



Decision 10

Youth Mainstreaming in the EAAFP

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 as those aged 18 to 35 years old, and includes students, young professionals, early career researchers, and people in the early stages of their lives;

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; and

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 MOP12. Advisors from the Secretariat and other Working Groups, Task Forces, and Subcommittees are encouraged to support the Youth Task Force;
5. *Further encourages* Partners to identify one or two youths per country for participation in the Youth Task Force and potentially in other Working Groups and Task Forces. The youth representative should be involved in relevant activities including research, policy, restoration, community building or environmental 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; and
8. *Adopts* the Terms of Reference at Annex 1.

ANNEX 1

YOUTH TASK FORCE: TERMS OF REFERENCE

Composition and regional representation:

- The Youth Task Force is to be composed of youth members, as defined in the MOP11 Decision 10;
 - Each Partner is encouraged to support and nominate one or two representatives for the Youth Task Force; and
 - Youth representatives should be involved in relevant activities including research, policy, restoration, community building or environmental engagement initiatives.
- The Youth Task Force will strive for inclusion and diversity in its membership by encouraging the participation of minorities, Indigenous Peoples and local communities 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 Partners.
- 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:

- I. 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).
- II. 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.
- III. 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.
- IV. Develop a joint work plan with the Secretariat, to:

- a. Implement the above actions, and communicate with Partners, working groups and task forces to embed youth in their activities;
- b. 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;
- c. 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
- d. Develop youth-focused messaging, communication materials and events, in alignment with the work of the Partnership.