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 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 establishment 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 are encouraged to identify one or two young people for participation in the Youth Task Force and potentially in Working Groups and Task Forces.
* Flyway Network Sites are encouraged to engage young people locally and through Sister Sites using Communication, Capacity Building, 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**

1. 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.

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

3. The demographic makeup of EAAFP representatives for Partners, Working Groups, Task Forces, and Committees/Subcommittees tends towards a higher age range, 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.

4*.* 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 young people in wetland conservation.

1. 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.
2. The term youth is defined to include students, young professionals, early career researchers, and people in the early stages of their lives, with a focus on those in their early twenties to mid thirties.
3. 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 young people 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 young people 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 membership to be considered 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 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 synergies across the Partnership, in order to implement the mission of the EAAFP and the actions of the Strategic Plan. The terms of reference for the Youth Task Force are provided in Annex 2.
4. The establishment of Youth Task Force will be supported and advised by the CEPA Working Group until 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 are encouraged to identify one or two young people per country for participation in the Youth Task Force and potentially in Working Groups and Task Forces.
6. Flyway Network Sites are encouraged to engage young people locally and through Sister Sites using CEPA, and to provide internships, mentorship, and employment for young people 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.

**Annex 1**

**Draft Decision 10**

**Youth Mainstreaming in the EAAFP**

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

Noting the youth activities and programmes by the Partners and the Secretariat, 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.

Further Noting that the term youth is generally defined to include those aged 18 to 35 years old in this context.

*Recognizing* Diversity in participants is encouraged to ensure the young people involved are reflective of the population within the flyway. All EAAFP participants should strive to incorporate young people 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 young people regardless of formal educational background.

*Further 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 young people 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.

*The 11th Meeting of Partners*

*of the East Asian – Australasian Flyway Partnership*

1. *Requests* a stronger youth participation in all EAAFP plans and activities.
2. *Encourages* consideration of youth members in all Working Groups, Task Forces, and Subcommittees, as well as other EAAFP planning efforts and activities.
3. *Adopts* 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. *Requests* CEPA Working Group to support and advise the establishment of Youth Task Force until MOP 12 [Annex 2 – Terms of the Reference]. Advisors from the Secretariat and other Working Groups, Task Forces, and Subcommittees are encouraged to support the Youth Task Force.
5. *Further encourages* National Partners are encouraged to identify one or two youths per country for participation in the Youth Task Force and potentially in Working Groups and Task Forces. The youth representative may come from the  government, non-government or research organizations and involved in research, policy, restoration, and community building and environment engagement initiatives
6. *Further encourages* Flyway Network Sites to engage young people locally and through Sister Sites using CEPA, and to provide internships, mentorship, and employment for young people in their activities.
7. Further requests Partners, Working Groups, and Task Forces to facilitate and support youth activities and programmes with the Secretariat and CEPA Working Group.

# Annex 2

# Youth Task Force: Terms of Reference [dRAFT]

Composition and regional representation:

* The Youth Task Force is to be composed of youth members, as defined in the resolution;
	+ Each national partner is encouraged to nominate one or two representative for the Youth Task Force;
	+ Youth representatives may be from government, non-government or research organizations, and be involved in activities including research, policy, restoration, community building and environment engagement.
	+ Other partners are encouraged to support and nominate youth representatives to the Youth Task Force;
* The Youth Task Force will strive for inclusion and diversity in its membership by considering the participation of minorities and Indigenous Peoples where possible, and ensuring gender parity, and adhere to these principles via its organizational structure and mandate;
* Youth observers may nominate themselves, and the Youth Task Force will approve their admission unless one third of members vote against this.

Structure and secretariat support:

* The Youth Task Force will appoint among itself a Chair, and a Vice-Chair and any other roles that it deems necessary, with the Vice-Chair acting as Rapporteur;
* All reasonable efforts will be made to include members of the Youth Task Force as members on the other working groups and task forces under the Partnership;
* The CEPA working group will support and advise the Youth Task Force, with further support from other working groups and national partners encouraged;
* The Secretariat will provide secretariat services for the Youth Task Force.

Mandate:

The purpose of the Youth Task Force is to advise on mainstreaming youth engagement in the governance, programmes of work and other activities of the Partnership.

The priority tasks of the Youth Task Force to MOP 12 are to:

1. Advise on how to embed youth into the activities of the Partnership, and, where appropriate, work to implement these changes intersessionally (e.g., through youth membership on working groups);
2. Identify capacity building activities for Partners and the Partnership to implement to upskill youth (e.g., through Flyway Youth Forums and site manager training materials) and, where appropriate, support the implementation of these activities;
3. Identify opportunities to platform youth voices throughout the flyway, and suggestions for how to embed youth voices in national processes and the work of the partnership;
4. Develop a joint work plan with the Secretariat, to:
	1. Implement the above actions, and communicate with partners, working groups and task forces to embed youth in their activities;
	2. Align the youth activities of the Partnership with the youth activities of under regional and international environmental bodies, and multilateral environmental agreements, including youth-focused events at international meetings;
	3. Coordinate a youth-focused side event and enable youth participation at Meetings of the Parties, in cooperation with the host country of the MOP; and
	4. Develop youth-focused messaging, communication materials and events, in alignment with the work of the Partnership.