

TENTH MEETING OF PARTNERS TO THE PARTNERSHIP FOR EAST ASIAN – AUSTRALASIAN FLYWAY
Changjiang, 10-14 December 2018



Decision 5

Establishment of the Science Unit for EAAFP Secretariat

Submitted by National Forestry and Grassland Administration (People's Republic of China) and Center for East Asian-Australasian Flyway Studies (Beijing Forestry University)

Summary

Partners attending the 10th Meeting of the Partners are requested to endorse:

- the establishment of the Science Unit for EAAFP Secretariat;
- the MoU (Annex 1) and ToR (Annex 2) of the Science Unit;
- the work plan 2019-2020 of the Science Unit (Annex 3).

1. Introduction

At the 9th Meeting of Partners (MoP9) to the EAAFP in January 2017, the Partners heard that the Science Officer position in the EAAFP Secretariat was discontinued in June 2016 due to a lack of funds. As a result, the National Forestry and Grassland Administration, People's Republic of China and the Center for East Asian - Australasian Flyway Studies based at Beijing Forestry University (hereinafter referred to as the "CEAAF") proposed establishing a Science Unit for the Secretariat to be complementary in function to the previous Science Officer to support the scientific and technical needs of the Partnership. The CEAAF then developed a draft Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between themselves and the EAAF Secretariat for establishing the Science Unit, as well as a draft Terms of Reference (ToR) and workplan for the Science Unit. These documents were circulated to Partners and based on the feedback, the drafts were revised and updated according to the new EAAFP Strategic Plan 2019-2028.

The Science Unit would be a part of the EAAFP Secretariat and take duties and responsibilities according to the ToR approved at MoP10, which may include maintenance of information platform, coordination of Flyway Network Sites, improvement of monitoring and training work with EAAFP Technical Sub-Committee and Working Groups, and Task Forces.

2. Structure of the Science Unit

The Science Unit will be structured under five functions to support the EAAFP:

- a) information platform building and maintenance;
- b) Flyway Site Network supporting;
- c) support to monitoring programmes;

- d) undertaking scientific and technical reviews, and
- e) support to communication related to science.

3. Funding

CEAAF is responsible for the fund raising to make sure the smooth running of Science Unit.

4. Decision

The 10th Meeting of Partners to the EAAFP:

- *Agrees* to formally establish the Science Unit for EAAFP Secretariat;
- *Approves* the Memorandum of Understanding and Terms of Reference in Annex 1 and 2 respectively;
- *Endorse* the work plan for 2019-2020 of the Science Unit.

Annex 1

Memorandum of Understanding for EAAFP Secretariat Science Unit

Party A: Beijing Forestry University

Party B: East Asian - Australasian Flyway Partnership Secretariat

In order to promote the research, conservation, and management of migratory birds and their habitats in the East Asian-Australasian Flyway (EAAF), and to maintain and develop a long-term cooperation, the center for East Asian-Australasian Flyway Studies based at Beijing Forestry University (hereinafter referred to as the “CEAAF”) and the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership Secretariat (hereinafter referred to as the “EAAFP Secretariat”) establish the Science Unit for East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership (“EAAFP Science Unit”, hereafter designated).

Article 1 Objectives

Overall goal:

To provide scientific support to EAAFP for the conservation of migratory waterbirds, their habitats and the livelihoods of people dependent upon them through jointly setup of the Science Unit

Target:

The Science Unit will provide scientific and technical support to Partners, Working Groups and Task Forces.

Target 1: To establish the East Asian-Australasian Flyway information platform including waterbird populations, habitats, color marking and satellite tracking, to provide support for scientific research and conservation management of the species and their habitats and inform strategic decision-making.

Target 2: To provide technical support to strengthen and expand the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Site Network and improve the coverage and protection effectiveness of the network.

Target 3: To provide technical support to conduct activities such as monitoring of migratory waterbirds, training in wetland management and other relevant technical services working with Partners, Working Groups, Task Forces, and Technical Sub-Committee.

Article 2 Principles

(1) The two Parties shall cooperate based on the MoU and in accordance with relevant laws and regulations of People’s Republic of China and internationally;

(2) This Agreement is to further strengthen the cooperation, without prejudice of any Party to the cooperation or signing of a cooperation agreement with any other institution;

(3) The two Parties shall improve the communication and information sharing on the conservation, management, and strategic decision-making for the conservation of migratory waterbirds of the East Asian-Australasian Flyway.

Article 3 Cooperation Mechanisms

(1) The Science Unit is a part of the EAAFP Secretariat;

(2) CEAAF will support the operation and smooth running of EAAFP Science Unit, including staff, office and finance;

(3) The two Parties will set up means for regular communication, such as through tele-conferences, meetings, and regular exchange visits.

Article 4 Modification, renewal and termination

The two parties agree that the MoU may be amended or supplemented with the written authorization, as an annex to this Framework Agreement. Such annexes have the same effect as this framework agreement.

This framework agreement takes effect on the date of signature by two parties. The validity of the agreement is five years unless terminated. If the parties still have the intention of cooperation in 2023, this agreement can be renewed.

The MOU has English and Chinese version, and both has equal legal effect.

Signatures:

.....
President
Beijing Forestry University

.....
Chief Executive
Secretariat, Beijing Forestry University

Date:

Date:

Annex 2

Terms of Reference for the Science Unit

The EAAFP Science Unit is a part of the Secretariat of the EAAFP to undertake the following:

Information Platform

1. Collaborate closely with EAAFP Partners to improve mechanisms for data sharing, connecting to other existing platforms and databases.
2. Maintain database of migratory waterbirds in the EAAF, their taxonomy, population size, distribution and status.
3. Maintain database of migratory waterbird habitat status, conservation and management.
4. Maintain database, with links as appropriate, on color banding and satellite tracking, with contact points for each country and species/group experts.
5. Maintain repository of scientific and technical articles on issues of direct relevance to the conservation of migratory waterbirds and their habitats and update Secretariat for website/newsletter.
6. Together with the Chief Executive, support the work of EAAFP Technical Sub-Committee, Working Groups and Task Forces.

Flyway Site Network

1. Assist the Chief Executive/Secretariat and EAAFP Partners with enhancement and expansion of the Flyway Site Networks, including providing information on priority sites for nomination and developing Sister Sites relationships.
2. Work with EAAFP Partners to organize national and/or regional workshops for site managers, decision makers and relevant stakeholders in close collaboration with the Secretariat and a host country.
3. Work with EAAFP Partners to develop and implement a mechanism for monitoring and reporting of status of Flyway Network Sites across the Flyway, including habitat condition, migratory waterbirds status and management.

Monitoring

Liaise with EAAFP Partners to:

1. Improve waterbird population monitoring methodologies and coverage in the Flyway, and assist with coordination of annual Flyway-wide counts.
2. Assist to regularly update the database on sizes of waterbird populations (waterbird population estimates) in EAAF.

Regular Communication

1. Working with EAAFP Communications team and other officers, review of texts, materials, articles and posts for scientific accuracy, as needed.
2. Assist the Communications team to manage the website, social media and newsletter, including Chinese version
3. Undertake regular liaison visits to the EAAFP Secretariat office in Incheon and support the visits of Secretariat staff members to Science Unit office in Beijing.

Other duties

1. Develop the biannual workplan, budget and financial reports of the Science Unit, as a consolidated part of the Secretariat,
2. Represent the Partnership at Flyway-related meetings and events in Flyway Partner countries, as requested by the Chief Executive.
3. Develop scientific and technical products in consultation with Technical Sub-Committee and, as appropriate, Working Groups and Task Forces, before releasing to the public.
4. Report, through the Chief Executive, to Partners at each MoP, and annually to the Management Committee and Technical Sub-Committee on the implementation of the workplan.
5. Undertake other tasks appropriate to the mandates, technical skills and knowledge of the Science Unit, as requested by the Chief Executive.

Annex 3
Work Plan for 2019-2020

Objectives	Activities	Results/outputs	Indicators	Budget (USD)
Administration	1. Office running 2. Staffing 3. Undertake regular liaison visits to the EAAFP Secretariat in Incheon & EAAFP Secretariat staff members to SU in Beijing	1. Office and facilities are functioning well 2. Necessary staff hired 3. Regular visits conducted between Incheon & Beijing offices	1. Office and facilities are functioning well 2. Necessary staff hired 3. Regular visits conducted between Incheon & Beijing offices	400,000
1: Strengthen the knowledge base to support the further development of the Flyway Site Network of for the conservation of migratory waterbirds along the East Asian- Australasian Flyway	1. Coordinate the management of Site Information Sheet (SIS) and review on the status of Flyway Network Site including the threats and management plan. 2. Assist the Chief Executive/Secretariat and EAAFP Partners with enhancement and expansion of the Flyway Site Networks, including providing information on priority sites for nomination.	1. New sites designated to the Network, especially high-priority ones. 2. Improved information on network sites 3. Coordination for the update of the outdated SIS 4. Identification of threats to FNS 5. Improvement on the management plan of the sites	1. Number of new FNS designated 2. Number of reviewed new designated sites. 3. Number of updates of outdated SIS 4. Priority Sites list for FNS 5. Compile list of FNS that are under threat and the threats that they are facing 6. Collection of cases of management plans	50,000
2: Enhance communication, education and public awareness	1. Support in CEPA activities according to CEPA Strategy, e.g. World Migratory Birds Day.	1. Awareness raising events are held in Partner countries	1. Number of awareness increasing activities supported.	50,000

of the values of migratory waterbirds and their habitats	2. Working with EAAFP Communications team, link databases to website, post articles for website, newsletter and social media.	2 .Additional pages and resources on website	2. Events, website updating and news reports	
3: Support and enhance flyway research and monitoring activities, build knowledge and promote exchange of information on waterbirds and their habitats	<p>1. Establish and maintain Flyway information platform (database of waterbirds, habitats, colour-marking and satellite tracking)</p> <p>2. Maintain repository of scientific and technical articles on issues of direct relevance to the conservation of migratory waterbirds, including, but not limited to ecology, migratory patterns, taxonomy, policies.</p> <p>3. Improve monitoring methodologies and <u>support improvement of</u> coverage; Liaise with Partners on waterbird monitoring in the Flyway and assist with coordination of annual Flyway-wide counts.</p> <p>4. Assist to regularly update the database on sizes of waterbird populations (waterbird population estimates) in the Flyway.</p>	<p>1. Flyway information platform established</p> <p>2. Initial physical database to be built and spread</p> <p>3. Monitoring program and survey of Species supported;</p> <p>4. Database of waterbird populations in the EAAF updated</p>	<p>1. Information platform and website developed; number of people using the information platform</p> <p>2. Number of scientific and technical articles</p> <p>3. Guidelines for monitoring drafted;</p> <p>4. Updated database of waterbird populations in the EAAF available</p>	280,000
4: Build the habitat and waterbird management capacity of natural resource managers, decision makers and local stakeholders	Organise national and/or regional workshops for site managers, decision makers and relevant stakeholders in close collaboration with the Secretariat and a host country.	Training material developed and training completed	<p>1. Number of training workshops organized</p> <p>2. Training manual developed.</p> <p>3. Number of site managers trained.</p>	150,000

5: Develop, especially for priority species and habitats, flyway wide approaches to enhance the conservation status of migratory waterbirds	Support to provide the scientific advice on new and existing single species action plans	Flyway-wide projects and plans, focusing on critical sites, (e.g. Yellow Sea).	Number of projects on highly threatened migratory waterbird species and habitats in the Flyway	70,000
			Total	1,000,000