



REPORT 2025/2026
EGMP SECRETARIAT
AND DATA CENTRE





The present report covers the work of the AEWA European Goose Management Platform (EGMP) Secretariat and the Data Centre for the period between July 2025 and mid-June 2026.

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 IWG11 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 Goose
(*Anser anser*)
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**EGMP
ORGANISATIONAL
STRUCTURE**



The *European Goose Management International Working Group* (EGM IWG) serves as the main coordinating and decision-making body of the EGMP and is composed of national delegations comprising representatives of national governments, their designated national experts and other national stakeholders. The European Union, represented by 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 Chairship* has been assumed by Sweden (represented by Mr Petter Kjellander) since June 2023. In the absence of any confirmed candidacies for the role of EGM IWG Chair by the end of Mr Kjellander's two-year term, the EGM IWG10 agreed that he would continue to serve in this capacity for an additional year. The EGMP includes a total of seven Task Forces:

- Pink-footed Goose Task Force
- Taiga Bean Goose Task Force
- Barnacle Goose Task Force for Russia (br) population
- Barnacle Goose Task Force for E. Greenland (br) & Svalbard (br) populations
- Greylag Goose Task Force for NW Europe (br) 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).

In addition, two contact groups have been established under the EGMP in recent years – the Communications Contact Group and the Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) Contact Group – to address more specific issues requiring immediate attention. The Communications Contact Group assists the EGM IWG in matters concerning communication of the EGMP work internationally and locally in Range States. The HPAI Contact Group provides the EGM IWG with expertise on HPAI-related matters, supporting the integration of HPAI considerations into goose management. Based on the decision of EGM IWG10, the Ad hoc Working Group on Migration Dynamics of Greylag Geese was established in early 2026 and is mandated to further investigate the short-stopping behaviour of the NW Europe (br) population of this species.

The *EGMP Data Centre* is responsible for compiling data and providing the necessary scientific analyses, assessments and subsequent proposals for conservation and management options for EGMP-related issues. The UNEP/AEWA Secretariat and

Greylag Geese
(*Anser anser*)
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Photo on previous
page: Barnacle
Goose (*Branta
leucopsis*) © Adobe
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EGMP ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE



Pink-footed Geese (*Anser brachyrhynchus*)
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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 with coordination of monitoring and assessment for the Russia (br) population of Barnacle Goose, and NatureScot with coordination of monitoring of the E Greenland (br) 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) 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, also functions as the EGMP Secretariat responsible for the coordination and facilitation of the EGMP, including its respective bodies (EGM IWG and the EGMP Data Centre).

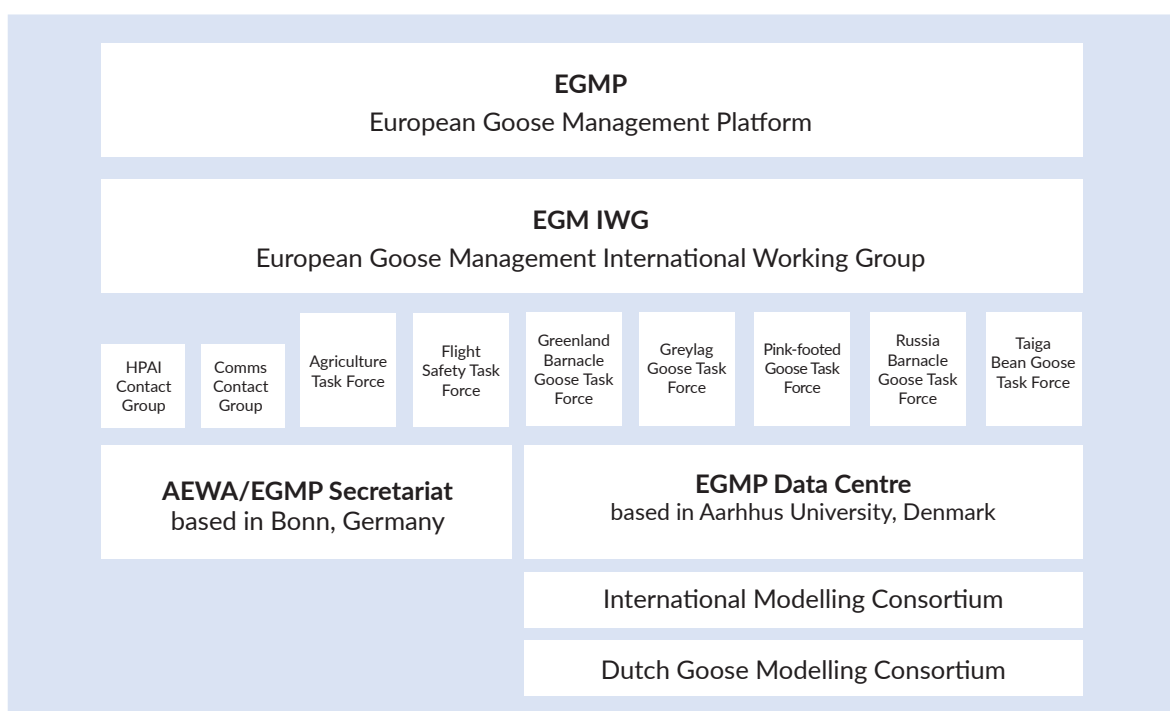


Figure 1. Organisational Structure of the European Goose Management Platform



**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*) © Adobe Stock Images

Ms Melissa Lewis, Species Officer at the AEWA Secretariat, currently provides direct supervision of the EGMP Secretariat team.

AEWA EGMP Secretariat

Species Officer

Ms Melissa Lewis

Ms Lewis provides day-to-day oversight of the EGMP team at the Secretariat. In 2025, her time dedicated to this role was covered by a withdrawal from the carryover cash balance in the EGMP Trust Fund, with approval from the IWG Chair. The IWG is requested to approve another withdrawal for this purpose in 2026.

EGMP Coordinator

Mr Bruno Leles

Mr 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.

Programme Management Assistant

Ms Shenay Huseynova

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

EGMP Data Centre

Head of the EGMP Data Centre

Mr Jesper Madsen

Mr Madsen from the Department of Ecoscience at Aarhus University, Denmark, acts as the Head of the EGMP Data Centre (15 % 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 65% person-year position is funded through the contributions provided by the EGMP Range States for the platform's core budget.

Population Modelling Experts

As of January 2026, Mr Fred A. Johnson has stepped down from his position as Modelling Lead at the EGMP Data Centre. Mr Ryan Germain is a part-time tenure-track researcher at the Department of Ecoscience at Aarhus University, Denmark. He is now the population expert responsible for the annual updates of population models and assessments. The EGMP budget funds a 40% person-year position. Mr Preben Clausen supports the Data Centre with data provisioning.



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

The possibility to maintain the posts for the Head of the EGMP Data Centre (Mr Madsen), Goose Monitoring Coordinator (Ms Sørensen) and Population Expert (Mr Germain) is dependent on the provision of annual voluntary contributions by the participating Range States of the EGMP covering the full necessary annual budget.

Data Centre activities funded by in-kind contributions:

In 2025-2026, the Data Centre has contributed to the development of the Adaptive Flyway Management Programme for the Svalbard (br) population of the Pink-footed Goose (PfG AFMP), the revision of the Taiga Bean Goose ISSMP and other projects, funded by the Danish Agency for Green Transition and Aquatic Environment.

Greylag Geese
(*Anser anser*)
© Adobe Stock
Images

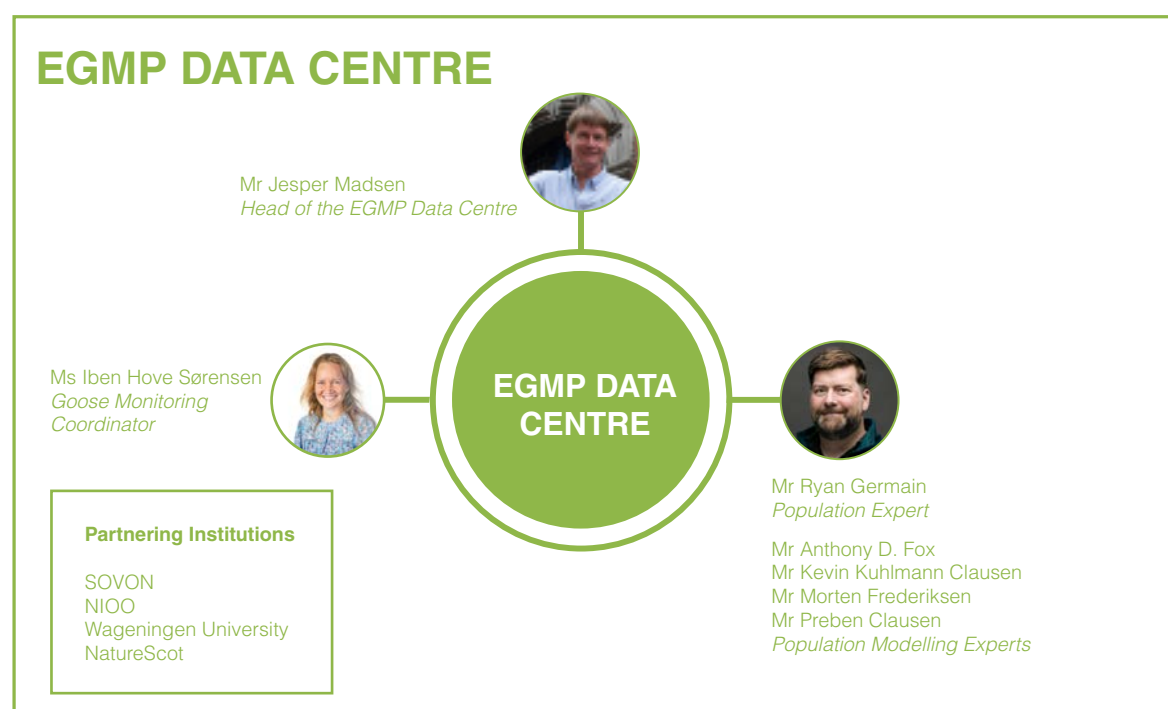


Figure 3. EGMP Data Centre Staff Composition



**PARTICIPATING
RANGE STATES OF
THE EGMP/FUNDING**

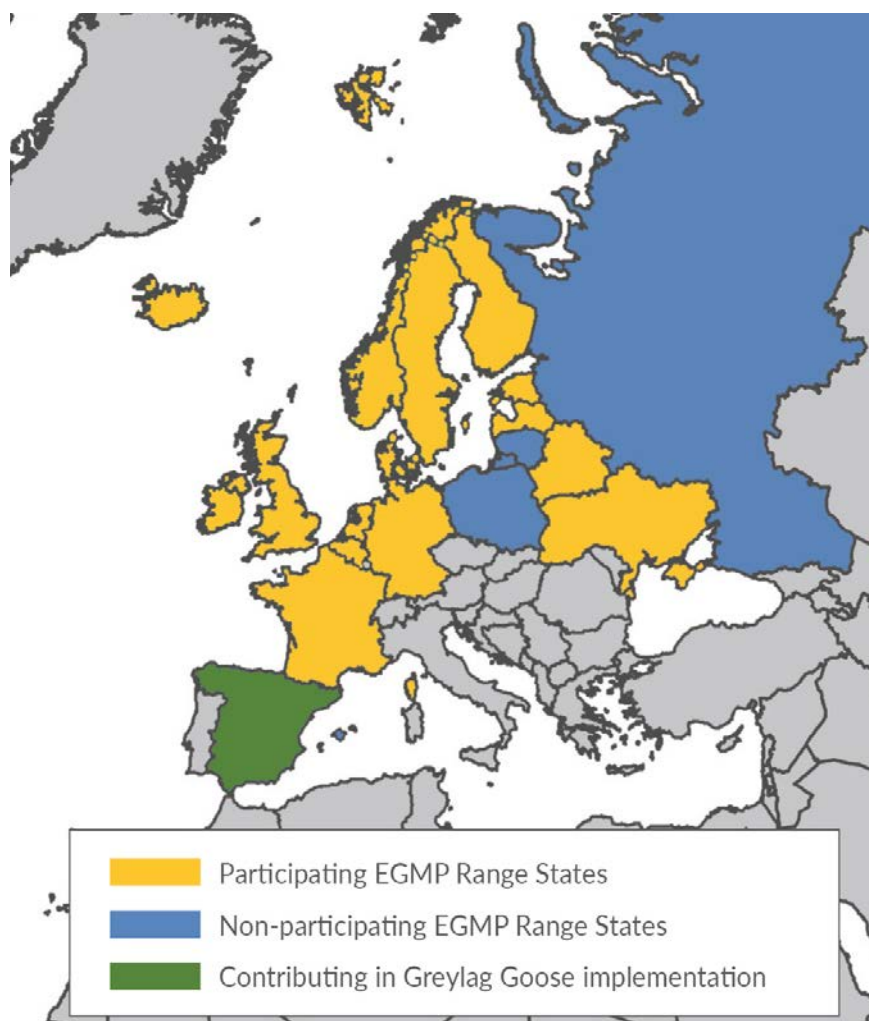


Figure 4. EGMP participating Range States

Participating Range States of the EGMP

The EGMP has 16 participating Range States (see Figure 4), 15 national governments and the European Union: 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 and Data Centre wish 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/EGMIWG11.20.

A proposed budget and detailed Programme of Work for 2027 are outlined in document AEWa/EGMIWG11.21 and will be presented at EGM IWG11.

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

Photo on previous page: Pink-footed Geese (*Anser brachyrhynchus*) © Adobe Stock Images



MEETINGS AND WORKSHOPS



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.

The coordinators of the Task Forces are as follows:

- Pink-footed Goose Task Force: Mr Jesper Madsen (Denmark)
- Taiga Bean Goose Task Force: Mr Mikko Alhainen (Finland)
- Barnacle Goose Task Force for Russia (br) Population: Mr Sander Moonen (Netherlands)
- Barnacle Goose Task Force for E Greenland (br) and Svalbard (br) Populations: Ms Rae McKenzie (UK)
- Greylag Goose Task Force for NW Europe (br) Population: Ms Malin Åhl (Sweden)
- Agriculture Task Force: Ms 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 AEW/EGMIWG11.13, AEW/EGMIWG11.14, AEW/EGMIWG11.15, AEW/EGMIWG11.16, AEW/EGMIWG11.17, AEW/EGMIWG11.18 and AEW/EGMIWG11.19.

Meetings of the EGMP Task Forces

The meetings of the EGMP Task Forces were held online (via Zoom online platform) involving the Task Force coordinators and members, together with the EGMP Secretariat and Data Centre. The summary of EGMP Task Force meetings below features all meetings during the reporting period, including upcoming meetings scheduled for the latter half of May 2026 and the EGMP Task Force Day, which will take place in a hybrid format in Skövde, Sweden, on 15 June 2026, back-to-back with EGM IWG11.

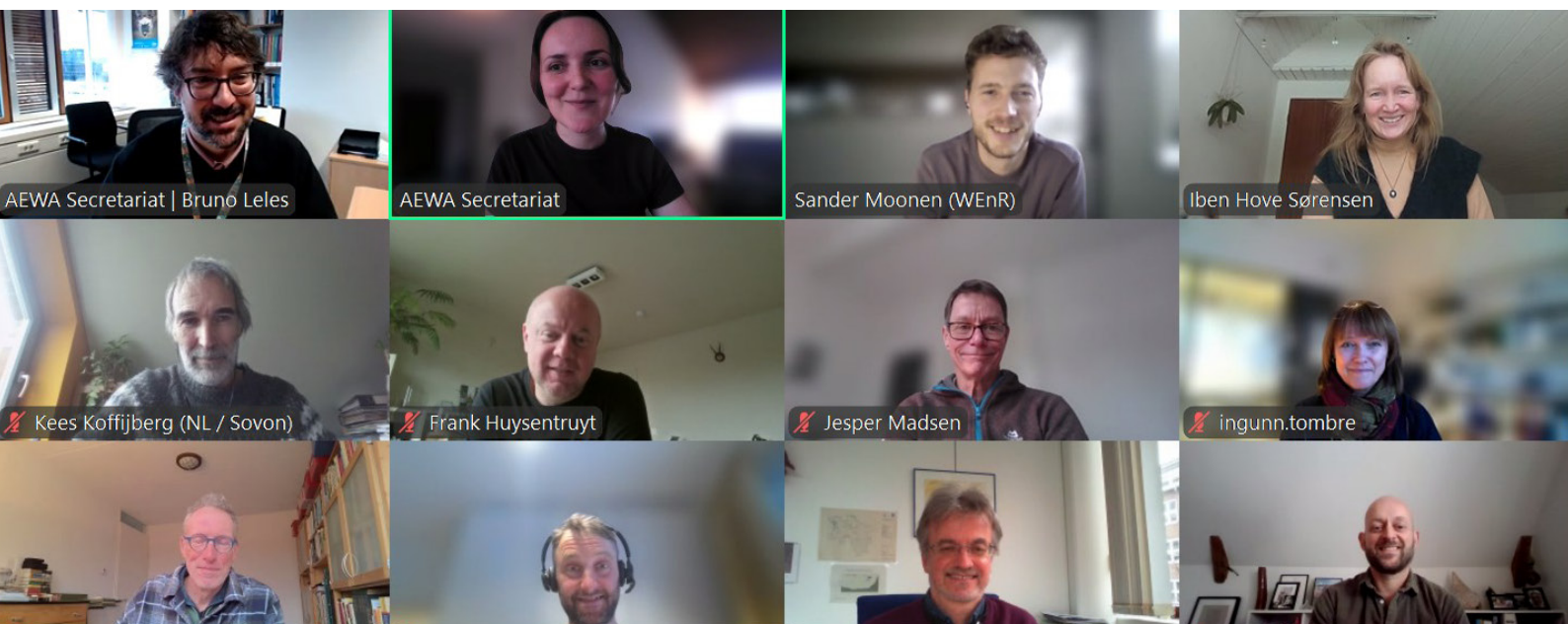
International Modelling Consortium Meetings

The EGMP Modelling Consortium met on 11 September 2025. The meeting reviewed current modelling and monitoring issues for EGMP species. Discussions focused on improving the reliability of count and harvest data, including possible dedicated counts and use of GPS-tagged birds for Taiga Bean

Group photo from EGM IWG10 in Brussels, Belgium, June 2025 © INBO

Photo on previous page: Greylag Goose (*Anser anser*) © Adobe Stock Images

MEETINGS AND WORKSHOPS



Russia Barnacle
Goose Task Force
members during
the virtual meeting
in February 2026
© UNEP/AEWA
Secretariat

Meeting	Meeting Date
PfG TF (Coordinator: Jesper Madsen):	
18th Meeting of the PfG TF	17 March 2026
19th Meeting of the PfG TF	early June 2026 (tbc)
20th Meeting of the PfG TF	15 June 2026
TBG TF (Coordinator: Mikko Alhainen):	
29th Meeting of the TBG TF	3 March 2026
30th Meeting of the TBG TF	9 April 2026
31st Meeting of the TBG TF	15 June 2026
Agriculture TF (Coordinator: Ingunn Tombre):	
14th Meeting of the Agri TF	29 April 2026
15th Meeting of the Agri TF	16 June 2026
BG TF (Russia (br) population) (Coordinator: Sander Moonen)	
13th Meeting of the BG TF	11 February 2026
14th Meeting of the BG TF	7 May 2026
GG TF (Coordinator: Malin Åhl)	
14th Meeting of the GG TF	12 December 2025
15th Meeting of the GG TF	27 January 2026
16th Meeting of the GG TF	27 April 2026
17th Meeting of the GG TF	15 June 2026



Meeting	Meeting Date
BG TF (E. Greenland (br) population) (Coordinator: Rae McKenzie)	
13th Meeting of the BG TF	20 April 2026
14th Meeting of the BG TF	8 May 2026
15th Meeting of the BG TF	15 June 2026
Flight Safety TF	
13th Meeting of the Flight Safety TF	29 January 2026
14th Meeting of the Flight Safety TF	2 March 2026
15th Meeting of the Flight Safety TF	17 June 2026

Members of the EGMP Modelling Consortium during the virtual meeting in September 2025 © UNEP/AEWA Secretariat

Goose, better detection-probability and offtake estimates for Greylag Goose and further work on count bias for Pink-footed Goose. Participants also discussed updates to existing Integrated Population Models (IPMs), including potential refinements for Russia (br) and E Greenland (br) populations of Barnacle Goose, as well as the need to better understand Greylag Goose migration patterns, including short-stopping

Other Meetings

- The HPAI Contact Group had two online meetings in the reporting period: on 11 September 2025 and 18 March 2026. The first meeting of the Contact Group

discussed integration of HPAI-related considerations into the revision of the International Single Species Management Plan for the Svalbard breeding population of Pink-footed Goose (PfG ISSMP) and the International Single Species Action Plan for the Conservation of the Taiga Bean Goose (TBG ISSAP). The meeting also sought the group's input into the assessment of indicators for the AFMPs for Barnacle and Greylag Goose. The group's second meeting focused on HPAI updates from Range States, based on which a note was prepared to EGM IWG11, which is submitted as document AEWA/EGMIWG11.25.



Members of the EGMP Data Centre during the EGMP side event at AEWA MOP9, November 2025 © UNEP/AEWA Secretariat

- On 18 March 2026, 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. The group conducted a review and selection of the case studies submitted for inclusion in the EGMP 10th Anniversary report (document AEWA/EGMIWG/11.4). Following this meeting, the Secretariat invited the authors of the submitted case studies to conduct peer review of the studies, which were further discussed at an online meeting on 28 April 2026.
- The Ad Hoc Working Group on Migration Dynamics of Greylag Geese met for the first time on 18 February 2026 to discuss and agree on its main goals and future work. Members were asked to confirm their willingness to contribute to the joint work and explain the data they could provide for the analyses. A second meeting occurred on 20 April 2026 to formally agree on the current roadmap of the identified knowledge gaps and funding needs. An interim meeting took place on 20 March 2026 with the EGMP Data Centre to discuss the likely consequences of the current changes in Greylag Goose migration, and the way the Data Centre may use the results from the ad hoc working group to facilitate its annual reporting on Greylag Goose population status.
- On 2 December 2025, the Secretariat and Data Centre set up a call to introduce the draft structure of the PfG AFMP to the Range States. A further call was organised on 24 April 2026 to give the Range States an opportunity to ask questions and provide input related to the draft AFMP.

11th Meeting of the AEWA European Goose Management International Working Group (EGM IWG11)

The 11th Meeting of the European Goose Management International Working Group (EGM IWG11) is scheduled to take place on 16-18 June 2026 in Skövde, Sweden at the kind invitation of the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA), the Wildlife Damage Center at the University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU) and the Nordic Board for Wildlife Research (NKV). Similar to previous years, the EGMP Task Force Day will be held on 15 June 2026, back-to-back with EGM IWG11.



EGMP ACTIVITIES



Pink-footed
Geese (*Anser
brachyrhynchus*)
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Photo on previous
page: Taiga Bean
Goose (*Anser fabalis
fabalis*) © Magnus
Elander

ISSMP for the Pink-footed Goose (PfG ISSMP)

In spring 2026, the Data Centre produced the annual monitoring and harvest assessment chapter for the PfG (due June 2026). The PfG ISSMP has undergone a full revision, and this revised version was adopted by the 9th Session of the Meeting of the Parties to AEWA (AEWA MOP9), held from 11–14 November 2025. A draft AFMP has been developed by the Data Centre and the Secretariat, which is being submitted EGM IWG11 for adoption in June 2026 (document AEWA/EGMIWG11.8).

IISAP for the Taiga Bean Goose (TBG IISAP)

In spring 2026, the Data Centre produced an annual monitoring and harvest assessment report for the TBG, with a focus on the Finland & NW Russia (br) population (due June 2026). The revised TBG ISSAP was also adopted by AEWA MOP9. Notably, the four former management units are now considered as separate populations.

ISSMP for the Greylag Goose (GG ISSMP)

In spring 2026, the Data Centre produced an annual monitoring and assessment report for the GG. No further progress has been made towards dynamic, model-based management of the NW Europe (br) population of Greylag Goose.

ISSMP for the Barnacle Goose (BG ISSMP)

In spring 2026, Sovon and Wageningen Environmental Research produced the annual monitoring and assessment report for the Russia (br) population of the Barnacle Goose while the Data Centre produced the assessment for the E Greenland (br) population.

EGMP Database and GitLab

The EGMP Database has been moved to a new website (<https://projects.au.dk/can/egmp>) and updated with new data, figures and description of methods, where relevant. Furthermore, EGMP GitLab has been updated with new projects and IPM results.



COMMUNICATION AND OUTREACH



Greylag Goose chicks © Adobe Stock Images

Photo on previous page: Barnacle Geese (*Branta leucopsis*) © Adobe Stock Images

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

- [Briefing note](#) on population status and management recommendations, dedicated to the outcomes of the EGM IWG10 in 2025.
- [EGMP Highlights 2025](#), capturing the notable events and developments within the EGMP in 2025.

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 continues to seek 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

On 21 April 2026, the EGMP Secretariat and Data Centre together with the Russia Barnacle Goose Task Force hosted the webinar “Use and Effectiveness of Derogations to Control Agricultural Damage by the Russia (br) Population of Barnacle Goose”. The webinar opened with a presentation from the European Commission on the newly published guidance document on the general system of protection of bird species –

EGMP Highlights 2025

The closure of another year coinciding with busy deadlines and festive holiday preparations is also a time to pause, review and reflect. The EGMP team would like to extend its warmest wishes to you and your families for the holiday season and, true to tradition, to invite you to look back with us at some of the year's key milestones and achievements.

10th Meeting of the European Goose Management International Working Group (EGM IWG10) (Brussels, Belgium, 17-19 June 2025)

This year's EGM IWG, our flagship annual meeting, was kindly hosted in the vibrant city of Brussels by the Research Institute for Nature and Forest (INBO), with support from the Flemish Agency for Nature and Forests (ANB). Alongside reviewing the population status updates and Task Force reports, delegates took an important step by agreeing to establish a dedicated ad hoc group to investigate changes in migration and the decline of wintering Greylag Geese in Spain and France. The Working Group reaffirmed its commitment to science-based approaches, better data collection and close cross-border collaboration. The exchanges carried on well beyond the meeting rooms, over a lively beer-tasting offered by our generous hosts - a fitting way to bring intense days of discussions to a close.

EGMP Task Force Day (Brussels, Belgium, 16 June 2025)

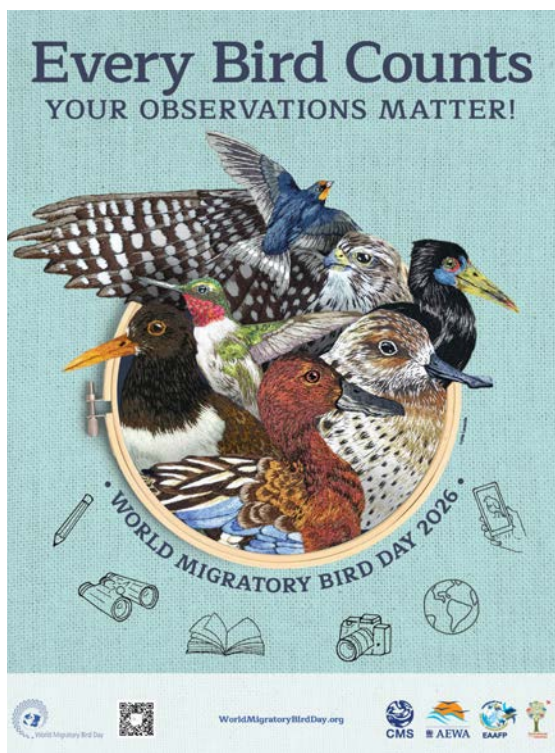
The lively Task Force Day once again offered a valuable opportunity for Task Force members to reconnect in person after a busy cycle of online meetings. Species status, new scientific initiatives, monitoring gaps and data discrepancies and ongoing communication projects were all on the table. Cross-cutting sessions helped to spark fresh ideas and identify opportunities for meaningful collaboration between Task Forces, reinforcing the EGMP community as a closely connected and collaborative group.



Taiga Bean Geese
(*Anser fabalis fabalis*)
© Magnus Elander

Article 5 and Article 9 of the Birds Directive. This was followed by presentations from Finland, Estonia, Sweden, Denmark and the Netherlands, outlining their respective policy perspectives and experiences in the practical implementation of derogations. The second session of the webinar focused on the scientific assessment of current derogation practices, concluded by a question and answer session and discussion.

A webinar titled “Geese, Management and Technical Solutions”, organised by the Agriculture Task Force, will be held on 22 May 2026. The webinar will shed light on measures for mitigating agricultural damage inflicted by geese and present results from several European studies on technical solutions for assessing crop damage.



World Migratory Bird Day 2026

WMBD 2026 is celebrated on 9 May and 10 October under the theme “Every Bird Counts – Your Observations Matter!”, highlighting the essential role of community science in migratory bird conservation. The campaign recognises how observations contributed by individuals, communities and organisations help track migration patterns, population trends and habitat changes, providing data that supports science-based

Webinar

Tuesday, 21 April 2026
13.00 - 17.00 CEST

Use and Effectiveness of Derogations to Control Agricultural Damage by the Russia (br) Population of Barnacle Goose



Barnacle Geese
(*Branta leucopsis*)
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Images

conservation and policy across flyways. This theme is particularly relevant for the EGMP, as monitoring of EGMP species relies heavily on counts carried out by volunteers. The EGMP team therefore plans to mark this year's WMBD through a dedicated webinar planned in the second half of 2026, expressing appreciation for the dedication of volunteer counters and recognising the vital role their efforts play in strengthening monitoring of the EGMP species.

EGMP Social Media

The EGMP has social media platforms on Facebook and Instagram. 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.

This year the EGMP team produced social media posts featuring updates from relevant meetings and latest research and promoting webinars.

EGMP currently has 127 Instagram and 169 Facebook followers as of May 2026.

EGMP Presentations at International and National Meetings

The EGMP Secretariat and Data Centre presented information about the EGMP, and

AEWA European Goose Management Platform
Published by Shenay Huseynova · January 14 ·

New paper alert!
This research examines the effects of the shooting disturbance on Greenland barnacle geese wintering on Islay, using a unique long-term data set of goose distribution and shooting activity.
See less

127 Instagram &
169 Facebook
followers as of May 2026

Reseed Improved Grassland
Improved Grassland

ite use in response to shooting disturbance

its activities and results, at the following international and national meetings:

- National Theme Day on Hunting and Population Management, Denmark, November 2025. https://ecos.au.dk/fileadmin/ecos/Temasider/Temadage/TEMAdag_2025.pdf
- EGMP Side Event “10 years of the European Goose Management Platform: Lessons Learned and Future Directions” at the AEWA MOP9, November 2025
- Workshop on the development of the Working Group workplan, priorities, and field season 2026 - Working Group on Conservation of Geese in the Central Asian Flyway.

Cover Photo: Taiga Bean Geese (*Anser fabalis fabalis*) © Markus Varesvuo

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/

