



AGREEMENT ON THE CONSERVATION OF  
AFRICAN-EURASIAN MIGRATORY WATERBIRDS

INTER-GOVERNMENTAL MEETING ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A  
EUROPEAN GOOSE MANAGEMENT PLATFORM UNDER THE AUSPICES OF AEWA

11 – 12 May 2016, Paris, France

ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATION OF  
A EUROPEAN GOOSE MANAGEMENT PLATFORM

- Declaration -

*Acknowledging* the important need for international, shared approaches to the management of goose populations in order to ensure their sustainable use, and mitigate conflicts with agricultural, air safety and ecological interests, whilst ensuring their favourable conservation status, as well as the provision of ecosystem services, including recreation,

*Recalling* that Article III 2b of the Agreement requires that Parties shall “ensure that any use of migratory waterbirds is based on an assessment of the best available knowledge of their ecology and is sustainable for the species as well as for the ecological systems that support them”,

*Noting* that the need to ensure the sustainability of any use of migratory waterbirds is a central theme of the Agreement’s Action Plan, and has been and continues to be the focus of much consideration by Contracting Parties,

*Aware* that biological assessments of sustainability rely on population-scale measures of population size and harvest, as minimum parameters, information about which is not equally available across waterbird populations, and further aware that internationally harmonised programmes to collate annual relevant data and information have yet to be realised,

*Noting* the conclusions of the international conference on goose management in Europe that was hosted by the Danish Nature Agency and Aarhus University on 27-29 October 2015 ([document AEWA/MOP Inf. 6.14](#)) and recognising the need for an internationally coordinated management approach to the Barnacle Goose (*Branta leucopsis*), as well as other goose species in Europe whose large populations cause significant conflicts,

*Further noting* the request from the 6<sup>th</sup> Session of the Meeting of Parties to AEWA to the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat to facilitate, subject to the availability of financial resources, the establishment of a European multispecies goose management platform and process to address sustainable use of goose populations and to provide for the resolution of human-goose conflicts, targeting as a matter of priority, Barnacle (*Branta leucopsis*) and Greylag (*Anser anser*) Geese populations for which management plans are yet to be developed, as well as the Svalbard population of the Pink-footed Goose (*Anser brachyrhynchus*) and the Taiga Bean Goose (*Anser fabalis fabalis*) for which plans are already in place, and to invite interested Parties, Range States and other stakeholders to engage pro-actively in this initiative, including by providing appropriate resources for the maintenance and the functioning of the platform, and to report progress to MOP7 ([AEWA Resolution 6.4](#)).

The range states attending this meeting:

1. *Agree* with the establishment of a common European Goose Management Platform under the auspices of AEWA, as outlined by the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat in document [AEWA/EGMP Doc. 2](#);

2. *Further agree* that for the first three years of the establishment and operations of the Platform (2016-2018), the envisaged annual international running costs as well as the one-off costs associated with the development of management plans for Greylag and Barnacle Geese will be provided by the range states and other stakeholders on the basis of voluntary contributions in accordance with their abilities, after which the option of adopting a cost-sharing arrangement will be considered, mindful that insufficient funding will jeopardize the functioning and existence of the Platform;
3. *Recognise* that the European Goose Management Platform shall serve the integrated, multi-faceted international flyway-level conservation and management of populations in line with existing international obligations and the pertinent legislative frameworks and regulations, as relevant in each range state, including AEWA, the Bern Convention and the EU Birds Directive for the range states to which these apply;
4. *Encourage* the range states and other stakeholders to facilitate the provision of data on population size and harvest to the European Goose Management Platform;
5. *Further agree* to implement the relevant AEWA International Species Action and Management Plans as adopted by the AEWA Meeting of the Parties, as appropriate.

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This declaration was adopted unanimously by the range states\* present at the meeting: Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Greenland, Iceland, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, UK.

\*The adoption of this declaration by Germany is subject to national consultations with the governments of its Federal States.