



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

> Bulgaria

Contracting Party to AEWA

Yes

National Focal Point

Name

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Functional title

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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

> 15

Maximum

> 50

Year

> 2007

Population trend

Please select from the list

Fluctuating

Source(s) of information

Please list any published or unpublished sources of information on passage population size and trend estimates.

> 1/ BSPB Ornithological Database / www.bspb.org

2/ Simeonov, P & S.Dereliev. 2001. Lesser White-fronted Goose (*Anser erythropus*) In; Red Data Book of Bulgaria (V. Golemanski Ed.). <http://e-ecodb.bas.bg/rdb/bg/vol2/Anerythr.html>

3/Le Balkan Foundation (<http://birdinglodge.com/gallery/>)

4/ Bulgarian Ringing Centre

5/Institute of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Research (<http://www.iber.bas.bg/>)

6/ LWFG web portal (<http://www.piskulka.net/Recent%20observations.php>)

7/ Green Balkans (www.greenbalkans.org)

8/ Kostadinova, I & M. Gramatikov. 2007. Important Bird Areas in Bulgaria and Natura 2000. BSPB. Conservation Series Book 11. Sofia, 640pp.

2.3. Species Status - wintering (individuals)

Does the species winter in your country?

Yes

Latest population estimate

Minimum

> 15

Maximum

> 50

Year

> 2007

Population trend

Please select from the list

Fluctuating

Source(s) of information

Please list any published or unpublished sources of information on wintering population size and trend

estimates.

- > 1/ BSPB Ornithological Database / www.bspb.org
- 2/ Simeonov, P & S.Dereliev. 2001. Lesser White-fronted Goose (*Anser erythropus*) In; Red Data Book of Bulgaria (V. Golemanski Ed.). <http://e-ecodb.bas.bg/rdb/bg/vol2/Anerythr.html>
- 3/Le Balkan Foundation (<http://birdinglodge.com/gallery/>)
- 4/ Bulgarian Ringing Centre
- 5/Institute of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Research (<http://www.iber.bas.bg/>)
- 6/ LWFG web portal (<http://www.piskulka.net/Recent%20observations.php>)
- 7/ Green Balkans (www.greenbalkans.org)
- 8/ Michev T. & L. Profirov. 2003. Mid-winter numbers of waterbirds in Bulgaria (1997-2001). Results from 25 years of mid-winter counts carried out at the most important Bulgarian wetlands. Pensoft. Sofia- Moscow, 160 p
- 9/ Kostadinova, I. & S. Dereliev .2001. Results from the Mid-winter Counts of Waterbirds in Bulgaria for the period 1997-2001. BSPB Conservation Series Book 3. BSPB, Sofia, 96 p. (In English and Bulgarian)
- 10/ Kostadinova, I & M. Gramatikov. 2007. Important Bird Areas in Bulgaria and Natura 2000. BSPB. Conservation Series Book 11. Sofia, 640pp.

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:

> 0

Out of the above total, number of protected sites:

> 0

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

> 0

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.

> 1/The two key sites of regular winter observation of the LWFG - Shabla and Durankulak Lakes (estimated up to 100 ind. - Petkov et al., 1998) are also under heavy hunting pressure with hunting allowed at 100m away from the lake border. Lack of effective hunting and conservation legislation endorsement regarding hunting practices on wintering geese.

2/Investment development projects in the field of renewable energy and tourism pose threat to available foraging habitat for the species and other wintering geese, especially in Coastal Dobrudgea area. Those lead to effective loss of habitat, displacement or limiting the connectivity between roost sites and foraging areas.

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.

> No new sites identified. Key sites are known, but they do not exceed the current threshold of 110 ind.

Considering that the FennoScandian population is passing through the country as well Shabla and Durankulak should be considered as such and possibly new sites might be found in Southern Bulgaria as little is known about phenology of the FennoScndian. population in Bulgaria. Though regularly recorded in Bulgaria the species is often overlooked in large flocks of Greater White-fronted Goose. However numbers probably do not exceed the currently established maximum, except in winters with extremely high concentrations of geese in the country. Single individuals are also found in other places mixed with Anser albifrons in various sites mostly along the Black Sea coast and Danube river..

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):

High

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

Increasing

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 way the goose hunting is practised in Bulgaria limits the possibility of identifying look-alike species. Hunting starts one hour before sunrise and continues one hour after sun set (as per the Act on Hunting and Game Protection). Law allows if additional payment is paid to hunt during the week outside the fixed hunting days in the weekend. This increases the chance for accidental killing of LWFGs as more national and international hunters are able to pay for this tax.

The sites under highest hunting pressure are the ones with regular observations of LWFG - Shabla, Durankulak, Burgas Lakes Complex, Svishtov-Belene Lowland and some big reservoirs in Southern Bulgaria.

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

> information on hunting pressure on geese has been published in experts reports and evaluations documents produced mainly by Conservation NGOs. Information of actual LWFG individuals killed have been reported in the past on the websites of BSPB/BirdLife Bulgaria and Le Balkan Foundation. Hunting on geese as pressure has been indicated in publications on Green Balkans website news as well

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

Please tick the appropriate box:

No

Please explain why hunting has not yet been banned at key sites.

> Currently in all SPAs and nationally protected sites where the LWFG occurs on regular base hunting is allowed. There is partial hunting limitation prohibiting shooting at the geese 100m away from the bank of Shabla and Durankulak Lakes, which still allows hunting in the SPAs.

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

Please tick the appropriate box:

No

Please provide more information on why efforts have not yet been made to assess the hunting pressure at key sites.

> There has been limited targeted assessment of hunting pressure.

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.

> Hunters do pass obligatory training and studies before obtaining hunting permit after exam. However additional efforts are needed to work with the local hunting association for raising the awareness and identification skills of local new and young hunters.

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.

No

Please provide more information on why training and improved enforcement have not been implemented in order to increase the level of protection from illegal hunting.

> hunting is allowed in all SPAs in Bulgaria including those holding regularly birds of LWfG

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.

> very low numbers occur and ID skills are limited.

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

No

Please provide more information on why such measures have not been undertaken.

> Hunting of geese is practised at the early morning and at dusk at the roost sites, but also is allowed and practised at the foraging areas so planting lure crops could work only in case non-hunting zone is established in key wintering areas.

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):

Medium

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

Decreasing

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

> The poisoning has been a serious threat in the end of the 1990s of 20th century when mass mortality of wintering geese has occurred. The stricter rules regarding poison use and application have reduced the problem in the recent decades. The risk is usually higher when calamity of voles occur in the country.

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.

> Disturbance could be classified into two categories - deliberate and unintentional. Deliberate occurs mainly by hunters and by farmers.

Hunting as source of disturbance could be quite high as hunters follow the geese flocks from roost to foraging grounds during almost whole day. The Farmers deliberately scare geese in February and March when they claim crop damages done by the grazing of geese in the winter wheat fields. They either use tractors and other vehicles or recently have started using gas guns.

Unintentional disturbance could occur when specialised tours for birding or bird photography are conducted in unethical manner and also occurs at roost sites when illegal fishing is practised and fishing nets are installed during night. This would be problem during severe weather conditions or pre-migration period and at roosting sites.

Potential for human disturbance are projects and plans for holiday and recreational development in immediate vicinity of the roosting sites and key foraging areas or recently renewable energy projects like windfarms pose a serious threat from actual; habitat loss and passive loss through displacement in the foraging areas in Coastal Dobrudzha. This also leads to barrier effect limiting connectivity between roost sites and foraging grounds for the wintering geese.

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

> Petkov, N., G. Popgeorgiev & S. Gigov. 2012. Evidence of landscape scale impact of windfarm development in Coastal Dobrudzha on the distribution of foraging flocks of Red-breasted Goose (*Branta ruficollis*) and the "Ponto-Anatolian" flyway population of Greater White-fronted Goose (*Anser albifrons*). Abstract and poster presented at 14th WI/IUCN GSG Meeting, Stakjjar, Norway

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.

> 1/ A non-hunting zone for the key sites Shabla and Durankulak SPAs has been proposed which covers 70% of the SPA territory. Currently dialog is going on with local hunters and stakeholders. The non-hunting zone will provide some resting area where geese could find partial shelter during hunting days.

2/ BSPB has developed in cooperation with local farmers specific agri-environmental measure as part of the National Agro Environmental Programme to provide financial stimulus for local farmers to reduce conflict over crop yield and prevent intentional disturbance of foraging geese by farmers. This measure has been introduced in 2012.

3/ Bulgarian Government has recently approved the Strategic Environmental Impact Assessment of the National Action Plan for Development of Renewable resources 2010-2020 in Bulgaria. This SEIA provides for more precautionary approach regarding renewable development near and within SPAs and SCIs. However this decision has been appealed in court so final decision is pending. National Conservation NGOs follow closely EIAs and projects that threatened key SPAs and or endangered species and appeal the process if needed in court.

Within the framework of a MoEW funded project a sensitivity map for bird and windfarm conflict is being developed currently by a consortium of BSPB, SOVON, Alterra and couple of other organisations. This sensitivity map will inform investors for non-go and sensitive areas for development, including areas of importance for the LWFG. For other key area as the Svishtov-Belene lowland along the Danube a similar sensitivity map has been developed in 2012 as part of cross border project between BirdLife partners in Bulgaria and Romania and the local Environment and Water inspectorates.

The EU Life funded project on the Red-breasted Goose - "Safe Grounds for the Redbreasts" is working along with the local Hunters' and Anglers' Association to reduce fish poaching activities in Shabla and Durankulak Lakes. This will make the lakes safer roost site for the geese. Another action point under the project is the development of sensitivity map for Coastal Dobrudzha as supplementary activity to the other sensitivity mapping under way.

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.

> All investment project are subject to EIA and Appropriate Assessment for SPAs. However deficiencies in the procedure and quality of the assessments still allow some inappropriate projects to go ahead. In the recent couple of months the MoEW have turned down several such projects on the ground of incomplete and inadequate assessment previously allowed by the Regional Inspectorate of Environment. The great financial influence that the investor has over the experts working on the EIAs is posing doubts on the independence of the expert assessments. The great deal of appeals of EIAs and the overturned decisions of the RIEW by the Minister of Environment and Water over appealed cases indicate problem with the quality of the assessments.

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:

Not applicable

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

> not relevant for Bulgaria. Species is feeding in agricultural areas - winter cereals.

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):

Low

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

Unknown

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

> There is no clear assessment of this threat as this is collateral threat mostly for injured or fatigued birds.

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

> no information available.

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:

Not applicable

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):

High

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

Increasing

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

> The habitat loss mainly concerns the displacement effect of windfarm development in Coastal Dobrudgea and recreational development plans in immediate vicinity of roost sites. There is already some evidence that the dense windfarm construction in Dobrudgea has impacted the foraging distribution of wintering geese (Petkov et al. 2012).

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[Poster RBG & Windfarms.pdf](#) - poster presented at the 14th Goose Specialist Group Meeting in Stalkjar, Norway

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

> Petkov, N., G. Popgeorgiev & S. Gigov. 2012. Evidence of landscape scale impact of windfarm development in Coastal Dobrudgea on the distribution of foraging flocks of Red-breasted Goose (*Branta ruficollis*) and the "Ponto-Anatolian" flyway population of Greater White-fronted Goose (*Anser albifrons*). Abstract and poster presented at 14th WI/IUCN GSG Meeting, Stalkjar, Norway

Petkov, N., I. Ivanov, G. Popgeorgiev & D. Georgiev. 2012. OVERVIEW OF THE IMPORTANCE OF COASTAL DOBRUDGA FOR THE CONSERVATION OF THE GLOBALLY THREATENED RED-BREASTED GOOSE (*BRANTA RUFICOLLIS*) AND OTHER WINTERING GEESE AND THE IMPACT OF WINDFARM DEVELOPMENT (unpublished report to the DG Environment of EC) - 18pp.

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.

> Foraging habitat model for wintering geese in Coastal Dobrudgea is being developed as part of the EU Life Project "Safe Grounds for the Redbreasts" (www.bspb-redbreasts.org). This will allow predicting suitable foraging habitats for wintering geese in the area based on various habitat parameters.

Fine scale study on windfarm displacement impact has been initiated by BSPB and WWT as part of the EU Life project on Redbreasts. This has for purpose to define a fine scale impact of windfarm development on foraging geese distribution within fields.

Assessment of lead poisoning and lead content has been initiated by BSPB and Donana Biological Station in the area of Shabla and Durankulak Lakes. The purpose is to assess if any lead poisoning or other pesticides contamination in the area impacts the wintering geese. This would be the first assessment of this kind in the region. If successful, the approach could be applied in other sites focused on the LWFGs specifically.

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.

> Management plans and some partial restoration activities have been initiated in the lakes of Shabla and Durankulak Lakes in the mid and late 1990s and early 2000s as part of the Bulgarian-Swiss Biodiversity Programme supported by the Swiss and Bulgarian Governments. As part of the ongoing conservation activities of conservation NGOs in cooperation with the hunters and MoEW, efforts are being made to introduce a non-hunting zone in Shabla and Durankulak SPAs to ensure reduction of disturbance and improvement of the quality of the roost site.

A special measure within the National Agri-Environmental Programme has been developed targeting seeding appropriate winter cereal crops to ensure suitable and sufficient foraging habitat for wintering geese in Bulgaria is available in key wintering areas. The measure covers all areas of importance for the LWFG. This measure has been developed by experts introduced from 2012.

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.

> Species protected with Ministerial Ordinance published in State Gazette 42/1986; Fine penalty introduced with Ministerial Ordinance published in State Gazette 76/2006 stipulating fine of ca. 250 Euro penalty for killing individuals. The species is listed as protected species in the Biodiversity Act which transposes the provisions of the EU Bird Directive.

The globally threatened species as the LWfG were additionally protected by criminalisation of their deliberate killing which provides for up to 3 years in prison.

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.

> The hunting legislation only allows to hunters to shoot huntable species and only the GWfG is huntable species. However the hunting at dawn and dusk does not provide good conditions for identification of difficult species and LWfG could be shot by accident.

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:

No

Please explain why.

> limited staff available to cover and enforce legislation over large areas.

5.1.4. Additional information (optional)

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

> conservation NGOs cooperate with the state authorities on legislation enforcement on the ground. Under the EU Life projects for the conservation of the Red-breasted Goose and the international Life project on the Lesser White-fronted Goose mutual hunting patrols are being established in cooperation between BSPB and the local hunting association to patrol key areas for the LWfG for hunting and conservation legislation violation in Shabla & Durankulak Lakes area and Southern Bulgaria.

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 development

Please describe when the process was started and when the Action Plan is estimated to be completed.

> a draft for NSSAP frame has been developed and submitted by BSPB to the MoEW for approval.

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:

Yes

Please specify what kind of assistance would be needed.

> facilitation of the process for drafting the NSSAP with the involvement of the key stakeholders.

5.3. National Working Group

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

Please tick the appropriate box:

No

Please explain why no National Working Group has yet been established.

> establishment of the NWG is envisaged as action under the EU Life project on LWfG lead by HOS.

5.4. Monitoring

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

During the breeding season?

Not applicable

During passage/migration period?

Partial

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

> Regular monitoring of wintering geese has been established by BSPB/BirdLife Bulgaria in the area of Shabla and Durankulak Lakes since 1995. The census is done every 15 days from November till March following standard methodology.

Within the framework of the EU Life Project run by BSPB/BirdLife Bulgaria - "Life for Burgas Wetlands" a regular monitoring has been established coordinated with the activities in Shabla and Durankulak Lakes. Further passage geese are monitored in the area of Svishtov-Belene Lowland by the local BSPB branch. Le Balkan foundation carries out additional geese counts in the area of Coastal Dobrudgea.

During the wintering season?

Partial

Please provide more information on the monitoring activities during the non-breeding/wintering season.

> Regular monitoring of wintering geese has been established by BSPB/BirdLife Bulgaria in the area of Shabla and Durankulak Lakes since 1995. The census is done every 15 days from November till March following standard methodology.

Within the framework of the EU Life Project run by BSPB/BirdLife Bulgaria - "Life for Burgas Wetlands" a regular monitoring has been established coordinated with the activities in Shabla and Durankulak Lakes. Further geese are monitored in the area of Svishtov-Belene Lowland by the local BSPB branch. Le Balkan foundation carries out additional geese counts in the area of Coastal Dobrudgea.

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

Please fill in the text box:

> The only national monitoring scheme covering wintering waterfowl is the IWC, but it does not provide enough data on the occurrence and distribution of the LWfG due to ID problems. The only more detailed and regular monitoring is implemented by BSPB in the region of Shabla and Durankulak lakes and recently in Burgas Lakes area and Svishtov-Belene Lowland.

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?

Partial

Please provide more information on how the monitoring is being done and by whom.

> Data on the species is collected via regional monitoring schemes by NGOs, or occasional observations including birdwatching tours in key areas.

During wintering/non-breeding season?

Partial

Please provide more information on how the monitoring is being done and by whom.

> Data on the species is collected via regional monitoring schemes by NGOs, or occasional observations including birdwatching tours in key areas.

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.

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

LWFG Conservation project - FB page of the international EU LIFE+ Nature project that aims to halt the decline of the critically endangered Fennoscandian Lesser White-fronted Goose

EU Life project on FennoScandian LWFG population - an international EU LIFE+ Nature project that aims to halt the decline of the critically endangered Fennoscandian Lesser White-fronted Goose

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.

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

Safe Grounds for the Redbreasts - BSPB Life project on the conservation of the Redbreasted Goose in Coastal Dobrudga region

Life for Burgas Lakes - EU Life project of BSPB on the conservation of key wetland species and the Burgas Lakes complex.

Bulgrian-US RBG conservation project - project of Le Balkan Foundation and USFWS on conservation activities on the Redbreasted Goose

TOGETHER FOR DANUBE - Cross-border model for nature conservation and sustainable use of the natural resources along the Danube, coordinated by BSPB/BirdLife Bulgaria

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.

> Conservation NGOs actively work on raising awareness on endangered and rare species as part of various conservation projects. Educational and awareness materials are published and distributed amongst hunters.

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

hunter guide.jpg - image of the recently produced hunters bird ID gude

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

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

hunter guide.jpg - BSPB recently published field guide for hunters

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

> Awareness raising Poster and Sticker depicting the LWFG was published in the late 1990s by BSPB and NOF as part of conservation activities in the country.

In the late 1990s a special leaflet for hunters has been published helping to identify LWFG from GWFG published within the Bulgarian Swiss Biodiversity Programme;

In 2012 BSPB/BirdLife Bulgaria has published a field guide for hunters depicting huntable species and look alike protected species. LWFG is included with ID description.

A special leaflet will be published for this winter for hunters in the area of SHabla and Durankulak Lakes and will be distributed amongst hunters coming on goose hunt in the area. The publication is part of the activities

of the BSPB EU Life project "Safe Grounds for the redbreasts".

5.6.3. Additional information (optional)

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

> Important step for the conservation of wintering geese including LWFG and their foraging habitat is the new measure within the National Agri-Environmental Programme, developed by BSPB experts to stimulate farmers to seed appropriate winter cereal crops in key geese wintering areas. This measure is operational from 2012. It aims also to reduce conflict between farmers and wintering geese.

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.

> State fund on Environment managed by the MoEW;
some nationally coordinated EU cohesion funds.

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:

No

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.

> most NSSAP are usually drafted as part of conservation projects run by NGOs or in some cases by research institutes.

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.

> On ground research has contributed to identifying the SPAs and key sites for the species in the country. BSPB has used to available data and knowledge on distribution and occurrence of the species in identifying and designating the IBAs in the country proposed as SPAs as well.

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.

> the data and information provided by tracking of LWFG passing through the country are used for the conservation planning of NGOs; Additional information is needed to refine details on the phenology of the species. The NE Bulgaria is poorly covered by Argus signals and when geese are tagged with Argus only tags the data is not accurate or not available at all for the region.

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:

Not applicable

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:

No

8. Additional Comments

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

> The information provided in this report is submitted by expert of the Bulgarian Society for the Protection of Birds. It does not reflect necessarily the view and position of the MoEW, which might differ from the provided information.

