

5th Meeting of the CMS Multi-Stakeholder Energy Task Force (ETF5)

Online, 30 November – 1 December 2020

ETF5/Meeting Report

MEETING REPORT



The Government of the Federal Republic of Germany, through the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU) were recognized as Champion Plus for their generous support and commitment towards Reconciling Energy Sector Developments with Migratory Species Conservation for the period 2018-2020. The Energy Task Force has been funded with the contribution granted by Germany under the Migratory Species Champion Programme.

Supported by:



based on a decision of the German Bundestag



Convention on Migratory Species

The Fifth Meeting of the Multi-Stakeholder CMS Energy Task Force (ETF5) was held virtually over two days from 30 November to 1 December 2020, and was followed by a public double webinar on 2 December 2020, titled 'Renewable energy with nature at its core: the Energy Task Force' ([here](#)). Meeting documents can be found on the [ETF5 virtual meeting platform](#).

Agenda Item 1 – Opening Remarks

The coordinator of the Energy Task Force (ETF), Ashton Berry (Global Climate Change Programme Coordinator of BirdLife International – BLI) called the meeting to order and asked the Chair, Michel Perret (France) to address the participants.

The Chair said that it was unfortunate that a physical meeting had not been possible due to COVID restrictions, but the ETF could still undertake its tasks efficiently through virtual meetings. The climate crisis and biodiversity loss had to be addressed urgently and all stakeholders had their role in taking appropriate action. The ETF was an important tool, striking a balance between the world's future energy needs, combating climate change and promoting nature conservation. He concluded his remarks by thanking BLI and the CMS Secretariat for preparing the meeting.

Mr. Berry welcomed all participants to the meeting noting that some new members and observers were attending for the first time. He thanked the members of the ETF for all their work and for the good progress made despite the COVID-related restrictions. He called upon Marco Barbieri (CMS Secretariat) to address the meeting.

Mr. Barbieri also welcomed all the attendees noting the high level of participation. He added that he was pleased to be involved in the work of the ETF again having participated in its first two meetings. He had resumed responsibility of the ETF within the Secretariat because of the vacancies in the Secretariat's avian team.

CMS Executive Secretary, Amy Fraenkel expressed her thanks to the organizers saying that the meeting was well timed. The current workplan of the ETF was about to expire and a new one was needed at a time when there were predictions for massive growth in renewable energy. The ETF had a role in ensuring that renewable energy was developed in ways that took account of the conservation needs of migratory species. At the same time, the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework was being elaborated. The incoming administration in the United States of America was expected to re-engage with global efforts to combat climate change and to encourage the move from fossil fuels to renewable energy. A great deal had been achieved in the early stages of the ETF by a small but dedicated group of people. In the next few years, the ETF needed to build on its achievements, attract more members, produce and disseminate its guidance and influence decision-makers, developers and other key stakeholders. The Government of Germany had so far provided funding and India had made commitments to support the ETF through the Champion Programme, but to maintain momentum, more resources were required.

Tine Lindberg-Roncari (Secretariat) provided some procedural and technical information about the organization and conduct of the virtual meeting, advising participants that the meeting was being recorded.

Agenda Item 2 – Introduction of Participants and Adoption of the Agenda

The Chair conducted a tour de table inviting participants to introduce themselves, to say which country or organization they were representing and to describe one major activity or achievement that they had managed over the past year related to the work of the ETF. The list of participants can be found on the ETF5 virtual meeting platform.

The Chair, speaking for France, said that a new national law on energy production over the coming ten years had been enacted in 2020 and the Office français de la biodiversité had been established.

The Chair highlighted the main items for discussion, which were the review of the current workplan (agenda item 3), the workplan for the period post 2020 (item 7 on Day 2) and presentations, e.g. on the green recovery (agenda item 4).

Mr. Berry (BLI) said that a procedure would be required for handling the election of the chair and vice-chair. He requested nominations for the posts of chair and vice-chair, pointing out that the current chair was willing to serve another term but that the vice-chair, James Pearce-Higgins of the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO), was standing down after three years' service. The elections were to be moved from item 9 in the agenda to item 10, as only ETF members were entitled to vote.

The amended agenda as presented was adopted. Further information on the meeting agenda can be found in [ETF5/Doc.1a](#).

Agenda Item 3 – Implementation Review and Closing of ETF Workplan 2018-2020

Mr. Berry and Harvey Rich (BLI) made a presentation describing progress made and successes achieved over the past three years.

The ETF now had 42 members, including 15 governments, one inter-governmental agency, five multilateral environmental agreements and nine other international organizations, together with 12 observer organizations. There were further nominations to join in the pipeline.

Many case studies had been submitted resulting in several fact sheets being produced, which helped publicise the good work being done through the ETF. At the ETF meeting in Paris in 2019 participants had been invited to make a commitment. This idea had elicited a positive response and some excellent achievements had been reported. In the course of 2020 several guidelines and standards had been developed and a report on activities had been presented to the CMS COP in Gandhinagar.

The Egyptian Ministry of the Environment had been commended for its 2020 Energy Globe Award National winner for Egypt on work related to the Soaring Birds Project, and the Jordanian Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature for the Renewables Grid Initiative 2020 Good Practice of the Year award's Environmental Protection category.

The COVID pandemic had prevented some activities, but ETF members had been active at a number of events before the travel restrictions had been imposed, such as meetings of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), UN High Level forums and the 13th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the CMS (CMS COP13).

Areas for continued work included increasing funding and collaboration for research, increase funding for coordination of the ETF, capacity-building, awareness raising and governance.

Mr. Rich said that the ETF Information Resources document had been circulated for comment, which includes new guidelines such as the EU's Wildlife Sensitivity Mapping Manual and the IUCN's *les oiseaux et les réseaux électriques en Afrique du Nord*. Participants were invited to share further publications of this nature to add to this archive of resources, as well as to build on existing case studies such as those for Egypt, Jordan, Kenya and South Africa.

Mr Rich highlighted that there would be a session on Day 2 to consider the workplan for the post-2020 period and the prioritization of activities in need of funding (see agenda item 7).

The slides making up Mr. Berry and Mr. Rich's presentation can be found on the ETF5 virtual meeting platform [here](#).

Agenda Item 4 – Green Recovery

A presentation from Melanie Heath (BLI) on the green recovery was followed by a session conducted in four break-out groups.

Ms. Heath explained that the purpose of her presentation was to give participants some background information to serve as an introduction for the group discussions. The COVID pandemic has had devastating effects with 62 million people infected, 1 million deaths, 305 million jobs lost (42 per cent of them permanently) and possibly as many as 1.6 billion jobs lost in the informal economy. The priorities were to re-ignite the economy, restore purchasing power, create new jobs and prioritize support for the least well off. It would also be necessary to tackle climate change and biodiversity loss at the same time. The second wave of governmental stimulus and support was underway and the third was expected to target hard infrastructure and renewable energy, and it was important that these should be as green as possible.

BLI had organized a series of webinars on the green recovery in July 2020 and the recordings were now available [online](#). The key elements of the response to COVID and fostering the recovery were: to supporting the green recovery; to collate evidence of success; to develop common principles; to collaborate with international financial institutions; to close the 'biodiversity finance gap' and ensure that activities funded provided benefits and did no harm; to strengthen environmental laws and improve enforcement; and to secure the transformational change to more sustainability, resilience and viability.

The slides making up Ms. Heath's presentation can be found on the ETF5 virtual meeting platform [here](#).

Break Out Group Discussions

Mr. Rich assigned the participants to four break-out groups each of which had a facilitator (Ashton Berry, Melanie Heath, Harvey Rich and Tris Allinson). The groups had twenty minutes to discuss three key interventions upon which the ETF should focus to ensure that the green recovery included renewable energy generation that was compatible with nature conservation.

Group 1 (facilitated by Mr. Allinson)

Being a 'green industry', renewable energy would be part of plans for a green recovery as a huge expansion was likely, making the main challenge to ensure that other aspects were given appropriate attention. As well as increasing the use of renewable energy, fossil fuel had to be phased out and the key role of the ETF was to ensure that renewable energy under a green recovery was nature friendly. Rushing to build more turbines regardless of location should be avoided. The transition needed to be affected quickly, given the need to address climate change, but it also had to be strategic.

The ETF was a forum for governments, where they could learn from each other's legislation and adopt a regionally and globally consistent approach. The ETF should also serve as a knowledge hub and a repository for best practice and good science. Sound data were needed as a basis to establish which species occurred where and which species were particularly vulnerable. The ETF should aim to build on the good work done so far, especially with financial institutions, and to increase its global coverage, especially in Asia and Latin America.

Group 2 (facilitated by Mr. Berry)

The ETF should share best practice to achieve the greatest gain for biodiversity. If nature-based solutions were to be found as part of a green recovery, then conservation needs had to be integrated into renewable energy development and this required mapping.

Within the Sustainable Development Goal framework, the goal related to energy should take more account of the need to conserve biodiversity and the SDGs needed to be presented in a language that the business community understood.

The ETF had an advocacy role and should present solutions that demonstrably worked. Consideration should be given to producing an ETF briefing document.

Group 3 (facilitated by Mr. Rich)

It was important to have a clear understanding of what 'green recovery' represents and how this is interpreted and mobilised.

To promote best practice, the ETF should promote examples of actions that had been effective, building on existing case studies. The ETF should map and establish what resources and materials were available regarding green recovery mechanisms.

It was important to strike a balance between mitigation and adaptation, ensuring these approaches are not siloed and greater engagement with investors and industry was necessary during these uncertain times.

Group 4 (facilitated by Ms. Heath)

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) requirements should be clearer regarding powerlines and distribution networks, and areas of particular sensitivity for birds should be mapped. It was likely that the number of offshore wind farms would increase. During the lockdown monitoring activities and conducting EIAs had been more difficult. Technological solutions could involve the use of drones and static cameras.

Plenary

Robert Adamczyk (European Bank of Reconstruction and Development - EBRD) said a problem was that strategic assessments took time, and most projects considered by the EBRD did not have such assessments or had weak ones. Guidance was along the lines of 'avoid designated Ramsar Sites', but at Natura 2000 sites it was necessary to do assessments covering the whole year. Many projects were resubmitted for consideration, years after the EIA had been conducted.

Agenda Item 5 – ETF Workplan 2018-2020

The Chair asked Mr. Berry to introduce the agenda item and set up the break-out groups that would review what had worked well in the period 2018-2020 and what areas needed to be improved. First, Mr. Berry provided an overview of the content of the old workplan as a refresher for long-standing members of the ETF and an introduction for newcomers.

The workplan had seven themes; the promotion of implementation of relevant guidelines in the frameworks of participating multilateral environmental agreements; the setting and review of priorities; mobilization of resources; monitoring implementation and identifying impediments; communication; strengthening networks – geographic, industrial and taxonomic; and encouraging research.

Break Out Group Discussions

Mr. Rich assigned the participants to four break-out groups each of which had a facilitator (Ashton Berry, Melanie Heath, Harvey Rich and Marco Barbieri). The groups were given the task of identifying five things related to the enabling actions of the ETF during the 2018-2020 workplan that had gone well and five where improvements were necessary into the next phase. Example enabling actions included: coordination/facilitation; communication; funding/capacity; governance; awareness of impacts and solutions; and the availability of data.

Group 1 (facilitated by Mr. Berry)

There was a need to ensure greater coverage of bats and it was pointed out that EUROBATS already had relevant guidelines and Europe's legal framework that was generally well established. Different taxa and species needed separate treatment and there were no 'one size fits all' solutions. While the original focus of the ETF was on bird species, its taxonomic scope had been extended.

It was also perceived that solar energy did not receive the same amount of attention as wind power.

The work of ETF members should be promoted, and successes highlighted. Egypt and Jordan had both been commended, and these successes should be publicized. The ETF should also raise its profile by attending more regional events and expanding the media used for conveying its message.

Engaging with other multilateral environment agreements (MEAs) had born fruit, and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) was showing more interest in biodiversity issues. However, there was scope for greater synergies with the UNFCCC and with the SDGs. There had also been a false perception that the ETF was anti-renewables.

Group 2 (facilitated by Mr. Rich)

Successes had included the spirit of international cooperation in which the ETF operated. The ETF had grown in stature, reaching critical mass and had the momentum to drive its agenda forward. It had also developed some good tools and materials.

It was suggested that there should be more focus on governance in the coming period. While there were 15 governments participating in the ETF, it was noted that CMS had over 130 Parties and CMS National Focal Points (NFPs) could be conducted to increase engagement, especially for ministries other than those dealing with the environment (e.g. energy and the economy). More representation was needed from South-East Asia and from industry, and the ETF should establish itself as a knowledge hub.

Group 3 (facilitated by Mr. Barbieri)

The members of the ETF had helped build momentum and new members had been recruited, especially from financial institutions.

The material available to the ETF was of good quality, but more was needed, and the scope should be extended to other taxa.

Levels of commitment and awareness varied across countries, and more mentoring and capacity-building should be done.

Group 4 (facilitated by Ms. Heath)

Strengths of the ETF were identified as being its good variety of members, the range of topics addressed (combining climate change and biodiversity loss) and its engagement with other MEAs (e.g. UNFCCC).

Over the coming period, more should be done to generate and share information (e.g. on shut-down on demand), to mainstream the work of the ETF by reaching out to other sectors and participating in events such as the 28th International Ornithologists' Union Congress taking place in August 2022 in Durban, South Africa, and increasing fundraising especially for coordination and communication.

Agenda Item 6 – Recap of Day 1

The Chair gave a summary of the discussions from the first day of the meeting. The main subjects had been:

The Green Recovery

The ETF was to:

- Develop best practice with case studies and digestible examples.
- Map resources available to the ETF on this topic.
- Increase engagement with industry, investors and other stakeholders.

ETF Workplan 2018-2020

During the existing ETF work period from 2018-2020, things that worked well included bringing people together in positive spirit of international cooperation, good sharing of best practice and it was felt that the ETF had reached 'critical mass' and was well placed to promote its priorities going forward.

Improvements needed were increased engagement with industry, developing the ETF as an information hub, increasing the involvement of governments (especially among CMS Parties) with particular emphasis on ministries other than those dealing directly with the environment (e.g. energy and economics ministries) and filling geographic gaps in membership, compiling and disseminating more material especially on non-avian species (e.g. bats) and extending or increasing the scope to other sectors (e.g. to include solar energy).

Agenda Item 7 – Post-2020 Workplan

Mr. Berry (BLI) introduced this agenda item which had first been discussed at ETF4 and the results of the working group discussions had helped inform the proposed working groups for the post-2020 period. The working groups had been assigned a subject: (1. biodiversity, standardization of monitoring protocols, data, permits and licensing; 2. long-term strategic environmental planning and assessment; 3. research and cumulative impacts, development of tools and solutions; and 4. sharing knowledge and experience and communications strategy). Each had considered a vision and were asked to identify the enabling elements that were required to achieve their aims.

Mr. Rich introduced the draft of the new workplan which contained eight key themes. As part of this session, four topic specific break-out groups were established based on responses to the doodle poll circulated the day before. These comprised:

1. Research and knowledge gaps – a focus on access to scientific knowledge, research gaps, dissemination and tools.
2. Finance, the private sector and standardisation – a focus on global best practice and standards for monitoring, tools, licensing, financing and technologies.
3. Governance and strategic planning – a focus on appropriate international and national frameworks, legislation, policies and plans.
4. Knowledge sharing and communication – a focus on awareness, collaboration, partnership, engagement and action.

Break Out group Discussions

Each group was led by a facilitator (Ashton Berry, Tris Allinson, Harvey Rich or Marco Barbieri). Within the context of their topic, each group was asked to identify three major gaps and three realistic interventions (solutions) relevant to the work of the ETF, as well as to determine what working groups were needed to continue the intersessional work of the task force.

Group 1 – Knowledge Sharing and Communications (facilitated by Mr. Berry)

One gap identified was the lack of use of languages other than English (an impediment in certain regions), but translation would require additional funding.

While the webpages contained a great deal of information, the presentation was not very visual (the Secretariat said that the website was being revamped). Stories about both successes and challenges should be published.

Areas highlighted for further attention were increasing engagement with industry, as some companies were likely to be willing to donate if they were admitted to the ETF (it was noted that with CMS being a UN entity, rules about accepting money had to be respected). The ETF should also engage with other relevant forums.

Capacity-building was a propriety in particular with regard to governance. One possibility would be for a mentoring scheme to be established, with one government advising another. An award scheme to reward technological innovation could be established.

The ETF should organize more webinars on more issues (e.g. communications and knowledge sharing), using different platforms and formats.

Group 2 – Research and Knowledge Gaps (facilitated by Mr. Allinson)

Perceived gaps related to scientific data, especially regarding sublethal impacts, noise and the effects on habitats. It was also unclear how effective some mitigation measures were, such as attaching devices to powerlines and the painting of rotor blades. More monitoring data were needed to provide population estimates, to determine whether species were more vulnerable to collision or simply more prevalent in the vicinity of installations. While there was plentiful information from Europe and North America, there were knowledge gaps from other regions, especially Latin America and Africa. More information was needed on solar power installations. There should also be greater representation from industry on the ETF.

High level reviews should be undertaken, and data and protocols should be collected and a central database on mortality established.

The ETF should consider having a certification process to recognize good practice, if companies made information public. More research should be done outside North America and Europe and if resources allowed, working groups should hold meetings more regularly.

Group 3 – Governance and Strategic Planning (facilitated by Mr. Barbieri)

The key issue was promoting strategic planning considerations among governments with the participation of all relevant stakeholders and guidelines could be adopted through legislation. The work of the ETF should be integrated into other international frameworks, and ETF NFPs should be encouraged to liaise with their counterparts dealing with CBD and the UNFCCC.

Implementation at the national level should be assessed, case studies compiled, and further guidelines developed.

In light of the United Nations General Assembly's energy summit scheduled for September 2021, consideration should be given to how the ETF could strategically position itself.

Working groups on best practice/guidelines and on powerlines and interactions with birds should be established, to increase attention on sources other than wind turbines. It was suggested that regarding powerlines, focus should be placed on the Mediterranean.

Group 4 – Finance, the Private Sector, Tools and Standardisation (facilitated by Mr. Rich)

The perceived gaps related to monitoring progress on agreed actions and the recruitment of more corporations to the ETF (the recruitment of more financial institutions was well noted).

More hubs and round tables should be established; in other forums, national and regional groups had worked effectively. Mr. El-Gebaly said that in the Red Sea technical committees of stakeholders had been established. Such committees needed leadership to ensure that they endured. Future ETF engagement and membership needed to be targeted towards high risk or strategic locations.

There was a suggestion of developing ETF guidance notes tailored towards the private sector and financial institutions. Any guidance prepared should be accessible and understandable.

Plenary

The IUCN and BLI expressed an interest in joining a working group focused on powerlines in the Mediterranean.

Mr. Shobrak suggested recruiting more external people to help the working groups provided that this was consistent with the terms of reference of the ETF. Mr. Berry undertook to consult the Secretariat to ensure that the terms of reference were followed but welcomed the prospect of welcoming further experts to working groups.

Next Steps

The Chair asked how the next draft of the post-2020 workplan would be developed. He asked Mr. Berry and Mr. Rich to prepare a brief summary of the discussions.

Mr Berry said that the drafting process had already involved the ETF members, who had been asked to identify areas where they could most usefully contribute to the workplan. He and Mr. Rich would review the ideas presented through the break-out groups and incorporate them into a new draft which would be circulated for comment. He estimated that the final draft would be ready by the end of January 2021, taking into account the coming holiday season.

Fundraising Discussion

Mr. Berry described the activities of the ETF related to fundraising. In conjunction with the CMS Secretariat, a two-page fundraising brief had been prepared for distribution to the ETF network and wider potential donors, including an outline budget and stressing the need to have a full-time coordinator. In addition, a one-page draft letter had been prepared outlining the activities of the ETF. A spreadsheet had been prepared detailing potential donors and South Africa had been assisted in making an application for funds from the German international climate initiative (IKI).

Members of the ETF had the opportunity to raise questions regarding funding and receive guidance on how best to enter collaborative partnerships. The ETF's appeal would be broadened if its taxonomic range was expanded to include species other than birds (e.g. bats).

Laura Cerasi (CMS) said that the ETF needed long-term, sustainable funding for coordination and actions. The German Government had so far supported the ETF enabling it to operate until the end of the year. Funding from other donors was needed to ensure the continuation of the ETF and the private sector would be approached. CMS as a UN entity had certain rules to follow with regard to partnerships and the transfer of funds. The ETF was included in the CMS Programme of Work so was covered by the Secretariat's fundraising efforts. There were many new funding opportunities post-COVID as part of the green recovery.

Ms. Cerasi confirmed that the Indian government had committed 60,000 Euro to the coordination of the ETF. She went on to thank the Indian government for their generous contribution to the ETF.

Mr Shobrak referred to the Saker Falcon Task Force, recalling that the United Arab Emirates had funded activities in Mongolia. He suggested that the ETF liaise with the Saker Falcon Task Force.

The Chair said that the final workplan would be a useful tool for fundraising as it would contain concrete actions requiring support.

Agenda Item 8 – Renewable Energy Guideline Updates

IUCN guidelines for mitigating biodiversity impacts associated with solar and wind energy development

Giulia Carbone (IUCN) and Jan-Willem van Bochove (The Biodiversity Consultancy - TBC) gave a presentation on the guidelines on mitigating biodiversity impacts associated with solar and wind energy development.

The expansion of energy generated from renewable sources was imperative if global temperature rise was to be limited to 1.5°C. However, the potential risks to biodiversity included the fact that 9 per cent of wind farms (559) and 7 per cent of solar power installations (201) were situated in Key Biodiversity Areas.

In response the IUCN was preparing guidelines in collaboration with TBC, industry (including Électricité de France (EDF) and Shell) and NGOs (including BLI, Fauna and Flora International, The Nature Conservancy and the Wildlife Conservation Society). The guidelines addressed onshore and offshore wind and solar and were based on the Mitigation Hierarchy of avoidance, minimization, restoration and enhancement.

Renewable energy installations required a large area of land and there was a risk that sites would coincide with or intersect important migration corridors and habitats. It was therefore important that the suitability of sites was screened early in the planning process. The cumulative effects of different sites should be taken into account and sensitivity mapping, strategic environmental assessment and risk screening carried out as appropriate. Ideally, developments should be located in areas of low biodiversity interest, such as those that were already degraded or had been converted into already degraded and former agricultural land.

The guidelines had taken 12 months to compile and were nearly ready, with a prospective launch date in January 2021. They would be promoted at the IUCN World Conservation Congress and the CBD COP. They had also been drafted in consultation the organizations behind Integrated Biodiversity Assessment Tool (IBAT).

Janusz Sielicki (IAF) agreed that the earlier in the process that conservation issues were considered, the better. He was concerned about collisions with powerlines and electrocution. This was not a problem when cables were buried, but overhead cables caused fatalities.

The guidelines did not contain separate recommendations on transmission lines, but made reference to other advice on infrastructure lines. They did however address the cumulative effects of adjacent projects and approached all infrastructure as a single system. Mr Allinson said that while it was often clear which sites were suitable and which ones were not, no single body had a comprehensive overview. Developers tended only to look at individual sites. Ms. Carbone said that the guidelines contained an entire section on early planning before the mitigation hierarchy even came into play.

Suren Gazaryan (EUROBATS) said that he had not been aware that the guidelines were being prepared and asked what process had been adopted regarding consultation. Ms. Carbone said that the IUCN had tried to consult as widely as possible and that it was still possible to add references to the annexes.

Mr. van Bochove said that as new guidance was being produced all the time, the reference annex would be published online so that it could be updated regularly.

The slides making up Ms. Carbone and Mr. van Bockove's presentation can be found on the ETF5 virtual meeting platform [here](#).

Good Practice Handbook on the Design of Post-Construction Monitoring of Bird and Bat Fatalities at Wind Energy Facilities

Mr. Berry (BLI) briefly introduced this agenda item explaining that members of the ETF would have an opportunity to comment on the draft Good Practice Handbook (GPH) early in 2021.

The presentation was given by Lori Anna Conzo (International Financial Corporation, World Bank Group), Robert Adamczyk (EBRD), Paul Rabie (Western EcoSystems Technology Inc.) and David Tidhar (Natural Power).

Ms. Conzo recalled that at ETF4 the discussions in the working groups had identified the need for guidelines on assessing post-construction mortality of birds and bats. A steering committee had been established that included Ms. Conzo, Mr. Adamczyk and Daniel Skambracks (KfW) and ETF members had received an update on progress in the August 2020 ETF virtual meeting. It was clear that mortality was best assessed from monitoring rather than through modelling or projections.

Mr. Adamczyk explained the role of lenders, stressing that financial institutions such as his supported sponsors but did not develop projects themselves and while lenders had a degree of leverage, they were often not involved in projects at the earliest planning stages. The obligation to exercise due diligence meant that lenders could impose conditions consistent with Good International Industry Practice (GIIP), but they did not have a policing role. Lenders' core mandates included seeking sustainability, addressing climate change and conserving biodiversity.

Mr. Tidhar presented an overview of the main chapters and annexes of the GPH. The chapters covered the impacts of wind energy on wildlife, instructions on how to use the handbook, how to design a post-construction fatality monitoring study, how to prepare fieldwork and how to estimate fatality levels. Annex 1 described the decision support tool (DST) for study design, Annex 2 contained a glossary and Annex 3 was a reference manual. It had not yet been decided how to include a description of practical constraints and alternatives.

Ms. Conzo confirmed that the EUROBATS guidance had been reviewed along with practice in South Africa, Latin America, Egypt and Eastern Europe.

Mr. Rabie's presentation took the form of an interview with questions posed by Mr. Tidhar. Mr. Rabie said that the aim was to ensure that the tool was appropriate for all affected taxa so that fatality levels could be accurately calculated. Incoming data needed to be of suitable quality and standardized methods of harvesting data were desirable. The data were sought using 17 basic questions regarding the size, spacing and number of turbines, the locality, the vegetation on site, accessibility of the site (which was often restricted by legal issues or terrain) and the species concerned. With regard to the species, the time taken for the victims to be removed varied, with bats disappearing faster than larger birds, as scavengers moved in to take or farmers intervened to dispose of the carcasses. Also, smaller animals tended to drop nearer the turbine, while larger ones could fall further away. Factors including these should be taken into account when determining the best frequency for undertaking monitoring at particular sites.

The DST helped provide advice on how many turbines should be included in a sample. In the case of larger complexes, a smaller percentage of the turbines provided a good representative sample. Different turbines could be included in the sample at each visit.

Mr. Adamczyk highlighted that national laws and regulations varied globally, and lenders could generally insist on stricter measures in line with their policies (and not just in emerging economies). Where national regulations and the guidance of the GPH did not coincide, the best option was to follow the stricter regime.

Samantha Ralston-Paton (BirdLife South Africa) pointed out that labour costs were lower in some countries and many local people were interested in becoming involved in monitoring, which could help stimulate the founding of junior ornithology groups.

Ms. Conzo said that it was difficult to obtain long-term data on migration and species presence at sites for some countries. She concluded the presentation by confirming that ETF members would receive an updated draft of the GPH for comment.

The slides making up the presentations given by Ms. Conzo, Mr. Adamczyk, Mr. Rabie and Mr. Tidhar can be found on the ETF5 virtual meeting platform [here](#).

Agenda Item 9 – Recap and Discussion: ETF 5 Meeting

The Chair summarized the meeting discussions, thanking participants for their active engagement and for all their ideas. The main points covered were:

- The concept of the green economic recovery and the need for renewable energy developments to be compatible with nature conservation.
- Greater involvement of countries (especially CMS Parties) in the ETF and to spread the benefits of and lessons learned from the first stages of the ETF.
- The importance of strategic planning and governance in all countries.
- Raising awareness among ministries other than those dealing with the environment (e.g. energy and the economy).
- Engaging the private sector and industry under the work of the ETF.
- The importance of guidelines as a tool and the necessity of them being understandable and scientifically sound.
- The urgency of promoting the ETF because goals relating to developing renewable energy were ambitious and operating on short deadlines.
- Case studies to illustrate successes and failures.
- The importance for the ETF to engage in other forums.

Mr. Berry and Mr. Rich would provide summaries of the discussions from the break-out groups and update the draft workplan accordingly. The revised draft would be circulated to ETF members for comment in due course.

Non-ETF members subsequently left the meeting at the end of this agenda item.

Agenda Item 10 – Election of ETF Chair and Vice Chair

Mr. Berry explained that only members of the ETF were eligible to vote in the elections for the posts of Chair and Vice-Chair. The modus operandi of the ETF stipulated that there should be annual elections for the two officers. Normally, informal discussions would take part in the margins of meetings, but the virtual nature of ETF5 had made this impossible. Candidates were allowed to nominate themselves and the deadline for receipt of nominations was 18 December 2020. Michel Perret was willing to serve a further year as Chair, but James Pearce-Higgins was standing down as Vice-Chair after three years. Mr. Berry called for nominations from the floor for both posts, but not were forthcoming.

Mr. Berry said that he would send the names of the nominated candidates to members of the ETF and that votes should be returned to him by 15 January 2021 and the results would be announced on 18 January.