

AEWA EUROPEAN GOOSE MANAGEMENT PLATFORM



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

18-20 June 2024, Tromsø, Norway



Decision Table – EGM IWG9

NOTE: Wording may still be refined during the review of the meeting report.

AGENDA ITEM	DECISION	AGREED ACTION
Adoption of the agenda	The EGM IWG adopted the provisional agenda.	
Admission of individual expert observers to EGM IWG9	The EGM IWG admitted the following individual expert observers to EGM IWG9: Albert de Hoon, Marta Giordano, Jens Erik Ditlevsen, Mogens Hansen.	

<p>Report of the EGMP Secretariat and Data Centre (2023-2024)</p>	<p>The EGM IWG took note of the EGMP Secretariat and Data Centre report.</p>	<p>The Netherlands has provided a minor editorial addition regarding the Dutch Goose Research Consortium's work on developing population modeling for Greylag Geese, and a revised version of the report will be issued.</p>
<p>Overview of the evaluation and revision of AEWA Species Action and Management Plans</p>	<p>The EGM IWG took note of the process for the evaluation and revision of AEWA Species Action and Management Plans.</p>	
<p>Evaluation of the PfG ISSMP implementation</p>	<p>The EGM IWG took note of the Preliminary ISSMP Evaluation Report and confirmed that the PfG remains a priority for management planning and implementation.</p>	
<p>Population Status and Assessment Report of the PfG</p>	<p>The EGM IWG took note of the Population Status and Offtake Assessment Report.</p>	

<p>Report and Recommendations of the PfG TF</p>	<p>The EGM IWG took note of the Task Force report and recommendations and adopted the annual workplan for 2024/2025.</p> <p>The EGM IWG agreed on a total harvest quota of 26,700 birds (8,010 birds for Norway and 18,690 birds for Denmark) for the 2024/2025 hunting season.</p>	<p>Based on the PfG TF Report, the EGM IWG agreed on the following actions for 2024-2025 (see further details in the report):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EGMP Range States will devote the necessary resources to participation in the ISSMP revision process (including defining FRVs, commenting on draft documents, and participation in online meetings and in-person revision workshop). • A GPS-tagging programme is continued, with 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 and climate change effects on distribution during breeding and outside the breeding season.
<p>Status of the TBG ISSAP implementation evaluation process</p>	<p>The EGM IWG took note of the status of the ISSAP implementation evaluation process and the timeline envisaged for finalising this process.</p>	
<p>Population Status and Assessment Report of the TBG</p>	<p>The EGM IWG took note of the Population Status and Offtake Assessment Report.</p>	

<p>Report and Recommendations from the TBG Task Force</p>	<p>The EGM IWG took note of the Task Force report and recommendations and adopted the annual workplan for 2024/2025.</p> <p>The EGM IWG agreed on a total annual harvest of less than 3,000 birds. (Finland – 1,740, Sweden – 900, Denmark – 360.)</p>	<p>Based on the TBG TF Report, the EGM IWG agreed to the following actions for 2024-2025 (see further details in the report):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue and strengthen January counts in all populations for the delineation of the population in overlapping wintering areas and population size estimates. • Continue October and March counts of <i>Finland and NW Russia/Sweden, Denmark and Germany</i> population and prepare to extend the coordinated counts to Finland and to Denmark if relevant for robust population monitoring. • In cooperation with the AEWa Secretariat, implement the ISSAP evaluation data collection and analysis. • In cooperation with the AEWa Secretariat, plan, raise funds for, and prepare the workplan for the ISSAP update/revision and for the following development of the Adaptive Harvest Management. • Consider funding monitoring activities utilizing GPS-tags for the multiple benefits they provide.
<p>Progress report: Adaptive Flyway Management Programme for the E. Greenland BG population</p>	<p>The EGM IWG took note of the AFMP Status Report and acknowledged the proposed timeline for the activities in Table 1 in document AEWa/EGMIWG/9.5.</p>	

Population Status and Assessment Report of the E. Greenland BG	The EGM IWG took note of the Population Status and Offtake Assessment Report.	
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<p>Report and Recommendations of the E. Greenland BG TF.</p>	<p>The EGM IWG took note of the Task Force report and recommendations and adopted the annual workplan for 2024/2025.</p> <p>The EGM IWG agreed that it is necessary for Iceland and the United Kingdom to implement measures to reduce levels of offtake to as close as possible to zero.</p> <p>The anticipated agreement between Iceland and the United Kingdom in this regard shall not be considered as a precedent in the context of any future EGM IWG decisions or in the broader context of AEWA.</p>	<p>Based on the Greenland/Svalbard BG TF Report, the EGM IWG agreed to the following actions for 2024/2025 (see further details in the report):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Iceland and the United Kingdom will seek agreement on the maximum level of offtake to be permitted (if any) and the split between the two Range States (taking into consideration the projections of the EGMP Data Centre). Such agreement will be concluded before the start of Iceland’s 2024/2025 hunting season. • Iceland and the United Kingdom will develop and implement a coordination mechanism to ensure adherence to these limits. • Iceland and the United Kingdom will inform the EGM IWG in writing on both the agreed level of offtake (if any) and the agreed coordination mechanism immediately after these arrangements have been agreed. • Iceland and the United Kingdom will submit a written report to EGM IWG10 on the implementation of the coordinated mechanism and adherence to the agreed level of offtake. • The AEWA Secretariat will initiate a process to develop guidance on compliance with the obligation to maintain or restore populations to a favourable conservation
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		<p>status in relation to the risk of falling below the favourable reference population. This process will take into account the precautionary principle (as a fundamental principle in Article II of AEWA). This guidance will be presented to the AEWA Meeting of the Parties by no later than MOP10.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Include a climate covariate for the timing of spring in East Greenland in the IPM for the Greenland Barnacle Goose. The relationship between timing of spring and reproductive success can be analysed based on climate data from East Greenland coupled with reproductive success recorded locally at Zackenberg, East Greenland and for the overall population by age counts performed on Islay in Scotland in autumn.• The TF will continue to support implementation of the ISSAP and AFMP.• New work will include considering the impacts of HPAI on both populations and how this might impact on the Greenland BG AFMP and agreed management activities.• Meetings will be organised as necessary, especially for the evaluation of the IPM.
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<p>Progress report: Adaptive Flyway Management Programme for the Russian BG population</p>	<p>The EGM IWG took note of the AFMP Status Report and acknowledged the proposed timeline for the activities in Table 1 in document AEWA/EGMIWG/9.6.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As a cross-cutting issue with relevance for two ISMPs, the impact model and associated report to EGM IWG8 will be an agenda item for the next Joint Task Force meeting, with a view to formulating recommendations to EGM IWG10 regarding how to integrate the results of the report into the implementation of ISMPs. • The Netherlands and Germany will submit a written report on their coordination of offtake for inclusion in the meeting documents of future EGM IWG meetings.
<p>Population Status and Assessment Report of the Russian BG Population</p>	<p>The EGM IWG took note of the Population Status and Offtake Assessment Report.</p>	<p>Based on the Population Status and Offtake Assessment Report for the Russian BG Population, the EGM IWG agreed to the following actions for 2024/2025 (see further details in the report):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Given that MU2 numbers have recently moved towards the 200% threshold, consider coordination among MU2 Range States if large changes in derogation practice is foreseen during the summer period, directly affecting MU2 numbers. • Maintain coordination among MU3 Range States.

<p>Report and Recommendations of the Russian BG TF</p>	<p>The EGM IWG took note of the Task Force report and recommendations and adopted the annual workplan for 2024/2025.</p>	<p>Based on the Russian BG TF Report, the EGM IWG agreed to the following actions for 2024/2025 (see further details in the report):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The AEWA Secretariat will send a communication requesting that Range States propose candidates for the position of Coordinator of the Russian BG TF by a specified deadline. • The next Task Force meeting will be convened by the Netherlands and will endeavour to agree on a long-term solution for the Task Force’s coordination. • Implement activities outlined in the workplan. • Endeavour to continue ongoing financial support for the Dutch Modelling Consortium.
<p>Progress report: Adaptive Flyway Management Programme for the GG population</p>	<p>The EGM IWG took note of the AFMP Status Report and acknowledged the proposed timeline for the activities in Table 1 in document AEWA/EGMIWG/9.7.</p>	
<p>Population Status and Assessment Report of the GG population</p>	<p>The EGM IWG took note of the Population Status and Offtake Assessment Report and recommendations, and the report on Estimating Greylag Goose Breeding Population Size and Productivity.</p>	

<p>Report and Recommendations of the GG TF</p>	<p>The EGM IWG took note of the Task Force report and recommendations and adopted the annual workplan for 2024/2025.</p> <p>The EGM IWG agreed that all Range States will focus on offtake strategies that minimise the need for breeding-season derogation (those with high winter offtake).</p> <p>As no unique level and distribution of offtake will meet Management Unit (MU) population targets, the EGM IWG agreed that various ways of distributing offtake over areas and seasons must be evaluated, not only in terms of their ability to meet populations targets, but also in terms of cost, feasibility, and legal mandates. It further noted that while derogation is a legal means of alleviating local socio-economic conflicts, it should not be used in a planned manner to meet a population target.</p>	<p>Based on the GG TF Report, the EGM IWG agreed to the following actions for 2024/2025 (see further details in the report):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Range States strive to provide the necessary data and a description of methods for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reliable offtake estimates by country and biannual period (spring-summer: March-August and fall-winter: September-February) for the most recent five calendar years, clearly separating leisure hunting and derogation killing. - Summer or early autumn abundance by country for those conducting such surveys; all years in which they are available. - Post-breeding age ratios for all years and countries where available (should include counts of young and total sample size). - Winter counts for all years and countries where available. • Discussion by Range States of the practical considerations and constraints they may have in mitigating socio-economic conflicts and in managing recreational hunting so that trade-offs and limitations associated with
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		<p>efforts to coordinate offtake can be better understood by the EGM IWG.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The GG TF continues to exchange general information and experiences with other species-specific Task Forces and liaises with the Agriculture Task Force, thus strengthening the relations between EGMP Task Forces and benefitting from the work already carried out on other species. More specifically, TFs seek to collaborate on reducing crippling rates of goose species. • The GG TF takes note of the deadline for agreeing on the protocols for the assessment of indicators and reviewing draft protocols produced by the Data Centre. The procedure is to be agreed on at EGM IWG10. • The GG TF Members actively promote available material such as the recorded EGMP webinars and briefing notes. • The GG TF will keep the online workplan active and updated between meetings.
Report and Recommendation of the Flight Safety Task Force	The EGM IWG took note of the Task Force report and recommendations and adopted the annual workplan for 2024/2025.	Designation of representatives to join the Task Force by Range States that have not yet done so.
Report and Recommendations of the Agriculture TF	The EGM IWG took note of the Task Force report and recommendations and adopted the annual workplan for 2024/2025.	

<p>Brainstorming about special activities for the 10th Anniversary of EGMP</p>	<p>The EGM IWG agreed to establish an <i>ad hoc</i> working group (as an expansion of the Communications Working Group) with responsibility for developing a proposal and workplan for special activities dedicated to the 10th anniversary of the EGMP, to be presented at EGM IWG10.</p> <p>The EGM IWG agreed to pursue a special issue of a scientific journal.</p>	<p>Jesper Madsen will begin consultations regarding a potential special issue of Ambio and will report back to the working group.</p> <p>The Secretariat will have a discussion with Bill Sutherland regarding the potential to include a collection of Conservation Evidence assessments and will report back to the working group.</p> <p>The Secretariat will send a communication requesting expressions of interest to join the working group. Participation in the working group can be delegated to colleagues who are not currently participating in the EGM IWG.</p>
<p>Update on EGMP's communications efforts</p>	<p>The EGM IWG took note of the work done by the <i>ad hoc</i> Communications Working Group.</p>	<p>The Communications Working Group will consider approaches for enhanced messaging to the network of observers involved in waterbird monitoring (possibly covering the value of monitoring data for the whole suite of conservation activities in the context of AEWA – including, but not limited to, the EGMP).</p>
<p>EGMP Finance Report for 2023/2024</p>	<p>The EGM IWG took note of the EGMP finance report for 2023-2024.</p>	<p>The Secretariat and Data Centre will continue to capitalise on opportunities to promote awareness of the EGMP's work in appropriate fora/events.</p>

<p>EGMP budget and costed Programme of Work for 2025</p>	<p>The EGM IWG approved the EGMP budget estimate for 2025 and the proposed costed Programme of Work for 2025.</p> <p>The EGM IWG agreed to use the revised indicative scale of voluntary contributions that was agreed in 2022 and took note of Annex 2 of AEW/EGMIWG/9.19/Rev.1.</p>	
<p>Update on Activities of the Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Contact Group</p>	<p>The EGM IWG agreed to maintain the HPAI Contact Group and that this group will meet as and when necessary.</p>	<p>The contact group will maintain contact with relevant national and international networks (including through Ruth Cromie).</p> <p>The contact group will provide input on preparedness measures during the review process for relevant ISMPs and ISAPs.</p>
<p>Report from UK/Iceland meeting on Icelandic Greylag Goose flyway planning</p>	<p>The EGM IWG took note of the outcomes of the meeting between the United Kingdom and Iceland regarding flyway planning for the Icelandic breeding population of the Greylag Goose.</p>	
<p>Date and Venue of the next EGM IWG meeting in 2025</p>	<p>The EGM IWG welcomed Belgium's conditional expression of interest to host EGM IWG10. It further agreed that EGM IWG10 will be held during the week of 16-20 June 2025.</p>	