



Goose Management Group

GMG 7th Meeting

Bremen, 18 June 2013

FINAL DRAFT MINUTES

1. Opening

Document: GMG 2013-7.1 Draft Agenda

The chair, Mr Hilbrand Sinnema, welcomed the participants and opened the meeting on 18 June 2013 at 11:00 hours. A list of participants is in **Annex 1**.

The agenda was **adopted** without amendments and is in **Annex 2**.

2. Adoption of the Minutes GMG-6

Document: GMG-6 Final Draft Minutes

The meeting adopted the final draft minutes of the GMG-6 meeting, Hamburg, of 26 February 2013. The final draft minutes of GMG-6 have been distributed by e-mail of 25 March 2013. The final draft minutes are also available on the WSF website www.waddensea-forum.org.

3. Announcements

The secretary informed about the WSF energy symposium, which took place on 3 June in Eemshaven, the Netherlands. The symposium was a success, even though just some 30 experts participated. The focus was on greenhouse emissions, CO₂ reduction and new technologies on energy storage. In order to define a CO₂ neutral Wadden Sea Region, the symposium distinguished between production chains and the consumption level, which would get priority in elaborating CO₂ reduction measures. The presentations are placed on the WSF website.

He further pointed at the forthcoming Wadden Sea Board meeting on 26-27 June in Copenhagen. At this meeting, the Ministerial Declaration would be discussed and it was proposed to include a statement supporting the implementation of a trilateral geese framework scheme. Furthermore, the results of the working group would be presented as part of the WSF progress report.

4. Dutch Geese Policy

Document: GMG 2013-7.3.1 Translation Dutch goose agreement

The meeting welcomed the German translation of the Dutch goose agreement, which is not implemented yet. A substantial part of the agreed budget was missing so that the management program has not started.

Jesper Madsen announced that he would elaborate a Danish summary of the goose agreement to be made available for a wider Danish audience.

5. Inventory of information

Document: GMG 2013-7.5.1 Inventory Wadden Sea Region

The inventory was updated by Denmark and The Netherlands. In this update the new Dutch goose agreement is recognized. The meeting stated that the inventory would provide a good overview about regional management schemes, concerned species and implemented measures. The information would be part of the goose report (see agenda item 6) as an **annex**. For a brief overview, Kees Koffijberg will elaborate a summary, which will feed directly into the report. The summary will highlight the most important issues and provides a comparison between the different regions.

6. Draft work plan

Document: GMG 2013-7.6.1 draft work plan

On the basis of the draft work plan, the meeting discussed the procedure for finalization and structure of the contents. It was agreed that an essential part would be sound information about the concerned geese populations and an analysis of problems with geese. The meeting agreed to re-structure the work plan into a comprehensive report, in which the contents of the work plan would be integrated.

As conclusion of an intensive and fruitful discussion, the meeting **agreed** on the following structure and headlines:

Report trilateral goose management scheme

1. Introduction (Manfred Vollmer)
 - Background, political relevance
 - Concerned area
 - Focus on migratory geese, statements about problems with summering geese, which are not addressed in the report
2. Overview geese populations and trends (Kees Koffijberg)
 - Summary flyway populations
 - Summary Wadden Sea, TMAP data for Barnacles, White fronted geese data for DK and NL available
3. Analysis of problems with geese (Meinte Engelmoer)
 - a) Wadden Sea Area
 - b) Four regions
4. Policy developments (Jesper Madsen and Meinte Engelmoer)
 - Include overview table inventory (Kees Koffijberg)

5. Strategy (Jesper Madsen, support by Kees Koffijberg)

- a) Aims
- b) Targets (more specific than overall aims, go-areas, measurable)
- c) Measures
- d) Instruments/Communication/Knowledge
- e) Recommendations, this could be done with regard to the targets; addressees, action plan and time schedule should be considered.

6. Recommendations

Most important recommendation of chapter 5 will be picked up, and e.g. payments for losses and scaring measures will be part of this;
These recommendations will be elaborated on the basis of the chapters before

Note: Jesper Madsen has already prepared a document, which will be used for the strategy chapter and which will feed partly in other chapters too. The document describes the benefits of a coordinated management and the added value of a trilateral framework.

The document was the basis for discussing the strategy and is in **Annex 3**.

For the elaboration of the goose report, the meeting agreed on the following procedure:

- Elaboration of the different chapters (responsibilities in brackets) by 23 August; contributions to be sent to the secretariat for compilation;
- Distribution of the document beginning of September;
- GMG-8 meeting on 19 September, discussion of the draft report;
- 4 weeks for completion of the final draft report;
- Adoption of the report by the WSF plenary at the WSF-23 meeting on 31 October/1 November;
- Forward to the WSB-10 meeting on 11-12 December in Tønder;
- Presentation at the Wadden Sea Conference 4-6 February 2014.

7. Draft recommendations

Recommendations are part of the strategy (see agenda item 6). The main recommendations can be taken up to emphasize these in an extra chapter. Final decisions on this issue will be made at the GMG-8 meeting in September.

8. Any other business

No other business discussed.

9. Next meeting

The meeting agreed to hold the GMG-8 meeting on **19 September 2013** in Bremen.

10. Closing

The chair thanked all participants for their contributions and closed the meeting at 15:30 on 18 June 2013.

ANNEX 2

Goose Management Group

GMG 7th Meeting

Bremen, 18 June 2013

DRAFT ANNOTATED AGENDA

- Agenda item 1. Opening**
- Agenda item 2. Adoption of the Minutes GMG-6**
- Agenda item 3. Announcements**
- Agenda item 4. Dutch Geese Policy**
- Agenda item 5. Inventory of information**
- Agenda item 6. Draft work plan**
- Agenda item 7. Draft recommendations**
- Agenda item 8. Any other business**
- Agenda item 9. Next meeting**
- Agenda item 10. Closing**

ANNEX 3**Benefits of a coordinated management of geese
in the trilateral Wadden Sea**

by

Jesper Madsen

The Wadden Sea Regionⁱ is one of the key areas for staging and wintering Nordic and Arctic geese in the western Palearctic and geese constitute an asset of high conservation and recreational value to the trilateral Wadden Sea. The fact that they to a large extent forage on farmland behind the dikes and consequently create conflicts with agricultural economic interests' makes geese a special case for wildlife conservation and management. This calls for a careful and strategic treatment in order to balance the international conservation obligations, the benefits and costs of hosting the geese.

Firstly, so far the three Wadden Sea countries have not taken a concerted approach to the management of geese despite that various larger-scale conservation and management decisions taken in one country may have knock-on effects in terms of redistributing geese to the other countries. This incurs a risk of an uneven distribution of the burden of hosting geese between the countries.

Secondly, only by an international perspective it will be possible to effectively identify and prioritise areas most suited for an integrated management approach, taking the necessary conservation actions for geese, while minimising the economic costs. This can be undertaken by designing priority goose areas with the combination of accommodation areas with the right ecological conditions and minimal disturbance in the Wadden Sea and integrated NATURA 2000 sites and management zones with farmland crop types not vulnerable to goose foraging in the adjoining polders.

Thirdly, by cooperation it will be possible to improve the mutual sharing of experience and learning as well as better integrating and taking advantage of monitoring and research in the management process.

Overall objectives

The overall objective is to make a coordinated management of geese in the trilateral Wadden Sea using a strategic adaptive frameworkⁱⁱ which:

1. Ensures the maintenance of goose populations in a favourable conservation statusⁱⁱⁱ;
2. Integrates geese in conservation and management objectives within the Wadden Sea and behind the dikes;
3. Balances recreational and economic interests in an international perspective and;
4. Increases the mutual sharing of management experience and learning by doing.

Specific objectives

1.1 Maintain populations of geese in accordance with national and international conservation obligations; provide vital habitats for roosting and foraging with the aim to minimise the cost of agricultural damage; maintain the range of geese with a perspective on the Wadden Sea Region;

2.1 Provide an overview of goose distribution and areas of conflict as a tool to prioritise goose management zones in the integrated Wadden Sea Region;

2.2 Promote/Apply a 'go' and 'no-go' concept for the accommodation of geese in order to minimise agricultural conflicts;

3.1 Evaluate societal costs (economic) and benefits (ecosystem services) of geese in the trilateral Wadden Sea Region;

4.1 Establish an adaptive management framework for trilateral stakeholder collaboration;

4.2 Establish a platform to collect information and effective sharing experiences with goose management practises and for communication.

Recommendations

Setting up a Trilateral Wadden Sea Goose Management Forum under the auspices of the Wadden Sea Forum to 1) build the relevant capacity to predict, monitor and evaluate effectiveness of management actions (including scaring, creation of accommodation areas, subsidies, compensation) and 2) share experiences, communicate results and provide guidance to relevant stakeholders.

Prioritisation of goose management zones in the trilateral Wadden Sea is a basic requirement and should be in place as soon as possible, including mapping of specific problem areas and proposals for a design of 'go' and no-go' areas.

The development of new scaring techniques, their practical application and effectiveness at local and regional levels, for example acoustic techniques and derogation shooting, should be promoted.

The trilateral Wadden Sea collaboration is asked to ensure the capacity to effectively monitor the development of numbers and distribution of geese in the Wadden Sea region.

AEWA and Wetlands International are asked to provide up to date international status of goose populations at flyway level.

ⁱ Definition of Wadden Sea Region is given in Chapter X (including relevant administrative borders).

ⁱⁱ Adaptive management is defined as an approach to managing natural systems that builds on learning – based on common sense, experience, experimenting and monitoring – by adjusting practices based on what was learned (Williams et al. 2009; Adaptive Management. US Dept Int Tech Guide).

ⁱⁱⁱ Favourable conservation status is defined according to the EU Birds Directive.