TWELFTH MEETING OF PARTNERS OF THE EAST ASIAN – AUSTRALASIAN FLYWAY PARTNERSHIP
Cebu, Philippines, 8-14 November 2025

Decision 12

EAAFP Youth Task Force Terms of Reference and Workplan (2025-2028)

Submitted by the EAAFP Secretariat on behalf of the EAAFP Youth Task Force

Summary

Recognizing youth as essential stakeholders in the East Asian–Australasian Flyway Partnership (EAAFP), the Partnership will significantly benefit from integrating youth perspectives and participation into the conservation of migratory waterbirds and their habitats in the flyway.

This Decision therefore requests all Partners to endorse the EAAFP Youth Task Force Terms of Reference and Workplan (2025-2028) through the following actions:

- Mandated by MOP11 Decision 10, the EAAFP established the Youth Task Force to mainstream youth engagement within the flyway, with the goal of raising awareness and advancing youth-led conservation of migratory waterbirds, their habitats, and the livelihoods of dependent communities;
- The Youth Task Force, a youth-led initiative, actively advocates for conservation and creates a structured pathway for young leaders and emerging professionals to engage with the Partnership, cultivating future leaders in alignment with the EAAFP's Strategic Plan and CEPA Action Plan;
- The Youth Task Force Workplan provides a framework to achieve improved and sustainable outcomes over the period 2025-2028 for migratory waterbirds and their habitats through youth engagement, capacity building, and awareness raising;
- The Workplan is structured around three key objectives: (1) Strengthening Flyway-wide Collaboration and Partnership with Other Youth-led Initiatives, (2) Fostering Youth Leadership and Strengthening Youth Capacity in Flyway Conservation, and (3) Strengthening youth-led CEPA by Cultivating Awareness and Promoting Participation in Flyway-themed Events;
- The Terms of Reference (TOR) of the EAAFP Youth Task Force is critical for establishing a clear, structured framework to guide the Task Force's operations, ensuring effective youth engagement in the conservation of migratory waterbirds and their habitats across the East Asian–Australasian Flyway (EAAF).

Background

1. Following the adoption of MOP11 Decision Youth Mainstreaming in the EAAFP, the EAAFP Youth Task Force was gradually established with the guidance of the Secretariat and CEPA Working Group to promote effective and inclusive youth-led initiatives across the flyway.

2. The Youth Task Force called for volunteers as Core Members on 19 December 2024, with 27 Core Members across 14 countries along the flyway region.

3. Noting the Youth Task Force's active engagement demonstrated through initiatives including:
    a. Issuing the EAAFP Youth Task Force Statement on World Migratory Bird Day
    b. Hosting a Webinar on EAAFP Youth Task Force Initiatives
    c. Co-organising "*From Resolution to Action: Youth Leadership and the Future of the Convention on Wetlands*" for Ramsar COP15
    d. Launching a Children's Storybook at the 12th Meeting of Partners (MOP12)

4. The Youth Task Force successfully applied for the Small Grant Fund for Working Groups and Task Forces, with the project of developing the EAAFP Youth Task Force Workplan (2025-2028) and Terms of Reference.

5. The Youth Task Force's Core Officers convened in Incheon, Republic of Korea to draft the Workplan and Terms of Reference, through skill-sharing sessions and workshops, and supported by the EAAFP Secretariat.

Summary of Decisions:

- That Partners endorse the EAAFP Youth Task Force Terms of Reference and Workplan (2025-2028) in Appendices 1 and 2.

Decision 12

EAAFP Youth Task Force Terms of Reference and Workplan (2025-2028)

Submitted by the EAAFP Secretariat, on behalf of the EAAFP Youth Task Force

Recognising the vital role of youth participation in promoting inclusivity and intergenerational equity across the East Asian-Australasian Flyway;

Recalling the creation of the EAAFP Youth Task Force as established by the MOP11 Decision 10 Youth Mainstreaming in the EAAFP;

Acknowledging the CEPA Working Group for advising the establishment of the Youth Task Force and providing guidance and support in its foundational stage;

Acknowledging the Secretariat's sustained commitment to the Youth Task Force, providing essential organizational, technical, and financial backing for youth-driven conservation of migratory waterbirds and habitats in the flyway region;

Further acknowledging the EAAFP Small Grant Fund for Working Groups and Task Forces for funding the in-person meeting workshop to develop the Terms of Reference and the Workplan of the Youth Task Force in Incheon, Republic of Korea;

Recognising that the Terms of Reference provides a clear and concrete set of guidance to operate the Youth Task Force at a flyway level;

Further noting the development of the Workplan identifying youth-led priority actions for the period of 2025-2028, in line with the objectives stated in the Terms of Reference;

Requesting that each EAAFP Partner and Non-Government Partner to nominate at least 1 youth representative to the Youth Task Force;

Further recognising the existing youth flyway initiatives in other regions, such as the East Atlantic Flyway Youth Forum and Pacific Americas Flyway Youth Forum, that promote youth leadership and recognition of youth initiatives in other flyway regions; and

Inviting all Partners, Working Groups, and Task Forces to actively support youth-led initiatives through capacity-building programmes and dedicated funding mechanisms, that enable sustained youth engagement;

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

1. *Adopts* the Terms of Reference and Workplan (2025-2028) of the EAAFP Youth Task Force in Appendices 1 and 2;

2. *Requests* each EAAFP Country Partner to appoint a Youth Focal Point as Country Coordinators of the Youth Task Force;

3. *Invites* EAAFP Non-Government Partners to recommend a youth representative as part of the Youth Task Force;

4. *Calls* for the support and hosting of the East Asian–Australasian Flyway Youth Forum from Partners to gather Core Members of the Youth Task Force once every two years;

5. *Encourages* funding and in-kind support from the Partners for the mobilization and operation of the Youth Task Force in line with its Workplan;

6. *Affirms the importance of* youth participation in MOPs and Governance Committees (e.g. observer status) to foster youth leadership and consider perspectives; and

7. *Requests* the continued coordination and support of the Secretariat in implementing the Workplan, including collaboration with Partners, Committees, Working Groups, Task Forces, and other relevant initiatives.

Appendix 1

Terms of Reference of the EAAFP Youth Task Force

Background

Mandated by MOP11 Decision 10, the Partnership adopted the creation of the EAAFP Youth Task Force with the goal to promote mainstreaming across the East Asian–Australasian Flyway (EAAF) to raise awareness and advance conservation of migratory waterbirds and their habitats and the livelihoods of the people who depend on them. This youth-led body actively advocates, as well as creates a system and structured pathway for young leaders and emerging professionals to engage with the Partnership, cultivating future leaders for its goals and missions in line with EAAFP's Strategic Plan and CEPA Action Plan.

The Youth Task Force brings together young advocates, professionals, researchers, community members, conservationists and members from the private sector from countries within the EAAF who are committed to raising awareness and taking proactive measures to conserve migratory waterbirds and their wetland habitats.

Mission

To promote collaboration among different youth sectors within the EAAF through a shared collective goal to protect migratory waterbirds and their habitats through educational discussions, research, advocacy work, and participation in local, national, and international gatherings and events.

Objectives

1. Strengthening Flyway-wide Collaboration and Partnership with other Youth-led Initiatives
2. Fostering Youth Leadership and Strengthening Youth Capacity in Flyway Conservation
3. Strengthening CEPA by Cultivating Awareness and Promoting Participation in Flyway-themed Events

Management Structure

Head Officers	Responsibility
Chair	● Oversees the Task Force's strategic direction in line with its mission and objectives, as well as leads the implementation of the Task Force's Workplan. Officially represents EAAFP Youth Task Force at events and partnerships.
Vice-Chair	● Supports the Chair in the implementation of the Task Force's Workplan.

	● Assumes the Chair's duties and responsibilities when the Chair is absent. ● Assists the Chair in the coordination of organizational projects, activities, and other initiatives.
Communications Officers	● Manage the social media accounts of the EAAFP Youth Task Force. ● Create graphic materials and formulates communication strategies in line with the Workplan.
Research Officers	● Provide contents to the Communications Officers on research about migratory waterbirds and their habitats in the EAAF region for publications. ● Create research work for publications and reports about migratory waterbirds and their habitats in the flyway region.
Knowledge and Capacity Building Officers	● Support scientific and participatory capacity building such as educational discussions, webinars, and workshops. ● Design knowledge products, especially for youth.
Secretariat and Finance Officers	● Maintain the records of the Youth Task Force and is assigned in managing the email and cloud-sharing platform. ● Schedule meetings and handle administrative tasks, including writing the minutes of the meetings and drafting letters and sending them to the recipients, and managing invoices in general.
Country Coordinators [i.e. Youth Focal Points]	● Lead the initiatives of the Youth Task Force in their own respective countries. ● Support youth engagement at a national level and in Flyway Network Sites. ● Work closely with the Communications Officers to amplify regional campaigns.
Network Members	● Amplify the work of the Youth Task Force advocating for migratory waterbirds and their habitats in the flyway region. ● Participate in the projects and programmes of the Youth Task Force in line with the Workplan.

The selection of the core members will be made upon appointments from the YouthTask Force. There will then be different teams to support the officers including:

1. Communications Team
2. Research Team
3. Secretariat and Finance Team
4. Knowledge and Capacity Building Team

5. Country Coordinators
6. Network Members

Communications and Meetings

The Youth Task Force will conduct all of its meetings virtually, or in-person meetings can occur when funding is available.

Regular meetings will be conducted upon the decision and agreement of the Youth Task Force Core Members.

The Chair is responsible for presiding over the meetings. If ever the Chair is absent, the Vice-Chair will take place in leading the meeting. The EAAFP Secretariat support may be requested as necessary.

Geographic Scope and Membership

The Core Officers of the Youth Task Force will be composed of youths from EAAFP Partner countries. Membership to the network will be open to youths from all countries across the EAAF region.

All youth members must be aged 18-35 as noted in the MOP11 Decision 10. A membership selection process will take place to determine selected members to join as volunteers for the Youth Task Force and there will typically be 3-4 chosen youth members per each country.

The Chair, Vice-Chair, Head and Vice-Head Officers, and Core members shall serve 2-year terms, which may be renewed every MOP. Officers can serve for a maximum of 3 terms.

Selection of Core Officers (Heads and Vice-Heads). The Heads and Vice-Heads of the Youth Task Force should have qualifications that align with their roles. The Core Officers should then be elected by the Youth Task Force Core Members.

Selection Criteria of Core Members. All Core Members should demonstrate thought leadership and experience in youth engagement and biodiversity conservation within the EAAF, with a high level of commitment.

Nomination of Country Coordinators and Youth Representatives from EAAFP Partners

The Country Coordinators can be officially appointed by the National Focal Points of the EAAFP Partners and officially communicated to the EAAFP Secretariat. In the absence of an appointed representative, the Youth Task Force Core Officers will select from the current Core Members demonstrating a high level of commitment.

Network Members

Applications for membership to the network will be open to youth aged 18 to 35 who are nationals of EAAFP Partner countries and countries within the EAAF. The application process will be conducted

biennially following the MOP cycle. Individuals who have served as members previously must reapply for each term to maintain their membership.

Managing the Group. If Officers are uncontactable for more than 4 months, the Youth Task Force shall find a new replacement, if needed. Should there be an Officer who wishes to withdraw, they should provide advanced notice in a letter addressed to the Chair a minimum of thirty (30) days prior to their final day to ensure orderly replacement of the vacated position.

The Youth Task Force aims to promote inclusivity and diversity and the group will not allow or tolerate any form of racism, sexism, ageism, homophobia, and any discriminatory remarks and behaviours. Officers and Members must not use the group for their own personal, financial or political benefit.

Sustainability. The Youth Task Force ensures long-term sustainability and continuous engagement of the youth sector through a structured system tied to every EAAFP's MOP; at each meeting, the selection of Chair, Vice-Chair, and Officers will occur, providing opportunities for fresh perspectives and wider participation, while the outgoing Task Force Officers will undergo planned transitions at these aspects and facilitating orderly leadership handovers and onboarding for new members and officers.

Appendix 2

Workplan (2025-2028) of the EAAFP Youth Task Force

Objective 1: Strengthening Flyway-wide Collaboration and Partnership with other Youth-led Initiatives		
1.1 Champion youth engagement in the flyway and develop partnerships with other youth-led initiatives	1.1.1. Organize a biennial EAAF Youth Forum to convene Youth Task Force Core Members for in-person engagement, learning and collaboration with support from EAAFP Partners, subject to available funding	High Priority
	1.1.2. Participate or organize side events and set up a Youth Task Force booth at relevant events (i.e. EAAFP MOP, Wetlands COP, CMS COP, etc.) to showcase youth-led initiatives in the flyway region. - Posters featuring work by Youth Task Force members (i.e. local community works, research works)	Mid Priority
	1.1.3. Collaborating with other youth groups and relevant stakeholders - Establish a partnership with local clubs in schools and universities to conduct related activities (i.e. WMBD, bird-watching activities, etc.)	High Priority
	1.1.4. Recognize and promote the youth-led contributions and achievements of the youth in the flyway - Highlight youth-led stories and achievements through news articles, blogs, and social media posts, and other publicity materials - Present recognition award(s) at the EAAF Youth Forum to honour youth with outstanding contributions to the flyway	High Priority
Objective 2: Fostering Youth Leadership and Strengthening Youth Capacity in Flyway Conservation		
2.1 Advance professional development and build capacity of Task Force members with support of the Partnership	2.1.1. Facilitate intergenerational knowledge transfer by establishing a one-on-one structured mentorship program by pairing Youth Task Force members with experienced current/past members (mid to late career professionals) in EAAFP (Partners, Governance Committees, Working Groups, and Task Forces)	High Priority

	- Develop a mentor-mentee program with relevant criteria (i.e. experience, expertise, availability, role description, expectation of level of involvement) - Use a matching process to pair mentors and mentees effectively based on the type of work (i.e. local communities, research, CEPA, etc.)	
	2.1.2. Facilitate skill-sharing among Youth Task Force members for specialized skills and encourage participation in online training/webinars. Explore available online toolkits, training, and webinars to support upskilling (i.e. leadership, public speaking, proposal writing for securing funding, etc.)	High Priority
	2.1.3. Drive professional learning and advancement of Youth Task Force members through trainings and participation in regional and international conferences and conventions with voluntary support from interested Partners as well as other funding mechanisms where feasible	High Priority
	2.1.4. Explore opportunities with the EAAFP Flyway University Alliance and support youth participation in the Science Symposium	Low Priority
	2.1.5 Foster youth leadership by integrating youth perspectives into EAAFP governance, including participation in Governance Committees (e.g., as observers), where appropriate and feasible	High priority
Objective 3: Strengthening youth-led CEPA by Cultivating Awareness and Promoting Participation in flyway-themed events		
3.1 Educate next generation, youth members, communities, and other relevant stakeholders the need to protect migratory waterbirds and their habitats in EAAF	3.1.1. Develop materials and organize events to produce and promote contents for CEPA - Create and maintain a rolling online event calendar including special day posts, activities related to the Youth Task Force - Host webinar sessions or offline events coincide with certain events (i.e. WMBD) - Support material translation efforts in the flyway	High Priority

	- Disseminate and promote the use of educational toolkits to Youth Task Force members working with local communities, students, and other stakeholders - Develop a children's storybook centred on flyway and shorebird themes - Host a visual art contest for youth and children 3.2.2. Develop an interactive social media strategy for wide range/diverse audience - Publish social media posts regularly and develop thematic content such as storytelling, traditional knowledge, short video series, etc. 3.2.3. Establish and maintain a Youth Task Force webpage on the EAAFP website - Coordinate with the EAAFP Secretariat in maintaining the webpage - Serve as the database of the initiatives of the Youth Task Force	High Priority Mid Priority
3.2 Participate in events, conducting research and monitoring of migratory waterbird species in their habitats to assess their status and promote citizen science initiatives	3.2.1 Facilitate youth participation in field activities and flyway-themed events - Encourage youth involvement in the Asian Waterbird Census (AWC), learn from best practices from other countries - Provide support to increase involvement of youth in events such as bird races, Global Big Day, WMBD - Encourage contributions from field activities to citizen science platforms such as eBird, iNaturalist, and others.	High Priority
3.3 Collaborate with the EAAFP Partners and local communities on sustainable development to safeguard migratory waterbirds and their habitats and conduct of knowledge exchange	3.3.1 Participate in site-level activities related to youth engagement, especially for Task Force Network Members	Mid Priority