UN environment programme

Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals

CMS

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

16-17 September 2025, Online

ETF8/Doc.5

PROGRESS REPORT OF SMALL GRANT FUND

(Prepared by Bat Conservation International)

Introduction

This document contains an update on the progress of Bat Conservation International's ETF Small Grant, which launched an ETF Bat Mitigation Working Group in the fall of 2024. This working group is meant to assess, document, and inform global perspectives on how wind energy impacts migratory bats. The document is prepared by Dr. Winifred F. Frick of Bat Conservation International with the purpose of describing progress and actions made towards fulfilling the ETF Small Grant award, and to provide recommendations for discussions and next steps for the Bat Mitigation Working Group. This document complements the ETF Bat Mitigation Working Group Report, which summarizes the Working Group's background, output, and questions for discussion.

Section 1: Basic Report Information

1) Grant Number	N/A
2) Project Title:	Launching an ETF Bat Working Group
3) Name of organisation/partners:	Bat Conservation International
4) Project start date:	November 13, 2024
5) Project end date:	November 11, 2025

Section 2: Project's description

Share 800 words report on the project's progress which include, but not limited to: 1) Background of the project 2) Performance/ Status of the project during this period, including noteworthy results 3) Objectives unfulfilled during this period with explanation, including management plans or adjustments needed 4) Unanticipated risks encountered and how they were managed 5) Plans for improving any aspects of the remaining project. Upload any complimentary reports, photos, news articles, press releases, maps, etc. that are relevant to the project and have not been uploaded previously.	This project was established to launch a Bat Mitigation Working Group that could assess, document, and inform global perspectives on how wind energy impacts migratory bats through conducting virtual workshops, producing two fact sheets, and recording a webinar. Millions of bats are killed each year at wind energy facilities, and migratory bat species have heightened risk of high mortality from this threat. Spreading understanding of how to reduce bat fatalities while supporting renewable energy is an important conservation action in preventing the extinction of migratory bat species. To date, Bat Conservation International has fulfilled several components of our project. We have formally convened a Bat Mitigation Working Group and appointed a Chair and Vice Chair for the group, which includes experts from North America, Africa, Australia, Europe, and Asia. The Bat Mitigation Working Group has compiled information and written a Fact Sheet about migratory bats and conservation, which is

	currently in review. We have also written a Fact Sheet about bats and wind energy that incorporates a regional perspective gained from the Virtual Workshop we hosted, and this is also in review. We planned and executed two virtual workshop sessions about bats and wind energy facilities for experts from all regions of the globe. These sessions connected experts in a network, and as each region had an expert present an overview of the challenges and strengths relevant to the bats and wind issue in their part of the world, participants were educated and these factors were documented to inform current and future projects. Currently, they inform our fact sheets, but also the working group will be writing an academic paper based on these perspectives. In addition, the working group identified another goal: submitting an IUCN motion to recognize the challenge of and solutions to bat fatalities at wind energy facilities. The group wrote this motion and gathered multiple co-sponsors for submission. This motion was submitted in January 2025, and accepted without revision to be presented for a vote this fall by members of the IUCN World Conservation Congress, where it should spread awareness of this issue to a global conservation community. During the period from November 2024 until now, we rescheduled some of our anticipated dates. Our virtual workshop sessions took place in April 2025, which was later than expected due to two factors: setting the new goal of submitting an IUCN motion by the mid January deadline pushed other goals back a bit, and then scheduling difficulties of convening multiple busy experts was difficult. We originally anticipated having one workshop devoted solely to reporting on the results of the first, but we found that communicating outcomes was possible without meeting again by sending out materials to participants, and that meeting further would be most valuable as arranged for writing an academic paper. The two fact sheets we wrote are in review now, but were brought to this stage later than expected. This timing change occurred

	because we waited to see how we could incorporate elements of the virtual workshops, which were delayed for matching schedules. However, we are on track to submit them well before November, the date we anticipated in our proposal. One difficulty we encountered was the problem of scheduling a Virtual Workshop which would include attendees from multiple continents and vastly different time zones. One of the primary goals of the workshop was to connect experts from different regions and have each region present a picture of their challenges and strengths. Our solution to this problem was to host two sessions to offer timing options, and have regional experts submit slide presentations summarizing their own bats and wind issues. That way, we could present all regional slides at each session, even though experts attended only one. For the remaining time duration of our project, we will focus on finalizing translations of the Fact Sheets, planning the webinar, and continuing meetings of the Bat Mitigation Working Group. We will also send our Vice Chair to the 2025 ETF meeting as a representative of the group. We have improved on original plans by considering how to incorporate regional experts from the virtual workshop into our Webinar recording. And we look forward to hearing the outcome of the IUCN WCC vote on our motion to recognize the bats and wind issue and solutions as a conservation priority.

Activities/Deliverable Updates

Activity #	Activity Description	Update	Action	Financial Expenditure*
1	*Start-up working group meetings, IUCN Motion submission*	Motion submitted and accepted without revision for a vote this fall	We wrote this motion, gathered comments, generated support, and received acceptance	$1681.88
2	*Fact Sheet 1*	Final draft is in review	We wrote and designed this fact sheet, and gathered reviews.	$1333.87
3	*Fact Sheet 2*	Final draft is in review	We wrote and designed this fact sheet, and gathered reviews.	$1333.87
4	*Virtual Workshops*	Completed	We invited experts, scheduled meetings, designed content, and conducted these workshops.	$1575.96
5	*Summary to Participants*	Completed	We emailed summary notes and links to all documents from presentations and comparative perspective gathering.	$337.29
6	*Webinar Recording*	In prep	We are planning the content for this webinar	TBD
7	*Vice Chair to attend 2025 ETF meeting*	Planned		TBD
8	*Finalise and translate Fact Sheets*	Not started		TBD
9	*Final Report to ETF*	Not started		TBD

**Note that any costs that go above $10,000 will be contributed by BCI as in-kind*

Short Terms Impact Updates

Impact from Proposal	Description of Progress to Date	Status	Action
A global network of bats and wind experts	Forming the Bat Mitigation Working Group has already connected experts from around the world	Complete	Regular meetings and communication between members of ETF Bat Mitigation Working Group
Increased global awareness of the challenges and solutions for bats and wind among diverse conservation organizations	This motion was accepted and will be voted on by members of the IUCN WCC this fall	Accepted, waiting for vote from members	Submitting an IUCN motion to recognize the impact of wind energy on bats and the solutions available to minimize bat fatalities
A regionally representative network of bats and wind experts	Our virtual workshop established connections between bats and wind experts from Australia, Asia, Europe, Africa, South America, and North America	These connections are established and are expected to grow	Conducting a regionally representative virtual workshop on bats and wind
Increased understanding of comparative challenges and strengths for regional treatment of the bats and wind problem	We gathered thoughts on challenges and strengths from experts representing diverse regions in a virtual workshop	We have gathered and processed this information by sending it out to all participants and including some knowledge gained in a Fact Sheet	We gathered perspectives at a virtual workshop
Increased sources of information about conservation issues for migratory bats readily available	We have written and designed a Fact Sheet on this topic.	This product is in final review	This will be released on the ETF website
Increased sources of information about bats and wind readily available	We have written and designed a Fact Sheet on this topic.	This product is in final review	This will be released on the ETF website

Recommendations and Follow up Questions

Based on the success of launching a Bat Mitigation Working Group that includes global experts on bats and wind, and the broad support for our submitted IUCN motion, we recommend that the Bat Mitigation Working Group continue regular meetings to develop further partnerships and ideas for disseminating information and generating support for this conservation issue. We suggest the following list of questions to spark conversations about how to best address the problems and solutions of reducing bat fatalities at wind energy facilities.

- How can we encourage policy change to regulate the implementation of known solutions, equalizing the playing field for wind energy facilities that act to protect bats?
- 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 we 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 we streamline access to databases that can help wind energy facilities efficiently assess bat ecology at a given facility?
- How can we encourage funding for ongoing research into technology that minimizes fatalities?