



Goose Management Group

GMG 2nd Meeting

Hamburg, 25 April 2012

FINAL DRAFT MINUTES

1. Opening

Document: GMG 2012-2 Draft Agenda

The chair, Mr Hilbrand Sinnema, welcomed the participants and opened the meeting on 25 April at 11:00 hours. A short round of introduction took place. A list of participants is in **Annex 1**.

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

2. Goose management exploratory meeting

Document: GMG 2012-1 summary record

The secretary referred to the document and briefly explained the background of reestablishing the Goose Management Group (GMG). He emphasized the valuable results of the GMG, presented at the Sylt Conference in 2010 and recalled the decision process within the trilateral Wadden Sea Board and the WSF, which finally led to a continuation of the work on a strategic framework scheme for goose management in the Wadden Sea Region (WSR).

3. Announcements

Almost all announcements were statements about the developments in the regions with regard to goose management. These statements are not reproduced in detail here, but could be summarized as follows:

The Netherlands: The organisation and responsibilities for goose management have changed. The responsibility is on the provinces, but the "Ministry of Economic Affairs, Agriculture and Innovation" is also involved regarding policies. A goose management group of the provinces is working towards the implementation of new goose management policies by 2015. The results of the WSF GMG could contribute to the Dutch national approach, if agreed by the provincial group.

Lower Saxony: The situation in goose management is still the same as in 2010. The interest on state level to change policies is quite low. Contracts with the farmers for ecological services are in place for certain areas. Recently, the problem with wintering geese has increased and a total loss of winter wheat as well as of the seed for summer wheat was noticed.

Schleswig-Holstein: In SH, the situation in goose management is still very similar to the situation in 2010. The government does not see goose management as a high priority as measures were in place; however, it is tried to solve problems on a local level and several additional measures had been undertaken.

Denmark: Also in Denmark not much has changed. For the agricultural sector the geese populations still causes problems and the awareness in the region is increasing. A goose management project on Mandø to accommodate geese whilst compensate farmers for measures and damage failed because the project reached low acceptance due to little financial support. Recently a project has started in the Ballum marsh area to test sonic scaring measures.

Further announcements:

Hans-Ulrich Rösner reported about the 13th Brent goose days on Hallig Hooge. The event was very much welcomed and for particular merits, the "Golden Brent Goose Feather" was awarded to Andrew St. Joseph, a Brent goose researcher from England, who has become a farmer later on.

Jesper Madsen informed about a 4-years project in Norway, which was about economic scenarios and cost-effective measures with regard to goose management on regional level. The results would be expected by end of 2013.

He further reported about an international goose management plan for the well-monitored population of pink-footed geese, which would be agreed by AEWA (African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement) in May this year. The countries Norway, Denmark, The Netherlands and Belgium were partners in this management plan.

Meinte Engelman pointed at a review of a goose management plan in Scotland, which could deliver suggestions for the Wadden Sea Region. The document will be made available for the group.

Action: Meinte Engelman to provide the secretariat with the review for further distribution.

4. Terms of Reference

Document: GMG 2012-2-4.1 Draft Terms of Reference Goose Management Group

The meeting focussed in the discussion on the specific tasks, taking into account achievable results and perspectives of the group in political negotiations. It was stated that the ambition level and political support would be very diverse among the regions. But for achieving progress in goose management, a continuation of the former work with the elaboration of a strategic framework scheme and detailed recommendations with regard to spatial solutions, compensation measures and responsibilities would be necessary. This was already agreed in the pre-meeting in February this year and following, the working group was established.

It was further agreed to use the cooperation with the WSB to strive for political decisions, therefore, the delivery of advice to the Wadden Sea Conference in February 2014 would be of great importance. The strategic level of the work was emphasized.

The tasks of the ToR were amended by two further items, which were an inventory of the geese populations in the Wadden Sea Region, the damage caused by the geese and the existing compensation schemes as well as the implementation of a co-financed project about concrete management examples (see attached revised ToR).

Action1: GMG members to comment on revised ToR.

Action2: Jesper Madsen to elaborate a project description

Minority statement:

However, Hans-Ulrich Rösner pointed out, that for his opinion, the document from 2010 already was a strategic framework scheme. It was certainly not perfect, but an acceptable compromise between the different interests. He has doubts that the "new GMG" would be really able to add to that, given that almost no resources are available. For his opinion the next important should be a science based analysis of where the go- and the no-go-areas should be. However, this would go far beyond the foreseeable financial possibilities of the group. Therefore, he suggested focusing the activities on a proposal for e.g. a LIFE+ or an Interreg-Project in order to allow for real progress. This view was not supported by the group.

5. Inventory of information

As agreed under the ToR, an inventory of information due to the management of geese populations should be carried out. This will cover the numbers of geese on a spatial level, damage in general as well as hot spots of damage and existing compensation schemes and measures.

Action1: Jesper Madsen and Kees Koffijberg will deliver an inventory about the geese population in the WSR until the next meeting.

Action2: The responsible authorities in the four regions will be requested to deliver detailed information about compensation schemes and measures. Contact persons are Meinte Engelmoer for NL, John Frikke for DK, Michael Kruse for SH and Knud Sandkühler for Nds. The secretariat will contact the German authorities.

6. Breeding geese

The agenda item was postponed to the next meeting.

7. Draft work plan

The meeting made a start with the elaboration of a work plan, which would be a living document. It was agreed to structure the work into 4 packages:

- Policies development
- Communication and awareness
- Measures
- Knowledge

The draft work plan should be further elaborated for discussion at the next meeting. The delivery of contributions by the GMG members would be a precondition.

Action1: GMG members to deliver contributions to detail the 4 packages. Secretariat to compile contributions and draft a work plan for next meeting.

Action2: Meinte Engelmoer will provide information about possible management measures in Natura 2000 sites with regard to go and no-go areas.

8. Any other business

No other business discussed.

9. Next meeting

The meeting agreed to hold the next GMG meeting on **21 June 2012** in Hamburg. A further meeting was scheduled for **20 September 2012**.

10. Closing

The chair thanked all participants for their contributions and closed the meeting at 15:30 on 25 April 2012.

ANNEX 2

Goose Management Group

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DRAFT ANNOTATED AGENDA

- Agenda item 1. Opening**
- Agenda item 2. Goose management exploratory meeting**
- Agenda item 3. Announcements**
- Agenda item 4. Terms of Reference**
- Agenda item 5. Inventory of information**
- Agenda item 6. Breeding geese**
- Agenda item 7. Draft work plan**
- Agenda item 8. Any other business**
- Agenda item 9. Next meeting**
- Agenda item 10. Closing**