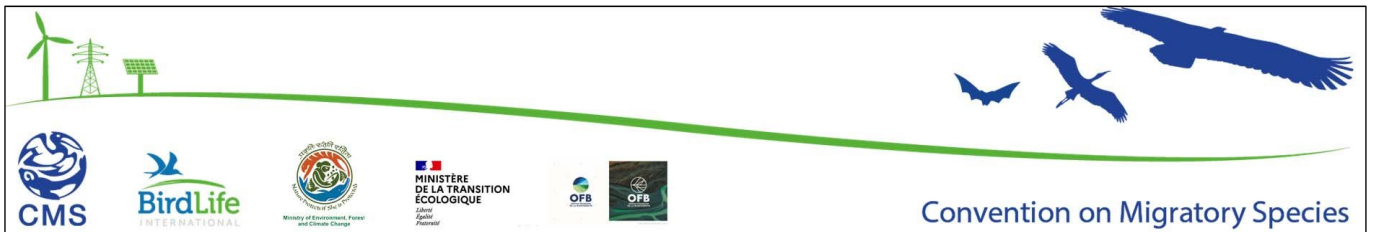


## 6<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the CMS Multi-Stakeholder Energy Task Force

9-10 February 2022, online

ETF6/Meeting Report

### REPORT OF THE 6<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE CMS MULTI-STAKEHOLDER ENERGY TASK FORCE



Convention on Migratory Species



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.



## MEETING REPORT

*The Sixth Meeting of the Multi-Stakeholder CMS Energy Task Force (ETF6) was held virtually over two days from 9-10 February 2022. Meeting documents can be found on the [ETF6 virtual meeting platform](#).*

### Agenda Item 1 – Introductions

#### a) Opening Remarks

The ETF Chair, Mr Michel Perret, France, opened the meeting by warmly welcoming everyone, in particular new colleagues, members and observers who had joined since the last meeting of the ETF, ETF5, held in 2020. He welcomed Dr Rhiannon Niven and Ms Lindsey Smith, BirdLife International (BLI), and Dr Iván Ramírez and Dr Tilman Schneider, CMS Secretariat, who had all joined the ETF since ETF5. He thanked in advance those who would chair sessions and facilitate the breakout groups over the course of the meeting, as well as the governments of Germany, India and France for provision of funding for ETF work.

He referred to the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) - International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Report on Biodiversity and Climate Change, highlighting points of special interest for the ETF work. The report clearly indicated that national and international policies on climate change and biodiversity were not sufficiently coordinated. Combatting climate change and advancing biodiversity protection could not be managed successfully unless they were addressed together. To be efficient, actions on climate change needed to integrate biodiversity concerns and impacts on ecosystems. Biodiversity protection actions equally had to be implemented in the context of climate change to be efficient and effective. In this context, the ETF could act as a world leader for sustainable and nature-friendly renewable energy deployment. During ETF6 there would be the opportunity to consider how ETF could interact with other global renewable energy platforms.

One of the ETF's key strengths was its position within CMS and potential to benefit from the CMS experience. The conservation of migratory species illustrated the need for habitat protection and shared actions between all countries and stakeholders in the spirit of international collaboration and CMS Parties were aware that without conservation policies they could not reach the goal of biodiversity protection. It was important to pay attention to renewable energy deployment policy and procedures and their capacity to integrate biodiversity issues. Decision making should rely on science-based approaches to be efficient and indestructible. Urgent action on climate change and biodiversity protection were needed and it was an opportunity for the ETF members to propose and help implement efficient solutions. ETF6 would provide an opportunity to push thinking on these questions. He wished everyone a fruitful meeting in the spirit of full international collaboration and introduced Ms Amy Fraenkel, the Executive Secretary of the CMS.

Ms Fraenkel welcomed everyone to ETF6 on behalf of the CMS. She was happy to see the ETF continued to grow and welcomed the Spanish and Greek governments as well as eight new observers. She thanked the governments of India and France for their financial support.

The ETF was a unique, practical, timely and relevant initiative. The aim was to protect migratory species while advancing clean energy to combat climate change. According to the World Energy Outlook 2021, global energy demand was expected to rise 47 percent from 2020-2050 and renewable energy production was expected to increase 165 percent by 2050. While this shift was encouraging, an even greater investment in renewable energy was likely to be needed. These trends confirmed the relevance of the initial focus of the ETF on renewable energy, in particular windfarms, and on powerlines. As funding was secured for investment, it was critically important to ensure that the funding also supported best practices to safeguard nature and migratory species.

Over the past year or so, the ETF had launched a series of guidance documents (including guidelines for project developers on mitigating biodiversity impacts associated with wind and solar development), established the Powerlines Working Group (PWG) and Technical WG (TWG), and organised key events at the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Conference of the Parties (COP26) and IUCN World Conservation Congress. The relevance of the ETF's work was becoming better known. The ETF also brought together international and national actors around shared priorities. Despite COVID, the work of ETF had been able to continue and there were many activities in progress under the ETF Work Plan 2021-2024 (WP). She also welcomed Dr Ramírez and Dr Schneider, as well as Dr Niven as the new ETF Coordinator, asserting ETF was at full force with much to do.

Ms Fraenkel emphasised that ETF6 represented an important opportunity to take stock of how far the ETF had come with implementation of the WP, examine the scope and mission of ETF with regards to other entities, brainstorm on how to ensure that ETF guidance was taken up and used, and discuss engaging with financial institutions. She suggested looking also to sovereign banks that were investors in renewable energy and the kinds of structures ETF needed to address and urged attendees to share their views to jointly agree on areas that needed to be focused on going forward. She closed by wishing everyone a successful and productive meeting.

#### **b) Introduction of participants and adoption of the agenda**

The Chair referred attendees to the meeting procedures under the [ETF Modus Operandi](#), and explained that as it was the annual meeting for 2021, they would elect new Chair and Vice-chair on Day 2 of the meeting. He conducted a tour-de-table inviting new members to introduce themselves. The list of participants can be found [here](#).

Mr Mohammed Amesiane, Groupe de Recherche pour la Protection des Oiseaux au Maroc (GREPOM/BirdLife Morocco) (observer), explained that GREPOM had been working on energy and birds for approximately four to five years. They had been involved as a participant or as a main player in studies all over Morocco. In their project financed by the MAVA Foundation via BirdLife International, they conducted a study in five Moroccan regions and monitoring in the Souss region for more than a year. They had tried without success to get the relevant electrician company to recognise the problem of electrocution but continued to work on this. They were building a better relationship for the future of birds and people, noting the impact on people as the electrocution caused electricity outages. The Chair welcomed them, hoping they would benefit from the experience of members and was sure the group would benefit from their experience.

Ms Bassima Khatib, Society for the Protection of Nature in Lebanon (SPNL) (observer), said the SPNL had monitored the impact of energy on migratory birds for many years. They were concerned with the impact on biodiversity from energy, in particular powerlines, solar and windfarms. Recently, three windfarms had been approved in North Lebanon in the most important bottleneck for entry of soaring birds. Installation would be starting shortly, so they were concerned about the impact of these on migrating birds. SPNL was interested in getting involved in the ETF to learn from other countries. They were trying to do assessments in relation to the impact of powerlines and windfarms and would be developing national guidelines soon to work with the government and developers to take into consideration the impact of energy on migrating birds. The Chair welcomed Ms Khatib and SPNL, stressing the importance of having at least one organisation from each country represented in the ETF to help spread the word to all stakeholders.

Ms Eleanor Richardson, South African Bat Assessment Association (SABAA) (observer), said it was her first meeting and she intended to observe and learn. The Chair explained that he had been Chair of EUROBATS Standing Committee for many years and was pleased that bats were represented in the ETF.

Ms Ilka Beerman, EuroNatur (observer), explained their focus was on migrating animals, in particular birds as well as bats and fish. They were joining ETF to improve and strengthen their work and widen their network. The Chair suggested EuroNatur could be the focal point in the Balkan region.

Ms Helen Quayle, The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) (observer), said that RSPB had been involved in offshore wind and energy since the outset and had been trying to ramp up efforts to change how energy was managed, highlighting the legacy of damage in the world's oceans through offshore wind development. The RSPB Work Plan for the year involved how to build programmes in energy transition and they did a lot of work with many other stakeholders, including BLI. She was keen to share the problems happening in the UK to help others learn and consider how to tackle big issues at scale. The Chair stressed the importance of RSPB being in the ETF as there was a need to share experience and research findings as energy development was fast and knowledge on impact of biodiversity impacts of this development needed to be equally quick.

The Chair then invited those attending who were pending approvals for observer status to introduce themselves.

Dr Juliana Bosi de Aleida, SAVEBrasil, was excited to be part of the group. She was engaged in hemispheric conservation initiatives involving many issues and her participation was an opportunity to learn from ETF and bring the learnings to Brasil and share Brasil's unique problems through networking. The Chair emphasised the importance for South America that an organization from Brazil was represented within the ETF.

Ms Hyeseon Do, East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership (EAAFP), explained that the EAAFP represented 22 countries and worked on the conservation of birds in the East Asian-Australasian flyway. There were many issues on renewable energy in the region and they were particularly interested in new guidelines and findings so they could disseminate to their networks. The Chair welcomed that all parts of the world were represented.

The Chair ran through the intention of the meeting, referring to the [Provisional Agenda](#) and [Provisional Annotated Agenda and Schedule](#).

The objectives of ETF6 were to: share updates on the current implementation of the ETF WP; understand how related renewable energy coalitions interacted with the ETF work; agree on thematic and sub-regional priorities; promote and share new technical and operational guidance which had been concretely implemented on the planning and deployment of renewable energy; and strengthen industry and close sector cooperation.

The [Provisional Agenda](#) and [Provisional Annotated Agenda and Schedule](#) as presented were adopted.

## **Agenda Item 2 – Review of ETF Workplan Implementation**

The Chair introduced this agenda item on the review of ETF Workplan, progress, gaps and opportunities.

Dr Niven introduced herself as the new ETF Coordinator on the BLI team, explaining she would outline the WP implementation, progress gaps and opportunities, referring attendees to the [Joint Report of CMS Secretariat and ETF Coordinator on Activities and Progress against the ETF Work Plan](#) and associated documents: [the ETF WP 2021-2024](#), and [ETF5 Meeting Report](#). She explained that the CMS Secretariat and BLI ETF Coordination team were all relatively new but that she had met a few members during the interim ETF meeting held in December 2021. The focus of ETF6 was on holding an initial discussion around the WP, prioritisation around the delivery of the WP and resourcing, as ETF relied on funding to deliver on the activities in the WP. The WP was very ambitious with some items rolled over from the previous WP and some additional items being introduced at ETF5. They had had some good on-track progress against several items in the WP approaching the end of the first year. Progress included on: WP Theme 1 (promoting implementation

of relevant guidelines); and on WP Theme 3 (priority setting), including presentations at four international events, three editions of the newsletter, two interim meetings, publication of two guidance documents and two case studies. They were yet to commence items under other themes. She referred attendees to the traffic light system in the Report indicating progress, with staggered progress across the time and she hoped that the prioritisation workshop on Day 2 would help with prioritisation of the WP and invited input from the meeting attendees.

Engagement in the WGs was important for delivery and there had been some clear examples where WP items had been taken on by WGs or individual members such as the Good Practice Handbook nearing completion led by the International Finance Corporation (IFC) and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) and there would be reports from the WGs during the meeting. She invited members to report any further progress and activities.

Dr Ramírez welcomed everyone, noting it was his first ETF meeting and thanking the CMS Secretariat for their experience. He urged members to contribute to the meeting as the ETF was a collaborative effort requiring everyone to work in the same direction. The WP was massive, with associated opportunities and risks. As indicated by the traffic light system in the Report there was room for progress and need for a strategy and resource plan to deliver on the WP, so it was important that members owned the process and highlighted any areas where they could take the lead. For example, this could be by developing initiatives, documents, and committing time or financial contributions.

Dr Niven invited comments and questions on the WP implementation with three Guiding Questions:

- What do you see as the gaps of the WP?
- Where can members identify opportunities to help drive delivery of the WP?
- What are the tools we can use to monitor the WP?

The Chair also invited comments on gaps and opportunities and recalled the importance of funding mobilisation.

Mr Robert Adamczyk, EBRD, stressed defining the gaps where more guidelines were needed, for example in monitoring, and in particular, post construction monitoring. He was concerned about what level of information was needed to justify a renewable energy project to be agreed. Where existing projects were re-financed and had been defined as renewable, they were automatically viewed as “green.” However, not all projects had adequate monitoring data and could currently have unforeseen impacts, particularly on migratory species. It was critical to ensure that developers continued monitoring once they had constructed and there was a need to be able to respond to climatic changes and changes in the conservation status of migratory species. Therefore, existing projects should have regular baseline data requirements to enable review and monitoring to ensure they were still Green and to track whether any action was needed. This would help define what level of information should be provided to decide whether a project was Green, notably when renewable projects were refinanced.

The Chair agreed this was a crucial point on the monitoring of current infrastructure and added the need to consider how to manage data to understand consequences on migratory species for conservation purposes. There was a need to share information on this between countries.

Dr Ramírez pointed out that this may flag a gap in the WP in ensuring that ETF members demand that baseline data on existing renewable energy developments was adequate and could be backed up in terms of the impact. Some regions had a lot of guidance on gathering this information, but it was important to ensure this information was shared between regions during construction and operation.

Mr Adamczyk emphasised that data from the EIA process might not be adequate, hence the need for stronger requirements relating to post construction monitoring. He clarified that his point referred to projects which had been built 5-15 years ago and were now aiming for refinancing and repowering. The requirements for monitoring at the time they were developed might have been loose or non-existent and changes since their construction needed to be taken into account. It was important to ensure that the data was available for those renewing projects and that they were not packaged as Green when they might not be. He called for ETF guidance in particular on migratory species and transboundary impacts and the requirements for monitoring as the developers might not want to do more monitoring and it was challenging to open up the permitting process again. On a separate point, he referred to mitigation with new technologies, such as cameras being used for soaring birds and raptors and wondered how to share the experience of how these are operating.

Ms Bosi de Aleida agreed with Mr Adamczyk, referring to an on-going discussion she was engaged in regarding the impacts of an old powerline in North-Eastern Brazil, with hundreds of terns being killed through collision with the powerline. They were facing the argument that the powerline had been there for decades with no problem in the past. However, now a new wind energy plant had been built nearby which had displaced the population and there was no data on the impact. It was a complex setting because of the lack of data and monitoring. The deaths were not discovered from the monitoring of the power plant but by another working group so it could have been missed altogether and the deaths were continuing.

Mr Khalid Noby, Nature Conservation Egypt (NCE), agreed that the expansion of energy projects was huge, but that conservation measures and mitigation activities were happening so fast there was no time to measure the impact and efficiency. He called for a framework to measure the efficiency of conservation and mitigation activities in the WP. The Chair welcomed this point, agreeing that the speed of development was a challenge to be addressed.

### **Agenda Item 3 – Implementation Review and Closing of ETF Workplan 2018-2020**

The Chair handed the floor to Dr Niven who introduced this agenda item, referring to [ETF6/Doc.3 – Review of Renewable Energy Consortia](#).

Dr Niven presented on a high-level ETF analysis on [the ETF and its role amongst other global initiatives](#) resulting from a review of how the ETF fits in and interacts with other renewable energy platforms globally. The intention was that this would help set up the discussion on the future strategic direction of the ETF.

She highlighted that they had identified what other global consortia were doing and how they related to the ETF. This could be used to identify areas of work where the ETF could be seen as a global leader and to target increases in membership of the ETF; to communicate achievements and to fundraise, as well as to assist in identifying gaps relating to the development of guidance and tools. It was clear from the study that a key strength of the ETF was that it was established under an international convention (CMS) and therefore has a strong and diverse membership covering, *inter alia*, government, industry, civil society, and NGOs. The ETF also has relatively strong engagement and support across this diverse membership. Other consortia mainly had a smaller but more focussed membership and it is important to ensure that the ETF was not reproducing their work and was working to complement their activities and fill gaps due to its wider reach. There was a need to increase the profile of the ETF within the sector and outside the European region as currently the ETF was very Euro-centric. It would be good to know more from members about other similar groups in different regions.

It was apparent from the review that there were two groups with similar remits: the World Renewable Energy Network (WREN), which worked to facilitate international collaboration and advance global understanding of potential environmental impacts of wind; and the Coalition Linking Energy and Nature for Action (CLEANAction) recently launched at COP26 by WWF.

She invited views from attendees on how the ETF sat within the other global consortia and how the ETF could strategically position itself for maximum value, and outlined some guiding questions:

- Are there any other key groups that are missing in other regions or with international reach?
- What are the ETF unique values (in terms of focus, governance model, membership or others) when compared to other existing platforms?
- Should the strategic direction/WP and outputs be adjusted to further strengthen the position of the ETF, and if so, what items and how?

The Chair invited comments, emphasising that the intention of the ETF was to be global and not Euro-centric.

Mr Tris Allinson (BLI) noted that there were a lot of other coalitions with the aim of renewable energy expansion but the only two comparable coalitions, WREN (limited to wind energy and geographically limited) and CLEANaction had only recently been launched. Compared to these two coalitions, the ETF was well established, broad in membership, increasingly broad geographically in scope, and already had several key achievements and schemes to its credit. He also emphasised that the ETF came under the aegis of CMS and thus had high-level legitimacy. The ETF therefore occupied a unique and well-established approach. There was room for a lot more attention on the issue of nature-sensitive renewable energy as this was arguably one of the greatest global development challenges of the next decade. How the way by which energy had traditionally been made and how it was changed was already having a significant ecological impact. There was enough cross-over between the identified coalitions and the ETF to ensure efforts were complementary and not in competition. Mr Allison welcomed that there were other groups in the same area and said it was important to make sure the ETF was in collaboration with them.

Prof Mohammed Shobrak, Taif University, Saudi Arabia, noted that a lot of coalitions in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) region related to electricity companies had been identified. Powerlines were currently the main issue in the region rather than renewable energy. There were a lot of coalitions in GCC countries with electrical companies, referring to the World Bank as an example. There was a question as to how to attract funding organisations from the regions. They had contacted several people working in these companies but there was a lack of awareness about the issues. He urged awareness raising activities with the coalition of organisations funding projects in the region.

Dr Ramírez noted that the ETF had been invited to become members of other consortia. The ETF was in a unique position; they had a legal mandate, had Member States involved, and an overarching role, but it was possible to do better. He urged thinking about the membership structure and getting clear on whether incorporating energy companies or corporates as members was wanted, as this was not clear in the guidance. He wondered how to get closer to those working on the ground? He suggested convening a WG on this question or including this on the ETF7 agenda, as it would have an impact on the ETF's mission.

Ms Bosi de Aleida proposed that one way to strengthen the ETF would be to have more representation from South and Latin America. She reflected that most consortia lacked representation from Latin America. She stressed the importance of Latin America being involved as it was where the greater push for renewable energy was happening and had high biodiversity and high number of threatened species, with Brazil being the country with the highest number of threatened birds in the world.

Mr Liam Innis, Renewable Grid Initiative (RGI), explained that RGI's members were European transmission system operators (TSOs) and non-governmental organisations (NGOs). He said one of the unique aspects of the ETF was the representation from different groups of society at different points along the renewable energy path, from generation to distribution. He agreed with Prof Shobrak that it was important to reach more of those implementing powerlines. This was an issue being tackled in the PWG. The ETF was in a good position to give guidance on this and could only be

better with more international representation. Some of the key flyways were already represented but representation was lacking in Asia and Latin America. He referred to the RGI Offshore Coalition for Energy in the North and Baltic Seas which had a WG on nature protection in relation to wind energy: <https://offshore-coalition.eu/>. He welcomed the cooperation with IUCN and urged sharpening the ETF's voice and building cooperation with those companies, grid operators or technology developers, in charge of good planning and mitigation measures.

Mr Duncan Lang, Asian Development Bank (ADB) felt it was important to scale up ETF work in Asia. He suggested that the joining structure might put some people off and that there was a need to specify that the ETF was an inclusive environment and that its intention was to speed up the transition to a renewable future. It was important to specify that the aim was to help provide an enabling environment to scale up renewables in the right place. There was a need for membership from Asia as there was a lot going on there in terms of renewable energy.

The Chair recalled there had been the intention to hold a special webinar for CMS Parties to stress the importance of the ETF and urged keeping this in mind to mobilise CMS Parties to promote the ETF, and to implement the guidance of the ETF.

#### **Agenda Item 4 – Research, Innovation and Engagement Priorities**

##### **a) Updates from the Technical Working Group (TWG), Powerlines Working Group (PWG) and the Raptors MOU Electrocutation Discussion Group (EDG)**

The Chair introduced this agenda item on updates from the TWG, PWG and the Raptors MOU EDG. Session Chair Mr Allinson introduced the session and speakers.

He first updated on the TWG, which had existed since the inception of the ETF. Its role was to advise the wider ETF on key knowledge and research priorities and to pursue opportunities to conduct research, communicate new knowledge and promote best practice. At ETF5 it was felt that the ETF could be using the TWG more and therefore a meeting was held in February 2021, Mr Allinson was elected as Chair, Terms of Reference (TOR) were drafted and they established research priorities for 2021-2022 (cf. [Updates from The ETF's Technical Working Group](#)).

Mr Allinson highlighted one recommendation which was to promote more research and knowledge-sharing in emerging markets outside of Europe and North America, especially in high-biodiversity regions. Dr Aonghais Cook (British Ornithological Trust) had been working with the organising committee of the Convention on Wind Energy and Wildlife Impacts (CWW) which is scheduled to be held in April 2022 in the Netherlands to put together a special session on emerging markets to highlight the specific need for a wildlife friendly transition to renewable energy in these important markets. Other TWG recommendations included development of a number of key outputs including a survey of relevant stakeholders to better understand the key issues, regions and obstacles associated with reconciling energy infrastructure and migratory wildlife, and a stakeholder exercise to understand the communities involved, with a view to compiling that information into a white paper. Lack of resources meant that they had yet to begin delivering on those outputs but there was still the intention to do so.

Ms Catherine Numa, IUCN Mediterranean Centre, reported on the PWG, explaining that the group had been formed following interest at some members at ETF5. The first meeting was held in February 2021 where Ms Numa was elected as Co-chair and nine members joined. There had been three further meetings in which they had prepared and adopted both a TOR and a WP for 2021. She referred attendees to the report [Updates from the Energy Task Force Powerlines Working Group and the CMS Raptors MoU Electrocutation Discussion Group](#).



The role of the PWG was to facilitate the involvement of relevant global stakeholders and projects in the process of reconciling powerline deployment with the conservation of migratory species, where all developments take full account of conservation priorities, through:

- sharing knowledge, recommendations and best practices via engagement and collaboration with external stakeholders;
- facilitating and engaging with regional and sub-regional powerline workshops and events;
- promoting and developing guidance and tools on sustainable deployment of wildlife-friendly powerline infrastructure;
- strengthening regional and international networks and building capacity on powerlines
- providing support to the ETF network on powerline elements; and
- where appropriate, identifying research gaps and opportunities for powerline infrastructure (in collaboration with the TWG).

The 2021 WP was structured by four main themes: promoting mainstreaming migratory species conservation into powerline industry decision-making; monitoring implementation and impediments to implementation; stimulating communication and information exchange; and stimulating research. The PWG started with an initial focus on the Mediterranean Flyways but was open to adjusting this geographical focus according to different needs and interests of the group's members. Work had started on almost all the WP activities in 2021. On promoting species conservation, they had held an East-Mediterranean TSO/Distribution system operator (DSO) meeting in early 2021 and started stakeholder mapping to produce a stakeholder engagement plan. On monitoring, the PWG expected to develop a survey with the ETF network and other stakeholders to identify needs and gaps. The PWG was also looking at setting up a database and shared calendar to identify key events and opportunities and was continuing to communicate and share data with the ETF network to stimulate research. They expected to complete the 2021 activities and adapt to any prioritised activities mentioned during ETF6. She concluded by encouraging members to join the group.

Dr Umberto Gallo Orsi, CMS, provided an update on the Raptors MOU EDG which was a discussion group developed within the CMS Saker Falcon Task Force which was established in 2011 under the auspices of the CMS Raptors MOU Coordinating Unit. The group supported the implementation of the Saker Falcon Global Action Plan and electrocution was one of the top threats for the Saker Falcon. He outlined the global distribution of the Saker Falcon, noting the high threat in Asia, Europe and Africa. The Raptor MOU EDG had a different geographic distribution and focus compared to the PWG and thus there was huge potential for cooperation with the ETF.

The Raptors MOU EDG had defined its TORs as:

- to collect and manage information through establishing a data management system on existing effective mitigation techniques and explore synergies with ETF.
- initiate conservation actions including: identifying priority areas of electrocution risk as there were some areas that were important as birds naturally sit on the poles; reviewing monitoring protocols and guidelines; engaging stakeholders with a view of a (revised) resolution for CMS COP14 to raise awareness and address the issue which could be linked to the Saker Falcon and to the work of the ETF.

Immediate actions included to: engage a discussion group coordinator; engage and cooperate with the ETF; request information from members on activities relating to electrocution, effective mitigation, best practices, and key publications as there was a lot of overlap in terms of activities so build a strategy of cooperation and synergies; review the main principles of best practices and technologies; and identify gaps in knowledge, implementation and stakeholder engagement. This was a good place to start to ensure that they could work together in an effective way.

## **b) Technical Gaps and Opportunities**

The Session Chair then introduced and facilitated this workshop session on technical gaps and opportunities, referring attendees to the [Information Resources](#) report.

Since its inception, the ETF had developed a series of technical and research focused projects that could be utilised as best practices particularly in emerging markets, including:

- The Good Practice Handbook on Post-Construction Monitoring (soon to be released at the time when this report was drafted) previously identified as a gap by ETF members;
- An interactive Powerline Mitigation Toolkit which BLI were developing informed by discussions in the ETF (online); and
- A number of products being disseminated and promoted on sensitivity mapping which had been identified as a key area for the ETF.

He outlined the Workshop Objectives as to identify and prioritise other research and technical gaps (especially for emerging markets) for the ETF to develop and asked attendees to consider what technical products and/or research outputs members needed, for example:

- A standardised guide to Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA);
- Automated shut-down technology guidance; and
- Collision risk modelling for powerlines paper (derived from Thaxter's work) along the lines of the collision risk modelling paper with BTO and Cambridge University that had been developed which was helpful in identifying which taxa were likely to be impacted by wind turbines.

He also asked them to consider whether the products developed by the ETF were useful.

Ms Smith explained the logistics of the breakout groups and that they would have 25 minutes for the discussion.

## **Breakout Sessions**

Participants were assigned to six break-out groups, with the Session Chair, Ms Numa, Dr Niven, Dr Gallo Orsi, Dr Ramírez and Dr Schneider acting as facilitators. The groups had 25 minutes to identify up to three key research or technical products that the ETF could focus on developing to support members in the roll-out of nature-sensitive renewable energy technologies and energy infrastructure.

### Plenary

The facilitator from each group reported back to Plenary.

#### Group 1 (facilitated by Mr Allinson)

Mr Allinson reported that there had been a lot of discussion in Group 1 about general awareness raising. It was felt that there was not enough understanding of how significant the expansion of renewables would be and how it would change the landscape. It was felt that the ETF could support members (in particular NGOs) by developing more awareness raising materials and guidance on how to draw attention to the issue, such as media packs to support getting that message out to the public, a clear global synthesis of the scale of the problem, or curating a video and photograph library.

They had also discussed difficulties in making decisions due to lack of data. They proposed that the ETF could play a role in developing protocols on storing and collating data, perhaps through centralised data repositories.

They discussed a range of things ETF could develop guidance information such as on cumulative impact systems, on the use of satellite tracking data to inform siting decisions such as data being collected on key vulnerable species by satellite tracking and how this could inform decisions.

### Group 2 (facilitated by Dr Ramírez)

Dr Ramírez outlined three products that had been identified by the group:

1. Guidance on cumulative impacts for multiple energy developments, ideally also trying to identify links across cumulative impacts when using sensitivity mapping;
2. Collision risk modelling guidance/Sensitivity mapping toolkit. This could be developed in particular for offshore projects, compiling existing evidence and ensuring that it reached key players, including through translation into other languages. They also recommended capacity building on sensitivity mapping aimed at different target groups such as developers, governments and for EIAs; and
3. providing guidance for when EIAs are produced on gathering data on population numbers for short-distance movements of birds (offshore-onshore, regional feeding/roosting movements) and disseminating guidance on how to share this data.

### Group 3 (facilitated by Ms Catherine Numa)

Ms Numa summarised the resources identified by the group as:

1. Guidance on implementable best practices for micro-siting turbines in relation with nesting locations and key raptor species;
2. Guidelines for governments to facilitate spatial planning especially related to key elements to be included in strategy conciliation policy, including more technical elements on powerlines at the national level;
3. A review of study cases worldwide to identify measures that have worked or not worked, as well as in identifying priority areas and to identify the available methodologies to assess conservation status of different species; and
4. promoting and strengthening citizen science research, in particular to identify sensitivity mappings and hotspots.

### Group 4 (facilitated by Dr Niven)

Dr Niven reported that there were a lot of common areas with other groups. Group 4 had identified the following resources:

1. Cumulative impact assessments at the flyway level, in particular, for Africa, the Middle East and Europe, with a shared example from Egypt about pelicans;
2. Strategic EIA guidelines and sensitivity mapping addressing cumulative impacts were also identified, which the group felt there was a need to be scaling-up to the country level. The International Association for Environmental Assessment were working on this so there was an opportunity for collaboration;
3. Open data standards so that data could be integrated and potentially stored in a data repository; and
4. Guidelines for adaptive management which was especially important for emerging markets.

### Group 5 (Dr Schneider)

Dr Schneider summarised the following resources identified by the group:

1. Standardised EIA (baseline criteria and reporting) with a need for benchmarks, in particular for bats as data on bat migration was rare and there were insufficient financial resources for this in many regions;
2. Shut down on demand, flagging the importance of technology for birds and bats, with benchmarks and criteria being needed. The group highlighted that tools were advancing and there was a need for guidance on how to monitor and calibrate the system and how to do surveys. Most developers did not know how to do surveys and would look at migration patterns

rather than populations and species or behavioural characteristics. There was a need for accessibility of data and calibration of data for regions;

3. Adaptive management, with developers not really taking on adaptive management so there is a clash between using adaptive measures and measures already in the market; and
4. Collision risk measures where there were data gaps regarding target species in the specific context of projects.

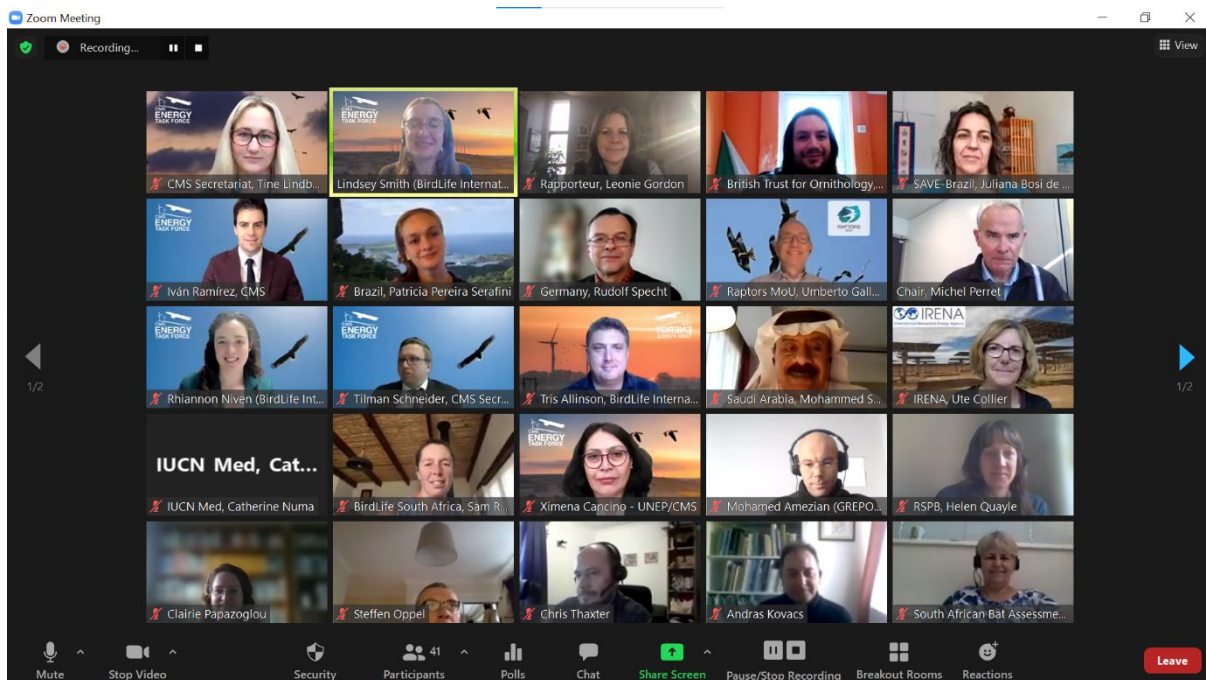
### Group 6 (Dr Gallo Orsi)

Dr Gallo Orsi reported that the group identified the following resources:

1. Document about the advantages and limitations of collision risk models;
2. Guidance on pre-construction monitoring which would inform collision risk modelling. They referred to existing guidelines from Spain and considered whether these could be expanded and adapted for other geographies. They also proposed a pre- and post-construction survey guide to inform collision risk modelling; and
3. A standardised guide to EIAs.

In general, the group also proposed engaging the government as awareness and capacity building. There was also the challenge of lack of data in many countries and the capacity to monitor and collect data.

The Session Chair thanked everyone for participation in the breakout groups. He asked attendees to review the [Information Resources](#) document and report back any updates to the ETF Coordinator for inclusion in the meeting report. He also encouraged attendees to get in touch if they wanted to participate in the WGs. The Session Chair then handed the meeting back to the ETF Chair.



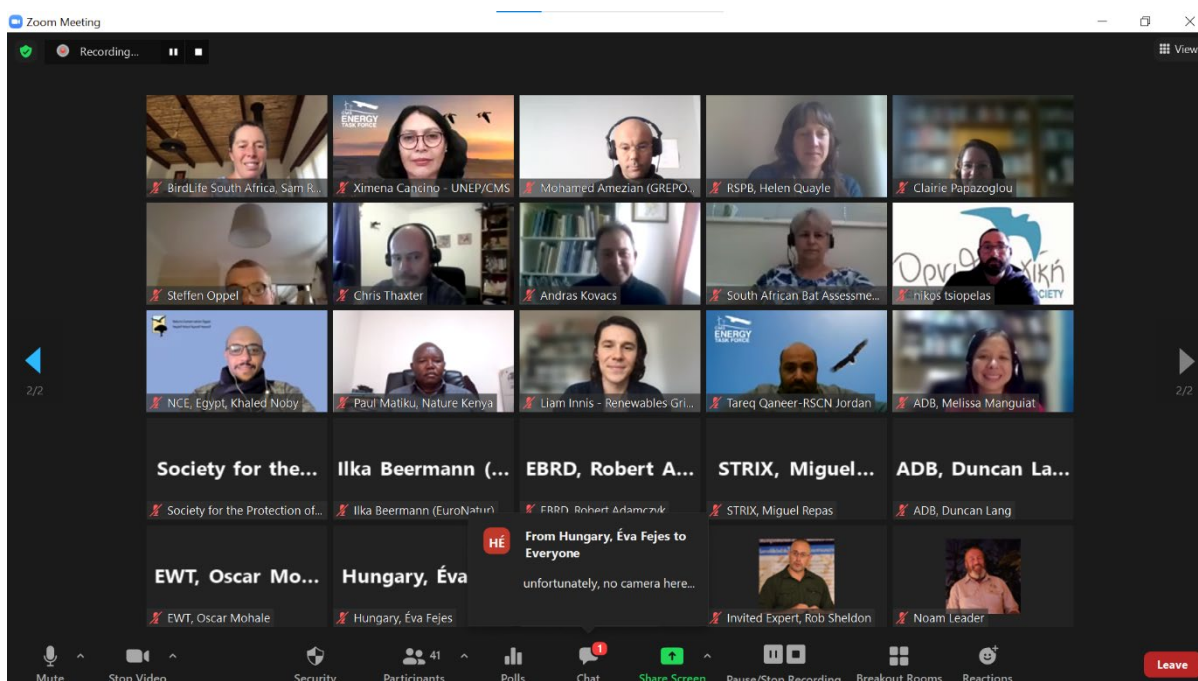


Figure 1: Attendees on Day 1 of the Sixth Meeting of the Energy Task Force

### c) ETF Member Spotlight

The Chair introduced this agenda item and the speaker Dr Ute Collier (IRENA).

Dr Collier introduced herself as Deputy Director of IRENA's Knowledge, Policy and Finance Centre and said she had a long-standing interest and background in nature and biodiversity.

She updated on IRENA's work, with the Member States signing off IRENA's WP at the recent annual Assembly. She referred to a few recent publications, including:

- a Renewable Energy Market Analysis for Africa and its regions. This was of particular interest as there had been lots of renewable energy development in the rest of the world with Africa lagging behind. There were now huge opportunities but also a huge potential impact on biodiversity and little capacity to look at the impact of renewable energy in Africa. The report did not just focus on the power sector, but also covered many other aspects such as linkages between water and energy, the climate nexus, a broader systems approach to renewables looking at issues of livelihoods and so on; and
- a joint IRENA/Food and Agriculture Organisation of the UN (FAO) publication on Renewable Energy for Agri-food Systems.

She also raised that at COP26 in Glasgow, IRENA became a founding member of CLEANaction. She hoped there would be opportunities for collaboration.

She then outlined the new IRENA 2022-2023 Work Plan. IRENA's activities were guided by its World Energy Transitions Outlook (WETO), in how to meet the Paris Agreement targets. This was not only about energy, but also addressed key themes of People, Planet and Prosperity. The empirical knowledgebase was very important, but IRENA did a lot of other work such as capacity building and providing technical assistance as key activities, with many developing country Member States needing this support. They did a lot of project facilitation as well as convening and partnership, including private sector actors.

The Work Plan's key themes included:

- Deployment in end uses – transport, buildings and industry (including green hydrogen);
- Resilience and adaptation;
- Impacts across sectors (eg agri-food chain, health, education, water, gender);
- Just, equitable and inclusive energy transition that benefits people but also needs to protect the planet; and
- Regional cooperation and analysis – for example looking at Africa and South America.

Some key work streams addressing environmental impacts included:

- Bioenergy: IRENA were currently working on a report as their scenarios projected a huge increase in the use of bioenergy, with the potential impacts of this, so they were developing a guide to policy-making;
- End-of-life of solar PV and batteries: which was potentially a huge issue in the future in terms of waste management as in many countries there was no recycling or re-use and waste-management was not well-developed. They were developing a report on this;
- Clean cooking: this was one of the overlooked aspects of energy but was a huge issue in developing countries, with 2.6 billion people cooking with dirty fuels and renewables could help with this issue; and
- Adaptation and the role of renewables

She stressed the need to address the environmental impacts of this huge expansion in renewable energy. She referred attendees to the WETO scenarios as well as to the IRENA website: [https://irena.org/-/media/Files/IRENA/Remember/Council/Twenty-second-Council-meeting/C\\_22\\_3\\_Proposed-Work-Programme-and-Budget-for-2022-2023.pdf](https://irena.org/-/media/Files/IRENA/Remember/Council/Twenty-second-Council-meeting/C_22_3_Proposed-Work-Programme-and-Budget-for-2022-2023.pdf).

The Chair invited comments and questions.

Mr Innis was interested in the end of life and batteries workstream and wondered when the report would be published. He also asked if IRENA had looked at decommissioning of wind turbines and cables. Dr Collier said the first report had been published in 2016 and the new one was expected in May 2022. On wind turbines she was not sure if they had published anything on this but knew there was no current work. Mr Innes informed her that RGI was looking into this issue and also working on circular economy, and she offered to put him in touch with her colleagues working on this matter.

The Chair emphasised the need to collaborate with IRENA and thanked Dr Collier for her presentation.

#### **d) Recent Research Outputs**

The Chair introduced this agenda item, noting the challenge of keeping up-to-date on current research outputs and emphasising the importance of governments being aware of the current state of the research and knowledge in implementing conservation legislation. He then introduced the Session Chair, Dr. Aonghais Cook, British Ornithological Trust (BTO).

The Session Chair introduced the speakers: Dr Steffen Opper, RSPB, Dr Chris Thaxter, BTO, and Mr Innis, RGI, who would describe some of the work they had been doing looking at how to assess the effects of energy infrastructure on migratory birds and some of the challenges being faced. He referred attendees to the relevant documents:

[\*Better utilisation and transparency of bird data collected by powerline companies\*](#)

[\*Major threats to a migratory raptor vary geographically along the eastern Mediterranean flyway\*](#)

[\*Pursuit of 'sustainable' development may contribute to the vulture crisis in East Africa\*](#)

[\*Differential survival throughout the full annual cycle of a migratory bird presents a life-history trade-off\*](#)

Dr Oppel presented on research relating to energy infrastructure as a key threat to migratory soaring birds along the Eastern Mediterranean flyway, in the framework of an EU Life funded project led by the BLI partner in Bulgaria. Migratory soaring birds connect continents as they migrate long distances. When a population of birds was declining in a certain part of its range, it was critical to look at threats to the species in many countries along the whole flyway not just in the country in which they were declining. In the framework of the project, the authors researched the key threats to the Egyptian Vulture along the flyway. The authors carried out surveys to quantify electrocution and collision rates in 13 countries and carried out interviews to assess the threats. The authors tagged birds with GPS trackers which indicated where the birds were so they could recover the carcasses to identify the cause of death. He shared a map showing the causes of death, including electrocution in Turkey, Bulgaria, Israel, Jordan, and Ethiopia. Persecution and poisoning were other causes of death along the flyway.

The authors then created a table of the priority risks in each country, with ranking from 0-5. Each country had a different ranking of threats, and they considered electrocution and collision risk in particular from power infrastructure. The risk was very high in all the countries except for Niger and Nigeria which had very low risk as they had hardly any powerlines or no more vultures respectively. The conclusion was that there was such widespread electrocution risk because of the poor design of distribution power poles in many countries. These small distribution poles were dangerous to birds as large birds landed on the cross-bar touching the energized wires on the crossbar. The design was very dangerous to birds and known to cause electrocution but was still widely used in spite of this. He referred to a paper on this issue *Mortality of Vultures Caused by Electrocution*, Nature 238, 228, already published in 1972, which described the mortality of vultures caused by this design.

The authors had followed up with a case study in Ethiopia where there were plans to install 20,000kms of new distribution lines by 2030. The construction of these lines relied on this outdated and dangerous design. Based on their data and extrapolations the authors estimated that these new lines alone could kill thousands of large birds per year as well as causing power outages. There was a need for collaboration to avoid this as well as to require that projects that financed electricity supply in countries only financed 'bird-safe' pole designs. In their surveys the authors had found that Syria and Morocco, for example, were using the 'bird-safe' suspended pole design, indicating that it was possible to use that pole design in these environments but that it was still not being used widely enough. He surmised that this was due to cost and proposed that funding was required to make them safer.

He also recommended data sharing by companies to identify the most dangerous sections of infrastructure with a view to refurbishment, noting that Mr Innis would talk about how this could be achieved. It would also be useful to get data from the utility organizations about where they experienced most problems with outages. He called for governments to mandate standards that reduced the risk to wildlife from energy infrastructure. Expanding renewable energy in rural areas would entail large grids of electricity transportation so there was a need to ensure this did not worsen the risk to wildlife.

The Session Chair thanked Dr Oppel for his informative presentation, and invited the next speakers, Dr Thaxter and Mr Innis to share their presentation.

Dr Thaxter explained that he, Mr Innis and Dr Oppel had been working together to understand better ways of utilising bird data collected from power companies. To this end, he presented their paper on the *Utilisation of Bird Data Collected by Powerline Companies* (Nottingham Trent University, BTO, RSPB, RGI). Inappropriately designed or sited powerlines could cause excessive bird mortality via collision or electrocution. Data on mortality and presence/abundance of species was key to understanding the impacts of powerlines and developing strategies. Sharing of data was key but there were obstacles to this that might hamper solutions. To move forward it was important to engage TSOs and to understand the sorts of data being collected and the barriers to sharing the data more widely. The project aims were to assess the types of data collected by TSOs across Europe, and to assess the potential for wider sharing among TSOs and NGOs.

To achieve the project aims, the authors circulated a questionnaire to TSOs in Northern Europe. The questionnaire was divided into four main sections:

- Data collection and partnerships: most TSOs were required to collect data and had partnerships with NGOs in some capacity. There was a lot of variability;
- Range of data collected: mortality data was collected via systematic monitoring schemes, opportunistically or both; the presence/absence data were collected pre- and post-construction;
- Making use of bird data: most TSOs modified infrastructure in some way. For example, they deployed diverters, or collision predictions to add diverters or use the information to avoid high risk areas; and
- Sharing data: over half had not shared bird mortality or injury data in any way but many liked the idea of having a database for this purpose, but some were unwilling to share. There were a range of different reasons as to what prevents TSOs sharing data.

A stakeholder workshop was then convened in Brussels, Belgium in April 2019 to better understand the data sourced from the questionnaire process. The authors were interested to know what sorts of data sources and data types were valued by stakeholders and which sorts of data were seen as valuable for wider sharing.

A range of different types of data were most valued:

- Study data: the impacts of powerlines on abundance, collision and electrocution;
- Published studies: impacts on abundance, electrocution and mitigation effectiveness; and
- Literature reviews/meta-analysis: such as mitigation success.

In summary, the authors found that there was a variation in the frequency of data collection gathered and that there were no standard protocols in place which paralleled the wind sector. The authors found that TSOs wanted data, in particular peer-reviewed studies and literature reviews. Unpublished reports and raw data were also valued, in particular by NGOs.

There was a strong desire for a repository to be set up if it was simple and cost effective and had explicit aims. However, a lack of a database was still a key barrier to sharing and confidentiality was another key barrier. He suggested that there was a potential for sharing meta information across a trusted network, and/or a bibliography of reports.

Finally, he presented a graphic of this information as a data flow showing the types of information and how it was used. This helped to visualize the shared goal among stakeholders to reduce mortalities and showed that there was enthusiasm for model-based products such as sensitivity mapping.

The recommendations from the study involved a three-step approach going forward:

- Develop guidance around field methods, data to be collected for EIAs, and studies of impact and mitigation effectiveness;
- Sharing of meta-data/bibliographies of studies of powerline impacts/mitigation effectiveness; and
- A scoping study of the structure of data and info that already being collected and shared.

Mr Innis then continued building on what Dr Thaxter had said, adding the experiences at RGI which was a network of NGOs and TSOs across Europe, with the aim of bringing these formerly opposing stakeholders together in projects rallying round a set of values and promises one of which was nature conservation ([Bird Data Report \(renewables-grid.eu\)](https://www.renewables-grid.eu/Bird-Data-Report)).



He described two ongoing projects: the “Bird Portal” project with NABU and seven grid-operators in Germany under which citizens who found a dead bird underneath a powerline could upload the data to the portal which was then analysed and share with the grid operators; and the Belgian TSO Elia’s partnership with NGOs Natuurpunt and Natagora for sensitivity mapping, which has since become a core element of Elia’s work.

RGI found that for TSOs, grid operators and others, early action was a win-win. Mr Innis highlighted that grid operators had three priorities:

- They are a business so want to save money and, where possible, be efficient. Planning with birds in mind saves money and time;
- Fewer incidents mean fewer blackouts – they need to keep the system stable and supply electricity; and
- A proactive approach is great for their public image as public opposition was the greatest resistance.

There was still a reluctance to share data, however, both for industry and NGOs and he suggested there was a need for a culture change around this. He explained this had been an issue with the Bird Portal project and data was a real crunch point. Security was cited as the main concern, and it was not necessarily about the data but there was concern about being “behind the data.” He recommended building up trust as a way forward, urging NGOs to lead by example.

He also recommended: developing relationships with those “on their side” within the TSOs to gain internal ‘buy-in;’ keeping communication to clear, targeted action, aiming for least effort and cost; using citizen science; integrating data with an existing database (which worked well in the RGI Belgian project where they had used an existing database); using data to dispel sensationalism, as a major concern for TSOs was public backlash; and using data as leverage to mobilise action in a positive way.

The Session Chair invited comments and questions. Dr Ramírez said Mr Innis’ presentation reminded him of a related debate in the Illegal Killing of Birds forum (IKB) about obstacles to the sharing of data. He asked what the next steps were such as making recommendations about how to share data, noting this debate was current in the IKB forum. He wondered whether the ETF could push for this.

Dr Thaxter agreed it would be useful to draw on other people’s experience and that bringing these experiences together could advance this. Mr Innis urged advocating for both open sharing of data and open access to data which could be addressed in the ETF. Some organisations were more open with their data, leading by example and not being afraid to be the first one to share data.

The Session Chair thanked everyone for the presentations and welcomed links to the discussions in the breakout groups. He closed the session and handed back to the ETF Chair. The Chair then thanked all participants, members and observers for their attendance and participation on Day 1 of ETF6, and indicated that the meeting would resume on the following day. The Chair then declared the first day of the meeting to be closed.

## **Recap of Day 1**

On the second day of the meeting, the Chair welcomed new attendees, saying he was happy to see some of newest members sharing their perspectives from across the world.

He noted the meeting had covered a broad range of topics during Day 1, including: progress on implementation of the WP and key achievements; defining some new areas to focus on such as taxonomy and green projects and guidance for cumulative impact monitoring; review of the ETF strategic position amongst other renewable energy coalitions; expansion into South America and

Asia; the need to speed-up the transition to renewable energy and highlighting that the ETF is an enabling environment for this.

The Chair reminded the meeting that updates from the WGs on recent activities had been shared. The Chair again invited attendees to inform the WG Chairs if they wanted to join one of the WGs as they were looking for members to take ownership of the WP and funding opportunities. He stressed the request for attendees to share any updates to the document on [Information Resources](#) with Dr Niven via email.

He recalled the outcomes of the Day 1 workshop on technical gaps and priorities, where standout recommendations for new products had included: sensitivity mapping and flyway scales guidance; cumulative impact assessment guidance; a standardised strategy for EIAs; open data standardisation guidelines and/or a data repository for ETF members, and adaptive management guidelines.

Finally, he referred to the presentations from Dr Collier of IRENA, Dr Oppel and Dr Thaxter of the RSPB and Mr Innis from RGI. There were clear messages on managing a circular economy for aging renewable developments, the importance of correct design for powerlines, and guidance for engaging with TSOs. He invited views on how to translate this research into practice and how the research outputs could be operationalised for use by the ETF community.

The Chair then presented the agenda for Day 2, reminding non-members that they would be asked to leave the meeting at the end of the day as members would stay on for the election of Chair and Vice-chair.

He then invited any new members and observers attending Day 2 to present themselves:

Mr Joel Merriman, American Bird Conservancy (ABC), explained that ABC had had a programme focused on minimising the impact of wind energy development on birds for 12 years as part of its Threats Programme. They recognised the importance of moving toward clean energy to minimise the impacts of climate change but were also clear that the development of wind energy and operationalisation of wind energy facilities could have unacceptable levels of impact on birds. Their aim was to work on industry best practices and policy engagement to ensure that the impact of energy development on birds were considered in decision making.

ABC mostly works in the United States and Canada but were working more in Central and South America, such as on a project in Brazil that had received a lot of international attention. They were moving forward on wind energy, again primarily focused on the US with a view to expanding this work to the rest of the Americas. In its international work, ABC works with local partners, is a BLI partner, and is learning from expertise and connections. ABC was excited to be a part of the ETF, to share information, and how to get to the right people to think about the impact of energy infrastructure on birds. ABC was looking forward to learning from the collective expertise and to bring this expertise and lessons learned to their work, for example in Central and South America where the renewable energy development was just getting underway.

Dr Borja Heredia, representing the Spanish Ministry for the Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge (MITECO), was pleased to join the ETF as a member. He highlighted that Spain was immersed in a strong campaign in favour of renewable energy, with a strong political commitment, so the ETF was a timely platform. The Chair was sure that Spain had a lot to bring to the ETF and appreciated the transboundary cooperation between France and Spain.

Mr Duncan Lang, Asian Development Bank (ADB) noted that a few colleagues had joined the meeting. They were at the point of hoping to join the ETF and were heavily involved with BLI in sensitivity mapping and renewable energy development along the East Asian-Australasian Flyway as well as many funding wind developments in Asia. He was interested in hearing about the work that is being done in the ETF. The Chair stressed the importance of all sectors being involved in the ETF.

Mr Miguel Repas, STRIX, had worked with energy development for birds and bats for 20 years, had been involved with ETF since the first meeting as an observer and was happy to continue to participate.

## **Agenda Item 5 – ETF Priorities for 2022**

### **ETF Priorities for 2022**

The Chair introduced this workshop session, outlining the workshop objectives and breakout format and introducing the facilitators: Mr Allinson, Ms Numa, Dr Gallo Orsi, Dr Niven, Dr Ramírez, and Dr Schneider. The discussion would continue consideration of the WP implementation review and identify priorities within geographical regions (where possible) followed by a plenary discussion to identify top priorities.

### **Breakout sessions**

The Chair recapped the review of ETF WP implementation on Day 1 (under Agenda Item 2), including that:

- 2021 highlights included profiling the ETF at international events, and publication of case studies and guidance;
- Many outstanding deliverables, most of which required additional funding and cooperation among ETF members; and
- Prioritisation of the ETF WP implementation for 2022/2023 would assist the ETF Coordination team.

The objective for the workshop session, therefore, was to identify top priorities for ETF for 2022, with a geographic focus, if possible. The Chair then outlined the Guiding Questions to be considered in the breakout groups:

- identify three top priorities for the ETF to action in 2022 with a geographic focus;
- identify up to three resources for the ETF to create and expand its guidance base; and
- consider additional renewable technologies and other migratory species (for example marine and bats).

He emphasised that they did not need to focus on funded actions. It was possible to gain from using the expertise in the ETF, sharing information and using research outputs to make the expertise available to community and governments. There would be an opportunity to focus on the funding issue later in the Agenda, but it was important to recognise that even mobilising small amounts of additional funding could contribute to the overall amount available.

Ms Smith explained the logistics of the breakout groups and that they would have 25 minutes for the discussion.

### **Report to Plenary**

The Chair invited the facilitators to report back to Plenary.

#### **Group 1 – (facilitated by Mr Allinson)**

Mr Allison summarised the three top priorities for the ETF identified by the group:

1. A sustainable long-term funding model to enable the expansion of the ETF, including encouraging donors to fund research and projects that were aligned with the ETF's objectives and making donors aware of the kinds of initiatives valuable to be funded;
2. Regional expansion, in particular to Central Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa, and Latin America. There was felt to be huge potential for energy expansion in Central Asia and a strong

presence of BLI and others. There was potential to get energy right but also to get it wrong and links with the Raptors MOU Saker Falcon Task Force EDG. In Sub-Saharan Africa, they had already heard how simple issues around pole design could make a huge difference and, given the substantial plans for electricity across Africa, the ETF could have significant influence on bird-safe powerline design, in particular as birds of prey in Africa were seriously declining. A key partner could be the Power Africa Initiative; and

3. Just energy transition. The ETF should be more active in the just energy transition discussion, ensuring that there is consideration of what is ecologically just, alongside what is socially and economically just, and ensuring that these aims were aligned.

In addition to the three priorities identified above, the group identified potential new resources including: in East Africa specifically, guidance around bird-safe designs, cost effectiveness, and guidance that came from the global perspective. There was a lot of talk about sophisticated curtailment systems using networks and Artificial Intelligence (AI) to identify bird species. However, the group had felt that the better solution was to train local communities in observing birds and identifying when shut-down (as part of a Shut Down on Demand mechanism) needed to happen as this was a useful way to engage local communities in energy expansion. The group stressed the need to consider the operational realities in different parts of the world.

In the ensuing discussion, Mr Adamczyk suggested there was a chicken and egg situation on training local experts, stressing the need for some automated systems to verify data, citing an example where both radar and observers had been used. He asserted that training was challenging and technology had changed, as radars had not been as successful to date but there was the potential to use Artificial Intelligence (AI) cameras, for example, and urged looking at standardising and including these on potentially higher risk sites. He proposed that the ETF could provide guidance to regulators and industry on the appropriate usage of automated systems and technology and as a reference point also for investors.

#### Group 2 – (facilitated by Dr Ramírez)

Dr Ramírez summarised the top three priorities identified by the group as to:

1. Understand more about mortality rates/collision risk thresholds, at flyway or sub-regional level and how this linked to environmental compensation (for example, offsetting). Possibly there was a need for stronger guidance relating to pre-construction modelling and/or post-construction monitoring.
2. Work on mitigation strategies. The group felt that costs of technology were dropping and as a result, AI systems and new sensors were being used more regularly, so there was a need for an assessment of these mitigation measures (in the Middle East for example), gathering of information and promoting it through the form of guidance; and
3. Develop wind power guidance, with a focus on the Asian region.

On resources, the group identified the need for regional guidelines on mitigation measures for power lines (in Jordan, Saudi Arabia and Egypt for example) and promoting this elsewhere to become a standard or cross-validated for other regions.

#### Group 3 – (facilitated by Ms Numa)

Ms Numa outlined the main priorities identified by the group as:

1. Awareness raising with governments on the objectives of the ETF and its value. This includes showcasing how the ETF functions and showcasing experiences from other governments relating to collaboration with energy companies and better management of energy issues. The ETF could better present evidence of the impacts of renewable energy on migratory species, going beyond sensitivity maps and offering better understanding of threats rather than sites. There should also be more focus on guidance relating to offshore windfarms and their associated impacts;

2. Identifying gaps in existing guidelines and improving communication especially language barriers by translating existing guidelines and adapting them to other regions; and
3. Developing specific guidelines on data collection and standardisation, especially in South American region, again developing language versions.

Relating to the specific resources to develop, the group recommended:

1. An assessment of the impact of wind and solar energy infrastructure in particular in the East Asian - Australasian flyways, producing a report containing international synthesis collecting information from different ETF partners;
2. Organising more regional ETF workshops as a space for discussion around a regional perspective enabling more participation from different regions; and
3. Developing case studies on regulations and coordination on examples on how the ETF can work, in particular how governments can take advantage of the ETF to address CMS commitments.

#### Group 4 – facilitated by Dr Niven)

Dr Niven reported that the group identified the following specific priorities:

1. Develop a Global Horizon Scan, noting that WREN was doing something similar on wind;
2. Facilitate NGOs having direct access to donors and the private sector for conservation, with the UK and US having good expertise to share on this; and
3. Assessment of the cumulative impacts of flyways, with Israel for example noting that they were still waiting for windfarms to be built and wanted to learn from others.

The group identified the following resources:

1. Review of EIA Guidance and creation of a training toolkit, with the example being given of Saudi Arabia where many projects were just starting;
2. Update of the CMS/AEWA Guidance for powerlines to make it more accessible and translate it into more languages, to address electrocution risk, collate case studies on how it has been applied in different countries; and
3. Review of policy frameworks – what has worked and what has not worked and how to approach the issue from a policy/legislative perspective.

#### Group 5 – (facilitated by Dr Schneider)

Dr Schneider reported the group's top priority recommendations as:

1. Central Asia was identified as a top priority region, in terms of wind energy, but also powerlines, considering that the distribution of several European species e.g. some vulture species reaches into Central Asia and therefore collision mitigation measures needed to be expanded to this region;
2. To push for open data policies, considering layers of species and energy types and addressing related gap identification; and
3. Multi-layer sensitivity mapping and modelling for powerlines, in the context of species vulnerability, and bringing in mortality data, tracking data, mitigation effectiveness and quality variation at the local level.

On resources, the group recommended to:

1. Guidance including a wider range of species perspectives, including bats and marine mammals which had so far played a minor role in the ETF, although there was good guidance available for offshore species including marine mammals. Have at least one representative from relevant associations and consortia on offshore/marine issues in the ETF;

2. Research outputs for a better understanding of disturbance distances as there were many species that are at risk in areas that are not yet affected by energy expansion and understanding of their behaviour was important for addressing cumulative impacts in the future;
3. Involve the Communications Departments of ETF member organisations to leverage guidance produced by organisations to bring the ETF work to the attention of the industry; and
4. Create other language translations for emerging markets, including spotting citizen science approaches which were already in place.

Group 6 – (facilitated by Dr Gallo Orsi)

Dr Gallo Orsi summarised Group 6's proposed priorities as:

1. To follow the Global Biodiversity Framework in looking into how the ETF could support national implementation and develop synergies between the climate change and biodiversity agendas and CMS implementation. Examples of this included resources for the ETF Coordination Group, time commitment by members to participate in meetings, producing papers and sharing examples;
2. Open up stimulating communication between different experts within the ETF, sharing information, in particular on flyways, such as the Western European Flyway where a lot of work was being done in Europe but outside of this region the level of awareness dropped significantly while it was affecting species in these regions;
3. Engage governments, institutions, and developers in collecting and sharing information including the good practices the ETF had developed; and
4. Develop technical expertise for developers so as not to expand in natural habitats where there was less opposition. The group noted that a lot of new developments were encroaching on natural habitats while there were opportunities and challenges in supporting renewable energy in areas that were already developed.

On resources, the group had discussed:

1. Testing, strengthening and updating existing guidelines; and
2. Looking into new technologies such as bladeless windfarms removing the current threats.

The Chair thanked the breakout groups and closed the session by saying there would be an opportunity to discuss prioritization in the recap at the end.

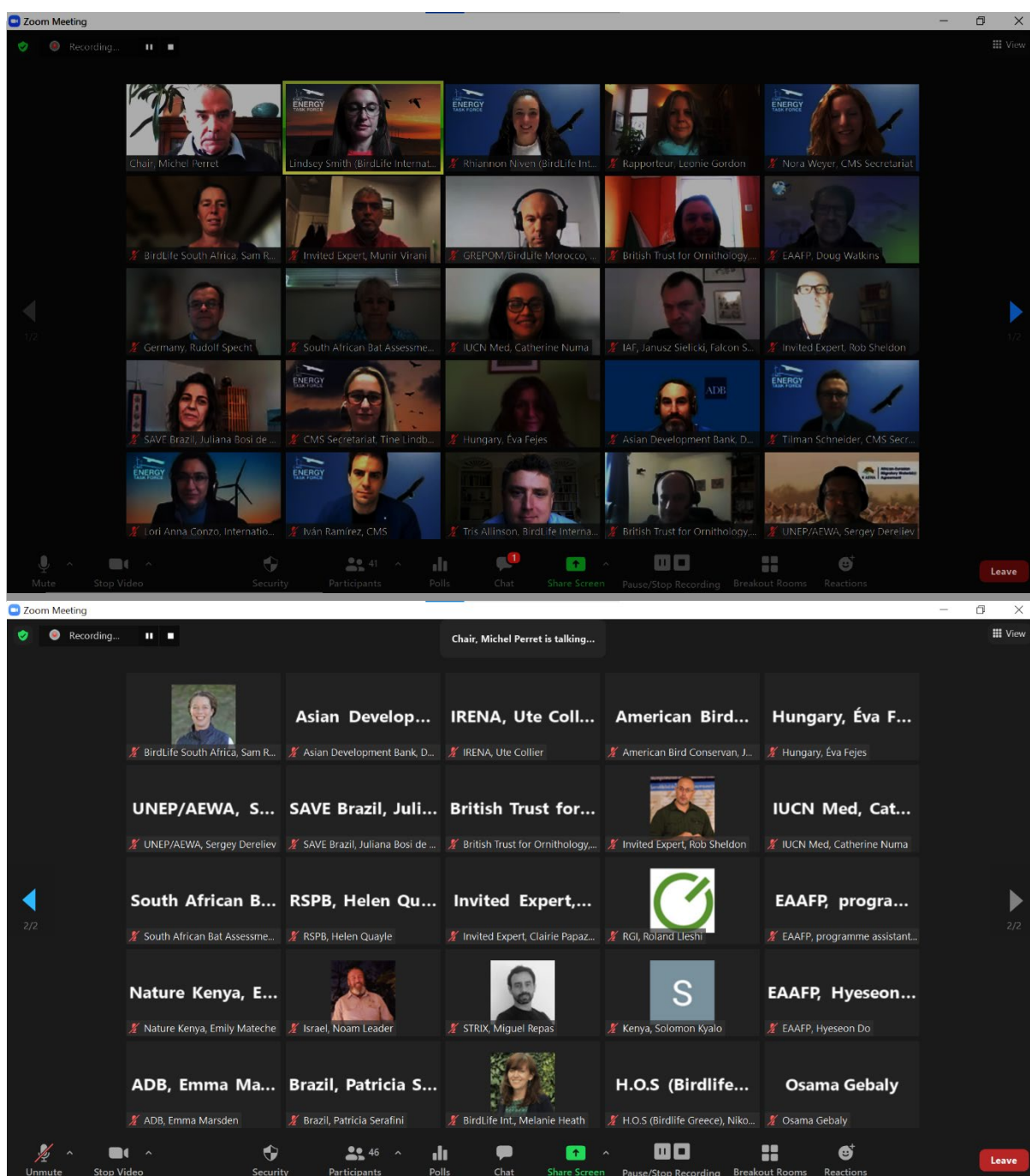


Figure 2: Attendees on Day 2 of the Sixth Meeting of the Energy Task Force

## Agenda Item 6 – Sector insights and cooperation opportunities

### a) Ensuring ETF Guidance reaches financial institutions and maximizing industry collaboration

The Chair welcomed the Session Chair, Ms Lori Anna Conzo, International Finance Corporation (IFC).

The Session Chair introduced the workshop discussion on sector engagement and challenges and opportunities for cross sector collaboration, noting the topic fitted within delivery of the WP Theme 2 (*Promote mainstreaming migratory species conservation into corporate and financial decision-making*).

Ms Conzo explained that the workshop theme was included on the agenda in recognition of the attention on the financial sector and related commitments made by this sector during the UNFCCC COP26 and elsewhere. Nature must be considered in the delivery of the transition to renewable

energy and many investors were moving in that direction. There were several multilateral development banks (MDBs) attending ETF6, many of whom had signed the MDB Joint Statement on Nature launched at COP26. All had been involved at some level in the Taskforce of Nature-related Disclosures (TFND) initiative and many had made ambitious goals to be aligned with the Paris Agreement. The IFC had committed that 85% of board-approved, real sector operations to be Paris Agreement-aligned by 1 July 2023, and 100% by 1 July 2025 and others have done the same. The ETF could play a significant role in this.

The focus of the WP's Theme 2 was therefore on improving engagement and coordination between the ETF and international financial institutions (IFI) through identifying engagement principles or a strategy for the ETF to do this through activities such as:

- Continuing to identify relevant stakeholders in energy and financial sectors;
- Engaging industry and investors to build partnerships and establish pilot initiatives with industry and investors; and
- Developing tailored guidance notes for the private sector and financial institutions.

### **Breakout sessions**

She outlined that there would be four breakout groups. Each group was led by a facilitator (Ms Conzo and Mr Ramírez, Dr Niven, Dr Schneider, Mr Allinson). One of the groups would be comprised entirely of IFIs.

The questions for the IFI group were:

- What are our key concerns regarding investing in renewable energy developments?
- What opportunities do you see from working with the ETF?
- Are there any challenges/barriers?

The remaining breakout groups would be a mixture of other attendees and would consider the following questions:

- What are the challenges/barriers in engaging with investors/financial institutions for renewable energy developments?
- What opportunities do you see from working with the ETF in addressing these challenges/barriers?
- What could the ETF do to increase value for your type of organisation when engaging with financial institutions?

The Session Chair explained that there would be 40 minutes for discussions. Ms Smith then moved attendees into breakout group sessions.

### **Plenary**

The Session Chair invited the facilitators to report back to plenary.

#### Group 1(IFIs) (facilitated by Ms Conzo and Dr Ramírez)

The Session Chair outlined the key concerns regarding investing in renewable energy developments that the IFI group had identified:

1. Lack of adequate government planning, including regulations for granting and monitoring renewable energy, including where windfarms were sited or there is a power purchase agreement already in place that was already agreed so difficult to manoeuvre;
2. Lack of enforcement, such as what to do when the lender exited the deal;
3. Lack of baseline data, in particular for bats, when collecting data for the first time;



4. Implementation of mitigation measures and ensuring they were actually being done, how to have adequate capacity on the ground to ensure that these happen;
5. Low demands from governments on EIA requirements for some renewable developments being considered as “green,” and perception of the promotion of the sector as “green” energy. One lender mentioned that if it was going to be green energy then it needed to be monitored to ensure it was not having an impact on biodiversity
6. Timelines for review and assessment were very short or there was an expectation is that applications would get processed quickly;
7. Lack of well-done collision risk models; and
8. Challenges in influencing cumulative impacts with it being difficult for the lender to influence that if only investing in one windfarm in a landscape of windfarms.

On what the ETF could do to increase value, the group highlighted:

1. Providing a roster of experts available per region;
2. Increasing visibility of these issues at senior levels, as at the moment in general people were talking to the environmental specialists, so trying as well to get the message out on a more senior level to IFIs;
3. Increasing efforts on sensitivity mapping and providing the spatial planning and sensitivity information before the land was allocated to development and ensuring the ministries promoting these projects were actually using them;
4. Agreeing on a definition of mitigation measures; and
5. Agreeing minimum standards for EIA discourse when a project is deemed a Category A Project<sup>1</sup>.

Dr Ramírez noted that the group had felt they needed longer but they could only work on these items and revert to the ETF members as well as develop some action points.

#### Group 2 – (facilitated by Dr Niven)

Dr Niven outlined the key barriers and challenges when engaging with investors that the group had identified:

1. Building trust between civil society and industry;
2. IFIs did not always have sufficient knowledge about the problems, while some had specialised staff, others did not and the linkages between biodiversity, climate change and renewables are not always recognised or understood so there was a need for communication materials in this regard, in particular in different languages;
3. Information for project inception and EIA reports were limited in terms of access and there were not always opportunities for those who had good data to share to contribute in time; and
4. IFIs, including regional development banks to uphold standards from within their own countries, in particular in emerging markets and not be influenced by local politics.

On what value the ETF could bring, the group highlighted:

1. The NGO community within the ETF could help apply significant pressure and trust-building using the ETF connections in connecting international and national organisations; and
2. Creating common terminology and definitions in publications and speaking, both in different languages but also across sectors, such as electrocutions and economics.

<sup>1</sup> As defined by the IFC, Category A projects are those projects or business activities with potential significant adverse environmental or social risks and/or impacts that are diverse, irreversible, or unprecedented ([https://www.ifc.org/wps/wcm/connect/topics\\_ext\\_content/ifc\\_external\\_corporate\\_site/sustainability-at-ifc/policies-standards/es-categorization](https://www.ifc.org/wps/wcm/connect/topics_ext_content/ifc_external_corporate_site/sustainability-at-ifc/policies-standards/es-categorization))

### Group 3 – (facilitated by Dr Schneider)

Dr Schneider outlined the key barriers and challenges when engaging with investors that the group had identified:

1. Lack of transparency within network operators were an issue which did not support trust building, with developers/investors often being better connected than those responsible for conservation of areas which in turn was generally also supported by a political agenda. This makes engagement by the conservation sector a challenge;
2. Challenges in identifying funding institutions and their representatives, such as who to talk to or approach and who is funding which project. Parallel grey areas include the monitoring and financial institutions project process; and
3. Lack of a homogenous approach as developers had their own interpretation on rules, guidelines and EIAs, so more consistency was needed in approaches of environment departments (both authorities and investors).

He outlined the opportunities the group saw in the ETF to address these challenges, including:

1. Developing universal guidelines for developers to harmonise the differences between projects in different countries and regions. The impact on environment and migratory species was ultimately the same;
2. That the ETF be promoted as a best practice reference for guidance and resources for energy projects;
3. Inclusion of the ETF goals into initiatives considered for environmental, social and governance (ESG) criteria for business;
4. Working with financiers on defining a “green investment/green bond;” and
5. Identifying and making available technical issues/inputs for promoting renewables in areas which were already built/sealed areas. It was raised that the issue of alternatives always comes up in EIAs.

On what increased value the ETF could bring, the group highlighted:

1. Promoting transparency sharing of reports and data on existing windfarms;
2. Developing opportunities to engage with processes between developers and financial institutions, and that for this purpose a roster of experts would be useful for organisations; and
3. Producing a universal set of guidelines for developers.

### Group 4 – (facilitated by Mr Allinson)

Mr Allinson outlined the key barriers and challenges when engaging with investors that the group had identified:

1. Only part of the financing world was represented in the ETF, so it was important to expand to other IFIs and map the energy/investment world and identify who is financing what;
2. It was easy to influence the responsible actors but much harder to influence the less responsible actors; and
3. Lack of understanding of how energy finance works and how IFIs operate.

On what increased value the ETF could bring, the group highlighted:

1. Enabling access to IFIs;
2. IFIs can provide a bridge to developers;
3. Mapping the energy investment landscape;
4. Helping members understand how energy finance works and how IFIs operate including helping the environmental specialists within IFIs to spread the message internally; and

5. Finding ways for the investment community to contribute to a global funding pot to cover issues with data collation and management.

The Session Chair thanked everyone for contributing to the discussions and proposed convening a sub-WG on this topic to delve a little deeper into the ideas. She gave a few wrap-up remarks. On building trust and effecting change, she noted the need to give trust, to build trust and to choose battles wisely focusing on those battles which could change practice and knowing when to use the carrot or stick.

Ms Conzo highlighted that not all IFIs were the same but assured that conservation organisations' voices were important. The challenge for biodiversity and nature was that it did not have a voice. Social topics received attention as people were speaking up about them. Biodiversity needed people to make their voices heard so she urged not to be afraid to do this.

On transparency, she noted that it was part of most IFI's policy to disclose every project on their website for 60 - 120 days so this was a source of information on which an IFI was funding a specific project. On the dynamics of financial organisations, she proposed holding a "Finance 101" to go over key components of what were the leverage points for information sharing. She noted that IFIs were different, some were public sector, some private sector and some do both, and some were commercial banks following IFC guidelines, so the points of engagement were different for all.

Finally, she recalled and agreed with the point that the impact on the environment was the same across all the regions, and that when it came to biodiversity guidance it was about having good practices that were implemented everywhere, while acknowledging that circumstances between some parts of Europe and the US were obviously different from those in the emerging markets.

The Meeting Chair then closed the session, noting that the conclusions were very promising.

## **b) Zero-by-40 Initiative**

The Chair introduced this agenda item and speakers Dr Munir Virani, on behalf of the Mohamed Bin Zayed Raptor Conservation Fund.

Dr Virani presented on the Zero-by-40 initiative, stressing that the Initiative was a concept at this stage.

The Fund had been founded by Sheikh Mohamed Bin Zayed in 2018 to develop transformative and innovative conservation solutions to address key threats facing raptors around the world. The Fund's Vision was to ensure that raptors and their habitats were conserved, and their extinctions pre-empted. The Mission was to support, catalyse and facilitate raptor conservation programmes and concepts that pre-empt extinctions, deliver impactful conservation and increased understanding of raptors globally.

One of the signature projects involved work done in Mongolia to remediate 30,000 poles which were killing 20,000 birds per year. Dr Virani said that, despite COVID, the team had done an amazing job in getting the poles remediated and showed a [video](#) about the project.

Their next question had been how to scale-up the Mongolia work to the global scale. He presented a paper *Bird electrocution on power lines: spatial gaps and identification of driving factors at a global scale*<sup>2</sup> The paper analysed 114 studies of which 805 were carried out in developed countries, in particular Europe and North America. There had been no systematic studies for Oceania and very few for South America and Africa. Europe showed the highest electrocution rates for birds, South America for raptor species and Africa for eagles.

<sup>2</sup> Francisco Guil, Juan Manuel Pérez-García, Journal of Environmental Management, Vol 301, 1 January 2022, 113890.

In January 2022, Dr Darcy Ogada, of the Peregrine Fund, and others, published a study<sup>3</sup> showing an 86% decline across a vast number of raptors in Kenya. She was now working on a paper to show these declines were true across Africa. The understanding was that the majority of these deaths were from electrocution. Dr Virani emphasised the need to promote the publication of studies, as awareness was the first step to solving these problems. The factors identified could be applied globally to the design and planning of power grids and the identification of mortality hotspots. This would help mitigate the creation of new mortality hotspots, especially in developing countries where the installation of new power lines had been growing exponentially in recent years.

Dr Virani then shared a hypothetical heat map that noting that such a map did not yet exist for electrocution hotspots in spite of all the studies that had been done. He stressed it was critical to develop such a map so that stakeholders could focus on conservation and mitigation efforts in the hotspots.

The Zero-by-40 concept was mission and global campaign with the overall vision to end bird electrocutions by 2040. This would require a big global partnership to ensure that future investment in the powerline industry was nature positive, with net zero bird mortalities. The focus was on raptors. The project envisaged a two-pronged approach to tackle the design, configuration, installation and monitoring of new distribution lines; and remediate/retrofit existing powerlines at a global scale. He explained that the overarching strategy was a work-in-progress and that they needed help to turn it into a reality to:

- Launch a global collaborative movement with multiple partners to raise awareness of the issue;
- Conduct a mapping exercise of all the stakeholders that fund and make high-level decisions about pole designs, perhaps with a global steering committee or to hire an individual to put together a plan; and
- Engage with lenders, financiers and investors in a collaborative way to work together to develop a global solution for new lines in the future, leveraging on the term “nature positive investments” and ensure that investors stipulate the need for bird-safe poles;
- Develop a dynamic global database/heatmap of electrocution hotspots and identify new ones to inform remediation efforts;
- Nature financing such as exploring a global endowment Zero-by-40 Fund that would pay for mitigation of existing powerlines; and
- Convene everyone (potentially at UNFCCC COP28 in 2024) to present the problem and solution.

Dr Virani concluded by reiterating that Zero-by-40 was a concept and needed partners to make it into a global movement. They had the intent and resources and were looking for Zero-by-40 to sit somewhere. The Fund would welcome building on this with other partners and put together a strategic plan.

The Chair invited comments and questions, noting that the initiative corresponded with the global international aim of “no net loss of biodiversity.” For raptors the avoidance of mortality was key as in most parts they were under threat and Zero-by-40 was a good example to follow for conservation with energy development.

Dr Ramírez thanked Dr Virani and welcomed the initiative as bold and ambitious. He expressed the ETF’s support.

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<sup>3</sup> Darcy Ogada, Munir Z. Virani, Jean Marc Thiollay, Corinne J. Kendall, Simon Thomsett, Martin Odino, Shiv Kapila, Teeku Patel, Peter Wairasho, Leah Dunn, Phil Shaw, ‘Evidence of widespread declines in Kenya’s raptor populations over a 40-year period’, *Biological Conservation*, Volume 266, 2022, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.biocon.2021.109361>

Mr Janusz Sielicki, International Association for Falconry and Conservation of Birds of Prey (IAF) suggested that the Fund should become an ETF member as an observer. He proposed that IUCN's World Conservation Congress Recommendations and Resolutions of 2016<sup>4</sup> and 2021<sup>5</sup> could be a good base for collaboration, bringing stakeholders together and finding solutions. He would try to take part in the Initiative.

Mr Innis was happy to support wherever RGI could. Although RGI worked primarily with TSOs, he wondered if there was room to engage on mitigation of transmission lines where collision was the main issue.

Dr Vinari said they particularly dealt with powerlines (distribution) but did not see why it could not be extended to transmission lines.

Ms Emma Marsden, ADB, noted that there was guidance available in terms of engagement with the authors of standards but that in Asia the standards specified the "killer pole" and so engineers had to follow the standards. ADB were now engaging with the RSPB to see what to do. She wondered how to engage at a higher level with those developing standards. ADB would be interested in engaging with distribution companies in retrofitting, but also in understanding where hotspots were located would make a huge difference to biodiversity.

Mr Allinson welcomed this exciting initiative and was sure BLI would want to promote it through its networks. He highlighted tools and mechanisms such as retrofitting existing powerlines, mapping hotspots, and ensuring new powerlines were built to a safe standard. He wondered if it was possible to come up with a recommended bird-safe design which was affordable and robust and brand it with the ETF kite mark for example, or whether it was too complex a system to come up with one solution. Dr Vinari did not have the answer to this at this stage.

Mr Adamczyk said the difficulty was that there were technical standards developed in each country approved for technical purposes but there was also the issue of cost in many countries. If the additional cost was introduced by the power company as part of the tariff system this could be viewed as corruption if it was not in response to standards requirements. When an IFI financed a project there was a need to work with local technical standards to remove poles that were not appropriate and replace them with systems that were bird-friendly. The standards were the key.

Ms Conzo noted that the challenge with guidance on this topic was that it was a complex area. The existing guidance was ineffective and IFC was trying to put out a tip sheet on this topic to address this issue simply with the hope that with a label from a lender it might be taken up. One challenge was that across the regions it was considered very differently. The tip sheet would be published within the next six months and IFC were planning to bring a group together to work out what should be done.

Dr Virani was encouraged by the discussion and was interested to hear from anyone with ideas, wisdom or expertise on this matter: [munir.virani@raptorconservationfund.com](mailto:munir.virani@raptorconservationfund.com). He reiterated his view that awareness-raising was key, but also reminded the meeting that even the safest powerline could not guarantee to reduce mortality.

Dr Ramírez suggested there was a need for an ETF sub-group on construction standards and invited volunteers on this.

The Chair reiterated that a high reduction of mortality would still fulfil conservation objectives in relation to mortalities from windfarms and powerlines as it would make great progress on reestablishment on the status of conservation for raptors. He stressed the need to promote the initiative.

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<sup>4</sup> IUCN World Conservation Congress 2016 Recommendation 098: 'Preventing electrocution and collision impacts of power infrastructure on birds', available online at: [https://portals.iucn.org/library/sites/library/files/resrecfiles/WCC\\_2016\\_REC\\_098\\_EN.pdf](https://portals.iucn.org/library/sites/library/files/resrecfiles/WCC_2016_REC_098_EN.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> IUCN World Conservation Congress 2021 Resolution 038: 'Promoting biodiversity preservation through environmentally friendly energy transformation measures', available online at: <https://www.iucncongress2020.org/motion/038>

### **c) Recap and Discussion: ETF6 Meeting**

The Chair summarised the meeting discussions, thanking participants for their active engagement and robust discussions and the Session Chairs and facilitators in summarising the key points.

He thanked the CMS Parties for their engagement and input as the task force could not deliver on its WP without this. The ETF work was in close relationship to the legal framework and mandate of the CMS, with ETF products being tools for implementing the legal obligations under CMS. The CMS Parties were the guardians of this engagement and he urged them to take the lead in mobilising stakeholders/society to recall the importance of biodiversity protection in the context of renewable energy development for a safer environment.

He also highlighted the discussions around financial instruments and financing institutions as well as again thanking Dr Virani for his presentation.

He recalled the good discussions in the breakout sessions, including:

- identifying priorities for the ETF in 2022, including:
  - addressing synergies on biodiversity, climate change and energy;
  - developing communication tools;
  - the need for open data;
  - cumulative impacts and sensitivity mapping in the context of development of renewables. If impacts were acceptable for one or two projects and could be detrimental when there were a lot of projects developed in a territory so it was necessary to have a technical science-based approach on cumulative impacts;
  - delivery of ETF regional workshops, linked with the mobilisation of CMS parties to try and have regional coordination;
  - strengthening connections between WGs;
  - engagement with financial institutions; the Coordination Group would come back with some clear action points and follow up sessions;
  - pushing better regulation at the government level for granting energy developments linked to the legal framework of CMS;
  - building trust between NGOs and governments; and
  - improving engagement with senior staff at governments and IFIs to ensure ETF messages were taken up, perhaps through a focus group.

On next steps, the Chair said the meeting report would be circulated for review. They would also identify and communicate a series of action points to take forward. There had been some good ideas for follow-up sessions, especially focused workshops on financial institutions and governments. He invited attendees to contact Dr Niven or Dr Ramírez to participate in these groups.

The next event would be to convene a webinar with CMS Parties in May 2022 with details communicated in the coming weeks. There was a need for funding for the ETF work so this webinar would be an opportunity to recall to CMS Parties that in the spirit of international cooperation there was a need to share the financial burden. He urged CMS Parties to contribute, and funding was welcome from anyone.

There would also be a short survey circulated for comments and suggestions for the ETF to enhance the organisation of the ETF's work.

With the customary thanks to everyone for their participation he asked all members to remain online for the vote for the Chair and Vice-chair and looked forward to seeing everyone else again. He again stressed the importance of the ETF's aim for a safer environment for migratory species.

On behalf of the Coordination team, Dr Niven thanked him for chairing the meeting and welcomed the interesting and engaging discussion. Non-ETF members subsequently left the meeting.

### **Agenda Item 7 – Election of ETF Chair and Vice-chair**

Dr Niven explained that only members of the ETF were eligible to vote in the elections for the posts of Chair and Vice-chair. The [\*Modus Operandi\*](#) of the ETF stipulated that there should be elections for the two officers for terms corresponding to those of the ETF meetings.

Dr Ramírez noted that in line with the [\*Modus Operandi\*](#) they had circulated the call for nominations for Chair and Vice-chair before the meeting. There had not been any nominations for the position of Chair but Mr Michel Perret was willing to serve a third term as Chair. There were no objections to the election and Mr Perret was re-elected as Chair of the ETF. Dr Ramírez noted that before ETF7 there would need to be nominations for a new Chair.

The Chair was happy to accept this third term and agreed that it would be wise to find someone else after this term. He said he hoped to mobilise the CMS Parties this year.

Dr Ramírez welcomed Mr Perret continuing as Chair and then reported that Ms Conzo had been nominated as Vice-chair. There were no objections and Ms Conzo accepted. She said she looked forward to working with the Chair and seeing what she could bring to the ETF community.

Dr Niven was excited to work with Mr Perret and Ms Conzo moving forward.  
The Chair closed the meeting.

### **Close of meeting**