

**AEWA EUROPEAN GOOSE MANAGEMENT PLATFORM**



**7<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE  
AEWA EUROPEAN GOOSE MANAGEMENT  
INTERNATIONAL WORKING GROUP**

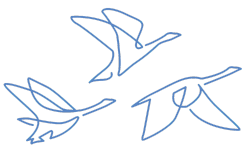
*21-23 June 2022, Helsinki, Finland*



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**DRAFT EGMP BRIEFING NOTE**  
**ADAPTIVE FLYWAY MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME**  
**FOR THE NW/SW EUROPEAN POPULATION OF THE GREYLAG GOOSE**  
*(Anser anser)*

*Produced by EGMP Greylag Goose Task Force*



AEWA European Goose  
Management Platform

## EGMP BRIEFING NOTE



# Adaptive Flyway Management Programme: NW/SW European Population of the Greylag Goose



©Greylag Goose by Wikilimages\_Pixabay

**Background:** The AEWA International Single Species Management Plan (ISSMP) for the NW/SW European Population of the Greylag Goose *Anser anser* was developed due to a recent increase in population size (from an estimated 120,000-130,000 individuals in the 1980s to around 960,000 individuals in the 2010s) causing increasing concerns regarding agriculture conflicts and air safety. The AEWA ISSMP was adopted in 2018 and provided a mandate to develop a related Adaptive Flyway Management Programme (AFMP). As a result, a six-year iterative programme (2020-2026) became formally adopted by the European Goose Management International Working Group (EGM IWG), using monitoring and modelling to record and evaluate developments in the population size and relevant aspects regarding human-wildlife conflicts. For this population, two Management Units (MUs) were defined, one for migratory birds breeding in the Scandinavian countries (MU1) and one for the mainly sedentary breeding birds in Germany, The Netherlands, Belgium and France (MU2).

**Class:** Aves

**Order:** Anseriformes

**Family:** Anatidae

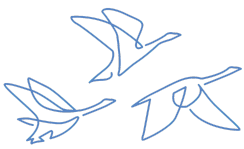
**Binomial name:** *Anser anser*

**Objectives:** The AFMP allows national and regional administrations to take a unified approach to meeting the fundamental objectives of the ISSMP. The ISSMP objectives are primarily to maintain the population at a satisfactory level whilst also taking into account what matters to a range of stakeholders. The AFMP facilitates the setting of targets, and the processing of data needed for the development of population and impact models.

**Aims:** The AFMP aims to build on the strategic goals and objectives of the ISSMP by ensuring favourable conservation status of the Greylag Goose through the continued collaboration of Range States on the strategic goals and objectives of the conservation and management of the Greylag Goose that require coordination at the population and/or MU level.

Specifically, the AFMP aims to:

- Establish beneficial relations and objectives between stakeholder groups like farmers and hunters, as well as government representatives and researchers.
- Define MUs and establish hierarchical Favourable Reference Values (FRVs) and population targets at flyway, MU and national levels, to ensure national targets are consistent with flyway targets and legal requirements at all levels.



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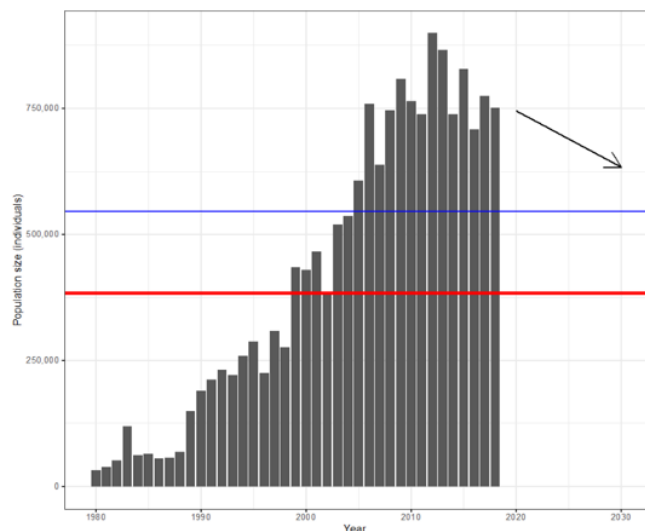
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- Establish an internationally coordinated population management programme for both MUs, including off-take under hunting and, if necessary, under derogations, involving monitoring, assessment and decision-making protocols.
- Establish indicators to assess progress toward the Fundamental Objectives and guide the implementation of further activities of the ISSMP through population-specific work plans.
- Assist Range States in assessing whether derogations are necessary and in coordinating the implementation of their derogation schemes (Box 1, ISSMP).
- Investigate if there is a relationship between goose abundances and the extent of damage caused by the species to agricultural crops, risks to air safety or other sensitive flora and fauna (Impact models).
- **Targets & Outcomes:** Targets agreed at EGM IWG5 meeting in June 2020:
  - Target for MU1: 70,000 breeding pairs
  - Target for MU2: 80,000 breeding pairs
  - Resulting in an approximate 545,000 individuals in the wintering population.

This wintering population size target is approximately 70% of the population size reported in the ISSMP and represents approximately 80% of the size of the breeding population in the ISSMP for MU1 and approximately 70% for MU2 (see Fig.1).



**Figure 1:** The proposed management of the NW/SE European population of Greylag Goose in relation to the FRP (bold red line) and to the population targets (blue line). Bars represent past population development of annual imputed totals based on the International Waterbird Census. Arrow indicates the projected population trajectory based on the recommended 15% decline in 10 years.

### Relevant links:

Population Report: [Population Status and Assessment Report](#)

ISSMP: [AEWA International Single Species Management Plan for the Greylag Goose](#)

AFMP: [Adaptive Flyway Management Programme for the NW/SW European Population of the Greylag Goose](#)

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