

AEWA EUROPEAN GOOSE MANAGEMENT PLATFORM



**5th MEETING OF THE
AEWA EUROPEAN GOOSE MANAGEMENT
INTERNATIONAL WORKING GROUP**



15-18 June 2020, Online conference format

**REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE EGMP AGRICULTURE TASK FORCE
AND DRAFT WORKPLAN FOR 2020/2021**

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with contributions from members of the Agriculture Task Force*



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Introduction

The role of the Agriculture Task Force is to assist the EGM IWG, other Task Forces, and processes in the European Goose Management Platform (EGMP). In this document, an overview of activities since the previous face-to-face meeting in Perth, Scotland, the United Kingdom (17th June 2019) is given. A draft workplan for 2020/2021 is also presented, pending the incorporation of the outcomes of 5th Meeting of the EGM IWG (EGM IWG5 15-18 June 2020).

1. Status of the Task Force Membership

At present, the Agriculture Task Force consists of 23 members. Members are representing nine Range States, three observer organisations, the Data Centre and the AEWA Secretariat (see Annex 1).

Since the previous face-to-face meeting in 2019, there has been a change of the representatives of FACE and Copa and Cogeca. Iceland designated one member in 2019, meaning that this Range State is also represented in the Task Force. Moreover, the Task Force now also has a representative from the Wadden Sea Forum.

2. Meetings

The second face-to-face meeting of the Agriculture Task Force was held in Perth, Scotland, the United Kingdom, on 17 June 2019. One online meeting was held on 17 February 2020 to prepare for the EGM IWG5 in June 2020. There have also been regular communication and information exchanges between various Task Force members on email and via online communication platforms.

3. Report of key activities and outcomes

Several activities have been carried out in 2019/2020 based on actions in the agreed Workplan for 2019/2020.

Action 1

Collaboration with the Modelling Consortium

The Coordinator represented the Agriculture Task Force in a Modelling Consortium Workshop on 19 March 2020. The workshop was organised as an online meeting and gave opportunities to communicate activities going on in the Task Force. More collaboration on specific activities is expected in 2020/2021.

In the ISSMPs for the Greylag Goose and for the Barnacle Goose there are several cross-cutting actions with tasks that relate to agriculture. Hence, the Agriculture Task Force may contribute to some of these activities. There are seven Process Objectives in these plans that are relevant for the Agriculture Task Force (numbers referring to the specific tasks in the ISSMPs):

3.2 Establish an internationally coordinated programme to assess agricultural damage including monitoring and assessment protocol

A.3 Maintain a spatially explicit database on goose damage to agriculture, other fauna and flora and fauna and risk to air safety

A.5 Analyse the impact of various agricultural policy scenarios and measures (Nitrate Directive, agri-environmental measures, various production incentives including biofuels) on goose populations and on goose damage

B.1 Produce best practice guide on establishing refuge areas (size, management, subsidies)

B.2 Provide guidance on conflict resolution and how to make this consistent with the European legal framework, including the Common Agricultural Policy

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).

B.5 Share experience concerning methods to prevent damage to agriculture and risks to air safety as well as to other flora and fauna.

These tasks have been discussed and assessed within the Task Force. The issues considering goose damage to other fauna and flora, as well as risk to air safety, belongs, as the Task Force sees it, to other activities in EGMP. In general, the main challenge is the lack-of funding. There are, however, several aspects in these objectives being relevant for a specific research project with external funding, and relevant calls in potential Research Councils will be investigated.

The most obvious, and presumably the most realistic activity in terms of funding, may be to organise a workshop with relevant participants that share knowledge and discuss further actions and recommendations. Social scientists should also be invited in order to contribute to the themes on conflict resolutions etc.

Action 2

Create an overview of ongoing relevant projects/activities

Based on the discussions and knowledge exchange at the previous face-to-face meetings, the Task Force agreed that compiling an overview of ongoing projects/activities at the interface geese/agriculture will be valuable. In the EGMP processes, data needs across Range States and goose species are significant and available. However, relevant knowledge is not necessarily published in international peer-reviewed journals. The value of information is high, however, even if it is published in national technical reports or in other documents, the information is often not easily accessible. Therefore, a process of collecting relevant information in a common database started in 2020. The data is currently presented in an Excel file that will be available on the EGMP website under the resources section. The file is a “living document” where the Coordinator will be responsible of adding new projects/activities as they appear (Task Force members will regularly report new activities).

At present, the file consists of 37 different projects/activities with 64 associated technical reports or scientific papers with links to online versions. The projects/activities are from nine different countries (Belgium: 4, Denmark: 4, Finland: 1, Germany: 4, Iceland: 3, The Netherlands: 5, Norway: 8, Sweden: 7, UK: 1). From each project/activity the following information is presented:

- Range State
- Project ID
- Project name
- Region/Location
- Goose species
- Crop Types
- Time of year
- What is measured?
 - Goose related
 - Agriculture related
- Data availability (paper, report, language)
- Contact person (for contact if more details are needed, for using the data, etc.)

- Other relevant information (finished project, ongoing, in the planning, etc.)

In the file there is also a second sheet, where references and links to online versions to the associated technical reports or scientific papers are listed, associated with each Project ID.

The file is available for all, and by using the regular search-procedures in Excel the information searched for can be found.

Action 3

Evaluate and create an overview of the available cost assessment of goose management in Range States

This action was pointed out at the face-to-face meeting in 2019. An overview may indicate the size of the goose challenges and will demonstrate and justify actions of derogation, provide an understanding of goose management and the priorities, as well as being a source of inspiration. The person who suggested this, however, is no longer a Task Force member. Hence, the progress of this action has been slow. However, during the previous online meeting, the Task Force agreed that this is an activity to take over to the next period (2020/2021). Box 1 in the ISSMPs may also already have some of this information reported by the Range States. A “sub-group” of the Task Force will continue the work of this task.

4. Draft Workplan 2020/2021

The actions to be included in the workplan for 2020/2021 will be discussed and decided at the next Agriculture Task Force meeting which will be scheduled to take place following EGM IWG5.

At present, the following activities are on the list:

- Discuss and decide further contribution to the objectives in the ISSMPs for the Barnacle Goose and for the Greylag Goose.
- Current status of the overview of relevant projects/activities; more to add? Also include relevant activities on related species, e.g. cranes, swans?
- How to continue the work on cost assessments, what’s available information? (Box 1, Range States annual reports)
- Is it possible to arrange a workshop with relevant participants that share knowledge and discuss further actions and recommendations? How to proceed? Responsibilities?
- Any other matters?

Annex 1. Members of the Agriculture Task Force as of 15 May 2020

Table 1. Membership of Agriculture Task Force as of 15 May 2020

Country/Organisation	Representative	Affiliation
Belgium	Mr Bram D'hondt	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
Germany	Ms Lene Midtgaard	Danish Hunters Association
	Dr Heinz Duettmann	Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Protection of Lower Saxony
Iceland	Bjarni Jónasson	Environment Agency of Iceland
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 Kostyushyn	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
Copa Cogeca	Mr Klaus Borde	Copa Cogeca
FACE	Mr Cy Griffin	FACE
FACE	Mr David Scallan	FACE
Wadden Sea Forum	Mr Manfred Vollmer	Wadden Sea Forum Secretariat
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