

**8<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the CMS  
Multi-Stakeholder Energy Task Force**

*16-17 September 2025, Online*

ETF8/Doc.4

**REPORT FROM THE BAT MITIGATION WORKING GROUP**



## Background of the Working Group

The goals of the Bat Mitigation Working Group, led by Ms. Winifred Frick from Bat Conservation International (BCI), are to assess, document, and inform global perspectives on how wind energy impacts migratory bats, and how to reduce this impact. The group was launched in September 2024 as a new entity including experts from North America, Africa, Australia, Europe, and Asia. Millions of bats are killed each year at wind energy facilities, and migratory bat species have heightened risk of high mortality from this threat. Effective solutions are known, including siting facilities away from key bat habitat, adjusting blade angle to minimize rotation at low wind speeds, and increasing cut-in speeds to 5-6 m/s. Yet adoption without regulation is rare due to small energy production costs and competitive energy markets. Expansion of wind energy, especially into new regions in the Global South, is expected to have increased impact on bats. Spreading understanding of how to reduce bat fatalities at wind energy facilities is an important conservation action in preventing the extinction of migratory bat species. Policy changes regulating standardized adoption could equalize the playing field for wind energy facilities and reduce bat fatalities.

## Outputs

In the past year, the group has focused on building networks, gathering information, and spreading awareness of this problem. The group has drafted two Fact Sheets that are in final review. One is about migratory bats and conservation, and the other is about bats and wind energy with a global perspective informed by two virtual workshops. These Fact Sheets are scheduled for review and approval by ETF members at the ETF8 meeting.

Two virtual workshop sessions were also conducted in April 2025, which connected a network of global experts, as experts from South America, the Caribbean, North America, Africa, Australia, Europe, and Asia presented an overview of the challenges and strengths relevant to the bats and wind issue in their part of the world. The group is currently writing an academic paper summarizing the content of these workshops. In January 2025, the group submitted an IUCN motion to address bat fatalities at wind energy facilities and promote solutions. Backed by multiple co-sponsors, the motion was accepted without revision and will be voted on at the IUCN World Conservation Congress this fall. Its adoption would raise global awareness and position the issue as a conservation priority.

Michael Whitby (BCI) delivered a webinar summary in support of this motion prior to the start of the voting period.

## Discussion Questions

- How can the group drive policy change to ensure consistent implementation of proven bat protection measures across wind energy facilities, creating a fair and biodiversity-conscious industry standard?
- How can a global network of bats and wind experts learn from each-others' strengths and mistakes, making each region's response to this problem move forward more efficiently?
- To what extent can the group/ETF apply solutions tested and shown to be effective in one region to other wind facilities in other regions that have not yet tested those solutions?
- How can the group/ETF streamline access to databases that can help wind energy facilities efficiently assess bat ecology at a given facility?
- How can the group/ETF encourage funding for ongoing research into technology that minimizes fatalities?