

Annex 2 to Resolution 11.16 (Rev.COP12)

TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL TASK FORCE TO ADDRESS ILLEGAL HUNTING, TAKING AND TRADE OF MIGRATORY BIRDS IN THE EAST ASIAN-AUSTRALASIAN FLYWAY (ITTEA)

Background and purpose

This Task Force is established in line with the mandate provided by the Resolution adopted at COP11 entitled “The prevention of Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds” to assist the Parties to the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) and its associated instruments, relevant MEAs and Conventions to fulfil their obligations to protect migratory birds from illegal hunting, taking and trade.

Goal

To ensure that no illegal hunting, taking and trade of migratory birds (IHB) takes place in East Asian-Australasian Flyway (EAAF).

Role

To facilitate concerted efforts and procedures to combat IHB in the East Asian-Australasian Flyway in close cooperation with the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership.

Scope

The Task Force will be regional covering all states of the East Asian-Australasian Flyway as follows; Australia, Bangladesh, Brunei, Cambodia, China, Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Indonesia, Japan, Laos, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Republic of Korea (South Korea), the Russian Federation, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste (East Timor), United States of America and Vietnam.

The Task Force will cover all migratory bird taxa as identified by CMS, except waterbirds.

Remit

The Task Force will:

- Support and guide a review on the status of hunting regulations related to migratory birds in the EAAF;
- Support and guide a situation analysis on IHB in the flyway, building on the existing work of CMS MIKT in the Mediterranean, Europe and Middle East;
- Promote and facilitate implementation of relevant decisions and plans adopted in the framework of MEAs or other frameworks, especially the CMS, AMBI and Bilateral Migratory Bird Agreements;
- Stimulate internal and external communication and exchange of information, experience, best practice and know-how;
- Assist in resource mobilization for priority actions including cooperation with ASEAN;
- Monitor the implementation of the relevant decisions and plans and their effectiveness and regularly submit progress reports to the governing bodies of participating MEAs, including via an intergovernmental ‘scoreboard’ to indicate progress on eliminating IHB;
- Strengthen regional and international networks with experience on IHB (e.g. ASEAN Wildlife Enforcement Network); and
- Liaise and share experience with both the CMS MIKT and the EAAFP Task Force.

Membership

The Task Force membership will be comprised of representatives of relevant government institutions in the field of environment, game management, law enforcement and judiciary in the Parties to the participating MEAs in the EAAF Region.

It will also involve observers from the Secretariats of the participating MEAs and frameworks, as well as academic institutions, the hunting community, NGOs and other stakeholders, as appropriate.

In addition, the following representatives will be invited to contribute to the Task Force:

- Representatives of Parties elsewhere in the EAAF and beyond that wish to support the work of the Task Force;
- Representatives of the CMS Scientific Council, CMS MIKT, EAAFP Task Force, AEWA Technical Committee, CMS Preventing Poisoning Working Group, the African-Eurasian Migratory Landbird Working Group, the Flyways Working Group, and other groups with relevant experience;
- Representatives from relevant Bilateral Migratory Bird Agreement and relevant IUCN specialist groups; and
- Relevant independent experts on IHB and on migratory bird ecology and policy.

Governance

The Task Force will elect a Chair and a Vice-Chair from amongst its members.

Decision making will be done by seeking consensus, as much as possible, among the group.

The Task Force will operate by seeking consensus, as much as possible among the group and in accordance with a *modus operandi* which shall be developed once the Task Force in convened.

Operation

Funding permitting, a coordinator will be appointed by the Task Force with the following functions:

- organizing the meetings of the Task Force and preparing the background documents;
- maintaining and moderating the Task Force's communication platform (website and intranet);
- facilitating implementation of decisions of the Task Force;
- facilitating fundraising and resource mobilization; and
- facilitating engagement with stakeholders within and beyond the Task Force.

Meetings of the Task Force will be convened at appropriate intervals, as considered necessary and funding permitting. Between meetings business will be conducted electronically through an online workspace (intranet) within the Task Force's website, which will provide the primary mode of communication.

In collaboration with Parties and relevant international organizations and subject to the availability of funds, the Task Force will organize regional workshops in trouble spot areas to assist in the development of appropriate local or regional solutions.