



## **[MOP9/D10] TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR AN INTERIM TASK FORCE TO ADDRESS ILLEGAL HUNTING, TAKING AND TRADE OF MIGRATORY WATERBIRDS IN THE EAST ASIAN-AUSTRALASIAN FLYWAY (CAFF)**

### **1. Background and purpose**

A key recommendation of the Arctic Council Working Group on the Conservation Arctic Flora and Fauna's (CAFF) Arctic Migratory Bird Initiative (AMBI) workshop in Singapore (96 participants from 25 countries) was to establish an international working group to consider illegal hunting, taking and trade of migratory waterbirds in the East Asian-Australasia Flyway. Workshop participants included many of the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership's (EAAFP) Partners including the governments of: Australia, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Russia and the USA, as well as CMS, BirdLife International, Wetlands International, WCS, WWT and WWF.

It was noted at the AMBI meeting that many countries in the region have experience in significantly reducing illegal hunting, while other countries are becoming active in addressing this issue. Hence, there is an opportunity for the exchange of experience and knowledge in the region that will address shared priorities related to eliminating illegal mortality of migratory bird species.

The creation of such a task force assists with the implementation of the EAAFP decision 7.9 of its 8th Meeting of Partners in 2015 as well as meeting objectives under the AMBI work plan 2015-2019, of which EAAFP is a project partner, as approved by the Arctic Council Senior Arctic Officials. It is also in line with the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) Resolution 11.16 on "The Prevention of Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds" adopted in 2014 by the 11th Conference of the Parties (COP).

### **2. Goal**

To provide a platform for partners to work together, and to exchange experience and knowledge with the ultimate goal of taking action to significantly reduce the impact of illegal hunting, taking and trade of migratory waterbirds in the East Asian-Australasian Flyway.

### **3. Role**

The role of the Task Force are to:

- Facilitate exchange of experience and knowledge, and coordinate efforts aimed towards combating illegal hunting, taking and trade of migratory waterbirds in the East Asian-Australasian Flyway.
- Work with partners to develop guidelines, action plans and other recommendations to respond to illegal hunting, taking and trade issues within the flyway, and other specific problems as necessary, as well as encourage its implementation on the flyway.

#### **4. Scope**

- The Task Force will cover all migratory waterbird taxa and the geographic region as covered by the EAAFP.
- The task force will explore with CMS and other frameworks to extend the scope to other migratory bird species and geographic regions. Cooperation with CMS would be valuable, noting that CMS covers a wider variety of taxonomic groups of birds such as landbirds and raptors, which are currently outside of the scope of the EAAFP.

#### **5. Remit**

The Task Force will:

- a) Support and guide a review on the status of hunting regulations related to migratory waterbirds in the EAAF;
- b) Support and guide a situation analysis on illegal hunting, taking and trade of migratory waterbirds in the flyway, building on the existing work in the Mediterranean, Europe and the Middle East;
- c) Stimulate internal and external communication and exchange of information, experience and best practices;
- d) Promote and facilitate implementation of relevant decisions and plans adopted in the framework of Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) or other frameworks, especially the CMS, AMBI (under CAFF) and Bilateral Migratory Bird Agreements;
- e) Set priorities for its actions and facilitate implementation;
- f) Assist in resource mobilization for priority actions including cooperation with ASEAN;
- g) Monitor the implementation of the relevant decisions and plans and their effectiveness and regularly submit progress reports to the governing bodies of participating MEAs, including via an intergovernmental 'scoreboard' to indicate progress on eliminating illegal hunting, taking and trade of migratory waterbirds;
- h) Strengthen regional and international networks with experience on illegal take and trade of wildlife (ex. ASEAN Wildlife Enforcement Network); and
- i) Liaise and share experience with the CMS Mediterranean Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade Task Force (MIKT).

#### **6. Membership**

The Task Force membership will be comprised of representatives of EAAFP partners with interest in the work of the task force. This includes relevant government institutions in the field of environment, game management, law enforcement and judiciary in the EAAF. The task force can also involve observers from the Secretariats of the participating MEAs and frameworks.

The following representatives will also be invited to contribute to the Task Force:

- a) Representatives of Governments and relevant organizations elsewhere in the EAAF and beyond that wish to support the work of the Task Force;
- b) Representatives of the AEWA, CMS Mediterranean Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade Task Force (MIKT), CMS Preventing Poisoning Working Group and Flyways Working Group, and other groups with relevant experience;
- c) Representatives from relevant Bilateral Migratory Bird Agreements;

- d) Representatives from Relevant IUCN specialist groups;
- e) Academic institutions, the hunting community, NGOs and other stakeholders, as relevant; and
- f) Relevant independent experts.

## **7. Governance**

- An interim chair, vice-chair and steering group will be formed from the consultation group during the EAAFP MOP9.
- Ultimately, the Task Force will elect a Chair and a Vice-Chair from amongst its members.
- The Task Force will operate by seeking consensus, as much as possible, among the group.
- The Task Force will operate in accordance with a modus operandi, which shall be established once the Task Force has been convened.

## **8. Operation**

Funding permitting, a coordinator will be appointed by the Task Force with the following functions:

- Organize the meetings of the Task Force and prepare the background documents;
- Maintain and moderate the Task Force communication platform (website and intranet);
- Facilitate implementation of decisions of the Task Force;
- Facilitate fundraising and resource mobilization in coordination with the EAAFP finance Committee;
- Maintain an online workspace within the Task Force's website; and
- Facilitate engagement with stakeholders within and beyond the Task Force.

Meetings of the Task Force will be convened at appropriate intervals, as considered necessary and funding permitting.

The Task Force, in collaboration with Parties and relevant international organizations, subject to the availability of funds, will organize regional workshops in areas found to have high levels of illegal hunting to assist in developing appropriate local or regional solutions.