

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

*National Park Neusiedler See-Seewinkel, Burgenland, Illmitz, Austria
17-18 September 2004*

CMS/GB.1/5
Agenda items 7.0

REVIEW OF MOU AND ACTION PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

(Note prepared by the Secretariat)

1. Every meeting of the Signatory States is to review the conservation status of the Great Bustard and the implementation of the Action Plan, taking into consideration reports submitted by individual Signatory States, the Secretariat's Overview Report and any recommendation or scientific advice relating to the Great Bustard that may have been made by the CMS Conference of the Parties or the Scientific Council (MoU Paragraph 11).
2. With the assistance of BirdLife International, the Secretariat has prepared an overview report compiled on the basis of all information at its disposal pertaining to the Great Bustard, pursuant to MoU paragraph 9, as of 23 July 2004. The Overview Report is noted as document CMS/GB.1/5/Add.1.
3. The Overview Report has been communicated to all Signatories, signing organisations and to all other non-signatory Range States. In addition, the Secretariat has also communicated all national work programmes and national reports which have been received from the Signatory States (MoU paragraph 9).
4. Agenda item 7.0 will be considered in two parts during the meeting: (1) conservation status of the great bustard and (2) status of development and implementation of national work programmes.

Conservation Status of the Great Bustard

5. Every meeting of the Signatory States is to review the conservation status of the Great Bustard taking into consideration the information sources listed in MoU Paragraph 11. "Conservation status" is not defined in the MoU, but is defined in the Convention as "the sum of influences acting on the migratory species that may affect its long-term distribution and abundance" (CMS Article I (1)(b)). The Overview Report provides a brief summary of the Great Bustard's conservation status within the agreement area. The meeting is invited to consider the Overview Report's treatment of the Great Bustard's conservation status and provide comments or any other additional information.

6. In anticipation of preliminary discussions on expanding the geographical scope of the MoU under agenda item 9.3, the meeting may also wish to briefly consider the conservation status of the Great Bustard outside of the agreement area and invite interventions from observer States and signing organisations.

Action requested:

The Signatory States, and where appropriate other meeting participants, are requested to *inter alia*:

- Take note of the Secretariat's Overview Report and provide additional information as well as guidance on how it could be improved in the near future if necessary.
- Provide additional information on the Great Bustard's conservation status outside of the agreement area in anticipation of the discussion on agenda item 9.3.

Status of Development and Implementation of National Work Programmes

7. The MoU and Action Plan (Part I) provide the general substantive framework for action within the agreement area. Part II of the Action Plan, describing country-specific actions agreed by each Signatory State, supplements this. Each Signatory State was to have developed or updated a national work programme (MoU paragraph 4(g)) to implement the Action Plan within 1 year of the MoU's entry into effect. Each individual Signatory State should have reported on the status of implementing its national work programme in its national report submitted to the Secretariat.

8. The Secretariat's Overview Report summarizes the information received and available as of 23 July 2004. The available information was supplemented by any information available from the national reports submitted to the Seventh Meeting of the CMS Conference of the Parties (September 2002) by Signatories that are also CMS Contracting Parties and information generally available to BirdLife International and the Secretariat. The Overview Report attempts to create a general picture of the status of the MoU and Action Plan's implementation and, where possible, their effectiveness.

9. In order to maximise the very limited time available it is proposed that, in lieu of a summary of national reports and activities, each Signatory State:

- (a) Confirm that a national work programme is in place and is correlated to the Action Plan, if it has not already been submitted to the meeting. Where a national work programme has not yet been developed details should be provided on what problems have been encountered, any steps taken or solutions found to overcome them and when the national work programme will be finalised and submitted to the Secretariat; and
- (b) Identify those actions where there has been a gap in implementation highlighting any problems encountered and any steps taken or solutions found to overcome them.
- (c) Indicate informally the need to amend Part II of the Action Plan for their country, taking into consideration that any amendment proposals require a formal notification process (pursuant to MoU paragraph 14).

10. Finally, the meeting may also wish to consider how to best measure progress achieved under the MoU and Action Plan. Is there a need for example to note national level actions that still need further

work? Is the present format of the Overview Report appropriate for this? One additional question the meeting may wish to consider is whether additional tools are necessary to measure the effectiveness of the MoU and Action Plan in achieving desired conservation and management outcomes for the Great Bustard?

Action requested:

The Signatory States, and where appropriate other meeting participants, are requested to *inter alia*:

- Share information on the status of the MoU and Action Plan's implementation within the agreement area and at national levels.
- Confirm that national work programmes are in place and identify implementation gaps by country and the possible means to fill the gaps.
- Provide informal indications as to the need to amend the country-specific actions under Part II of the Action Plan.
- Suggest how best to measure progress under the MoU and Action Plan, both in terms of national level actions and overall conservation and management outcomes for the Great Bustard, and the extent to which the present Overview Report's format is appropriate for supporting this.
- Provide guidance as to the need for additional tools to measure the MoU and Action Plan's effectiveness in achieving desirable conservation and management outcomes for the Great Bustard.

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