



MIGRATORY BIRDS and ENERGY INSTALLATIONS

World Migratory Bird Day Poster 2015 © Poster designed by Katja Cloud

Related Publications and Reports

Review of the Conflict Between Migratory Birds and Electricity Power Grids in the African-Eurasian Region by Bureau Waardenburg, Boere Conservation Consultancy, STRIX Ambiente e Inovação and the Endangered Wildlife Trust for the CMS and AEWA.

Guidelines for Mitigating Conflict Between Migratory Birds and Electricity Power Grids by the same consortium for CMS and AEWA.

Migratory Soaring Birds Project implemented by BirdLife International with the support of the Global Environment Facility and the United Nations Development Programme the project has developed detailed guidance regarding birds and the energy sector.

Connecting Energy, Protecting Nature is a briefing paper by BirdLife International and the European Environmental Bureau putting the case for protecting nature in the context of energy infrastructure projects in the EU.

Some facts and figures on migratory birds and energy installations

- > Power lines are one of the major causes of unnatural deaths for birds, many millions of which fall victim each year.
- > Direct mortality occurs through electrocution or collision.
- > Up to 10,000 electrocutions and many 100,000s of collisions occur in countries across the African-Eurasian region each year.
- > Electrocution may be the most serious cause of death for certain bird species, particularly larger species, even more than road traffic.
- > Electrocution is not just a conservation issue, but also an economic one - power outages cause inconvenience to customers and power companies alike.
- > Indirect effects on birds include disturbance and habitat loss.

World Migratory Bird Day

World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD) is an annual worldwide celebration of migratory birds. It highlights the need for conservation of both the birds and their habitats.

WMBD has been celebrated in over 130 countries and territories with hundreds of events involving thousands of participants since its inception in 2006.

The two inter-governmental treaties that organize WMBD are:

- > AEWA – the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds
- > CMS – the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals

www.worldmigratorybirdday.org

MIGRATORY BIRDS AND ENERGY INSTALLATIONS

Recommendations

- > Modifications to power lines and structures (marking, modifications to avoid electrocution) can effectively reduce risk posed to birds by 50% or more.
- > Burying power lines is the best solution, but 3-20 times more expensive and must be weighed against mitigation and maintenance costs of lines above ground.
- > Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) procedures need to be considered.
- > To mitigate for electrocution, distances between electric conductors and grounded hardware need to be greater than wrist-to-wrist or head-to-foot distance of largest species.
- > Considerable success can be achieved with artificial bird-safe perches and nesting platforms.
- > Contrast patterns on the blades or ultraviolet paint may help birds to recognize wind turbines as a danger.

CMS Task Force

A Task Force on Reconciling Selected Energy Sector Developments with Migratory Species Conservation (the Energy Task Force) is being established under the Convention on Migratory Species, in order to:

- > facilitate the involvement of all relevant stakeholders in the process of reconciling energy sector developments with the conservation of migratory species;
- > promote the implementation of current guidance and decisions;
- > stimulate exchange of information, experience, best practice and know-how; and
- > stimulate more research when significant gaps in knowledge exist.



Installation of bird flight diverters by helicopter on a high voltage power line in Germany © RWE Rhein-Ruhr Netzservice

CMS Resolution

Parties to the Convention on Migratory Species adopted at their 2014 Conference in Quito a **resolution on renewable energy and migratory species**:

Wind energy: undertake careful physical planning with special attention to the mortality of birds resulting from collisions with wind turbines and consider means of reducing disturbance such as ‘shutdown on demand’;

Solar energy: avoid protected areas to limit impacts of solar power plants and reduce disturbance and displacement;

Ocean energy: give attention to possible impacts on migratory species of increased noise and electromagnetic field disturbance especially during construction work in coastal habitats.

Contact



UNEP / CMS Secretariat or
UNEP/AEWA Secretariat
UN Campus
Platz der Vereinten Nationen 1
D-53113 Bonn, Germany
Tel. CMS: (+49 228) 815 24 26
Tel. AEWA: (+49 228) 815 24 13
www.cms.int
www.unep-aewa.org

