



Goose Management Group

GMG 1st Meeting

Hamburg, 18 March 2009

Final Draft Minutes

1. Opening

The chairman Niels Kanstrup welcomed the participants and opened the meeting at 11:00 on 18 March 2009. He briefly referred to the background of the meeting, the goose management workshop on 19 – 20 November 2009 in Ribe, at which it was recommended to establish a goose management group. A list of the participants is in **Annex 1**.

2. Adoption of the draft agenda

Document: GMG 1-2 Draft agenda

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

3. Round of introduction and announcements

In order to get better known to each other, a round of introduction took place. The participants, listed in **Annex 1**, briefly described their background, skills and position and responsibility in their organisation.

4. Terms of Reference

Document: GMG 1-4, Draft Terms of Reference

The meeting intensively discussed the draft ToR as it is the agreed and common basis for the work within the management group. The adoption of the ToR was also seen as the formal constitution of the goose management group and its tasks.

In the following, the main discussion points about the ToR are quoted. The final outcome of the discussion is documented in the agreed final ToR, which are in **Annex 3**.

ToR background: It was stated that the increasing of most of goose populations would require a better management of geese, including agri-environmental schemes, which at the present differ across the Wadden Sea Region. Whereas in the Netherlands compensation for measures as well as payments for damage are part of the management scheme, no goose management scheme is implemented in

Denmark. With regard to elaboration of a "strategic trilateral management plan" it was **agreed** to paraphrase this term for a better and clear understanding (see **Annex 3**).

Tasks: The tasks were partly reformulated in order to be more precise. An additional task was added with regard to a platform for knowledge and information exchange. The definition of the Wadden Sea Region was **adopted** as it stands in the WSF report "Breaking the Ice".

Composition: The composition of the group was agreed. The group can consult relevant bodies if/when additional expertise is required.

Timetable: It was **agreed** to submit the draft final report, or an interim report, to the WSF in the 2nd half of 2009.

5. Tasks and objectives

The meeting discussed a number of specific activities to fulfill the objectives outlined in the ToR. The contents of the discussion was a fruitful brainstorming to get an idea what issues had to be covered and how the activities could be structured.

Bart Ebbinge gave an example of goose management in NL, where the geese should be concentrated on 80.000 ha in the whole of the Netherlands, of which 35.000-40.000 ha in the three Wadden Sea provinces. Farmers would get a fixed budget for providing these areas for geese during the winter period plus compensation for the actual damage as assessed by agricultural specialists. An agreement can be signed only for 6 years contracts. This scheme is endorsed by the EU, and will be evaluated in 2009. This example led to the request to compile the different schemes within the Wadden Sea Region as necessary background information. The results of the meetings and workshops in 2007 and 2008 would be used to elaborate a first draft (by the secretariat), which would be amended and improved by contributions of the responsible persons in the four regions.

A further important topic was, with regard to the elaboration of a recommendations and guidance document for the development of a goose management plan in the Wadden Sea region, the elaboration of a tool box to provide the farmers, the administrative level and nature conservation organizations with management possibilities, advice and recommendations. The implementation of management plans would be the responsibility of the regions.

The tool box would contain information about (among others)

- the organization of the management planning process, steering committee, stakeholder forum and communication plan
- tools for prioritizing areas for management
- scaring regimes and their efficiency
- monitoring for accompanying assessment
- the fly-way context
- implementation of EU directives
- use of eco-tourism
- agri-environmental schemes

All issues need to be further developed, particularly ecotourism in view of geese was stated as difficult as it would not guarantee a big surplus or benefit for the farmers.

In the following, the meeting discussed the structure for a recommendations and guidance document for the development of a management plan to be delivered to the Governmental Conference in 2010. It was stated, that the need for a trilateral approach has to be made clear and that the benefits for harmonizing the management schemes must be demonstrated. Accommodating geese is a common issue as actions take in one country would affect the neighboring countries. The discussion resulted in the following draft structure proposal:

- inventory of the current situation
 - goose population and developments
 - used areas for feeding
 - current measures
 - agri-environmental schemes, management schemes, compensation schemes and resulting restrictions
- outlook, also in a view if nothing will change in measures and policies
- description of the benefits of a common management
 - harmonization
 - knowledge exchange through established focal group
 - common monitoring
- options for tool box (agriculture, nature conservation, eco-tourism, hunting)

A draft recommendations and guidance document for the development of a goose management plan, which should be a "selling document" for the governments on different levels, should be available early October 2009, also to consult a goose expert meeting to be held on 9-14 October 2009 in Lund, Sweden (in connection with the Annual Meeting of the Goose Specialist Group of IUCN-Species Survival Commission and Wetlands International, see www.geese.org/gsg). An outline for the structure of the recommendations and guidance document will be elaborated for the next meeting by the chairman and the WSF secretariat in consultation with the GMG.

6. Work Plan

After a brief discussion about a work plan, the meeting **requested** the secretariat to elaborate a draft outline of a work plan for the next meeting. The outline should contain proposals for different working steps and a time table for implementation. So far, the meeting **agreed** on a next meeting on 3 June and further meetings in August 2009 and January/February 2010.

7. Any other business

Jan Steinbring Jensen informed the meeting about an intended Interreg IVA project of Denmark and Schleswig-Holstein. The project would aim to supply a tool for the management of Barnacle geese at the west coast of the two regions, and serve as a pilot project for the elaboration of such tools in the whole Wadden Sea Region. The next call for the project, which encompasses a period of 3 years, would be in August 2009.

The Goose Management Group supported the project and an application under Interreg IVA. It was also **agreed**, to cooperate with each other.

The secretariat pointed towards the upcoming 12th International Scientific Wadden Sea Symposium on 30 March-3 April 2009 in Wilhelmshaven, where Jesper Madsen will give a presentation about the trilateral goose management needs.

8. Next meeting

The next meeting will take place on 3 June 2009. A meeting place will be organized by the WSF secretariat.

9. Closing

The chairman thanked all participants for coming and their fruitful contributions and urged the members to participate in the intersessional work and dialogue. He closed the meeting at 16:00 on 18 March 2009.

Action list

The secretariat will compile available information about the goose management schemes, including compensation schemes, in the different regions.

The GMG members will deliver the necessary input and amendment to the secretariat on request.

The chairman and the WSF secretariat will elaborate an outline for the structure of the recommendations and guidance document for the next meeting.

The secretariat will elaborate a draft outline of a work plan until the Governmental Conference in 2010.

The secretariat will organize the next meeting on 3 June 2009.

Annex 2

Goose Management Group

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Agenda

- Agenda Item 1: Opening**
- Agenda Item 2: Adoption of the draft agenda**
- Agenda Item 3: Round of introduction and announcements**
- Agenda Item 4: Terms of Reference**
- Agenda Item 5: Tasks and objectives**
- Agenda Item 6: Work Plan**
- Agenda Item 7: Any other business**
- Agenda Item 8: Next meeting**
- Agenda Item 9: Closing**

Annex 3

**Goose Management Group
Terms of Reference**
(as adopted on 18 March 2009)

BACKGROUND

The proper management of geese is an issue of increasing relevance in the Wadden Sea Region due to increasing numbers of geese and improved cropping systems favored by geese. On the one hand geese are a natural part of the Wadden Sea and adjoining mainland coastal areas and are a typical element of the Wadden Sea Region biodiversity for which the Wadden Sea states have an international responsibility. They also constitute an important touristic attraction.

On the other hand, some goose species cause increasing damage to farmlands, while current management schemes for geese are highly variable between countries and liable to further improvement and harmonization.

On 19-20 November 2008 a trilateral workshop on goose management was held in Ribe. The workshop, organized jointly by the Environment Centre Ribe, the Wadden Sea Forum and the Common Wadden Sea Secretariat was attended by some 30 representatives from science, agriculture, nature conservation societies, hunters and responsible authorities. It was agreed to establish a working group to prepare recommendations and guidance for the development of a trilateral management plan for the accommodation of geese in the Wadden Sea Region, to be submitted to TGC 11.

RESPONSIBILITY

The Goose Management Group acts under the responsibility of the Wadden Sea Forum (WSF).

COMPOSITION

The Goose Management Group will consist of representatives of the responsible administrations, of the agricultural sector, nature and environment NGO's and goose experts. The secretarial work will be carried out by the Wadden Sea Forum Secretariat.

TASKS

1. To develop, as a joint venture between TWSC and WSF, recommendations and guidance for the development of a trilateral goose management plan to accommodate geese in the Wadden Sea Region, based upon the following premises
 - a. the positive use of the existing national and international regulations, in particular the framework regulations of the EU;
 - b. the recognition of geese as a valued and natural asset of the Wadden Sea Region and the international obligation to accommodate the populations;
 - c. the development of recommendations for improvement and harmonization of management schemes for geese;
 - d. the relevance of a plan to be considered and applied in a wider integrated coastal management framework.

2. To provide advice on the incorporation of the recommendations in the policies of higher levels like EU, TWSC and AEWA.
3. To provide a platform for knowledge and information exchange.
4. To report on request to the WSF plenary and TWG or trilateral board meetings or other relevant groups.

TIMETABLE

The work of the Goose Management Group will start as soon as possible after the adoption of the Terms of Reference. The draft final report, or an interim report, shall be submitted to the WSF in the 2nd half of 2009.

A recommendations and guidance document for the development of a trilateral goose management plan will be submitted to the 11th trilateral Governmental Wadden Sea Conference.

Goose Management Group Members

Chair

- Niels Kanstrup, biologist/wildlife consultant (DK)

Denmark

- Jesper Madsen, scientist
- Kresten Fromsejer, Danish agriculture
- Jan Steinbring Jensen, administration, (John Frikke, Ministry of Env.)
- Knud Flensted/local, Danish Ornithological Society, (to be decided)

Schleswig-Holstein

- Melf Melfsen/Susanne Werner, agriculture
- David Fleet, on behalf of the MLUR
- Hans-Ulrich Rösner/Frank Hofeditz, WWF

Lower Saxony

- Erich Hinrichs, agriculture
- Martin Wendeburg, NLWKN Oldenburg, administration
- Helmut Kruckenberg, NABU

The Netherlands

- Hilbrand Sinnema, agriculture
- To be nominated, administration
- Bart Ebbinge, scientist
- To be nominated, Dutch NGO

Secretariat

- Folkert de Jong, CWSS
- Manfred Vollmer, WSF