

Side Event Title: Connecting People, Nature, and Society: Black-faced Spoonbill Flyway Children's Exchange Project

Lead Organiser/s: Team SPOON

Co-organiser/s: Black-faced Spoonbill Working Group

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Date: 9 November 2025

Time: 09:30-11:00

Concept Note

The Black-faced Spoonbill *Platalea minor* has shown one of the most remarkable recoveries among migratory waterbirds, with its global population exceeding 7,000 individuals for the first time in 2025—up from fewer than 300 in the late 1980s. This achievement reflects decades of dedicated international collaboration among governments, NGOs, researchers, and local communities across the Flyway.

Despite this encouraging progress, the species continues to rely heavily on on-going conservation efforts to ensure its long-term survival. In response, the Black-faced Spoonbill Working Group is developing a new International Single Species Action Plan for 2026–2036, to address emerging threats and further enhance cross-border cooperation for habitat protection, monitoring and public engagement.

Team SPOON, a youth-led NGO based in Japan, has been contributing to CEPA initiatives that connect people, nature, and societies along the flyway through creative outreach such as sharing of rings inspired by the bird's leg bands. The team will present the outcomes of Flyway Children's Exchange Project, an initiative that connects children from key habitats in Japan and the Republic of Korea.

Participants will also join interactive mini workshops, including a multilingual picture book reading and a message-writing session, to reflect on shared responsibility for migratory bird conservation.

The session will conclude with the announcement of the International Black-faced Spoonbill Day, a new platform to unite Flyway partners and inspire public engagement across East Asia.

This side event offers a unique opportunity to gain insights into one of the most successful conservation stories in East Asia. Attendees will not only learn about the latest developments in Black-faced Spoonbill conservation but also participate in creative, hands-on activities that highlight the importance of community and youth involvement in safeguarding migratory species.

Tentative Programme

| Time | Topic and Speaker | Notes |
|-------------------|--|-----------------------|
| 9:30-9:45 (15') | Health status of Black-faced Spoonbill Population and Habitats by Yu Yat-tung (Black-faced Spoonbill Working Group) | |
| 9:45-10:05 (20') | Introduction of New Black-faced Spoonbill International Single Species Action Plan by Simba Chan (Black-faced Spoonbill Working Group) | |
| 10:05-10:25 (20') | Mini Workshop 1: Multilingual Reading of 'The letter from Poo, a Black-faced Spoonbill' by Mika Sasaki (Team SPOON) | Participatory session |
| 10:25-10:40 (15') | Presentation of Flyway Children's Exchange Project by Yu Takaku, Akane Tokorodani (Team SPOON) | |
| 10:40-10:50 (10') | Mini Workshop 2: Messages to Black-faced Spoonbills by Hea Jin PARK (Team SPOON) | Participatory session |
| 10:50-11:00 (10') | Announcement of International Black-faced Spoonbill Day by Vivian Fu (Black-faced Spoonbill Working Group) | |