



# 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

> Department of the Environment

Contracting Party to AEWA

No

### National Focal Point

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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

> 33

Maximum

> 50

Year

> 2012

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Please list any published or unpublished sources of information on passage population size and trend estimates.

> All the records are taken from Mid-Winter waterbird counts, Dept. of the Environment, Iran.

### 2.3. Species Status - wintering (individuals)

Does the species winter in your country?

Yes

#### Latest population estimate

Minimum

> 24

Maximum

> 30

Year

> 2012

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Please list any published or unpublished sources of information on wintering population size and trend estimates.

> All the information are from Job completion reports of experts in D.O.E. during the years 2011 - 2012.

### 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:

> 6

Out of the above total, number of protected sites:

> 6

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

> 2

#### 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.

> Since the beginning of the year 2011, Iran is faced with political sanctions, therefore, most of the projects could not be implemented

#### 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.

> All the sites used by L.W.F.G. have been covered in the 2010 report, however, while we implement the Action Plan project, we hope to be able to cover any site might be missed.

## 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):

No threat

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

Declining

Please describe the hunting situation with respect to LWfG in your country (For example: when and where does hunting occur? Who hunts and why?)

> As LWFG is a protected bird in Iran, hunting are prohibited and will be prosecuted by fish and game Law. However, it is probable that few hunters shoot by mistake at LWFG while practicing hunting with license of duck hunting.

Please list any published or unpublished sources on hunting pressure on LWfG in your country.

> No source on hunting pressure of LWFG in Iran is available.

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

Please tick the appropriate box:

Yes

Please provide more information (when is hunting banned, at which sites etc.)

> LWFG is legally protected in Iran. therefore, hunting L.W.F.G. is forbidden not only in key sites, but also at any sites that L.W.F.G. occurs.

#### 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.

> It is in the way. As soon as suitable monitoring project is starts, it will be possible to assess the hunting pressure at key sites.

#### 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.

No

Please provide more information on why training for hunters has not yet been provided.

> Although a kind of training for the hunters here or there has been done in the country, and by giving a brochure or leaflets to some hunters, we tried to inform them about the bird that is under protection, but we hope to implement a plan to train them obligatory as outlined by the Hunting Charter.....

#### 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.

Yes

Please provide more information.

> Level of protection has been increased in the protected areas due to the improved monitoring and enforcement by new employed game guards.

#### 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

No

Please provide more information on why no measures have been taken.

> There is not a special plan in the country yet.

#### **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.

> The hunting pressure does not differ from site to site, and the bird does not regularly occur in a specific site. Their presence in each site is irregular, with low number.

### **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):

Low

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

Unknown

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

> Hunters usually don't use any poisons for hunting waterfowl. Therefore, poisoning doesn't consider as a current threat to the LWfG in Iran. The negative effects of poisoned crops on the mortality of the bird is not known.

Please list any published or unpublished sources on poisoning of LWfG or waterbirds in general in your country.

> No source on poisoning of LWfG in Iran is available.

### **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):

Unknown

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

Unknown

Please describe the situation with regard to the threat from human disturbance and the LWfG in your country.

> The negative effect of human disturbance, if any, is not known in the country.

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

> No source on human disturbance and LWfG in Iran is available.

#### **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:

No

Please provide further information on why no measures are being undertaken.

> The bird does not breed in Iran.

#### **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.

> LWfG key sites in Iran are protected so that infrastructure developments in such sites is not permitted.

#### **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:

No

Please provide further information on why measures are not being undertaken.

> The number of the bird occurring in Iran is not so high. Secondly, the bird does not regularly occur in a specific site.

### **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):

Unknown

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.

> It is not known .

The issue must be surveyed in the coming year after preparing and implementation of the National Action plan for the bird, which is going to be prepared as a priority of the wildlife Bureau of the D.O.E.

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

> No source on predation of LWfG in Iran is 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:

No

Please provide information on why measures are not being undertaken to limit the threat from predation?

> To undertake any measure to minimize the threats to the bird, we need to have a National Action plan to manage and conserve the bird accordingly. The National Action Plan is going to be prepared in the Wildlife Bureau of the Department of Environment.

### **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):

Medium

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

Stable

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

> In recent years the drought resulted significant adverse effect/impact on the quality of LWfG habitats, as the rivers have been directed to be used in agriculture while they are suffering from shortage of irrigation.

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

> There is no sources on habitat loss/degradation and the LWfG in Iran.

**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:

No

Please provide more information on why the habitat quality at key sites is not being monitored.

> To undertake any measure or monitoring in regards to the bird and its habitat, we need to have a plan, and certainly budget. In order to provide the budget, we are going to prepare the National Action plan to manage and conserve the bird accordingly. The National Action Plan is going to be provided in Iran as it is among the high priority plans and activities of Wildlife Bureau of the Department of Environment.

**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:

No

Please provide more information on why such measures are not being implemented in your country.

> To undertake any measure to manage the bird and its habitat in Iran, we need to have a plan, and certainly budget, and certainly the National Action Plan. In order to provide the budget, we are going to prepare the National Action plan to manage and implement the required activities accordingly. The National Action Plan is going to be provided in Iran as it is among the high priority plans and activities of Wildlife Bureau of the Department of Environment.

## 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.

> LWFG is legally protected in Iran according to the "Game and Fish Law" enforced by the Department of Environment from 1996.

#### 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.

> If the hunters respect the hunting legislation, the LWFG would be properly conserved. Threatened birds including LWFG are totally protected in the country, and the poachers and illegal hunters will be prosecuted and fined accordingly.

#### 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.

> The government is responsible for management and protection of wildlife in Iran. The country is very large, with lots of wetlands, National parks, Wildlife Refuges and protected Areas to control and protect. Although many wardens are allocated to control the hunters activities, however, more human and financial resources are needed to be allocated.

#### 5.1.4. Additional information (optional)

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

> In recent years many thing is affected by the political restrictions.

### 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.

> The process of drafting/preparing the National Action Plan for the LWFG in Iran has been started 3 months ago, and it is supposed to be completed by the end of 2013.

#### 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.

> To develop LWFG NSSAP for Iran it would be useful if the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat provides us with the LWFG NSSAP drafted by other countries which are shared in protection of L.W.F.G.

#### 5.2.3. Additional information (optional)

Please add any additional information concerning NSSAPs not covered in the questions above.

> As you may know, our country is under the pressures by the American and European sanctions.

### 5.3. National Working Group

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

Please tick the appropriate box:

Yes

Please provide more information about Working Group members, function etc.

> Available information show that the LWFG have been occurred in different sites of 17 provinces of Iran. The National Working Group in Iran consists of 20 members including one member from any of those 17 provinces, as well as Dr. Jamshid Mansoori, the National expert, Hamid Amini, the National Focal Point, and Dr. Bahram Kiabi as working group consultant. The members selected from any province are responsible to collect required information concerning the bird habitat, population, threats, etc.

#### 5.3.2. Additional information (optional)

Please add any additional information concerning the National Working Group for the LWfG not covered by the previous question.

> We were supposed to establish the National Working Group for the LWFG in Iran in the January 2012 at the presence of delegates from UNEP/AEWA Secretariat, Mr Sergey Derelief and Nina Mikander, in Iran. But their travel to Iran was postponed. Therefore, the working group members were not so active during last winter.

### 5.4. Monitoring

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

During the breeding season?

No

During passage/migration period?

No

During the wintering season?

Yes

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

> The members of national working group are responsible for monitoring the bird and its potential habitats in their own provinces in terms of the number of LWFG present in the site, threats to the bird and site.

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

Please fill in the text box:

> It is planned to expand the present monitoring scheme in 2 months.

#### 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?

No

During passage/migration?

No

During wintering/non-breeding season?

Yes

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

> The bird does not breed in Iran. Therefore the monitoring is being conducted in Iran during wintering time. Beside the monitoring conducted by National Working Group Members, the wardens control and protect the sites and wildlife on a regular basis as their duties.

#### 5.4.3. Additional information (optional)

Please provide any additional information concerning LWfG monitoring not covered by the questions above.

> In addition to the Game Guards and the expert of each provinces( members of the action plan project), many of the students of the Environmental sciences are interested to this project and will help the group as much as possible.

### **5.5. LWfG conservation/research projects**

Please provide any additional information concerning LWfG conservation/research projects in your country not covered by the previous questions (optional).

> An article as short communication entitled "Current status of the Lesser White-fronted Goose Anser erythropus in Iran " was published by Dr Jamshid Mansoori and Hamid Amini in PODOCES Journal, Vol 6, number 2, 2011. pages 123 - 125, <http://www.wesca.net/Podoces/podoces6.2.html>

### **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:

No

Please explain why no measures are being undertaken.

> Although the hunters of 2 provinces of Gilan and Ardebil were officially trained how to identify the protected birds, this action was not implemented in the other places.

#### **5.6.2. Has your country developed/produced LWfG information materials to this end (i.e. posters, leaflets etc.)?**

Please select from the list:

No

Please explain why no information materials have been produced.

> We intend to provide all of the hunters with a leaflet containing LWFG photos for identification and avoid them of LWFG hunting.

## 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.

> There is a small grant fund for implementation of the conservation measures. This fund is allocated last year, therefore in a condition of high inflation in the country, I have little hope in that to enable us to cover whole the country.

### 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:

Yes

### 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.

> As you know, the condition in the country is specific, but with such a low fund, we try to do the best and let hope to it.

## 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.

> Due to the sanctions it is not possible for us in Iran to apply satellite tracking.

### 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:

No

Please explain why no satellite tracking or field surveys are currently being undertaken.

> It is still unclear for us that, which population belong to Fennoscandian, in order to locate the sites.

### 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:

No

Please explain why no further field studies are currently being undertaken.

> we are far from this areas to update any estimation.

### 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:

Yes

Please provide further information on such further knowledge gaps.

> Although we tried to fill the gaps in our country, however, works going very slowly, but we intend to do a research project and hope to start it in the beginning of autumn 2012 .

### 7.5. Additional information (optional)

Please provide any further information on key knowledge not covered by the questions above.

> we are signed a project with the Lahijan University to start a project to organize a group of 17 experts of the Dept. of the Environment as working group members to collect information about the status of the L.W.F.G. throughout its distribution range in Iran. This project will shortly starts.

## 8. Additional Comments

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

> As we mentioned in our previous national report, there are very few people that is possible to help us in collection of the information about the L.W.F.G. To carry out education program for the colleagues that help us is vital. Due to the problems in the Dept. of the Envi. Therefore, any cooperation to strengthen the establishment of LWFG National working group is welcomed.

## 9. Submission

Please insert the date of when the previous national report was submitted:

> 16 /11/ 2010

Please insert the date of submission for this report:

> 29 / 8 / 2012