



AEWA Lesser White-fronted Goose International Working Group - National Report 2011-2012

Welcome to the online reporting template for the 2011-2012 national report on the implementation of the AEWA Lesser White-fronted Goose Single Species Action Plan under the framework of the AEWA Lesser White-fronted Goose International Working Group.

Reporting on the implementation of the Lesser White-fronted Goose Single Species Action Plan was established at the first Meeting of the Working Group, which took place on the 30.11.-1.12.2010 in Helsinki, Finland. The meeting also adopted the format reflected in this online template.

Please submit the completed form to the AEWA Secretariat by **Friday the 31st of August 2012 at the latest**, by pressing the **submit button** on the top right of the questionnaire **once you have completed all questions**.

If you have any questions or require assistance, please contact Nina Mikander, Coordinator for the Lesser White-fronted Goose:

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Single Species Action Plan in English

Single Species Action Plan in Russian

Happy reporting!

1. General Information

Name of reporting Range State

> Finland

Contracting Party to AEWA

Yes

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2. Status Update

2.1. Species Status - breeding (pairs)

Does the species breed in your country?

No

2.2. Species Status - passage (individuals)

Does the species occur in your country on passage?

Yes

Latest population estimate

Minimum

> 45

Year

> 2012

Population trend

Please select from the list

Increasing

Source(s) of information

Please list any published or unpublished sources of information on passage population size and trend estimates.

> Piskulka.net, Linnut vuosikirja 2011

2.3. Species Status - wintering (individuals)

Does the species winter in your country?

No

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.

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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 describe 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 allowed 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 delayed 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.

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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.

4.1.5. Has the level of protection from illegal hunting been increased within existing protected areas through training and improved enforcement?

Please tick the appropriate box.

Yes

Please provide more information.

> The two Finnish EU LIFE projects on the species have produced information material for hunters

4.1.6. Has an effort been made to redirect hunting from adults to juveniles in areas where LWfG occur outside of the key sites?

Please tick the appropriate box

Not applicable

Please explain why this activity is not applicable in your country.

> Also GWfG is protected in Finland

4.1.7. Have lure crops been planted (or similar steps been taken) to direct LWfG away from areas where hunting pressure is known to be high?

Please tick the appropriate box

Not applicable

Please explain why this activity is not applicable in your country.

> Not used in Finland

4.2. Poisoning

4.2.1. Please rate the magnitude of poisoning 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):

No threat

Please indicate the trend of poisoning as a threat to the LWfG in your country.

Unknown

Please describe the situation with regard to the threat from poisoning to the LWfG in your country.

> Rodenticides are not used in agriculture in Finland. No other sources of potential poisoning known. The use of lead shots in waterfowl hunting is forbidden since 1996.

Please list any published or unpublished sources on poisoning of LWfG or waterbirds in general in your country.

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4.3. Human disturbance

4.3.1. Please rate the magnitude of human disturbance 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):

Medium

Please indicate the trend of human disturbance as a threat to LWfG in your country.

Stable

Please describe the situation with regard to the threat from human disturbance and the LWfG in your country.

> Movement on the most important staging sites in Bothnian Bay coast (except for the south-eastern parts of Hailuoto) is still allowed, although the management plan for these area proposes ban of movement. Accidental disturbance by birdwatchers and farming activities has been recorded at the spring staging area on the Bothnian Bay coast. On the potential breeding grounds, mainly fishing tourism (by areoplanes) and the reindeer herding activities are potential threats for LWfG.

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 infrastructure 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 reindeer is a major potential threat (also addressed in the NAP) for LWfG in the potential breeding area, but it has not so far 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 increasing numbers and expanding distribution range of the Red Fox in Northern Lapland is a major threat for LWfG in the potential breeding grounds. The absence 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 (particularly 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 to be covered is huge. In 2011, 91 and in 2012 496 Red foxes were culled. According to the NAP, an intensive

culling programme should 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 (particular areas effected etc.?).

> Most of the sites importanta for LWfG are already protected from construction and other such activities. However, overgrazing in the reideer management area is a large scale ecological problem. Inthe 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.

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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.

> -

5. Update on National Legislation and Activities

5.1. National legal protection

5.1.1. Is the LWfG legally protected in your country?

Please tick the appropriate box.

Yes

Please list the year and title of the legislation concerned as well as the enforcing institution.

> 1969, Nature Conservation Act, Ministry of the Environment

5.1.2. Does the national hunting legislation, in principle, provide adequate protection of the LWfG?

Please tick the appropriate box:

Yes

Please provide further information.

> Only the hunting of Goose species mentioned in the Hunting Act is allowed, the LWfG is not included in the hunting species.

5.1.3. Are sufficient human and financial resources being allocated to the enforcement of hunting legislation in order to control hunting effectively?

Please tick the appropriate box:

Yes

Please provide further information.

> Metsähallitus, the Border guard and hunter's own organisations are controlling the hunting. However, the potential breeding areas in Lapland are very large and difficult to cover effectively.

5.1.4. Additional information (optional)

Please add any additional information concerning national legal protection of the species not covered in the questions above.

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5.2. National Single Species Action Plan

5.2.1. Has your country drafted a National Single Species Action Plan for the LWfG?

Please select from the list:

NSSAP in place and being implemented

Please add a weblink or a file by using the buttons on the right.

> -

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

[Kiljuhanhen suojeeluohjelma](#)

5.2.2. If your country does not have or is still in the process of developing its LWfG NSSAP, would you be interested in assistance from the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat in this work?

Please tick the appropriate box:

Not applicable

5.2.3. Additional information (optional)

Please add any additional information concerning NSSAPs not covered in the questions above.

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5.3. National Working Group

5.3.1. Does your country have a National Working Group for the LWfG?

Please tick the appropriate box:

Yes

Please provide more information about Working Group members, function etc.

> The group, hosted by WWF Finland with representatives from Ministry of the Environment, Metsähallitus, Finnish Environment Institute, Suomen Riistakeskus, Centre for Economic Development, Transport and Environment, North Ostrobothnia, BirdLife Finland, is co-ordinating the implementation of the NAP.

5.3.2. Additional information (optional)

Please add any additional information concerning the National Working Group for the LWfG not covered by the previous question.

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5.4. Monitoring

5.4.1. Does your country have a monitoring scheme in place for the LWfG?

During the breeding season?

Partial

Please provide more information on monitoring activities during breeding season.

> Potential breeding sites monitored sporadically

During passage/migration period?

Yes

Please provide more information on monitoring activities during passage/migration season.

> Spring staging areas monitored annually since early 1980's.

During the wintering season?

Not applicable

If your country does not have a monitoring scheme in place for the LWfG please explain why.

Please fill in the text box:

> -

5.4.2. If there is no scheme on a national level, is LWfG monitoring conducted on a regular basis by other means?

During breeding season?

Not applicable

During passage/migration?

Not applicable

During wintering/non-breeding season?

Not applicable

5.4.3. Additional information (optional)

Please provide any additional information concerning LWfG monitoring not covered by the questions above.

> -

5.5. LWfG conservation/research projects

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

> Research on population genetics in the University of Oulu. Ecological research at spring staging areas and breeding grounds. Population elasticity analysis for the Fennoscandian population. EU LIFE Nature project "Conservation of the Lesser White-fronted Goose in Finland" in 1997-1999. International (Finland, Norway, Estonia,

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 Kazakhstan (2000-2003); field surveys of breeding, staging and wintering areas in Russia, Kazakhstan, Estonia, Lithuania, Ukraine, China.

active participation 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.

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

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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. internet 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.

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7. Update on Key Knowledge

7.1. Are satellite tracking and/or field surveys being used in your country to locate the breeding, staging and/or wintering sites of the Western main population?

Please tick the appropriate box:

Yes

Please provide more information.

> WWF Finland and the Finnish LWfG EU LIFE projects have carried out satellite tracking of Fennoscandian and Russian LWfG since 1994.

7.2. Are satellite tracking and/or field surveys being used in your country to locate the breeding, staging and/or wintering sites for the Fennoscandian population?

Please tick the appropriate box:

Yes

Please provide further information on the measures being undertaken.

> No new sites located in Finland as a result of satellite tracking

7.3. Are further field studies of suitable breeding habitat and staging areas being undertaken in order to update the estimate for the Fennoscandian population (Kola peninsula etc.)?

Please tick the appropriate box:

Yes

Please provide more information on measures being undertaken.

> WWF Finland, Metsähallitus and the Finnish EU LIFE projects on the species have conducted field studies eg. in Norway, Sweden, Kola Peninsula (Russia), Yamal Peninsula (Russia) and Taimyr Peninsula (Russia)

7.4. Are there any further knowledge gaps not covered by this report critical for LWfG conservation in your country which would require further research?

Please tick the appropriate box:

Yes

Please provide further information on such further knowledge gaps.

> According to NAP, the following knowledge gaps are crucial

- updated population viability analysis (PVA) for the Fennoscandian LWfG population
- investigate the effect of the predation and disturbance by White-tailed Eagle (and other birds of prey)

- study the effect of the population cycles of rodents, predation pressure by the Red Fox, overgrazing by Reindeer and the weather conditions on the breeding success of LWfG.

7.5. Additional information (optional)

Please provide any further information on key knowledge not covered by the questions above.

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8. Additional Comments

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

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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