

AEWA EUROPEAN GOOSE MANAGEMENT PLATFORM



**11th MEETING OF THE
AEWA EUROPEAN GOOSE MANAGEMENT
INTERNATIONAL WORKING GROUP**
16-18 June 2026, Skövde, Sweden



**REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE GREYLAG GOOSE TASK FORCE AND
DRAFT WORKPLAN FOR 2026/2027**

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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 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.

Action requested from the EGM IWG:

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

1. Introduction

As outlined in Rule 29 in the *Modus Operandi* of 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 EGM IWG.

At the 5th Meeting of the EGM IWG (EGM IWG5) in June 2020, the Range States agreed on the establishment of the EGMP Task Force for the NW Europe (br) population of the Greylag Goose, *Anser anser* (GG TF) and adopted its proposed Terms of Reference (ToR) ([document AEWA/EGMIWG5.15](#)) as well as its Adaptive Flyway Management Programme (AFMP).

The overall role of the GG TF is to assist the EGM IWG in catalysing and coordinating the implementation of AFMP workplan and monitoring activities related to the implementation of the [AEWA International Single Species Management Plan](#) for the NW Europe (br) population of the Greylag Goose (GG ISSMP).

The GG TF 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 workplan under the AFMP;
- liaise and coordinate with the other EGMP Task Forces, as necessary.

At the EGM IWG6 in June 2021, the GG TF presented its first report on the work progress since the establishment of the Task Force and presented recommendations to the EGM IWG, referring to document [AEWA/EGMIWG6.11](#). 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 brought forward yearly by the Data Centre.

This document provides an overview of the work that has taken place since the EGM IWG10 and the Task Force's recommendations and draft workplan for 2026/2027.

2. Status of the Task Force Membership

Presently, the GG TF has 28 official members. Members and participants represent 8 Range States (including one observer Range State) and 4 observer organisations. Malin Åhl (Sweden) has remained as the TF Coordinator during 2025/2026.

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

3. 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 TF has held three online meetings since EGM IWG10, which took place on 12 December 2025, 27 January and 27 April 2026. The TF was also invited to participate in a joint meeting on 20 November 2025, concerning the NW Europe (br) population of the Greylag Goose, the Russia (br) population of the Barnacle Goose and the E Greenland (br) population of the Barnacle Goose, regarding the assessment of indicators in the corresponding AFMPs. A hybrid GG TF meeting will take place on 15 June 2026 in the framework of the EGM IWG11 Task Force Day.

The recently formed Ad-Hoc Working Group on Migration Dynamics of Greylag Geese (see below) has had three online meetings during 2026, including a meeting on 20 April 2026 to formally agree on a roadmap of identified knowledge gaps and funding needs, which is presented in Doc. AEWA/EGMIWG11.24.

4. 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 on various initiatives related to the management of the NW Europe (br) population of the Greylag Goose during and between meetings of the TF.

As agreed at EGM IWG10, the GG TF has established an ad-hoc working group with the main purpose of investigating short-stopping and other questions related to migration routes, delineation of flyways and distribution of the Greylag Geese. The group is co-coordinated by Matthieu Guillemain (France) and Johan Månsson (Sweden) and consists of scientists with expertise on research and monitoring of Greylag Geese. The expected outcome is to get a better understanding of the declining numbers of birds in Spain and France and to fill knowledge gaps related to the migratory movements over the assumed flyways (and interactions between flyways). The findings are expected to help improve the management guidelines for the NW Europe (br) population. The Ad Hoc Working Group on Migration Dynamics of Greylag Geese has produced a roadmap, to clarify the future work and goals, which will be presented at EGM IWG11.

The GG TF has also assisted the Secretariat with the review of the analysis of the stocktake based on the information provided by the Range States through EGMP National Reporting in 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 a draft chapter for the Greylag Goose in the *EGMP Population Status and Offtake Assessment Report 2026* submitted to EGM IWG11.

5. Recommendations

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

1. All Range States need to strive to provide the necessary data as stated below in descending order:
 - i. 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.
 - ii. Summer or early autumn abundance: by country for those conducting such surveys; all years in which they are available.
 - iii. Post-breeding age ratios: all years and countries where available; should include counts of young and total sample size. Data should be provided at the lowest level available (e.g., by flock or location).
 - iv. Winter counts: all years and countries where available.
2. The TF recommends extending the lifespan of the GG AFMP until EGM IWG12 and request the Task Force to prepare any proposed revisions for submission to EGM IWG12, following the process outlined below:
 - i. Taking into account, inter alia, the stocktake of implementation of the ISSMP actions and the assessment of AFMP indicators, the Task Force will identify any elements of the AFMP that may benefit from revision, as well as any associated resource requirements.
 - ii. An overview of the elements proposed for revision will be consulted with the relevant National Government Representatives for approval.
 - iii. The Task Force will draft the proposed revisions.
 - iv. Draft revisions will be consulted with the relevant National Government Representatives.
 - v. The draft revised AFMP will be submitted for consideration and adoption by EGM IWG12. Should the Task Force determine that no revisions are desirable, it will recommend extending the AFMP for the remainder of the ISSMP's lifespan.
3. All Range States are urged to keep focusing on offtake strategies minimising the need for breeding-season derogation (meaning those with high winter offtake).
4. The GG TF is urged to keep discussing the crippling rate, which has remained relatively high. The TF should work to raise awareness of this issue through activities, perhaps by arranging a webinar or creating information campaigns.
5. The GG TF continues to support the Data Centre during the assessment of the AFMP indicators in preparation for a potential revision, extension or update of the plan.
6. The Ad Hoc Working Group has expressed the need for additional funding to progress with their work. Due to this, all Range States are asked to explore possible funding opportunities to support a position or a junior researcher for four months, with an approximated cost of EUR 20,000.
7. The GG TF are asked to work on raising awareness of the Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI). Recent examples show there is a lack of knowledge in the general public, which raises concerns regarding a wider spread of the disease (e.g. in Denmark, sick Greylag Geese were taken in and kept by people).
8. 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.

6. Draft Workplan 2026/2027

Table 1. Greylag Goose Task Force Draft Workplan for 2026/2027.

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	Agriculture TF Coordinator update the GG TF, exchange information.
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. Collate, summarise results (possibly workshop, time + resources needed - 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. Investigate GG crippling rates.
4.6 Develop hunting techniques to further reduce crippling.	Medium	Long / Rolling	Exchange information and experience. Collate, summarise results (possibly workshop, time + resources needed).
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.

Actions from the ISSMP	Priority	Timescale	Greylag Goose Task Force
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.
A 4. Collect demographic (mortality, reproduction, differential migration and connectivity) data from an agreed representative sampling framework across the range.	High	Short / Rolling	
C.1 Develop and implement a communication strategy and plan.	Medium	Short/Rolling	Produce scientific papers - outreach to wider community - then Range States can use the info to reach national stakeholders, improve and use the EGMP website news section, publish results, content, scientific results, outputs and not only announce meetings.

Annex I: Members of the Greylag Goose Task Force as of May 2026

Table 2. Members of Greylag Goose Task Force as of May 2026.

Country/Organisation	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
	Lene Midtgaard	Danish Hunters' Association
Finland	Antti Piironen	University of Turku
	Toni Laaksonen	
	Mikko Alhainen	Finnish Wildlife Agency
France	Charles-Henri de Barsac	Ministère de la Transition Ecologique et de la cohésion des territoires
	Matthieu Guillemain	Direction de la Recherche et de l'Appui Scientifique Office Français de la Biodiversité
	Julien Terraube	Office Français de la Biodiversité
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	Provincial Wildlife Council of 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	
	Marta Pérez Pascual	

Country/Organisation	Representative	Affiliation
	Guillermo Ceballos	Junta de Andalucía
Sweden	Sofia Sollenberg	Swedish Environmental Protection Agency
	Malin Åhl	
FACE	Cy Griffin	Senior Conservation Manager
Nordic Hunters' Alliance	Olav Greivstad	Consultant
OMPO	Thibaut Powolny	Project Manager
Wetlands International	Szabolcs Nagy	Senior Advisor
	Luca Guitink	Junior Technical Officer