

**AEWA EUROPEAN GOOSE MANAGEMENT PLATFORM**



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

*20-22 June 2023, Bonn, Germany*



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**REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE TAIGA BEAN GOOSE TASK FORCE  
FOR 2022-2023 AND DRAFT WORKPLAN FOR 2023/2024**

*Prepared by Mikko Alhainen, Coordinator of the Taiga Bean Goose Task Force*

*with contributions from the members of Taiga Bean Goose Task Force*

**Summary:**

This document provides an overview of the status and key activities that the Taiga Bean Goose Task Force has undertaken since June 2022 until May 2023. In addition, a proposed list of recommendations is included as well as the proposed annual workplan for 2023/2024.

**Recommendations:**

- Continue and strengthen January counts in all MUs for the delineation of MUs in overlapping wintering areas & population size estimates.
- Continue October and March counts in CMU in foreseeable future for the data generation for the IPM. Prepare to extend the coordinated counts to Finland and Denmark if relevant for robust population monitoring.
- In co-operation with the AEWA Secretariat, implement the ISSAP evaluation data collection and analysis.
- In co-operation with the AEWA Secretariat, plan, raise funds and prepare the workplan for the ISSAP extension/update/revision for 2024-2025.

**Adaptive Harvest Management**

- To be defined once harvest assessment is done. The Task Force recommendation on adaptive harvest management will be presented at the EGM IWG8.

**Action requested from the EGM IWG:**

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

**Introduction**

According to Rule 29 of the European Goose Management International Working Group (EGM IWG) Modus Operandi, the EGM IWG may establish species and/or thematic Task Forces as necessary to deal with the preparation and coordination of decision papers and background documents, as well as to deal with other specific tasks.

The Taiga Bean Goose Task Force (TBG TF) was established in early 2017, following the recommendations of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the EGM IWG (EGM IWG2) in June 2017, in Copenhagen. Mr Mikko Alhainen was identified as the Coordinator for the TBG TF. The current membership of the TBG TF is indicated in Annex 1 to this document. In line with the Terms of Reference, the nomination of additional members to the Task Force is at the discretion of the National Government Representative of each Range State and the Coordinator of the Task Force.

At the 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the EGM IWG (EGM IWG3) in June 2018, in Leeuwarden, the Netherlands, the TBG TF presented on the work progress since the establishment of the TF and presented recommendations to the EGM IWG, referring to document [AEWA/EGMIWG/3.13/Rev.1](#). Range States agreed on the extension of the period of the Workplan for the implementation of non-AHM related actions of the AEWA Taiga Bean Goose ISSAP from 2017-2018 until 2020 with small amendments, as recommended by the TBG TF. Moreover, the EGM IWG agreed on the establishment of a thematic sub-group to the Task Force including external goose monitoring experts not currently members of the Task Force, for the development of a monitoring framework.

At the 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the EGM IWG (EGM IWG4) in June 2019, in Perth, Scotland, UK the TBG TF presented on the work progress since the EGM IWG3 and presented recommendations to the EGM IWG, referring to document [AEWA/EGMIWG/4.11](#). Range States agreed on the development steps on monitoring and population assessment at each Management Unit, based on the work of the thematic sub-group's work between IWG3 and IWG4.

At the 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the EGM IWG (EGM IWG5) in June 2020, online meeting, the TBG TF presented on the work progress since the IWG4 and presented recommendations to the EGM IWG, referring to document [AEWA/EGMIWG/5.9/Rev.1](#). Range States agreed on the new non-AHM workplan, continuation of at least October and March counts for Central Management Unit and adopted the Integrated Population Model as the basis for Adaptive Harvest Management decisions.

At the 6<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the EGM IWG (EGM IWG6) in June 2021, online meeting, the TBG TF presented on the work progress since the EGM IWG5 and presented recommendations to the EGM IWG, referring to document [AEWA/EGMIWG/6.8](#). Range States agreed on the extension of the non-AHM workplan and adopted the Final Integrated Population Model as the basis for Adaptive Harvest Management decisions.

At the 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the EGM IWG (EGM IWG7) in June 2022, in Helsinki, Finland, the TBG TF presented on the work progress since the IWG6 and presented recommendations to the EGM IWG, referring to document [AEWA/EGMIWG/7.12](#).

This document provides an overview of the work that has taken place since the EGM IWG7 and the recommendations and workplan for the implementation of the AEWA International Single Species Action Plan (ISSAP) for the Taiga Bean Goose for 2023-2024.

## **1. Status of the Task Force Membership**

Presently, the TBG TF has 18 members. Members represent six Range States, one Observer Organisation, the Data Centre and the AEWA Secretariat.

Mr. Mikko Alhainen (FI) remains the current Coordinator of the TBG TF.

Details of the current membership of the TBG TF is indicated in Annex 1 to this document. In line with the Terms of Reference, the nomination of additional members to the Task Force is at the discretion of the National Government Representative of each Range State, observer organizations and the Coordinator of the Task Force.

The full list of members is presented in Annex 1.

## **2. Meetings**

The meetings of the Taiga Bean Goose Task Force were held online involving the Task Force Coordinator and members, together with the EGMP Secretariat and Data Centre.

As of 16 May 2023, the Task Force had a total of three meetings during the period between EGM IWG7 and EGM IWG8. Online meetings took place on 2 December 2022, 26 January 2023 and 8 May 2023. The fourth meeting of the Task Force prior to EGM IWG8 is scheduled to take place in person, in the framework of a EGMP Task Force Day to be held on 19 June 2023 in Bonn, Germany.

## **3. Report of key activities and outcomes**

The EGM IWG agreed on following recommendations at the EGM IWG7:

- Strengthen and continue January counts in all MUs for the delineation of MUs in overlapping wintering areas & population size estimates;
- Continue October and March counts in CMU in foreseeable future for the data generation for the IPM. Prepare to extend the coordinated counts to Finland and Denmark by 2023;
- Recommendation for Adaptive Harvest Management.

The agreed monitoring activities have been implemented. [The new study](#) conducted by TF member Mr Antti Piironen provides important insights for further development of the monitoring activities.

The 10-year lifespan of the Taiga Bean Goose ISSAP is coming to an end in 2025. The evaluation of the ISSAP implementation has been initiated by the AEWA Secretariat and the Taiga Bean Goose Task Force, to be implemented during the second half of 2023. The evaluation will provide the basis for the development of the next plan in form of an extension, update or revision.

## **4. Recommendations**

The Taiga Bean Goose Task Force would like to recommend the following to the EGM IWG:

- Strengthen and continue January counts in all MUs for the delineation of MU's in overlapping wintering areas & population size estimates;
- Continue October and March counts in CMU in foreseeable future for the data generation for the IPM and prepare to extend the coordinated counts to Finland and Denmark if relevant for robust population monitoring;
- In co-operation with the AEWA Secretariat, implement the ISSAP evaluation data collection and analysis;
- In co-operation with the AEWA Secretariat, plan, raise funds and prepare the workplan for the ISSAP extension/update/revision for 2024-2025.

### **Adaptive Harvest Management**

- To be defined once harvest assessment is done. The Task Force recommendation on adaptive harvest management will be presented at the EGM IWG8.

## **5. Draft Workplan 2023/2024**

The Taiga Bean Goose Task Force foresees to continue actively working to support the implementation of the ISSAP following the non-AHM workplan activities of previous years and recommended activities.

Total of three meetings is planned for the period between EGM IWG8 and EGM IWG9.

- 1) September-October 2023:
  - a. Organization and further planning of the TF activities based on outcomes of the EGM IWG8;
  - b. Evaluation of the ISSAP.
- 2) February-March 2024: Update on agreed tasks and progress and other agreed work.
- 3) June 2024: Face-to-face meeting back-to-back with EGM IWG9.

Additional meetings will be organised as necessary, especially for the evaluation of the ISSAP.

**Annex 1. Members of the Taiga Bean Task Force as of May 2023**

Country	Representative	Affiliation
Denmark	Anthony Fox	Aarhus University
	Iben Hove Sørensen	Danish Hunters Association
	Knud Flensted	BirdLife Denmark
Finland	Mikko Alhainen (TF Coordinator)	Finnish Wildlife Department
	Toni Laaksonen	Natural Resources Institute Finland (Luke)
	Markus Piha	Natural Resources Institute Finland (Luke)
	Antti Piironen	University of Turku
Norway	Ingunn Tombre	Norwegian Institute for Nature Research, Department of Arctic Ecology
Sweden	Per Risberg	Swedish Environmental Protection Agency
Ukraine	Vasyl Kostyshyn	Institute of Zoology NAS of Ukraine, Department of Monitoring and Conservation of Animals
United Kingdom	Morag Milne (rep for Scotland)	Scottish Natural Heritage
	Bart Donato (rep for England)	Natural England
	Gillian Fisher	Natural England
Wetlands International	Szabolcs Nagy	Wetlands International
Data Centre	Gitte Høj Jensen	Aarhus University
	Fred Johnson	Aarhus University
UNEP/AEWA Secretariat	Eva Meyers	EGMP Coordinator
	Shenay Huseynova	EGMP Programme Assistant