

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 OF THE EGMP SECRETARIAT
AND DATA CENTRE (2018/2019)**



REPORT 2018/2019

EGMP SECRETARIAT AND DATA CENTRE



Greylag Geese
(*Anser anser*) in
flight © Naj/Adobe
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The present report covers the work of the AEWA European Goose Management Platform (EGMP) Secretariat and the EGMP Data Centre for the period between June 2018 and May 2019.

This report is divided into 11 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. AEWA International Single Species Action and Management Plans;
7. National Reporting;
8. EGMP Data Centre;
9. EGMP Task Forces;
10. Projects;
11. Communication and Outreach.

Activities reported in detail in other EGM IWG4 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, responding to incoming mail, maintaining the extensive network of contacts, etc. is not specifically mentioned in this report.



EGMP ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE



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

Photo on previous
page: Barnacle
Geese (*Branta
leucopsis*)
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photography.com)

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 Commission is also a member of the EGM IWG. Several relevant organisations have received permanent observer status to the EGM IWG and individual experts are invited to meetings as necessary.

The Chairmanship has been assumed by Denmark (represented by Ms Camilla Uldal) since June 2018 and the term of office expires at the close of EGM IWG5.

Two EGMP species-specific task forces have been established to support the implementation of the AEWA International Species Management Plan for the Svalbard population of the Pink-footed Goose and the AEWA International Single Species Action Plan for the Taiga Bean Goose. In addition, a Task Force to deal with agricultural issues has been convened. The role of these task forces is to deal as necessary with the preparation and coordination of decision papers and background documents for the EGM IWG.

The EGMP Data Centre is responsible for providing the necessary scientific analysis, assessments and subsequent proposals

for conservation and management options for EGMP related issues. The UNEP/AEWA Secretariat and Aarhus University in Denmark have signed a Memorandum of Cooperation under which Aarhus University hosts the Data Centre for the EGMP.

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.

The UNEP/AEWA Secretariat, based in Bonn, Germany, is also functioning as the EGMP Secretariat responsible for the coordination and facilitation of the EGMP, including its respective bodies (EGM IWG and the EGMP Data Centre).



Pink-footed
Geese (*Anser
brachyrhynchus*)
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Kjeldsen



Figure 1. Organisational Structure of the European Goose Management Platform



STAFFING AND ORGANISATION OF THE EGMP SECRETARIAT AND DATA CENTRE

AEWA EGMP SECRETARIAT

Sergey Dereliev
*Head of Science, Implementation
and Compliance Unit*



**AEWA EGMP
SECRETARIAT**



Eva Meyers
Coordinator of the EGMP



Christina Irven
*Programme Management
Assistant for the EGMP*

Figure 2. AEWa EGMP Secretariat Staff Composition

AEWA EGMP Secretariat

A considerable part of Mr Dereliev's staff time, covered by the AEWa core budget, is allocated to oversee the EGMP process and to supervise the day-to-day work of the EGMP team.

Ms Meyers was recruited as full-time P-2 Associate Programme Management Officer in July 2017 and serves as the Coordinator of the EGMP. This post is fully funded through the voluntary contributions provided by the EGMP Range States.

As of November 2017, the position of the full-time G-5 Programme Management Assistant has been filled by Ms Irven. Similarly, this post is fully funded through the voluntary contributions provided by the EGMP Range States.

Both the EGMP Coordinator and the Assistant have an annual workplan which is revised mid-term and approved by the Head of Science, Implementation and Compliance Unit.

EGMP Data Centre

Professor Madsen from the Department of Bioscience at Aarhus University, Denmark, acts as the head of the EGMP Data Centre. This post is partially funded through the voluntary contributions provided by the EGMP Range States.

As of 1 February 2019, Dr Gitte Høj Jensen has been replaced by Dr Heldbjerg. Dr Jensen left the EGMP Data Centre for a job opportunity outside of Aarhus University.

This full-time post is fully funded through the contributions provided by the EGMP Range States for the platform's running costs.

To support model developments, as well as the development of adaptive management frameworks, Aarhus University has made a technical agreement with the US Geological Survey (USGS) and Dr Fred A. Johnson from USGS has been affiliated as honorary Associate Professor to Aarhus University.

Photo on left page:
Greylag Goose
(*Anser anser*)
© Szabolcs Nagy



Barnacle Geese
(*Branta leucopsis*)
© Sergey Dereliev,
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Professor Dr Anthony D. Fox, Dr Kevin Kuhlmann Clausen and Dr Morten Frederiksen, Aarhus University, contribute to annual assessments and modelling work.

The possibility to maintain these posts is dependent on the provision of annual voluntary contributions by the participating Range States of the EGMP covering the full necessary annual budget.

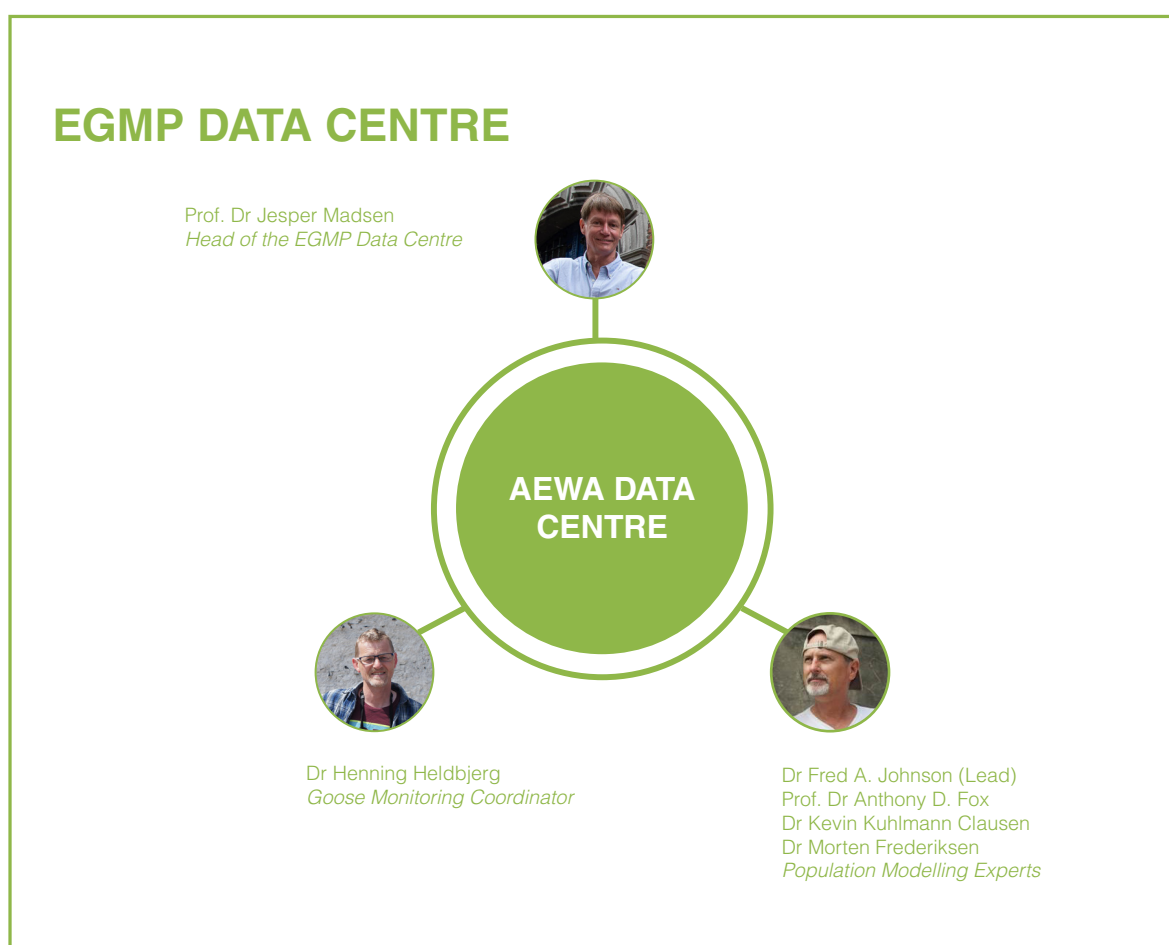


Figure 3. EGMP Data Centre Staff Composition



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

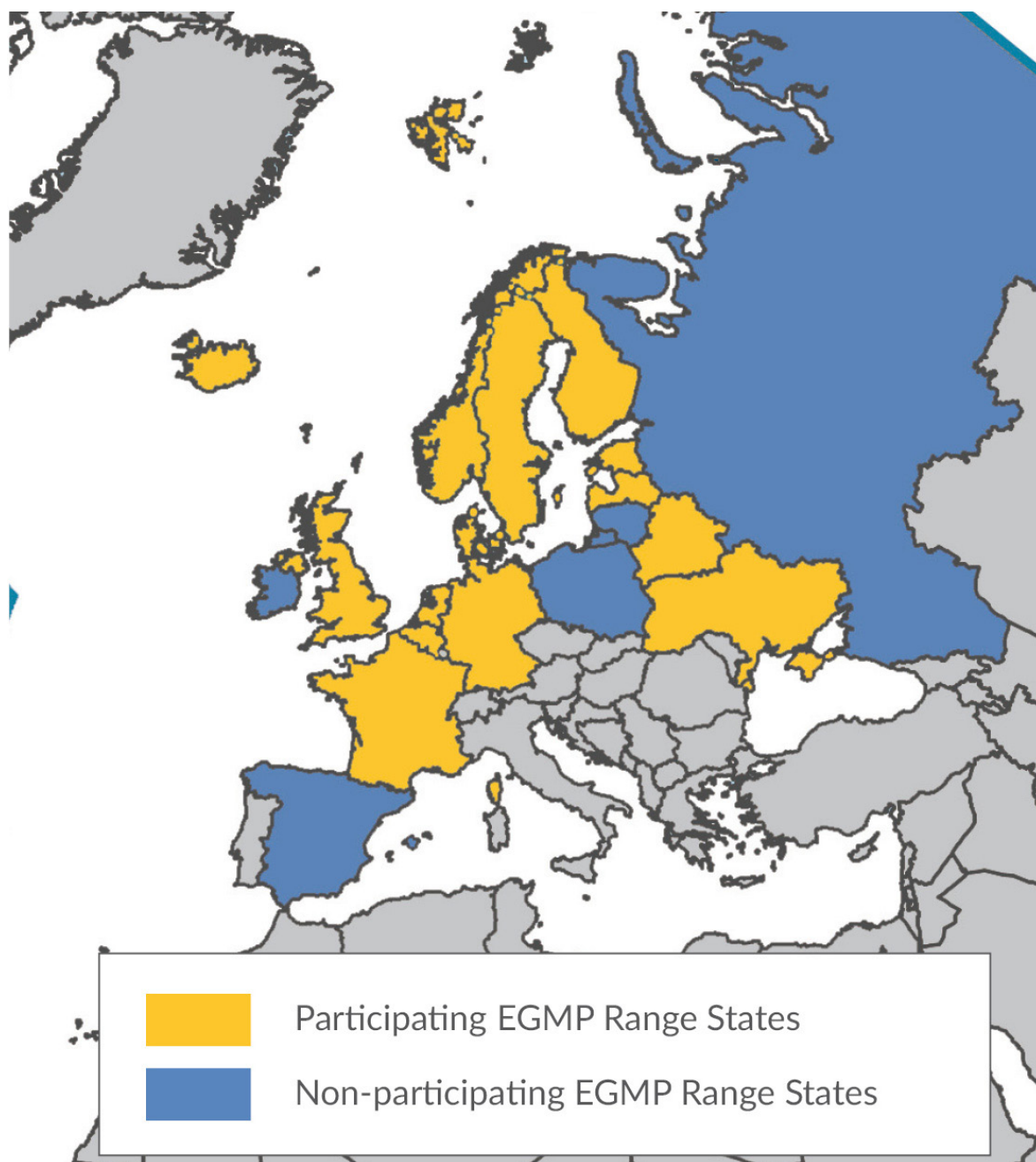


Figure 4. Map of the EGMP participating and non-participating Range States

Photo on previous page: Barnacle Geese (*Branta leucopsis*) © oOorichard/Adobe Stock Photos

Participating Range States of the EGMP

The EGMP has 15 participating Range States (see Figure 4), 14 national governments and the European Commission: Belarus, Belgium, Denmark, Estonia, EU, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Latvia, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Ukraine and United Kingdom.

Spain, Ireland, Lithuania, Poland and Russia remain non-participating Range States.

Funding

The AEWa Secretariat would like to express its appreciation for the financial support received towards the implementation of the EGMP. A detailed financial report outlining budget, funding and expenses is provided as document AEWa/EGMIWG/4.19.

A proposed budget for 2020 and a costed Programme of Work for 2020 is presented in document AEWa/EGMIWG/4.20 and are to be considered at the EGM IWG4.



**MEETINGS AND
WORKSHOPS**



3rd Meeting of the
AEWA European
Goose Management
International
Working Group
(EGM IWG3)
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Photo on previous
page: Pink-footed
Goose (*Anser
brachyrhynchus*)
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Meetings and Workshops

Online meetings of the EGMP Task Forces

The meetings of the three EGMP Task Forces, Pink-footed Goose and Taiga Bean Goose Task Force and Agriculture Task Forces were held online (via GoTo Meeting) with the Task Force Coordinators and members, together with the EGMP Secretariat and Data Centre.

- PfG TF (Coordinator: Jesper Madsen): 15 March 2019
- TBG TF (Coordinator: Mikko Alhainen): 5 September 2018, 28 January 2019, 25 March 2019, 6 May 2019 and Western Management Unit meeting 11 March 2019
- Agri TF (Coordinator: Ingunn Tombre): 3 April 2019

Internal Workshop for the development of Adaptive Flyway Management Programmes (AFMPs) for the Barnacle Goose and the NW/SW European Population of the Greylag Goose

The EGMP Secretariat and the Data Centre organised an internal one-day workshop in Kalø, Denmark on 20 March 2019, back-to-back with the International Modelling Consortium meeting in order to plan the development of the AFMPs outlined in the Barnacle Goose and Greylag Goose International Single Species Management Plans (ISSMPs).

International Modelling Consortium meeting

The second meeting of the International Modelling Consortium took place in Kalø, Denmark on 21-22 March 2019.

2nd face-to-face meeting of the EGMP Task Forces

The 2nd face-to-face meeting of the three EGMP Task Forces (PfG TF, TBG TF and Agri TF) will take place on 17 June 2019 in Perth, Scotland, the UK, at the kind invitation of Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH).

4th Meeting of the AEWA European Goose Management International Working Group (EGM IWG4)

The EGM IWG4 will take place on 18-20 June 2019 in Perth, Scotland, UK, at the kind invitation of Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH).

The implementation of the International Single Species Management Plan (ISSMP) for the Svalbard population of the Pink-footed Goose (*Anser brachyrhynchus*) and the International Single Species Action Plan (ISSAP) for the Taiga Bean Goose (*Anser fabalis fabalis*) is underway, with adaptive management plans in place, as decided at the EGM IWG3 in Leeuwarden, the Netherlands, on 20-21 June 2018.



AEWA INTERNATIONAL SINGLE SPECIES ACTION AND MANAGEMENT PLANS



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

Photo on previous
page: Greylag
Geese (*Anser anser*)
© Magnus Elander

Photo below: EGM
IWG © Provincie
Fryslân

More information about the work that has been undertaken by the EGMP Task Forces is provided below and in the following meeting documents:

- Pink-footed Goose Task Force:
AEWA/EGMIWG/4.8
- Taiga Bean Goose Task Force:
AEWA/EGMIWG/4.11
- Agriculture Task Force:
AEWA/EGMIWG/4.18

Greylag Goose (NW/SW European population) were formally adopted and have since then been incorporated under the framework of the EGMP.

The ISSMPs provide a mandate for developing population-specific Adaptive Flyway Management Programmes (AFMPs) for the Barnacle and the Greylag Geese. These AFMPs shall be formally adopted by the EGM IWG and then reviewed periodically.

At the 7th Session of the Meeting of the Parties to AEWA (MOP7), which took place on 4-8 December 2018 in Durban, South Africa, ISSMPs for the Barnacle Goose and for the

A process for the development of the AFMPs is proposed in documents AEWA/EGMIWG/4.12 for the Greylag Goose and AEWA/EGMIWG/4.13 for the Barnacle Goose.





NATIONAL REPORTING



Greylag Geese
(*Anser anser*)
© Peter Ralph/
Adobe Stock
Photos

Photo on previous
page: Participant
meeting badges
© Provincie Fryslân

National Reporting

The 2019 online reporting cycle was launched on 8 March 2019 and closed on 18 April 2018. 12 of 14 countries have submitted an EGMP National Report for 2019. Belarus was excluded from this reporting cycle, since no National Government Representative was designated to represent the country in the EGMP. The summary of the National Reports 2019 is provided in document AEWA/EGMIWG/4.5. The 2018 reporting format was slightly revised by the EGMP Secretariat and Data Centre in consultation with the Range States before launching the 2019 cycle with the new approved template.



**EGMP DATA CENTRE/
EGMP TASK FORCES**

Photo on previous page: Barnacle Geese (*Branta leucopsis*) © Magnus Elander

Photo below: Taiga Bean Task Force © UNEP/AEWA Secretariat

EGMP Data Centre

In Spring 2018, the Data Centre produced annual monitoring and harvest assessment reports for the Pink-footed Goose and Taiga Bean Goose, presented at the 3rd meeting of the EGM IWG in June 2018.

Moreover, throughout the entire reporting period, the Data Centre contributed to the work of the Pink-footed Goose, Taiga Bean Goose and Agricultural Task Forces.

In autumn 2018, the Data Centre has worked on the development of an Integrated Population Model (IPM) for the Pink-footed Goose, to be used for the annual assessment work as of spring 2019.

Finally, a proposal for the development of an IPM for the Central Management Unit of the Taiga Bean Goose was prepared by the Data Centre and circulated to the EGM IWG for consideration.

In addition to the routine activities of the Data Centre, the head of the Data Centre, Prof Madsen, participated and/or gave presentations at the following meetings:

- 7th Session of the Meeting of the Parties to AEWA (MOP7), Durban, South Africa (4-8 December 2018);
- 18th meeting of the Goose Ecology Specialists Group of the DDA, Duisburg, Germany (22-24 February 2019): Ms Eva Meyers and Mr Jesper Madsen represented the EGMP.

The former Goose Monitoring Coordinator (Gitte Høj Jensen) participated in the following meetings:

- African-Eurasian Waterbird Monitoring Partnership meeting, the Netherlands (19-20 September 2018);
- Taiga Bean Goose Task Force – Central Management Unit Subgroup meeting, Stockholm, Sweden (28 November 2018).

EGMP Task Forces

The EGMP Secretariat and the Data Centre have continuously supported the meeting organisation and document production of the three EGMP Task

Forces (Agriculture Task Force, Taiga Bean Goose Task Force and Pink-footed Goose Task Force).

The Task Forces are coordinated as follows:

- Agriculture Task Force: Dr Ingunn Tombre (Norway)
- Taiga Bean Goose Task Force: Mr Mikko Alhainen (Finland)
- Pink-footed Goose Task Force: Prof Jesper Madsen (Denmark)

Detailed reports on the activities and outputs of the EGMP Task Forces are provided in documents AEWA/EGMIWG/4.8, AEWA/EGMIWG/4.11 and AEWA/EGMIWG/4.18.



A scientific manuscript describing the model structure has been submitted for publication in a scientific journal in April 2019.

Furthermore, the Data Centre has been involved in the production and finalisation of the ISSMPs for the NW/SW European population of the Greylag Goose and for the Barnacle Goose.

As part of the routine tasks, the Data Centre organised a workshop of the International Modelling Consortium in Kalø, Denmark on 21-22 March 2019.



PROJECTS



Pink-footed
Geese (*Anser
brachyrhynchus*)
© Hans Glader

Photo on previous
page: Taiga Bean
Geese (*Anser fabalis
fabalis*) © Magnus
Elander

Projects

A project on the development of an Integrated Population Model (IPM) for the Taiga Bean Goose has been circulated to the EGM IWG for consideration. The purpose of this project is to develop an IPM for the Central Management Unit (MU) and to assess its utility for managing recreational harvests. Finland has expressed an interest in funding this project. The project will be launched as soon as the funding is received.

In addition, a new project proposal for improving monitoring for Taiga Bean Geese in the Eastern1&2 MUs was circulated to the Range States in May 2019. The purpose of this project is to increase understanding of migratory patterns and to develop the monitoring capacity of Taiga Bean Geese (*Anser fabalis fabalis*) in the Eastern 1&2 MUs to provide data for further development of a monitoring framework for assessing the population status of the Eastern 1&2 MUs.

If funding allows, a Multi-criteria Decision Analysis (MCDA) for the Greylag Goose will be undertaken by the Data Centre, as part of the development of the AFMP for the Greylag Goose.



COMMUNICATION AND OUTREACH



Photo on previous page: Barnacle Geese (*Branta leucopsis*)
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EGMP Website

In the absence of a communication strategy, the Secretariat together with the joint CMS/AEWA Information Management, Communication and Awareness Unit (IMCA) has worked on the further development of the EGMP website (<https://egmp.aewa.info/>) producing and adding content and updating information accordingly. Since June 2018, six articles were published on the website. More news articles are planned with the input of the EGMP Task Forces and individual experts. Moreover, a section called “resources” was created to compile relevant scientific literature providing a space for information sharing.

EGMP Workspace

Within the EGMP website, specific workspaces have been created for:

- Members of the EGM IWG
- Taiga Bean Goose Task Force
- Pink-footed Goose Task Force
- Agriculture Task Force
- International Modelling Consortium

The workspace serves as a communication platform for each of the groups and is password protected. Individuals have personalised access to the groups of which they are members. The space allows for direct, topic-specific discussions, exchange of documents

and links, as well as information on topics by subscription to a relevant topic.

The workspaces will be presented to the EGMP Task Forces at their 2nd face-to-face meeting on 17 June 2019, in Perth, Scotland.

Following the EGM IWG4, all members will receive their login details and the workspaces will be officially launched.

Social Media

Since March 2019, the EGMP also has a presence on social media (Facebook, Twitter and Instagram) and followers are growing.

The platforms are further tools for knowledge and information exchange, enhancing the possibilities to communicate issues relevant to the EGMP to external stakeholders, the wider community and the public.


Due to limited capacity within the Secretariat and in the absence of a communication strategy, the social media activities have been kept at a minimum.

Cover Photo: Taiga Bean Goose (*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://twitter.com/AEWA_EGMP

 https://www.instagram.com/aewa_egmp/

