

Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals

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

Paris, France, 19 – 20 September 2019

ETF4/Inf.1

REPORT OF CMS SECRETARIAT TO THE THIRD MEETING OF THE ENERGY TASK FORCE (ETF3)

(Presented by the Secretariat)



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.

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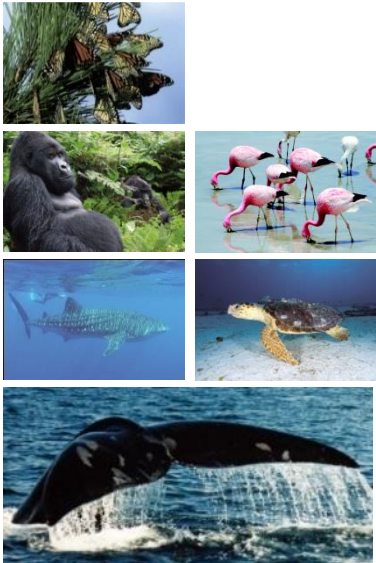
Federal Ministry
for the Environment, Nature Conservation
and Nuclear Safety

based on a decision of the German Bundestag

3rd Meeting of the Multi-Stakeholder Task Force on Reconciling Selected Energy Sector Developments with Migratory Species Conservation

Report of the CMS Secretariat

Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt, 16 November 2018



Tilman Schneider
UNEP/CMS Secretariat

Res 11.27 (Rev. CMS COP12) Renewable Energy and Migratory Species

- The Energy Task Force (ETF) has been established (2016). Its **TOR, Modus Operandi** and **Work Plan** have been adopted in accordance with Res 11.27.
- An ETF **Progress Report** is to be delivered for each meeting of CMS COPs (cf. ETF3/Inf.8, taking into account progress of implementation, based on National Reports) .
- *Urges* Parties to implement the following priorities in development of renewable energy technologies
 - a) wind energy
 - b) solar energy
 - c) ocean energy
 - d) hydro-power
 - e) geo-energy

Res 11.2 The Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2015-2023 (Rev.COP12)

- **Goal:** to reduce the direct pressures on migratory species and their habitats.
- **Target:** multiple anthropogenic pressures have been reduced, include those relating to renewable energy developments and power line.



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Other Resolutions from previous CMS COPs in effect

Res 7.4 Electrocution of Migratory Birds

- *Encourages* constructors and operators of new **medium-voltage transmission lines** and associated **towers** to incorporate appropriate measures aimed at protecting migrating birds against electrocution
- *Calls on* **neutralizing existing towers** and parts of **medium-voltage transmission lines** to ensure that migratory birds are protected against electrocution



Other Resolutions from previous CMS COPs in effect

Res 7.5 Wind Turbines and Migratory Species (Rev.COP12)

- *Concerned* about the possible negative impacts of **wind turbines** on migratory species of **mammals and birds**, as well as on their **food sources and habitats**.
- *Noting* especially the potential risk that several hundred of such marine installations with heights up to 150 metres may present as obstacles in flyways, and wishing to minimize possible adverse effects on nature.

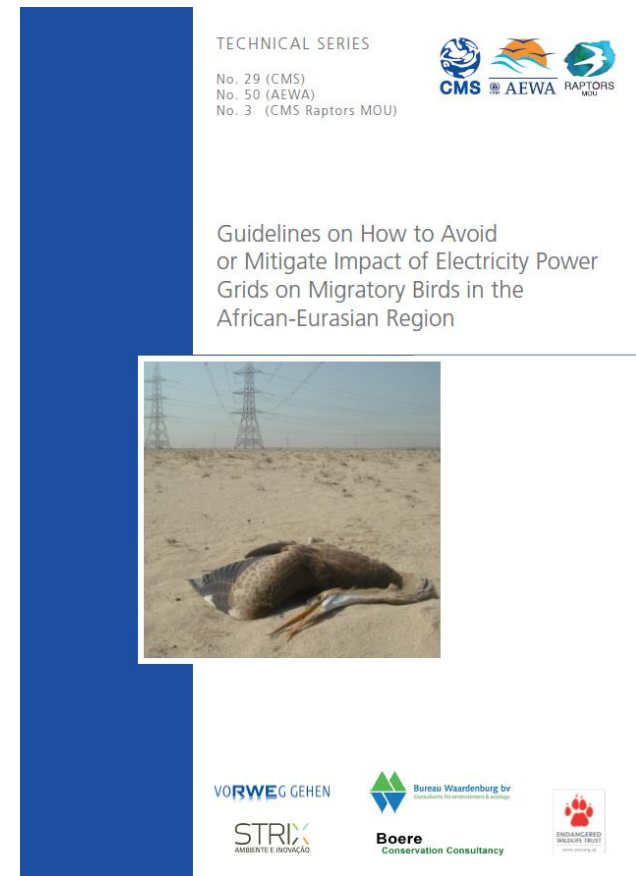


Res 10.11 Power Lines and Migratory Birds

Urges Parties and *encourages* non-Parties to implement these Guidelines as applicable and to:

- Stakeholder consultations
- baseline of bird distribution, population sizes, migrations and movement
- design the location, route and direction of power lines on the basis of national zoning maps; avoiding construction along major migration flyways and in habitats
- modification of existing power lines causing high levels of bird injury/mortality as a matter of priority **the Guidelines (UNEP/CMS/Conf.10.30)**
- monitor and evaluate regularly the impact of power lines on bird populations

https://www.unep-aewa.org/sites/default/files/publication/ts50_electr_guidelines_03122014.pdf



CMS COP12 Decisions



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Res 11.27 (Rev. CMS COP12) – related Decisions

Decisions 12.81 – 12.82: support to the Energy Task Force

- 12.81: Parties, intergovernmental and NGOs and other stakeholders from the energy sector are encouraged to consider contributing to the **implementation of the ETF**
- 12.82: Lists actions that ETF is encouraged to do
 - a) Investigate **best practices** in methods for **cumulative assessment**;
 - b) Produce **guidance** based on that for assessing cumulative impacts of (renewable) energy and power line developments on migratory species, including beyond national borders;
 - c) Make suggestions on improving **collective understanding** of such impacts;
 - d) Undertake these activities in collaboration with the specialized organizations referred to in **UNEP/CMS/Resolution 7.2 (Rev.COP12) on Impact Assessment and Migratory Species**, building on the principles expressed in that Resolution;
 - e) **Report** to the COP 13 on the above activities.

Analysis of National Reports to CMS COP11 and COP12

- deployment of energy infrastructure was reported as an obstacle to migratory species by the majority of Parties;
- drivers: universal energy access, climate change mitigation targets, population growth
- >60% of Parties take action to address the threat of **electrocution** or powerline **collision** to migratory species
- 50% Parties take action address threats posed by RETs
- Common reporting on EIAs, little on SEAs and cumulative impacts
- More comprehensive reporting would help to inform strategic planning for the future
- [UNEP/CMS/COP12/Inf.32](#) (see CMS/EFT3/Inf.8)

Res 12.21 Climate Change and Migratory Species

Renewable, low carbon and “clean” energy development, may significantly affect migratory species and their habitats depending on how the installations are sited and operated.

- operate renewable energy in ways that eliminate or minimize negative effects on migratory species.
- work with **UNFCCC Focal Points** to minimize negative impacts of renewable energy on migratory species.
- Assess the environmental impact to identify appropriate construction sites, and instructs the Scientific Council to develop **guidelines for the construction of offshore wind farms.**

Resolution 12.11 Flyways

Res 12.11/Annex 1 Programme of Work on Migratory Birds and Flyways (2014-2023)

- Implement actions to minimize and reconcile the potential impacts of **energy developments** and related **infrastructure** on migratory birds.

Res 12.11/Annex 3 Action Plan For The Americas Flyways 2018-2023

- **Energy production** (biofuel production, **inadequately planned wind energy infrastructure**, etc.) are among the most important threats Migratory bird species in the Americas.

Resolution 12.11 Flyways

Res 12.11/Annex 2 Americas Flyways Framework

- Identify and assess the significant threats to migratory birds, such as, especially, **energy production, transmission and distribution.**

Decisions 12.33: Action Plan for Americas Flyways

- Help to coordinate CMS Working Groups and Task Forces (e.g. **Energy, Illegal Killing of Birds, Poisoning, Landbirds, etc.**).

Res 12.10 Conservation of African-Eurasian Vultures

- Precipitous population declines in recent years by most African-Eurasian vulture populations have been driven by anthropogenic factors, including mortality caused by **electrocution** on powerline poles, collision with **wind turbines** and other **energy** generation and transmission **infrastructure**.

Table 3. Threats affecting each species of vulture, and their overall severity.

Threats	Species and Level of Threat*														
	Bearded Vulture	Egyptian Vulture	Red-headed Vulture	White-headed Vulture	Hooded Vulture	Himalayan Griffon	White-rumped Vulture	White-backed Vulture	Indian Vulture	Slender-billed Vulture	Cape Vulture	Rüppell's Vulture	Griffon Vulture	Cinereous Vulture	Lappet-faced Vulture
Electrocution															
Powerline poles	High	Critical	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	Critical	High	High
Collisions with infrastructure															
Powerlines	High	Critical	High	High	High	High	High	Medium	High	High	High	Medium	Critical	High	High
Wind turbines	High	Critical	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	Critical	High	Medium
Communication Towers	Medium	High	High	High	High	Unknown	Unknown	Medium	Unknown	Unknown	High	High	High	High	High

*Threats are colour-coded as follows:

Critical	High	Medium	Low	Unknown	Not applicable
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Vulture MsAP

Ranking of threats is based on scope, severity and irreversibility – data gathered via questionnaires and at the Regional Workshops.

Resolution 11.18 (Rev. COP12) – Saker Falcon *Falco cherrug* Global Action Plan (SakerGAP)

- Collision with man-made structures (e.g. **overhead cables and wind turbines**) potentially causes increased mortality or loss of Saker Falcons
- Wind turbines and communication towers may also lead to effective habitat loss

Global Action Plan

- Ensure that **spatial planning and infrastructure design** adapted to biodiversity needs
- Ensure that **energy infrastructure projects** properly avoid **sensitive sites and habitats** used by breeding, migrating and wintering Saker Falcons
- Develop and implement **effective mitigation measures** on existing infrastructures

Res 12.14 Adverse Impacts of Anthropogenic Noise on Cetaceans and Other Migratory Species

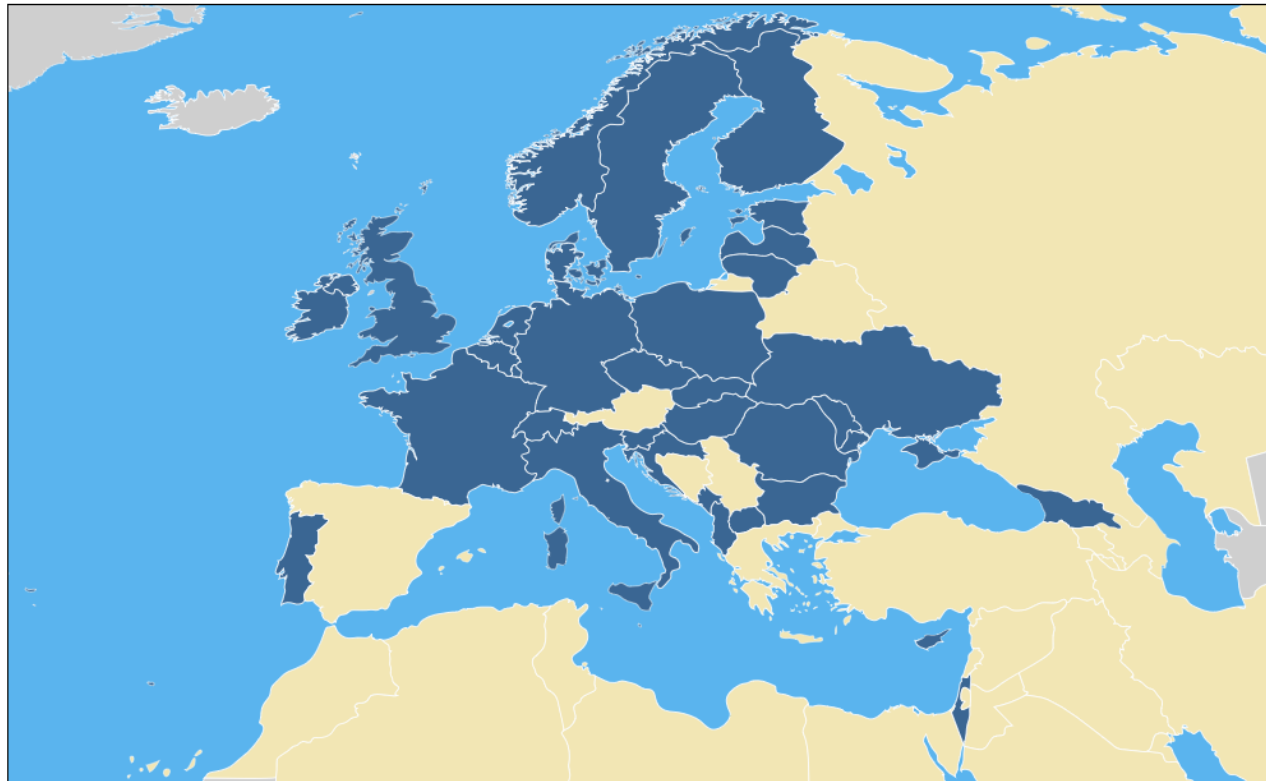
- The COP [...] stresses the need to consult with **any stakeholder** conducting anthropogenic marine noise such as shoreline developers and **marine renewable energy companies**.
- Recalls, *inter alia*,
 - **Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East- Atlantic (OSPAR)** Guidance on environmental considerations for offshore wind farm;
 - **ASCOBANS Res 6.2** on Adverse Effects of Underwater Noise on Marine Mammals during Offshore Construction Activities for Renewable Energy Production;
 - **CMS Family Guidelines on Environmental Impact Assessment for Marine Noise-generating Activities** (Annex to Res 11.14:
https://www.cms.int/sites/default/files/document/cms_cop12_res.12.14_marine-noise_e.pdf)
- Provisions and recommendations to Parties and stakeholders on noise reduction techniques, and alternative techniques and technologies for coastal, offshore and maritime activities to minimize anthropogenic noise pollution

EUROBATS MOP Resolutions

Agreement on the Conservation of Population of European Bats

The Agreement entered into force on 16 January 1994. As of January 2015, 36 of 63 Range States are Parties to the Agreement. Please **double-click** on the map below for the **country-specific details**, including focal points and local experts. You can also click **here** for a Parties and Range States list.

The boundaries and names used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.



Parties Range states

Res 8.4 Wind Turbines and Bat Populations

Considering the **cumulative environmental impact** of the renewable energy sector through the increasing **number and size** of wind turbines

- Recommend excluding wind energy developments from areas with a special focus on bat protection;
- Promote continued dialogue and cooperation to avoid or minimise the adverse impact of wind energy generation on bat populations;
- Make raw data from impact assessment and post-construction monitoring available for independent analysis.

Res 8.6 Bats and Light Pollution

Rapid growth and extent of artificial light at night and its detrimental impact (light pollution); different sensitivities of bat species towards artificial light

- Growing scientific evidence of the impact of artificial light on bats and the predicted negative consequences for bat populations.

Res 8.10 Recommended Experience and Skills of Experts with regard to Quality of Assessments

- Ref. to Resolution 8.4 and 8.6, assessments are undertaken by appropriately experienced experts
- Dead bat remains constitute a valuable source of information, and their retrieval and analysis are key to evaluate the level of impact wind turbines exert on bat populations

Res 8.11 Implementation of the Conservation and Management Plan (2019 - 2022)

- the Advisory Committee should finalise and publish **guidelines highlighting the effects of roads and other infrastructure** on bats and providing advice on how to minimise their impact

Thank you!

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[www.cms.int/en/taskforce/
energy-task-force](http://www.cms.int/en/taskforce/energy-task-force)

