

Impulses for action from the conference

“Shared Airspace – Towards a bird-friendly electricity grid”

Both the acceleration of planning for the expansion of renewable energies, and the acute biodiversity crisis, emphasise the urgent need for all actors involved to consider and implement bird protection in the course of the expansion of the power grid and thus to contribute to the preservation of biodiversity. At the conference on September 28, 2022, possible solutions for the German context were discussed, which have been summarised into the below ten ‘impulses for action’. These go hand in hand with the document “Future visions for bird protection in the power grid” (Zukunftsvisionen für den Vogelschutz im Stromnetz) which contains comprehensive explanations and proposed solutions for the individual topics.

1) Incentives and resources should be made available so that all relevant stakeholders (including grid operators, civil society, industry, planners, authorities, and NGOs) have the capacity to focus on the topic of bird protection, e.g., in exchange forums.

2) Data should be collected according to standards (yet to be defined) and fed into a central, nationwide database.

3) Project-specific data should be made available independently in order to contribute to knowledge in this field.

4) Data already collected from relevant planning processes, studies, or projects should be handled according to an open-data approach.

5) The state of knowledge of existing research (e.g., fields of research, contracting processes, parties involved, evaluation) should be improved through transparent exchange and networking.

6) A task force of stakeholders should be established to identify and fill research gaps, including on measures to prevent electrocution & collision and construction forms of poles and pylons.

7) A nationwide analysis of risk-hotspots for birds on the power grid should be conducted on a regular basis, and a sensitivity map should be produced as a result to serve as a binding tool for grid expansion and the existing grid.

8) Scientifically recognised, binding, nationwide standards should be established, both for methods for grid retrofitting and for new construction throughout the power grid - especially for critical line areas.

9) The possibilities of an interdisciplinary exchange between different stakeholders must be explored and established in order to share knowledge and build up know-how.

10) All relevant stakeholders should be involved in concrete grid expansion projects at an early stage and in an open-ended manner in order to reconcile bird protection and technical.



Renewables 
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