

# TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE EAAFP TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

## *Scope of the Terms of Reference*

1. The Terms of Reference apply to the East Asian – Australasian Flyway Partnership Technical Committee, unless stated otherwise in the Terms of Reference.

## *General Functions of the Technical Committee*

2. The Technical Committee, established in accordance with paragraph 9(9) of the Partnership document, provides scientific and technical advice to, *inter alia*, the Meeting of the Partners, the Secretariat, any other body set up under the Partnership or any Partner.

## *Operating Principles*

3. The Technical Committee, in carrying out its functions, should support the implementation of the Partnership in a manner consistent with other nationally and internationally agreed goals relevant to the objectives of the Partnership document.
4. The Technical Committee should endeavour constantly to improve the quality of its scientific and technical advice by improving scientific input into debate at and work of its meetings and meetings of the Partnership working groups and task forces.
5. The Technical Committee may formulate its advice or recommendations in the form of options or alternatives, where appropriate.

## *Functions*

6. The Technical Committee should fulfill the functions assigned to it by the Meeting of the Partners. These functions include:
  - a. advising, between Meetings of the Partners, on the development and implementation of the Partnership's work programme from a scientific and technical standpoint;
  - b. advising, identifying, assessing and recommending proposals to be considered for inclusion in the Flyway Site Network;
  - c. making recommendations to the Meeting of the Partners as to the migratory waterbird species to be included in Appendix III;
  - d. assessing proposals for the amendment of Appendix III from a scientific and technical standpoint, and providing advice to the Meeting of the Partners regarding proposed amendments;
  - e. identifying, recommending and coordinating research on migratory species and their habitat, evaluating the results of such research in order to ascertain the conservation status of migratory waterbird species, especially those that are listed in Appendix III or candidates for such listing, and reporting to the Meeting of the Partners on such status and measures for its improvement;

- f. advising on specific conservation and management measures for the conservation of Appendix III species and their priorities, or other mechanisms for the conservation of migratory species and their habitats undertaken within the framework of the Partnership;
- g. bringing to the attention of the Meeting of the Partners any new and emerging issues relating to the conservation and management of migratory waterbird species and their habitats;
- h. advising on the priorities for conservation activities relating to migratory waterbird species and their habitats, and on selecting, monitoring and evaluating projects which will promote the implementation of the Partnership objectives;
- i. recommending to the Meeting of the Partners solutions to problems relating to the scientific and technical aspects of the implementation of the Partnership objectives;
- j. providing information, channelled through the Secretariat, to all Range States of particular species and relevant organizations, with a view to encouraging non-partner Range States and relevant organizations to become Partners of the Partnership and to participate in its implementation.
- k. providing liaison, communication and advice to work groups and task forces, identifying issues of common concern among these bodies and distilling lessons for wider dissemination;
- l. making proposals for more effective and streamlined scientific and technical outputs of working groups and task forces to respond to Partnership objectives.

#### *Appointment of Members*

- 7. The Technical Committee is composed of members appointed by the Meeting of the Partners.
- 8. Any Partner may nominate a qualified expert as a member of the Technical Committee.
- 9. Technical Committee members do not represent the Partner that nominate them, but contribute to the workings of the Technical Committee in their expert capacity.
- 10. The composition of the Technical Committee is as follows:
  - a. Ten members with expertise in regional, taxonomic and/or thematic issues; and
  - b. The EAAFP Science Officer.

#### *Responsibilities of the Technical Committee Members*

- 11. Technical Committee members should, to the best of their abilities, act as impartially as possible and endeavour to base their judgements and opinions upon an objective, scientific assessment of the best available evidence.
- 12. Technical Committee members should maintain regular communication with the chairs of the Partnership working groups and task forces.

13. Technical Committee members should maintain regular communication with the other Partners in the Partnership.

*Cooperation of Other Relevant Bodies or organizations*

14. The Technical Committee should cooperate with other advisory bodies set up by other Conventions, Agreements and MOUs, *inter alia*, inviting them to participate as observers in the meetings of the Technical Committee.
15. The Technical Committee should liaise, through its Chair or his/her nominated representative, with comparable bodies established under other relevant frameworks. This would include, where appropriate and resource permitting, attendance of the Chair of the Technical Committee, or his/her nominated representative, at meetings of these bodies.
16. The scientific contribution of non-governmental organizations to the fulfilment of the role of the Technical Committee is strongly encouraged. This includes inviting them to participate as observers in the meetings of the Technical Committee, and establishing and maintaining working cooperation on matters of common interest with organizations.

*Rules of Procedure*

17. The Technical Committee will establish its own Rules of Procedure which will be subject to the approval of the Meeting of the Partners.