

<b>International Single Species Action Plan for the Western Palearctic Population of the LESSER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE, <i>Anser erythropus</i></b>
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## **Comments from GERMANY on Version 3.0. - Third and Final Draft, May 2008**

Reception date: 3 July 2008 (email)

Thank you very much for the 3<sup>rd</sup> LfWG SSAP – very well done and helpful.  
Please find enclosed my comments as national focal point in order to keep your deadline as requested.

### **Action plan**

Page 5 / 4<sup>th</sup> line : is “European Union Birds Directive” correct ? - 1979 the EU was not existing and even today we have EC directives not EU directives

Page 5 / 9<sup>th</sup> line from the bottom: replace “flyway manipulation” by “human influenced flyways” – background “manipulation” has a negative connotation and appears not correct (the same applies to human-modified flyway” – Dutch Literature SOVON (1987) “Atlas van de Nederlandse Vogels” states that the LfWG naturally migrates to the Netherlands in small numbers accompanying other geese flocks by mistake “heel kleine groepjes bereiken in de winter West-Europa, veelal in het gezelschap van Kolganzen etc.” (page 536) – therefore the Netherlands appear to be as the German “Lower Rhine area” at the border of the natural wintering area.

Page 6 / EU Principal Range States: add behind Germany “R” – WINK et al. (2005) “Die Vögel des Rheinlandes” page 63 gives evidence that obviously Germany / the lower Rhine area is already a wintering site of the reintroduced population too. However, he explains that in former times the lower Rhine was a wintering side of Russian LfWG.

Page 6 / under action plan goals – I would suggest to delete within the AEWA Agreement area” (selfunderstood that this is the primary scope, however, if we catalyze protection beyond the range,- why not ?)

Page 6 / Results required for ... / under result 1 add “anthropogen” mortality rates (“natural” cannot be changed and is not meant)

Page 8 / 5<sup>th</sup> line under 1.1. “European Union Birds Directive ? - cf. above

Page 8 / 5<sup>th</sup> line from the botom “influenced flyway” instead of “modified flyway” (due to proof by existing literature cf. above)

Page 9 / 2<sup>nd</sup> line / flyway “influences” instead of “manipulation” / cf. above

Page 10 / 1.2. / last line: please add behind The Netherlands “and appears sometimes in the bordering lower Rhine area of Germany too. “ (WINK cf. above)/

Page 10 / please add at the end of global population estimate behind “in Russia.” Due to the low numbers of the Fennoscandian population the exchange with the western population has a growing importance (cf. page 27 - Ruokonen et al 2007)

Page 13 / last paragraph: “However, plans to ... mid-February 2007” is 2 times in the same paragraph.

Page 14 / chapter 1.3 please add before the last paragraph: However, a further check of existing German Literature documents, that western Germany was at least at the border of the natural flyways for a very small number of birds and should be considered as situated as presumably within the range of natural migration.” (cf. WINK 2005 or MILDENBERGER 1982 “Die Vögel des Rheinlandes“ and PEITZMEIER (1979) „Avifauna Westfalens“ qualifying both LFWG as a “rarer Irrgast”/ BEZZEL 1985 “Kompendium der Vögel Mitteleuropas” “meist einzeln im Westen”).

Page 14 / chapter 1.3 last paragraph last 2 lines from the bottom “please delete the text after would be postponed” to assure the genetic purity of the birds involved, which appears best guaranteed by using wild caught Russian birds.” (*we have kept open the possibility of further genetic proof of the purity of some German flocks* )

*Page 16 / end of “western main population” – the literature quotations under page 14 might be added here too.*

**Page 16 / Headline “Summary by Principal Range States”**

**Page 17 / Table 1 add “Germany” under “reintroduced population/ staging?/ wintering?” (cf. SOVON /WINK as mentioned above)**

**Page 21 / Germany / last paragraph / 2<sup>nd</sup> line – behind frequently “(WINK et al. 2005)” / “intensify” instead of “modify”**

**Page 21 / Germany / last paragraph / 3<sup>rd</sup> line “in a 3 year moratorium” instead “on hold”**

**Page 44 / Table 4 / Beneficiary of EU European Neighbourhood policy: Estonia no / Lithuania yes – check please – not plausible.**

**Page 45 / Table 5 / please add for Germany 2 x “yes” under “national monitoring programme” (Germany has a monitoring programme for all birds including the LFWG , furthermore under the auspices of Natura 2000 relevant sites were monitored to fulfill the reporting duties under the habitats Directive).**

**Page 53 / in the meantime / please add behind “the implementation of the pilot experimental project of the NGO “Aktion Zwergans” will be postponed “for the agreed 3-year Moratorium” and in the lines before “wintering in the Netherlands **and in bordering parts of Germany**”**

**Page 55: Table 8 / add “anthropogen” before mortality rate /cf. above)**

**Page 60 ff: please add the literature as mentioned above**

Furthermore I will send you by post exchange as a background paper in German language comments of our Federal Nature protection Agency.