



AEWA Lesser White-fronted Goose International Working Group - National Report 2011-2012

Welcome to the online reporting template for the 2011-2012 national report on the implementation of the AEWA Lesser White-fronted Goose Single Species Action Plan under the framework of the AEWA Lesser White-fronted Goose International Working Group.

Reporting on the implementation of the Lesser White-fronted Goose Single Species Action Plan was established at the first Meeting of the Working Group, which took place on the 30.11.-1.12.2010 in Helsinki, Finland. The meeting also adopted the format reflected in this online template.

Please submit the completed form to the AEWA Secretariat by **Friday the 31st of August 2012 at the latest**, by pressing the **submit button** on the top right of the questionnaire **once you have completed all questions**.

If you have any questions or require assistance, please contact Nina Mikander, Coordinator for the Lesser White-fronted Goose:

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Single Species Action Plan in English

Single Species Action Plan in Russian

Happy reporting!

1. General Information

Name of reporting Range State

> Greece

Contracting Party to AEWA

No

National Focal Point

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Functional title

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Organisation

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2. Status Update

2.1. Species Status - breeding (pairs)

Does the species breed in your country?

No

2.2. Species Status - passage (individuals)

Does the species occur in your country on passage?

Yes

Latest population estimate

Minimum

> 69

Maximum

> 75

Year

> 2012

Population trend

Please select from the list

Increasing

Source(s) of information

Please list any published or unpublished sources of information on passage population size and trend estimates.

> LIFE10 NAT/GR/000638 "Safeguarding the Lesser White-fronted Goose Fennoscandian population in key wintering and staging sites within the European flyway"

2.3. Species Status - wintering (individuals)

Does the species winter in your country?

Yes

Latest population estimate

Minimum

> 69

Maximum

> 75

Year

> 2012

Population trend

Please select from the list

Increasing

Source(s) of information

Please list any published or unpublished sources of information on wintering population size and trend estimates.

> LIFE10 NAT/GR/000638 "Safeguarding the Lesser White-fronted Goose Fennoscandian population in key wintering and staging sites within the European flyway"

3. Update on Critical Sites

3.1. Critical sites identified in the SSAP

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 identified in the SSAP:

> 5

Out of the above total, number of protected sites:

> 5

Number of protected sites with management plans that are being implemented:

> 5

3.2. Gaps in protection

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

> insufficient surveillance against illegal hunting and absence of habitat management.

3.3. Identification of new sites

Have any new sites which are currently not mentioned in the SSAP been identified as possible critical sites for the species?

No

3.4. Additional information (optional)

Please add any additional information concerning critical sites not covered by the previous questions.

> All 5 sites have recently developed management plans, which are not fully implemented yet, especially as regards issues of surveillance and habitat management.

4. Update on Pressures/Threats and Responses

4.1. Hunting

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

Please select from the list (for guidance "hover" over the question mark button on the right):

Medium

Please indicate the trend of hunting as a threat to the LWfG

Stable

Please describe the hunting situation with respect to LWfG in your country (For example: when and where does hunting occur? Who hunts and why?)

> Hunting of geese in Greece is allowed between 15 September and 10 February each year. Evros Delta is the most important goose hunting site in Greece. Part of the wetland is a non hunting zone. LWfG are mostly confined in the non hunting zone.

Please list any published or unpublished sources on hunting pressure on LWfG in your country.

> Kazantzidis, S. et al, 2008. Hunting in wetlands and its impact on waterbirds. NAGREF / Forest Research Institute

4.1.2. Has hunting been banned at all key sites used by LWfG when LWfG are present?

Please tick the appropriate box:

No

Please explain why hunting has not yet been banned at key sites.

> There are permanent non-hunting zones at all key sites and these are the areas favoured by the LWfG. Next to the non-hunting zones and within the key sites hunting is allowed (eg. in fields where geese graze).

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

Please tick the appropriate box:

Yes

Please provide more information.

> Published reports: Kazantzidis, S. et al, 2008. Hunting in wetlands and its impact on waterbirds. NAGREF / Forest Research Institute

Unpublished reports: Management Authorities patrol reports

ongoing monitoring: LIFE10/NAT/GR638 "Safeguarding the Lesser White-fronted Goose *Anser erythropus* in key wintering sites in Greece"

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

Please tick the appropriate box.

No

Please provide more information on why training for hunters has not yet been provided.

> The whole system of training is currently under full revision.

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

Please tick the appropriate box.

Yes

Please provide more information.

> LIFE10/NAT/GR638 "Safeguarding the Lesser White-fronted Goose *Anser erythropus* in key wintering sites in Greece" has initiated actions for training and improved enforcement.

4.1.6. Has an effort been made to redirect hunting from adults to juveniles in areas where LWfG occur outside of the key sites?

Please tick the appropriate box

No**4.1.7. Have lure crops been planted (or similar steps been taken) to direct LWfG away from areas where hunting pressure is known to be high?**

Please tick the appropriate box

 No**4.2. Poisoning****4.2.1. Please rate the magnitude of poisoning as a threat to the LWfG in your country.**

Please select from the list (for guidance "hover" over the question mark button on the right):

 No threat

Please indicate the trend of poisoning as a threat to the LWfG in your country.

 Stable**4.3. Human disturbance****4.3.1. Please rate the magnitude of human disturbance as a threat to the LWfG in your country.**

Please select from the list (for guidance "hover" over the question mark button on the right):

 Medium

Please indicate the trend of human disturbance as a threat to LWfG in your country.

 Stable

Please describe the situation with regard to the threat from human disturbance and the LWfG in your country.

> Disturbance occurs regularly at two sites (Lake Ismarida and Evros Delta)

Lake Ismarida: increased disturbance due to improvement of the road network around the lake (paving of dirt roads)

Evros Delta: circulation of cars along the coastal dyke.

4.3.2. 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?

Please tick the appropriate box:

 Not applicable

Please explain why this activity is not applicable to your country.

> LWfG do not breed in Greece.

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

Please tick the appropriate box:

 Yes

Please provide more information on the measures being undertaken.

> LIFE10/NAT/GR638 "Safeguarding the Lesser White-fronted Goose Anser erythropus in key wintering sites in Greece": monitoring of disturbance factors, patrolling of key areas and road installation of road barriers.

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

Please tick the appropriate box:

 Not applicable

Please explain why this activity is not applicable to your country.

> not known to be a problem

4.4. Predation

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

Please select from the list (for guidance "hover" over the question mark button on the right):

Unknown

Please indicate the trend of predation as a threat to the LWfG in your country:

Unknown

Please describe the threat from predation to the LWfG in your country.

> There is evidence of possible predation (presence of predators, remains of geese) especially at Evros Delta, but no assessment has been made yet.

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

Please tick the appropriate box:

Not applicable

4.5. Habitat loss/degradation

(Such as agricultural intensification, construction of dams etc., wetland drainage, climate change, land abandonment, overgrazing, pollution of wetlands/water bodies etc.)

4.5.1. Rate the magnitude of habitat loss/degradation as a threat to the LWfG in your country.

Select from the list (for guidance "hover" over the question mark button on the right):

Medium

Please indicate the trend of habitat loss/degradation as a threat to the LWfG in your country.

Stable

Please describe the situation with regard to habitat loss/degradation as a threat to the LWfG in your country (particular areas effected etc.?).

> Providing safe and good quality foraging habitat at the site where almost the entire Fennoscandian population overwinters is considered of high priority in order to achieve increased survival of full-grown birds. Improper grazing management (Kerkini Lake and Evros Delta) and land use changes in Ismarida Lake (cultivations, road networks etc) have resulted in moderate habitat degradation.

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

Please tick the appropriate box:

Yes

Please provide more information on the measures being implemented.

> LIFE10/NAT/GR638 "Safeguarding the Lesser White-fronted Goose *Anser erythropus* in key wintering sites in Greece": ACTION A.6: Elaborate a habitat management and restoration plan for key LWfG feeding and roosting sites at Evros Delta (ongoing)

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

Please tick the appropriate box:

Yes

Please provide more information on the measures being implemented.

> LIFE10/NAT/GR638 "Safeguarding the Lesser White-fronted Goose *Anser erythropus* in key wintering sites in Greece": ACTION A.6: Elaborate a habitat management and restoration plan for key LWfG feeding and roosting sites at Evros Delta (ongoing) and ACTION C.3: Suitable habitat management at key feeding and roosting sites in Evros delta (includes grassland restoration, regulation of grazing pressure and vegetation management at roosting islets; to be started in year 2013)

5. Update on National Legislation and Activities

5.1. National legal protection

5.1.1. Is the LWfG legally protected in your country?

Please tick the appropriate box.

Yes

Please list the year and title of the legislation concerned as well as the enforcing institution.

> Protected since 1985 (Ministerial Decision 484985/1985 "Measures for the Management of Wild Birds" Law 3937/2011 "Conservation of Biodiversity"

Common Ministerial Decision 37338/1807/2010 «Determination of measures and procedures for the conservation of wild birds and habitats in compliance with EU Directives 79/409 and 92/43"

Μέτρα διαχείρισης της Άγριας Πτηνοπανίδας @@). Enforcing Institution is the Ministry of Energy, Environment and Climate Change (MEECC)

5.1.2. Does the national hunting legislation, in principle, provide adequate protection of the LWfG?

Please tick the appropriate box:

Yes

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

Please tick the appropriate box:

No

5.2. National Single Species Action Plan

5.2.1. Has your country drafted a National Single Species Action Plan for the LWfG?

Please select from the list:

NSSAP in place, but not being implemented

Please explain why your developed NSSAP is currently not being implemented.

> Not appropriate legal framework.

New legislation in place now and a new NSSAP is being developed.

5.2.2. 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?

Please tick the appropriate box:

Yes

5.3. National Working Group

5.3.1. Does your country have a National Working Group for the LWfG?

Please tick the appropriate box:

No

5.3.2. Additional information (optional)

Please add any additional information concerning the National Working Group for the LWfG not covered by the previous question.

> There is a newly formed NWG for the NSSAP.

5.4. Monitoring

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

During the breeding season?

Not applicable

During passage/migration period?

Yes

Please provide more information on monitoring activities during passage/migration season.

> In the context of the LIFE10/NAT/GR638 project as well as in the monitoring schedules of the Management Authorities of Kerkini Lake and Evros Delta.

During the wintering season?

Yes

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

> In the context of the LIFE10/NAT/GR638 project as well as in the monitoring schedules of the Management Authorities of Kerkini Lake and Evros Delta.

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

During breeding season?

Not applicable

During passage/migration?

Not applicable

During wintering/non-breeding season?

Not applicable

5.6. Awareness Raising

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

Please select from the list:

Yes, being implemented

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

> LIFE10/NAT/GR638: Campaign against illegal hunting in the Greek wetlands run by Ministry of Environment (MEECC) and Hellenic Ornithological Society (HOS) including TV and radio spots, publication of "good practice guide", training seminars for wardens and hunters.

5.6.2. Has your country developed/produced LWfG information materials to this end (i.e. posters, leaflets etc.)?

Please select from the list:

Yes

6. Funding

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

Please tick the appropriate box:

No

6.2. 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?

Please tick the appropriate box:

No

6.3. Additional information (optional)

Please add any additional information concerning the funding of LWfG conservation measures in your country not covered by the questions above.

> LIFE10/NAT/GR638 provides funding for the drafting but no funding has been allocated so far for the implementation of the LWfG NSSAP.

7. Update on Key Knowledge

7.1. Are satellite tracking and/or field surveys being used in your country to locate the breeding, staging and/or wintering sites of the Western main population?

Please tick the appropriate box:

No

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

Please tick the appropriate box:

Yes

Please provide further information on the measures being undertaken.

> There are indications that part of the main wintering flock of Fennoscandian LWfG are leaving the main wintering sites in Greece during mid-winter, for some other, presently unknown, site. A network of national/regional/local Lesser White-fronted Goose (LWfG) monitoring and conservation teams is currently organized through LIFE10/NAT/GR638

7.3. 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.)?

Please tick the appropriate box:

Not applicable

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

Please tick the appropriate box:

Yes

Please provide further information on such further knowledge gaps.

> Not all wintering/staging sites in Greece have been discovered.

9. Submission

Please insert the date of submission for this report:

> 31/08/2012