



AEWA LESSER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE INTERNATIONAL WORKING GROUP



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4th Meeting of the AEWA Lesser White-fronted Goose International Working Group

11-13 November 2019 – Bucharest, Romania

DRAFT WORK PLAN 2020-2023

Introduction

The AEWA Lesser White-fronted Goose International Working Group is charged with coordinating and facilitating the implementation of the AEWA International Single Species Action Plan for the Conservation of the Lesser White-fronted Goose (Wester palearctic populations).

In order to increase the implementation of conservation action for the species, an inter-sessional work plan was developed and adopted for the first time at the 3rd Working Group Meeting in 2016 in Trondheim, Norway.

It should be noted that the purpose of the work plan is specifically to facilitate the timely planning of and fundraising for internationally coordinated activities prioritized by the Working Group. The work plan is not meant to cover all nationally relevant activities and obligations to be implemented by countries as foreseen in the Action Plan, but rather to highlight those urgent actions in need of international cooperation and/or support to ensure timely implementation.

A revised draft workplan for the next inter-sessional period (2020-2023) is attached below outlining activities previously proposed by range states, stakeholders and/or within various processes. However, further input from the Working Group is still required.

A final version will be prepared for adoption by the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat after the 4th Working Group meeting incorporating the outcomes of the various agenda items and brainstorming sessions.

Action requested from the Working Group

The Working Group is requested to review the attached draft work plan for the next inter-sessional period and to use it as a basis for the discussions at the meeting. A final draft will be circulated for adoption after the meeting.



MINISTERUL MEDIULUI



Ympäristöministeriö
Miljöministeriet
Ministry of the Environment

The 4th Meeting of the AEWA Lesser White-fronted Goose International Working Group is being hosted by the Romanian Ministry of the Environment and organized in cooperation with the Red-breasted Goose EU LIFE Project "LIFE for Safe Flight" coordinated by the Bulgarian Society for the Protection of Birds (BSPB), with additional funding provided by the Governments of Norway and Finland.



Annex I - DRAFT work plan for the AEWA Lesser White-fronted Goose International Working Group 2020-2023

Project/activity	Pop.	Timeframe	Lead	Actions	Budget	Comments
Objective: Increase survival rates – minimize mortality caused by hunting						
Increase and improve engagement with hunting communities at/around critical sites across the flyways to diminish threat of illegal killing	F/WM		AEWA, Stirling University, prioritized countries	Implement surveys to assess the motivations for illegal killing, trapping and trade of Lesser White-fronted Geese at key sites/areas where such practices are known to occur <i>[include list of priority sites/areas]</i>	YES	
	F/WM		AEWA, ACBK, RbG LIFE, RbG IWG etc.	Kazakhstan: Follow-up work with the hunting community in Northern Kazakhstan to increase the protection of Lesser White-fronted Geese on autumn migration following 2017 survey showing that many hunters are unaware of the protected status of the species.	YES	Develop detailed project proposal
	F/WM		AEWA, FACE, Waterbird Harvest Specialist Group, prioritized countries	Establish (facilitated) dialogue with hunting communities at/near critical sites For example, by 1) getting conflict resolution training/guidance for better approaches to deal with the hunting community to facilitate their better engagement and 2) developing and implement actions according to outcomes of surveys to assess motivations behind illegal killing etc. (excursions to LWfG sites, project visits, engaging hunters to assist with monitoring, promoting sustainable use of other species etc.) <i>[include list of priority sites/areas]</i>	YES	Ask FACE/Jesper Madsen/Nils Bunnefeld for advice on project scope and quote
	F/WM		AEWA, WWT	Explore opportunities to support the development of a hunting APP for Russia in collaboration with the Bewick's Swan Expert Group	YES	Potentially in collaboration with the Finnish Wildlife Agency
Raise awareness and provide guidance to avoid illegal killing and accidental harvest	F	Rolling – spring and autumn migration	AEWA, All F range states	International campaign „Precious cargo - Ensure safe passage” to avoid illegal killing and accidental harvest during migration in Europe	-	Linked to Communication Plan
	F/WM		AEWA, FACE, Waterbird Harvest Specialist Group,	Develop tailored guidance for hunters on how to avoid accidental shooting of LWfG in collaboration with hunting community <i>[include list of priority countries + languages]</i>	YES	Linked to Communication Plan

Project/activity	Pop.	Timeframe	Lead	Actions	Budget	Comments
			prioritized countries			
Develop and implement a long-term initiative for the sustainable harvest of migratory waterbirds in Central Asia	F/WM		AEWA, WI Waterbird Harvest Specialist Group, prioritized countries	Develop a further elaborated concept for the project (i.e. what topics are of interest to the range states/should be addressed like spring hunting, threatened species etc.) and engage relevant government contacts in selected range states and establish contacts with other stakeholders (hunting community, indigenous communities, UNDP, FAO, International Crane Foundation etc.)	-	Turkey, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan government officials interested
	F/WM		AEWA	Organize a first stakeholder meeting on the sustainable hunting of migratory waterbirds in the region	20.000€ available Swiss funds; 40.000€ needed	
	F/WM		AEWA	Implementation of possible outcomes from the stakeholder meeting	YES	
Objective: Prevent further habitat loss and degradation						
Prioritize critical sites/range states and implement urgent conservation action during 2020-2023 inter-sessional period	F/WM	November 2019	LWfG IWG	Prioritization of critical sites/range states and development/update of site assessment plans. Add more detailed actions for each chosen site/region below.	-	including next steps to be taken
	WM			EXAMPLE: Azerbaijan - Kizil Agach, survey to determine the current status of the site in terms of LWfG occurrence and habitat suitability and threats. Increase in-country monitoring capacity. Implement conservation measures based on outcomes.	YES	Potentially include in cross-border project
Assess climate change vulnerability of critical LWfG sites	F/WM	July 2020	AEWA, Wetlands Int.	Carry out climate change vulnerability assessment of 20 critical LWfG sites, adopting general adaptation guidance, developing national and site-level climate change adaptation plans for 20 sites	YES	Link to new LIFE proposal
Objective: Maximise reproductive success						
Culling of Red Foxes in Norway (and Finland)	F	ongoing	NEA Metsähallitus	<i>[add more detail?]</i>	-	Question: Are these activities that require international coordination/support?

Project/activity	Pop.	Timeframe	Lead	Actions	Budget	Comments
Minimize disturbance in the spring staging and breeding areas	F/WM		Russia? Finland? Norway?	[add more detail]		
Objective: Filling identified knowledge gaps (and strengthening monitoring capacity)						
Continue satellite-tracking of Lesser White-fronted Geese to identify unknown breeding, staging and wintering sites	WM	Ongoing?	NOF/Morozov?	Satellite-tracking key for further identification of WM stop-over and wintering sites [add more detail]	YES	Make an overview of where in the migration information is missing – what is the best way to get this data?
	F	Ongoing?	NOF?	[add more detail]	YES	
Carry out field surveys at prioritized sites to assess occurrence, threats etc.	WM			<i>Example: IRAQ - Survey to assess the occurrence of LWfG in Eastern Iraq.</i> Prioritization of sites, threat assessment etc. followed by conservation action, as appropriate.	YES	Potentially include in cross-border project.
Establish up-to-date population estimate for the Western main population	WM	September/ October 2020	BSPB, ACBK, AEWA Secretariat	Large-scale monitoring of autumn staging sites in Kazakhstan replicating the 2016 census	YES – 20,000EUR in addition to funding available in RbG EU LIFE budget	Collaboration with Red-breasted Goose EU LIFE project
Enhance monitoring and identification skills in all range states & strengthen/expand the monitoring network	F/WM		AEWA, WWF Finland, NOF, OSME/BirdLife Sweden	Increase in-country monitoring capacity in prioritized range states (including setting up monitoring schedules and plans for all key sites in all principal range states) [include list of priority countries]	YES	
	F/WM		ALL	Continue providing the monitoring and identification instructions and subsequent materials to all range states in national languages	Some small-scale funding might be needed for printing and distribution	
	F/WM		AEWA, WWF Finland, NOF	Increase reporting of LWfG observations , for example consider developing and promote LWfG observation smart phone 'app' linked to piskulka?	YES	
	F/WM		AEWA, WWF Finland, NOF	Provide equipment to trained teams	YES	Get support from field equipment providers
	WM		AEWA, Wetlands Int., Ramsar	Link up with the Ramsar Regional Initiative for Central Asia	YES	CMS Family Champions Programme/ IWC/ Ramsar regional

Project/activity	Pop.	Timeframe	Lead	Actions	Budget	Comments
						center /UNDP regional office /FAO
Objective: international cooperation maximized						
Develop and implement Communication Plan	F/WM	2020	AEWA, LWfG IWG, com. experts	Undertake a rapid assessment of the main target groups and the best means of communication + prepare a draft Plan for consultation.	n/a	
		July 2020 onwards	ALL	Implement Communication Plan	YES	
Establish International Education Network	F/WM		AEWA, HOS	<i>[Add countries interested in engaging in LWfG education programme]</i>	YES	AMBI/CAFF related
Promote the accession of the following countries to AEWA: Azerbaijan, Greece, Iran, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Russia, Turkey, Turkmenistan	WM	2020	AEWA, embassies	AZERBAIJAN: continue follow-up with Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources on accession. Facilitate demarche from AEWA Party embassies in Baku. Link to implementation of LWfG project in Azerbaijan.	YES	Swiss development aid office and WWF Azerbaijan keen to work on projects. Need to engage with GIZ in Bonn.
	F	2020	AEWA, HOS, embassies	GREECE: continue follow-up with Environment Ministry on accession process. Consider AEWA travel to Athens to meet relevant Foreign Office/Environment Ministry officials. Use planned Norwegian embassy event to push for accession.	YES	
	WM	ongoing	AEWA, DOE	IRAN: <i>to be discussed</i>		
	WM	ongoing	AEWA, CMS	IRAQ: <i>to be discussed</i>		
	F/WM	May 2020	AEWA, ACBK, CMS, embassies	KAZAKHSTAN: continue follow-up with Ministry of Environment and Committee on Forestry and Agriculture. Organize joint event in Nur-Sultan in May 2020 together with DE, FR and NL embassies to promote accession and LWfG.	YES	UNDP Kazakhstan office keen to work on projects
	F/WM	ongoing	AEWA	RUSSIA: <i>to be discussed</i>		
	F/WM	ongoing, but not most urgent priority?	AEWA, embassies	TURKEY: continue follow-up with Ministry of Agriculture, contact international treaties department at Ministry of Foreign Affairs, try to connect with President's wife who is active in env. Issues. Facilitate demarche from AEWA Party embassies in Ankara led by EU delegation.	-	UNDP regional office keen to work on projects
	WM	2020	AEWA, embassies	TURKMENISTAN: continue follow-up with Ministries of Ecology and Foreign Affairs. Facilitate demarche from AEWA Party embassies in Ashgabat.	-	UNDP Turkmenistan office keen to work on projects

Project/activity	Pop.	Timeframe	Lead	Actions	Budget	Comments
Increase number of government and expert representatives in IWG	F/WM	ongoing	AEWA, LWfG IWG	<u>Missing designated government representatives:</u> Azerbaijan, Estonia, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Lithuania, Poland, Russia, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan	-	
				<u>Missing designated national experts:</u> Azerbaijan, Estonia, Syria	-	
Expand contacts to other international conservation & development sectors etc.	F/WM	ongoing	AEWA	Broaden scope of work to include and profit from other key actors where possible	-	UNEP, UNDP and Ramsar regional offices, FAO, CIC etc.