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

Document 19

Election and Appointment of Technical Advisory Group Members[1,2]

Submitted by the Technical Advisory Group

Summary

In accordance with the MOP11 Decision 4, candidates for membership of the EAAFP Technical Sub-committee (TSc) are nominated by Partners, and that the TSc membership is appointed by Partners at each MOP.

The TSc has provided guidance to assist Partners in the appointment of members to serve from the conclusion of MOP12 through to the conclusion of MOP13.
Partners are invited to approve the proposed candidates on the basis of nominations received.

It should be noted that the subsequent composition (after MOP12) of the TSc may be subject to change, pending the adoption of Draft Decision 4.

Introduction

1. This paper aims to assist Partners in their deliberations to nominate members to the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) to serve from the close of the 12th Meeting of Partners to the close of the 13th Meeting of Partners.

2. The EAAFP Technical Sub-committee (TSc) was formally established by MOP10/Decision 4 in 2018 in accordance with paragraph 9(9) of the Partnership document.

3. The Terms of Reference of the Technical Sub-Committee (MOP11/Decision 3) states that the general function of the TSc is to "…provides scientific and technical advice to, *inter alia*, the

[1] Note: In accordance with the adopted MOP12/DD.4 Terms of Reference of the Technical Sub-Committee (TsC) the names of the sub-committee has been updated to the ***Technical Advisory Group (TAG)***. This report uses the updated name.
[2] Note: Recommendations from the TSc Chair for the appointment of Technical Advisory Group (TAG) members 2025-2027 by Partners can be found in Document 19 – Addendum 1

Meeting of the Partners, the Secretariat, any other body set up under the Partnership or any Partner."

4. Recalling that under the terms of MOP11 Decision 4, candidates for membership of the TSc are nominated by Partners, and that the TSc membership is appointed by Partners at each MOP.

5. In accordance with the Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure (MOP11/Decision 3), the membership of the TSc is composed of up to 10 experts, appointed in their own right for their relevant expertise. The composition of the TSc is as follows:

   a. Ten members with expertise in regional, and thematic issues and with, as far as possible, gender balance and with a geographical, thematic and species balance of expertise;
   b. The Head of the EAAFP Science Unit as an observer *ex officio*, without the right to vote; and
   c. The Chair of the Management Committee shall have the right to participate in meetings of the Technical Sub-committee as an observer *ex officio*, without the right to vote.; and
   d. Representatives of other regional waterbird flyway initiatives shall be invited to participate in meetings of the Technical sub-committee as permanent observers *ex officio*, without the right to vote.

6. TSc members are nominated by EAAFP Partners and are then appointed by Partners at each MOP. When making appointments, Partners are invited to consider the benefits associated with some continuity of membership rather than have all members change at the same time.

7. Under its Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure (MOP11/Decision 3), TSc Members shall elect a Chair and Vice Chair, for a term of two (2) years. The Chair is an observer of the Management Committee.

8. At MOP11, the TSc elected Prof Nick Davidson as Chair of the TSc and Prof Taej Mundkur as Vice Chair of the TSc.

9. The Table below indicates currently serving members of the TSc and their history as members.

Current Members of the Technical Sub-Committee (2023-2025)			
Position	**Member**	**History of the Technical Sub-Committee**	**Eligible for a further term**
Chair	Prof Nick Davidson	MOP10 – MOP12 Chair,	No
Vice-Chair	Prof Taej Mundkur	MOP11 – MOP12 Vice-Chair, MOP10-MOP11 member	No
Member	Mr David Melville	MOP10 – MOP12 member	No
Member	Dr Choi Chang-yong	MOP10 – MOP12 member	No

Member	Mr Casey Burns	MOP10 – MOP12 member	No
Member	Dr Sayam Chowdhury	MOP11 – MOP12 member	Yes
Member	Prof Cao Lei	MOP11 – MOP12 member	Yes
Member	Mr Spike Millington	MOP11 – MOP12 member	Yes
Member	Prof Ir. Dewi Malia Prawiradilaga	MOP11 – MOP12 member	Yes
Member	Mr Bena Smith	MOP11 – MOP12 member	Yes

10. Based on past elections, five members, Prof Nick Davidson, Prof Taej Mundkur, Mr Casey Burns, Dr Choi Chang-yong, and Mr David Melville, will have completed two consecutive terms and are required to step down as Sub-Committee members at the end of MOP12.

11. The remaining five members are eligible for re-appointment to serve one more term. They are invited to consider their nomination for re-appointment and continue to MOP13 and to discuss this with their nominating Partner.

12. The Partnership expresses its appreciation to TSc for its expert advice and guidance since 2018.

13. Special thanks are extended to those stepping down after two consecutive terms at MOP12, namely, Prof. Nick Davidson (Chair), Prof. Taej Mundkur (Vice-Chair), Mr. David Melville, Dr. Chang-yong Choi, and Mr. Casey Burns, for their contributions to the work of the TSc during 2024–2025.

14. Noting that under the terms of The TSc Rules of Procedure (MOP11 Decision 3), the new Chair and Vice-Chair of the Technical Sub-committee for 2025-2027 will be appointed by the members of the TSc, as soon as possible following their appointment by MOP12, and preferably before its close (MOP12 Decision 4).

15. The 11 nominations received from Partners for TAG 2025-2027 appointment are:

TAG Nominee	**Nominated by Partner**	**Re-nomination or new nomination**	**Current role(s) and recent expertise**
Mr Bena Smith	Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust	Re-nomination	WWT Senior Project Manager (International). Expertise in coastal and inland wetland management, restoration and waterbird monitoring in from many countries in East and Southeast Asia and the UK.

Dr Sayam Chowdhury	Bangladesh Forest Department	Re-nomination	Conservation biologist. Current research involves understanding the coastal habitat requirements of migratory shorebirds, and factors driving their population decline.
Mr Spike Millington	Hanns Seidel Foundation	Re-nomination	Senior Advisor, International Crane Foundation. Experienced in leading and working with multidisciplinary teams in complex environmental programs involving donor and partner coordination, on wetlands and waterbirds (especially Cranes).
Prof Cao Lei	Wetlands International	Re-nomination	Professor at the University of the Chinese Academy of Sciences. Specialist in biodiversity, movement ecology and waterbird research.
Dr Naya Brangenberg	Department of Conservation, New Zealand	New nomination	Senior Adviser (Animal Health) – Operational Readiness, Ministry for Primary Industries, Biosecurity, New Zealand. Invited Expert to EAAFP TSc 2023-2025. Veterinarian with expertise in animal health and disease surveillance, including avian influenza.
Dr Birgita Hansen	Australasian Wader Studies Group (AWSG) & Pukorokoro Miranda Naturalists Trust (PMNT)	New nomination	Chair of the Australasian Wader Studies Group. Senior Research Fellow at Federation University, Australasia. Expertise in waterbird ecology, wetland protection, renewable energy impacts, citizen science and shorebird conservation. Leads national research and monitoring programme on Latham's Snipe.
Dr Hwa-Jung Kim	Ministry of Environment, Republic of Korea	New nomination	National Institute of Biological Resources, Republic of Korea. Expertise in ornithology, especially the ecology, monitoring and migration of waterbirds. Research and conservation of migratory waterbirds in RoK.
Mr Ward Hagemeijer	Wetlands International	New nomination	Senior Adviser at Wetlands International. Extensive experience in waterbird flyways research and

			implementation, including counting, banding and GPS-tracking of migratory waterbirds. Co-developed and lead implementation of the GEF-funded *Wings over Wetlands (WOW)* project in the AEWA region. Has served on the AEWA Technical Committee and the board of the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network..
Prof Lei Guangchun	National Forestry and Grassland Administration, China	New nomination	Professor in ecology, and director for the Centre of East Asia-Australasia Flyway Studies at Beijing Forestry University. Extensive leadership experience in wetland and migratory bird conservation. Former member of Scientific and Technical Review Panel of the Ramsar Convention and STRP Chair 2020 to 2022.
Prof Zhang Zhengwang	National Forestry and Grassland Administration, China	New nomination	Professor at Beijing Normal University. Currently serves as the President of China Ornithological Society. Expertise, including satellite tracking, in the 5ehaviour, breeding ecology, and population trends of key waterbird species,
Dr Piyakarn Teartisup	ONEP Thailand	New nomination	Assistant Professor, Faculty of Environment and Resource Studies, Mahidol University, Thailand. Expertise in wetland and watershed management in SE Asia, ecosystem services and crane ecology.

Decision:

- Partners at the 12th Meeting of the Partners are requested to:

    1. Approve the appointments of 10 members of the TAG for 2025-2027, based on the nominations received:

TAG Member	Current role(s) and recent expertise
Mr Bena Smith	WWT Senior Project Manager (International). Expertise in coastal and inland wetland management, restoration and waterbird monitoring in from many countries in East and Southeast Asia and the UK.
Dr Sayam Chowdhury	Conservation biologist. Current research involves understanding the coastal habitat requirements of migratory shorebirds, and factors driving their population decline.
Prof Lei Guangchun	Professor in ecology, and director for the Centre of East Asia-Australasia Flyway Studies at Beijing Forestry University. Extensive leadership experience in wetland and migratory bird conservation. Former member of Scientific and Technical Review Panel of the Ramsar Convention and STRP Chair 2020 to 2022.
Prof Cao Lei	Professor at the University of the Chinese Academy of Sciences. Specialist in biodiversity, movement ecology and waterbird research.
Dr Naya Brangenberg	Senior Adviser (Animal Health) – Operational Readiness, Ministry for Primary Industries, Biosecurity, New Zealand. Invited Expert to EAAFP TSc 2023-2025. Veterinarian with expertise in animal health and disease surveillance, including avian influenza.
Dr Birgita Hansen	Chair of the Australasian Wader Studies Group. Senior Research Fellow at Federation University, Australasia. Expertise in waterbird ecology, wetland protection, renewable energy impacts, citizen science and shorebird conservation. Leads national research and monitoring programme on Latham's Snipe.
Dr Hwa-Jung Kim	National Institute of Biological Resources, Republic of Korea. Expertise in ornithology, especially the ecology, monitoring and migration of waterbirds. Research and conservation of migratory waterbirds in RoK.
Mr Ward Hagemeijer	Senior Adviser at Wetlands International. Extensive experience in waterbird flyways research and implementation, including counting, banding and GPS-tracking of migratory waterbirds. Co-developed and lead implementation of the GEF-funded Wings over Wetlands (WOW) project in the AEWA region. Has served on the AEWA Technical Committee and the board of the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network.
Dr Piyakarn Teartisup	Assistant Professor, Faculty of Environment and Resource Studies, Mahidol University, Thailand. Expertise in wetland and watershed management in SE Asia, ecosystem services and crane ecology.
Mr Spike Millington	Senior Advisor, International Crane Foundation. Experienced in leading and working with multidisciplinary teams in complex environmental programs involving donor and partner coordination, on wetlands and waterbirds (especially Cranes).

2. Instruct the Technical Advisory Group to prepare its 2025-2027 work plan and proposed priorities as soon as possible following MOP12, and to submit the work plan to the Management Committee for approval.