



## Summary

ATTENDEES:	
<b>Narelle Montgomery</b>	Australian Government, Chair, Management Committee
<b>Mark Carey</b>	Australian Government
<b>Shannon Scullion</b>	Australian Government
<b>Seiji Hayama</b>	Wild Bird Society of Japan
<b>Jennifer George</b>	EAAFP Secretariat, Chief Executive
<b>Yoon Kyung Lee</b>	EAAFP Secretariat, External Relations Manager
<b>Sabine Leykam</b>	EAAFP Secretariat, Programme Coordinator

### Overview

The third webinar on the EAAFP governance harmonisation project covered the review of the proposed amendments to the Rules of Procedure for the Meeting of Partners; and the Guidelines for Establishing Single Species Task Forces and Guidelines for the Development of Single Species Action Plans which were circulated to Partners in early August. As tasked by Partners, the Management Committee of the EAAFP is currently leading the review of various governance documents to harmonise the language, as well as relevant provisions and functions across different documents to ensure they remain fit-for-purpose and contemporary to maximise their usefulness. The Chair outlined the process, timeline, and the progress to date of the harmonisation project, emphasizing that there will further opportunities for input and comments on any proposed amendments to be submitted to MOP12 for Partners' consideration. The Chair sought input from the Partners present at the webinar.

### Rules of Procedure for the Meeting of Partners

The Chair shared that the Rules of Procedure were adopted at the 9th Meeting of Partners in 2017 and has not been reviewed or amended since. The Management Committee and the Secretariat conducted an initial review of the document and found that the Rules of Procedure were still largely fit for purpose. The Management Committee made editorial suggestions to improve clarity, with the proposed new texts underlined and the texts to be deleted were crossed out.

Seiji Hayama (Wild Bird Society of Japan) commented that he has no questions on this document and found this discussion fruitful. No other comments or questions were raised by the participants present at the webinar.

### **Guidelines for the Development of Single Species Action Plans and Guidelines for Establishing Single Species Task Forces**

To provide some background, the Chair explained that the Guidelines for the Development of Single Species Action Plans is contained in one document along with the Guidelines for Establishing Single Species Task Forces.

The Chair shared that the Guidelines for Single Species Action Plans were adopted by Partners at the 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Partners in 2010 and have not been updated or reviewed since. The initial review of the Management Committee found that the guidelines still largely remained fit for purpose, noting that the scope could be expanded to include the potential development Multi Species Action Plans, where appropriate, so the guidelines are not restricted to single species action plans only. Additionally, minor editorial corrections have been made to the document.

The Chair also emphasised that the Technical Sub-Committee (TsC) input to this review has been sought, considering the scientific and technical views and expertise they may provide. Jennifer George (EAAFP Secretariat) reiterated the importance of obtaining input from TsC and noted that the Secretariat will follow up on their comments regarding both sets of documents.

For the Guidelines for Establishing Single Species Task Forces, the Chair shared that this document was adopted by Partners at the 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Partners in 2010 and there have been no changes to the text since that time. Management Committee's initial review found that the guidelines still largely remained fit for purpose while also noting that the scope could be expanded to include the potential to establish Multi Species Task Forces, where appropriate. Minor editorial corrections were also applied to the document along with the inclusion of expanding to include Multi Species Task Forces.

Seiji Hayama (Wild Bird Society of Japan) expressed interest in the establishment of a Multi Species Action Plan and asked if there is any specific target. The Chair explained that the suggestion to include Multi Species Action Plan is something that could be built in as a contingency, highlighting that the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) has done Multi Species Action Plan for vultures which was very well received.

Mark Carey (Australia) shared that within the Seabird Working Group, there have been discussions about developing a Multi Species Action Plan for migratory terns and this is a potential example of how this change would benefit migratory terns in the Flyway.

Seiji Hayama (Wild Bird Society of Japan) also shared that Wild Bird Society of Japan also works on landbirds especially Yellow-breasted bunting and other Emberiza species, and expressed interest in establishing a multi species action plan for these species in the future. He noted that many countries in the Flyway are not Party to the CMS and EAAFP is the only framework available to discuss landbirds and other migratory birds. Since landbirds are not part of the EAAFP, the Chair shared other avenues where this discussion could take place such as the CMS Single Species Action Plan for Yellow-breasted Bunting, noting that countries do not need to be a Party to CMS to participate in its subsidiary agreements or in the development and implementation of any sort of action plans through CMS. Mark Carey (Australia) added that the CMS Flyways Working Group can also be a potential avenue for this work and the Chair noted that international organisations are also members of this Working Group. The Chair suggested that the Wild Bird Society of Japan could consider drafting a paper for MOP12 to propose expanding the scope to cover landbirds, if they thought this would be of benefit.

### **Next Steps**

The Chair encouraged participants to submit their written comments on the third tranche of governance documents by **30 September 2024**. The Management Committee will review all the comments, revise the documents where relevant, and present a full package, including a summary of comments received by the deadlines and how they were dealt with, to all Partners ahead of MOP12 in accordance with the document deadlines in the Rules of Procedure.