

**Online Meeting of the CMS  
Multi-Stakeholder Energy Task Force**

*25<sup>th</sup> October 2023, online*

CMS/ETF

**PRIVATE SECTOR ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY**

DRAFT

## Introduction

The purpose of this private sector engagement strategy (strategy) is to ensure that **the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) Energy Taskforce (ETF) is an influential community-of-practice, able to utilise its wealth of expertise to work effectively with the private sector to reconcile renewable energy development with the conservation of migratory species and ensure construction of energy developments occur with minimal impact on biodiversity.** In turn, this will help the CMS ETF realise its goal, as outlined in the [Terms of Reference](#), following the CMS [Code of Conduct for Partnerships with the Private Sector](#), for all energy developments to be undertaken in such a way that negative impacts on migratory species are avoided.

This strategy sets out how the CMS ETF will develop a partnership with the private sector, establish relationships with key actors and introduce pilot initiatives that demonstrate how to implement nature-safe renewable energy developments. As a result, it is expected that the CMS ETF further promotes the integration and application of guidelines relating to nature-safe renewable energy by private sector investors and renewable energy developers. The influence of CMS ETF over the practices of the private sector should also be reinforced, potentially leading to more funding opportunities that allow the CMS ETF to better deliver on its aims, objectives, and workplan.

## Key questions for discussion

- 1) How can renewable energy companies be encouraged to join the CMS ETF, develop strong and mutually beneficial partnerships, and what should the engagement model look like?
- 2) How can renewable energy companies contribute towards the better implementation of the work plan of the CMS ETF, e.g. financial, delivery support, other?
- 3) How can the geographical diversity of the strategy improve when it comes to engaging with renewable energy industry?

## **CMS ENERGY TASKFORCE PRIVATE SECTOR ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY (2023-2024)**

### **Overview**

Significant portions of the global land area are under private management and ownership, highlighting the importance of involving the private sector in biodiversity conservation to help halt and reverse the ongoing loss of biodiversity. Private sector actors are key stakeholders in the process of developing and implementing best practice measures to minimise the biodiversity impacts of development. Renewable energy developers are among these private sector actors, and thus have a key role to play in integrating the consideration of biodiversity impacts into the construction and operation of renewable energy developments. However, there are currently many renewable energy developers with only minimal awareness of the impact the siting and construction of renewable developments can have on biodiversity, that need to be engaged with to help drive changes in their practices for the benefit of biodiversity.

### **Aims and objectives**

As outlined in the [ETF Modus Operandi](#) and [ETF Workplan 2021-2024](#), the CMS ETF should engage with the private sector to promote best-practice and to mobilise the resources needed to demonstrate, through pilot initiatives, how nature-safe renewable energy development can be implemented. Private sector engagement is critical if the CMS ETF is going to drive the mainstreaming of safeguards for migratory species into due diligence procedures and renewable energy infrastructure plans going forward, as well as deliver on halting and reversing global biodiversity loss. To this end, this strategy should:

1. Develop partnerships that drive forward the mainstreaming of safeguards for migratory species in due diligence processes when investing in renewable energy and renewable energy infrastructure development plans.
2. Develop partnerships that can help inform the development of renewable energy projects that the CMS ETF may have an interest in influencing to address and avoid any potential negative impacts on migratory species.
3. Expand the membership of the CMS ETF, in line with the geographic expansion strategy, renewable energy industry associations in the Americas and Asia will be prioritised for engagement.

## **Stakeholder identification plan**

The first key component of the private sector engagement strategy is to identify the most suitable corporates to engage with. They will then be divided into three different thresholds based on the following criteria, dividing into three different priorities of engagement. Companies identified meeting these thresholds are recommended to explore partnerships to further the integration of safeguards for migratory species into industry-wide due diligence processes and for the development of pilot initiatives. The criteria are as follows:

### **1) High Priority (Minimum Thresholds)**

- The company has either not been involved in projects with related to reducing significant negative impacts biodiversity and/or migratory species or if so, has pursued only mitigation activities.
- Absence of robust environmental and social safeguarding policies.

### **2) Medium Priority (Mid-level Threshold)**

- The company has already made commitment to protect/minimise impact on biodiversity (e.g., to have a net positive impact), and/or reducing negative impacts on migratory species.
- Active in countries that have representation on the CMS ETF.

### **3) Low Priority (High-Level Threshold)**

- The company has integrated advice from the CMS ETF before into renewable energy development siting.
- Experience undertaking/demonstrable capacity to undertake pilot initiatives.
- Strong collaboration with nature organisations, Indigenous Peoples and local communities during development of projects.

## **Ways of engagement:**

- Private meetings to discuss opportunities for collaboration between the company and CMS ETF.
- Invitation to attend and/or co-host webinars on what the private sector can do to enhance nature-safe renewable energy development.
- Invitation to collaborate on guidance documents on how to design and implement nature-safe renewable energy projects.

**Stakeholder engagement plan**

Once the priority stakeholders have been identified, the following stakeholder engagement plan will be executed by the CMS ETF. Where appropriate, CMS ETF members may also support the execution of the stakeholder engagement phase of the strategy.

This stakeholder engagement plan below sets out each of the key stakeholders/stakeholder groups to engage within the next two-year period, the purpose of engaging with these groups, the method of engagement, and finally the timeline for this engagement. *Table 4* outlines examples of how different companies and ‘renewable energy developments’ could be engaged with and/or influenced by the CMS ETF through the strategy aims 1, 2, and 3.

Stakeholder name	Purpose of engagement	Methods of achieving stakeholder involvement	Schedule/date
<b>Aims 1 and 2</b>			
<a href="#">Iberdrola</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Actively demonstrating consideration of biodiversity impacts into renewable energy development.</li> <li>• Operate across Brazil, UK, Spain, Mexico, Canada, USA, Costa Rica, Portugal, France, Italy, Germany, Netherlands, Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria, Greece, Poland, Sweden, Norway, Vietnam, Malaysia, Philippines, Australia, Taiwan, South Korea, and Japan.</li> <li>• Input on how to design nature-safe renewable projects and provide a private-sector perspective on what materials may be useful for the CMS ETF to produce to guide pilot initiatives/nature-safe renewable energy development in areas of greater priority to the CMS ETF.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Private meetings to discuss opportunities for collaboration between the company and CMS ETF.</li> <li>• Invitation to attend and/or co-host webinars on what the private sector can do to enhance nature-safe renewable energy development.</li> <li>• Invitation to collaborate on guidance documents on how to design and implement nature-safe renewable energy projects.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meetings to scope collaboration to be scheduled for Q4 2023.</li> <li>• Remaining activities to be scheduled as appropriate when opportunities arise.</li> </ul>

<p><a href="#">Ørsted</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Actively demonstrating consideration of biodiversity impacts into renewable energy development.</li> <li>The only CMS ETF member country they are active in is Germany. They are also active in Denmark, Malaysia, Poland, Taiwan, Netherlands, United Kingdom, and United States</li> <li>Input on how to design nature-safe renewable projects and provide a private-sector perspective on what materials may be useful for the CMS ETF to produce to guide pilot initiatives/nature-safe renewable energy development in areas of greater priority to the CMS ETF.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Private meetings to discuss opportunities for collaboration between the company and CMS ETF.</li> <li>Invitation to attend and/or co-host webinars on what the private sector can do to enhance nature-safe renewable energy development.</li> <li>Invitation to co-prepare guidance documents on how to design nature-safe renewable energy projects.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meetings to scope collaboration to be scheduled for Q4 2023.</li> <li>Remaining activities to be scheduled as appropriate when opportunities arise.</li> </ul>
<p><a href="#">Vestas</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is the largest wind turbine company in the world so they can be encouraged to become leaders in the renewable energy field consider biodiversity impacts into renewable energy development.</li> <li>Input on how to design nature-safe renewable projects and provide a private-sector perspective on what materials may be useful for the CMS ETF to produce to guide pilot initiatives/nature-safe renewable energy development in areas of greater priority to the CMS ETF.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Private meetings to discuss opportunities for collaboration between the company and CMS ETF.</li> <li>Invitation to attend and/or co-host webinars on what the private sector can do to enhance nature-safe renewable energy development.</li> <li>Invitation to co-prepare guidance documents on how to design nature-safe renewable energy projects.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meetings to scope collaboration to be scheduled for Q4 2023.</li> <li>Remaining activities to be scheduled as appropriate when opportunities arise.</li> </ul>

<p><a href="#">RWE AG</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Actively demonstrating consideration of biodiversity impacts into renewable energy development.</li> <li>Input on how to design nature-safe renewable projects and provide a private-sector perspective on what materials may be useful for the CMS ETF to produce to guide pilot initiatives/nature-safe renewable energy development in areas of greater priority to the CMS ETF.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Private meetings to discuss opportunities for collaboration between the company and CMS ETF.</li> <li>Invitation to attend and/or co-host webinars on what the private sector can do to enhance nature-safe renewable energy development.</li> <li>Invitation to co-prepare guidance documents on how to design nature-safe renewable energy projects.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meetings to scope collaboration to be scheduled for Q4 2023.</li> <li>Remaining activities to be scheduled as appropriate when opportunities arise.</li> </ul>
<p><a href="#">Siemens Gamesa</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Actively demonstrating consideration of biodiversity impacts into renewable energy development.</li> <li>Input on how to design nature-safe renewable projects and provide a private-sector perspective on what materials may be useful for the CMS ETF to produce to guide pilot initiatives/nature-safe renewable energy development in areas of greater priority to the CMS ETF.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Private meetings to discuss opportunities for collaboration between the company and CMS ETF.</li> <li>Invitation to attend and/or co-host webinars on what the private sector can do to enhance nature-safe renewable energy development.</li> <li>Invitation to co-prepare guidance documents on how to design nature-safe renewable energy projects.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meetings to scope collaboration to be scheduled for Q4 2023</li> <li>Remaining activities to be scheduled as appropriate when opportunities arise.</li> </ul>
<p><a href="#">Vattenfall</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Actively demonstrating consideration of biodiversity impacts into renewable energy development.</li> <li>Input on how to design nature-safe renewable projects and provide a private-sector perspective on what materials may be useful for the CMS ETF to produce to guide pilot initiatives/nature-safe renewable energy development in areas of greater priority to the CMS ETF.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Private meetings to discuss opportunities for collaboration between the company and CMS ETF.</li> <li>Invitation to attend and/or co-host webinars on what the private sector can do to enhance nature-safe renewable energy development.</li> <li>Invitation to co-prepare guidance documents on how to design nature-safe renewable energy projects.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meetings to scope collaboration to be scheduled for Q4 2023.</li> <li>Remaining activities to be scheduled as appropriate when opportunities arise.</li> </ul>

<b>Aim 3</b>			
Uzbekistani energy development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Uzbekistan is the host of CMS COP14</li> <li>Uzbekistan is the location of some renewable energy developments of concern.</li> <li>The COP/ run-up to the COP provides an opportunity to have greater leverage on these developments than may otherwise have been possible.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Private meetings in the run-up to CMS COP14.</li> <li>Invitation to webinars on how to design nature-safe renewable energy in Uzbekistan and key activities in the region.</li> <li>Invitation to workshops on the process of designing nature-safe renewable energy.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meetings to scope collaboration to be scheduled for Q4 2023.</li> <li>Invitations to be scheduled as appropriate when opportunities arise.</li> </ul>

*Table 4 above outlines the purpose of engagement, methods of achieving engagement, and timelines for undertaking engagement activities for potential private sector stakeholders the CMS ETF could engage with under the private sector engagement strategy.*

**Establishing private sector membership**

Currently exploring replicating paid membership set-up, similar to the [Proteus](#) initiative coordinated by UNEP-WCMC. Proteus is a unique partnership with 14 industry-leading private sector organisations, initiated in 2003. Proteus supports best practice private sector decision-making towards nature-positive outcomes, empowering businesses to contribute to a clean, healthy, and resilient environment. The Proteus vision is a planet where business contributes to a clean, healthy, and resilient environment for all. Proteus is vital in the global push for transformative change towards a nature-positive future.

UNEP-WCMC has recently joined the CMS ETF, so we plan to conduct focused webinars with the Proteus initiative to bring into focus the goals of CMS ETF and identify areas for collaboration and connectivity into the future.