



AEWA LESSER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE INTERNATIONAL WORKING GROUP



Doc: LWfG IWG 3.5
Date: 31.3.2016

3rd Meeting of the AEWA Lesser White-fronted Goose International Working Group

12-14 April - Trondheim, Norway

Critical sites for the Lesser White-fronted Goose

Introduction

At the 2nd Meeting of the AEWA Lesser White-fronted Goose International Working Group in 2012, the Working Group decided to establish a list of sites critical for the conservation of the species. This list was updated slightly during the revision process for the AEWA International Single Species Action Plan for the Lesser White-fronted Goose. The updated list reflected in the latest draft of the revised Action Plan from July 2015 is attached below for ease of reference.

The criteria adopted for the selection of the critical sites are as follows: a) sites critical for the conservation and recovery of the Lesser White-fronted Goose, which b) are also important for other migratory geese and waterbirds.

Selection of priority sites for conservation action

As a next step and in order to further streamline conservation efforts for the species, the list of sites needs to be reviewed by the Working Group – particularly in light of new monitoring and satellite-tracking data - and amended as necessary. In anticipation of the expected inclusion of the Eastern main population into a future revised version of the Action Plan, range states from the eastern flyway are also invited to add sites to the list in accordance with the criteria mentioned above.

In addition, the Working Group is invited to select and agree on a maximum of ten sites to be targeted – in particular - for conservation action during the next inter-sessional period. Whilst recognizing that all of the identified critical sites are important, there is a need to further highlight those which are particularly vulnerable and in need of urgent conservation measures during the next few years.

A full assessment and report will first be completed for each of the selected sites, including a full description (also legal/protection status), numbers and times of occurrence of geese, counts and monitoring work which has been or is being undertaken, an identification of threats, key stakeholders, recommendations for conservation actions and next steps. A format for this will be provided by the AEWA Secretariat.

Based on recent monitoring and satellite-tracking data, the following sites/range states are suggested to be prioritized for conservation action during 2016-2019:

Range state	Site	Population
Azerbaijan	Kizil Agach State Reserve	Western main
Greece	Evros delta	Fennoscandian
Iran / Azerbaijan	Araz water reservoir/Nakchivan	Western main
Iraq	full scale survey and prioritization of sites	Western main



The 3rd Meeting of the AEWA Lesser White-fronted Goose International Working Group is being hosted by the Norwegian Environment Agency with additional funding provided by the EU LIFE+ project "Safeguarding the Lesser White-fronted Goose along its European Flyway" [LIFE10 NAT/GR/000638].

Kazakhstan / Russia	Lakes Kolykol, Taldykol, Ayke and smaller lake systems up to Lisakovsk, Kamysty district in the Kostanay region - combined with Lake Zhetykol in Aktyubinsk Oblast in Russia	Fennoscandian and Western main
Kazakhstan	Koybagar-Tyuntyugur lakes system, Karasu district in the Kostanay region	Fennoscandian and Western main
Kazakhstan	Zhylandy and Balykty in Akkayin district, Northern Kazakhstan region	Fennoscandian and Western main
Russia	Ob River Valley (Lower Ob, several sites including moulting site on the coast which is not yet protected)	Fennoscandian and Western main
Turkmenistan/Uzbekistan	Talimardzhan water reservoir in Uzbekistan including high parts of the Amudarya river and the relevant border areas in Turkmenistan (maybe down to Zeid reservoir?)	Western main

Action requested from the Working Group

- Review the attached list of selected critical sites (Annex I) and amend it as appropriate, possibly also adding and/or removing sites based on new available monitoring and satellite-tracking information;
- Select and agree on a maximum of 10 critical sites along the flyways in need of urgent conservation action during the next inter-sessional period and/or in need of urgent monitoring to assess their importance for the species;
- Prepare, by the end of the meeting to the extent possible, a status assessment of the selected sites according to a format provided.

Annex I - List of Critical Sites for the Lesser White-fronted Goose (as of July 2015)

COUNTRY	SITE	SEASON	POPULATION	CURRENT ESTIMATE
Azerbaijan	Gizil Agach State Reserve (Golden Tree)	winter	WM	50-410
	Aggol National Park	winter	WM	33-230
	Arraz Water Reserve (Nachevan)	winter	WM	100
Bulgaria	Shabla Lake Complex	winter	F/WM	5-20
	Durankulak Lake	winter	F/WM	5-20
Estonia	Matsalu Bay region	spring staging	F	30-50
	Noarootsi Peninsula (and Silma Nature Reserve)	spring staging	F	30-50
Finland	Oulu region wetlands (especially Säärenperä)	spring staging	F	50
<i>Germany</i>	-	-	-	-
Greece	Evros delta	winter & passage	F	54-75
	Lake Kerkini	winter & passage	F	35-69
Hungary	Hortobágy	winter & passage	F	22-82
Iran	Miankaleh Peninsula and Gorgan Bay	winter	WM	5--20
	Bujagh National Park	winter	WM	<5
	Aras River and Dam	winter	WM	>1000
<i>Iraq</i>	-	-	-	-
Kazakhstan	Kulykol-Taldykol Lake System	passage	WM/F	>1000
	Koybagar-Tyuntyugur Lake System	passage	WM/F	>1000
	Bolshoy Kak Lake	passage	WM/F	>1000
	Kazakh Zharkol, Kostanay province	passage	WM/F	>1000
	Russian Zharkol, Kostanay province	passage	WM/F	>1000
	Shagly-Teniz Lake, North Kazakhstan province	passage	WM/F	>1000
	Alva Lake, North Kazakhstan province	passage	WM/F	>1000
	Kamyshlovo Lake, North Kazakhstan province	passage	WM/F	>1000
	Zhaltyr Lake, North Kazakhstan province	passage	WM/F	>1000
	Balykty Lake, North Kazakhstan province	passage	WM/F	>1000
	Aksuat Lake, North Kazakhstan province	passage	WM/F	>1000
	Shalkar-Karashatau LAke, Aktobe province	passage	WM/F	>1000
	Shalkar Lake, Aktobe province	passage	WM/F	>1000
	Zharsor, Kostanay (51.36440; 62.81942)	passage	WM/F	>1000
Aikya, Aktubinskaya (50.92418; 61.58656)	passage	WM/F	>1000	
<i>Lithuania</i>	-	-	-	-
Norway	Inner part of Porsanger fjord (includes Valdak Marshes)	non-breeding	F	60-90 ind
	Sirbma, Tana municipality, Finnmark county	spring migration	F	1--10
	Kvænangsbotn, Troms county	spring staging	F	1--10
	Iesjav'ri, Finnmark county	breeding	F	10--20 pairs
<i>Poland</i>	-	-	-	-
Romania	Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve and Razim Complex	winter & passage	WM/F	5-20
	Balta Ialomitei (island in Danube)	wintering	WM/F	5-20
	Iezeer Calarasi (near Srebarna)	wintering	WM/F	5-20
	Suhaia	wintering	WM/F	5-20

Russia	Dvuob'ye	passage	WM/F	20.000
	Lake Manych-Gudilo	passage	WM/F	2.000-10.000
	Foothills of Engane-Pe Ridge, the Polar Urals (includes Niya-Yu River valley)	breeding	WM	30-50 pairs
	Dyupkun Lake, Putorana Plateau	breeding	WM	unknown
<i>Syria</i>	-	-	-	-
Turkey	Evros delta	winter	F	unknown
Turkmenistan	Kelif-Zeyit	winter	WM	250-400
	Durnaly	winter	WM	150-300
Ukraine	Syvash Bay	passage	WM/F	100-500
Uzbekistan	Amudarya river flood land	winter	WM	100-500
	Talimarjan water reservoir and adjoining territories	winter	WM	500-1000