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CONVENTION ON MIGRATORY SPECIES

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RENEWABLE ENERGY AND MIGRATORY SPECIES

(Prepared by the Secretariat)

Summary:

This document reports on progress to implement Resolution 11.27 (Rev.COP12) *Renewable Energy and Migratory Species* and Decisions 12.81 and 12.82 *Support to the Energy Task Force.* The document includes proposed amendments to the Resolution and the Decisions based on consultations with the Members of the multi-stakeholder Task Force on Reconciling Selected Energy Sector Developments with Migratory Species Conservation (the Energy Task Force), to update and align it with the development of international processes since its initial adoption, and activities of the Energy Task Force itself.

CHAMPION PLUS

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:

Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety

based on a decision of the German Bundestag

RENEWABLE ENERGY AND MIGRATORY SPECIES

Background

1. The Conference of the Parties at its 12th meeting (COP12, Manila, 2017) adopted Resolution 11.27 (Rev. COP12) *Renewable Energy and Migratory Species*, in which it:

   4. Instructs the Secretariat to convene a multi-stakeholder Task Force on Reconciling Selected Energy Sector Developments with Migratory Species Conservation (the Energy Task Force), and

   6. Instructs the Secretariat to report progress on behalf of the Energy Task Force, including on implementation and, as much as possible, on assessment of the efficacy of measures taken, to each meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

2. COP12 also adopted Decisions 12.81 – 12.82 *Support to the Energy Task Force*. Decisions 12.81 – 12.82 provide:

   12.81 Directed to Parties, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders from the energy sector

   Parties, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders from the energy sector are encouraged to consider contributing to the implementation of the Energy Task Force Work Plan, including through the provision of financial and technical assistance to support the ongoing operations of the Energy Task Force.

   12.82 Directed to the Energy Task Force and the Scientific Council

   The Energy Task Force, with input from the Scientific Council as appropriate, is encouraged to:

   a) Investigate best practices in methods for cumulative assessment;

   b) Produce guidance based on that for assessing cumulative impacts of (renewable) energy and power line developments on migratory species, including beyond national borders;

   c) Make suggestions on improving collective understanding of such impacts;

   d) Undertake these activities in collaboration with the specialized organizations referred to in UNEP/CMS/Resolution 7.2 (Rev.COP12) on Impact Assessment and Migratory Species, building on the principles expressed in that Resolution;

   e) Report to the 13th meeting of the Conference of the Parties on the above activities.

3. The CMS COP, as well as the governing bodies of many of its daughter agreements, have adopted numerous decisions on the impact of wind turbines and other renewable energy technologies on migratory species. Significant work has been undertaken pursuant to these decisions, and a number of guideline documents and reports have been endorsed and published by the CMS Family Secretariats in their Technical Series, in cooperation with partners. For a detailed list and description of decisions and documents, see Document UNEP/CMS/COP12/Doc.24.4.6, and the preamble of CMS Resolution 11.27 (Rev. COP12) *Renewable Energy and Migratory Species*.

4. Resolution 11.27 (Rev.COP12) *Renewable Energy and Migratory Species* instructed the Secretariat to convene the Energy Task Force, whose mandate was established by COP11 in order to:

   - Promote the benefits of existing decisions;
   - Encourage Parties to implement current guidance and decisions;
   - Develop any necessary new guidelines and action plans as appropriate; and

- Make recommendations on suitable responses to specific problems and gaps in knowledge.

5. The Energy Task Force held its first meeting, in Cape Town, South Africa, in December 2016. Its coordination and activities have been supported by voluntary contributions of the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany, through the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, and Nuclear Safety (BMU) under the Migratory Species Champions Programme during the periods 2015-2017 and 2018-2020.

6. In line with the Terms of Reference contained in Resolution 11.27 (Rev.COP12), the Energy Task Force has a global geographic scope in general, but an initial African-Eurasian focus; an initial taxonomic scope on migratory birds; and an initial priority on power lines, hydro, wind and solar energy technologies. The Task Force consists of member countries, member organizations and observers. For a detailed description of the process towards the establishment of the membership and the arrangements made for the coordination of the Task Force, see the background chapter of Document UNEP/CMS/COP12/Doc.24.4.6. A continuously updated list of members and observers is available on the dedicated website of the Energy Task Force. The webpage is located within the CMS website, and is maintained by the CMS Secretariat and the Task Force coordinator. It includes an online Workspace to facilitate contacts among the members and the work of the Task Force in between meetings.

Activities of the Energy Task Force

7. The Energy Task Force has held meetings annually since its establishment. The main outcomes of the first meeting in Cape Town, South Africa, 1-2 December 2016 were reported to the 12th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (ocument UNEP/CMS/COP12/Doc.24.4.6).

Activities since COP12

8. The *Second Meeting of the Energy Task Force* took place in Bonn, Germany, shortly before COP12, on 14-15 September 2017, at the CMS Secretariat's premises. Its main outcomes included:

- The revision and adoption of the *Work Plan* for the Energy Task Force for the period 2018-2020;
- The identification of *research priorities* for the Task Force;
- An *information package* on the sustainable deployment of renewable energy technologies and power lines aiming to avoid and mitigate negative impacts on biodiversity;
- An *Analysis of national reports to CMS COP11 and COP12* on reconciling energy development with the conservation of migratory species, submitted to COP12 as an information document;
- The full meeting reports for the *first meeting* and the *second meeting* are available including an *executive summary* of the outcomes of the second meeting.

9. Several outreach and networking activities have been conducted by members of the Task Force in the period after COP12, including:

- A side event held in the margins of the *Twenty-third Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC COP23)* in Bonn, Germany, on 14 November 2017, organized by CMS, BirdLife International, NABU (Nature and Biodiversity Conservation Union) and ORÉE (Organisation pour le respect de l'environnement dans l'entreprise), addressing ways to minimize impacts on wildlife, in particular migratory species, associated with the deployment of renewable energy technologies;
- A side event *Mainstreaming Biodiversity Conservation into the Energy Sector*, organized by BirdLife International on behalf of the CMS Energy Task Force, was held in the margins of the *21st meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological*

Advice (SBSTTA) of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) on 13 December 2017;
- The promotion of the Energy Task Force at the *Responsible Business Forum* in Singapore, October 2018, by BirdLife International and the Task Force Coordinator;
- A side event held at the *Thirteenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Ramsar Convention* in October 2018, organized by BirdLife International and the CMS Secretariat promoting the Energy Task Force as an example for mainstreaming biodiversity into the energy sector;
- At the side event *Connected solutions for a connected world: mainstreaming biodiversity conservation across conventions, landscapes and sectors through migratory flyways*, organized by the Government of Egypt, BirdLife International and the CMS Secretariat, held in the margins of the *14th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD*, in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt, on 18 November 2018, the Energy Task Force was presented as a tool for mainstreaming biodiversity into different sectors.

10. In 2018, the responsibility for the Energy Task Force was transferred within the Secretariat from the Scientific Advisory Services to the Avian Species Team. Based on a project cooperation agreement with BirdLife International for the coordination of the Task Force for the period 2018-2020, a new coordinator was recruited in June 2018, based at BirdLife International, Cambridge, UK. Main activities since then include the coordination of the implementation of the workplan, examples such as the outreach and promotion of the Energy Task Force to potential new members and interested stakeholders, particularly to development banks, creation of partnerships with interested organizations and enterprises, and research activities on sensitivity mapping tools. Species vulnerability assessments have also been conducted by members and observers of the Task Force such as the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) and the Renewables Grid Initiative, in conjunction with the Cambridge Conservation Initiative.

11. The *Third Meeting of the Energy Task Force* was held in the margins of the CBD COP14, Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt, on 16 November 2018. The meeting took stock of progress of the Energy Task Force and action at national level to reconcile energy developments with migratory species conservation. Participants shared information on lessons learned as well as on current and planned initiatives, identifying priorities for future work including Energy Task Force flagship projects with impact on the ground. The meeting proposed expanding the Energy Task Force work regarding liaison with business and industry and to open its geographic scope to Asia. Offshore windfarms and energy technology in specific regions and flyways were also on the agenda. Other key issues discussed were promotion and advocacy of the Energy Task Force, potential synergies with multiple Conventions such as the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands and CBD and strengthening research. The British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) and the ETF Coordinator presented the status quo of current research, planned future research, research gaps and priorities such as sensitivity mapping and database development. A report on the meeting can be accessed via the dedicated meeting website, and linked here.

12. The Secretariat showcased the activities of the Energy Task Force at a workshop on *Minimizing the Impacts of Power Lines on Birds*, held in Ostrava, Czech Republic on 29 May 2019, organized by the EU Interreg Danube Transnational Programme (DPT-PAC-PA2 PA 02 Energy), the Government of the Czech Republic and the UN Environment Secretariat of the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians (Carpathian Convention).

13. On 1 July 2019, an ad-hoc preparatory virtual meeting of the Task Force was held. The meeting discussed recent activities including the coordination, current research and creation of databases in cooperation with partners. Potential inputs to documents for CMS COP13 and the importance of guidelines in relation to monitoring and site assessments were considered. It was also decided to support donors of renewable energy infrastructure projects such as development banks in their decision-making and to strengthen capacities and synergies between international and national guidelines. The nexus between climate change mitigation

and biodiversity conservation related to countries' Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to the Paris Agreement was also considered.

14. On 28 August 2019, a workshop on Standardisation of collision mortality data for birds and bats - towards the creation of a global database was held in Stirling, UK as part of the Conference on Wind energy and Wildlife impacts (CWW), which included some of the members of the Energy Task Force and worldwide experts. There was a consensus that a global species mortality database is essential for assessing cumulative impacts. This database would need to be coupled with standardized approaches for post-construction monitoring of renewable energy infrastructure. These actions significantly contribute to the implementation of Decision 12.82.

15. The *Fourth Meeting of the Energy Task Force* is scheduled to be held on 19 to 20 September 2019 at the National Museum of Natural History (Muséum national d'histoire naturelle), Paris, France. The aim is to present the proposed inputs for CMS COP13, to update the information resources package, to prioritize activities and research areas of the work plan, to map additional funding opportunities and to establish additional working groups within the Task Force.

16. An analysis of the efforts and progress made by Parties to reconcile the development of renewable energy and power lines with the conservation of migratory species was under preparation at the time of writing. This analysis is being based on the national reports submitted to COP13 and the assessment submitted as UNEP/CMS/COP12/Inf.32 to COP12.

Amendment of Resolution 11.27 (Rev.COP12) and Decisions 12.81 – 12.82

17. Within the process initiated by Resolution 11.6 *Review of Decisions*, and based on the comments received during consultations of the Members of the Energy Task Force, Resolution 11.27 (Rev.COP12) *Renewable Energy and Migratory Species* and Decisions 12.81 and 12.82 *Support to the Energy Task Force* have been reviewed and amendments are proposed in the present document in order to align them with the development of international processes and requirements for further supporting the implementation.

18. Proposed amendments to Resolution 11.27 (Rev.COP12) include relevant references to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) related to energy, and to the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Furthermore, proposed amendments directed to Parties and Non-Parties, address a number of issues. These include the strengthening of the implementation of the existing guidelines through enhancing availability of relevant data, enacting appropriate legislation for licensing and permitting procedures related to renewable energy infrastructure projects, and specific aspects of science-based planning and monitoring related to the development of wind and solar energy technologies.

19. Proposed amendments to Decision 12.81 encourage Parties to strengthen representation from relevant energy authorities in the implementation of the workplan of the Energy Task Force. Proposed amendments to Decision 12.82 encourage the Energy Task Force to investigate best practices and produce guidance aimed at the standardization of approaches and methods for planning, managing and monitoring of renewable energy infrastructure and its impact on biodiversity, and related mitigation measures. A new draft decision encourages Parties to integrate biodiversity and migratory species considerations in national energy and climate policy to enhance synergies between UNFCCC and CMS and in line with an evidence-based renewable energy mix.

Recommended actions

20. The Conference of the Parties is recommended to:

    a) adopt the draft Resolution contained in Annex I of this document, as amended;

    b) adopt the draft Decisions contained in Annex II of this document, as amended.

ANNEX 1

DRAFT RESOLUTION

RENEWABLE ENERGY AND MIGRATORY SPECIES

Recognizing the importance to society of an adequate and stable energy supply and that renewable energy sources can significantly contribute to achieving this, and *aware* that renewable power generation, especially from wind energy, large solar panel power stations, and biomass production, is projected by the International Energy Agency to triple by 2035,

Recognizing also that ~~increased use of technologies to exploit renewable energy~~ the rapid growth of renewable energy infrastructure may potentially affect many migratory species listed by CMS and other legal frameworks, and *concerned* about the cumulative effects of such ~~technology~~ infrastructure on the movement of migratory species, their ability to utilize critical staging areas, the loss and fragmentation of their habitats, and mortality from collisions with infrastructural developments,

Recalling Article III 4(b) of the Convention which requests Parties to endeavour, *inter alia*, "to prevent, remove, compensate for or minimize, as appropriate, the adverse effects of activities, or obstacles that seriously impede or prevent the migration of species" and *noting* the relevance of this obligation to renewable energy developments, especially given that adverse impacts of renewable energy technologies can be substantially minimized through careful site selection and planning, thorough Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs), and good post-construction monitoring to learn from experience,

Recalling also previous decisions by CMS and aware of those of other multi-lateral environmental agreements (MEAs), including CMS Agreements, as well as of relevant guidelines, on reconciling renewable energy developments with the conservation of migratory species, including:

- CMS Resolution 7.5 (Rev.COP12) *Wind Turbines and Migratory Species*,
- CMS Resolution 10.19[1] *Migratory Species Conservation in the Light of Climate Change*,
- CMS Resolution 10.24[2] *Further Steps to Abate Underwater Noise Pollution for the Protection of Cetaceans and Other Migratory Species*,
- ASCOBANS Resolution 6.2 *Adverse Effects of Underwater Noise on Marine Mammals during Offshore Construction Activities for Renewable Energy Production*,
- ACCOBAMS Resolution 4.17 *Guidelines to Address the Impact of Anthropogenic Noise on Cetaceans in the ACCOBAMS Area*,
- AEWA Resolution 5.16 *Renewable Energy and Migratory Waterbirds,* which stressed the need to address or avoid adverse effects on migratory waterbirds and contains operational recommendations of relevance to many other migratory species,
- AEWA *Guidelines on How to Avoid, Minimize or Mitigate Impact of Infrastructural Developments and Related Disturbance Affecting Waterbirds* (*Conservation Guidelines No. 11*),
- EUROBATS Resolution ~~7.5~~8.4 *Wind Turbines and Bat Populations* and *Guidelines for consideration of bats in wind farm projects*, published as *EUROBATS Publication Series No. 6*,

[1] Consolidated as Resolution 12.21 *Climate Change and Migratory Species*
[2] Consolidated as Resolution 12.14 *Adverse Impacts of Anthropogenic Noise on Cetaceans and Other Migratory Species*

- Bern Convention Recommendation No. 109 on minimizing adverse effects of wind power generation on wildlife and the guidance of 2003 on environmental assessment criteria and site selection issues related to wind-farming as well as the best practice guidance on integrated wind farm planning and impact assessment presented to the *33rd meeting of the Bern Convention Standing Committee* in 2013,
- Ramsar Resolution XI.10 *Guidance for Addressing the Implications for Wetlands of Policies, Plans and Activities in the Energy Sector*,
- SBSTTA 16 Recommendation XVI/9 *Technical and Regulatory Matters on Geo-engineering in Relation to the Convention on Biological Diversity*, and
- *BirdLife UNDP/GEF Migratory Soaring Bird Guidance on wind and solar energy*,

and *recognizing* the need for closer cooperation and synergetic implementation amongst the CMS Family, the biodiversity-related conventions and other MEAs including the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and relevant national and international stakeholders ~~of~~ on decisions and guidelines to reconcile energy sector developments with migratory species conservation needs,

Acknowledging the critical need for liaison, communication, and strategic planning to be jointly undertaken by those parts of governments responsible respectively for environmental protection and energy development to avoid or mitigate negative consequences for migratory and other species and their habitats, also in relation to national and international strategies on the implementation of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with special attention to SDG 7 on Energy, and SDG 13 on Climate Change, as well as within Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to the Paris Agreement and national climate action plans,

Taking note of document UNEP/CMS/COP11/Inf.26 *Renewable Energy Technology Deployment and Migratory Species: an Overview*, which summarizes knowledge of actual and possible effects of renewable energy installations on migratory species, *noting* its conclusion that relatively few scientific studies are available on the short-term, long-term and cumulative impacts of renewable energy technologies, and *acknowledging* the urgent need for further research on the impact on migratory species of renewable energy technologies particularly in relation to ocean and solar energy,

Noting also that document UNEP/CMS/COP11/Inf.26 highlights the urgent need to collect data on the distribution of migratory species, their population size and migration routes as an essential part of any strategic planning and impact assessment, prior to and/or during the planning phase of development of renewable energy deployments, and also stresses the need to monitor regularly mortality arising from those developments,

Noting the discussion at the 18th Meeting of the Scientific Council on the drafts of document UNEP/CMS/COP11/Inf.26 and document UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.23.4.3.2 *Renewable Energy Technologies and Migratory Species: Guidelines for Sustainable Deployment* and *aware* that input from other advisory bodies of the CMS Family has been incorporated into both documents,

Convinced of the relevance of the above-mentioned guidelines for sustainable deployment of renewable energy technologies to the implementation of the *CMS programme of work on climate change and migratory species* submitted for consideration and adoption by the 11th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties in document UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.23.4.2,

Noting relevant international decisions and guidance with regard to mitigating the specific impacts of power lines on birds, including:

- CMS Resolution 10.11 *Power Lines and Migratory Birds*,
- *Guidelines on How to Avoid or Mitigate the Impact of Electricity Power Grids on Migratory Birds in the African-Eurasian Region*, adopted by CMS COP10, AEWA MOP5 and the CMS Raptors MOU MOS1,
- AEWA Resolution 5.11 *Power Lines and Migratory Waterbirds*,
- Bern Convention Recommendation No. 110 *minimizing adverse effects of above-ground electricity transmission facilities (power lines) on birds*,
- The *Budapest Declaration on bird protection and power lines* adopted in 2011 by the Conference *Power Lines and Bird Mortality in Europe*, and
- *BirdLife UNDP/GEF Migratory Soaring Bird Guidance on power lines*,

Welcoming the good cooperation and partnerships already established at both international and national levels between stakeholders including governments and their institutions, energy companies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and Secretariats of MEAs, and the concerted efforts made to address energy developments which conflict with species conservation, and

Acknowledging with thanks the financial support of the Governments of Germany and Norway through the CMS and AEWA Secretariats, of BirdLife International through the BirdLife UNDP/GEF Migratory Soaring Birds project and of IRENA towards the compilation of the report *Renewable Energy Technology Deployment and Migratory Species: an Overview* and the guidelines document *Renewable Energy Technologies and Migratory Species: Guidelines for Sustainable Deployment*,

The Conference of the Parties to the
Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals

1. *Endorses* the document *Renewable Energy Technologies and Migratory Species: Guidelines for Sustainable Deployment* (UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.23.4.3.2);

2. *Urges* Parties and *encourages* non-Parties to implement these voluntary Guidelines as applicable depending on the particular circumstances of each Party, and as a minimum to:

   a) apply appropriate Strategic Environment Assessment (SEA) and EIA procedures, when planning the use of renewable energy technologies, avoiding existing protected areas in the broadest sense and other sites of importance to migratory species;

   b) undertake appropriate surveying and monitoring both before and after deployment of renewable energy technologies to identify impacts on migratory species and their habitats in the short- and long-term, as well as to evaluate and assess the effectiveness of mitigation measures, making modifications where necessary; ~~and~~

   c) require data sharing and enhance availability of biodiversity data, survey results and pre- and post-construction monitoring, by making the data publicly available in a centralized database, including data on species mortality due to renewable energy infrastructure;

   d) enact and put in place appropriate legislation, licensing and permitting procedures that are evidence-based, integrate biodiversity and migratory bird and bat considerations, and include clear procedures to address cases of noncompliance or permit violations; and

~~e~~e) apply appropriate cumulative impact studies to describe and understand impacts on a larger scale, such as at population level or along entire migration routes (*e.g.,* at flyways scale for birds).

3. *Urges* Parties to implement, as appropriate, the following priorities in their development of renewable energy technologies:

   a) **wind energy**: to undertake ~~careful physical planning~~ science-based planning and monitoring for the safe siting and management of renewable energy development projects alongside reducing the impacts of disturbances and displacement of species, and to minimize ~~with special attention to~~ the mortality of birds (in particular of species that are long-lived and have low fecundity) and bats resulting from collisions with wind turbines and barotrauma, and the increased mortality risk to cetaceans from permanently reduced auditory functions, as detailed in the guidance document *Renewable Energy Technologies and Migratory Species: Guidelines for Sustainable Deployment* (UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.23.4.3.2);

   b) **solar energy**: to avoid protected areas and respect Key Biodiversity Areas so as to limit further the impacts of deploying solar power plants; undertake careful planning to reduce disturbance and displacement effects on relevant species, as well as to minimize the risks of solar flux, ~~and~~ trauma and other related injuries, such as singeing, which could be a consequence of a number of solar energy technologies; in places where there is a need to clean solar panels such as deserts, avoid water usage of scarce resources and consider to deploy other technologies for this purpose; minimize extraction of water from wetlands for cooling solar panels to avoid habitat modification;

   c) **ocean energy**: to give attention to possible impacts on migratory species of injury, increased noise and electromagnetic field disturbance especially during construction work in coastal habitats, ~~and injury~~;

   d) **hydro-power**: to undertake measures to reduce or mitigate known serious impacts on the movements of migratory aquatic species, such as through the installation of measures such as fish passageways; and

   e) **geo-energy**: to avoid habitat loss, disturbance and barrier effects in order to continue to keep the overall environmental impacts at their current low level.

4. *Instructs* the Secretariat to convene a multi-stakeholder *Task Force on Reconciling Selected Energy Sector Developments with Migratory Species Conservation* (the Energy Task Force);[3]

5. *Urges* Parties and *invites* ~~UNEP~~the United Nations Environment Programme and other relevant international organizations, bilateral and multilateral donors as well as representatives of the energy industry to ~~support~~ financially support the operations of the *Task Force on Reconciling Selected Energy Sector Developments with Migratory Species Conservation* (Energy Task Force), including through funding for its coordination and provision of financial assistance to developing countries for relevant capacity building and the implementation of relevant guidance; and

6. *Instructs* the Secretariat to report on progress on behalf of the Energy Task Force, including ~~on~~ the implementation and, as much as possible, ~~on~~ the assessment of the efficacy of measures taken, to each meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

[3] The Task Force was established after the Eleventh Meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Annex to Resolution 11.27 ~~(Rev.COP12)~~(Rev.COP13)

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE MULTI-STAKEHOLDER TASK FORCE ON RECONCILING SELECTED ENERGY SECTOR DEVELOPMENTS WITH MIGRATORY SPECIES CONSERVATION (*ENERGY TASK FORCE*)

1.Background and purpose

The Energy Task Force is convened in line with the mandate provided by CMS Resolution 11.27 (Rev.COP12) *Renewable Energy and Migratory Species* to assist Parties or Signatories to CMS, AEWA, EUROBATS, ASCOBANS, ACCOBAMS, the Raptors MOU, the Bern Convention, the Ramsar Convention and other relevant MEAs to fulfil their obligations with regard to avoiding or mitigating possible negative impacts of energy sector developments on migratory species.

2. Goal

All energy sector developments are undertaken in such a way that negative impacts on migratory species are avoided.

3. Role

The role of the Energy Task Force will be to facilitate the involvement of all relevant stakeholders in the process of reconciling energy sector developments with the conservation of migratory species where all developments take full account of the conservation priorities.

4. Scope

The geographical scope of the Energy Task Force will be global. Initially, it will be convened with an African-Eurasian scope although not excluding relevant cases in progress from other regions, and will gradually expand to other parts of the world. The timing and extent of geographic expansions shall be decided by the Energy Task Force members, and shall depend on funding being available.

The Energy Task Force will cover all migratory taxa as identified by CMS and its associated instruments. Initially, the Energy Task Force will focus on migratory birds and will gradually expand to other taxonomic groups. The timing and extent of taxonomic expansions shall be decided by the Energy Task Force members, and shall depend on funding being available.

The Energy Task Force will cover the issues of power line impacts and impacts of renewable energy technology deployments (wind, solar, hydropower, geothermal, biomass and ocean energy) with initial focus on power lines, hydro, wind and solar energy technologies. Proposals for extension of the types of energy sector developments to be covered may be made and shall be considered by the Energy Task Force, and shall depend on funding being available.

5. Remit

The Energy Task Force will:

5.1. promote implementation of the relevant guidelines adopted in the frameworks of the participating MEAs;

5.2. set priorities for its actions and implement them;

5.3. assist in resource mobilization for priority actions, including from the energy industry;

5.4. monitor the implementation of relevant guidelines and their effectiveness, as well as existing impediments for adequate implementation of such guidelines, and submit progress reports to the governing bodies of the participating MEAs;

5.5. stimulate internal and external communication and exchange of information, experience, best practice and know-how;

5.6. strengthen regional and international networks; and

5.7. stimulate more research for the renewable energy technologies deployment where substantial gaps in knowledge have been identified in the *Review Report* (UNEP/CMS/COP11/Inf.26).

6. Membership

The Energy Task Force is open-ended. Its member organizations will comprise the Secretariats of the participating MEAs, representatives of relevant government institutions in the field of environment and energy in the Parties to the participating MEAs, representatives of the energy industry, relevant academic institutions, NGOs and other interested stakeholders.

7. Governance

The Energy Task Force will:

7.1. operate by seeking consensus, as much as possible, among the group;

7.2. once it has been convened, operate in accordance with a *modus operandi*, which shall be established by its members; and

7.3. report to the CMS Conference of the Parties and governing bodies of the other participating MEAs, as requested by them.

8. Operation

Funding permitting, a coordinator will be appointed from the Energy Task Force members under an arrangement with the CMS Secretariat to support the Chair, the Vice-Chair and the Energy Task Force members, as appropriate.

The coordinator will *inter alia*:

- organize the meetings of the Energy Task Force;
- maintain and moderate the Energy Task Force communication platform (website and internal online workspace);
- facilitate implementation of decisions of the Energy Task Force, as necessary;
- facilitate fundraising and resource mobilization in support of the activities of the Energy Task Force; and
- facilitate engagement with stakeholders within and beyond the Energy Task Force.

Meetings of the Energy Task Force will be convened at appropriate intervals, as considered necessary and funding permitting. Between meetings business will be conducted electronically through an online workspace within the Energy Task Force*'s* website, which will provide the primary mode of communication and operation of the Energy Task Force.

9. Financing

Funding for the operations of the Energy Task Force, including the coordinator post, as well as the implementation of identified priorities will be sought from various sources, including from member organizations.

ANNEX 2

DRAFT DECISIONS

SUPPORT TO THE ENERGY TASK FORCE

Directed to Parties, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders from the energy sector

13.AA (12.81) Parties, including their representation from both environment and energy ministries and authorities, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders from the energy sector are encouraged to ~~consider~~ contribute to the implementation of the Energy Task Force Work Plan, including through the provision of financial and technical assistance to support the ongoing operations of the Energy Task Force.

Directed to the Energy Task Force and the Scientific Council

13.BB (12.82) The Energy Task Force, with input from the Scientific Council as appropriate, is encouraged to:

a) investigate best practices ~~in~~ to standardize methodologies in planning, managing and monitoring renewable energy infrastructure and its impact on biodiversity, effective evidence-based mitigation measures as well as methods for cumulative assessment;

b) collate best practices and suggest means of integrating biodiversity into national policies for renewable energy mix and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), as per Decision 13.CC, below;

~~b)~~c) produce guidance and review tools ~~based on that~~ for assessing and mitigating for cumulative impacts of (renewable) energy and power line developments on migratory species, including those beyond national borders, across flyways and throughout species' ranges; this includes

- standardized approaches for post-construction monitoring of renewable energy projects, and review of existing tools, such as *GenEst*,
- the collation of species' mortality data in national and global mortality databases,
- analysis of methods for establishing cumulative impacts under determined spatial scale and population-level effects, including such effects resulting from species displacement due to energy infrastructure,
- strengthening national licensing and permitting of energy infrastructure;

~~c) Make suggestions on improving collective understanding of such impacts;~~

d) undertake these activities in collaboration with the specialized organizations referred to in UNEP/CMS/Resolution 7.2 (Rev.COP12) *Impact Assessment and Migratory Species*, building on the principles expressed in that Resolution;

e) report to the ~~13~~14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties on the above activities.

Directed to Parties

13.CC Parties are:

a) encouraged to integrate biodiversity and migratory species considerations in national energy and climate policy and action plans, providing data and recommendation to national government processes, to enhance synergies between the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and CMS and to support an evidence-based renewable energy mix into design and implementation of renewable energy policies such as Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and National Energy and Climate Plans, *inter alia* integrating Strategic Environmental Assessments and species sensitivity mapping into the climate targets' decision-making processes;

b) invited to provide to the Energy Task Force and the Secretariat information and indicators that have been integrated into national climate action plans and NDCs;

c) requested to report to the 14th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties on the above activities in their National Reports.