



*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 Syrian Arab Republic

Contracting Party to AEWA:

Yes No

NATIONAL FOCAL POINT

Name: May Abido

Organization: Ministry of Environment in Syria

Address: Muhafaza Square- P.O.Box: 11378

E-mail: may_abido@hotmail.com

Phone & Fax: 00963 933234084 - Fax: 00963 11 2312120

NATIONAL EXPERT

Name: Mr.Ali Hamoud

Organization: General commision for Al Badia

Address:

E-mail: g.m@gcb.gov.sy//m.rahmoun@gcb.gov.sy

Phone & Fax: 00963 31 5915000 / 5919001

DATE *of submission* 25-11-2010

DATE *(submission of previous report)*

GENERAL INFORMATION – FIELD FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION (optional):

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: select from list

Source(s) of information:

Not applicable No information

2.3. SPECIES STATUS – WINTERING (individuals)

Latest population estimate: Year 14-24 February 2010
 Minimum 72
 Maximum

Population trend: stable

Source(s) of information:

The expedition for searching the wintering sites of Lesser White-fronted Goose (*Anser erythropus*) in Syrian Arab Republic in 14-24 February 2010

Toni Eskelin & Sami Timonen

Not applicable No information

2.4. SPECIES STATUS – FIELD FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION (optional)

un clear

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

Sabkhat al-Jabbul, Euphrates Lake

Out of the above total, number of protected sites

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

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

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?
yes but not fully controled and managed

CRITICAL SITES - FIELD FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION (optional)

Lake al-Jabbul seems to be regular wintering site for LWfG based on many observations made in the 2000's. The highest count ever detected in Syria during this expedition stresses the probable high importance of the area for LWfG. The extensive lake area is ideal for roosting and nearby fields offer plenty of cereal for feeding.

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:

Source(s) of information:

Ministry of Environment

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:

In order to target hunting control measures and establish hunting bans the main key wintering sites in Syria should be located, their habitat use by LWfG should be investigated and their borders should be determined. In the already known wintering sites of LWfG (Lake al-Jabbul, Lake Rawda , Lake Basil) the hunting control measures should already now be implemented

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:

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:

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:

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:

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:

Source(s) of information:

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:

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:

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: select from list

Description of the situation:

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:
no clear information

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:

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:

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:

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:

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:

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.:

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:

Passage/migration period:

Yes Partial No Not applicable

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

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:

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:

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:

A poster have been distributed for awarness it was produced by SSCW ngo in cooperation with Ministry of Environment, and several Official letters were sent to our Directorates in the LWFG region.

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:

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:

KEY KNOWLEDGE – FIELD FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION (optional)

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS (optional)

THANK YOU!