

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

16 – 17 September 2025, Online

ETF8/Doc.6

REPORT FROM THE TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP



Background of the Working Group

At the Seventh Meeting of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) Energy Task Force (ETF), which took place in Madrid, Spain in April 2024, the Technical Working Group (TWG) was tasked with investigating the desirability and practicality of developing a global database of post-construction fatality monitoring data from energy infrastructure projects.

Membership of the TWG was expanded to include additional ETF members with an interest in this topic. The full list of participants is presented below;

- **Tris Allinson**, *BirdLife International (Chair)*
- **Liam Innis**, *Renewables Grid Initiative (RGI)*
- **Winifred Frick**, *GBatNet*
- **Rainer Raab**, *International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)*
- **Helena Clavero Sousa**, *IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation*
- **Samantha Ralston Paton**, *BirdLife South Africa*
- **Jay Diffendorfer**, *United States Geological Survey (USGS)*
- **Khaled Noby**, *Nature Conservation Egypt (NCE)*
- **Andrey Ralev**, *CEE BankWatch Network*
- **Oscar Mohale**, *Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT)*
- **Nikos Tsiopelas**, *Hellenic Ornithological Society*
- **Danka Uzunova**, *Macedonian Ecological Society*
- **Kerri Woodcock**, *Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW)*
- **Alicia De La Cruz-Novey**, *U.S. International Development Finance Corporation (US DFC)*

Workshops were convened to address the following questions;

- What purpose would be served by a global database of post-construction fatality monitoring data at energy infrastructure projects?
- Should the database be a simple data repository or incorporate tools for carrying out analysis such as producing fatality estimate and sensitivity maps?
- What taxa (birds, bats, other mammals etc.) and what infrastructure types (powerlines, wind turbines etc.) should be included?
- What kind of data should be collated - academic research, industry monitoring, ad hoc citizen science etc.?
- What similar databases already exist or are planned?
- Who might host and who might fund such a database?

Summary of findings

There was a consensus that a global database of post-construction fatality monitoring data at energy projects would be highly beneficial. Such data is essential for understanding the nature of the impact, identifying mortality hotspots and for creating solutions such as sensitivity maps. It was recognised that increasingly the collection of such data is being mandated by lenders and undertaken by developers and grid operators. With so much data being collected, and so much potential for useful analysis, the TWG believe it is paramount that the best use is made of this information.

It was recognised that there currently exists a reticence from some developers and grid operators to make data available to researchers and civil society. It was agreed that the ETF could play an important role in encouraging these groups to see the value in opening access to data.

It was agreed that the most appropriate database would be one flexible enough to accommodate a range of different data types – from systematic surveys to ad hoc records.

It was agreed that ideally a database would be more than a simple repository for data but instead linked to dynamic analytical tools.

Despite wide consensus regarding the importance of a fatality database there was limited appetite amongst existing ETF members to host such a database or to provide the funding needed to establish one.

Efforts to identify similar existing databases revealed the [American Wind Wildlife Information Center's \(AWWIC\)](#) database of post-construction fatality monitoring data from U.S. wind projects and [RISKY](#), a digital platform incorporating a database of wildlife mortality data caused by electrocutions and collisions at energy and transport infrastructures. RISKY in particular, was identified as highly relevant initiative, which met many of the criteria that the TWG had identified as a priority.

What is RISKY

RISKY is a consortium of four research institutions supported by GBIF Portugal and Spain as well as the Renewables Grid Initiative. It is funded by OSCARS (Open Science Clusters' Action for Research and Society) under the European Commission's Horizon Europe Research and Innovation Program.

Its main goals are to:

- Integrate and mobilize open-access data on wildlife mortality from energy and transport infrastructure.
- Create analytical tools to explore, analyse, and predict impacts, identifying high-risk areas and trends.
- Forecast effects on terrestrial vertebrate populations using robust modelling approaches.
- Deliver science-based and cost-effective mitigation guidance.
- Ensure transparency and foster collaboration through open access to data, tools, and findings.

RISKY encompasses a centralized, open-access platform to aggregate and standardize wildlife mortality data. As well as providing a repository for industry and researcher data it aims to build citizen science engagement by linking to numerous apps around the world that enable users to record wildlife mortality events linked to energy and transport infrastructures. RISKY also incorporates several analytical, predictive, and visualization tools to assess infrastructure impacts on wildlife. These include tools to calculate mortality rates, identify hotspots, estimate extinction risk and create sensitivity maps.

Recommendations

The TWG makes the following recommendation to the wider ETF.

- A global database of post-construction fatality monitoring data at energy infrastructure projects is key to understanding the impacts on migratory wildlife of energy infrastructure and to devising effective nature-safe solutions.
- Funding, creating and maintaining such a database is challenging and time-consuming and therefore an ideal situation would be for the CMS ETF to find an existing initiative to support and strengthen.
- The TWG believes that the RISKY initiative meets many of the requirements identified as important to a global database of fatality data. The TWG also believes that the support and endorsement of the CMS ETF will be mutually beneficial and could help secure the long-term sustainability of the RISKY project.
- The TWG intends to recommend to ETF members at their eight meeting to consider formal alignment with the RISKY initiative.