

AEWA EUROPEAN GOOSE MANAGEMENT PLATFORM



**3rd MEETING OF THE
AEWA EUROPEAN GOOSE MANAGEMENT
INTERNATIONAL WORKING GROUP**



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REPORT OF THE EGMP SECRETARIAT AND DATA CENTRE (2017/2018)



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The 3rd Meeting of the AEWA European Goose Management International Working Group is being hosted by the Province of Friesland.

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Introduction

The present report covers the work of the AEWAs EGMP Secretariat and the EGMP Data Centre for the period between June 2017 and May 2018.

This report is divided into 11 sections:

1. EGMP Organizational Structure;
2. Staffing and Organization of the EGMP Secretariat and the Data Centre;
3. Participating Range States;
4. Funding;
5. Meetings and Workshops;
6. AEWAs International Single Species Action and Management Plans;
7. National Reporting;
8. EGMP Data Centre;
9. EGMP Task Forces;
10. Projects;
11. Communication and Outreach.

Activities reported in detail in other EGM IWG3 documents are only mentioned briefly here, with a reference to the relevant substantive document containing more information.

The day-to-day work of the EGMP Secretariat and Data Centre, which includes administration, responding to incoming mail, maintaining the extensive network of contacts, etc. are not specifically mentioned in this report.

1. EGMP Organizational Structure

The European Goose Management International Working Group (EGM IWG) serves as the main coordinating and decision-making body of the European Goose Management Platform (EGMP) and is composed of national delegations comprising representatives of national governments, their designated national experts and other national stakeholders as well as the European Commission. Several relevant organisations have received permanent observer status to the EGM IWG and individual experts are invited to meetings as necessary.

The Chairmanship has been assumed by Norway (represented by Mr Øystein Størkersen) since December 2016 and the term of office expires at the close of EGM IWG3.

Two EGMP species-specific task forces have been established to support the implementation of the AEWAs International Single Species Management Plan for the Svalbard population of the Pink-footed Goose and the AEWAs International Single Species Action Plan for the Taiga Bean Goose. In addition, a Task Force to deal with agricultural issues has been established. The role of these task forces is to deal as necessary with the preparation and coordination of decision papers and background documents for the EGM IWG.

The EGMP Data Centre is responsible for providing the necessary scientific analysis, assessments and subsequent proposals for conservation and management options for EGMP related issues. The AEWAs Secretariat and Aarhus University in Denmark have signed a Memorandum of Cooperation under which Aarhus University hosts the Data Centre for the EGMP.

Under the coordination of the EGMP Data Centre, the International Modelling Consortium, consisting of an international partnership of scientific institutions, collaborates on the development of population models.

The AEWa Secretariat, based in Bonn, Germany, is also functioning as the EGMP Secretariat responsible for the coordination of the EGMP, including its respective bodies (EGM IWG and the EGMP Data Centre).

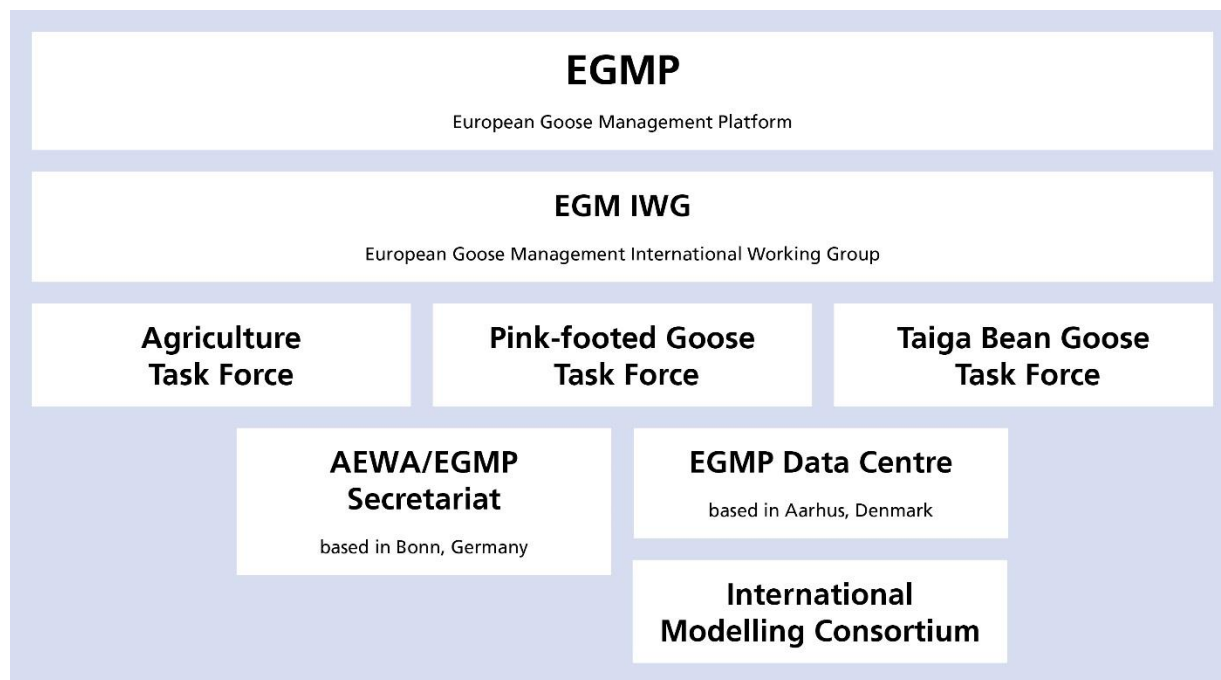


Figure 1. Organizational Structure of the European Goose Management Platform

2. Staffing and organization of the EGMP Secretariat and Data Centre

AEWA EGMP Secretariat

Head of Science, Implementation and Compliance Unit (P-3)

Mr Sergey Dereliev

A considerable part of Mr Sergey Dereliev's staff time, which is covered by the AEWa core budget, was allocated to the development of the EGMP, particularly during the phase-in period. Currently he oversees the process and supervises the day-to-day work.

EGMP Coordinator (P-2)

Ms Eva Meyers

Thanks primarily to the funding received from the Norwegian Environmental Agency towards the establishment of the EGMP, Ms Meyers was recruited as full-time P-2 Associate Programme Management Officer in July 2017 to coordinate the EGMP. This post is fully funded through the contributions provided by the EGMP Range States for the Platform's running costs.

Programme Management Assistant (G-5)

Ms Christina Irven

As of November 2017, the position of the full-time G-5 Programme Management Assistant has been filled by Ms Irven. Similarly, the establishment of this position was made possible primarily by the generous funding received from the Norwegian Environmental Agency. This post is fully funded through the contributions provided by the EGMP Range States for the Platform's running costs.

Both the EGMP Coordinator and the Assistant have an annual workplan, which is revised mid-term and approved by the Head of Science, Implementation and Compliance Unit.

EGMP Data Centre

Head of the EGMP Data Centre

Prof. Dr. Jesper Madsen

Professor Jesper Madsen from Department of Bioscience, Aarhus University, Denmark, acts as the head of the EGMP Data Centre with an allocation of 15% of his staff time towards the EGMP.

Goose Monitoring Coordinator

Dr. Gitte Høj Jensen

Based at Aarhus University in Denmark, Dr Høj Jensen has been employed as the Goose Monitoring Coordinator as of February 2017. In support of this function, Professor Dr Anthony D. Fox and Dr Kevin Kuhlmann Clausen, Aarhus University, contribute to annual assessment and modelling work.

This post is fully funded through the contributions provided by the EGMP Range States for the Platform's running costs.

Population Modelling Experts

To support model developments, as well as the development of adaptive management frameworks, Aarhus University has made a technical agreement with the US Geological Surveys (USGS) and Dr Fred A. Johnson from USGS has been affiliated as honorary associate professor to Aarhus University.

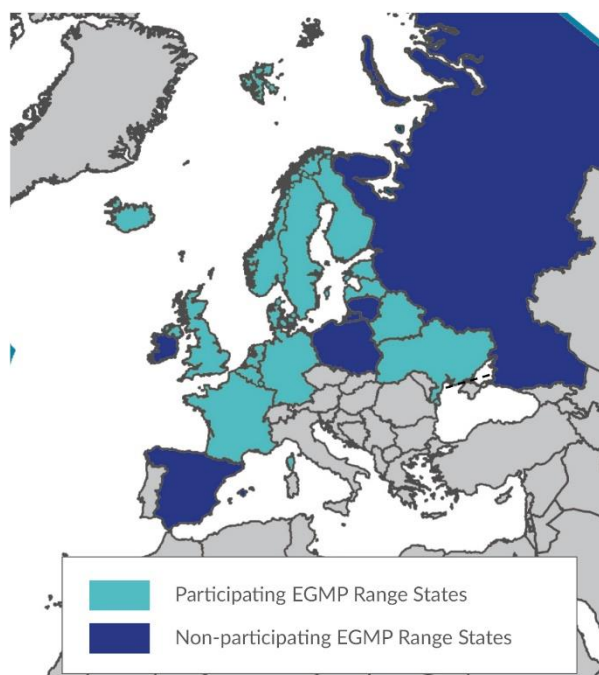
Professor Dr Anthony D. Fox and Dr Kevin Kuhlmann Clausen, Aarhus University, contribute to annual assessment and modelling work.

The possibility to maintain these posts is dependent on the provision of annual voluntary contributions by the participating Range States of the EGMP covering the full necessary annual budget.

3. Participating Range States of the EGMP

The EGMP has 15 participating Range States, 14 national governments and the European Commission: Belarus, Belgium, Denmark, Estonia, EU, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Latvia, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Ukraine and United Kingdom.

Lithuania has indicated that they might step out of the EGMP process, therefore they have been tentatively indicated as non-participating. Spain, Ireland, Poland and Russia remain non-participating Range States. The EGMP Secretariat has already approached Spain, Poland and Russia, but no feedback has been received so far.



4. Funding

Since January 2017, a total amount of € 793,570 have been received as voluntary financial contributions by the Range States to the EGMP (€ 317,500 in 2016, € 244,647 in 2017 and € 231,423 in 2018).

These voluntary contributions were earmarked for the running of the EGMP, including operational and staff costs in the EGMP Secretariat and Data Centre.

The AEWA Secretariat would like to express its appreciation for the financial support received towards the implementation of the EGMP. It should, at the same time, be noted that this level of support is still far below the amount estimated as necessary to run the EGMP processes without uninterrupted service from the EGMP Secretariat and Data Centre. A detailed financial report outlining budget, funding and expenses is provided as document AEWA/EGMIWG/3.4.

An estimated budget for 2019 and proposed scales of contributions (as requested at EGM IWG2) are presented in document AEWA/EGMIWG/3.5 and are to be considered by the EGM IWG at its 3rd meeting in June 2018.

Whereas it has remained unfunded at the moment, certain aspects of the communication strategy, i.e. the development and design of a new EGMP website and aligned re-design of the EGMP logo, have already been financed from EGMP Secretariat operational funds in order to kick-start the outreach activities to stakeholders. In addition, end-of-year funding in 2017 has been provided by Norway towards the development of outreach material.

5. Meetings and Workshops

1st International Management Planning Workshop for the Greylag Goose

The International Management Planning Workshop for the Greylag Goose took place on 4-6 October 2017 in Paris at the invitation of the French Ministry of Environment, Energy and Sea. The Greylag

Goose management planning process is not formally under the EGMP, but the EGMP staff at the Secretariat and the Data Centre are fully involved.

Internal Species Management Planning Workshop

The EGMP Secretariat and the Data Centre organized an internal Species Management Planning Workshop in Kalø, Denmark on 16 January 2018, back-to-back with the International Modelling Consortium meeting in order to advance the development of the Greylag and Barnacle Goose Single Species Management Plans. The Barnacle Goose management planning process is not formally under the EGMP, but the EGMP staff at the Secretariat and the Data Centre are fully involved.

International Modelling Consortium meeting

The first meeting of the International Modelling Consortium took place in Kalø, Denmark on 17-18 January 2018.

Online meetings of the EGMP Pink-footed Goose Task Force (PfG TF)

The EGMP Secretariat together with the EGMP Data Centre and the Coordinator of the PfG TF organized two online meetings (via GoTo Meeting) on 15 February and 9 April 2018.

Online meetings of the EGMP Taiga Bean Goose Task Force (TBG TF)

The EGMP Secretariat together with the EGMP Data Centre and the Coordinator of the TBG TF organized three online meetings (via GoTo Meeting) on 13 February, 23 March and 2 May 2018.

Online meetings of the EGMP Agriculture Task Force (Agri TF)

The EGMP Secretariat together with the EGMP Data Centre and the Coordinator of the Agri TF organized two online meetings (via GoTo Meeting) on 20 February and 4 May 2018.

1st face-to-face meeting of the EGMP Task Forces

The 1st face-to-face meeting of the three EGMP Task Forces (PfG TF, TBG TF and Agri TF) will take place on 18 June 2018 in Leeuwarden, the Netherlands, at the kind invitation of the Province of Fryslân.

2nd International Management Planning Workshop for the Barnacle and Greylag Goose

The 2nd International Management Planning Workshop for the Barnacle and Greylag Goose will take place back-to-back with the EGM IWG3 on 19 June 2018 in Leeuwarden, the Netherlands at the invitation of the Province of Fryslân.

3rd Meeting of the AEWA European Goose Management International Working Group (EGM IWG3)

The EGM IWG3 will take place on 20-21 June 2018 in Leeuwarden, the Netherlands, at the kind invitation of the Province of Fryslân.

6. AEWA International Single Species Action and Management Plans

Under the EGMP, International Single Species Action and Management Plans (ISSMPs) are currently in place for the Svalbard population of the **Pink-footed Goose** (*Anser brachyrhynchus*) and the **Taiga Bean Goose** (*Anser fabalis fabalis*). For the two species where action and management plans are being implemented, adaptive management plans are in operation.

At the 6th Session of the Meeting of the Parties to AEWA (MOP6), the development of International Single Species Management Plans (ISSMPs) for the **Barnacle Goose** and the **Greylag Goose** (NW/SW European population) was mandated as a matter of priority through Resolution 6.4. These plans are

being developed in response to the AEWA Action Plan that provides for developing ISSMPs for populations, which cause significant damage to crops or fisheries.

The EGMP Secretariat organized two stakeholder workshops in 2017 for the development of the two ISSMPs. The 1st Barnacle Goose Management Planning Workshop in **June 2017** in Copenhagen and the 1st Greylag Goose Management Planning Workshop in **October 2017** in Paris.

In addition, the EGMP Secretariat and the EGMP Data Centre organized an internal Species Management Planning Workshop that was held back-to-back with the first International Modelling Consortium Meeting in **January 2018**. The purpose of this workshop was to compile the information provided by Range States at the two species management planning workshops that were held in 2017 and to prepare a draft Framework for Action for each ISSMP.

Drafts of the ISSMP for the Barnacle Goose and the ISSMP for the Greylag Goose were circulated to the participants of the two stakeholder workshops for consultation in **March 2018**.

At the same time, both plans have been submitted to the Technical Committee for review at the 14th Meeting of the AEWA Technical Committee (TC14) in **April 2018**.

In **June 2018**, back-to-back with the 3rd Meeting of the European Goose Management International Working Group (EGM IWG3), a one-day workshop will take place to review and discuss the key points of the ISSMPs for the Barnacle Goose and for the Greylag Goose and to agree on a process and methodology to set population targets.

An interim draft of the two plans will be submitted to the 13th Meeting of the AEWA Standing Committee (StC13) in July 2018 and the final draft to the 7th Session of the Meeting of the Parties to AEWA (MOP7) in December 2018.

The Greylag and Barnacle Geese management planning processes are not formally under the EGMP, but the EGMP staff at the Secretariat and the Data Centre are fully involved.

7. National Reporting

Following the decisions at the 2nd Meeting of the EGM IWG in June 2017, Copenhagen, Denmark, on the establishment of National Reporting under the AEWA EGM IWG ([Doc AEWA/EGM IWG2.10](#)), the EGMP Secretariat and Data Centre have produced a national reporting format. The online reporting cycle was launched on 26 February 2018 and closed on the 20 April 2018. Twelve out of 14 countries have submitted a national report for 2018. The Summary of the National Reports 2018 is provided in document AEWA/EGMIWG/3.6.

8. EGMP Data Centre

Based on the annual information (population data, demographic information, harvest data, as well as socio-economic data on agricultural damage in case of the Pink-footed Goose) provided by the Range States, the EGMP Data Centre has produced four reports; the Pink-footed Goose Population Status Update 2017/2018, the Adaptive Harvest Management for the Svalbard Population of Pink-Footed Geese 2018 Progress Summary, the Taiga Bean Goose Population Status Report 2017/2018 and the Harvest Assessment for Taiga Bean Geese in the Central Management Unit for 2018. The reports are provided in documents AEWA/EGMIWG/3.8, AEWA/EGMIWG/3.9, AEWA/EGMIWG/3.11 and AEWA/EGMIWG/3.12.

On request by a Range State the EGMP Data Centre and Secretariat have prepared a briefing paper describing the monitoring needs for the EGMP processes. This paper was circulated to all Range States on 14 April 2018.

To facilitate the monitoring need, the EGMP Data Centre has conducted a survey on the subject of goose monitoring in the EGMP Range States, including a gap analysis of monitoring activities. The survey was directed to National IWC coordinators and goose count coordinators involved in goose monitoring, management and/or research of populations covered under the EGMP. The results of this survey and the future priority work were presented and discussed at a workshop at the IUCN/WI Goose Specialist Group meeting in Lithuania in March 2018. During this meeting, a smaller group was established to continue the work on how to improve goose monitoring in Europe.

Furthermore, the EGMP Data Centre has, in collaboration with the European Federation of Associations for Hunting & Conservation (FACE) and the Office national de la Chasse et de la Faune Sauvage (ONCFS), conducted a survey of how waterbird harvest data is gathered in Europe. The survey was directed to all FACE members. The information, currently being analysed, will be used to make recommendations for a best practice harvest reporting scheme.

International Modelling Consortium

Institutions included in the International Modelling Consortium so far are: Aarhus University (Denmark, lead), US Geological Surveys (USGS, USA), Wageningen University/ALTEERRA, the Netherlands Institute of Ecology (NIOO-KNAW), SOVON (the Netherlands), ONCFS (France), Swedish Agricultural University and Kristianstad University (Sweden), Scottish Natural Heritage, Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust (United Kingdom).

Researchers from Aarhus University and USGS have been developing a new integrated population model framework for the Pink-footed Goose, while the Dutch institutions have started developing similar models for the Barnacle Goose. ONCFS has started developing statistical models to define management units for the NW/SW population of Greylag Goose. Aarhus University, NIOO-KNAW and Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust (WWT) have started developing agent-based simulation systems to model the relationship between goose abundances and agricultural damage on a regional scale (see document for more information AEWA/BG/GG/MPWS Inf.2.5).

Meetings and Workshops attended by the EGMP Data Centre staff

August 2017

Keynote presentation at the IUGB 2017, Montpellier, France

September 2017

First meeting on the set-up of monitoring networks, databases and workflows between the EGMP Data Centre and international and national goose monitoring data holders

November 2017

Presentations at a workshop concerning wildlife management policies, Icelandic Ministry of Environment, Reykjavik, Iceland

November 2017

Presentation at a meeting in the Goose Management Group of the Wadden Sea Forum, Hamburg, Germany

January 2018

Workshop of the EGMP Goose Modelling Consortium to prepare prototype population models for Barnacle and Greylag Geese, Kalø, Denmark

January 2018

Presentation at National Wildlife Ecology theme day, Aarhus, Denmark

February 2018

Presentation at meeting of the working group for wild geese (*Arbeitsgemeinschaft Wildgänse*), Ministry of Energy, Agriculture, the Environment, Nature and Digitalization, Kiel, Germany

March 2018

Presentation at Annual Meeting of the ornithological working group (*Ornithologische Arbeitsgemeinschaft*) for Schleswig-Holstein, Neumünster, Germany

March 2018

Presentation and workshop ‘Goose Monitoring in Europe’ at the IUCN/WI Goose Specialist Group meeting to discuss issues identified in the gap analysis of monitoring activities, Klaipėde, Lithuania

April 2018

Presentation at the 5th Pan-European Duck Symposium “Duck harvest survey schemes in Europe: a review and statistical evaluation” (in collaboration with FACE and ONCFS, France), Scotland, UK

May 2018

Presentation at the Eyes on the Flyways conference, Bruxelles, Belgium

9. EGMP Task Forces

The EGMP Secretariat led the establishment of the three EGMP Task Forces (Agriculture Task Force, Taiga Bean Goose Task Force and Pink-footed Goose Task Force) and supported the meeting coordination and document production. A Coordinator for each Task Force was identified by the EGMP Secretariat.

The Task Forces are coordinated as follows:

Agriculture Task Force: Ms Ingunn Tombre (Norway)

Taiga Bean Goose Task Force: Mr Mikko Alhainen (Finland)

Pink-footed Goose Task Force: Mr Jesper Madsen (Denmark)

Detailed reports on the activities and outputs of the EGMP Task Forces is provided in documents AEW/EGMIWG/3.10, AEW/EGMIWG/3.13 and AEW/EGMIWG/3.14.

10. Projects

Following the mandate given by the EGM IWG for development of a model harvest-related domestic legislation which would be an ideal case scenario for running an Adaptive Management System (agenda item 9 in the [EGM IWG1 report](#) and agenda item 7 in the [EGM IWG2 meeting report](#)), the EGMP Secretariat outsourced the implementation of the project concept presented at the EGM IWG2 meeting. The draft document has been compiled by Ms Melissa Lewis, Environmental Law Expert on the AEWA Technical Committee. The final draft document has been submitted to the EGM IWG3 as document AEWA/EGMIWG/3.7 after two rounds of consultations with the EGM IWG members and observers.

11. Communication and Outreach

At the EGM IWG2, the IWG agreed that the EGMP Secretariat should start fundraising in order to commission the development of a communication strategy for the EGMP. Despite the efforts of the EGMP Secretariat to secure the necessary funding (€74,000) from the Range States and a private foundation, the communication strategy project remains unfunded to date.

In the meantime, the EGMP Secretariat has been able to allocate a small proportion of the existing operational budget to develop a design concept and a website for the EGMP. The project was outsourced to a local company in Bonn. The concept included a re-design of the EGMP logo, which was circulated to the EGM IWG in May 2018. The website (www.egmp.aewa.info) will be launched in June 2018 and includes a member's only workspace to facilitate the work of the EGMP.