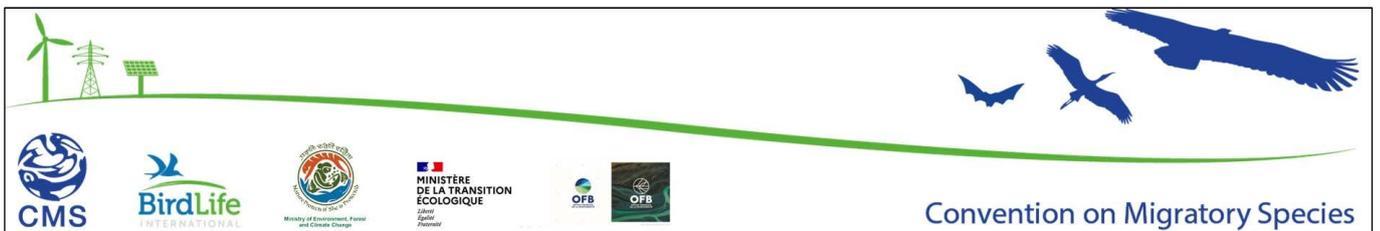


7th Meeting of the CMS Multi-Stakeholder Energy Task Force

24-26 April 2024, Madrid, Spain and online

ETF7/Doc.5

CMS COP14 DECISIONS, IMPLICATIONS AND POTENTIAL ACTIONS FOR THE ETF



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.



CMS COP14 DECISIONS, IMPLICATIONS AND POTENTIAL ACTIONS FOR THE ETF

Introduction

1. The 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS COP14) was held from 12 to 17 February, in Samarkand, Uzbekistan.
2. This meeting was one of the most significant global biodiversity gatherings since the adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KM-GBF) in 2022 and addressed a wide range of important conservation priorities and new initiatives, including many that will support the implementation of the KM-GBF. The triennial international meeting highlighted the issues of habitat conservation and restoration as well as threats to species such as overexploitation, habitat loss and fragmentation, pollution and climate change.
3. ETF relevant highlights from the meeting included:
 - a. The launch of the first-ever [State of the World's Migratory Species](#) report.
 - b. A new Global Partnership on Ecological Connectivity (GPEC) was launched during a special event of COP14. This alliance aims to ensure that ecological connectivity is maintained, enhanced, and restored in critical areas for migratory species.
 - c. Strengthened resolution on climate change and endorsement of the report on climate change and migratory wildlife.
 - d. New global guidelines addressing the impacts of light pollution on migratory species.
 - e. Recommendations on addressing linear infrastructure development and impact assessment.
 - f. Agreement on a Central Asian Flyway initiative spanning 30 Range States of migratory birds. The adopted initiative included the establishment of a coordinating unit in India with financial support from the Indian Government.
4. The full range of decisions and resolutions from COP14 can be found on the [CMS website](#).

CMS Resolutions and Decisions endorsed at COP14 and relevance to the ETF

5. [Resolution 11.27 \(Rev.COP13\) Renewable Energy and Migratory Species](#) was not amended at CMS COP14. This resolution recalls previous decisions and resolutions relating to wind turbines, power lines, climate change and impacts to migratory birds, and includes the Terms of Reference for the ETF.
6. New [Decisions](#) (14.207 to 14.210) on Renewable Energy and Migratory Species were approved, which are as following:

14.207 *Directed to Parties*

Parties are:

- a) requested to integrate biodiversity and migratory species conservation needs into national energy and climate policy and action plans, land and maritime spatial planning and legislation and regulations on siting of new energy infrastructure with the aim of avoiding negative impacts on migratory species, and aligned with the Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;
- b) encouraged to support an evidence-based renewable energy mix in the design and implementation of renewable energy policies such as Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and National Energy and Climate Plans, and integrate Strategic Environmental Assessments and sensitivity mapping

for migratory species, especially for those protected at national or international level into decision-making processes for climate targets and into land and maritime spatial planning;

- c) invited to provide to the Energy Task Force and the Secretariat information and indicators that have been integrated into national climate action plans and NDCs;
- d) requested to report to COP15 on the above activities in their National Reports; and,
- e) recommended to take legal, administrative or policy measures to encourage and enable the energy sector to regularly monitor, assess, and transparently disclose their risks, dependencies and impacts on biodiversity along their operations, supply and value chains, in order to progressively reduce negative impacts on biodiversity, increase positive impacts, and promote actions to ensure sustainable patterns of production.

14.208 *Directed to Parties, intergovernmental and nongovernment organizations, and others*

Parties, including their representatives from both environment and energy ministries and authorities, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, and other stakeholders from the energy sector are encouraged to support the implementation of the Energy Task Force Workplan and the ongoing operations of the Energy Task Force.

14.209 *Directed to the Energy Task Force*

The Energy Task Force is requested, subject to the availability of resources, to:

- a) review tools and provide guidance for assessing and mitigating the impacts of renewable energy and power line developments on migratory species across flyways and throughout species' ranges, including in areas beyond national jurisdiction; this includes standardized approaches for post-construction monitoring of renewable energy projects, and a review of existing tools, such as AVISTEP;
- b) produce guidance on the format and scope of a database on CMS Appendix I species mortality caused by renewable energy developments;
- c) coordinate the collation of mortality data for birds and bats with other CMS task forces working on similar initiatives, such as the CMS Saker Falcon Task Force, the CMS Intergovernmental Task Force on Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the Mediterranean (MIKT) and the CMS Asia Pacific Illegal Taking of Migratory Birds Intergovernmental Task Force;
- d) gather information on the risks, and negative impacts on migratory species of the energy sector along their operations, supply and value chains, in order to progressively reduce negative impacts on biodiversity, increase positive impacts and promote actions to ensure sustainable patterns of production;
- e) expand the scope of the ETF to include consideration to the Important Marine Mammal Areas (IMMAs) and Important Shark and Ray Areas (ISRAs) as well as the impacts on cetaceans of offshore renewable energy;
- f) engage with the corporate and international financial sector to support the integration of best practices and mainstreaming of migratory species into

industry policies and safeguards; and

- g) encourage the international donor community to mainstream biodiversity into funding strategies related to the transition to renewable energy.

14.210 *Directed to the Secretariat*

The Secretariat shall, subject to the availability of resources:

- a) include in its communication strategy the guidance and tools produced by the ETF, as well as the engagement with IFIs and the full range of renewable energy agents;
- b) support the ETF and ensure its membership is increased and its scope regularly reviewed to address all potential threats from renewable energy infrastructure to migratory species;
- c) seek partnerships with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and other relevant entities, to expand the role and awareness of the ETF and the implementation of safeguards, spatial planning tools and guidance to avoid the negative impacts on migratory species of renewable energy infrastructure; and
- d) support the organization of ETF workshops to raise the awareness and increase the capacity of government representatives who are working in the areas of renewable energy and migratory species.

7. CMS [Resolution 7.2 \(Rev.COP14\) Impact Assessment and Migratory Species](#) was revised at COP14 and new [Decisions](#) 14.204 to 14.206 were adopted on this topic.
8. Additionally, CMS Decisions 13.130-13.134 on Infrastructure Development and Migratory Species were deleted, and new Decisions (14.201-14.203) were adopted.
9. The full list of CMS COP14 decisions can be found [here](#).

Discussion questions

- Do the current workplan and strategic documents support the delivery of CMS COP14 decisions, and if not, what needs to be adapted and incorporated in the next workplan to act on the decisions?
- How can tools and guidance, such as AVISTEP and the Post-Construction Monitoring Handbook be expanded at the rate needed to meet the global goal to triple renewable energy capacity in alignment with the KM-GBF?
- How can the ETF, and its Technical Working Group best respond to the asks for species mortality data and cooperation with other Task Forces?
- How can the ETF support an increase regarding the understanding of offshore renewable energy infrastructure and marine species (including marine mammals) and their habitats? What are the priority next steps?
- How should the ETF engage with the corporate renewable energy sector, recognising their importance to delivering on our objectives to minimise the impacts of renewable energy on biodiversity?

- How can the ETF support the request to Parties regarding information on cumulative effects assessments from Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) and Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEAs), including any experiences and lessons learned in alignment with the ETF workplan?