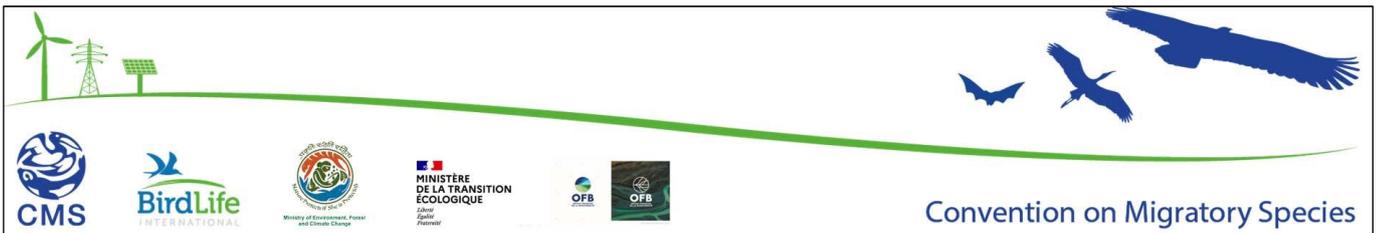


## 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the CMS Multi-Stakeholder Energy Task Force

24-26 April 2024, Madrid, Spain and online

ETF7/Inf.9

### GUIDANCE PACKAGE FOR INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS



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

International Finance Institutions (IFIs) are key stakeholders for driving and funding renewable energy infrastructure developments, particularly in emerging markets, and are valued members of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) Energy Task Force (ETF). In recognition of the significant role that IFIs can play in ensuring appropriate safeguards for biodiversity and migratory species and the mutual benefits from facilitating engagement with IFIs and other stakeholders, the CMS ETF aims to increase the representation of IFIs within the CMS ETF, including ensuring membership from all geographical regions.

To support the Geographic Expansion Strategy Plan, this document can be used as a tool to support IFI engagement with the CMS ETF and provides an overview outlining the benefits for IFIs from joining the CMS ETF and the potential opportunities for collaboration.

## GUIDANCE PACKAGE FOR INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

This document is to guide engagement between International Financial Institutions (IFIs) and the **Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) Energy Task Force (ETF)**.

### What is the CMS Energy Task Force?

The CMS ETF is a multi-stakeholder platform that works towards **reconciling renewable energy with the conservation of migratory species**. There is widespread consensus that we need to rapidly scale up renewable energy to reach the goals of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Paris Agreement. However, if renewable energy infrastructures are not deployed with adequate planning, siting, and design features, developments can harm migratory species and their habitats. As a result, the CMS ETF was established in 2015 in accordance with [Resolution 11.27 \(Rev. COP13\) Renewable Energy and Migratory Species to minimise the impact of renewable energy infrastructure on migratory species](#). It brings together various stakeholders such as governments, multilateral environmental agreements, investors, the private sector, and non-governmental organisations to achieve the objectives set under the [Work Plan](#).

The CMS ETF aims to:

- a) Facilitate multi-stakeholder dialogue between the parties;
- b) Promote and develop guidance and tools for the sustainable deployment or retrofitting of renewable energy infrastructures and powerlines;
- c) Share and exchange information through webinars and disseminate best practice guidelines deploying renewable energy technologies;
- d) Provide recommendations on how best to respond to specific problems; and
- e) Deliver research to address knowledge gaps.

### Opportunities for IFIs to collaborate with CMS ETF

#### 1) Guidance and contribution

- Attain guidance for investment in renewable energy development and technologies while prioritising biodiversity needs, specifically on conservation of migratory species;
- Benefit from the CMS ETF's scientific and technical expertise on mainstreaming biodiversity and conservation of migratory species in renewable energy development projects;
- Contribute to developing universal guidelines for IFIs to harmonise the differences between projects in different countries and regions; and
- Contribute to creating a database for impacts of wind energy sector on birds and bats.

#### 2) Access to tools and information

- Access to a roster of regional experts or consultants on themes broadly under biodiversity conservation who can guide further on projects;

- Access to the database on Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs including Cumulative Impact Assessments) and Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEAs) on wind and solar energy (<https://www.qbif.org/>);
- Access to the various Working Groups, such as the Technical Working Group and the Powerline Working Group, along with influencing the discussions and decisions of the CMS ETF;
- Access to datasets and tools, such as:
  - [Critical Sites Network \(CSN\) Tool](#): Provides information on migratory waterbird species, their migratory routes, and the key wetland sites;
  - [Migratory Soaring Bird \(MSB\) Sensitivity Mapping](#): A planning tool for wind energy sector;
  - [Data Basin](#): A mapping and analysis platform to access thousands of scientifically grounded, biological, physical, and socio-economic datasets;
  - [Avian Sensitivity Tool for Energy Planning \(AVISTEP\)](#): A tool to identify where renewable energy could impact birds and should therefore be avoided; and
  - [TransMit](#): A toolkit for mitigating powerline-related avian mortality.

### 3) Other potential opportunities

- Influence the direction and delivery of the CMS ETF work plan in line with the objectives of both the CMS ETF and the IFIs;
- The CMS ETF can facilitate and create opportunities for cooperation and coordination between governments, developers and IFIs;
- Facilitate the inclusion of the CMS ETF goals into risk management frameworks, financial disclosure obligations and initiatives considered for Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) criteria for business;
- Facilitate the creation of a consensus between stakeholders on the definition of a green investment or green bond for renewable energy projects mainstreaming biodiversity conservation; and
- Joint cooperation for training and capacity building programmes for government officials dealing with IFIs and the CMS provisions.

### Opportunities for the CMS ETF to benefit from engagement with IFIs

- IFIs can influence national policies by advocating with governments and facilitate discussions with government representatives on the CMS ETF;
- IFIs can also assist governments of emerging markets and developing countries, in setting ambitions, pathways, priorities, policy frameworks, and norms and standards adhering to the principles of the CMS ETF;
- IFIs can play a key role in helping to set in motion the transition to biodiversity-friendly renewable energy technologies through mandating safeguards and performance standards, streamlining due diligence processes and help in capacity building of governments;
- IFIs can share their technical expertise and support governments in better planning, licensing, and monitoring of renewable energy projects with better enforcement of these standards and implementation of risk management frameworks;

- IFIs can provide technical support to NGOs and governments in the development or continuation of projects or shaping project pipelines through targeted project development support within the work plan of the CMS ETF; and
- IFIs can help mobilise private investment/funding directly to projects through risk mitigation tools and approaches, they can act as intermediaries in blending finance from donor governments and investors to help scale up investments in renewable energy projects in CMS ETF Parties.

#### **What this collaboration would entail**

- Creation of information packages, tools and guidelines on variety of topics related to nature-sensitive renewable energy deployment for ETF members;
- Presentation at or hosting side-events at key global conventions, for instance at United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) COP, Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) COP, CMS COP, International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) World Conservation Congress and UN General Assembly Biodiversity Summit;
- Guide projects together conducted by partners within the ETF;
- Track, engage and support, as appropriate, CBD and UNFCCC mainstreaming biodiversity agenda in the energy sector;
- Promote ETF at key global and regional energy forums and summits, industry and consultation events for promotion of ETF activities, including international finance events, regional energy forums and international industry events;
- Identify key funding priorities and opportunities for ETF member projects or help in establishing relation with potential donors to seek support for ETF activities.

**Useful resources:**

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