

3rd Meeting of the AEWA Lesser White-fronted Goose International Working Group

12-14 2016 April - Trondheim, Norway

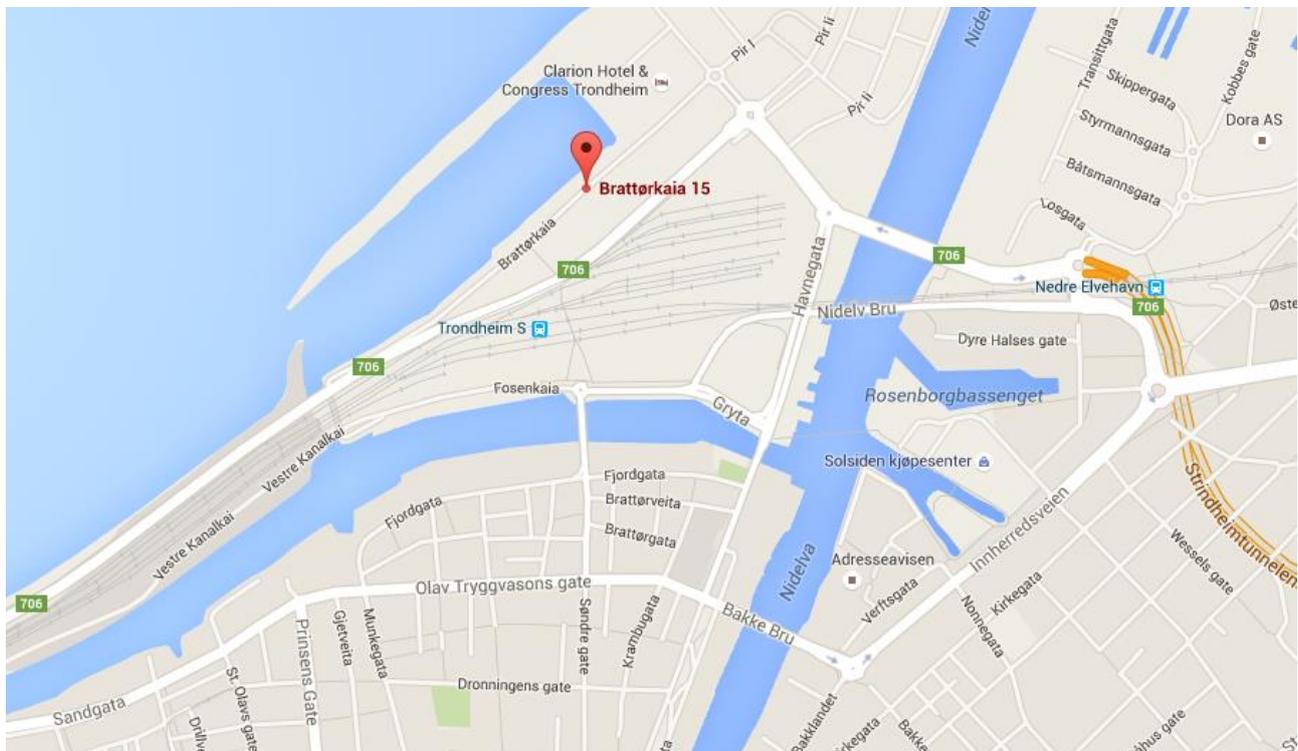
General information for meeting participants

Meeting date and venue

The meeting will be held from Tuesday the 12th to Thursday the 14th of April 2016 at the offices of the Norwegian Environment Agency in Trondheim, Norway (at Brattørkaia 15, 7010 Trondheim).

The agency is located in the harbour area of Trondheim and within walking distance of the city center and the main bus and train station. By bus or train the venue is approximately 30 minutes from Trondheim International Airport Værnes.

The main meeting room will be located on the ground floor of the Agency and the registration desk will be set up on the ground floor as well, clearly visible when entering the building through the main entrance. Registration will be open from 08:00-09:00 on the 12th of April.

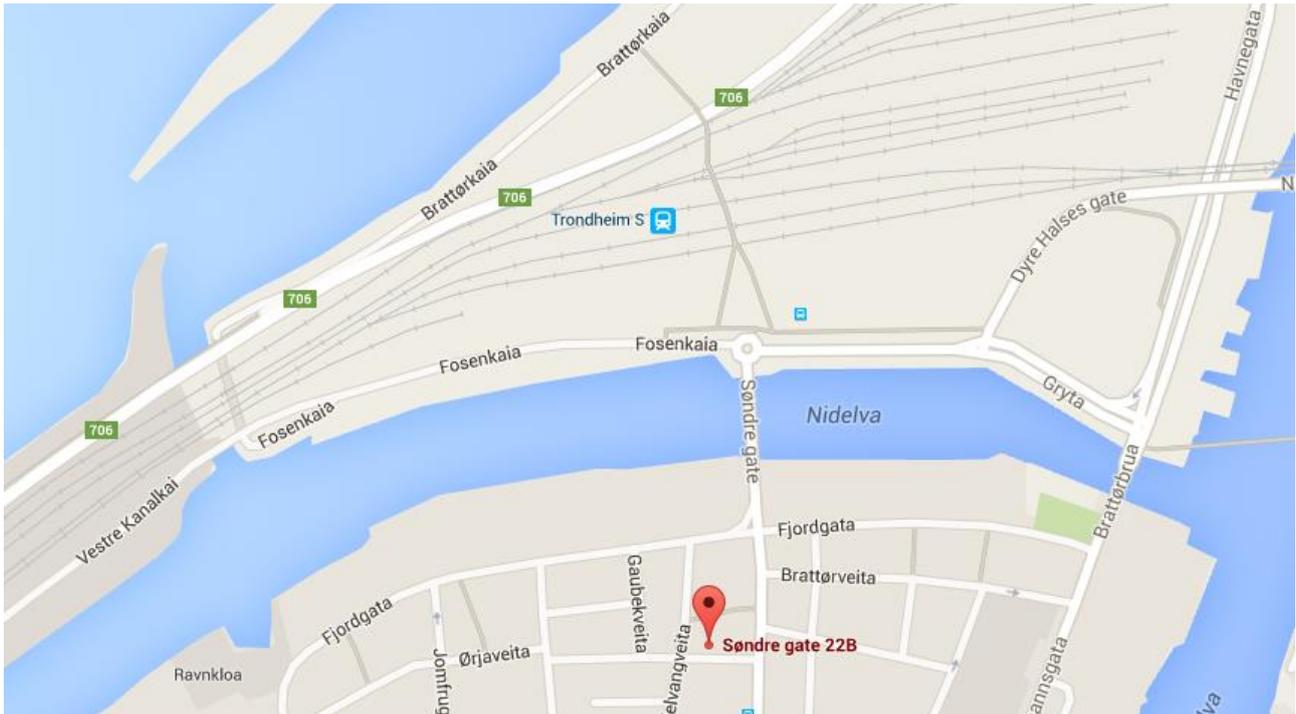


Meeting contact numbers

In case of any questions or if you require assistance, please contact Nina Mikander from the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat at +49 151 656 11240 (email: nina.mikander@unep-aewa.org) or Øystein Størkersen from the Norwegian Environment Agency at +47 9306 3971.

Accommodation

Rooms have been reserved for funded participants at the Gildevangen Hotel (address: Søndre gate 22b, 7010 Trondheim, telephone: +47 73 87 01 30, e-mail: gildevangen@thonhotels.no, website: <http://www.thonhotels.com/hotels/countrys/norway/trondheim/thon-hotel-gildevangen/>), which is located ca. 600 meters from the meeting venue. The airport express bus 'Flybussen' stops right outside the hotel. The name of the bus stop is Søndre gate.



Non-sponsored participants are kindly requested to make their own hotel bookings.

Visas

All registered meeting participants requiring visas have been provided with personal invitation letters as well as verbal notes to support their visa applications. Please note that it is absolutely necessary that you obtain your visa before travelling to Norway. Norway does not issue visas on arrival and airlines will not allow you to board your flight to the Schengen area without a valid visa.

The visa costs of funded participants will be reimbursed against receipts by the Norwegian Environment Agency during the meeting.

Participants experiencing any difficulties with immigration or customs upon arrival in Norway should contact the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat (see contact information above).

Arrival at the airport and transportation

Trondheim Airport Værnes is located approx. 30 km northeast from the Trondheim city center. Transfer from the airport to Trondheim city center is easy by bus, with departures every 10 or 15 minutes and the journey takes approx. 30 minutes. Please mention the name of your hotel to the driver to ensure that you board the correct bus. Single tickets cost NOK 130 and a return ticket is NOK 220/person (student discounts apply). You can purchase the ticket from the driver and either pay with cash or credit card.

Please note that funded participants will be provided with a bus voucher for the trip from the airport to the city center (and back as necessary) including instructions for its use. Please make sure that you take the correct bus: 'Flybussen'. The timetable for the bus can be found here: <http://www.flybussen.no/en/Trondheim/>.

NOTE: on Thursday the 14th of April the excursion bus will be used to drop off any participants with flights departing in the evening at the airport. Please keep this in mind when considering whether to purchase a single or return ticket for the airport on arrival.

Alternatively, one can take a taxi to the city center. Pre-booked taxis will give a more economical price, which should not exceed NOK 400/person. Payment is usually with debit or credit card (requires the use of a pin code). There are two recommended companies that can take pre-bookings:

- Trøndertaxi tel. +47 93 00 73 73, email: salg@trondertaxi.no
- Norgestaxi tel. +47 91 00 80 00, email: trondheim@norgestaxi.no

To secure the reduced price, taxis should preferably be booked the day before arrival. The taxi-stand is located to the right as you leave the terminal (behind the airport buses) – look for your pre-booked taxi company and confirm that it is the correct one before boarding as there are many to choose from.

Documents and WIFI

All meeting documents will be made available online on the AEWA website:

<http://www.unep-aewa.org/en/meeting/3rd-meeting-aewa-lesser-white-fronted-geese-international-working-group>

Hard paper copies of the meeting documents will not be distributed before or during the meeting. However, free wireless internet will be available to all participants in the meeting room.

Meals

Lunch will be provided free of charge for all meeting participants on the three meeting days. Likewise complementary refreshments will be provided during the mid-morning and mid-afternoon coffee breaks.

Overview of Trondheim

Trondheim with approx. 200,000 inhabitants is the third largest city in Norway. The city recently celebrated its 1000th anniversary and due to the compact city center, most sights can be easily reached on foot. Traditional wooden buildings, the cathedral and the music/instrument museum of Ringve are among the most famous sights in town.

Postal and bank facilities

There are ATMs (called 'Minibank' in Norway) close to the exit of the airport terminal and at various places in Trondheim. ATMs in Norway are available 24 hours a day, while most banks are open Monday – Friday 09:00 - 15:30 hours.

Post office services are found in many supermarkets, while the main post office is located in the city center.

Currency and foreign exchange

The currency in Norway is the Norwegian krone (NOK). Coins occur in denominations of 1, 5, 10 and 20 NOK. Notes are in denominations of 50, 100, 200, and 500. Foreign currency must be changed in banks (e.g. near the town square). At the time of writing the currency conversion rates are: NOK 1 = USD 0.12 = EUR 0.11 – subject to daily fluctuations.

Official language and local time

The official language is Norwegian. However, English is widely spoken and well understood.

Norway is in the Central European Time Zone and is GMT/UTC + 2h during Daylight Saving Time (or summer time), which started on the 27. March 2016.

Weather, clothing and excursion

We recommend that participants bring warm and waterproof clothing. The daily temperature in Trondheim in April can vary between 0 and +15 degrees Celsius, with an average around +10 degrees. Current weather and forecast for Trondheim can be found for example at: <http://www.yr.no/sted/Norge/Sør-Trøndelag/Trondheim/Trondheim/>.

A half-day excursion will be organized to Tautra Island on Thursday the 14th of April. There is a short walk on gravel to a birding tower, so no particularly sturdy walking boots are needed. A few telescopes will be provided by the organizers, but participants are of course more than welcome to bring their own binoculars. The excursion will close with a lunch on Tautra. Next to the café there is a shop with souvenirs and a micro beer brewery.

Electricity and water

Electric current is 230 V at 50 Hz, utilizing 2-pin plugs (see image). Socket adapters are freely available for sale, and can usually be purchased in hotels.



Tap water in Norway is of very high quality and safe to drink.

Travel and health insurance

All participants are responsible for their own travel and health insurance. It is recommended that all participants take out comprehensive policies before arriving in Norway. Concerning emergencies or need for hospital services, citizens of EU and EEA are covered through their national health programmes.

Shopping

Shopping hours vary. Many shops close at 17:00, Thursdays at 19:00, Saturdays at 15:00. On Sundays shops are closed all day. Shopping centers are open from 09:00 to 20:00, Saturdays to 18:00. Many supermarkets are open until 21:00, 22:00 or 23:00. Credit cards such as Mastercard, Eurocard, Visa, Diners, Amex and JCB are widely accepted at hotels, restaurants, taxis, train stations and tourist shops (but not at supermarkets where mainly cash or debit cards apply).

Tourist information

Information about Trondheim is available at:

<http://www.visitnorway.com/no/reisemal/midt-norge/trondheim/>

<http://www.visitnorway.com/no/reisemal/midt-norge/trondheim/turistinformasjon-i-trondheim/>

For more information about travelling to Norway we recommend the official travel guide at <http://visitnorway.com/>.

Smoking is not allowed inside any publicly accessible building in Norway, including hotels, shops, cafes, restaurants, public transportation, schools, and so on.

Emergency numbers

Police: 112

Fire: 110

Ambulance: 113