



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

LESSER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE PRIORITY MEASURES 2011-2012

INTRODUCTION

At the first Meeting of the AEWA Lesser White-fronted Goose International Working Group, which took place in Helsinki, Finland 30.11-1.12.2010, range states agreed on priority conservation activities to be carried out during the following inter-sessional period 2011-2012. Discussions were based on the conservation measures outlined in the AEWA Single Species Action Plan for the Lesser White-fronted Goose (Western Palearctic population).

At the second Meeting of the Working Group, members are requested to re-evaluate the prioritized activities on the basis of progress made in the implementation of conservation measures for the Lesser White-fronted Goose as well as possible new information on the species.

The prioritization discussion will be carried out in two regional groups. The prioritized activities will also be reflected in the revision of the Lesser White-fronted Goose Single Species Action Plan foreseen to be completed in 2013 as well as in the revision of the national reporting format for the Lesser White-fronted Goose. In order to facilitate the discussion, the previous list of priority activities is attached for reference in Annex I.



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. Priority Conservation Activities for Implementation 2011-2012

RANGE STATE	PRIORITIZED ACTIVITIES	MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION	RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION
<i>Azerbaijan</i>	-	-	
BULGARIA	Ensure that sufficient human and financial resources are allocated for enforcement of hunting legislation and that these resources are deployed to control hunting effectively.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Letter from the LWfG IWG to each country and/or relevant regional authorities; dialogue to specify the time window when hunting can occur (in cooperation with AEWA and national experts, referring to EU directives + propose meetings with national hunting organizations). - Letter to national BirdLife association about the need to follow the hunting situation at the key LWfG sites, reporting violations of EU directives. - Training for hunters (identification skills etc.) 	
	Ensure that all key sites have a management plan that: a) addresses the conservation requirements of the LWfG and b) is resourced, monitored and periodically updated.		
	Establish an effective network of coordinated counts in the wintering grounds (or main staging areas) to monitor overall population trends as accurately as possible	- Nomination of contact persons from state authorities, protected area management authorities and BirdLife partners, establishment of emailing list and telephone alert network. Nomination of coordinator. (Note: Activity included in LIFE+ project proposal for Bulgaria, Greece and Turkey)	
ESTONIA	Use combination of satellite tracking and field surveys to locate the key breeding, staging and wintering sites for the Fennoscandian population.	- Ensure continuation of annual spring monitoring, including individual recognition.	
FINLAND	Ensure that all key sites are afforded appropriate protected area status at national and international levels.	- Ensure protection in the entire spring staging area.	
	Ensure that all key sites have a management plan that: a) addresses the conservation requirements of the LWfG and b) is resourced,	- Minimize human disturbance at spring staging and breeding sites by updating and enforcing site management plans (Note: Actions aiming to minimize human disturbance are included in the current LIFE+ application. If the	

	monitored and periodically updated	application is not successful, alternative funding needs to be found.)	
	Take measures to <u>minimize predation</u> .	- Being done already, but would be carried out with higher intensity if breeding pairs are found.	
	Use combination of <u>satellite tracking and field surveys to locate the key breeding, staging and wintering sites for the Fennoscandian population</u> .	- Ensure continuation of annual spring monitoring, including individual recognition.	
GERMANY	Ensure that <u>all key sites are afforded appropriate protected area status</u> at national and international levels.		
	Ensure that <u>sufficient human and financial resources are allocated for identifying the traditional flyway and stop-over sites</u> , and making that flyway safe for the geese	- Need to establish annual LWfG monitoring (no specific monitoring for LWfG at the moment). - Education for observers is needed (in cooperation with NABU and other organizations).	
	By 2012/13, <u>ban goose hunting at all key sites for LWfG during the period when LWfG are usually present</u> , given the difficulty of reliably distinguishing goose species in flight.	- Co-operation with hunters (local, national, international)	
	Implement <u>obligatory training</u> as outlined by the Hunting Charter of the Bern Convention (Nov 2007) <u>for hunters</u> .	- Raise awareness on the Hunting Charter of the Bern Convention.	
	Carry out <u>information campaign</u> to engage local and European hunting organizations and nature protection NGOs.	- Establish voluntary red-light alert system (e.g. in Germany and Poland) in cooperation with local hunters' associations.	
GREECE	Ensure that <u>sufficient human and financial resources are allocated for enforcement of hunting legislation</u> and that these resources are deployed to control hunting effectively.	- Letter from the LWfG IWG to each country and/or relevant regional authorities; dialogue to specify the time window when hunting can occur (in cooperation with AEWA and national experts, referring to EU directives + propose meetings with national hunting organizations). - Letter to national BirdLife association about the need to follow the hunting situation at the key LWfG sites, reporting violations of EU directives.	

		- Training for hunters (identification skills etc.)	
	Ensure that sufficient human and financial resources are allocated for identifying the traditional flyway and stop-over sites , and making that flyway safe for the geese	- Co-ordinated counts and networking particularly in Greece, Bulgaria and Turkey.	
	By 2012/13, ban goose hunting at all key sites for LWfG during the period when LWfG are usually present, given the difficulty of reliably distinguishing goose species in flight	- Co-operation with hunters (local, national, international) - voluntary red-light alert system	
	Ensure that all key sites have a management plan that: a) addresses the conservation requirements of the LWfG and b) is resourced, monitored and periodically updated.	- Letter to inform protected area management authorities to specifically include LWfG issues which apply to their jurisdiction in their management plans.	
	Upgrade level of protection from illegal hunting within existing protected areas through training and enforcement.	- Co-operation with hunters, protected area management authorities and local forestry service (activity included in LIFE project proposal)	
	Establish an effective network of coordinated counts in the wintering grounds (or main staging areas) to monitor overall population trends as accurately as possible.	Nomination of contact persons from state authorities, protected area management authorities and BirdLife partners, establishment of emailing list and telephone alert network. Nomination of coordinator. (Note: Activity included in LIFE+ project proposal for Bulgaria, Greece and Turkey)	
HUNGARY	Ensure that sufficient human and financial resources are allocated for enforcement of hunting legislation and that these resources are deployed to control hunting effectively.	- Letter from the LWfG IWG to each country and/or relevant regional authorities; dialogue to specify the time window when hunting can occur (in cooperation with AEWA and national experts, referring to EU directives + propose meetings with national hunting organizations). - Letter to national BirdLife association about the need to follow the hunting situation at the key LWfG sites, reporting violations of EU directives. - Training for hunters (identification skills etc.)	
	Establish an effective network of coordinated	- Nomination of contact persons from state authorities, protected area management authorities and BirdLife	

	counts in the wintering grounds (or main staging areas) to monitor overall population trends as accurately as possible.	partners, establishment of emailing list and telephone alert network. Nomination of coordinator.	
IRAN	By 2012/13, <u>ban goose hunting at all key sites</u> for LWfG during the period when LWfG are usually present , given the difficulty of reliably distinguishing goose species in flight.	- Need to raise awareness on this issue amongst authorities. - Locate population at each site and carry out detailed counts and assess the threats to LWfG.	
	Ensure that all <u>key sites</u> are afforded appropriate <u>protected area status</u> at national and international levels.	- Upgrade some non-protected areas known to be key sites.	
	Ensure that all <u>key sites</u> have a <u>management plan</u> that: a) addresses the conservation requirements of the LWfG and b) is resourced, monitored and periodically updated.	- Evaluate key and potential sites and the qualification of the sites. - Need to clarify: who should take the lead in preparing the management plans (NGOs, Governments, regional authorities, site managers?).	
	Take measures to <u>restore and/or rehabilitate LWfG roosting and feeding habitat</u> in the staging and/or wintering range.	- Management plans needed. Not difficult to prepare but formal approach/ recommendation needed from international body that such measures should be undertaken.	
	Use a combination of <u>satellite tracking and field surveys</u> to locate the <u>key staging and wintering grounds</u> for the bulk of the Central Asian population.	- Develop satellite transmitter project (in cooperation with Russia). - Knowledge of winter distribution incomplete.	
IRAQ	Ensure by 2012/13 that, in principle, <u>hunting legislation affords adequate protection</u> to the LWfG.	- Examples of similar legislation from other countries could be useful. - Ensure that relevant sites are listed/identified for hunting restrictions. - Ensure that there is allocation in relevant internal budget for this activity.	
	Ensure that sufficient <u>human and financial resources</u> are allocated for enforcement of <u>hunting legislation</u> and that these resources are deployed to control hunting effectively.	- Raise awareness among relevant officials and government departments of importance for LWfG conservation (e.g. produce simple brochure to distribute to staff).	
	Carry out <u>information campaign</u> to engage local and international hunting organizations and	- Develop and implement campaign. - Prepare leaflets for hunters (providing information about	

	nature protection NGOs.	LWfG, conservation status, when present etc.)	
	Ensure that all key sites are afforded appropriate protected area status at national and international levels.	- Will provide list of all known LWfG sites to Ministry this year, but some areas have not been surveyed due to the poor security situation.	
	Take measures to restore and/or rehabilitate LWfG roosting and feeding habitat in the staging and/or wintering range.	- Restoration demonstration projects would be useful to convince authorities and for other sites.	
	Establish an effective network of coordinated counts in the wintering grounds to monitor overall population trends.	- National focal points should be provided guidance on coordination of count regarding both standard methodology, and consider synchronization to allow international population estimate. - Consider if dedicated national coordinators are needed specifically for the LWfG. Note: funding for regular counts likely to be reduced in future.	
	Assess current status of key sites for the LWfG with regard to the species' ecological requirements , taking into account protected area status, habitat quality, conservation management and active threats.		
KAZAKHSTAN	Ensure by 2012/13 that, in principle, hunting legislation affords adequate protection to the LWfG.	- Ensure that relevant sites are listed/identified for hunting restrictions. - Ensure that there is allocation in relevant internal budget for this activity.	
	By 2012/13, ban goose hunting at all key sites for LWfG during the period when LWfG are usually present , given the difficulty of reliably distinguishing goose species in flight.	- Co-operation with hunters (local, national, international) - voluntary red-light alert system - Flexibility needed in application of protection/management due to the fact that sites change from year to year due to hydrological changes; consider if some sort of "emergency measure" could be adopted to protect sites depending on the movements of the geese.	
	By 2012/13 establish no hunting zones (covering both roosting and feeding sites) at all LWfG IBAs, SPAs and Ramsar sites.		
	Use a combination of satellite tracking and field surveys to locate the key staging and		

	wintering grounds for the bulk of the Central Asian population.		
<i>Lithuania</i>	-	-	
<i>Netherlands</i>	-	-	
NORWAY	Ensure that all key sites are afforded appropriate protected area status at national and international levels.	- Ensure that this is the case for the breeding area.	
	Ensure that all key sites have a management plan that: a) addresses the conservation requirements of the LWfG and b) is resourced, monitored and periodically updated.	- Develop and implement an appropriate management plan for the breeding area.	
	Avoid infrastructure development and other sources of human disturbance liable to have an adverse impact on known and potential core breeding areas.	- Take measures to avoid power line construction, fishing, and reindeer herding etc. in the breeding area.	
	Take measures to minimize predation .	- Already being carried out – is considered essential!	
	Take measures to eliminate waterbird hunting on the breeding grounds .	- Ban spring hunting of waterfowl (ducks) in the breeding area in the one municipality where it is currently still allowed. - Letter from AEWA to Norway concerning this.	
	Testing of release methods .		
<i>Poland</i>	-	-	
ROMANIA	Ensure that sufficient human and financial resources are allocated for enforcement of hunting legislation and that these resources are deployed to control hunting effectively.	- Letter from the LWfG IWG to each country and/or relevant regional authorities; dialogue to specify the time window when hunting can occur (in cooperation with AEWA and national experts, referring to EU directives + propose meetings with national hunting organizations). - Letter to national BirdLife association about the need to follow the hunting situation at the key LWfG sites, reporting violations of EU directives.	

		- Training for hunters (identification skills etc.)	
	Ensure that sufficient human and financial resources are allocated for identifying the traditional flyway and stop-over sites , and making that flyway safe for the geese.	- Surveys needed to identify changing wintering sites. - Use of new monitoring techniques (digiscoping)?	
	Ensure that all key sites have a management plan that: a) addresses the conservation requirements of the LWfG and b) is resourced, monitored and periodically updated.		
	Establish an effective network of coordinated counts in the wintering grounds (or main staging areas) to monitor overall population trends as accurately as possible.	Nomination of contact persons from state authorities, protected area management authorities and BirdLife partners, establishment of emailing list and telephone alert network. Nomination of coordinator.	
RUSSIA	Use a combination of satellite tracking and field surveys to locate the key breeding grounds for the bulk of the Western main population.	- Carry out survey and satellite tracking in European part of Russia.	
	Assess the hunting pressure at key sites.	- Collect information on hunting pressure in Ob River Valley and Manych Gudilo area.	
	Use a combination of satellite tracking and field surveys to locate the key staging and wintering grounds for the bulk of the Central Asian population.	- Carry out satellite tracking in Western Siberia (Yamal and Gydan Peninsula)	
	Establish an effective network of coordinated counts in the wintering grounds (or main staging areas if wintering areas are not known), to monitor overall population trends as accurately as possible.	- High priority – are aware of some major staging sites, but need to improve cover and coordination. - Establish agreement with staff of protected areas known to be used as staging sites to provide regular monitoring.	
SWEDEN	Ensure that all key sites are afforded appropriate protected area status at national and international levels (staging area).		
	Avoid infrastructure development and other sources of human disturbance liable to have an		

	adverse impact on known and potential core breeding areas.		
	Take measures to <u>minimize predation.</u>		
	Testing of <u>release methods.</u>		
SYRIA	Ensure by 2012/13 that, in principle, <u>hunting legislation affords adequate protection</u> to the LWfG.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - More information is needed to identify sites where this applies. Need to make Syrian government aware of their obligations to enforce hunting ban on LWfG. - Ensure that relevant sites are listed/identified for hunting restrictions. - Ensure that there is allocation in relevant internal budget for this activity. 	
	Ensure that <u>sufficient human and financial resources are allocated for enforcement of hunting legislation</u> and that these resources are deployed to control hunting effectively.		
	By 2012/13, <u>ban goose hunting at all key sites for LWfG during the period when LWfG are usually present</u> , given the difficulty of reliably distinguishing goose species in flight.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Co-operation with hunters (local, national, international) - voluntary red-light alert system 	
	<u>Upgrade level of protection from illegal hunting</u> within existing protected areas through training and improved enforcement.		
	Ensure that <u>all key sites for LWfG are afforded appropriate protected area status</u> at national and international levels		
TURKEY	Ensure that sufficient <u>human and financial resources are allocated for enforcement of hunting legislation</u> and that these resources are deployed to control hunting effectively.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Letter from the LWfG IWG to each country and/or relevant regional authorities; dialogue to specify the time window when hunting can occur (in cooperation with AEWA and national experts, referring to EU directives + propose meetings with national hunting organizations). - Letter to national BirdLife association about the need to follow the hunting situation at the key LWfG sites, reporting violations of EU directives. 	

		- Training for hunters (identification skills etc.)	
	Ensure that sufficient human and financial resources are allocated for identifying the traditional flyway and stop-over sites , and making that flyway safe for the geese.	Co-ordinated counts and networking particularly in Greece, Bulgaria and Turkey.	
	Upgrade level of protection from illegal hunting within existing protected areas through training and improved enforcement.		
	Ensure that all key sites for Lesser White-fronted Goose have a management plan that: (a) addresses the conservation requirements of Lesser White-fronted Goose and (b) is resourced, implemented, monitored and periodically updated.		
	Assess the hunting pressure at key sites.		
	Establish an effective network of coordinated counts in the wintering grounds (or main staging areas) to monitor overall population trends as accurately as possible	Nomination of contact persons from state authorities, protected area management authorities and BirdLife partners, establishment of emailing list and telephone alert network. Nomination of coordinator. (Note: Activity included in LIFE+ project proposal for Bulgaria, Greece and Turkey)	
<i>Turkmenistan</i>	-	-	
UKRAINE	By 2012/13, ban goose hunting at all key sites for LWfG during the period when LWfG are usually present , given the difficulty of reliably distinguishing goose species in flight.	- Co-operation with hunters (local, national, international) - voluntary red-light alert system Note: key sites are still unknown – more detailed information needed (surveys etc.).	
	Upgrade level of protection from illegal hunting within existing protected areas through training and improved enforcement	- Training of protected area staff. Measures for this should be included in the management plans of the protected areas. - Involve local authorities. - Letter from AEWA. Note: Illegal hunting also big issue outside of the protected areas (high level of illegal hunting in the country).	
	Carry out an information campaign to engage local and international hunting organizations and	- Partly being implemented for hunting in general, but activities need to include LWfG specifically. Poster or booklet for hunters.	

	nature protection NGOs.		
	Use a combination of <u>satellite tracking and field surveys to locate the key staging and wintering grounds for the bulk of the Central Asian population.</u>	- Applies to Black Sea region as well.	
	<u>Assess the current status of key sites for LWfG with regard to the species' ecological requirements,</u> taking into account protected area status, habitat quality, conservation management and active threats.		
<i>Uzbekistan</i>	-	-	