

AEWA EUROPEAN GOOSE MANAGEMENT PLATFORM



**10th MEETING OF THE
AEWA EUROPEAN GOOSE MANAGEMENT
INTERNATIONAL WORKING GROUP**



17-19 June 2025, Brussels, Belgium

**REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE GREYLAG GOOSE TASK FORCE AND
DRAFT WORKPLAN FOR 2025/2026**

*Prepared by Malin Åhl, Coordinator of the Greylag Goose Task Force,
with contributions from the members of the Greylag Goose Task Force and the EGMP Data Centre*

Summary:

This document provides an overview of the status and key activities that the Greylag Goose Task Force has undertaken from June 2024 until May 2025. In addition, a proposed list of recommendations is included as well as the proposed annual workplan for 2025/2026.

Action requested from the EGM IWG:

Take note of the Task Force report and recommendations and adopt the annual workplan.

Introduction

As outlined in Rule 29 in the Modus Operandi adopted for the AEWA European Goose Management International Working Group (EGM IWG), the EGM IWG may establish species Task Forces as necessary to deal with the preparation and coordination of decision papers and background documents for the EGM IWG as well as to deal with other specific tasks as requested by the IWG.

At the 5th Meeting of the EGM IWG in June 2020, the Range States agreed on the establishment of an EGMP Task Force for the NW/SW European Population of the Greylag Goose (GG TF) and adopted its proposed Terms of Reference ([Doc. AEWA/EGMIWG/5.15](#)) as well as the first draft of the AFMP (pending several updates and sections).

The overall role of the GG TF is to assist the EGM IWG in catalysing and coordinating the implementation of [the Adaptive Flyway Management Programme](#) (AFMP) workplan and monitoring activities related to the implementation of the [AEWA International Single Species Management Plan](#) (ISSMP) for the Greylag Goose (NW/SW European Population).

The GG TF's main tasks are to:

- support the EGM IWG by suggesting implementation priorities and compiling/revising the annual workplans under the AFMP;
- assist the EGM IWG in coordinating international implementation according to the AFMP and the annual workplans;
- assist with coordination and joint planning of regular and thorough monitoring of the species population in cooperation with the EGMP Data Centre;
- stimulate and support scientific research in the species necessary for conservation and management;
- facilitate internal and external communication and exchange of scientific, technical, legal and other required information;
- lead on assessment of implementation and effectiveness as well as update/revision of the AFMP and the ISSMP, as required;
- develop/revise and implement its own annual work plan under the AFMP;
- liaise and coordinate with the other EGMP Task Forces, as necessary.

At the 6th Meeting of the EGM IWG in June 2021, the GG TF presented the first report on its work since the establishment of the Task Force and presented recommendations to the EGM IWG ([Doc. AEWA/EGMIWG/6.11](#)). Since then, the GG TF has presented a yearly report compiling the ongoing and planned work and recommendations based on the recommendations in the Population Status and Assessment Report, which is prepared annually by the EGMP Data Centre ([Doc. AEWA/EGMIWG/7.15](#), [Doc. AEWA/EGMIWG/8.13](#), [Doc. AEWA/EGMIWG/9.15](#)).

This document provides an overview of the work that has taken place since EGM IWG9 and the Task Force's recommendations and draft workplan for 2025/2026.

1. Status of the Task Force Membership

Presently, the GG TF has 29 official members. Members and participants represent nine Range States (including one observer Range State), four Observer Organisations, the Data Centre and the AEWAS Secretariat. Ms. Malin Åhl (SE) has remained the Task Force coordinator during 2024/2025.

A list of official members of the GG TF is provided in Annex 1. In line with the Terms of Reference, the nomination of additional members to the Task Force is at the discretion of the National Government Representative of each Range State, observer organisations and the Coordinator of the Task Force.

2. Meetings

Since no funding has been specifically allocated for the work of the GG TF, communication and information exchange is mainly conducted via email and online meetings.

The Task Force has held one online meeting since EGM IWG9, which took place on 24 April 2025. The TF also participated in three joint meetings of the EGMP Task Forces on 26 November 2024 (joint task force meeting), 12 December 2024 (regarding the assessment of AFMP indicators) and 6 March 2025 (regarding national reports). A hybrid GG TF meeting will take place on 16 June 2025 in the framework of the EGM IWG10.

3. Report of key activities and outcomes

Main activities of the GG TF have been related to the online meetings described above, where the TF members have discussed and commented on several issues related to monitoring activities and data availability. The GG TF members have also provided feedback during and between meetings of the TF to various initiatives related to the management of the NW/SW European population of Greylag Goose.

The TF has contributed to updating the national workplans in accordance with the two-year reporting cycle of the national reports.

In February 2025, the GG TF arranged a joint webinar together with the EGMP Agriculture Task Force, which focused on the use of different tools to reduce crop damage . With over 100 participants, the webinar received positive feedback and is now available for viewing on the [EGMP YouTube channel](#).

In the beginning of 2025, Matthieu Guillemain published a book about greylag geese and this species' development over the last 70 years with regard to geography, phenology of the species and management actions within legal and physiological constraints. Using this book as the main topic, the Task Force is planning a webinar, where Matthieu will be presenting a summary of the book. Several other researchers within the field will also be invited to present recently conducted research. The webinar will be held on 4 June 2025.

The GG TF has received regular updates and support from the Data Centre over the course of the year.

Finally, the GG TF has contributed to the review of the draft EGMP Population Status and Offtake Assessment Report 2025 submitted to the EGM IWG10.

4. Recommendations

Based on analyses made by the Data Centre, as well as meetings and discussions within the GG TF, the following issues and activities have been identified and are hence recommended:

- All Range States need to strive to provide the necessary data, and a description of methods as described in the EGMP Population Status and Assessment Report. Specifically, Range States should provide:
 1. Reliable seasonal offtake estimates by country and biannual period (spring-summer: March-August and fall-winter: September-February) for the most recent five calendar years, clearly separating recreational hunting and derogation killing. Please note that the lack of this data is the biggest obstacle to model improvement and application.
 2. Summer or early autumn abundance by country for those conducting such surveys; for all years in which they are available.
 3. Post-breeding age ratios for all years and countries where available (this should include counts of young and total sample size). Data should be provided at the lowest level available (e.g., by flock or location).
 4. Winter counts for all years and countries where available.
- All Range States should focus on offtake strategies which minimise the need for breeding-season derogation (those with high winter offtake). As no unique level and distribution of offtake will meet Management Unit (MU) population targets, alternative approaches to coordinating offtake must be evaluated not only in terms of their ability to meet populations targets, but also in terms of cost, feasibility and legal mandates, noting that while derogation is a legal means of alleviating local socio-economic conflicts, it cannot be used in a planned manner to meet a population target.
- Range States are urged to discuss practical considerations and constraints they may have in mitigating socio-economic conflicts and in managing recreational hunting so that trade-offs and limitations associated with efforts to coordinate offtake can be better understood by the EGM IWG.
- Range States are urged to discuss and identify obstacles and limitations they may have in implementing the actions and recommendations so that these can be better understood by the EGM IWG.
- The GG TF should continue to discuss short-stopping of greylag geese and it is suggested that a smaller working group be established, which can clarify the situation and identify knowledge gaps as well as possible needs for funding to better understand the decrease in numbers of greylag geese that are counted in Spain during winter.
- The Range States are urged to support the Data Centre during the assessment of the AFMP indicators, which are planned to be submitted for the EGM IWG11.
- The GG TF should continue to exchange general information and experiences with other population-specific and crosscutting Task Forces (the Agriculture and Flight Safety Task Forces), thus strengthening the relations between the EGMP Task Forces and benefitting from the work already carried out within other Task Forces.
- Task Force members are asked to actively promote available material such as the recorded EGMP webinars and briefing notes.
- The GG TF should prepare a recommendation to IWG 11 regarding whether the AFMP is in need of revision or should be extended for the remainder of the ISSMP's lifespan.
- Finally, the GG TF will keep [the online workplan](#) active and updated between meetings.

5. Draft Workplan 2025/2026

Table 1. Greylag Goose Task Force Draft Workplan for 2025/2026

Actions from the ISSMP	Priority	Timescale	Greylag Goose Task Force
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	High	Short / Rolling	Sharing experience / Coordination with other TFs
3.2 Establish an internationally coordinated programme to assess agricultural damage including monitoring and assessment protocols	High	Short	Possibly by collaborating with the Agriculture Task Force to discuss the issue further to try and find solutions
3.3 Liaise with farmers affected by goose damages to reduce agricultural conflicts	High	Short / Rolling	Cross-cutting TFs, share information
4.3 Improve effectiveness of population control measures through experimenting with different timing and methods and better understanding the relative efficacy of lethal versus non-lethal scaring techniques	High	Medium	Exchange information and experience through webinars. Collate and summarise results (possibly workshop, if time and resources allow - cross-cutting with Agriculture TF)
4.4 Promote best practices of goose hunting including timing to minimize damage and significant disturbance to other species	Medium	Medium / Rolling	Exchange information and experience. Collate, summarise results (possibly workshop, time + resources needed)
4.5 Maintain low crippling rates	High	Medium / Rolling	Exchange information and experience with PFG TF. Investigate GG crippling rates. Gain information from ongoing monitoring programs and research projects.
4.6 Develop hunting techniques to further reduce crippling	Medium	Long / Rolling	Exchange information and experience. Collate, summarise results (possibly workshop, time and resources needed), build on relevant expertise.
A.1 Produce and update periodically spatially explicit population size estimates based on agreed international monitoring	Essential	Short / Rolling	Consultation
A.2 Maintain an annually updated bag statistics database including geese harvested by any means, clearly separating recreational hunting and derogation killing	Essential	Ongoing / Rolling	Consultation
A.3 Maintain a spatially explicit database on goose damage to agriculture, other flora and fauna and risk to air safety	Essential	Medium / Rolling	Liaise with Agriculture TF. Some Range States already have relevant databases or collated information (France and the Netherlands).
A 4. Collect demographic (mortality, reproduction, differential migration and connectivity) data from an agreed representative sampling framework across the range	High	Short / Rolling	

Annex 1. Official members of the Greylag Goose Task Force as of April 2025

Country	Representative	Affiliation
Belgium	Floris Verhaeghe	Nature and Forest Agency
	Koen Devos	Research institute for Nature & Forest (INBO) Flemish government
Denmark	Søren Egelund Rasmussen	Danish Agency for Green Transition and Aquatic Environment
Denmark/Danish Hunters' Association	Lene Midtgaard	Danish Hunters' Association
Finland	Antti Piironen	University of Turku
	Toni Laaksonen	
	Mikko Alhainen	Finnish Wildlife Agency
France	Charles-Henri de Barsac	Ministry of Ecological Transition
	Matthieu Guillemain	French Biodiversity Agency (OFB)
Netherlands	Nick Warmelink	Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality
	Verna de Groes	
	Gerben Mensink	Province of Friesland
	Kees Koffijberg	Sovon Vogelonderzoek Nederland
	Sofia Kolkman	Wildlife Management Unit Noord-Holland
Norway	Ingunn Tombre	Norwegian Institute for Nature Research (NINA)
	Ove Martin Gundersen	Norwegian Farmers' Union
Spain (participating as observer to the GG process)	Mencía Serrano Ruiz de Dulanto	Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food
	Daniel Toro González	

Sweden	Per Risberg	Swedish Environmental Protection Agency
	Malin Åhl (TF Coordinator)	
FACE	Cy Griffin	Senior Conservation Manager
Nordic Hunters' Alliance	Olav Greivstad	Consultant
OMPO	Thibaut Powolny	Project Manager
Wetlands International	Szabolcs Nagy	Senior Advisor
EGMP Data Centre	Iben Hove Sørensen	Aarhus University
	Fred Johnson	
	Ryan Germain	
UNEP/AEWA Secretariat	Bruno Leles	EGMP Coordinator
	Shenay Huseynova	EGMP Programme Assistant