



# EGMP HIGHLIGHTS 2024



As 2024 is nearing its end, join us in reflecting on the remarkable milestones of the past year. This year has been one of progress and collaboration for EGMP. Let's take a look together at the events that made it a success!

## 9TH MEETING OF THE EUROPEAN GOOSE MANAGEMENT INTERNATIONAL WORKING GROUP (EGM IWG9) (TROMSØ, NORWAY, 18-20 JUNE)



The stunning Arctic landscapes of Tromsø, Norway, set the stage for the 9th annual EGM IWG meeting, hosted by the Norwegian Environment Agency with support from Norwegian Institute for Nature Research. This meeting continued to serve as the forum for important decisions, fruitful discussions and meaningful exchanges. For detailed outcomes, explore the [EGM IWG9 Decision Table](#) and, for the population-focused summaries and recommendations, refer to the [EGM IWG9 Briefing Note](#). A heartfelt thank you to our Norwegian hosts and all participants for making this event a resounding success.





## EGMP TASK FORCE DAY (TROMSØ, NORWAY, 17 JUNE)

Ahead of EGM IWG9, the EGMP Task Forces convened to reconnect, evaluate progress and chart a path forward. The day included lively discussions across six Task Forces and a hybrid webinar on the effects of climate change on migratory geese, now available on the [EGMP YouTube channel](#).

## ADOPTION OF THE 1ST FLIGHT SAFETY TASK FORCE WORKPLAN

Marking a significant step forward, the Flight Safety Task Force adopted its first workplan at EGM IWG9. The [workplan](#) includes aspiring activities such as the establishment of a European databank on aircraft-goose strikes and the exploration of cutting-edge technologies to minimise risks to air safety.



## HPAI CONTACT GROUP

In 2024, the Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) Contact Group reconvened, bringing valuable input to the revision process for the Pink-footed Goose International Single Species Management Plan (PfG ISSMP). The group's discussions provided essential contributions, summarised in the document [AEWA/PfG/ISSMP/Inf.1.5](#). Important tasks for the group lie ahead, with input on HPAI required for the upcoming revision of the International Single Species Action Plan for Taiga Bean Goose (TBG ISSAP) and the assessment of the indicators in the Adaptive Flyway Management Programmes (AFMPs) for Barnacle and Greylag Geese.

## EVALUATION AND REVISION OF PINK-FOOTED GOOSE ISSMP

The year marked substantial progress in evaluating the results achieved by, and implementation rate of, the PfG ISSMP, and taking steps to revise this plan. A draft evaluation report on the PfG ISSMP was prepared for EGM IWG9 and is now available on the [EGMP website](#) in its final form. The drafting of a revised plan began this autumn, making significant progress, not least during a successful revision workshop that took place in October. The workshop was held in Levanger, Norway, at the kind invitation of the Norwegian Environment Agency and brought together representatives from five Range States and several Permanent Observer Organizations.



## EVALUATION OF TAIGA BEAN GOOSE ISSAP

Evaluation of the current plan was supported through a questionnaire distributed to TBG Range States, gathering information on the implementation of the plan's Framework for Action and progress towards achieving its objectives over the past decade. The evaluation report is currently under development and is expected to be finalised and submitted for approval by the AEWA Technical and Standing Committees in 2025.

## AGREEMENT BETWEEN UK AND ICELAND ON COORDINATION OF OFFTAKE FOR GREENLAND BARNACLE GOOSE POPULATION

Responding to the EGM IWG9 decision to minimise the offtake of the East Greenland/Scotland & Ireland population of Barnacle Goose to as close as possible to zero and develop and implement a coordination mechanism, in autumn 2024, Iceland and the UK confirmed their agreement to limit the offtake to 600 birds (Iceland: 500, UK: 100). The two Range States also committed to a coordinated mechanism to ensure adherence, with progress to be reported at EGM IWG10.

## NEW COLLEAGUES ON BOARD

### POPULATION EXPERT - DR. RYAN GERMAIN

In early 2024, Dr. Ryan Germain joined Aarhus University and the Data Centre team as a population modeller, among other responsibilities, enhancing EGMP's capacity for advanced data analysis and modelling. Ryan's experience in investigating the drivers of bird population changes, particularly due to environmental factors like climate change, opens the door for many new exciting projects on EGMP species.



### SPECIES OFFICER - DR MELISSA LEWIS

Dr. Melissa Lewis joined the Secretariat as the new species officer from March 2024. Known to many in the AEWA and EGMP networks, Melissa has co-authored AEWA's international species management plans for Barnacle and Greylag Geese, amongst other work that she has done in the framework of AEWA. Melissa brings a wealth of expertise to the EGMP team on planning, drafting and implementation of the international species management and action plans.



## KIPEPEO AWARDS

A proud moment for EGMP came with its selection as a finalist for UNEP's prestigious Kipepeo Awards under the innovation category. This recognition celebrates EGMP's groundbreaking approaches to international wildlife management, blending robust science, collaboration and decision-making. Read more about this milestone on the [AEWA website](#).



## COMMUNICATIONS/OUTREACH MATERIALS

In 2024, EGMP continued to simplify complex concepts and deliver clear, concise information through its communications materials:

[EGM IWG9 - Upcoming Decisions](#)

[EGM IWG9 - Population Status and Management Recommendations](#)

[EGM IWG9 - Decision Table](#)

## NEWS STORIES ABOUT EGMP

[Goose Days in Nissum Fjord Nature Park, Denmark](#)

[EGM IWG9: Annual Meeting Sets New Goals for Goose Management in Europe](#)

[Teaching Future Conservationists: Goose Ecology and Management in Svalbard](#)

[EGMP Data Centre Shares Insights on Barnacle Goose Management at Danish Stakeholder Meeting](#)

[European Goose Management Platform Recognized for Innovation as a Finalist for UNEP's Kipepeo Award](#)



## LOOKING TO THE FUTURE: WHAT DOES THE 2025 HOLD FOR EGMP?

### EGM IWG10 (BRUSSELS, BELGIUM, 17-19 JUNE 2025)

Mark your calendars as the EGM IWG10 will be hosted by the Flemish Research Institute for Nature and Forest (INBO), in Brussels, Belgium on 17-19 June 2025. The in-person meetings of the EGMP Task Forces will take place on 16 June 2025. We are looking forward to seeing many of you there!



### TAIGA BEAN GOOSE ISSAP REVISION WORKSHOP

A stakeholder workshop for the revision of the TBG ISSAP is planned for April 2025. The exact dates and venue of the workshop will be announced in early 2025. Stay tuned!



### AD-HOC WORKING GROUP ON THE UPCOMING EGMP ANNIVERSARY

With EGMP's 10th anniversary approaching in 2026, an ad-hoc working group has been established to craft a proposal and workplan for special activities commemorating this milestone. The first meeting of this group will take place in January 2025.

## WEBINAR ON AGRICULTURAL DAMAGE

On 18 February 2025, the Agriculture Task Force and the Greylag Goose Task Force will host a webinar open to all. The session will feature a presentation of a survey on citizens' perspectives on Barnacle Geese, alongside case studies highlighting tools to reduce crop damage in Sweden and Finland. Experts from the Natural Resources Institute in Finland and the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (Wildlife Damage Centre) will lead the presentations.

## THANK YOU!!!

We would like to extend our warmest gratitude to our wonderful network of stakeholders, including national government representatives, experts, Task Force coordinators and members, researchers and everyone involved in implementing the EGMP at the local level. Big thanks also go out to the dedicated volunteers and goose observers who contribute to the annual monitoring of our species. Your efforts and contributions are deeply appreciated!



## BE CONNECTED AND STAY ENGAGED!

Keep an eye out for upcoming events, including meetings, webinars and the release of new materials such as reports, briefing notes and fact sheets. Whether online or in person, we can't wait to connect with you soon.

Your continued support and involvement mean so much to us, and we are looking forward to working together with you in 2025!



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