



GINGR

Global Initiative for Nature,
Grids and Renewables

Renewables
Grid Initiative



BACKGROUND

The transition from fossil to renewable energy has been too slow and the current pace falls far short of the levels required to meet the Paris Agreement Climate Goals. Climate change impacts are increasing in frequency and intensity bringing devastation and huge economic losses everywhere in the world. We therefore need to speed up decarbonisation, exponentially increase investments in, and deployment of, renewable energy, mainly wind and solar, and related electricity grids. There will need to be at least a tripling of deployment and investment in renewable energy to keep the Paris Agreement goals alive. Currently, the global growth in renewable energy generation is largely driven by Europe, the United States and China. This will need to change if we are to have an equitable global transition.

At the same time, we know that limiting global warming is not possible without healthy ecosystems, which provide essential carbon sinks and adaptation opportunities. We cannot afford to repeat the mistakes of the fossil fuel era. It is therefore of paramount importance to develop renewable energy and electricity grid infrastructure while at the same time protecting and restoring nature.

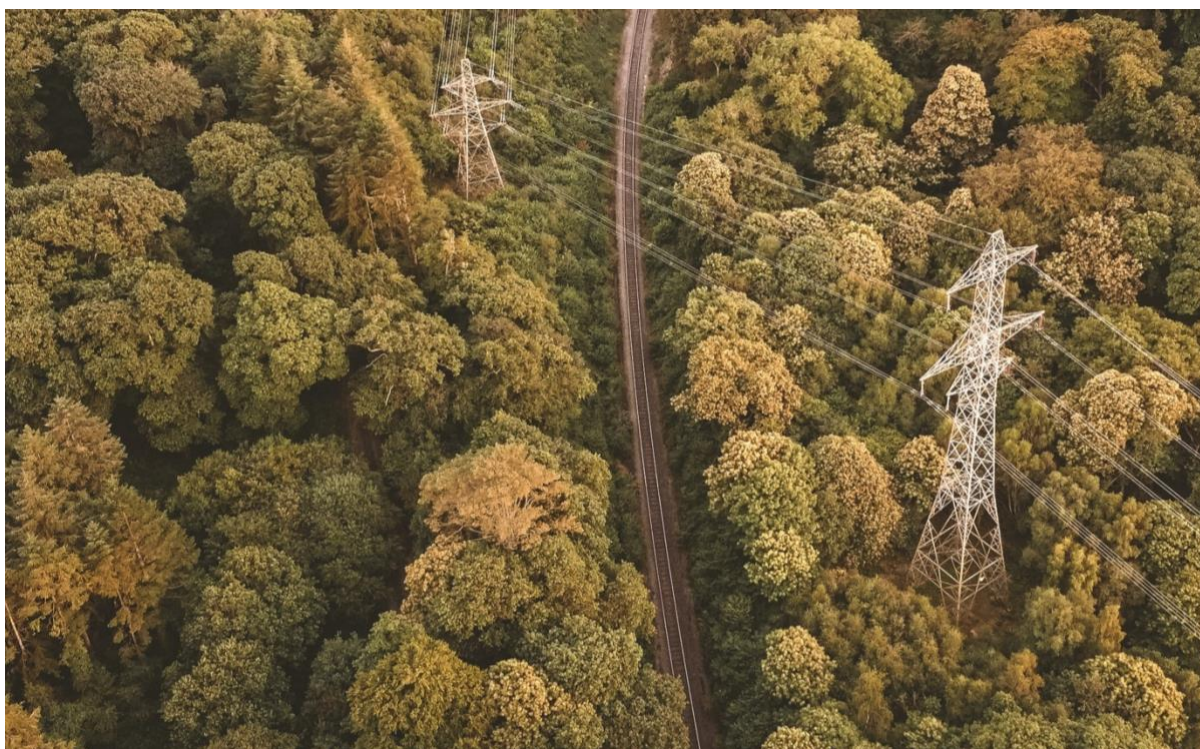
The need to expedite the planning and permitting process for renewable energy and grid infrastructure to enable faster deployment has become a top priority for Governments

around the world. However, faster deployment at the needed scale can only be met if routed in the fundamental requirement of avoiding any unnecessary negative impacts on biodiversity, recalling the COP 26 cover decision that recognised the interrelated nature of the climate change and biodiversity loss crises.



The accelerated rollout of renewable energy also urgently requires an accelerated expansion of the electricity grid system. Planning and deploying electricity grids to enable grid integration and system optimisation is a pre-requisite for a timely and successful energy transition. Electricity grids, when well planned, can support and contribute to nature positive goals.

An increasing number of industries have committed to fully decarbonise their operations. More recently companies have also started to commit to be nature positive by the end of this decade in recognition of the massive biodiversity crises we are facing. At the same time, governments are struggling to find coherence among apparently conflicting targets, sometimes giving the impression that we can either deal with emission reduction or protect nature. We believe that both are possible if we tackle them together.



There are significant opportunities to speed up deployment of wind, solar and electricity grids while at the same time protecting and even restoring nature. To ensure that the best decisions are taken to enable deep renewables-based electrification and, to avoid biodiversity decline we need to bring together the climate, energy and biodiversity objectives and pursue all of them in parallel. A collaborative process involving governments, industries and civil society will offer unprecedented sustainable and speedy results.

THE PLATFORM

A truly just and sustainable energy transition requires a massive and speedy build-up of renewable energy sources and electricity grids globally. This initiative brings together key stakeholders of the energy transition to ensure a timely and sustainable deployment of energy infrastructure. It starts with an offshore focus and overtime it aims at covering all renewable energy and electricity grid infrastructure, both offshore and on-land.

Offshore wind will play a major and growing role in the decarbonisation process. Healthy oceans and vibrant ecosystems are however also needed to fight climate change, feed coastal communities, and support economic activities. It is therefore of paramount importance to develop offshore energy infrastructure while at the same time protecting and restoring nature.

Building on the Global Offshore Wind Alliance (GOWA) and the Offshore Coalition for Energy and Nature (OCEaN), GINGR – Global Initiative for Nature, Grids and Renewables commits governments, industries and involved stakeholders to embrace the triple challenge of implementing solutions for mitigating climate change, enhancing energy security, and restoring nature in line with the targets of the Paris Agreement and the Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity framework.



By putting in place the political and financing frameworks for a rapid ramp up of offshore wind, electricity grids and nature restoration, the signatories will develop, adopt and deploy at scale nature-positive solutions, sustainable auctioning and licensing arrangements and capacity building to deliver timely and sustainable infrastructure deployment.

The signatories will establish and mandate a dedicated Secretariat/Observatory to develop a Corporate Sustainability Index, monitor and report progresses against it and provide advice to governments, project developers and permitting authorities to facilitate implementation. This will also support project developers in accessing capital, both on financial markets and from governmental financial institutions, for those projects that comply with the index requirements.

MONITORING & REPORTING FRAMEWORK

The aim of the monitoring and reporting framework is to allow stakeholders to demonstrate progress towards rapid sustainable renewable energy generation and access. It will rely on agreed criteria and existing tools and methodologies for assessing impacts on and restoration of nature (such as IUCN's STAR, IBAT and Nature base Solutions and Nature positive approaches). The goal being to develop a framework that promotes best practice in biodiversity management and conservation whilst facilitating a faster roll out of renewable energy and electricity grids globally. The eventual Secretariat/Observatory will produce annual reports, giving visibility to progress and best practices. Additionally, targeted capacity building activities for implementation will be proposed along with the development of mutual learning platforms where operators regulators and projects developers can share lessons learned and case studies.



TIMELINE

GINGR – the Global Initiative for Nature, Grids and Renewables was launched at UNFCCC COP28. GINGR will be presenting first discussion papers and preliminary results of the Technical Working Groups at COP 29 December 2024. The offshore assessment and monitoring framework is to be developed by COP 30 in the year 2025.

PROCESS

The IUCN Secretariat together with the Renewables Grid Initiative (RGI) are the initiators of GINGR. Currently, the GINGR secretariat is being set up at the premises of RGI in Berlin. It is envisaged that the Initiative will cover renewable energy generated by wind and solar and electricity grids, with an initial focus on offshore wind expansion.

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