Roles and Responsibilities of a Youth Focal Point

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Resolution XIV.12 adopted at COP14:

- ENCOURAGES Contracting Parties to explore and support strategies to engage, collaborate with and involve youth in the implementation of the Convention, such as:
  
- *i. appointing national NGO or government Youth Focal Points* to the Convention, as outlined in Annex 1, to strengthen the voice and representation of young people;
Role of a Youth Focal Point (YFP)

The Youth Focal Point is an emerging leader in the wetland space, and/or a dedicated younger officer within the Administrative Authority.

Opportunity for the appointee to:

• build a network of young people engaged in wetlands in your country
• include youth voices in national wetland policy development
• to gain experience engaging with international and domestic work on wetland conservation.
• to kickstart projects that they think will lead to better wetland conservation and youth engagement in their country
Selecting a Youth Focal Point (YFP)

• Internal: identify a young professional within the Administrative Authority who is demonstrating leadership on wetlands

• External: appoint a young person involved in a wetlands community group/environmental NGO or a young researcher focused on wetlands

• Selection criteria:
  • Passionate about wetlands
  • Experience working on wetlands
  • Understanding about the Convention
  • Willing and motivated to devote times to the work
• Appointment Process:
  • Formally appointed by a letter from the Head of Administrative Authority to the Secretariat of the Convention
  • Provide the name, title and contact details of YFP

• Reporting:
  • Report in COP15 National Report due **18 October 2024**

• Term of appointment:
  • We would suggest appointing a YFP for the period between COPs, and engaging the next YFP before COP
  • Alternatively, yearly appointments are possible
  • Handovers and ceremonies are encouraged
Responsibilities of the Youth Focal Point (YFP)

The roles of Youth Focal Points are set in Annex 1 of COP14 Youth Resolution 12. Key items include:

- participate as an observer in the Ramsar Youth Working Group
- support the implementation of the Youth Workplan
- provide leadership for the inclusion of youth perspectives in the implementation of the Convention
- be the main point of contact on youth inclusion in Ramsar programmes
- be a key member of the National Ramsar/Wetland Committees or similar national structures
- assist in the practical development and implementation of Ramsar policies and programmes
- promote development of projects with the active participation of youth
- establish and maintain youth contacts and networks
Example: Australian Youth Engaged in Wetlands webinar series

- Started in 2022 on World Wetlands Day and continues in 2023 and 2024
- The series explores the wetland research and conservation insights of our early career wetland researchers and professionals
- Build Australia’s Youth wetlands network
- Creating and sharing networking and capacity building opportunities