



# TOWARDS BIRD-FRIENDLY POWERLINES IN EGYPT

## Introduction

The Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) Energy Task Force (ETF) is a multi-stakeholder platform that works towards reconciling energy developments with the conservation of migratory species. Egypt is an ETF member which is championing the assessment and mitigation of collision and electrocution risk from powerlines for migratory soaring birds in the Rift Valley/Red Sea Flyway.

### FLYWAYS AND POWERLINES

Medium and high voltage powerlines can have a considerable impact on birds and bird populations. The main threats are: electrocution, collision, disturbance and displacement.

The potential impacts can be minimized via strategic planning, appropriate powerline routing and the use of bird-friendly line and pole design.

### RIFT VALLEY / RED SEA FLYWAY

The project focuses primarily on energy infrastructure in the Gulf of Suez and Gabel El-Zayt in Egypt, which comprises challenging terrain with at least 41,016 km of high-voltage powerlines (Bahaa El Din 2014).

### MIGRATORY SOARING BIRDS – EGYPT

The project aims to assess the impact of electricity power grids within the wind farms at Gabel Al Zeit bottleneck site through post-construction on migratory soaring birds in the Rift Valley / Red Sea Flyway, Egypt, 2018 and 2019.

**Key species:** Migratory Soaring Birds, Raptors, Storks and Pelicans.

**Project partners:** Migratory Soaring Birds Project (MSB), Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency (EEAA), Nature Conservation Egypt (NCE), Egyptian Electrical Transmission Company (EETC).

**Location:** Egypt, Gabal El Zeit and Gulf of Suez

### SOLUTIONS AND ACTIONS TAKEN

- First empirical field survey of powerlines in Egypt carried out by NCE.
- Planned cooperation between MSB Project and EETC regarding marking powerlines in the flyway.
- Investigating application of mitigation measures on existing powerlines.
- Guidance and practical perspective for mainstreaming biodiversity considerations in new powerline planning.



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## ENABLING CONDITIONS FOR SUCCESS

- Governmental agencies support in mediating the process.
- Collaboration between different stakeholders.
- Facilitate the integration of the conservation of migratory birds and biodiversity into powerline environment impact assessments.

## NEXT STEPS – MONITORING AND MITIGATION

Continuous surveys of the carcasses to ensure the mitigation measures are efficient and adequate in hotspot areas.

This case study was developed based on previous successes and can be replicated in similar areas in Africa. NCE is willing to help other NGOs in BirdLife Africa partnership to carry out these activities and to build on these lessons.

## ABOUT CMS AND THE ETF

CMS, also known as the Bonn Convention, works for the conservation of a wide array of endangered migratory animals worldwide, engaging all relevant stakeholders through negotiation and implementation of agreements and species action plans. It has 131 Parties (as of August 2020).

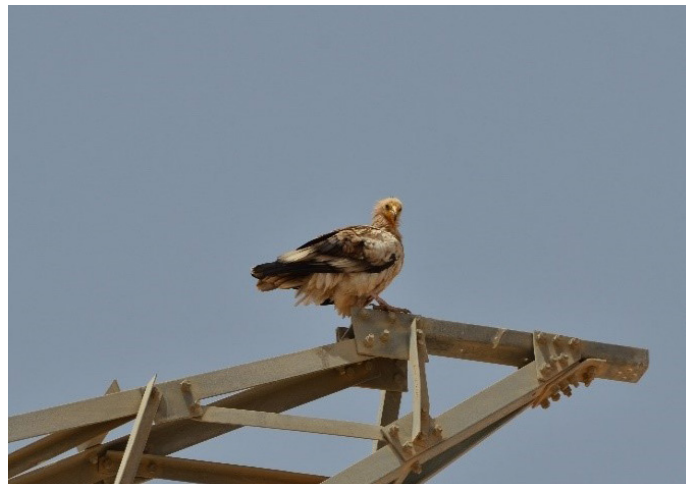
Animals receive protection under CMS through listing on its two Appendices, through global or regional agreements and through action plans. CMS engages all relevant stakeholders in addressing threats to migratory species in concert with all other aspects of wildlife conservation and management.

The CMS ETF brings together governments, multilateral environmental agreements, investors, the private sector and non-governmental organizations with an aim of avoiding and minimizing the negative impacts of energy developments on migratory species.

## GETTING INVOLVED

If you wish to learn more about the work of the ETF, become a member or engage otherwise, please contact the ETF coordinator:

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