

AEWA EUROPEAN GOOSE MANAGEMENT PLATFORM



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

15-18 June 2020, Online conference format



SUMMARY OF EGMP NATIONAL REPORTS 2020

Prepared by the EGMP Secretariat

Introduction

As outlined in Rule 32 of the Modus Operandi of the European Goose Management International Working Group (EGM IWG) adopted at the 1st Meeting of the International Working Group (EGM IWG1) in December 2016, reports on the implementation of the AEWA International Single Species Action and Management Plans within the remit of the European Goose Management Platform (EGMP) shall be prepared by each Range State, according to a format agreed by the EGM IWG, and be submitted to each face-to-face meeting of the EGM IWG.

These National Reports are also expected to provide the basis for the reporting obligations of the EGM IWG to the AEWA bodies (Modus Operandi Rule 33).

The scope of the National Reports is on activities foreseen in the respective Action and Management Plans in the remit of the EGMP, as well as the implementation of adaptive harvest management programmes. In addition, reporting on other tasks as decided by the EGM IWG in terms of implementation, is included as necessary.

The reporting cycle was launched by the Secretariat on 1 April 2020 and access credentials to the ORS were provided to the Range States where necessary. The deadline for submission of the EGMP National Reports 2020 was set for 30 April 2020, six weeks before the annual meeting of the EGM IWG (15-28 June 2020), but further extended until 22 May 2020 due to technical issues.

The majority of Range States submitted their reports within the deadline provided. The Secretariat continued accepting late submissions until 1 June 2020 (2 weeks before the EGM IWG5). After this date, all submitted reports were analysed; 13 out of 14 National Reports, or 93% of the due reports, were submitted through the ORS. All submitted EGMP National Reports 2020 are available on the meeting website.

The summary of the EGMP reports was compiled by the Secretariat. A comparative analysis between information provided in the previous reporting cycles (2018, 2019) and the current cycle (2020) was not undertaken. The main reason for this is the limited amount of new information that was provided in this year's reporting cycle. In the next reporting cycle (2021), the Secretariat will aim to analyse the progress on activities from 2018-2021, as feasible.

Action requested from the EGM IWG

The EGM IWG is invited to note the summary of EGMP National Reports for the Period 2019-2020 and take its conclusions and recommendations into account in the decision-making process.

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Overview of report submission rate

As of 1 June 2020, 93% (13 out of 14) of the EGMIWG Range States submitted a National Report for 2019-2020 (Figure 1).

Submitted:

Belgium, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Latvia, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Ukraine und UK

Not submitted:

Belarus has not designated a new National Government Representative to the EGMP. Thus, the National Reporting questionnaire was not sent to this country.

Non-participating Range States:

Ireland, Lithuania, Poland, Russia, Spain

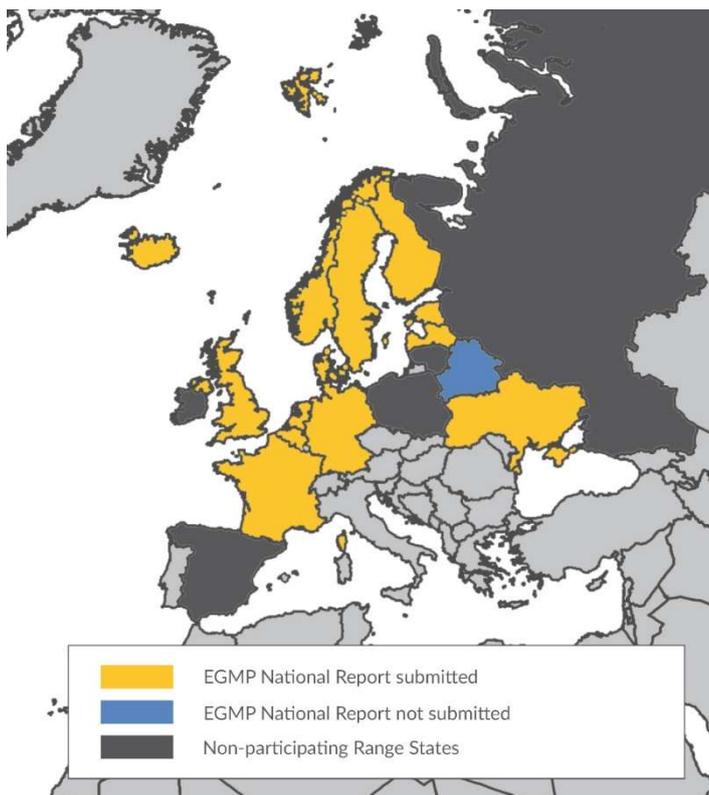


Figure 1. Overview of reports submitted by EGMP Range States

General non-species-specific reporting

This section summarizes the main information provided by the Range States on general issues, mainly agricultural damage and conflict and the type of management measures that area applied in each country to reduce the damage and conflict.

Level of Monitoring Agricultural Conflict

Range States were asked to report on the level of agricultural conflict (damage, complaints) with geese in their country.

Ten Range States (72%) are monitoring the level of agricultural conflict, whilst two Range States (14%) stated not to monitor agricultural conflict (Denmark and Latvia) and one (7%) stated the issue not relevant (France; Figure 2).

Range States monitoring agricultural conflicts

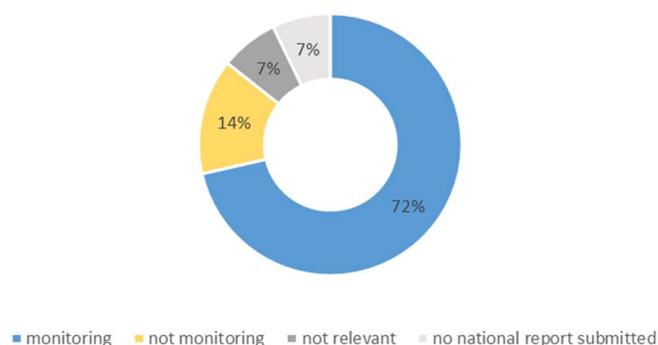


Figure 2. Range States monitoring agricultural conflicts

Range States gave details of the monitoring methods, units, frequency and coverage, including compensation schemes, the use of questionnaires for farmers and formal complaints about conflicts between wildlife and agriculture and monitoring activities conducted by scientific institutions. In Estonia for example, national monitoring is based on inspection papers, made by the governmental body (Environmental Board) officers in the field after farmers notification of damages. Iceland reported that farmers can log into a centralized service gateway and report if their farming land is being damaged by geese or swans. On the other hand, in Finland, the coverage of the national monitoring of agricultural conflict is reported to be inadequate and is merely based on annual compensations applied and paid to farmers to cover damage done by geese. Germany indicates that to evaluate the loss of biomass by foraging arctic geese, Lower Saxony designed a three years study in which test and control areas - the latter prevented from goose grazing by exclosures - were compared.

Denmark reported that since there are no schemes for subsidies or compensation for goose damage in Denmark, there is no monitoring of goose damage. The Environmental Protection Agency register all applications for derogation shooting and the number of applications are used as an indicator for the level of conflict. This holds especially for Barnacle Geese but less for Greylag Geese and Pink-footed Geese as conflicts with these species during the open season are managed by hunting. Therefore there are no applications for derogation shooting during this period and consequently no way of measuring the level of conflict.

Some monitoring activities are species-specific, e.g. in Belgium species-specific activities are undertaken at the regional level for protected species such as the Barnacle Goose (BG). Damage caused by game species with no open hunting e.g. Pink-footed Goose (PfG) and Taiga Bean Goose (TBG) and open hunting e.g. Greylag Geese (GG) is also monitored. In Norway most activities are targeted at the PfG and BG. Local monitoring activities in the UK are targeted at BG and PfG. In the Netherlands GG, BG and PfG are monitored at the local level. In Latvia the level of agriculture conflict is not measured per species, since the damage is caused by several species' groups in one field. France reported that very few damages by geese have been recorded in France. Those scarce damages are mainly caused by alien invasive species i.e. Canada and Egyptian Geese. No Greylag Goose damages have been reported so far.

Table 1 outlines the level and detail of monitoring activities taken by each Range State.

Table 1. Level of monitoring agricultural conflict per Range State

Level	Detail	# of Range States	Range States
National	species-specific activities	1	Iceland
	non-species-specific activities	2	Estonia, Finland
Regional	species-specific activities	3	Belgium, Iceland, Norway
	non-species-specific activities	3	Finland, Germany, Ukraine
Local	species-specific activities	4	Iceland, Netherlands, UK, Ukraine
	non-species-specific activities	2	Germany, Sweden

Management Measures applied to Manage Agricultural Conflicts Related to Geese

Reporting on the management measures that are applied to address agricultural conflict, an overview is given in Table 2 for each individual Range State. For the 13 reporting Range States, Figure 3 indicates the management measures that are applied to manage agricultural conflicts related to geese and how many countries are evaluating the effectiveness of each of these measures.

More detail on the types of measures specified by each Range State is outlined in Tables 3-7 below for the 12 Range States reporting agricultural conflicts present in their country (no conflict reported in France).

Table 2. Overview of management measures per country (● measure applied; ○ measure not applied)

	Belgium	Denmark	Estonia	Finland	France	Germany	Iceland	Latvia	Netherlands	Norway	Sweden	Ukraine	UK
Compensation schemes	●	○	●	●	○	●	●	●	●	●	●	○	○
Subsidy schemes	○	○	○	○	○	●	○	○	○	○	○	○	●
Scaring schemes	●	●	●	●	○	●	○	●	●	●	●	●	●
Goose foraging areas	●	○	○	○	○	●	○	○	●	○	●	○	○
Derogation shooting	●	●	○	○	○	●	○	○	●	●	●	○	●
Other measures	○	○	○	●	○	●	○	○	●	○	○	○	○
Not relevant	○	○	○	○	●	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○

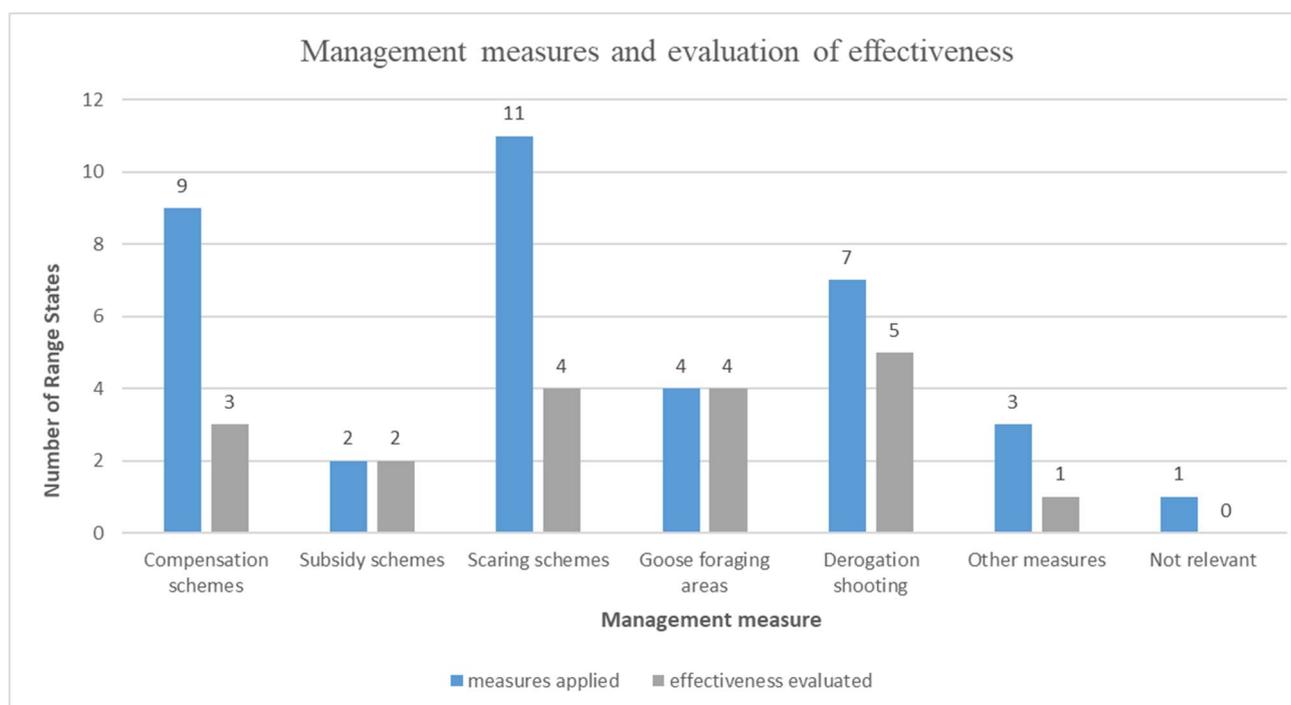


Figure 3. Measures applied to manage agricultural conflicts related to geese

Compensation Schemes

Compensation schemes (payments to farmers for losses e.g. crop damage) are implemented on national (Estonia, Iceland and Latvia), regional (Belgium, Finland, Germany, Netherlands, Norway and Sweden) and local (Finland and Sweden) level, with effectiveness monitored only in the Netherlands, Norway and Sweden.

Financial compensation is calculated by the agricultural authorities with varying formulas (per kg dry matter, reduction of yield in comparison to reference plots, etc.). For example, in Finland, the loss and its monetary value is estimated by agricultural authorities. In Belgium, farmers have to report the damage and fill in a form in order to get compensation. A species expert visits the fields shortly thereafter in order to determine which species has caused the damage. In the growing season, the field is visited again by an agricultural expert in order to determine how the damage is affecting the growth and yield. When harvested, the reduction of yield compared to reference plots is determined and the financial compensation is calculated.

In the Netherlands, data of monthly goose counts are used to assess the use of accommodation areas and also to look into trends in numbers before and after designation. For this purpose, goose counters (volunteers) are asked to map goose flocks precisely, by using an app (Avimap) available for fieldwork in the waterbird monitoring scheme. Evaluation is done on an ad-hoc basis, often as part of the evaluation of the provincial wildlife management plan.

More details on reporting on compensation schemes in the Range States is found below in Table 3.

Table 3. Compensation schemes¹

Level	Detail	# of Range States	Range States	# Range states evaluating effectiveness	Range States evaluating effectiveness
National	species-specific compensation	1	Iceland		
	non-species-specific compensation	2	Estonia, Latvia		
Regional	species-specific compensation	1	Norway	1	Norway
	non-species-specific compensation	5	Belgium, Finland, Germany, Netherlands, Sweden	2	Netherlands, Sweden
Local	species-specific compensation				
	non-species-specific compensation	2	Finland, Sweden	1	Sweden

Subsidy Schemes

Subsidy schemes to farmers (payments to support farmers to provide for/tolerate geese on their land, replacing agricultural use) are provided in Germany and in the UK. Germany reported that the subsidy schemes for fields in Schleswig-Holstein mainly consist of providing forage for geese during winter months. In April summer crops are grown on the fields and therefore the subsidy schemes for tolerating geese do not replace agricultural use.

Table 4 below provides an overview on the use of subsidy schemes by Range States.

¹ E.g. payments to farmers for losses e.g. crop damage

Table 4. Subsidy schemes²

Level	Detail	# of Range States	Range States	# Range states evaluating effectiveness	Range States evaluating effectiveness
National	species-specific subsidies				
	non-species-specific subsidies				
Regional	species-specific subsidies				
	non-species-specific subsidies	1	Germany		
Local	species-specific subsidies	1	UK	1	UK
	non-species-specific subsidies	1	Germany		

Scaring Schemes

Scaring schemes or preventive measures designed to actively keep geese away from farmland are widely used by Range States on national, regional and specifically local level.

Visual and acoustic scaring devices are used, as well as repellents and other measures. In some Range States advice is provided by the Ministry of Environment on the use of scaring devices (e.g. in Denmark). The use of scaring devices is a prerequisite to getting a permission for derogation shooting in Denmark. However, effectiveness is only evaluated in less than half of the Range States that have provided information about scaring schemes (4 out of 11). For example, in the UK local schemes are reviewed through discussion and consultation with stakeholders.

Table 5. Scaring schemes or other preventive measures³

Level	# of Range States	Range States	# Range states evaluating effectiveness	Range States evaluating effectiveness
National	3	Denmark, Estonia Latvia		
Regional	3	Belgium, Netherlands, Sweden	2	Netherlands, Sweden
Local	7	Finland, Germany, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, UK, Ukraine	4	Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, UK

Designation of Accommodation areas (goose foraging areas)

The designation of accommodation areas is a viable non-lethal method to ease the widespread grazing pressure on agriculture fields. Belgium and Germany report that some areas have been specifically allocated as Special Protection Areas (SPAs) under the Birds Directive and are regularly monitored. In Lower Saxony, Germany,

² E.g. payments to support farmers to provide for/tolerate geese on their land, replacing agricultural use

³ Measures designed to actively keep geese away from farmland

farmers tolerate geese in these SPAs and have joined agri-environmental schemes under which they are paid for the loss of biomass caused by foraging geese. Table 6 outlines Range States reporting on accommodation areas. In the Netherlands data of monthly goose counts are used to assess the use of accommodation areas and also to look into trends in numbers before and after designation. For this purpose, goose counters (volunteers) are asked to map goose flocks precisely, by using an app (Avimap) available for fieldwork in the waterbird monitoring scheme. Evaluation is done on an ad-hoc basis, often as part of the evaluation of the provincial wildlife management plan.

Table 6. Accommodation areas⁴

Level	# of Range States	Range States	# Range states evaluating effectiveness	Range States evaluating effectiveness
National				
Regional	4	Belgium, Germany Netherlands, Sweden	4	Belgium, Germany, Netherlands, Sweden
Local	2	Germany, Sweden	2	Germany, Sweden

Derogation Shooting

Derogation shooting to keep geese away from sensitive crops and/or to reduce population is used as another measure to contain agricultural conflict with geese in some of the Range States. Reporting on derogation shooting is compiled in Table 7 below. Range States report derogation shooting to be applied in line with the EU Birds Directive. Licenses for shooting under derogation are granted upon application and assessment of the related conflict and damage to crops. Germany reported that in Schleswig-Holstein derogation shooting of Barnacle Geese to prevent considerable damage to crops and grassland is allowed in selected districts on the Wadden Sea coast and along the river Elbe outside protected bird areas in a specific timeframe. On grassland the severe damage has to be proven by an independent expert to get permission for derogation shooting. In general it is possible to apply for permissions for derogation shooting of all geese species outside the hunting seasons that are limited in time, space and number of geese. In Denmark, farmers who experience problems with geese can apply electronically for a license to shoot geese under derogation (administrated by the Ministry of Environment and Food), whereas in the Netherlands, it is obligatory to scare geese twice per week in combination with derogation shooting. Additional, non-lethal, measures are up to the individual farmer.

Table 7. Derogation shooting⁵

Level	# of Range States	Range States	# Range states evaluating effectiveness	Range States evaluating effectiveness
National	1	Denmark		
Regional	2	Belgium, Netherlands	2	Belgium, Netherlands
Local	4	Germany, Norway, Sweden, UK.	3	Norway, Sweden, UK

⁴ Designation of goose foraging areas

⁵ Derogation shooting to keep geese away from sensitive crops and/or to reduce population size

Other Measures

Other measures that are species-specific in some cases are also being implemented in some countries at the national, regional and local level. For example, in Finland the hunting season of Greylag Goose and Canada Goose is opened already on 10th August only in agricultural field from year 2019 (in other habitats the hunting season opens on 20th August). Hunting of Greylag Goose was banned by Ministerial Degree (902/2019) for one hunting season (2019-2020) in inland Counties, so hunting was allowed only in coastal Counties.

Germany also reported that in Schleswig-Holstein grassland for feeding husbandry is provided in selected areas where the first cut is lost due to geese grazing.

In the Netherlands, due to the large population sizes of the species mentioned above and the consequences this has on agricultural damage these measures are taken in addition to derogation shooting to attempt to diminish populations in order to minimize agricultural damage. During moulting season individuals of Barnacle Goose, Greylag Goose, Egyptian Goose, Canada Goose and hybrids are corralled and killed using CO₂.

New or Adjusted Existing Legislation for Implementation of Adaptive Harvest Management (AHM)

The EGM IWG adopted a Guidance on Implementation of Adaptive Harvest Management (AHM) through Domestic Legal Regulations at their 3rd meeting (EGM IWG3). The purpose of this guidance is to provide model legal approaches for transposing annual international decisions concerning harvest quotas and season opening/closure into national decision-making processes and collecting comprehensive harvest data to suit the AHM process annually.

Range States were asked to report if this guidance was used to create new or adjust existing legislation for the implementation of AHM, within the framework of the EGMP (see Figure 4).

Norway, reported that its legislation has been reviewed and adjusted.

(Link: <https://lovdata.no/dokument/SF/forskrift/2020-04-01-565?q=vilt>)

Denmark, Finland, France, Germany and the Netherlands report that the existing legislation has been reviewed and no need has been identified either for adjustment of existing legislation or development of new legislation.

Sweden and Iceland report that the development of new / adjusted legislation is under technical discussion in the country, whilst in Ukraine it is under political discussion. Belgium and the UK report that the legislation has not been reviewed yet. Latvia reported that there is no harvest of TBG or PfG populations.

New or adjusted existing legislation for implementation of AHM

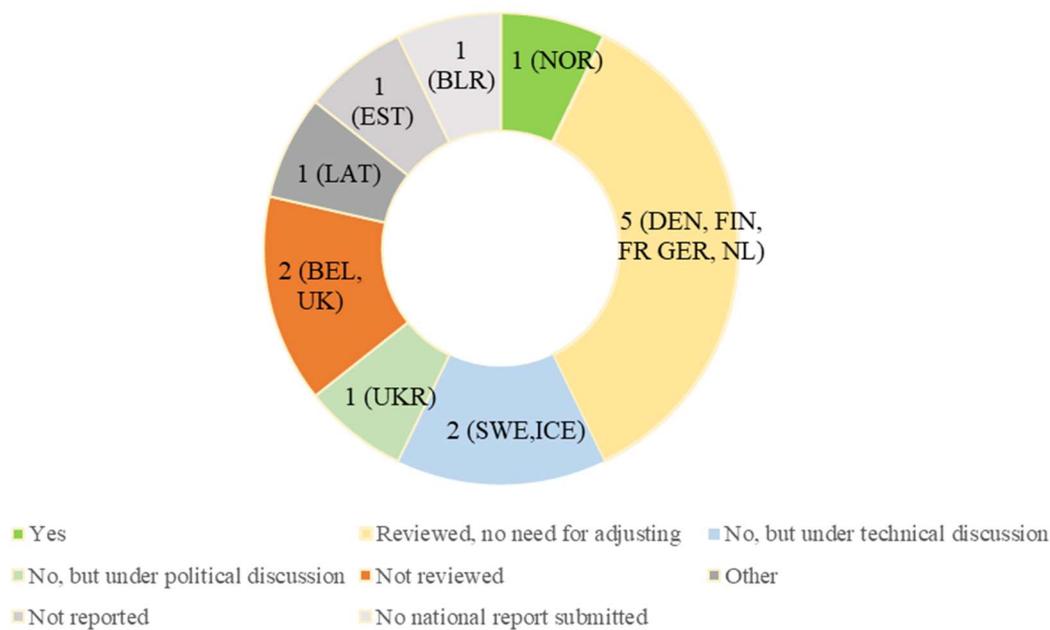


Figure 4. New or adjusted existing domestic legislation for the purpose of AHM implementation

Pink-footed Goose International Species Management Plan (ISMP)

All four Range States to the Svalbard population of the PfG (Belgium, Denmark, Netherlands and Norway) have reported on the implementation of the International Species Management Plan (ISMP) for the population. In addition, three Range States (Germany, Sweden and Finland), which have been admitted as observers to the PfG ISMP implementation process, have also provided relevant information.

National, Regional or Local Management Plans for the PfG

According to the PfG ISMP, Range States should endeavour to produce national/local management plans, ensuring recreational activities are established and evaluated at local level (economic and cultural value) (PfG ISMP, p.29). Range States were asked to report on the establishment of any national, regional and/or local management plan/s that are in place to implement the PfG ISMP.

Of the four Range States only Norway reported the adoption and implementation of a regional (sub-national) management plan for the PfG in Mid- and North-Norway, also promoting recreational uses such as tourism and hunting.

Belgium has indicated that, mainly by accommodating the winter flocks of the PfG, conservation goals have been set in the country and no open hunting season exists. This is not planned to be altered, as long as numbers of geese in the fields do not increase and damage stays limited.

Denmark has not yet decided on the development of a management plan; however, the PfG ISMP is being implemented directly.

The Netherlands reports that no species-specific management plans are being implemented in the country. The responsibility for fauna management lies with the provinces. PfG occur only in Friesland in larger numbers, but not sufficient to act in a management context.

Finland has indicated that the PfG is a protected species in Finland and therefore not huntable, while Sweden indicated that this is a new species in the country with only few birds spread over large areas.

National, Regional or Local Working Group for the Implementation of the PfG ISMP

Range States were asked whether a national, regional and/or local working group to support the implementation of the PfG ISMP had been established in their countries. Except for the Netherlands, all Range States of the PfG (Belgium, Denmark and Norway) have established a working group. An overview is provided in Table 8.

Table 8. Overview of national, regional or local working groups (● yes; ○ no)

Range State	Working Group	Type of WG
Belgium	●	Regional
Denmark	●	National
Finland	○	
Germany	○	
Netherlands	○	
Norway	●	Regional/National
Sweden	○	

In Belgium, the implementation of the PfG ISMP is coordinated within the Flemish Goose Working Group - the only region for wintering PfG. This working group meets at least annually and is composed of different stakeholders, dealing with general and specific EGMP-related issues, discussing population size, trends and agricultural damage of wintering geese. The working group aims to reach consensus for a clear recommendation, which the National Government Representative will bring to the EGM IWG and other EGMP-related meetings.

Similarly, Denmark has established a working group on national level, advising the Ministry of Environment and Food and forming the national delegation at the EGM IWG meetings. The group gives input to documents, draft management plans, etc. prior to any decision-making. Norway also has a working group for PfG in place.

The Netherlands has established working group that takes care of all EGMP-related issues. The group is not species-specific in its work and encompasses all EGMP work.

Sweden indicated the establishment of a national working group for the management of geese, swans and cranes.

PfG ISMP Objective 1. Maintain a Sustainable and Stable PfG Population and its Range

Key sites identified for PfG

Range States were asked to provide a list of key sites that have been identified for PfG. Out of the six countries that responded to this question, five countries have identified key areas for the PfG (Figure 5). Belgium, Denmark, Finland and Norway provided details on these sites, including location, habitat types and protection status (see Annex 1).

Sweden reported the PfG being a relatively new species with no key sites determined yet.

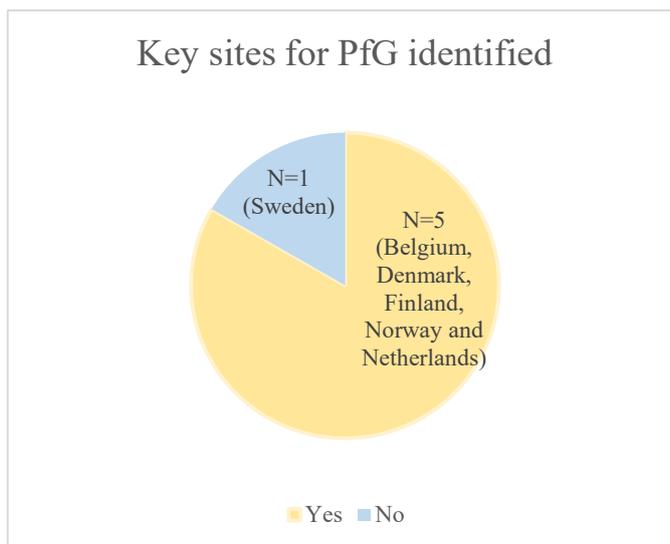


Figure 5. Key sites identified for the Pink-footed Goose in Range States

Measures to Restore/Rehabilitate PfG Roosting and/or Feeding Habitats

Range States were asked to provide information on measures taken to restore and/or rehabilitate PfG roosting and/or feeding habitats and to give information if these measures are being implemented in staging and wintering areas. Figure 6 shows which Range States have measures in place for staging and wintering areas.

Denmark applies measures in both the staging and wintering areas. Roosting sites have been protected through the NATURA 2000 network, including disturbance and hunting-free zones. Denmark has also indicated that geese are primarily foraging in adjacent farmlands (up to 40 km from roosts), which are not managed. Some of the roosting sites in the wintering areas in Denmark, which have been newly occupied are not yet designated for protection for PfG.

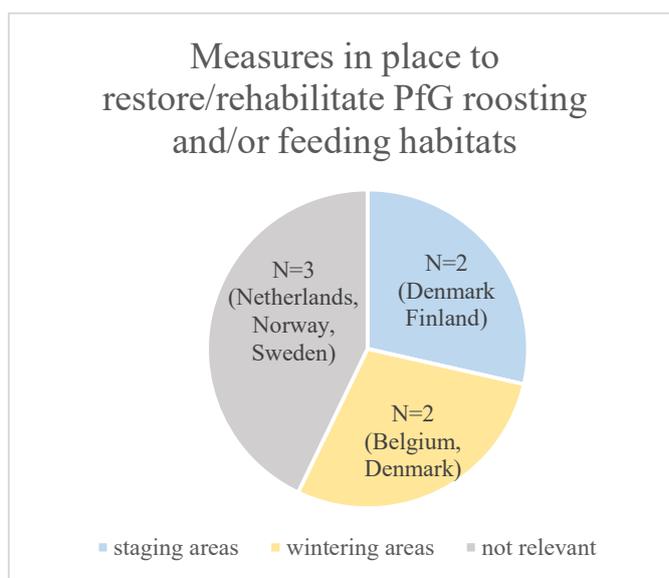


Figure 6. Measures in place to restore/rehabilitate PfG roosting and /or feeding habitats

Measures in the wintering sites in Belgium mostly focus on the restoration of wet polder grasslands in order to provide good foraging opportunities for PfG in nature reserves and to reduce agricultural damage in the surrounding areas.

In Finland, habitat restoration and recurring management measures (removing the reed, grazing and mowing of coastal meadows) were carried out as an ongoing activity, including the most important roosting areas for PfG. In Sweden, no former roosting or feeding habitats are known.

PfG ISMP Objective 2. Keep Agricultural Conflicts to an Acceptable Level

Level of Agricultural Conflicts

Range States were asked to provide information on the level of agricultural conflicts (e.g. crop damage) in their countries and how potential conflicts have been addressed.

Three Range States (Belgium, Denmark, Netherlands) as well as Finland and Sweden, have indicated that agricultural conflicts related to PfG are at an acceptable level (Figure 7).

In Belgium, damage caused by PfG is compensated and habitat restoration is undertaken in nature reserves to accommodate wintering PfG and keep them away from agricultural lands.

Denmark reported that in autumn and winter PfG primarily forage on waste crops (cereal and maize stubble), supplemented by pastures and winter cereal, limited to cold winters; whereas in spring, PfG forage on pastures. In the past, PfG caused

damage to newly sown spring cereal fields (taking

grain). However, nowadays, PfG depart on spring migration for Norway in late March/early April, prior to the sowing of spring cereals. Netherlands indicated that compared to other species, agricultural damage by PfG is hardly an issue. Sweden has indicated that so far, there have not been any reports from farmers on damages caused by PfG.

Only Norway has reported that agricultural damage in Norway is not at an acceptable level.

PfG ISMP Objective 3. Avoid Increase in Tundra Vegetation Degradation in the Breeding Range

Monitoring the Extent of Arctic Tundra Degradation on Svalbard Caused by PfG

Norway indicated that the extent of arctic tundra degradation on Svalbard caused by PfG is continuously being monitored and reported an increase in the level of degradation over decades.

PfG ISMP Objective 4. Allow for Recreational Use that does not Jeopardize the Population

Hunting is Conducted in a Sustainable Manner

Denmark and Norway, as the only Range States with open hunting seasons, were asked to report on the promotion and/or implementation of any national or regional hunting-related campaigns, training programmes and/or management activities (see Table 9 for details).

Denmark reported that a collaboration has been initiated between Danish and Norwegian hunters to exchange experiences on effective shooting organisation and ways to reduce crippling. Also, a series of articles has been published in hunting magazines on wise use, species identification and goose shooting. In Norway local hunters are being trained in techniques and behaviour.

In Denmark a national plan to reduce the crippling of game, including geese, has been in place since 1997. Aarhus University has monitored the rate of crippled PfG since 1990 and the Danish Hunters' Association and the Ministry of Environment and Food have conducted several campaigns promoting the need for reduction of crippling, specifically targeting goose hunters, advocating for the use of decoys and blinds to attract geese at

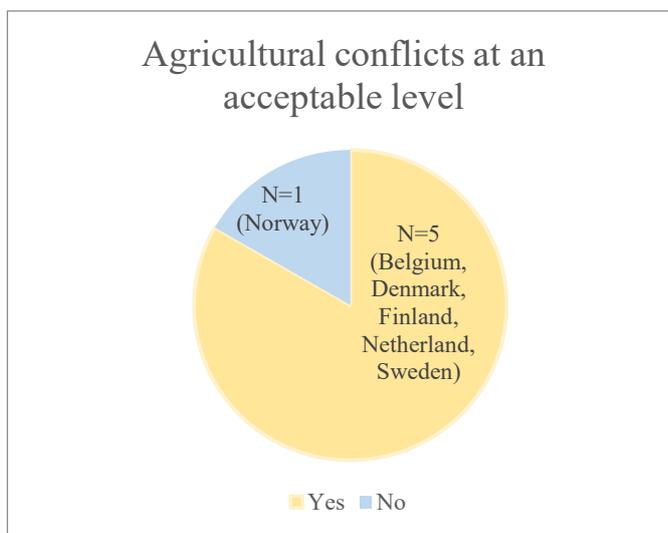


Figure 7. Level (acceptable or not) of agricultural conflict

close range, keeping to the recommended maximum shooting distance of 25 m, as well as hunting in teams. Norway also reports that hunters are being trained with the aim to reduce crippling rates.

Table 9. Activities implemented in Denmark and Norway to ensure hunting in a sustainable manner (● yes; ○ no)

Activity	Range State	
	Denmark	Norway
Wise use hunting practices	●	●
Best practices to reduce crippling rates	●	●
Self-organization and coordination of local hunting	●	●

A project carried out by Aarhus University and the Danish Hunters' Association, running from 2012 to 2016, focused on the voluntary self-organisation of goose shooting and documented the positive effects in terms of higher bags, lower cartridge use, improved local communication, as well as reduced disturbance of geese. The Danish Hunters' Association has promoted the wider use of self-organisation in articles in hunting magazines. As well in Norway self-organisation of hunters has been promoted as a beneficial exercise to comply with the goals of the ISMP.

Additional Information Provided by Range States

Denmark indicated that the PFG ISMP has positively influenced the awareness among Danish hunters, creating awareness about their role and responsibility to participate in the management of the population, as well as its wise use. The adaptation of the hunting season according to the population status has also generally been accepted by the hunters.

Taiga Bean Goose International Single Species Action Plan (ISSAP)

Reporting on Taiga Bean Goose has been split in two sections:

- Section A: Taiga Bean Goose ISSAP – Eastern 1 Management Unit (MU)
- Section B: Taiga Bean Goose ISSAP – Western and Central Management Units (MUs)

(A) Taiga Bean Goose ISSAP – Eastern 1 MU

Participating Range States in the EGMP for the Eastern 1 MU of the TBG are **Belarus, Estonia, Germany, Latvia and Ukraine**. Of these Range States four (Estonia, Germany, Latvia and Ukraine) have reported in this section.

TBG ISSAP Objective 1. Increase Survival Rate of Adults

Legal Harvest does not Jeopardize an Increase of Adult Survival Rates

Three Range States - Germany, Latvia and Ukraine – have developed and adopted a legislation for the closure of hunting of TBG to allow the birds to pass before the goose hunting season is opened (see Figure 8 below), **whilst** Estonia has not passed a legislation yet.

In Germany legislation varies regionally with some federal states having closed the hunting of TBG in general and others not having adopted the legislation for closure yet.

In Latvia hunting of TBG is restricted from 15 September to 30 November to provide safe passage to TBGs on their autumn migration. Ukraine prohibits spring hunting to allow the large numbers of TBG passing at this time of the year through the northern part of Ukraine. The State Forestry Agency developed the Instruction on the inventory of harvested game. Instructions will improve the quality of the data about the results of hunting. Due to the adoption of the new Instruction, an appropriate information campaign and trainings will be held.

Legislation for closure of hunting of TBG

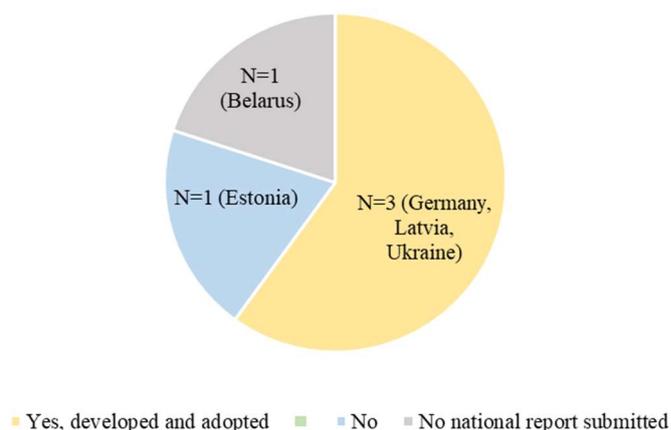


Figure 8. Development and adoption of legislation for the closure of TBG hunting to let migrating birds pass

Knowledge is Improved on the Occurrence of TBG in all Eastern MU Range States

Four Range States reported on the following activities to improve knowledge of the occurrence of TBG in their countries:

- Ensuring national monitoring at all known key sites;
- Providing identification training to people carrying out the monitoring activities;
- Providing equipment to people carrying out the monitoring activities;
- Carrying out a satellite/GPS tagging project on TBG in the wintering/staging areas;
- Any other relevant activities.

Table 10 below shows activities that have been carried out by each of the Range States.

Table 10. Activities to improve the knowledge of occurrence of TBG in the Eastern MU (● yes; ○ no)

Activities	Estonia	Germany	Latvia	Ukraine
Ensuring national monitoring at all known key sites	○	○	●	●
Providing identification training to people carrying out the monitoring activities	○	●	○	●
Providing equipment to people carrying out the monitoring activities	○	○	○	○
Carrying out a satellite/GPS tagging project on TBG in the wintering/ staging areas	○	○	○	○
Any other relevant activities	○	●	○	○

In Latvia all key sites of the TBG are covered by Natura 2000 designation and are monitored through the sub-programme of Biological Diversity Monitoring within the State Environmental Monitoring Programme 2015-2020.

Ukraine reports that TBG counts have been conducted in 2018-2019 in various sites across the country in the northern region. In the southern region, wintering sites are monitored within the framework of the International Waterbird Census (IWC). There is no special national monitoring system, but in protected areas monitoring is carried out within the framework of the Programme of the Chronicle of Nature, scientific organisations and within the framework of the IWC. Moreover, education materials for hunters were produced and shared with the main hunting organizations. In addition, the Taiga and Tundra Bean Goose Identification Guide prepared by EGMP Taiga Bean Goose Task Force was translated and shared through the Ministry website.

Germany indicated that species with an inland distribution (esp. Taiga und Tundra Bean Goose) are not well covered by the existing monitoring programs, which are mainly based on the waterbird counts that are restricted to the water bodies. Germany is aiming to improve the monitoring of TBG with a research project on geese monitoring in Germany which started in December 2019. In the project, special attention is given to TBG monitoring. Results will be available in 2021. As part of the activities to improve TBG monitoring, Germany reported that specific information on identification of TBG for volunteer monitoring in Germany will be compiled and communicated to volunteers involved in goose monitoring. Furthermore, Germany reported that existing data on satellite tracking of TBG will be analyzed to learn more about diurnal movement patterns between feeding and roosting sites. Results will be used to improve monitoring conception and data analysis. The aim is to find out, if or how a combination of count data from feeding and roosting sites is feasible.

Result 1.2 Illegal Harvest is Reduced to non-Significant Levels

Ukraine was asked to report on the implementation of an awareness-raising campaign for hunters to complement necessary legislation change. An awareness-raising campaign is being implemented with educational material and related instructions widely distributed among the target audience and the topic being included in the advanced training for forestry, hunter's organisations and researchers from Protected Areas. Also, an article reviewing the results of studies on the migration of geese through Ukraine was published in 2009. The new publication on the occurrence of the Taiga Bean Goose is under preparation.

Reducing Taiga Bean Goose Crippling

No specific measures have been undertaken to date to reduce TBG crippling in the Range States. Latvia reports no activities are necessary since training is part of the education programme for hunters.

Raising Identification Skills and Awareness Amongst Hunters

Only Estonia reported that training programmes to develop identification skills amongst hunters have been organised by the national hunting association.

Latvia stated only a very rare presence of TBG during the hunting season. The analysis of hunted bird photos organized by Latvian Hunters Association in cooperation with scientists confirmed one bird during 2019.

Other Information Provided, Relevant to the Implementation of the TBG ISSAP

Range States of the Eastern 1 MUs of the TBG reported no further **information** on the implementation of the TBG ISSAP.

(B) Taiga Bean Goose ISSAP – Western and Central Management Units

Range States for the Western and Central MUs of the TBG are **Denmark, Finland, Norway, Russia, Sweden and the UK**. All participating Range States (Denmark, Finland, Norway, Sweden and the UK) have reported on this section.

TBG ISSAP Objective 1. Increase Survival Rate of Adults

Illegal Harvest is Reduced to non-Significant Levels (Denmark)

According to activity 1.2.2.1 of the TBG implementation plan 2018-2020 (agreed at EGM IWG3 in Leeuwarden, the Netherlands, in June 2018), Denmark was asked to report on the investigation of TBG shooting in North-east Jutland and Zealand. There is some progress with regard to collection of heads from shot bean geese to differentiate the subspecies; however, more reliable data needs to be collected to make an analysis.

Impact of Hunttable Native Predators in Breeding and Moulting Areas is Reduced (Finland)

Finland was asked to report on the annual campaigns that are being undertaken amongst hunters in breeding areas to strengthen fox management.

The issue was discussed between the Finnish Wildlife Agency and Forestry and Parks service in 2017 and effective fox management by Forestry and Parks service is continued in the northernmost part of the country primarily for the conservation of the endangered arctic fox.

The breeding areas of TBG cover roughly half of Finland, whilst fox management is relevant for the entire country.

The importance of small predator management has been promoted to hunters through magazines and social media to strengthen management activities. In practice there is on-going work under this subject, but it has been carried out at more general level considering ground nesting birds at large, not specifically specified to TBG, while providing largely the same end result.

Impact of Alien Predators in Breeding and Moulting Areas is Reduced (Finland and Sweden)

Finland and Sweden were asked to report on the implementation of programmes for the eradication of the Raccoon Dog (*Nyctereutes procyonoides*) and the effectiveness of these programmes.

In Finland, an on-going project is in place to stop the dispersal of Raccoon Dog to Scandinavia. The objective in Northern Finland is to decrease the population size of Raccoon Dogs. With annual funding of ca €150,000 provided, and significant amount of volunteer efforts from local hunters, the project is ongoing. The Finnish Wildlife Agency operates the Nordic Raccoon Dog project in Finnish Lapland to stop the dispersal of Raccoon Dog. The Finnish Wildlife Agency has a 2-year development project to find solutions for large-scale effective Raccoon Dog management in areas of dense populations. The Raccoon Dog was removed from list of hunttable species and listed as invasive alien species, which provides more effective approaches to management.

In southern breeding areas Raccoon Dog management is under the responsibility of local hunting associations that are regularly encouraged to undertake effective small predator management. Despite the implementation of locally effective activities, the Raccoon Dog population is increasing in the southern part of the country. A new development project is foreseen to provide tools to target the Raccoon Dog population of Southern Finland.

Sweden reported on the Raccoon Dog project, commissioned by the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency and lead by the Swedish Association for Hunting and Wildlife Management. In 2019, 30 adult Raccoon Dogs and 2 pups were captured. Since 2010, when the first monitoring system was set up in Norrbotten, the population has declined considerably and is now kept at a very low level.

TBG ISSAP Objective 2. Increase Reproductive Rates

Intraspecific Competition in Spring Staging Areas is Reduced (Sweden, Finland)

Sweden was asked to provide updates on the implementation of the “fields for geese” programme. The County Administrative Board (CAB) continues with the fields for geese programme. There have been some uncertainties regarding financing due to rules in CAP.

Finland reported that implementation of the “unharvested-fields-for-birds” programme within the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) is being discussed in the preparation of the next CAP period.

TBG ISSAP Objective 3. Stop Ongoing Loss, Fragmentation and Degradation of Habitats, and Restore Lost, Fragmented and Degraded Habitats

Impact of Forestry Works is Reduced (Finland)

Finland was asked to report on working models for wildlife-friendly forest management. The concept and working models of Wildlife Friendly Forest Management (WFFM) in Finland is well developed and was established largely based on the national management plan for grouse species. Since the brood habitat of grouse and TBG have significant overlap in forested areas, mire restorations for Willow Grouse (*Lagopus lagopus*) can have potential benefits for TBG, depending on site-specific features. The WFFM is communicated and taught to forest owners, forestry professionals and corporations via a set of projects. Recently a handbook for WFFM was published and is available online.

Moreover, a recent project identifying forested sites with potential / favourable structures for wildlife and highlighting them in the national forest database, based on LIDAR-scanning data, covering almost the whole country, has been concluded. The database can be accessed online by landowners to view their properties.

Finland further indicated that there is a close co-operation with major forestry corporations in terms of example sites and information activities. The principles of WFFM largely overlap with requirement of Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certificate, which is rapidly increasing coverage in Finland. Generally, the Finnish Wildlife Agency and the Finnish Forest Centre undertake active media work and education events on an ongoing basis and cooperate closely with major forestry corporations in their activities.

Take Account of TBG Breeding, Staging and Wintering in the Planning of new Oil, Gas or Renewable Energy Developments (Denmark)

Denmark reported on monitoring of the collision risk posed by renewable energy developments to TBG close to SPAs, identified as important wintering sites for TBG, responding to activity 3.3.1.1 of the TBG non-AHM workplan 2018-2020 (agreed at EGM IWG3 in Leeuwarden, the Netherlands in June 2018).

A windfarm has been planned in the middle of an internationally important wintering site for Taiga Bean Geese in Vinge, Viborg Municipality. The site is just outside the Natura2000 area Tjele LangsÅ, which is designated for Bean Goose.

Impact of Agriculture on Natural TBG Habitats is Minimized (Finland)

According to activity 3.1.1.1 of the TBG implementation workplan 2019-2020 (agreed at EGM IWG3 in Leeuwarden, the Netherlands, June 2018), Finland was requested to increase the area of managed coastal grassland under CAP. Finland reported that compared to 2017 there was no meaningful increase of managed coastal grasslands within the current CAP period coming to an end. However, the area could be further increased if new funding is allocated under the new CAP.

Review of Factors Possibly Contributing to the Declines of TBG in Eastern England and Implementation of Appropriate Management Responses (UK)

At EGM IWG2 in June 2017 in Copenhagen, the UK delegation had asked to include this activity into the work plan of the Western and Central TBG MUs. The UK was asked to report on this activity and indicated

that currently available information on TBG status in England does not provide strong evidence of causes. No England-specific issues are identified. Potential to develop a tracking study involving English birds is being investigated by WWT.

Reducing TBG Crippling

All Range States to the Western and Central MUs were asked to report on activities undertaken in the past three years to reduce TBG crippling rates. An overview of the responses is provided in Figure 9.

In Finland, the issue on adequate shooting distance to reduce crippling was raised in an article in a hunting magazine, informing the restrictions on the reopened Bean Goose hunting season, which was restricted in time and space to focus the harvest on Tundra Bean Goose. The issue will also be picked up for further awareness raising during autumn.

To reduce the crippling rates the Swedish Association for Hunting and Wildlife Management ran an education programme for goose hunters which has just ended. A new programme is not foreseen at the moment.

Denmark has indicated that no activities were implemented in the past three years. However, there has already been a sustained campaign of public awareness and outreach in relation to the PFG on this subject. It was further indicated that a survey of crippling rates (by X-ray) in TBG could be conducted if a larger catch of geese would be organised.

In the UK and in Norway the TBG is not a quarry species.

Activities to reduce crippling rates

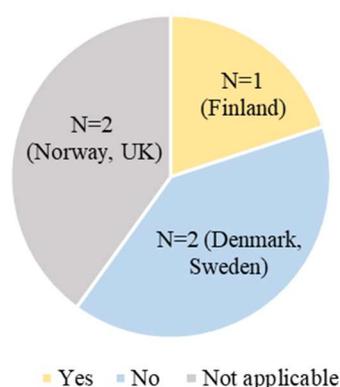


Figure 9. Activities undertaken by Range States to reduce crippling rates

Training Programmes to Raise Identification Skills and Awareness Amongst Hunters

Range States were asked to indicate if any training programmes to develop identification skills amongst hunters have been organized, in particular by national hunting associations, in their respective countries (see Figure 10).

Finland, Denmark and Norway indicated that training programmes have been organised (in Norway, in cooperation with the national BirdLife partner). Norway reported that it is part of the general training of hunters and included in guidance documents on ID skills. Identification materials were also recently developed by the TBG Task Force (spring 2020). Denmark and Finland reported that they have addressed specific issues (e.g. the identification of the two sub-species, crippling rates, hunting season) through publications in hunting magazines and production of guidance documents and ID skills. However, specific local training programs have not yet been organised.

Available training programmes

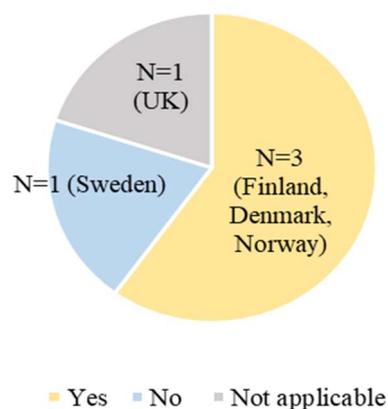


Figure 10. Available training programmes to raise identification skills among hunters

Additional Information Provided by Range States

In addition to the requested questions, Denmark has indicated that a windfarm has been planned in the middle of an internationally important wintering site for Taiga Bean Geese in Vinge, Viborg Municipality. The site is just outside the EU Special Protection Area Tjele LangsÅ, which is designated for Bean Goose. Vinge is the most important foraging site for the Taiga Bean Geese in the region. Despite that an Environmental Impact Assessment has been conducted and assessed that there is a risk of significant habitat loss due to the turbines (and despite a written critique raised by Aarhus University), the municipality has decided to proceed with the plan. The decision has been appealed.

Sweden also indicated that the Swedish Association for Hunting and Wildlife Management continues monitoring activities of the hunting bag.

Conclusions and Recommendations

On the basis of this analysis of EGMP National Reports 2020, the following conclusions and recommendations have been identified for consideration by the EGM IWG.

Submission Rate

Overall, the submission rate (93%, 13 out of 14 due reports) of the EGMP National Reports 2020 is positive. Most reports were submitted within the deadline and the rest within the period of extension to solve technical issues. However, the finalization of the document was significantly delayed due to the very late submission of one national report. Thus, an overall delay until 5 June 2020 for the preparation of this document was granted by the EGM IWG Chair. As in the previous reporting cycle, the information that has been provided by Range States will be saved in the online reporting system until the next reporting cycle, when information can be updated accordingly.

The level of detail provided varied greatly amongst Range States. Some Range States have taken advantage of the opportunity to provide detailed information and evidence, including links and documents on the implementation of certain activities or explanations why activities were not undertaken, whilst others have provided less information. Overall, there was only a small proportion of new and/or updated information compared to the previous reporting cycle.

Recommendation

It is recommended that a similar reporting format is kept for future reporting cycles to ensure that overall trends over time can be provided to monitor the implementation of the ISSMPs and ISSAPs, as well as identifying major implementation gaps. Keeping the reporting format similar also allows to carry forward previous answers of the Range States and greatly will alleviate the effort of annual reporting to the EGMP. Submission by all participating Range States should be aimed at. Range States should also aim at providing novel and updated information and deleting the information that is no longer up to date. For the next cycle, subject to the adoption of the Adaptive Flyway Management Programmes for the Barnacle and Greylag Geese, new sections and questions will be added to the format.

Agricultural Conflict

Various management measures are applied throughout the flyways to resolve agricultural conflicts; however, most Range States opted for implementing scaring schemes followed by compensation schemes and derogation shooting. However, the effectiveness of these measures is monitored in only very few Range States and not many results have been provided. More specific details about agricultural conflict and management measures have also been included in the document [AEWA/EGMIWG/Inf.4.15](#) which was produced by the EGMP Agriculture Task Force in 2019 (An overview of the Management Measures for Geese in Range States of the European Goose Management Platform) and submitted to the EGM IWG4 last year in Perth, UK..

Recommendation

It is recommended that Range States monitor the effectiveness of the management measures that are applied, and that experiences are shared within the EGM IWG through the EGMP Agriculture Task Force. Moreover, Range States should consider the recommendations provided in document [AEWA/EGMIWG/Inf.4.15](#) (An overview of the Management Measures for Geese in Range States of the European Goose Management Platform).

Implementation of the PfG ISMP

Although reporting on the implementation of the PfG ISMP was only requested from four Range States (Belgium, Denmark, Netherlands and Norway), Finland and Sweden, observers to the PfG ISMP, have also provided relevant information.

Overall, efforts and activities towards achieving the objectives of the PfG ISMP have been made by all Range States, including Finland and Sweden. These activities include the identification and protection of key sites for PfG, the implementation of measures to restore/rehabilitate PfG roosting sites and feeding habitats and the improvement of hunting practices such as wise use practices, species identification and self-organisation of local hunting.

Recommendation

Awareness raising, in particular amongst the local hunting communities on their role and responsibility to participate in the management of the population, is being worked on and has improved, but can be further strengthened, for example through a common EGMP communication strategy.

Implementation of the TBG ISSAP – Eastern 1 MU

A key activity identified for the Eastern 1 MU is the improvement of knowledge on the occurrence of TBG in all Range States. Increased knowledge on the occurrence, distribution and migration patterns is essential for the development of appropriate hunting legislation. Although most Range States have reported monitoring of TBG at some key sites, there is still need for improvement and development of more dedicated monitoring programmes.

Overall, Range States have reported that the lack of financial resources is hindering the implementation of measures to improve the knowledge of TBG. Identification training to people carrying out monitoring activities, provision of adequate monitoring equipment and tagging studies in wintering/staging areas are still lacking and should remain priority activities to be implemented the Eastern 1 MU.

Illegal harvest in the Eastern 1 MU is considered to occur mainly due to the misidentification of goose species. Awareness-raising campaigns for hunters to complement legislation changes, including guidance on the identification of geese are essential, yet due to lack of funding they have not yet been developed or implemented.

In general, the Eastern 1 MU lacks sufficient funding as well as reliable data and expertise in the region. Raising identification skills and awareness amongst hunters and reducing crippling rates are still to be tackled in order to increase the survival rate of adults.

Recommendation

Based on the information provided in this reporting cycle, there is still a need to ensure that the agreed activities included in the TBG non-AHM implementation plan submitted to the EGM IWG5 as part of the Taiga Bean Goose Task Force report (document [AEWA/EGMIWG/5.9/Corr.1](#)) are implemented in the Eastern 1 MU. Range States should consider developing or funding projects aiming at increasing understanding of migratory patterns and developing the monitoring capacity for Taiga Bean Geese 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.

Implementation of the TBG ISSAP – Western and Central MU

Most activities of the TBG non-AHM implementation plan 2018-2020 (agreed at EGM IWG3 in Leeuwarden, the Netherlands in June 2018) for this MU were identified for Denmark, Finland and Sweden. The implementation of these activities is similar as in the previous reposting cycle (either implemented or ongoing in most cases).

There is still a need to raise identification skills (between Tundra and Taiga Bean Goose) and awareness of the status of different goose species amongst hunters. The Taiga Bean Goose Task Force recently (spring 2020) produced an identification guide for Bean Geese, aiming at improving the ID skills of hunters.

Further progress has been made in Finland and Sweden on reducing the impact of huntable native predators and alien predators in breeding and moulting areas.

Furthermore, efforts have been made to increase the reproductive rates of TBG in Denmark, Finland and Sweden. Activities have been undertaken to minimise the impact of forestry works and agriculture in TBG habitats.

In addition, Range States have reported on activities that have been undertaken to reduce TBG crippling rates and to raise the identification skills and awareness amongst hunters. Most Range States have been very active, either by initiating an education programme for goose hunters or publicising articles in relevant hunting magazines.

Recommendation

Although various activities of the TBG non-AHM implementation plan 2018-2020 (agreed at EGM IWG3 in Leeuwarden, the Netherlands in June 2018) related to the Western and Central MU have been successfully implemented or are currently under implementation, similar to last year, there is further need to strengthen the identification skills and raise awareness of the status of different goose species amongst hunters, and to communicate the activities and results that have been achieved in terms of TBG conservation. Thus, it is recommended to prioritise the development of a shared EGMP communication strategy in addition to strengthening knowledge and continuing the monitoring activities in these MUs.