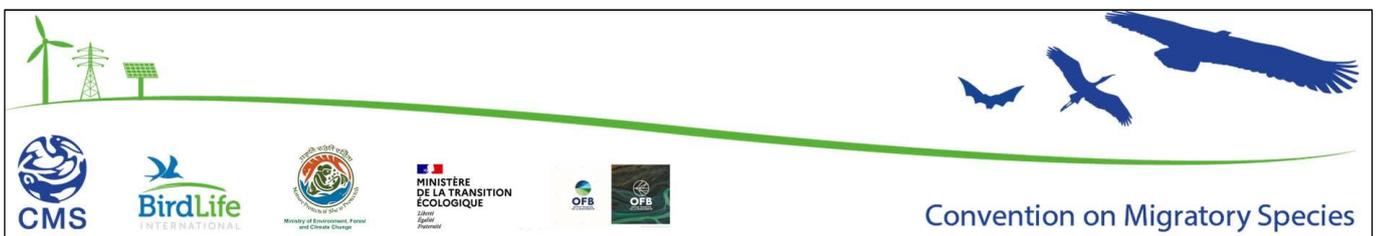


7th Meeting of the CMS Multi-Stakeholder Energy Task Force

24-26 April 2024, Madrid, Spain and online

ETF7/Inf.8

PRIVATE SECTOR ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY



The Government of India, through the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change were recognized as Champion Plus for their generous support and commitment towards Making energy safe for wildlife for the period 2020-2023. The operations of the Energy Task Force have been funded with the contribution granted by India under the Migratory Species Champion Programme.



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.

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 practices 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.

Opportunities for Private Sector Companies to collaborate with CMS ETF

1. Access to a wealth of valuable information, research, insights, and resources on nature-safe renewable energy deployment best practice guidelines that are multilingual and geographically diverse.
2. Demonstrate commitment to sustainability and corporate social responsibility on a global scale, which could potentially help enhance the company's reputation.
3. Stay abreast of global standards and compliance requirements, especially useful for private sector companies with international operations, ensuring adherence to regulations in different regions.
4. Networking opportunities with the other stakeholders, which can lead to collaborations, partnerships, and strategic alliances that can benefit the company.
5. Shaping the regulatory environment and influencing global policies and regulations by actively participating in ETF meetings.

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 as 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 on 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 the commitment to protect/minimise impact on biodiversity (e.g., to have a net positive impact), and/or reduce 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
Aims 1 and 2			
Iberdrola	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Actively demonstrating consideration of biodiversity impacts into renewable energy development. 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. 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meetings to scope collaboration to be scheduled for Q1 2024. Remaining activities to be scheduled as appropriate when opportunities arise.

Ørsted	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Actively demonstrating consideration of biodiversity impacts into renewable energy development. 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 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 co-prepare guidance documents on how to design nature-safe renewable energy projects. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meetings to scope collaboration to be scheduled for Q1 2024. Remaining activities to be scheduled as appropriate when opportunities arise.
Vestas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 co-prepare guidance documents on how to design nature-safe renewable energy projects. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meetings to scope collaboration to be scheduled for Q1 2024. Remaining activities to be scheduled as appropriate when opportunities arise.
RWE AG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Actively demonstrating consideration of biodiversity impacts into renewable energy development. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Private meetings to discuss opportunities for collaboration between the company and CMS ETF. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meetings to scope collaboration to be scheduled for Q1 2024.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Invitation to attend and/or co-host webinars on what the private sector can do to enhance nature-safe renewable energy development. Invitation to co-prepare guidance documents on how to design nature-safe renewable energy projects. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remaining activities to be scheduled as appropriate when opportunities arise.
Siemens Gamesa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Actively demonstrating consideration of biodiversity impacts into renewable energy development. 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 co-prepare guidance documents on how to design nature-safe renewable energy projects. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meetings to scope collaboration to be scheduled for Q1 2024 Remaining activities to be scheduled as appropriate when opportunities arise.
Vattenfall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Actively demonstrating consideration of biodiversity impacts into renewable energy development. 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 co-prepare guidance documents on how to design nature-safe renewable energy projects. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meetings to scope collaboration to be scheduled for Q1 2024. Remaining activities to be scheduled as appropriate when opportunities arise.
Aim 3			
Uzbekistani energy development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uzbekistan is the host of CMS COP14 Uzbekistan is the location of some 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Private meetings in the run-up to CMS COP14. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meetings to scope collaboration to be scheduled for Q1 2024.

	<p>renewable energy developments of concern.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The COP/ run-up to the COP provides an opportunity to have greater leverage on these developments than may otherwise have been possible. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invitation to webinars on how to design nature-safe renewable energy in Uzbekistan and key activities in the region. • Invitation to workshops on the process of designing nature-safe renewable energy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invitations to be scheduled as appropriate when opportunities arise.
--	---	---	--

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 in the future.