

**JOINT REPORT OF CMS SECRETARIAT AND ETF COORDINATOR
ON ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN SINCE THE FOURTH MEETING OF
THE ENERGY TASK FORCE**

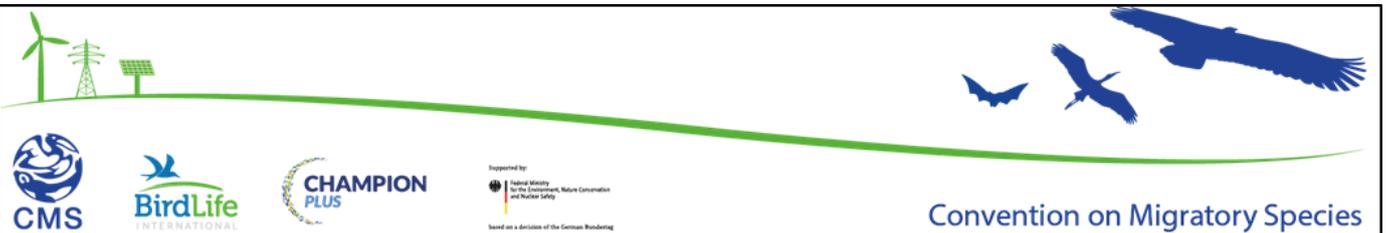


The Government of the Federal Republic of Germany, through the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU) were recognized as Champion Plus for their generous support and commitment towards Reconciling Energy Sector Developments with Migratory Species Conservation for the period 2018-2020. The Energy Task Force has been funded with the contribution granted by Germany under the Migratory Species Champion Programme.

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Introduction

1. This document provides an overview of the activities undertaken by the CMS Secretariat and the Coordination Team of the multi-stakeholder Task Force on Reconciling Selected Energy Sector Developments with Migratory Species Conservation (the Energy Task Force, ETF) since the Fourth Meeting of the ETF, held in Paris, France on 19 September 2019.

Membership of the Energy Task Force (ETF)

2. As of November 2020, 15 CMS Contracting Parties are Members of the ETF, with representatives from environment-, energy- and development-related ministries and authorities. In addition, the membership comprises one international development government agency, the secretariats of five multilateral environmental agreements, and a further nine international organizations and institutions, including intergovernmental organizations and networks, development banks and non-governmental organizations. A further 12 national and international organizations and associations are Observers to the ETF.
3. The French Ministry of Environment and Energy became a member of the ETF at the ETF4 meeting and the French Government contact point, Mr. Michel Perret, was soon after elected as the new Chair of the ETF. New members and observers include the Jordan Ministry of Environment, Instituto de Ecología, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM) and the Regional Center for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (RCREEE) and the Brazilian National Center for Bird Conservation and Research (CEMAVE). The development of a new business pool has also been established, with service providers Robin Radar and STRIX already joining. The ETF Coordination team are actively in search of additional service providers to join the business pool.

Activities

4. The Fourth Meeting of the ETF (ETF4) was held in Paris, France, from 19 – 20 September 2019. The ETF4 meeting assessed progress towards the implementation of the Work Plan, agreed on a draft document for CMS COP13 (February 2020) including proposed modifications of existing resolutions/decisions, highlighted flagship experiences and projects, identified member/observer commitments and identified further opportunities for promoting ETF activities. A report on the meeting can be accessed via the dedicated [meeting website](#) and [here](#).
5. Dialogues have been held virtually and in-person and written responses have been provided to consultations on updated policies and safeguards of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), the European Investment Bank (EIB), the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), Equator Principles EP4, the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank and CMS Resolutions 11.27 and 10.11.
6. A number of ETF communication documents have been developed in 2020, including an [ETF Factsheet](#) and [May](#) and [October](#) ETF Newsletters.
7. A fundraising strategy and [Fundraising Brief](#) has been developed to engage donors to support ETF activities post-2020. A new [Draft Framework Workplan](#) has also been drafted to guide ETF activities post-2020.

8. Five ETF case studies have been developed by members and observers:
 - a. [Towards Bird-friendly Powerlines in Egypt](#)
 - b. [Regional Wind Farm Planning in Jordan](#)
 - c. [Strategic Environmental Assessment in Kenya](#)
 - d. [Mainstreaming best practice guidelines for assessing and monitoring impacts on birds at wind energy facilities in South Africa](#)
 - e. [Bridging the science-implementation gap in South Africa](#)
9. In advance of the Thirteenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP13) in March 2020, the CMS published an in-depth information document titled [Reconciling Energy Development with the Conservation of Migratory Species: an Analysis of National Reports to CMS COP13](#), providing an overview of the efforts and progress made by reporting Parties. The report identifies that over 70% of reporting Parties identified renewable energy technologies and/or associated infrastructure as a pressure to migratory species in their 2019 National Reports.
10. BirdLife International, Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) and the International Finance Corporation (IFC) presented at a CMS COP13 ETF side event on nature-sensitive renewable energy development, facilitated by Dr. Josef Tumbrinck, Deputy Head of the German Department of Nature Conservation and Sustainable Nature Development, and chaired by Dr Jacques Trouvilliez, Executive Secretary of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement (AEWA).
11. During the conference, the CMS Secretariat reported on the implementation of Resolution 11.27 (Rev.COP12) *Renewable Energy and Migratory Species*' and 10.11 *Power Lines and Migratory Birds*, referencing the activities of the ETF. The proposed amendments to both resolutions and draft decisions were introduced to the Parties, based on contributions from ETF members in 2019 and recommendations made by the CMS Scientific Council. The following outcomes were actioned during the conference:
 - The Conference of the Parties adopted the draft revised resolution and decisions regarding the ETF in document ([UNEP/CMS/COP13/Doc.26.4.2.1](#)) on *Renewable Energy and Migratory Species*, supported by the EU, Brazil, and Senegal.
 - The Conference of the Parties adopted the draft revised resolution contained in document ([UNEP/CMS/COP13/Doc.26.4.2.2](#)) on *Power Lines and Migratory Birds*.
12. The final version of the adopted Resolution 11.27 (Rev.COP13), *Renewable Energy and Migratory Species* can be found [here](#) and for Resolution 10.11 (Rev.COP13), *Power Lines and Migratory Birds* [here](#). The Decisions of CMS COP13 now in effect to support the ETF are listed [here](#).
13. A [virtual meeting of the ETF was held on 03 August 2020](#) to provide noteworthy updates from across the network and to facilitate an initial discussion around funding, opportunities and the direction the ETF will take as a network post-2020. Individual presentations were given by the following:
 - [‘Good practice handbook \(GPH\) on the design of post-construction monitoring of bird and bat fatalities at wind energy facilities’](#), presented by EBRD, IFC, KfW, Natural Power and Western EcoSystems Technology, Inc. - the presenters delivered an introduction to the Project team, the process and timeframes for developing the GPH, as well as its contents. The ETF will look forward to engaging with the development of the GPH via a peer review process and via the Project's Stakeholder Advisory Body (with the ETF represented by BirdLife International).
 - [‘Quick guidance for preventing electrocution impacts on birds’](#), presented by the International Association for Falconry and Conservation of Birds of Prey - the brief report provides simple-to-use guidance on how to prevent electrocution impact on birds, especially relevant for projects financed by International Financing Institutions.

- *'Bats and wind energy infrastructure'*, presented by Dr. Rodrigo Medellín (*Instituto de Ecología, UNAM*) - Dr. Medellín detailed the importance of bat-friendly wind energy, highlighting current issues, existing research and potential responses that should be taken to reconcile wind energy developments with bat conservation.
14. On 31 March - 01 April 2020, a virtual workshop hosted by the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) and The Biodiversity Consultancy (TBC) was held to review the new IUCN guidelines on Mitigating Biodiversity Impacts Associated with Solar and Wind Energy Infrastructure. The workshop included representatives from IUCN, international NGOs, the Integrated Biodiversity Assessment Tool (IBAT) and the private sector. The ETF was represented by the ETF coordination team from BirdLife International. The guidance is primarily focused on the needs of businesses in the solar and wind energy sectors, including project developers, investors and operators. IUCN and TBC will present the findings and plans for the new guidelines at the December ETF5 virtual meeting.
 15. On 01 October 2020, CMS represented by Amy Fraenkel (Executive Secretary) supported the opening of the virtual 2021 IUCN World Conservation Congress Infrastructure and Nature Pavilion [webinar series](#): *Setting the Scene: Converging Crises and Sustainable Infrastructure in a COVID-19 World*.
 16. On 05 October 2020, BirdLife International (on behalf of the ETF) participated in the first Stakeholder Advisory Committee Meeting for the *'Good practice handbook on the design of post-construction monitoring of bird and bat fatalities at wind energy facilities'* and contributed to an initial review of the Project Decision Support Tool. IFC, EBRD, KfW, Western EcoSystems Technology and Natural Power will present a draft of the GPH at the December ETF5 virtual meeting.
 17. On 18 November 2020, a webinar was given by the ETF Coordination Team with representatives from the Mediterranean region, to foster awareness on the nature-sensitive renewable energy agenda and to promote engagement and membership in the region.