



© Seppo Ekelund



**Lesser
White-fronted Goose**
*Safeguarding
an astonishing
journey*

Understanding the Challenge

Globally threatened, Lesser White-fronted Geese are amongst the rarest goose species on earth. It is a key flagship species for migratory waterbirds which face severe hunting pressure as a predominant threat throughout their annual voyage between their breeding and moulting grounds in the Arctic and their wide range of discontinuous wintering areas stretching from South-Eastern Europe to China. Their preference for natural habitats takes them from the high Arctic tundra to flooded deltas as well as to arid climates. Although legally protected throughout most of its range, the species is still in a serious long-term decline.

Moving from Decision to Action

An International Action Plan was adopted by the AEWa Parties in 2008 to provide the framework for conservation activities for the Lesser White-fronted Goose along its flyways. In response to the main threats, envisaged activities include measures to reduce illegal and accidental killing, habitat loss and disturbance as well as to enhance breeding success. Coordinated implementation of the Plan is ensured by the dedicated inter-governmental International Working Group convened in 2009, which brings together all stakeholders.

Championing the Solution!

Funding is needed to implement activities to reduce the main threats to the species – in particular the negative impact of accidental and illegal killing at key sites throughout the flyways. Key actions will include strengthening the Common Monitoring Scheme, launching an initiative for sustainable hunting in Central Asia and continued satellite-tracking to close key knowledge gaps. Priority activities also target the identification of key sites for implementation of conservation activities related to hunting such as modifying the timing of goose hunting to avoid Lesser White-fronted Goose migration and the establishment of no-hunting zones.

More information can be found at: www.lesserwhitefrontedgoose.aewa.info



MIGRATORY SPECIES CHAMPION PROGRAMME

WE FLY, WE RUN, WE SWIM. HELP US KEEP MOVING

The Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species and its associated agreements, altogether known as CMS Family, are concerned with the protection of migratory wildlife on a global or regional scale. Such work is largely subject to the voluntary financial income that the Secretariats can generate, which is by its nature neither regular nor predictable.

The *Migratory Species Champion Programme* aims to promote initiatives developed under the CMS Family and encourage their sustainable support. The Programme has been designed to raise commitments to provide medium- and long-term resources for conservation actions so as to guarantee their timely planning and implementation.

Who can be a Champion?

Champions can be Governments, companies, organizations and individuals willing to make a financial commitment of at least three years for one or more specific CMS Family initiatives. Contributions could be made annually or as one-off payments. In-kind donations also qualify provided that they comply with requirements of this programme.

Becoming a *Champion* is more than being a donor. It is rather being an advocate for migratory species delivering support for their conservation beyond funding. *Champions* become part of the solution to big problems that concern them.

What can a Champion support?

The programme offers a portfolio of initiatives. Each initiative comprises a set of activities contributing to the implementation of a large programme targeting a species, a group of species or a cross-cutting issue.

Why becoming a Champion?

The Programme and its results are promoted on the dedicated page: www.migratoryspecies.org/champion

Furthermore, *Champions* are acknowledged with certificates that testify their support to one or more initiatives.

Different categories of *Champions* are defined to recognize different levels of contributions. The scheme of categories is as follows:

Champion for annual contributions from €20,000 up to €50,000 over at least a three-year period;

Champion Plus for annual contributions of more than €50,000 over at least a three-year period;

Champion Extraordinaire for continuous support.

Engaging and awarding *Champions* are rolling processes undertaken by each Secretariat.

Ad hoc donors' events are organized in the margins of the CMS Family decision-making bodies to acknowledge existing *Champions*. The certificate and the associated publicity provide *Champions* with the opportunity to promote both nationally and internationally their commitment and support for the conservation of migratory species.