
**Meeting on the Implementation of the AEWA International Species Management Plan (ISMP)
for the Svalbard population of the Pink-footed Goose (*Anser brachyrhynchus*)**

**Hotel Polarriggen, Longyearbyen, Svalbard, Norway
4 – 8 August 2012**

- MEETING INFORMATION SHEET -

MEETING DATES

Sunday the 5th of August and Monday the 6th of August 2012

The meeting will commence at 09:00 on Sunday the 5th of August. Registration will open the previous evening, Saturday 4th of August between 19:00 -20:00.

HOST

The Norwegian Directorate for Nature Management

FACILITATORS

The UNEP/AEWA Secretariat and Aarhus University, Denmark

MEETING VENUE

Hotel Polarriggen, Longyearbyen, Svalbard, Norway

Website: <http://www.polarriggen.com/>

Telephone: +47 7902 3702

Email: info@polarriggen.com

If you encounter any problems whilst travelling to Svalbard please contact the hotel and leave a message. In addition the organizers can be reached by phone on:

Øystein Størkersen: + 47 9306 3971

Jesper Madsen: +45 2944 0204*

* Please note Jesper Madsen will be on fieldwork just prior to the implementation meeting.

INVITED PARTICIPANTS

Delegates from the 4 range states (Belgium, Denmark, the Netherlands and Norway). Wetlands International, the Federation of Associations for Hunting and Conservation of the EU (FACE) and a number of international experts have been invited to the meeting as observers.

MEETING DOCUMENTS

All meeting documents will be made available for download from the AEWA website as they are ready at:

http://www.unep-awa.org/meetings/other_related_meetings.htm

Participants are kindly asked to bring the meeting documentation with them.

ACCOMMODATION

Rooms for all participants have been booked at the Hotel Polarriggen. The hotel has a restaurant, as well as a sauna, spa and outdoor hot tub.

Breakfast and lunch are included but *dinner is not included*. Please note that any additional costs related to your stay at the hotel (e.g. dinner, drinks, mini-bar, telephone, spa treatments & laundry etc.) will not be covered.

ARRIVAL AT LONGYEARBYEN

Upon arrival at Longyearbyen airport there are buses to meet all flight arrivals and they stop outside the Hotel Polarriggen. The bus costs 60kr and can only be paid in cash. Otherwise there are taxis available at all times. Contact Svalbard Maxi Taxi tel: +47 7902 1305.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact the Polarriggen, Tel.: +47 7902 3702.

WEATHER

Despite Svalbard being so close to the North Pole, the archipelago has a relatively mild climate **compared** to areas of the same latitude. In Longyearbyen, the average temperature ranges from 14 degrees Celsius below zero during winter to 6 degrees Celsius above zero during summer. Average July/August temperatures range from 4 to 6 °C (39.2 to 42.8 °F).

In terms of rainfall, Svalbard can be described as an "arctic desert" with annual rain and snowfall a mere 200 - 300 millimetres. In summer rainfall is frequent, but tends to be light and it is common for periods of fog. The weather on Svalbard can change very quickly and local variations are often considerable.

To check a short term weather forecast for Longyearbyen use: <http://www.svalbard.net/index.php?c=183&kat=Home>

EXCURSIONS

A number of excursions have been arranged during the course of your stay on Svalbard. There will be:

- An evening hiking trip to visit the Longyear Glacier (Longyearbreen), where there will be an opportunity to look for fossils in a glacier moraine. Trip lasts approximately 3 hours, taking advantage of the extended day light hours.
- A visit to the pink-feet nesting grounds and a goose 'grub' site. Trip lasts approximately 3 hours.
- A full day boat trip to the Esmark Glacier and the Russian mining settlement of Barentsburg. An opportunity to see some spectacular scenery as well as Svalbard's teeming birdlife, so remember to bring binoculars and a camera. Trip lasts approximately 8-10 hours.

For all trips you are advised to bring hiking boots, warm clothing including hats and gloves and waterproofs. See below.

For more tourist information on Svalbard please use the following link:

<http://www.svalbard.net//index.php?c=183&kat=Home>

POLAR BEARS

PLEASE NOTE: Svalbard is known for its high density of Polar bears, so on walking trips you will be accompanied by a guide with a gun to scare off any chance encounters. *Please see the accompanying Polar Bear Safety Guide.*

WHAT TO BRING

In addition to personal items of clothing and toiletries you are advised to bring the following:

- Waterproof outer-clothing (jacket and trousers)
- Hiking or sturdy rubber boots
- Warm clothing, including hat and gloves
- Binoculars
- Camera

COMMUNICATIONS & MONEY

There is mobile coverage in Longyearbyen and wifi internet connection is available at the hotel, this cost 20kr for 1 hour and 100kr for 24 hrs.

There is a SpareBank 1 in Longyearbyen with a 24hr ATM/cash dispenser. The hotel and most shops and restaurants in town accept payment with Mastercard or Visa cards, but *NOT* American Express or Diners.



Sponsored by the Norwegian Directorate for Nature
Management
Organized by Aarhus University, Denmark

