



AEWA LESSER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE
INTERNATIONAL WORKING GROUP



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2nd Meeting of the AEWA Lesser White-fronted Goose International Working Group

9. - 11. November 2012, Lake Kerkini, Greece

OVERVIEW OF LESSER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE CONSERVATION ACTIVITIES 2011-2012

INTRODUCTION

In addition to the ongoing national and international conservation efforts for the species, the implementation of a number of projects was facilitated by the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat during the inter-sessional period 2011-2012.

Fundraising efforts and subsequent projects implemented reflect the conservation activities prioritized by the Working Group at its first meeting in 2010 in Helsinki. Project activities have hence focused on limiting the threat from hunting to the Lesser White-fronted Goose as well as on the monitoring of the species in an effort to close knowledge gaps in key range states such as the Russian Federation, Kazakhstan and Azerbaijan. A complete overview of projects is provided in Annex I.

To support conservation efforts across the range of the Lesser White-fronted Goose, the Secretariat has in cooperation with members of the Working Group also started the production of general awareness-raising and capacity building materials such as a general information poster and a field guide for the identification and monitoring of the species. The poster is currently available in English, Russian, Kazakh and Arabic and additional language versions of the field guide (currently available in English and Russian) are also in development. All of the above-mentioned products are available in PDF-versions for reprinting. Within its limited capacity, the Secretariat can also assist interested range states in the production of further language versions.

The UNEP/AEWA Secretariat is also participating in the ongoing EU LIFE+ project "Safeguarding the Lesser White-fronted Goose Along its European Flyway" which commenced in September 2011 (total budget 2.280.000€). Main activities of the Secretariat within the framework of the project include the organization and facilitation of the second meeting of the AEWA Lesser White-fronted Goose International Working Group as well as assisting project partners in the development of National Action Plans for the species.

Upcoming projects not listed in Annex I for which funding has recently been secured include a Lesser White-fronted Goose monitoring and capacity building project in Azerbaijan (early 2013) and a project to limit the threat of hunting to the Lesser White-fronted Goose in the Volgograd region in Russia (autumn/winter 2012).

Working Group members are encouraged to submit additional project proposals in need of fundraising to the Secretariat for the next inter-sessional period (2013-2014) as soon as possible.



The 2nd Meeting of the AEWA Lesser White-fronted Goose International Working Group is being convened within the framework of the EU LIFE+ project "Safeguarding the Lesser White-fronted Goose along its European Flyway" [LIFE10NAT/GR/638].

Annex I. – Conservation activities facilitated by the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat 2011-2012

Project	Implementing organization(s)	Timeframe	Activities implemented	Donor	Cost*
Monitoring of LWfG and identification of key sites in the Syrian Arab Republic	NOF, WWF Finland, SSCW, GCBMD	January/ February 2011	Follow-up to 2010 international monitoring mission.	NO	<i>Costs were covered directly by NOF</i>
Regulation of spring and autumn hunting in the Kuma-Manych Depression, Russian Federation	RGG	March 2011- February 2012	Follow-up to 2010 project. Continued cooperation with hunting authorities and hunting societies in the Manych area (Kalmykia republic, Rostovskaya oblast and Stavropolsky kray). Implementation of a plan of urgent concrete measures for the protection of LWfG and RbG approved by the government of Kalmykia Republic in the Manych-Gudilo lake area. Monitoring and field work in Manych. Continuation of the flexible system of temporarily closing hunting at key sites used by LWfG and RbG during spring and autumn migration limiting the negative effect of hunting on these species.	NO	18.000€
Monitoring of LWfG in northern Kazakhstan	ACBK	April 2011	Continuation of 2010 project. Spring monitoring of LWfG in Kostanay, Kazakhstan. Preparation and publishing of leaflet on LWfG identification for hunters.	NO	7.828€
National LWfG Workshop and AEWA accession meeting in Baku, Azerbaijan	AOS, Ministry of the Environment, AEWA	May 2011	2-day workshop to kick-off implementation of the LWfG SSAP and start drafting of National Action Plan for the species. In addition talks with government representatives on the possible accession of Azerbaijan to AEWA.	NO	6.300€
Satellite-tagging of LWfG in the Eastern European tundra of the Russian Federation	Russian Research Institute/NOF	July 2011	Satellite-tagging of four LWfG in the Eastern European part of the Russian tundra.	NO	12.900€
Autumn monitoring of LWfG in northern Kazakhstan	ACBK	September/ October 2011	Estimation of size of Western main LWfG sub-population. Determination of key sites currently used by LWfG.	NO/FI	15.300€
Monitoring of Lesser White-fronted Goose wintering sites and awareness-raising in Ukraine	NECU	October 2011 – February 2012	Four monitoring missions between October 2011 and February 2012 in areas known/thought to be important for the species. Involvement of local hunters in monitoring efforts. Organization of workshop for local hunters. Development of a web-page dedicated to the LWfG on www.biomon.org .	NO	13.000€
Monitoring and identification of key LWfG sites in Dagestan, Russian Federation	RGG	October 2011	Monitoring and field work in Dagestan. Key sites for LWfG in Dagestan located and main threats identified	FI	2.260€
Monitoring of LWfG and identification of key sites in Azerbaijan	AOS, WWF Finland	January/ February 2012	Monitoring of LWfG and identification of potential new key sites for the species. Estimation of number of LWfG wintering/staging in Azerbaijan. Assessment and analysis of	FI	12.925€

			hunting pressure at different sites where geese are present. Training of staff at Kizil Agach Nature Reserve in LWfG identification and monitoring, including the donation of two telescopes to the Kizil Agach Nature Reserve for field work.		
Training of ACBK staff member, Bulgaria	ACBK, BSPB	February 2012	Participation of key ACBK staff member in RbG field work in Bulgaria within the framework of the RbG EU LIFE+ project.	FI	1.500€
Reducing the threat from (illegal) hunting on threatened waterbirds in Kostanay, Kazakhstan	ACBK, National LWfG Working Group	April 2012-May 2014	Workshop with local hunting authority, awareness-raising and training of hunters. Meetings with local hunting authority and game reserve managements to discuss different approaches to more effective regulation of waterbird hunting. Assessment of hunting pressure at key sites during spring and autumn migration. Formal adoption of Kazakh LWfG National Action Plan. Social study/analysis of local hunting structures and alternative livelihoods. Training of key ACBK personnel in LWfG identification and monitoring (training of trainers) as well as training of further field personnel and game wardens. Establishment of a national monitoring scheme for the LWfG. Awareness-raising activities.	NO	112.844€
Monitoring of LWfG and assessment of hunting pressure in the Ob Valley, Russian Federation	RGG	September 2012	Aerial as well as ground surveys in the Lower Ob River to map the occurrence of LWfG after the breeding season as well as a survey of the hunting pressure at identified staging areas frequented by the species. Interviews of hunters and the regional hunting associations as well as assessment of hunting bags of goose hunters in the area. Preliminary discussions with the local administrations of the Yamalo-Nenetsky and Khanty-Manty districts on reducing hunting pressure on threatened species on a regional level.	NO	26.000€
Regulation of hunting in the Ob Valley, Russian Federation	RGG	Autumn 2012/ Spring 2013	Visitation of 12 main villages in Lower Ob region to raise awareness of the local population and to assess realistic ways of regulating hunting in the area. Organization of regional meeting on the sustainable use of waterbirds together with the Yamalo-Nenetsky and Khanty-Manty districts as well as local hunting organizations.	NO	19.210€
National LWfG Workshop and AEWA accession meeting in Iran	Department of the Environment, AEWA Secretariat	<i>to be confirmed</i>	2-day workshop to kick-off implementation of the LWfG SSAP and start drafting of National Action Plan for the species. In addition talks with government representatives on the possible accession of Iran to AEWA.	NO	6.200€

* Costs listed include 13% UNEP overhead.

Annex II. – Overview of scientific reviews/awareness-raising materials produced

Project	Timeframe	Donor	Cost*
BTO review on LWfG flyways	2011	SE	10.735€
LWfG general information poster	2012	DE	3.333,50€
LWfG identification and monitoring field guide	2012	FI	380.80€

* Costs listed include 13% UNEP overhead.