



Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals

Secretariat provided by the United Nations Environment Programme



1st Meeting of the Task Force on Reconciling Selected Energy Sector Developments with Migratory Species Conservation

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AEWA RESOLUTION 6.11: ADDRESSING IMPACTS OF RENEWABLE ENERGY DEPLOYMENT ON MIGRATORY WATERBIRDS

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6th SESSION OF THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES

9-14 November 2015, Bonn, Germany

“Making flyway conservation happen”

RESOLUTION 6.11

ADDRESSING IMPACTS OF RENEWABLE ENERGY DEPLOYMENT ON MIGRATORY WATERBIRDS

Recognising the importance to society of an adequate and stable energy supply and that renewable energy sources can significantly contribute to achieving this, and *aware* that renewable power generation, especially from wind energy, large solar panel power stations and biomass production, is projected by the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) to increase four- to six-fold by 2030,

Recognising also that increased use of technologies to exploit renewable energy may potentially affect migratory waterbird species listed by AEWAM, and *concerned* about the cumulative effects of such technology on the movement of migratory waterbirds, their ability to utilize critical staging areas, the loss and fragmentation of their habitats, and mortality from collisions with infrastructural developments,

Recalling Article III 2(e) of the Agreement in accordance with which Parties shall, *inter alia*, “investigate problems that are posed or are likely to be posed by human activities and endeavour to implement remedial measures” and *noting* the relevance of this obligation to renewable energy developments, especially given that adverse impacts of renewable energy technologies can be substantially minimised through careful site selection and planning, thorough Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs), and good post-construction monitoring to learn from experience,

Recalling also previous decisions by AEWAM and aware of those of the CMS and other MEAs, as well as of relevant guidelines, on reconciling renewable energy developments with the conservation of migratory species, in particular birds, including:

- AEWAM Resolution 5.16 on ‘Renewable Energy and Migratory Waterbirds’ which stressed the need to address or avoid adverse effects on migratory waterbirds and contains operational recommendations of relevance to many other migratory species;
- AEWAM’s ‘Guidelines on How to Avoid, Minimize or Mitigate Impact of Infrastructural Developments and Related Disturbance Affecting Waterbirds’ (Conservation Guidelines no. 11);
- CMS Resolution 7.5 on ‘Wind Turbines and Migratory Species’;
- CMS Resolution 10.19 on ‘Migratory Species Conservation in the Light of Climate Change’;
- Bern Convention Recommendation No. 109 on minimising adverse effects of wind power generation on wildlife and the guidance of 2003 on environmental assessment criteria and site selection issues related to wind-farming as well as the best practice guidance on integrated wind farm planning and impact assessment presented to the 33rd Meeting of the Bern Convention Standing Committee in 2013;
- Ramsar Resolution XI.10 ‘Guidance for Addressing the Implications for Wetlands of Policies, Plans and Activities in the Energy Sector’;
- SBSTTA 16 Recommendation XVI/9 ‘Technical and Regulatory Matters on Geoengineering in Relation to the Convention on Biological Diversity’; and
- Guidance on wind and solar energy, developed in the framework of the BirdLife International UNDP/GEF Migratory Soaring Bird project;

and *recognising* the need for closer cooperation and synergetic implementation amongst the CMS Family, other MEAs and relevant national and international stakeholders of decisions and guidelines to reconcile energy sector developments with migratory species conservation needs,

Acknowledging the critical need for liaison, communication and strategic planning to be jointly undertaken by the government authorities responsible for environmental protection and energy development respectively, to avoid or mitigate negative consequences for migratory and other species and their habitats,

Taking note of document AEWA/MOP 6.38: ‘*Renewable Energy Technology Deployment and Migratory Species: an Overview*’, which summarizes knowledge of actual and possible effects of renewable energy installations on migratory waterbirds amongst other migratory species, *noting* its conclusion that relatively few scientific studies are available on the short-term, long-term and cumulative impacts of renewable energy technologies, and *acknowledging* the urgent need for further research on the impact on migratory species of renewable energy technologies particularly in relation to ocean and solar energy,

Noting also that document AEWA/MOP 6.38 highlights the urgent need to collect data on the distribution of migratory waterbirds amongst other migratory species, their population size and migration routes as an essential part of any strategic planning and impact assessment, prior to and/or during the planning phase of development of renewable energy deployments, and also stresses the need to monitor regularly mortality arising from those developments,

Recognising that ‘*Renewable Energy Technologies and Migratory Species: Guidelines for Sustainable Deployment*’ (document AEWA/MOP 6.37) adopted by Resolution 6.5 is of high relevance for the implementation of the Agreement while *noting* that this is the first version of the Guidelines, as adopted also by the CMS COP11, which is aimed to be reviewed in consultation with IRENA, so as to deliver a second version of the Guidelines to a future CMS COP and AEWA MOP,

Recalling past AEWA decisions and adopted guidelines and other relevant international decisions and guidance with regard to mitigating the specific impacts of power lines on birds, including:

- AEWA Resolution 5.11 ‘*Power Lines and Migratory Waterbirds*’;
- CMS Resolution 10.11 on ‘*Power Lines and Migratory Birds*’;
- ‘*Guidelines on How to Avoid or Mitigate the Impact of Electricity Power Grids on Migratory Birds in the African-Eurasian Region*’ adopted by CMS COP10, AEWA MOP5 and the CMS Raptors MoU MOS1;
- Bern Convention Recommendation No. 110 on minimising adverse effects of above-ground electricity transmission facilities (power lines) on birds;
- The Budapest Declaration on bird protection and power lines adopted in 2011 by the Conference ‘*Power Lines and Bird Mortality in Europe*’; and
- Guidance on wind and solar energy, developed in the framework of the BirdLife International UNDP/GEF Migratory Soaring Bird project,

Welcoming the good cooperation and partnerships already established at both international and national levels between stakeholders including governments and their institutions, energy companies, non-government organisations (NGOs) and Secretariats of MEAs, and the concerted efforts made to address energy developments which conflict with species conservation,

Taking note of the CMS Resolution 11.27 on renewable energy and migratory species adopted by COP11 (4-9 November 2014, Quito, Ecuador),

Acknowledging with thanks the financial support of the Governments of Germany and Norway through the UNEP/CMS and UNEP/AEWA Secretariats, and of BirdLife International through the BirdLife UNDP/GEF Migratory Soaring Birds project towards the compilation of the report ‘*Renewable Energy Technology Deployment and Migratory Species: an Overview*’ and the guidelines document ‘*Renewable Energy Technologies and Migratory Species: Guidelines for Sustainable Deployment*’.

The Meeting of the Parties:

1. *Urges* Parties and *encourages* non-Party Range States, notwithstanding the call of Resolution 5.16, to implement the provisions of document *Renewable Energy Technologies and Migratory Species: Guidelines for Sustainable Deployment* (document AEWA/MOP 6.37) adopted by Resolution 6.5, as applicable, depending on the particular circumstances of each Party, including to:
 - 1.1 apply Strategic Environment Assessment (SEA) and EIA procedures or similar procedures involving assessment of impacts on protected areas and other sensitive areas of importance to migratory waterbirds, as appropriate, when planning the use of renewable energy technologies;
 - 1.2 undertake appropriate survey and monitoring both before and after deployment of renewable energy technologies to identify impacts on migratory waterbird species and their habitats in the short- and long-term, as well as to evaluate mitigation measures; and
 - 1.3 apply appropriate cumulative impact studies to describe and understand impacts at a larger scale, such as at population level or along entire flyway;
2. *Urges* Parties, notwithstanding the call of Resolution 5.16, to implement, as appropriate, the following priorities in their development of renewable energy technologies:
 - 2.1 **wind energy**: undertake careful physical planning with special attention to the mortality (in particular of species that are long-lived and have low fecundity) and resulting from collisions with wind turbines, and consider means of reducing disturbance and displacement effects on relevant species, including deploying measures such as ‘shutdown on demand’ as appropriate;
 - 2.2 **solar energy**: avoid deployment in, or near, protected areas and other sensitive areas where this would be of significance for migratory waterbirds so as to limit further the impacts of solar power plants; undertake careful planning to reduce disturbance and displacement effects on relevant species, as well as to minimise the risks of solar flux and trauma-related injuries which could be a consequence of a number of solar energy technologies;
 - 2.3 **ocean energy**: give attention to possible impacts on migratory waterbird species, particularly loss of coastal inter-tidal habitats;
 - 2.4 **hydro-power**: undertake measures to reduce or mitigate known serious impacts, such as habitat loss and degradation;
 - 2.5 **geoenergy**: avoid habitat loss, degradation and fragmentation, and disturbance in order to continue to keep the overall environmental impacts at their current low level;
 - 2.6 **bioenergy**: approach with special care and attention the planning of bioenergy production in order to prevent large-scale impact of habitat loss;
3. *Instructs* the Secretariat to stay involved in the multi-stakeholder *Task Force on Reconciling Selected Energy Sector Developments with Migratory Species Conservation* (the Energy Task Force) to be convened by the CMS Secretariat following a decision of CMS COP11;
4. *Requests* the Secretariat to participate in the review of and the production of the second version of the document ‘*Renewable Energy Technologies and Migratory Species: Guidelines for Sustainable Deployment*’ in consultation with the UNEP/CMS Secretariat, IRENA and BirdLife International.