

**Memorandum of Understanding
on the Conservation and Management of the
Middle-European Population of the Great Bustard
(*Otis tarda*)**

ACTION PLAN

Part 2 (Country Specific)

• **Albania**

Carry out a Great Bustard population survey and winter censuses.

Collaborate with hunting organisations to prevent illegal hunting in the wintering sites in the relevant season.

Develop projects for habitat conservation in co-operation with international experts.

Establish and maintain contact with neighbouring countries and international organisations, including nomination of an expert as a member of the Bustard Specialist Group of IUCN-SSC and BirdLife International.

SIGNATURE DATE

• **Austria**

Endeavour to extend the ongoing set-aside and habitat management schemes.

Ensure the control of all populations locally and the care for breeding females in the field.

Improve and strengthen cross-border co-operation with neighbouring countries by reviewing and coordinating existing and/or developing new programmes for the research, monitoring and protection of Great Bustards.

SIGNATURE DATE

• **Bosnia and Herzegovina**

Carry out a Great Bustard population survey and winter censuses, warden the populations.

Identify and register all Great Bustard habitats and migration routes.

Develop projects for habitat conservation in co-operation with international experts.

Collaborate with hunting organisations to prevent illegal hunting in the wintering sites in the relevant season.

Establish and maintain contact with neighbouring countries and international organisations, including nomination of an expert as a member of the Bustard Specialist Group of IUCN-SSC and BirdLife International.

SIGNATURE DATE

• **Bulgaria**

Carry out co-ordinated and comparable national surveys in Bulgaria as a basis for bilateral co-operation with Romania in the conservation of the species in the whole of Dobrudja.

Develop and promote protection programmes: setting up set-aside schemes and programmes for land leasing and buying of land for extensification and special protection measures in intensively used farmlands in Northeast Bulgaria (and, in particular, Dobrudja) and in Northwest Bulgaria (in particular in the countryside Zlatiata), including supervising the populations and identifying the threats to them.

Ensure that the Great Bustard is given maximum protection - give maximum penalties for causing serious damage to the birds; enforce the conservation legislation in the existing protected area “The Valley of the Bustards”; designate new protected areas.

SIGNATURE DATE

- **Croatia**

Provide full protection for individual Great Bustards which arrive mostly incidentally.

Develop projects for habitat conservation in co-operation with international experts.

Establish and maintain contact with neighbouring countries and international organisations, including nomination of an expert to be a member of the Bustard Specialist Group of IUCN-SSC and BirdLife International.

SIGNATURE DATE

• **Czech Republic**

Improve habitat quality in the wintering grounds of the cross-border Great Bustard population by promoting cultivation of rape, work out a system of incentives for farmers.

Improve and strengthen cross-border co-operation with neighbouring countries by reviewing and coordinating existing and/or developing new programmes for the research, monitoring and protection of Great Bustards.

Continue to explore possibilities for establishing a nature reserve in South Moravia to protect the cross-border Great Bustard population and manage its habitat.

SIGNATURE DATE

• **Germany**

Continuation and further optimisation of the stock conservation measures through programmes which include rearing and release into the wild in selected areas

Predator and habitat management, with the aim of re-establishing, or continuing to guarantee that there is sufficient reproductive capacity in the wild.

continuation of scientific research into the ecology of the Great Bustard at the Buckow State Ornithological Station.

SIGNATURE DATE

- **Greece**

establish and maintain contact with neighbouring countries and international organisations, including nomination of an expert to be a member of the Bustard Specialist Group of IUCN-SSC and BirdLife International.

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• **Hungary**

Promote habitat protection programmes for the Great Bustard through the development of appropriate instruments, including agriculture policy instruments, the payment of incentives to farmers in environmentally sensitive areas, and the maintenance of public ownership of areas of considerable importance for the bird.

Ensure that as much protected grassland and arable land as possible will be owned by the State or conservation organisations in the range of the Great Bustard. Acquire at least minimal areas to ensure that wintering and breeding grounds are managed with special emphasis on the Great Bustard, and investigate the effects of habitat management on the reproductive success and distribution of the Great Bustard.

Possibly damaging alterations in Great Bustard habitats should be subject to Environmental Impact Assessment.

Intensifying scientific supervision: investigate the success of repatriation, evaluate possible effects of artificial insemination programmes, carry out studies on the importance of predators, on migration including mortality factors, carry out synchronised censuses.

Improve and strengthen cross-border co-operation with neighbouring countries by reviewing and coordinating existing and/or developing new programmes for research, monitoring and protection of Great Bustards.

SIGNATURE DATE

• **The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia**

Carry out a Great Bustard population survey and winter censuses, and warden the populations.

Identify and register all Great Bustard habitats and migration routes.

Develop projects for habitat conservation in co-operation with international experts.

Collaborate with hunting organisations to prevent illegal hunting in the wintering sites in the relevant season.

Establish and maintain contact with neighbouring countries and international organisations, including nomination of an expert to be a member of the Bustard Specialist Group of IUCN-SSC and BirdLife International.

SIGNATURE DATE

• **Moldova**

Carry out a Great Bustard population survey and winter censuses.

Identify and register all Great Bustard habitats and migration routes.

Develop projects for habitat conservation in co-operation with international experts.

Collaborate with hunting organisations to prevent illegal hunting in the wintering sites in the relevant season.

Establish and maintain contact with neighbouring countries and international organisations, including nomination of an expert to be a member of the Bustard Specialist Group of IUCN-SSC and BirdLife International.

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- **Poland**

Work out feasibility studies for a reintroduction of this species (following IUCN criteria).

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• **Romania**

Carry out a Great Bustard population survey and winter censuses (in co-operation with Bulgaria).

Identify and register all Great Bustard habitats and migration routes.

Provide full protection for all breeding sites and individual breeding birds.

Develop projects for habitat conservation in co-operation with international experts.

Establish and maintain contact with neighbouring countries and international organisations, including nomination of an expert to be a member of the Bustard Specialist Group of IUCN-SSC and BirdLife International.

SIGNATURE DATE

• **Slovakia**

Prevent disturbances at breeding sites, warden breeding areas, undertake emergency measures.

Promote habitat protection programmes for the Great Bustard through set-aside schemes, extensification programmes and similar instruments.

Improve and strengthen cross-border co-operation with neighbouring countries by reviewing and coordinating existing and/or developing new programmes for the research, monitoring and protection of Great Bustards.

SIGNATURE DATE

- **Slovenia**

Provide full protection for individual Great Bustards which arrive mostly incidentally.

SIGNATURE DATE

• **Ukraine**

Extension of ongoing set-aside and habitat management schemes is necessary. An ornithological reserve on the Kerch peninsula in the Crimea should be established.

Protect breeding grounds, breeding sites and individual breeding birds by wardening, applying systems of incentives and other appropriate actions.

Collaborate with local hunting organisations to prevent illegal hunting in wintering grounds, provide additional feeding.

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