

4th Meeting of the AEWA Lesser White-fronted Goose International Working Group

11-13 November 2019 – Bucharest, Romania

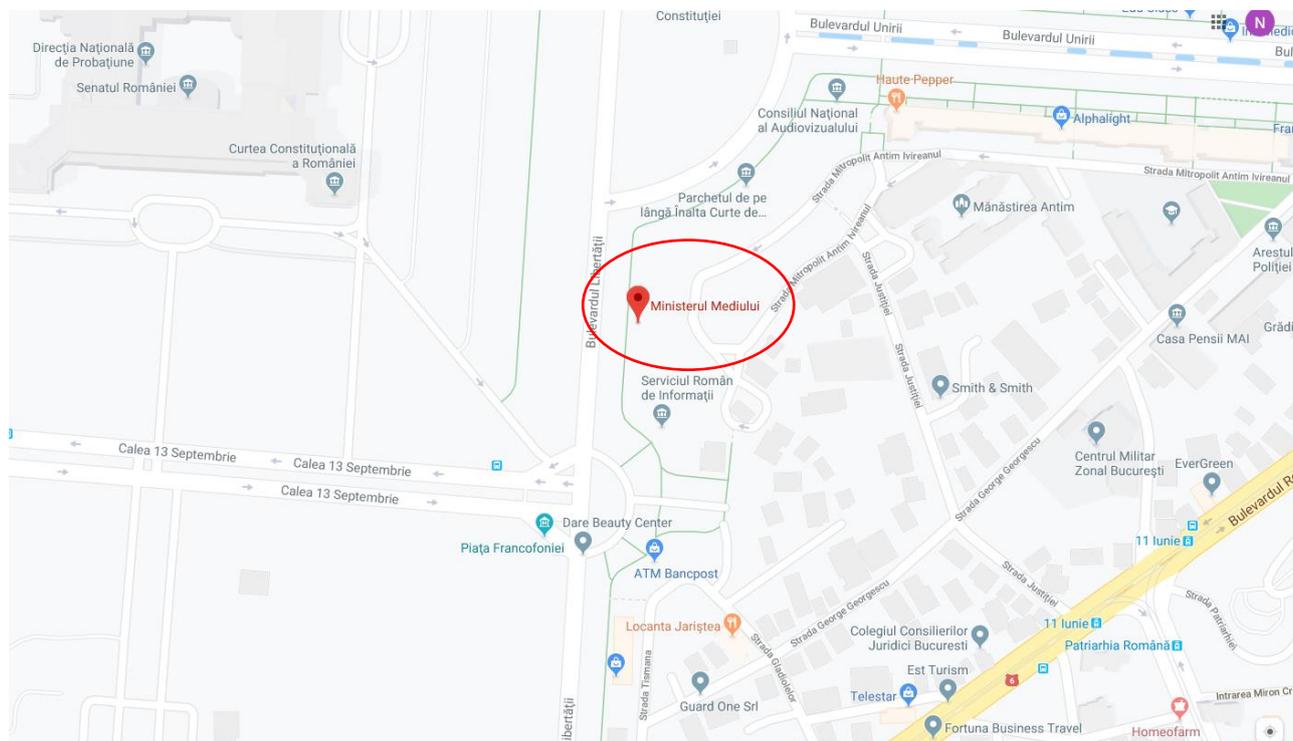
GENERAL INFORMATION FOR MEETING PARTICIPANTS

Meeting date and venue

The meeting will be held on Monday the 11th to Wednesday the 13th of November 2019 at the premises of the **Ministry of the Environment** located at: **12 Libertății Avenue, 5th District, Bucharest, Romania.**

The meeting will be opened at **09:00** on Monday the 11th and is scheduled to finish at **18:00** on Tuesday the 12th of November. There will be a registration desk in front of the meeting room. Registration will be open from **08:00 - 09:00**. For further details, see the annotated agenda (LWfG IWG 4.1).

The meeting will be followed by a **joint excursion** with the AEWA Red-breasted Goose International Working Group on Wednesday the 13th of November (see further details below).



Excursion

A joint excursion with the AEWA Red-breasted Goose International Working Group will take place on Wednesday the 13th of November to Balta Alba Lake which is a Natura 2000 site, located approximately 180 km North-East from Bucharest. The site is one of the most important staging areas in Romania for geese and many other waterbirds.

Participants are recommended to bring comfortable and warm clothing as well as warm shoes, as the weather may be cold and/or rainy. Some telescopes will be provided by the Romanian Ornithological Society, but participants are further encouraged to bring their own binoculars. Further details regarding exact departure times etc. will be announced during the meeting.

Please note that participants departing from Bucharest International Airport on the 13th of November will be dropped off at the airport directly following the excursion at approximately 17:00 at the latest.

Meeting contacts

In case of any questions or if you require assistance, please contact the meeting organisers:

- Nina Mikander (UNEP/AEWA Secretariat) at: +49 151 656 112 40 (nina.mikander@unep-awa.org);
- Nicky Petkov (BSPB) at: +359 87 9822315 (nicky.petkov@bspb.org);
- Nela Miauta (Ministry of the Environment) at: (nela.miauta@mmediu.ro)

Accommodation

Hotel rooms have been reserved for all funded participants at the [Hotel Parliament](#) (St Izvor 106, Sector 5, 050564 Bucharest, Romania), which is located approximately 1,5 km from the meeting venue (15-20 minute walk).

Upon registration for the meeting you will be contacted by the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat and BSPB to arrange for your accommodation and travel as outlined in more detail in the fact sheet for funded delegates (LWfG IWG Inf. 4.4).

All non-funded participants are kindly requested to make their own hotel bookings.

A limited contingency of rooms has been reserved for non-funded participants at the **Hotel Parliament** as well. The price is 61€ per night for a single room and 71€ per night for a double room and includes breakfast. **Kindly note that rooms have been blocked at the negotiated lower rate until the 31.10.2019.** Should you wish to reserve one of the rooms at the negotiated rate, please fill in the attached booking form and send it to the hotel directly at sales@parliament-hotel.ro.

Arrival by air

Bucharest Henri Coandă International Airport is Romania's busiest international airport, located in Otopeni, 16.5 km from Bucharest city center (the trip lasts about one hour by bus from the airport to Unirii Square).

ALL participants are kindly asked to make their own transport arrangements from/to the airport. Note that no shuttle transport will be provided. Most convenient travel options from/to the airport include bus and taxi.

Bus: There are 2 express bus lines connecting the airport to the city: **780** runs from 5:30 to 23:00 between airports arrivals terminal and Bucharest North Rail Station (Gara de Nord) while bus line **783** runs non-stop between arrivals and Unirii Square- city center. The tickets can be bought just before entering the bus (from normal ticket kiosks) and cost 3,5 lei for a trip. For more information on timetables etc. see: <http://www.bucharestairports.ro/en/transport/bus>. There is a need to buy a card, which can be reloaded with money (electronically), with as many travels as needed.

This card can be used in city transport. There is the possibility to charge it for go and through Bucharest to the airport, plus a number of other travels. The card is valid for public transport, except Metro.

Taxi: When arriving at the airport, it is recommended to take one of the taxis from the dedicated area in front of Arrivals or to order a taxi with the help of the touch screens in the airport. For more information see: <http://www.bucharestairports.ro/en/transport/taxi>.

Transport in Bucharest

- *Buses, trams and trolleybuses*

RATB is the company running the network of buses, trams and trolleybuses in Bucharest. A single trip by bus, tram or trolleybus costs RON 1.3 (some 28 euro cents). However, RATB also offers several types of subscriptions, namely one-day, 7-day or 15-day passes, and monthly passes.

You cannot purchase tickets from the bus driver but can do so at the little silver kiosks bus passes are sold. For short stays, it is recommended to get the blue un nominal cards that you charge with your desired amount. As trips are inexpensive, don't overcharge the cards as is no way to get the money back.

A daily ticket for all surface ways of transport is 8 lei per person. However, this is not including bus nr 780 and 783 (that are going to the Airport). For more information see: <http://stbsa.ro/eng/index.php>

- *Metro*

The Bucharest subway is run by another company: **Metrorex**. The metro system is made up of four lines (M1, M2, M3 and M4) with a total of 53 stations. The metro trains run daily from 05:00 to 23:00. Travelers can choose from several types of cards, such as the two-trip card (RON 5), 10-trip card (RON 20), one-day pass (RON 8), weekly, monthly or yearly passes, and cards for groups. For more information see: http://www.metrorex.ro/first_page_p1352-2.

- *Combined tickets for buses, trams & trolleybuses + metro*

RATB and Metrorex have introduced several types of single tickets, which means that a person can travel by both bus/tram/trolleybus and subway with only one ticket. For example, a single ticket valid for 60 minutes costs RON 5 while a one-day joint pass costs RON 17. They can be purchased from both RATB and Metrorex ticket offices.

- *Taxis and Ridesharing*

Taxis in Bucharest are yellow and quite affordable. Always pay careful attention to the prices, displayed on the driver's door of all taxis. There should just be one single tariff displayed and always insist that the meter is turned on. When leaving a hotel or restaurant, always have the concierge or waiter order you a cab.

Ride-sharing apps Taxify and Uber are well-established in Bucharest and present a good alternative to the city's taxis. Prices (around 1.39 lei per kilometre) are about the same as for standard yellow cabs.

Meeting language and documents

The meeting language will be English. All meeting documents will be made available online on the AEWA website in English.

Hard paper copies of the meeting documents **will not** be distributed before or during the meeting.

Meals

Lunch will be provided for all meeting participants by the host. In addition, complementary refreshments will be provided during the mid-morning and mid-afternoon coffee breaks. During the excursion on the 13th of November, a packed lunch will be provided by the host.

In addition, a joint dinner for all meeting participants will take place on Tuesday 12th of November after the closure of the meeting. The exact time and venue will be communicated later.

Currency

The Romanian currency is the leu (plural lei), which comes in the following denomination banknotes: 1 leu, 5 lei, 10 lei, 50 lei, 100 lei, 200 lei and 500 lei. Each leu is divided into 100 bani, available as coins of 1, 2, 5, 10 and 50. At the time of writing (10.10.2019) 1 Leu = 0,21 EUR.

Please note that Euros are not an excepted form of payment, apart from in some larger hotels. Major credit cards are widely excepted, but it is still recommended that you have some local currency on hand to pay for smaller expenditures.

Official language and local time

The official language is Romanian. Romania is in the Eastern European Time (EET) Time Zone and is GMT/UTC + 2h.

Weather

The weather in November in Bucharest is generally expected to be chilly and rainy with average temperatures between 3.0°C and 11.0°C during the day. It can cool off significantly at night.

Electricity and water

In Romania the standard voltage is 230 V and the frequency is 50 Hz, utilizing 2-pin plugs (see image).



Tap water is generally considered safe to drink in Romania, though nearly everyone drinks bottled water.

Travel and health insurance

Participants are responsible for their own travel and health insurance. It is recommended that all participants take out comprehensive policies before arriving in Romania. Concerning emergencies or need for hospital services, citizens of EU and EEA are covered through their national health programmes.

Safety and emergency numbers

In an emergency call 112 for Police, Ambulance or Fire Services. In Bucharest, the main police station is at Str. Lascar Catargiu 22 (halfway between Piata Romana and Piata Victoriei), tel. +40 21 212 56 84).

Addresses of the main hospitals in Bucharest:

- The Emergency University Hospital: Splaiul Independenței 169, +4021 / 318.0523
- The Floreasca Emergency Hospital: Calea Floreasca 8, +40 21 / 599.2300

Bucharest is among the safest cities in Europe. You should, however, be aware of pickpockets and be particularly careful on crowded buses and always watch your bags/backpacks in busy locations such as restaurants or pubs.