

AEWA EUROPEAN GOOSE MANAGEMENT PLATFORM



**9th MEETING OF THE
AEWA EUROPEAN GOOSE MANAGEMENT
INTERNATIONAL WORKING GROUP**



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**REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE AGRICULTURE TASK FORCE FOR
2023/2024 AND DRAFT WORKPLAN FOR 2024/2025**

Prepared by Ingunn Tombre, Coordinator of the Agriculture Task Force,

with contributions from the members of the Agriculture Task Force



Photo: Gørli E. Bruun Andersen

Introduction

The role of the Agriculture Task Force is to assist the AEWA European Goose Management International Working Group (EGM IWG), and the species-specific Task Forces and processes in the European Goose Management Platform (EGMP). In this document, an overview is given of activities since the 8th Meeting of the European Goose Management International Working Group, which took place on 20-22 June 2023 in Bonn, Germany. A draft workplan for 2024/2025 is also presented.

1. Status of the Task Force Membership

The Task Force currently has 27 members with representatives from 10 Range States, 4 non-governmental organisations (BirdLife International, Copa Cogeca, FACE and Wetlands International), the EGMP Data Centre and the AEWA Secretariat. There have been some changes in the Task Force membership since the previous report. There is no longer a representative from the Wadden Sea Forum (WSF) since the WSF General Assembly's resolution to close the WSF by 31 December 2023. From the Netherlands' Fauna Fund, Ida van Ommeren has replaced Mark Westebring, and, from BirdLife International, Barbara Herrero has replaced Ariel Brunner. Following Olesya Petrovych's departure, Vasilij Kostiusyn is currently the only representative from Ukraine. An overview of members as of April 2024 is presented in Annex 1.

2. Meetings

The Agriculture Task Force was represented in the joint online meeting of EGMP Task Forces on 4 March 2024. A joint meeting was feasible and resource efficient, as much of the information from the Data Centre and the AEWA Secretariat is common for all task forces. There have also been some email correspondences between group members, especially regarding the arrangements of a webinar.



Members attending a joint online meeting of the EGMP Task Forces (Photo: Shenay Huseynova ©).

3. Report of key activities and outcomes

Communication, outreach and webinars

Agriculture Task Force-related information and knowledge have been communicated by Task Force members locally and regionally in the different Range States. Members of the Task Force also participated in the EGMP Goose Monitoring Workshop arranged from 22-24 November 2023 at Dragør Badehotel/Copenhagen Airport Hotel. More information about this workshop, including presentations, can be found on the EGMP website (<https://egmp.aewa.info/egmp-monitoring-workshop>).

Members of the Agriculture Task Force actively participated in the webinar on impact models arranged back-to-back with EGMIWG8 in Bonn. Here, available data and knowledge of the impacts of geese foraging on crops in various Range States were the main topic. A separate report is being developed for scientific publication in 2024/2025.

The Webinar Planning Group established within the Task Force has received a long list of suggestions for webinar topics. A webinar is planned for early June 2024 dedicated to sharing experiences on the establishment of accommodation areas for geese and the use of repelling techniques.

Information about relevant studies on geese

The overview of information about relevant studies on geese and farmland, both peer-reviewed papers and “grey literature”, now consists of 91 items, with numbers increasing gradually. At EGMIWG8 it was suggested that this overview should contain activities on EGMP species, not necessarily restricted to the interface with agriculture. The EGMP Communication Contact Group will decide how the file shall be made available; either on Sharepoint for EGMP members or as an online Google Doc with public access.

Another considered option is to create a literature repository for EGMP, including the grey and peer-reviewed publications. A «[Zotero library](#)» can be established, that is a free, open-access reference manager. Creation of thematic folders has been discussed for upload of publications. The library could then be used to share the relevant publications with the EGMP members. This option will be discussed at the next Communication Contact Group meeting and will also be briefly presented at EGM IWG9 in Tromsø.

4. Recommendations

The Agriculture Task Force would like to recommend the following to the EGM IWG:

- The Task Force continues to work on the activities referred to above and described in the proposed Workplan (see Table 1).

5. Draft Workplan 2024/2025

Below is an overview of related and relevant tasks and actions for the Agriculture Task Force. Activity actions are copied from the Task Force Workplan.

Table 1. Draft Workplan for 2024/2025 of the Agriculture Task Force

				Activities carried out by
Type of action	Actions from the ISSMP	Priority	Timescale	Agri TF
National and Cross-cutting	2.3 Apply scaring and land management techniques to reduce the attractiveness of sensitive areas, monitoring the implications of such local displacement for conflicts at wider scale[3]	High	Short / Rolling	Some of these elements have been, and will be, presented at the AGRI TF's webinars.
x	3.2 Establish an internationally coordinated programme to assess agricultural damage including monitoring and assessment protocols	High	Short	1) Support the DC and MC as consultants in the process, both during the development of the impact models as well as afterwards. 2) Discuss and share experience in webinars.
	3.3 Liaise with farmers affected by goose damages to reduce agricultural conflicts	High	Short / Rolling	Members in the TF represent farmers' unions being ambassadors and linkage to the TF for the various information discussed and shared.
x	A.3 Maintain a spatially explicit database on goose damage to agriculture, other flora and fauna and risk to air safety	Essential	Medium / Rolling	Overview of metadata about ongoing projects/activities regarding geese and agriculture is created. At present there is a list of ca. 90 papers/reports/activities, including not so accessible "grey" literature.
	A.4 Collect demographic (mortality, reproduction, differential migration and connectivity) data from an agreed representative sampling framework across the range	High	Short / Rolling	Some of this information may be extracted from the metadata overview described above.
x	B.1 Produce best practice guide on establishing refuge areas (size, management, subsidies)	Medium	Short	Some of these elements have been, and will be, presented at the AGRI TF's webinars.
x	B.2 Provide guidance on conflict resolution and how to make this consistent with the European legal framework, including the Common Agricultural Policy	High	Short	Some of these elements have been, and will be, presented at the AGRI TF's webinars.
x	B.3 Create a toolbox for decisions in relation to determining significant damage (including metrics, benchmarking, verification, monitoring, various management techniques to prevent damage, compensation)	High	Short	Some of these elements have been, and will be, presented at the AGRI TF's webinars.
x	B.5 Share experience concerning methods to prevent damage to agriculture and risks to human health, air safety as well as to other flora and fauna	Medium	Medium	Some of these elements have been, and will be, presented at the AGRI TF's webinars.
x	C.1 Develop and implement a communication strategy and plan	Medium	Short / Rolling	Webinar arrangements.

Annex 1. Members of the Agriculture Task Force as of May 2024

Country	Representative	Affiliation
Belgium	(Joost Vanpeteghem)	Agriculture damage expert, Department of Agriculture and Fisheries Flemish Government
	Frank Huysentruyt	Institute for Nature and Forest Research Flemish Government
Denmark	Søren Rasmussen	Danish Environment Protection Agency
	Anthony Fox	Aarhus University, Department of Bioscience
	Lene Midtgaard	Danish Hunters Association
Finland	Jukka Forsman	Natural Resource Institute Finland
Germany	Heinz Düttmann	Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Protection of Lower Saxony
Iceland	Bjarni Jónasson	Environment Agency of Iceland
Netherlands	Bart Nolet	Netherlands Institute of Ecology Animal Ecology
	Ida van Ommeren	The Fauna Fund
	Sofia Kolkman	Provincial Fauna Management Unit, Noord-Holland
Nikkie van Grinsven	Provincial Fauna Management Unit, Noord-Holland	
Norway	Ingunn Tombre (Coordinator)	Norwegian Institute for Nature Research, Department of Arctic Ecology
	Ove Martin Gundersen	Norwegian Farmers' Union
Sweden	Johan Månsson	Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences /Wildlife Damage Centre
	Lovisa Nilsson	Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences /Wildlife Damage Centre
Ukraine	Vasiliy Kostiusyn	Institute of Zoology NAS of Ukraine, Department of Monitoring and Conservation of Animals
United Kingdom	Rae McKenzie	NatureScot
BirdLife International	Barbara Herrero	BirdLife Europe/BirdLife International
Copa Cogeca	Klaus Borde	Copa Cogeca
FACE	Cy Griffin	FACE
FACE	David Scallan	FACE (Based in Belgium)
Wetlands International	Szabolcs Nagy	Wetlands International
	Iben Hove Sørensen	Data Centre
	Bruno Pereira Leles	AEWA Secretariat
	Shenay Huseynova	AEWA Secretariat