

International Single Species Action Plan for the Western Palearctic Population of the LESSER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE, <i>Anser erythropus</i>
--

Secretariat Note on the Integration of Comments Received from Range States

Draft State: 15.08.2008

Overview Document Provided for Discussion and Decision at a Workshop to take place on 14 September 2008 in Antananarivo, Madagascar, prior to AEWA MOP4

1. General remark

The overall feedback and comments from countries on the LWfG SSAP was very positive. The AEWA Secretariat received numerous indications from countries that they were willing to adopt the plan as presented in version 3.0. (third and final draft for consultation, May 2008). Working our way through the comments it became clear that a small but significant number of contradictory or incompatible views were expressed that need final clarification and/or approval by the species' principal range states. The following is a listing of these outstanding issues as identified by the Secretariat.

2. Outstanding issues for clarification and/or approval by range states

1. **Definition of LWfG sub-populations.** The Action plan presently defines four subpopulations: Fennoscandian population, Western main population, Eastern main population, and a population of re-introduced birds from a Swedish captive-breeding programme (as a separate management unit). There are different requests to change this definition.
2. **Shortening of text sections on reintroduction issues.** Several countries have requested that the extent of text sections on reintroductions, past controversy and genetics issues should be balanced with general conservation and management objectives of the plan. It would also make the plan more comprehensible and reader-friendly.
3. **Request for special attention to the species by the European Union, its member and candidate member states,** regarding compliance with EU regulations and legislation. The comment is put for consideration of the respective EU member states identified as LWfG range states, and the EC.
4. **Status and observation history of the Swedish re-introduced population.** Unpublished observation records have surfaced for the years 1979 to 1982 with potential implications for the plan.
5. **Status of Germany as a wintering range state for the reintroduced population breeding in Sweden.** Historic observation records have been provided with a request for review and status evaluation.

6. **LWfG population survival and productivity.** Additional contributions and analysis have been made on the analysis of survival rates to assess the threat from increased mortality / hunting of fully-grown birds (i.e. sub-adult and adult birds).

We strongly suggest keeping the final discussions on this Single Species Action Plan focused and concise to enable its timely adoption. Please refrain from adding further detail or discussion points to this list **unless you see any major points that would prevent your country from adopting the draft plan.** In this case kindly contact the Secretariat by no later than 12 September.

3. Reference agreements relevant to the Fennoscandian population and Swedish re-introduced flyway populations

1. The final report from AEWA negotiation mission in January 2007
2. The recommendations from the Scientific Council of the Convention on Migratory Species (November 2005)
3. Report from the 1st meeting of the Committee for captive breeding, reintroduction and supplementation of Lesser White-fronted Geese in Fennoscandia (May 2008) (see also under information documents)