

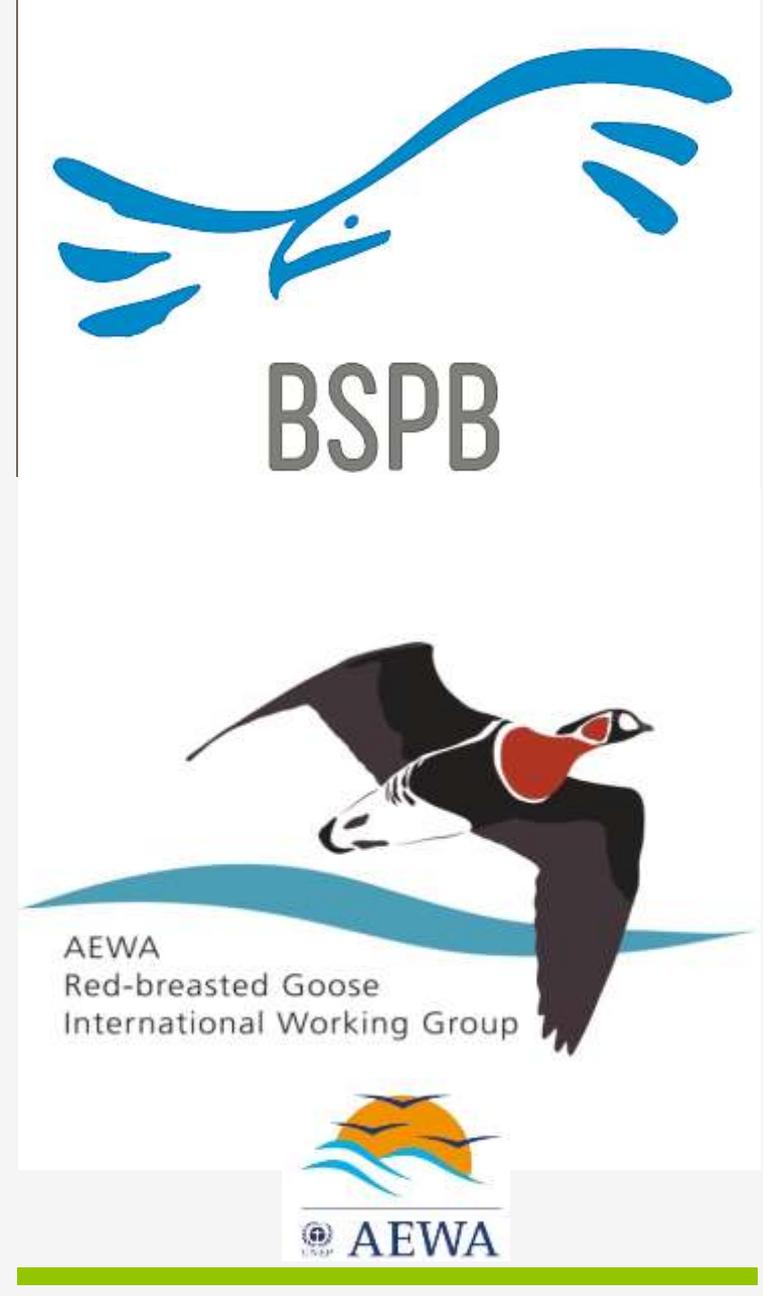
Conservation of the Red-breasted Goose along the Global Flyway

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“Protecting habitats and endangered species in Europe through tackling environmental crime”

22-24 October 2018, Heraklion, Crete





Background of the project

- Globally threatened species – IUCN Vulnerable with population ca. 50 000 birds
- Red-breasted Goose is an Arctic breeding globally threatened species sharp decline in early 2000s
- Breeds in Russia (breeding endemic), migrates through Kazakhstan and S Russia (Kalmykia) to N/NW Black Sea coast – Ukraine, Romania and Bulgaria
- Data analysis by on capture-recapture data of satellite tagged and colour/metal ringed Redbreasts identified potential mortality – up to 40% during migration through Russia and Kazakhstan due to poaching during hunting season



Hunting as a threat

Disturbance

- Reduced time for feeding
- Increased time spent on flight

Resulting in

- Increased winter mortality
- Reduced fitness of birds to make the backwards migration to breeding areas
- Reduced breeding capacity of population because of poor physical condition



Mortality and crippling of birds – in Bulgaria ca. 3-5% of the wintering birds in late 1990s





The main objectives of the Project are :

1. Improve knowledge on the importance of specific threats and the migration ecology and current distribution of the Red-breasted Goose
2. Engage stakeholders and implement set of conservation measures to reduce direct and indirect mortality from hunting and disturbance at the project sites and along the global flyway.
3. Engage stakeholders to develop management practices for Red-breasted Goose conservation at key sites and enhance conditions for the species.
4. Ensure engagement of communities and stakeholders to enhance community pride in and support for the conservation of Red-breasted Geese, and the Natura 2000 and other key sites that they depend on.
5. The species' status and the effect of action plan implementation, assessed by comprehensive monitoring system in all range countries along the flyway





What we are doing in the range countries?

- **Mixed patrols to control hunters** – Bulgaria, Romania, Ukraine, Kalmykia (Russia)
- **Assess hunting and poaching pressure** at key sites – all countries
- **Investigate survival during spring and autumn hunting in Kz & Ru** – satellite tracking and colour ringing
- **Create key areas map** – Romania and Kazakhstan
- **Develop monitoring scheme for the flyway**
- **Develop national action plan for the species** – Romania and Kazakhstan. In KZ to cover also LWFG (two species AP)



What we are doing in the range countries?

- **Create safe feeding areas** to reduce impact of hunting disturbance and poaching

In Russia restore 200ha grassland feeding areas within protected zones to reduce flight outside reserve areas in Manych Gudilo area

In Kazakhstan create suitable conditions for feeding at protected zones and reserve territories to attract more geese

- **Reduce disturbance and poaching** through pilot schemes for improved control of hunting – mixed patrols in Kalmykia (Russia) & Romania (with hunters' union involvement), Ukraine

- **Improve hunting regulations to reduce mortality** – I

In Russia – introduce temporal, zoning or seasonal ban on hunting at key stop over sites, introducing zonation with non-hunting areas - Southern Russia (Stavropol, Kalmykia & Rostov area)

In Kazakhstan – introduce new zonation with safety and non-hunting zones within hunting estates - key sites in N Kazakhstan – Taldykol, Kulykol & Koybagor lakes.



Awareness and dissemination actions

- **Organize specialized training** for hunters and control officers with support of the Wetlands International Waterbird Harvest Specialist Group
- **Improving the legal background of key stakeholder groups** to reduce poaching
- **Promote Red-breasted Goose and its conservation** at the Tulip Festival in Kalmykia



The LIFE project covers all five key range countries for the Red-breasted Goose listed in the AEWAS Single Species Action Plan (adopted 2012)

The Project is linked towards achieving of 4 of the SSAP Results

- **Result 1:** Sufficient feeding opportunity available in staging and wintering areas
- **Result 5:** Direct and indirect mortality from hunting significantly reduced
- **Result 6:** A site network of protected areas functioning effectively
- **Result 7:** The species' status, and the effect of action plan implementation, assessed by monitoring numbers and demography





Partners of the “LIFE for Safe Flight” Project

- Bulgaria – BSPB/BirdLife Bulgaria
- Ukraine – NGO Vozrozhdenie, Tuzlovski Lymani NP
- Russia – Biosphere State Reserve Chernije Zemli & Geese and Swans Study Group of North Eurasia
- Kazakhstan - ACBK/BirdLife Kazakhstan, “Aydam 2012l” Ltd – private company managing Kulikol lake system, supported by the Republican Association of public union of hunters and hunting areas
- Romania - SOR/BirdLife Romania, Ministry of Environment of Romania, Hunters Association in Romania, Nature Park of Braila administration,



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your attention!**



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