

# REPORT 2024/2025 EGMP SECRETARIAT AND DATA CENTRE





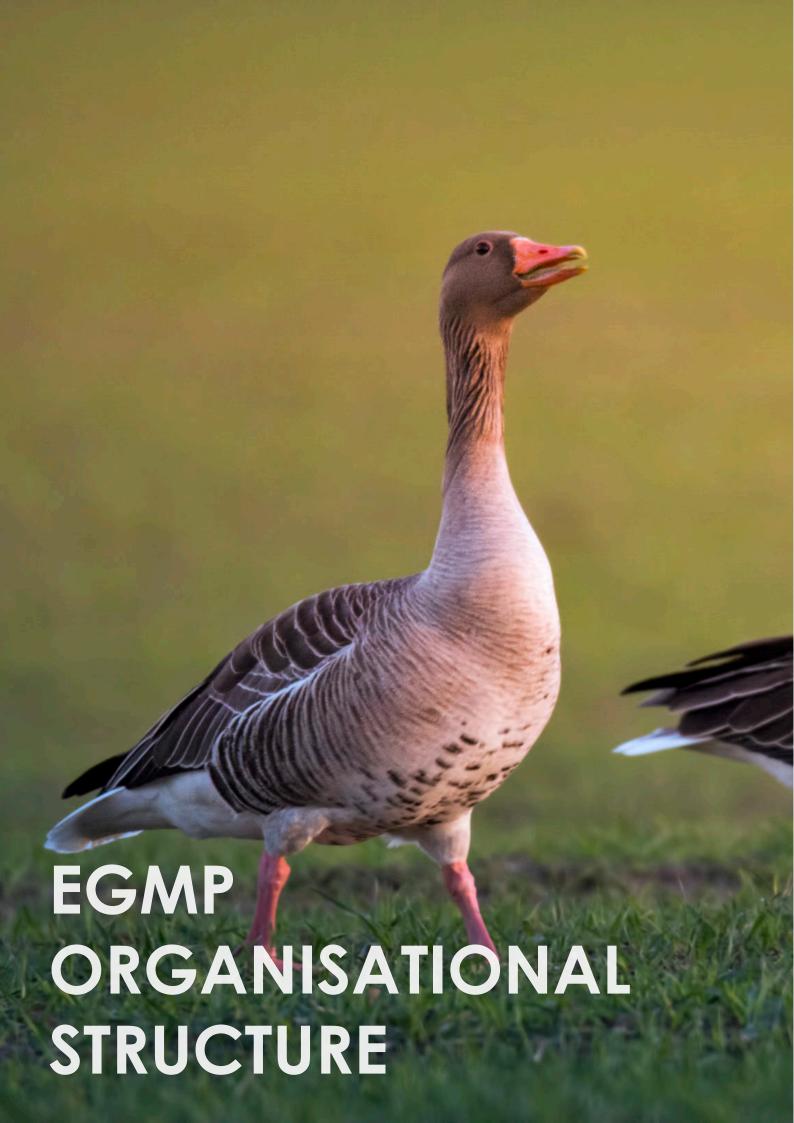
The present report covers the work of the AEWA European Goose Management Platform (EGMP) Secretariat and Data Centre for the period between July 2024 and May 2025. This report is divided into seven sections:

- 1. EGMP Organisational Structure.
- 2. Staffing and Organisation of the EGMP Secretariat and the Data Centre.
- 3. Participating Range States of the EGMP.
- 4. Funding.
- 5. Meetings and Workshops.
- 6. EGMP Activities.
- 7. Communication and Outreach.

Activities reported in detail in other EGM IWG10 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, management, responding to incoming mail, maintaining the extensive network of contacts, etc., is not specifically mentioned in this report.

Greylag Geese (Anser anser) © J.P.Kjeldsen





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

The *EGM IWG Chairmanship* has been assumed by Sweden (represented by Prof. Petter Kjellander) since June 2023.

Following the establishment of the Flight Safety Task Force, the EGMP now includes a total of seven Task Forces:

- Pink-footed Goose Task Force
- Taiga Bean Goose Task Force
- Barnacle Goose Task Force for Russia/ Germany & Netherlands Population
- Barnacle Goose Task Force for E. Greenland/Scotland & Ireland and Svalbard/SW Scotland Populations
- Greylag Goose Task Force for NW/SW European Population
- Agriculture Task Force
- Flight Safety Task Force

The aim of the Task Forces is to support the EGM IWG in coordination and facilitation of the respective International Single Species Action and Management Plan (ISSAP and ISSMP) implementation, as well as addressing specific cross-cutting concerns identified in these plans (Agriculture and Flight Safety Task Forces).

The EGMP Data Centre is responsible for providing the necessary scientific analyses, assessments and subsequent proposals for conservation and management options for EGMP-related issues. The UNEP/AEWA Secretariat and Aarhus University in Denmark have signed a Memorandum of Cooperation under which Aarhus University hosts the Data Centre for the EGMP. The Dutch Goose Research Consortium contributes coordination of monitoring and assessment for the Russia/Germany and Netherlands population of Barnacle Goose and NatureScot with coordination of monitoring of the East Greenland/Scotland & Ireland population of Barnacle Goose.

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 (to support the optimisation of harvest offtake and analyse the cumulative impact of derogation killing and harvest)

Taiga Bean Goose (Anser fabalis fabalis) © Jari Peltomaki

Photo on previous page: Greylag Geese (Anser anser) © Pixabay.com



Pink-footed Geese (Anser brachyrhynchus) © J.P.Kjeldsen and impact models to understand the relationship between goose abundances and socioeconomic as well as ecosystem impacts.

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

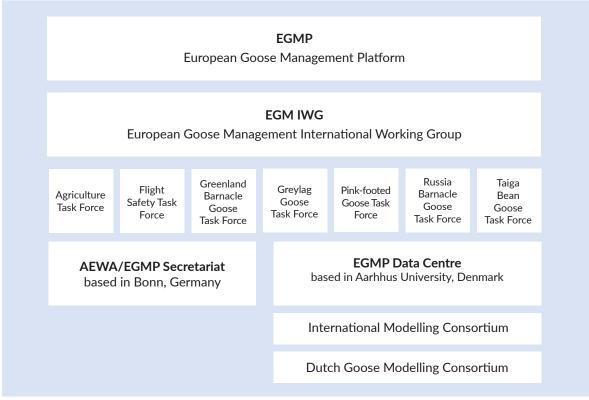


Figure 1. Organisational Structure of the European Goose Management Platform



STAFFING AND
ORGANISATION OF THE
EGMP SECRETARIAT
AND DATA CENTRE



Figure 2. AEWA EGMP Secretariat Staff Composition

Photo on previous page: Barnacle Geese (Branta leucopsis) © Trond Øigarden

In 2025, following an internal reorganization within the AEWA Secretariat, Dr Melissa Lewis, Species Officer, assumed direct supervision of the EGMP Team from Mr Sergey Dereliev, Chief Programmatic Officer. Mr Dereliev continues to contribute to the team's work, particularly in high-level planning and coordination. No additional personnel changes have taken place within the Secretariat or the Data Centre during this reporting period.

#### **AEWA EGMP Secretariat**

Chief Programmatic Officer: Mr Sergey Dereliev

Part of Mr Dereliev's staff time, covered inkind by the AEWA core budget, is allocated to guide the overall direction of the broader programmatic matters.

Species Officer: Dr Melissa Lewis

Dr Lewis now provides day-to-day oversight of the EGMP Team at the Secretariat as part of her broader oversight of AEWA's species action and management planning framework. Her role is funded partially through the AEWA core budget and partially through voluntary contributions by AEWA Parties.

EGMP Coordinator: Dr Bruno Leles

Dr Leles has served as the Coordinator of the EGMP since January 2024. This post is fully funded through the voluntary contributions provided by the EGMP Range States. The

EGMP Coordinator has an annual workplan, as well as an annual evaluation of performance.

<u>Programme Management Assistant:</u> Ms Shenay Huseynova

Ms Huseynova has served as the Programme Management Assistant (PMA) since June 2022. The EGMP PMA has an annual workplan as well as an annual evaluation of performance.

#### **EGMP Data Centre**

<u>Head of the EGMP Data Centre:</u> Prof. Dr Jesper Madsen

Professor Madsen from the Department of Ecoscience at Aarhus University, Denmark, acts as the head of the EGMP Data Centre (30% person-year). This part-time position is funded through the voluntary contributions provided by the EGMP Range States.

Goose Monitoring Coordinator: Ms Iben Hove Sørensen

Ms Sørensen has served as the Goose Monitoring Coordinator based at the Department of Ecoscience at Aarhus University, Denmark, since January 2024. This 70% person-year position is funded through the contributions provided by the EGMP Range States for the platform's core budget.

#### Population Modelling Experts

Dr Fred A. Johnson is a part-time Senior



Researcher at the Department of Ecoscience at Aarhus University, Denmark. He is the developer of the adaptive management frameworks and the assessor for Pink-footed Goose, Taiga Bean Goose, Greylag Goose and Greenland Barnacle Goose. The EGMP budget funds a 40% person-year position, which is supplemented by project funding from various Range States or funds. Dr. Preben Clausen supports the Data Centre with data provisioning.

Professor Dr Anthony D. Fox, Dr Kevin Kuhlmann Clausen and Dr Morten Frederiksen, Aarhus University, occasionally contribute to annual assessments and modelling work.

In January 2024, the Data Centre recruited Dr Ryan Germain, a population expert, to enhance and support the ongoing development of goose population models and assessments. From 2025 onwards, he will gradually take over the annual assessment and modelling from Dr Johnson.

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.

Greylag Geese (Anser anser) © Pixabay

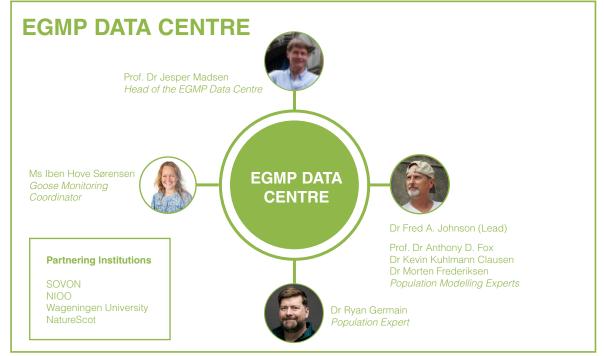
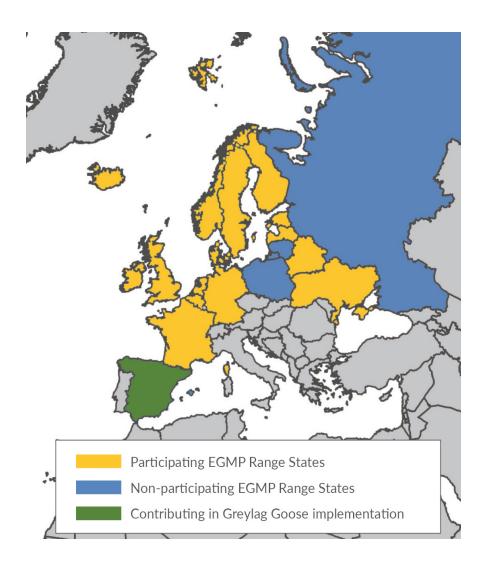


Figure 3. EGMP Data Centre Staff Composition



THE EGMP/FUNDING



# Participating Range States of the EGMP

The EGMP has 16 participating Range States (see Figure 4), 15 national governments and the European Commission: Belarus, Belgium, Denmark, Estonia, EU, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Latvia, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Ukraine and United Kingdom.

Ireland was the latest country to join the EGM IWG, in June 2021. Spain is participating in the Greylag Goose implementation process through data provision. Spain, Lithuania, Poland and Russia officially remain non-participating Range States of the EGMP.

#### **Funding**

The AEWA Secretariat wishes to extend its gratitude for the financial contributions received to support the implementation of the EGMP processes. A detailed financial report outlining budget, funding and expenses is provided as document AEWA/EGMIWG/10.18.

A proposed budget and detailed Programme of Work for 2025 are outlined in document AEWA/EGMIWG/10.19 and will be presented at EGM IWG10.

Figure 4. Map of the EGMP participating and non-participating Range States

Photo on previous page: Pink-footed Geese (Anser brachyrhynchus) © Andy Hawkins





#### **Meetings and Workshops**

EGMP Task Forces: The role of the EGMP Task Forces is to assist the EGM IWG in coordinating and catalysing the implementation of the respective ISSAP and ISSMPs and to monitor and report on the implementation of these activities.

The EGMP Secretariat and the Data Centre have continuously supported the meeting organisation and document production of the seven EGMP Task Forces.

In February 2025, the previously vacant position of the Russia Barnacle Goose Task Force Coordinator was assumed by Mr Sander Moonen from Wageningen Environment Research, whose candidacy was kindly put forward by the Dutch Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Food Security and Nature.

The coordinators of the Task Forces are as follows:

- Pink-footed Goose Task Force: Prof Jesper Madsen (Denmark)
- Taiga Bean Goose Task Force: Mr Mikko Alhainen (Finland)
- Barnacle Goose Task Force for Russia/ Germany & Netherlands Population: Mr Sander Moonen (Netherlands)
- Barnacle Goose Task Force for E. Greenland/Scotland & Ireland and Svalbard/South-West Scotland

Populations: Ms Rae McKenzie (UK)

- Greylag Goose Task Force for NW/ SW European Population: Ms Malin Åhl (Sweden)
- Agriculture Task Force: Dr Ingunn Tombre (Norway)
- Flight Safety Task Force: Mr Albert de Hoon (Netherlands)

Detailed reports on the activities and outputs of the EGMP Task Forces are provided in documents AEWA/EGMIWG/10.11, AEWA/EGMIWG/10.12, AEWA/EGMIWG/10.13, AEWA/EGMIWG/10.14, AEWA/EGMIWG/10.15, AEWA/EGMIWG/10.16 and AEWA/EGMIWG/10.17. Doc. AEWA/EGMIWG/9.10.

#### **Meetings of the EGMP Task Forces**

The meetings of the EGMP Task Forces were held online (via Zoom and Microsoft Teams online platforms) involving the Task Force Coordinators and members, together with the EGMP Secretariat and Data Centre. The summary of EGMP Task Force meetings below features upcoming meetings scheduled for the latter half of May 2025 and the EGMP Task Force Day, which will take place in a hybrid format in Brussels, Belgium, on 16 June 2025, back-to-back with EGM IWG10.

Group photo from EGM IWG9 meeting in Tromsø, Norway, June 2024 © Sergey Dereliev, www.derelievphotography.com

Photo on previous page: Greylag Goose (Anser anser) © Canva.com



Group photo of participants of the Revision Workshop for the PfG ISSMP, Levanger, Norway © Norwegian Environment Agency

Meeting	Meeting Date
Joint Meetings of the EGMP Task Forces	
	6 September 2024 (Meeting of EGMP TF coordinators)
	26 November 2024
Joint meeting of Greenland/Svalbard Barnacle Goose, Russia Barnacle Goose and Greylag Goose Task Forces	
	12 December 2024 (dedicated to protocols for assessing AFMP indicators)
	6 March 2025 (dedicated to the launch of EGMP National Reporting Cycle 2025)
PfG TF (Coordinator: Jesper Madsen):	
16th Meeting of the PfG TF	19 May 2025
17th Meeting of the PfG TF	16 June 2025
TBG TF (Coordinator: Mikko Alhainen):	
26th Meeting of the TBG TF	18 December 2024
27th Meeting of the TBG TF	May 2025 ( <i>tbc</i> )
28th Meeting of the TBG TF	16 June 2025
Agriculture TF (Coordinator: Ingunn Tombre):	
12th Meeting of the Agri TF	21 May 2025
13th Meeting of the Agri TF	16 June 2025



Meeting	Meeting Date
BG TF (Russia population) (Coordinator: Sander Moonen from February 2025)	
11th Meeting of the BG TF	8 May 2025
12th Meeting of the BG TF	16 June 2025
GG TF (Coordinator: Malin Åhl from April 2024)	
12th Meeting of the GG TF	24 April 2025
13th Meeting of the GG TF	16 June 2025
BG TF (E. Greenland/Svalbard population) (Coordinator: Rae McKenzie)	
11th Meeting of the BG TF	5 May 2025
12th Meeting of the BG TF	16 June 2025
Flight Safety TF	
7th Meeting of the Flight Safety TF	23 August 2024
8th Meeting of the Flight Safety TF	10 September 2024
9th Meeting of the Flight Safety TF	13 January 2025
10th Meeting of the Flight Safety TF	30 January 2025
11th Meeting of the Flight Safety TF	8 May 2025
12th Meeting of the Flight Safety TF	18 June 2025
International Modelling Consortium Meetings	
No meetings took place in this period.	

Greylag geese crossing the airport runway in Brønnøysund, Norway. © Trond Øigarden



In-person participants of the Revision Workshop for TBG ISSAP, Bonn, Germany, April 2025 © UNEP/AEWA Secretariat

#### **Other Meetings**

- On 2 October 2024, the Secretariat arranged an online meeting of the HPAI Contact Group in order to solicitate input for the revision of the Pink-footed Goose International Single Species Management Plan (PfG ISSMP). The feedback received was compiled in an information document (<u>Doc. PfG/ISSMP/Inf.1.5</u>) and submitted to the PfG ISSMP Revision Workshop.
- On 7 March 2025, the Secretariat organised an online meeting of the ad hoc working group (as an expansion of the Communications Working Group) tasked with developing a proposal and workplan for special activities dedicated to the 10th anniversary of the EGMP. Proposals and remarks of the group are reflected in the Doc. AEWA/EGMIWG/10.4 to be submitted to the EGM IWG10.

## AEWA Workshop for the Revision of the Pink-footed Goose International Single Species Management Plan (PfG ISSMP Revision Workshop)

The workshop took place in Levanger, Norway from 8-9 October 2024, at the kind invitation of the Norwegian Environment Agency and logistical support from the Norwegian Institute for Nature Research and was attended by representatives of 5 out of 6 PfG Range States and 2 observer organisations. The workshop

has contributed significantly to advancing the revision of the plan, which is to be submitted to AEWA MOP9 following consultations with Range States and AEWA Technical and Standing Committees.

## AEWA Workshop for the Revision of the Taiga Bean Goose International Single Species Action Plan (TBG ISSAP Revision Workshop)

The AEWA Secretariat hosted the workshop in a hybrid format from 1-3 April 2025, with representatives from 9 out of 15 TBG Range States and 4 observer organisations as well as the compilation team of the revised plan. Following the fruitful discussions of the workshop, the first draft of the plan is currently being prepared and will soon be ready for consultation.

## 10th Meeting of the AEWA European Goose Management International Working Group (EGM IWG10)

The 10th Meeting of the European Goose Management International Working Group (EGM IWG10) is scheduled to take place on 17-19 June 2025 in Brussels, Belgium, at the kind invitation of the Research Institute for Nature and Forest (INBO) and the Flemish Agency for Nature and Forests (ANB).





Revision Workshop for the Taiga Bean Goose ISSAP © Florian Keil

Photo on previous page: Taiga Bean Goose (Anser fabalis fabalis) © Marton Berntsen

#### **ISSMP** for the Pink-footed Goose (PfG)

In spring 2025, the Data Centre produced the annual monitoring and harvest assessment chapter for the PfG (due June 2025). Due to a suspicion of biases in the population counts performed in May and November, the Data Centre undertook an analysis of the evidence for this, comparing the count information with the position of GPS-tagged PfG available from a scientific project. The ISSMP for PfG is currently under revision. In autumn 2024, the Data Centre and the PfG Task Force finalised the evaluation of the current ISSMP. The Data Centre and experts worked on the definition of Favourable Reference Values for the Pinkfooted Goose; a report will be prepared in May 2025, along with the draft revised ISSMP.

#### **ISSAP** for the Taiga Bean Goose (TBG)

In spring 2025, the Data Centre produced an annual monitoring and harvest assessment report for the TBG, with a focus on the Central Management Unit (due June 2025). At the AEWA MOP in 2022, it was decided to split the Taiga Bean Goose population into four discrete populations; thus, the former Management Units are now considered separate populations. An evaluation of the performance of the current Taiga Bean Goose ISSAP was finalised in March 2025 and the plan is currently undergoing revision. The Data Centre and experts are currently working to define Favourable Reference Values.

#### **ISSMP** for the Greylag Goose (GG)

In spring 2025, the Data Centre produced an annual monitoring and assessment report for the GG. Further progress has been made towards dynamic, model-based management of the NW/SW European population of Greylag Goose. Following the development of a preliminary population model and a utility function to evaluate levels of offtake, it was decided to focus on offtake strategies proportionally higher non-breeding season offtake, thus minimising the need for breeding-season derogation. Following the post-breeding counts carried out in MU1 in 2022, the Data Centre has produced a summary of the national counts, including recommendations for future monitoring of post-breeding abundance and productivity in MU1. The Data Centre has also developed a model for calculating the number of breeding pairs from the post-breeding counts, with totals for MU1 and MU2 provided in the 2025 annual monitoring and assessment report.

#### **ISSMP** for the Barnacle Goose (BG)

In spring 2024, Sovon and Wageningen Environmental Research updated the population estimates for the Russian/Germany and Netherlands population of Barnacle Goose. Following recent outbreaks of Avian Influenza, the decline of the East Greenland/ Scotland and Ireland population of Barnacle Goose has continued, and the Data Centre

Workshop for the Revision of the AEWA Taiga Bean Goose ISSAP

1-3 April 2025
Bonn, Germany and Online



# Overview

- Eastern 2 population remains understudied
- Several recent studies provide the bulk of information for this draft biological assessment
- No systematic monitoring in range countries (Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan)
- · Population declining but numbers uncertain







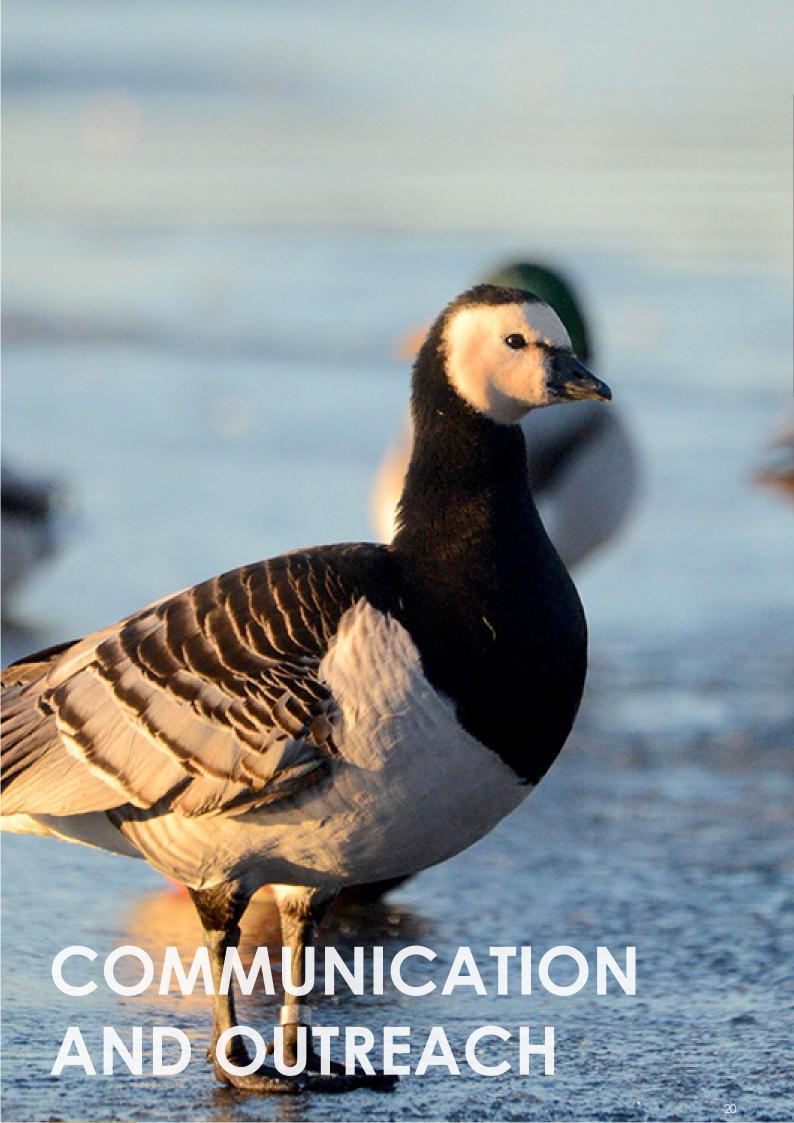
has produced a set of population projections under varying scenarios of survival and offtake to aid decisions on how to coordinate offtake in the coming years. In spring 2025, the Data Centre completed an assessment of the status of the population using the IPM developed and first implemented in 2024.

#### **EGMP Database and GitLab:**

The EGMP Database has been updated with new data, figures and description of methods (where relevant). Furthermore, EGMP GitLab has been updated with new projects. Presentation on the biological assessment of Eastern 2 population of Taiga Bean Goose, by Ms Katherine Hall, Ornithological Society Kyrgyzstan, member of the compilation team © UNEP/AEWA Secretariat

Greylag Goose family © Pixabay. com







Within this annual cycle, the EGMP Secretariat and Data Centre produced the following communications materials:

- Briefing note on population status and management recommendations – EGM IWG9 in 2024 – an updated version of this document will be produced in July 2024 based on the decisions of the upcoming EGM IWG9.
- EGMP Highlights 2024, capturing the notable events and developments within EGMP in the year 2024.

# **EGMP Ad Hoc Communication Working Group**

Due to an eventful year, the activities of the group were limited to one online meeting on development of a proposal and workplan for special activities dedicated to the 10th anniversary of the EGMP, to be presented at EGM IWG10. Ms Lene Midtgaard from the Danish Hunters' Association is the latest addition to the group.

#### **EGMP Website**

Finalisation of the EGMP website upgrade from Drupal 7 web content management system to Drupal 9 has been hindered by the absence of dedicated capacity in the Joint CMS/AEWA Information Management, Communication and Awareness Unit. The

AEWA Secretariat is currently seeking a solution for the issue. In the meantime, the current version of the website is being operated by the EGMP team to the best of their abilities.

#### **MS Teams Workspace**

The Task Forces have continued using the shared space in MS Teams (EGMP Task Forces Teams channel) to collaboratively work on documents in an online mode through Sharepoint.

#### **EGMP Webinars**

In February 2025, the EGMP Agriculture and Greylag Goose Task Forces hosted a webinar "Geese and Agriculture: Perspective on Tools to Reduce Crop Damage". The webinar covering public perceptions of Barnacle Geese and crop damage in Finland, methods for scaring geese using drones or humans, and case studies on accommodation fields in Sweden and Finland, is available on EGMP YouTube channel.

On 4 June 2025 (10:00-12:30 CEST), the EGMP Greylag Goose Task Force together with the Data Centre and Secretariat will be hosting a webinar "Flight, Friction and Feelings: The Greylag Goose in Research and Society", discussing research on population dynamics, migration, urban

Greylag goose family © Pixabay.

Photo on previous page: Barnacle Geese (*Branta leucopsis*) © Trond Oigarden



GPS-tagging of Taiga Bean Goose in northeast Denmark, 2023 © Lisa Vergin ecology, hunting impacts and stakeholder perceptions. Those interested to join can do so using the following Zoom link: https://un-org-unep.zoom.us/j/97077795121

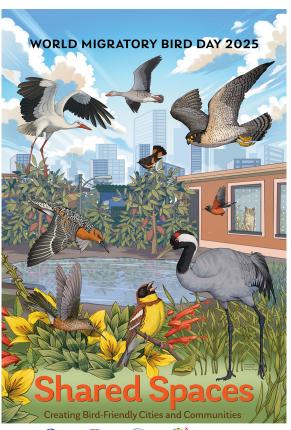
#### **EGMP** as Finalist for UNEP's Kipepeo Award

The EGMP was shortlisted as a finalist in the innovation category of UNEP's prestigious Kipepeo Award, which celebrates outstanding contributions to nature action. The award aims to recognise innovative, impactful, and scalable initiatives that advance environmental sustainability. EGMP was acknowledged for its unique approach combining robust science, cross-border collaboration and joint decision-making, to address complex ecological and societal challenges.



#### World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD) 2025

This year's campaign theme, "Shared Spaces: Creating Bird-Friendly Cities and Communities", focuses on the need for a healthy coexistence between humans and birds. At the suggestion of the EGMP Secretariat, the <u>Greylag Goose</u> was chosen as one of the flagship species for the campaign.















updates

By highlighting this important topic, the campaign helped raise awareness about the value of creating bird-friendly spaces, encouraging more harmonious interactions between people and birds in urban and rural areas alike—with the Greylag Goose serving as a key example as one of the most common and recognisable bird species in Europe.

followers both on Facebook and Instagram. **EGMP Presentations at International and** 

This year the EGMP team engaged in an

effort to introduce varied content on the social

media channels, including posts featuring

information about EGMP species, latest research and promoting webinars. This

led to a notable increase in the number of

from

relevant

meetings,

Goose Days in Nissum Fjord

Nature Park.

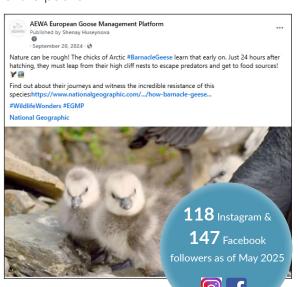
Denmark © Ole

Vibeke Pedersen

Jorgensen and

#### **EGMP Social Media**

The EGMP maintains social media presence on Facebook and Instagram (we do not use Twitter anymore). The platforms enable information exchange and the possibility to communicate and disseminate issues and matters relevant to the EGMP to stakeholders. the wider community and interested members of the public.



**National Meetings** 

The EGMP Secretariat and Data Centre presented information about EGMP, activities and results at the following international and national meetings:

- Opportunities and Needs in Cooperation: Best Practices and Success Stories -Estonian Chamber of Agriculture and Commerce, 17 December 2024 - Online (Dr Bruno Leles)
- 21st Meeting of the IUCN SSC Goose Specialist Group, 27-31 January 2025 (Ms Iben Hove Sørensen)
- Goose Days in Nissum Fjord Nature Park, Denmark, 24-25 April 2025 2025 (Prof. Dr Jesper Madsen)
- Storfågelkonferens Bird (Large Conference) 2025, Varberg, Sweden, 11-12 March 2025 (Ms Iben Hove Sørensen)

Cover Photo: Barnacle Geese (Branta leucopsis) © Pexels.com

For more information please visit the EGMP website at:

https://egmp.aewa.info/

or our Social Media Channels at:



https://www.facebook.com/AEWA.EGMP/



https://www.instagram.com/aewa\_egmp/



