



## AEWA LESSER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE INTERNATIONAL WORKING GROUP



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### 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the AEWA Lesser White-fronted Goose International Working Group

12-14 April 2016 - Trondheim, Norway

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## DRAFT Workplan for the Working Group 2016-2019

### Introduction

The AEWA Lesser White-fronted Goose International Working Group is charged with coordinating and facilitating the implementation of the AEWA International Single Species Action Plan.

In order to increase the implementation of key conservation actions for the species, it is suggested to develop and adopt a work plan for the next inter-sessional period. This will not only allow for better and more timely planning of and fundraising for activities, but also for a more coherent implementation of the Action Plan.

A draft workplan is attached below outlining activities previously proposed by range states and/or within various processes (the current EU LIFE+ project, AMBI etc.). However, further range state and expert input is still required.

A final version will be prepared for adoption by the AEWA Secretariat after the 3<sup>rd</sup> Working Group meeting incorporating the outcomes of the various agenda items and brainstorming sessions, in particular regarding the:

- possible listing of the Lesser White-fronted Goose under CITES;
- critical sites;
- common monitoring scheme;
- outcome of the break-out groups (*development of a new EU LIFE+ project; autumn monitoring in Kazakhstan; identification and protection of wintering sites of the Western main population; inclusion of the Eastern main population in the International Action Plan etc.*).

### Action requested from the Working Group

The Working Group is requested to review the attached draft work plan for the next inter-sessional period and to use it as a basis for the discussions at the meeting. A final draft will be circulated for adoption after the meeting.



The 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the AEWA Lesser White-fronted Goose International Working Group is being hosted by the Norwegian Environment Agency with additional funding provided by the EU LIFE+ project "Safeguarding the Lesser White-fronted Goose along its European Flyway" [LIFE10 NAT/GR/000638].

DRAFT work plan for the AEWA Lesser White-fronted Goose International Working Group 2016-2019

Project/activity	Population(s)	Timeframe	Lead	Actions	Budget	Comments
<b>Objective: Increase survival rates – minimize mortality caused by hunting</b>						
Develop and implement a long-term initiative for the sustainable harvest of migratory waterbirds in Central Asia	F/WM	Summer/ autumn 2016	AEWA + WI Waterbird Harvest Specialist Group	Develop a further elaborated concept for the project (i.e. what topics are of interest to the range states/should be addressed like spring hunting, threatened species etc.)	No funding necessary	CAFF/AMBI relevant
	F/WM	2016	AEWA + WI Waterbird Harvest Specialist Group	Gather and further develop guidance on the sustainable harvest of waterbirds and on how to avoid accidental shooting of LWfG in particular (could also include scientific info on detrimental effect of spring hunting on waterbird populations)	No funding necessary	CAFF/AMBI relevant
	F/WM	Autumn 2016	AEWA + WI Waterbird Harvest Specialist Group	Engage AEWA and CAFF Focal/Contact Points as well as other relevant government contacts in selected range states and establish contacts with other stakeholders (hunting community, indigenous communities, FAO, International Crane Foundation etc.)	No funding necessary	CAFF/AMBI relevant
	F/WM	2017	AEWA	Organize a first stakeholder meeting on the sustainable hunting of migratory waterbirds in the region	20.000€available Swiss funds; 40.000€needed	CAFF/AMBI relevant
	F/WM	2018-2019	AEWA	Implementation of possible outcomes from the stakeholder meeting	YES	CAFF/AMBI relevant
Increase and improve engagement with the hunting community across the flyways	F/WM	Autumn/ winter 2016	AEWA + Waterbird Harvest Specialist Group	Establish a facilitated dialogue with hunting community: 1) get conflict resolution training/guidance for better approaches to deal with the hunting community and to ensure their better engagement 2) develop and implement actions according to outcomes (for example excursions to LWfG sites, project visits, engaging hunters to assist with monitoring, promoting sustainable use of other species etc.)	YES	CAFF/AMBI relevant  Ask Jesper Madsen/Nils Bunnefeld for advice on project scope and quote  Should feed into the site management

						plans for critical sites in particular
Development of a new EU-LIFE+ project	F/WM	Spring/Summer 2016	HNPDP		350.000-500.000€co-and in-kind funding	Project proposal needs to be submitted in October 2016
Awareness-raising actions related to illegal killing and accidental harvest	F	Autumn 2016 during migration	AEWA	International campaign „Precious cargo - Ensure safe passage”	No funding necessary	Could be adapted to other flyways – could also be a recurring campaign during autumn migration in Europe
	ALL			Preparation and distribution of further awareness-raising and educational materials	YES - Funding needed at least for translations and printing/distribution	CAFF/AMBI relevant
<b>Objective: Prevent further habitat loss and degradation</b>						
Identify and prioritize critical sites/range states for urgent conservation action during 2016-2019 inter-sessional period	F/WM	April 2016	LWfG IWG	Select 10 critical sites/range states across the flyway in particular need of urgent conservation action	No funding necessary	Linked to diminishing threat from hunting  CAFF/AMBI relevant
	F/WM	April 2016	LWfG IWG	Develop site assessment plans for selected sites/range states including next steps to be taken	No funding necessary	
	F/WM	May 2016 onwards	AEWA & LWfG IWG	Implementation of monitoring and conservation actions at selected sites/range states based on site assessments – including the development of management plans where necessary	YES - Fundraising needed based on activities to be carried out	
<i>NOTE: selected sites/range states and identified actions/timelines to be added here following IWG discussion</i>						
Protection/monitoring of additional sites along the flyways?	F/WM			Lithuania, Hungary, Poland, Serbia, Slovakia etc.?		Are there other sites that require monitoring/action during next years which will potentially not be included in one of the other projects/initiatives?
<b>Objective: Maximise reproductive success</b>						

Culling of Red Foxes in Norway (and Finland)	F	ongoing	NEA Metsähallitus			Could possibly be included in the new LIFE project
Minimizing disturbance in the spring/autumn staging and breeding areas?	F/WM?					
<b>Objective: Filling identified knowledge gaps (and strengthening monitoring capacity)</b>						
Continue satellite-tracking of Lesser White-fronted Geese in the Russian tundra	WM	ongoing	NOF/Morozov	Satellite-tracking key for further identification of WM stop-over and wintering sites	?	
Establish an up-to-date population estimate for the Western main population	WM	Autumn 2016 & 2017?	WWT/ACBK/ NOF	Large-scale monitoring of autumn staging sites in Kazakhstan	YES – 15.000€ for 2016 season still needed /need 30.000€ for 2017	
Enhancing monitoring and identification skills in all range states & strengthening the monitoring network	WM		Wetlands International	Link up with CMS Family Champions Programme Initiative: “Bringing back the waterbirds of the Caspian Sea”	YES	CMS Family Champions Programme/ IWC/ Ramsar regional center /UNDP regional office /FAO
	F/WM		HNPd, WWF Finland, AEWA	Continue with training of teams in Hortobagy, Hungary (when feasible)	YES – each training session for 6 national teams of 2 costs ca. 18.000€	
	F/WM		AEWA, WWF Finland, NOF	Training of national teams IN the countries (including setting up monitoring schedules and plans for all key sites in all principal range states)	YES – travel and subsistence costs as well as possible daily rates would have to be covered	
	ALL		AEWA	Continue providing the monitoring and identification instructions and subsequent materials to all range states in national languages	Some small scale funding might be needed for printing and distribution	
	F/WM		AEWA	Provide equipment to trained teams	YES	Getting support from field equipment providers
	ALL			Develop and promote LWfG observation smart phone ‘app’ linked to piskulka?	YES?	
<b>Objective: international cooperation maximized</b>						

Promote the accession of the following countries to AEWA: Azerbaijan, Greece, Iran, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Russia and Turkmenistan	F/WM	ongoing	AEWA and range states already Contracting Parties to the Agreement	AEWA Secretariat to continue promoting accession in these countries.  Contracting Parties to promote accession through their bilateral contacts etc.		CAFF/AMBI related
Identify government representatives and experts from missing range states to actively engage in the work of the LWfG IWG	F/WM	ongoing	AEWA, LWfG IWG			
Expand contacts to other international conservation & development sectors etc.	ALL	ongoing	AEWA	Broaden scope of work to include and profit from other key actors where possible		UNEP and Ramsar regional offices, FAO, CIC etc.
<b>Additional objective: Including the Eastern main population in the international conservation actions for the species</b>						
Include the Eastern main sub-population under the LWfG implementation framework established under AEWA	EM	ongoing	AEWA	Establish contacts between AEWA Secretariat and relevant officials and experts along flyway		CAFF/AMBI EAAFP (Anatidae Working Group)
		April 2016	AEWA, LWfG IWG	Prepare draft texts/maps on the Eastern main sub-population to be included in the ISSAP	Funding to bring Chinese and Japanese experts to 3 <sup>rd</sup> IWG meeting provided via EU LIFE+ project	EAAFP (Anatidae Working Group)
		2016	AEWA	Prepare and execute official consultation process with range states, stakeholders and AEWA/CMS governing bodies as appropriate taking into account decisions taken regarding the AEWA LWfG ISSAP revision process	No funding required	CAFF/AMBI EAAFP (Anatidae Working Group) CMS
Identify first priority activities for the Eastern main sub-population for short term implementation	EM	2016	LWfG IWG	Undertake a priority ranking of the action framework activities, identifying projects for immediate implementation	No funding required	CAFF/AMBI EAAFP (Anatidae Working Group)
				Produce awareness-raising materials in Chinese (based on existing poster and field guide)	Some possible funding required for printing/distribution	CAFF/AMBI EAAFP (Anatidae Working Group)