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CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE
AND NATURAL HABITATS

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Standing Committee
45th meeting
Strasbourg, 8-12 December 2025

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Bureau of the Standing Committee
8-10 April 2025
Strasbourg

Complaint on stand by: 2021/02

Alleged threat to birds and protected sites due to the proposed construction of windfarms (Norway)

- GOVERNMENT REPORT -

Document prepared by
Royal Norwegian Ministry

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ROYAL NORWEGIAN MINISTRY OF CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT

Secretariat of the Bern Convention Att. Mikael Poutiers

Your ref	Our ref	Date
	24/322-	14 February 2025

Government report: Complaint No. 2021/2: Alleged threat to birds and protected sites due to the proposed construction of windfarms

We refer to your letter dated April 15th, 2024, where Norwegian authorities are invited to send a progress report regarding complaint 2021/2, particularly requesting further available findings of the monitoring program for the next Bureau meeting. Further data on bird migration was also requested, if available. We also thank the Bureau for granting an extension of the deadline for the report until February 14th, 2025. Below you will find the Government's report regarding the requested information.

The Bureau is concerned that more birds are killed from collisions with the wind turbines in Haram wind power plant than what is indicated by the monitoring results. It is known that a certain number of collision-killed birds disappear before dog searches are carried out, and that not all collision-killed birds left in the area are found in the searches. Measures to account for birds not found in the searches have been implemented. This is described below. It will consequently be possible to estimate the total number of collision-killed birds. The correction for the disappearance rate and search efficiency has not yet been made, but corrected numbers will be available in the final report. The final results from the monitoring program are expected to be available later this year.

Annual report - findings from bird and bat monitoring

In accordance with the monitoring program, findings from the monitoring in 2023 have been reported to the Norwegian authorities. The report includes results from the monitoring of the breeding population and breeding success of selected birds of prey and European shag, searches for collision-killed birds and bats, a wildlife camera study and counting of bats. The wildlife camera study was implemented for the 2023 monitoring season, to investigate the reasons why killed birds within the wind power plant area disappear.

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This is an important part of investigating the disappearance rate for killed birds and a measure to increase monitoring accuracy. Also new since the 2022 monitoring season, is the counting of bat

The purpose of the monitoring report is not to conclude on the wind power plant's impact on birds, but to report the findings that were made during the 2023 season. A complete overview will be available in the final monitoring report. As mentioned, the final report is expected later this year. Below, we will provide a brief overview of the results from the monitoring program from 2023. The complete report will be made available at your request; however, the report is only available in Norwegian.

Birds of prey

In addition to observing target birds of prey in general, known and likely nesting sites for Peregrine falcons, White-tailed eagles and Eurasian eagle owls were surveyed regularly throughout the season. Peregrine falcons and White-tailed eagles were recorded at known nesting sites early in the season, but no nesting was detected. Observations at the end of the season suggest that White-tailed eagles may have nested on Haramsøya in 2023, but this is not confirmed. Eurasian eagle owls were not recorded during the season, neither with sound recorders nor through observations.

European shag (Phalacrocorax aristotelis)

About 60 active nests have been counted on Haramsøya. This is the same number as in 2022. The surveyors report difficulties in finding and verifying active nests due to the inaccessibility of the nesting area and the concealed nests.

Search for birds and bats killed by wind turbine collisions

Teams of a dog and a handler searched for collision-killed birds on 21 different days during the 2023 season. 56 bird carcasses were found in the period 22 April to 29 October. No bats were found. The distribution of carcasses found by the different turbines is shown in the figure below.

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Art	Turbin 1	Turbin 2	Turbin 3	Turbin 4	Turbin 5	Turbin 6	Turbin 7	Turbin 8
Bergirisk -LC*							1	
Enkeltbekkasin -LC		3	2	4	2	1		1
Fuglekonge -LC		3	1					

Com. snipe

Goldcrest

Herring gull

Golden plover

Meadow pipit

Great tit

Skylark

Waxwing

Lesser BB gull

Com. sandpip.

Com. swift

Unidentified

To estimate the disappearance rate and the dogs' search efficiency for both birds and bats, carcasses of both birds (different size and species) and bats were placed in the search area. The handlers were not informed. The tests showed that out of 24 carcasses laid out, 10 were found during the searches (42% in total, 7 out of 19 birds found, 3 out of 5 bats found). 4 birds had disappeared between placing and searching. To investigate which species are most likely to remove carcasses, baits monitored by camera traps were set out. The results showed that on Haramsøya most of the bait was removed by crows.

Migratory birds

Investigations of migrating birds were carried out using sound recorders (Acoustic Song Meter SM4) during the spring migration (15 March to 31 May) and during the autumn migration (15 August to 15 October). Two permanent listening stations were established. The surveys span three seasons, from 2022 to 2024, and this data will be presented in the final report.

Bats

Five bat detectors were set out. Due to heavy rainfall and wind in mid-July, 3 of the detectors were destroyed due to water ingress. It was not possible to obtain new devices before the season ended, and the rest of the season was examined with 2 detectors.

The data has not been fully analyzed but calls from what are likely Northern bats have been identified at one location. In addition, sounds have been recorded from two locations which

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Due to the challenges with bat detectors being destroyed by rainfall during 2023, measures are taken to prevent this in future surveys, such as using more robust listening boxes, special protection equipment and/or external microphones.

Inspection in 2024

On 24 June 2024, The Norwegian Water Resources and Energy Directorate (NVE) carried out an inspection at the Haram wind power plant to assess whether the monitoring program is carried out in accordance with NVE's approvals. Representatives from NVE, the owners of the wind power plant, the surveyors, representatives of Haram municipality and the State Administrator in Møre and Romsdal were present. No deviations were found during the inspection, and NVE concluded that the survey was carried out as stipulated in NVE's approval of the monitoring program.

Yours sincerely

Torbjørn Lange
Deputy Director General

Maline Salicath Gordner
Senior Adviser

This document is signed electronically and has therefore no handwritten signature.