

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



Decision 8

Developing Guidelines for National and Site Partnerships

Submitted by the Australian Government

Summary

In accordance with Paragraph 8(6) of the Partnership document, Partners are encouraged to develop National and site level partnerships to support the activities of the East Asian – Australasian Flyway Partnership (EAAFP).

While some Partners have developed and maintain a mechanism to implement national coordination, the EAAFP does not provide any overarching guidance on the matter.

Partners at the 10th Meeting of the Partners are requested to adopt this Decision which seeks to develop an overarching framework for establishing and operating effective National and site partnerships within flyway countries.

1. Since the establishment of the East Asian – Australasian Flyway Partnership, the concept of National and site partnerships has been encouraged as a mechanism to promote national level coordination of activities that contribute to the objectives of the EAAFP.
2. Since 2006, National partnerships have been established in some countries but have operated in various ways according to national circumstances.
3. At present, the EAAFP has no underpinning guidance on what National and site partnerships are or how they might operate. This resolution seeks to develop a document that provides an overarching framework for establishing and operating effective National and site partnerships, including a series of 'best practice' principles to guide and support these partnerships in establishing governance arrangements. In developing this guiding framework, it will help Partners facilitate the establishment, operation and effectiveness of National and site partnerships.
4. National partnerships have generally been led by national government partners with, in some cases, the support of sub-national agencies, local governments, non-government organisations and/or community organisations.
5. In general, most National partnerships meet at least annually to report on national level activities and plan future priorities and activities. Some, but not all, National partnerships link with other forums such as national coordination mechanisms for multilateral environmental agreements, such as the Ramsar Convention and the Convention on Biological Diversity, and professional meetings, conference or societies.

6. National and site partnerships can provide a mechanism to set national and sub-national priorities to enable the implementation of priority on-ground activities and to build capacity of Flyway site managers, to communicate flyway information to a larger group, and to identify new potential Flyway sites. For example, National partnerships can help support the national coordination of the Asian Waterbird Census and activities supporting World Migratory Bird Day.
7. To improve Partner engagement and to increase the national level implementation of the EAAFP objectives, this agenda item seeks to further encourage Partners to establish National and site partnerships by developing guidance material.
8. The guidance material could include information on:
 - a. What a National and site partnership is and when it is needed to aid in the coordination and management of EAAFP activities;
 - b. Responsibilities of a National and site partnership;
 - c. Case studies of existing National and site partnerships and recommendations for establishing National and site partnerships including membership and structure;
 - d. A guide for developing terms of reference, and;
 - e. Recommended monitoring, evaluation and reporting requirements.
9. Where National and site partnerships have been developed, Partners are encouraged to promote their operation, activities and issues among other Partners, particularly through Partner reports, on the EAAFP website and newsletter, in EAAFP working groups and task forces and at MOPs.
10. Consultation with Partners and the Secretariat occurred between 3 April and 25 May 2018. All comments received were considered and amendments were incorporated as necessary. The interim EAAFP Technical Sub-Committee provided comments on 18 August 2018, and these were also incorporated as required.

Decision:

Partners at the 10th Meeting of the Partners are requested to adopt the Draft Decision (Annex 1).

Annex 1

Draft Decision 8

Developing Guidelines for National and Site Partnerships

Submitted by the Australian Government

Recalling, in accordance to Paragraph 8(6) of the Partnership document, Partners are encouraged to establish National and site partnerships as a mechanism to implement and promote the objectives of the East Asian – Australasian Flyway Partnership at the national level,

Recognizing that a number of countries have developed National partnerships which operate on a regular basis and *encourages* them to continue to engage in this activity,

Further recognizing the need to encourage the development of new National and site partnerships as a mechanism to coordinate and promote national level activities that contribute to the objectives of the Partnership,

Acknowledging the resource constraints of Partners and their capacity to establish and participate in National and site partnerships,

The 10th Meeting of the Partners of the East Asian – Australasian Flyway Partnership:

1. *Instructs* the Secretariat to develop guidance material on National and site partnerships in consultation with Partners and present their recommendations at the 11th Meeting of the Partners;
2. *Encourages* Partners to consider establishing National and site partnerships where appropriate and to provide resources for their ongoing operation;
3. *Requests* Partners report on progress to establish and maintain National and site partnerships, and to report on the outcomes of meetings, through Partner reports or other evaluation mechanisms,
4. *Encourages* Partners with existing National and site partnerships to promote their work and report on outcomes at subsequent Meeting of the Partners; and
5. *Instructs* the Secretariat, subject to available resources, to support the establishment and operation of National and site partnerships by, among other things, hosting workshops and capacity building training sessions.