

AEWA EUROPEAN GOOSE MANAGEMENT PLATFORM



**4th MEETING OF THE
AEWA EUROPEAN GOOSE MANAGEMENT
INTERNATIONAL WORKING GROUP**

18-20 June 2019, Perth, Scotland, United Kingdom



**REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE EGMP AGRICULTURE TASK FORCE
AND DRAFT WORKPLAN FOR 2019/2020**

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1. Introduction

According to Rule 29 of the European Goose Management International Working Group (EGM IWG) Modus Operandi, the EGM IWG may establish species and/or thematic Task Forces as necessary to deal with the preparation and coordination of decision papers and background documents, as well as to deal with other specific tasks.

The Agriculture Task Force (Agri TF) was established in early 2017, following the recommendations of the 2nd Meeting of the EGM IWG (EGM IWG2) in June 2017, in Copenhagen, Denmark. Dr Ingunn Tombre was identified as the Coordinator for the Agri TF. The current membership of the Agri TF is indicated in Annex 1 to this document. In line with the Terms of Reference, the nomination of additional members to the Task Force is at the discretion of the National Government Representative of each Range State and the Coordinator of the Task Force.

2. Meetings

- The first face-to-face meeting of the Agriculture Task Force was held in Leeuwarden, the Netherlands on 18 June 2018.
- A Skype meeting was held on 24 September 2018 with some of the Task Force members; G. H. Jensen (Data Centre), L. Nilsson & J. Månsson (SLU) & I. Tombre (NINA); planning the way forward for the development of a report on management measures for geese in Range States of the EGMP.
- The third online meeting with all Task Force members was held on 3 April 2019.

3. Key Activities

1. Farmers use different tools to protect their crop from foraging goose populations. Also, measures to prevent crop damage and reduce conflicts with agriculture are implemented at the municipality, county/province/Länder or on country level, and a set of actions are available. The Agriculture Task Force has compiled a report (*An Overview of the Management Measures for Geese in Range States of the European Goose Management Platform*; Doc AEWA/EGM/IWG/Inf.4.15), collating information about possible management measures in EGMP Range States, providing an overview with the aim to exchange knowledge and experiences among the countries. In creating such an overview, the Task Force has responded to the need for such information in the EGMP.
2. The Task Force has discussed several key elements when managing geese at the goose-agriculture interface. E.g. what is the Agriculture Task Force's role for providing knowledge about the effectiveness of the different measures; how shall such measures be quantified; etc. The possibilities of an extension of the current report or the development of a second report about these issues has been discussed.
3. The Task Force has discussed different possibilities for joint actions and requirements for good practices in respect to international goose management. So far, the Task Force has not received any specific requests from the other Task Forces or the EGM IWG. However, in the coming years this is to be expected, as the Task Force is still in an early phase of work.

4. Outcomes and Recommendations

1. The developed report enlightens the need for common practices in goose management, especially since the EGMP emphasises the management of common goose populations among countries. The available management measures, as well as their regional implementations vary strikingly between Range States. One example of different framework conditions is the European Union's Birds Directive with legislations for EU-member Ranges States not relevant for non-members, as they have their own regulations rooted in their countries. Other differences also occur, as a goose species may be protected in one Ranges State whilst being subject to an open season in another. Hence, this overview presents the existing regulations and management measures for geese in EGMP Range States, but also demonstrates the need for agreements on best-practice tools and metrics for e.g. crop damage measurements, bench marking and the use of standard methods. The Agriculture Task Force aims to focus on this in the future and discuss the possibilities of creating a *basis table*, listing relevant variables and units, preferably in collaborations with the International Modelling Consortium in order to tailor the process to their specific needs and activities.
2. Overviews providing relevant management measures of geese in European Range States are useful, and the Agriculture Task Force may compile such overviews in response to different needs within the EGMP. One aspect to be discussed in the coming face-to-face meeting in Perth is the possibility to make recommendations for specific needs in goose management based on a consensus of available measures and practices.

Another issue on the meeting agenda of the face-to-face Task Force meeting in Perth is the role of the Agriculture Task Force in identifying the effectiveness of goose management measures and whether that should be science and/or experienced-based. Whether that is something for the Task Force to deal with in the coming year, and how to structure the process, will be discussed.

A useful overview for the EGMP at the goose-agriculture interface is a collation of the amount of funding in the Range States used for compensations or subsidy schemes in order to establish an overall amount that has been paid to farmers. Whether the funding is strictly national or whether the country uses EU/RDP funding is also relevant. Whether such information is possible and realistic to receive (and by whom) will be on the agenda in Perth.

5. Draft Workplan 2019/2020

The following actions are planned for 2019/2020, which also may be revised based on the outcomes of the meeting on 17 June 2019 in Perth:

1. Action 1 – Create a Table with Measures for “Best Practice and Benchmarking”

Activity

Discuss and develop a *basis table* listing relevant variables and units, preferably in collaboration with members of the International Modelling Consortium.

Lead

I. Tombre, in collaboration with Agriculture Task Force members (to be “voluntary appointed”) and International Modelling Consortium members.

Time-frame

June 2019 – March 2020

2. Action 2 – Effectiveness of Goose Managing Measures

Activity

A continuation of the already completed report *An Overview of the Management Measures for Geese in Range States of the European Goose Management Platform* (Doc AEWA/EGM/IWG/Inf.4.15), by also including information about the effectiveness of different measures. The level of detail is to be discussed, as well as the agreement of whether this should be incorporated and hence become a “revised report” or whether this shall be a new “Step II – report”.

Lead

I. Tombre in collaboration with Agriculture Task Force members.

Time-frame

June 2019 – March 2020

3. Action 3 – Funding Overview

Activity

Further details to be discussed at the Agriculture Task Force meeting in Perth (see 4.2 above).

Lead

To be clarified.

Time-frame

June 2019 – March 2020

Annex 1**Members of the Agriculture Task Force***Table 1. Membership of Agriculture Task Force as of 30 April 2019*

Country/Organisation	Representative	Affiliation
Belgium	Mr Bram D'hondt	Expert species damage, Agency for Nature and Forests, Flemish Government
	Dr Frank Huysentruyt	Institute for Nature and Forest Research, Flemish Government
Denmark	Ms Camilla Uldal	Danish Environment Protection Agency
	Prof. Anthony Fox	Aarhus University, Department of Bioscience
	Ms Lene Midtgaard	Danish Hunters Association
Germany	Dr Heinz Duettmann	Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Protection of Lower Saxony
Netherlands	Dr Bart Nolet	Netherlands Institute of Ecology, Animal Ecology
	Mr Mark Westebring	The Fauna Fund
Norway	Dr Ingunn Tombre (Coordinator)	Norwegian Institute for Nature Research, Department of Arctic Ecology
Sweden	Dr Johan Månsson	Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences /Wildlife Damage Center
	Ms Lovisa Nilsson	Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences /Wildlife Damage Center
Ukraine	Dr Olesya Petrovych	Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine
	Dr Vasyl Kostyshyn	Institute of Zoology NAS of Ukraine, Department of Monitoring and Conservation of Animals
United Kingdom	Ms Rae McKenzie	Scottish Natural Heritage
BirdLife International	Mr Ariel Brunner	BirdLife Europe/BirdLife International
BirdLife International	Ms Nicole Feige	BirdLife Europe/BirdLife International
Copa Cogeca	Ms Karen Post	Copa Cogeca
FACE	Mr Roderick Enzerink	FACE
FACE	Mr David Scallan	FACE
Wetlands International	Dr Szabolcs Nagy	Wetlands International
EGMP Data Centre	Dr Henning Heldbjerg	EGMP Data Centre
UNEP/AEWA Secretariat	Ms Eva Meyers	UNEP/AEWA Secretariat