

AEWA EUROPEAN GOOSE MANAGEMENT PLATFORM



3rd MEETING OF THE AEWA EUROPEAN GOOSE MANAGEMENT INTERNATIONAL WORKING GROUP



20-21 June 2018, Leeuwarden, the Netherlands

REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE EGMP AGRICULTURE TASK FORCE AND WORKPLAN FOR 2018/2019

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Introduction

According to Rule 29 of the European Goose Management International Working Group (EGM IWG) [Modus Operandi](#), the EGM IWG may establish species and/or thematic Task Forces as necessary to deal with the preparation and coordination of decision papers and background documents, as well as to deal with other specific tasks.

At the 2nd Meeting of the EGM IWG (EGM IWG2) in June 2017, both the generic (AEWA/EGMIWG/Inf. 3.14) and the Agriculture Task Force (AEWA/EGMIWG/Inf. 3.15) Terms of Reference were adopted and the establishment of the Agriculture Task Force and species-specific Task Forces for the Pink-footed Goose and Taiga Bean Goose were recommended.

The Secretariat was given the task to lead on the establishment of the Task Forces and to identify a Coordinator for each Task Force.

Dr. Ingunn Tombre of Norway was identified as the Coordinator for the Agriculture Task Force (Agri TF). The current membership of the Agri TF is indicated in Annex 1 to this document. In line with the Terms of Reference, the nomination of additional members to the Task Force is at the discretion of the National Government Representative of each Range State and the Coordinator of the Task Force.

This document provides an overview of the work that has taken place since the establishment of the Agri TF and the draft workplan for 2018/2019, pending the incorporation of the outcomes of the 1st face-to-face meeting of the EGMP Task Forces on 18 June 2018, in Leeuwarden, the Netherlands. Further recommendations for the operation of the AEWA European Goose Management Platform (EGMP) for 2018/2019 will be discussed at the first face-to-face meeting of the EGMP Task Forces and presented at the 3rd annual meeting of the EGM IWG (EGM IWG3) in June 2018.

Meetings

Since no funding has been specifically allocated for the work of the Agri TF, communication and information exchange has been conducted either via email or through online meetings. The first meeting of the Agri TF took place on 20 February 2018. A further meeting has taken place on 4 May 2018.

To maximise synergies and use of resources, the first in-person meeting for the Agri TF is taking place back-to-back with the EGM IWG3 in June. It is envisaged this concept might be carried into the following years.

The meeting notes of each online meeting have been circulated to the EGM IWG shortly after the meetings have been concluded. The main activities and outcomes are summarized in this document.

Key activities

The key activities in the Agri TF have been the two online meetings. At these first meetings, in addition to participants presenting themselves and stating some expectations about the work of the Agri TF, each member/country gave a short presentation of their perspectives regarding the interface between geese and agriculture, the possible role of the Task Force and some suggested tasks. Several issues were identified:

- The wish to learn from each other's experiences and exchange scientific findings regarding agriculture-geese interactions, especially those not easily assessable in the international scientific literature;
- The need for a common practice among Range States regarding methods and measurements of crop damages caused by geese;
- The need for an overview of the different compensation and subsidy systems existing in the Range States to alleviate conflicts with agriculture and crop damages caused by geese;
- The need for a broader overview: why some countries have compensations/subsidies and why is this tool lacking in other countries; and
- The need for a broader overview: what are the premises and motivations behind the current systems in the Range States.

A draft overview with a table listing the above information has been created, with input from the members of the Task Force. The members of the Task Force have also discussed the differences between the quantification of *crop damages* and *conflicts*, the need to separate between the two and the challenges in finding the appropriate measures.

As the role of the Agri TF is to assist the EGM IWG, more activities for the Task Force are expected, as the other work of the EGMP, including in the Modelling Consortium and other Task Forces, progresses with their work.

Outcomes and recommendations

An overview with a Table, based on the above-mentioned information will be presented at the EGM IWG3 meeting in June 2018 in Leeuwarden, the Netherlands. It will be updated with information from all the Range States, also regarding perspectives other than compensation/subsidy schemes in the goose-agriculture landscape.

It may be added that the establishment of the Agri TF *in itself* appears to be a good tool in the EGMP processes. Members are positive and enthusiastic, holding a strong and broad expertise with obvious skills to deal with coming tasks of the group. The main concern of the Task Force is the need for funding for the various potential activities, and this may limit the outcomes of the Task Force work. However, there is potential for research projects focussing on relevant Agri TF themes, and some of the activities in the group can potentially be sponsored from other sources if research applications are successful. The Task Force will also try to learn more

about ongoing research activities in each Range States, in order to obtain more information needed for the work of the Task Force.

Draft Workplan (2018/2019)

For 2018/2019, three to four online meetings in total are planned. This may change due to requirements from the EGMP processes. Communication will continue throughout via email and using the workspace on the new EGMP website, as soon as it becomes available.

The compiled information regarding compensations/subsidies and other relevant goose-agriculture related issues for Range States will be published in a separate open-access report, or as another adequate product to be decided by the group.

As the primary role of the Agri TF is to assist in EGM IWG, it is assumed that more tasks will be added to the draft workplan for 2018/2019 during the face-to-face meeting and the EGM IWG3 in June, leaving some tasks of the Task Force planned on a broader level at present (see Table 1 below).

Table 1. Draft workplan for Agriculture Task Force 2018/2019

ISSAP / ISSMP Objective/Action/Result	Activity	Lead	Time- frame	Comments
1. Overview Range States; Goose-agriculture conflicts				
	1.1 Adding information to the compensation/ subsidy systems overview for geese, presented at the EGM IW3, giving a broader picture of goose-agriculture perspectives in Range States	I. Tombre, input from Task Force Members	Ongoing	
	1.2 Create an open-access report based on the information from 1.1	I. Tombre, input from Task Force Members	March 2019	
2. Assist the EGM IWG	2.1 Evaluate and provide feedback to various documents from the Modelling Consortium, other Task Forces and the EGM IWG.	Task Force member to be identified depending on the document in question, with input from all Task Force Members	2018 - 2019	To be specified in more detail during the 1 st face-to-face meeting and the EGM IWG3 in June 2018

Annex 1

Table 1 shows the current membership of the Agriculture Task Force per Range State and Organisation.

Table 1. Membership of Agriculture Task Force as of 11 May 2018

Country / Organisation	Representative	Affiliation
Belgium	Joost Vanpeteghem *	Flemish Government, Department of Agriculture and Fisheries
Belgium	Bram D'hondt	Flemish Government, Agency for Nature and Forest
Belgium	Frank Huysentruyt	Flemish Government, Institute for Nature and Forest Research
Denmark	Camilla Uldal	Danish Environment Protection Agency
Denmark	Anthony Fox	Aarhus University, Department of Bioscience
Germany	Heinz Düttmann	Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate, Protection of Lower Saxony
Netherlands	Bart Nolet	Netherlands Institute of Ecology
Netherlands	Mark Westebring	The Fauna Fund
Norway	Ingunn Tombre <i>Coordinator</i>	Norwegian Institute for Nature Research
Sweden	Johan Månsson	Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Wildlife Damage Center
Sweden	Lovisa Nilsson	Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Wildlife Damage Center
Ukraine	Olesya Petrovych	Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine, Department of Protected Areas
Ukraine	Vasyl Kostyushyn	Institute of Zoology NAS of Ukraine, Department of Monitoring and Conservation of Animals
United Kingdom	Rae McKenzie	Scottish Natural Heritage
BirdLife International	Ariel Brunner *	BirdLife Europe, BirdLife International
BirdLife International	Nicole Feige	BirdLife Europe, BirdLife International
Copa Cogeca/EU Farmers	Karen Post	Copa and Cogeca, EU Farmers
FACE	Roderick Enzerink	FACE
FACE	David Scallan	FACE
Wetlands International	Szabolcs Nagy	Wetlands International
EGMP Data Centre (AU)	Gitte Høj Jensen	EGMP Data Centre (AU)
AEWA Secretariat	Eva Meyers	AEWA Secretariat

* Not active member, but is informed about activities and may join as desired