







December Virtual Meeting of the CMS Multi-Stakeholder Energy Task Force

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MEETING INFORMATION DOCUMENT *(Prepared by the ETF Coordinator)*



Convention on Migratory Species

 The Government of India, through the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change were recognized as Champion Plus for their generous support and commitment towards Making energy safe for wildlife for the period 2020-2023. The operations of the Energy Task Force have been funded with the contribution granted by India under the Migratory Species Champion Programme.


Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

MEETING AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The December 2021 virtual meeting of the ETF presents the opportunity to provide updates from across the ETF network and to brief the members and observers on upcoming events and opportunities, including the 6th Meeting of the CMS Energy Task Force (ETF6).

Target Audience

- All ETF members and observers

Objectives

- Share updates from the CMS and ETF Coordination Team
- Update the ETF network on upcoming events and opportunities
- Enable ETF members and observers to provide updates and share learnings on key matters
- Brief the ETF network on the ETF6 meeting.

CMS Secretariat and ETF Coordinator Activities undertaken since the April 2021 Meeting of the CMS Energy Task Force

1. Iván Ramírez - Head of Avian Team, CMS

The CMS Avian Unit has reorganised itself and launched a series of internal consultations that should improve the prioritisation and delivery of its current mandate. Special focus will be given to achieving measurable targets and to improving synergies and joint initiatives with other UN and Non-UN bodies.

Iván Ramírez joined the CMS Secretariat in June as Head of the Avian Team and in August Tilman Schneider joined as Associate Programme Officer. For a full update of the CMS Secretariat and the composition of the Avian Team, please check [this link](#).

The fifth meeting of the Sessional Committee of the CMS Scientific Council ([ScC-SC5](#)) was held online from 28 June to 9 July 2021. The meeting revised the CMS Avian Programme of Work. During the discussions, further support was given to the work of the ETF and the [Resolution 10.11 \(Rev.COP13\) Power Lines and Migratory Birds](#) and [Decision 13.108 Support to the Energy Task Force](#).

The status and achievements of the ETF work were also reported to the 52nd meeting of the CMS Standing Committee, held online from 21 to 29 September 2021 in the report on the [Implementation of the programme of work \(2020-2023\)](#).

Over the following months the CMS Secretariat will:

- a) renew and expand the agreement with BLI to coordinate the ETF
- b) carry out an overview of the existing Renewable Energy and Biodiversity Platforms and identify how the CMS Mandate fits within these
- c) work alongside ETF Members and stakeholders to agree on workplan priorities and next steps, that will necessarily include an implementation and fundraising plan.

We encourage you to review the [ETF Workplan](#) and communicate to us your areas of interest. We are particularly keen to expand beyond the traditional geographic scope of the ETF (Europe and Middle East), to better implement our given mandate by increasing best practice sharing and influencing national policies and to expand the ETF work to currently unrepresented geographies and sectors.

2. Rhiannon Niven, Global Climate Change Policy Coordinator, BirdLife International

2021 has proven a busy year for the ETF with good progress against the workplan. Updates from the first part of the year can be found [here](#). A key focus has been the promotion of the ETF and engagement with external networks to broaden the reach and increase the awareness of the ETF across governments and industry with presentations at high-profile events, including:

- IUCN World Congress, 3-11 September
- New York Climate Week, 20-26th September
- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change 26th Conference of the Parties (UNFCCC COP26), 31st October – 13th November
- 12th MAVIR Bird Conservation Conference, 25th November.

Since their establishment at the [Fifth Meeting of the ETF \(ETF5\)](#) in December 2020, the Powerline and Technical Working Groups are progressing key tasks, including engaging on a number of virtual events, stakeholder mapping exercises and the identification of a series of technical notes. The group is also identifying a calendar of key events for impact and awareness.

We welcome a number of new ETF members and observers to the network, including:

- The Spanish Ministry for the Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge (MITECO), represented by Dr Borja Heredia (member)
- The Greek Ministry of Environment and Energy, General Secretariat of Natural Environment and Water, represented Dr Charalampos Ververis (member)
- Groupe de Recherche pour la Protection des Oiseaux au Maroc (GREPOM/BirdLife Morocco), represented by Ms. Khadija Bourass and Mr. Mohammed Ameziane (observer)

Further information on recent activities can be found in the ETF October 2021 Issue of the newsletter, which can be found [here](#). We will also provide a further, more detailed report of activities at the ETF6 meeting in early 2022.

CMS Energy Task Force Member Updates

3. Aonghais Cook, Senior Research Ecologist, British Trust for Ornithology (BTO)

The 6th Conference on Wind Energy and Wildlife Impacts (CWW) will be held at Hotel Zuiderduin in Egmond aan Zee in the Netherlands from 4th-8th April 2022, with options to attend in person and online. As well as a chance to hear about the latest research on issues related to wind energy and wildlife, the conference offers fantastic networking opportunities with representatives from governments, industry, funders, NGOs and academia present.

Of particular interest to members of the Energy Task Force may be planned sessions on the challenges faced in emerging markets for wind energy. We have planned a plenary session with a speaker giving an overview of some of the challenges faced when trying to apply methods developed for the US and Europe in new countries. Alongside this, we hope to have a short video featuring some key stakeholders from these countries outlining the challenges they have faced and how these have been overcome. Following the plenary session, we have planned a special session focusing on solutions to some of these problems featuring talks by the ETF, BirdLife International, IFC, West, RCREEE and Lekela Power.

4. András Schmidt, Deputy Head of Department for Nature Conservation, Hungary Ministry of Agriculture

1) 'Accessible Sky' agreement and its implementation in Hungary:

Work on the birds vs. powerline conflict was institutionalized in Hungary when the 'Accessible Sky' agreement was signed by the Ministry responsible for nature conservation, MME/BirdLife Hungary on one hand and all three distribution companies and the transmission company on the other.

The target was to eliminate the conflict by 2020, which was only partially achieved. Important steps taken include:

- legislation amended in 2008 to only allow bird-friendly technologies in new or fully renewed power lines
- a conflict map was produced by MME/BirdLife Hungary using distribution maps of bird species most threatened by powerlines
- mainly EU-funded, large-scale projects were launched to retrofit powerlines in some priority areas
- BAT guidance was produced in 2011 and updated in 2020
- stocktaking exercise in 2020: renewed conflict map, taking into account retrofitting projects, updated bird distribution maps and actual powerline network: using modelling, each pylon can be prioritised based on its threat factor
- in 2021, guidance (BAT and more general) is distributed to utility companies in video clip packages, field manuals and a comprehensive document designed for powerline technicians on one hand and powerline engineers and technologists on the other.

2) Challenges for the future:

- to establish a more focussed and more coordinated bird mortality survey system along powerlines
- to set up a database that collects data on bird mortality surveys and on retrofitting of powerlines
- to launch further projects for retrofitting.

5. Oliver Hillel, Programme Officer, Convention of Biological Diversity (CBD) Secretariat

- Ultimate goals and status of CBD COP15 deliberations in general (legal text and "deliverables" from subsidiary bodies and legacy commitments to date); highlight those of relevance/implications to the energy sector, such as SBI/3's text (long-term approach on mainstreaming with an action plan, ResMob, capacity building).
- Substantive asks to the sector from the Working Group's post-2020 framework (targets 1-3 on area management but also 7, 8, 10, 11, 14, 15, 16, 18 and possibly 19).
- Options for further cross-MEA articulation on the issue:

- UNFCCC+: draft target 8 of the GBF looks at the impact of climate change on biodiversity and vice-versa. It states that nature/ecosystems contribute to mitigation and adaptation through ecosystem-based approaches, but also, importantly, calls to ensure that all mitigation and adaptation efforts avoid negative impacts on biodiversity. This refers to biodiversity safeguards; it is relevant to CMS in that when designing climate change related measures (some of which could be related to energy), Parties should, for coherence and synergies, also avoid negative/incentivize positive impacts on biodiversity.
- Ramsar/CMS: some MEAs have called for the coordinated management of coastal wetlands and associated ecosystems of relevance for migratory species: energy (hydro/wind/solar but also land-use and resource use planning for extractives and biofuels) provides options for decentralized cooperation of local and subnational governments aligned with revised post-2020 NBSAPs.
- How the sector can engage further (AHTEG mainstreaming, BBF, GBPP, energy action at subnational level with the UN DESA Hydro WG, and there are many other global or sectoral platforms for the business sector such as Business4Nature and the Finance for Biodiversity networks),

6. Lori Anna Conzo, Global Biodiversity Lead, International Finance Corporation (World Bank Group)

The draft *Good Practice Handbook on Post-construction Bird and Bat Fatality Monitoring (PCFM) for Onshore Wind Energy Projects in Emerging Market Countries* being developed by IFC, EBRD and KfW was distributed to the ETF for comment on November 23rd. The Handbook and its accompanying spreadsheet-based Decision Support Tool (DST) is available for comment by Friday December 10th. The ETF is requested to respond to the questions provided in the e-mail message and reply to Rhiannon Niven. We are especially interested in perspectives from colleagues working in emerging markets.”

“IFC is in the process of developing a short “Tip Sheet” entitled *Preventing bird electrocution on power distribution lines*. This document will build on the former version circulated by the International Association for Falconry and Conservation of Birds of Prey and should be available in Q1 2022.”

7. Catherine Numa, Program Coordinator, IUCN Mediterranean Center

The IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation has been busy with the finalisation of the English version of the IUCN Guidelines for Powerline and Wildlife. The Guidelines and their contents will be briefly discussed. In addition to this, the IUCN will share updates on:

- An analysis of blackspots in Morocco
- The update of the e-fauna alert app with new functionalities
- Recently launched Red List of North African breeding raptors
- A Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) in French to identify impacts of powerlines on wildlife.