



# 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:

Email: [nina.mikander@lesserwhitefrontedgoose.aewa.info](mailto:nina.mikander@lesserwhitefrontedgoose.aewa.info)

Tel: +49 (0)228 815 2452

Single Species Action Plan in English

Single Species Action Plan in Russian

Happy reporting!

## 1. General Information

Name of reporting Range State

> Iraq

Contracting Party to AEWA

Yes

### National Focal Point

Name

> Samer Hani

Functional title

> Ministry of Environment staff

Organisation

> Iraqi Ministry of Environment

Address

> Iraq, Baghdad, Karrada

E-mail

> sah6181978@yahoo.com

Phone

> +964 (0)7703410738

**National Expert**

Name

> Mudhafar A. Salim

Functional title

> Head of the Bird Section

Organisation

> Nature Iraq

Address

> Iraq, Sulaimaniya, Ashti Q., St 27.

E-mail

> mudhafar.salim@natureiraq.org

Phone

> +964 (0)7707 220 188

Fax

> +964 53 329 2007

## 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

No information

Tick only if no information is available

#### Population trend

Please select from the list

Unknown

### 2.3. Species Status - wintering (individuals)

Does the species winter in your country?

Yes

#### Latest population estimate

Minimum

> 1800

Maximum

> 3000

Year

> up to 2011

#### Population trend

Please select from the list

Unknown

#### Source(s) of information

Please list any published or unpublished sources of information on wintering population size and trend estimates.

> Based on the annual reports of the KBAs surveys

### 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?

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

> 1

#### 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.

> The main threat that faces Waterfowl in Iraq in general and the LWfG specifically is the draught of the wetlands that is caused by the lack of water. The second threat is the unsustainable hunting.

#### 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?

Yes

Please list these sites

> 1. Dalmaj Marshes

2. Teeb Marshes

in addition to some more potential sites that provide good habitats for the LWfG

Of those listed above, please specify which ones are protected and/or managed.

> None of them

#### 3.4. Additional information (optional)

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

> It is noted that Dalmaj Marshes is not only important for the LWfG, it is very important for huge numbers of other species geese and ducks as well as Wader.

## 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):

High

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

Increasing

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 the LWfG occurs in winter. There is no dedicated hunters or methods for this species, but as the hunters prefer the large games (like geese), some LWfG would be hunt by those hunters.

Hunting by shotgun is the commonest method of hunting, then netting comes.

Most of the hunters hunt for food, but considerable numbers hunt for fun.

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

Please tick the appropriate box:

Not applicable

Please explain why the banning of hunting at all key LWfG sites is not applicable in your country.

> Because the environmental legislations are still under development, and the old law is not active on-ground.

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

Please tick the appropriate box:

No

Please provide more information on why efforts have not yet been made to assess the hunting pressure at key sites.

> Because of the lack of the technical experience in this field.

#### 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.

> Nature Iraq did technical workshop one time, but this is not enough at all. This workshop should be repeated in many places around Iraq.

#### 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.

Not applicable

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

> Because of lack of funding to cover these activities.

#### 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

Please provide more information on why no measures have been taken.

> Same as above

#### 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

Please provide more information on why such measures have not been undertaken.

> Same as above

### 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):

Unknown

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

Unknown

Please describe the situation with regard to the threat from poisoning to the LWfG in your country.

> The situation is unknown

### 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):

High

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

Unknown

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

> The continuous movements of locals (and hunters) causes movements in the geese population in general, and when the LWfG being with these populations it will be a target for this kind of threats.

#### 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.

> Because of lack of fund to cover such activities.

#### 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:

Not applicable

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

> Because of lack of fund to cover such activities, also because of the lack in the technical experience in this field.

#### 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:

No

Please provide further information on why measures are not being undertaken.

> Because the LWfG does not breed in Iraq

#### **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.

> Unknown

##### **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:

No

Please provide information on why measures are not being undertaken to limit the threat from predation?

> Iraq is not breeding ground for the LWfG

#### **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):

High

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

Increasing

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

> The drying of the suitable habitats (wetlands) in Iraq is the main current threat that facing the LWfG and other Waterfowl species

##### **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.

> The suverys of the KBAs in Iraq (mainly wetlands) ensures good monitoring scheme for these wetlands and the Waterfowl species (including the LWfG).

##### **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:

Not applicable

Please explain why the activity is not applicable in your country.

> It is included in the set of the recommendations in the annual KBA report. These recommendations are addressed to the stakeholders and the related bodies inside Iraq.

## 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.

No

Please explain why the LWfG is not yet legally protected in your country.

> The national environmental legislation is being developed recently

#### 5.1.4. Additional information (optional)

Please add any additional information concerning national legal protection of the species not covered in the questions above.

> The national environmental legislation is being developed recently. It is not approved yet.

### 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:

No NSSAP

Please explain why your country does not yet have a NSSAP and is not in the process of producing one.

> It is planned to draft a NSSAP for the threatened birds in Iraq, including the LWfG.

#### 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:

Not applicable

#### 5.2.3. Additional information (optional)

Please add any additional information concerning NSSAPs not covered in the questions above.

> When we reach that level of performance in drafting the LWfG NSSAP, sure we'll be discussing it with the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat.

### 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

### 5.4. 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?

No

During the wintering season?

Not applicable

#### If your country does not have a monitoring scheme in place for the LWfG please explain why.

Please fill in the text box:

> Because of the lack of the technical experience and the fund.

#### **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?

Yes

Please provide more information on how the monitoring is being done and by whom.

> By the surveys of the KBAs over Iraq

During wintering/non-breeding season?

Yes

Please provide more information on how the monitoring is being done and by whom.

> By the surveys of the KBAs over Iraq

### **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.

> It is inclusive in some of the leaflets and the wall-posters that tackling the reatened birds in Iraq

#### **5.6.3. Additional information (optional)**

Please provide any additional information concerning awareness raising activities not covered by the questions above.

> In order to provide good set of awareness materials and program, it would be important to do a survey over the LWfG known sites in addition to the potential ones in order to focus the efforts.

## 6. Funding

### 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.

> Not sure if there will be fund available to cover the drafting and implementation of the LWfG NSSAP. Also, separate fund should be available in order to make the surveys to write the national report of the LWfG in Iraq.

## 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

Please explain why no satellite tracking or field survey are currently being undertaken.

> Up to now, there is no plan for such a work.

### 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.

> The surveys of the KBAs (along with other surveys) provided some info regarding the LWfG in Iraq, but not dedicated on the Fennoscandian populations.

### 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.

> Systematic surveys over the Iraqi wetlands (like the IWC) is needed to be implemented in Iraq to have better knowledge about the wintering population(s).

### 7.5. Additional information (optional)

Please provide any further information on key knowledge not covered by the questions above.

> It is important to make the survey on the existed and the potential sites for the LWfG in Iraq in order to write the national report of the current status of the LWfG.

## 8. Additional Comments

Please provide any additional comments or information not covered by the previous sections of the national report.

> In order to have better knowledge of the status of the LWfG. A survey on the existing and potential sites of the LWfG in Iraq should be made and the report should be written explaining carefully all of the habitat types over these sites.

## 9. Submission

Please insert the date of submission for this report:

> 20 Sept, 2012