

**Taiga Bean Goose Task Force**

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## Meeting Notes for the Meeting of the Taiga Bean Goose Task force

<b>Date and Time:</b>	26 January 2023 at 15:00 – 17:00 Helsinki/East Europe time, the time of the doodle UTC/GMT +3 hours Eastern European Summer Time 14:00 – 16:00 Bonn/Central Europe time 13:00 – 15:00 UK time 08:00-10:00 Florida time
<b>Online meeting convened using:</b>	<b>GoTo Meeting</b>
<b>Chair/ Task Force Coordinator:</b>	Mikko Alhainen, Finnish Wildlife Agency
<b>Attendees:</b>	Denmark: Anthony David Fox; Norway: Ingunn Tombre; UK: Morag Milne; Sweden: Per Risberg; Wetlands International: Szabolsz Nagy; Data Centre: Fred Allen Johnson; Secretariat: Eva Meyers, Shenay Huseynova

### Agenda item 1 – Welcome, adoption of the agenda and news from the Range States

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

#### Round table

*In Denmark*, the mid-winter counts of TBG from Western population in Jutland show lower numbers, This could be caused by difficulties separating the population.

*In Scotland*, the counts show similar numbers to the previous years. It has been more difficult to count the birds due to mixed flocks. Tracking devices have been placed on three birds.

### Agenda item 2

#### Taiga Bean Goose ISSAP Evaluation process and possible future revision process

Customary validity of an AEWA Action or Management Plan is ten years. The revision process should be led by the AEWA International Species Working or Expert Group established to coordinate the international implementation. Revisions of action and management plans are adopted by the Meeting of the Parties to AEWA. Revision of the TBG ISSAP is due in 2025 at AEWA MOP9. Validity of PfG ISSMP has been extended to 2023-2025. The Secretariat wants to align revision of the plans. It is important to note that the processes under the current plans will continue running until 2025.

The plan will first go through an evaluation process followed by the revision. Evaluation would mean looking back at the plan assessing its success, whether or not the objectives were reached, etc. The evaluation will lead to recommendation and decision on whether the plan has to be revised, updated, extended or retired. The Secretariat will work on the evaluation and potential revision process together with the Data Centre, TF and EGM IWG. The process will go through rounds of consultations with EGM IWG, AEWA Technical

Committee, AEWA S Standing Committee with a final decision being made at the 9<sup>th</sup> Session of the Meeting of the Parties to AEWA (MOP9) in 2025.

The Secretariat together with the TF coordinators and Data Centre is currently working on the structure document for the evaluation. As there is no template for such an evaluation, the established format is proposed to be used for the other management plans under AEWA.

The TF members raised concerns regarding the evaluation and revision process seeming to be quite complicated and lengthy, questioning whether it could be simplified.

Mr Nagy noted that the purpose indicators such as population size and population trend were the critical to look at during the evaluation. If the plan is not heading towards the target, it is crucial to consider whether the reason is that the activities were not implemented or a logical flaw in the plan itself. Are the strategies used while writing the plan still valid or there is a need to look for new ones?

It was also noted that TBG ISSAP is an action plan which makes it rather different from the other goose management plans, with harvest management playing a particularly important role.

The Secretariat clarified that the indicators in the evaluation process would not be invented but rather based on what is included in the plan itself. The information submitted through national reporting can be used for the evaluation of the plan. With this in view, one of the tasks is to carefully consider the upcoming national reporting cycle.

It was suggested to involve the Technical Committee in the design of the evaluation and revision template at the early stages. As the template will be used for other plans under AEWA, it would be necessary for the Technical Committee to review the template and provide valuable feedback.

Mr Alhainen highlighted that the expectations are for the plan to be revised. The Task Force can support with the evaluation.

Mr Nagy noted that FRV and target setting will be the most difficult and time-consuming part of the planned revision.

### **Action points**

The Secretariat will internally consider all the raised concerns, discuss them with the Data Centre and TF coordinator and come back to the TF with an update.

The evaluation template for TBG ISSAP will be sent to the AEWA Technical Committee for feedback.

### **Agenda item 3**

#### **National Reporting 2023**

The EGMP National reporting will be launched in March/April 2023. It remains to be decided if the reporting on the TBG ISSAP will be combined with the information needed for the evaluation of the plan.

#### **EGM IWG8 preparations**

The Secretariat presented the following 2 tables on the data providers for the TBG and an overview of the EGM IWG8 deadlines.

Table 1. Overview of data providers for Centre Management Unit

Where/Who	What
SE: Leif Nilsson/Håkon Persson/Fredrik Haas DK: Preben Clausen/DOFbasen (few) FI: Teemu Lehtiniemi/Antti Piironen (few) NL: Kees Koffijberg (few, mainly tundra) DE: Babak Miller	Population count in October 2022
SE: Leif Nilsson/Håkon Kampe-Persson/Fredrik Haas	Productivity estimate in October 2022
SE: Leif Nilsson/Fredrik Haas DK: Preben Clausen NL: Kees Koffijberg (few, mainly tundra) DE: Babak Miller	Population count in January 2023
SE: Ulf Skyllberg DK: Preben Clausen/DOFbasen (Collected by Ulf Skyllberg) FI: Teemu Lehtiniemi/Antti Piironen (Collected by Ulf Skyllberg) NO: Collected by Ulf Skyllberg West LV: Hakon Kampe-Persson (few) NL: Kees Koffijberg (few, mainly tundra)	Population count in March 2023
FI: Mikko Alhainen DK: Thomas Kjær (received together with PFG data)	Hunting bag 2022/2023 (Final number for previous year + preliminary number for the assessment year)
SE: Per Risberg/Niklas Liljebäck FI: Mikko Alhainen (few) DK: Anders Jensen (few) DE: Babak Miller (protected) NL: Kees Koffijberg (protected)	Derogation numbers 2022

Table 2. Overview of deadlines for the Population Status and Assessment Report 2023

TBG			
Data collection (see metadata on the EGMP Database for description of the variables)			
Make TBG chapter - Central unit	Fred	1-14 May	
Make TBG chapter - W + E unit	Gitte	1-14 May	
Submission of pop report to TF		16 May	
Review in the TF		16-22 May	
Adjust based on TF comments		23-29 May	
Submission to AEWA		30 May	
Submission to IWG		1 June	

The assessment data should be submitted by **24 April 2023** with the assessment being done by Fred Allen Johnson between **1-14 May 2023**.

The report and recommendations of the Task Force to be reviewed by the TF members is due on **2 May 2023**.

The Data Centre noted that in 2012 Sweden substantially changed its method in estimating the harvest. The difference in harvest assessment is quite essential – it is 50% higher than in the past. When the new data is used in the IPM, the estimates of survival are lower and the harvest rate is higher. The decision to be made is whether the new or the old estimates from Sweden should be used.

Mr Alhainen noted that a paper by Antti Piironen shows that the counts are underestimated. This study should be taken into account. Both the harvest and pop status biases are applied. The paper is published in population ecology. <https://esj-journals.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1002/1438-390X.12143>

#### **Action points**

Mr Johnson from the Data Centre will run IPM using the new and the old data estimated from Sweden to provide insights on the changes to the harvest quota and share it with TF. The following discussion will include Sweden. The TF will be consulted on the issue per email or at the next TF meeting.

#### **Agenda item 4**

##### **Communication work this year**

The ad-hoc communications group established at the EGM IWG7 has been working on the EGMP communications strategy, including the messages to be delivered, the main communications channels and topics.

The TBG species briefing note was sent out for the last round of feedback and will be updated taken into account the received comments.

The EGMP website is going through an update. The update will include changes in the structure and the general layout and design of the website.

The Secretariat and Data Centre have also been working on the Population Status and Management Recommendations 2022 briefing note which will be circulated together with the meeting notes.

#### **Action points**

The Secretariat to update the TBG species briefing note and share it with the TF.

#### **Agenda item 5**

A doodle poll will be sent to the TF in March 2023 to decide the date for the next meeting.