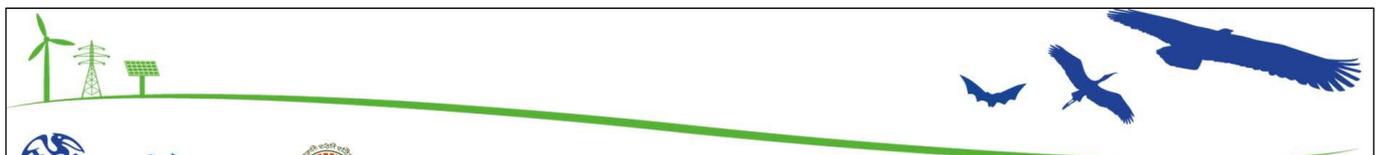


7th Meeting of the CMS Multi-Stakeholder Energy Task Force

24-26 April 2024, Madrid, Spain and online

ETF7/Doc.2

JOINT REPORT OF CMS SECRETARIAT AND ETF COORDINATOR ON ACTIVITIES OF THE ETF



Convention on Migratory Species

 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.


Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

JOINT REPORT OF CMS SECRETARIAT AND ETF COORDINATOR ON ACTIVITIES OF ETF

Introduction

1. This document provides an overview of the activities undertaken by the CMS Secretariat and the Coordinator of the Energy Task Force (ETF) since the Sixth Meeting of the ETF (ETF6), held virtually from 9 February – 10 February 2022.

Membership of the Energy Task Force (ETF)

2. As of April 2024, 19 CMS Contracting Parties are Members of the ETF, with representatives from the environment, energy and development-related ministries and authorities. In addition, the membership comprises one international development government agency, the secretariats of seven multilateral environmental agreements, and a further 13 international organisations and institutions, including intergovernmental organisations and networks, development banks and non-governmental organisations. A further 26 national and international organisations and associations are Observers of the ETF. The full list can be found here: <https://www.cms.int/en/taskforce/energy-task-force>.
3. New members and observers since the October 2023 interim meeting, include:
 - Asian Development Bank (ADB)
 - BankWatch
 - GBatNet
 - International Union for Nature (IUCN)
 - New Zealand Department of Conservation
 - SEO/BirdLife
 - Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
 - U.S. International Development Finance Corporation (DFC).

Institutional update

4. The Avian Species Team of the CMS Secretariat has continued leading on ETF matters. It has been promoting linkages with the CMS Parties and other relevant UN agencies and international organizations and institutions such as the Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and related gatherings including the 27th and 28th meetings of the Conference of the Parties to UNFCCC (COP27 and COP28), and side events organized at the Bonn Climate Change Conferences in 2022 and 2023 (Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice and the Subsidiary Body for Implementation; SB56 and SB58). It has also continued supporting the implementation of the contractual arrangement with BirdLife International for the coordination of the ETF, made possible thanks to the voluntary contributions from the Government of India, from the Ministère de la Transition écologique et solidaire of France and L'Office français de la biodiversité (OFB) France.

Highlights

5. Key highlights from across the year include:
- a. Communication documents, spatial mapping tools, and publications by ETF Members and Observers:
 - [Wildlife and power lines: guidelines for preventing and mitigating wildlife mortality associated with electricity distribution networks](#) by the IUCN
 - [Quick guidance preventing electrocution on birds](#) by the International Association for Falconry and Conservation of Birds of Prey (IAF)
 - [Good Practice Handbook on Post-Construction Bird and Bat Fatality Monitoring \(PCFM\) for Onshore Wind Energy Facilities in Emerging Market Countries and its Decision Support Tool](#) by the International Finance Corporation – World Bank Group
 - [Blade Patterning as a Potential Mitigation for Collision](#) by BirdLife South Africa
 - Guidelines in Arabic [on 'Impacts of Power Lines on Birds and Appropriate Mitigation Measure'](#) by the National Center for Wildlife (NCW)
 - [Shared Airspace: Protecting birds along the grid](#) brochure by Renewables Grid Initiative (RGI)
 - Publication of ETF promotional [video](#) and [brochure](#)
 - [AVISTEP](#) – avian sensitivity tool for energy planning launched
 - [TransMit](#). – an evidence-based toolkit for mitigating powerline-related avian mortality launched
 - Adoption of a series of strategic documents to guide the future direction of the ETF, including the: IFI Guidance Package, Geographic Expansion Strategy, Private Sector Engagement Strategy, and the Communication strategy.
 - b. ETF webinars or presentations:
 - The 6th Conference on Wind Energy and Wildlife Impacts, held in Egmond aan Zee, the Netherlands, from 4 to 8 April 2022 on 'Synergies for energy infrastructure and migratory species conservation: Governance through multi-stakeholder collaboration'.
 - The fifty-sixth session of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice and the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SB 56), held from 6 to 16 June 2022 had a side event, '[Transformative, nature-safe solutions for adaptation and renewable energy we want for Africa](#)', by CMS Secretariat and BirdLife International.
 - July 2022, Dutch Development Bank FMO event, 'Synergies for energy infrastructure and migratory species conservation: Governance through multi-stakeholder collaboration'
 - The UNFCCC COP27, held from 6 to 18 November 2022 in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, had four side events on renewable energy and biodiversity hosted by ETF members and observers NCE, BLI, Government of Spain, RECREEE, NABU, and RGI.
 - The fifty-eight session of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice and the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SB 58), held from 5 to 15 June 2023 had a side event on '[The Global Stocktake: Joint action for the climate and biodiversity crises](#)'.

- July 2023, Meeting of Signatories to the Raptors MOU
 - The 7th [Conference on Wind Energy and Wildlife Impacts \(CWW\)](#), held in Šibenik, Croatia, from 18 to 22 September, where ETF members presented in panel discussions and poster presentations.
 - The Nature for Life Hub 2023, held from 7 to 9 November 2023, where the ETF was represented by BirdLife International and presented on '[Ensuring a Nature-Positive Renewable Energy Transition](#)'
 - [European Vulture Conference](#), held in Cáceres, Spain, from 14 to 17 November 2023, with a roundtable discussion moderated by the CMS Raptors MOU Coordinating Unit and the CMS Secretariat. Additionally, there were also presentations from RGI on RGI's [Bird Portal](#), on the [LIFE SafeLines4Birds](#), and Ministerio para la Transición Ecológica y el Reto Demográfico (MITECO), Spain, on insights from a study on '*Future prospects to reduce negative impacts of power lines*'.
 - The UNFCCC COP28, held from 30 November to 13 December 2023 in Dubai, UAE. Amy Fraenkel, Executive Secretary of CMS met with several key stakeholders and CMS and the ETF were featured in several events, including those hosted by ETF members and observers:
 - *Renewable energy positive for biodiversity: building alliances to move forward*, hosted by Iberdrola and BirdLife International,
 - *Delivering integrated action for renewable energy and biodiversity: A nature positive future*, hosted by BirdLife International, and
 - Press Conference: *Climate Change and Migratory Species: A Review of Impacts, Conservation Actions, Indicators and Ecosystem Services* (see the related [press release](#) and the [report](#)).
 - RGI hosted a side event for the launch of the Global Initiative for Nature, Grids, and Renewables – or GINGR,
 - Regional Center for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (RCREEE) also hosted a side event on '*Addressing the data-deficient biodiversity conservation in renewable energy*' at the RCREEE Pavilion, and
 - China Biodiversity Conservation and Green Development Foundation (CBCGDF) also hosted a side event at the IUCN Pavilion, on '*Harmonious Coexistence with Nature: Smart Grid Systems*'.
- c. The ETF also published newsletters, the most recent editions include [July 2023](#), and [January 2024](#).
- d. The ETF also had several webinars and meetings:
- BirdLife CMS Middle East North Africa Climate Week Side Event on 29 March 2022 on '[Nature Sensitive Renewable Energy Deployment in MENA: Successes, Challenges and Opportunities](#)',
 - Birds and Energy Conference, '*CMS Energy Task Force: A global Platform*' in August 2022,
 - [Energy Developments and Migratory Birds in the Americas](#) in September 2022,
 - ETF Webinar on Safe Energy: Flyways Conference on Energy and Birds, '*Synergies for energy infrastructure and migratory species conservation: Governance through multi-stakeholder collaboration*' in October 2022,

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- A joint webinar on '[Offshore Wind Farms and Migratory Species](#)' by BirdLife International, CMS, the Nature And Biodiversity Conservation Union (NABU) and The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) on 24 October 2022,
 - ETF Interim Meetings on 21 February 2023 and [25 October 2023](#). These meetings included:
 - The launch of the *Post-construction Bird and Bat Fatality Monitoring Handbook and Decision Support Tool*,
 - Presentations on a series of draft strategic documents to guide the governance of the ETF have been developed for review, with a focus on sector engagement, expansion of membership and operations, communications, and a launch of a small grant fund, and
 - Update on the preparations of the 14th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CMS (CMS COP14) and Seventh ETF meeting planning.
- e. The work of the ETF was highlighted during CMS COP14, which took place in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, from 12 to 17 February 2024, as reported in document UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.30.3.2 [Renewable Energy and Migratory Species](#).