E-mail

) matti.osara@ymparisto.fi

Phone

+358 400 274 995

Fax

+358 9 160 9364

National Expert

Name

› Petteri Tolvanen

Functional title

> Head of Programme, Finnish biodiversity

Organisation

> WWF Finland

Address

› Lintulahdenkatu 10, 00500 Helsinki

E-mail

› petteri.tolvanen@wwf.fi

Phone

+358 400 168939

Fax

+358 9 7740 2139

3. Update on Critical Sites

3.1. Critical sites identified in the SSAP

Which sites that have been identified in the LWfG SSAP as important for the species in your country have been designated as protected areas under the national legislation and have management plans that are being implemented?

Total number of sites identified in the SSAP:

> 5

Out of the above total, number of protected sites:

> 3

Number of protected sites with management plans that are being implemented:

> 3

3.2. Gaps in protection

Please point at any major gaps in the protection and management of critical sites which will need to be addressed as a matter of priority.

• The three sites listed in SSAP Annex 3a are protected, but parts of the most important spring staging site in Siikajoki, Säärenperä, are situated outside the protected areas, At the historical (and still potential) autumn staging site in south-

eastern part of Hailuoto waterfowl hunting is still allowed during the autumn migration period, although the area is otherwise protected. The occasional early spring staging areas in South-Western Finland (listed in SSAP annex 3b i.e.agricultural field areas close to Pori and Kristiinankaupunki) are not protected.

3.3. Identification of new sites

Have any new sites which are currently not mentioned in the SSAP been identified as possible critical sites for the species?

! No

3.4. Additional information (optional)

Please add any additional information concerning critical sites not covered by the previous questions.

LWfG IWG Inf. 2.8.4

4. Update on Pressures/Threats and Responses

4.1. Hunting

4.1.1. Please rate the magnitude of hunting as a threat to the LWfG in your country.

Please select from the list (for guidance "hover" over the question mark button on the right): ! Low

Please indicate the trend of hunting as a threat to the LWfG

! Declining

Please descibe the hunting situation with respect to LWfG in your country (For example: when and where does hunting occur? Who hunts and why?)

The main threat from hunting for LWfg in Finland is, that at the historical (and still potential) autumn staging site i south-eastern part of Hailuoto the waterfowl and Greylag Goose hunting is still alloved during the autumn migration period of LWfG,

and in general there is a risk for LWfG to be accidentally shot. The season for Bean Goose hunting has been delayed since 2012 so that it begins in the potential LWfG breeding areas in Lapland 10 September and in other parts of the country (including the potential autumn staging area) 26 September (when the migration on LWfG is normally already over). The hunting period of Bean Goose is delayded temporarily for 3 years. This is a significant (but so far temporary) improvement in the conservation status of LWfG.

when the hunting begins.

Please list any published or unpublished sources on hunting pressure on LWfG in your country.

4.1.2. Has hunting been banned at all key sites used by LWfG when LWfG are present?

Please tick the appropriate box:

! Yes

Please provide more information (when is hunting banned, at which sites etc.)

According to the National Action Plan, hunting of all geese should be banned locally, if LWfG are recorded breeding in the area.

4.1.3. Have efforts been made to assess the hunting pressure at key sites?

Please tick the appropriate box:

! Yes

Please provide more information.

Metsähallitus is monitoring the hunting in the potential breeding areas. A small scale special survey of the hunting pressure in autumn in Hailuoto was carried out in 2002 (Luukkonen, A. &Markkola, J. 2004: The autumn migratuon of Lesser White-fronted Goose in Bothnian Bay area, Finland, in 2002. - Fennoscandian Lesser White-fronted Goose conservation project. Report 2001-2003. WWF Finland report 20/NOF Rapportserie Report 1-2004.

4.1.4. Has obligatory training of hunters as outlined by the Hunting Charter of the Bern Convention been implemented?

Please tick the appropriate box.

! Yes

Please provide more information on the implementation of training for hunters.

Hunting is allowed only for those hunters who have graduated an hunter examination, in which belones also an species identification examination.

Please list any published or unpublished sources on human disturbance and LWfG in your country.

NAP

4.3.2. Are you taking measures to avoid infrastructure development and other sources of human disturbance, including recreation/tourism, liable to have an adverse impact on the known core breeding areas?

Please tick the appropriate box:

! Yes

Please provide more information on measures being undertaken.

> Such actions are described in the NAP. This happens mainly through the management plans of the protected areas, maintained by Metsähallitus.

4.3.3. Are you taking measures to avoid infratructure development and other sources of human disturbance, including recreation/tourism, liable to have an impact on known key sites for the LWfG?

Please tick the appropriate box:

! Yes

Please provide more information on the measures being undertaken.

> Such actions are described in the NAP. This happens mainly through the management plans of the protected areas, maintained by Metsähallitus.

4.3.4. Are you taking measures to avoid overgrazing and nest trampling if/where this is known to be a problem?

Please tick the appropriate box:

! No

Please provide further information on why measures are not being undertaken.

Overgrazing by reideer is an major potential threat (also addressed in the NAP) for LWfG in the potential breeding area, but it has not sofar been directly linked to LWfG. The issue is very complicated, and will require more research and also political decisions.

4.4. Predation

4.4.1. Please rate the magnitude of predation as a threat to the LWfG in your country.

Please select from the list (for guidance "hover" over the question mark button on the right):
! High

Please indicate the trend of predation as a threat to the LWfG in your country:

! Increasing

Please describe the threat from predation to the LWfG in your country.

• The ingreasing numbers and expanding distribution range of the Red Fox in Northern Lapland is amajor threat for LWfG in the potential breeding grounds. The absense of Wolf in Northern Lapland is probably one important reason for the expansion of the Red Fox.

Please list any published or unpublished sources concerning predation of LWfG in your country.

NAP, final report of the LWfG LIFE project 2005-2009

4.4.2. Are you taking measures to minimize predation, where this has been shown to be a significant limiting factor (patricularly in the breeding grounds)?

Please tick the appropriate box:

! Yes

Please provide more information on the measures being undertaken.

Metsähallitus has been controlling the Red Fox population in Northern Lapland for years, and the activity is on going. However the area be covered is huge. In 2011, 91 and in 2012 496 Red foxes were culled. According to the NAP, an intensive culling programme shoud be immediately implemented in area where LWfG are recorded breeding.

4.5. Habitat loss/degradation

(Such as agricultural intensification, construction of dams etc., wetland drainage, climate change, land abandonment, overgrazing, pollution of wetlands/water bodies etc.)

4.5.1. Rate the magnitude of habitat loss/degradation as a threat to the LWfG in your country.

Select from the list (for guidance "hover" over the question mark button on the right): ! Low

Please indicate the trend of habitat loss/degradation as a threat to the LWfG in your country. ! Declining

Please describe the situation with regard to habitat loss/degradation as a threat to the LWfG in your country (patricular areas effected etc.?).

Most of the sites importanta for LWfG are already protected from construction and other such actitities. However, overgrazing in the reideer management area is a large scale ecological problem. In the future, the climate change is expected to be a major

threat for the breeding habitats, as the area of open tundra will decrease dramatically.

Please list any published or unpublished sources on habitat loss/degradation and the LWfG in your country.

4.5.2. Are you monitoring the habitat quality at key sites in order to identify any anthropogenic pressures as early as possible?

Please tick the appropriate box:

! Yes

Please provide more information on the measures being implemented.

Intensive annual monitoring at the spring staging area, lower (but annual) monitoring in the potential breeding grounds.

4.5.3. Are you taking measures to restore and/or rehabilitate Lesser White-fronted Goose roosting and feeding habitat in the staging or wintering areas?

Please tick the appropriate box:

! Yes

Please provide more information on the measures being implemented.

The coastal meadows in the spring staging area in the Bothnian Bay Coast are being managed.

4.6. Additional information (optional)

Please add any additional information concerning pressures/threats and reponses thereto which was not covered by the questions above.

LWfG IWG Inf. 2.8.4

Hungary, Greece) EU LIFE Nature project "Conservation of Anser erythropus on European migration route" in 2005-2009, and the ongoing follow-up LIFE project (2011-2016; in Finland WWF and Metsähallitus are partners of this project). Other international conservation work included e.g. several satellite tracking projects; a WWF project for the conservation of Kostanay wetland in Kazahstan (2000-2003); field surveys of breeding, staging and wintering areas in Russia, Kazakhstan, Estonia, Lithuania, Ukraine, China.

activeparticipation in international co-operation and meetings on the species.

Provide links to any other national and/or international conservation or research projects being conducted in your country that could be useful for LWfG conservation by using the buttons on the right hand side. Please also list the project title, goals and objectives, period of implementation, implementing organisation, contact details and a short description.

Please provide any additional information concerning LWfG conservation/research projects in your country not covered by the previous questions (optional).

5.6. Awareness Raising

5.6.1. Has your country developed and implemented methods for raising awareness and understanding on LWfG and LWfG conservation, in particular with relation to hunters?

Please select from the list:

! Yes, being implemented

Please provide further information on methods and how they are being implemented.

The EU LIFE projects on the species in 1997-1999, 2005-2009, and 2011-2016; information material (incl. intenet pages) produced by Metsähallitus, several articles in the national hunters magazine (Metsästäjä), the information material (incl. internet pages) produced by WWF & BirdLife.

5.6.2. Has your country developed/produced LWfG information materials to this end (i.e. posters, leaflets etc.)?

Please select from the list:

! Yes

> -

Please provide further information and upload any files using the button on the right hand side.

• See above

5.6.3. Additional information (optional)

Please provide any additional information concerning awareness raising activities not covered by the questions above.

6. Funding

6.1. Are there any national funding possibilities for LWfG conservation measures in your country?

Please tick the appropriate box:

! Yes

Please list the relevant funding programmes and relevant authorities.

> The Ministry of Environment: the national funding for the conservation and monitoring of endangered species (ca 8000 € annually for LWfG), and the for international co-operation. Metsähallitus: national budget for the monitoring of LWfG and funds for cross-border co-operation.

6.2. If your country does not yet have a National Single Species Action Plan, would national funding be available for the drafting and implementation of the NSSAP?

Please tick the appropriate box:

! Yes

6.3. Additional information (optional)

Please add any additional information concerning the funding of LWfG conservation measures in your country not covered by the questions above.

8. Additional Comments

Please provide any additional comments or information not covered by the previous sections of the national report.

>

9. Submission

Please insert the date of when the previous national report was submitted: • 6 October 2011

Please insert the date of submission for this report:

31 August 2012