



AEWA BLACK-TAILED GODWIT
INTERNATIONAL WORKING GROUP



**2nd Regional Meeting of the Eastern European Breeding Range States under the
AEWA Black-tailed Godwit International Working Group**

Tuesday 25 August 2020 (*online via Go-to-Meeting*)

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WORKPLAN 2021-2023

Introduction

The AEWA Black-tailed Godwit International Working Group is charged with coordinating and facilitating the implementation of the AEWA International Single Species Action Plan for the Conservation of the Black-tailed Godwit.

In order to increase the implementation of conservation action for the species within the remit of the Eastern European breeding range states, an inter-sessional work plan was developed and adopted for the first time at the 1st regional Working Group Meeting in 2013 in Kiev, Ukraine.

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 necessarily 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 (2021-2023) is attached below outlining activities previously proposed by range states, stakeholders and/or within various processes. Further input from the Working Group is still required.



The 2nd Regional Meeting of the Eastern European breeding range states under the AEWA Black-tailed Godwit International Working Group is being organized remotely by the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat and Sovon. The following Principle Range States as identified in the AEWA International Single Species Action Plan for the Conservation of the Black-tailed Godwit participate in the activities of this regional sub-set: Belarus, Estonia, Finland, Hungary, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Russia, Slovakia and Ukraine.

Annex I - Work plan for the AEWA Black-tailed Godwit International Working Group 2021-2023 (Eastern European breeding range states)

Project/activity	Range states	Timeframe	Lead	Actions	Budget needed	Comments
Result: Degradation of breeding habitat quality and habitat loss has stopped						
Identify and protect key breeding sites for the BtG under national legislation	Blr, Kz, Rus, Ukr			Identify key breeding sites for the BtG		Ukraine: in west key sites are known, in east they can be predicted but not fully known. Protection should be arranged more at national level. Ongoing changes in sites being used.
				Review protection status of identified key breeding sites for the BtG		
				If applicable, implement national legislation to protect key breeding sites for the BtG		
	Rus			Prevent important breeding areas to be lost through urbanisation, infrastructure and other planning. Implement this kind of protection in national legislation		
Develop guidance for the adequate management of key Black-tailed Godwit breeding sites in protected and non-protected areas (including agricultural areas, abandoned agricultural areas etc.) identifying appropriate tools and best practice examples	ALL	2021	Coordinator	Coordinate with AEWA Eurasian Curlew IWG, EU Grassland Wader Plan and the Wader Study Group – scoping exercise, what exists?	n/a	In collaboration with North-West European BtG IWG sub-set, AEWA Eurasian Curlew IWG, EU Grassland Wader Plan and the Wader Study Group Guidance will help make management plan suitable for waders
				Draft guidance outline and consult with IWG members and any additional experts	n/a	In guidance: how to deal with populations in agricultural areas Include examples of how to implement Env Impact Assessment

Project/activity	Range states	Timeframe	Lead	Actions	Budget needed	Comments
				Draft guidance	5,000	Area of nature reserves in Russia: all human activities prohibited. Not ideal for godwit (overgrowth of meadows). Ministry is informed about necessity of controlled grazing or haymaking for BtG. Disturbance in guidance.
Prevent the current practice of (late) spring burning of dry meadow vegetation which leads to loss of BtG nests and decrease in food resources	Blr, Ukr			Identify options for legal action to prevent late spring burning.		Ukr: big wildfires in April and May due to low water level and dry weather. Include also in management guidance. Legal measures already exist but locally this is still a problem. Implementing this into guidance provides a tool go use for the local governments (international document)
Result: Improved survival and recruitment						
Stop hunting in spring (high priority) and other hunting and prevent illegal hunting.	Blr					Get back to Pavel to ask if we can support him to close spring hunting Russia: lobby with ministry of environment to ban species from hunting list. Long term process to get it in Red Book. Expand getting it in local Red Books.
Assess level of predation and provide guidance on reducing predation pressure		2021	Coordinator	Identify which predator species are involved and potential measures against them.		Large variation between sites. Lack of monitoring makes it challenging to identify trends in predation pressure. Exchange knowledge of success factors between countries.
Result: Knowledge gaps filled						
Prepare more detailed distribution maps	Blr, Kz, Rus, Ukr			Organize breeding bird counts		Based on work for European Breeding Bird Atlas? 50x50 km squares, so not precise enough. Russia: need to regularly refresh information because agricultural land use is changing very quickly

Project/activity	Range states	Timeframe	Lead	Actions	Budget needed	Comments
Prepare update of the estimates of breeding population	Blr, Pl, Rus, Ukr					
Carry out inventory of key sites and determine habitat threats	Rus, Ukr					
Examine habitat requirements	Fin, Lv					BtG responds to changes, for example due to drought in Ukraine birds are moving to agricultural land
Determine locally relevant management requirements according to the habitat requirements	Fin, Lv, Est					
Investigate staging sites, migration routes and wintering areas by expanding marking schemes	Blr, Fin, Est, Rus, Ukr			Train volunteer ringers and ring readers		More focus on transmitters rather than colour rings. Almost no information about migration routes Investigate site fidelity to help population estimates (less site fidelity in east than in west?)
Estimate survival and causes of mortality	Blr, Fin, Est, Kz					We know little about nest predation but almost nothing about chick predation → focus on chick survival
Research the impact of agricultural activity on the productivity of the BtG	Fin			Set up a nest monitoring scheme		Ukr: no information at all because they only recently moved to agricultural land.

