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

Decision 1

Partnership Document

Submitted by Management Committee

Summary

The Partnership document was adopted at MOP1 in 2006. No substantial changes have been proposed since the Partnership document was endorsed, except for minor updates to the Annexes. Given the Partnership document is approaching 20 years old, it was reviewed by Management Committee as part of the governance harmonisation project during the intersessional period to identify any areas for improvement and possible amendments. Management Committee identified a range of potential improvements and Partners were consulted on the proposed amendments in mid-2024. Partners were also invited to suggest further areas of improvement. Management Committee endorsed the proposed amendments at Attachment A for consideration at MOP12.

In accordance with paragraph 9(6) of the Partnership document, *Partners may amend the text of this Partnership document by consensus at Meetings of the Partners*.

Partners are invited to review and adopt proposed amendments outlined at Attachment A.

Background

1. The Partnership document was adopted at the 1st Meeting of Partners in 2006. Since its adoption, minor amendments have been approved by Partners to the Annexes, but no amendments have been made to the substantive text of the Partnership document.
2. On behalf of Partners, the Management Committee reviewed the Partnership text at its meetings on 6 July 2023 and 20 March 2024. Management Committee members identified out-of-date text, including lapsed resolutions from Ramsar and the Convention on Migratory Species referenced in the Introduction, out-of-date or incomplete annexes and minor editorial

inaccuracies. The Management Committee agreed to consult Partners on any further amendments prior to consideration at MOP12.

3. On behalf of the Management Committee, the Chair circulated proposed amendments to the Partnership document on 3 April 2024 to all Partners and invited comments by 31 May.
4. The Chair hosted a webinar on 2 May 2024 to support consultation and seek views on the proposed amendments or to address points of clarification.
5. Four Partners attended the webinar (New Zealand Government, Wild Bird Society of Japan, FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific and the Australasian Wader Studies Group) and four Partners submitted written comments (New Zealand Government, Convention on Migratory Species, International Crane Foundation and the Australasian Wader Studies Group).
6. In summary, Partners were broadly supportive of the proposed changes. New Zealand proposed a new organizational structure to better support governance, Committee functions and lines of reporting. The Australasian Wader Studies Group largely supported New Zealand's approach.
7. New Zealand also proposed the replacement of the Partnership objectives with high level, broader principles to allow for more flexibility, particularly when developing Partnership activities.
8. There was support for the deletion or updating of several appendices and other minor editorial amendments to the Partnership document.
9. To address comments raised by Partners, a number of additional amendments were proposed by Management Committee including:
    a. Amending the Introduction to remove out-of-date information. It was viewed that this will avoid text going out-of-date in the future. It was further suggested that the deleted information in the Introduction could be transferred to the website or other publications where necessary.
    b. A clear description of Committees, Sub-Committee and their work, including reporting lines in paragraph 9. It was proposed that the Technical Sub-Committee be elevated to a full Committee to oversee technical elements of the Partnership and work closely with the EAAFP Science Unit and working groups and task forces. If Partners agree to this proposal, the Chair of the Technical Committee would still be invited to attend Management Committee meetings, but would work more independently on its programme of work. Due to this recommendation, the name of the Technical Sub-Committee is displayed in [square brackets] until Partners provide further guidance at MOP12.
    c. The deletion of Appendix V and VI. An update to Appendix IV was included based on advice received from the Technical Sub-Committee and their updates to the Site Information Sheet.
    d. Minor text amendments throughout the Partnership document to improve clarity and structure.
10. During its meeting on 20 November 2024, the Management Committee reconsidered the revised version of the Partnership document and approved its submission to MOP12. The Management Committee discussed New Zealand's proposal to replace the Partnership Objectives with broad principles, but it was decided that it went beyond the intent of the harmonization project, and it was a matter for Partners to decide through a separate process.

11. The revised Partnership document endorsed by the Management Committee is at Attachment A.
12. Partners are invited to review the revised Partnership document and provide any final comments.

Decision:

- That Partners approve the proposed amendments to the EAAFP Partnership document at Attachment A