

TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE AMERICAS FLYWAYS TASK FORCE

Background and purpose

The Americas Flyways Framework (AFF) Task Force is convened in line with the mandate provided by Resolution 11.14 on Migratory Birds and Flyways. The resolution calls on the Flyways Working Group and on the CMS Secretariat to support the establishment of a Task Force, in association with the Western Hemisphere Migratory Species Initiative (WHMSI). The Task Force is set to coordinate engagement of partners in the development and implementation of an action plan for the AFF including provisions for concerted conservation action for priority species. Relevant hemispheric entities will be involved with the aim of reinforcing their mandates.

Goal

The goal of the AFF Task Force will be to establish a shared and common practice for conservation of migratory birds in the countries of the Americas, strengthening the implementation of already existing initiatives for migratory bird conservation in the Americas and promoting cooperation between countries. The Task Force will facilitate implementation of the AFF and associated Action Plan, with a focus on filling gaps and enacting conservation on the ground.

Role

The role of the AFF Task Force will be to engage governments and relevant stakeholders in the process of implementing the AFF and its Action Plan.

Scope

The geographical scope of the AFF Task Force will be the Americas, including North America, Central America and the Caribbean, and South America. The taxonomic scope will cover all migratory birds in the Americas, including the austral migrants, with a special focus on threatened and declining species.

Remit

The Task Force will:

- Lead the development and implementation of an action plan to achieve the AFF;
- Develop a workplan and set priorities and timelines for its actions;
- Lead the establishment of the AFF Partnership (PAFF) as described in Annex 2 to Resolution 11.14;
- Promote implementation of the AFF and relevant guidelines adopted in the framework of CMS,
- Promote implementation of existing instruments for bird conservation in the Americas, in particular Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna/Arctic Migratory Birds Initiative (CAFF/AMBI), Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act (NMBCA) and national initiatives related to migratory birds, and seek synergies with CMS processes;
- Assist in resource mobilization for priority actions;

- Stimulate and support internal and external communication and exchange of information, experience, best practice and know-how; and
- Strengthen regional and international networks.

Membership

The AFF Task Force is open-ended. Its member organizations will comprise official representatives of CMS Parties, the Scientific Council, range states, relevant hemispheric initiatives, academia, NGOs, IGOs, the hunting sector and other interested stakeholders.

Governance

At its first meeting the Task Force will elect a Chair and a Vice-Chair from amongst its members, with a mandate until the next meeting of the Task Force when they can be replaced or re-elected. Decision making will be done by seeking consensus among the group. The Task Force will report to the CMS COP and to the governing bodies of participating partnerships in the hemisphere.

Operation

Funding permitting, a Coordinator will be appointed with the following functions:

- Organize the meetings of the Task Force and prepare the background documents;
- Maintain and moderate the Task Force's communications;
- Facilitate implementation of decisions of the Task Force, as necessary;
- Facilitate fundraising and resource mobilization; and
- Facilitate engagement with stakeholders within and beyond the Task Force and PAFF.

Meetings of the Task Force will be convened at appropriate intervals, as considered necessary and back to back with other relevant meetings. Between meetings business will be conducted electronically.

The Task Force, in collaboration with Parties and relevant international organizations, subject to the availability of funds, will organize regional workshops to raise awareness, support and capacity for implementation of the Action Plan in different areas in the Americas.

Financing

Funding for the operations of the AFF Task Force as well as the implementation of identified priorities will be sought from various sources, including national authorities, member organizations and international donors.