

International Single Species Action Plan for the Western Palearctic Population of the LESSER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE, *Anser erythropus*

Comments from TURKMENISTAN on Version 3.0. - Third and Final Draft, May 2008

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Sea, inland wetlands of Azerbaijan, and the inland wetlands of Iran and Iraq, especially the Mesopotamian Marshes. During the winter of 2004/2005, satellite tracking of one individual ringed and satellite-tagged in the Polar Urals region, northern Russia, in August 2004, has confirmed that at least some birds continue to winter in Iraq (Morozov & Aarvak 2004, Øien & Aarvak 2005; <http://www.piskulka.net/Satellite%20tracking.htm>). More recently still, satellite tracking of individuals ringed on the Putorana Plateau of Russia in July and August 2006 migrated south-west across the West Siberian depression, to staging areas in Kazakhstan. Subsequently two birds were tracked to the western shore of the Caspian Sea to the border area between Iran and Azerbaijan, one bird later reaching Iraq (<http://www.piskulka.net/Satellite%20tracking.htm>). An expedition located at least eight Lesser White-fronts in eastern Syria (close to the border with Iraq) in February 2007, while over 50 were reported at a second site later in the month (<http://www.piskulka.net/Recent%20observations.htm>). Limited winter count data are available for sites in Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan that formerly held significant numbers of wintering Lesser White-fronts.

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Table 1: Occurrence of Lesser White-fronted Goose in Principal Range States of the European Union and AEWA Agreement Area

Fennoscandian subpopulation				
non-EU States	Range	Breeding	Staging	Wintering
Turkmenistan		NO	YES (?)	YES (?)
Western main subpopulation				
non-EU States	Range	Breeding	Staging	Wintering
Turkmenistan		NO	YES	YES

(?) = uncertain and/or significant shortage of information

2. Available Key Knowledge

Turkmenistan

It is thought that significant numbers of the Western main subpopulation may winter in Turkmenistan, but there is a lack of recent and regular count data. 400 birds were recorded by the International Waterbird Census in March 1999. The counts of Lesser White-fronts in Eastern Caspian Sea Shore for 1979-2003 showed that the maximum number was 1850 birds in November 1999 (Vasiliev, Gauzer, Rustamov, Belousova, 2006). In 2003 the counted number was 373 individuals.

Page 44, Table 4. Summary of applicability of major international conservation instruments to Principal Ranges States for Lesser White-fronted Goose *Anser erythropus*¹⁹. Note: the EU/European Community is also a party to AEWA, CMS, Bern and CBD (see foot of table).

Principal Range State for Lesser White-fronted Goose	Member State bound by EU Directives and policies	Beneficiary of EU European Neighbourhood Policy	Party to AEWA	Party to CMS	Party to Bern	Party to CBD	Party to Ramsar
Turkmenistan	No	No	Candidate	No	No	Yes	Yes

¹⁹ As per information posted on the websites of the relevant treaty secretariats on 19 February 2008.

Table 5. Summary of mechanisms and institutional arrangements for conservation of Lesser White-fronted Goose *Anser erythropus*.

Country	National Action Plan for Lesser White-fronted Goose?	National Working Group for Lesser White-fronted Goose?	National Monitoring Programme for Lesser White-fronted Goose?	Monitoring Programme in Protected Areas?	Routines for Informing the Responsible Authorities Regarding
Turkmenistan	No	Yes	No	Yes	N/A

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Result 6: International cooperation maximised

This activity is addressed to the following Range States:

- **AEWA:** Azerbaijan, Estonia, Greece (signatory but entry-into-force is pending ratification), Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, Kazakhstan²³, Russian Federation, Turkey, Turkmenistan
- **Bern Convention:** Russian Federation
- **CBD:** Iraq
- **Ramsar Convention:** Turkmenistan в 2008 г. принял решение о присоединении к Рамсарской конвенции. (Note: under the current provisions of this Convention, there is no mechanism for the EU/EC to become a Contracting Party)

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Result 6: International cooperation maximised	Achieving this result requires action (as of May 2008 ²⁷) by the following Range States: AEWA: Azerbaijan, Estonia, Islamic Republic of IRan, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Russian Federation, Turkey, Turkmenistan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CMS: Azerbaijan, Estonia, Iraq, Russian Federation, Turkey, Turkmenistan • Bern Convention: Russian Federation • CBD: Iraq • Ramsar Convention: Turkmenistan decided to join in 2008 (Note: under the current provisions of this convention there is no mechanism for the EU/EC to become a Contracting Party)
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8. References

Vasiliev V.I., Gauzer M.E., Rustamov E.A., Belousova A.V. 2006. The Lesser White-fronted Goose *Anser erythropus* in the south-east Caspian region of Turkmenistan. *Waterbirds around the world / A global overview of the conservation, management and research of the world's waterbird flyways.* – Edinburgh, UK: The Stationery Office. – pp. 629-632.

9. Annexes

Wintering

The wintering grounds are only partially known, but include shallow bays, lakes and wetland complexes (freshwater, brackish water and saltwater wetland types) and surrounding cultivated land and semi-natural grassland in Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Greece, Iran, Iraq Romania, Syria, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan.

Annex 2

Listing by Range State of the most recent data available concerning status, numbers and trends of Lesser White-fronted Goose (source: see References column)

Range State	Breeding Season						Passage and Wintering						Baseline Population ₃	References
	No. of breeding pairs						No. of individuals staging (S)							
Turkmenistan							115-330 (W) (W)	G O	1980-2003					Vasiliev et al, 2006

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Turkmenistan

Vernacular name: Kichi sakar gaz

"The species stages through in small numbers but is regarded as nearly extinct (Vasiliev and Gauzer, 2001a). Scott and Rose (1996) mapped two minor wintering sites (< 1% of flyway population) on the Iranian border but no further details have been traced. In March 1999, about 400 individuals were recorded in the International Waterbird Census (Markkola, 2000)."

Irregular migrant and wintering bird in Turkmen Sea Shore. The number is fluctuated during years and highly unstable. The distribution through Sea Shore is irregular. The average number in November – 330, in January – 115, the average number of all migrating-wintering birds is 165 (Vasiliev, Gauzer, Rustamov, Belousova, 2006). Its' occurring at inner water sources is very rare and irregular.

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List of Important Bird Areas (IBAs) of significance for Lesser White-fronted Goose, alphabetically by country; (note that Russian IBAs of importance for the east Siberian population are not included; source: data provided by BirdLife International, March 2005)

Country	International site name	Area Location (ha)	Year	Season Max	Min
Turkmenistan	Turkmenbashi bay	267124	2006	non-breeding	486 36

Annex 3b

List of additional sites of possible significance for Lesser White-fronted Goose, as identified by reviewers of the first draft of this Action Plan.

Site name	Coordinates	Area	National/ international protected area status	LWfG count, month & year
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Turkmenistan

Turkmenbashi bay		267124 ha	Nature reserve	1968 (2008)
Esenguly coast		18724 ha	Nature reserve	1932
Khan-khovuz rsv.		19032 ha	Not protected	last several
Zeit rsv.		65488 ha	Not protected	last several

Annex 4

Level of available knowledge from principal Range States on habitat use, diet and occurrence of Lesser White-fronted Goose in Important Bird Areas and Protected Areas. Cells with dark shading represent periods when the species is assumed to be absent from the relevant Range State.

Range State	Breeding		Non-breeding		Site Protection - Breeding			Site Protection - Non-breeding		
	Habitat Use ¹	Diet ¹	Habitat Use ¹	Diet ¹	No. IBAs with Lesser White-fronted Goose ²	% of Pop. in IBAs ²	% of Pop. in Protected Areas ²	No. IBAs with Lesser White-fronted Goose ²	% of Pop. in IBAs ²	% of Pop. in Protected Areas ²
Turkmenistan			Medium	Low				High	Medium/Low	Medium/Low

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Protection of Lesser White-fronted Goose under national legislation, by Range State.

Range State	Status in National Red Data Book ¹	Legal Protection from Killing	Year of Protection Status	Penalties for Illegal Killing or Nest	Opening/ Closing Dates of Hunting Season	Annual Bag Size	Highest Responsible
Turkmenistan	Listed	Protected by law	1999	?	Second half of August – end of February	?	Ministry of Nature

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Site (and habitat) protection for Lesser White-fronted Goose in Principal Range States. Shaded cells represent periods when the species is assumed to be absent from the relevant Range State. The breeding season includes estimates of breeding and resident bird numbers and the non-breeding season includes estimates of staging and wintering bird numbers.

Range State	Breeding Season					Non-breeding Season				
	No. IBAs where Lesser White-fronted Goose Breeds ¹	% Pop. in IBAs ²	% Pop. in SPAs ³	% Pop. in Ramsar Sites	% Pop. in National Protected Areas ⁴	No. IBAs with Lesser White-fronted Goose	% Pop. in IBAs	% Pop. in SPAs ³	% Pop. in Ramsar Sites	% Pop. in National Protected Areas
Turkmenistan						25 (Potential)	80-90%	0 (does not)	50-80%	50-60%

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Research and conservation efforts for Lesser White-fronted Goose over the last ten years.

Range State	Research and Conservation Efforts over the Last Ten Years
Turkmenistan	In 1977-2007 the regular winter censuses were conducted

