

4th Meeting of the CMS Multi-Stakeholder Energy Task Force (ETF4)

Paris, France, 19 – 20 September 2019

ETF4/Doc.2

JOINT REPORT OF CMS SECRETARIAT AND ETF COORDINATOR ON ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN SINCE THE THIRD MEETING OF THE ENERGY TASK FORCE

This document will not be distributed at the meeting. Please bring your own copy.

	<p>The Government of the Federal Republic of Germany, through the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU) were recognized as Champion Plus for their generous support and commitment towards Reconciling Energy Sector Developments with Migratory Species Conservation for the period 2018-2020. The Energy Task Force has been funded with the contribution granted by Germany under the Migratory Species Champion Programme.</p>	<p>Supported by:</p>  <p>Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety</p> <p>based on a decision of the German Bundestag</p>
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Introduction

1. This document provides an overview of the activities undertaken by the CMS Secretariat and the Coordinator of the multi-stakeholder Task Force on Reconciling Selected Energy Sector Developments with Migratory Species Conservation (the Energy Task Force, ETF) since the Third Meeting of the ETF, held in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt on 16 November 2018.

Membership of the Energy Task Force (ETF)

2. As of September 2019, 13 CMS Contracting Parties are Members of the ETF, with representatives from environment-, energy- and development-related ministries and authorities. In addition, the membership comprises one international development government agency, the secretariats of five multilateral environmental agreements, and a further eight international organizations and institutions, including intergovernmental organizations and networks, development banks and non-governmental organizations. Eight national and international organizations and associations are Observers to the ETF.

Activities

3. The [Third Meeting of the Energy Task Force \(ETF3\)](#) was held in the margins of the 14th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP14), Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt, on 16 November 2018. The meeting took stock of progress made by the ETF and of action at national level to reconcile energy developments with migratory species conservation. Participants shared information on lessons learned as well as on current and planned initiatives, identifying priorities for future work including ETF flagship projects with impact on the ground. The meeting proposed expanding the ETF work regarding liaison with business and industry and to open its geographic scope to Asia. Offshore windfarms and energy technology in specific regions and flyways were also on the agenda. Another key issue discussed was promotion and advocacy of the ETF, and potential synergies with multiple Conventions such as the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands and CBD; and strengthening research. The British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) and the ETF Coordinator presented the current status of research, planned future research, research gaps, priorities such as sensitivity mapping and database development. A report on the meeting can be accessed via the dedicated [meeting website](#), and linked [here](#).
4. At the side event [Connected solutions for a connected world: mainstreaming biodiversity conservation across conventions, landscapes and sectors through migratory flyways](#), organized by the Government of Egypt, BirdLife International and the CMS Secretariat, held in the margins of the CBD COP14, the ETF was presented as a tool for mainstreaming biodiversity into different sectors.
5. A presentation on the ETF and its strategical approach following the Mitigation Hierarchy was given by the ETF Coordinator (BirdLife International) at the Rio Convention Pavilion during the 24th Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC COP24, Katowice, Poland, December 2018). Also, at UNFCCC COP24, BirdLife International, as a member of the Climate Action Network (CAN), Energy working group, was able to advocate for the inclusion of migratory species conservation in the campaign activities of civil society for the mass expansion of renewable energy systems. The CAN has since included this text into its global position statements on renewable energy.

6. The CMS Secretariat showcased the activities of the ETF at the workshop on *Minimizing the Impacts of Power Lines on Birds*, held in Ostrava, Czech Republic on 29 May 2019, organized by the EU Interreg Danube Transnational Programme (DPT-PAC-PA2 PA 02 Energy), the Government of the Czech Republic and the UN Environment Secretariat of the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians (Carpathian Convention).
7. In June 2019, the ETF Coordinator attended the United Nations Climate Change Conference, Bonn, Germany, 17-27 June 2019. The ETF Coordinator attended several CAN Energy working group meetings, networked and distributed promotional materials on the ETF. Attending the *Civil Society Organizations (CSO) capacity-building workshop on energy and decentralisation in Africa* organized by Germanwatch, Bread of the World, and the High Atlas Foundation, enabled the expansion of the ETF's civil society networks in Africa.
8. On 1 July 2019, a virtual ad hoc preparatory meeting of the ETF was held. The meeting discussed recent activities concerning the coordination, current research and creation of databases in cooperation with partners, potential inputs to documents for the 13th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CMS (COP13, scheduled to be held on 15-22 February 2020 in Gandhinagar, India), the importance of guidelines in relation to monitoring and site assessments, also to support donors of renewable energy infrastructure projects such as development banks in their decision-making, strengthening capacities and synergies between international and national guidelines, and the nexus between climate change mitigation and biodiversity conservation related to countries' Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to the Paris Agreement.
9. In July and August 2019, Members and Observers of the ETF were invited during two rounds of electronic consultations to provide comments on draft meeting documents to be submitted to CMS COP13. Within the process initiated by [CMS Resolution 11.6 Review of Decisions](#), and based on the comments received during these consultations, [CMS Resolution 11.27 \(Rev.COP12\) Renewable Energy and Migratory Species](#), [CMS Resolution 10.11 Power Lines and Migratory Birds](#) and [CMS Decisions 12.81 and 12.82 Support to the Energy Task Force](#) have been reviewed and amendments proposed in order to update these documents in line with the development of international processes and requirements for further supporting implementation. The documents were prepared by the CMS Secretariat and have been duly undergoing the Secretariat's internal review process at the time of writing this report.
10. On 28 August 2019, a workshop on *Standardisation of collision mortality data for birds and bats - towards the creation of a global database* was held in Stirling, UK as part of the *Conference on Wind energy and Wildlife impacts (CWW)*, which included some of the Members of the ETF and world experts. There was a consensus that there is an urgent need for standardization of monitoring protocols and a wide recognition that a global database on species mortality is essential for assessing cumulative impacts on a flyway and species range scale, as most data currently are collected locally and in some cases are not made widely available. This database would need to be coupled with standardized approaches for post-construction monitoring of renewable energy infrastructure.
11. On 2-6 September 2019, an IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources) workshop was held on the creation of new IUCN guidelines on *Mitigating Biodiversity Impacts Associated with Solar and Wind Energy Infrastructure*. The workshop included representatives from IUCN, international NGOs, representatives of the Integrated Biodiversity Assessment Tool (IBAT) and the private sector. The CMS Energy Task Force was represented by the ETF coordination team from BirdLife International. The IUCN guidelines will build on existing CMS Family guidelines as well as others and will

focus on applying the mitigation hierarchy for renewable energy and its related infrastructure, with discussions ranging from strategic planning and mitigation measures to material stewardship and circular economy and research gaps. There was a clear consensus that in order to avoid conflicts between energy infrastructure and wildlife there needs to be better seascape and landscape planning as early in the decision making process as possible. This includes when deciding on the type of renewable energy infrastructure to deploy (solar or wind), assisted by mapping of areas that are higher and lower risk for biodiversity.

12. The [Fourth Meeting of the Energy Task Force \(ETF4\)](#) is scheduled to be held from 19 to 20 September 2019 at the French National Museum of Natural History (Muséum national d'histoire naturelle), Paris. It is envisaged to present the proposed inputs for CMS COP13, and to update the package of information resources, prioritize activities and research areas of the work plan, map additional funding opportunities as well as establish additional working groups within the Task Force.
13. An analysis of the efforts and progress made by CMS Parties to reconcile the development of renewable energy and powerlines with the conservation of migratory species, based on the national reports submitted to CMS COP13, and building up and comparing with the assessment submitted as UNEP/CMS/COP12/Inf.32 to CMS COP12 was under preparation at the time of writing.