

**AEWA EUROPEAN GOOSE MANAGEMENT PLATFORM**



**5<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE  
AEWA EUROPEAN GOOSE MANAGEMENT  
INTERNATIONAL WORKING GROUP**

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**PROCESS AND NEXT STEPS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF  
THE ADAPTIVE FLYWAY MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME FOR THE  
NORTHWEST/SOUTHWEST EUROPEAN POPULATION OF THE GREYLAG GOOSE**

## **Background**

The International Single Species Management Plan (ISSMP) for the Northwest/Southwest European population of the Greylag Goose (*Anser anser*) was developed according to Paragraph 4.3.4 of the AEWA Action Plan, which provides for developing ISSMPs for populations which cause significant damage, in particular, to crops and fisheries. In addition, it responds to AEWA Resolution 6.4, which requested the establishment of a multi-species goose management platform and process to address the sustainable use of goose populations and to provide for the resolution of human-goose conflicts, targeting as a matter of priority Barnacle and Greylag Geese.

The ISSMP for the Northwest/Southwest European population of the Greylag Goose was adopted at the 7<sup>th</sup> Session of the Meeting of the Parties to AEWA (MOP7), 4-8 December 2018 in Durban, South Africa, following various stakeholder workshops and extensive consultation with the Range States and relevant stakeholders.

The ISSMP provides a mandate for developing a population-specific Adaptive Flyway Management Programmes (AFMPs), recognising that there are regional differences in migratory behaviour and the human-wildlife conflicts involved within this population. Figure 1 provides an overview how the AFMP is linked to mandates provided by the ISSMP and ultimately by the AEWA Action Plan.

A process for the development of the Greylag Goose AFMP was formally adopted by the European Goose Management International Working Group (EGM IWG) at the EGM IWG4 in June 2019 in Perth, UK (document AEWA/EGMIWG/4.12/Rev.1) and a first draft of the AFMP is submitted to the EGM IWG5 as document AEWA/EGMIWG/5.14.

This document aims to provide an overview and roadmap for the finalization and implementation of the AFMP for the Northwest/Southwest European population of the Greylag Goose in the next 6 years until 2026.

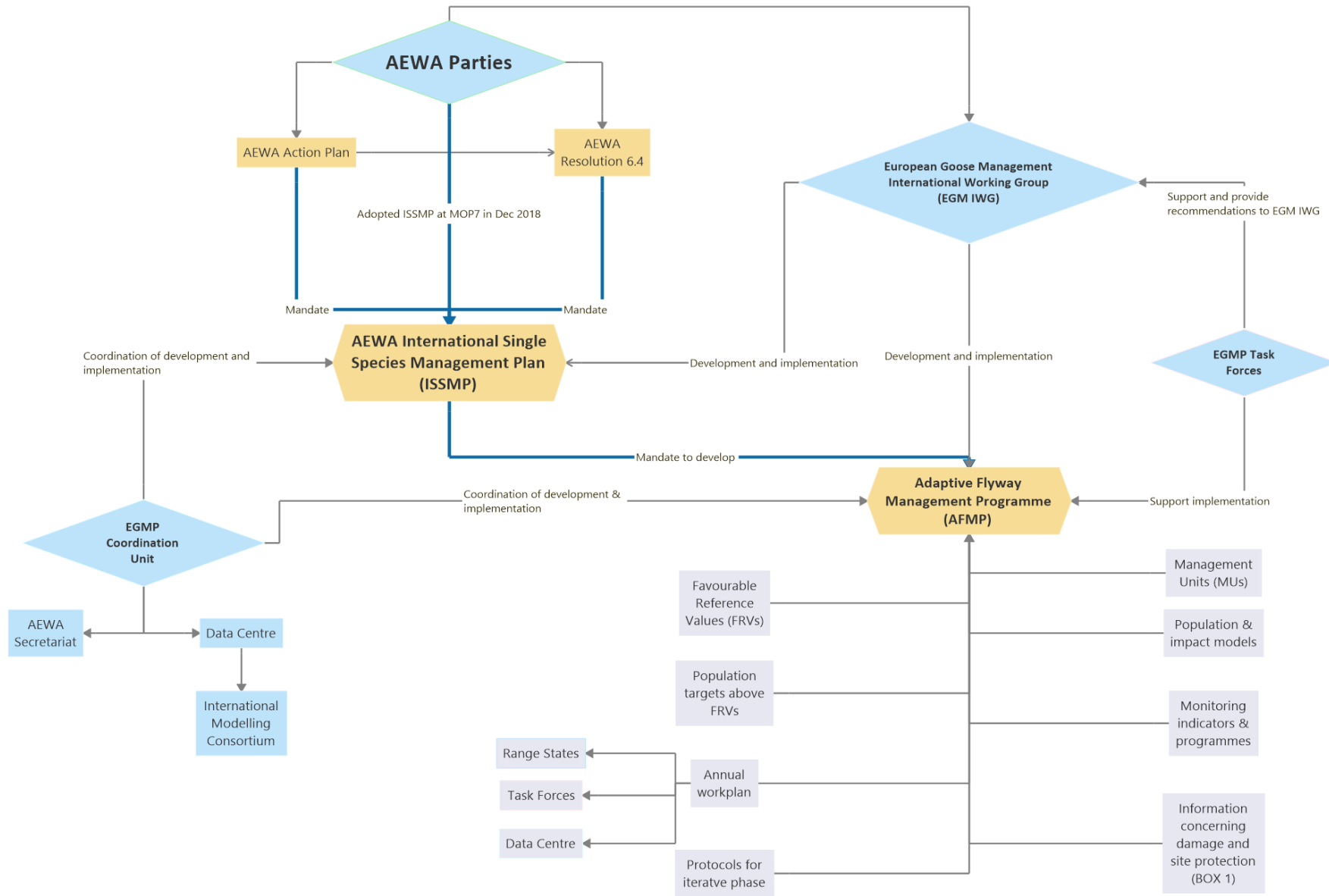


Figure 1. Link between Adaptive Flyway Management Programme (AFMP) and mandates by the AEWA International Single Species Management Plan (ISSMP) and the AEWA Action Plan

## **Next Steps and Timeline**

The finalization and implementation of the AFMP requires a number of steps that are highly dependent on the timely availability of funding and human resources, to provide for a transparent management process informed by robust science.

Following the approval of the structure of the AFMP at EGM IWG4 in 2019, the development of the main body and its Annexes was initiated. At EGM IWG5, a first draft AFMP is submitted to the EGM IWG for approval (document AEWA/EGMIWG/5.14), pending the sections that are still under development until EGM IWG6 in June 2021 (see Table 1 below).

The timeline shown in Table 2 provides an overview of the envisaged process starting from the EGM IWG4 in June 2019 up until 2026, in which various elements of the AFMP can realistically be developed and delivered subject to the availability of resources.

The specific steps and the requirements at each state are described in detail in the AFMP itself (document AEWA/EGMIWG/5.14). Moreover, the detailed data needs for the dynamic management of the population are outlined in Chapters 4 and 5, as well as Annex 5 of the AFMP for the Greylag Goose (document AEWA/EGMIWG/5.14).

It is key to recognise that the population cannot be managed appropriately, let alone at the MU-level, based on the results of the Info-Gap analysis and this approach should be used only temporarily for a short period of time (it will be ceased in 2023) while securing the preconditions for the transition to dynamic management. The steps required for this transition to dynamic management at MU-level as of 2023 are highlighted in “red” in Table 2. A crucial element of the MU-level management is the availability of annual estimates of the national breeding numbers. Two alternative methods are proposed in Chapter 5 of the AFMP. In Table 2 of this document, Option A is marked with “green” background and Option B with “blue” one.

**Table 1.** Overview of the AFMP sections remaining to be developed, including timeline, lead and resources required (and secured).

<b>AFMP sections under development</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Lead</b>	<b>Resources required</b>
Compilation and updating of the AFMP	June 2020 (First Draft)	EGMP Consultant	Costs covered by core budget of the EGMP Secretariat
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update FRR for the breeding season using the Range Method</li> <li>• Set FRR for the non-breeding season using the Range Method</li> <li>• Provide assessment of extent and quality of habitat</li> <li>• Provide FRP for the breeding season</li> </ul>	31 December 2020	Range States who have not provided this information yet	n/a
Annex 1: Annual workplans	By 15 June 2020  By 30 September 2020	EGMP Data Centre  Range States  GG Task Force  Agriculture Task Force	n/a
Annex 2: Box 1	By May 2021	EGMP Data Centre	EUR 43,392 provided by Germany (for Barnacle Goose and Greylag Goose)
Annex 4: Population models	By May 2023	EGMP Data Centre	Not estimated yet
Annex 5: Impact models	By May 2022  (but pending funding)	EGMP Data Centre	EUR 150,000 (shared between Greylag Goose and Barnacle Goose over 2 years)

**Table 2.** Overview of the next steps and timeline for the finalization and the implementation of the AFMP. The steps required for the transition to dynamic management at MU-level as of 2023 are highlighted in “red”. A crucial element of the MU-level management is the availability of annual estimates of the national breeding numbers. Two alternative methods are proposed in Chapter 5 of the AFMP. In this table Option A is highlighted with a "green" background and Option B with “blue” one.

Process	EGM IWG4 June 2019	EGM IWG5 June 2020	EGM IWG6 June 2021	EGM IWG7 June 2022	EGM IWG8 June 2023	EGM IWG9 June 2024	EGM IWG10 June 2025	EGM IWG11 June 2026
<b>AFMP development</b>	AFMP process agreed	1 <sup>st</sup> Draft AFMP ready for adoption	Review and adopt complete AFMP, including missing sections					Evaluation and revision AFMP
	MUs agreed	FRVs agreed	FRVs finalised					
		Population targets agreed						
		Info-Gap-based decision making at population level (management criterion and change of harvest rate agreed)			<b>End of Info-Gap-based decision making &amp; start of model-based decision making at MU level</b>			
				Pilot impact model developed for one country	Impact model expanded to 2+ countries			
<b>AFMP implementation</b>		Annual workplans developed	Review annual workplans	Review annual workplans	Review annual workplans	Review annual workplans	Review annual workplans	Review annual workplans
<b>Indicators</b>		Collection of data for indicators starts	Collection of data for indicators	Collection of data for indicators	Collection of data for indicators	Collection of data for indicators	Collection of data for indicators	Collection of data for indicators
			Baseline for indicator IV.1 reported				Reporting on all indicators	

Process and Next Steps for the Development and Implementation of the AFMP for the NW/SW European Population of the Greylag Goose

Process	EGM IWG4 June 2019	EGM IWG5 June 2020	EGM IWG6 June 2021	EGM IWG7 June 2022	EGM IWG8 June 2023	EGM IWG9 June 2024	EGM IWG10 June 2025	EGM IWG11 June 2026
Harvest management				Evaluation of bias in offtake completed				
				Systematic monitoring in place				
			Harvest assessment at population level	Harvest assessment at population level	Harvest assessment at MU level	Harvest assessment at MU level	Harvest assessment at MU level	Harvest assessment at MU level
		Mid-winter counts	Mid-winter counts	Mid-winter counts	Mid-winter counts	Mid-winter counts	Mid-winter counts	Mid-winter counts
		July counts	July counts	July counts	July counts	July counts	July counts	July counts
		Common Bird Monitoring	Common Bird Monitoring	Common Bird Monitoring	Common Bird Monitoring	Common Bird Monitoring	Common Bird Monitoring	Common Bird Monitoring
			Breeding population survey			Breeding population survey		
		Collection of offtake data	Collection of offtake data	Collection of offtake data	Collection of offtake data	Collection of offtake data	Collection of offtake data	Collection of offtake data
		Crippling rate monitoring	Crippling rate monitoring	Crippling rate monitoring	Crippling rate monitoring	Crippling rate monitoring	Crippling rate monitoring	Crippling rate monitoring

### **Action requested from the EGM IWG**

- Agree on the indicative timeline and process for the further development and implementation of the AFMP and the steps that are involved;
- Take note of the resources that are required for implementing the process.