

ELEVENTH MEETING OF PARTNERS OF THE EAST ASIAN – AUSTRALASIAN FLYWAY PARTNERSHIP
Brisbane, Queensland, Australia, 12-17 March 2023



Draft Decision 10

Youth Mainstreaming in the EAAFP

Submitted by the United States on behalf of the CEPA Working Group.

Summary

Youth are important stakeholders in EAAFP. The Partnership will benefit from a focused and durable effort to mainstream youth into the conservation of wetland and migratory waterbirds.

This Decision seeks the support of Partners to endorse the mainstreaming of youth in EAAFP through the following actions:

- The strong encouragement of youth participation in all EAAFP plans and activities.
- Youth member consideration in all Working Groups, Task Forces, and Subcommittees, as well as other EAAFP planning efforts and activities.
- The creation of a Youth Task Force, which crosscuts all Working Groups and Task Forces, in order to implement EAAFP's mission and actions within the Strategic Plan.
- National partners should identify one or two youth for participation in the Youth Task Force and potentially in Working Groups and Task Forces.
- Flyway Network Sites are encouraged to engage youth locally and through Sister Sites using Communication, Education, Participation, and Awareness (CEPA), and to provide internships, mentorship, and employment for youth in their activities.
- Partners, Working Groups, and Task Forces are encouraged to facilitate and support youth activities and programmes with the Secretariat and CEPA Working Group.

Background

Building on the success of recent youth activities in the EAAFP, such as the Youth Seminar in Manila (2018), Flyway Youth Forum (2020), and Youth Think Tank Competition (2021-2022), youth have been engaged in raising awareness, capacity building, and taking action on conservation. The Declaration of the 2020 Flyway Youth Forum (2020) calls for EAAFP support to:

1. Provide greater intergenerational equity in decision-making;
2. Provide youth-friendly spaces for meaningful participation;
3. Ensure active and sustainable participation; and
4. Empower and raise awareness of all youth.

Noting the youth activities and programmes by Partners, such as International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Global Youth Summit (2022), Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Youth Biodiversity Programme, World Wildlife Federation (WWF), One Planet Youth, as well as emerging youth groups, such as Youth Engaged in Wetlands, EAAFP will benefit from a focused and durable effort to mainstream youth into all activities.

The demographic makeup of EAAFP representatives for Partners, Working Groups, Task Forces, and Committees/Subcommittees skews older, which may leave out critical young voices. Youth participation makes EAAFP more likely to achieve its mission in the long term and brings new and relevant perspectives to implementing actions from the Strategic Plan.

Recognizing that the Resolution on strengthening Ramsar connections through youth was adopted during recent Ramsar 14th Conference of the Contracting Parties (COP14) Doc.18.14. The Resolution encourages contracting parties and initiatives to involve youth in wetland conservation.

Echoing the call for action, a Youth Task Force and youth participants in other partnership groups and activities will create a pathway for young leaders in science and conservation to become involved in the EAAFP and potentially become future leaders in the Partnership. The Youth Task Force will be established under the CEPA Working Group pursuant to Paragraph 9(9) of the Partnership Documents.

Youth is defined as 18 to 35 years old. Diversity in participants is encouraged to ensure the youth involved are reflective of the population within the flyway. All EAAFP participants should strive to incorporate youth with skills in research, monitoring, habitat management and restoration, environmental education and outreach, and/or leadership. Resources for capacity building, and opportunities within EAAFP should be considered for highly motivated youth regardless of formal educational background.

Decisions:

Partners attending the 11th Meeting of Partners are requested to endorse the mainstreaming of youth in EAAFP through the following actions:

1. The strong encouragement of youth participation in all EAAFP plans and activities.
2. Youth member consideration in all Working Groups, Task Forces, and Subcommittees, as well as other EAAFP planning efforts and activities.
3. The creation of a Youth Task Force, which crosscuts all Working Groups and Task Forces, with the goal of developing recommendations of durable actions to mainstream youth into EAAFP, reaching youth within the flyway to raise awareness and spur conservation of waterbirds and their habitat, interaction and exchange of ideas with related youth groups (Ramsar, CBD, ASEAN, other flyways, etc.), incorporation of emerging technologies into

EAAFP activities, and finding synergy across the Partnership, in order to implement the mission of the EAAFP and the actions of the Strategic Plan.

4. The Youth Task Force will be supported and advised by the CEPA Working Group through MOP 12. Advisors from the Secretariat and other Working Groups, Task Forces, and Subcommittees are encouraged to support the Youth Task Force.
5. National partners should identify one or two youth for participation in the Youth Task Force and potentially in Working Groups and Task Forces.
6. Flyway Network Sites are encouraged to engage youth locally and through Sister Sites using CEPA, and to provide internships, mentorship, and employment for youth in their activities.
7. Partners, Working Groups, and Task Forces are encouraged to facilitate and support youth activities and programmes with the Secretariat and CEPA Working Group.