
Meeting Notes for Pink-footed Goose Task Force Meeting

Date and Time:	6 February 2023 14:00 – 15:30 CET
Online meeting convened using:	GoTo Meeting
Chair/ Task Force Coordinator:	Jesper Madsen
Attendees:	Belgium: Floris Verhaeghe, Eckhart and Christine Kuijken-Verscheure; Finland: Jorma Pessa; Denmark: Søren Egelund, Iben Hove Sørensen; Niels-Erik Jørgensen; Norway: Ingunn Tombre, Sweden: Per Risberg; Birdlife DOF: Knud Flensted; Data Centre: Fred Johnson; AEWA Secretariat: Eva Meyers

Agenda item 1

Welcome and adoption of agenda

The meeting agenda was adopted without further comments from TF members.

Status of PFG population

Juvenile assessment was conducted in autumn 2022 in Norway, Denmark and Belgium. November counts coordinated between the Range States show 92.000 birds. An important site in Wadden Sea in Denmark was missing from the counts. There used to be 6.000-7.000 PFG there in the previous years. GPS tags from the site show high activity. The population estimate is therefore low as it is missing counts from the Wadden Sea site. The breeding success seems to be around 18-20 % which is considered to be a good season for PFG. Fred Johnson from the Data Centre will run the assessment in June 2023 to obtain an IPM-based population and productivity estimates. The numbers from the counts are not yet official.

Breakout group of birds established sites in the Oulu area in Finland continuing migration to Novaya Zemlya where they have been breeding for at least 4 years. The data will be published in Current Biology journal in March 2023. A press-release on the research is planned between the contributors to the work. As there is a proof about the established new route and breeding area, it justifies the group as a biogeographic separate population.

There is a second product in press based on the analysis of the age counts done by the Data Centre over the years. There is differential migration which is difficult to take into account. It's not possible to give overall proportion of the juveniles based on the counts. The IPM has been used to derive the productivity data.

Based on the counts, the number of PFG in May on the staging sites in Norway appears to stabilise around 60.000. But this is only based on counts. The model estimates that the population is higher.

It seems pretty clear from the IPM that the population size has stabilised both in autumn and in spring. It seems, however, that the limit on the harvest has been reached, and it will require a higher effort to reduce the population to the 60,000 spring target

There are cases of bird flu in Belgium. There is very little information about PfG affected, in stark contrast to BG. There is a massive die-off in all 3 populations of BG and it seems to be continuing. Seems like PfG are not as susceptible to bird flu.

Action Point:

If RS want to make a communication on the research about the new PfG population in the Current Biology, Jesper Madsen can provide the press-release and further information. However, no information should be made public before 2 March 2023 when the article will be published.

Agenda item 2

Agreement on May 2023 count date

6-7 May 2023 would be the best timing for spring counts. The date is suitable for the Range States and will be announced soon.

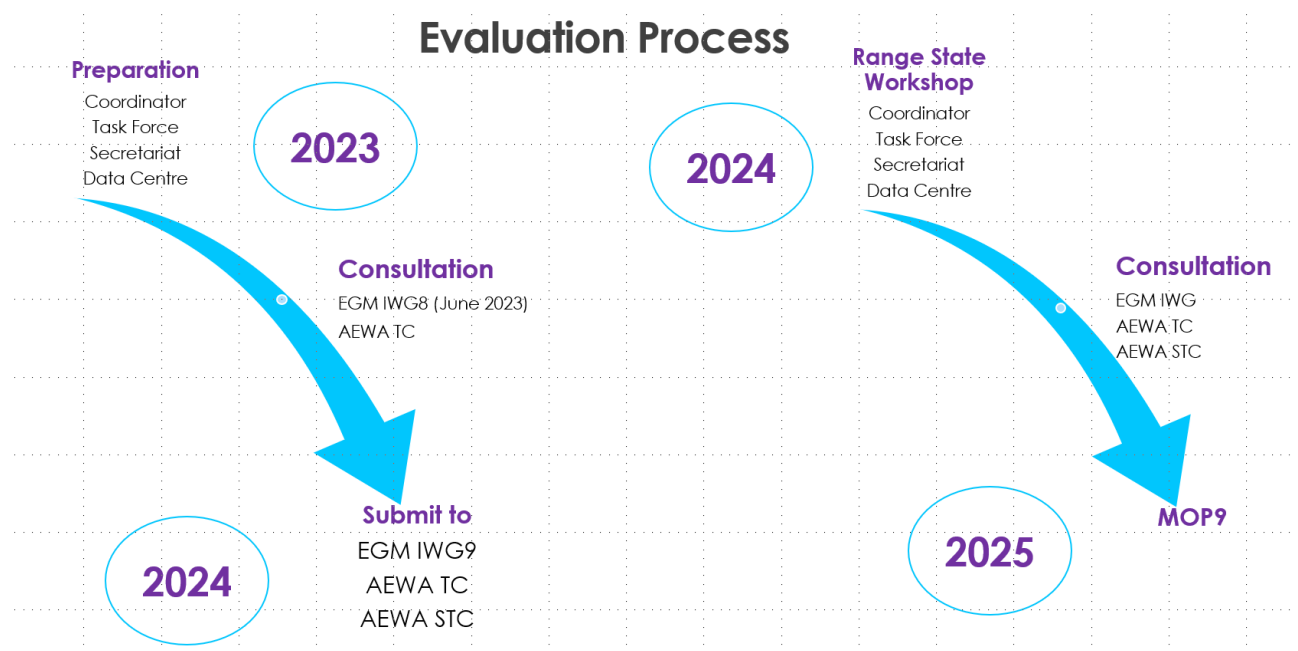
Agenda item 3

ISSMP Evaluation process

The revision of the PfG ISSMP is coming up. The validity of the ISSMP was extended for 3 more years until the MOP9 which will take place in late 2025. Up until now, there hasn't been an established guideline for revision of the management and action plans under AEWA. Any revision process should be led by either species working group or expert group. In the case of PfG, the TF will lead the process.

There are different processes to go through during the revision. The AEWA Technical Committee (AEWA TC) will be recommending an extension/update/revision or retirement on the plan, based on an evaluation. The evaluation process should be led by the PFG TF and submitted to the AEWA TC. In case the TC recommends for the plan to be revised/updated – a final version for adoption will be submitted to the AEWA MOP, following prior approval by the AEWA Standing Committee.

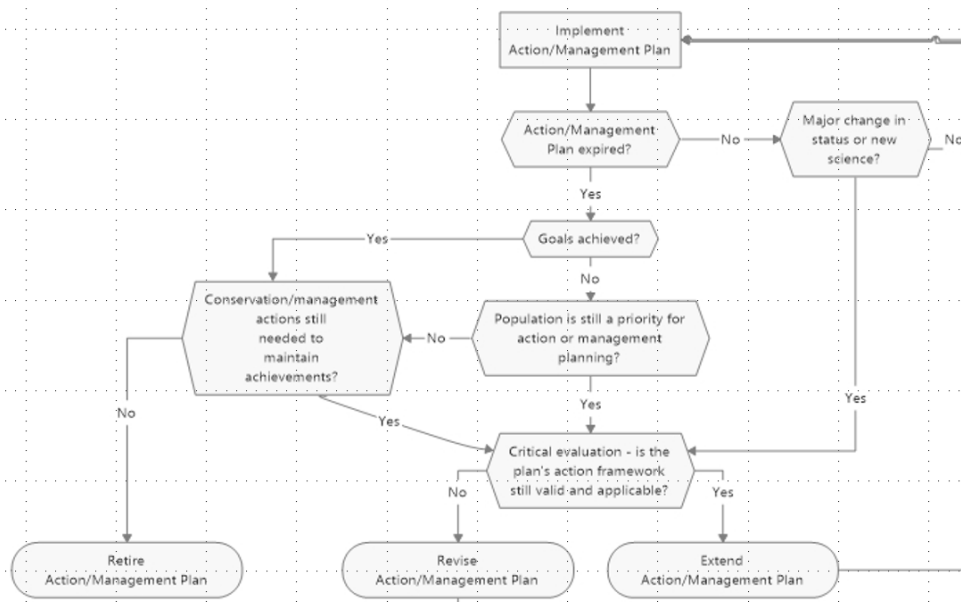
The Secretariat presented a scheme below to explain the potential stages for the evaluation and possible revision/update of the ISSMP:



The Secretariat also presented the following decision tree for the revision of action and management plans as adopted in document AEWA/MOP8/8.22:

AEWA/MOP 8.22

2 step evaluation



The internal discussions on the processes under the revision of the ISSMP is still ongoing. The AEWA Technical Committee has to agree on the evaluation phase and a template that is currently under development.

The Secretariat is working on establishing a scheme that can be used as a template for the evaluation and revision of all plans under the AEWA.

Furthermore, a national reporting template has to be developed by the PFG TF. The national reporting cycle should start in April 2023. It is planned to include the questions related to the evaluation of the ISSMP into that template. The TF may also develop a questionnaire template for the PFG TF to be included into the EGMP National Reporting 2023.

A table presented at the meeting by Jesper Madsen outlining the fundamental objectives supporting the main goal of the plan as well as the indicators will be circulated with these meeting notes. Quantitative work can be done on most of the indicators.

The new PFG population will also be reflected in the new ISSMP (should it be revised), i

The development of an AFMP, including FRVs can either be developed for the ISSMP revision deadline in 2025 or following the adoption of the revised plan, in the implementation phase. This can be done based on the guidelines for the management plans under AEWA adopted at the AEWA MOP8.

The TF members highlighted that the existence of the plan is highly important in negotiations with the stakeholders such as farmers and volunteers supporting the monitoring work. The plan can be used also as a way to convey the importance of conservation and concerted management.

Action point:

The TF to comment on the spreadsheet prepared by TF Coordinator and compile the information in the coming weeks/months. The TF to develop the template for the EGMP National Reporting 2023 in March 2023.

Agenda item 4

Preparations for EGM IWG8

Deadline for PfG TF report and recommendations is **2 May 2023**. The Population status and harvest assessment report will be circulated to the TF on **3 June 2023** with a deadline for review on **8 June 2023**. A TF meeting will be held in May 2023 to prepare for the EGM IWG8.

The Secretariat presented the table below with information on data providers and deadlines for the Central MU:

Data Providers Central MU

What	Where/Who
Productivity estimate between 12 October – 4 November	DK: Jesper Madsen
	BE: Eckhart Kuijken & Christine Verscheure
	NO: Ingunn Tombre
Pink-footed Goose population count in mid-November	SE: Kent Halttunen
	NO: Ingunn Tombre
	DK: Jesper Madsen
Pink-footed Goose population count in April/May	SE: Leif Nilsson/Frederik Haas
	FI: Jorma Pessa
	NL: Kees Koffijberg
	BE: Eckhart Kuijken & Christine Verscheure
Hunting bag (Final for previous year + preliminary for assessment year)	NO: Ingunn Tombre
	DK: Jesper Madsen
	FI: Jorma Pessa
Wings, total + < mid- November	SE: Leif Nilsson/Frederik Haas
	DK: Thomas Kjær
Days above 0 degree in May	NO: Terje Bø
	DK: Thomas Kjær
	DC: Gitte Høj Jensen

**Data by
15 May 2023 !!**

**Assessment
15 May – 3
June 2023 by
Fred J.**

Agenda item 5

Communication work this year

The Communications ad-hoc working group established at the EGM IWG7 has been working on shaping the EGMP communications strategy by asking fundamental questions on the target groups, main messages and channels. The EGMP website is being updated from Drupal 7 to Drupal 9 with some changes planned in the overall structure and design of the website.

Following EGMP webinars will take place in the coming months:

March-April 2023 (date tbc) – Webinar on Barnacle and Greylag Goose impact models - Understanding the link between population level and damages.

31 May 2023 – Webinar on EGMP and EGM IWG8 documents – Learn about the EGMP and “get dressed” for EGM IWG8.

The Secretariat and Data Centre produced a EGMP Population Status and Management Recommendations 2022 briefing note which is available on the EGMP website: [EGMP population status briefing note 2022.pdf \(aewa.info\)](https://www.aewa.info/EGMP-population-status-briefing-note-2022.pdf)

The TF members raised the importance of communicating to the citizen scientists conducting the monitoring work as volunteers. There has been some scepticism and confusion in understanding the work of AEWA and EGMP, and a dedicated webinar could be a way to resolve it and initiate some helpful discussions.