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## AEWA EUROPEAN GOOSE MANAGEMENT INTERNATIONAL WORKING GROUP GUIDANCE ON THE COMPOSITION, ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF NATIONAL DELEGATIONS

### 1. Introduction

Complementary to the Modus Operandi for the AEWA European Goose Management International Working Group (EGM IWG), which were adopted at the 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the EGM IWG in December 2016, the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat was requested to produce additional guidance regarding the composition, role and responsibilities of the national delegations attending future meetings of the Working Group.

This brief guidance aims to assist the designated national government representatives to the Working Group when deciding on the composition of their national delegations for each meeting and briefly describes the basic roles and responsibilities of the designated Working Group members.

### 2. Composition of National Delegations

#### 2.1. Designated national representatives to the EGM IWG

As outlined in the Modus Operandi, each range state participating in the European Goose Management Platform (EGMP) is requested by the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat to designate the following as their national representatives to the EGM IWG:

- a) a maximum of two representatives from national state authorities relevant to the implementation of AEWA and;
- b) a maximum of two representatives from national scientific or expert institutions and organizations.

These designated representatives form the core of the national delegations to the EGM IWG.

#### 2.2. National delegations attending EGM IWG meetings

The designated **government representatives decide on the composition of their national delegation** to each meeting of the Working Group. As outlined in the Working Group Modus Operandi, the national delegations are limited to a **maximum of five representatives** from each range state. As an exception, the designated government representative of a range state hosting a meeting of the Working Group may invite additional national participants to join that particular meeting as part of their national delegation.

The EGM IWG is the **coordinating and decision-making body** of the European Goose Management Platform. As such, designated government representatives are **requested to consider the following points when composing their national delegations** for each meeting to ensure the smooth functioning of the Working Group, the timely delivery on the implementation of the AEWA Species Action and Management Plans under its remit, as well as the involvement of relevant experts and national stakeholders.

- *A minimum of **one designated government representative**:*

The EGM IWG is routinely expected to take decisions on various conservation and management measures for the species/populations it covers. Some of these decisions will require negotiations amongst the relevant range states at the Working Group meetings as well as timely follow-up and national implementation. Some management alternatives may even require, for example, amendments to national hunting regulations. It is therefore essential, that national delegations include at least one government representative well prepared for possible negotiations and able to take decisions on behalf of his/her country on measures for the species/populations for which the country has been identified as a range state (including for example hunting quotas).

- *A minimum of **one designated national expert** from national scientific or expert institutions and organizations:*

It is the aim of the EGM IWG to function as the coordinating and decision-making body of the European Goose Management Platform with most of the scientific background and decision documents prepared and consulted in advance of the meetings. Varying topics which require expert input and advice are nonetheless expected to feature on the agenda of the Working Group meetings as well.

It is therefore recommended to include at least one designated national expert in the national delegation with broad experience and responsibilities attaining to the wider management and conservation issues being dealt with under the EGMP.

- ***Additional experts** relevant to the issues dealt with by the EGM IWG:*

In addition to the designated permanent experts, it may also be useful to include additional national experts in the national delegation, relevant to the agenda items at specific meetings.

As outlined in the Modus Operandi, specific Task Forces will be established to work on dedicated topics or specific species/populations between the meetings of the Working Group. Additional national scientific or expert institutions and organizations can also be nominated to take part in these Task Forces according to their interest and expertise.

- *Involvement of **national stakeholder organizations**:*

Ensuring a transparent process as well as the subsequent engagement and support of relevant national stakeholders in the implementation of the conservation and management decisions taken by the Working Group is a key issue.

As defined in the Modus Operandi, national stakeholder organizations can attend the meetings of the Working Group if included in their country's national delegation. National organizations cannot be admitted as permanent observers to the EGM IWG. This decision was taken both for pragmatic reasons

related to the size of the Working Group, but also because it is assumed that an appropriate consultation with national stakeholders on the issues discussed at the EGM IWG takes place in each range state (see roles and responsibilities below).

Designated government representatives are, however, in addition to national consultations encouraged to include representatives from national stakeholder organizations in their national delegations, as appropriate. National stakeholder organizations can also be nominated to take part in the Task Forces mentioned above.

### **3. Role and responsibilities of the designated government representatives**

A core task of each designated government representative is the responsibility to coordinate (or to organize/provide for the coordination of) the national implementation of the respective Action or Management Plan and to function as the link between the International Working Group and the National Working Group or other national bodies dealing with the implementation of the Plan. This includes, but is not limited to, ensuring national implementation of activities in accordance to decisions taken under the Working Group and consulting with relevant national stakeholders throughout the EGM IWG decision-making and implementation process, as appropriate.

The national government representative is also tasked with ensuring the timely delivery of any agreed national reports, data etc. to the Working Group and the EGMP Data Centre.

### **4. Role and responsibilities of the designated national experts**

The role of the designated national experts in the Working Group – beyond actively contributing to the work of the Group based on their expertise – is to strengthen and maintain the technical and expert network relevant for the species in question in their country. In addition, designated experts are also expected to function as the link between the international and national expert networks.