



REPORT 2020/2021

EGMP SECRETARIAT AND DATA CENTRE



Barnacle Geese
(*Branta leucopsis*)
© Sergey Dereliev,
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The present report covers the work of the AEWG European Goose Management Platform (EGMP) Secretariat and the EGMP Data Centre for the period between June 2020 and May 2021.

This report is divided into 10 sections:

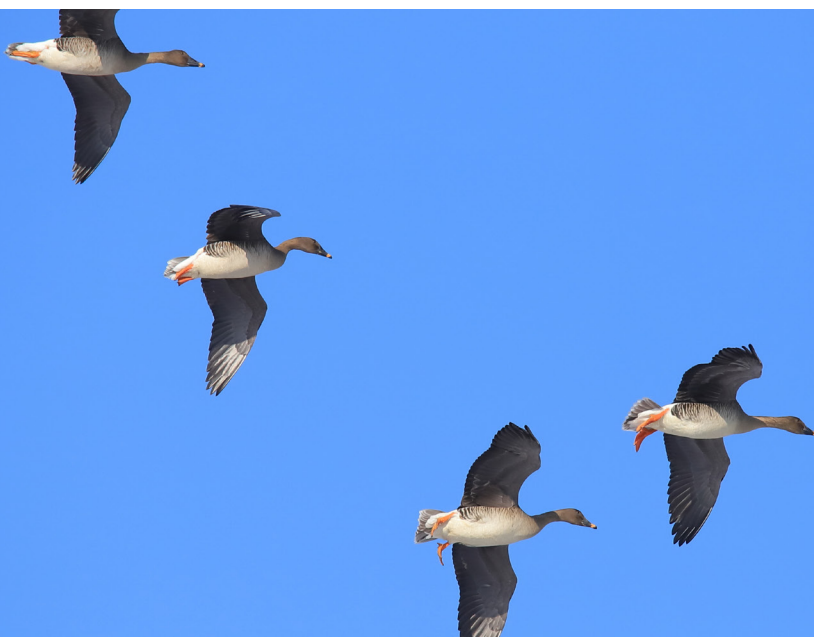
1. EGMP Organisational Structure;
2. Staffing and Organisation of the EGMP Secretariat and the Data Centre;
3. Participating Range States of the EGMP;
4. Funding;
5. Meetings and Workshops;
6. National Reporting;
7. EGMP Data Centre;
8. EGMP Task Forces;
9. EGMP Activities;
10. Communication and Outreach.

Activities reported in detail in other EGM IWG6 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. are not specifically mentioned in this report.



**EGMP
ORGANISATIONAL
STRUCTURE**



Pink-footed
Geese (*Anser
brachyrhynchus*) ©
Tera/Adobe Stock
Photos

Photo on previous
page: Taiga Bean
Geese (*Anser fabalis
fabalis*) © Markus
Varesvuo

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 Chairmanship has been assumed by the UK (represented by Mr Danny Heptinstall) since June 2020 and the term of office expires at the close of EGM IWG7.

With three new Task Forces established at EGM IWG5, there are now six Task Forces operating under the EGMP:

- Pink-footed Goose Task Force
- Taiga Bean Goose Task Force
- Agriculture 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

The Task Forces are aimed to support the EGM IWG in coordination and facilitation of the respective ISSAP and ISSMP implementation. The EGMP Data Centre is responsible for providing the necessary scientific analysis, 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.

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.

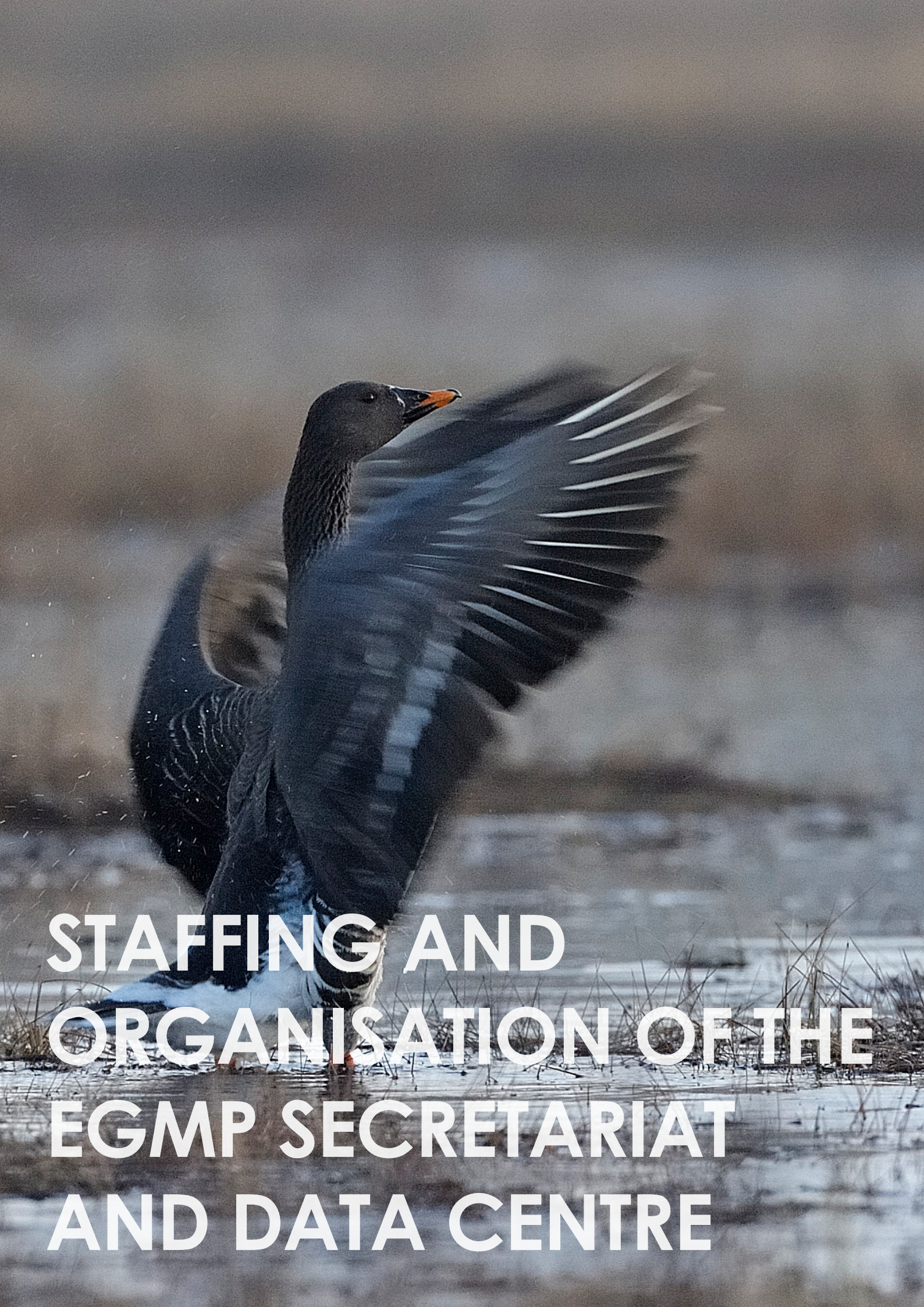
The UNEP/AEWA Secretariat, based in Bonn, Germany, is also functioning as the EGMP Secretariat responsible for the coordination and facilitation of the EGMP, including its respective bodies (EGM IWG and the EGMP Data Centre).



Taiga Bean Goose
(*Anser fabalis fabalis*)
© Jari Peltomäki



Figure 1. Organisational Structure of the European Goose Management Platform



**STAFFING AND
ORGANISATION OF THE
EGMP SECRETARIAT
AND DATA CENTRE**

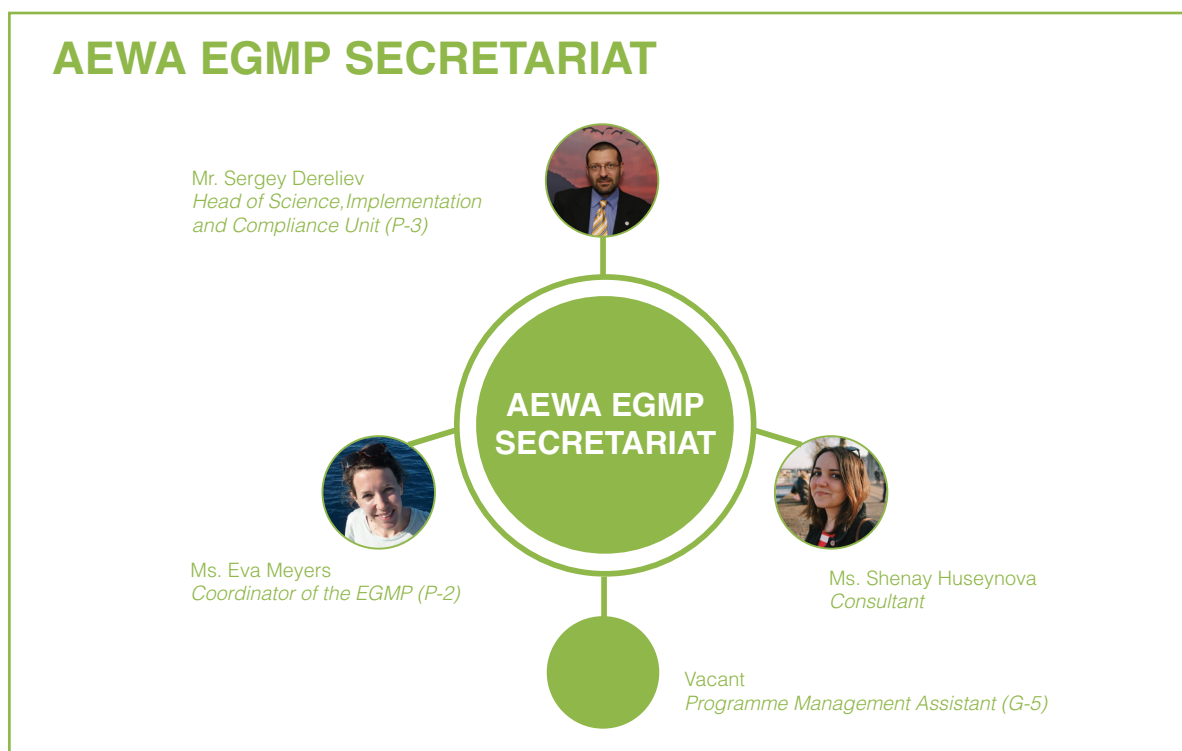


Figure 2. AWEA EGMP Secretariat Staff Composition

AWEA EGMP Secretariat

Head of Science, Implementation and Compliance Unit (P-3) - Mr Sergey Dereliev

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

EGMP Coordinator (P-2) - Ms Eva Meyers

Ms Meyers serves as the Coordinator of the EGMP, as full-time P-2 Associate Programme Management Officer since July 2017. 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 (G-5) - Position vacant

A consultant (Ms Shenay Huseynova) has been contracted for the period of January-July 2021, to support the Coordinator and the organisation of the EGM IWG annual meeting and its immediate follow up.

EGMP Data Centre

Head of the EGMP Data Centre - Prof. Dr Jesper Madsen

Professor Madsen from the Department of Bioscience 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 - Dr Henning Heldbjerg

Dr Heldbjerg was recruited as the Goose Monitoring Coordinator based in Aarhus University in January 2019. This fulltime post is fully funded through the contributions provided by the EGMP Range States for the platform's core budget.

Population Modelling Experts

To support model developments, as well as the development of adaptive management frameworks, Dr Fred A. Johnson, formerly at the USGS, has been employed at Aarhus University since January 2020 (for a period of two year). The EGMP core budget funds a 40% person-year position, which is supplemented by project funding from various Range States.

As part of the 40% man-year position, Professor

Photo on left page:
Taiga Bean Goose
(*Anser fabalis fabalis*)
© Magnus Elander



Greylag Geese
(*Anser anser*) ©
Adobe Stock
Photos

Dr Anthony D. Fox, Dr Kevin Kuhlmann Clausen and Dr Morten Frederiksen, Aarhus University, occasionally contribute to annual assessments and modelling work. Dr Ole R. Therkildsen (funded through a project-based voluntary contribution from Germany) supports the Data Centre project to compile data for Box 1 under the Barnacle Goose and Greylag Goose ISSMPs.

Dr Gitte Høj Jensen has been employed in a two-year postdoc position (as of 1 April 2020) to develop population models in support of the EGMP models (fully funded by Aarhus

University, in-kind contribution to EGMP).

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 (except for the postdoc position).

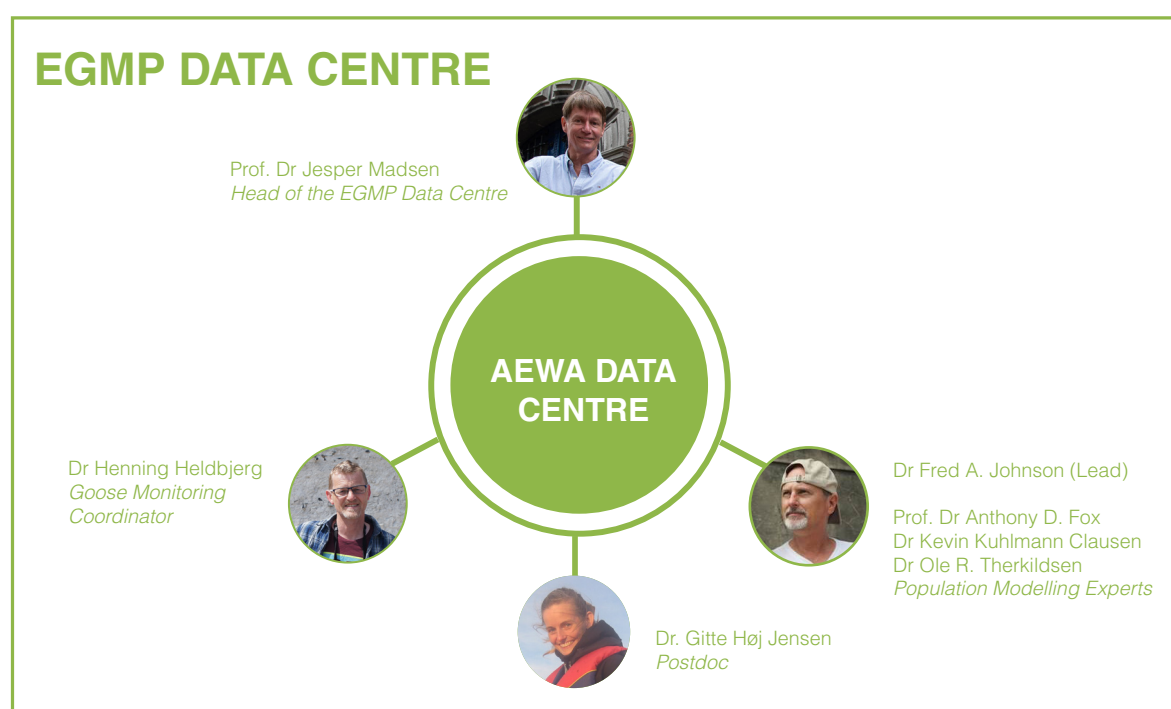


Figure 3. EGMP Data Centre Staff Composition



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

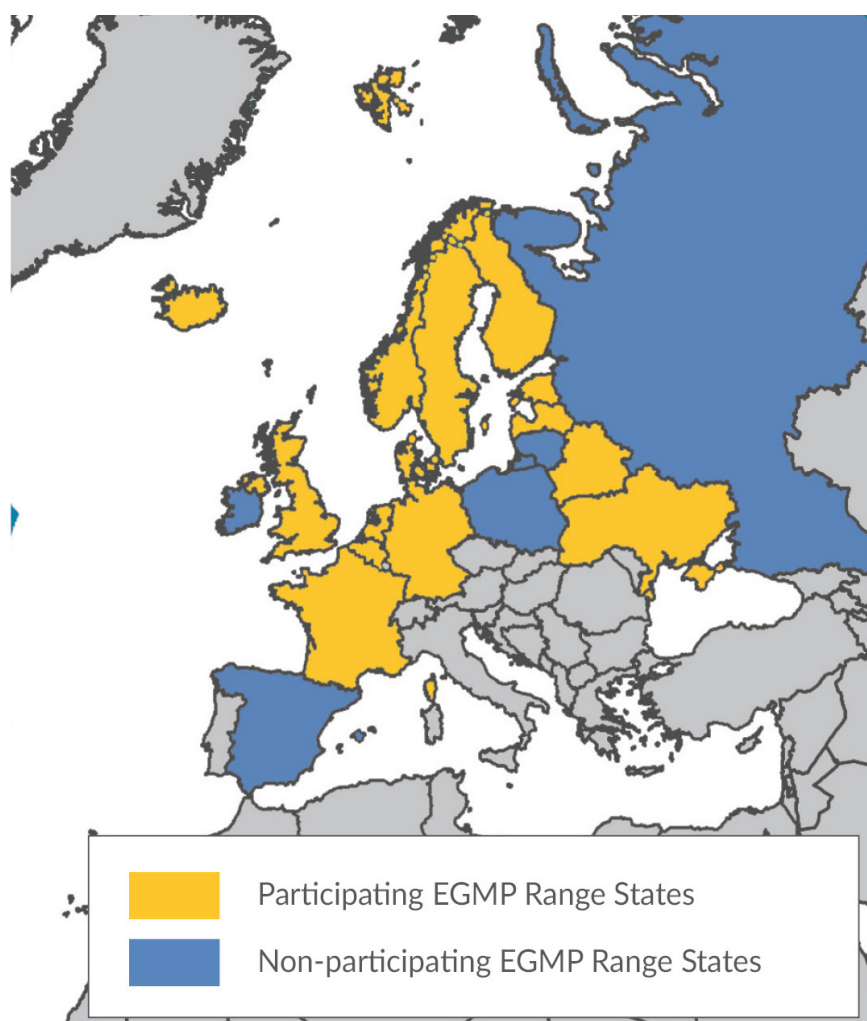


Figure 4. Map of the EGMP participating and non-participating Range States

Photo on previous page: Barnacle Geese (*Branta leucopsis*)
© oOorichard/
Adobe Stock Photos

Participating Range States of the EGMP

The EGMP has 15 participating Range States (see Figure 2), 14 national governments and the European Commission: Belarus, Belgium, Denmark, Estonia, EU, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Latvia, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Ukraine and United Kingdom.

Spain is participating in the Greylag Goose implementation process through data provision. Ireland is involved in the implementation of the Barnacle Goose ISSMP (East Greenland/Scotland & Ireland Population). Poland has designated a national expert to participate in the Taiga Bean Goose Task Force. Spain, Ireland, Lithuania, Poland and Russia officially remain non-participating Range States of the EGMP.

Funding

The AEWA Secretariat would like to express its appreciation for the financial support received towards the implementation of the EGMP processes. A detailed financial report outlining budget, funding and expenses is provided as document AEWA/EGMIWG/6.16.

A proposed budget and costed Programme of Work for 2022 is presented in document AEWA/EGMIWG/6.17 and are to be considered at EGM IWG6.



**MEETINGS AND
WORKSHOPS/
NATIONAL REPORTING**



Participant meeting
badges © Provincie
Fryslân

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

Meetings and Workshops

Online meetings of the EGMP Task Forces

The meetings of the EGMP Task Forces were held online (via GoToMeeting online platform)

involving the Task Force Coordinators and members, together with the EGMP Secretariat and Data Centre.

Meeting	Meeting Date
PfG TF (Coordinator: Jesper Madsen):	
6th Meeting of the PfG TF	17 February 2021
7th Meeting of the PfG TF	9 April 2021
TBG TF (Coordinator: Mikko Alhainen):	
14th Meeting of the TBG TF	10 September 2020
15th Meeting of the TBG TF	18 November 2020
16th Meeting of the TBG TF	23 February 2021
17th Meeting of the TBG TF	27 April 2021
18th Meeting of the TBG TF	29 April 2020
Agri TF (Coordinator: Ingunn Tombre):	
6th Meeting of the Agri TF	20 September 2020
7th Meeting of the Agri TF	12 March 2021
BG TF (Russia population) (Coordinator: Wilmar Remmelts)	
1st Meeting of the BG TF	5 October 2020
2nd Meeting of the BG TF	27 November 2020
4th Meeting of the BG TF	18 March 2021
5th Meeting of the BG TF	22 April 2021



Barnacle Geese
(*Branta leucopsis*)
© Pixabay.com

GG TF (Coordinator: Iben Hove Sørensen)

1st Meeting of the GG TF	9 October 2020
2nd Meeting of the GG TF	27 November 2020
4th Meeting of the GG TF	16 March 2021
5th Meeting of the GG TF	23 April 2021

The 3rd Meeting of the BG TF and GG TF was held jointly on 5 February 2021.

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

1st Meeting of the BG TF	7 October 2020
2nd Meeting of the BG TF	12 November 2020
3rd Meeting of the BG TF	7 December 2020
4th Meeting of the BG TF	25 March 2021

In addition, a meeting of the Task Force coordinators was organised on 19 January 2021 to discuss a common approach to the cross-cutting issues in the TF activities.

International Modelling Consortium meeting

On the 18 February 2021, the International Modelling Consortium held an online meeting.

6th Meeting of the AEWA European Goose Management International Working Group (EGM IWG6)

The 6th Meeting of the European Goose Management International Working Group (EGM IWG6) was scheduled to take place in Helsinki, Finland. In consultation with the

Finnish government as the host and the EGM IWG Chair, the format of the meeting was changed. Instead of the previous face-to face arrangement, the Secretariat will now host the meeting remotely in an online conference format on 21-23 June 2021.

National Reporting

The 2021 online reporting cycle was launched on 11 March 2021. The summary of the National Reports 2021 is provided in document AEWA/EGMIWG/6.4.



EGMP ACTIVITIES

EGMP Population Status and Assessment report

In response to the growing number of population status and assessment reports, the Data Centre have been working on a uniform report structure, including focus on summaries of the most important information. This has resulted in one overall EGMP Population Status and Assessment Report including all populations managed under the EGMP. The report can be found on the EGMP website <https://egmp.aewa.info/resources/publications>.

EGMP Database

To make the process from data collection to management recommendations and/or assessment of the cumulative impact of derogation and legal hunting for the species

webpage: <https://gitlab.com/aewa-egmp>).

ISSMP for the PFG

In spring 2021 the Data Centre produced annual monitoring and harvest assessment reports for the PFG (due June 2021). Furthermore, potential biases in demographic variables and monitoring programs, and analysis of critical components in the monitoring program have been investigated using the Integrated Population Model for the Svalbard population of the Pink-footed Goose.

Photo on previous page: Barnacle Geese (*Branta leucopsis*) © Magnus Elander

Photo below: Joint Meeting of Barnacle Goose and Greylag Goose Task Forces © UNEP/AEWA Secretariat

ISSAP for the TBG

In spring 2021 the Data Centre produced annual monitoring and harvest assessment reports for the TBG, with focus on the Central Management Unit. [A final report on the IPM](#)



managed under the EGMP, as transparent as possible, the Data Centre have been working on an EGMP Database, where data used during the assessment is publicly available. The webpage is still work in progress and is expected to be presented during the IWG6.

EGMP GitLab

In addition to making the data publicly available, a GitLab account has been established, where the data scripts used during the assessment will be publicly available. Link to the GitLab

[development](#), that is specific to Taiga Bean Geese in the CMU and taking into account the presence of varying numbers of Tundra Bean Geese (*Anser fabalis rossicus*) in estimates of abundance and harvest, has been developed (thanks to project funding from the Finnish Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and the Institute for Natural Resources in Finland).

ISSMP for the GG

Progress has been made by the GG Task Force, the Data Centre and the Secretariat



Taiga Bean Goose
Task Force ©
UNEP/AEWA
Secretariat

to complement the missing sections of the Adaptive Flyway Management Programme (AFMP). The final AFMPs for adoption is proposed in document AEWA/EGMIWG/6.15.

The Data Centre has collated existing monitoring data (population data) in collaboration with Range State experts and Wetlands International as well as harvest and derogation data from Range (report due April 2021).

In early 2021, the Data Centre in collaboration with SOVON and Wetlands International published two scientific papers; *Biased monitoring data and an info-gap model for regulating the offtake of greylag geese in Europe* (<https://doi.org/10.2981/wlb.00803>) and *Setting population-size targets for geese causing socio-economic conflicts* (<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s13280-021-01539-5>).

Furthermore, as agreed at IWG5 new activities to improve the information on the population were initiated: off-take information was requested to describe the biases in harvest and derogation data and a Fennoscandian Greylag Goose initiative to estimate the breeding populations and their movements by summer surveys and use of GPS tags.

ISSMP for the BG

Progress has been made by the two BG Task Forces, the Data Centre and the Secretariat to complement the missing sections of the Adaptive Flyway Management Programmes

(AFMPs). The final AFMPs for adoption are proposed in documents AEWA/EGMIWG/6.13 and AEWA/EGMIWG/6.14.

The Scottish working group working together with the Data Centre as partner in the EGMP Modelling Consortium, has prepared a first version of an IPM for the E. Greenland/Scotland & Ireland BG population (doc AEWA/EGMIWG/6.13).

Box 1 data collation

As part of the ISSMPs for GG and BG, national data was collated regarding agricultural damage, air safety risks, risks to other flora and fauna as well as site protection and management measures. The DC coordinated this work during 2019-2021, funded by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU).

EGMP Modelling Consortium (MC)

The Data Centre coordinates the Modelling Consortium, which supports the EGMP monitoring, modelling and assessment processes, partly with regard to the development of population models, partly with regard to developing impact models for assessment of relationship between goose abundances and agricultural damage. The MC consists of 22 scientists from 8 countries (Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, UK).



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

The coordinators of the Task Forces are as follows:

Agriculture Task Force: Dr Ingunn Tombre (Norway)

Taiga Bean Goose Task Force: Mr Mikko Alhainen (Finland)

Pink-footed Goose Task Force: Prof Jesper Madsen (Denmark)

Barnacle Goose Task Force for Russia/Germany & Netherlands Population: Ms Wilmar Remmelts (the Netherlands)

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)

Detailed reports on the activities and outputs of the EGMP Task Forces are provided in documents AEWA/EGMIWG/6.7, AEWA/EGMIWG/6.8, AEWA/EGMIWG/6.9, AEWA/EGMIWG/6.10, AEWA/EGMIWG/6.11 and AEWA/EGMIWG/6.12.

Agriculture Task Force © UNEP/AEWA Secretariat

Photo below: Greenland/Svalbard Barnacle Goose Task Force Meeting © UNEP/AEWA Secretariat





COMMUNICATION
AND OUTREACH



EGMP Website

In the absence of a communication strategy, the Secretariat together with the joint CMS/AEWA Information Management, Communication and Awareness Unit (IMCA) has worked on the further development of the EGMP website (<https://egmp.aewa.info/>) producing and adding content and updating information accordingly.

The platforms are further tools for information exchange, enhancing the possibilities to communicate issues relevant to the EGMP to external stakeholders, the wider community and the public.

Due to limited capacity within the Secretariat and in the absence of a communication strategy, the social media activities have been kept at a minimum.

Greylag Goose
(*Anser anser*)
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www.dereliev-photography.com

Photo on previous
page: Taiga Bean
Geese (*Anser fabalis*) © Jari
Peltomäki

EGMP Workspace

The workspace serves as a communication platform for the EGMP. Individuals have personalised access to the groups of which they are members. The space allows for direct, topic-specific discussions, exchange of documents and links, as well as information on topics by subscription to a relevant topic. The workspace is maintained by the EGMP coordination unit with the support of the IMCA team.

Due to capacity issues, the workspace has not been updated yet. It is foreseen to open up the workspace to all members of the EGM IWG and restructure the groups into a more transparent and intuitive layout.

Social media

The EGMP also has a presence on social media (Facebook and Twitter) and followers are slowly growing.



Cover Photo: Greylag Goose (*Anser anser*) © Dr. Georg Wietschorke, pixabay.com

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/

