



Partnership for  
**nature** and **people**

**Name of group:** BirdLife Young Leaders

**Title:** Terms of Reference

### **Background**

BirdLife International is a truly global partnership of environmental NGOs, national conservation organisations, all of whom share a common vision – to mobilise lasting, sustainable protection for the world’s birds, their habitats, and global biodiversity in general.

Together, we believe in a holistic approach to conservation – using the insight we gain from our rigorous studies on the health of the world’s bird species, to work for a world where nature and people live in harmony.

Connecting children and young people with nature to develop conservation knowledge, values and skills is vitally important in the fight against the climate and biodiversity crisis.

- Young people are the future; however, their values and priorities are often not included in decision making processes
- There is a new movement of young people engaging with biodiversity and climate crisis which demonstrates the impact this generation can create
- BirdLife International doesn’t have much engagement with young people as a global secretariat, despite many local BirdLife Partners working with young people nationally.

The BirdLife Young Leaders is a new programme created during the implementation of the Erasmus+ ‘It’s Time’ project to provide a voice for the young conservationists. The programme aims to improve engagement of young people in environmental issues, including those with fewer opportunities. We aim to achieve this by:

- Creating a national community of young people who participate in and create tangible conservation actions
- Facilitating global collaboration between young people across different countries and regions
- Delivering training programmes for young people to build their skills and capacity to create change
- Providing a platform for young people to share their recommendations to BirdLife International, and as a result, enable the BirdLife Partnership to address these priorities and concerns to work for young people more effectively.

### **Term**

This Terms of Reference are effective from the 12<sup>th</sup> September 2022 and will be ongoing and reviewed every two years.

### **Criteria for BirdLife National Partners selecting participants of the BirdLife Young Leaders**

Nominated individuals must:

1. Have an existing, demonstratable interest in nature conservation. This could be shown through (but not limited to) volunteering experience, social media or hobbies such as Birdwatching.
2. Be between the ages of 16 and 24 years old at the time of nomination (equal representation of both female and male will be considered).
3. Be willing to volunteer their time to attend all trainings, formal meetings and collaborate with the National Partner in engaging other young people in their country.
4. Strong communicators and support the building of a national network

### **Membership and Participation**

- Nominated National Young Leaders representatives
- Each participating BirdLife National Partner can nominate up to 5 national representatives
- The National Young Leaders representatives can nominate their chair through a simple majority vote and can remain in place for two years, with the possibility to renew
- National Young volunteer Leaders representatives will sign a volunteer agreement with BirdLife International
- BirdLife International representative from the global office in Cambridge and/or from regional Secretariats

### **Roles and responsibilities**

The National Young Leaders' role will include:

- Contribute to creating a series of meaningful actions to protect nature at local levels
- Designing and implementing communications and fundraising campaigns to engage young people with fewer opportunities with environmental issues
- Work with their national partner to create a young leaders' network in their respective countries
- Contribute to creating volunteer brochure that will provide tangible ways for young people to volunteer and create meaningful actions to protect nature across Europe
- Be part and engage with BirdLife Local Community Networks
- Informing BirdLife International on how to engage with young people and the environmental priorities which are important to this generation

### **Meetings**

- Regular coordination meetings with the National Partner
- One formal meeting, networking and training event per year with BirdLife International representatives
- Regular meetings with the other National Young Leaders representatives from various countries
- The National Young Leaders will have the option of inviting other guests to their regular meetings if necessary and if other members agree

### **Trainings**

- All newly nominated individuals should attend the induction training at the start of their tenure on the BirdLife Young Leaders programme. The training will be conducted by BirdLife Malta.

#### **Sharing of information and resources (including confidential materials)**

- The BirdLife National Young Volunteer Leaders representatives will have access to the Hatch platform where they can share information and resources widely.

#### **Review/Amendment, Modification/Variation**

This Terms of Reference may be amended, varied or modified in writing after consultation and agreement by Council members.