

AEWA EUROPEAN GOOSE MANAGEMENT PLATFORM



**6th MEETING OF THE
AEWA EUROPEAN GOOSE MANAGEMENT
INTERNATIONAL WORKING GROUP**

21-23 June 2021, Online conference format



**REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE GREYLAG GOOSE TASK FORCE AND
DRAFT WORKPLAN FOR 2021/2022**

Prepared by Ms Iben Hove Sørensen, Coordinator of the Greylag Goose Task Force,

with contributions from the members of the Greylag Goose Task Force

Introduction

As outlined in Rule 29 in the Modus Operandi adopted for the AEWA European Goose Management International Working Group (EGM IWG), the IWG may establish species Task Forces as necessary to deal with the preparation and coordination of decision papers and background documents for the EGM IWG as well as to deal with other specific tasks as requested by the IWG.

At the 5th Meeting of the EGM IWG in June 2020, the Range States agreed on the establishment of an EGMP Task Force for the NW/SW European Population of the Greylag Goose (GG TF) and adopted its proposed Terms of Reference (Doc. AEWA/EGMIWG/5.15). The Secretariat was given the task to lead on the establishment of the GG TF and to identify a TF Coordinator.

The overall role of the GG TF is to assist the IWG in catalysing and coordinating the implementation of the AFMP workplan and monitoring activities related to the implementation of the AEWA International Single Species Management Plan for the Greylag Goose (NW/SW European Population). This document provides an overview of the work that has taken place since the establishment of the GG TF and the Task Force's recommendations and draft workplan for 2021/2022.

1. Status of the Task Force Membership

Presently, the GG TF has 22 members. Members represent seven Range States, five Observer Organisations, the Data Centre and the AEWA Secretariat. Two Range States are still to nominate official representatives in the GG TF but have agreed to provide the data necessary for the AFMP process.

Ms. Iben Hove Sørensen (DK) has been identified as Coordinator of the GG TF.

Details of the current membership of the GG 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 organisations and the Coordinator of the Task Force.

2. Meetings

Since no funding has been specifically allocated for the work of the GG TF, communication and information exchange is conducted via email and online meetings.

The Task Force has held five meetings since EGM IWG5 in June 2020. These online meetings took place on 9 October and 27 November 2020 and 5 February, 16 March and 23 April 2021. The meeting on 5 February 2021 was held as a joint meeting with the Barnacle Goose TF (Russia/Germany & Netherlands Population). The 6th meeting is planned on 16 June 2021, just before the EGM IWG6.

3. Report of key activities and outcomes

Main activities of the GG TF include establishing the Task Force and attending the online meetings described above. Task Force Members initially introduced themselves and - based on a presentation by Ingunn Tombre, Coordinator of the Agriculture Task Force - the general role of TF members was discussed.

During the meetings, TF Members have agreed on the AFMP actions relevant for the GG TF workplan and identified cross-cutting issues relevant for several of the EGMP Task Forces. Dealing with these issues will

generally benefit from an exchange of experiences and information between TF Members and Coordinators. A series of webinars have been tentatively planned to deal with some of these issues.

Between meetings, individual TF Members have provided input to the GG TF workplan as well as the national workplans for the implementation of the Greylag Goose ISSMP.

The GG TF Coordinator has been invited to participate in the meetings of the Fennoscandian Greylag Goose Initiative (see report from the Data Centre), and the GG TF has received regular updates from the work in this group.

The GG TF has also received regular updates from the Data Centre and discussed issues related to data availability, particularly in relation to the large uncertainties about current estimates of Greylag Goose population size and level of offtake.

Finally, the GG TF has contributed to the revision of the following documents submitted to EGM IWG6:

- Draft Adaptive Flyway Management Programme for the NW/SW Population of the Greylag Goose
- Draft Greylag Goose NW/SW European Population Status Report
- Draft Revised Process and Format for EGMP National Reporting

4. Recommendations

Based on meetings and discussions in the GG TF, the Task Force has identified the following issues and activities of essential priority and recommends (in order of priority) that:

- **All Range States strive to improve population counts and provide detailed data on present and historical offtake (including derogation) to facilitate the scientific guidance of the implementation of the ISSMP. More specifically, the GG TF recommends that Range States follow the general and specific recommendations brought forward by the Data Centre in the Greylag Goose NW/SW European Population Status Report (Doc. AEWA/EGMIWG/6.6).**
- **Relevant Range States explore ways of funding summer counts and GPS-tagging of breeding Greylag Geese to obtain a better understanding of the population size and movements of the Management Units (particularly MU1).**

Furthermore, the Task Force recommends the following regarding the GG TF's work:

- 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.
- Webinars on topics of general interest are arranged for all Task Force members and other relevant stakeholders.
- Use of the EGMP workspace is promoted and that all meeting notes are published there.

5. Draft Workplan 2021/2022

Table 1. Greylag Goose Task Force Draft Workplan for 2021/2022

Actions from the ISSMP	Priority	Timescale	Greylag Goose Task Force
2.3 Apply scaring and land management techniques to reduce the attractiveness of sensitive areas, monitoring the implications of such local displacement for conflicts at wider scale[3]	High	Short / Rolling	Sharing experience / Coordination with other TFs; included in webinars planned for 2021.
3.2 Establish an internationally coordinated programme to assess agricultural damage including monitoring and assessment protocols	High	Short	Exchange information with the Agri TF; partly included in webinars planned for 2021.
3.3 Liaise with farmers affected by goose damages to reduce agricultural conflicts	High	Short / Rolling	Cross-cutting TFs, share information. Farmers' representatives will be invited to webinars in 2021, and pdf-files of the presentations will be distributed widely.
4.1 Establish hierarchical population targets at flyway, management unit and national levels iteratively to ensure national targets are consistent with the flyway targets and with legal requirements at all levels	Essential	Short	Have a discussion, recommendation for EGM IWG6/7
4.2 Establish an internationally coordinated population management programme (including both hunting and, if necessary, killing under derogations) for the transboundary management units encompassing monitoring, assessment and decision-making protocols	Essential	Short	Review reports produced by DC, as appropriate
4.3 Improve effectiveness of population control measures through experimenting with different timing and methods and better understanding the relative efficacy of lethal versus non-lethal scaring techniques	High	Medium	Exchange information and experience through webinar. Collate and summarise results (possibly workshop, if time and resources allow - cross-cutting with PFG and Agri TF)
4.4 Promote best practices of goose hunting including timing to minimize damage and significant disturbance to other species	Medium	Medium / Rolling	Exchange information and experience through webinar. Collate and summarise results (possibly workshop, if time and resources allow - cross-cutting with PFG and Agri TF).
4.5 Maintain low crippling rates	High	Medium / Rolling	Exchange information and experience with PFG TF. Investigate GG crippling rates.
4.6 Develop hunting techniques to further reduce crippling	Medium	Long / Rolling	Exchange information and experience. Collate, summarise results (possibly workshop, if time and resources allow - cross-cutting with PFG and Agri TF)
A.1 Produce and update periodically spatially explicit population size estimates based on agreed international monitoring	Essential	Short / Rolling	Consultation

A.2 Maintain an annually updated bag statistics database including geese harvested by any means	Essential	Ongoing / Rolling	Consultation
A.3 Maintain a spatially explicit database on goose damage to agriculture, other flora and fauna and risk to air safety	Essential	Medium / Rolling	Liaise with Agri TF. Some Range States already have relevant databases or collated information (France, the Netherlands, Norway).
C.1 Develop and implement a communication strategy and plan	Medium	Short / Rolling	Produce scientific papers - outreach to wider community - then member states can use the info to reach national stakeholders - improve and use the EGMP website news section, publish results, content, scientific results, outputs, not only announce meeting. Continue the outreach activities already taking place in several Range States.

Annex 1. Members of the Greylag Goose Task Force as of 30 April 2021

Country	Representative	Affiliation
Belgium	Mr Floris Verhaeghe	Nature and Forest Agency
	Mr Koen Devos	Research institute for Nature & Forst (INBO) Flemish government
Denmark	Mr Henning Heldbjerg	Aarhus University
	Mr Søren Egelund Rasmussen	Danish Environmental Protection Agency
Denmark/CIC - International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation	Ms Iben Hove Sørensen (TF Coordinator)	Danish Hunters Association
Finland	Mr Antti Piironen	University of Turku
	Mr Mikko Alhainen	Finnish Wildlife Agency
France	Mr Léo Bacon	Direction de la Recherche et de l'Appui Scientifique Office Français de la Biodiversité La Tour du Valat
	Mr Charles-Henri de Barsac	Ministère de la Transition Ecologique
	Mr Matthieu Guillemain	Direction de la Recherche et de l'Appui Scientifique Office Français de la Biodiversité
Netherlands	Ms Wilmar Remmelts	Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality
	Mr Kees Koffijberg	Sovon Vogelonderzoek Nederland
Norway	Ms Ingunn Tombre	NINA
Sweden	Mr Per Risberg	Swedish Environmental Protection Agency
FACE	Mr Cy Griffin	Senior Conservation Manager
Nordic Hunters' Alliance	Mr Roar Lundby	Consultant
OMPO	Mr Thibaut Powolny	Project Manager

Wetlands International	Mr Szabolcs Nagy	Senior Advisor
EGMP Data Centre	Prof Jesper Madsen	Aarhus University
UNEP/AEWA Secretariat	Ms Eva Meyers	EGMP Coordinator
	Ms Shenay Huseynova	Consultant