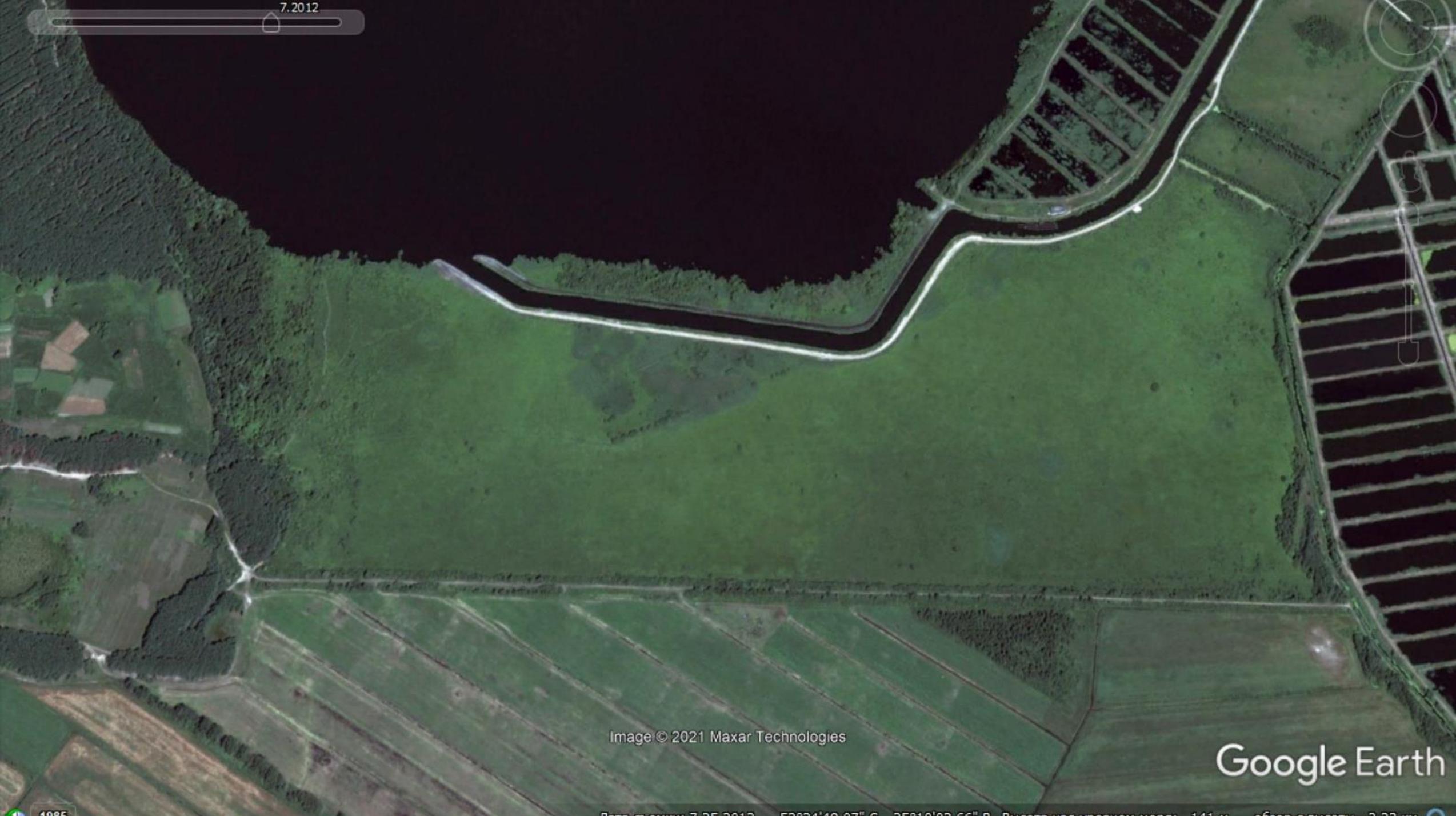


Image © 2021 Maxar Technologies

Google Earth

108%

Дата снимка: 7.25.2012 52824140.07" С 25910'02.66" В Высота над уровнем моря: 141 м Скорость движения: 2.22 км/ч

Habitat change



Peat extraction came as close as
350 m to

Ščara/Tuchavičy

52.757015, 25.930071

8 singing males in 2010

0 singing males in 2014

Ščara/Dabromysí

52.788122, 25.777139

29-44 singing males in 2010

0 singing males in 2013 and 2014

8.2003

Image Landsat / Copernicus
Image © 2021 Maxar Technologies

Google Earth

4.2014



Image © 2021 CNES / Airbus
Image © 2021 Maxar Technologies

Google Earth

Habitat change



There are plans for peat extraction at

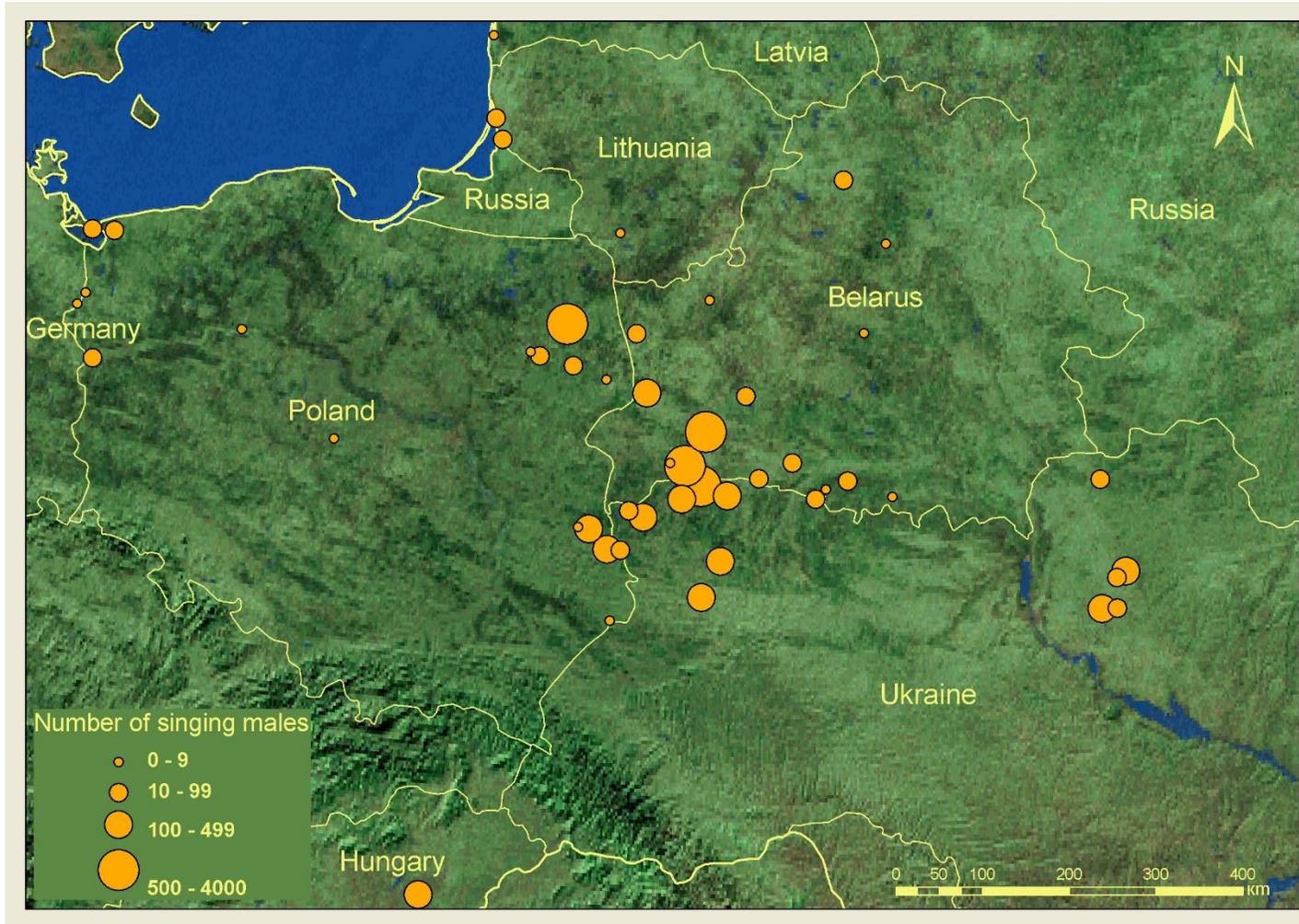
Dzitva

53.774536, 25.200663

2 singing males in 2010 and 2018



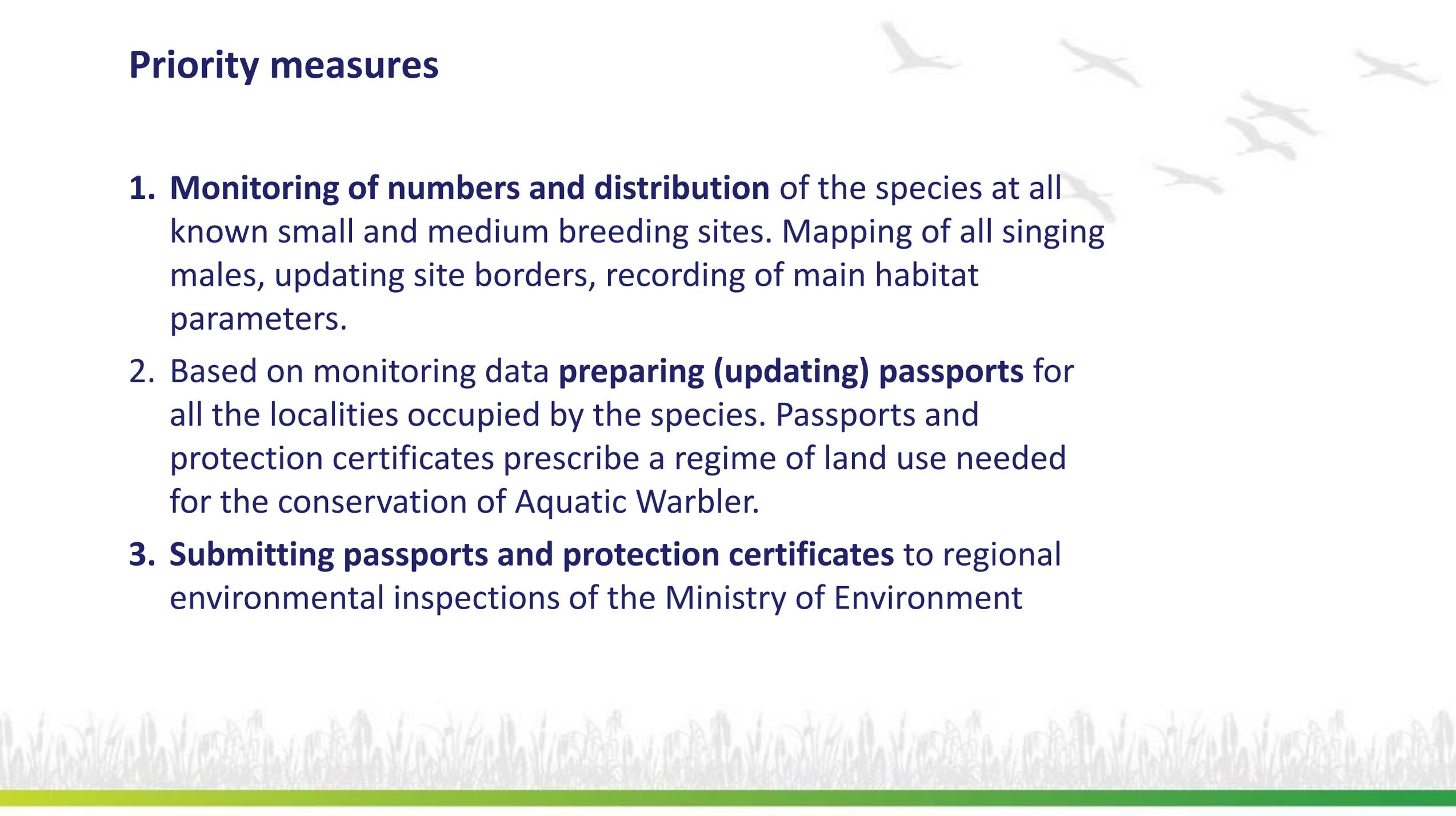
Importance



Considering that there are less than 50 breeding sites in the world, even small and medium sites have particular importance securing connectivity between the key areas.

Additionally, in accordance with the International Species Action Plan (2010) full national protection must be given to AW sites (action 1.1., time-scale: short, priority: essential)

Priority measures



- 1. Monitoring of numbers and distribution** of the species at all known small and medium breeding sites. Mapping of all singing males, updating site borders, recording of main habitat parameters.
2. Based on monitoring data **preparing (updating) passports** for all the localities occupied by the species. Passports and protection certificates prescribe a regime of land use needed for the conservation of Aquatic Warbler.
- 3. Submitting passports and protection certificates** to regional environmental inspections of the Ministry of Environment



Thank you for your attention!