

**AEWA EUROPEAN GOOSE MANAGEMENT PLATFORM**



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



*21-23 June 2022, Helsinki, Finland*

**REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE EGMP AGRICULTURE TASK FORCE  
AND DRAFT WORKPLAN FOR 2022/2023**

*Prepared by Ingunn Tombre, Coordinator of the EGMP Agriculture Task Force,*

*with contributions from the members of the EGMP Agriculture Task Force*



Photo. Gørli E. Bruun Andersen

**Summary:**

This document provides an overview of the status and key activities that the Agriculture Task Force has undertaken since June 2021 until May 2022. In addition, a proposed list of recommendations is included as well as the proposed annual workplan for 2022/2023.

**Action requested from the EGM IWG:**

Take note of the task force report and recommendations and adopt the annual workplan.

## Introduction

The role of the Agriculture Task Force is to assist the working group, Task Forces and processes in the European Goose Management Platform (EGMP). In this document, an overview of activities since the 6<sup>th</sup> meeting of the AEWA European Goose Management International Working Group 21-23 June 2021 (online conference format) is given. A draft workplan for 2022/2023, pending on the incorporation of the outcomes of the 6<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Agriculture Task Force being held 22 April 2022, is also presented.

## 1. Status of the Task Force Membership

The Agriculture Task Force consists of 28 members (status as of 2 May 2022) representing ten Range States and representatives from Birdlife International, Copa Cogeca, FACE, the Wadden Sea Forum, Wetlands International, the Data Centre and the AEWA Secretariat (Annex 1). Since the previous report (2021/2022), there are two new members from the Netherlands representing the Provincial Fauna Management Unit, Noord-Holland (Annex 1).

## 2. Meetings

Since the previous report, the members of the Task Force have met in two online meetings: the 24<sup>th</sup> November 2021 and the 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2022. In addition to a Round Table with updates from each member and Range State, various news and information are shared from the Data Centre and the Secretariat. Plans for, and experiences from, the Agriculture Task Force organised webinars were also presented and discussed (see Agenda item 3). At the last meeting, a more “extended” Round Table provided useful and interesting information from all members. Ongoing projects and activities were presented, and results and experiences briefly discussed.

In addition to the task force meetings, there have been various communications among task force members (email correspondence), as well as a short online meeting in the webinar organizing committee.

## 3. Report of key activities and outcomes

### Webinars

The main activity in 2021/2022 has been the organization of webinars focussing on relevant themes for this task force: geese and agriculture. A planning committee has been established where, in addition to the Task Force Coordinator, Johan Månsson and Lovisa Nilsson from the Wildlife Damage Centre in Sweden, Heinz Düttmann from the Ministry of Environment in Lower Saxony and Frank Ahlhorn from the Wadden Sea Forum are members.

The first webinar, *At the interphase between geese and agriculture: Setting the scene*, was held on 27 May 2021 where presentations were given by speakers from nine Range States (Annex 2). The aim was to give an overview of *where* and *when* goose damages occur in each Range State, *what* is damaged and *who* is doing the damage. For this webinar, task force members were invited and could also invite two more persons to attend. We decided that the first webinar should be a relatively internal happening in order to test such an arrangement and lower the threshold for being a speaker. All the presentations are openly available at the EGMP website under the webinar-information label:

<https://egmp.aewa.info/webinar-interphase-between-geese-and-agriculture-setting-scene>.

A second webinar, *How to manage agricultural damage and conflicts?* was announced with an open invitation and the 9<sup>th</sup> December 2021 a total of 134 persons attended this webinar. Eight presentations, grouped in three themes (Annex 3), were given. All the presentations were recorded and can be found at the EGMP YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Inmz8zuvipU>.

A third webinar will be arranged 10 June 2022. This time we aim for a shorter webinar, with three presentations of relevant themes including a Q & A session. The webinar will, like the second webinar, be announced widely and recorded.

#### **Metadata overview**

An overview of metadata from various projects and activities have been created by the task force. The purpose is to improve the communication of activities/data availabilities, and especially information from the co-called “grey literature”, which may not necessarily be available for all, will be included. Also, by providing the contact information of relevant persons (project leaders), the aim is to open for knowledge sharing and networking. The metadata overview was originally created in an excel sheet and also added to the GitLab platform in 2021. For a more feasible overview, however, it was on the previous task force meeting decided that we shall transform the file to a google document. The document will be available for all EGMP members, and Agriculture Task Force members may edit and add new projects/reports as they develop (or ask the coordinator to update the overview with the new information).

At the previous task force meeting, it was also decided to reduce the amount of information needed when adding new projects/activities. The information will now be narrowed down to basic information like *project name*, *contact person*, *site* and a link to available reports, papers or webpages (if there is any online information available).

## **4. Recommendations and Draft Workplan 2022/2023**

As the role of the Agriculture Task Force is to assist the working group, we expect to receive documents for review and comments from the other task forces and the Modelling Consortium. Some documents are expected before the upcoming EGM IWG7-meeting in June 2022. We anticipate that this task will continue in 2022/2023.

Webinars appear to be a popular happening and opens for a low-threshold participation for Range State members also well beyond the EGMP-group. Hence, at least one more webinar will be arranged in the coming period.

The original idea with a face-to-face meeting has not been possible to arrange due to the pandemic situation. Although the current conditions open for such an event, there are no available resources for this at present. We still keep this possibility open, but outcome will depend on (I) available resources, (II) a meeting place with a local organizer, and (III) available time for an organising committee to arrange the workshop.

In addition to the tasks mentioned above, the Agriculture Task Force will continue to be a resource for the working group and the other task forces and will deal with any other matters that may arise during the various processes in EGMP in the coming year.

Below is an overview of Agriculture Task Force related issues of the cross-cutting actions in the ISSMPs, copied from the Annual Workplan (a google-document).

Table 1. Annual Workplan of the EGMP Agriculture Task Force (taken from the online EGMP Task Force and AFMP workplans)

Actions from the ISSMP	Priority	Timescale	Agriculture TF
1.2 Promote goose-based eco-tourism at selected key sites	Medium	Medium	
2.3 Apply scaring and land management techniques to reduce the attractiveness of sensitive areas, monitoring the implications of such local displacement for conflicts at wider scale[3]	High	Short / Rolling	Two webinars have been arranged (27 May & 9 Dec 2021) by the Agri TF. Relevant information and experiences were shared.
3.2 Establish an internationally coordinated programme to assess agricultural damage including monitoring and assessment protocols	High	Short	Support the DC and MC as consultants in the process, both during the development of the impact models, as well as afterwards.
3.3 Liaise with farmers affected by goose damages to reduce agricultural conflicts	High	Short / Rolling	Communication and information about preventive measures in order to reduce crop damage and conflicts are important tasks in the AGRI TF, and it is expected that activities by members are communicated to the farmer communities in each range state. The AGRI TF also has representatives from this stakeholder group, and farmers' representatives are invited to Webinars. Presentations are available afterward at the EGMP website (as pdf-files or recorded presentations).
A.3 Maintain a spatially explicit database on goose damage to agriculture, other flora and fauna and risk to air safety	Essential	Medium / Rolling	A file with available information in a metadata overview about ongoing projects/activities regarding geese and agriculture is compiled. Must be updated in 2022. Will be a google-doc available for all.
B.1 Produce best practice guide on establishing refuge areas (size, management, subsidies)	Medium	Short	Meet online, share experience and knowledge. More webinars are planned in 2022.
B.2 Provide guidance on conflict resolution and how to make this consistent with the European legal framework, including the Common Agricultural Policy	High	Short	Meet online, share experience and knowledge. More webinars are planned in 2022.
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)	High	Short	Meet online, share experience and knowledge. More webinars are planned in 2022.
B.5 Share experience concerning methods to prevent damage to agriculture and risks to human health, air safety as well as to other flora and fauna	Medium	Medium	Meet online, share experience and knowledge. More webinars are planned in 2022.
C.1 Develop and implement a communication strategy and plan	Medium	Short / Rolling	Continue the outreach activities by all members of the AGRI TF.

## Annex 1. Members of the Agriculture Task Force as of 02 05 2022

Country	Representative	Affiliation
Belgium	<i>(Joost Vanpeteghem)</i>	<i>Agriculture damage expert, Department of Agriculture and Fisheries Flemish Government</i>
	Frank Huysentruyt	Institute for Nature and Forest Research Flemish Government
Denmark	Søren Rasmussen	Danish Environment Protection Agency
	Anthony Fox	Aarhus University, Department of Bioscience
	Lene Midtgaard	Danish Hunters Association
Finland	Jukka Forsman	Natural Resource Institute Finland
Germany	Heinz Düttmann	Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Protection of Lower Saxony
Iceland	Bjarni Jónasson	Environment Agency of Iceland
Netherlands	Bart Nolet	Netherlands Institute of Ecology Animal Ecology
	Mark Westebring	The Fauna Fund
	Sofia Kolkman	Provincial Fauna Management Unit, Noord-Holland
Nikkie van Grinsven	Provincial Fauna Management Unit, Noord-Holland	
Norway	Ingunn Tombre (Coordinator)	Norwegian Institute for Nature Research, Department of Arctic Ecology
	Ove Martin Gundersen	Norwegian Farmers' Union
Sweden	Johan Månsson	Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences /Wildlife Damage Centre
	Lovisa Nilsson	Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences /Wildlife Damage Centre
Ukraine	Olesya Petrovych	Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine (Chief Specialist in Dept. Of Protected Areas)
	Vasiliy Kostiusbyn	Institute of Zoology NAS of Ukraine, Department of Monitoring and Conservation of Animals
United Kingdom	Rae McKenzie	NatureScot
BirdLife International	Ariel Brunner	BirdLife Europe/BirdLife International
Copa Cogeca	Klaus Borde	Copa Cogeca
FACE	Cy Griffin	FACE
FACE	David Scallan	FACE (Based in Belgium)
Wadden Sea Forum	Frank Ahlhorn	Wadden Sea Forum
Wetlands International	Szabolcs Nagy	Wetlands International
	Gitte Høj Jensen	Data Centre
	Eva Meyers	AEWA Secretariat
	Tara Goodbody	AEWA Secretariat



## Annex 2. The agenda of the Agriculture Task Force's first webinar

### *At the interphase between geese and agriculture: Setting the Scene*

#### AEWA EUROPEAN GOOSE MANAGEMENT PLATFORM



#### Agriculture Task Force

#### Webinar 1



### *At the interphase between geese and agriculture: Setting the Scene*

**Date and Time:** 27 May 2021, 10 00 – 13 00 CET

**Meeting participation link:** <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/742787421>

#### Background

The European Goose Management Platform aims to provide mechanisms for a structured, coordinated and inclusive decision-making implementation process towards sustainable management of goose populations. Several objectives have been identified and agreed among the Range States, and for the Agriculture Task Force the fundamental objective **Minimise agriculture damage and conflicts** gives the background for a series of two webinars where we aim to improve our understanding of the present situation in each range state and possible actions to mitigate conflicts and reduce agriculture damage.

The present webinar will be a background seminar where we “set the scene”, giving an overview of the situation in range states having challenges with geese on farmland:

- Where** do the damage occur?
- When** does it occur?
- What** is damaged?
- Who** is doing the damage (culprit species)?

Having this on the table, the next webinar (autumn 2021) will be **How to manage the damage and conflicts**.

After each Range State presentation in the present webinar, there is room for one or two questions connected specifically to the Range State. More time is allocated at the end of the webinar, opening for more questions and a general discussion.

Pdf-files of each presentation will be available for all after the webinar.

*Agriculture Task Force Webinar*

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**Program**

10 00 – 10 05	<i>Introduction (I. Tombre, AGRI TF Coordinator)</i>
10 05 – 10 20	<i>Belgium (Frank Huysentruyt)</i>
10 20 – 10 35	<i>Denmark (Kevin Clausen)</i>
10 35 – 10 50	<i>Finland (Jukka Forsman)</i>
10 50 – 10 55	<i>Break</i>
10 55 – 11 10	<i>Germany (Heinz Düttmann)</i>
11 10 – 11 25	<i>Iceland (Bjarni Jónasson)</i>
11 25 – 11 40	<i>Netherlands (William van Dijk)</i>
11 40 – 11 45	<i>Break</i>
11 45 – 12 00	<i>Norway (Ingunn Tombre)</i>
12 00 – 12 15	<i>Sweden (Johan Månsson)</i>
12 15 – 12 30	<i>United Kingdom (Rae McKenzie)</i>
12 30 – 13 00	<i>Open Discussion</i>

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**Organising committee**

Tombre, Ingunn (Norwegian Institute for Nature Research)

Ahlhorn, Frank (Wadden Sea Forum)

Düttmann, Heinz (Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Protection of Lower Saxony)

Månsson, Johan (Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences /Wildlife Damage Centre)

Nilsson, Lovisa (Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences /Wildlife Damage Centre)

## Annex 3. The agenda of the Agriculture Task Force's second webinar *How to manage agricultural damage and conflicts?*

### AEWA EUROPEAN GOOSE MANAGEMENT PLATFORM



### Agriculture Task Force



#### Webinar

#### “How to manage agricultural damage and conflicts?”

9 Dec 2021 10:00-13:00 CET

**10:00-10:10** Welcome and introduction

*Ingunn Tombre (Norwegian Institute for Nature Research) & Lovisa Nilsson (Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences)*

#### Attracting geese to undisturbed habitats - is that a way to alleviate crop damage?

**10:10-10:25** Responses of wintering geese to the designation of goose foraging areas in The Netherlands and implications for cost-effectiveness  
*Kees Koffijberg (Sovon, Dutch Centre for Field Ornithology)*

**10:25-10:40** Can agricultural economics, hunting and nature conservation interests be combined? *Jesper Madsen (Aarhus University)*

**10:40-10:50** BREAK

#### Can we decrease the number of geese on fields by scaring?

**10:50-11:05** Experiences with laser and other scaring techniques in The Netherlands  
*Julia Stahl (Sovon, Dutch Centre for Field Ornithology)*

**11:05-11:20** Experiences of using lasers to scare geese in Denmark  
*Kevin Kuhlmann Clausen (Aarhus University)*

**11:20-11:35** Lethal scaring – Behavioural and short-term numerical response of Greylag Goose  
*Johan Månsson (Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences)*

**11:35-11:50** BREAK

#### How to involve stakeholders to manage conservation conflicts?

**11:50-12:05** Seed mixtures to alleviate crop damage in Northern Norway: a farmers' initiative for a research project  
*Ingunn Tombre (Norwegian Institute for Nature Research)*

**12:05-12:20** Multi-disciplinary approaches to conservation conflicts: goose-agriculture conflicts in Orkney as an example  
*Isla Hodgson (University of Stirling)*

**12:20-12:35** Farmers and multilevel goose management in Sweden  
*Louise Eriksson (Umeå University)*

**12:35-13:00** Questions and open discussion