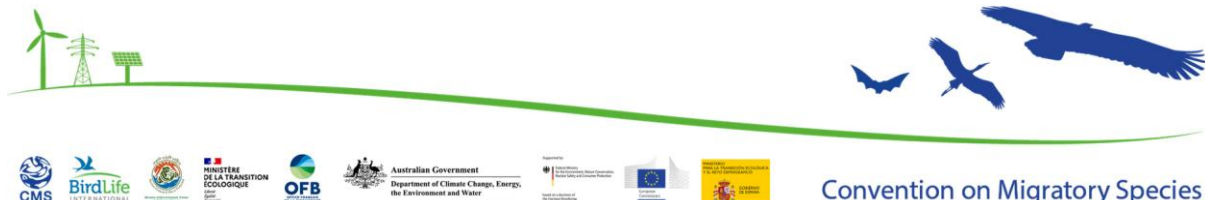


**8th Meeting of the CMS
Multi-Stakeholder Energy Task Force**

16-17 September 2025, Online

ETF8/Doc.8

MEETING REPORT



The Eighth Meeting (ETF8) of the UN Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) Energy Task Force (ETF) was held virtually from 16 to 17 September 2025. It was attended by 56 online participants, including representatives from national governments and agencies, the Secretariats of multilateral environmental agreements, international organizations, international financial institutions, and civil society organisations.

On Day 1, the meeting provided an opportunity to share the stocktake of progress since ETF7 and the implementation of the 2021 – 2024 Work Plan, case studies presented by ETF members and observers, reports from Working Groups (Private Sector Engagement Working Group, Bat Mitigation Working Group, and Technical Working Group), and updates on synergies with other Multilateral Environmental Agreements. On Day 2, strategic discussions were made for the preparation of the upcoming CMS COP15, and the report from the Marine Species Working Group, as well as approval of the ETF Work Plan 2025-2032.

Meeting documents can be found on the ETF8 [webpage](#).

Agenda item 1 – Introductions

The ETF Chair, Borja Heredia (Spain), opened the meeting with remarks, thanking CMS Secretariat and BirdLife International for the coordination of the ETF, followed by thanking the governments of Australia, India, Germany, Spain, France and the European Commission for their financial contributions towards the ETF. This was followed by brief remarks from the ETF Coordinator, Cathy Yitong Li (BirdLife International) and the Head of Avian Species, Ivan Ramirez (CMS Secretariat).

Agenda item 2 – Report on ETF Workplan Implementation

a) Coordinator report

Cathy Yitong Li and Manoswini Sarkar (BirdLife International) presented a comprehensive overview of the ETF's activities since the ETF7 meeting. Key priorities and influences included enhancing cooperation among stakeholders; empowering conservation actions through projects, tools, and advice on challenges; fostering synergies across multilateral processes; and positioning the ETF as a knowledge hub. Events that took place in the past year were highlighted, such as the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP WCMC) hosted Nature Action Dialogues, multiple events in collaboration with and at UNFCCC sessions, and the Renewables Grid Initiative-hosted Wingspan Conference. Publications in the past year mentioned included those by the International Union for Conservation of Nature, such as Spatial planning for wind and solar developments and associated infrastructure and Opportunities for enhancing biodiversity at wind and solar energy developments, among others. Communication efforts were highlighted, including the publication of three newsletters and active social media engagement, which received strong responses. The ETF's visibility was further boosted by its latest presence at the 8th Conference on Wind and Wildlife (CWW), where a well-attended workshop showcased case studies and mitigation strategies. These events helped raise awareness and interest in ETF's work, particularly in bat conservation and the challenges posed by wind energy infrastructure. Based on suggestions received, the Secretariat and Coordinator will propose any necessary edits to the Modus Operandi of the ETF.

b) Working Group reports

1) Private Sector Engagement Working Group

The Chair of the Working Group, Alicia De la Cruz-Novey (US International Development Finance Corporation) presented a broad strategy for private sector engagement, aiming to mobilise renewable energy companies in driving biodiversity-friendly practices. The strategy includes a pilot phase with selected companies (e.g., Iberdrola, Orsted, Masdar, RWE). The strategy is to be reviewed at ETF9. Selection criteria were established for the pilot phase to ensure companies align with decarbonization goals, biodiversity commitments, and stakeholder engagement. The ETF endorsed the strategy, with plans to organize workshops and monitor progress. Concerns about reputational risks were discussed, and admitted companies shall be observers rather than full members. Additionally, the Proteus partnership by UNEP WCMC was mentioned and Sebastian Dunnett (UNEP WCMC) offered to contribute to this working group to go over the next steps and share insights from their experience.

2) Bat Mitigation Working Group

The Chair of the Working Group, Winifred Frick (Bat Conservation International), reported on the working group's recent outputs, including two factsheets produced for the ETF, IUCN Motion for the World Conservation Congress on 'Preventing population impacts of wind-energy facilities on bats', academic review paper which is currently being worked on and the workshop at CWW. A proposal to list additional migratory bat species under CMS Annexes was introduced, with meetings scheduled to review the recommendations. Action points were noted to recirculate the factsheets to all ETF members for their finalization.

3) Marine Species Working Group

Jennifer de Leur from Agreement on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans of the Baltic, North East Atlantic, Irish and North Seas (ASCOBANS) presented on the activities on the working group, which was established at the ETF7 and has focused on cetaceans and held two meetings in late 2024. Its membership has expanded to include the International Whaling Commission (IWC), and a CMS project supported by Australia's [Renewable Energy Research Initiative \(RERI\)](#) is set to be implemented. The group aims to address marine species conservation in the context of renewable energy development.

4) Technical Working Group, including Mortality Database Working Group

Liam Innis (Renewables Grid Initiative) presented and launched the [RISKY project](#), which aims to map bat mortality data globally and collaborate with platforms like [Global Biodiversity Information Facility](#). Challenges such as data bias and limited access to private sector data were acknowledged, and efforts to improve data acquisition were underway. The group emphasized the need for integrated

mitigation solutions and continued collaboration across regions. The ETF endorsed this proposed engagement, and further collaboration will be underway.

Action Item 3 – Updates on Synergies with Other Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs)

1. Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) – Tristan Tyrrell emphasized the importance of integrating biodiversity and renewable energy goals, and synergies across multilateral environmental agreements, highlighting the [CBD COP Decision 16/35](#). ETF members were encouraged to contribute to the [Bern Process](#).
2. International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) – Ute Collier provided updates on the work of IRENA, noting the rapid expansion of renewable energy and the need for nature-positive principles. China's efforts to balance renewable growth with ecological concerns were highlighted, and ETF plans to engage with China at various events, such as [World Coastal Forum](#).
3. United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) – Ms. Mirja Stoldt emphasized the cross-cutting role of land in renewable energy deployment and ecological connectivity. A knowledge product on sustainable land management and renewables is expected to be launched at [CRIC23 \(1-5 December, Panama City, Panama\)](#), reinforcing the importance of coordinated action among the Rio Conventions.

Various members and observers highlighted the importance of this area of work, and expressed their strong willingness to see this continue being a priority of the ETF. The ETF decided to explore a potential COP30 statement on climate-nature synergies.

Agenda item 4 – Election of Chair/Vice Chair

Duncan Lang from the Asian Development Bank was elected to be the Vice Chair, recognized for his contributions to nature-positive renewable energy development and his leadership in the Regional Flyways Initiative and its support for [AVISTEP](#).

Brazil was nominated to chair the ETF, and is to be put forward the candidate following ETF8 and seek members' election via emails.

Agenda item 6 – Strategic discussion on CMS COP15

The ETF8 meeting placed strong emphasis on preparing for the upcoming CMS COP15, scheduled for March 2026 in Campo Grande, Brazil. Brazil's strategic leadership was acknowledged, and the Government of Brazil was nominated to chair the ETF.

The ETF Secretariat outlined key areas of ETF involvement at COP15, including avian species conservation, seabird and marine flyways, and multi-species action plans. Specific initiatives such as the Steppe Eagle Global Action Plan, Saker Falcon Action Plan, African-Eurasian Migratory Landbirds Action Plan and the Americas Flyways Action Plan were highlighted. Cross-cutting themes like ecological connectivity, transfrontier conservation areas,

infrastructure impacts, climate change, and renewable energy were identified as central to ETF's contributions.

ETF members were encouraged to review the proposed amendments to the COP resolution document once circulated, to ensure the ETF's work is adequately reflected and strengthened. Discussions also touched on the need to expand ETF's geographical reach, particularly in Asia and the Americas, and to engage non-CMS parties through regional events and bilateral outreach.

Agenda item 7 – Spotlight on ETF member

Andre Luiz Campos de Andrade (Brazil) highlighted Brazil's leadership in the climate and energy space, highlighting their work in the implementation of the Paris Agreement.

Raquel Carvalho (SAVE Brasil) presented on the Flyways Brazil project which was showcased as a successful example of conservation in action. Operating since 2015, the project focuses on shorebird monitoring in the Potiguar Basin and uses citizen science to identify critical habitats. It engages local communities, especially women and fishers, and has led to the designation of a new Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network (WHSRN) site. The project also influences infrastructure planning, particularly transmission lines, to mitigate collision risks for migratory birds.

Graeme Taylor (New Zealand) shared their work on collecting feedback and comments on the CMS Listing Proposal for Gadfly Petrels that they're developing, highlighting the impact of offshore wind farms and powerline infrastructure on these species. He also shared their work on researching about offshore wind energy development impacts on gannets, albatrosses and petrels. He also mentioned their joint work with the Australian government on impacts on offshore wind farm impacts on seabirds. He also added the government's plans to fund spatial planning process in New Zealand to assess impact on sea birds and marine mammals. Finally, he mentioned the newly created working group under Agreement on Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels on impact of offshore wind farms, which is planning to produce guidance documents.

Oscar Mohale (Endangered Wildlife Trust) highlighted EWT's work in Southern and East Africa on training utilities on wildlife interactions and how that is impacting their revenues. He also mentioned EWT's ongoing work on transmission best practice guidelines and nocturnal birds collision mitigation.

Kerri Woodcock (Australia) presented on the [Renewable Energy Research Initiative \(RERI\)](#), a \$22.7 billion AUD initiative of the Australian government under the Future Made in Australia (FIMA) agenda, to accelerate Australia's energy transition and to support Australia's green energy industries. The projects will accelerate approval timeframes by addressing critical scientific knowledge gaps and will reduce complexity, uncertainty and conflict through clearer guidance. The ETF coordinates two of the RERI projects, through BirdLife International.

Agenda item 8 – ETF Workplan 2025–2032

Ms. Sarkar presented the draft ETF workplan covering the period 2025–2032, which was adopted without objections. The workplan outlines strategic goals, actions, and timelines to guide ETF's future activities.

Some of the key priorities included:

- Strengthening communication of ETF outputs (e.g., guidance documents, case studies, research) to governments, industry, and civil society.
- Enhancing synergies with other CMS instruments and MEAs to avoid duplication and amplify impact.
- Mainstreaming technical guidance into national policies, private sector practices, and financial decision-making.

Participants discussed the need to balance ambition with feasibility, considering capacity, available resources and regional needs. Suggestions included reorganizing ETF's online resources to improve accessibility, translating key documents, and tailoring guidance to stakeholder needs. A new working group was created for this process, for which Mr. Lang volunteered to Chair the group.

Agenda item 9 - ETF Priorities for 2026

Facilitated by Ms. Li, it was highlighted that looking ahead to 2026, ETF aims to align its work with the [Strategic Plan for Migratory Species \(SPMS 2026-2032\)](#) goals. A major focus will be on promoting geographical diversity, particularly in underrepresented regions such as Asia and the Americas. Members expressed interest in supporting outreach efforts in countries like China, the Republic of Korea, Japan, and the Philippines. Promotional materials such as fact sheets and guidance documents were identified as useful tools for engagement.

ADB plans to support ETF visibility at the upcoming [EAAFP MOP12 \(8-14 November 2025, Cebu, Philippines\)](#), and BirdLife International colleagues will assist in regional promotion. The ETF also plans to submit proposals to the [Kunming Biodiversity Fund \(KBF\)](#), targeting projects in Central Asia, Uganda, and Egypt, by 20 September 2025. These proposals address issues such as transfrontier conservation, spatial planning for powerline retrofitting, land degradation neutrality, and illegal bird killing.

Members and observers shared further ideas for potential activities of the ETF, such as co-hosting a multistakeholder workshop on the EU Strategic Environmental Assessment with MDBs, and supporting relevant guidance developed by MDBs and other stakeholders.

Based on the suggestions, the Secretariat and Coordinator will further refine ETF's priorities, together with the Chair and Vice Chair, considering capacity and resources available.

Annex 1 Attendees

Name	Organisation / Country
Alicia De La Cruz-Novey	US International Development Finance Corporation
Ana Márquez	SEO/BirdLife
András Schmidt	Hungary
André Luiz Campos de Andrade	Brazil
Andrei Roos	Brazil
Andrey Ralev	Bankwatch
Beatrice Yulo	Asian Development Bank
Berit Gewert	Germany
Cathy Yitong Li	BirdLife International
Christian Voigt	EUROBATS
Clavero Sousa Helena	IUCN Mediterranean Centre
Danka Uzunova	Macedonian Ecological Society
Duncan A. Lang	Asian Development Bank
Eleanor Richardson	South African Bat Assessment Association
Francisco B. Heredia (Borja)	Spain
Grace Chandler	UNEP – World Conservation Monitoring Centre
Graeme Taylor	New Zealand
He Ying	East Asia–Australasia Flyway Partnership Secretariat
Imogen Webster	International Whaling Commission
Isobel Morris	Royal Society for Protection of Birds
Ivan Ramirez	CMS Secretariat
Janusz Sielicki	International Association for Falconry and Conservation of Birds of Prey
Jennifer Le Deur	Agreement on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans of the Baltic, North East Atlantic, Irish and North Seas (ASCOBANS)
Kerri Woodcock	Australia
Konika Jangir	CMS Secretariat
Lilian Mariana Costa	Brazil
Manon Thiel	Renewables Grid Initiative
Manoswini Sarkar	BirdLife International
Mark Carey	Australia
Mengistu Wondafrash	Ethiopian Wildlife and Natural History Society
Michel Perret	France
Mirja Stoldt	UNCCD Secretariat
Mohammed Alshamlan	Saudi Arabia
Mohammed Shobrak	Saudi Arabia

Nikos Tsiopelas	Hellenic Ornithological Society
Noam Leader	Israel
Oscar Mohale	Endangered Wildlife Trust
Oyeshi Ganguly	Renewables Grid Initiative
Panicos Panayi	Cyprus
Portia Makitla	South Africa
Rainer Raab	IUCN
Raquel Carvalho	SAVE Brasil
Robert Adamczyk	European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
Roberto Cavalcanti	Brazil
Rowana Walton	UNEP – World Conservation Monitoring Centre
Sabine Leykam	East Asia–Australasia Flyway Partnership Secretariat
Sebastian Dunnett	UNEP – World Conservation Monitoring Centre
Sofia Natalia Torres	CMS Secretariat
Suren Gazaryan	UNEP/EUROBATS
Tilman Schneider	CMS Secretariat
Tristan Tyrrell	CBD Secretariat
Umberto Gallo Orsi	CMS Raptors MOU
Ute Collier	International Renewable Energy Agency
Vera Voronova	Association for the Conservation of Biodiversity of Kazakhstan
Wid Daggag	Saudi Arabia
Winifred Frick	Bat Conservation International / GBatNet
Yong June Kim	CMS Secretariat
Zheng Zhou	China Biodiversity Conservation and Green Development Foundation