



The CMS Energy Task Force - a tool for mainstreaming biodiversity conservation across conventions, landscapes and sectors



MEETINGS AND EVENTS

The Third Meeting of the ETF will take place on 16 November 2018 in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt, in the margins of the 14th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP14).

Facing a warming world

The recent Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report warned about exceeding the 1.5 degrees Celsius temperature rise. The Paris UN climate change agreement from 2015 is expected to generate actions and investment towards an economy based on low carbon power sources.

Making renewable energy wildlife friendly

CMS and the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA) acknowledge the crucial importance of energy from renewable sources.

However, the deployment of renewable energy and associated infrastructure such as powerlines will have negative impacts on species and ecosystems if placed in wildlife sensitive areas. The risk to migratory species can be particularly significant if renewable energy installations and power lines are planned and built without addressing environmental impacts appropriately.

The Energy Task Force (ETF) - a tool for mainstreaming biodiversity conservation across conventions, landscapes and sectors

CMS established this initiative coordinated by BirdLife International to further support the implementation of COP resolutions and the use of relevant guidelines. Governments, multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs), investors, academic institutions and NGOs being members of the Task Force work towards reconciling renewable energy developments with the conservation of migratory species.

CMS Resolution 11.27 (Rev. COP12) envisages the ETF working collaboratively to promote the implementation of current guidance and decisions through international and national partnerships. The platform promotes exchange of information, experience, best practice and know-how. It also has the task of providing recommendations and addressing knowledge gaps through research.

Mandate

The ETF's mandate includes mainstreaming conservation of migratory species across the energy sector:

- CMS Resolution 11.27 (Rev. COP12): Renewable Energy and Migratory Species
- AEWA Resolution 6.11.: Addressing Impacts of Renewable Energy Deployment on Migratory Waterbirds

THE CMS ENERGY TASK FORCE

Recent highlights

The Global Flyways Summit held in Abu Dhabi, April 2018, declared that the needs of migratory birds had to be taken into account at all phases of energy production of onshore and offshore renewable energy and power transmission. It identified a key role of the ETF in supporting this process.

Objectives

- assess progress in the implementation of the Work Plan
- identify ETF flagship projects with impact on the ground
- input to be submitted to the Conference of the Parties to CMS
- New membership nominations to achieve greater business and industry involvement
- Expand the scope of the ETF to include:
 - other flyways globally e.g. South-East Asia Australasian Flyway
 - offshore wind
 - other renewable energy technologies and impacts, e.g. tidal, current and wave renewables, lithium mining
 - other taxa in addition to birds and bats
 - A new global database to be created by BirdLife on renewable technologies, their impact on wildlife and the available solutions, guidelines and policies
 - Draft publication on the review and gap analysis following the database creation

SIDE EVENT

organized by the UNEP/CMS Secretariat, BirdLife International and the Government of Egypt

Sunday, 18 November, 18.15hrs

Connected solutions for a connected world: mainstreaming biodiversity conservation across conventions, landscapes and sectors through migratory flyways

Mainstreaming biodiversity is necessary to implement several Aichi Targets and will also be a key component of a more ambitious post-2020 global biodiversity framework with nature at the center of decision-making.

In an increasingly globalized world, migratory birds connect people, ecosystems and nations. They are critical indicators of the state of the environment and global life support systems. Therefore, we must safeguard the large-scale connectivity of habitats along their migration routes, or flyways. Flyway conservation on a global scale helps to achieve biodiversity, climate and sustainable development goals.

At the side event, a series of case studies will demonstrate the process of mainstreaming biodiversity at various scales via flyway conservation.



Red-necked Avocets and silver gulls (left) and Australian Pelicans (in flight), Australian Shelduck (below) and Black Swans feeding in front of wind turbines at Lake Burrumbeet, Victoria, Australia © Ed Dunens

About CMS

The Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), also known as the Bonn Convention, works for the conservation of a wide array of endangered migratory animals worldwide through negotiation and implementation of agreements and species action plans. It has 126 Parties (as of 1 March 2018).

CMS engages all relevant stakeholders in addressing threats to migratory species in concert with all other aspects of wildlife conservation and management.

CMS Instruments

Animals receive protection under CMS through listing on its two Appendices, through global or regional agreements and through action plans.

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