

REVIEW OF ETF WORK PLAN 2017-2018

(Prepared by the Energy Task Force Coordinator)

Summary

This document summarises progress on implementing the 2017-2018 work plan and provides recommended revisions or additions to the work plan. It is intended to guide discussions at the 2nd Energy Task Force meeting, and inform the review of the Energy Task Force work plan.



The Government of the Federal Republic of Germany, through the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB) were recognized as Champion Plus for their generous support and commitment towards Reconciling Energy Sector Developments with Migratory Species Conservation for the period 2015-2017. The Energy Task Force has been funded with the contribution granted by Germany under the Migratory Species Champion Programme.



REVIEW OF ETF WORK PLAN 2017-2018

Background

The aim of the Energy Task Force is to ensure that all energy sector developments are undertaken in such a way that negative impacts on migratory species are avoided, with an initial focus on power lines, hydro, wind and solar energy technologies.

The work plan for the Energy Task Force was finalised and adopted by the Energy Task Force during its first meeting in Cape Town, 1-2 December, 2016. The work plan covers the period 2017-2018. The activities are grouped according to themes that correspond to the remit of the Energy Task Force as outlined in the Terms of Reference Annexed to CMS Resolution 11.27.

The 2nd Meeting of the Energy Task Force provides an opportunity to reflect on progress made to implement the work plan, to reprioritise activities and identify additional activities as necessary. Indeed, the work plan includes an activity to: “Review work plan at 2nd Energy Task Force meeting to identify additional priority activities in line with CMS Resolution 11.27 and including long term goals”.

Request to Energy Task Force Members

The Energy Task Force Members and Observers are invited to review progress on implementing the Energy Task Force work plan, and provide recommendations at the 2nd Meeting of the Energy Task Force on revisions or additions to this plan. This includes identifying activities for which they may wish to lead, support or fundraise.

The table below provides a summary of progress on ETF work plan implementation for the period December 2016 – September 2017. It also includes suggestions for new activities or amendments, as well as guiding questions for Energy Task Force Members and Observers to consider for each work theme.

The following overarching questions may guide the ETF Members and Observers in their review of the work plan:

1. What should be the timeline for the work plan adopted at ETF2?
2. Are the activities in the work plan still relevant, and priorities?
3. Are there additional activities that ETF should engage in to better deliver on our objectives?
4. How do the suggested activities complement other initiatives outside the ETF?
5. Is there relevant work that your organisation or institution is planning that could contribute to the objectives of the ETF? Or activities undertaken by ETF Members / Observers to which your organisation may wish to contribute?

Actions	Responsible entity(ies)	Timeline	Status	Comments on progress	Suggested next steps to complete activity
Theme: Promote implementation of relevant guidelines adopted in the frameworks of the participating MEAs					
Expected Result: Guidelines are integrated into decision-making					
Prepare and disseminate an information package for CMS and AEWA Parties, including factsheets and information about existing decision support tools.	Coordinator, CMS and AEWA Secretariats, Israel	2017		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - First version developed by ETF Coordinator and shared May 2017 on ETF Workspace - Second version shared August 2017 on ETF Workspace - Package designed to meet needs of different stakeholders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ETF to review information package and ETF Coordinator to revise as necessary - ETF to consider additional material e.g. shorter, accessible factsheets - ETF to identify opportunities and modalities for dissemination - ETF to disseminate
Prepare PowerPoint slides promoting the Energy Task Force and guidelines to use Task Force Members at relevant international events.	Coordinator, CMS Secretariat	2017		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Slides developed by ETF Coordinator and shared on ETF Workspace 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ETF Coordinator to revise if necessary - Re-disseminate - Upload to ETF website - ETF to consider 1/2 slide version to integrate into presentations
Identify relevant stakeholders in energy and financial sectors.	Coordinator, CMS Secretariat	2017		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Additional stakeholders identified and discussions initiated with a subset– see list of potential stakeholders on Workspace - AFSEA and WindEurope new members 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Coordinator in consultation with CMS Secretariat and ETF to decide on priority stakeholders to approach - ETF Coordinator to approach stakeholders for potential membership or collaboration

Prepare and disseminate an information package for energy sector stakeholders and environmental assessment practitioners, including fact sheets and information about existing decision support tools.	Coordinator, CMS Secretariat, BirdLife South Africa, Egypt	2017		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - First version developed by ETF Coordinator and shared May 2017 on Workspace - Second version shared August 2017 on work space - Package designed to meet needs of different stakeholders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ETF to review information package and ETF Coordinator to revise as necessary - ETF to consider additional material e.g. shorter, accessible factsheets - ETF to identify opportunities and modalities for dissemination - ETF to disseminate
Prepare and disseminate an information package for financial institutions, including fact sheets and information about existing decision support tools.	Coordinator, CMS Secretariat, South Africa, EBRD	2017		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - First version developed by ETF Coordinator and shared May 2017 on work space - Second version shared August 2017 on work space - Package designed to meet needs of different stakeholders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ETF to review information package and ETF Coordinator to revise as necessary - ETF to consider additional material e.g. shorter, accessible factsheets - ETF to identify opportunities and modalities for dissemination - ETF to disseminate
Prepare and disseminate an information package for conservation organisations, including fact sheets and information about existing decision support tools.	Coordinator, CMS Secretariat	2017		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - First version developed by ETF Coordinator and shared May 2017 on work space - Second version shared August 2017 on work space - Package designed to meet needs of different stakeholders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ETF to review information package and ETF Coordinator to revise as necessary - ETF to consider additional material e.g. shorter, accessible factsheets - ETF to identify opportunities and modalities for dissemination - ETF to disseminate
Organise multi-stakeholder dialogue on renewable energy development and migratory species during CMS COP12.	Coordinator, CMS Secretariat, Task Force Members, Egypt, Germany	2017		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Event proposal submitted - Started identifying private sector / IFIs to be involved in event 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ETF to discuss focus and scope of event - ETF Coordinator to prepare event in collaboration with CMS Secretariat and Task Force Members

Prepare an information paper for CMS COP12 (Manila, October 2017) including implementation analysis and global impact assessment (see below).	Coordinator, CMS Secretariat, Task Force Members, Egypt, Germany	2017		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Draft paper completed by ETF Coordinator and shared in August 2017 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ETF to review at ETF2 and provide comments before 22 September - ETF Coordinator to make final edits and submit to Secretariat by end of September
Side-event at UNFCCC COP23 (Bonn, November 2017)	Coordinator, CMS Secretariat, Task Force Members, Germany	2017		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Held ETF event at UNFCCC intersessional in Bonn (May 2017) - Submitted two side event proposals for UNFCCC COP23 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identify ETF members attending COP23 who can be involved in the event(s) - Prepare event (ETF Coordinator) and widely communicate (all ETF members) - Report on event
Information document for energy and environmental sectors on the business case for implementing guidelines. <i>(IN KIND)</i>	PowerAfrica, EWT, Egypt	Not specified		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - EWT finalising study on costs to utilities of powerline collisions in South Africa 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identify opportunities to communicate and replicate the findings of EWT - Develop generic brief on business case, drawing on the findings of EWT
Engage with industry and investors - build partnerships and establish pilot initiatives with industry and investors. <i>(UNFUNDED/IN-KIND)</i>	Coordinator, CMS Secretariat, Task Force Members	Not specified		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Engagement has started, but funding required for pilot initiatives - AFSEA and WindEurope new members 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identify opportunities to engage with industry and investors in work plan activities
Translate key information into other languages (as required). <i>(UNFUNDED)</i>	Coordinator, CMS Secretariat	Not specified		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No translation to date 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identify need for translation
<p>Recommendations for work plan revisions Prioritise and pursue activities above, and deliver the following additional activities:</p>					

- Engage with CBD process to provide input and guidance for current work on Mainstreaming in the Energy Sector, including promoting implementation of AEWA/CMS guidelines. See agenda item 6 for SBSTTA (January 2018) <https://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/sbstta/sbstta-21/official/sbstta-21-01-add1-en.pdf> and agenda item 5 for SBI (July 2018) <https://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/sbi/sbi-02/official/sbi-02-01-en.pdf>
- Provide recommendations for CMS COP12 on energy-related resolutions
- Develop shorter (e.g. 1 page), visually attractive information pieces to accompany the main Information Resource. These could include:
 - Generic piece on importance of incorporating nature impact considerations into energy planning “How can all players help ensure the energy transition is successful?” This could include e.g. a decision tree style so it is text light, eye catching and accessible to all. Useful to link to different policy processes: CBD Aichi Targets, Paris Agreement, Ramsar, and SDGs, in addition to AEWA, CMS, EUROBAT.
 - One page document for each stakeholder audience (IFIs, government, NGOs etc.) highlighting the importance of their role in incorporating nature conservation into energy developments and the benefits that will matter most to them. This could include best practice case studies of relevance.
- Contribute to, review and disseminate briefing document currently being developed by Fullbright Fellow together with UNEP-WCMC that includes information about relevant policies, and a checklist for Parties to relevant MEAs to address climate change mitigation impacts on biodiversity and highlight examples of climate change mitigation projects that benefited biodiversity.
- Linked to the above: jointly fundraise for and contribute to development of an interactive tool based on the briefing document described above. The interactive online tool aims to help users navigate the range of mitigation options and their potential biodiversity impacts, options for minimizing those impacts and maximising biodiversity co-benefits (e.g. through artificial reefs at base of offshore windfarms) and supporting case studies.

Questions for ETF Members

1. Who are the main stakeholders we need to target to ensure implementation of guidelines?
2. How can we best reach these stakeholders?
3. Which global, regional and national policy processes should we prioritise?
4. What information or support material is needed to better promote the implementation of guidelines?
5. How can we best share and communicate this material?

Theme: Priority setting

Expected Result: Work plan reflects priorities

Review work plan at 2nd Energy Task Force meeting to identify additional priority activities in line with CMS Resolution 11.27 and including long term goals. (IN KIND)	Task Force Members	2017		- Planned for 2 nd ETF meeting	- Review at 2 nd ETF meeting
--	--------------------	------	---	---	---

Establish technical working group for renewable energy and powerlines. (IN KIND)	Israel, Coordinator, BirdLife South Africa, EWT	2017		- TWG established Q1 2017 - Members are: Ms. Samantha Ralston Paton, Dr. James Pearce-Higgins, Mr. Constant Hoogstad, Mr Tris Allinson	- Ongoing coordination of TWG to support delivery of relevant work plan activities
Recommendations for work plan revisions Remove completed activities from work plan. Incorporate following activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Review work plan at 3rd Energy Task Force meeting to identify additional priority activities in line with CMS Resolution 11.27 and including long term goals. ▪ Hold a workshop to identify research priorities (see theme below on <i>Stimulating Research</i>) 					
Questions for ETF Members 1. Are there priority activities missing from the work plan? 2. Is further prioritisation required? 3. How could the current process for prioritisation be improved?					
Theme: Mobilising resources					
Expected Result: Priority activities identified and funded					
Identify key funding priorities and opportunities. (IN KIND)	Coordinator, CMS Secretariat, Task Force Members	2017		- Funding priorities identified in draft fundraising plan - Initial scoping of opportunities conducted	- Identify funding needs and priorities at ETF2 based on review of 2017-2018 work plan
Prepare fundraising concept note(s), with input from Energy Task Force members	Coordinator, CMS Secretariat	2017		- Draft fundraising plan developed and uploaded on workspace May 2017	- Revise fundraising plan and develop concept notes to reflect priorities identified during ETF2
Prepare funding proposal to further develop decision support tools (IN KIND)	BirdLife International, Task Force Members	2017		- Fundraising concept notes developed and submitted (e.g. MAVA Foundation –	- Develop fundraising concept notes to address funding needs identified during ETF2 based on review of 2017-2018 work plan

				successful; EC – pending; CCI – unsuccessful)	
Liaise with potential donors to seek support for Energy Task Force activities	CMS Secretariat, Coordinator, Task Force Members	2017-2018			- Fundraise for specific activities.
Recommendations for work plan revisions					
Pursue activities as planned.					
Questions for ETF Members					
1. What are the priority funding gaps?					
2. What upcoming opportunities are there to secure funding for ETF activities?					
3. How can we coordinate fundraising efforts?					
Theme: Monitoring implementation and impediments to implementation					
Expected Result: Report on status of implementation; impediments to implementation and potential solutions identified					
Conduct an analysis of 2014 CMS national reports to assess implementation of relevant resolutions.	Coordinator, CMS Secretariat	2017		- ETF Coordinator completed detailed analysis of 2014 CMS national reports (August 2017)	n/a
Conduct an analysis of 2017 CMS national reports to assess implementation of relevant resolutions.	Coordinator, CMS Secretariat	2017		- ETF Coordinator completed detailed analysis of 2017 CMS national reports (August 2017)	n/a
Interview selected CMS Parties and relevant stakeholders to identify key impediments to implementation.	Coordinator	2017		- Initial discussion with TWG about how to approach this	- TWG and ETF Coordinator to reconsider purpose, scope and approach at ETF2
Incorporate implementation analysis into information paper for CMS COP12 (above).	Coordinator	2017		- Implementation analysis has been incorporated into INF paper for CMS COP12 (August 2017)	- ETF Members to provide feedback - Paper to be finalised end of September for CMS COP12

Analyse existing guidelines to identify gaps and need for more technical detail; develop complementary technical notes (e.g. sensitivity mapping, thresholds, data collection and monitoring, mitigation hierarchy and powerlines). <i>UNFUNDED</i>	Technical working group	2017		- TWG has initiated discussions and identified different work streams / responsibilities to deliver this	- TWG agrees on further activities, timelines and responsibilities at ETF2 - TWG identifies any funding gaps - TWG works with other ETF Members and Coordinator to fill funding gaps
Recommendations for work plan revisions					
Remove completed activities from work plan. Prioritise and proceed with other activities. Consider capturing more information on the potential solutions to overcoming barriers/impediments to implementation.					
Questions for ETF Members					
1. How can we most effectively monitor implementation of guidelines? 2. What is the best way of collecting information on, and monitoring, impediments to implementation?					
Theme: Stimulating communication and information exchange					
Expected Result: Task force members collaborate and share information.					
Make information about the ETF available via dedicated web space on CMS website.	Coordinator, CMS Secretariat	2017-2018		ETF website launched, documents made available on the ETF website, and story on UNFCCC side event made available on CMS news site	- ETF Coordinator to review website text and content
Energy Task Force members exchange case studies, lessons learnt and best practices during task force meetings.	Task Force Members	2016-2018		Preparations made for ETF2	- Exchange of case studies and lessons during ETF2 and ETF3
Create online discussion platform to facilitate collaboration between Energy Task Force members.	CMS Secretariat	2017-2018		Workspace has been launched. The Coordinator has developed discussion threads.	n/a
Task force members use online platform to share information and resources, and plan collaborative activities	Coordinator, Task Force Members	2017-2018		To date, only limited use of ETF Workspace by ETF members	- Discuss internal communications at ETF2 to identify ways to increase sharing among members

Deliver and record webinar series for CMS Parties, financial institutions and energy sector stakeholders, with presentations by Energy Task Force members and other experts. <i>UNFUNDED / IN KIND</i>	Coordinator, Task Force Members, EBRD	2017-2018		Initial discussions with IEA Wind Task34 about co-delivering webinar series	- ETF Members to discuss need, and identify best approach for delivering webinar series.
Identify relevant Best Practices in relation to powerline impacts that could be applicable in other countries. Disseminate guidelines. <i>UNFUNDED / IN KIND</i>	RGI (Europe), EWT, Egypt, Task Force Members	2017		Initial discussions and scoping have taken place with RGI and EWT	- Identify roles, responsibilities and funding needs at ETF2
Survey Task Force Members and collate available resources and lessons learned with regards to planning, impact assessment and mitigation.	Technical Working Group	2017		Initial scoping took place and this has since been put on hold.	- TWG and ETF Coordinator to reconsider purpose, scope and approach at ETF2
<p>Recommendations for work plan revisions</p> <p>Remove completed activities. Prioritise and proceed with other activities as planned.</p> <p>Consider following additions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Develop short video introducing the issue, highlighting the role of ETF and sharing case studies/views from across ETF members ▪ Develop factsheet on Energy Task Force – highlight importance, aim, membership, policy linkages and types of work ▪ Develop communications plan / options paper for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ ETF's engagement in energy and climate conferences/events – political and industrial. ○ Social media use (Twitter, Instagram) etc. ○ Industry publications/trade press – seek feature articles in relevant media outlets. 					
<p>Questions for ETF Members</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How can we strengthen internal communications of Energy Task Force? 2. How do we want to position and profile ourselves? 3. How can we strengthen external communications of Energy Task Force? 4. How can we most effectively use social media? 5. What are the key events (political and industrial) that we should be involved in? 					
Theme: Strengthening regional and international networks					
Expected Result: Strong regional and international networks					

<p>Task Force members to promote the aims of the Task Force through relevant regional and international networks. <i>IN KIND</i></p>	<p>Task Force Members</p>	<p>2017-2018</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The coordinator has promoted the ETF in the Power Line Working Group in Mongolia. - Several ETF members presenting and/or participated in CWW event in September. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continue engagement with regional and international networks
<p>Recommendations / considerations for work plan revisions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Map priority regional and international networks 					
<p>Questions for ETF Members</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What are the main regional and international networks we should target? 2. What further support material could help you promote the aims of the Task Force through these networks? 					
<p>Theme: Stimulating research</p>					
<p>Expected Result: Significantly increase the evidence base on which to make planning and mitigation decisions.</p>					
<p>Identify research gaps and priorities. <i>(UNFUNDED)</i></p>	<p>TWG</p>	<p>2017</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Initial list of research gaps and priorities produced 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ETF Members to review during ETF2 - Consider workshop to further hone down research gaps and priorities
<p>Complete a global assessment of predicted impacts of large-scale renewable energy deployment on birds and mammals. <i>(FUNDED)</i></p>	<p>British Trust for Ornithology, BirdLife International, IUCN, RSPB, University of Cambridge, EWT</p>	<p>2016-2017</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Global assessment completed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identify priority audiences - Communicate

Assessment of potential effectiveness of management to mitigate negative impacts of renewable energy upon biodiversity <i>(FUNDING REQUIRED)</i>	British Trust for Ornithology, and others, Egypt. Israel	2017-2018		- Initial scoping	- Further develop work and seek funding
Encourage further assessments of the potential conflicts between different renewable energy sectors and grid infrastructure at a regional and/or national scale to improve the understanding of the impacts on biodiversity, the effectiveness of mitigation measures, and to explore innovative solutions. <i>(FUNDING REQUIRED)</i>	Task Force Members, EWT	2017-2018		- Members have fundraised for and /or delivered relevant work.	- Continue work and share with ETF Members - Refine focus as per recommendations below

Recommendations for work plan revisions

Consider refining and/or adding to activities, based on a prioritisation of the following research areas:

- Hold a workshop of experts to review and scope what we know about different renewable energy technologies and transmission lines, how they impact different species and how that knowledge varies between regions, in order to more rigorously identify future research priorities.
- Develop appropriate tools and guidance for developers and regulators to help them assess cumulative impact.
- Review and synthesise mitigation solutions (e.g. shut down-on-demand) to identify whether there is sufficient evidence to promote particular solutions, and to identify knowledge gaps for further assessment.
- Synthesise and compare the information about the impacts of different renewable energy options, and the potential for mitigating species impact, to develop much clearer guidance for stakeholders to inform decision making.
- Develop spatial mapping tools to assess the potential risk of government commitments following the Paris agreement, and to help show governments how they can meet their commitments with minimal impact upon biodiversity.
- Undertake, in conjunction with AEWA, OSPAR, HELCOM, Bern Convention and others, research focussed on North and Baltic seas to: produce a sensitivity map for the region; a full review of impacts on biodiversity, and guidance on how to avoid them, of offshore wind energy; a list of information gaps and research priorities to be promoted among the research community.
- Engage with CBD process to provide input and guidance for current work on Mainstreaming in the Energy Sector, including promoting implementation of AEWA/CMS guidelines. See agenda item 6 for SBSTTA (January 2018) <https://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/sbstta/sbstta-21/official/sbstta-21-01-add1-en.pdf> and agenda item 5 for SBI (July 2018) <https://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/sbi/sbi-02/official/sbi-02-01-en.pdf>

Questions for ETF Members

1. Are any major research areas missing?

2. Do you know of ongoing research or active proposals for work in these areas?
3. What are the energies / species / habitats / regions of greatest concern to you, where potential impacts might be greatest?
4. Which research areas would you prioritise?
5. How would you like to see this work programme taken forward?