

AEWA EUROPEAN GOOSE MANAGEMENT PLATFORM



**11th MEETING OF THE
AEWA EUROPEAN GOOSE MANAGEMENT
INTERNATIONAL WORKING GROUP**
16-18 June 2026, Skövde, Sweden



**REPORT OF THE 10TH MEETING OF THE AEWA EUROPEAN GOOSE
MANAGEMENT INTERNATIONAL WORKING GROUP**

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17-19 June 2025, Brussels, Belgium

**REPORT OF THE 10th MEETING OF
THE AEWA EUROPEAN GOOSE MANAGEMENT
INTERNATIONAL WORKING GROUP¹**

¹ Report finalised after written consultation with the meeting participants.

List of acronyms and abbreviations

AEWA	Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds
AEWA MOP	Meeting of the Parties to AEWA
AHM	Adaptive Harvest Management
BG E. Greenland population	East Greenland/Scotland & Ireland Population of the Barnacle Goose
BG Russia population	Russia/Germany & Netherlands Population of the Barnacle Goose
EGM IWG	European Goose Management International Working Group
EGMP	European Goose Management Platform
FRP	Favourable Reference Population
FRVs	Favourable Reference Values
GG	Greylag Goose
HPAI	Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza
IPM	Integrated Population Model
ISSMP	International Single Species Management Plan
MU	Management Unit
PfG	Pink-footed Goose
TBG	Taiga Bean Goose
TC	Technical Committee

AGENDA ITEM	DECISION	AGREED ACTION
Adoption of the agenda	The EGM IWG adopted the provisional agenda, Doc. AEWA/EGMIWG/10.2/Rev.1.	
Admission of individual expert observers to EGM IWG10	The EGM IWG admitted the following individual expert observers to EGM IWG10: Mr Sander Moonen (Coordinator of the Russian Barnacle Goose Task Force) and Mr Albert de Hoon (Coordinator of the Flight Safety Task Force).	
Report of the EGMP Secretariat and Data Centre (2024/2025)	The EGM IWG took note of the <i>EGMP Secretariat and Data Centre report</i> , Doc. AEWA/EGMIWG/10.3.	
Summary of EGMP National Reports	The EGM IWG took note of the <i>Summary of EGMP National Reports</i> , Doc. AEWA/EGMIWG/10.5.	
Status of the TBG ISSAP revision process	The EGM IWG took note of the Taiga Bean Goose evaluation report, Doc. AEWA/EGMIWG/10.10. The EGM IWG took note of the progress on the revision of the TBG ISSAP and the envisaged timeline for finalising this process.	
Population status and assessment Report of the TBG	The EGM IWG took note of the population status and offtake assessment report, Doc. AEWA/EGMIWG/10.9/Rev.3.	

AGENDA ITEM	DECISION	AGREED ACTION
<p>Report and recommendations from the TBG Task Force</p>	<p>The EGM IWG took note of the Task Force report and recommendations, Doc. AEWA/EGMIWG/10.12, and adopted the annual workplan for 2025/2026.</p> <p>The EGM IWG agreed on a total annual harvest of less than 3,000 birds for the 2025/2026 hunting season (Finland – 1,740, Sweden – 900, Denmark – 360).</p>	<p>Based on the TBG TF report, the EGM IWG agreed to the following actions for 2025/2026 (see further details in the report):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • continue and strengthen January/mid-winter counts of all populations for the population size estimates and delineation of the populations in overlapping wintering areas; • continue October and March counts of the Finland and NW Russia/Sweden, Denmark and Germany population (previously Central Management Unit) for the foreseeable future for the data generation for the IPM, and extend, as a matter of priority, the coordinated counts to Finland and Denmark, as relevant, for robust population monitoring; analyse the data on Finland in terms of changes in staging TBG numbers during key counting times to inform the IPM and development of the monitoring framework; • strengthen and extend the age ratio monitoring in early Autumn staging areas of the Central and Western populations (Finland, Denmark, Sweden); • in co-operation with the AEWA Secretariat, prepare for the implementation of the revised ISSAP; • consider funding monitoring activities utilizing GPS-tags (this would take an initial investment of perhaps ~50 tags to be followed by annual addition of around 10-20 tags to keep up with the level of 30-50 tags per population).
<p>Status of the PfG ISSMP revision process</p>	<p>The EGM IWG took note of the progress on the revision of the PfG ISSMP and the envisaged timeline for finalising the process.</p>	

AGENDA ITEM	DECISION	AGREED ACTION
<p>Population status and assessment Report of the PfG</p>	<p>The EGM IWG took note of the population status and offtake assessment report, Doc. AEWA/EGM IWG/10.9/Rev.3.</p>	
<p>Report and recommendations of the PfG TF</p>	<p>The EGM IWG took note of the Task Force report and recommendations, Doc. AEWA/EGMIWG/10.11, and adopted the annual workplan for 2025/2026.</p> <p>The EGM IWG agreed on a total harvest quota of 20,000 birds for the 2025/2026 hunting season (Norway – 6,000, Denmark – 14,000).</p>	<p>Based on the PfG TF report, the EGM IWG agreed to the following actions for 2025/2026 (see further details in the report):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Task Force will support the implementation of the revised plan (provided that it is adopted) and engage in the drafting of the AFMP, which is expected to start in the autumn of 2025 (pending funding). • EGMP Range States of the Pink-footed Goose (i.e. Norway, Sweden, Finland, Denmark, the Netherlands, Belgium) are requested to provide the necessary resources to fund the development of the AFMP (anticipated to require 200 hours of work) and participate in the drafting of the AFMP. • An internationally coordinated GPS tagging programme will be continued. • The Task Force will engage in further initiatives to promote the EGMP flyway approach and uptake by national stakeholders (e.g. related to agricultural conflict resolution, effective goose shooting, reduction of crippling due to shotgun shooting, habitat restoration etc.). • Task Force members will engage in providing input to the development of an international dissemination platform.
<p>Proposed protocol for AFMP indicator assessment</p>	<p>The EGM IWG approved the proposed protocol for the assessment of AFMP indicators, Doc. AEWA/EGMIWG/10.20, and invited Range States to support the gathering and transmission of the necessary information to the EGMP Data Centre.</p>	<p>The EGMP Data Centre will take the input received during discussion of this agenda item at EGM IWG10, and further comments received in writing by 1 August 2025, into account when preparing the questionnaire that will be used for assessment of indicators.</p>

AGENDA ITEM	DECISION	AGREED ACTION
Population status and assessment report of the E. Greenland BG	The EGM IWG took note of the population status offtake assessment report, Doc. AEWA/EGMIWG/10.9/Rev.3.	
Report on the Coordination of Offtake of the East Greenland BG Population in Autumn/Winter 2024/2025	The EGM IWG took note of the report on the coordination of offtake, Doc. AEWA/EGMIWG/10.21.	
Status report: Adaptive Flyway Management Programme for the E. Greenland BG population	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/10.6.	<p>Based on the progress report of the Adaptive Flyway Management Programme for the E. Greenland BG population, the EGM IWG agreed on the following action for 2025/2026:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • continue discussion on use and way forward for damage impact models (see recommendations from the impact report, document AEWA/EGMIWG/Inf.8.15).
Report and recommendations of the E. Greenland BG TF	<p>The EGM IWG took note of the Task Force report and recommendations, Doc.AEWA/EGMIWG/10.13/Rev.1, and adopted the annual workplan.</p> <p>The EGM IWG took note of the agreement between Iceland and the United Kingdom that the maximum offtake will be 3,250 birds, split between the two range states.</p> <p>This 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 GBG TF report, the EGM IWG agreed that the Task Force will prepare a recommendation to EGM IWG11 regarding whether the AFMP is in need of revision or should be extended for the remainder of the BG ISSMP's lifespan.</p> <p>The AEWA Secretariat will initiate a process to develop guidance on compliance with the obligation to maintain or restore populations to a favourable conservation 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>
Population status and assessment report of the Russian BG population	The EGM IWG took note of the population status and offtake assessment, Doc. AEWA/EGMIWG/10.9/Rev.3.	

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<p>Report on the Coordination of Offtake of MU3 of the Russian Population of BG in 2024/2025</p>	<p>The EGM IWG took note of the report on the coordination of offtake of MU3, Doc. AEWA/EGMIWG/10.22/Rev.1.</p>	
<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/10.7.</p>	<p>Based on the progress report of the Adaptive Flyway Management Programme for the Russian BG population, the EGM IWG agreed on the following actions for 2025/2026:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Task Force discussion on use and way forward for impact models (see recommendations from the Impact report, document AEWA/EGMIWG/Inf.8.15). • Ensure that systematic monitoring is in place. It is important to note that some monitoring activities are still missing from some Range States, such as the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ More up-to-date reporting on winter and summer numbers is needed (notably concerning Germany). ○ More extensive age ratio assessments are needed in the Baltic population, notably in Sweden and Finland (outside Helsinki region), and possibly also Denmark, in order to achieve a more representative sample on productivity data (now only relying on data collected in Helsinki region Finland). <p>(See the EGMP Population Status and Assessment Report for a full overview of data availability).</p> • Secretariat and Range States engage with the European Commission regarding the need for guidance on Article 9 of the Birds Directive.

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<p>Report and recommendations of the Russian BG TF</p>	<p>The EGM IWG took note of the Task Force report and recommendations, Doc.AEWA/EGMIWG/10.14/Rev.1, and adopted the annual workplan for 2025/2026.</p>	<p>Based on the Russian Barnacle Goose Task Force report, the EGM IWG agreed to the following actions for 2025/2026:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Task Force will implement the activities outlined in its workplan for 2025/2026. • The Dutch Modelling Consortium will continue to coordinate monitoring of Barnacle Goose, provide population estimates by running the IPM and contributing to the annual status report (2025-2028), thanks to confirmation of continued funding by the Dutch Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Food Security and Nature, the Dutch provinces and BIJ12-agency. • Range States continue to assist the Dutch Modelling Consortium by facilitating the gathering and provision of needed data. The Task Force can assist the work of the consortium by promoting outputs of its work. • Take action to fill the gaps in monitoring information that is used for the annual assessment of the population. • Support the assessment of the AFMP indicators. • The Task Force will prepare a recommendation to EGM IWG 11 regarding whether the AFMP is in need of revision or should be extended for the remainder of the ISSMP's lifespan. • The Task Force will continue to liaise with Range States regarding the potential establishment of coordination for MU2. • Coordination in MU3 will continue as is. The Task Force will continue to liaise with Netherlands and Germany for MU3.

AGENDA ITEM	DECISION	AGREED ACTION
<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, Doc.AEWA/EGMIWG10.9/Rev.3.</p> <p>The EGM IWG acknowledged that due to monitoring issues, managing the population at MU level is still not possible. However, all Range States* will continue to focus on offtake strategies that minimise the need for derogations.</p> <p>Considering that the population level of both MUs is well above the target population size, and that the population shows no declining trend, the EGM IWG agreed to maintain the current level of offtake for the 2025/2026 hunting season.</p> <p>(*It was noted that in the Netherlands there is no recreational hunting, and thus all offtake falls under derogation.)</p>	
<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/10.8.</p>	<p>Based on the progress report of the Adaptive Flyway Management Programme for the GG population, the EGM IWG agreed on the following actions for 2025/2026:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion on use and way forward for damage impact models and knowledge gaps for Greylag Goose (see recommendations from the impact report, document AEWA/EGMIWG/Inf.8.15).
<p>Report and recommendations of the GG TF</p>	<p>The EGM IWG took note of the Task Force report and recommendations, Doc.AEWA/EGMIWG/10.15/Rev.1, and adopted the annual workplan for 2025/2026.</p>	<p>Based on the GG TF report, the EGM IWG agreed to the following actions for 2025-2026:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Range States strive to provide the necessary data, and a description of methods as described in the EGMP Population

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	<p>The EGM IWG agreed to establish an ad hoc working group with responsibility to further investigate short-stopping of Greylag Geese, identify knowledge gaps as well as possible needs for funding to better understand the declining number of Greylag Geese in Spain and France during winter. The ad hoc working group is requested to report its findings to EGM IWG11.</p>	<p>Status and Assessment Report. Specifically, Range States should provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Reliable seasonal 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 recreational hunting and derogation killing. (Noting that the lack of this data is the biggest obstacle to model improvement and application.) ○ Summer or early autumn abundance by country for those conducting such surveys; for all years in which they are available. ○ Post-breeding age ratios for all years and countries where available (this should include counts of young and total sample size). Data should be provided at the lowest level available (e.g. by flock or location). ● Winter counts for all years and countries where available. ● Range States discuss 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 efforts to coordinate offtake can be better understood by the EGM IWG. ● Range States discuss and identify obstacles and limitations they may have in implementing the actions and recommendations so that these can be better understood by the EGM IWG.

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Range States support the Data Centre during the assessment of the AFMP indicators, which are planned to be submitted for the EGM IWG11. • The GG TF continues to exchange general information and experiences with other population-specific and crosscutting Task Forces (the Agriculture and Flight Safety Task Forces), thus strengthening the relations between the EGMP Task Forces and benefitting from the work already carried out within other Task Forces. • Task Force members actively promote available material such as the recorded EGMP webinars and briefing notes. • The GG TF will prepare a recommendation to IWG 11 regarding whether the AFMP is in need of revision or should be extended for the remainder of the ISSMP's lifespan. • The GG TF will keep the online workplan active and updated between meetings.
<p>Report and recommendations of the FSTF</p>	<p>The EGM IWG took note of the Task Force report and recommendations, Doc.AEWA/EGMIWG/10.17, and adopted the annual workplan for 2025/2026.</p>	<p>Based on the FSTF report, the EGM IWG agreed to the following actions for 2025-2026:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Government Representatives to facilitate the transmission of relevant aircraft goose strike data and information regarding the number of geese passing over aerodromes to the AEWA Secretariat and the EGMP Data Centre. • Support the development of airport warning systems based on GPS tagging of Pink-footed Goose.
<p>Report and recommendations of the Agriculture TF</p>	<p>The EGM IWG took note of the Task Force report and recommendations, Doc.AEWA/EGMIWG/10.16/Rev.1, and adopted the annual workplan for 2025/2026.</p>	

AGENDA ITEM	DECISION	AGREED ACTION
<p>Special activities for the 10th anniversary of EGMP</p>	<p>The EGM IWG approved the workplan for the special activities dedicated to the 10th anniversary of EGMP, Doc.AEWA/EGMIWG/10.4, to be implemented in 2025 and 2026.</p>	<p>Based on the workplan for the special activities dedicated to the 10th anniversary of EGMP, the EGM IWG agreed on the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore funding opportunities for the development of the documentary <i>Geese Beyond Borders: The Journey of the Greylag Goose</i> (e.g. crowd funding) and conveying case studies and other anniversary communication products to a wider audience (i.e., beyond the existing EGMP community).
<p>Updates on EGMP's communications efforts</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Host countries to consider including additional local stakeholders as observers to EGM IWG meetings as a contribution to awareness-raising. • EGMP Secretariat will package information from the briefing note into a PowerPoint format, and possibly a leaflet, for ease of national translation and use in engaging stakeholders. • Consider organising a webinar after EGM IWG meetings to convey key outcomes and messaging to a wider audience. • Continue to send updates on relevant national implementation work to the AEWA Secretariat for use in communications.
<p>EGMP Finance Report for 2025/2026</p>	<p>The EGM IWG took note of document AEWA/EGMIWG/10.18 and the Data Centre reduced routine workplan for the rest of 2025.</p>	

AGENDA ITEM	DECISION	AGREED ACTION
EGMP Budget and costed Programme of Work for 2026	<p>The EGM IWG approved the EGMP budget estimate for 2026 and the proposed costed Programme of Work for 2026, Doc.AEWA/EGMIWG/10.19/Rev.1.</p> <p>The EGM IWG took note of the indicative scale for voluntary contributions, Annex 2 of the document.</p>	
Election of the new Chair of EGM IWG	<p>The EGM IWG conditionally elected Finland as the next Chair of the EGM IWG until final confirmation has been made by the Finnish delegation.</p> <p>In case of non-confirmation by Finland, Sweden will continue chairing the EGM IWG until EGM IWG11.</p>	
Date and venue of the next EGM IWG meeting	<p>The EGM IWG welcomed Sweden's offer to host IWG 11.</p> <p>The dates for the EGM IWG11 were set for the week of 15-18 June 2026.</p>	

Opening of the meeting and welcome

1. The Chair of the AEWA European Goose Management International Working Group (EGM IWG), Mr Petter Kjellander, opened the meeting and welcomed participants before inviting Mr Tim Adrians from the Belgian Research Institute of Nature and Forest (INBO) to speak. Mr Adrians emphasised INBO's longstanding focus on goose ecology and its commitment to evidence-based conservation. He underlined the key role of geese—particularly the Pink-footed Goose (PfG)—in driving conservation efforts in Belgium and wished participants a productive meeting. Mr Jacques Trouvilliez, AEWA Executive Secretary, then took the floor, echoing the welcome and highlighting the EGMP's inclusive and innovative approach, which led to its selection as a finalist for United Nations Environment Programme's (UNEP) 2024 Kipepeo Awards.

Adoption of the agenda

2. In the absence of comments from the meeting participants, the proposed meeting agenda was adopted.

Decision:

The EGM IWG adopted the provisional agenda, Doc. AEWA/EGMIWG/10.2/Rev.1.

Admission of permanent observers and expert observers to EGM IWG10

3. No new permanent observers attended the meeting. The Chair requested the admission of Mr Albert de Hoon, the Coordinator of Flight Safety Task Force (FSTF), and Mr Sander Moonen, the Coordinator of Russia Barnacle Goose Task Force (RBG TF), to the meeting as expert observers.

Decision:

The EGM IWG admitted the following individual expert observers to EGM IWG10: Mr Sander Moonen (Coordinator of the Russian Barnacle Goose Task Force) and Mr Albert de Hoon (Coordinator of the Flight Safety Task Force).

Report of the EGMP Secretariat and Data Centre (2024/2025)

4. Mr Bruno Pereira Leles, the EGMP Coordinator, provided an overview of EGMP activities over the past year, underscoring the appointment of a new coordinator for the Russia Barnacle Goose Task Force (RBG TF), following a three-year gap in the TF leadership. He noted a productive year with major milestones including the revision workshops for the International Single Species Management Plan for the Svalbard breeding population of Pink-footed Goose (PfG ISSMP) and International Single Species Action Plan for the Conservation of the Taiga Bean Goose (TBG ISSAP), a series of Task Force meetings, the ongoing work on the revision of the indicators for Adaptive Flyway Management Programmes (AFMPs) for the East Greenland/Scotland and Ireland and Russia/Germany and Netherlands populations of Barnacle Goose (BG) and for the NW/SW European population of Greylag Goose (GG) led by the EGMP Data Centre and data collection for the aircraft strike database, initiated under the FSTF. He also outlined outreach efforts, including two thematic webinars, EGMP's contribution to the World Migratory Bird Day campaign 2025 and participation in international events. EGMP's recognition as a finalist in UNEP's 2024 Kipepeo Awards was celebrated as a shared achievement. He concluded by sharing key figures—24 TF meetings held, 41 documents produced and

the involvement of 116 experts—and invited the European Goose Management International Working Group to take note of the report and provide feedback.

5. The Netherlands expressed appreciation to the Secretariat and Data Centre for their substantial work carried out during the intersessional period.

Decision:

The EGM IWG took note of the *EGMP Secretariat and Data Centre report*, Doc. AEWA/EGMIWG/10.3.

Summary of EGMP National Reports

6. Mr Leles presented this document, providing an overview of the national implementation progress for the NW/SW European population of GG and Russia/Germany and Netherlands and East Greenland/Scotland and Ireland populations of BG. He highlighted progress in data availability, communication, and policy developments, noting, however, that gaps in data quality and consistency still hinder the shift toward dynamic, model-based management. He further urged the TFs use the summary of the EGMP National Reports 2025 to support implementation.
7. BirdLife International raised questions regarding the lack of derogations reported for the Greenland BG population. Mr Leles explained that the Greenland population is near the Favourable Reference Population (FRP), resulting in limited hunting, unlike the Russian population, which shows greater variability and management complexity across its three Management Units (MUs). Responding to a follow-up question on the levels of air safety conflicts in the UK, the Secretariat stated that no data on goose strikes had been received from the UK to date and noted that multiple factors—such as airport location and local goose population densities—affect the level of risk. The Secretariat was hopeful to receive more information about aircraft-goose strikes from the UK in the near future.
8. The Netherlands asked the Secretariat about the reasons for the short time available to analyse the data received by the Range States. The Secretariat noted that the deadline for the submission of National Reports was extended from mid-April to early May to accommodate delays from Range States and then further extended up to 6 May in order to include late submissions. Despite the time constraints considering the EGM IWG10 document deadline on 16 May, the Secretariat was able to produce the analysis of reports according to the guidelines set out in the document [AEWA/EGMIWG/7.5](#). Mr Leles clarified that additional analyses discussed during the presentation were expected to be conducted within the framework of the 10th anniversary report in collaboration with the respective TFs.

Decision:

The EGM IWG took note of the *Summary of EGMP National Reports*, Doc. AEWA/EGMIWG/10.5.

Status of the revision process for the International Single Species Action Plan for the Conservation of the Taiga Bean Goose

9. Ms Melissa Lewis, Species Officer at the AEWA Secretariat, and Mr Leles reported on the status of TBG ISSAP revision process. Ms Lewis explained the legal implications attached to the AEWA Table 1 categorisation of each population of TBG and the proposed Table 1 amendments that would be considered by the upcoming 9th Session of the Meeting of the Parties (MOP9) - including downlisting of the Finland and

NW Russia/Sweden, Denmark and Germany population to Column B. The ISSAP evaluation had reviewed implementation progress, key lessons and challenges. The evaluation recommended a full revision of the plan. To support this, a hybrid revision workshop was held from 1–3 April 2025 in Bonn and online at which participants, *inter alia*, heard presentations from individual Range States (including from non-Party Range States), discussed and refined the biological assessment and problem analysis for each TBG population, and developed a revised framework for action .

10. Since the workshop, the compilation team has advanced work on biological assessments, Favourable Reference Value (FRV) definitions and further development of the draft framework for action. The first full draft of the revised plan is nearing completion, with main gaps remaining around FRVs and the framing of targets within the purpose within the framework for action. This draft will be circulated to workshop participants and Range States for initial feedback, followed by formal consultation rounds with the Technical Committee AEWA Technical Committee (TC), Standing Committee (StC) and Range State governments before final submission to MOP9. While AEWA ISSAPs are not subject to the same pre-MOP deadlines as other meeting documents, the aim is to conclude extensive Range State consultations before the MOP to avoid prolonged discussions during the meeting.
11. Mr Mikko Alhainen, TBG TF Coordinator, expressed appreciation for the work done on the evaluation and revision of the plan, with optimism for its adoption and effective implementation and hope that reclassifying MUs as populations would enhance conservation efforts, particularly for the Eastern populations. Mr Jesper Madsen, Head of the EGMP Data Centre, noted that finalising the FRVs for the Western population depended on pending tracking data from Sweden, with agreements already in place with Scottish and Norwegian partners. The Swedish delegation indicated that they will strive to support the gathering of the necessary information for the development of the FRVs.
12. The Netherlands reiterated its request to be removed as a Range State for the TBG. The Secretariat confirmed that the request and its technical justification were discussed as workshop documents and that no objection was raised by workshop participants.

Decision:

The EGM IWG took note of the Taiga Bean Goose evaluation report, Doc. AEWA/EGMIWG/10.10.

The EGM IWG took note of the progress on the revision of the TBG ISSAP and the envisaged timeline for finalising this process.

Taiga Bean Goose population status and offtake assessment report

13. Ms Iben Hove Sørensen, Goose Monitoring Coordinator at the EGMP Data Centre, presented an overview of the status of TBG populations and key monitoring and modelling results.
14. The Western population remains very small and has not yet reached its management objective. A total of 1,005 individuals were reported to the Data Centre, with 835 in Denmark, 169 in Scotland and one in England, indicating that England is likely no longer used as a regular wintering area. The largest flock recorded comprised 80 birds, with juveniles accounting for 10.3%, confirming persistently low breeding success observed since 2013. Most birds winter in Denmark. It was noted that it would be useful to receive the age-ratio data from Denmark.
15. The Integrated Population Model (IPM) combines harvest estimates from Finland, Sweden and Denmark with population counts from March, October and January. While the IPM has generally integrated these diverse

data sources effectively, it was unable to reconcile inconsistencies among them in 2024–2025 monitoring season. Several sources of bias were highlighted, including the assumption of a constant number of 4,000 Tundra Bean Geese within the flock, which is likely inaccurate.

16. October counts in Sweden, which historically exceed March counts, have been lower in recent years, a pattern considered unrealistic and there is lack of recent data from Germany. January counts show an overall bias. While this would pose less concern if German winter abundance were stable, evidence suggests a decline of wintering birds in Germany over time, potentially linked to warmer winters. Despite these uncertainties, raw March counts suggested a relatively stable abundance of approximately 65,000–75,000 individuals over the past five years. A systematic review of data sources and monitoring protocols is planned to address these issues.
17. Information on Eastern population 1 remains very limited. The wintering population is estimated at around 20,000 individuals and appears to have remained stable in recent years.
18. The suggested management guidance stressed that both the Western and Eastern populations remain small and vulnerable, requiring continued strict protection measures. It was recommended to maintain existing restrictions for these two populations. For the Central population, harvesting of up to 3,000 individuals was considered potentially allowable based on current assessments.
19. Finally, the need for more organised and coordinated population counts was highlighted, particularly to enable reliable separation of subspecies and improve the robustness of future population assessments.
20. Mr Pitkanen from the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of Finland commented on the issue of October counts, noting that hunting has been banned in western parts of Finland since 2014. Following the introduction of this regulation, alongside the establishment of protected areas and a hunting moratorium, increased numbers of staging Bean Geese have been observed at some Finnish staging sites, where birds also appear to remain for longer periods. This could partially explain lower October counts in Sweden. Mr Pitkanen suggested strengthening monitoring efforts in Finland to better understand the situation. Sweden also confirmed that funding was available for strengthened counts in autumn.

Decision:

The EGM IWG took note of the population status and offtake assessment report, Doc. AEWA/EGMIWG/10.9/Rev.3.

Report and recommendations from the Taiga Bean Goose Task Force

21. Mr Mikko Alhainen, Coordinator of the TBG TF, reported on the activities of the TF in the period between EGM IWG9 and EGM IWG10. The TF contributed substantially to the evaluation of the TBG ISSAP.
22. The TF reaffirmed its key recommendations to the EGM IWG, with a strong focus on strengthening monitoring. Priority actions included continuing and enhancing January mid-winter counts for all populations, maintaining October and March counts for IPM input, extending coordinated counts to Finland and Denmark, strengthening age-ratio monitoring in early autumn staging areas and addressing current data gaps through systematic analysis. The TF further recommended the establishment of long-term, internationally funded GPS-tracking programmes, targeting an annual pool of 30–50 tagged birds per population. In view of current

modelling uncertainties, the TF recommended a harvest level below 3,000 birds for the Central population to ensure population stability while allowing limited sustainable harvest.

23. The draft TF workplan for 2025–2026 foresees continued support for the implementation of the revised ISSAP, with at least three meetings planned between EGM IWG10 and EGM IWG11 and additional meetings as required to advance ISSAP implementation.

Decisions and Actions:

The EGM IWG took note of the Task Force report and recommendations, Doc. AEWA/EGMIWG/10.12, and adopted the annual workplan for 2025/2026.

The EGM IWG agreed on a total annual harvest of less than 3,000 birds for the 2025/2026 hunting season (Finland – 1,740, Sweden – 900, Denmark – 360).

Based on the TBG TF Report, the EGM IWG agreed to the following actions for 2025/2026 (see further details in the report):

- continue and strengthen January/mid-winter counts of all populations for the population size estimates and delineation of the populations in overlapping wintering areas;
- continue October and March counts of the Finland and NW Russia/Sweden, Denmark and Germany population (previously Central Management Unit) for the foreseeable future for the data generation for the IPM, and extend, as a matter of priority, the coordinated counts to Finland and Denmark, as relevant, for robust population monitoring; analyse the data on Finland in terms of changes in staging TBG numbers during key counting times to inform the IPM and development of the monitoring framework;
- strengthen and extend the age ratio monitoring in early Autumn staging areas of the Central and Western populations (Finland, Denmark, Sweden);
- in co-operation with the AEWA Secretariat, prepare for the implementation of the revised ISSAP;
- consider funding monitoring activities utilizing GPS-tags (this would take an initial investment of perhaps ~50 tags to be followed by annual addition of around 10-20 tags to keep up with the level of 30-50 tags per population).

Status of the International Single Species Management Plan for the Svalbard breeding population of Pink-footed Goose. Evaluation and Review Process

24. Coordinator of the PfG TF, Mr Jesper Madsen, provided an update on the evaluation and revision process of the PfG ISSMP. While most of the expected outcomes of the current plan have been achieved, the evaluation highlighted the need to maintain and further refine adaptive management, recommending a full revision of the plan.
25. A dedicated revision workshop considered the evaluation findings, Range State updates on population status, harvest and key concerns and draft annexes on biological assessment and legal status. The problem analysis was refined through a structured assessment of threats, impacts, conflicts and risks, leading to the development of a revised framework for action and initial discussions on population targets and FRVs.
26. Following the workshop, outstanding elements of the framework for action were further developed, an additional annex on population projections and harvest rates was prepared and targeted work on FRVs and population target setting was advanced. The next steps include circulation of the revised FRV proposals for

consultation, preparation of successive draft revisions, consultation with the AEWA TC and StC and submission of the revised plan to AEWA MOP9.

27. An update was provided on the development of FRVs. The reference range has been defined separately for breeding and non-breeding areas. The breeding range for Svalbard was compiled using long-term knowledge supported by recent GPS-tracking data and mapped accordingly. The non-breeding range, encompassing moult migration, post-breeding movements, migration routes and wintering areas, was delineated using a combination of survey data, long-term neck-band resightings and GPS-tracking, including offshore migration areas.
28. The proposed reference population size is based on long-term population modelling informed by survey data dating back to the 1930s. Following exponential growth from the mid-1950s and subsequent stabilisation under active management, a population size of approximately 49,000 individuals in 2000 was proposed as the reference value, consistent with EU Birds Directive.
29. Habitat assessment concluded that while PfG have increasingly utilised agricultural habitats, including intensive farmland, habitat availability is not currently limiting population size. The species' adaptability, expanding winter habitat use and adequate breeding habitat availability in Svalbard support confidence that habitat does not constrain the population at present.

Decision:

The EGM IWG took note of the progress on the revision of the PfG ISSMP and the envisaged timeline for finalising the process.

Pink-footed Goose population status and offtake assessment report

30. The agenda item was presented by Mr Ryan Germain, Population Modelling Expert at the EGMP Data Centre. Accounting for GPS, bias showed only minor effects on IPM outputs up to 2017; however, more substantial differences emerged in subsequent years. Despite these differences, the resulting population estimates remain broadly consistent with those from previous years, with the November estimate being slightly higher than earlier assessments.

31. Based on the optimal harvest quota approach, it was recommended to set the maximum harvest quota at 20,000 individuals. In comparison, the realised harvest in Norway and Denmark over the past three years has remained just below 10,000 individuals annually. Maintaining a quota of 20,000 individuals is projected to result in a spring population size of approximately 73,000 birds.

32. Detection bias was highlighted as varying considerably between years and generally resulting in underestimation of population size. Continued deployment of GPS tags is expected to support further refinement of detection-bias estimates and improve the robustness of future IPM outputs.

Decision:

The EGM IWG took note of the Population Status and Offtake Assessment Report, Doc. AEWA/EGM IWG/10.9/Rev.3.

Report and Recommendations of the PfG TF

33. Mr Madsen introduced the document, providing a summary of TF activities in the reporting period and the recommendations to EGM IWG as well as the draft workplan for 2025/2026.

34. The TF focused primarily on supporting the evaluation and revision of the PfG ISSMP. The communication, outreach and stakeholder engagement activities included work on an initiative for a dissemination platform called *Goose Flyways: Understanding, Managing and Communicating the Journey of Geese in a Changing World*, for which PfG is a flagship species in focus.

35. The TF recommended that the EGM IWG considers devoting the necessary resources to fund development of the AFMP for the revised PfG ISSMP. It was further recommended to continue the internationally coordinated GPS-tagging programme for PfG. The TF endorsed the harvest strategy and quotas for the upcoming hunting season suggested by the EGMP Data Centre.

36. The draft workplan for 2025/2026 prioritised continued involvement in the finalisation, adoption and follow-up of the revised ISSMP, support to evaluation and monitoring activities linked to the plan's objectives, continued coordination and information exchange among Range States through the TF, efforts to secure external funding for communication and evaluation activities and ongoing engagement with stakeholders through meetings and public events.

37. Responding to a question from the Netherlands, Mr Madsen clarified that the proposed project for the dissemination platform primarily aimed to showcase the migratory journeys and life cycle of geese in order to improve public understanding and awareness, with the aim of fostering local engagement and support for conservation, rather than focusing solely on hunting management.

Decisions and Actions:

The EGM IWG took note of the Task Force report and recommendations, Doc. AEWA/EGMIWG/10.11, and adopted the annual workplan for 2025/2026.

The EGM IWG agreed on a total harvest quota of 20,000 birds for the 2025/2026 hunting season (Norway – 6,000, Denmark – 14,000).

Based on the PfG TF Report, the EGM IWG agreed to the following actions for 2025/2026 (see further details in the report):

- The Task Force will support the implementation of the revised plan (provided that it is adopted) and engage in the drafting of the AFMP, which is expected to start in the autumn of 2025 (pending funding).
- EGMP Range States of the Pink-footed Goose (i.e. Norway, Sweden, Finland, Denmark, the Netherlands, Belgium) are requested to provide the necessary resources to fund the development of the AFMP (anticipated to require 200 hours of work) and participate in the drafting of the AFMP.
- An internationally coordinated GPS tagging programme will be continued.
- The Task Force will engage in further initiatives to promote the EGMP flyway approach and uptake by national stakeholders (e.g. related to agricultural conflict resolution, effective goose shooting, reduction of crippling due to shotgun shooting, habitat restoration etc.).
- Task Force members will engage in providing input to the development of an international dissemination platform.

Proposed protocol for assessment of indicators for Adaptive Flyway Management Programmes for Greylag Goose, Russia Barnacle Goose and Greenland Barnacle Goose

38. Introducing this item, Ms Sørensen noted that the AFMPs were adopted by the EGM IWG in 2021 and will reach the end of their current life cycle in 2027. Starting in 2026, elements of the AFMPs may be revised, with the forthcoming assessment of the AFMP indicators providing an important basis for any future updates.

39. Data on the non-breeding range is unlikely to be available in a consistent and comparable form, as this information is not covered by existing reporting mechanisms. Range States were therefore invited to provide such data if available but were also asked to consider accepting a proposal to discontinue this indicator in future assessments.

40. For the second fundamental objective, addressing the minimisation of agricultural damage and conflict, it was proposed that Range States be requested to report on annual costs related to compensation and subsidy payments. Offtake conducted under derogations was noted as an additional proxy for the level of conflict. While qualitative approaches such as farmer interviews or reviews of existing studies had been suggested during TF discussions, it was agreed that, for the current assessment round, the evaluation would be limited to the originally agreed indicators.

41. Concerning the objective of minimising risks to public health and air safety, public health indicators are not included in all AFMPs. A set of relevant indicators was outlined, and it was agreed that the HPAI Contact Group would be invited to provide input on the risk of zoonotic influenza transmission to the general public. The group will also be asked to propose alternative indicators, recognising that the number of confirmed human infections

linked to geese is not an appropriate metric. The Flight Safety TF will contribute data on bird strikes and the number of geese passing over commercial airports.

42. With respect to minimising risks to other flora and fauna, Range States will be asked to liaise with site management authorities to report on any negative impacts on threatened species or habitats caused by GG or BG during the reporting period. This exercise was also seen as an opportunity to compile qualitative information on the type of damage and spatial extent affected, acknowledging that no consistent flyway-wide monitoring system is currently in place and that the assessment will rely on concrete, documented examples.

43. For the objective of minimising the costs of goose management, indicators will focus on relative changes in total management costs and the number of administrative staff involved. Range States will be invited to report on annual administrative expenditures at local, regional and national levels, as well as on the number of personnel engaged in goose management. It was noted that, where national-level data are difficult to compile, reporting at local or regional level would also be acceptable.

44. The objective of providing hunting opportunities compatible with maintaining populations at satisfactory levels cannot currently be assessed due to the lack of reliable data on harvest quotas, combined with continuing population increases. This objective will therefore not be addressed in the forthcoming questionnaire.

45. Ms Sørensen and Mr Koffijberg, representing SOVON, will finalise the assessment framework by August 2025. The deadline for data submission covering 2020–2024 (and 2025 where available) is 31 December 2025. The results will be presented at EGM IWG11, where the EGM IWG will consider whether a revision of the AFMPs is required for the next six-year period.

46. During the discussion, Germany raised concerns regarding the indicator related to minimising agricultural damage, noting that farmer compensation payments are a weak proxy due to their strong dependence on fluctuating market prices. The United Kingdom supported these caveats, stressing the need to clearly explain the limitations of this indicator if it is retained.

47. It was acknowledged that data availability differs considerably among Range States, with only a limited number applying compensation schemes, and that national and sub-national arrangements vary significantly. Norway reported that, in its case, the number of applications for lethal scaring at municipal level could serve as a relevant indicator of conflict.

48. With regard to HPAI-related indicators, the United Kingdom confirmed that national surveillance data is incomplete and that absolute numbers of infected birds are not reliable, due to limited testing and carcass detection. There was general agreement that more refined or contextualised indicators would be preferable where possible.

49. On management costs, it was recognised that while estimating current costs may be feasible, compiling comparable historical data is challenging. There was general agreement with the proposed assessment protocol, with the understanding that data gaps and uncertainties would need to be clearly reflected. It was confirmed that these issues would be taken into account in the final questionnaire.

Decisions and Actions:

The EGM IWG approved the proposed protocol for the assessment of AFMP indicators, Doc. AEWA/EGMIWG/10.20, and invited Range States to support the gathering and transmission of the necessary information to the EGMP Data Centre.

The EGMP Data Centre will take the input received during discussion of this agenda item at EGM IWG10, and further comments received in writing by 1 August 2025, into account when preparing the questionnaire that will be used for assessment of indicators.

Day 2 (18 June 2025)

Population status and offtake assessment report for the East Greenland/Scotland & Ireland Population of the Barnacle Goose

50. Presenting this agenda item, Mr Germain indicated that the March population estimate on Islay was approximately 30,000 individuals while the flyway-level population estimate was around 62,000 individuals. The confidence intervals of the population estimate overlap with the FRP, with an estimated 4% probability of the population falling below the FRP, representing a slight improvement compared to the previous year.

51. Harvest in Iceland was reported at 2,686 individuals, corresponding to an estimated harvest rate of around 3% of the total population. Productivity has remained at relatively low levels since 2006, although an increase was observed in 2025, coinciding with improved survival rates. The report underlined the continued need for coordination of offtake between Iceland and Scotland, given the current population status.

52. In this context, the need for a guidance on what constitutes an acceptable level of risk in relation to the FRP was highlighted, as this underpins management decisions at the current population abundance level.

Decisions and Actions:

The EGM IWG took note of the population status offtake assessment report, Doc. AEWA/EGMIWG/10.9/Rev.3.

Report on the Coordination of offtake of the East Greenland/Scotland & Ireland Population of Barnacle Goose in Autumn/Winter 2024/2025

53. Ms Jessica Shaw, representing the United Kingdom presented the report. Following the assessment at EGM IWG9, the March 2024 population estimate indicated that the population was below the FRP. As a consequence, the EGM IWG agreed that it was necessary for Iceland and the United Kingdom to reduce offtake to as close to zero as possible, seek agreement on the maximum level of offtake to be permitted and establish a formal coordination mechanism to ensure adherence to these limits.

54. In line with this decision, Iceland and the United Kingdom agreed on a maximum total offtake of 600 birds, with a split of 500 birds for Iceland and 100 birds for Scotland. In Scotland, shooting remains limited to licensed derogations only, for the purpose of preventing serious agricultural damage, with the total bag explicitly capped at the agreed level. In Iceland, hunting regulations were adjusted accordingly. In order to ensure adherence to the set quota, Iceland shortened the hunting season to 15 days, ending on 25 September, and introduced a ban on the sale of BG products. These measures were supported by enhanced cooperation with hunters on data collection and an incentive campaign to encourage moderate hunting. Iceland noted the need to improve stakeholder engagement and monitoring of hunting distribution in future seasons to support more targeted management measures.

55. According to the latest estimates, the offtake in Scotland was a maximum of 60 birds, whereas in Iceland this number was 2,686 birds.

56. Wetlands International recalled that similar challenges with regulating offtake had previously arisen in the context of the TBG and invited Iceland and the United Kingdom to reflect on what lessons could be learned and what changes might be required to enable offtake to be more effectively aligned with population needs in the future.

57. Iceland responded that, under the circumstances, the national authorities had implemented extensive measures by significantly shortening the hunting season, but that a full season closure was not pursued due to considerations related to other stakeholders, particularly farmers affected by agricultural damage. It was noted that a full closure would be possible if required in the future.

58. Following a further question from Wetlands International on potential future adjustments, Iceland explained that the measures were introduced at a very short notice, limiting the available options. Mr Jonasson indicated that earlier communication with stakeholders would be pursued going forward and highlighted the need to develop additional regulatory tools, such as limits on daily bags, which are currently not available but warrant closer examination.

59. Ms Herrero, representing BirdLife International, emphasised that AEWA Parties have an obligation to conserve BG populations and cautioned that any risk of populations falling below the FRP raises concerns regarding compliance with the Agreement. She underlined the importance of learning from recent experience and of ensuring that agreed offtake levels are effectively achieved in practice, noting that failure to do so undermines the value of coordinated EGMP processes.

60. The United Kingdom acknowledged the difficulties faced, noting that this was a relatively novel situation and that Range States also have obligations towards national stakeholders, making adapting management measures rapidly challenging at times.

61. The AEWA Secretariat confirmed that there is currently no formal guidance on acceptable levels of risk in relation to FRP, which is a matter of legal interpretation of Article II of the Agreement. The need to develop such guidance will be proposed at AEWA MOP9 and it is expected that this task will be assigned to the AEWA Technical Committee in the next triennium.

62. The Data Centre suggested that, given that in Iceland stakeholder conflict is primarily linked to the Icelandic breeding population, harvest of the Icelandic and Greenland populations could be more explicitly differentiated through spatial or temporal regulations. Iceland further explained that recent adjustments to the hunting season were intended to better target the Icelandic population and confirmed that analysis of marking and recapture data is already underway to support more refined management in future.

Decision:

The EGM IWG took note of the report on the coordination of offtake, Doc. AEWA/EGMIWG/10.21.

Status Report: Adaptive Flyway Management Programme for the E. Greenland BG population

63. Introducing this agenda item, Mr Leles highlighted that the current six-year AFMP cycle runs from 2020 to 2026 and that most of the core AFMP elements, including the definition of MUs, FRVs and the population model for cumulative impact of derogation and legal hunting, have been finalised.

64. Regarding monitoring indicators, it was noted that data collection for the indicators is ongoing and that the evaluation of the state of these indicators towards achieving the objectives will be carried out by the Data Centre ahead of EGM IWG11 in 2026.

65. It was highlighted that the damage impact models and the related report were finalised and discussed at EGM IWG8, but no final decision has yet been taken on their use. Continued discussion on the way forward for the impact models was therefore requested.

Decisions and Actions:

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/10.6.

Based on the *Progress report: Adaptive Flyway Management Programme for the E. Greenland BG population*, the EGM IWG agreed on the following action for 2025/2026:

- continue discussion on use and way forward for damage impact models (see recommendations from the impact report, document [AEWA/EGMIWG/Inf.8.15](#)).

Report and recommendations of the Greenland/Svalbard Barnacle Goose Task Force

66. Due to the absence of the TF Coordinator, Ms Rae Mckenzie, Ms Shaw presented the TF report on her behalf. During the reporting period, the TF supported the implementation of the agreement reached at EGM IWG9 to reduce offtake to as close to zero as possible, due to the high probability of the population falling below the FRP. The TF also continued work related to the IPM, including incorporation of updated census data and consideration of potential HPAI impacts.

67. The TF noted the need for guidance from AEWA on compliance with the obligation to maintain or restore populations to a Favourable Conservation Status in relation to the risk of falling below the FRP. In addition, it was recommended that the TF prepares a recommendation to EGM IWG11 regarding whether the AFMP is in need of revision or should be extended for the remainder of the ISSMP's lifespan.

68. The draft workplan for 2025/2026 prioritised continued coordination of offtake between Range States, further development and refinement of the IPM, preparation for and implementation of the 2026 population census and continued monitoring of breeding and staging sites. No new activities are planned for the Svalbard/South-west Scotland population until further clarity on HPAI impacts allows resumption of AFMP development.

Decisions and Actions:

The EGM IWG took note of the Task Force report and recommendations, Doc. AEWA/EGMIWG/10.13/Rev.1, and adopted the annual workplan.

The EGM IWG took note of the agreement between Iceland and the United Kingdom that the maximum offtake will be 3,250 birds, split between the two Range States.

This shall not be considered as a precedent in the context of any future EGM IWG decisions or in the broader context of AEWA.

Based on GBG TF report, the EGM IWG agreed that the Task Force will prepare a recommendation to EGM IWG11 regarding whether the AFMP is in need of revision or should be extended for the remainder of the BG ISSMP's lifespan.

The AEWA Secretariat will initiate a process to develop guidance on compliance with the obligation to maintain or restore populations to a favourable conservation 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.

Population status and assessment report of the Russia/Germany & Netherlands Population of the Barnacle Goose

69. Mr Kees Koffijberg, representing SOVON, reported on the status of the population. Based on field count data and outputs from the IPM, the flyway population in January 2024 was estimated at approximately 1,7 million individuals, corresponding to around four times the FRP. After remaining relatively stable at about 1,4 million individuals, the population has increased during the past two seasons, despite reported mortality associated with avian influenza outbreaks. When expressed as breeding pairs, the population size in the MU1 remains well above both the FRP and the 200% FRP threshold. By contrast, the MU2 has experienced a decline, with population levels falling below the 200% FRP threshold in 2024, thereby triggering the need for coordinated offtake management where substantial derogation may affect local breeding populations in Denmark, Finland or Sweden. In the MU3, breeding pair numbers have increased and now exceed the FRP, but remain below the 200% threshold, indicating a continued need for coordinated derogation management between Germany and the Netherlands.

70. Responding to a question from Mr Madsen on the possible reasons for the population growth, Mr Koffijberg noted that it is likely driven by expansion of the Arctic breeding grounds but limited data has prevented a more detailed analysis.

71. Mr Koffijberg asked whether clutch management is applied in Finland. Finland indicated that relevant experts were not present and could not provide details. Sweden reported that clutch management has been applied only on a small, local scale (e.g. on an island), with anecdotal indications that it helped keep populations lower.

Decision:

The EGM IWG took note of the population status and offtake assessment, Doc. AEWA/EGMIWG/10.9/Rev.3.

Report on the Coordination of Offtake of Russia/Germany & Netherlands Population of Barnacle Goose in Management Unit 3

72. Following the 2024 IPM assessment, which indicated that the summer population of MU3 had fallen below the 200% FRP threshold, coordination of derogation offtake was initiated between the Netherlands and Germany in line with the BG AFMP. On 29 April 2024, the competent authorities in Niedersachsen and Schleswig-Holstein were contacted to provide updates on derogation measures and levels of offtake.

73. Niedersachsen reported that no derogation shooting of BG was taking place. In Schleswig-Holstein, derogation shooting continued to address agricultural damage with derogations being granted in the period from 1 October – 28 February. Total offtake in MU3 increased to approximately 5,000 individuals in 2024/2025. Based on the timing, it is assumed that derogation measures will mainly affect birds from MU1 and MU2. The Ministry estimates that the number of local breeding birds will be less than 1%.

74. Goose management in Schleswig-Holstein also includes clutch management of the local breeding populations. Although the impact on the local breeding population is thought to be low, it was recommended to monitor it carefully and report to EGM IWG annually.

Decision:

The EGM IWG took note of the report on the coordination of offtake of MU3, Doc. AEWA/EGMIWG/10.22/Rev.1.

Status Report: Adaptive Flyway Management Programme for the Russian BG population

75. Mr Leles presented the report, noting that most of the core AFMP elements for 2020-2026 cycle had been finalised. Work on filling gaps in the FRVs is ongoing and expected to be completed before EGM IWG11 in 2026.

76. Regarding the cumulative impact of derogation and legal hunting, the population model at MU level has been finalised, but the final report on the IPM is still pending. Similarly to GBG AFMP, discussion is pending on the further use of the impact models.

77. With regard to monitoring indicators, it was noted that information for indicator I.1 on population size is still missing from some Range States. The protocol for indicators related to population models is under development by SOVON and the EGMP Data Centre, while protocols for offtake assessment have been agreed.

78. Mr Leles highlighted that the RBG TF plans to address this discussion in its meetings in the coming year. Funding may be needed for some of the monitoring activities.

Decisions and Actions:

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/10.7.

Based on the Progress report: Adaptive Flyway Management Programme for the Russian BG population, the EGM IWG agreed on the following actions for 2025/2026:

- Task Force discussion on use and way forward for impact models (see recommendations from the Impact report, document AEWA/EGMIWG/Inf.8.15).
- Ensure that systematic monitoring is in place. It is important to note that some monitoring activities are still missing from some Range States, such as the following:
 - More up-to-date reporting on winter and summer numbers is needed (notably concerning Germany).
 - More extensive age ratio assessments are needed in the Baltic population, notably in Sweden and Finland (outside Helsinki region), and possibly also Denmark, in order to achieve a more representative sample on productivity data (now only relying on data collected in Helsinki region Finland).

(See the EGMP Population Status and Assessment Report for a full overview of data availability).

- Secretariat and Range States engage with the European Commission regarding the need for guidance on Article 9 of the Birds Directive.

Report and recommendations of the Barnacle Goose Task Force for Russia/Germany & Netherlands Population

79. Mr Sander Moonen, TF Coordinator, presented the key elements of the TF report. As the population seems to be below 200% of FRP in the MU2, the TF will initiate discussion on necessary measures between the relevant Range States. The TF will provide input for assessment of indicators for the BG AFMP. During the meeting of the TF on the EGMP TF Day, it was agreed that the TF will start with the synthesis of the experience and utility of accommodation areas as a tool to prevent conflict. Another plan for the upcoming year is to host a webinar on application of derogations as a tool to alleviate agricultural and flight safety conflicts.

80. The TF recommends implementation of all activities in the workplan and for the TF to assist the Dutch Modeling Consortium in modeling research when necessary. It was recommended that the Range States make effort to address the monitoring data gaps and for the TF to provide a recommendation to the EGM IWG11 on whether BG AFMP should be subject to amendment in 2026.

81. The Data Centre highlighted the need for EU guidance on application of Article 9 of the EU Birds Directive.

82. BirdLife International noted that the BG remains a non-huntable species under EU law and stressed that all management must comply with the derogation provisions of the Birds Directive, noting that each derogation must meet the Directive's legal requirements. BirdLife cautioned against developing any management approaches that would not be fully compliant with this framework.

83. The EGMP Data Centre responded that this issue had already been addressed during discussions on the ISSMP in 2018 with the Range States agreeing that population control mechanisms are not permissible under the current legal framework. Wetlands International emphasised that the ISSMP does not alter the obligations of EU Member States with regard to derogations. It was stressed that responsibility for the correct application of Article 9 of the Birds Directive remains with the Member States, and that while the impact model can provide scientific evidence to support derogation requests, it does not transfer or replace this responsibility.

Decisions and Actions:

The EGM IWG took note of the Task Force report and recommendations, Doc. AEW/EGMIWG/10.14/Rev.1 and adopted the annual workplan for 2025/2026.

Based on the Russian Barnacle Goose Task Force Report, the EGM IWG agreed to the following actions for 2025/2026:

- The Task Force will implement the activities outlined in its workplan for 2025/2026.
- Dutch Modelling Consortium will continue to coordinate monitoring of Barnacle Goose, provide population estimates by running the IPM and contributing to the annual status report (2025-2028), thanks to confirmation of continued funding by the Dutch Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Food Security and Nature, the Dutch provinces and BIJ12-agency.
- Range States continue to assist the Dutch Modelling Consortium by facilitating the gathering and provision of needed data. The Task Force can assist the work of the consortium by promoting outputs of its work.
- Take action to fill the gaps in monitoring information that is used for the annual assessment of the population.
- The Task Force will support the assessment of the AFMP indicators.
- The Task Force will prepare a recommendation to EGM IWG 11 regarding whether the AFMP is in need of revision or should be extended for the remainder of the ISSMP's lifespan.
- The Task Force will continue to liaise with Range States regarding the potential establishment of coordination for MU2.
- Coordination in MU3 will continue as is. The Task Force will continue to liaise with Netherlands and Germany for MU3.

Population status and assessment report of the NW/SW European population of the Greylag Goose

84. Introducing this item, Ms Sørensen reported that, although data availability has improved substantially, it remains impossible to progress from an information-gap decision model at population level to a fully dynamic, model-based management approach at MU level. Nevertheless, important technical advances have been achieved, including the development of a flyway-level population model, a utility model to assess different offtake strategies against population objectives, and a model for estimating breeding pair numbers from post-breeding counts.

85. In 2022, post-breeding estimates indicated 540,115 individuals in MU1, corresponding to approximately 132,000 breeding pairs and 748,110 individuals in MU2, equivalent to about 180,000 breeding pairs, demonstrating that both MUs remain well above their respective targets of 70,000 and 80,000 breeding pairs. The winter population in January 2024 was estimated at 932,910 individuals, likewise, exceeding the winter target of approximately 545,000 individuals. Despite these findings, the reported offtake of at least 425,393 GG in 2023/2024 continues to raise concerns, as it is considered likely that offtake figures are substantially biased upwards.

86. Ms Sørensen highlighted the need for the productivity data noting that the assessments should be done in the right time of the year given that the age assessment is becoming increasingly difficult. It was stressed once again that management of population is not possible due to missing data.

Decisions:

The EGM IWG took note of the population status and offtake assessment report, Doc. AEWA/EGMIWG10.9/Rev.3.

The EGM IWG acknowledged that due to monitoring issues, managing the population at MU level is still not possible. However, all Range States* will continue to focus on offtake strategies that minimise the need for derogations.

Considering that the population level of both MUs is well above the target population size, and that the population shows no declining trend, the EGM IWG agreed to maintain the current level of offtake for the 2025/2026 hunting season.

(*It was noted that in the Netherlands there is no recreational hunting, and thus all offtake falls under derogation.)

Status report: Adaptive Flyway Management Programme for the GG population

87. Mr Leles introduced this item clarifying that most of the core AFMP elements for the 2020-2026 cycle have been finalised.

88. Regarding monitoring indicators, it was noted that information is still missing from some Range States. The protocol for harvest assessment, including the coordination of offtake, is still missing, while the protocol for damage impact assessment is awaiting agreement on use and clarification of knowledge gaps.

89. With regard to impact models, the report has been finalised, but information on damage caused by GG remains limited and further research is needed. It was recalled that at EGM IWG8 it was agreed that the task, as defined in the ISSMPs and AFMPs for BG and GG, had been delivered. However, information remains limited on grazing impacts of GG, particularly during the summer period, and Range States may wish to encourage further research on this topic.

90. The meeting was further informed that data is missing from some Range States for monitoring related to population models and harvest assessment, and updated model estimates therefore cannot be provided. Specific recommendations for monitoring of MU1 had already been provided at EGM IWG9. In addition, information is missing from some Range States for harvest assessment at MU level, meaning that the data analysis cannot currently be completed.

91. The Secretariat highlighted that systematic monitoring is therefore still not fully in place and that discussion is needed on the harvest protocol, including the coordination of offtake where necessary. National implementation and possible adaptation of harvest regulations continue to be reported through the GG TF workplan and the EGMP National Reports.

Decisions and Actions:

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/10.8.

Based on the Progress report: Adaptive Flyway Management Programme for the GG population, the EGM IWG agreed on the following actions for 2025/2026:

- Discussion on use and way forward for damage impact models and knowledge gaps for Greylag Goose (see recommendations from the impact report, document AEWA/EGMIWG/Inf.8.15).

Report and recommendations of the Greylag Goose Task Force

92. The TF Coordinator, Ms Malin Ahl, presented the report noting that the TF's main activities during the reporting period focused on discussions related to monitoring activities, data availability and management-related initiatives.

93. The TF organised a joint webinar with the EGMP Agriculture TF in February 2025, addressing tools to reduce crop damage and a further webinar in June 2025, centered on a recent publication by Matthieu Guillemain on the development and management of GG over the past 70 years, complemented by presentations from other researchers.

94. Throughout the year, the GG TF received regular support and updates from the EGMP Data Centre and contributed to the review of the draft EGMP Population Status and Offtake Assessment Report 2025 submitted to EGM IWG10.

95. Apart from recommendations related to the improvement of monitoring data, the TF recommended that Range States focus on offtake strategies that minimise the need for breeding-season derogations, noting that derogations can alleviate local socio-economic conflicts but cannot be used in a planned manner to achieve population targets. The TF encouraged Range States to discuss practical constraints and trade-offs related to mitigating conflicts and managing recreational hunting, as well as to identify obstacles and limitations affecting implementation of agreed actions, in order to improve the EGM IWG's understanding of coordination challenges. It was further recommended to continue the discussion on the issue of short-stopping, proposing the establishment of an ad hoc working group to clarify the situation, identify knowledge gaps and assess possible funding needs, particularly in relation to declining winter counts in Spain. In addition, Range States were urged to support the Data Centre in the assessment of AFMP indicators for submission to EGM IWG11, while the TF itself should continue close exchange with other population-specific and cross-cutting TFs, promote EGMP communication products such as webinars and briefing notes, and prepare a recommendation to EGM IWG11 on whether the AFMP should be revised or extended for the remainder of the ISSMP lifespan. Finally, the TF agreed to keep its online workplan actively updated between meetings.

96. The GG TF workplan for 2025/2026 focused on reducing agricultural conflicts through improved scaring, land management and closer engagement with farmers, including collaboration with the Agriculture TF. Priority actions include improving the effectiveness of population control and hunting practices, notably by promoting best practices, reducing crippling rates and exchanging experiences on lethal and non-lethal techniques through webinars and possible workshops. The TF will also continue cross-cutting cooperation with other EGMP TFs and support internationally coordinated approaches to assessing agricultural damage. Essential ongoing activities

include maintaining and updating population estimates, bag statistics, damage databases and demographic information within the agreed monitoring frameworks.

Decisions and Actions:

The EGM IWG took note of the Task Force report and recommendations, Doc. AEWG/EGMIWG/10.15/Rev.1 and adopted the annual workplan for 2025/2026.

The EGM IWG agreed to establish an *ad hoc* working group with responsibility to further investigate short-stopping of Greylag Geese, identify knowledge gaps as well as possible needs for funding to better understand the declining number of Greylag Geese in Spain and France during winter. The *ad hoc* working group is requested to report its findings to EGM IWG11.

Based on the GG TF Report, the EGM IWG agreed to the following actions for 2025-2026:

- All Range States strive to provide the necessary data, and a description of methods as described in the EGMP Population Status and Assessment Report. Specifically, Range States should provide:
- Reliable seasonal 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 recreational hunting and derogation killing. (Noting that the lack of this data is the biggest obstacle to model improvement and application.)
- Summer or early autumn abundance by country for those conducting such surveys; for all years in which they are available.
- Post-breeding age ratios for all years and countries where available (this should include counts of young and total sample size). Data should be provided at the lowest level available (e.g. by flock or location).
- Winter counts for all years and countries where available.
- Range States discuss 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 efforts to coordinate offtake can be better understood by the EGM IWG.
- Range States discuss and identify obstacles and limitations they may have in implementing the actions and recommendations so that these can be better understood by the EGM IWG.
- Range States support the Data Centre during the assessment of the AFMP indicators, which are planned to be submitted for the EGM IWG11.
- The GG TF continues to exchange general information and experiences with other population-specific and crosscutting Task Forces (the Agriculture and Flight Safety Task Forces), thus strengthening the relations between the EGMP Task Forces and benefitting from the work already carried out within other Task Forces.
- Task Force members actively promote available material such as the recorded EGMP webinars and briefing notes.
- The GG TF will prepare a recommendation to IWG 11 regarding whether the AFMP is in need of revision or should be extended for the remainder of the ISSMP's lifespan.
- The GG TF will keep the online workplan active and updated between meetings.

Report and recommendations of the Flight Safety Task Force

97. The agenda point was presented by the TF Coordinator, Mr Albert de Hoon. The TF discussions in the reporting period focused primarily on advancing the development of a European databank on aircraft–goose strikes, improving knowledge on the scale and nature of the aircraft–goose strike issue, strengthening collaboration with other TFs and enhancing communication efforts.

98. With regard to data sharing, the TF informed the meeting that a template for collecting aircraft–goose strike data had been developed and circulated to National Government Representatives. Initial data submissions had been received from several Range States, and coordination is ongoing to complete the databank, after which analysis of strike and population data will be undertaken. The TF emphasised that this work would form the basis for improved understanding of trends and risks.

99. Mr de Hoon further reported on ongoing efforts to address knowledge gaps and stimulate research, including discussion of a proposal to develop an early warning system based on GPS tracking of PfG. It was noted that additional research needs are expected to emerge once the databank is completed.

100. Collaboration with other TFs, including the Greenland BG TF, Russia BG TF and GG TF was highlighted, particularly in relation to monitoring indicators and data analysis. The importance of engaging with the Agriculture TF was also underlined to ensure a more integrated approach. In terms of communication, the TF stressed the need to raise awareness among airport operators and civil aviation authorities and reported progress in developing an information leaflet.

101. The TF presented its recommendations, calling for the approval of the proposed activities, increased support from Range States in providing relevant data on aircraft–goose strikes and goose movements near airports and support for the development of warning systems based on GPS tracking.

102. The draft workplan for 2025/2026 was introduced, outlining actions to further consolidate the TF, complete and operationalise the databank, analyse trends and knowledge gaps and promote practical measures and technologies to reduce aircraft–goose strike risks.

Decisions and Actions:

The EGM IWG took note of the Task Force report and recommendations, Doc. AEWA/EGMIWG/10.17, and adopted the annual workplan for 2025/2026.

Based on the FSTF Report, the EGM IWG agreed to the following actions for 2025-2026:

National Government Representatives to facilitate the transmission of relevant aircraft goose strike data and information regarding the number of geese passing over aerodromes to the AEWA Secretariat and the EGMP Data Centre.

Support the development of airport warning systems based on GPS tagging of Pink-footed Goose.

Report and recommendations of the Agriculture Task Force

103. Introducing the report, the Task Force Coordinator, Ms Ingunn Tombre informed the meeting that the TF activities during the reporting period focused largely on communication, knowledge exchange and the consolidation of available information. Members contributed to outreach and awareness-raising at national and regional levels, including through participation in webinars addressing topics such as the effects of climate change

on migratory geese and tools to prevent crop damage. These webinars attracted broad international participation and were highlighted as an effective mechanism for disseminating knowledge beyond the EGMP community.

104. The TF further reported progress in compiling an overview of existing knowledge, including reports, scientific papers and ongoing activities related to agriculture and geese, which has been assembled in a shared online document. It was noted that further work is planned to improve the accessibility and structure of this information, including exploring the development of a dedicated reference library.

105. With regard to future work, the TF emphasised that webinars would remain a central tool for communication and knowledge exchange, including collaboration with other TFs. It was noted that while the establishment of internationally coordinated approaches to assessing agricultural damage remains an important objective, differences in national systems and practices across Range States may require a more flexible approach, allowing for the comparison of outcomes rather than strict harmonisation of methodologies.

106. The TF also highlighted the importance of strengthening engagement with agricultural stakeholders and noted that efforts will be made to broaden representation within the TF and enhance targeted communication and outreach. In addition, the TF indicated its intention to develop concise fact sheets summarising key findings from previous work and webinars to improve knowledge transfer.

107. The TF presented its recommendation that it continues to implement the activities outlined in the proposed workplan. The draft workplan for 2025/2026 includes actions related to reducing agricultural conflicts, supporting data collection and assessment of damage, improving communication and stakeholder engagement and contributing to broader EGMP objectives, including links to air safety and ecological considerations.

Decisions and Actions:

The EGM IWG took note of the Task Force report and recommendations, Doc. AEWA/EGMIWG/10.16/Rev.1 and adopted the annual workplan for 2025/2026.

Special activities for the 10th Anniversary of EGMP

108. The agenda point was introduced by Mr Leles. He presented the proposed special activities to mark the 10th anniversary of the EGMP, to be implemented in 2025 and 2026, highlighting their role in reviewing progress, strengthening stakeholder engagement and supporting the delivery of EGMP objectives.

109. The Secretariat recalled that the 10th anniversary, to be marked in 2026, provides an opportunity to reflect on a decade of adaptive flyway management and to develop outputs tailored to different target audiences.

110. The Secretariat presented the planned development of an anniversary report aimed at decision-makers and practitioners, which will review progress and achievements of the EGMP and include case studies from across the EGMP community. The report is expected to draw on existing evaluation reports, national reporting and contributions from Range States and observers, and will undergo a structured process including peer review and an interactive workshop to ensure quality and consistency.

111. The Secretariat further outlined a range of communication activities designed to reach a broader audience and enhance the visibility of the EGMP. These include the development of a dedicated anniversary logo, a social media communication package, updated fact sheets and the organisation of side events at AEWA MOP9. A webinar focusing on achievements, challenges and future priorities is also planned.

112. The meeting was also informed about ongoing efforts to develop a documentary entitled *Geese Beyond Borders: The Journey of the Greylag Goose*, focusing on Greylag Goose, which will illustrate the complexity of managing migratory goose populations across Europe and highlight the role of international cooperation under the EGMP. It was noted that additional funding will be sought for this activity.

113. The Secretariat emphasised that most activities will be implemented using existing resources, with limited additional costs foreseen, mainly related to communication materials. Range States were invited to consider in-kind contributions, particularly to support potential in-person workshops.

114. The Netherlands suggested making the case studies more accessible to the farming community and complementing them with explanatory visuals. Ms de Groes noted that the documentary would also be very helpful and indicated that she would explore possibilities to support its funding.

115. Ms Herrero welcomed the proposed initiatives and expressed support for both the development of case studies and the documentary, adding that BirdLife has many people working in the field who could contribute and assist with these activities.

116. Ms Midtgaard suggested submitting an application to the Danish Hunters Nature Foundation to support part of the documentary budget. Responding to the question from the Netherlands on whether the call for funding for the documentary would be coordinated through the Secretariat, Mr Dereliev clarified that the Secretariat could assist in structuring the funding requests in a way that would attract more attention and expressed his willingness to contribute to this process.

Decisions and Actions:

The EGM IWG approved the workplan for the special activities dedicated to the 10th anniversary of EGMP, Doc.AEWA/EGMIWG/10.4, to be implemented in 2025 and 2026.

Based on the workplan for the special activities dedicated to the 10th anniversary of EGMP, the EGM IWG agreed on the following points:

- Explore funding opportunities for the development of the documentary *Geese Beyond Borders: The Journey of the Greylag Goose* (e.g. crowd funding) and conveying case studies and other anniversary communication products to a wider audience (i.e., beyond the existing EGMP community).
- Host countries to consider including additional local stakeholders as observers to EGM IWG meetings as a contribution to awareness-raising.
- EGMP Secretariat will package information from the briefing note into a PowerPoint format, and possibly a leaflet, for ease of national translation and use in engaging stakeholders.
- Consider organising a webinar after EGM IWG meetings to convey key outcomes and messaging to a wider audience.
- Continue to send updates on relevant national implementation work to the AEWA Secretariat for use in communications.

Updates on EGMP's communications efforts

117. Ms Huseynova, EGMP Programme Management Assistant, presented an update on EGMP communication efforts for 2024/2025, covering outreach materials, webinars, social media activities and future priorities. It was noted that most communication activities, including flyers, webinars, website content and social

media management, are organised directly by the EGMP Secretariat and Data Centre, with limited support from the joint CMS/AEWA communications unit due to capacity constraints.

118. The meeting was informed that several communication materials had been produced during the reporting period, including briefing notes on EGM IWG9 population status and management recommendations, the EGMP Highlights 2024 publication, a briefing note on key discussion points for EGM IWG10 and a draft leaflet for the Flight Safety TF. It was also noted that EGMP contributed to the World Migratory Bird Day 2025 campaign, using the Greylag Goose as a flagship species, and that EGMP was recognised as a finalist for the Kipepeo Awards.

119. Webinars were highlighted as an important communication tool, serving a cross-cutting and interdisciplinary function and helping to identify issues and needs across the Platform. TFs were encouraged to take the lead in identifying topics and speakers for future webinars, while the Secretariat and Data Centre would continue to support the organisation, logistics, promotion, recording and dissemination of these events.

120. Regarding social media, the meeting was informed that EGMP maintains an active presence on Facebook and Instagram, while activity on X had ceased. The possibility of expanding communication channels through platforms such as LinkedIn and Bluesky was being considered. Growth in audiences and improved reach on existing channels were noted as positive developments.

121. The Secretariat underlined that one of the main long-standing challenges remains the lack of strong communication channels between EGMP, Range States and local stakeholders. Communication from EGMP to local actors remains fragmented, while valuable local actions and experiences are often not sufficiently channelled back to inform the wider EGMP process. The meeting discussed the need to establish more robust and consistent communication structures, including stronger involvement of stakeholders in TFs, better use of targeted information materials, improved exchange of experiences between Range States and stronger engagement from Range States overall.

122. It was emphasised that the priority should be consistency rather than perfection, and that strengthening communication should focus on practical building blocks that support clarity, continuity and trust across all levels of the Platform.

Decisions and Actions:

- Host countries to consider including additional local stakeholders as observers to EGM IWG meetings as a contribution to awareness-raising.
- EGMP Secretariat will package information from the briefing note into a PowerPoint format, and possibly a leaflet, for ease of national translation and use in engaging stakeholders.
- Consider organising a webinar after EGM IWG meetings to convey key outcomes and messaging to a wider audience.
- Continue to send updates on relevant national implementation work to the AEWA Secretariat for use in communications.

EGMP Finance Report 2024/2025

123. The agenda point was presented by Mr Dereliev. The Secretariat recalled that, in accordance with Rule 31 of the *Modus Operandi*, the annual running costs of the EGMP, including servicing of the EGM IWG, are

provided by the Range States, and explained that the report provided an overview of contributions, expenditures and cash balance for 2024 and the first quarter of 2025.

124. The meeting was informed that, in 2024 the received contributions amounted to EUR 361,369, representing approximately 77% of the agreed annual EGMP budget of EUR 466,000, leaving a funding gap of EUR 104,631. Of this, contributions to the Secretariat amounted to EUR 160,685 against an agreed budget of EUR 282,000, while contributions to the Data Centre amounted to EUR 200,684 against an agreed budget of EUR 184,000.

125. With regard to 2025, the Secretariat and the Data Centre reported that, as of 31 March 2025, and including pledges received by 15 May 2025, total contributions paid or pledged amounted to EUR 301,818, corresponding to approximately 64% of the agreed annual budget. It was noted that no contributions had yet been received by the Secretariat, although EUR 165,050 had been pledged by four Range States, while the Data Centre had received EUR 101,768 and a further EUR 35,000 had been pledged. The current funding gap for 2025 was reported as EUR 164,182, comprising EUR 116,950 for the Secretariat and EUR 47,232 for the Data Centre.

126. The Secretariat further informed the meeting that expenditure in 2024 remained within the approved budgetary framework, amounting to EUR 207,467, which was EUR 74,533 below the agreed annual budget. It was explained that a limited reallocation of funds had been approved to accommodate increased travel requirements linked to EGM IWG9 and the Pink-footed Goose ISSMP revision workshop, although only a small portion of the additional allocation was ultimately used.

127. The meeting was also informed that expenditure by the Data Centre in 2024 amounted to EUR 235,405, which was EUR 51,405 above the agreed annual budget. This overspend was explained primarily by increased salary rates and operational costs that could no longer be offset as in previous years. For 2025, the Data Centre indicated that it expects to remain within the agreed annual budget of EUR 184,000, but that this will require a reduction in staff time allocation and, consequently, a reduction in activities during the second half of the year.

128. Regarding implementation of the 2025 budget, the Secretariat reported that, based on actual expenditure in the first quarter and projected expenditure for the remainder of the year, total expenditure for 2025 is estimated at EUR 260,165, which is EUR 21,835 below the agreed budget. The Data Centre reported that its total expenditure is expected to reach the full agreed amount of EUR 184,000.

129. The meeting further noted that the reserve funds for both the Secretariat and the Data Centre had been maintained at the agreed levels at the end of 2024, namely EUR 160,000 for the Secretariat and EUR 92,000 for the Data Centre. However, should no additional contributions be received beyond those already secured or pledged, the projected carry-over cash balance at the end of 2025 would be EUR 89,672 for the Secretariat and EUR 23,363 for the Data Centre, in addition to the full reserve allocations.

130. The Secretariat and the Data Centre underlined that efforts would continue to generate savings where feasible but stressed that voluntary contributions from Range States would need to meet the agreed budget level in order to ensure delivery of the mandated activities under the costed Programme of Work.

131. The Netherlands thanked the Secretariat and the Data Centre for preparing the budget and acknowledged the current financial situation, noting that they would continue to provide part of their contribution through in-kind support.

Decisions and Actions:

The EGM IWG took note of document AEWA/EGMIWG/10.18 and the Data Centre reduced routine workplan for the rest of 2025.

EGMP Budget and costed Programme of Work (cPOW) for 2026

132. The Secretariat noted that the document presented the proposed budget estimate for 2026, the indicative scale of voluntary contributions and the draft costed Programme of Work (cPOW) for 2026.

133. The proposed total EGMP budget for 2026 remained at EUR 466,000, comprising EUR 282,000 for the Secretariat and EUR 184,000 for the Data Centre. It was explained that the estimate had been prepared on the basis of the Finance Report for 2024/2025 and previous annual budgets. The Secretariat underlined that the budget covers staffing and operational costs of the EGMP Secretariat and Data Centre, including programme support costs, but does not include additional non-recurring activities, such as the development of management and action plans or separate projects, nor national-level costs related to implementation by Range States.

134. With regard to the Secretariat budget, the proposed allocation included staff costs for the EGMP Coordinator and the Programme Management Assistant, together with UMOJA costs, operating costs, travel, communication-related services and possible contractual costs for meetings. The total proposed Secretariat budget for 2026 amounts to EUR 282,000.

135. The proposed Data Centre budget for 2026 amounts to EUR 184,000, including EUR 174,000 for staff costs and EUR 10,000 for travel, meetings and miscellaneous operational costs. It was noted that the allocation of the staffing budget remains provisional and may be adjusted among the relevant positions according to workload, provided that the overall ceiling is not exceeded.

136. The Secretariat recalled that the indicative scale of voluntary contributions had been updated and agreed at EGM IWG7, based on the accepted cost-sharing formula. The indicative scale for 2026 remained unchanged and continued to be based on a combination of the UN scale of assessment and the number of goose populations per country, with a 15% cap. It was also noted that Germany continues to maintain a reservation on the proposed budget and scale and will decide on its contribution on the basis of the cPOW.

137. The proposed cPOW for 2026 was then introduced. The cPOW covers overall EGMP coordination and programme management, meetings and workshops, implementation of the international single species action and management plans under the EGMP, communication and information management, further administrative processes under UN rules and staff costs.

138. The meeting was informed that core activities under the proposed cPOW include coordination of the EGMP and its modelling and monitoring work, support to the various TFs and adaptive flyway management processes, preparation of population status and assessment reports, organisation of meetings and webinars, maintenance of communication tools and databases, and support to the EGMP 10th anniversary activities in the first half of 2026. It was also noted that some additional activities and projects may require external funding beyond the core budget.

Decisions and Actions:

The EGM IWG approved the EGMP budget estimate for 2026 and the proposed costed Programme of Work for 2026, Doc.AEWA/EGMIWG/10.19/Rev.1.

The EGM IWG took note of the indicative scale for voluntary contributions, Annex 2 of the document.

Election of new Chair / Venue and dates of the next EGM IWG meeting

139. Mr Pitkanen, representing Finland, tentatively proposed Finland as the next Chair of the EGM IWG, while noting that internal consultation and formal approval would be required before confirmation. It was agreed that, should Finland not be in a position to assume this role,, Sweden, represented by Mr Kjellander, would continue to chair the EGM IWG until its 11th meeting.

Decisions and Actions:

The EGM IWG conditionally elected Finland as the next Chair of the EGM IWG until final confirmation has been made by the Finnish delegation.

In case of non-confirmation by Finland, Sweden will continue chairing the EGM IWG until EGM IWG11.

Summary, next steps and closure of meeting

140. The Secretariat thanked Belgium for the warm welcome and excellent organisation of the meeting, as well as the Task Force Coordinators for their hard work and continued efforts in advancing the implementation of the plans throughout the year and the Chair for his valued chairmanship and guidance.

141. The Chair thanked participants for their contributions and declared the meeting closed.