



**1st MEETING of the COMMITTEE for CAPTIVE BREEDING,
REINTRODUCTION and SUPPLEMENTATION of LESSER WHITE-
FRONTED GEESE in FENNOSCANDIA**

7 - 8 May 2008, Bonn, Germany

INTRODUCTION

Rationale

In 2007 negotiations have taken place between the AEWA Secretariat and state representatives from Finland, Norway, Sweden, and Germany on the future cooperation between the parties for the conservation of the Lesser White-fronted Goose (LWfG). During these negotiations, a request has been passed and agreement was found to establish a committee for coordinated action on the future of captive breeding, reintroduction and supplementation in Fennoscandia, under the auspices of AEWA.

In response to these developments, and on the basis of seed funding provided by the Norwegian Directorate for Nature Management, the AEWA Secretariat is now convening this group in order to establish the Committee for LWfG captive breeding, reintroduction and supplementation in Fennoscandia. This Committee shall be a subset of the International LWfG Working Group which will be convened in the near future. As such, the committee acts as a platform for agreed action by the Fennoscandian states on the future of captive breeding and release into the wild of LWfG in the respective countries.

The Committee will be comprised of government representatives from Finland, Norway, Sweden, and Germany (currently observer¹), who are free to bring additional national experts and advisors. The AEWA Secretariat offered to chair the Committee, subject to confirmation by the states. Further information is provided in review document 'LWfG Recap 1.4' – the draft Terms of Reference for this Committee – and in the report from the above mentioned negotiation mission by the AEWA Secretariat in 2007.

Purpose and Description

The purpose of this first meeting of the Committee is its formal inception and agreement on the vision, priority actions and expected outputs of the Committee's work.

The meeting will furthermore provide the opportunity to comment and agree on the relevant objectives and activities outlined in the latest draft of the revised international Single Species Action Plan for the LWfG. This plan will be submitted for approval by the AEWA Standing Committee and Meeting of Parties later this year.

¹ Germany's observer status is considered temporarily by the members and will be re-evaluated towards full Committee membership at a later stage.

According to the Committee's mandate (to be approved), the meeting may facilitate consensus-building among the parties on the potential reintroduction of captive-bred LWfG on the modified flyway between Sweden and Germany, further to the agreement found in January 2007, and provide room for discussion of the LWfG reintroduction project proposed by the German NGO "Aktion Zwerggans".

A substantive part of this first inception meeting will be devoted to the agreement on mandate and joint elaboration of priority activities for the Committee, while assuring that it closely interlinks with the objectives set out in the LWfG Single Species Action Plan. There will be room for country updates and discussions. Detailed analysis of single scientific studies with in-depth discussions is beyond the scope of this meeting.

Active contributions by all participants and a cooperative context will be critical for the success of this meeting.

Objectives

- The Terms of Reference are approved and adopted by the group; the Committee has been formally established as a respected platform for international action;
- Rules of Procedure are approved and adopted by the group;
- A vision and priority listing of activities have been established by the Committee;
- Participants have received updates of each country's latest activities on the issue of reintroduction, captive breeding and supplementation and exchanged relevant information;
- The "Result Area 4" of the SSAP has been reviewed and updated with agreed comments on activities and expected results;
- The participants have commented and exchanged their views on the manuscript provided by Pedall *et al.*, within the general aim of consensus-building.