

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 AGRICULTURE TASK FORCE FOR
2025/2026 AND DRAFT WORKPLAN FOR 2026/2027**

*Prepared by Ingunn Tombre, Coordinator of the Agriculture Task Force,
with contributions from the members of the Agriculture Task Force*

Summary:

This document provides an overview of the status and key activities that the Agriculture Task Force has undertaken from 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.



Introduction

The role of the Agriculture Task Force (Agriculture TF) is to support the AEWA European Goose Management International Working Group (EGM IWG), as well as the population-specific Task Forces and related processes within the European Goose Management Platform (EGMP). This document provides an overview of activities undertaken since the 10th Meeting of the European Goose Management International Working Group (EGM IWG10), which took place from 17 to 19 June 2025 in Brussels, Belgium. It also presents a draft workplan for 2026/2027, based on discussions and suggestions from a virtual TF meeting held on 29 April 2026.

1. Status of the Task Force Membership

The TF currently has 24 members with representatives from 10 Range States and 5 observers (BirdLife International, Copa Cogeca, FACE and Wetlands International). An overview of members as of May 2026 is presented in Annex 1.

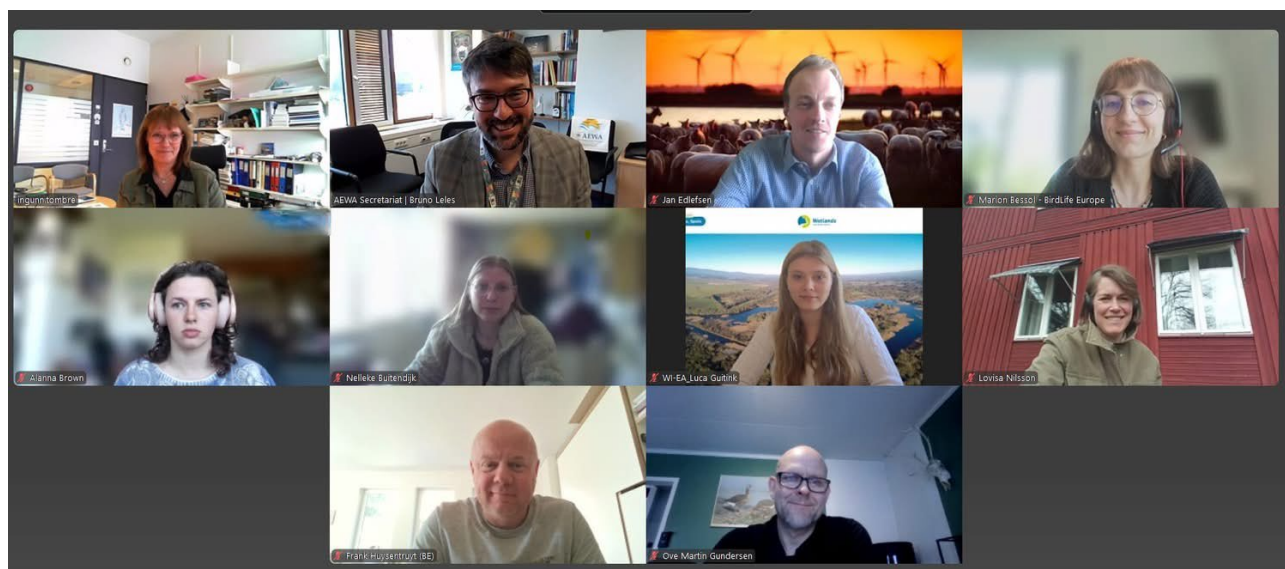


Figure 1. Agriculture Task Force members attending an online meeting in April 2026 (Photo: EGMP Secretariat©).

2. Meetings

There has been one Agriculture TF meeting since the previous EGM IWG-meeting in Brussels, on 29 April 2026. Another TF meeting will be organised on the EGMP Task Force Day, held back-to-back with EGM IWG11, on 15 June 2026 in Skövde, Sweden. There has also been considerable informal communication among TF members over the previous year.

3. Report of Key Activities and Outcomes

Agriculture TF-related information and knowledge have been communicated by TF members locally and regionally in the different Range States.

3.1 Overview of relevant publications

Members of the TF have added information and active links of relevant publications to the current metadata overview regularly being updated by the TF. The file compiles information about scientific publications and technical reports with information about (I) goose species in the study, (II) country and location of the study, (III) publication year and theme, (IV) the reference with contact person, email and active link to the publication. As the overview is compiled in an Excel file, it can easily be sorted by preferred information: goose species, country, theme, etc. Currently there are 119 technical reports and scientific publications in the list, and the aim is to keep it as an active file being updated with new items regularly and have it available online. It will be a useful source of information for both managers and scientists, as well as others with related interests. Details about how to make this overview available (e.g. on EGMP webpage) will be discussed further at the annual meeting in June 2026. We plan to monitor the use of the list once it is published online to evaluate the usefulness of the online version.

3.2 EGMP 10th Anniversary Report

Several Agriculture TF members have submitted case studies to the EGMP 10th Anniversary Report. The case studies have undergone a peer-review process among the authors and are now in the last phase of editing before the final publication.

3.3 Webinar

The Agriculture TF will organise a webinar on 22 May 2026 focusing on geese in agricultural landscapes and their management. The programme will include a presentation of a recent doctoral thesis from Sweden examining interlinkages between goose occurrence and management guidance, as well as presentations on technical solutions for assessing goose-related agricultural damage. The flyer with further information and the draft programme is provided below.

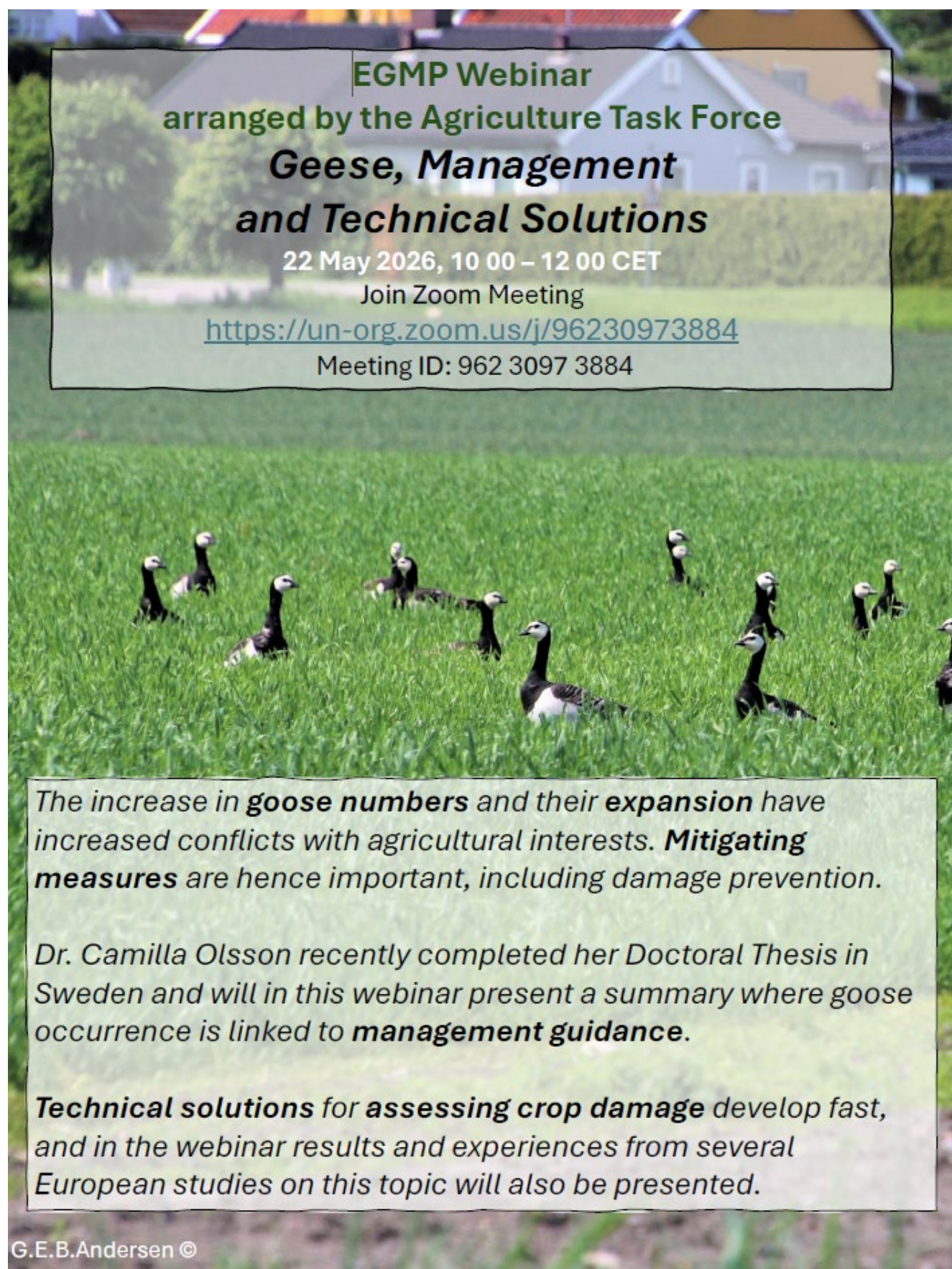
3.4 More involvement of Farmers' Perspectives

An ongoing issue identified by Task Force members has been the need to strengthen the involvement of farmers' perspectives within the Agriculture TF. A new member from the Farmers' Union in Germany, Der Bauernverband Schleswig-Holstein, has been nominated to the TF. In addition, prospective new members from the Fauna Management Unit in the Netherlands are expected to make a valuable contribution to the TF, given their relevant experience and expertise. Further actions to enhance stakeholder involvement have been discussed within the group and are presented later in the TF workplan for 2026/2027.

4. Recommendations

The Agriculture TF would like to recommend the following to the EGM IWG:

1. The Task Force should continue to work on the activities referred to above and described in the proposed workplan for 2026/2027 (see Table 1).



EGMP Webinar
arranged by the Agriculture Task Force
**Geese, Management
and Technical Solutions**
22 May 2026, 10 00 – 12 00 CET
Join Zoom Meeting
<https://un-org.zoom.us/j/96230973884>
Meeting ID: 962 3097 3884

*The increase in **goose numbers** and their **expansion** have increased conflicts with agricultural interests. **Mitigating measures** are hence important, including damage prevention.*

*Dr. Camilla Olsson recently completed her Doctoral Thesis in Sweden and will in this webinar present a summary where goose occurrence is linked to **management guidance**.*

***Technical solutions** for **assessing crop damage** develop fast, and in the webinar results and experiences from several European studies on this topic will also be presented.*

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Figure 2. The flyer with information about the EGMP webinar which will be arranged by Agriculture TF on 22 May 2026.



Webinar Programme:

10 00 – 10 05 Welcome
Ingunn Tombre, Co-ordinator of the Agriculture Taks Force in EGMP

10 05 – 10 25 (including Q&A)
Camilla Olsson
Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences:
***From flyway to field:
Ecology and management of geese in agricultural landscapes***

10 25 – 10 40 (including Q&A)
Floris Verhaeghe et al.
Agency for Nature and Forest, Flemish Government:
***Assessing agricultural damage with drones and satellite images;
challenges and experiences from Belgium.***

10 40 – 10 55 (including Q&A)
Dirk Keuper
National Wildlife Fund:
***Remote sensing to assess goose damage on agricultural grasslands in
The Netherlands.***

10 55 – 11 10 (including Q&A)
Florian Uhl, Victor Lion & Natascha Oppelt
Kiel University:
Can We Detect Goose Grazing Damage Using Copernicus Data?

11 10 – 11 25 (including Q&A)
Kevin Kuhlmann Clausen
Aarhus University:
***Quantifying damage caused by barnacle geese on winter wheat using
GPS-tracking on harvest machines.***

11 25 – 12 00 **OPEN FLOOR**

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Figure 3. The programme of the EGMP webinar which will be arranged by Agriculture TF on 22 May 2026.

5. Workplan 2026/2027

Below is an overview of proposed related and relevant tasks and actions for the Agriculture Task Force in 2026/2027.

Table 1. Draft workplan of the Agriculture Task Force for 2026/2027.

Actions from the ISSMPs	Priority	Timescale	Activities carried out by Agriculture TF
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	EGMP Range States have several national guidelines and handouts for practical management and mitigating measures of geese. In the coming period these will be collated and “synthesised” as a common document with guidelines. This will be in English with possibilities to translate to local languages. Experiences of the mitigating measures under various conditions, based on scientific studies will also be included.
3.2 Establish an internationally coordinated programme to assess agricultural damage including monitoring and assessment protocols.	High	Short	Members of the TF are involved in the impact models/assessments. When scientifically published, a summary with take-home messages will be produced.
3.3 Liaise with farmers affected by goose damages to reduce agricultural conflicts.	High	Short / Rolling	TF members represent farmers' unions and act as ambassadors, helping to share and relay information discussed within the TF. A new Farmers' Union member from Germany is now nominated to the TF. In the coming year the TF aims to arrange an online meeting inviting members from the different farmers' unions across the Range States. The objective is to listen to farmers' perspectives about what kind of information and in what form, they will need in their country. There will also be possibilities for farmers' representatives to suggest how this TF can move forward and what to focus on.

Actions from the ISSMPs	Priority	Timescale	Activities carried out by Agriculture TF
A.3 Maintain a spatially explicit database on goose damage to agriculture, other fauna and flora and risk to air safety.	Essential	Medium / Rolling	This information will be available from the metadata compiled in an Excel file. How to make this file available for all, and in which feasible form, will be discussed further.
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 is available in the metadata file (see above).
B.1 Produce best practice guide on establishing refuge areas (size, management, subsidies).	Medium	Short	Some of these elements will be treated in the common guidelines planned for in 2026/2027.
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 will be treated in the common guidelines planned for in 2026/2027.
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 will be treated in the common guidelines planned for in 2026/2027 and may potentially also be a theme on a webinar.
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 Agriculture TF's webinars.
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 2026

Table 2. Members of the Agriculture Task Force as of May 2026.

Country / Organisation	Representative	Affiliation
Belgium	Frank Huysentruyt	Institute for Nature and Forest Research, Flemish Government
Denmark	Søren Egelund	Danish Agency for Green Transition and Aquatic Environment
	Anthony Fox	Aarhus University, Department of Bioscience
	Lene Midtgaard	Danish Hunters Association
Finland	Jukka Forsman	Natural Resource Institute Finland
Germany	Jan Edlefsen	Schleswig-Holstein Farmers' Association
	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
	Ida van Ommeren	The Fauna Fund (BIJ12)
	Sofia Kolkman	Project Leader at Provincial Fauna Management Unit – Noord-Holland
	Sander Moonen	Wageningen Research

Country / Organisation	Representative	Affiliation
Norway	Ingunn Tombre	Norwegian Institute for Nature Research, Department of Arctic Ecology
	Ove Martin Gundersen	Norwegian Farmers' Association
Sweden	Johan Månsson	Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences /Wildlife Damage Center
	Lovisa Nilsson	Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences /Wildlife Damage Center
Ukraine	Vasyl Kostiusbyn	Institute of Zoology NAS of Ukraine, Department of Monitoring and Conservation of Animals
United Kingdom	Rae McKenzie	Scottish Natural Heritage
BirdLife International	Marion Bessol	BirdLife Europe/BirdLife International
Copa Cogeca	Klaus Borde	Copa Cogeca
FACE	Cy Griffin	Senior Conservation Manager
	David Scallan	Secretary General
Wetlands International	Szabolcs Nagy	Senior Advisor
	Luca Guitink	Junior Technical Officer