



**2nd MEETING OF THE AEWA EUROPEAN GOOSE MANAGEMENT
INTERNATIONAL WORKING GROUP**
15-16 June 2017, Copenhagen, Denmark

**AEWA EUROPEAN GOOSE MANAGEMENT INTERNATIONAL
WORKING GROUP TASK FORCES**

1. Introduction

As outlined in Rule 29 in the Modus Operandi adopted for the AEWA European Goose Management International Working Group (EGM IWG) at its first meeting in December 2016, the Working Group may establish species and/or thematic Task Forces as necessary to deal with the preparation and coordination of decision papers and background documents for the EGM IWG as well as to deal with other specific tasks as requested by the Working Group. The Modus Operandi further outline, that the EGM IWG shall define the terms of reference and composition of each Task Force.

2. Generic Terms of Reference for Task Forces established under the EGM IWG

As such, the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat has drafted generic Terms of Reference (Annex I) for consideration and adoption by the EGM IWG at its second meeting in June 2017, which will serve as the basis for the overall roles, functioning and composition of future Task Forces established under the Working Group. The draft is largely based on the Terms of Reference for AEWA Species Working Groups as developed and approved by the AEWA Technical Committee at its 9th Meeting in 2009.

The Secretariat will then tailor Terms of Reference for each new Task Force, based on the agreed generic template. These tailored Task Force-specific Terms of Reference will either be submitted to meetings of the EGM IWG for adoption or will be submitted to the EGM IWG members for adoption inter-sessionally via correspondence. In future, such confirmations could also be handled via the EGMP website and members-only workspace, which is foreseen to be established during the second half of 2017.

3. Convening of Task Forces

Following a decision by the EGM IWG to establish a new Task Force and following the approval of Terms of Reference for said Task Force (as described above), the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat will proceed with convening the Task Force by contacting the EGM IWG national government representatives as well as the confirmed observer organizations via email with a request to designate representatives to the Task Force. The Secretariat will keep up-to-date lists on the membership of each Task Force and will report back on the status of the establishment and composition of the respective Task Forces to each meeting of the EGM IWG as part of the overall overview on the running of the EGMP.

The Secretariat will also attempt to identify a volunteer Coordinator for each Task Force, who will act as the main driver of the work and as the liaison between the Task Force and the Secretariat as well as the EGMP Data Centre and will also assume chairing functions for the Task Force, as necessary.

4. Task Force membership and expected input

Considering the restrictions on the size of national delegations to meetings of the EGM IWG, as outlined in the Modus Operandi and, as further clarified in the Guidance on the Composition of National Delegations prepared by the Secretariat (EGM IWG Doc. 2.3), as well as the agreed limit of one representative per observer organisation, membership to the various EGM IWG Task Forces is suggested to be less restricted. Range States and observer organisations are encouraged to engage a wider array of appropriate national experts and specialists as well as national stakeholders in addition to the members of national delegations and the representatives of the permanent observer organizations already involved closely in the EGM IWG.

The nomination of Task Force members will, however, remain at the discretion of the designated government representatives to the EGM IWG as well as at the discretion of the management of the admitted permanent observer organisations. In addition, Task Force Coordinators may, in collaboration with the Secretariat and the Data Centre, involve additional experts and/or organizations in the work of the Task Force, if necessary. Should this extend to inviting additional national experts/organizations from an EGMP Range State, the Secretariat will secure approval from the respective designated government representative prior to the invitation being issued.

The workload of the various Task Forces will vary, depending on the extent of the tasks and deadlines set by the EGM IWG. At the minimum Task Force members will be expected to comment on and contribute to any documents etc. that are being drafted and circulated within the Task Force, including participating in skype calls or other web-based meetings.

The best-case scenario would be if countries and observer organizations could designate experts/organizations to the Task Forces who would have the capacity to participate actively and to take on some of the necessary drafting and other tasks, as part of their regular work. It would help to share the workload amongst countries and would also keep costs down, if the suggested experts could devote some of their working time to completing tasks under the EGMP and the EGM IWG.

Although the EGM IWG will adopt general Terms of Reference to guide the work of each Task Force, it is expected that the Task Forces will plan their own work led by the identified Coordinator and also decide how they want to organise themselves in terms of delivering the outputs requested by the EGM IWG. In this respect, the Secretariat and the EGMP Data Centre will support the work of the Task Forces and will be also involved in the planning of their work.

Although there are currently no funds allocated under the EGMP structure and budget for the Task Forces, the Task Forces will be encouraged to meet annually directly before the meetings of the EGM IWG. Task Force Coordinators and members will also be free to arrange face-to-face meetings if opportunities present themselves, for example in the margins of other meetings or conferences.

Reporting on the overall functioning of the Task Forces to meetings of the EGM IWG will be coordinated by the Secretariat, as mentioned above under point 3. For this, reports on activities and the submission of outputs will be collected by each Task Force Coordinator and provided to the Secretariat.

5. Convened Task Forces and Task Forces recommended to be established

5.1. AEWA EGM IWG Agriculture Task Force

At its first meeting in December 2016, the EGM IWG decided to establish a Task Force to develop an international framework for dealing with agricultural conflicts caused by geese. The EGM IWG Agriculture Task Force was subsequently convened by the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat in January 2017, and currently consists of designated representatives from six EGMP Range States.

The Secretariat has drafted Terms of Reference for the Agriculture Task Force (Annex II) based on the proposed generic template, which the EGM IWG is invited to review and adopt at its second meeting in June 2017.

5.2. Establishment of additional Task Forces

With the establishment of the European Goose Management Platform (EGMP) and the EGM IWG as its inter-governmental coordinating and decision-making body, separate AEWA International Species Working Groups will no longer be convened by the Secretariat to guide and coordinate the individual implementation of the International Species Action and Management Plans included in the remit of the EGMP.

There will, however, still be need for coordinated cooperation amongst Range States to ensure delivery of all the objectives and results in each Action and Management Plan – in particular, those not related to possible adaptive harvest management. In addition, there will be a need to provide species-specific input to the EGMP Data Centre in the inter-sessional periods between meetings of the EGM IWG, and such species-specific Task Forces would be expected to support the provision of information required.

As such, the following species-specific Task Forces are recommended to be established at present:

- Pink-footed Goose (*Anser brachyrhynchus*);
- Taiga Bean Goose (*Anser f. fabalis*).

Action Requested from the EGM IWG

The EGM IWG is requested to:

- review and adopt the generic Terms of Reference for Task Forces to be established under the Working Group (Annex I);
- review and adopt the specific Terms of Reference for the AEWA EGM IWG Agriculture Task Force, considering potential changes made to the draft generic Terms of Reference before their final adoption (Annex II);
- decide on the establishment of species-specific Task Forces for the Pink-footed and the Taiga Bean Goose.

Annex I - AEW A EGM IWG Task Forces

DRAFT Generic Terms of Reference

Role

The role of the EGM IWG Task Force is to:

- 1) Assist the EGM IWG in coordinating and catalysing the implementation of [*species Task Force: Action/Management Plan / thematic Task Force: thematic activities*] under the EGMP;
- 2) Assist the EGM IWG in stimulating and supporting Range States in the implementation of [*species Task Force: Action/Management Plan / thematic Task Force: thematic activities*]; and
- 3) monitor and report on the implementation of these activities to the EGM IWG via the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat and the National Reports to the EGM IWG, as appropriate.

Tasks

The EGM IWG Task Force will:

[Species Task Force:

- *support the EGM IWG by suggesting implementation priorities;*
- *assist the EGM IWG in coordinating international implementation;*
- *assist with the regular and thorough monitoring of the species populations in cooperation with the EGMP Data Centre;*
- *stimulate and support scientific research in the species necessary for conservation and management;*
- *facilitate internal and external communication and exchange of scientific, technical, legal and other required information;*
- *lead on updating the international ISSAP/ISSMP as required;*
- *assist in other ways as requested by the EGM IWG.*

[Thematic Task Force: list tasks as defined by the EGM IWG]

Membership

The EGM IWG Task Force will be open to (1) designated representatives of governmental bodies of all [*species Task Force: key Range States / thematic Task Force: EGMP Range States*], (2) representatives of national expert and stakeholder organisations as designated by the state authorities from all [*species Task Force: key Range States / thematic Task Force: EGMP Range States*], (3) representatives of admitted observer organisations, and (4) other experts as required.

The Coordinator of the EGM IWG Task Force may invite and admit international expert and stakeholder organisations as well as individual experts to the Task Force via the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat and in consultation with the relevant Range States, as necessary.

To ensure coordination with the activities carried out by the EGMP Data Centre, the Data Centre will be represented by a staff member in each of the Task Forces.

Officers

A voluntary Coordinator, ideally from one of the major Range States or organizations/institutes with expertise on the subject matter of the Task Force, will be identified by the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat to oversee the operations of the Task Force in close cooperation with the Secretariat and the EGMP Data Centre.

Communication

The Task Force will mainly conduct its work electronically via the EGM IWG website and intranet as well as via email, Skype and other online communication platforms, as appropriate.

Meetings

No specific funds are allocated under the EGMP for the EGM IWG Task Forces. However, Task Forces are encouraged to have annual face-to-face meetings directly before the meetings of the EGM IWG. In addition, Task Force Coordinators and members are also encouraged to arrange face-to-face meetings if opportunities present themselves, for example in the margins of other international meetings or conferences.

Reporting

A brief report on the general progress of the Task Force (convening, membership, activities etc.) will be presented by the Coordinator via the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat to each meeting of the EGM IWG. This will include the presentation of any specific Task Force outputs, as requested by the EGM IWG.

Overall National Reports will be prepared by each EGMP Range State according to a format and reporting schedule agreed by the EGM IWG. Task Force members are requested to contribute to these National Reports regarding the implementation of activities relevant to the Task Force, as appropriate.

Financing

No specific funds are allocated under the EGMP for the Task Forces. The operations of the Task Forces, including that of the voluntary Coordinator, are therefore to be financed primarily by its members and observers such as through in-kind support in form of personnel time or separate funding. Neither the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat nor the EGMP Data Centre can commit regular financial support and may only provide such if possible.

Annex II - AEWA EGM IWG Agriculture Task Force

DRAFT Terms of Reference¹

Role

The role of the EGM IWG Agriculture Task Force is to:

- 1) Assist the EGM IWG in coordinating and catalysing the implementation of activities related to goose management and agriculture under the EGMP;
- 2) Assist the EGM IWG in stimulating and supporting Range States in the implementation of activities related to goose management and agriculture; and
- 3) monitor and report on the implementation of these activities to the EGM IWG via the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat and the National Reports to the EGM IWG, as appropriate.

Tasks

The EGM IWG Agriculture Task Force will:

- develop and support the implementation of an international interdisciplinary cooperation framework for dealing with agricultural conflicts caused by geese;
- assist in other ways as requested by the EGM IWG.

Membership

The EGM IWG Agriculture Task Force will be open to (1) designated representatives of governmental bodies of all EGMP Range States, (2) representatives of national expert and stakeholder organisations as designated by the state authorities from all EGMP Range States, (3) representatives of admitted observer organisations, and (4) other experts as required.

The Coordinator of the EGM IWG Agriculture Task Force may invite and admit international expert and stakeholder organisations as well as individual experts to the Task Force via the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat and in consultation with the relevant Range States, as necessary.

To ensure coordination with the activities carried out by the EGMP Data Centre, the Data Centre will be represented by a staff member in the EGM IWG Agriculture Task Force.

Officers

A voluntary Coordinator, ideally from one of the major Range States or organizations/institutes with expertise on the subject matter of the EGM IWG Agriculture Task Force, will be identified by the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat to oversee the operations of the Task Force in close cooperation with the Secretariat and the EGMP Data Centre.

¹ To be amended as necessary, following also potential changes to the Generic Terms of Reference for AEWA EGM IWG Task Forces in Annex I to be adopted at the 2nd Meeting of the AEWA EGM IWG in June 2017.

Communication

The EGM IWG Agriculture Task Force will mainly conduct its work electronically via the EGM IWG website and intranet as well as via email, Skype and other online communication platforms, as appropriate.

Meetings

No specific funds are allocated under the EGMP for the EGM IWG Agriculture Task Force. However, the EGM IWG Agriculture Task Force is encouraged to have annual face-to-face meetings directly before the meetings of the EGM IWG. In addition, Task Force Coordinator and members are also encouraged to arrange face-to-face meetings if opportunities present themselves, for example in the margins of other international meetings or conferences.

Reporting

A brief report on the general progress of the EGM IWG Agriculture Task Force (convening, membership, activities etc.) will be presented by the Coordinator via the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat to each meeting of the EGM IWG. This will include the presentation of any specific Task Force outputs, as requested by the EGM IWG.

Overall National Reports will be prepared by each EGMP Range State according to a format and reporting schedule agreed by the EGM IWG. Task Force members are requested to contribute to these National Reports regarding the implementation of activities relevant to the EGM IWG Agriculture Task Force, as appropriate.

Financing

No specific funds are allocated under the EGMP for the EGM IWG Agriculture Task Force. The operations of the Task Force, including that of the voluntary Coordinator, are therefore to be financed primarily by its members and observers such as through in-kind support in form of personnel time or separate funding. Neither the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat nor the EGMP Data Centre can commit regular financial support and may only provide such if possible.