

AEWA EUROPEAN GOOSE MANAGEMENT PLATFORM



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AEWA EUROPEAN GOOSE MANAGEMENT
INTERNATIONAL WORKING GROUP**
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**REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE PINK-FOOTED GOOSE TASK FORCE
FOR 2025/2026 AND DRAFT WORKPLAN FOR 2026/2027**

*Prepared by Mr Jesper Madsen, Coordinator of the Pink-footed Goose Task Force
with contributions from the members of the Pink-footed Goose Task Force*

Summary:

This document provides an overview of the status and key activities that the Pink-footed Goose Task Force (PfG TF) has undertaken since June 2025 until May 2026. In addition, a proposed list of recommendations is included as well as the proposed annual workplan for 2026/2027. The 2025/2026 has been a busy transition year with the revision of the existing International Single Species Management Plan (ISSMP) for the Svalbard population of PfG, expiring in 2025, and the revised ISSMP becoming adopted by the Meeting of the Parties to AEWA in November 2025. The PfG TF was involved in commenting on the revised plan. To ensure an implementation of the plan without delay in 2026, a draft Adaptive Flyway Management Programme (AFMP) including indicators has been produced by the EGMP Data Centre, and the PfG TF has commented on draft versions. In 2026/2027, the PfG TF will be engaged in prioritisation of actions to be addressed under the revised plan.

Action requested from the EGM IWG:

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

1. Status of the Task Force Membership

The full list of Task Force members is presented in Annex I. Currently, the Task Force consist of 14 members from six EGMP Range States (Norway, Sweden, Finland, Denmark, the Netherlands and Belgium). Mr Jesper Madsen (DK) continues to serve as Coordinator of the PFG TF.

2. Meetings

Since no funding has specifically been allocated for the work of the PFG TF, communication and information exchange has been conducted through online meetings. The 18th TF meeting was held online on 17 March 2026, and the 18th TF meeting will be held as a hybrid meeting on 15 June 2026, in the framework of the EGMP Task Force Day, prior to the EGM IWG 11 (Skövde, Sweden).

3. Report of Key Activities and Outcomes

In June 2025, the European Goose Management International Working Group (EGM IWG) approved the PFG TF workplan for 2025/2026, which encompassed the following activities (Table 1).

Table 1. Pink-footed Goose Task Force Workplan for the period July 2025 to June 2026.

Task	When	By whom?	Deliverables
Dissemination platform along the PFG flyway	Autumn 2025	Aarhus University + Nisum Fjord Naturpark + TF + relevant and interested museums and visitor centres	Submission of application for an international 4-year project
Input to the ISSMP revision: drafting the Adaptive Management Framework Programme (pending funding)	September – December 2025	DC + EGMP Sec + TF	Draft AFMP including indicators
Input to the ISSMP revision: Agreement on the next steps after adoption of the plan	January – May 2026:	TF + DC + EGMP Sec	List of actions to be prioritised at national and international levels
Internal review of annual reports	Early June 2026	TF	Review back to DC early June 2026

Outcomes:

Dissemination platform: Unfortunately, the planned application for the *Goose Flyways: Understanding, managing and communicating the journey of geese in a changing world* initiative was not brought forward due to unforeseen workloads by the main applicant (J. Madsen) and changes in the staff of Naturpark Nisum Fjord. As of June 2026, the application work has not progressed, and it should be considered whether the application should be reformulated. Because of lack of capacity, the annual event “Goose Days” was not organised in Naturpark Nisum Fjord in 2026.

Input to the ISSMP revision and implementation process: The Task Force was actively engaged in providing final comments to the revised ISSMP (adopted by the Meetings of the Parties to AEWA in November 2025). The Danish Agency for Green Transition and Aquatic Environment funded the drafting of the AFMP which

includes indicators for monitoring the achievements of the plan's objectives. The EGMP Data Centre produced the AFMP, and the Task Force commented on various versions and indicators. The draft AFMP will be presented for adoption at the EGM IWG11 in June 2026.

At the meeting on 17 March and 15 June 2026, the Task Force started to look into the Framework for Action of the revised ISSMP to propose a prioritisation of actions. As a first initiative a subgroup (S. Egelund Rasmussen, L. Midtgaard, J. Madsen, DK and O.M. Gundersen and I. Tombre, NO) has been set up to address the imminent needs to increase the engagement of hunters to achieve hunting quotas in Denmark and Norway (Framework for Action, action 1.3).

Internal review of assessment report: The Task Force kindly conducted a review of the chapter concerning PfG in the *EGMP Population Status and Offtake Assessment Report 2026* in the start of June 2026.

4. Recommendations

1. Implementation of the PfG ISSMP:

The Task Force will engage in the prioritisation of the Framework for Action of the revised ISSMP and will support the specification of the AFMP and indicators. The Task Force will progress the work to increase the engagement of hunters in Denmark and Norway. It is recommended that the EGMP Range States DK and NO support the work with communication actions.

2. Population assessment:

As stated in previous Task Force reports and in the PfG chapter of the *Population Status and Offtake Assessment Report 2026*, the use of GPS-tags is highly valuable to estimate biases in the population counts and to detect new staging, wintering and breeding grounds. It is also a useful tool for monitoring the exchange between the traditional and the new migratory route and breeding grounds. If this tool shall be used in future assessments, it requires maintaining a sufficient pool of GPS-tagged individuals. Aarhus University has received a grant (from COAT, NO) to catch and tag PfG in Trøndelag, Norway, spring 2027, but there is a need for more tags to be deployed; tagging in Finland would also be very informative. The PfG TF recommends that an internationally coordinated GPS-tagging programme is continued.

3. Harvest quota 2026/2027:

The PfG TF agrees with the Data Centre's proposal for the harvest strategy and quotas for the coming hunting season outlined in the *Population Status and Offtake Assessment Report 2026*.

4. Dissemination:

The PfG TF would like to engage in further initiatives to promote the EGMP flyway approach and uptake by national stakeholders, e.g. related to agricultural conflict resolution, effective goose shooting, reduction of crippling due to shotgun shooting, habitat restoration, etc. Task Force members will engage in providing input to the development of an international dissemination platform.

5. Draft workplan 2026/2027

A draft workplan for the Task Force is provided in Table 2.

Table 2. *Pink-footed Goose Task Force Draft Workplan for the period July 2026 to June 2027.*

Task	When	By whom?	Deliverables
Dissemination platform along the PFG flyway	Autumn 2026	Aarhus University + TF + relevant and interested museums and visitor centres	Discussion of 'Goose Flyways' project proposal or alternatives
Input to ISSMP implementation: (1) Proposal for prioritization of actions (2) Actions to increase engagement of hunters to achieve quotas	September – December 2026	DC + EGMP Sec + TF + Range States	Proposal to be prepared for IWG12 (June 2027)
	August – December 2026	TF + Range States (DK+NO) + Aarhus University	Mapping of potential for hunting to target communication campaign (DK) Reaching agreements with hunters and landowners to locally organise hunting (NO)
Input to the AFMP and indicator monitoring and responsibilities	Autumn 2026-spring 2027	TF + DC	Agree on monitoring of indicators and who has the responsibility; first compilation of indicator data
Internal review of annual reports	Early June 2027	TF	Review back to DC early June 2027

Annex I. Members of the Pink-footed Goose Task Force as of May 2026

Country	Representative	Affiliation
Belgium	Floris Verhaeghe	Nature and Forest Agency
	Frank Huysentruyt	Institute for Nature and Forest Research
	Eckhart Kuijken	Research Institute for Nature and Forest, Flemish Government of Belgium Expert, Univ. Ghent Belgium
	Christine Verscheure	Natuurpunt Belgium
Denmark	Jesper Madsen (Coordinator)	Aarhus University
	Søren Egelund Rasmussen	Agency for Green Transition and Aquatic Environment
	Lene Midtgaard	Danish Hunters' Association
	Knud Flensted	BirdLife Denmark
The Netherlands	Kees Koffijberg	Sovon Vogelonderzoek Nederland
	Gerben Mensink	Province of Fryslan
Finland	Jorma Pessa	Centre for Economic Development
Norway	Ingunn Tombre	Norwegian Institute for Nature Research
	Ove Martin Gundersen	Norwegian Farmer's Union

Country	Representative	Affiliation
Sweden	Sofia Sollenberg	Swedish Environmental Protection Agency