

Impulses for action from the conference: “Shared Airspace – Towards a bird-friendly electricity grid”

Both the accelerated build-out of renewable energy infrastructure 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. At the conference on September 28th, 2022, potential solutions for the German context were discussed, which have been summarised into the below eight ‘impulses for action’. These go hand in hand with the document “Future visions for bird protection in the power grid” (available in German [here](#)), which contains comprehensive explanations and proposed solutions for the individual topics.

1. Incentives and resources should be made available so that all relevant actors have the capacity to focus on the topic of bird protection.
2. Platforms for interdisciplinary exchange should be created to share knowledge, build know-how, and ensure transparency in research.
3. An interdisciplinary task force should identify and fill research gaps, incl. on bird flight diverters & construction forms of grid infrastructure.
4. In order to improve the state of knowledge, an open approach to existing and future project data is necessary.
5. Data should be collected according to standards (yet to be defined) and fed into a central, nationwide database.
6. A nationwide analysis of the risk-hotspots for birds in 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 instrument for both grid expansion and the existing grid.
7. Scientifically recognised, binding, nationwide standards should be established for both methods for retrofitting and new construction throughout entire power grid - especially for critical line areas.
8. 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 the needs of bird protection with the technological possibilities.



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