

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 FLIGHT SAFETY TASK FORCE FOR
2023/2024 AND DRAFT WORKPLAN FOR 2024/2025**

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with support from the EGMP Secretariat and Data Centre
and contributions from the members of the Flight Safety Task Force*

Introduction

The need for exchange of experiences and joint efforts across Range States in the field of air safety was initially identified during the EGMP webinar on geese and risks to air safety held in January 2023. Following this, a proposal on the establishment of the Task Force was put forward by Denmark and the Netherlands. The proposal and the [Terms of Reference](#) for the Task Force were adopted at the 8th Meeting of the European Goose Management International Working Group (EGM IWG8) in June 2023.

The role of the Flight Safety Task Force is to:

- 1) Assist the EGM IWG in coordinating and catalysing the implementation of activities related to goose management and flight safety under the EGMP;
- 2) Assist the EGM IWG in stimulating and supporting Range States in the implementation of activities related to goose management and flight safety; and
- 3) Monitor and report on the implementation of these activities to the EGM IWG via the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat and the National Reports to the EGM IWG, as appropriate.

1. Status of the Task Force Membership

The full list of members is presented in Annex 1. Currently, the Task Force has 15 members representing six Range States.

2. Meetings

Two meetings of the Task Force took place since its establishment – on 15 January 2024 and 18 March 2024. Members of the Task Force also participated in the joint meeting of the EGMP Task Forces on 4 March 2024.

The Task Force has scheduled its next meeting for 31 May 2024, followed by an in-person meeting during the EGMP Task Force Day on 17 June 2024.

3. Report of key activities and outcomes

The two meetings of the Task Force addressed the following topics:

Data Sharing and Database Development: The importance of sharing data on goose populations and current airport practices to mitigate bird strikes was emphasised. This initiative seeks to build a comprehensive scientific foundation to enhance safety protocols. The goal is to develop a database for analysing aircraft-goose strike information and documenting the variety of solutions implemented by various airports along with their efficacy. This dynamic online document will be continually updated to reflect new findings and practices. In light of confidentiality concerns, it was proposed to establish both public and private databases, tailored to the sensitivity of the information involved.

Knowledge Gaps and Research: The participants discussed processes to investigate knowledge gaps and set up further research to understand and mitigate the risks of bird strikes.

Collaboration with other EGMP Task Forces: In particular, the need for collaboration with the EGMP Agriculture Task Force was highlighted to integrate broader ecological and agricultural insights into flight safety measures.

Communications efforts: The discussions on communication efforts highlighted the importance of raising awareness about the Flight Safety Task Force among airport operators and Civil Aviation Authorities across Europe. One of the suggested steps forward is drafting and distributing an informational leaflet on the work of the Task Force. A more detailed concept note for this project is attached in Annex 2 of this report. Additionally, the Task Force plans to enhance online visibility through a dedicated news article and social media engagement. Ms Marta Giordano representing the French General Directorate for Civil Aviation has kindly volunteered to serve as a communications focal point to coordinate updates and interactions, ensuring consistent and widespread dissemination of the Task Force's activities and goals.

GPS Tagging and Geofencing to Monitor Goose Movements Near Airports: The EGMP Data Centre has introduced the idea of using GPS tagging and geofencing to warn about goose movements near airports. A more detailed concept note for this project will be presented to the Task Force before EGM IWG9.

Expanded Focus: It was noted that the Task Force can consider broadening its scope to include more species under the AEWA mandate, in response to evolving challenges such as the management of invasive species.

4. Recommendations

The Flight Safety Task Force would like to recommend the following to the EGM IWG:

- Approval of the activities referred to in the workplan.
- Designation of Task Force members by Range States that have not done so.

5. Draft Workplan 2024/2025

Task number	Task description	Sub task description
1.1	Consolidate the Flight Safety Task Force.	Invite Range States, observers and other stakeholders to identify and designate representatives to the Task Force.
1.2	Consolidate the Flight Safety Task Force.	Identify other international processes related to wildlife strike hazards to aviation to which the Task Force could give input.
1.3	Consolidate the Flight Safety Task Force.	Raise awareness about the Task Force, its role, and objectives with relevant international organizations and national authorities. <i>(Including the proposed leaflet)</i>
2.1	Establish a European databank on aircraft-goose strikes in collaboration with the EGMP Data Centre.	Identify which relevant information is available and possible sources of data.
2.2	Establish a European databank on aircraft-goose strikes in collaboration with the EGMP Data Centre.	Establish data format and procedures for the transmission of information and regular updates of the databank.
2.3	Establish a European databank on aircraft-goose strikes in collaboration with the EGMP Data Centre.	Liaise with national authorities and the European Repository (ECCAIRS) for the gathering and transmission of data to the EGMP Data Centre.
2.4	Establish a European databank on aircraft-goose strikes in collaboration with the EGMP Data Centre.	Develop capacity to enhance wildlife strike reporting, with a focus on goose strikes.
2.5	Establish a European databank on aircraft-goose strikes in collaboration with the EGMP Data Centre.	Fill the databank

3.1	Improve the understanding of the problem created by aircraft-goose strikes in Europe.	Analyse available information to identify and understand trends of aircraft-goose strikes and their safety, conservation, and economic implications in Europe.
3.2	Improve the understanding of the problem created by aircraft-goose strikes in Europe.	Identify knowledge gaps and propose research plans.
4.1	Raise awareness about risks and management options to reduce aircraft-goose strike hazards.	Establish and exchange best practices for goose management programmes and techniques.
4.2	Raise awareness about risks and management options to reduce aircraft-goose strike hazards.	Explore and instigate new technologies to minimize the risk of goose strikes, including sharing of goose monitoring data and the creation of alert systems.
4.3	Raise awareness about risks and management options to reduce aircraft-goose strike hazards.	Formulate strategies and recommendations to address aircraft-goose strike hazards.

Annex 1. Members of the Flight Safety Task Force as of May 2024

Country	Representative	Affiliation
Denmark	Jens Erik Ditlevsen	Danish Civil Aviation and Railway Authority
	Mogens Hansen	Copenhagen Airport (Safety Management)
	Per Hansen	Armed Forces (The Defence Command)
	Ivar Høst	Danish Nature Agency
	Klaus Sloth	Danish Nature Agency
	Svend Norup	Danish Nature Agency
	Jesper Pedersen	Danish Nature Agency
Estonia	Aarne Tuule	Estonian Ornithological Society
France	Marta Giordano	Direction Générale de l'Aviation Civile (MTECT)
Netherlands	Albert de Hoon	Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management
Norway	Jo Ander Auran	Norwegian Environment Agency
	Trond Øigarden	AVINOR
	Sonja Englund	AVINOR

Norway	Ove Martin Gundersen	Norwegian Farmers' Association
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Annex 2. Draft concept note: Information leaflet about the Flight Safety Task Force

Background:

Collisions between aircraft and wildlife pose a serious flight safety risk, especially when aircraft collide with heavy and/or flocking species, like geese. The population of certain goose species like Greylag Goose, Barnacle Goose and Canada Goose have increased over the past decades leading to a growing concern about the risk that these birds pose to aviation safety. In response, the Flight Safety Task Force was established in 2023 to assist the EGM IWG in coordinating activities related to goose management and flight safety under the AEW European Goose Management Programme (EGMP).

Aligned with activity 1.2 of the draft Task Force workplan, this concept note aims to lay the foundation for developing an information flyer about the Task Force. By conveying the objectives and activities of the Task Force, the flyer aims to raise awareness, enhance support and participation from key stakeholders, and foster coordinated efforts for the implementation of its workplan.

Objectives:

The objectives of developing the information flyer are as follows:

- Raise awareness among aviation stakeholders about the establishment and objectives of the Flight Safety Task Force.
- Inform stakeholders about the risks associated with aircraft-geese collisions and the importance of coordinated efforts to mitigate these risks.
- Encourage participation and engagement from Range States, observers and other stakeholders in the activities of the Task Force.

Methodology:

The development of the information flyer will involve the following steps:

- Gathering relevant information about the Flight Safety Task Force and its workplan, its objectives, activities and significance, including:
 - Why has the Task Force been created?
 - Who are the participants?
 - Which are the main tasks of the Task Force?
 - Pictures of the target species
- Designing the layout and content of the flyer in a visually appealing and informative manner.
- Reviewing and refining the draft flyer in consultation with Task Force members.
- Printing and distributing the final version of the flyer to targeted stakeholders, including aerodrome operators, aviation authorities and other relevant organizations.

Timeline:

Activities	July	August	September	October	November	December
Compile relevant information for the flyer	✓					
Begin drafting content		✓				
Design layout and structure			✓			
Task Force review				✓		
Incorporate feedback and revisions					✓	

Finalize design elements					✓	
Launch and distribute the flyer						✓