



REPORT 2023/2024

EGMP SECRETARIAT AND DATA CENTRE



Greylag Geese
(*Anser anser*) ©
J.P.Kjeldsen

The present report covers the work of the AEWG European Goose Management Platform (EGMP) Secretariat and the Data Centre for the period between July 2023 and May 2024. This report is divided into seven sections:

1. EGMP Organisational Structure;
2. Staffing and Organisation of the EGMP Secretariat and the Data Centre;
3. Participating Range States of the EGMP;
4. Funding;
5. Meetings and Workshops;
6. EGMP Activities;
7. Communication and Outreach.

Activities reported in detail in other EGM IWG9 documents are only mentioned briefly here, with a reference to the relevant substantive document containing more information.

The day-to-day work of the EGMP Secretariat and Data Centre, which includes administration, management, responding to incoming mail, maintaining the extensive network of contacts, etc., is not specifically mentioned in this report.



EGMP ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE



Greylag Goose
(*Anser anser*) ©
Domenic Hoffman/
Pixabay

Photo on previous
page: Barnacle
Geese (*Branta
leucopsis*) ©
Sergey Dereliev,
[www.dereliev-
photography.com](http://www.dereliev-
photography.com)

The European Goose Management International Working Group (EGM IWG) serves as the main coordinating and decision-making body of the EGMP and is composed of national delegations comprising representatives of national governments, their designated national experts and other national stakeholders. The European Commission is also a member of the EGM IWG. Several relevant international organisations have received permanent observer status to the EGM IWG and individual experts are invited to meetings, as necessary.

The EGM IWG Chairmanship has been assumed by Sweden (represented by Prof. Petter Kjellander) since June 2023.

Following the establishment of the Flight Safety Task Force, the EGMP now includes a total of seven Task Forces:

- Pink-footed Goose Task Force
- Taiga Bean Goose Task Force
- Barnacle Goose Task Force for Russia/Germany & Netherlands Population
- Barnacle Goose Task Force for E. Greenland/Scotland & Ireland and Svalbard/SW Scotland Populations
- Greylag Goose Task Force for NW/SW European Population
- Agriculture Task Force
- Flight Safety Task Force

The Task Forces are aimed at supporting the EGM IWG in coordination and facilitation of the respective International Single Species Action and Management Plan (ISSAP and ISSMP) implementation, as well as addressing specific cross-cutting concerns identified in these plans (Agriculture and Flight Safety Task Forces).

The EGMP Data Centre is responsible for providing the necessary scientific analyses, assessments and subsequent proposals for conservation and management options for EGMP-related issues. The UNEP/AEWA Secretariat and Aarhus University in Denmark have signed a Memorandum of Cooperation under which Aarhus University hosts the Data Centre for the EGMP. The Dutch Goose Research Consortium contributes with coordination of monitoring and assessment for the Russia/Germany and Netherlands population of Barnacle Goose and with developing population modeling for the NW/SW population of the Greylag Goose. NatureScot contributes with coordination of monitoring of the East Greenland/Scotland & Ireland population of Barnacle Goose.

Under the coordination of the EGMP Data Centre, the International Modelling Consortium, consisting of an international partnership of scientific institutions, collaborates on the development of population models (to support the optimisation of



harvest offtake and analyse the cumulative impact of derogation killing and harvest) and so-called impact models to understand the relationship between goose abundances and socioeconomic as well as ecosystem impacts caused by geese.

The UNEP/AEWA Secretariat, based in Bonn, Germany, is also functioning as the EGMP Secretariat responsible for the coordination and facilitation of the EGMP, including its respective bodies (EGM IWG and the EGMP Data Centre).

Pink-footed Geese (*Anser brachyrhynchus*) © J.P.Kjeldsen

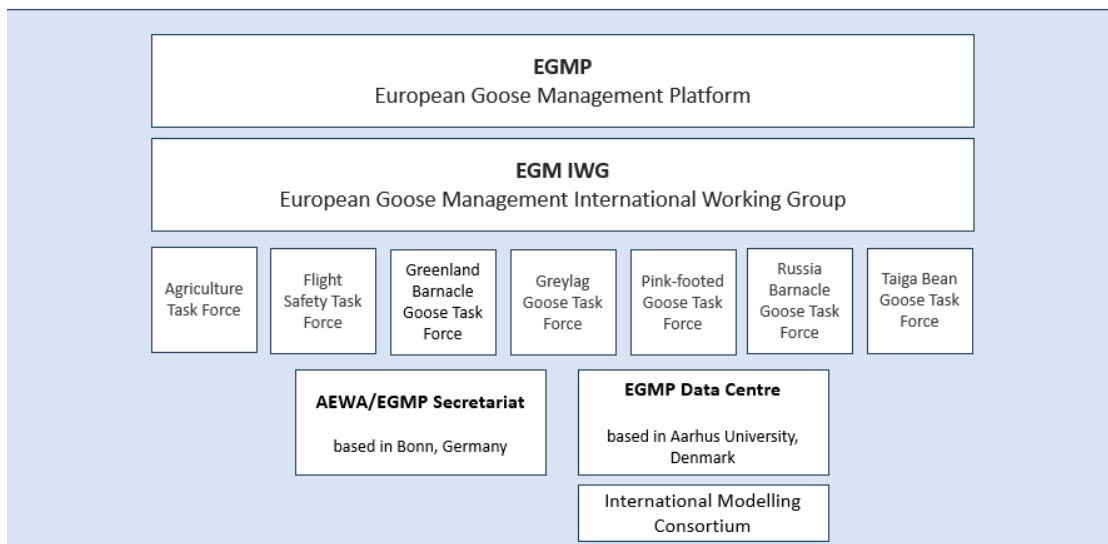


Figure 1. Organisational Structure of the European Goose Management Platform



STAFFING AND ORGANISATION OF THE EGMP SECRETARIAT AND DATA CENTRE

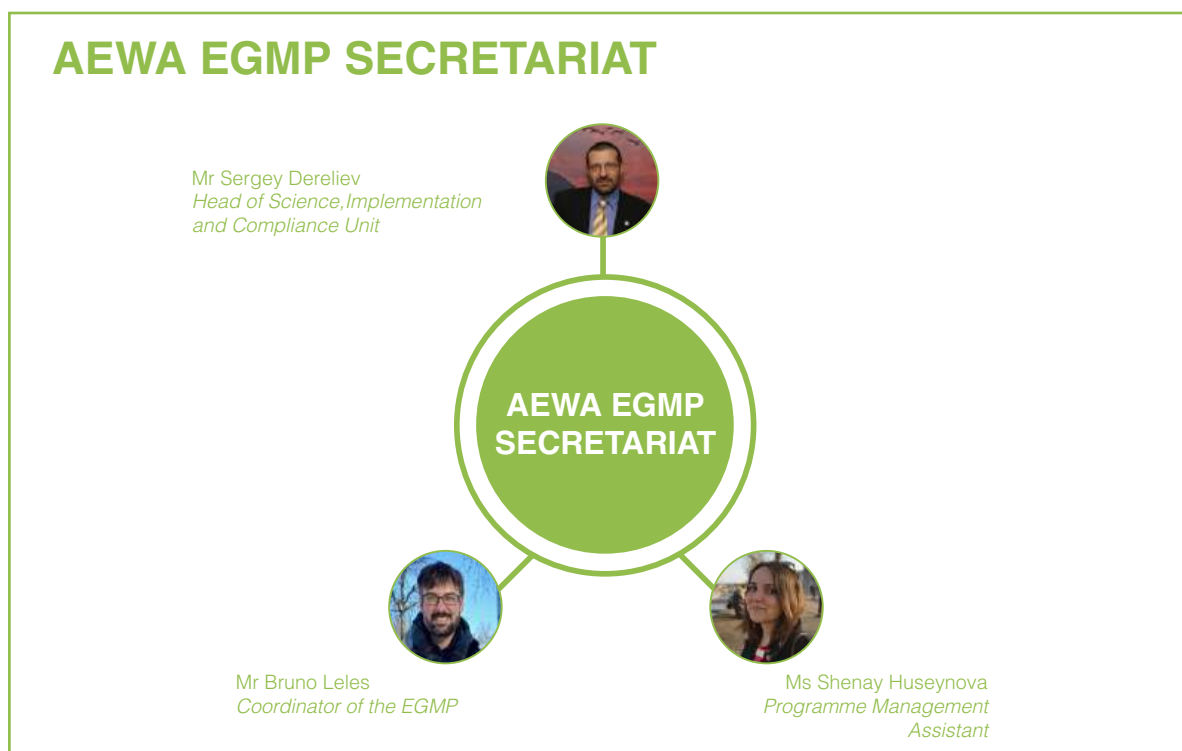


Figure 2. AEWA EGMP Secretariat Staff Composition

In 2023, the EGMP Secretariat and Data Centre experienced personnel departures that temporarily affected their capacity. Ms Eva Meyers, the EGMP Coordinator, left the team in July, followed by Dr Gitte Høj Jensen, the Goose Monitoring Coordinator, in November. The team regained full capacity in January 2024, when Mr Bruno Leles and Ms Iben Hove Sørensen assumed their respective roles.

AEWA EGMP Secretariat

AEWA Head of Science, Implementation and Compliance Unit

Mr Sergey Dereliev

Part of Mr Dereliev's staff time, covered in-kind by the AEWA core budget, is allocated to oversee the EGMP process and to supervise the day-to-day work of the EGMP team.

EGMP Coordinator

Mr Bruno Leles

Mr Leles has served as the Coordinator of the EGMP, as full-time P-2 Associate Programme Management Officer since January 2024. This post is fully funded through the voluntary contributions provided by the EGMP Range States. The EGMP Coordinator has an annual workplan which is revised mid-term and approved by the Head of Science, Implementation and Compliance Unit, as well as an annual evaluation of performance.

Programme Management Assistant

Ms Shenay Huseynova

Ms Huseynova has served as the Programme Management Assistant (PMA) since June 2022. The EGMP PMA has an annual workplan, which is revised mid-term and approved by the EGMP Coordinator, as well as an annual evaluation of performance.

Photo on previous page: Barnacle Geese (*Branta leucopsis*)
© J.P.Kjeldsen

EGMP Data Centre

Head of the EGMP Data Centre

Prof. Dr Jesper Madsen

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

Goose Monitoring Coordinator

Ms Iben Hove Sørensen

Ms Sørensen has served as the Goose Monitoring Coordinator based at the Department of Ecoscience at Aarhus University, Denmark, since January 2024. This full-time post is fully funded through the contributions provided by the EGMP Range States for the platform's core budget.



Greylag Geese
(*Anser anser*) ©
J.P.Kjeldsen

Population Modelling Experts

Dr Fred A. Johnson is a part-time Senior Researcher at the Department of Ecoscience at Aarhus University, Denmark. He is the developer of the adaptive management frameworks and the assessor for Pink-footed Goose, Taiga Bean Goose, Greylag Goose, and Greenland Barnacle Goose. The EGMP core budget funds a 40% person-year position, which is supplemented by project funding from various Range States or funds.

Professor Dr Anthony D. Fox, Dr Kevin Kuhlmann Clausen and Dr Morten Frederiksen,

Aarhus University, occasionally contribute to annual assessments and modelling work.

In January 2024, the Data Centre recruited Dr. Ryan Germain, a population expert, to enhance and support the ongoing development of goose population models and assessments. The time currently spent by this post on EGMP matters is an in-kind contribution of Aarhus University.

The possibility to maintain these posts is dependent on the provision of annual voluntary contributions by the participating Range States of the EGMP covering the full necessary annual budget.

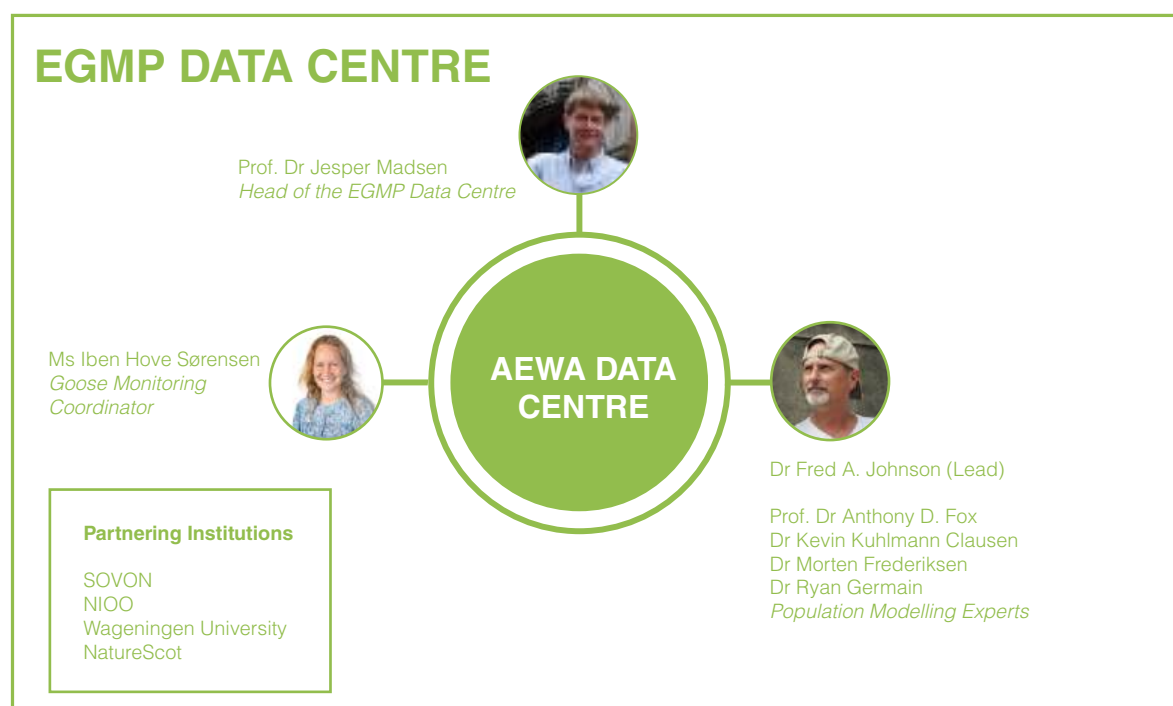


Figure 3. EGMP Data Centre Staff Composition



**PARTICIPATING
RANGE STATES OF
THE EGMP/FUNDING**

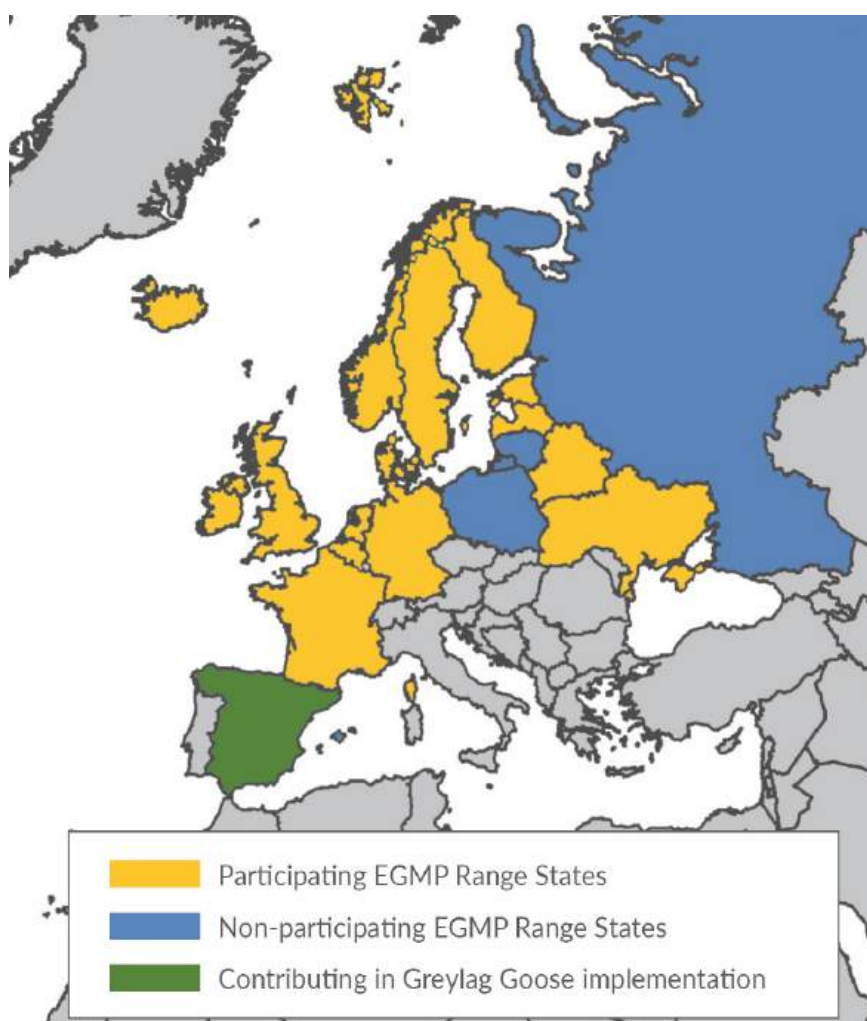


Figure 4. Map of the EGMP participating and non-participating Range States

Photo on previous page: Pink-footed Geese (*Anser brachyrhynchus*) © Sergey Dereliev, www.dereliev-photography.com

Participating Range States of the EGMP

The EGMP has 16 participating Range States (see Figure 2), 15 national governments and the European Commission: Belarus, Belgium, Denmark, Estonia, EU, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Latvia, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Ukraine and United Kingdom.

Ireland was the latest country to join the EGM IWG, in June 2021. Spain is participating in the Greylag Goose implementation process through data provision. Poland has designated a national expert to participate in the Taiga Bean Goose Task Force. Spain, Lithuania, Poland and Russia officially remain non-participating Range States of the EGMP.

Funding

The AEWA Secretariat wishes to extend its gratitude for the financial contributions received to support the implementation of the EGMP processes. A detailed financial report outlining budget, funding and expenses is provided as document AEWA/EGMIWG/9.18.

A proposed budget and detailed Programme of Work for 2025 are outlined in document AEWA/EGMIWG/9.19 and will be presented at EGM IWG9.



MEETINGS AND WORKSHOPS



Group photo from EGM IWG8 meeting held in Bonn, Germany in June 2023 © Dunia Sforzin

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

Meetings and Workshops

Meetings of the EGMP Task Forces

The meetings of the EGMP Task Forces were held online (via Zoom and Microsoft Teams online platforms) involving the Task Force Coordinators and members, together with

the EGMP Secretariat and Data Centre. The summary of EGMP Task Force meetings below features upcoming meetings scheduled for the latter half of May 2024 and the EGMP Task Force Day which will occur in a hybrid format in Tromsø, Norway, on 17 June 2024, back-to-back with EGM IWG9.

Meeting	Meeting Date
Joint Meeting of the EGMP Task Forces	
	26 September 2023
	4 March 2024
PfG TF (Coordinator: Jesper Madsen):	
12th Meeting of the PfG TF	3 October 2023
13th Meeting of the PfG TF	8 March 2024
14th Meeting of the PfG TF	May 2024 (<i>tbc</i>)
15th Meeting of the PfG TF	17 June 2024
TBG TF (Coordinator: Mikko Alhainen):	
23rd Meeting of the TBG TF	15 November 2023
24th Meeting of the TBG TF	May 2024 (<i>tbc</i>)
25th Meeting of the TBG TF	17 June 2024
Agri TF (Coordinator: Ingunn Tombre):	
11th Meeting of the Agri TF	17 June 2024
BG TF (Russia population) (Coordinator: position vacant)	
In the absence of a TF coordinator, no meetings of the TF took place in this period.	


GG TF (Coordinator: Iben Hove Sørensen until January 2024; Malin Åhl from April 2024)

9th Meeting of the GG TF	14 December 2023
10th Meeting of the GG TF	16 May 2024
11th Meeting of the GG TF	17 June 2024

BG TF (E. Greenland/Svalbard population) (Coordinator: Rae McKenzie)

8th Meeting of the BG TF	2 November 2023
9th Meeting of the BG TF	May 2024 (<i>tbc</i>)
10th Meeting of the BG TF	17 June 2024

Flight Safety TF

1st Meeting of the Flight Safety TF	15 January 2024
2nd Meeting of the Flight Safety TF	18 March 2024
3rd Meeting of the Flight Safety TF	31 May 2024
4th Meeting of the Flight Safety TF	17 June 2024

International Modelling Consortium Meetings

No meetings took place in this period.

Barnacle Geese
(*Branta leucopsis*) ©
J.P.Kjeldsen

Other Meetings

- On 8 February 2024, the Data Centre organised a meeting with national experts to discuss the results of the post-breeding counts of Greylag Goose carried out in 2022 in the Range States of Management Unit 1 (Finland, Sweden, Norway, and Denmark). This meeting led to the summary and recommendations presented in Doc. AEWA/EGMIWG/9.10.
- On 5 March 2024, the Data Centre organised a meeting to discuss the population projections and coordination of offtake of the E. Greenland/Scotland and Ireland population of Barnacle Goose. Conclusions of that meeting were further discussed at a face-to-face meeting in Reykjavik organised by NatureScot and the Icelandic Institute of Natural History on 19-21 March 2024. The Data Centre and the Secretariat participated virtually in parts of this meeting.



From EGM IWG8
meeting held in
Bonn, Germany
in June 2023 ©
UNEP/AEWA
Secretariat

EGMP Monitoring Workshop

On 22-23 November 2023, the EGMP Data Centre organised a monitoring workshop in Dragør, Denmark, attended by national goose monitoring coordinators from 12 Range States. The workshop aimed to create an informal network of coordinators and to give attendees an overview of existing national monitoring efforts, along with the history, mandates, and activities of the EGMP. The meeting report as well as the presentations from the workshop are available on the EGMP website.

9th Meeting of the AEWA European Goose Management International Working Group (EGM IWG9)

The 9th Meeting of the European Goose Management International Working Group (EGM IWG9) is scheduled to take place on 18-20 June 2024 in Tromsø, Norway, at the kind invitation of the Norwegian Environment Agency.



EGMP ACTIVITIES

Photo on previous page: Barnacle Geese (*Branta leucopsis*) © Canva.com

Photo below: Joint Meeting of EGMP Task Forces © UNEP/AEWA Secretariat

ISSMP for the Pink-footed Goose (PfG)

In spring 2024, the Data Centre produced the annual monitoring and harvest assessment chapter for the PfG (due June 2024). Due to a suspicion of biases in the population counts performed in May and November, the Data Centre undertook an analysis of the evidence for this, comparing the count information with the position of GPS-tagged PfG available from a scientific project (evaluation due June 2024). The ISSMP for PfG will be revised in 2025. In autumn 2023, the Data Centre and the PfG Task Force initiated an evaluation of the current ISSMP. The evaluation report is due in June 2024.

ISSAP for the Taiga Bean Goose (TBG)

In spring 2024, the Data Centre produced an annual monitoring and harvest assessment report for the TBG, with a focus on the Central Management Unit. At the AEWA MOP in 2022, it was decided to split the Taiga Bean Goose population into four discrete populations; thus the former Management Units are now considered separate populations. The ISSAP for Taiga Bean Goose will be revised in 2025, and the first steps towards an evaluation of the current plan have been taken jointly by the TF coordinator, the Secretariat and the Data Centre.

ISSMP for the Greylag Goose (GG)

In spring 2024, the Data Centre produced an annual monitoring and assessment report for the GG. Further progress has been made towards dynamic, model-based management of the NW/SW European population of Greylag Goose. Following the development of a preliminary population model and a utility function to evaluate levels of offtake, it was decided to focus on offtake strategies with proportionally higher non-breeding season offtake, thus minimising the need for breeding-season derogation. Following the post-breeding counts carried out in MU1 in 2022, the Data Centre has produced a summary of the national counts, including recommendations for future monitoring of post-breeding abundance and productivity in MU1. The Data Centre has also developed a model for calculating the number of breeding pairs from the post-breeding counts.

ISSMP for the Barnacle Goose (BG)

In spring 2024, Sovon and Wageningen Environmental Research updated the population estimates for the Russian/Germany and Netherlands population of Barnacle Goose. Following recent outbreaks of Avian Influenza, the decline of the East Greenland/Scotland and Ireland population of Barnacle Goose has continued, and the Data Centre has





produced a set of population projections under varying scenarios of survival and offtake to aid decisions on how to coordinate offtake in the coming years. In spring 2024, after receiving a full set of monitoring data, the Data Centre has completed the first assessment of the status of the population using the IPM.

EGMP Database and GitLab

The EGMP Database has been updated with new data, figures and description of methods (where relevant). Furthermore, EGMP GitLab has been updated with new projects. Each report from the Data Centre is assigned a DOI for easier reference.

EGMP Task Forces

The role of the EGMP Task Forces is to assist the EGM IWG in coordinating and catalysing the implementation of the respective ISSAP and ISSMPs and to monitor and report on the implementation of these activities. 2023 saw the establishment of the EGMP Flight Safety Task Force following a proposal submitted by Denmark and the Netherlands to the EGM IWG. The proposal was approved at the EGM IWG8 meeting in June 2023, where the Task Force's Terms of Reference were also adopted.

The EGMP Secretariat and the Data Centre have continuously supported the meeting organisation and document production of the seven EGMP Task Forces.

The coordinators of the Task Forces are as follows:

- Pink-footed Goose Task Force: Prof Jesper Madsen (Denmark)
- Taiga Bean Goose Task Force: Mr Mikko Alhainen (Finland)
- Barnacle Goose Task Force for Russia/Germany & Netherlands Population: position vacant.
- Barnacle Goose Task Force for E. Greenland/Scotland & Ireland and Svalbard/South-West Scotland Populations: Ms Rae McKenzie (UK)
- Greylag Goose Task Force for NW/SW European Population: Ms Iben Hove Sørensen (Denmark) until early 2024 succeeded by Ms Malin Åhl (Sweden) from April 2024
- Agriculture Task Force: Dr Ingunn Tombre (Norway)
- Flight Safety Task Force: Mr Albert de Hoon (Netherlands)

Detailed reports on the activities and outputs of the EGMP Task Forces are provided in documents AEW/EGMIWG/9.11, AEW/EGMIWG/9.12, AEW/EGMIWG/9.13, AEW/EGMIWG/9.14, AEW/EGMIWG/9.15, AEW/EGMIWG/9.16 and AEW/EGMIWG/9.17.

Participants of the EGMP Monitoring Workshop held in Dragør, Denmark in November 2023 © EGMP Data Centre



COMMUNICATION AND OUTREACH



Due to constrained resources at the Secretariat and Data Centre in the latter half of 2023, some of the scheduled EGMP communication efforts were temporarily paused. Despite these challenges, the EGMP Secretariat & Data Centre managed to produce the following communications materials within this annual cycle:

- [Briefing note on population status and management recommendations](#) – EGM IWG8 in 2023 – an updated version of this document will be produced in July 2024 based on the decisions of the upcoming EGM IWG9
- [EGMP Highlights 2023](#), capturing the notable events and developments within EGMP in the year 2023.

EGMP Ad-hoc Communication Working Group

Following the replenishment of capacity at the EGMP team, the Ad-hoc Communications Working Group restarted its activities. The group continues to focus on developing a workflow to showcase EGMP success stories—including fieldwork, research, and other activities occurring in the Range States—on the EGMP website and social media channels.

In May 2024, the group organised a call focused on connecting the EGMP with World

Migratory Bird Day (WMBD) campaign and highlighting the contribution of the platform to migratory bird conservation and human-wildlife conflicts. The initiative resulted in a collaborative effort to produce a series of posts during the week leading up to the peak of WMBD. These posts highlighted the initiatives carried out under the EGMP framework. The group plans to maintain this collaborative approach for similar events in the future and will continue to engage to further develop following activities:

- Production of EGMP fact sheets and briefing notes;
- Production and distribution of EGMP newsletters twice a year;
- Further development of a workflow for getting the EGMP success stories published;
- Broadening the reach and growing the audience of the EGMP social media channels.

Ms Marta Giordano, from the Direction Générale de l'Aviation Civile, France, is the latest addition to the group as the communications focal point for the Flight Safety Task Force. With Mr Ove Martin Gundersen fulfilling this role for the Pink-footed Goose Task Force, the EGMP team is searching for the communication focal points for Russia Barnacle Goose, Greenland Barnacle Goose, Greylag Goose and Taiga

Goose Days in Nissum Fjord Nature Park, Denmark © Ole Jorgensen and Vibeke Pedersen



Goose Days in
Nissum Fjord
Nature Park,
Denmark © Ole
Jorgensen and
Vibeke Pedersen

Bean Goose Task Forces. The membership of the group is open for those interested in participating and contributing.

EGMP Website

Finalisation of the EGMP website upgrade from Drupal 7 web content management system to Drupal 9 has been hindered by the absence of dedicated capacity in the Joint CMS/AEWA Information Management, Communication and Awareness Unit. AEWA Secretariat is currently seeking a solution for the issue. In the meantime, the current version of the website is being operated by the EGMP team to the best of their abilities.

MS Teams Workspace

The Task Forces have continued using the shared space in MS Teams (EGMP Task Forces Teams channel) to collaboratively work on documents in an online mode through Sharepoint.

EGMP Webinars

The EGMP Task Forces, Data Centre and Secretariat are currently planning the following webinars (see table on the next page).

The webinars are planned to be open to public participation, with the second webinar dedicated to climate change effects on Arctic geese to be hosted in a hybrid mode as a part of the EGMP Task Force Day programme planned on 17 June 2024 in Tromsø, Norway. The webinars will be recorded and made available on the EGMP [website](#) and [YouTube channel](#).

OUR SPEAKERS

- DR. JESPER MADSEN
AARHUS UNIVERSITY
- DR. THOMAS LAMERS
NIOUWEGAR INSTITUTE
FOR SEA RESEARCH
- DR. ANTHONY FOX
MONTANA UNIVERSITY
- DR. VESSE BAVOLANEN
NIOUWEGAR POLAR
INSTITUTE
- DR. ELIE GAGET
NIOUWEGAR POLAR
INSTITUTE
- DR. INGUNN TOMBRE
NIOUWEGAR INSTITUTE
FOR NATURE RESEARCH

**EGMP WEBINAR:
EFFECTS OF CLIMATE
CHANGE ON
MIGRATORY GEESE**

SCANDIC ISHAVSHOTEL
TROMSØ, NORWAY

**JOIN US IN PERSON OR
ONLINE!**

REGISTRATION LINK
BELOW

**17 June
2024**
14:00 - 17:30
CEST



Date	Topic	Coordinators
17 June 2024	Effects of climate change on migratory geese	Secretariat & Data Centre
August 2024	Techniques for minimizing agricultural damage	Dr Ingunn Tombre & Agriculture Task Force

Fieldwork for a PhD project on adaptive management of Taiga Bean Goose at Aarhus University
© Lisa Vergin and Simon S. Christiansen

EGMP Social Media

The EGMP has several social media platforms including Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. The platforms enable information exchange and the possibility to communicate and disseminate issues and matters relevant to the EGMP to stakeholders, the wider community and interested members of the public.

EGMP has 125 Twitter, 103 Instagram & 105 Facebook followers as of May 2023.



EGMP Presentations at international and national meetings

The EGMP Secretariat and Data Centre presented information about EGMP, activities and results at the following international and national meetings:

- 20th Meeting of the IUCN SSC: Goose Specialist Group, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, 16-18 August 2023 (Dr Gitte Høj Jensen)
- National Wildlife Ecology Theme Day 2023, Aarhus, Denmark, 9 November 2023 (Prof. Dr Jesper Madsen)
- Goose Days in Nisum Fjord Nature Park, Denmark, 20 April 2024 (Prof. Dr Jesper Madsen)

Cover Photo: Pink-footed Geese (*Anser brachyrhynchus*) © J.P.Kjeldsen

For more information please visit the EGMP website at:

<https://egmp.aewa.info/>

or our **Social Media Channels** at:



<https://www.facebook.com/AEWA.EGMP/>



https://twitter.com/AEWA_EGMP



https://www.instagram.com/aewa_egmp/

