

CONSERVATION OF THE WINTERING POPULATION OF THE GLOBALLY THREATENED RED-BREASTED GOOSE (BRANTA RUFICOLLIS) IN BULGARIA

LIFE09 NAT/BG/000230

After-LIFE Conservation Plan

January 2015



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Introduction

This report summarises the conclusions from a workshop held on 28 and 29 September 2014 to review project LIFE09 NAT/BG/230 and determine what work needs to be carried out after this project to secure its legacy. The workshop was attended by key staff from the Coordinating Beneficiary, the Bulgarian Society for the Protection of Birds (BSPB), and the two main Associated Beneficiaries, the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust (WWT) and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB).

The report is divided into three main sections. The first section, *Project review*, compares the actual results of the project with the expected results outlined in the proposal, and lists the main achievements of the project team and the main challenges that remain to be addressed. The second section describes the findings from a SWOT analysis carried out during the workshop to identify the main strengths and weaknesses of the project and the main opportunities and threats relating to post-project work. Finally, the third section outlines the activities that the project team believes need to be continued or implemented after the project ends. This third section builds on and is informed by the first two.

Project review

Expected and actual results

Expected result (from proposal)	Actual result
Project purpose	
The red-breasted goose is stabilised on its wintering grounds in Bulgarian Dobrudzha	The wintering conditions have been improved; foraging grounds are secured through new agri-environmental scheme. Mortality and disturbance is significantly reduced.
Objective 1. Strengthen the strategic planning framework to minimise the detrimental effect of economic development on red-breasted geese in the project area	
New planning documents to support red-breasted goose conservation are developed and made operational	New NSAP developed and pending for approval by MoEW; species requirements are included in number of strategic documents, including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority Action Framework for Natura 2000 2014 – 2020 (PAF) • National Rural Development Programme 2014 – 2020, • National Action Plan for Development of Renewable Energy Sources 2010 – 2020 and others
The proportion of infrastructure project consents that are in locations considered to have a strong negative impact on red-breasted geese is reduced	Within the lifespan of the project no detrimental investment proposal was allowed. For the time being a major windfarm development in key foraging area has been stopped – the Smin windfarm. However fight continues due to subjective legal processes.
Objective 2. Engage stakeholders to reduce anthropogenic mortality and disturbance of red-breasted geese at the project sites	
Enhanced knowledge of red-breasted goose use of foraging and roosting habitats informs conservation effort	A foraging habitat map of Red-breasted Goose has been developed for Coastal Dobrudzha which is one of the few for any goose species. New data has been collected on the roosting areas and interaction with the foraging grounds through telemetry studies.
Hunting mortality at project sites is decreased	No mortality has been recorded in the last winter season. The official statistics show below 0.5% mortality of the wintering population. However the disturbance caused by hunting activity in the area has been proved to be of much greater concern and continues to be a problem.
Disturbance of red-breasted geese by fishing activities is significantly reduced	Active cooperation with the regional structure of the Agency on Fisheries and Aquacultures has lead to significant decrease of poaching activity. No data for disturbance of the roosting geese has been reported since the start of the project. However during the project implementation it

	has been established that hunting activity within the SPAs is much greater source of disturbance and foundation of the solution to the problem has been laid on, but future work is needed to reach adequate and positive solution.
Objective 3. Engage stakeholders to develop sustainable land management models for red-breasted goose conservation at the project sites	
Actively managed, hunting- and disturbance-free feeding refuges are being used by an increasing and significant proportion of the red-breasted goose population	Field experiments on the fields managed by the project partner Kirilovi Ltd has been implemented to guide development of agri-environmental measure. Pilot testing of the measure proved successful and attractive for the farmers in the Shabla municipality. On the basis of this a new agri-environmental measure in the new programme period was designed and adopted by the Government.
Objective 4. Enhance community pride in and support for the conservation of red-breasted geese and the Natura 2000 sites that they depend on	
The proportion of the local community expressing positive sentiments towards red-breasted goose conservation doubles or reaches 75% (whichever is the lower) by 2015	The results of the second opinion poll hold in March 2015 show that 79% of the people in Shabla municipality are interested in issues related to nature conservation, and 94% of them are proud of the natural values of their region. The opinion poll shows that 98% of the municipality do know the Red-breasted Goose and this is the most popular species amongst them and some 89% of the people declare that they have seen the species. This clearly shows that the Communication Strategy has given positive results. The Project staff has managed to increase the positive perception of the conservation issue of the Red-breasted Goose and some 71% of the locals declare they would be concerned if the species disappears from their region

Main project achievements

The main achievements of the project team are summarised below. For more detailed information on these achievements, please refer to the Final Report.

Conservation achievements

- We were able to catch red-breasted geese and attach tags to them, and therefore to carry out the first ever successful tracking of this species.
- We identified the key area for wintering red-breasted geese in Romania.

- We collected a large amount of new information on red-breasted geese, and ensured that data on this species are organised more systematically than was previously the case.
- We developed agri-environment options to benefit red-breasted geese, which were subsequently incorporated into the national agri-environment scheme.
- We significantly reduced the impacts on red-breasted geese of fishermen and poachers.
- We made major progress with the strengthening of hunting patrols. These are now more regular than before the project started. These improvements led directly to the first ever prosecution of a hunter for shooting a red-breasted goose.
- We carried out the first proper assessment of wind-farm impacts on red-breasted geese anywhere in Europe, and used the findings in a court case to minimise these impacts.
- We contributed to the creation of a wind-farm sensitivity map covering the whole of Bulgaria.
- We carried out a robust study of the grazing impacts of red-breasted geese.
- We hosted the first meeting of the International Working Group on Red-Breasted Geese that was set up during the project period under the African–Eurasian Waterbird Agreement (AEWA).

Organisational achievements

- We expanded the range of partnerships in which BSPB is involved – for example by strengthening links with the Regional Inspectorate of Environment and Water, local farmers, Regional Forestry Agency and others.
- We increased the capacity of BSPB in several key areas, such as field research and liaison with farmers and other community members. With respect to the first of these areas, for example, more than ten people received high-quality training in the course of the project.
- We significantly enhanced the credibility of BSPB in its ongoing campaign against a wind-farm on Cape Kaliakra, by creating a stronger evidence base for this campaign.

Outreach and communication achievements

- We developed and implemented a successful educational programme in schools in the project region.
- We ran a highly successful annual Kite Festival, attracting approximately 2,000 people each year.
- Our outreach work caused the red-breasted goose to be recognised as the ‘emblem’ of the region by a growing number of people, both locally and elsewhere in Bulgaria.
- We significantly improved the relationship between conservation organisations and the wider community in the region. In particular, we developed constructive and highly important links with many farmers. In view of the poor situation before the project began, this latter achievement has been described as ‘miraculous’ by one of the individuals involved!

- We secured significant publicity throughout Bulgaria and beyond, including for example coverage by national print and broadcast media in the UK.

Main outstanding challenges

The main challenges that remain to be addressed are as follows.

Conservation challenges

- We still need to improve our knowledge of the individual energetic requirements of red-breasted geese: the answers we have obtained in this area have led to new questions! However, we should note that it was never our intention to obtain a full understanding of these requirements by the end of the project.
- Linked to this, we also need to further improve our understanding of the potential impacts of hunting, disturbance and wind-farm developments.

Organisational challenges

- We need to improve the sharing of experience and lessons among different project teams within BSPB. We hoped that expertise gained during the red-breasted goose project, for example in educational work and the establishment of 'caretaker groups' for key sites, would be transferred to staff working on other initiatives. However, this has not yet happened as fully as anticipated.

Outreach and communication challenges

- We need to build on the progress we have made during the project with farmers. We have succeeded in 'breaking the ice' with this group, as explained above, but much remains to be done. It is important that we continue our work in this area, in order to reassure farmers that we are involved for the long term and do not plan to 'abandon' them.
- We also need to continue to build local 'ownership' of red-breasted geese. This species is still seen as a problem by some local farmers and other community members.
- We need to strengthen links with developers and local authorities. These are still rather weak; for example, there is no forum for the exchange of ideas and concerns, as there now is for farmers. It is important that we improve this situation, as developers and authorities are key stakeholder groups. However, it is also important to note that the strength of links with these groups is not entirely within BSPB's control; if a key individual in a local authority is strongly pro-development and anti-conservation, for example, there may be very little that we can do to change this.

Strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats

Project strengths

- Our relationship with farmers was significantly improved.
- More than ten people were trained in field data collection.
- We gained a great deal of experience of what is and is not achievable during a project of this nature. This will help us to define realistic expectations for future initiatives.
- Our understanding of the conservation issues facing red-breasted geese was improved.
- Our understanding of the local context was also improved. This will allow us to involve local stakeholders effectively in future projects.
- The project benefited from previous experience and knowledge of the area and species

Project weaknesses

- Management of the project was affected by the fact that the Project Manager changed part way through.
- BSPB had a limited presence in the region before the project started, and was not well known to or understood by many local stakeholders.
- There was no clear 'code of practice' for BSPB staff working on the project, and communication among different parts of this organisation was imperfect.
- It was not clear how the project related to BSPB's overall strategy.
- We could have made more use of local people and resources during the implementation of the project.
- We could also have done more to manage local expectations about the project, especially with regard to funding.
- There was a lack of good baseline information on the threats to red-breasted geese.
- The stakeholder analysis and communication planning processes were imperfect.
- There was limited knowledge of waterfowl or scientific methodology within BSPB at the start of the project.
- The schedule was too ambitious, especially at the start of the project.
- Some of the methodology used had to be developed or refined after the project had started.

Opportunities relating to future work

- The International Working Group set up under AEWA will help to drive further actions.
- Related to this, the International Species Action Plan for red-breasted goose will provide a robust framework for such actions, as will the National Species Action Plan that has recently been adopted in Bulgaria.
- The development of wind-farms in the project area has stalled, for a variety of reasons. These reasons include negative attitudes towards energy prices and the fact that Dobrudzha has been allocated a zero quota by the energy regulators in Bulgaria.
- We have established good relations with the Ministries of Agriculture and Environment
- The fact that Bulgaria is now in the EU means that a much wider variety of 'tools' are available to promote the conservation of red-breasted geese – e.g. environmental impact assessments and agri-environment schemes.
- All three of the NGOs involved in the project – BSPB, WWT and the RSPB – have gained important experience during its implementation and increased their capacity as a result

Threats relating to future work

- Some individuals within local municipalities have negative attitudes towards geese and/or conservation in general.
- The discrepancies that exist among population counts from different parts of the species' range may threaten the credibility of winter monitoring by BSPB and others and therefore our ability to obtain funding.
- Pressures in other parts of the range, such as hunting in Russia and Kazakhstan, have the potential to undermine conservation work on the wintering grounds.
- BSPB has little permanent presence in the project area. For example, there is no regional office or regional coordinator.
- If the Birds and Habitats Directives are weakened, this could have a major impact on our ability to conserve red-breasted geese effectively.
- Wind-farm development is still a major issue.
- Climate change could have adverse impacts on the target species.
- The demographic changes that are occurring in the region – i.e. a gradual decrease in and ageing of the population – could eventually have a detrimental impact. However, these changes are not a significant threat in the short term, and may even turn out to be beneficial.

After-LIFE activities

The Current project document envisages several actions to continue after the end of the Life Project.

Continuation of existing project activities

Objective 1: Strengthen the strategic planning framework to minimise the detrimental effect of economic development on red-breasted geese in the project area

During the project there were several strategic documents adopted by state institutions.

- Restriction on windfarm development have been incorporated in the SEA of the National Plan for Development of the Renewable Energy Sector in Bulgaria (http://www3.moew.government.bg/files/file/Industry/SEA/Statements_EO/Stanovishte_EO_1-2-2012.pdf). The limitations set there include reference for the Red-breasted Goose habitat and key sites. It will be operational till 2020. BSPB through its existing staff will follow investment projects that might contradict with the prescriptions of the SEA and submit objections to RIEW and MoEW.
- The Sensitivity map for the Red-breasted Goose in Coastal Dobrudzha developed within the Project provides strong scientific-sound base for assessment of impact and avoiding detrimental development planning in project that could impact the species. The map will be provided in GIS format to MoEW & RIEW to use as interactive tool in projects impact assessment. The data of the underlying layers will be updated seasonally as a result of monitoring activities or new projects in the area by BSPB.
- “Best Practice Guide for sustainable development in Red-breasted Goose area” developed and published by the project provides sufficient guidance for adequate assessment of new projects by the decision making authorities such as RIEW and MoEW. The guideline has been distributed and presented to authorities and stakeholders (i.e. EIA experts etc) and it available online at www.bspb-redbreasts.org
- There is an up-to-date database on investment proposals that is available for download at the Project website (<http://www.bspb-redbreasts.org/bg/investitsionni-namereniya-i-zaplahi.html>). The information will be updated on a regular base through the system established by the project. A full detailed report on investment proposals in Project area has been submitted to MoEW which draws attention to the location, number and cumulative impact of investment projects and intentions in the Coastal Dobrudzha area and the SPAs there. This is solid base for the future assessment of new investment proposals and their cumulative impact. They will be followed through BSPB site case work along with the support by other NGOs partners from the conservation coalition “For the Nature in Bulgaria”. This would continue through the IBA/Natura 2000 work of BSPB staff in which there is close collaboration with the RSPB and BirdLife Secretariat and the newly established partnerships in the project area.
- The NSAP when adopted will put a framework for the species conservation on national level and will provide guidance for prioritisation of future conservation activities. In current procedure when NSAP are adopted then specific discrete measures and actions could be developed as projects and to apply for funding from the National Enterprise for Environmental Protection (a state fund). The BSPB will take lead on initiation of the implementation of the activities related to monitoring of threats, species monitoring programme and key soft and adaptive measures.
- The process for development of management plans for Natura 2000 sites has been recently initiated by the MoEW. Currently MP is being developed for Kaliakra SPA/SCI and BSPB is participating in the process through provision of data and comments. Species management prescriptions have been incorporated in several documents submitted to the MoEW – the

NSAP, Best Practice Guide for sustainable development in Red-breasted Goose area. The BSPB through its Natura 2000/IBA staff will follow the process.

Objective 2: Engage stakeholders to reduce anthropogenic mortality and disturbance of red-breasted geese at the project sites

- The Project team has worked a lot on providing guiding and preliminary awareness information to the visiting and local hunters. The information sign boards, designed and installed by the Project provide useful information on regulations and what hunting activities are allowed in the SPAs. Special field guide on the huntable species and protected lookalikes has been published along with a leaflet to improve ID skills of hunters about wintering geese in the area. BSPB in partnership with the local hunters will continue to raise awareness about the Red-breasted Goose conservation in the region and support the issue of new awareness materials.
- A new scheme for pilot joint hunting patrols has been established by the Project that involved representatives from RIEW Varna, Regional Forestry Service Varna, State Hunting Estate of Balchik and Hunting Association Shabla and this has played a key role in limiting and reducing the anthropogenic mortality of the species. As a result from the project implementation activities in the Natura 2000 sites the level of anthropogenic mortality has been reduced. During the last winter season 2014-2015 there has been no Redbreast reported dead as a result from hunting activity. A memorandum of agreement has been signed by the key institutions that are authorised to enforce control on hunting in the area and are committed to continue the hunting control patrols in future.
- At the international meeting on the Red-breasted Goose organized for the range countries by the Project an agreement was reached to initiate a workshop under the auspices of AEWA Secretariat (through the RBG International Working Group) and FACE - the European hunters association on sustainable hunting practices. This would be helpful contribution to the long-term objective of designating non-hunting zone within the SPAs of Shabla and Durankulak lakes. In addition BSPB and the National Hunters and Anglers Union have a general signed memorandum of agreement since 2005 which envisages closer cooperation on conservation issues. On the basis of this we shall seek options for the establishment of ecologically adequate non-hunting zone around the roosting lakes in the area, envisaged also in the NSAP.
- Further data on goose behaviour and human impacts is however required to collect further evidence on the impact of hunting disturbance. In order to lobby effectively the institutions for the designation of larger buffer zone there is need to provide scientifically robust data and information on the impact of hunting within the SPAs as a source of disturbance, which is the key negative impact of hunting. This could be implemented through the joint expertise of BSPB and WWT through implementing of up-to-date techniques and state of the art methodologies, but is funding dependent. The methodology developed for such study could then be applied in other flyway range countries.

Objective 3: Engage stakeholders to develop sustainable land management models for Red-breasted goose conservation at the project sites

- During the last two winter seasons a Pilot Agri-Environmental Scheme was tested under the Life Project. On the basis of the results a new scheme has been developed and adopted in the NAEP for the 2015-2020 period. The interest in the new AES is significant and BSPB will continue to provide support on application process to local farmers and promote the scheme amongst new farmers in

key areas. This will be implemented by the BSPB staff working on NAEP and local volunteers who would provide the necessary information to local stakeholders. BSPB will continue working closely with the MAF to support the implementation of the measure and with the Regional Agriculture Service office to ensure there is enough information available for farmers on agricultural schemes relevant to Coastal Dobrudzha region.

- The MAF GIS eligibility layer for the new AES will be adjusted on the basis of the RBG foraging habitat model developed by the Project. Based on new data from IWC and other field projects the layer will be updated and maintained accordingly to reflect any new information and development.

Objective 4. Enhance community pride in and support for the conservation of red-breasted geese and the Natura 2000 sites that they depend on

- One of the greatest success stories is the setting up of the first ever Kite Festival in Bulgaria – the Red-breasted Goose Kite Festival in Shabla. Annually over 2000 people have attended the Kite festival which lasts for two days. The Kite Festival concept was so popular that the event was turned into international with participants from neighbouring countries. BSPB has signed a memorandum of understanding for delegating the future organisation of the Kite Festival and the Facebook page management to the Municipality of Shabla through the Shabla Green Centre. BSPB will continue to provide expertise and support for the future organisation of the Festival. The Kite festival has the potential to evolve into annual international event along with other similar festivals around the Globe.
- Through the project implementation we have developed an array of educational materials and have trained local school teachers and animators at the Shabla Green Centre to use and implement them. The work will be rolled out by the Green Centre and local school teachers. The school of Durankulak village has a long term twining activities with the elementary school in Caerlaverock village and their twining activities will continue in future with support of the WWT Caerlaverock Centre.
- Promote the region and its Nature in order to create alternative tourism niche – wildlife tourism and rural tourism in the Shabla municipality. BSPB through involvement of relevant stakeholders from tour operators and other local and national partners will work to replicate models well established as for example in the Eastern Rhodopes to ensure conserved nature brings benefit to local people. Through the Project BSPB has already trained local tour guides for the needs of Shabla Green Centre. This will involve also promotion of small scale B&B accommodation for wildlife tourists, promote wildlife photography tours in the area, support in development of tour guides etc. Such soft and adaptation measures are listed in the NSAP as well.

Initiation of additional and new activities

The project as the largest research effort on the Red-breasted Goose along the flyaway has answered a lot of questions, but a lot of issues that have not previously thought of became obvious and need further research and investigation. In addition some of the research activities the basis of which was set up during the project implementation need to be continued and taken further on. A lot of the work that might be included in future activities is referred to in the International Species Action Plan and could usefully be transferred and working approach in other parts of the flyway of the species. The approach and methodology for these are likely to be easily transferable to other range countries from the flyway. Further activities on the conservation in the species are to be guided either by the International SSAP or National Species Action Plan developed under the Project. As the BSPB is currently coordinating the AEWA Red-breasted Goose International Working Group it

is likely that the international work could be expanded within this framework, more over that some of the problems and issues with the species have been identified to be similar in number of countries along the flyway.

- We need to coordinate work internationally to assess and address the impact of hunting across the whole range of red-breasted goose. Preliminary data collected from the satellite tag information suggest that the mortality result of hunting during migration period could amount up to 40% of the population. WWT along with BSPB envisage to continue the satellite tracking initiative and to fit the remaining Argus tags purchased through the project in January-February 2016 in order to assess the significance of hunting mortality during migration and inform future flyway conservation measures. This aspect has been so far underestimated and might be significant factor for the population decline of the species.
- We also need to coordinate internationally to improve knowledge of the distribution of this species and the relative importance of different sites on migration and in winter, and to obtain an accurate, up-to-date estimate of its population size. BSPB has put efforts to improve coordination of the winter census counts of RBG in BG, RO and UA, but so far funding limitation prevent adequate coverage of the winter range of the species. Local partners in these range countries will try to locate appropriate funding options to allow coordinated adequate coverage of the whole wintering range of the species, which could be part of a large flyway project along with the previous activity mention above.
- We need to transfer the knowledge and expertise we have gained before and during this project to countries other than Bulgaria. Number of actions that were implemented during the Life Project is transferable experience and expertise that could effectively be put in use in other range countries as part of a wider flyway project.
- So far the activities in the Project area have been focused on the protection and long term management of foraging habitats, but the roost sites require adequate management and habitat restoration. The eutrophication of the lakes has led to vegetation succession within the lake and in adjacent shore and this need to be addressed in specific targeted project. BSPB has already initiated consultations with local stakeholders on possible route of action and scope of work. These envisage reed bed management through mechanical and grazing activities. These would be funding dependent and could be part of larger multy country flyway project or separate project with activities in Bulgaria.

LIST OF ACTIVITIES FOR AFTER LIFE

CODE	ACTIVITY	Leading partner	PRIORITY	FUNDING
1	<i>Objective 1: Strengthen the strategic planning framework to minimise the detrimental effect of economic development on red-breasted geese in the project area</i>			
1.1.	Monitoring of implementation of the restrictions on windfarm development introduced in the SEA of the National Action Plan for Development of the Renewable Energy Sector in Bulgaria	BSPB	M	BSPB staff time; project funding
1.2.	Maintain and update the data layers feeding into the Red-breasted Goose Sensitivity Map of Coastal Dobrudzha	BSPB	S	Project fundingq MoEW, PAF for Natura 2000,
1.3.	Lobby for implementation of the “Best Practice Guide for sustainable development in Red-breasted Goose area” recommendations and provide expertise for EIA/SEA in this respect (to EIA experts, decision makers, RIEW, MoEW etc.)	BSPB	M	BSPB staff time, small project funding
1.4.	Update and maintain the database on investment proposals in Coastal Dobrudzha and continue to provide access to it to wider public and experts	BSPB	S	Staff time, small project funding
1.5.	Identify discrete actions from the NSAP and initiate their implementation in partnership with local stakeholders and state institutions	BSPB, MoEW, RIEW, others	S	Operational Programme Environment, Life Programme, Other project funding, MoEW

1.6.	Lobby for inclusion of appropriate species management measures and appropriate restrictions in new MP for SPAs in Coastal Dobrudzha	BSPB, MoEW	M	Existing Staff time
2	<i>Engage stakeholders to reduce anthropogenic mortality and disturbance of red-breasted geese at the project sites</i>			
2.1	Public awareness and communication materials and activities for hunters	BSPB, MAF, MoEW	S	National funding ; Operational programme Environment, small project
2.2.	Continuation of the joint hunting patrols in the SPAs and adjacent area and support by BSPB volunteers	MAF, MoEW, Balchik Hunting Estate, BSPB	M	Staff time, budget of the regional institutions, MoEW,
2.3.	Workshop on sustainable hunting practices for Bulgaria and other RBG flyway range countries under the auspices of AEWA & FACE to inform proposals for changes in hunting practices in key sites for the species.	FACE (to lead), support – AEWA RBGIWG, WWT, BirdLife International		Small project funds, private donor foundations, participants own funding, other
2.4.	Lobbying and consultations for designation of new buffer non-hunting zone within the SPAs of key importance for the RBG	BSPB, MoEW, MAF,	M	Staff time of personnel involved
	Implement baseline study for providing further data on goose behaviour and human impacts within the SPAs	WWT (to lead), BSPB, RBGIWG, BirdLife International	C	Funding options not identified yet
3.	<i>Engage stakeholders to develop sustainable land management models for Red-breasted goose conservation at the project sites.</i>			
3.1.	Promotion of the new AES and provision of consultations to local farmers during application process	BSPB, MAF, municipalities	M	Staff time and small project funding
3.2	Maintain and adjust the eligibility layer of the AES on RBG foraging grounds	BSPB, MAF	M	Staff time, MAF funding

4	<i>Enhance community pride in and support for the conservation of red-breasted geese and the Natura 2000 sites that they depend on</i>			
4.1.	Continuation of the annual Kite Festival event dedicated to the Red-breasted Goose Conservation.	Shabla Green Centre/Municipality, BSPB	M	Small project funding, private donors, municipality budget
4.2.	Continuation of education and awareness activities based on materials developed by the Project	Shabla Green Centre, BSPB, local schools	M	Municipality budget, small project money, private donors, other project funding – MoEW, Ministry of Education etc.
4.3.	Continue the twining activities between Durankulak school and Caerlaverock school	Durankulak School, WWT, BSPB	M	Staff time, small project money, private donors.
4.4.	Promotion of nature friendly and eco-tourism in Shabla municipality	Shabla Municipality (Green Centre), BSPB, tour operators, other NGOs		Trans Boundary Programme with Romania, other EU funding opportunities for municipalities, OP Environment etc.
5	<i>Initiation of additional and new activities</i>			
5.1.	Assessment of hunting impact on RBG population along the migration route	WWT, RBGIWG, BSPB,USFWS other RBG partners	M	Life Programme, GEF other large donors
5.2.	Improve knowledge of the distribution of the species and the relative importance of different sites on migration and in winter and obtain an accurate up-to-date estimate of its population size	AEWA RBGIWG	M	National funding, EU funding, GEF, other large donors – private foundations etc.

5.3	Transfer the knowledge and expertise we have gained before and during this project to countries other than Bulgaria	RBGIWG, WWT, BSPB	M	Staff time, small project funding options, trans-boundary projects etc.
5.4.	Restoration and management of the roost sites of the RBG in the Project area	BSPB, local partners	S	Life Programme funding, Operational Programme Environment, other project funding