



## 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the AEWA Lesser White-fronted Goose International Working Group

30. November – 1. December 2010, Helsinki, Finland

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### - Overview of funding possibilities for urgent conservation activities -

#### INTRODUCTION

Species conservation is highly dependent on both commitment and funding. All conservation measures require some level of funding – from short-term funding for activities such as habitat restoration to long-term funding for yearly activities such as monitoring. Key conservation activities in each country should ideally be funded through the national budget and in the long run a certain level of commitment in the form of annual funding will be necessary from each range state. However, considering the need for urgent measures to halt the decline of the Lesser White-fronted Goose, there is also a need to obtain funding for conservation activities from other sources in order to boost the implementation of the International Single Species Action Plan.

The Coordinator for the Lesser White-fronted Goose based at the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat will, if needed, assist range states in applying for funding for activities prioritized by the Working Group and will also pass on information about new funding possibilities as such information becomes available.

#### FUNDING POSSIBILITIES

The following is a list of examples of funding possibilities which apply both to large scale projects incorporating several LWfG range states, or to projects more limited in scope in individual range states. The list is by no means exhaustive and is merely meant to demonstrate the range of possibilities.

##### - European Commission – LIFE + (2007-2013)

The EU Commission offers co-financing of projects within the LIFE+ framework under three headings: Nature and biodiversity, Environmental policy and governance, Information and communication. The one most relevant for the LWfG is LIFE+ Nature and Biodiversity, which supports projects that contribute to the implementation of the EU's Birds and Habitats Directives, and that contribute to the EU's goal of halting the loss of biodiversity. The maximum co-financing rate by the EC can be up to 75 percent for select threatened species such as the LWfG, but is normally 50 percent. The LIFE+ programme is available to EU Member States only, with the possibility to include some cross border activities with countries outside the EU.

##### - GEF

GEF provides grants to developing countries and countries with economies in transition for projects related to biodiversity, climate change, international waters, land degradation, the ozone layer, and persistent organic pollutants. Projects must benefit the global environment, linking local, national, and global environmental challenges and promoting sustainable livelihoods. Medium size projects range up to USD 1 million and full projects are everything higher. However, 50 % co-funding is needed, which can only partly be covered by funding in kind. The extensive application procedure is the same for small, medium sized and large scale projects making it more prudent to apply for medium size or larger projects – provided, of course, that the needed co-funding can be found.

GEF potentially provides a very good possibility to combine conservation efforts in several range states along the flyway of the LWfG in one project. However, GEF has recently introduced a new system for a transparent allocation of resources (STAR), according to which each country has been pre-allocated a certain amount of co-funding for different categories including biodiversity. In practice this means that a country "buy-in" or decision to use a part of their biodiversity allocation is necessary for a project application to be successful.

#### **- Other International Funds**

- **Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund**

The fund distributes 2 – 2.5 million USD per year. Grants range from USD 5.000 to 25.000 and are for species conservation, with an emphasis on field work. Funds are especially made available for data deficient species (according to Red List criteria), in particular for surveys and population censusing of poorly known species. However, other field activities and workshops can also be funded. Individuals, students, governments, NGOs and International Organisations can all apply.

- **Save Our Species Fund**

The Save Our Species Fund was launched at the CBD CoP in Nagoya and is a partnership between IUCN, GEF and the World Bank, whose inputs will be matched with those from the corporate sector. GEF and World Bank have a five year commitment to SOS by which time hopefully corporate inputs will have significantly developed.

The Fund envisages two types of SOS grants: Immediate grants of up to USD 25,000 for rapid actions (e.g. responding to emergency situations); and grants of USD 25.000-800.000 over two years for conservation actions (e.g. recovery programmes). Most two year grants are expected to be around USD 150.000. Each year will have a different focus as to preferred SOS projects. Apparently in year 1 (2011), preference is to be given to: Asian mammals, threatened amphibians, threatened birds, oceanic islands, tropical mountains as well as additional corporate priorities from donor organisations.

- **The Bay and Paul Foundations**

The Bay and Paul Foundations give small grants for research and intervention efforts on behalf of endangered species both in the United States and internationally. Restrictions include that the Foundation does not accept proposals or provide funding for endowments, building campaigns, building construction or maintenance, sectarian religious programs, books or studies, individual scholarships or fellowships, loans, travel, film, television or video productions, programs consisting primarily of conferences, for annual fund appeals, or to other than publicly recognized charities/NGOs. Grants are mostly in the range of USD 10.000.

- **US Fish and Wildlife Service**

The main areas of interest of the US Fish and Wildlife Service are: (1) Endangered and migratory species conservation, (2) Strategic habitat and natural area conservation, (3) International trade of animals, plants, and their derivative products, (4) International conventions and laws on wildlife, (5) Scientific information pertinent to international wildlife, (6) International capacity building for wildlife protection and management, (7) Environmental outreach, education, and training. Projects are funded worldwide. There is also a "Wildlife without Borders" regional program, for Mexico, Russia, Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean.

Restrictions include that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service does not: allow grants for the purchase of firearms or ammunition, allow the purchase of intelligence information, or paying informants, allow

gathering of information by persons who conceal their identity, allow entrapment activities, or make grants for activities in countries that the USA government identifies with sponsoring state terrorism. Grants range from USD 20.000 to USD 200.000.

#### **- Voluntary contributions through the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat**

The UNEP/AEWA Secretariat has during the past few years been able to facilitate quite a number of smaller projects in some of the range states due to voluntary contributions made first and foremost by the Norwegian Directorate for Nature Management but also by the Finnish Ministry of the Environment, the German Federal Ministry for Environmental Protection, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety and the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency.

Some examples of executed projects are; a monitoring mission to the Syrian Arab Republic in February 2010 with the aim to locate key sites for the LWfG (9.000€), a project for the regulation of hunting in the Kumo-Manych Depression in Kalmykia in Russia (15.000€) and a back-to-back monitoring mission and national workshop in October 2010 in Kazakhstan (18.000€ in total).

The Secretariat of course hopes that such voluntary contributions will also in future be available for small and mid-scale Lesser White-fronted Goose conservation projects. However, the Secretariat must stress that priority will be given to allocating funding from voluntary contributions for activities within the range states that are Contracting Parties to AEWA.

#### **- Bilateral cooperation between range states or with other countries**

Worth exploring are also the mechanisms for bilateral cooperation that exist between different range states. For example Finland, Norway and Sweden all have different forms of co-operation with the Russian Federation. Such funding from Norway was used in 2010 for a mission to the Ob Valley in Russia to locate and monitor the sites used by the LWfG during autumn migration and to assess the hunting pressure in the area. Germany on the other hand has a long tradition of sponsoring nature conservation measures in Kazakhstan and other countries in Central Asia.

#### **- Corporate funding**

An effort should also be made to explore possibilities of corporate funding, also as a source of co-funding for large scale projects.

### **CONCLUSION**

A wide array of funding possibilities exists, but time and substantial efforts are required for the drafting of projects, application procedures etc. It is essential that knowledge of different projects and funding possibilities be circulated within the Working Group in order to avoid duplications and to make the most of scarce resources. As mentioned above, the LWfG Coordinator together with the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat can assist range states in identifying possibilities for funding as well as applying for funding according to the priorities set out in the SSAP and further defined by the Working Group.