

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

*16-17 September 2025, Online*

ETF8/Doc.7

### ETF WORKPLAN 2025 - 2032

1. This workplan guides the work for the CMS Energy Task (ETF), following the successful implementation of the ETF Workplan 2021 – 2024. It was developed to guide the activities of the ETF until 2032, following the Samarkand Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2024 – 2032, adopted at the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals COP14 in Samarkand, Uzbekistan.
2. This Workplan was developed by the Working Group on ‘Future Programme of Work’ that was created during the 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ETF (ETF7). It was chaired by Ms. Manoswini Sarkar (BirdLife International) and Mr. Mark Carey (Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water, Government of Australia). Its members included Christian Voigt (UNEP/EUROBATS), Michel Perret (France), Tris Allinson (BirdLife International), Andrey Ralev (Bankwatch), Kyle Esperanza Zuleta (East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership - EAAFP), Yoon Lee (EAAFP), Jennifer Balachowski (United States International Development Finance Corporation), Cathy Yitong Li (BirdLife International), and Leonie Pies (CMS Secretariat).
3. In December 2024, a meeting was held with the members of the working group to get their views on the approach for developing the new workplan, i.e. the first approach involved recreating a new theory of change, and the second approach focused on maintaining the structure of the current workplan. The working group voted for the latter.
4. Over the subsequent months, the group developed the draft for the new workplan, drawing from various sources such as the [ETF Work Plan 2021 - 2024](#), [CMS COP14 Decisions](#) (directed to the ETF), [CMS Samarkand Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2024 - 2032](#), [ETF7 Workplan Progress](#), [Priorities identified during ETF7](#), [Recommended research priorities from the Technical Work Group](#) and priorities identified from a survey undertaken in 2024. In February 2025, a meeting was convened with the working group again to gather their feedback on the workplan draft.
5. Following no substantial changes, two workshops were held in March 2025 with the entire ETF membership to gather their inputs on the draft. Some valuable feedback was received from both ETF Members and Observers in both workshops. The draft was then kept open for an additional two weeks to receive further comments.
6. It is proposed that this Workplan becomes be a rolling document, which will be updated annually at ETF meetings.

Recommended actions:

7. The ETF is recommended to:
  - a) review the draft workplan contained in the Annex of this document.
  - b) provide guidance on the next steps and timeline for the finalisation of the workplan.
  - c) highlight priorities within this workplan for the coming year.

## ANNEX

## WORKPLAN 2025 - 2032

| Item | Action  | Responsible Entities  | Deliverables   | Funding needs (Core, In-kind, Subject to external resources) |
|------|---|---|--|--|
| 1    | <b>Theme:</b> Priority Setting<br><b>Expected Result:</b> Workplan reflects priorities  |   |  |  |
| 1.1. | Review the progress of workplan implementation at annual and interim meetings to identify rolling priority activities in line with CMS Resolutions 11.27 (Rev.COP13) and 10.11 (Rev.COP13) and Samarkand Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2024 -2032.                                   | All ETF members, Working Group Chairs, Coordinator, and CMS Secretariat | Review of progress, prioritisation of action points and update of the workplan based on outputs of meetings, new research findings and case studies. | In-kind  |
| 1.2. | Review the work of ETF working groups at ETF meetings, including the possibility to establish new ones, to implement any newly identified priorities.   | All ETF members, Working Group Chairs, Coordinator, and CMS Secretariat | Review the progress of working groups to address newly identified ETF priorities, with clear action plans and measurable outcomes.                   | In-kind  |
| 1.3  | Regularly report implementation of the workplan through the CMS Scientific Council to the Conference of the Parties (COP).  | Coordinator, CMS Secretariat, ETF members, and Working Group Chairs     | Prepare progress reports to each Scientific Council meeting and to each COP, including outlining ETF priorities, key gaps and new guidelines.        | Core   |
| 2    | <b>Theme:</b> Build synergies with other Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs), Task Forces and Working Groups across the CMS Family<br><b>Expected Result:</b> Strengthened coordination and collaboration across MEAs and CMS instruments to enhance efforts on shared priorities. |   |  |  |

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|------|---|--|---|--|
| 2.1. | Engage and collaborate with relevant MEAs and international processes on reconciling energy transition with nature.   | ETF members (including ETF Coordinator and CMS Secretariat)                          | Monitoring and advocacy for the integration of biodiversity within the energy sector through policy briefs, dialogues, and cross-sector engagement through attendance, presentation and hosting side events at key global conventions.                      | In-kind  |
| 2.2. | Engage national focal points from CMS Parties and CMS Family Instruments, relevant MEAs, international organisations, and relevant national ministries and authorities to inform them of the work of CMS-endorsed guidelines, research and upcoming ETF events.   | Coordinator, CMS Secretariat, and ETF members  | Building and maintaining strong connections with CMS national focal points, relevant national ministries like energy, climate or environment, and other relevant MEAs; international organisations and CMS instruments like Task Forces and Working Groups. | In-kind  |
| 3    | <p><b>Theme:</b> Facilitate the development of guidance and promotion of further research to expand the evidence base to inform planning and mitigation decisions</p> <p><b>Expected Result:</b> Develop actionable guidance derived from this research and get them reviewed by the CMS Scientific Council and adopted by Parties at COP</p> |  |   |  |
| 3.1. | Facilitate the development of guidance on collation and utilisation of biodiversity data, for collision risk modeling to inform robust spatial planning and sensitivity mapping.  | ETF Members, led by the Technical Working Group (supported by Coordinator as needed) | Development of comprehensive guidelines.  | Subject to external resources                                |
| 3.2. | Facilitate the creation of guidance on taxonomies for environmental and social impact assessments (ESIAs)   | ETF Members, led by the Technical Working Group (supported by Coordinator as needed) | Production of standardised taxonomies and frameworks to enhance the consistency and effectiveness of ESIAs and  | Subject to external resources                                |

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|      | and Cumulative Impact Assessment (CIA).   |  | CIAs in evaluating environmental and social impacts.  |  |
| 3.3. | Coordinate the establishment of species-specific or species-group guidance and dissemination of guidelines on the impacts of renewable energies.  | ETF Members, led by the Technical Working Group (supported by Coordinator as needed) | Development and dissemination of guidance in collaboration with existing CMS Family Instruments.  | Subject to external resources                                |
| 3.4. | Coordinate the development of comprehensive guidance and promotion of research in identified understudied areas, including population-level impacts, novel technologies, and the efficacy and technical constraints of mitigation and compensation offsets. | ETF Members, led by the Technical Working Group (supported by Coordinator as needed) | Development of comprehensive guidance and facilitation of research initiatives and providing actionable recommendations based on findings.          | Subject to external resources                                |
| 3.5. | Reviewing existing ETF resources to identify gaps and evaluating the need to develop further relevant, updated guidance.  | ETF Members, led by the Technical Working Group                                      | Conducting a gap analysis of existing ETF resources, identifying areas requiring more guidance and providing recommendations for their improvement. | In-kind and subject to external resources                    |
| 4    | <p><b>Theme:</b> Promote mainstreaming of migratory species conservation into corporate and financial decision-making</p> <p><b>Expected Result:</b> Appropriate safeguards are integrated into corporate and financial decision-making</p>                 |  |   |  |
| 4.1. | Revise and implement the private sector engagement strategy, by identifying stakeholders, building partnerships, fostering collaboration and establishing pilot initiatives with relevant stakeholders in the renewable energy sector.                      | Private Sector Engagement Working Group  | Rolling out and the implementation of the private sector engagement strategy in collaboration with the CMS Species Champion Programme.              | In-kind  |

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|------|--|---|--|--|
| 4.2. | Promotion of ETF at key global and regional energy forums and summits, and industry events, to support the integration of best practices into industry policies and safeguards.  | Private Sector Engagement Working Group, other ETF Members, Coordinator and CMS Secretariat | Securing speaking engagements for ETF members, hosting side events, and participating in relevant discussions to advocate for and support the incorporation of best practices into industry policies, regulations, and safeguard frameworks. | In-kind  |
| 4.3. | Identify relevant stakeholders in the financial institutions, build partnerships, foster collaboration and establish pilot initiatives with relevant stakeholders in the financial sector, using the IFI engagement package. | Coordinator and CMS Secretariat   | Identification and engagement of key stakeholders in the financial sector, and establishing strategic partnerships and launching pilot initiatives with financiers to align funding and investment strategies with ETF goals.                | In-kind  |
| 4.4. | Encourage the international funding community to mainstream nature-energy nexus into funding strategies.   | ETF members using their networks and partners, Coordinator, CMS Secretariat supporting      | Working with international donor organisations to incorporate biodiversity considerations into funding plans and strategies.   | In-kind  |
| 5    | <b>Theme:</b> Fundraising and mobilising resources<br><b>Expected Result:</b> Priority activities identified and funded  |   |  |  |
| 5.1. | Update the fundraising strategy by identifying key funding priorities and opportunities to raise funds to support the implementation of key ETF activities.  | ETF key members (IFIs, IGOs, NGOs), supported by Coordinator and CMS Secretariat            | Development of a comprehensive funding strategy and identification of key funding opportunities.   | In-kind  |

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| 5.2. | Prepare funding and grant proposals to implement the workplan, and support members to carry out national activities.  | ETF Members from all sectors, supported by Coordinator and CMS Secretariat   | Preparation and submission of grant proposals to secure funding for implementation, including development of tools.   | In-kind  |
| 5.3. | Identify projects aligned with ETF goals by members through the ETF Small Grant Fund.   | Coordinator, CMS Secretariat and ETF members   | Identification and selection of projects annually to receive the Small Grant Fund.  | Subject to external resources                                |
| 6    | <b>Theme:</b> Strengthening and expanding regional and international reach<br><b>Expected Result:</b> Enhance ETF engagement in regional and international reach  |  |   |  |
| 6.1. | Expand regional engagement and advocacy to grow ETF engagement in the Americas, Africa, Asia Pacific and other areas by implementing the geographic expansion strategy.   | ETF members from relevant regions, Coordinator, CMS Secretariat and other internationally/globally operating ETF members | Expanding ETF's regional engagement for enhancing participation, partnership, and engagement with ETF activities.   | Subject to external resources                                |
| 6.2. | Translate specific guidance into the official languages of the UN, pending budgetary resources and need.  | Coordinator and external consultant (subject to funding); ETF members in-kind  | Identification of key ETF guidance documents and translation into relevant languages.   | Subject to external resources                                |
| 7    | <b>Theme:</b> Promoting outreach and encouraging information exchange with relevant stakeholders<br><b>Expected Result:</b> Improved collaboration and knowledge exchange with relevant stakeholders within and beyond the ETF through an effective communications strategy |  |   |  |
| 7.1. | Revise and implement the ETF communications strategy to increase external visibility and coordinate with the communication plans and strategies of other CMS instruments.   | ETF members (incl. their Comms mechanisms), Coordinator, and CMS Secretariat   | Implementation of the communication strategy through different communication channels and alignment with communications plans of other CMS instruments such as AEW, ACAP, Raptors MOU, Americas Flyway Task Force | In-kind  |

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|------|---|--|--|--|
|      |   |  | and the Flyways Working Group.   |  |
| 7.2. | Facilitate a regular exchange and flow of information, in terms of case studies, lessons learnt and best practices, between ETF members and relevant CMS initiatives and task forces. | Coordinator and CMS Secretariat, ETF members who have case studies | Development of case studies and best practices, to facilitate ongoing collaboration and knowledge sharing throughout the year.   | In-kind  |
| 7.3. | Scope opportunities for an ETF award scheme to award an ETF member/observer annually to recognise outstanding contributions.  | Coordinator and CMS Secretariat                                    | Launch of an ETF award scheme, recognising one outstanding ETF member/observer annually.   | Subject to external resources                                |
| 7.4. | Develop and promote the ETF network through a biannual newsletter.  | Coordinator  | Production and distribution of ETF newsletters to engage members and relevant stakeholders, showcasing key initiatives, research and other updates, such as outputs from the working groups. | In-kind  |
| 7.5. | Organising, supporting and disseminating events, webinars, and knowledge products at key international, regional, national forums.  | Coordinator, CMS Secretariat and ETF members                       | Organising webinars and developing materials tailored to specific stakeholder groups.  | Subject to external resources                                |
| 7.6. | Develop ETF website as a knowledge hub, disseminate research and other ETF outputs.   | Coordinator, CMS Secretariat and ETF members                       | Regularly updating the ETF website and developing a dedicated section/webpage for resources like guidance and case study repository.   | In-kind  |



## Discussion Questions

- 1) Which specific actions or themes within the workplan should ETF members prioritise in the coming year, considering available resources, regional needs, and opportunities for impact?
- 2) How can the ETF strengthen its geographical diversity and ensure meaningful engagement from underrepresented regions (e.g., Africa, the Americas, Asia-Pacific), so that the workplan reflects global perspectives and needs?
- 3) What strategies can the ETF adopt to strengthen communication of its outputs (guidance, case studies, research) to governments, industry, and civil society, while also improving synergies with other CMS instruments and MEAs to avoid duplication and amplify impact?
- 4) How can the ETF ensure that the technical guidance it develops is effectively mainstreamed into national policies, private sector practices, and financial decision-making to deliver tangible conservation outcomes?
- 5) How should the ETF best balance its rolling priority-setting mechanism with the broader goals of the *Samarkand Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2024–2032* and its proposed indicators.?