



*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-aewa.org/activities/working_groups/lwfg/lwfg_ssap_130109.pdf

LWfG Single Species Action Plan online in *RUSSIAN*:

http://www.unep-aewa.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 Iran, Islamic Republic of

Contracting Party to AEWA:

Yes No

NATIONAL FOCAL POINT

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NATIONAL EXPERT

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DATE *of submission* 16/11/2010

DATE *(submission of previous report)* -

GENERAL INFORMATION – FIELD FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION (optional):

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2. STATUS UPDATE

2.1. SPECIES STATUS -BREEDING (pairs)

Latest population estimate: Year
 Minimum
 Maximum

Population trend: select from list

Source(s) of information:

Not applicable No information

2.2. SPECIES STATUS - PASSING (individuals)

Latest population estimate: Year
 Minimum
 Maximum

Population trend: declining

Source(s) of information:

Not applicable No information

2.3. SPECIES STATUS – WINTERING (individuals)

Latest population estimate: Year 2008
 Minimum 26
 Maximum .>100

Population trend: declining

Source(s) of information:

Mid-winter counts of water-birds D.O.E

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

12

Out of the above total, number of protected sites

8

Number of protected sites with management plans that are being implemented

6

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

There are several very extensive wetland systems of great important foe a wide variety of wetland species, and among them the L.W.F.G. is of more concern, however, the major gap in order to protect all of the sites are lack of management plan for all of them and necessary fund for implementation.

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)

South Uroomiyeh National Park, Horel Azim (Mesopotamian) marsh, Qareh Qeshlagh marsh, Helleh Protected Area, Miankaleh Protected Area, Shushab area.

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: declining

Description of the situation:

The L.W.F.G. once was relatively abundant bird in Iran, although there is not a detailed survey throughout the country, however, the mid-winter counts in recent years revealed that there is a great decline in population number

of migrating and wintering bird. LWFG hunting is forbidden in Iran, however, the bird might be shot by hunters erroneously when the LWFG can't be distinguished among the Greylag Goose flock.

Source(s) of information:

D.O.E. mid-winter counts and some surveys in different times of the year by the experts.

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:

Hunting is banned in all of Protected Areas, Wildlife Refuges and National Parks of Iran despite of being key sites for LWFG or not.

If no, please explain why:

Hunting is not banned in not-protected sites even if the LWFG occurs there, but hunting LWFG is banned throughout the country and offenders are fined.

If not applicable, please explain why:

It is possible to control hunting in some sites, but, Iran is a very large country, therefore it is very difficult to implement the regulations about hunting birds all around the country especially out of the protected areas.

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

Yes No Not applicable

If yes, please provide more information:

We have not exact information about hunting pressure on L.W.F.G.

If no, please explain why:

Most of the key sites for LWFG in Iran are protected where hunting is banned.

If not applicable, please explain why:

Hunting pressure assessment in a site would be applicable if specific plan with enough time and budget be provided.

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:

If no, please explain why:

We should have an action plan and enough fund to do any training.

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:

Hunting is forbidden within existing protected areas although illegal hunting may take place.

If no, please explain why:

It is explained in former question

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:

Hunting LWFG is legally forbidden both for adults and juveniles.

If not applicable, please explain why:

It has not been heard any hunting inside key sites or outside the areas.

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:

There is not a special plan in this regards

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:

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: declining

Description of the situation:

The attitudes of the farmers are changed greatly in recent years, therefore, very few lands around the important sites are under cultivation.

Source(s) of information:

Recent surveys by D.O.E. experts.

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:

If no, please explain why:

L.W.F.G. does not breed in Iran

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:

If no, please explain why:

Some time we are able to take measures to avoid any human disturbances.

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:

the bird does not breed in Iran.

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: declining

Description of the situation:

Source(s) of information:

D.O.E. and some NGOs like Wildlife Society of Iran

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:

If no, please explain why:

It is necessary to have a national action plan in order to detect and find out if predation is a significant limiting factor in the country.

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:

Source(s) of information:

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:

If no, please explain why:

We do not have any monitoring plan on this issue.

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:

If no, please explain why:

We need helps from AEWA to take an action.

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 D.O.E. is responsible to prevent any illegal hunting of L.W.F.G. according to the Environmental code of the Islamic Republic of Iran , July 1999.

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:

Any kind of hunting and trapping the bird is forbidden due to the Game and Fish law amendments made on 1996.12.16, and offenders are severely punished.

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:

Prevention of illegal hunting is much feasible in Protected areas and National Parks due to allocation of more number of Game guards present there.

If no, please explain why:

The Iran land is very large with many hunters, and any efforts need enough money, and in our conditions it is difficult to allocate sufficient human as game guard and financial resources to control hunting effectively throughout the bird distribution range outside of the protected areas.

NATIONAL LEGAL PROTECTION – FIELD FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION (optional)

there are very good regulations to implement for any protection, but it is important to be able to execute them.

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:

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:

To prepare comprehensive management plans for conservation of 30 Internationally threatened species of Iran including LWFG as well as the other threatened species of birds, mammals, reptiles and so on, the Wildlife Bureau provided 30 proposals consisted of very detailed Terms of References through which basic and main data and information for species comprehensive management plans will be provided through carrying out field studies projects and surveys in the country. The program for any species will be started as soon as necessary financial resources being allocated.

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:

We are very much pleased to receive any assistance (scientific and financial) in this work.

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.:

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:
Since the bird does not breed in Iran, no monitoring activities take place.

Passage/migration period:

Yes Partial No Not applicable

Please provide more information on the monitoring activities during the passage/migration season:
It is the duty of the Department of the Environment to control any illegal action in relation to the protected birds. The National Parks and protected Areas are regularly monitored and protected by rangers to conserve wildlife as general including threatened species such as LWFG. But due to inadequate number of rangers in the country, covering all of the distribution range of LWFG outside the protected areas is impossible all of the times.

Wintering season:

Yes Partial No Not applicable

Please provide more information on the monitoring activities during the non-breeding/wintering season:
The same as migration item (mentioned above).

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)

Through carrying out the project entitled "Development of a Wetland Site and Flyway Network for Conservation of the Siberian Crane and Other Migratory Waterbirds in Asia", some of the key sites for LWFG, including Fereydoun Kenar

Damgah and Bujagh National Park have been severely protected and monitored during recent years. Moreover, the Wildlife Society of Iran implemented a kind of monitoring action in some important sites mainly in Fereydoun Kenar between 2005 and 2007, in cooperation with a NGO (MCCA), but due to the shortage of budget could not be continued.

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:

A general survey has been carried out to identify the sites, population number of each site and distribution pattern of the LWfG by the personnels of the Department of the Environment and the report is available.

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:

Project title:

Development of a Wetland Site and Flyway Network for Conservation of the Siberian Crane and Other Migratory Waterbirds in Asia

Goal:

Establish a network of important wetlands needed for the survival of the Siberian Crane, migratory waterbirds and other wetland biodiversity in Asia

Objectives:

- To support site conservation
- Wider measures for wetlands & waterbird conservation
- Legislation & policy improvements
- Biodiversity input to regional planning
- Monitoring of Siberian Cranes & other Globally Significant Species
- Training, Education & Awareness
- To address threats
- Stakeholder participation
- Legal protection
- Management plans
- Site management committees etc
- Capacity building / training
- Public awareness programs
- Alternative livelihood projects

Duration:

6 Years (72 months)

Commencing: March 2003

Completion: 31 December 2009

International Implementing Agency:

United Nations Environment Programme

International Executing Agency:

International Crane Foundation supported by the Convention on Migratory Species

National Executing Agency:

Department of Environment, Natural Environment and Biodiversity Division, Wildlife Bureau.

Contact details:

International Crane Foundation (ICF)

P.O. Box 447

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National Project Manager

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Short Description

The Siberian Crane *Grus leucogeranus* is a critically endangered species dependent upon shallow wetland habitats along its migration routes. A United Nations Environment Programme/Global Environment Facility project entitled "Development of a Wetland Site and Flyway Network for Conservation of the Siberian Crane and Other Migratory Waterbirds in Asia" is being implemented involving four countries (People's Republic of China, Islamic Republic of Iran, Republic of Kazakhstan and the Russian Federation) under the coordination of the International Crane Foundation, aiming to conserve key wetlands along the West and East Asian migration routes. This project addresses threats at 16 internationally important wetlands along these flyways, seeking to secure their ecological integrity for the benefit of a wide range of biodiversity. The main outcome will be the sustained ecological integrity of a network of globally important wetlands in Asia and the migratory waterbirds that depend on them. This outcome will be accomplished through components at wetland site, national and regional levels. Site-level outputs address the management of globally significant flyway wetlands through legal protection, management plans, stakeholder participation, capacity building, public awareness programmes and alternative livelihood projects. Additional national level activities support site and migratory waterbird conservation (UNEP 2002).

The UNEP/GEF Siberian Crane Wetlands Project (SCWP) in Iran aimed to increase the capacity for management of two project sites*, which have different degrees of protection under national legislation: Fereydoon Kenar Non-Shooting Area (Mazandaran Province), and Bujagh National Park (in Gilan Province). These protected areas are designated wetlands of international importance under the Ramsar Convention, in common with a number of other sites in the Caspian Lowlands of Iran.

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:
usually during the obtaining licence for hunting waterfowl.

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:
Although the DOE provided conditions to implement the awareness among the people especially hunters, however, in shortage of fund it is difficult to do the actions effectively.

Being developed

If being developed, please describe when these methods will be ready for implementation:
Every thing is under development, but this project will be carried out from this winter.

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:
most of the work can be done by DOE and NGOs, but to be more effective we need enough budget.

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:
very little is provided by the department of the Environment.

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:

If no, please explain why:
It needs support, plan and budget.

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:

If no, please explain why:

only field surveys have been used to locate the key staging and wintering sites.

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:

If no, please explain why:

This population does not breed in Iran

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:

If no, please explain why:

This population is very far from our country.

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:

Since all of the sites potentially important for staging or wintering LWfG in Iran are not regularly monitored, first of all we need to implement an action plan so that collecting as much as information about the presence of the bird in the expected sites be possible, but we hope to have an opportunity to discuss about the situation while we are in the meeting.

KEY KNOWLEDGE – FIELD FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION (optional)

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS (optional)

The information submitted in this draft need to be discussed more. It is very difficult to collect exact records about the LWfG, because the country is very large and very few ornithologists may be able to help. It is vital to implement effective education program for local people, hunters, and authorities to make them understand that this bird is in threatened and should be protected as an important part of biodiversity. We appreciate any cooperation for the establishment of a working plan in order to take a longer stride on the conservation of the LWfG.

THANK YOU!