

ADDENDUM 1

SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL COMMENTS
(arising from ScC-SC4)

**PROPOSAL FOR A CONCERTED ACTION FOR
THE GREAT INDIAN BUSTARD (*Ardeotis nigriceps*)
PROPOSED FOR LISTING ON APPENDIX I OF THE CONVENTION**

UNEP/CMS/COP13/Doc.28.2.10

RECOMMENDATIONS TO COP13

- Recommended for adoption.
- The Scientific Council Sessional Committee encouraged India to consider
 - ensuring that the proposed activities cover the entire range of the species
 - seeking to collaborate with the Government of Pakistan regarding the proposed activities
 - including an activity to establish mechanisms enabling [shutdown-on-demand](#) of wind farms during periods of local movement and migration, to address the threat of collision with wind turbines
 - including an activity to address the threat of collision with transmission and distribution lines
 - including an activity to address the threat of disturbance, displacement, habitat loss and degradation caused by solar farms, wind farms and related energy infrastructure

GENERAL COMMENTS ON THE DOCUMENT

General acknowledgement

- The Scientific Council acknowledged that the Concerted Action spelled out well how the Government of India was proposing to deal with some of the threats.

Bilateral and international cooperation

- It was stated that the Concerted Action needed to ensure that the proposed activities covered the entire range of the species, not only India, and that mechanisms would be put in place to encourage bilateral cooperation;
- The Concerted Action identified opportunities to collaborate with NGOs (e.g. WWF Pakistan) to encourage work to be undertaken; in addition, exploring options for collaboration with the Government of Pakistan was encouraged.

Threats related to energy infrastructure

- With regards to the threat related to collision with wind turbines, which were located within and around protected areas where the species occurs, there was an activity proposed to map renewable energy projects for monitoring purposes (“Mapping of the existing and proposed new renewable energy projects in GIB landscape”);
- In addition, considering that every dead bird was a big loss for the extremely small population, it could be helpful to include an activity aiming at collaborating with the wind and energy industry to establish mechanisms allowing [shutdown-on-demand](#) of wind farms during periods of local movement and migration (this mechanism is already applied successfully in other countries);
- The species showed no regular migration patterns since its movement was reported to depend on the availability of food resources in a dry habitat; the movement was rather “nomadic” within a migration cycle; this could pose a challenge in establishing mechanisms that allow [shutdown-on-demand](#) of wind farms; therefore, a creative way of working out where

they were/move and analysis of their moving patterns was needed (such as satellite tracking and visual observation);

- The Scientific Council recommended to encourage the Indian Government to include an activity in the Concerted Action addressing the threat related to collision with wind turbines as suggested above by establishing mechanisms to enable [shutdown-on-demand](#) of wind farms during migration and periods when local movements occurred;
- The Scientific Council further recommended including an activity to address the threat of a) collision with transmission and distribution lines and b) disturbance, displacement, habitat loss and degradation caused by solar farms, wind farms and related energy infrastructure.

Financial resources

- For new listing proposals, it would be helpful that it was demonstrated in the Concerted Action that budget and other resources were available to carry out the proposed activities;
- The proposed activities, as they were standing in the Concerted Action for the moment, were open-ended and did not refer to a time frame; it was recommended that the activities should have a level of detail on the implementation phase and available budget.