

AEWA EUROPEAN GOOSE MANAGEMENT PLATFORM



**9th MEETING OF THE
AEWA EUROPEAN GOOSE MANAGEMENT
INTERNATIONAL WORKING GROUP**



18-20 June 2024, Tromsø, Norway

**REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE PINK-FOOTED GOOSE TASK FORCE
FOR 2023/2024 AND DRAFT WORKPLAN FOR 2024/2025**

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with contributions from the members of the Pink-footed Task Force

Summary:

This document provides an overview of the status and key activities that the Pink-footed Goose Task Force (PfG TF) has undertaken since June 2023 until May 2024. In addition, a proposed list of recommendations is included as well as the proposed annual workplan for 2024/2025. The most important task will be to provide input to the revision of the existing ISSMP for the PfG, expiring in 2025. Since it is highly likely that the current ISSMP will be set for revision, it is recommended that the EGMP Range States of the PfG, including Norway, Denmark, the Netherlands, Belgium, Sweden and Finland, engage in the revision work, including participating in a dedicated planning workshop for the next iteration of the ISSMP, to be held in Norway, 7-10 October 2024. If agreement will be reached on the formulation of the revised plan, a draft revised ISSMP can be ready for commenting by the PfG Range States in December 2024, and a draft Adaptive Flyway Management Program by February 2025.

Action requested from the EGM IWG:

Take note of the Task Force report and recommendations and adopt the annual workplan for 2024/2025.

**Action requested from the Svalbard Pink-footed Goose population Range States under EGMP
(Norway, Denmark, The Netherlands, Belgium, Sweden, Finland):**

Agree whether the management of the Svalbard population of the Pink-footed Goose remains a priority and whether the ISSMP shall be revised.

The full list of Task Force members is presented in Annex 1. Currently, the Task Force consist of 17 members from six EGMP Range States (Norway, Sweden, Finland, Denmark, the Netherlands and Belgium). Prof. Jesper Madsen (DK) continues to serve as Coordinator of the PfG TF.

1. Meetings

Since no funding has specifically been allocated for the work of the PfG TF, communication and information exchange has been conducted through online meetings. The 13th, 14th and 15th TF meetings (all virtual) were held on 3 October 2023, 8 March 2024 and 7 June 2024, respectively. The 16th TF meeting is scheduled to be held in a hybrid mode in Tromsø, Norway on 17 June 2024, in the framework of the EGMP Task Force Day.

2. Report of key activities and outcomes

In June 2023, the EGM IWG approved the PFG TF workplan for 2023/2024, which encompassed the following activities (Table 1).

Table 1. Pink-footed Goose Task Force Draft Workplan for the period July 2023 to June 2024, with a view to 2025.

Task	When	By whom?	Deliverables
<u>Dissemination platform along the PfG flyway</u>	August 2023 – June 2024	Aarhus University + Nissum Fjord Naturpark + TF + relevant and interested museums and visitor centres	<u>Project description, identification of potential partners, plan for funding</u>
Input to the ISSMP revision in 2025: Step 1: Evaluation of existing ISSMP goals and objectives (report due for IWG June 2024)	September 2023 – May 2024: 1. Impact model for agricultural damage in range states (funded) 2. Svalbard tundra degradation assessment (funded) 3. Population range, ecological integrity, habitat management, crippling 4. Adaptive harvest management and population target feasibility and justification	DC + TF	<u>Analysis of relationship between abundance of PfG and damage</u>
		DC + TF + COAT (Norway)	<u>Analysis of relationship between abundance of PfG and tundra impact</u>
		DC + TF	<u>Questionnaire to range states and desk study</u>
		DC + TF	<u>Desk study, based on IPM outputs and outcomes of 1. and 2.(above)</u>
Input to the ISSMP revision in 2025: Step 2: Setting up revision process; drafting revised ISSMP	February – May 2024: <u>Agreement on protocol for revision process</u>	TF + DC + EGMP Sec	<u>Protocol for revision of ISSMP</u>
	June 2024 – February 2025: 1. Revision of ISSMP	TF + DC + EGMP Sec + Range States + interested stakeholders (at workshop)	<u>Range state workshop</u> <u>Drafting of revised ISSMP</u>
		TF + DC + EGMP Sec	<u>Draft AFMP</u>
<u>Internal review of annual reports</u>	<u>Early June 2024</u>	TF	<u>Review back to DC early June 2024</u>

Outcomes

Dissemination platform: The work was postponed due to administrative changes in Nissum Fjord Naturpark. The annual event ‘Goose Day’ was organised in Bøvlingbjerg, Denmark, on 20 April 2024.

Input to the ISSMP evaluation: Task Force members have been actively engaged in providing data for the evaluation, uploading information and indicators to a joint online file. The Danish Environmental Protection Agency funded the organisation and analysis of the data for the evaluation. Svalbard tundra degradation data gathering and analysis was funded by the Norwegian Environment Agency; a draft report has been prepared

(to be presented at the EGMP webinar dedicated to the effects of climate change on 17 June 2024). The evaluation report will be submitted to and presented at the EGM IWG 9 in June 2024.

Input to the PFG ISSMP revision: The plan for the revision process was presented and discussed at the PFG TF meetings on 3 October 2023 and 8 March 2024. The TF agreed to proceed with the planning for a revision, despite that the formal agreement first was to be made by the Range States at the EGM IWG in June 2024. A proposal on the population delineation of the PFG population after the expansion of the breeding range was circulated to the TF in early March 2024 and discussed at the TF meeting on 8 March. It was agreed that the geese following the traditional route as well as the new route to Novaya Zemlya should be regarded as one population in the upcoming revision. The decision of the TF was approved by the AEW Technical Committee at its meeting on 12-14 March 2024 and will be now submitted to the Standing Committee for sign off Standing Committee. As to whether the population should be divided into management units, will be taken up at the PFG ISSMP revision workshop to be held in Norway in October 2024.

The Norwegian Environment Agency has kindly funded the hosting of the revision workshop in October 2024. The Danish Environmental Protection Agency has kindly funded the work to compile the revision report.

Internal review of the annual assessment: The Task Force kindly conducted a review of the chapter concerning PFG in the EGMP Population Status and Offtake Assessment Report 2024 in the start of June 2024.

3. Recommendations

Evaluation and revision of the PFG ISSMP

The most pressing need for the PFG TF, in collaboration with the EGMP Secretariat and the Data Centre, is to participate actively in the process of the revision of the PFG ISSMP during the second half of 2024. The plan needs to be ready for submission for endorsement by the AEW Technical Committee and Standing Committee in spring 2025, before final endorsement by the 9th Session of the Meeting of the Parties to AEW (MOP9) in the autumn of 2025.

It is recommended that the EGMP Range States of the PFG, i.e. Norway, Denmark, the Netherlands, Belgium, Sweden and Finland, devote the necessary resources to participate in the revision process, including defining Favourable Reference Values, commenting on draft documents, participating in online meetings and in-person in the revision workshop (to be attended by national government representatives and national experts). It is also hoped that permanent observers to EGM IWG will be able to participate in the revision process, including the workshop.

Population assessment

In the PFG Population Status and Offtake Assessment Report for 2024, it has been shown that the use of GPS-tags is highly valuable to estimate biases in the population counts. It is also a useful tool for monitoring the exchange between the traditional and the new migratory route and breeding grounds. If this tool shall be used in future assessments, it requires maintaining a sufficient pool of GPS-tagged individuals. The PFG TF recommends that a GPS-tagging programme is continued, with a multiple purpose objective, serving the population assessment, the development of the flyway distribution and connectivity, avian flu monitoring (via the catches of geese), flight safety warning system (see the [Flight Safety TF workplan](#)) and climate change effects on distribution during breeding and outside the breeding season.

The PfG TF agrees with the Data Centre's proposal for the harvest strategy and quotas for the coming hunting season outlined in the Population Status and Offtake Assessment Report 2024.

Dissemination

The PfG TF would like to engage in further initiatives to promote the EGMP flyway approach and uptake by national stakeholders, e.g. related to agricultural conflict resolution, reduction of crippling due to shotgun shooting, etc. The plan for developing the platform will be discussed between the involved Danish municipalities, Nature Park Nissum Fjord and Aarhus University in August 2024. The outcomes and proposals will be shared with the PfG TF for further considerations.

4. Draft Workplan 2024/2025

Table 2. Pink-footed Goose Task Force Draft Workplan for the period July 2024 to June 2025.

Task	When	By whom?	Deliverables
Dissemination platform along the PfG flyway	August 2024 –June 2025	Aarhus University + Nissum Fjord Naturpark + TF + relevant and interested museums and visitor centres	Project description, identification of potential partners, plan for funding
Input to the ISSMP revision in 2025: Step 1: Evaluation of existing ISSMP goals and objectives (report due for IWG June 2024)	August 2024 : Evaluation report endorsed by TF and submitted to AEWA TC and StC	DC + TF	Draft evaluation report
Input to the ISSMP revision in 2025: Step 2: drafting revised ISSMP	September 2024: Technical input to revision report: Favourable Reference Values, outline of revised ISSMP 7-10 October 2024 (Arrival 7th, Departure 10th Oct): Revision workshop (Levanger, Norway) December 2024: Draft ISSMP February 2025: Draft ISSMP Development of an Adaptive Flyway Management Program (AFMP) and submission to Range States	TF + DC + EGMP Sec TF + DC + EGMP Sec + Range States + interested stakeholders (at workshop) TF + DC + EGMP Sec TF + DC + EGMP Sec	Outline of ISSMP with draft chapters on FRVs etc. Range state workshop Draft ISSMP for commenting by Range States ISSMP submitted to AEWA TC AFMP draft submitted to Range States
Internal review of annual reports	Early June 2025	TF	Review back to DC early June 2025

Annex 1. Members of the Pink-footed Goose Task Force as of May 2024

Country	Representative	Affiliation
Belgium	Floris Verhaeghe	Nature and Forest Agency
	Frank Huysentruyt	Institute for Nature and Forest Research
	Eckhart Kuijken	Research Institute for Nature and Forest, Flemish Government of Belgium Expert, Univ. Ghent Belgium
	Christine Verscheure	Natuurpunt Belgium
Denmark	Jesper Madsen (Coordinator)	Aarhus University
	Søren Egelund Rasmussen	Danish Environmental Protection Agency
	Lene Midtgaard	Danish Hunters' Association
	Knud Flensted	BirdLife Denmark
The Netherlands	Kees Koffijberg	Sovon Vogelonderzoek Nederland
	Gerben Mensink	Province of Fryslan
Finland	Jorma Pessa	Centre for Economic Development
Norway	Ingunn Tombre	NINA
	Ove Martin Gundersen	Norwegian Farmer's Union

Sweden	Per Risberg	Swedish Environmental Protection Agency
EGMP Data Centre	Iben Hove Sørensen	EGMP Goose Monitoring Coordinator
	Fred Johnson	Aarhus University
EGMP Secretariat	Bruno Leles	EGMP Coordinator
	Shenay Huseynova	EGMP Programme Management Assistant