



## CONVENTION ON MIGRATORY SPECIES

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12<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES  
Manila, Philippines, 23 - 28 October 2017  
Agenda Item 24.4.6

### ENERGY AND MIGRATORY SPECIES

*(Prepared by the Secretariat)*

#### Summary:

Through Resolution 11.27 and Resolution 10.11, the CMS Conference of the Parties established policies and mandates in relation to the energy sector. In particular, Resolution 11.27 instructed the Secretariat to establish a multi-stakeholder Task Force on Reconciling Selected Energy Sector Developments with Migratory Species Conservation (the Energy Task Force), and to report progress on behalf of the Task Force to the Conference of the Parties at its 12<sup>th</sup> meeting (COP12).

This report summarizes the state of activities undertaken as at May 2017.

Implementation of the activities outlined in this report and undertaken in conformity with the above-mentioned resolutions will contribute towards the implementation of targets 1, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 15 of the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2015 – 2023.



The Government of the Federal Republic of Germany, through the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB) were recognized as Champion Plus for their generous support and commitment towards Reconciling Energy Sector Developments with Migratory Species Conservation for the period 2015-2017. The Energy Task Force has been funded with the contribution granted by Germany under the Migratory Species Champion Programme.



## ENERGY AND MIGRATORY SPECIES

### Background

1. CMS has long recognized that an adequate and stable energy supply is of vital importance for society, and that renewable energy sources, in particular, can significantly contribute to achieving this. However, it also recognized that the infrastructure for the deployment and distribution of energy can have a significant impact on migratory species.
2. The 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP7) addressed the impacts of powerlines and of wind turbines on migratory species through Resolution 7.4 'Electrocution of Migratory Birds' and Resolution 7.5 'Wind Turbines and Migratory Species'.
3. CMS undertook further work on the impact of powerlines on migratory species in collaboration with the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA) and RWE Rhein-Ruhr Netzservice GmbH, with the preparation of a review of the conflicts between migratory birds and electricity power grids in the African-Eurasian region and of guidelines on how to avoid or mitigate the impact of electricity power grids on migratory birds in the African-Eurasian region. The 10<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP10) welcomed the Guidelines and adopted Resolution 10.11 'Power Lines and Migratory Birds'.
4. The 5<sup>th</sup> Session of the Meeting of the Parties (MOP5) to AEWA subsequently adopted the Guidelines through Resolution 5.10 'Revision and Adoption of Conservation Guidelines', and adopted AEWA Resolution 5.11 'Power Lines and Migratory Waterbirds'.
5. A similar approach was followed to progress work on the impact of renewable energy technologies on migratory species. CMS worked collaboratively with AEWA, BirdLife International and the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) to produce a review report on documented and potential effects of the deployment of renewable energy technologies on migratory species, and a compilation of guidelines to mitigate impacts on migratory species. Through Resolution 11.27 'Renewable Energy and Migratory Species', the 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP11) endorsed the document 'Renewable Energy Technologies and Migratory Species: Guidelines for Sustainable Deployment'
6. Resolution 11.27 also instructed the Secretariat to convene a multi-stakeholder Task Force on Reconciling Selected Energy Sector Developments with Migratory Species Conservation (the Energy Task Force), in order to:
  - promote the benefits of existing decisions;
  - encourage Parties to implement current guidance and decisions;
  - develop any necessary new guidelines and action plans as appropriate; and
  - make recommendations on suitable responses to specific problems and gaps in knowledge;

and to report progress on behalf of the Energy Task Force to COP12 in 2017.

### Establishment and operationalization of the Energy Task Force

7. Activities towards the establishment and operationalization of the Energy Task Force have been supported by a voluntary contribution of the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany, through the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB) under the Migratory Species Champions Programme.

8. In line with the Terms of Reference contained in Resolution 11.27, the Energy Task Force has been convened with an initial African-Eurasian geographic scope; an initial taxonomic scope on migratory birds; and an initial focus on power lines, hydro, wind and solar energy technologies. The timing and extent of the possible extension of the scope of the Task force is expected to be decided by the Energy Task Force members, and should depend on funding being available.
9. With the main aim of obtaining advice on the initial membership of the Energy Task Force, the Secretariat established a small Advisory Group, composed of members of the CMS and AEWAs Secretariats, the Chair of the AEWAs Technical Committee, and representatives of BMUB and BirdLife International. The Advisory Group met physically twice in the margins of the AEWAs MOP6 and of the 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Sessional Committee of the CMS Scientific Council, and once through teleconference.
10. Based on the advice of the Advisory Group, the Secretariat sent invitations to prospective members in July 2016. At the time of writing, the list of members includes a variety of governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental actors, namely: the Governments of Bulgaria, Egypt, Germany, Ghana, Hungary, Israel, Kenya, Nigeria and South Africa; Power-Africa USAID, the AEWAs and CMS Secretariats, the African Union, the European Bank of Reconstruction and Development, IRENA, the Renewable Grid Initiative, BirdLife International, and the British Trust for Ornithology. A few organizations participate in the Task Force with the status of observers, they include: BirdLife South Africa, Nature Kenya, Nature Conservation Egypt, and the German Nature Conservation and Biodiversity Union. Efforts to further expand the membership of the Task Force are ongoing, based on the guidance provided by the 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Energy Task Force (see below). A continuously updated list of members and observers is available from the Energy Task force website ([ETF Members and Observers Lists](#)).
11. In line with the Terms of Reference of the Task Force, and thanks to the already mentioned financial contribution from BMUB, a coordinator for the Energy Task Force was appointed from BirdLife International under an arrangement with the CMS Secretariat, in order to inter alia:
  - organize the meetings of the Energy Task Force;
  - maintain and moderate the Energy Task Force communication platform (website and internal online workspace);
  - facilitate implementation of decisions of the Energy Task Force, as necessary;
  - facilitate fundraising and resource mobilization in support of the activities of the Energy Task Force; and
  - facilitate engagement with stakeholders within and beyond the Energy Task Force.
12. At the time of drafting this report, the Secretariat and the Coordinator had already reached out to potential stakeholders that had not responded to previous initial communications, and contacted potential new members. Prior to the First Meeting several of these potential members had expressed interest in joining the Energy Task Force at a later stage, and requested being kept apprised of developments after the ETF1 meeting.
13. Dedicated webpages for the Energy Task Force has been established ([ETF Website](#)) within the CMS website, and these are maintained by the CMS Secretariat and the Task Force coordinator. The web pages include an online Workspace to facilitate contacts among the members and the work of the Task Force in between meetings.

### First meeting of the Energy Task Force and follow-up remote meeting

14. The Energy Task Force held its first meeting in Cape Town, South Africa, 1-2 December 2016. A report of the meeting can be accessed [here](#).
15. The main outcomes of the meeting include:
  - the elaboration and adoption of the [Modus Operandi](#) of the Task Force, building on and expanding the Terms of Reference contained in Resolution 11.27;
  - the development and adoption of a [Work Plan for the Energy Task Force for 2017-2018](#), designed on the remit of the Task Force as defined in Resolution 11.27;
  - the adoption of a '[Cape Town Declaration](#)', to serve as a tool to inform stakeholders about the objectives of the Energy Task Force and its approach to achieve them;
  - the establishment of a Technical Working Group of the Energy Task Force with the task to carry out a selected number of activities, including to: identify key research priorities and communicate these to the Energy Task Force and to inform future engagement with research institutions; review existing guidance material to identify gaps, and prepare a series of technical notes to accompany the existing CMS/AEWA guidelines if needed; and convene a process to review and compare existing sensitivity mapping tools, and provide recommendations on these to the Energy Task Force.
16. A remote meeting via teleconference took place on 6 April of 2017, where members discussed developments and follow-up of the First meeting of the Energy Task Force.
17. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Energy Task Force is scheduled to take place in Bonn, Germany, 14-15 September 2017, at the CMS Secretariat's premises.
18. A more detailed account of the activities of the Energy Task Force including the main outcomes of its 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting is expected to be provided to COP12 by the Task Force in the form of an information document.

### Other related activities of outreach and network building

19. A side event titled "Energy and Migratory Birds: Solutions for a Brighter Future" was organized in the margins of AEWA MOP6 in November 2015 by the CMS Secretariat and BirdLife International. An account of the side event can be found at [this link](#).
20. The CMS Family and BirdLife International organized a side event at the Second Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) in May 2016 to raise awareness of the guidelines devised to ensure that renewable energy installations are deployed in ways that have no adverse impact on migratory species such as birds and bats ([UNEA2 side event](#)).
21. A side event on 'Reconciling Energy Developments with Migratory Species Conservation' was organized at the forty-sixth sessions of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI 46) and Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA 46) as well as the third part of the first session of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Paris Agreement (APA 1-3), which took place from 8 to 18 May 2017, in Bonn, Germany ([UNFCCC side event](#)).

### Repeal and consolidation of resolutions relating to energy

22. Within the process initiated by Resolution 11.6 'Review of Decisions', Resolution 11.27 has been reviewed and a partial repeal is proposed in Document 21.1.33.

Recommended actions

23. The Conference of the Parties is recommended to:

- a) take note of this document;
- b) adopt the draft Decision contained in Annex 1 of this document

DRAFT DECISION

**SUPPORT TO THE ENERGY TASK FORCE**

***Directed to Parties, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders from the energy sector***

12.AA Parties, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders from the energy sector are encouraged to

- a) consider contributing to the implementation of the Energy Task Force Work Plan, including through the provision of financial and technical assistance to support the on-going operations of the Energy Task Force.