



REPORT 2019/2020

EGMP SECRETARIAT AND DATA CENTRE



Barnacle Geese
(*Branta leucopsis*)
© Sergey Dereliev,
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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 2019 and May 2020.

This report is divided into 10 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. National Reporting;
7. EGMP Data Centre;
8. EGMP Task Forces;
9. Projects;
10. Communication and Outreach.

Activities reported in detail in other EGM IWG5 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. are not specifically mentioned in this report.

EGMP ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE



Greylag Goose
(*Anser anser*) © Dr.
Georg Wietschorke,
pixabay.com

Photo on previous
page: Taiga Bean
Geese (*Anser fabalis
fabalis*) © Markus
Varesvuo

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 international 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, respectively. 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,

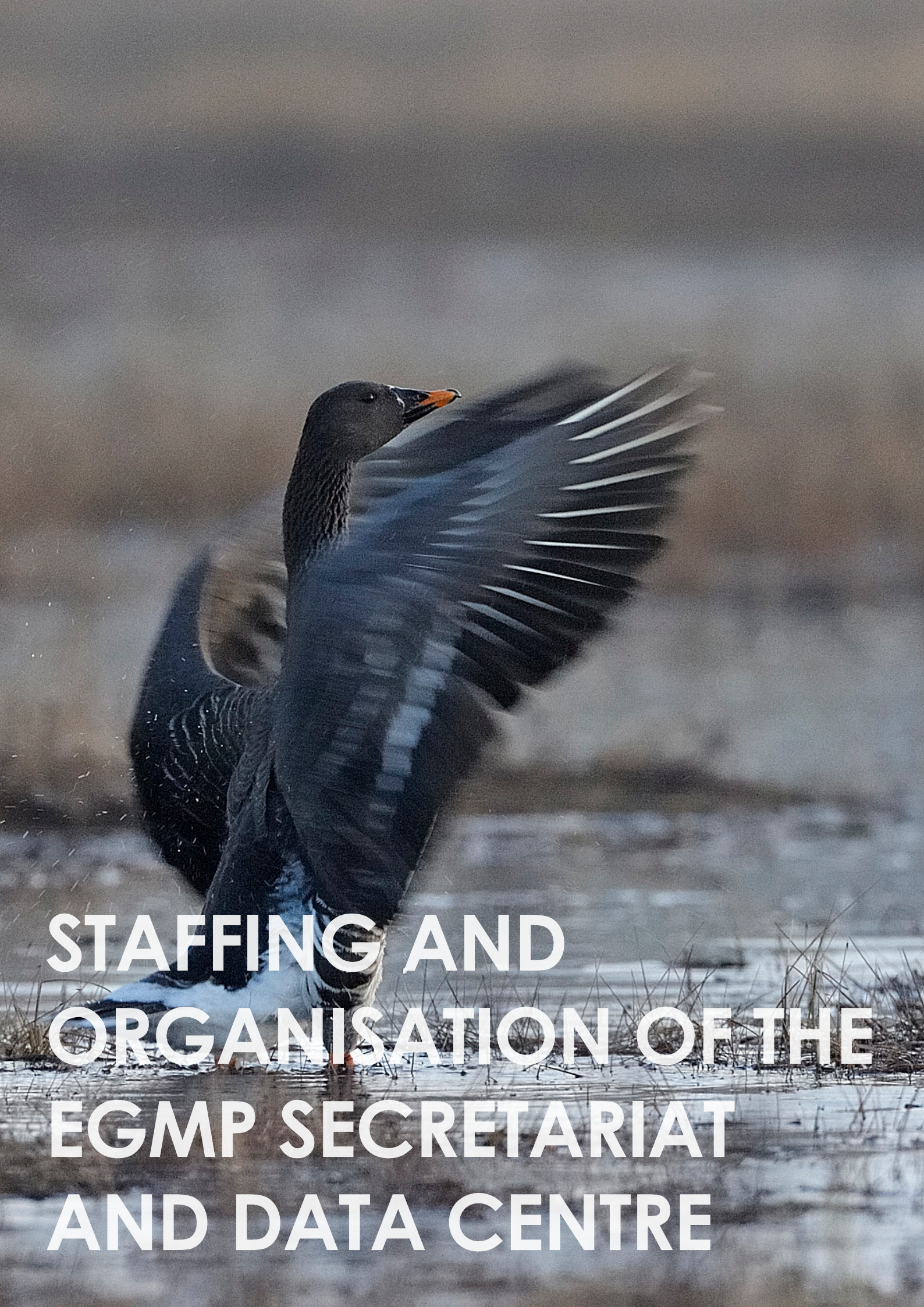
assessments and subsequent proposals for conservation and management options for EGMP related issues. The UNEP/AEWA Secretariat and Aarhus University in Denmark have signed a Memorandum of Cooperation under which Aarhus University hosts the Data Centre for the EGMP.

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).



Taiga Bean Goose
(*Anser fabalis fabalis*)
© Jari Peltomäki



STAFFING AND ORGANISATION OF THE EGMP SECRETARIAT AND DATA CENTRE

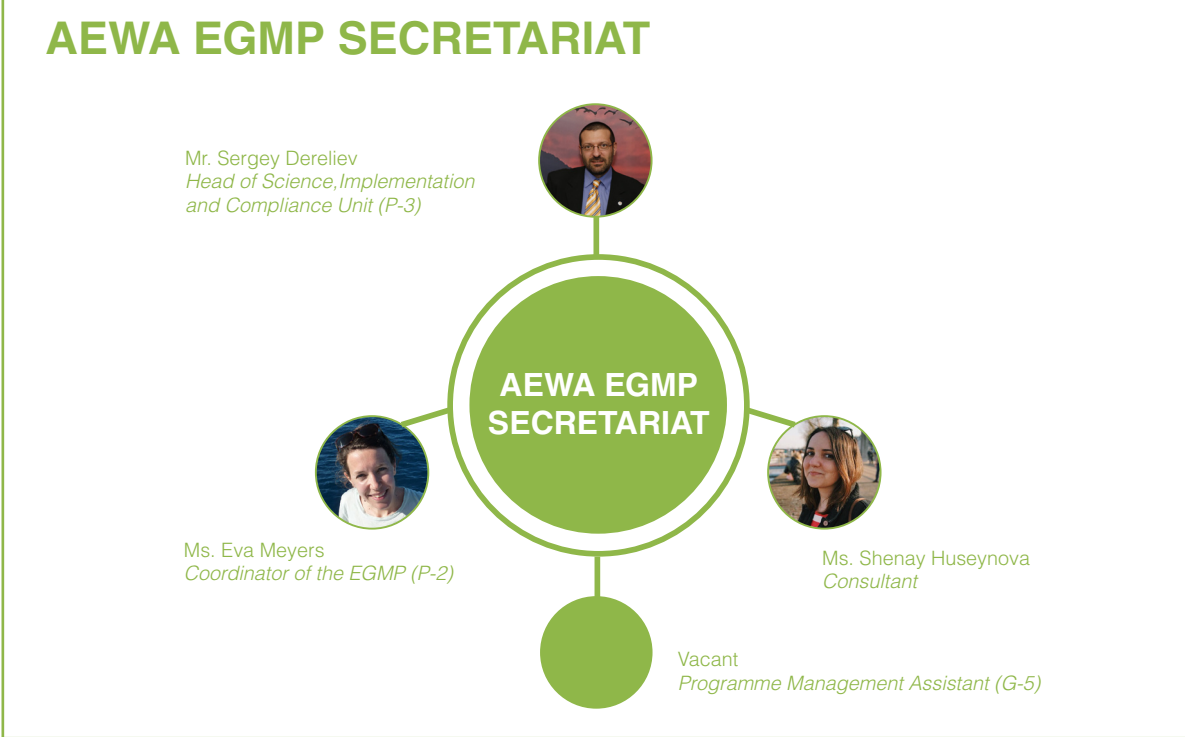


Figure 2. AEWA EGMP Secretariat Staff Composition

AEWA EGMP Secretariat

Head of Science, Implementation and Compliance Unit (P-3) - Mr Sergey Dereliev
 Part of Mr Dereliev’s staff time, covered in-kind by the AEWA core budget, is allocated to oversee the EGMP process and to supervise the day-to-day work of the EGMP team.

EGMP Coordinator (P-2) - Ms Eva Meyers
 Ms Meyers serves as the Coordinator of the EGMP, as full-time P-2 Associate Programme Management Officer since July 2017. This post is fully funded through the voluntary contributions provided by the EGMP Range States. The EGMP Coordinator has an annual workplan which is revised mid-term and approved by the Head of Science, Implementation and Compliance Unit, as well as an annual evaluation of performance.

Programme Management Assistant (G-5) - Position vacant
 Due to budget constraints, the contract of the PMA (Ms Christina Irven) could not be extended beyond July 2019. A consultant (Ms Shenay Huseynova) has been contracted for the period of March-July 2020 (with possibility of a limited extension of the contract), to support the Coordinator and the organisation of the EGM IWG annual meeting.

EGMP Data Centre

Head of the EGMP Data Centre - Prof. Dr Jesper Madsen
 Professor Madsen from the Department of Bioscience at Aarhus University, Denmark, acts as the head of the EGMP Data Centre (30% person-year). This part-time post is funded through the voluntary contributions provided by the EGMP Range States.

Goose Monitoring Coordinator - Dr Henning Heldbjerg
 Dr Heldbjerg was recruited as the Goose Monitoring Coordinator based in Aarhus University in 2019. This fulltime post is fully funded through the contributions provided by the EGMP Range States for the platform’s core budget.

Population Modelling Experts
 To support model developments, as well as the development of adaptive management frameworks, Dr Fred A. Johnson, formerly at the USGS, has been employed at Aarhus University since January 2020 (for a period of one year, with possible extension for a second year). The EGMP core budget funds a 40% person-year position, which is supplemented by project funding from various Range States.

Photo on left page:
 Taiga Bean Goose
 (Anser fabalis fabalis)
 © Magnus Elander



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

As part of the 40% man-year position, Professor Dr Anthony D. Fox, Dr Kevin Kuhlmann Clausen and Dr Morten Frederiksen, Aarhus University, occasionally contribute to annual assessments and modelling work. Dr Ole R. Therkildsen (funded through a project-based voluntary contribution from Germany) supports the Data Centre project to compile data for Box 1 under the Barnacle Goose and Greylag Goose ISSMPs.

Dr. Gitte Høj Jensen has been employed in a two-year postdoc position (as of 1 April 2020)

to develop population models in support of the EGMP models (fully funded by Aarhus University, in-kind contribution to EGMP).

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 (except for the postdoc position).

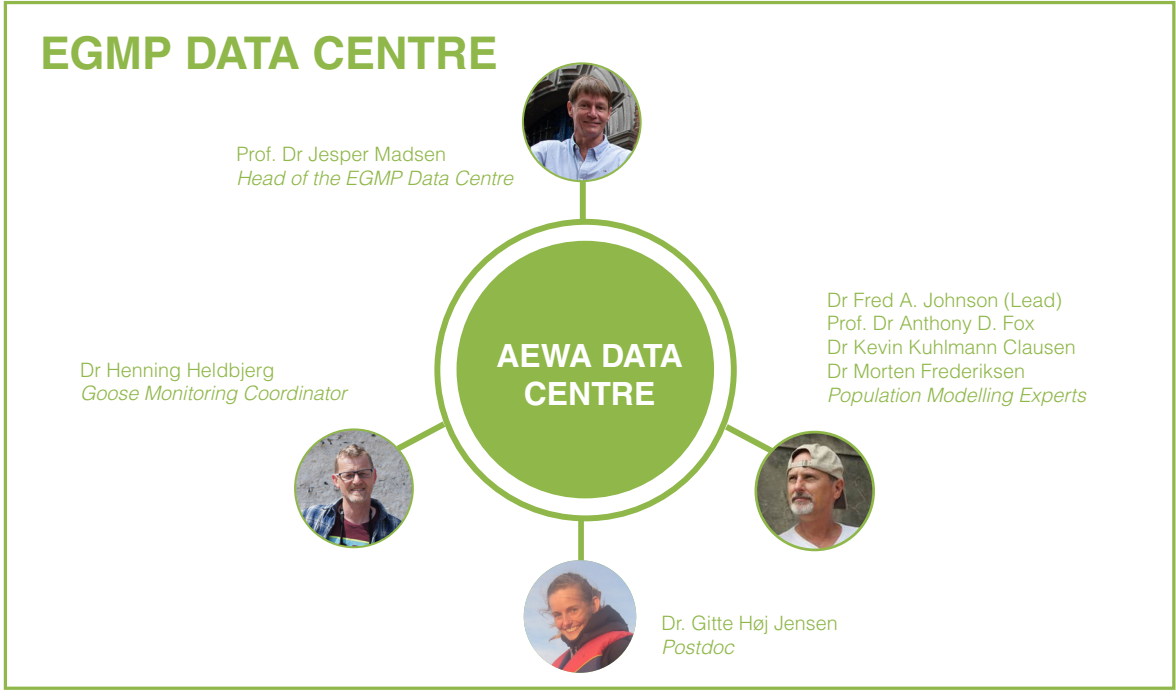


Figure 3. EGMP Data Centre Staff Composition



PARTICIPATING RANGE STATES OF THE EGMP/FUNDING

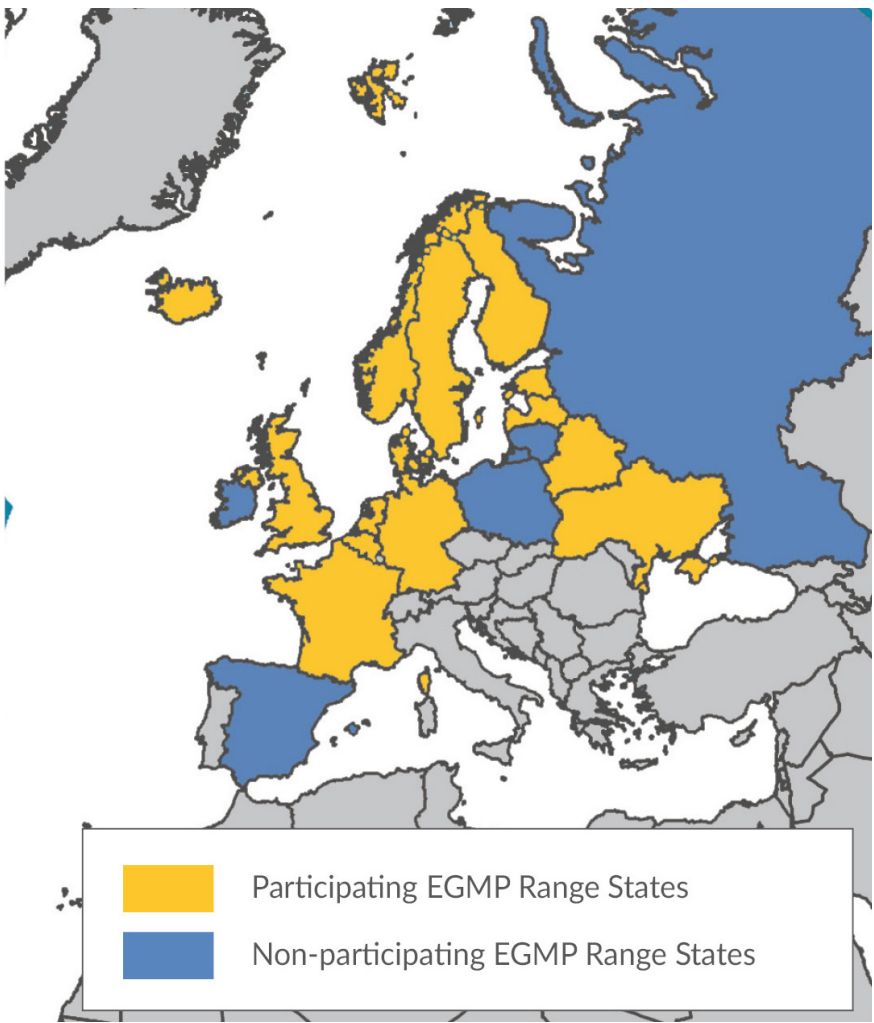


Figure 4. Map of the EGMP participating and non-participating Range States

Photo on previous page: Barnacle Geese (*Branta leucopsis*)
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Participating Range States of the EGMP

The EGMP has 15 participating Range States (see Figure 2), 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 is participating in the Greylag Goose implementation process through data provision. Ireland is involved in the implementation of the Barnacle Goose ISSMP (East Greenland/Scotland & Ireland Population). Poland has designated a national expert to participate in the Taiga Bean Goose Task Force. Spain, Ireland, Lithuania, Poland and Russia officially remain non-participating Range States of the EGMP.

Funding

The AEWA Secretariat would like to express its appreciation for the financial support received towards the implementation of the EGMP processes. A detailed financial report outlining budget, funding and expenses is provided as document AEWA/EGMIWG/5.25.

A proposed budget and costed Programme of Work for 2021 is presented in document AEWA/EGMIWG/5.26 and are to be considered at EGM IWG5.



MEETINGS AND
WORKSHOPS/
NATIONAL REPORTING



Participant meeting badges © Provincie Fryslân

Photo on previous page: Greylag Goose (*Anser anser*) © Pixabay.com

Meetings and Workshops

Meeting on the Barnacle Goose Adaptive Flyway Management Programmes Development Process for the East Greenland/Scotland & Ireland and Svalbard/South-west Scotland Populations, 1 October 2019

The Barnacle Goose Range State Meeting on the development of an Adaptive Flyway Management Programme took place on the 1 of October 2019 in Reykjavík, Iceland and was kindly hosted by the Ministry for the Environment and Natural Resources. Important steps towards establishing population-specific Adaptive Flyway Management Programmes for the East Greenland/Scotland & Ireland Population and the Svalbard/South-west Scotland Population of the Barnacle Goose were agreed upon. The meeting was attended by government representatives and experts from Iceland, Ireland, Norway, UK, the EGMP Data Centre and the AEWA Secretariat. The outcomes of the meeting can be found in document AEWA/EGM/IWG/Inf.5.13.

International Modelling Consortium meeting

On the 18 November 2019, the International Modelling Consortium held an online meeting. The second face-to-face meeting of the International Modelling Consortium was scheduled to take place in Kalø, Denmark on 21-22 March 2020. Due to COVID-19 travel restrictions, the meeting was moved to an

online format as a 1-day meeting on 19 March 2020.

3rd face-to-face meeting of the EGMP Task Forces

The 3rd face-to-face meetings of the three EGMP Task Forces (PfG TF, TBG TF and Agri TF) scheduled to take place on 15 June 2020 in Helsinki, Finland, back to back with EGM IWG5, were moved to an online format. The meetings were held a few weeks prior to EGM IWG5.

5th Meeting of the AEWA European Goose Management International Working Group (EGM IWG5)

The 5th Meeting of the European Goose Management International Working Group (EGM IWG5) was scheduled to take place on 16-18 June 2020 in Helsinki, Finland. In consultation with the Finnish government as the host and the EGM IWG Chair, the format of the meeting was changed. Instead of the previous face-to face arrangement, the Secretariat will now host the meeting remotely, in an online conference format in the same week from 15-18 June 2020.

AEWA International Single Species Action and Management Plans

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.

The ISSMPs for the Barnacle and Greylag Geese provide a mandate for developing population-specific AFMPs. Three AFMPs have been developed and shall be formally adopted by the EGM IWG and then reviewed periodically.

The draft AFMPs for adoption are proposed in documents AEWA/EGMIWG/5.14 for the Greylag Goose; AEWA/EGMIWG/5.18 and AEWA/EGMIWG/5.20 for the Barnacle Goose.

National Reporting

The 2020 online reporting cycle was launched on 1 April 2020. The summary of the National Reports 2020 is provided in document AEWA/EGMIWG/5.5

Barnacle Geese (*Branta leucopsis*) © Pixabay.com

EGMP Data Centre

The Data Centre has been actively engaged in the further development of monitoring protocols and assessments for the Pink-footed Goose (PFG) and Taiga Bean Goose (TBG) plans and preparations for the implementation of the plans for Barnacle Goose (BG) and Greylag Goose (GG). The Data Centre coordinates the EGMP Modelling Consortium and supports the different Task Forces. There is a close coordination of activities between the DC and the AEW/EGMP Secretariat.

ISSMP for the PFG: In spring 2020 the Data Centre produced annual monitoring and harvest assessment reports for the PFG (due June 2020). In early 2020, the Data

Centre published a scientific paper on the application of an Integrated Population Model (IPM) for the PFG, which has been used for the annual assessment work as of spring 2019 (presented at the EGM IWG in June 2019).

ISSMP for the GG: The DC has collated existing monitoring data (population data) in collaboration with Range State experts and Wetlands International as well as harvest and derogation data from Range States and EU Birds Directive Article 17 reporting (report due May 2020). The DC has prepared a Multi-criteria Decision Analysis (MCDA) for the GG, including an expert solicitation and decision maker value prioritisation, to guide population target setting in the IWG (funded by the Norwegian Environment Agency; doc

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

Photo below: Pink-footed Task Force © UNEP/AEWA Secretariat



Centre published a scientific paper on the application of an Integrated Population Model (IPM) for the PFG, which has been used for the annual assessment work as of spring 2019 (presented at the EGM IWG in June 2019).

ISSAP for the TBG: In spring 2020 the Data Centre produced annual monitoring and harvest assessment reports for the TBG, with focus on the Central Management Unit. Thanks to funding from the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency, autumn and spring surveys of TBG in the Central MU are now in place and included in the monitoring protocol. An IPM

AEWA/EGMIWG/5.14). An Info-gap analysis of harvest options under deep uncertainty has been produced to guide decision making in the IWG (doc AEW/EGMIWG/5.14).

ISSMP for the BG: The Dutch working group for the Barnacle Goose, working together with the Data Centre as partner in the EGMP Modelling Consortium, has prepared a first version of an IPM for the Russia/Germany & Netherlands BG population (doc AEW/EGMIWG/5.18). The Data Centre has supported the first steps to initiate an IPM for the East Greenland/Scotland & Ireland

EGMP DATA CENTRE/ EGMP TASK FORCES



Taiga Bean Goose Task Force © UNEP/AEWA Secretariat

Agriculture Task Force © UNEP/AEWA Secretariat

population of the BG, in collaboration with Scottish Natural Heritage and Exeter University.

Box 1 data collation: As part of the ISSMPs for GG and BG, national data are collated regarding agricultural damage, air safety risks, risks to other flora and fauna as well as site protection and management measures. The DC coordinates this work during 2019-2021, funded by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU).

EGMP Modelling Consortium (MC): The DC coordinates the Modelling Consortium, which supports the EGMP monitoring, modelling and assessment processes, partly with regard to the development of population models, partly with regard to developing impact models for assessment of relationship between goose abundances and agricultural damage. The MC consists of 20 scientists from 6 countries (Belgium, Denmark, France, Netherlands, Sweden, UK). The MC met online on 18 November 2019 and 19 March 2020.

Task Forces: Throughout the entire reporting period, the DC contributed to the work of the Pink-footed Goose, Taiga Bean Goose and Agricultural Task Forces.

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:

- Meeting of the Range States of the East Greenland/Scotland & Ireland and Svalbard/ South-west Scotland Barnacle Goose Populations, Reykjavik, Iceland, (1 October 2019) Ms Eva Meyers, Mr Sergey Dereliev and Mr Jesper Madsen represented the EGMP Secretariat and DC.
- Finnish Wildlife Conference 2020 (Turku, Finland, 15 January 2020); Mr Jesper Madsen represented EGMP DC as invited speaker.
- 19th meeting of the IUCN/Wetlands International Goose Specialist Group, Leeuwarden, The Netherlands (28-31 January 2020): Ms Eva Meyers, Mr Sergey Dereliev and Mr Jesper Madsen represented the EGMP Secretariat and DC and hosted a special half-day EGMP session.

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)

Meeting	Meeting Date
PfG TF (Coordinator: Jesper Madsen):	
5th Meeting of the PfG TF	26 March 2020
6th Meeting of the PfG TF	scheduled for May/June 2020
TBG TF (Coordinator: Mikko Alhainen):	
9th Meeting of the TBG TF	5 September 2019
10th Meeting of the TBG TF	19 December 2019
11th Meeting of the TBG TF	6 March 2020
12th Meeting of the TBG TF	8 April 2020
13th Meeting of the TBG TF	29 April 2020
Agri TF (Coordinator: Ingunn Tombre):	
5th Meeting of the Agri TF	20 February 2020
6th Meeting of the Agri TF	tbc for May/June 2020

Pink-footed Goose Task Force: Prof Jesper Madsen (Denmark)

Force Coordinators and members, together with the EGMP Secretariat and Data Centre.

Detailed reports on the activities and outputs of the EGMP Task Forces are provided in documents AEWA/EGMIWG/5.6, AEWA/EGMIWG/5.9 and AEWA/EGMIWG/5.24.

Online meetings of the EGMP Task Forces

The meetings of the three EGMP Task Forces - Pink-footed Goose, Taiga Bean Goose and Agriculture Task Forces - were held online (via GoToMeeting online platform) involving the Task



Projects

A project on the development of an IPM for the Taiga Bean Goose was presented to the EGM IWG4 for consideration. The purpose of this project was to develop an IPM for the Central Management Unit (MU) and to assess its utility for managing recreational harvests. Finland has kindly funded this project in 2020, undertaken by the Data Centre. The results can be found in document AEWA/EGMIWG/5.11.

A MCDA to guide population target setting for the Greylag Goose was undertaken by the Data Centre, as part of the development of the AFMP for the Greylag Goose and has been funded by the government of Norway. The results from this exercise were circulated to the EGM IWG and can be found in document AEWA/EGMIWG/5.14).

The compilation of the AFMPs, as well as the definition of approaches for setting Favourable Reference Values (FRVs) for the Greylag and Barnacle Geese, was outsourced to the Rubicon Foundation. This assignment was funded through the EGMP core budget. The outputs of these projects are found as docs AEWA/EGMIWG/5.14, AEWA/EGMIWG/5.18, AEWA/EGMIWG/5.20 and information documents AEWA/EGMIWG/Inf.5.10 and AEWA/EGMIWG/Inf.5.11.

As part of the development and implementation of the AFMPs for the Barnacle Goose and the Greylag Goose, Germany has funded a 2-year project to analyse and collect data requested in Box 1 of the ISSMPs for both species. The project has been commissioned to Aarhus University. Progress is described in documents AEWA/EGMIWG/5.14 and AEWA/EGMIWG/5.18.

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

PROJECTS



COMMUNICATION AND OUTREACH



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.

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 workspace is maintained by the EGMP coordination unit with the support of the IMCA team.

Social Media

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

The platforms are further tools for 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.

Greylag Goose
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Photo on previous
page: Taiga Bean
Geese (*Anser fabalis*
fabalis) © Jari
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62 Facebook and
50 Twitter
followers as of May
2020



Cover Photo: Pink-footed Goose (*Anser brachyrhynchus*) © Magnus Elander

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/

