



**CONVENTION ON
MIGRATORY
SPECIES**

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RENEWABLE ENERGY AND MIGRATORY SPECIES

(Prepared by the Secretariat)

Summary:

This document reports on progress in implementing Resolution 10.11 (Rev.COP13) *Power Lines and Migratory Birds*, Resolution 11.27 (Rev.COP13) *Renewable Energy and Migratory Species* and Decisions 14.207-14.210. It proposes draft amendments to Resolution 11.27 (Rev.COP13), the adoption of new Decisions and the deletion of Decisions 14.207–14.210.

The attached draft Decisions would support the achievement of Targets 1.1, 2.1, 3.2, 4.1–4.3, 5.1 and 5.3 of the Samarkand Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2024–2032.

RENEWABLE ENERGY AND MIGRATORY SPECIES

Background

1. Global energy demand is projected to double by 2050 and, according to the International Energy Agency's net zero emissions scenario, renewable energy could supply up to 88 per cent of global electricity by that same year. This transformation is essential for decarbonizing the energy system and mitigating climate change. However, if not planned and implemented appropriately, energy infrastructure could have significant adverse impacts on migratory species and nature.
2. To achieve the targets of the CMS Samarkand Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2024–2032 (SPMS), Sustainable Development Goals, Paris Agreement and Global Biodiversity Framework, and avoid undermining efforts across multilateral environmental agreements, it is critical for the energy transition to align with efforts for nature, climate and people.
3. The Conference of the Parties (COP) has been addressing issues relating to the nexus between energy, migratory species and nature through various Resolutions and Decisions. Resolution 07.05 (Rev.COP12) *Wind Turbines and Migratory Species* and Resolution 07.04 *Electrocution of Migratory Birds* instruct the Secretariat to compile information on the collision and electrocution of migratory birds. Resolution 10.11 (Rev.COP13) *Power Lines and Migratory Birds* also instructs the Secretariat to update the available information on the mitigation of these threats to migratory birds.
4. Resolution 11.27 (Rev.COP13) *Renewable Energy and Migratory Species* addresses the issue in more detail. This Resolution endorses the *Guidelines for Sustainable Deployment* ([UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.23.4.3.22](#)) and instructs the Secretariat to convene a multi-stakeholder Task Force on Reconciling Selected Energy Sector Developments with Migratory Species Conservation (the [Energy Task Force, ETF](#)).
5. COP14 adopted [Decisions 14.207–14.210](#) *Renewable Energy and Migratory Species*, which read:

14.207 Directed to Parties,

Parties are:

- a) *requested to integrate biodiversity and migratory species conservation needs into national energy and climate policy and action plans, land and maritime spatial planning and legislation and regulations on siting of new energy infrastructure with the aim of avoiding negative impacts on migratory species, and aligned with the Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;*
- b) *encouraged to support an evidence-based renewable energy mix in the design and implementation of renewable energy policies such as Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and National Energy and Climate Plans, and integrate Strategic Environmental Assessments and sensitivity mapping for migratory species, especially for those protected at national or international level into decision-making processes for climate targets and into land and maritime spatial planning;*
- c) *invited to provide to the Energy Task Force and the Secretariat information and indicators that have been integrated into national climate action plans and NDCs;*
- d) *requested to report to COP15 on the above activities in their National Reports; and*

- e) *recommended to take legal, administrative or policy measures to encourage and enable the energy sector to regularly monitor, assess, and transparently disclose their risks, dependencies and impacts on biodiversity along their operations, supply and value chains, in order to progressively reduce negative impacts on biodiversity, increase positive impacts, and promote actions to ensure sustainable patterns of production*

14.208 Directed to Parties, intergovernmental and non-government organizations, and others

Parties, including their representatives from both environment and energy ministries and authorities, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, and other stakeholders from the energy sector are encouraged to support the implementation of the Energy Task Force Workplan and the ongoing operations of the Energy Task Force..

14.209 Directed to the Energy Task Force

The Energy Task Force is requested, subject to the availability of resources, to:

- a) *review tools and provide guidance for assessing and mitigating the impacts of renewable energy and power line developments on migratory species across flyways and throughout species' ranges, including in areas beyond national jurisdiction; this includes standardized approaches for post-construction monitoring of renewable energy projects, and a review of existing tools, such as AVISTEP;*
- b) *produce guidance on the format and scope of a database on CMS Appendix I species mortality caused by renewable energy developments;*
- c) *coordinate the collation of mortality data for birds and bats with other CMS task forces working on similar initiatives, such as the CMS Saker Falcon Task Force, the CMS Intergovernmental Task Force on Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the Mediterranean (MIKT) and the CMS Asia Pacific Illegal Taking of Migratory Birds Intergovernmental Task Force;*
- d) *gather information on the risks, and negative impacts on migratory species of the energy sector along their operations, supply and value chains, in order to progressively reduce negative impacts on biodiversity, increase positive impacts and promote actions to ensure sustainable patterns of production;*
- e) *expand the scope of the ETF to include consideration to the Important Marine Mammal Areas (IMMAs) and Important Shark and Ray Areas (ISRAs) as well as the impacts on cetaceans of offshore renewable energy;*
- f) *engage with the corporate and international financial sector to support the integration of best practices and mainstreaming of migratory species into industry policies and safeguards; and*
- g) *encourage the international donor community to mainstream biodiversity into funding strategies related to the transition to renewable energy.*

14.210 Directed to the Secretariat

The Secretariat shall, subject to the availability of resources:

- a) *include in its communication strategy the guidance and tools produced by the ETF, as well as the engagement with IFIs and the full range of renewable energy agents;*
- b) *support the ETF and ensure its membership is increased and its scope regularly reviewed to address all potential threats from renewable energy infrastructure to migratory species;*
- c) *seek partnerships with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and other relevant entities, to expand the role and awareness of the ETF and the implementation of safeguards, spatial planning tools and guidance to avoid the negative impacts on migratory species of renewable energy infrastructure; and*

- d) *support the organization of ETF workshops to raise the awareness and increase the capacity of government representatives who are working in the areas of renewable energy and migratory species.*

Activities to implement Resolution 11.27 (Rev.COP13) *Renewable Energy and Migratory Species* and Decisions 14.209–14.210

6. As of September 2025, 20 CMS Contracting Parties are members of the ETF, with representatives from environment, energy and development-related ministries and authorities. In addition, the membership comprises three international development government agencies, the secretariats of seven multilateral environmental agreements, and 14 international organizations and institutions, including intergovernmental organizations and networks, development banks and non-governmental organizations. A further 27 national and international organizations and associations are observers of the ETF.
7. During the current intersessional period, two Energy Task Force meetings were held. The 7th meeting of the CMS Energy Task Force (ETF7) was held (virtually and in person) in Madrid, Spain on 24 and 25 April 2024, followed by the ETF Open Day and field trip on 25 and 26 April. The 8th meeting of the ETF (ETF8) was held online on 16 and 17 September 2025; the meeting documents and outputs for both meetings can be found on the [ETF website](#).
8. In response to Decision 14.209, ETF7 reviewed the implementation of the ETF Workplan and agreed to establish new working groups to: i) develop guidance on creating a mortality database, ii) guide engagement with the private sector, iii) assess the impacts of offshore renewable energy infrastructure on marine species (cetaceans), iv) mitigate the impacts on bats, and v) define a new programme of work to be endorsed at ETF8. ETF7 also agreed to develop new guidance on taxonomies for environmental impact assessments (EIAs) and strategic environmental assessments (SEAs), hydropower, bioenergy, and the responsible sourcing of materials for renewable energy. Other outcomes included the launch of the ETF Small Grant Fund.
9. ETF8 focused on presenting the 2025–2032 ETF Workplan, developed via a specific working group that held several meetings and consulted with all ETF members. This document, aligned to the goals and targets of the Samarkand Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2024–2032, will guide the work of the Task Force over the coming years and operationalize the work of the five working groups defined at ETF7.
10. The ETF continued to support the publication of specific guidance on the impacts and mitigation of threats posed by renewable energy to migratory birds. Examples include *Spatial planning for wind and solar developments and associated infrastructures* (IUCN) and *Avoidance and Minimization of Environmental Impacts from Offshore Wind and Grid Infrastructure* (Offshore Coalition for Energy and Nature). A full list of publications can be found on the ETF website.
11. Thanks to a Project Cooperation Agreement (PCA) signed in 2022, BirdLife International, in close cooperation with the Secretariat, continued to coordinate the ETF. The PCA establishes a detailed programme of activities and mechanisms to monitor its implementation and has been funded by the Government of India, France's Ministry for Ecological and Inclusive Transition and the French Office for Biodiversity, Germany's Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, Spain's Ministry for Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge, and Australia's Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water.

12. The ETF, through its coordination team, members and stakeholders, has been able to disseminate and promote several tools aimed at managing and monitoring the impacts of renewable energy infrastructure. These include the rollout of the [AVISTEP](#) tool, launched in 2022 by BirdLife International and available in eight countries (Egypt, India, Kenya, Lao PDR, Nepal, Thailand, Uzbekistan and Vietnam), with plans to expand to other countries under way. As these countries experience rapidly expanding energy infrastructure, AVISTEP provides a critical tool to ensure that this growth does not come at the expense of populations of potentially sensitive bird species.
13. Following the agreement reached at ETF7, the first call for the ETF Small Grant Fund was announced in 2024. After a competitive process, Bat Conservation International was awarded a grant to assess, document and inform global perspectives on how wind energy impacts migratory bats. The Small Grant Fund is expected to remain in place over the coming intersessional period, provided that resources are available.
14. The ETF has continued to facilitate cooperation among CMS and its daughter agreements such as the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA), the Agreement on the Conservation of Populations of European Bats (EUROBATS), the Agreement on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans of the Baltic, North East Atlantic, Irish and North Seas (ASCOBANS), the Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area (ACCOBAMS) and the Memorandum of Understanding for the conservation of birds of prey in Africa and Eurasia (Raptors MOU). The Secretariats, technical bodies and relevant working groups have continued to cooperate and have undertaken relevant work on the impact of powerlines, wind turbines and other renewable energy technologies on migratory species, as reflected in various guidance produced within the framework of the ETF. Similarly the ETF has been promoting linkages with CMS Parties and other relevant UN agencies and institutions such as the Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and related gatherings including the 29th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to UNFCCC (COP29), and side events organized at the 2025 Bonn Climate Conference (62nd session of the UNFCCC Subsidiary Bodies).

Discussion and analysis

15. The ETF has successfully finalized the implementation of its 2021–2024 Workplan and launched an ambitious new plan for the period 2025–2032. This new Workplan identifies key areas of work and the need to widen the scope of the Task Force to include birds, bats and marine species, as well as to produce guidance on emerging renewable energy infrastructure. The ETF has continued to grow its membership and successfully link multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs), governments and key stakeholders at high-level and technical forums. The ETF members are active and engaged in the day-to-day tasks and the newly established working groups reflect the need to produce specific guidance in various areas.
16. Given the size and diversity of the ETF membership, and the complexity of the threats and opportunities posed by renewable energy in relation to meeting the Paris Climate targets while safeguarding migratory species, ETF coordination is now focused on ensuring synergies with existing CMS and other MEA instruments, to ensure that the available technical guidance is easy to access, tailored to the different geographical regions and identifies the specific needs of its members and stakeholders.

17. Achieving truly transformative, nature-positive renewable energy at scale will require strengthened collaboration with the private sector. Building on a proposal developed by the ETF Private Sector Working Group, the ETF is currently exploring opportunities to better enhance engagement with industry leaders over the next intersessional period. This aims to ensure that governments are advancing the necessary regulatory frameworks to incentivize responsible investment, while also positioning the renewable energy sector as a key partner in identifying and implementing solutions that accelerate the energy transition and minimize impacts on migratory species and ecosystems.
18. The main proposed amendments to Resolution 11.27 (Rev.COP13) are the inclusion of specific guidance on how to integrate biodiversity and migratory species into national energy and climate policies, and to ensure links and synergies with other MEA processes and requirements, such as those described by Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in their National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans.

Recommended actions

19. The Conference of the Parties is recommended to:
 - a) adopt the draft amendments to Resolution 11.27 (Rev.COP13) contained in Annex 1 of this document;
 - b) adopt the draft Decisions contained in Annex 2 of this document; and
 - c) delete Decisions 14.207–14.210.

ANNEX 1

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO RESOLUTION 11.27 (Rev.COP13)

RENEWABLE ENERGY AND MIGRATORY SPECIES

NB: Proposed new text to the Resolution is underlined. Text to be deleted is ~~crossed-out~~.

Recognizing the importance to society of an adequate and stable energy supply and that renewable energy sources can significantly contribute to achieving this, and aware that renewable power generation, especially from wind energy, large solar panel power stations, and biomass production, is projected by the International Energy Agency to triple by 2035,

Recognizing also that the rapid growth of renewable energy infrastructure affects many migratory species listed by CMS and other legal frameworks, and *concerned* about the cumulative effects of such infrastructure on the movement of migratory species, their ability to utilize critical staging areas, the loss and fragmentation of their habitats, and mortality from collisions with infrastructural developments,

Recalling Article III 4(b) of the Convention, which requests Parties to endeavour, *inter alia*, “to prevent, remove, compensate for or minimize, as appropriate, the adverse effects of activities, or obstacles that seriously impede or prevent the migration of species” and *noting* the relevance of this obligation to renewable energy developments, especially given that adverse impacts of renewable energy infrastructure can be substantially minimized through careful site selection and planning, thorough Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs), including an appropriate ecological assessment if protected areas are likely to be affected, and good post-construction monitoring to learn from experience,

Recalling also previous decisions by CMS Parties and aware of those of other multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs), including CMS Agreements, as well as of relevant guidelines, on reconciling renewable energy developments with the conservation of migratory species, including:

- CMS Resolution 7.5 (Rev.COP12) *Wind Turbines and Migratory Species*,
- ~~CMS Resolution 10.19¹ *Migratory Species Conservation in the Light of Climate Change*,~~
- ~~CMS Resolution 10.24² *Further Steps to Abate Underwater Noise Pollution for the Protection of Cetaceans and Other Migratory Species*,~~
- ASCOBANS Resolution 8.6 (Rev.MOP10) *Ocean Energy*,
- ASCOBANS Resolution 6.2 (Rev.MOP10) *Adverse Effects of Underwater Noise on Marine Mammals during Offshore Construction Activities for Renewable Energy Production*,
- ACCOBAMS Resolution 4.17 *7.13 Anthropogenic Noise and the associated Guidelines to Address the Impact of Anthropogenic Noise on Cetaceans in the ACCOBAMS Area*,
- AEWA Resolution 6.11 *Addressing Impacts of Renewable Energy Deployment on Migratory Waterbirds*, which urged Parties to implement the provisions of document AEWA/MOP 6.37 *Renewable Energy Technologies and Migratory Species: Guidelines for Sustainable Deployment*,

¹ The Resolution was repealed and consolidated into Resolution 12.21 *Climate Change and Migratory Species*, which was amended at COP14.

² Consolidated as Resolution 12.14 *Adverse Impacts of Anthropogenic Noise on Cetaceans and Other Migratory Species*

- AEW Resolution 5.16 *Renewable Energy and Migratory Waterbirds*, which stressed the need to address or avoid adverse effects on migratory waterbirds and contains operational recommendations of relevance to many other migratory species,
- AEW *Guidelines on How to Avoid, Minimize or Mitigate Impact of Infrastructural Developments and Related Disturbance Affecting Waterbirds (Conservation Guidelines No. 11)*,
- EUROBATS Resolution 8.4 *9.4 Wind Turbines and Bat Populations and Guidelines for Consideration of Bats in Wind Farm Projects*, published as *EUROBATS Publication Series No. 6*,
- Bern Convention Recommendation No. 109 on minimizing adverse effects of wind power generation on wildlife and the guidance of 2003 on environmental assessment criteria and site selection issues related to wind-farming as well as the best practice guidance on integrated wind farm planning and impact assessment presented to the 33rd meeting of the Bern Convention Standing Committee in 2013,
- Ramsar Resolution XI.10 *Guidance for Addressing the Implications for Wetlands of Policies, Plans and Activities in the Energy Sector*,
- ~~The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA-16) Recommendation XVI/9 *Technical and Regulatory Matters on Geo-engineering in Relation to the Convention on Biological Diversity*,~~
- ~~BirdLife UNDP/GEF *Migratory Soaring Bird Guidance on Wind and Solar Energy*,~~
- The European Commission's *Guidance document on wind energy developments and Natura 2000*³ (to be updated by March 2020), and
- The European Commission's *Guidance document on the requirements for hydropower in relation to EU nature legislation*,

and *recognizing* the need for closer cooperation and synergetic implementation amongst the CMS Family, the biodiversity-related conventions and other MEAs including the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and relevant national and international stakeholders on decisions and guidelines to reconcile energy sector developments with migratory species conservation needs,

Acknowledging the critical need for liaison, communication, and strategic planning to be jointly undertaken by those parts of governments responsible respectively for environmental protection and energy development to avoid or mitigate negative consequences for migratory and other species and their habitats,

Further acknowledging the relationship of conservation of migratory species to national and international strategies on the implementation of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with special attention to SDG 7 on Energy, and SDG 13 on Climate Change, as well as within Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to the Paris Agreement and national climate action plans,

Taking note of document UNEP/CMS/COP11/Inf.26 *Renewable Energy Technology Deployment and Migratory Species: an Overview*, which summarizes knowledge of actual and possible effects of renewable energy installations on migratory species, *noting* its conclusion that relatively few scientific studies are available on the short-term, long-term and cumulative impacts of renewable energy technologies, and *acknowledging* the urgent need for further research on the impact on migratory species of renewable energy technologies particularly in relation to ocean and solar energy,

³ <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/2b08de80-5ad4-11eb-b59f-01aa75ed71a1>

Noting also that document UNEP/CMS/COP11/Inf.26 highlights the urgent need to collect data on the distribution of migratory species, their population size and migration routes as an essential part of any strategic planning and impact assessment, prior to and/or during the planning phase of development of renewable energy deployments, and also stresses the need to monitor regularly mortality arising from those developments,

~~*Noting the discussion at the 18th Meeting of the Scientific Council on the drafts of document UNEP/CMS/COP11/Inf.26 and document UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.23.4.3.2 *Renewable Energy Technologies and Migratory Species: Guidelines for Sustainable Deployment* and aware that input from other advisory bodies of the CMS Family has been incorporated into both documents,*~~

*Welcoming the report, *Climate change and migratory species – a review of impacts, conservation actions, indicators and ecosystem services*, submitted as document UNEP/CMS/COP14/Inf.30.4.1, and *highlighting its recommendation to undertake research on the impacts of human adaptations to climate change, including renewable energy infrastructure, on migratory species.**

~~*Convinced of the relevance of the above mentioned guidelines for sustainable deployment of renewable energy technologies to the implementation of the *CMS Programme of Work on Climate Change and Migratory Species* submitted for consideration and adoption by the 11th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties in document UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.23.4.2,*~~

Noting relevant international decisions and guidance with regard to mitigating the specific impacts of power lines on birds, including:

- CMS Resolution 10.11⁴ *Power Lines and Migratory Birds*,
- *Guidelines on How to Avoid or Mitigate the Impact of Electricity Power Grids on Migratory Birds in the African-Eurasian Region*, adopted by CMS COP10, AEWA MOP5 and the CMS Raptors MOU MOS1,
- AEWA Resolution 5.11 *Power Lines and Migratory Waterbirds*,
- Bern Convention Recommendation No. 110 *minimizing adverse effects of above-ground electricity transmission facilities (power lines) on birds*,
- The Budapest Declaration on Bird Protection and Power Lines, adopted in 2011 by the Conference on Power Lines and Bird Mortality in Europe,
- BirdLife/UNDP/GEF ~~*Migratory Soaring Bird Guidance on power lines*~~ *Guidance on appropriate means of impact assessment of electricity power grids on migratory soaring birds in the Rift Valley / Red Sea Flyway*,
- The European Commission's *Guidance document on energy transmission infrastructure and EU nature legislation*,⁵ and
- The declaration and outcomes of the Global Flyways Summit in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, April 2018, related to Energy Infrastructure,

Welcoming the good cooperation and partnerships already established at both international and national levels between stakeholders including governments and their institutions, energy companies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and secretariats of MEAs, and the concerted efforts made to address energy developments which conflict with species conservation, and

⁴ The resolution was amended at COP13.

⁵ <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/82e2011b-be3e-11e9-9d01-01aa75ed71a1>

Acknowledging with thanks the financial support of the Governments of Germany and Norway through the CMS and AEWA Secretariats, of BirdLife International through the BirdLife UNDP/GEF Migratory Soaring Birds project and of The International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) towards the compilation of the report *Renewable Energy Technology Deployment and Migratory Species: an Overview* and the guidelines document *Renewable Energy Technologies and Migratory Species: Guidelines for Sustainable Deployment*,

*The Conference of the Parties to the
Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals*

1. *Endorses* the document *Renewable Energy Technologies and Migratory Species: Guidelines for Sustainable Deployment* (UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.23.4.3.2);
2. *Urges Parties and encourages* non-Parties to implement these voluntary Guidelines as applicable depending on the particular circumstances of each Party, and to:
 - a) apply appropriate Strategic Environment Assessment (SEA) and EIA procedures, including an appropriate ecological assessment if protected and sensitive areas in particular for migratory species are likely to be affected, when planning the use of renewable energy technologies, avoiding existing protected areas in the broadest sense and other sites of importance to migratory species;
 - b) prioritize the establishment of renewable energies in areas where power lines already exist in order to avoid additional potential impacts on migratory species;
 - c) undertake appropriate surveying and monitoring both before and after deployment of renewable energy technologies to identify impacts on migratory species and their habitats in the short- and long-term, as well as to evaluate and assess the effectiveness of mitigation measures, making modifications where necessary;
 - d) require data sharing and enhance availability of biodiversity data, survey results and pre- and post-construction monitoring, by making the data publicly available in a centralized database, including data on species mortality due to renewable energy infrastructure;
 - e) enact appropriate legislation, licensing and permitting procedures that are evidence- based, integrate biodiversity and migratory species considerations, and include clear procedures to address cases of noncompliance or permit violations;
 - f) apply appropriate cumulative impact studies to describe and understand impacts on a larger scale, such as at population level or along entire migration routes (e.g., at flyways scale for birds);
 - g) promote continued dialogue and cooperation between all stakeholders in the search for best practice to avoid or minimize the adverse impact of renewable energy generation;
 - h) integrate biodiversity and migratory species considerations into national energy and climate policies, action plans, and regulatory frameworks governing the siting of new energy infrastructure;
 - i) mitigate impacts from existing energy infrastructure where necessary, making use of guidance developed by the CMS Energy Task Force and other relevant platforms; and

- j) integrate relevant considerations into planning, such as Nationally Determined Contributions and National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans, and incorporate Strategic Environmental Assessments and species sensitivity mapping into decision-making processes and national targets.
3. *Urges* Parties to implement, as appropriate, the following priorities in their development of renewable energy technologies:
- a) **wind energy:** to undertake science-based strategic planning and monitoring for the safe siting and management of renewable energy development projects alongside reducing and mitigating the impacts of disturbances and displacement of species, including during construction work, and to minimize the mortality of birds (in particular of species that are long-lived and have low fecundity) and bats resulting from collisions with wind turbines and barotrauma, and the increased mortality risk to cetaceans from permanently reduced auditory functions, as detailed in the guidance document *Renewable Energy Technologies and Migratory Species: Guidelines for Sustainable Deployment* (UNEP/CMS/COP11/Doc.23.4.3.2);
 - b) **solar energy:** to avoid protected areas and respect important areas for biodiversity identified at the national level, land covered with semi-natural or natural habitats and, as far as possible, Key Biodiversity Areas so as to limit further the impacts of deploying solar power plants; undertake careful planning to reduce disturbance and displacement effects on relevant species, and prioritize development on existing infrastructure and urban areas as well as to minimize the risks of solar flux, trauma and other related injuries, such as singeing, which could be a consequence of a number of solar energy technologies; in places where there is a need to clean solar panels such as deserts, avoid usage of scarce resources like water and consider to deploy other technologies for this purpose; minimize extraction of water from wetlands for cooling solar panels to avoid habitat modification;
 - c) **ocean energy:** to avoid protected areas and respect Important Marine Mammal Areas, and give attention to possible impacts on migratory species, including of injury, displacement, and increased noise and electromagnetic field disturbance especially during construction work in coastal habitats;
 - d) **hydro-power:** to undertake measures to reduce or mitigate known serious impacts on the upstream and downstream movements of migratory aquatic species, such as through the installation of mitigation measures such as fish passageways or adaptive operations mode and the conservation of regularly flooded areas as nursery and feeding areas nearby the hydroelectric dam; and
 - e) **geo-energy:** to avoid habitat loss, disturbance and barrier effects in order to continue to keep the overall environmental impacts at their current low level.
4. *Instructs* the Secretariat to convene a multi-stakeholder *Task Force on Reconciling Selected Energy Sector Developments with Migratory Species Conservation* (the Energy Task Force);⁶

⁶ The Task Force was established after the Eleventh Meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

5. *Urges* Parties and *invites* the United Nations Environment Programme and other relevant international organizations, bilateral and multilateral donors as well as representatives of the energy industry to financially support the operations of the *Task Force on Reconciling Selected Energy Sector Developments with Migratory Species Conservation* (Energy Task Force), including through funding for its coordination, implementation of its Programme of Work and provision of financial assistance including but not limited to developing countries for the exchange of relevant knowledge of capacity-building , and development and the implementation of relevant guidance;
6. *Instructs* the Secretariat to report on progress on behalf of the Energy Task Force, including the implementation and, as much as possible, the assessment of the efficacy of measures taken, to each meeting of the Conference of the Parties; and
7. *Encourages* Parties and relevant entities to develop national or regional level multi-stakeholder forums and networks to promote energy-migratory species discourse as a way of accelerating sharing of evidence-based best practices, experience and uptake of guidelines adopted for safeguarding migratory species, potentially with support of the CMS Energy Task Force.

Annex to Resolution 11.27(Rev.COP13)**TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE MULTI-STAKEHOLDER TASK FORCE ON
RECONCILING SELECTED ENERGY SECTOR DEVELOPMENTS WITH
MIGRATORY SPECIES CONSERVATION (*ENERGY TASK FORCE*)****1. Background and purpose**

The Energy Task Force is convened in line with the mandate provided by CMS Resolution 11.27 (Rev.COP13) *Renewable Energy and Migratory Species* to assist Parties or Signatories to CMS, AEWAs, EUROBATS, ASCOBANS, ACCOBAMS, the Raptors MOU, the Bern Convention, the Ramsar Convention and other relevant MEAs to fulfil their obligations with regard to avoiding or mitigating possible negative impacts of energy sector developments on migratory species.

2. Goal

All energy sector developments are undertaken in such a way that negative impacts on migratory species are avoided.

3. Role

The role of the Energy Task Force will be to facilitate the involvement of all relevant stakeholders in the process of reconciling energy sector developments with the conservation of migratory species where all developments take full account of the conservation priorities.

4. Scope

The geographical scope of the Energy Task Force will be global. Initially, it will be convened with an African-Eurasian scope although not excluding relevant cases in progress from other regions and will gradually expand to other parts of the world. The timing and extent of geographic expansions shall be decided by the Energy Task Force members and shall depend on funding being available.

The Energy Task Force will cover all migratory taxa as identified by CMS and its associated instruments. Initially, the Energy Task Force will focus on migratory birds and will gradually expand to other taxonomic groups. The timing and extent of taxonomic expansions shall be decided by the Energy Task Force members and shall depend on funding being available.

The Energy Task Force will cover the issues of power line impacts and impacts of renewable energy technology deployments (wind, solar, hydropower, geothermal, biomass and ocean energy) with initial focus on power lines, hydro, wind and solar energy technologies. Proposals for extension of the types of energy sector developments to be covered may be made and shall be considered by the Energy Task Force and shall depend on funding being available.

5. Remit

The Energy Task Force will:

- 5.1 promote implementation of the relevant guidelines adopted in the frameworks of the participating MEAs;

- 5.2 set priorities for its actions and implement them;
- 5.3 assist in resource mobilization for priority actions, including from the energy industry;
- 5.4 monitor the implementation of relevant guidelines and their effectiveness, as well as existing impediments for adequate implementation of such guidelines, and submit progress reports to the governing bodies of the participating MEAs;
- 5.5 stimulate internal and external communication and exchange of information, experience, best practice and know-how;
- 5.6 strengthen regional and international networks; and
- 5.7 stimulate more research for the renewable energy technologies deployment where substantial gaps in knowledge have been identified in the *Review Report* (UNEP/CMS/COP11/Inf.26).

6. Membership

The Energy Task Force is open-ended. Its member organizations will comprise the Secretariats of the participating MEAs, representatives of relevant government institutions in the field of environment and energy in the Parties to the participating MEAs, representatives of the energy industry, relevant academic institutions, NGOs and other interested stakeholders.

7. Governance

The Energy Task Force will:

- 7.1 operate by seeking consensus, as much as possible, among the group;
- 7.2 once it has been convened, operate in accordance with a *modus operandi*, which shall be established by its members; and
- 7.3 report to the CMS Conference of the Parties and governing bodies of the other participating MEAs, as requested by them.

8. Operation

Funding permitting, a coordinator will be appointed from the Energy Task Force members under an arrangement with the CMS Secretariat to support the Chair, the Vice-Chair and the Energy Task Force members, as appropriate.

The coordinator will *inter alia*:

- organize the meetings of the Energy Task Force;
- maintain and moderate the Energy Task Force communication platform (website and internal online workspace);
- facilitate implementation of decisions of the Energy Task Force, as necessary;
- facilitate fundraising and resource mobilization in support of the activities of the Energy Task Force; and
- facilitate engagement with stakeholders within and beyond the Energy Task Force.

Meetings of the Energy Task Force will be convened at appropriate intervals, as considered necessary and funding permitting. Between business meetings will be conducted electronically through an online workspace within the Energy Task Force's website, which will provide the primary mode of communication and operation of the Energy Task Force.

9. Financing

Funding for the operations of the Energy Task Force, including the coordinator post, as well as the implementation of identified priorities will be sought from various sources, including from member organizations.

DRAFT DECISIONS

RENEWABLE ENERGY AND MIGRATORY SPECIES

Directed to Parties

- 15.AA Parties are invited to report progress on implementing Resolution 11.27 (Rev.COP15) to the Energy Task Force meetings and/or through their National Reports, including monitoring of the efficacy of measures taken.

Directed to Parties, intergovernmental and non-government organizations, and others

- 15.BB Parties, including their representatives from both environment and energy ministries and authorities, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, and other stakeholders from the energy sector are encouraged to support the implementation of Resolution 11.27 (Rev.COP15), the work of the Energy Task Force and the implementation of its Workplan.

Directed to the Energy Task Force

15. CC The Energy Task Force (ETF) is requested, subject to the availability of resources, to:
- a) review, update, and promote tools and guidance for assessing and mitigating the impacts of renewable energy and power line developments on migratory species across flyways and marine migratory routes, including areas beyond national jurisdiction. This should include:
 - standardized approaches for post-construction monitoring of renewable energy projects,
 - active promotion of existing sensitivity mapping tools, such as AVISTEP, and
 - the development of regionally tailored guidance and events, in relevant local languages where suitable, and designed to be clear, accessible and easy to locate for stakeholders in different world regions;
 - b) coordinate the outputs produced by the ETF Working Groups and ensure synergies with other CMS task forces working on similar initiatives, such as the CMS Saker Falcon Task Force, the CMS Task Forces on illegal taking of migratory birds and the Scientific Council Infrastructure Working Group; and
 - c) advance engagement with the corporate sector and international financial institutions to support the integration of best practices and mainstreaming of migratory species into industry policies and safeguards.

Directed to the Secretariat

15. DD The Secretariat shall, subject to the availability of resources:

- a) include in its communication strategy the guidance and tools produced by the ETF, as well as the engagement with international financial institutions and the full range of renewable energy stakeholders;
- b) support the ETF, including organizing annual ETF meetings and specific workshops, and ensure its membership is increased and its scope regularly reviewed to address all potential threats from renewable energy infrastructure to migratory species;
- c) advance partnerships with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), other relevant intergovernmental organizations, and entities to expand the role and awareness of the ETF, and to support the implementation of safeguards, spatial planning tools, and guidance aimed at avoiding negative impacts of renewable energy infrastructure on migratory species; and
- d) support the production of technical guidance tailored to the geographical, technical and species-related needs identified by ETF members.