



*AGREEMENT ON THE CONSERVATION OF  
AFRICAN-EURASIAN MIGRATORY WATERBIRDS*

**AEWA Lesser White-fronted Goose International Working Group  
- NATIONAL REPORT -**

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Please send the completed form to Nina Mikander, Coordinator for the Lesser White-fronted Goose at the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat by **Friday the 29<sup>th</sup> of October at the latest.**

Email: [nmikander@unep.de](mailto: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-awa.org/activities/working\\_groups/lwfg/lwfg\\_ssap\\_130109.pdf](http://www.unep-awa.org/activities/working_groups/lwfg/lwfg_ssap_130109.pdf)

LWfG Single Species Action Plan online in *RUSSIAN*:

[http://www.unep-awa.org/activities/working\\_groups/lwfg/lwfg\\_ssap\\_russ.pdf](http://www.unep-awa.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 1<sup>ST</sup> WORKING GROUP MEETING IN HELSINKI ON THE 30<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER - 1<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2010.

*- Please use the grey fields for answers and comments. -*

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## 1. GENERAL INFORMATION

**COUNTRY** Sweden

Contracting Party to AEWA:

Yes  No

### NATIONAL FOCAL POINT

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### NATIONAL EXPERT

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**DATE** of submission

**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	2009
	Minimum	15
	Maximum	25

Population trend: increasing

Source(s) of information:

Counts of pairs in breeding areas and families at staging localities

Not applicable  No information

### 2.2. SPECIES STATUS - PASSING (individuals)

Latest population estimate:	Year	2009
	Minimum	75
	Maximum	100

Population trend: increasing

Source(s) of information:

Counts on staging areas organized by The Swedish LWfG-project and Report system for birds, The Species Gateway (artportalen.se)

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)

Species status -wintering: None in Sweden. Swedish LWfG overwinter in the Netherlands.

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### 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

9

Out of the above total, number of protected sites

9

Number of protected sites with management plans that are being implemented

9

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

None

**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)**

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### 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:

Protected by law. Slight risk of misidentification during hunting of other goose species, but not during breeding season since there are hardly any other geese in the breeding area and thus no goose hunting there.

Source(s) of information:

Swedish EPA, Swedish Association for Hunting and Wildlife Management

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:

If no, please explain why:

Local hunters are informed about the risk of misidentification + there are general up-dates of hunters in identification of goose species

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:

If no, please explain why:

Very low / negligible hunting pressure

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:

Swedish hunting exam fulfills the criteria in the Charter. Hunting exam is obligatory/required in Sweden

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:

If no, please explain why:

Not necessary nor demanded; hunting pressure is negligible

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:

No hunting is allowed and hunting pressure is very low / negligible

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:

If no, please explain why:

If not applicable, please explain why:

No such areas are present in Sweden.

#### 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: select from list

Description of the situation:

Mainly in breeding areas: Medium or Low, fishing and activities connected to reindeer farming

Source(s) of information:

Reported by project staff, County Adm. Board staff and volunteers in LWfG censuses

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:

Fishing forbidden in the known breeding area May 2 - August 15. This issue and potential actions will be discussed in a near future.

If no, please explain why:

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:

If not applicable, please explain why:

No indications that this is a problem.

#### 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:

High frequency of pairs without young and in many cases small broods. Occurrence of red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*) is a threat to LWfG and the polar fox. However, this issue needs further investigation.

Source(s) of information:

Reported by field staff. Filmed by surveillance cameras at polar fox dens.

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:

Some protective hunting of red fox has been and is conducted in collaboration with the Action plan for the Arctic fox in the area. The predation effects and mitigation measures also needs further evaluation.

If no, please explain why:

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:

Varies between locations and regions. Remaining grazed and managed wetlands and hay-fields have an uncertain future. Some such sites are important as staging areas before reaching breeding areas. Here birds can be staying for longer periods waiting for favorable snow and ice conditions in breeding localities.

Source(s) of information:

County Adm. Boards

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:

No specific monitoring but habitat-quality notes are made during field work in the breeding area and seems stable.

If no, please explain why:

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:

No actions specifically aimed to improve habitat conditions for the LWfG. However, other measures in these areas may be profitable for the species.

If not applicable, please explain why:

#### **THREATS & RESPONSES - FIELD FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION (optional)**

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## **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:

1964, 3§ Jaktlagen (1987:259), 33§ Jaktförordningen (1987:905), 4§ Artskyddsförordningen (2007:845)

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:

Started in 2005. Planned to be completed no later than March 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:

**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.:

The Swedish EPA, The County Administrative Boards of Norrbotten, Västerbotten, Gästrikland and Uppsala, The Swedish Association for Hunting and Wildlife Management, Nordens Ark, WWF Sweden, The Swedish Ornithological Society

If no, please explain the reasons:

**NATIONAL WORKING GROUP – FIELD FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION** (optional)

The NWG may change depending on the development of the NSSAP.

### 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:

Counts of pairs and guarding males in the breeding area and follow-up with counts of families at staging sites situated close to the breeding area.

Passage/migration period:

Yes  Partial  No  Not applicable

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

Monitoring at the most important staging localities.

Wintering season:

Yes  Partial  No  Not applicable

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

Overwintering and winter monitoring is carried out in the Netherlands. In Sweden, if any birds are seen they are reported to the Reportsystem of Birds (The Species Gateway, artportalen.se ).

**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:**

Swedish Lesser White-fronted Goose Project. Monitoring, research and conservation activities: The primary goal is to safeguard the future of the Swedish population. Leading organization is the Swedish Association for Hunting and Wildlife Management. Close cooperation with Swedish Environmental Protection Agency and Nordens Ark. In cooperation with the Russian Goose, Swan and duck Group of North Eurasia (RGG) and Moscow Zoo, wildcaught goslings are imported from breeding areas in Russia and kept in Nordens Ark where a captive-breeding population is being built up since 2005 with the goal to produce LWfG for release in supplementation projects. Supported by WWF Sweden and several funds. Originally started in the late 1970s; planned to continue at least until 2014. Project leaders:

Åke Andersson, ake\_a@tele2.se and Niklas Holmqvist, niklas.holmqvist@jagareforbundet.se.

Starting in 2010, the project also examines the efficacy of different ways of releasing captive-reared 1K and 2K LWfG in the supplementation/re-inforcement of wild populations.

**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:**

**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:  
See under question 5

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:

Information about the LWfG in Sweden can be found, mainly using the Internet, at the Swedish Species Information Centre, at the Swedish Ornithological Society, at the County Adm. Board of Norrbotten, at the Swedish Association for Hunting and Wildlife Management, and the Species Gateway (artportalen.se). Postcard 2010 at [http://www.naturesar.se/global/vykort/dokument/norrbotten\\_-\\_Arjeplog.webb.pdf?epslanguage=sv](http://www.naturesar.se/global/vykort/dokument/norrbotten_-_Arjeplog.webb.pdf?epslanguage=sv) . See also text under question 5.

**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:

Funds for Wildlife Management and Action Plans for Endangered Species at The Swedish Environmental Protection Agency, Funding for Wildlife Management at the Swedish Association for Hunting and Wildlife Management

**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)

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## 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:

If not applicable, please explain why:

We do not anticipate that LWfG of the Western Main population, sensu the ISSAP, have breeding grounds in Sweden.

**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:

See previous question.

**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:

Repeated field surveys and censuses have been and are carried out. Satellite tracking has not been used so far.

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:

Surveys/Inventories have been carried out to discover suitable areas.

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:

1) An independent scientific review of the LWfG flyways in Europe (that soon will be commissioned by the AEWA Secretariat). (2) Evaluation of the efficacy of different ways of releasing captive-reared LWfG into the wild during population supplementation/re-inforcement (started in 2010).

**KEY KNOWLEDGE – FIELD FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION** (optional)

Sweden provided funding to the AEWA to commission an independent review of published studies on LWfG genetics that included dimensioning of the problem with genetic introgression of Greater White-fronted Goose into the LWfG. The review (Amato 2010) concluded that this problem is not a priority but reducing LWfG mortality in the wild is.

**ADDITIONAL COMMENTS** (optional)

Since 2005 Sweden is building a captive-breeding colony of LWfG based exclusively on wild-caught West-Russian birds, and located at and managed by Nordens Ark in Sweden. In 2010, Sweden cooperated with Norway in the re-inforcement of the Norwegian LWfG population with four 1K goslings from this colony. This also constitutes part of the Swedish comparative evaluation of release methods. In 2010, the Swedish EPA also provided funds for building a second new LWfG captive-breeding facility, which will allow for increased captive-breeding and population supplementation activities.

THANK YOU!