

Resident Greylag Geese – Transitional Challenge Fund 2019 – Invitation to participate

Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) invites local goose management groups (LGMGs) to apply for support to establish sustainable approaches to managing resident greylag (RGL) goose populations in 2019/20.

The Challenge Fund for 2019 has a budget of £25,000. We anticipate therefore allocating an indicative sum of up to £5,000 to successful LGMGs to help develop LGMG-led RGL goose control. All allocations are to be spent before 1 April 2020.

Together with stakeholders, SNH is making the transition from leading demonstration projects (the Adaptive Management Pilots) to enabling land managers to control RGL goose impacts as routine, in parallel with other wildlife management work.

Aims of the Transitional Fund

The aim is to enable farmers and crofters to protect their crops from serious agricultural damage while also maintaining the conservation status of resident greylag geese populations.

At the same time, the Fund will help to maintain a wildlife resource and generate income for the local economy by sustainable management of resident greylag geese populations (RGL).

Priorities

Applications will be assessed against the following priorities:

1. Projects in areas with a high goose density
2. LGMGs that plan to use an adaptive approach to sustainably control resident greylag goose populations to safeguard agricultural crops
3. LGMGs that have already obtained an SNH licence to use an adaptive approach to sustainably control resident greylag goose populations to safeguard agricultural crops
4. LGMGs that can demonstrate match funding for their proposals from other sources
5. LGMGs that are developing self-financing options to reduce their reliance on government funding
6. Farmers and crofters who meet the eligibility criteria for [SNH's out-of-season licence](#)

Eligible activities

The list below is for illustrative purposes and is not a definitive list. Other activities will be considered.

- Establishing links between wildfowling and farmers/crofters through meetings, training in best practice for wildfowling, adaptive management, and in the use of non-lead ammunition.
- Establishing businesses that co-ordinate voluntary and sport shooting efforts to deliver adaptive management
- Innovation to promote sustainable population control, including the purchase of equipment or infrastructure, and training in/exploring new techniques, website development

- Payments will be for one-off purchases/events for example, for items such as mobile chiller facilities, vacuum packing equipment, training events with wildfowlers or to introduce egg oiling/other techniques, to introduce internet sales for goose meat.
- Payments will be made to constituted/established local goose management groups.

Adaptive Management Principles for Goose Population Management

We expect applicants to continue/to adopt the adaptive management principles. To deliver an adaptive management approach, and enable us to allow the shooting of geese in a carefully managed and sustainable way, all proposals will need:

- to know goose numbers, productivity and mortality, especially from shooting
- to have a degree of control over the numbers of geese being shot each year
- to be able to assess population size and trend and adjust shooting levels each year
- to have agreement and full buy-in from local interests.

SNH is willing to offer technical support to help LGMGs to assess population data and life statistics. SNH will also continue to support counts and productivity assessments on Uist, Lewis and Harris and Orkney for a limited period.

Please note: State Aid compliance for this Transitional Challenge Fund is secured under [Agricultural de minimis \(Regulation \(EU\) No 1408/2013\)](#) which allows limited amounts of aid to be given for activities related to the production of agricultural products (e.g. live animals, meat, fruit, vegetables, etc). It does not apply to the processing and/or marketing of these products, and would not therefore apply to the purchase of mobile chiller facilities, vacuum packing equipment, training events with wildfowlers or to introduce egg oiling/other techniques, to introduce internet sales for goose meat. The maximum that can be given to any beneficiary is €20,000 over any consecutive three-year fiscal period. Beneficiaries are responsible for making sure they do not exceed this limit.

The details for your application are shown in Annex A below.

Annex A

Application for Transitional Challenge Fund 2019

Eligibility: Applications are open to LGMGs that have already benefited from support for sustainable resident greylag goose management and also to those that have not.

If your local group would like to participate along the lines outlined we would ask you to consider the questions below and submit a proposal to Scottish Natural Heritage. Local staff from SNH and Rural Payments and Inspectorate Directorate should be able to provide advice to help you develop your proposal.

Please tell us:

Challenges for adaptive management

1. **Challenges** – outline the challenges your LGMG face in adopting an adaptive approach to managing the impacts of resident greylag geese.
2. **Proposal** - What is your proposal for the Transitional Challenge Fund and how would it help you to meet these challenges?
3. **Principles** - outline how you intend to apply the adaptive management principles.
4. **Licencing** - advise if you have obtained an SNH licence to control RGL goose population(s) in 2019 or if you have submitted such a licence application.

Support required

5. **Resources** – estimate resources (costs and staff time) required to deliver your proposal.
6. **SNH support** – estimate the support that you feel is needed from SNH to take forward your proposal (including advice and financial support).
7. **Income** - identify any complementary sources of income (for example from farmers/crofters who will benefit from adaptive management or from other funders).

Further details

8. **Contact details** - provide details about your LGMG; include contact details, the LGMG's constitution and confirm that the LGMG has a bank account or has agreed a bank account that the funds should be paid into.
9. Please provide further details as you feel appropriate.

Please submit your proposal to Morag Milne in SNH by **midnight on 14 June 2019 (Orkney LGMG)**, or by **19 July 2019**. SNH will assess your application and provide a response by 21 June 2019 or, for the later applications, by 2 August 2019.

In the meantime, if you have any queries please contact Morag Milne in SNH (Tel: 01738 458625, Email: morag.milne@snh.gov.uk, Battleby, Redgorton, Perth PH1 3EW).