



*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 Kazakhstan

Contracting Party to AEWA:

Yes No

NATIONAL FOCAL POINT

Name: Bakhytbek Duisekeev

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NATIONAL EXPERT

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DATE *of submission* 2009

DATE *(submission of previous report)* 2007-2008

GENERAL INFORMATION – FIELD FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION (optional):

2. STATUS UPDATE

2.1. SPECIES STATUS -BREEDING (pairs)

Latest population estimate: Year
 Minimum
 Maximum

Population trend: increasing

Source(s) of information:

Not applicable No information

2.2. SPECIES STATUS - PASSING (individuals)

Latest population estimate: Year 2010
 Minimum 19 993
 Maximum 20 000

Population trend: increasing

Source(s) of information:

Expert group report. Results of national work meeting on LWFG in Kostanay, Republic of Kazakhstan, October 12-14, 2010 .

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

12

Out of the above total, number of protected sites

3

Number of protected sites with management plans that are being implemented

2

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

1. Lack of conservation status for most critical sites
2. Most management structures don't meet commitments (wildlife management areas users) associated with long-term LWfG habitats

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:

When monitoring two new sites have been identified - Kazakh Zharkul lake (from Arkalyk lake group) and Russian Zhrakul lake on the east of Kostanai oblast.

Are any of these sites protected and/or managed?

both abovementioned sites are efficiently managed structures which got long-term use

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:

In Kazakhstan goose hunting is an ancient custom for a major part of population. Firstly this threat is connected to difficulties to identify this goose specie by hunters. Secondly, frequent changes in hydrological regime of lakes on which migratory LWFG stopover force them to stop on another unmanaged lakes where hunting may occur.

Source(s) of information:

Reuslts of annual autumn monitoring for LWFG migration in Kostanay oblast, Kazakhstan, 1996-2010.

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:

According to the exisiting regulation in northern regions of Kazakhstan, where imigratory LWFG stopover, hunting is forbidden directly in the lake acquatirium and 500 metre zone from water edge

If no, please explain why:

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:

In the region of Kulkol lake when hydrological regime was favourable, animals which hunters got were examined in 1996-2001. an amount of annually hunted geeze was from 80 to 300. The proportion of LWFG was 1,3 – 1,5% out of all geeze species. The ratio of hunted LWFG on Koibagar-Tyuntyugur lakes was similar. In dry years such as 2004 and 2010 geeze from dry lakes move to other places including not protected ones where hunting takes place. In these cases LWFG proportion is higher.

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:

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 national plan being worked out currently on LWFG conservation in Kazakhstan foresees the developed targeted actions on raising awareness and conducting special trainings for hunters as well as implementing agreement commitments envisaged by regulation on passing hunting areas to longterm use and fighting poaching, efficient conservation of geese sites.

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:

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:

Most geese rapidly orient themselves in the situation and stops inhabiting the area on which hunting takes place and stay on field where hunting doesn't occur. This can be observed at key stopover zones in Kazakh Zharkol in Arkalyk region. However some geese will visit hnting areas in particular newly coming "hungry groups".

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:

LWFG are unlikely to get poisoned from lead fraction. According to the existing regulations hunting is forbidden on lake aquatorium. Therefore lead fraction doesn't accumulate on the bottom of this lakes. Crop fields also changes and this also doesn't affect fraction accumulation on the surface of local area soils. Besides all crop fields are ploughed

annually and lead fraction on the surface is covered by soil; layer and is not accessible to geeze. Only those lakes which aren't traditional places for geeze hunting may accumulate some fractions which if swalloed by geeze can result in poisoning.

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: select from list

Description of the situation:

Human disturbance is low for LWFG. Only after strong flood lakes are filled with water and fish breed there and then fishing appears significant disturbance factor. Particularly, the fishing influence is strong if fishermen use motorboats. But the period for intensive fishing if lakes are filled with 12 year cycle, is 4-5 years. Recurrence for filling in lakes with flood water is asynchronous in different regions of Kostanay oblast therefore fishing disturbance for LWFG is significant only in local areas.

Source(s) of information:

14-year monitoring for autumn migration of LWFG in Kostanay oblast

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:

There was no need in that.

Key sites for LWFG in Kazakhstan don't have such sources of disturbance.

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:

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:

When migrating in particularly in autumn through Kazakhstan area livestock grazing season is already over and there is no disturbance.

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: stable

Description of the situation:

Predators inhabiting sites of migratory LWFG (fox – *Vulpes vulpes*, corsac – *Vulpes corsak*, wolf – *Canis lupus*) are only potential threat. In daytime they don't appear on the water shores and at night geese always have "guards" among their mates. Out of feathered predators white sea eagle can be a potential threat – *Haliaeetus albicilla*, imperial eagle – *Aquila heliaca* or golden eagle – *Aquila chrysaetus*, which can take only sick or weak LWFG.

Source(s) of information:

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:

there is no need

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: select from list

Description of the situation:

Degradation level of habitats in high and medium water level in lakes should be assessed as low and in dry season as medium. In northern-west Kazakhstan, for example, in dry period in key sites like - Kulykol, Tyuntyugur, Naurzum lakes - they choose other lakes with stable water level for stopping over (Zhaksy-Zharkol, Zhaman-Rechnoe). In different periods they pass from one lake to another - in Kostanay region there is a single regional habitat with low, medium and high quality for geese.

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:

Due to the lack of means, annual monitoring surveys are conducted only in autumn mostly in the flying period its not more 10-12 days. Therefore short-term surveys allow only identify these factors including anthropogenic ones.

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:

Yes. In local areas (Arkalyk region hunting farms) optimal water level is supported artificially and specially large areas are cropped and not harvested. Annually on these lakes a large amount of geese stop (hundred thousand) including several thousand LWFG.

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:

By Resolution of the Government of Kazakhstan dated on April, 10, 2002 LWFG is included in the list of protected species.

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:

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:

If no, please explain why:

NATIONAL LEGAL PROTECTION – FIELD FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION (optional)

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:

Currently draft National action plan on LWFG is being developed.

the development process started on October, 12-13, 2010 at the work meeting in Kostanay and provisionally may be in April-May, 2011.

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:

Certainly assistance from UNEP/AEWA will be required to clarify general structure for Action plan, to fit with similar documents developed and put into operation by other countries in order to formulate separate tasks and action list which needs to be implemented and seek for possible financial sources required for implementation of this actions.

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:

This group will be formed in the course of development of National action plan on LWFG. Mostly potential group members were present at work meeting in Kostanay and among them there were representatives from government structures of regional and local levels, experts ornitologists, experts from hunting areas and active members from NGO-s. Within several years monitoring for LWFG is done by professional ornitologists among them there are experts from Kazakhstan, Russia and Finland.

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:

Kostanay region has a monitoring scheme. Kostanay water bodies are concentrated points for LWFG migration routes – not less than 80% of "western" population. At initial stage of autumn monitoring for LWFG in Kostanay region (1996-1997) the Committee of Forestry and Hunting, MA, RoK approved monitoring design with information on geese surveying methodology and their habitats, terms and monitoring work scope. In what follows this design was amended but methodological base is the same within 14 years.

Passage/migration period:

Yes Partial No Not applicable

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

Field surveys for LWFG as well as other geese species are done in the period of more intensive autumn flyway - the last 5 days of September– first decade of October. one or two groups of ornitologists took part in the survey. The group collects information on composition structure of geese concentration. All known sites - from 12-17 to 40 sites (depending on the number of those who survey and funds for monitoring arrangement). Besides data on geese the information on habitats, essential negative factors are gathered.

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:

"Monitoring of Numbers of the Lesser White-Fronted Goose (*Anser erythropus*) during autumn migration through Kustanay region – north-western Kazakhstan", with the participant and support of the Regional Environmental Agency Hame, Finland.

The goal is an annual control for number and distribution of the LWFG on Kostanay region.

The main objectives: migration period, number, age structure, resting and feeding areas, 24-hours time budget, habitats conditions, ecological situation on the staging areas and the main negative factors.

Period of implementation – 1997-2004 yy

Implementing organizations: Institute of Zoology, Ministry of Education and Science< Kazakhstan & Regional Environmental Agency of Hame, Finland

Contact persons – Dr. Erkki Kellomaki., Erkki.Kellomaki@elisaneet.net.fi Dr. Sergey Yerokhov, SYerokhov@mail.ru

2. Monitoring the autumn migration and staging of the Lesser White-fronted Goose in north-western Kazakhstan” As a part of the “Life-Natura -2000” EU Programm.

The goal is to clarify the role of the Kazakhstan wetlands for the Scandinavian LWfG migrating populations support. The main objective – key sites for the LWfG resting and feeding on the north-western Kazakhstan on the base from the satellite transmitter LWfG marking information. Habitats conditions, hunting influence, public awareness.

Period of implementation: 1996, 1998, 1999 yy.

Implementing organization – WWF Programme Finland

Contact person - Mister Petteri Tolwanen , WWF-Finland

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:

1. “Development of a Wetland Site and Flyway Network for Conservation of the Siberian Crane and Other Migratory Waterbirds in Asia”, the GEF/UNEP Regional Project for the Russia, China, Kazakhstan and Islamic Republic of Iran.

The goal – integrated regional ecological activity for the global endangered Siberian Crane and other endangered waterbird conservation

The main objectives – long term and sustainable of main wetlands areas management and conservation

Period of implementation – 2003-2008 yy.

Implementing organization – Forest and Hunting Committee of the Ministry of Agriculture RK

Contact Perosn – Mr. Chairbel Mussabayev, Vice-Head of Committee, Mrs Vera Inyitina, Project manager, vera.inyitina@mail.ru

2. “Integrated conservation of priority globally significant migratory bird wetland habitat: A demonstration on three sites: Ural river Delta, Teniz-Korgaldgin lakes system and Alakol-Sasykkol lakes group” GEF/UNDP national Project

The goal - long term and sustainable of main wetlands areas as a migratory bird habitats in Kazakhstan management and conservation

The main objectives – institutional, scientific, economic and ecological responsibilities and co-operation for the effective wetlands area management and conservation

Period of implementation – 2004-20011 yy

Implementing organization - Forest and Hunting Committee of the Ministry of Agriculture RK

Contact Perosn – Mr. Chairbel Mussabayev cites@minagri.kz Mr. Talgat Kerteshev talgat.kerteshev@undp.org

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:

Together with monitoring for autumn migration in 1998-2008 there was a range of activities on awareness raising on endangered LWfG status first of all among hunters.

Under cooperation with international group on geese the Wetlands International developed models on which brochures and booklets, special postcards were prepared. Visual information was introduced (photo, pictures), methods were shown on how to distinguish LWfG from other species, what particularities LWfG have in habitats and feeding sites. Within the framework of the GEF/UNEP regional project in Kostanay oblast there were printed manuals on migratory white crane habitats and other globally endangered species. Also manuals were printed on globally endangered species in Kostanay oblast including LWfG and most critical threats were listed - hunting is the uppermost.

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:

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:

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:

Multiple data on tracking LWfG obtained from radiotransmitters by Scandinavian and Russian ornithologists and field surveys by national and international ornithologist groups allowed to identify key stopover sites for LWfG in Kazakhstan.

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:

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:

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:

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:

There are still knowledge gaps on LWFG. These includes identification of water habitats roles in Kazakhstan to the north and to the east of Kostanay oblast - areas of North-Kazakhstan and Pavlodar oblasts, up-to-date data on West Kazakhstan waterbodies - in Ural river basin which were known as the LWFG stopover sites. In Kostanay oblast wider and longer field surveys need to be done to identify current population size and age structure ration, to obtain concrete data on hunting that affects LWFG and other species.

KEY KNOWLEDGE – FIELD FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION (optional)

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS (optional)

THANK YOU!