Critical sites for the Lesser White-fronted Goose

**Introduction**

At the 2nd Meeting of the AEWA Lesser White-fronted Goose International Working Group in 2012, the Working Group decided to establish a list of sites critical for the conservation of the species. This list was updated slightly during the revision process for the AEWA International Single Species Action Plan for the Lesser White-fronted Goose. The updated list reflected in the latest draft of the revised Action Plan from July 2015 is attached below for ease of reference.

The criteria adopted for the selection of the critical sites are as follows: a) sites critical for the conservation and recovery of the Lesser White-fronted Goose, which b) are also important for other migratory geese and waterbirds.

**Selection of priority sites for conservation action**

As a next step and in order to further streamline conservation efforts for the species, the list of sites needs to be reviewed by the Working Group – particularly in light of new monitoring and satellite-tracking data - and amended as necessary. In anticipation of the expected inclusion of the Eastern main population into a future revised version of the Action Plan, range states from the eastern flyway are also invited to add sites to the list in accordance with the criteria mentioned above.

In addition, the Working Group is invited to select and agree on a maximum of ten sites to be targeted – in particular - for conservation action during the next inter-sessional period. Whilst recognizing that all of the identified critical sites are important, there is a need to further highlight those which are particularly vulnerable and in need of urgent conservation measures during the next few years.

A full assessment and report will first be completed for each of the selected sites, including a full description (also legal/protection status), numbers and times of occurrence of geese, counts and monitoring work which has been or is being undertaken, an identification of threats, key stakeholders, recommendations for conservation actions and next steps. A format for this will be provided by the AEWA Secretariat.

Based on recent monitoring and satellite-tracking data, the following sites/range states are suggested to be prioritized for conservation action during 2016-2019:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Range state | Site | Population |
| Azerbaijan | Kizil Agach State Reserve | Western main |
| Greece | Evros delta | Fennoscandian |
| Iran / Azerbaijan | Araz water reservoir/Nakchivan | Western main |
| Iraq | full scale survey and prioritization of sites | Western main |
| Kazakhstan / Russia | Lakes Kolykol, Taldykol, Ayke and smaller lake systems up to Lisakovsk, Kamysty district in the Kostanay region - combined with Lake Zhetykol in Aktyubinsk Oblast in Russia | Fennoscandian and Western main |
| Kazakhstan | Koybagar-Tyuntyugur lakes system, Karasu district in the Kostanay region | Fennoscandian and Western main |
| Kazakhstan | Zhylandy and Balykty in Akkayin district, Northern Kazakhstan region | Fennoscandian and Western main |
| Russia | Ob River Valley (Lower Ob, several sites including moulting site on the coast which is not yet protected) | Fennoscandian and Western main |
| Turkmenistan/Uzbekistan | Talimardzhan water reservoir in Uzbekistan including high parts of the Amudarya river and the relevant border areas in Turkmenistan (maybe down to Zeid reservoir?) | Western main |

**Action requested from the Working Group**

* Review the attached list of selected critical sites (Annex I) and amend it as appropriate, possibly also adding and/or removing sites based on new available monitoring and satellite-tracking information;
* Select and agree on a maximum of 10 critical sites along the flyways in need of urgent conservation action during the next inter-sessional period and/or in need of urgent monitoring to assess their importance for the species;
* Prepare, by the end of the meeting to the extent possible, a status assessment of the selected sites according to a format provided.

Annex I - List of Critical Sites for the Lesser White-fronted Goose (as of July 2015)

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **COUNTRY** | **SITE** | **SEASON** | **POPULATION** | **CURRENT ESTIMATE** |
| **Azerbaijan** | Gizil Agach State Reserve (Golden Tree) | winter | WM | 50-410 |
| Aggol National Park | winter | WM | 33-230 |
| Arraz Water Reserve (Nachevan) | winter | WM | 100 |
| **Bulgaria** | Shabla Lake Complex | winter | F/WM | 5-20 |
| Durankulak Lake | winter | F/WM | 5-20 |
| **Estonia** | Matsalu Bay region | spring staging | F | 30-50 |
| Noarootsi Peninsula (and Silma Nature Reserve) | spring staging | F | 30-50 |
| **Finland** | Oulu region wetlands (especially Säärenperä) | spring staging | F | 50 |
| *Germany* | *-* | *-* | *-* | *-* |
| **Greece** | Evros delta | winter & passage | F | 54-75 |
| Lake Kerkini | winter & passage | F | 35-69 |
| **Hungary** | Hortobágy | winter & passage | F | 22-82 |
| **Iran** | Miankaleh Peninsula and Gorgan Bay | winter | WM | 5--20 |
| Bujagh National Park | winter | WM | <5 |
| Aras River and Dam | winter | WM | >1000 |
| *Iraq* | *-* | *-* | *-* | *-* |
| **Kazakhstan** | Kulykol-Taldykol Lake System | passage | WM/F | >1000 |
| Koybagar-Tyuntyugur Lake System | passage | WM/F | >1000 |
| Bolshoy Kak Lake | passage | WM/F | >1000 |
| Kazakh Zharkol, Kostanay province | passage | WM/F | >1000 |
| Russian Zharkol, Kostanay province | passage | WM/F | >1000 |
| Shagly-Teniz Lake, North Kazakhstan province | passage | WM/F | >1000 |
| Alva Lake, North Kazakhstan province | passage | WM/F | >1000 |
| Kamyshlovo Lake, North Kazakhstan province | passage | WM/F | >1000 |
| Zhaltyr Lake, North Kazakhstan province | passage | WM/F | >1000 |
| Balykty Lake, North Kazakhstan province | passage | WM/F | >1000 |
| Aksuat Lake, North Kazakhstan province | passage | WM/F | >1000 |
| Shalkar-Karashatau LAke, Aktobe province | passage | WM/F | >1000 |
| Shalkar Lake, Aktobe province | passage | WM/F | >1000 |
| Zharsor, Kostanay (51.36440; 62.81942) | passage | WM/F | >1000 |
| Aikya, Aktubinskaya (50.92418; 61.58656) | passage | WM/F | >1000 |
| *Lithuania* | *-* | - | - | - |
| **Norway** | Inner part of Porsanger fjord (includes Valdak Marshes) | non-breeding | F | 60-90 ind |
| Sirbma, Tana municipality, Finnmark county | spring migration | F | 1--10 |
| Kvænangsbotn, Troms county | spring staging | F | 1--10 |
| Iesjav'ri, Finnmark county | breeding | F | 10--20 pairs |
| *Poland* |  |  |  |  |
| **Romania** | Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve and Razim Complex | winter & passage | WM/F | 5-20 |
| Balta Ialomitei (island in Danube) | wintering | WM/F | 5-20 |
| Iezeer Calarasi (near Srebarna) | wintering | WM/F | 5-20 |
| Suhaia | wintering | WM/F | 5-20 |
| **Russia** | Dvuob'ye | passage | WM/F | 20.000 |
| Lake Manych-Gudilo | passage | WM/F | 2.000-10.000 |
| Foothills of Engane-Pe Ridge, the Polar Urals (includes Niya-Yu River valley) | breeding | WM | 30-50 pairs |
| Dyupkun Lake, Putorana Plateau | breeding | WM | unknown |
| *Syria* | - | - | - | - |
| **Turkey** | Evros delta | winter | F | unknown |
| **Turkmenistan** | Kelif-Zeyit | winter | WM | 250-400 |
| Durnaly | winter | WM | 150-300 |
| **Ukraine** | Syvash Bay | passage | WM/F | 100-500 |
| **Uzbekistan** | Amudarya river flood land | winter | WM | 100-500 |
| Talimarjan water reservoir and adjoining territories | winter | WM | 500-1000 |