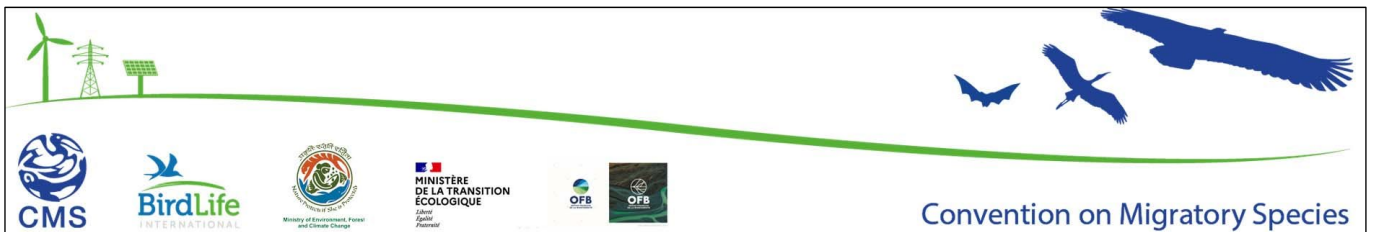


6th Meeting of the CMS Multi-Stakeholder Energy Task Force

9-10 February 2022, online

ETF6/Doc.2

JOINT REPORT OF CMS SECRETARIAT AND ETF COORDINATOR ON ACTIVITIES AND PROGRESS AGAINST THE WORKPLAN



The Government of India, through the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change were recognized as Champion Plus for their generous support and commitment towards Making energy safe for wildlife for the period 2020-2023. The operations of the Energy Task Force have been funded with the contribution granted by India under the Migratory Species Champion Programme.



JOINT REPORT OF CMS SECRETARIAT AND ETF COORDINATOR ON ACTIVITIES AND PROGRESS AGAINST THE WORKPLAN

Introduction

1. This document provides an overview of the activities undertaken by the CMS Secretariat and the Coordinator of the Energy Task Force (ETF) since the [Fifth Meeting of the ETF \(ETF5\)](#), held virtually from 30 November – 1 December 2020.

Membership of the Energy Task Force (ETF)

2. As of January 2022, 17 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 six multilateral environmental agreements, and a further 10 international organizations and institutions, including intergovernmental organizations and networks, development banks and non-governmental organizations. A further 17 national and international organizations and associations are Observers to the ETF. The full list can be found here: <https://www.cms.int/en/taskforce/energy-task-force>.
3. New members and observers include:
 - Ministry of Environment and Energy, General Secretariat of Natural Environment and Water of Greece
 - Ministry for the Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge (MITECO) of Spain
 - Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT)
 - EuroNatur
 - le Groupe de Recherche pour la Protection des Oiseaux au Maroc (GREPOM/BirdLife Morocco)
 - The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Secretariat
 - Ethiopian Wildlife and Natural History Society
 - Society for the Protection of Nature in Lebanon (SPNL)
 - South African Bat Assessment Association (SABAA).

Institutional update

4. The CMS Avian Species Team, leading the CMS Secretariat's activities on ETF matters, was restructured in 2021. Thanks to voluntary contributions from the Government of India, from the Ministère de la Transition écologique et solidaire of France and L'Office français de la biodiversité (OFB) France, a new contractual arrangement for the continuation and expansion of the ETF coordination between the CMS Secretariat and BirdLife International is under finalization at the time of writing. Dr Rhiannon Niven, Global Climate Change Policy Coordinator, BirdLife International, joined as the new Coordinator of the ETF.

For more details, please see a report to the recent interim ETF meeting, held virtually on 7 December 2021, [here](#).

Highlights

5. Key highlights from across the year include:
 - a. Publications by ETF Members and Observers:
 - [Mitigating biodiversity impacts associated with solar and wind energy development: guidelines for project developers](#)
 - [Quick guidance preventing electrocution on birds](#)
 - Case Study: [Retrofitting Powerlines for Saker Falcons in Mongolia](#)
 - Case Study: [Powerlines and Bird Reporting Portal – Germany.](#)
 - b. ETF presented at the following events:
 - 12th MAVIR Bird Conservation Conference, 25th November, where the ETF was represented by BirdLife International and presented, '[Synergies for energy infrastructure and the conservation of migratory species: the need for multi-stakeholder cooperation and innovation](#)'.
 - The side event '[Renewable energy with nature at its core](#)' at UNFCCC COP26 (31 October to 12 November 2021).
 - ETF Webinar at the Climate Week NYC, September 2021: Hosted by BirdLife International, the CMS ETF held a webinar on 23 September 2021 at the Climate Week NYC. The webinar entitled "[Meeting global goals on climate, nature and sustainable development through a nature-sensitive renewable energy transition](#)" showcased key mechanisms and innovative tools for the nature-sensitive deployment of renewable energy, such as those developed by members of the ETF including CMS, BirdLife International, the Integrated Biodiversity Assessment Tool (IBAT) and the Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT).
 - Nature-sensitive Renewable Energy at the IUCN World Conservation Congress, September 2021: The IUCN World Conservation Congress took place from 3-11 September 2021. On 7 September 2021, the IUCN hosted and led an event titled "Renewable energy and biodiversity: implementation of the mitigation hierarchy". The event illustrated the existing solutions to mitigate the biodiversity risks associated to solar and wind developments, where the ETF was represented by BirdLife International. The IUCN developed renewable energy and biodiversity [guidelines](#) that have recently been launched were also highlighted and presented at this event.
 - c. The ETF newsletter is available [here](#). Previous editions can be found [here](#) and [here](#).
 - d. Interim virtual meetings held on the [28th April](#) and [7th December](#). These meetings provided noteworthy updates on:
 - activities by members across the network, the Powerline Working Group, and Technical Working Group
 - Spatial planning tools and the need for the collation of biodiversity data for robust assessments
 - Facilitation of multi-disciplinary planning
 - Research into the efficacy and constraints for mitigation and compensation offsets
 - Fundraising activities
 - Post-construction Good Practice Handbook and Biodiversity and Powerline Guidelines, conflict maps and retrofitting of power lines in ETF Member States.

- e. The work of the ETF was highlighted during the Fifth meeting of the Sessional Committee of the CMS Scientific Council, held online from 28 June to 9 July 2021, in the context of [CMS Resolution 10.11 \(Rev.COP13\) Power Lines and Migratory Birds](#) and [Decision 13.108 Support to the Energy Task Force](#). The status and achievements of the ETF work were also reported to the 52nd meeting of the CMS Standing Committee, held online from 21 to 29 September 2021 in the report on the [Implementation of the programme of work \(2020-2023\)](#).

VISUAL SUMMARY OF PROGRESS AGAINST ETF WORKPLAN: 2021-2024

Key:

AMEND = amended item from 2018-2020 workplan

CONT = continued item from 2018-2020 workplan

NEW = new item in 2021-2024 workplan

PROGRESS:

Not yet commenced



In progress/ongoing



Complete/on track



Item	Progress Update	Actions	Responsible Entities	Deliverables	Funding Status
1.	Theme: Promote implementation of relevant guidelines adopted in the frameworks of the participating MEAs Expected Result: Guidelines are integrated into decision-making				
1.1		Prepare and disseminate information packages, including fact sheets and information about existing decision support tools for the following stakeholders (<i>including in relevant languages where possible</i>): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CMS and AEWA Parties • Renewable energy sector stakeholders and environmental assessment practitioners • Financial institutions • Conservation organisations • Member case studies 	Coordinator, CMS, AEWA, EUROBATS Secretariats, ETF members	ETF to review information packages (resource documents) and ETF Coordinator to revise as necessary (including in relevant languages) ETF to consider additional materials Provide revised versions to sector specific stakeholders ETF members to support development of tailored information packages and case studies (identify both successes and challenges)	Funded (AMEND)
1.2		Global mapping of ETF member activities	Coordinator, CMS Secretariat, ETF members	Identify and map ETF member activities in line with workplan actions	Funded (NEW)
1.3	Hosted events at 2021 UNFCCC COP26 (Glasgow); 2021 IUCN World Conservation Congress; 2021 New York Climate Week (virtual)	Present at or host side-events at key global conventions e.g., UNFCCC COP; CBD COP; CMS COP; IUCN WCC and UNGA Biodiversity Summit	Coordinator, CMS Secretariat, ETF members	Prepare and submit side event proposals and invite ETF members	Funded (AMEND)

Item	Progress Update	Actions	Responsible Entities	Deliverables	Funding Status
1.4		Track, engage and support, as appropriate, CBD and UNFCCC mainstreaming biodiversity agenda in the energy sector	Coordinator, ETF members	Coordinator to engage CBD and UNFCCC Secretariat and provide information to members	Funded (AMEND)
1.5		Further engage national focal points from relevant MEAs (including CBD and UNFCCC), national energy and economy ministries, national energy authorities, to inform them of the work of ETF-endorsed guidelines, research and upcoming ETF events	ETF member governments, Coordinator	ETF Coordinator to work with Government members to engage with appropriate national stakeholders	In-kind (CONT)
1.6		Map green recovery materials, identify experiences and develop best practice case study examples to support nature-sensitive renewable energy deployment	Coordinator, ETF members	Coordinator to identify member interest and priorities ETF Coordinator to develop ETF briefing/information resource documents and case studies with members	In-kind (NEW)
2.	<p>Theme: Promote mainstreaming migratory species conservation into corporate and financial decision-making</p> <p>Expected Result: Appropriate safeguards are integrated into corporate and financial decision-making</p>				
2.1		Continue to identify relevant stakeholders in energy and financial sectors	Coordinator, CMS Secretariat, ETF members	Coordinator in consultation with CMS and ETF to decide on priority stakeholder approach and approach stakeholders for potential membership or collaboration	Funded (AMEND)
2.2		Engage with industry and investors - build partnerships and establish pilot initiatives with industry and investors	Coordinator, CMS Secretariat, ETF members	Ongoing engagement with industry and investors in work plan activities Development of pilot concept initiatives with members	Unfunded (AMEND)
2.3		Information document for renewable energy and environmental sectors on the business case for implementing guidelines	Coordinator, ETF members	Development of business case and interactive tool based on briefing document Support from relevant members	Funded (AMEND)
2.4	Presented at MAVIR 12 th MAVIR Bird Conservation Conference, Hungary (virtual)	Promotion of ETF at key global and regional energy forums and summits, industry and consultation events for promotion of ETF activities, including international finance events, regional energy forums and international industry events	Coordinator, CMS Secretariat, ETF members	Scope opportunities for engagement with events Prepare and submit event proposals and invite ETF members/observers as appropriate	Funded (NEW)

Item	Progress Update	Actions	Responsible Entities	Deliverables	Funding Status
2.5		Development of tailored guidance notes for the private sector and financial institutions	Coordinator, ETF members	Coordinator to identify member interest and priorities	Unfunded (NEW)
3.	Theme: Priority setting Expected Result: Workplan reflects priorities				
3.1		Review workplan at annual ETF meetings to identify additional priority activities in line with CMS Resolutions 11.27 (Rev.COP13) and 10.11 (Rev.COP13) and including long-term goals	ETF members	Update work plan	Funded (CONT)
3.2	Technical Working Group identified research priorities	Hold meetings to identify ETF research priorities	Coordinator, CMS Secretariat, TWG, ETF members	Create a Technical Working Group (TWG) to discuss ETF research priorities Identify research priorities for Coordinator and TWG to develop survey and engage with ETF members in advance TWG to support facilitation and development of intersessional group	Funded (AMEND)
3.3		Review progress on implementing the workplan every six months	Coordinator, CMS Secretariat, ETF members	Coordinator to initiate and facilitate progress review	Funded (CONT)
4.	Theme: Mobilising resources Expected Result: Priority activities identified and funded				
4.1		Identify key funding priorities and opportunities	Coordinator, CMS Secretariat, ETF members	Review fundraising plan Encourage and coordinate fundraising efforts of ETF members	In-kind (CONT)
4.2		Prepare funding proposal to further develop decision support tools	Coordinator, ETF members	Develop fundraising concept notes to address funding needs	Funded (CONT)

Item	Progress Update	Actions	Responsible Entities	Deliverables	Funding Status
4.3		Liaise with potential donors to seek support for ETF activities	Coordinator, CMS Secretariat, ETF members	Work with CMS Secretariat to coordinate donor engagement by ETF members	Funded (CONT)
4.4		Identify national opportunities via selective grants available to ETF members/observers to carry out activities nationally	Coordinator, CMS Secretariat, ETF members	Scope requirements of members/observers Coordinator to organize planning meeting(s) for interested members Identify potential for follow up meetings	Funded (NEW)
5.	Theme: Monitoring implementation and impediments to implementation Expected Result: Report on status of implementation; impediments to implementation and potential solutions identified				
5.1		Conduct surveys and interviews with selected CMS Parties to implement different components of ETF-endorsed guidelines and identify key impediments to implementation	Coordinator, CMS, AEW, EUROBATS Secretariats, ETF members	ETF members to engage with process Coordinator to develop survey and interview questions	Unfunded / in-kind (CONT)
5.2		Analyse existing guidelines to identify gaps and need for more technical detail; develop complementary technical notes (e.g. sensitivity mapping, thresholds, data collection and monitoring, mitigation hierarchy and powerlines, cumulative impacts, decision support tools)	TWG	TWG to agree on further activities, timelines and responsibilities	Unfunded (AMEND)
6.	Theme: Stimulating communication and information exchange Expected Result: Task force members collaborate and share information				
6.1	Website updated December 2021	Make information about the ETF available on the ETF website	Coordinator, CMS Secretariat	Coordinator to review and keep updated	Funded (CONT)
6.2	Interim meetings held April and December 2021 (virtual); ETF6 February 2022 (virtual)	Organisation of the annual meetings of the ETF	Coordinator, CMS Secretariat	Coordinator to prepare travel arrangements for ETF members Coordinator to facilitate and prepare meeting as appropriate	Funded (CONT)

Item	Progress Update	Actions	Responsible Entities	Deliverables	Funding Status
6.3	Interim meetings held April and December 2021 (virtual); ETF6 February 2022 (virtual)	ETF members exchange case studies, lessons learnt and best practices during ETF meetings and through online platform	Coordinator, CMS Secretariat, ETF members	Coordinator to encourage sharing of materials between members during meetings and via website	Funded (CONT)
6.4		Deliver and record webinar series for CMS Parties, financial institutions and energy sector stakeholders, with presentations via ETF members and other experts	Coordinator, ETF members	Work with ETF members to discuss need and identify best approach for delivering webinar series; support arrangements for production	Unfunded / in-kind (AMEND)
6.5		Identify relevant best practices in relation to powerline impacts that could be applicable in other countries. Disseminate guidelines	ETF members	Work with members to initiate engagement with relevant task force members Identify roles, responsibilities and funding needs	Unfunded / in-kind (AMEND)
6.6		Develop short video highlighting the role of the ETF and sharing case studies/views from across ETF members	Coordinator, CMS Secretariat, ETF members	Coordinator to develop draft concept together with CMS Secretariat	Unfunded / in-kind (CONT)
6.7		Develop ETF as a knowledge hub, disseminate research and other ETF outputs (e.g. via hubs and other expert forums)	Coordinator, CMS Secretariat, ETF members	Member initiative Members to identify appropriate fora	In-kind (CONT)
6.8		Develop communications strategy for ETF	Coordinator, CMS Secretariat	Coordinator to prepare/amend ETF members consulted on strategy	Funded (CONT)
6.9	Three editions published through 2021	Continue development and promotion of ETF network through a quarterly newsletter	Coordinator	Coordinator to prepare and distribute to members	Funded (NEW)
6.10		Develop social media package and strategy for ETF	Coordinator, CMS Secretariat	Coordinator to prepare in consultation with CMS Secretariat	Funded (NEW)
6.11		Scope opportunities for an ETF award scheme	Coordinator, CMS Secretariat, ETF members	Coordinator to prepare in consultation with ETF members	Unfunded (NEW)

Item	Progress Update	Actions	Responsible Entities	Deliverables	Funding Status
6.12	Powerlines Working Group and Technical Working Group have been established and operational	Develop ETF working groups, based on interest and demand from ETF members	Coordinator, CMS Secretariat, ETF members	Coordinator to initiate engagement with interested task force members Organise planning meeting for interested members and agree on working group scope Coordinator and interested members to support facilitation and development of intersessional working groups	Funded (NEW)
6.13		Scope opportunities for an ETF mentoring and capacity building scheme among members	Coordinator, CMS Secretariat, ETF members	Coordinator to identify member interest and priorities	In-kind (NEW)
6.14		Increase communication and resource dissemination on existing ETF sectors and species gaps (e.g., non-avian species and solar energy)	Coordinator, CMS Secretariat, ETF members	Coordinator to identify member interest and priorities	In-kind (NEW)
7	Theme: Strengthening regional and international networks Expected Result: Strong regional and international networks				
7.1		ETF members to promote the aims of the ETF through relevant regional and international networks	ETF members	Coordinator to encourage ETF members to promote aims of ETF through their network	In-kind (CONT)
7.2		Map priority regional and international networks	Coordinator, ETF members	Identify priorities in ETF6 meeting	Funded (CONT)
7.3		Scope and promote ETF expansion globally into other regions (including Asia and the Americas)	Coordinator, ETF members	Coordinator to prepare in consultation with ETF members and regional networks	In-kind (NEW)
7.4		Expand regional engagement and advocacy through regional ETF workshops, including in the Americas, Africa, Asia Pacific and Europe	Coordinator, CMS Secretariat	Plan and prepare regional ETF workshops	Unfunded (NEW)

Item	Progress Update	Actions	Responsible Entities	Deliverables	Funding Status
8	Theme: Stimulating research Expected Result: Significantly increase the evidence base on which to make planning and mitigation decisions				
8.1		Engage with international research community – build relationships and evidence base	Coordinator, CMS Secretariat, ETF members	Ongoing engagement with research community in work plan activities	Funded (NEW)
8.2		Further develop spatial mapping tools to assess the potential risk of government commitments following the Paris Agreement and to help show governments how they can meet their commitments with minimal impact upon biodiversity	Coordinator, ETF members	Further concept Organise planning meeting for interested members	Unfunded (CONT)
8.3		Develop appropriate tools and guidance for developers and regulators to help them assess cumulative impacts across powerlines and RETs, collaborating with CMS Scientific Council	Coordinator, ETF members	Organise planning meeting for interested members	Unfunded (CONT)
8.4		Synthesise and compare information on the impacts of different renewable energy technologies and the potential for mitigating species impacts	Coordinator, ETF members	Organise planning meeting for interested members	Unfunded (CONT)
8.5		Collision modelling for powerlines to identify vulnerable species globally	Coordinator, ETF members	Organise planning meeting for interested members	Unfunded (CONT)
8.6		Review and synthesise mitigation solutions (e.g. shut down-on-demand) across different technologies and powerlines to identify whether there is sufficient evident to promote particular solutions and to identify knowledge gaps for further assessment	Coordinator, ETF members	Organise planning meeting for interested members	Unfunded (CONT)
8.7	Draft GPH circulated for comment amongst ETF members and comments submitted	Support the development of a Good Practice Handbook (GPH) on the Design of Post-Construction Monitoring of Bird and Bat Fatalities at Wind Energy Facilities	Coordinator, ETF members (IFC, EBRD, BirdLife International)	Led by IFC, EBRD, KfW Coordinator to facilitate ETF member comments on the GPH	In-kind (NEW)

Item	Progress Update	Actions	Responsible Entities	Deliverables	Funding Status
8.8		Review how global climate change mitigation scenarios can be met by achieving both renewable energy and biodiversity targets	Coordinator, BirdLife International, ETF members	Further concept – led by BirdLife International Consultation with ETF members	Unfunded (NEW)
8.9		Scope opportunities for expanding renewable energy guidance base to cover additional renewables, such as hydropower	Coordinator, CMS Secretariat, ETF members	Coordinator to prepare in consultation with ETF members	In-kind (NEW)
8.10		Scope opportunities for expanding renewable energy guidance base to cover additional migratory species, such as marine species and bats, to a larger extent	Coordinator, CMS Secretariat, ETF members	Coordinator to prepare in consultation with ETF members	In-kind (NEW)