



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

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

> Uzbekistan

Contracting Party to AEWA

Yes

National Focal Point

Name

> Maksim Mitropolskiy

Functional title

> Head of Department of cadastre and monitoring of flora and fauna

Organisation

> State Inspection of the Republic of Uzbekistan on Guards and Rational Use of Animal and Vegetative World

Address

> 21-a, Chashtepinskaya str., Tashkent, Uzbekistan

E-mail

> max_raptors@list.ru

National Expert

Name

> Ekaterina Filatova

Functional title

> Scientific officer of Vertebrate animals Department

Organisation

> Institute of the Gene pool of Plants and Animals of Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Uzbekistan

Address

> 32, Durmon-yuli str., Tashkent, Uzbekistan

E-mail

> e-filatova@gmx.com

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

Minimum

> 500

Maximum

> 2000

Year

> 2006-2011

Population trend

Please select from the list

Unknown

Source(s) of information

Please list any published or unpublished sources of information on passage population size and trend estimates.

> The Red Data Book of the Republic of Uzbekistan. Tashkent, 2009. p. 140

A rough estimate made by local hunters and state inspectors

2.3. Species Status - wintering (individuals)

Does the species winter in your country?

Yes

Latest population estimate

Minimum

> 100

Maximum

> 2000

Year

> 2003-2011

Population trend

Please select from the list

Fluctuating

Source(s) of information

Please list any published or unpublished sources of information on wintering population size and trend estimates.

> Annual wintercounts of waterbirds on waterbodies of Southern Uzbekistan (field study by Y. Lanovenko, E. Filatova, unpublised).

Lanovenko Y. Current status of wintering geese in Uzbekistan (Central Asia). Die Vogelwelt 129, Jahrgang, 2008, Hefr 3. p.215-217.

Important Bird Areas in Uzbekistan - Priority sites for conservation. Tashkent, 2008.

The Red Data Book of the Republic of Uzbekistan. Tashkent, 2009. p. 140

E. Filatova. Changes in wintering status and number of the rare species of waterbirds in Uzbekistan in winter

3. Update on Critical Sites

3.4. Additional information (optional)

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

> As there is no National Action Plan for the Conservation of Lesser White-fronted Goose in Uzbekistan, critical sites were not officially identified. LWfG regularly winters in southern Uzbekistan at Talimarjan water reservoir and adjoining territories and in Amudarya River flood land. Number of birds fluctuates from several tens to several hundred on both sites. In Amudarya river flood land maximal number of birds was registered in 2004 (about 2000 individuals), on Talimarjan water reservoir in February 2008 (310 individuals). On both sites species occurs in mixed flocks with Greylag and Greater white-fronted geese.

LWfG also occurs on other waterbodies of Uzbekistan (Important Bird Areas of Uzbekistan, 2008) but period and number of birds require additional surveys.

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):

Medium

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

Stable

Please describe the hunting situation with respect to LWfG in your country (For example: when and where does hunting occur? Who hunts and why?)

> LWfG is a random bag of hunters. Hunting season lasts from September till the end of January. In this period migrating and wintering Greylag and Greater white fronted geese form huge mixed flocks of many thousands birds. Lesser white-fronted goose usually occurs in these flocks also. If hunting occurs at night or twilight identification of species becomes impossible.

Please list any published or unpublished sources on hunting pressure on LWfG in your country.

> Field study by Y. Lanovenko., E. Filatova, unpublished

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

Please tick the appropriate box:

Yes

Please provide more information (when is hunting banned, at which sites etc.)

> As there is no National Action Plan for Lesser White-fronted Goose conservation in Uzbekistan, key sites were not officially identified. LWfG regularly winters in southern Uzbekistan at Talimarjan water reservoir and adjoining territories and in Amudarya River flood land. Hunting is prohibited from November 30th on Talimarjan water reservoir, which has the status of international wetland of waterfowl mass wintering (Rules of hunting and fishing in the territory of the Republic of Uzbekistan, 2006). Flood land of Amudarya river is a border area with Afghanistan and International territory important to stop for the Siberian Cranes and other waterbirds (2010, certificate), where hunting is forbidden throughout the year. Presence of LWfG noted on wetlands Sudoche, Karakyr and Tuzkan which are ornithological reserves (protected areas of V category of IUCN), where hunting on birds is prohibited. But there is a zone authorized for hunting on these reservoirs or around it, where control of illegal shooting of red-listed species is under the local inspection.

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

Please tick the appropriate box:

Yes

Please provide more information.

> Withdrawal of waterfowl particularly ducks and geese was assessed on wetlands of Uzbekistan as a part of the study of the use of hunting resources (WB / GEF project "Study of the effect of hunting on the fauna of the Western Tien-Shan", 2004-2005). Percentage of LWfG in bag was 0.6 % (Mitropolsky M., 2011).

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.

> Uzbekistan is not a party of Bern Convention.

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.

> There is no official data about the level of illegal hunting within existing protected areas

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.

> Rules of Hunting and Fishing at the Territory of the Republic of Uzbekistan (2006) make no provision for such measures

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.

> Planting lure crops is not reasonable as the hunting pressure is not so high and the number of LWfG is rather low. LWfG and other geese has a wide area for feeding, in some areas in Southern Uzbekistan where LWfG winters hunting is banned because of proximity of country borders. In some other areas planting lure crops is impossible due to economical and ecological situation.

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):

No threat

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.

> There is no information about LWfG or any other waterbirds poisoning in Uzbekistan.

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):

Medium

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

Increasing

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

> Human disturbance increase due to intensification of fishery. Number of boats, fishermen, fishing nets is rising.

Please list any published or unpublished sources on human disturbance and LWfG in your country.

> unpublished observations by Y. Lanovenko, E. Filatova

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:

No

Please provide further information on why no measures are being undertaken.

> LWfG doesn't breed in Uzbekistan

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:

No

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

> Recreation and tourism are not developed on key sites for LWfG

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.

> LWfG doesn't breed in Uzbekistan

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.

> There are foxes and jacals in wintering places but the real treat they may present only in a cold snowy winter, when waterbodies are frozen, food resources are unavailable and the birds become weak. Such winters occurs irregularly.

Please list any published or unpublished sources concerning predation of LWfG in your country.

> Field surveys by Y. Lanovenko, E. Filatova, unpublished

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?

> LWfG doesn't breed in Uzbekistan. Predation in migrating and wintering grounds is within the bounds of natural process.

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):

Medium

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

Unknown

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

> As a result of Aral Sea degradation vast habitats are lost in that region. These habitats were on migration way. In the same time new waterbodies appeared in Central and Southern Uzbekistan, where LWfG occurs in small number at present time.

Please list any published or unpublished sources on habitat loss/degradation and the LWfG in your country.
> The Aral Sea Disaster. Philip Micklin in Annual Review of Earth and Planetary Sciences, Vol. 35, pages 47-72; 2007.

International Single Species Action Plan for the Conservation of the Lesser White-fronted Goose (Western Palearctic population). AEWA technical series №36, 2008.

The Red Data Book of the Republic of Uzbekistan. Tashkent, 2009, p. 6-10

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.

> In ornithological reserve "Sudochoye Lakes System" in Aral Sea region and Dengizkul lake on the south of Uzbekistan (Ramsar site) stable water supply is supported which maintains conservation of this habitats. At the other key sites special measures were not implemented as habitats quality is stable.

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:

No

Please provide more information on why such measures are not being implemented in your country.

> Such measures are not implemented in present time. Project on restoration of Sudochoye Lakes System was implemented in 1999-2002 (GEF and Government of Uzbekistan). Other areas are in relatively good conditions.

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.

Yes

Please list the year and title of the legislation concerned as well as the enforcing institution.

> The Red Data Book of the Republic of Uzbekistan (2003, 2006, 2009), Academy of Sciences
 Law "On Protection and Use of Fauna" (1997), The State Committee for Nature protection
 Rules of Hunting and Fishing at the Territory of the Republic of Uzbekistan (2006), The State Committee for Nature protection

5.1.2. Does the national hunting legislation, in principle, provide adequate protection of the LWfG?

Please tick the appropriate box:

Yes

Please provide further information.

> According to the Rules of Hunting and Fishing at the Territory of the Republic of Uzbekistan (2006) hunting on LWfG is banned. There are standards and procedures of exaction of penalties for illegal taking of animals (Decision on strengthening control over rational use of biological resources, import and export them out of the Republic of Uzbekistan № 508 of 28.10.2004), according to which the penalty for shooting of LWfG is 5625 US dollars for Uzbek citizens and \$ 3,000 for foreign citizens. There are also ornithological reserves Sudochye lakes system, Karakyr lakes system and Tuzkan lake (Category 5, Law on Protected Natural Areas № 710-II from 03.12.2004).

5.1.3. Are sufficient human and financial resources being allocated to the enforcement of hunting legislation in order to control hunting effectively?

Please tick the appropriate box:

Yes

Please provide further information.

> There is State Inspection of the Republic of Uzbekistan on Guards and Rational Use of Animal and Vegetative World - Gosbiocontrol (established in 1989) under the State Committee for Nature Protection in Uzbekistan, the divisions of which are located in all regions of the Republic. Also in Gosbiocontrol's staff there are specialized inspections on major rivers of Uzbekistan (Syrdarya and Amudarya) and on Aydar-Arnasay lakes system (Ramsar wetland).
 There are sections on conservation and monitoring of biodiversity and habitats in a system of financing of public nature conservation programs. At the same time grant investment, including international sources, promote focusing on individual objects of biodiversity or habitats, especially on globally threatened species. It should be noted that special financing for LWfG conservation was never allocated.

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.

> There are no sufficient information and financial resources for systematic and qualitative researches during migration and wintering periods and further development of Action plan for 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:

Yes

Please specify what kind of assistance would be needed.

> Financial, information and consultation support

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

Please explain why no National Working Group has yet been established.

> There is a National Working Group for Wetlands which regularly make international winter counts and other researches on some water bodies. This group also makes monitoring of LWfG winterings.

5.4. Monitoring

5.4.1. Does your country have a monitoring scheme in place for the LWfG?

During the breeding season?

No

During passage/migration period?

No

During the wintering season?

No

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

Please fill in the text box:

> Country has a general monitoring scheme for geographical areas and groups of species implementing by the Group of state cadastre and monitoring of flora and fauna.

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?

No

During passage/migration?

No

During wintering/non-breeding season?

Partial

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

> There is a National Working Group for Wetlands which regularly conducts January counts of waterbirds on water bodies of Central and Southern Uzbekistan.

5.5. LWfG conservation/research projects

Provide links to any national and/or international LWfG conservation or research projects being conducted in your country by using the buttons on the right hand side. Please list the project title, goals and objectives, period of implementation, implementing organisation, contact details and short description.

> There were no LWfG conservation projects in Uzbekistan

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 by using the buttons on the right hand side. Please also list the project title, goals and objectives, period of implementation, implementing organisation, contact details and a short description.

> Project on Ecological survey and monitoring of the Common crane in wintering grounds in southern Uzbekistan. This project has been carried out by Uzbekistan Crane Working Group (UzCWG) under supervision of ICF. Duration of the project: October 2004- April 2005. Project aim: study of wintering conditions of Eurasian cranes in Uzbekistan to support its stability and identify possible ways of using this area for the wintering of Siberian cranes bred in captivity.

As a result of this project and additional surveys under support of international project "Developing of

LWfG IWG Inf. 2.8.16

migration ways and wetlands for Siberian crane and other waterbirds conservation in Asia" (UNEP/GEF 2003-2009) the territory of Amudarya river flood land (which is a key site for LWfG wintering) was included in the Western/Central Asian Critical Site Network for the Siberian crane and other Waterbirds (2010).

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.

> Raising awareness and LWfG conservation are included in general methods of rare species conservation. On a state level this is work of inspectors of State Inspection on Guards and Rational Use of Animal and Vegetative World with hunters. There are also seminars and trainings conducting by working group on Wetlands and working group on cranes of Eurasia and seminars and trainings organized within environmental projects for example project on creating of new Ramsar territory Tudakul-Kuymazar (Ramsar small grants fund, 2011-2012).

5.6.2. Has your country developed/produced LWfG information materials to this end (i.e. posters, leaflets etc.)?

Please select from the list:

No

Please explain why no information materials have been produced.

> LWfG is included in posters and other information materials on rare birds of Uzbekistan

6. Funding

6.1. Are there any national funding possibilities for LWfG conservation measures in your country?

Please tick the appropriate box:

Yes

Please list the relevant funding programmes and relevant authorities.

> There are no relevant funding programmes in present time. Partial funding for LWfG conservation measures might be implemented by the State Inspection of the Republic of Uzbekistan on Guards and Rational Use of Animal and Vegetative World

6.2. 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?

Please tick the appropriate box:

Yes

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:

Yes

Please provide more information.

> Wintering sites were identified during field surveys within annual winter counts. Satellite tracking and field surveys during migration period are hampered for lack of funding.

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:

No

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

> Fennoscandian population doesn't reach the territory of Uzbekistan

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:

No

Please explain why no further field studies are currently being undertaken.

> Fennoscandian population doesn't reach the territory of Uzbekistan

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.

> Period, number and distribution of LWfG during migration are not cleared and require further research.

9. Submission

Please insert the date of submission for this report:

> 30.08.2012