

Youth Think Tank Competition for the EAA Flyway



Youth Think Tank Competition for EAA Flyway Guidelines and rules

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1. Introduction

In recent years, we witnessed the power of youth to call for actions to tackle environmental issues. Youth are important stakeholders of society and we believe youth could be the driving force for a better world. In addition, as the future of the world will be led by our next generation, youth should be involved and engaged in conservation, from the implementation of actions to decision-making processes. While there are more and more youth programmes, groups and networks focusing on biodiversity in general, there is a lack of youth groups and platforms for youth focusing on wetlands and migratory waterbirds.

Therefore, the EAAFP Secretariat is joining hands with Partners and youth groups to organize the first *Think Tank Competition for the EAA Flyway*, to inspire innovative ideas and encourage conservation actions by youth groups or young people, for migratory waterbirds, their habitats and local communities relying on the wetlands. The objectives of the Think Tank Competition are:

- **INNOVATION AND IMPLEMENTATION** – The Think Tank Competition will motivate young people in the EAA Flyway who are keen to contribute to conservation for migratory waterbirds and their habitats to actively engage in conservation of wetlands and migratory waterbirds in different aspects and levels, and to motivate innovative ideas for conservation. The competition will focus on three aspects :
 - Science: study or monitoring on migratory waterbirds and their wetland habitats, including study of indigenous conservation
 - Society: work on engaging local communities in conservation or participatory-site management, such as applying community-based conservation methods, capacity building ;
 - Education and awareness-raising: Products and educational programme for local communities or general public, campaign to raise awareness, advocacy, story-telling, etc.

- **CAPACITY BUILDING** - The Think Tank Competition will include training workshops on topics useful to young conservationists. By filling basic capacity-building gaps for youth engaging in conservation on migratory waterbirds and wetlands, we hope to build confidence and skills among young people on operating a project for conservation, and on the relevant topics on conservation.

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2. Theme

“Youth! Let’s save the Flyway with your innovation! ”

3. Prizes

Phase I: 5 finalists award: USD 3000 each

Phase II: EAAFP youth ambassador + opportunity to attend EAAFP or International event (subject to opportunity)

4. Timeline and deadlines

Activity	Date
Competition launch	17 th September, 2021
Deadline for submission	17 th November, 2021
Announcement of finalist project awardees of Phase I	21-24 th December, 2021
Revision of finalist project proposals (involvement with an assigned mentor), submission of revised proposals	15 th January, 2022
Implementation of finalist projects	1 st January – 30 th September, 2022
Submission of finalist project implementation reports	1 st October, 2022
Judging period of Phase II	October, 2022
Online presentation of finalist projects and winner announcement	October/November, 2022

- Applications must be written in English, submitted by the (lead) applicant via the online platform at <https://flywaythinktank.awardsplatform.com/>.
- For announcement and updates, please visit: <https://www.eaaflyway.net/think-tank-competition/>

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5. Eligibility

Applicants

- All team members in the age between 18-29 (under 30 on the date of application)
- Nationality is within EAA Flyway range countries (Australia, Bangladesh, Brunei, Cambodia, China (including Hong Kong, Macau, Taiwan), Indonesia, Japan, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, New Zealand, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Russia Far East, Singapore, Republic of Korea, Thailand, Timor-Leste, USA (Alaska), Vietnam.), it is allowed to have team members from other Flyways, but the number cannot be more than half of the team members.
- Can be individual or in team (encouraged to form a team, max. 5)
- All team members must be early-career conservationists with no more than five years of work experience in the conservation sector. University students are eligible.

Projects

- All projects must have elements related to migratory waterbirds within EAA Flyway (Reference: <https://www.eaaflyway.net/migratory-waterbirds/>)
- All projects need to include CEPA (Communication, Capacity Building, Education, Participation and Awareness) element.
- Project duration must be more than three months and no more than 10 months
- Applicant has the capacity to implement the project between January and October 2022
- All project implementation must follow regulations and laws of the nation where the project is being implemented.
- Only one project proposal to be submitted by individual or each team
- The proposed project has to be new work, not part of existing or for continuing past project or study.
- Listing of other funding source or funding in application, please indicate if you have plan for fund-raising
- The proposal has to be developed and written by the applicants.
- The proposal can only be written in English.
- Incomplete application will not be eligible.
- Awarded finalist projects must implement the project with the prize amount in Phase I.

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6. Submission and structuring the entry

Proposal

- Applications must be written in English
- Submission of the proposal should be by the (lead) applicant via the online platform at (<https://flywaythinktank.awardsplatform.com/>), a registration account should be created.
- Submit the proposal following the deadlines indicated in session 4.
- You can log in multiple times to the registered account to amend the application before the deadline. Once the deadline is passed, the applicants cannot amend it except upon request.
- Reference for preparing a good proposal (with permission from BirdLife International):
<https://www.conservationleadershipprogramme.org/media/2014/09/ConservationProjectManual.pdf>

Video

- 3 mins video to describe your project idea, which includes the following content:
 1. Self/Team introduction
 2. Introduction of project background
 3. Conservation challenge
 4. Objectives
 5. Methodology
 6. Expected results
- Language: English
- The video has to be uploaded to Youtube, Vimeo or Tencent Video (only for Chinese applicants), the link needs to be placed in the application form and allow for open access.

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7. Judging criteria

- **Practicality and feasibility** – if the project is implementable within the competition period
- **Impact** – The applicant has to explain and demonstrate how the project would bring positive impact to tackle certain environmental problems.
- **Scientific accuracy** – we require accurate understanding and information on migratory waterbirds, wetlands and subject of the proposed project.
- **Scalability and replicability** - the idea's potential to be scaled up and replicated, be it at site, regional, national, or global level
- **Degree of Innovation** – we encourage new ideas, for doing scientific studies, solving social issues related to environment, and technology and skill for CEPA

8. Judging procedures

Stage 1:

A judging panel of 5 conservation professionals will shortlist up to five entries to be the finalist projects. Projects are assessed based on the judging criteria mentioned above. Selected applicants will be contacted to confirm if the project could be implemented by the applicants. Only projects that could be proceeded and implemented by the applicants will be awarded. Announcement will be made by the end of December, 2021.

Stage 2:

The finalist projects will be advised for modification base on comments from judges for practical implementation. One mentor who are experienced in the conservation field will be assigned to each team. Teams need to communicate with mentors along the project implementation within the period January 2021 and October 2022.

Stage 3:

Phase II judging include pitching in a presentation webinar in October/November 2022. The judging will include 2 parts: Voting by open public (rating 30%), and by judging panel (rating 70%). Open voting will be based on a 3-5 mins video produced by the project team and judging panel depends on the project presentation and final report. Announcement will be made after the presentation webinar.

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9. Mentorship

- Each of the five finalist projects will be assigned with one mentor to guide the development and implementation of the project. The mentors are from East Asian -Australasian Flyway with relevant background and working experiences in the field.
- At least one meeting is recommended for each team to meet with the mentor

10. Important notes

- Proposals of finalist projects will be shared with the EAAFP country Focal Points
- Permission to carry out fieldwork in nature reserves or restricted areas may be needed as necessary.
- All participants are recommended to attend all the training workshops (Part II of the Think Tank Competition), finalist participants of Phase I are mandated to attend the training workshops in full. Please check [[here](#)] for the workshops topics and schedule.
- EAAFP Secretariat and organizers are not responsible for any insurance, damage and safety issues. Participants are required to take care of their own's safety during the project implementation.
- Be respectful to local communities and follow guidelines on ethics.
- (references:
 - o Field work ethics:
<https://global.oup.com/us/companion.websites/9780190642198/ethics/>
 - o photography and videography ethics:
<https://www.nationalgeographic.org/ethics/>
- Copyright issues. By submitting the materials of the project, the applicants and project teams agree that EAAFP Secretariat to utilize the materials in all formats for promotion of the programme and future use.
- Participants will be excluded if:
 - o The project induces threats or negative impact to the wildlife, environment and local communities
 - o The project invades privacy rights and other rights of any person, property, and group
- Payment and withdrawal of prize, if:
 - o Awardees of Phase I and Phase II of the Competition will receive the prize money via bank transfer. Please make sure your provided bank account information is correct and applicable for accepting foreign currencies.
 - o The awardees will bear all liability for the programme and the project activities in the framework of the Competition.

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- o The Organizing Team of the Competition may withdraw the prize and recover all payments made, if:
 - (a) false information, fraud or corruption was used to obtain it;
 - (b) a winner was not eligible or should have been excluded;
 - (c) a winner is in serious violation of the guidelines of the Competition;
 - (d) Finalist project could not be implemented in Phase I

11. Contact

- For more information and updates of the programme, please see the competition website: <https://www.eaaflyway.net/think-tank-competition/>.
- For any questions, please contact flywayyouthforum@gmail.com