

TWELFTH MEETING OF PARTNERS OF THE EAST ASIAN – AUSTRALASIAN FLYWAY PARTNERSHIP
Cebu, Philippines, 8-14 November 2025



Document 7

Report of the Finance Sub-Committee

Submitted by Management Committee on behalf of Finance Sub-Committee and the EAAFP Secretariat

Summary

The Finance Sub-Committee presents its report to the 12th Meeting of Partners (MOP12), outlining progress made in implementing decisions from MOP11.

Partners are invited to read the report and take note of the recommendations contained in the report. A new Finance sub-committee will be elected at MOP12 (refer to Doc.18).

Introduction

1. The Finance sub-Committee (FsC) for the East Asian – Australasian Flyway Partnership (EAAFP) was established in accordance with paragraph 9(9) of the Partnership document, to provide advice on sustainable financing and fundraising to, *inter alia*, the Meeting of the Partners, the Secretariat, any other body set up under the Partnership or any Partner. Its Terms of Reference was adopted by MOP9 in Singapore in 2017 (Doc. 1.7.2).
2. Since MOP11 in 2023, the FsC has convened a total of eight intersessional meetings:
 - 2 meetings in 2023
 - 4 meetings in 2024 and;
 - 2 meetings in 2025 (as of June)
3. From 2023 to date, the FsC has addressed a range of critical topics, including:
 - a. Secretariat annual workplan and budget for 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026-2027
 - b. EAAFP Resourcing Plan
 - c. EAAFP Voluntary Contribution mechanism
 - d. Activities of the EAAFP Foundation
 - e. Corporate engagement including due diligence for new corporate sponsors

Summary of FsC Activities

Resourcing Plan

4. At MOP11, the Draft Decision 2 referenced the Resourcing Plan for 2023-2025, noting that the *“Finance sub-Committee responsible for drafting this decision is not mandated to submit papers to the MOP on their own behalf. It was felt the limitations in the paper would take a great deal of time and effort to explore and so this paper should be withdrawn and to task the Management Committee, in consultation with the Finance Sub-committee (FSc), to develop an appropriate resourcing plan intersessionally with all Partners and action it intersessionally or to return with a proposal to MOP 12 for decision.”*
5. Following this, at its meeting on 3 July 2023, the Management Committee recommended convening a joint workshop with the Finance Sub-Committee to further develop the resourcing recommendations. In line with the original intent of the Resourcing Plan and the decision at MOP11, the FsC proposed that the Resourcing Plan be updated alongside the revision of the EAAFP Strategic Plan 2019–2028. This process should be led by the Management Committee, with active consultation and involvement of the Finance sub-Committee.
6. The FsC proposes the following process and timeline to guide this work:

Timeline	Activities
June – September 2025	FsC conducts an initial review and develops a draft structure for the updated Resourcing Plan.
January – June 2026	FsC and MC agree on: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- the structure of the updated Resourcing Plan;- the overall timeline; and- the key priority activities required for the update process in line with the review of the Strategic Plan.
	MC leads the updating process of the Resourcing Plan, in close consultation with and involvement of the FsC.

Structure

7. Lessons learned from the initial version of the Resourcing Plan indicate that its heavy emphasis on detailed costing of each Strategic Plan item posed significant challenges, particularly in collecting accurate data from Partners. To address this, the updated Resourcing Plan should shift its focus from cost estimation to the identification of **funding opportunities** aligned with the objectives and Key Result Areas (KRAs) of the EAAFP Strategic Plan.
8. The revised structure should be guided by a model template that includes:

- Identification of priority areas under each objective of the EAAFP Strategic Plan;
- Outlining potential funding opportunities aligned with EAAFP Strategic Plan objectives, including potential sources such as GEF-9, bilateral donors, multilateral development banks, philanthropic foundations, and corporate sponsors;
- Offer key actions, including:
 - Who will initiate contact with potential donors?
 - What is the outreach strategy for engaging the particular donors?
- Review of funding opportunities obtained for the priority areas for reporting back to Partners at MOP 13.

Governance harmonisation

9. Concerns were raised regarding the Management Committee's decision not to grant "Committee" status to the Finance Sub-Committee (FsC), as this appears inconsistent with the objectives of the Partnership restructuring endorsed by several Meetings of Partners (MOPs) ago. The restructuring emphasized the role of both the Technical Sub-Committee and the Finance Sub-Committee as the two primary advisory bodies to the Management Committee, with a clear expectation of their active contribution to decision-making processes in their respective areas of expertise.
10. It was noted that the revised Terms of Reference for the FsC, which are to be considered by the MOP, should reflect this intent to avoid diminishing the FsC's role and effectiveness. In particular, limiting the Chair of the FsC to observer status in the Management Committee could undermine the Sub-Committee's ability to provide meaningful input, which would not align with the spirit of the restructuring.
11. Further concerns were raised about the restricted membership of the FsC, which may limit access to essential financial expertise. To ensure robust and informed financial oversight, it is recommended that the FsC be granted the flexibility to co-opt relevant experts as needed, rather than relying solely on non-participatory observers.
12. To address these concerns, the FsC formally requests the following actions:
 - Formal recognition of the FsC as a standing committee.
 - Full membership for the FsC Chair on the Management Committee.
 - Authority to co-opt external financial experts to strengthen deliberations and reconsideration of membership restrictions to ensure access to adequate financial expertise.

Voluntary Contribution

13. Since MOP11, several Partners have generously provided contributions to EAAFP. These contributions were used for a variety of activities, such as improving the Site Information Sheet (SIS), organizing awareness raising activities, supporting Working Groups/Task Forces, providing small grants to the Partners to organize national conservation events, producing communication materials which all contributed to promoting the EAAFP's brand and awareness raising. The detailed information of the Partners' Contributions is outlined below:

Status of Voluntary Fee Contribution 2023-2025 (as of 10 June 2025)

- Ministry of Environment Korea (Host Government)
- Beijing Forestry University and National Forestry and Grassland Administration, The People's Republic of China (Science Unit Host)
- Incheon Metropolitan City, ROK (Host City)
- Ministry of Environment Japan
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Department of Conservation New Zealand
- Ministry of Environment Cambodia
- Australian Wader Studies Group
- Pūkoro Mirānda Naturalists' Trust
- Paulson Institute - to support the update of the Conservation Status Review
- International Crane Foundation
- WWT
- MCF

Guidance for Attendance by Observers at MOP

14. The Rules of Procedure adopted by MOP11 in 2023 state the following regarding observers:

Rule 6

1. The Secretariat shall notify any Range State not Party to the Partnership, and the secretariats of international conventions concerned *inter alia* with the conservation, including protection and management, of migratory waterbirds of the session of the Meeting of the Partners so that they may be represented as observers.
2. Such observers may, upon the invitation of the Chair, participate without the right to vote in the proceedings of any session of the Meeting of the Partners unless at least one third of the Partners present at the meeting object.

Rule 7

1. Bodies or agencies desiring to be represented at the meeting by observers shall submit the names of their representatives to the Secretariat at least one month prior to the opening of the session.
2. Such observers may, upon the invitation of the Chair, attend the Meeting of Partners without the right to vote in the proceedings of any session.

3. Seating limitations may require that no more than two observers not a Partner, body or agency be present at a session of the Meeting of the Partners. The Secretariat shall notify those concerned of such limitations in advance of the meeting.
15. Despite these rules, there was an unexpectedly high number of observers at MOP11 which resulted in substantial financial challenges. The large number of observers not only created financial strain but also posed logistical difficulties for the effective management of associated events, given the limited resources and capacity of the venue. To address these challenges, the Secretariat, in consultation with the Finance Sub-Committee, has developed a draft Guidance for Attendance by Observers at MOP, which appears as Appendix 1 to this document.
16. The purpose of this internal document is to establish clear eligibility criteria, participation modalities, and financial responsibilities for observers, in order to manage expectations, ensure fairness, and support for the effective organization of future MoPs. The guidance also clarifies that observer status does not imply financial support from the Secretariat, and introduces the possibility of a nominal participation fee, subject to further review.
17. The participation fee will be determined by the Secretariat, in consultation with the MOP host country, based on the estimated cost of participation. The collected fees will be managed through the Secretariat's budget.
18. With this background, the FsC seeks the Partners' endorsement of acknowledgement that observer participation at future MOPs will be subject to the criteria and procedures outlined in the guidance.

Recommendations from the Finance sub-Committee for the next intersessional period

19. The Finance sub-Committee wishes to make the following recommendations to assist in shaping the intersessional work of the next Finance sub-Committee.
20. Finance sub-Committee recommendations:
 - a. Re-affirm the EAAFP Voluntary Fee Contribution system and encourage Partners to make voluntary payments.
 - b. Recognize the Finance Sub-Committee as a standing committee of the Partnership.
 - c. Grant full membership to the Chair of the Finance sub-Committee on the Management Committee.
 - d. Endorse the "Guidance for Attendance by Observers at MOP" at Appendix 1.

Appendix 1

Guidance for Attendance by Observers at MOP

1. Introduction

This guidance has been developed to help manage observer participation at EAAFP MOPs. The aim is to set clear expectations and ensure observer participation is well-aligned with available resources and logistical capacity.

2. Definition and Role of Observers

Who qualifies as an Observer:

Observers may include representatives from non-Partner organizations, academic institutions, NGOs, private sector entities, or individuals with a demonstrated interest in flyway conservation.

Role and Conduct:

Observers may, upon the invitation of the Chair, participate without the right to vote in the proceedings of any session of the Meeting of the Partners unless at least one third of the Partners present at the meeting object (*Rules of Procedure 6.2*).

They are expected to respect meeting protocols and refrain from interrupting formal deliberations unless explicitly invited to speak.

Seating limitations may require that no more than two observers not a Partner, body or agency be present at a session of the Meeting of the Partners. (*Rules of Procedure 7.3*). However, please note that, depending on space availability, the number of observers may be further limited to fewer than two.

3. Eligibility and Criteria for Acceptance

Eligible observers must demonstrate relevance to the MOP agenda and flyway conservation work. Acceptance is subject to venue capacity. **Recognition as an observer does not imply funding support from the EAAFP or automatic approval for participation at MOP.**

4. Registration Process

Bodies or agencies desiring to be represented at the meeting by observers shall submit the names of their representatives to the Secretariat at least one month prior to the opening of the session (*Rules of Procedure 7.1*).

Observers must submit a registration form, including organizational background and purpose of attendance, by the deadline communicated by the Secretariat. Confirmation will be issued by the EAAFP Secretariat upon approval.

6. Financial Responsibilities

Observers are fully responsible for covering their expenses, including travel, accommodation, meals, and any visa requirements. The Secretariat does not provide financial support for observers.

8. Contact Information

For queries, please contact the EAAFP Secretariat at: mop12@eaaflyway.net