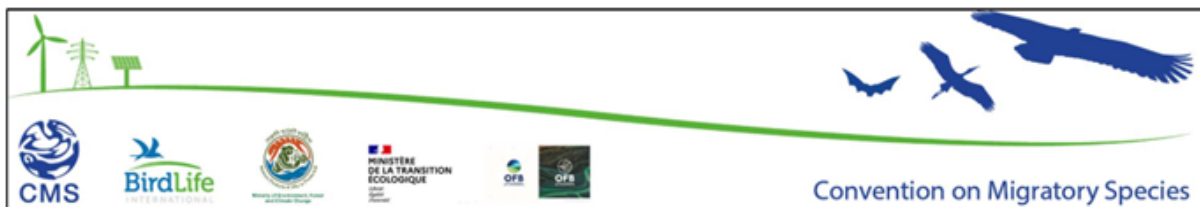


**7th Meeting of the CMS
Multi-Stakeholder Energy Task Force**

24-26 April 2024, Madrid, Spain and online

ETF7/Meeting Report

REPORT OF THE SEVENTH MEETING OF THE CMS ENERGY TASK FORCE



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.



Executive Summary

- 1) The Seventh Meeting of the Multi-Stakeholder CMS Energy Task Force (ETF7) was held virtually and in person in Madrid, Spain from 24 to 25 April 2024, followed by the ETF Open Day and field trip on 25 and 26 April.
- 2) Agenda items included the overview of key outcomes of CMS COP14; ETF activities; review of the ETF workplan implementation; review of strategic documents and discussion on implementation; updates from within the ETF; CMS COP14 decisions and next steps for the ETF; ETF Small Grant Fund launch; and, ETF priorities for 2024.
- 3) Main outcomes and actions from the discussions to deliver on the mandate from CMS COP14 decisions and other priority items, include:
 - a) Identification and specification of actions required to deliver on the decisions of CMS COP14.
 - b) Overall support for engaging with corporates, for reasons such as tapping into the expertise within the sector, accessing additional resources for ETF work and better understanding of sectoral needs, among others. However, there is a need to establish a proper membership structure and clear expectations at the outset.
 - c) It was agreed to establish new working groups on: Guidance on the creation of a mortality database, under the Technical Working Group, private sector engagement, marine species (cetaceans), mitigating impacts on bats, and establishing a future programme of work to be endorsed at ETF8, including an action to review ETF tools and guidance.
 - d) It was agreed to develop new guidance on taxonomies for EIAs and SEAs, hydropower, bioenergy, responsible sourcing of materials for renewable energy, cumulative impact assessment, and impacts and data collection for bats.
 - e) It was recommended to improve synergies and knowledge sharing with the CMS family, other MEAs and intergovernmental organisations, coalitions and initiatives.
- 4) The ETF Small Grant Fund was launched.
- 5) Borja Heredia was elected as the new Chairperson of the ETF, with Lori Anna Conzo being elected to continue as the Vice Chair of the ETF.

MEETING REPORT

The Seventh Meeting of the CMS Energy Task Force (ETF7) was held virtually and in person in Madrid, Spain from 24 to 25 April 2024, followed by the ETF Open Day and field trip on 25 and 26 April. Meeting documents can be found on the ETF7 [meeting platform](#).

Agenda item 1 – Introductions

Opening Remarks

The ETF Chair, Michel Perret, France, commenced the meeting by warmly welcoming all attendees, both in-person and online. This marked the first in-person ETF meeting in Paris since 2019, underscoring the significance of face-to-face interactions. Mr Perret extended gratitude to María Jesús Rodríguez de Sancho, Director General of Biodiversity, Forests, and Desertification at Ministerio para la Transición Ecológica y el Reto Demográfico (MITECO), for hosting the event, and thanked the CMS Secretariat and BirdLife International (Rhiannon Niven and Manoswini Sarkar), for their organisation efforts. Mr Perret expressed his hopes for a productive meeting and reinforced the value of the ETF as determined by the recent 14th meeting of the Conference of Parties (COP14) of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS).

Welcome from Spain

Ms Rodríguez de Sancho, Director General of Biodiversity, Forests and Desertification, MITECO, welcomed participants on behalf of Spain, affirming MITECO's commitment to supporting the ETF's goals.

Introduction of participants and adoption of the agenda

The Chair outlined the meeting procedures as per the ETF *Modus Operandi*, noting that this was the annual meeting for 2024, during which a new Chair and Vice-Chair would be elected. Participants introduced themselves, including new members and observers from various organisations:

- 1) Graeme Taylor, representing New Zealand Department of Conservation
- 2) Alicia De la Cruz-Novey, representing the US International Development Finance Corporation (DFC)
- 3) Andrey Ralev, representing Bankwatch
- 4) Rachel Asante-Owusu, representing IUCN
- 5) Mimi Kessler, representing IUCN Bustard Specialist Group
- 6) Rainer Raab, representing IUCN Bustards Specialist Group
- 7) Winifred Frick, representing GBatNet, from Bat Conservation International
- 8) Christian Voigt, representing Leibniz Institute for Zoo and Wildlife Research and nominated expert of EUROBATS
- 9) Ana Carricondo, representing SEO/BirdLife.

The Chair outlined the objectives of the meeting, referring to the Provisional Agenda and Provisional Annotated Agenda and Schedule, which was adopted with unanimous agreement from all participants.

Agenda item 2 – Report from CMS Secretariat and ETF Coordinator

Report back from CMS COP14 overview and outcomes

Iván Ramírez (CMS Secretariat) presented key documents ETF7/Inf.2 [CMS COP14 Decisions](#), ETF7/Inf.3 [Resolution 7.2 \(Rev.COP14\) Impact Assessment and Migratory Species](#), ETF7/Inf.4 [Resolution 11.27 \(Rev.COP13\) Renewable Energy and Migratory Species](#) and highlighted the CMS COP14 decisions relevant to the ETF. Mr Ramírez emphasised the positive feedback and the need for increased funding to sustain the ETF's work. Mr Perret reiterated the importance of financial contributions from member countries to enhance the ETF's budget and effectiveness.

Participants expressed interest in the Linear Infrastructure Working Group and requested more guidance on impact assessment, especially on taxonomies relating to Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEA) and Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA). The need for comprehensive guidance on taxonomy, for various countries beyond the EU, including India and China, was highlighted for the creation of the upcoming workplan.

Agenda item 3 – Review of ETF Workplan implementation

Ms Niven provided an update on ETF actions undertaken since the last meeting, which can be found in ETF7/Doc.2 [Joint Report of CMS Secretariat and ETF Coordinator on Activities of the ETF](#) and a review of the implementation of the current ETF Workplan, found at ETF7/Doc.3 [Report in Progress against the Workplan, gaps and opportunities](#).

Ms Niven reported that 22 activities (46%) were either completed or ongoing, 14 activities (29%) had commenced and were in progress, and 12 activities (25%) had not started. She also added that the ETF had welcomed around thirty new members and observers, since the inception of the present workplan.

Based on the survey results, some other priorities were identified by the ETF membership, which included: onshore wind impacts on migratory shorebirds, collision and electrocution of birds and bats, creation of an expert database, creation of a checklist of recommendations for investors, biodiversity baselines, regional mapping with a focus on flyways, hydropower project impacts, guidance on managing hydropower impacts on migratory fishes, guidance on bioenergy, mitigating bird electrocutions with powerlines and transmission lines, and ways to manage capacity shortage or brain drain. Key challenges outlined in achieving the objectives of the workplan were primarily related to funding challenges and resource mobilisation.

The necessity of private sector engagement was discussed, weighing the benefits against potential concerns over dialogue transparency and the inclusion of private consultants.

Agenda item 4 – Strategic Planning: implementation and next steps

Strategic planning implementation

Ms Niven mentioned the strategic documents approved at the previous interim meeting, which required further discussion for implementation, including the [private sector engagement strategy](#), [communications strategy](#), [geographic expansion strategy](#), and [guidance package for engagement with international financial institutions](#).

Participants again emphasised the critical need to engage the private sector within the ETF, and that initially it could be challenging but building trust with the private sector could be beneficial for the ETF, utilising existing collaborations such as the Renewables Grid Initiative (RGI) and United Nations Environment Programme - World Conservation Monitoring Centre

(UNEP-WCMC)'s Proteus. Overall, there was consensus on engagement with renewable energy companies, but not with consultancies, and to explore charging fees for private sector actors or creating industry advisory groups by inviting experts.

Participants also recommended having a dedicated communications team within ETF, similar to RGI, which has improved outreach and communication activities to allow further impact and engagement.

Regarding the geographical expansion strategy, participants highlighted the benefits of regional taskforces under the ETF and the need for producing specific technical guidance tailored for regions like Eastern Europe, Asia and Africa to support the expansion. There was also a request for sharing more tailored information on Renewable Acceleration Areas in the EU, and to include other taxa like bats and cetaceans through the creation of special working groups or dedicated tasks related to mitigating impacts on these populations, and how similar regulatory and planning approaches for specific taxa or regions could be replicated in other countries.

It was noted that engagement with the international policy agenda was important for the ETF, including the Conference of Parties (COP) of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), to share the work of the ETF at the global scale with key stakeholders and link up ambitions and find synergies to progress collaboratively.

Agenda item 5 – Updates from within the ETF

Presentations were delivered by Kenichi Kitamura (Secretariat of the UNFCCC), Tristan Tyrrell (Secretariat of the CBD), Lauren Lopes (CMS Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Migratory Birds of Prey in Africa and Eurasia (Raptors MOU)), and Ute Collier (International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA)).

Mr Ramírez thanked the speakers for their presentations and participants further noted the importance of the CMS and ETF to have synergies with these conventions, especially relating to the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), better coordination between Raptors MOU, Saker Falcon Task Force, and the ETF to avoid replication through regular meetings and highlighting the importance of such collaborative effort. The leadership role of IRENA was noted to be critical to increase engagement, including for fossil fuel phase-out, hydropower-related issues, land use planning, raw materials, and environmental standards.

Agenda Item 6 – Strategic discussion on CMS COP14 outcomes

Mr Ramírez presented the CMS COP14 outcomes, highlighting new species added to the Appendices, the launch of the [Central Asian Flyway Initiative](#), [State of the World's Migratory Species report](#), the launch of two new CMS initiatives, [Ecological Connectivity](#) and [Illegal and Unsustainable Taking of Migratory Species](#), a new approach for the work on [Flyways](#), and new signatories for Raptors and High Andean Flamingos MOUs. Other resolutions and decisions relating to the CMS COP14 can be found [here](#).

Some CMS COP14 decisions highlighted were Decision 14.207, 14.208, 14.209, 14.210 *Renewable Energy and Migratory Species*, directed to Parties, intergovernmental and nongovernment organisations, ETF, CMS Secretariat and others, respectively. These reiterated the need to integrate spatial planning and sensitivity to strategic environmental assessments, for the creation of tools and to provide guidance for assessing and mitigating the impacts of renewable energy and power line developments, coordinate the collation of mortality data for birds and bats, expand the scope of ETF to include Important Marine

Mammal Areas (IMMAs) and Important Shark and Ray Areas (ISRAs) as well as to the impacts of offshore renewable energy on cetaceans, and engagement with corporate and IFI Sector among others.

Following this, participants discussed the lack of data on the impacts of renewable energy development on cetaceans, sharks and rays, and their interest in sharing any data available. Regarding the mortality data, participants enquired about the format and field descriptions and expressed interest in the creation of guidelines relating to the compilation. A recommendation was made to make use of the ETF Technical Working Group to focus on implementing Decision 14.209 of CMS COP14 on the collation of mortality data for birds and bats and coordination with other CMS task forces.

Within a renewed discussion on private sector engagement, several members shared their experiences of their respective organisations engaging with private sector actors, to provide an idea for the creation of a similar model for the ETF. There were responses from participants on BirdLife Europe and Central Asia (ECA) participation in the Offshore Coalition for Energy and Nature ([OCEaN Coalition](#)) which is coordinated by RGI US DFC's engagement with corporates; UNEP-WCMC's engagement through the [Proteus Partnership](#); GBatNet's engagement through bat and wind energy cooperative (BWEC); BirdLife South Africa's engagement with wind energy companies; IUCN's engagement with companies through specific initiatives; and the CMS, ASCOBANS and ACCOBAMS Joint Noise Working Group's industry advisory group, among others. It was decided to establish a Marine Species Working Group, to focus on cetaceans, with representatives from New Zealand, IUCN, and UNEP-WCMC volunteering to lead this work.

Mr Ramírez shared information on the COP Decisions 14.204 & 14.206 *Impact Assessment and Migratory Species* directed to Parties and Secretariat, respectively. This was followed by several participants sharing their national experiences and opinions on the creation of cumulative impact assessments, offering to share data collected by them in their country and along flyways and seeking guidance from the ETF for the creation of such assessments which could also potentially be helpful for corporates. Mr Perret noted the programme in France on cumulative impacts and Ms Rachel Asante-Owusu (IUCN) also flagged the ongoing creation of IUCN guidelines on Cumulative Impact Assessments, in collaboration with BirdLife International and other project partners, which could be useful for the ETF. Other key considerations included the scale (local and regional governmental level) and scope (flyways for migratory birds), data on flight height and the importance of data collection on site, especially for bats, and the need to include this in any future workplan.

Participants also recommended brainstorming further on how the available ETF tools, guidelines and guidance could be translated at the national level and the need for new members, especially corporates, to adhere to these guidelines within the ambit of all their activities. Alicia De la Cruz Novey (U.S. International Development Finance Corporation (DFC)) and Vera Veranova (Association for the Conservation of Biodiversity of Kazakhstan (ACBK)), volunteered to be a part of a working group on this.

Agenda item 7 – Spotlight on ETF Members

Manon Quetstroey (RGI) gave an overview of the organisation and the project [SafeLines4Birds](#), co-financed by the LIFE Programme, outlining the objectives of the project, target species, achievements, learnings and future plans.

A presentation from Antonio Vulcano (BirdLife ECA) followed, which focused on the first two steps of the mitigation hierarchy, i.e., Avoidance and minimisation, by sharing some examples of sensitivity maps created by the organisation for Poland, Portugal and Spain. Discussion followed, including the possibility of adapting the BirdLife mapping to include bat data.

Agenda item 8 – Launch of Small Grant Fund

Ms Niven shared the grant eligibility, methodology of application, information on grant disbursement and the documents required to be submitted, before officially launching the Small Grant Fund and encouraging all to apply.

Agenda item 9 – Election of Chair/Vice Chair

Borja Heredia was elected as the new Chairperson of the ETF, with Lori Anna Conzo being elected to continue as the Vice Chair of the ETF.

Agenda item 10 – ETF Priorities for 2024

Ms Niven, outlined guiding questions, followed by Mr Ramírez (CMS Secretariat) encouraging the participants to review the [ETF Workplan 2021 – 2024](#), and asking them for suggestions on improving the workplan, increasing the scope of the mandate, highlighting new priorities for 2024 and the development of a new workplan for endorsement at ETF8, and encouraged provision of funding to support ongoing and specific activities. The following ideas were raised for prioritisation:

- The need for additional guidance on mitigating the impact of hydropower on migratory species.
- A transfer of knowledge and linking more efficiently with other initiatives or taskforces that members and observers are a part of, such as the [Saker Falcon Taskforce](#), and [OCEaN](#), among others.
- Countries with growing renewable energy ambitions, such as Italy and Poland, should be encouraged to join the ETF and utilise spatial planning.
- The issue of decommissioning should be prioritised, based on the availability of capacity, and knowledge-sharing be encouraged between relevant platforms.
- Creation of a working group on the impact of renewable energy development on bats, to focus on the following:
 - Establishing a platform of bat experts from emerging economies and developing countries to understand their requirements, relating to bat data.
 - Development of a short memo indicating primary needs and implementable solutions for bat mitigation to be prioritised as a deliverable for the new workplan.
 - A focus on capacity building to understand how technical guidelines can be fine-tuned to be efficient in other regions.
 - Ms Frick, Eleanor (Kate) Richardson, Mr Voigt, and Mr Adamczyk volunteered to establish the working group on bats.
- Complete a mapping exercise to compile information on what projects members and observers are planning to undertake so to best leverage those efforts, after a review of the recent survey results.
- Prioritise responsible sourcing guidance, such as the impact of deep-sea mining impacts, as this can be a bigger issue in some places than offshore wind farms.
- ETF endorsed developing an approach to collision risk modelling for bats could be useful, along with guidance on methodology for data collection and utilisation of this data.
- Focusing on marine migratory species, starting with cetaceans, by expanding ETF to cetacean expertise and others. The inclusion of migratory fish and eels is to be considered as if there are relevant CMS resolutions. Jenny Renell, Helen Clavero Sousa, Mr Taylor and Ms Costa-Domingo volunteered to establish the Marine Species Working Group.

- Creation of a timeframe to guide engagement within CBD COP and UNFCCC COP
- Establish a working group to draft a new programme of work, including an action to review how ETF tools and guidance can be translated at the national level, and further build capacity to finetune guidelines and make them region-specific.

Annex 1. Working Groups – identification and nominations

- 1) Guidance on creation of a mortality database, under the Technical Working Group:
 - BirdLife International – Tris Allinson
 - GBatNet – Winifred Frick
 - IUCN – Rainer Raab
 - IUCN Mediterranean Center - Helena Clavero Sousa
 - RGI – Manon Quetstroey
 - BirdLife South Africa – Samantha Ralston Paton
 - USGS – Jay Diffendorfer
 - NCE – Khaled Noby
 - BankWatch – Andrey Ralev

- 2) Private Sector Engagement
 - IRENA – Ute Collier
 - RGI – Manon Quetstroey
 - ACBK – Vera Voronova
 - US DFC – Alicia De la Cruz-Novey

- 3) Marine Species (Cetaceans)
 - CMS Secretariat – Jenny Renell
 - UNEP-WCMC – Giulia Costa-Domingo
 - IUCN Mediterranean Center – Helena Clavero Sousa
 - New Zealand Department of Conservation – Graeme Taylor

- 4) Mitigating impacts on Bats
 - GBatNet – Winifred Frick
 - EUROBATS – Christian Voigt
 - EBRD – Robert Adamczyk
 - SABAA – Eleanor (Kate) Richardson
 - CBCGDF – Linda Wong

- 5) Future Programme of Work
 - EUROBATS – Christian Voigt

Annex 2. List of participants

In-person

Abdullah Almutairi	Saudi Arabia
Alicia De la Cruz-Novey	US DFC
Andrey Ralev	Bankwatch
Antonio Vulcano	BirdLife ECA
Borja Heredia	Spain
Christian Voigt	EUROBATS
Giulia Costa Domingo	UNEP WCMC
Grace Chandler	UNEP WCMC
Helena Clavero Sousa	IUCN - Mediterranean Center
Iván Ramírez	CMS Secretariat
Jay Diffendorfer	USGS
Khaled Noby Mohamed	NCE
Manon Quetstroey	RGI
Manoswini Sarkar	BirdLife International
Michel Perret	France
Noemí Rueda García	Spain
Portia Makitla	South Africa
Rachel Asante-Owusu	IUCN
Rainer Raab	IUCN
Rhiannon Niven	BirdLife International
Robert Adamczyk	EBRD
Rubén Moreno-Opo	Spain
Slavka Urbanova	IUCN
Tilman Schneider	CMS Secretariat
Tris Allinson	BirdLife International
Ute Collier	IRENA
Vera Voronova	ACBK
Wid Daggag	Saudi Arabia
Winifred Frick	GBatNet

Online

Ali Mahmoud Khazma	RCREEE
András Schmidt	Hungary
Ana Carricondo	SEO/BirdLife
Berit Gewert	Germany
Catherine Numa	IUCN - Mediterranean Center
Duncan Lang	ADB
Eleanor (Kate) Richardson	SABAA
Eva Fejes	Hungary
Graeme Taylor	New Zealand
Janusz Sielicki	IAF
Jenny Renell	CMS Secretariat
John Gibbs	BirdLife South Africa
Kenichi Kitamura	UNFCCC Secretariat
Khadija Bourass	GREPOM
Lauren Lopes	CMS Raptors MOU Coordinating Unit
Liam Innis	RGI
Linda Wong	CBCGDF
Marcos de Souza Fialho	Brazil
Mark Carey	Australia
Mimi Kessler	IUCN
Noam Leader	Israel
Samantha Ralston-Paton	BirdLife South Africa
Tristan Tyrrell	CBD Secretariat
Yanjun Xu	CBCGDF

Annex 3. Summary of Agreed Actions

- 1) Establish a process to increase engagement with the CMS Intersessional Working Group on Linear Infrastructure.
- 2) Develop guidance on taxonomies for EIAs and SEAs.
- 3) Develop guidance on managing hydropower impacts on migratory fish.
- 4) Develop guidance on bioenergy.
- 5) Develop guidance on responsible sourcing of materials for renewable energy.
- 6) Establish a Marine Species Working Group (cetaceans).
- 7) Focus on onshore wind farm impacts on shorebirds and offshore wind farm impacts on seabirds.
- 8) Focus on regions beyond Western Europe, especially Eastern Europe, for publication of technical guidance.
- 9) Increase engagement between ETF-CBD, ETF-UNFCCC, and ETF-IRENA, with clear timelines of activities and identification of synergistic action.
- 10) Increase collaboration across the CMS Family and ETF efforts, with ETF members regularly attending meetings of the Saker Falcon Task Force and Raptors MOU.
- 11) Establish a working group to guide engagement with the private sector.
- 12) Establish a sub-group on mortality database, under the Technical Working Group.
- 13) Develop guidance on Cumulative Impact Assessments (ongoing – project led by IUCN).
- 14) Increase knowledge sharing with other coalitions and initiatives ETF members and observers as a part of exploring further collaboration, e.g., OCEaN Coalition, CLEANaction, International Association for Falconry (IAF) and International Association for Impact Assessment (IAIA), among others.
- 15) Establish a working group on mitigating impacts on bats.
- 16) Develop a short memo on mitigating impacts on bats, led by the new bat working group.
- 17) Develop guidance on methodology for data collection and utilisation of this data for collision risk modelling for bats.
- 18) Establish a working group to draft a new programme of work, including an action to review how ETF tools and guidance can be translated at the national level, and further building capacity to finetune guidelines and make them region-specific.
- 19) Map ongoing projects and collaborations within the ETF partnership to leverage these initiatives for greater impact.