DD.11 Strengthening the Functioning and Operations of EAAFP Working Groups and Task Forces

Prof Nick Davidson
Chair, Technical Sub-committee

MOP12

WEAVING CONNECTIONS:
Celebrating Migration, Traditional Knowledge, and Innovation across our Flyway

12th Meeting of Partners of the
East Asian–Australasian Flyway Partnership

PARTNERSHIP for the EAST ASIAN - AUSTRALASIAN FLYWAY
EAAFP

Background

- WGs and TFs are a key part of EAAFP, and are responsible for implementation actions for groups of waterbirds, single species or thematic issues
- When the EAAFP was established, 3 Working Groups (Anatidae, Cranes and Shorebirds) were brought forward from the previous Asia-Pacific Migratory Conservation Strategy
- Subsequently, additional WGs and Task Forces (TFs) established by MOP Decisions
  - Now 8 WGs and 11 TFs
- WGs and TFs work on a voluntary basis, and their members contribute expertise to support implementation of the EAAFP
- Most WGs and TFs established before adoption of Partnership's Strategic Plan 2019-2028
  - WG/TF Terms of Reference do not all reflect the current EAAFP implementation priorities and organisational structures
- With Secretariat support, in 2024/25 Technical Sub-committee – as a High Priority task in its 2023-2025 Work Plan – undertook a questionnaire survey of the current structures and operations of WGs and TFs
  - Many thanks to the 12 (of 19) WGs and TFs who responded to this survey
  - Survey analysis is provided in the Report of the TSc, in MOP12 DOC8 Appendix 4
- From this survey, TSc has identified the need for WGs/TFs to review, and as needed, update theirTerms of Reference and work plans
  - To ensure they are best suited to the current priorities and operations of the Partnership

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Background – Masked Finfoot

- MOP11 was made aware of the Critically Endangered status of the Masked Finfoot
  - and the urgent need for its conservation and management throughout its range in S & SE Asi
- MOP11 Decision 12
  - Recognised the urgent need for conservation management activities, and
  - Requested BirdLife International to
    - develop proposal for a Masked Finfoot Task Force, and
    - A prioritised Work Plan
  - for MOP12 consideration and approval
  - These are provided in Appendices 1 and 2 of this MOP12 DD11

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- *Requests* Secretariat to disseminate widely (to Partners and potential donors) the 2024 overview of WG and TF operations
  - To promote greater awareness of role and functions of WGs/TFs
- *Requests* leads of WGs and TFs to review, and as necessary update, their ToR and work plans
  - With Secretariat and TSc support and advice
- *Further requests* WG/TF leads to report on outcomes of their ToR and work plan reviews, and
  - submit updated ToR and work plans for MOP13 consideration
- *Thanks* BirdLife International for preparing Masked Finfoot draft ToR and work plan (Appendices 1 and 2 of this Decision)
- *Approves* establishment of Masked Finfoot Task Force and its ToR and work plan

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Other WG/TF - progress

- Some WGs/TFs have been actively developing or updating their work since MOP11. This includes:
  - *Shorebird Working Group*: updated national colour-marking schemes for shorebirds – MOP12 DD 10 Appendix
  - *Yellow Sea Ecoregion TF*: MOP12 DD13 review and recommended course of [future] action
  - *Spoon-billed Sandpiper TF*: MOP12 DD14 provides updated Single Species Action Plan
  - *Far Eastern Curlew TF*: MOP12 DD15 provides interim review of its Single Species Action Plan
  - *Monitoring TF*: Discussions (incl. MOP12 side event led by Wetlands International) on re-invigorating this TF

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