



## Goose Management Group

### Follow-up Meeting

Bremen, 20 August 2014

#### FINAL DRAFT MINUTES

##### 1. Opening

*Document: GMG 2014 Follow-up meeting, Draft Agenda*

The secretary welcomed the participants and opened the meeting on 20 September 2014 at 11:00 hours. A list of participants is in **Annex 1**.

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

##### 2. Announcements

Meinte Engelmoer reported that the Dutch goose policy for all 12 provinces has failed due to a missing sufficient budget. Now, each province had to find its own solution for the implementation of an acceptable goose policy.

In the province of Fryslan no progress could be reported. A sound goose policy was going to fail on the lack of man power.

Hilbrand Sinnema added that in the province of Groningen an agreement was reached to avoid an increase of summering goose populations by hunting.

Markus Nipkow informed that the agri-environmental schemes would end this year and that a follow-up for another 5 years would be in progress. This would include an update of efficiency control as well as an extension of monitoring and SPA programs. Also the payments for farmers would be improved. He concluded that the implementation of the follow-up program would be a good opportunity to integrate the WSF approach.

Erich Hinrichs amended that the program was almost finalized and an integration of the WSF would be difficult. Furthermore, he also stated that the payments for farmers seemed to be better than in the past but still payments were allocated only for SPAs and services even though the damages had increased.

He also stated that the WSF management scheme was not well known within the government of Niedersachsen.

Cornelius Kohl announced that the SH-government would be of the opinion that the available agri-environmental schemes would be sufficient and no changes would be necessary. Further, he referred to a letter from the EU Commission that agri-environmental schemes could be used to compensate damages, like the Netherlands

have done. Finally, he informed that the county of Nordfriesland would implement a cost-benefit analysis with regard to geese accommodation in the area of Eiderstedt. 25-30 farmers were involved.

John Frikke reported about several actions due to goose management. The advisory board was informed about the decisions of the Wadden Sea Conference and the WSF goose management scheme. Also a meeting with the nature agency was held and very first start was made to discuss the goose framework. He further announced the possibility that the Danish National Park authority could finance a study about damage costs. The focus would be on Barnacles. He would also approach Jesper Madsen to elaborate an outline for a cost-benefit-analysis for geese accommodation. The secretary briefly informed that the WSF had elected a new chairman for the coming period. This would be Henk Staghower from the province of Groningen. The post of the vice-chair would be still vacant. He further informed that a successor for Jens Enemark, the secretary of the Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation, has been chosen. This would be Rüdiger Stempel from Bonn, at present still working for the UN.

### **3. State of the Art**

*Document: GMG 2014 Follow-up 3.1*

The secretary briefly recalled the document about the state of the art with regard to the implementation of the goose management scheme. The main issue now would be setting up a project to proceed.

### **4. Elaboration of a working structure**

*Document: GMG 2014 Follow-up 4.1, project initiation document*

On the basis of the project initiation document, the meeting discussed the implementation of the agreed recommendations of the goose management scheme as well as the structure and process in detail. Meinte Engelman introduced the document structure which is also used for almost 3 years in Dutch regional governments. He emphasized the need for a time frame and the benefit of a risk analysis of implementation.

The meeting welcomed the document as basis for a project to implement the recommendations. It was consensus that the target group or client would be the regions with its regional/state governments.

The results and agreements of the meeting are described in the updated document, which is in **Annex 3**.

### **5. Any other business**

No other business discussed.

### **6. Next meeting**

The meeting agreed to hold the next meeting when first results of implementing the project group are available.

### **7. Closing**

The secretary thanked all participants for their contributions and closed the meeting at 15:30 on 20 September 2014.

**ANNEX 2**

**Goose Management Group  
Follow-up Meeting  
Bremen, 20 August 2014**

**DRAFT ANNOTATED AGENDA**

- Agenda item 1.    Opening**
- Agenda item 2.    Announcements**
- Agenda item 3.    State of the Art**
- Agenda item 4.    Elaboration of a working structure**
- Agenda item 5.    Any other business**
- Agenda item 6.    Next meeting**
- Agenda item 7.    Closing**

**ANNEX 3**

Results of the discussion about the project description are marked in the main chapters of the document, proposed by Meinte Engelmoer.

**PROJECT DEFINITION****JOB DESCRIPTION**

The job at hand is to organize the implementation of the adopted recommendations within 2-3 years.

The recommendations are as follows:

**Governance & Coordination**

1. Denmark, Germany and the Netherlands continue the co-operation with respect to goose management on a structural basis in order to reach good management of the wild goose populations in the trilateral Wadden Sea area.

*Task 1: A project group should be installed by the 4 governments as they are responsible for the implementation. The representatives of the WSB should function as a door-opener and to use contacts. The secretariat will contact the WSB.*

2. The four governmental partners aim to agree on an ambitious and measurable target within two years' time to reduce the present-day level of agricultural conflict.

*Task 2: The project group should discuss and define the targets. Information about the scope of the conflict and the definition of the damage must be considered formulating the targets.*

3. The four governmental partners are responsible for the designation of the go-areas. Agreements of the nature management, hunting and farming organizations are aspired.

*Task 3: The governments should install the project group under support of the nature management, hunting and farming organizations. Following, the go-areas have to be defined.*

**Research & Monitoring**

Promote a study of the societal costs and benefits of geese in the trilateral Wadden Sea region, to be conducted in 2014-2015.

*Task 4: The trilateral Goose Management Group will elaborate TOR for a study concerning the societal costs and benefits of geese in the trilateral region. Meinte Engelmoer and John Frikke will take the lead.*

Promote a joint trilateral research project to prioritise go-areas in the entire Wadden Sea region as well as to damages caused by geese under which circumstances.

*Task 5:* The governmental project group is in the position to initiate such a trilateral research project. The GMG oversees the results and will give advice. The responsible governments will decide upon the go-areas.

Additional to the Trilateral Monitoring and Assessment Program (TMAP), a comprehensive trilateral goose monitoring and evaluation system with regard to further species resting and feeding behind the dikes, will be developed under the responsibility of the Goose Management Group of the Wadden Sea Forum. The monitoring system also considers estimates of agricultural damage.

*Task 6:* Cooperation with Wadden Sea Board should be intensified. Discussion about the extension of the TMAP. The governmental group will be asked to consider the estimation of the damage.

Evaluation of the developments will take place every 4 years under the responsibility of the Goose Management Group of the Wadden Sea Forum, starting with the first one in 2016. This one has to be considered as a starting point.

*Task 7:* The Trilateral Goose Management Groups organizes the evaluations of the developments every 4 years. This is a repetitive task.

### **Measures & Actions**

Every governmental partner develops a management plan for non-breeding geese based on the designation of go and no-go areas. These 4 individual management plans complement each other and must primarily include designated go and no-go areas for at least 80% of the total number of goose-days in the region.

*Task 8:* The governmental group will be in charge.

Every governmental partner actively develops additional instruments for a policy oriented towards the reduction of damage caused by geese outside the go areas and the increase of the attractiveness of go areas both for geese and farmers. This development will be a co-operative effort with the regional hunting-, nature management- and farming organizations.

*Task 9:* The governmental group will be in charge.

The hunting, farming and nature management organisations in the Wadden Sea Region jointly develop or advise on techniques to scare geese in no-go areas.

The co-operating farming, nature management and hunting organizations per region take the responsibility to develop a specific set of effective and efficient instruments in order to reach the goals formulated under 2. This set of instruments will be brought together for the whole trilateral community. Combine with 10.

*Task 10:* The GMG should approach these groups to help developing such a toolbox. The secretariat will contact Jesper Madsen for support. Danish scaring methods will be part of this. Toolbox provided by the GMG.

The nationally designed go-areas shall be combined with the development of the set of instruments which will result in a trilateral management plan for the geese populations in the trilateral region under the responsibility of the Goose Management Group of the Wadden Sea Forum.

**Task 11:** The governmental project group will be responsible.

#### **CLIENT**

Even though the Wadden Sea Forum presented the 'Trilateral Goose Management Scheme', it has become the task of the 4 governmental bodies to organize the continuation of the co-operation at hand. They also have the plight to agree on an ambitious and measurable target within two years' time. And they are responsible for a co-ordinated designation of go-areas. Responsibilities:

- Denmark – National level
- Niedersachsen – State level
- Schleswig-Holstein – State level
- Netherlands - Provinces

#### **OBJECTIVES**

The major objectives are to fulfil the recommendations presented in the document 'Trilateral Goose Management Scheme' within 2-3 years. The project is considered to be finished, when the recommended targets and actions of the Trilateral Goose Management Scheme are reached. To fulfil the declaration of both Sylt and Tønder

#### **SCOPE OF THE PROJECT**

History of the project

The attention of the project is focused upon fulfilling the adopted recommendations. All other matter is not part of the project. The activities of the Trilateral Goose Management Group stay focused on reaching these recommendations within 2-3 years. Only representatives of groups, which can and will play a major role in realizing the recommendations, are involved in the Goose Management Group.

Meinte Engelmoer will further elaborate on this chapter.

#### **LIMITATIONS**

Any matter not focused on the realization of the recommendations within 2-3 years is not part of the project.

#### **DELIVERABLES**

It is proposed to deliver Milestones in a timeline.

**PRECONDITIONS**

In order to be successful, it is needed to have available both people (representatives, secretariat, chair, experts) and a proper budget to cover additional costs of travelling, experts, data-analysis, and meetings. The governmental partners will cover their own costs for travel & staff. If judicial activities (legislation) are required these costs also have to be covered if the governments cannot provide it.

**ASSUMPTIONS**

It is assumed that the governmental partners fulfil the preconditions. If the preconditions cannot be fulfilled, partly or at whole, the Wadden Sea Board has to be informed.

This work also includes the activities of non-governmental bodies.

A lot of things are unsafe: co-operation

**RELATIONS WITH OTHER PROJECTS**

Conflicting projects: breeding birds in trouble/ grazing projects

There is much attention within the member states for the management of the wild goose populations. Therefore there are many national and regional projects related to this theme. On the international level co-ordinated management of geese populations is a pre-requisite for nature protection. Many international nature protection activities are connected with goose management (Wetlands International, WWF, IUCN, BirdLife International).

Will be filled in further by the participants:

- a) positive and negative experiences
- b) governmental and scientific projects

**PROJECT-CONTROL**

The Goose Management Group of the Wadden Sea Forum was asked to oversee the continuation.

**RISK MANAGEMENT**

Meinte Engelmoer will further elaborate on this chapter.

**COMMUNICATION AND QUALITY PLAN**

Discussion with the project group.

**INITIAL PROJECT-PLANNING**

Governmental project group should be installed within half a year. If this will not be the case, the Wadden Sea Board has to be informed because the project will run into the time problems (2-3 years for implementation).