



*AGREEMENT ON THE CONSERVATION OF
AFRICAN-EURASIAN MIGRATORY WATERBIRDS*

**AEWA Lesser White-fronted Goose International Working Group
- NATIONAL REPORT -**

Please send the completed form to Nina Mikander, Coordinator for the Lesser White-fronted Goose at the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat by **Friday the 29th of October at the latest.**

Email: nmikander@unep.de / Tel: +49 (0)228 815 2452 / Fax: +49 (0)228 815 2450

LWfG Single Species Action Plan online in *ENGLISH*:

http://www.unep-awa.org/activities/working_groups/lwfg/lwfg_ssap_130109.pdf

LWfG Single Species Action Plan online in *RUSSIAN*:

http://www.unep-awa.org/activities/working_groups/lwfg/lwfg_ssap_russ.pdf

NOTE: THIS DRAFT REPORTING FORMAT WILL BE REVIEWED AND APPROVED BY THE LWfG RANGE STATES AT THE 1ST WORKING GROUP MEETING IN HELSINKI ON THE 30TH NOVEMBER - 1ST DECEMBER 2010.

- Please use the grey fields for answers and comments. -

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

COUNTRY Finland

Contracting Party to AEWA:

Yes No

NATIONAL FOCAL POINT

Name: Matti Osara

Organization: Ministry of the Environment

Address: PO.Box 35, FI-00023 Government, Finland

E-mail: matti.osara@ymparisto.fi

Phone & Fax: +358 400 274 995, fax +358 9 16039364

NATIONAL EXPERT

Name: Petteri Tolvanen

Organization: WWF Finland

Address: Lintulahdenkatu 10, 00500 Helsinki, Finland

E-mail: petteri.tolvanen@wwf.fi

Phone & Fax: +358 400 168939, fax +358 9 7740 2139

DATE of submission 29.11.2010

DATE (submission of previous report)

GENERAL INFORMATION – FIELD FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION (optional):

2. STATUS UPDATE

2.1. SPECIES STATUS -BREEDING (pairs)

Latest population estimate:	Year	2009
	Minimum	0
	Maximum	5

Population trend: declining

Source(s) of information:

Finnish National Action Plan for the LWfG (2009), later abbreviated as "NAP"

Not applicable No information

2.2. SPECIES STATUS - PASSING (individuals)

Latest population estimate:	Year	2010
	Minimum	21
	Maximum	26

Population trend: declining

Source(s) of information:

Metsähallitus & WWF, annual spring monitoring data in the spring staging area on the Finnish Bothnian Bay coast

Not applicable No information

2.3. SPECIES STATUS – WINTERING (individuals)

Latest population estimate:	Year	-
	Minimum	-
	Maximum	-

Population trend: select from list

Source(s) of information:

-

Not applicable No information

2.4. SPECIES STATUS – FIELD FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION (optional)**3. UPDATE ON CRITICAL SITES**

NOTE: the list of critical sites can be found in Annexes 3a and 3b of the SSAP (see links above).

Which sites that have been identified in the LWfG SSAP as important for the species in your country have been designated as protected areas under the national legislation and have management plans that are being implemented?

Total number of sites

5

Out of the above total, number of protected sites

3

Number of protected sites with management plans that are being implemented

3

Please point at major gaps in the protection and management of critical sites which will need to be addressed as a matter of priority.

The three sites listed in SSAP Annex 3a are protected, but parts of the most important spring staging site in Siikajoki, Säärenperä, are situated outside the protected area. At the historical (and still potential) autumn staging site in south-eastern parts of Hailuoto hunting is still allowed during the autumn migration period, although the area is otherwise protected. The occasional early spring staging areas in south-western Finland (listed in SSAP Annex 3b, i.e. agricultural field areas close to Pori and Kristiinankaupunki) are not protected.

Have any new sites currently not mentioned in the SSAP, either through monitoring or satellite tracking, been identified as possible critical sites for the species?

Yes No

If yes, please list these sites:

Are any of these sites protected and/or managed?

CRITICAL SITES - FIELD FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION (optional)**4. UPDATE ON PRESSURES/THREATS AND RESPONSES****4.1. HUNTING**

Please rate the magnitude of hunting as a threat to the LWfG in your country:

Severe High Medium Low No threat

Trend: stable

Description of the situation:

The LWfG is fully protected in Finland, and the Greater White-fronted Goose is fully protected as well. In addition, the LWfG is nowadays very rare on autumn migration in Finland. Thus, accidental shooting of LWfG during the hunt of GWfG does not occur in general, but see also the following question.

Source(s) of information:

NAP

No information

Has hunting been banned at all key sites used by the Lesser White-fronted Geese during the period when Lesser White-fronted Geese are present?

Yes No Not applicable

If yes, please provide more information:

If no, please explain why:

The main (potential) threats from hunting for LWfG in Finland are: 1) that at the historical (and still potential) autumn staging site in south-eastern parts of Hailuoto hunting is still allowed during the autumn migration, and in general there is a high risk for LWfG to be accidentally shot during the autumn hunt of other Anser species (but according to present knowledge the Fennoscandian LWfG mainly do not migrate via Finland in autumn), and 2) the hunting season of other goose species (mainly Bean Goose) opens already on 20 August, when the potential LWfG broods may still be in the breeding sites in Lapland (and thus accidental shooting of LWfG might occur). According to the Finnish national action plan, hunting of all geese should be banned locally, if LWfG are recorded breeding in the area.

If not applicable, please explain why:

Have efforts been made to assess the hunting pressure at key sites?

Yes No Not applicable

If yes, please provide more information:

Metsähallitus is monitoring the hunting in the potential breeding areas. A small scale special survey of the hunting pressure in autumn on Hailuoto was carried out in 2002 (Luukkonen, A. & Markkola, J. 2004: The autumn migration of Lesser White-fronted Goose in Bothnian Bay area, Finland, in 2002. - Fennoscandian Lesser White-fronted Goose conservation project. Report 2001-2003. WWF Finland report 20 / NOF Rapportserie Report 1-2004).

If no, please explain why:

If not applicable, please explain why:

Has obligatory training of hunters as outlined by the Hunting Charter of the Bern Convention for hunters been implemented?

Yes No Not applicable

If yes, please provide more information:

Hunting is allowed only for those hunters who have graduated an species identification examination, but the actual level of identification skills of hunters is very variable, and accidental shooting of LWfG may happen in autumn .

If no, please explain why:

If not applicable, please explain why:

Has the level of protection from illegal hunting been increased within existing protected areas through training and improved enforcement?

Yes No Not applicable

If yes, please provide more information:

The two Finnish EU Life projects on the species have produced information material for hunters.

If no, please explain why:

If not applicable, please explain why:

Has an effort been made to redirect hunting from adults to juveniles in areas where Lesser White-fronted Geese occur outside of the key sites?

Yes No Not applicable

If yes, please provide more information:

If no, please explain why:

Also GWfG is protected in Finland.

If not applicable, please explain why:

Have lure crops been planted (or similar steps been taken) to direct Lesser White-fronted Geese away from areas where hunting pressure is known to be high?

Yes No Not applicable

If yes, please provide more information:

If no, please explain why:

If not applicable, please explain why:

4.2. POISONING

Please rate the magnitude of poisoning as a threat to the LWfG in your country:

Severe High Medium Low No threat

Trend: select from list

Description of the situation:

Rodenticides are not used in agriculture in Finland. No other sources of potential poisoning known.

Source(s) of information:

No information

4.3. HUMAN DISTURBANCE

Please rate the magnitude of human disturbance as a threat to the LWfG in your country:

Severe High Medium Low No threat

Trend: stable

Description of the situation:

Movement on the most important staging sites on the Bothnian Bay coast (except for the south-eastern parts of Hailuoto) is still allowed, although the (not yet authorized) management plan for these area proposes ban of movement. Accidental disturbance by birdwatchers and farming activities has been recorded at the spring staging area on the Bothnian Bay coast. On the potential breeding grounds, mainly fishing tourism (by aeroplanes) and the reindeer herding activities are potential threats for LWfG.

Source(s) of information:

NAP

No information

Are you taking measures to avoid infrastructure development and other sources of human disturbance, including recreation/tourism liable to have an adverse impact on the known core breeding areas?

Yes No Not applicable

If yes, please provide further information:

Such actions are described in the NAP. This happens mainly through the management plan of the protected areas, maintained by Metsähallitus.

If no, please explain why:

If not applicable, please explain why:

Are you taking measures to avoid infrastructure development and other sources of human disturbance, including recreation/tourism liable to have an impact on the known key sites?

Yes No Not applicable

If yes, please provide further information:

Such actions are described in the NAP. This happens mainly through the management plan of the protected areas, maintained by Metsähallitus.

If no, please explain why:

If not applicable, please explain why:

Are you taking measures to avoid overgrazing and nest trampling if/where this is known to be a problem?

Yes No Not applicable

If yes, please provide further information:

If no, please explain why:

Overgrazing by reindeer is a major potential threat (also addressed in the NAP) for LWfG in the potential breeding area, but it has not so far been directly linked to LWfG. The issue is very complicated, and it will require more research and also political decisions.

If not applicable, please explain why:

4.4. PREDATION

Please rate the magnitude of predation as a threat to the LWfG in your country:

Severe High Medium Low No threat

Trend: increasing

Description of the situation:

The increasing numbers and expanding distribution range of the Red Fox in Northern Lapland is a major threat for LWfG in the potential breeding grounds. The absence of Wolf in Northern Lapland (due to hunting and poaching) is probably one important reason for the expansion of the Red Fox.

Source(s) of information:

NAP, Final report of the LWfG LIFE project 2005-2009.

No information

Are you taking measures to minimize predation, where this has been shown to be a significant limiting factor (particularly in the breeding grounds)?

Yes No Not applicable

If yes, please provide further information:

Metsähallitus has been controlling the Red Fox population in Northern Lapland for years, and the activity is ongoing. However the area to be covered is huge. In 2010, 91 Red Foxes were culled. According to the NAP, an intensive culling programme should be immediately implemented in an area where LWfG are recorded breeding.

If no, please explain why:

If not applicable, please explain why:

4.5. HABITAT LOSS/DEGRADATION (Agricultural intensification, construction of dams etc., wetland drainage, climate change, land abandonment, overgrazing, pollution of wetlands/water bodies)

Please rate the magnitude of habitat loss/degradation as a threat to the LWfG in your country:

Severe High Medium Low No threat

Trend: stable

Description of the situation:

Most of the sites important for LWfG are already protected from construction and other such activities. However, overgrazing in the reindeer management area is a large scale ecological problem. In the future, the climate change is expected to be a major threat for the breeding habitats, as the area of open tundra will decrease dramatically.

Source(s) of information:

NAP

No information

Are you monitoring the habitat quality at key sites in order to identify any anthropogenic pressures as early as possible?

Yes No Not applicable

If yes, please provide further information:

Intensive annual monitoring at the spring staging area, lower intensity (but annual) monitoring in the potential breeding grounds.

If no, please explain why:

If not applicable, please explain why:

Are you taking measures to restore and/or rehabilitate Lesser White-fronted Goose roosting and feeding habitat in the staging or wintering areas?

Yes No Not applicable

If yes, please provide more information:

The coastal meadows in the spring staging area on the Bothian Bay coast are being managed.

If no, please explain why:

If not applicable, please explain why:

THREATS & RESPONSES - FIELD FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION (optional)

5. UPDATE ON NATIONAL LEGISLATION AND ACTIVITIES

5.1. NATIONAL LEGAL PROTECTION

Is the Lesser White-fronted Goose legally protected in your country?

Yes No

If yes, please list the year and title of the legislation concerned as well as the enforcing institution:

The species is fully protected since 1969 (first protected under the hunting degree, and since 1983 protected under the nature conservation act)

If no, please explain why:

Does the national hunting legislation, in principle, provide adequate protection of the Lesser White-fronted Goose?

Yes No

If yes, please provide further information:

Only the hunting of the goose species mentioned in the hunting act is allowed; the GWfG is not included in the hunting species.

If no, please explain why:

Are sufficient human and financial resources being allocated to the enforcement of hunting legislation in order to control hunting effectively?

Yes No

If yes, please provide further information:

Metsähallitus, the Border Guard, and hunters' own organisations are controlling the hunting. However, the potential breeding areas in Lapland are very large and difficult to cover effectively.

If no, please explain why:

NATIONAL LEGAL PROTECTION – FIELD FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION (optional)

Cases of illegal spring hunting still occur, especially in Lapland.

5.2. NATIONAL SINGLE SPECIES ACTION PLAN

Has your country drafted a National Single Species Action Plan for the Lesser White-fronted Goose?

NSSAP in place and being implemented

NSSAP in place, but not being implemented

NSSAP in development

No NSSAP

If you already have a NSSAP, please add a reference/link to the plan below:

<http://www.ymparisto.fi/download.asp?contentid=115684&lan=fi>

If a NSSAP has been developed but is not being implemented, please explain why:

If your NSSAP is still being developed, please describe when the process was started and when the Action Plan is estimated to be completed:

If your country does not have a NSSAP, please explain the reasons why not:

If your country does not have or is still in the process of developing its LWfG NSSAP, would you be interested in assistance from the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat in this work?

Yes No

If yes, please specify what kind of assistance you would require:

NSSAP – FIELD FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION (optional)

5.3. NATIONAL WORKING GROUP

Does your country have a National Working Group for the Lesser White-fronted Goose?

Yes No

If yes, please provide more information about Working Group members, function etc.:

WWF Finland is hosting the national LWfG working group that is following the implementation of the NAP; the Ministry of the Environment, Metsähallitus, the Finnish Environment Institute, the central organisation of hunters (MKJ), BirdLife Finland, and the regional environmental center (ELY) of North Ostrobothia are represented in the group.

If no, please explain the reasons:

NATIONAL WORKING GROUP – FIELD FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION (optional)

5.4. MONITORING

Does your country have a monitoring scheme in place for the LWfG?

Breeding season:

Yes Partial No Not applicable

Please provide more information on the monitoring activities during breeding season:
Potential breeding sites monitored sporadically.

Passage/migration period:

Yes Partial No Not applicable

Please provide more information on the monitoring activities during the passage/migration season:
Spring staging areas monitored annually since early 1980's.

Wintering season:

Yes Partial No Not applicable

Please provide more information on the monitoring activities during the non-breeding/wintering season:

If there is no monitoring scheme on a national level, is LWfG monitoring conducted on a regular basis by other means?

Breeding season:

Yes Partial No Not applicable

If yes OR partial, please provide further information on how the monitoring is being done and by whom:

Passage/migration period:

Yes Partial No Not applicable

If yes OR partial, please provide further information on how the monitoring is being done and by whom:

Wintering season:

Yes Partial No

If yes OR partial, please provide further information on how the monitoring is being done and by whom:

MONITORING – FIELD FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION (optional)

5.5. LWfG CONSERVATION/RESEARCH PROJECTS

List (or provide links to) any national and/or international LWfG conservation or research projects being conducted in your country - including the project title, goals and objectives, period of implementation, implementing organization, contact details and a short description:

Research on population genetics in the University of Oulu. Ecological research at spring staging areas and breeding grounds. Population elasticity analysis for the Fennoscandian population. EU LIFE Nature project "Conservation of the Lesser White-fronted Goose in Finland" in 1997-1999. International (Finland, Norway, Estonia, Hungary, Greece) EU LIFE Nature project "Conservation of Anser erythropus on European migration route" in 2005-2009. Other international conservation work included e.g. several satellite tracking projects; a WWF project for the conservation of the Kostanay wetlands in Kazakhstan (2000-2003); field surveys of breeding, staging and wintering areas in Russia, Kazakhstan, Estonia, Lithuania, Ukraine, China; active participation in international co-operation and meetings on the species.

List (or provide links to) any other national and/or international conservation or research projects being conducted in your country that could be useful for LWfG conservation - including the project title, goals and objectives, period of implementation, implementing organization, contact details and a short description:

LWfG CONSERVATION/RESEARCH PROJECTS – FIELD FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION (optional)

5.6. AWARENESSRAISING

Has your country developed and implemented methods for raising awareness and understanding on LWfG and LWfG conservation, in particular with relation to hunters?

Yes, being implemented

Please provide further information on methods and how they are being implemented:

The EU Life projects on the species in 1997-1997 and 2005-2009, the information material (incl. internet pages) produced by Metsähallitus, several articles in the national hunters magazine (Metsästäjä), the information material (incl. internet pages) produced by WWF & BirdLife.

Yes, but not being implemented

If methods are available but not yet implemented, please provide further information on the methods and explain why they are not being implemented at present:

Being developed

If being developed, please describe when these methods will be ready for implementation:

No

If no, please explain why:

If yes or being developed, has your country developed/produced LWfG information materials to this end (i.e. posters, leaflets etc.)?

Yes Being developed No

If yes OR being developed, please provide further information:
linkkejä

AWARENESSRAISING – FIELD FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION (optional)

6. FUNDING

Are there any national funding possibilities for LWfG conservation measures in your country?

Yes No

If yes, please list the funding programs and relevant authorities:

The ministry of Environment: the national funding for the conservation and monitoring of endangered species (ca 8000 eur annually for LWfG), and the funds for international co-operation. Metsähallitus: national budget for the monitoring of LWfG and funds for cross-border co-operation.

If your country does not yet have a National Single Species Action Plan, would national funding be available for the drafting and implementation of the NSSAP?

Yes No

FUNDING – FIELD FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION (optional)

7. UPDATE ON KEY KNOWLEDGE

Are satellite tracking and/or field surveys being used in your country to locate the key breeding grounds for the Western Main population?

Yes No Not applicable

If yes, please provide further information:

WWF Finland and the Finnish LWfG EU LIFE projects have carried out satellite tracking of Fennoscandian and Russian LWfG since 1994.

If no, please explain why:

If not applicable, please explain why:

Are satellite tracking and/or field surveys being used in your country to locate the key staging and wintering sites for the Western Main population?

Yes No Not applicable

If yes, please provide further information:

No new sites located in Finland as a result of satellite tracking.

If no, please explain why:

If not applicable, please explain why:

Are satellite tracking and/or field surveys being used in your country to locate the key breeding, staging and wintering sites for the Fennoscandian population?

Yes No Not applicable

If yes, please provide further information:

WWF Finland and the Finnish LWfG EU LIFE projects have carried out satellite tracking of Fennoscandian and Russian LWfG since 1994

If no, please explain why:

If not applicable, please explain why:

Are further field studies of suitable breeding habitat and staging areas being undertaken in order to update the estimate for the Fennoscandian population (Kola peninsula etc.)?

Yes No Not applicable

If yes, please provide further information:

WWF Finland, Metsähallitus, and the Finnish EU LIFE projects on the species have conducted field studies eg. in Norway, Sweden, Kola Peninsula (Russia), Kanin Peninsula (Russia), Yamal Peninsula (Russia) and Taimyr Peninsula (Russia).

If no, please explain why:

If not applicable, please explain why:

Are there any further knowledge gaps not covered by this report critical for LWfG conservation in your country which would require further research?

Yes No

If yes, please provide further information:

According to the NAP, the following knowledge gaps are crucial:

- updated population viability analysis (PVA) for the Fennoscandian LWfG population
- investigate the effect of the predation and disturbance by White-tailed Eagle (and other birds of prey)
- study the effect of the population cycles of rodents, predation pressure by the Red Fox, overgrazing by Reindeer, and the weather conditions on the breeding success of LWfG

KEY KNOWLEDGE – FIELD FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION (optional)

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS (optional)

THANK YOU!