

Small Grant Fund for EAAFP Working Groups ask Forces

2025 Application Form

A. Details of Applicant

Institution/ organisation:	EAAFP YOUTH TASK FORCE		
Contact Details Name:	Mr.	Tabilog	Matthew Vincent
	Mr./Ms./Dr.	Family Name	Given Name
Position:	Chairperson		
Email Address:	matthew.tabilog@gmail.com		

Brief Background of the Institution/ organisation	<p><i>Please include relevant experience in wetlands and waterbird conservation, local community engagement, etc. Add website and social media links if available.</i></p> <p>The EAAFP (East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership) Youth Task Force serves as the youth counterpart of the EAAFP. Recognizing the critical role of migratory waterbirds in global biodiversity, the youth task force brings together young advocates, researchers, and conservationists from countries across the East Asian-Australasian Flyway. Committed to proactive measures in protecting their habitats, it operates at a flyway level through awareness raising, policy advocacy, youth empowerment, research and development, community engagement, and youth integration.</p>
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B. Prior Funding from EAAFP

- 1.) *WMBD Event in the Philippines (2024)*
- 2.) *SGF under CEPA WG (2024)*

C. Applicant's Membership of EAAFP Working Groups and Task Forces

By ticking this box, you confirm your membership of a Working Group and/or Task Force of the EAAFP:

Please list the name/s of the WGs and TFs of which you are a member:

Youth Task Force, Shorebird Working Group

D. Relevant EAAFP Working Group or Task Force Chair/Coordinator - Details

Please contact the EAAFP Programme Coordinator at godwit@eaaflyway.net if additional guidance is needed concerning this section.

Name of Working Group or Task Force: EAAFP Youth Task Force

Title of Chair/	Mr. _____	Tabilog _____	Matthew Vincent _____
Coordinator:	(Ms, Mr, etc.)	Family Name	Given Name/s

Email address of Chair/Coordinator: matthew.tabilog@gmail.com eaafpyouthtf@gmail.com

FOR CONFERENCE APPLICANTS ONLY

For Task Force or Working Group members delivering their own work as a presentation, paper, or poster)

Conference Title:	Connecting Wetlands, Flyway, People and Institutions Lead organizations: EAAFP, ICLEI, ADB, MCF	Location: Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe	Dates: July 25, 2025
Presentation Abstract (250 word maximum):	<p style="text-align: center;"><<still in the talks with the organizers>></p> <p>This side event will</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Explore the ecological, social and institutional aspects of connectivity of wetland networks across the world and come up with recommendations for Ramsar, based on experience from regional and national flyway initiatives and partners; 2. Focus on finance needs and options to support wetland management and restoration and highlight opportunities for innovative funding across stakeholder groups; and 3. Share China’s experiences in flyway and wetland conservation through policy and practice, case study of OECMs for Spoon-billed Sandpiper, and CEPA initiatives in line with draft COP 15 resolutions. <p>Strengthening connections among wetlands, increasing financing and enhancing national and international partnerships are all very relevant to the COP15 theme of Protecting Wetlands for Our Common Future and this side-event will link to draft resolutions on CEPA (23.6), Institutional Strengthening (23.9), Flyways (23.16) and OECMs (23.18).</p> <p>In this side event, the EAAFP Youth Task Force will promote and map out youth initiatives in the flyway region on the conservation of migratory waterbirds and their habitats.</p>		
Conference Title:	From Resolution to Action: Youth Leadership and the Future of the Convention on Wetlands Lead organizations: Youth Engaged in Wetlands (YEW), Biennial of the Americas (BOA)	Location: Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe	Dates: July 25, 2025
Presentation Abstract (250 word maximum):	<p>Since the adoption of the youth resolution, Strengthening Ramsar connections through youth at COP14, the Youth Working Group and wider youth network have been actively working hard to advance its goals. The efforts have been focused on ensuring meaningful engagement, collaboration and involvement of youth in the implementation of the Convention.</p> <p>This side event will provide a platform to showcase the progress made since the adoption of the first youth resolution at COP14, and to identify key areas that still require action to fully implement the resolution.</p>		

With this, the EAAFP Youth Task Force will present some successful examples of youth engaging with Contracting Parties on wetlands projects and policies across the flyway region. Furthermore, I will be invited as a panelist for the Panel Discussion addressing key questions:

- What practical steps can be taken to meaningfully co-design wetland conservation projects with youth?
- What financial models can promote youth employment in this space?

F. Experience of Applicant Relevant to the Proposed Project

Matthew Vincent Tabilog will be an incoming student at the Graduate School of Environmental Science at Hokkaido University in April 2025 as a recipient of the prestigious MEXT Scholarship from the Japanese Government. Currently, he serves as the Chair of the EAAFP Youth Task Force, the Knowledge and Capacity Building Lead for Youth Engaged in Wetlands (YEW), and the Founder and Chair of Mangrove Matters PH, a youth-led mangrove conservation group in the Philippines. His dedication to environmental advocacy has also earned him the opportunity to represent his country as a youth delegate at the East Asian Seas Youth Forum in Uljin, South Korea, and the 8th East Asian Seas Congress in Xiamen, People's Republic of China.

Mr. Tabilog's work is deeply rooted in wetlands conservation, aligning with the goals of the Ramsar Convention and he is a member of the Ramsar Youth Working Group, representing the EAAFP Youth Task Force. During his undergraduate studies, he conducted research on the quantification of carbon sequestration in mangrove forests on Negros Island, Philippines, for climate change mitigation and promotion of climate resilience which he presented at the 52nd and 53rd Annual Conventions of the Federation of Institutions for Marine and Freshwater Sciences. He earned his Bachelor of Science in Marine Biology from the Institute of Environmental and Marine Sciences of Silliman University, where he graduated as *Magna Cum Laude*.

With extensive experience in local, national, and international environmental initiatives, Mr. Tabilog is a Chapter Member of the Global Mangrove Alliance - Philippines (GMAP), where he collaborates with leading wetlands scientists in the country and beyond. He is currently organizing the First National Mangrove Youth Summit in Metro Manila, supported by GMAP, Wetlands International, Oceana, and DENR (Department of Environment and Natural Resources). Additionally, he has worked closely with women-led communities championing mangrove conservation in his island, providing support through mangrove planting initiatives, nursery management workshops, and the expansion of existing mangrove nurseries through fund-raising activities.

His commitment to environmental and community work extends to his role as the former Advocacy and Networking Staff under the Oceans and Climate Program at the Center for Energy, Ecology, and Development (CEED). In this capacity, he conducted fieldwork in the Verde Island Passage, known as the "center of the center of marine shore fish biodiversity," and contributed to efforts addressing the Mindoro Oil Spill through advocacy, research, and policy-lobbying. Recently, he lobbied for the pushing of 11 proposed Protected Areas in the Philippines with different Philippine Senators and their campaign led to the expansion of more protected areas, further aligning with the country's 30x30 target. Through these experiences, Mr. Tabilog has built strong connections with youth, women, fisherfolk communities, academe, and other relevant organizations further solidifying his dedication to sustainable environmental practices and community empowerment.

Please also include a recent maximum 2-page CV or list non-academic research experience and experience with migratory waterbird and wetland conservation e.g. work experience, volunteer experience, bird banding, birdwatching.

G. Project Budget

Please outline the costs of your entire project, not just the project component(s) for which funds are being sought from the EAAFP.

Item (Please list)	Total Project Budget (USD)	Co-funding confirmed from sources other than EAAFP (source and amount in USD)	Co-funding applied for from sources other than EAAFP (source and amount in USD)	Funding requested from EAAFP (USD)
Meals				450
Communications				50
Contingency Fund				60
Travel and accommodation	3,200	Global Nature Fund (3,200)		
Total amount requested from EAAFP Small Grants Fund: (in USD)				560

Budget justification: Please provide a brief description and justification of all major budgetary items requested, indicating any that are essential to the project and/or conference for which you are applying (250 words maximum):

It was stated in the MOP11 Decision Paper 10 to promote youth participation in key events such as the Ramsar Convention.

It is stated on the 3rd action of the Decision 10:

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 synergies across the Partnership, in order to implement the mission of the EAAFP and the actions of the Strategic Plan.

In addition, this aligns with the Objective 2 of the EAAFP 2019-2028 Strategic Plan:

Objective 2 - Enhance communication, education and public awareness of the values of migratory waterbirds and their habitats

As part of the Ramsar Youth Working Group, I will also be working with different youth organizations on different side events and youth resolution discussions of the Ramsar Convention.

H. Application Checklist

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|---|-------|-----------------------------|
| All relevant sections of this Application have been completed. | Yes / | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Full payment details have been provided in Section I Payment Details. | Yes / | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| The Application is being submitted electronically as one single document. | Yes / | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| The Application is being submitted in MS Word format. | Yes / | No <input type="checkbox"/> |

Applications that do not comply with these guidelines will be returned to the applicant.

I. Payment Details

To ensure prompt payment of successful applications please complete the following details:

J. Grand conditions

In accordance with the application criteria, the following conditions must be met:

1. Funds are to be strictly used for the purposes of implementation of the project as per the application form and budget provided.
2. Grants are awarded on the strict understanding that funds will be exempt from institutional administration charges unless a Partner government law so requires.
3. Lead investigators are responsible for obtaining all necessary permits from government authorities, indigenous communities, ethics committees etc., to undertake approved research or monitoring studies.
4. You are able to undertake and complete the project, with the funds received from the SGF. This should be possible even if you do not receive co-funding from other sources that you propose/may have applied for from other sources, as mentioned in Section F. budget table in the application.
5. Project completion is required within 18 months of the close of the application period, which would be 19 September 2026.
6. You are required to submit to the EAAFP Secretariat at secretariat@eaaflyway.net and copy the Programme Coordinator at godwit@eaaflyway.net and the Relevant Working Group or Task Force Chairs/Coordinators with the following:
 - a final report within 3 months of the completion of the project;
 - a short write-up with photos for the EAAFP newsletter and website as well as a report to the relevant Working Group or Task Force within 3 months of the completion of the project; and
 - a copy of any publications that result from your grant.
7. You are required to acknowledge the EAAFP and the Small Grant Fund in any presentations, publications, reports or promotional material arising from this work.
8. You are required to include a logo of the EAAFP on any display material you will be preparing. Please email the EAAFP Secretariat at secretariat@eaaflyway.net and copy the Programme Coordinator at godwit@eaaflyway.net to obtain an electronic copy of the EAAFP logo.

K. Declaration

Applicant's Full Name: Matthew Vincent Tabilog

I have discussed the contents of this Application with the relevant Chair/s and Coordinator/s of the Working Group and/or Task Force and they have been carbon copied (cc) to this application submission as evidence that they have seen and supported this application.

I certify that to the best of my knowledge, all documentation and information submitted or made available by me is true, accurate, and complete.

By ticking the box, you are agreeing to the above statements: /

L. Application submission

Please email your application as a single document to the respective Working Group or Task Force Chair/Coordinator and **copy** the EAAFP Secretariat at secretariat@eaaflyway.net and the Programme Coordinator at godwit@eaaflyway.net.

The EAAFP Secretariat will acknowledge the receipt of your application.

Applications close at 5:00 pm (KST) on 19 March 2025

Results will be announced by 22 May 2025 on the EAAFP webpage and communicated via email