

A GREEN RECOVERY DRIVING NATURE-SENSITIVE RENEWABLE ENERGY DEPLOYMENT

(Ms. Melanie Heath, BirdLife International)

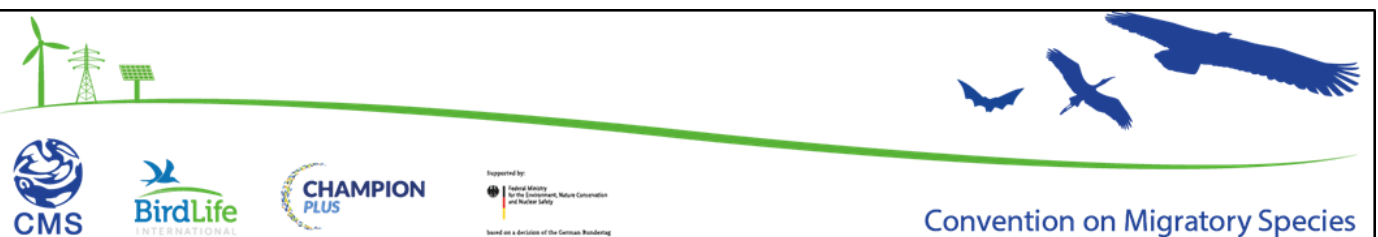


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The COVID19 pandemic has brought economic and social turmoil and tragedy, and with it new major new dimensions to risk and responsibility regarding nature. As the world begins planning the recovery from the pandemic, and over \$13 trillion has been pledged to reignite the global economy, we have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to ensure that recovery has nature at its heart and governments, the private sector and societies reset their relationship with nature. We cannot afford to return to 'business as usual' and continue to follow high-carbon, unsustainable growth scenarios. Instead, global recovery measures should target a green, equitable and resilient future.

The priorities are clear, we must reignite the economy, restore purchasing power, create new jobs; and prioritise the most vulnerable – however, this cannot come at the cost of the wider planetary emergency of climate change and biodiversity loss.

Renewable energy can help revitalize the economy by generating green jobs, ensuring energy security, improving clean air and health considerations and strengthening resilience. For example the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) forecasts that a global energy system transformation based on renewables could enhance global GDP by \$98 trillion by 2050. However, if located in the wrong place or without safeguards, these developments can have significant and detrimental impacts on wildlife, key areas for biodiversity and the wider contributions to people that nature provides.

This session will explore the importance of ensuring a global green recovery that drives nature-sensitive renewable energy deployment and financing for biodiversity, focusing on where and how the ETF and its networks are engaging and could further support this process.

The session will be facilitated by BirdLife International, who in collaboration with its 115 Partners around the world, is promoting the need for building back better.