



Bulgarian Society for the Protection of Birds/BirdLife Bulgaria



Study on the current status of Great Bustard in Bulgaria

Final Report

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CONTENTS:

SUMMARY	3
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	3
PART 1. BACKGROUND INFORMATION	4
PART 2. PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION	6
Preparatory phase	6
Implementation phase	8
PART 3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION	12
Recent status of the Great Bustard in Bulgaria	12
Identified threats and limiting factors to the Great Bustard in Bulgaria	14
Areas of highest probability for breeding and of interest for reintroduction	18
Great Bustard National Action Plan in Bulgaria	20
PART 4. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	21
FINANCIAL REPORT	22
REFERENCES	22

SUMMARY

The Final Report presents the results of the BSPB 2006-2007 project *Study on the current status of Great Bustard in Bulgaria*, funded by BirdLife International and BSPB. Once widespread breeder in Bulgaria, at present the situation with the Great Bustard (*Otis tarda*) remains very poorly known. The project aim was to establish the current status of the species in Bulgaria (2000-2007) during breeding and wintering period, to identify possible threats and limiting factors to the species and to assess the possibilities for its eventual reintroduction. The project was implemented by combining enquiry and expedition methods covering two main areas – Western and Central Danube Plain and Southern Dobrudzha. In total 16 records of Great Bustards were obtained, 3 of which – from the breeding period (2 from Danube Plain and 1 from Dobrudzha). No documented cases of breeding during the year of the survey (2007). The numbers of the observed birds outside breeding season varies from 2 up to 43, most often between 3 and 10 individuals. Amongst the identified threats and

limitations of primary importance are the habitat loss, especially due to intensification of the agriculture and to rotation of the crop cultures, losses of chicks (one case of collection of juveniles around year 2000), human disturbance (increasing with the current intensification of the agriculture), possibly pesticides, and illegal hunting (one case). General conclusion is that the Great Bustard is regular winter visitor, but there is no evidence of both breeding or extinction of the species as breeder. There are several areas where breeding of small groups is still possible and where possible reintroduction could be discussed.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

First of all we are thankful to all respondents – local people of different age and professions, without the knowledge of whom the project would be unsuccessful. Strong contribution to the good organisation of the work had the team of the BSPB Head Quarter and especially Dr. Nicky Petkov, as well as the BSPB Regional Offices in Svishtov (Regional Coordinator Emil Todorov) and Varna (Regional Coordinator Ivaylo Ivanov). The implementation of the project would be not possible without the dedication and experience of the BSPB volunteers, who took part in it. Special thanks to Mihail Iliev, Kostadin Georguev (both from BSPB - Sofia Branch), Valentin Katrandzhiev (BSPB - Dobrich Branch), Assist. Prof. Viktor Vasilev (BSPB - Shumen Branch), Velislava Spasova (BSPB - Kozloduy Branch), Tihomir Alexandrov, Angel Angelov, Vladimir Mladenov, Georgi Bardarov, Stoyan Goranov (all from BSPB - Svishtov Regional Office), Boris Belchev (BSPB – Pleven Branch) and others.

Sincere gratitude to BirdLife International (European Division) for the support to the project. Personal thanks to Szabolcs Nagy for the very useful advices concerning the organisation of the work and applying the experience of MME/BirdLife Hungary.

To a large extend the achievements are result of the good cooperation of the Union of Hunters and Anglers and of the personal contribution of its head Dr. Hristo Mihaylov, as well as of Danko Polyakov.

PART 1. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Status of the Great Bustard in Bulgaria

The Great Bustard (*Otis tarda*) used to be a widespread breeder in 19th century Bulgaria. During the first half of the 20th century the species is still relatively common in the Danubean Plain and Southern Dobrudzha (Boev, 1985). However the changes in the agricultural practices with the ‘collectivisation’ after 1950 led to massive loss of habitats. The hunting and over exploitation also brought to the steep decline of the species’ numbers. It is believed that around 1980s there were some 20 birds during breeding season and some 70 to 200 birds in winter in Bulgaria (Simeonov *et al*, 1990). In the 1990s there were still incidental sightings and reports on the species occurrence in Bulgaria with statements of breeding birds. Most of the observations are from North Bulgaria from the area along the Danube River and from the Southern Dobrudzha. With exception of a survey around the year 2000 (Zehtindjiev 2001; Zehtindjiev *et al* 2002) there has been no large-scale investigation and the recent status of the species remains very poorly known.

BSPB Great Bustard project

In 2006 with the support of BirdLife International BSPB/BirdLife Bulgaria started a project *Study on the current status of Great Bustard in Bulgaria*, intending to collect the information available within farm workers and hunters (which are some of the people most likely to spot and observe the species as part of their livelihood) and to establish the current status of the Great Bustard in Bulgaria during breeding and wintering period. The secondary goals of the project include:

1. Obtaining clear understanding about the current presence of the species during breeding and wintering season in Bulgaria by conducting field research in priority areas with suitable and potential habitats.
2. Conducting a data collection through questionnaire spread among hunters and farm workers in former and potential breeding and wintering grounds.
3. Collecting data on possible threats and limiting factors to the species.

To achieve these goals, following activities were envisaged:

1. Prepare and distribute a questionnaire among farmers and local hunter groups in order to collect data on possible sightings in order to establish current status of the species in Bulgaria.
2. Carry out field research in specific locations where information on sighting exists or provide potentially good breeding and wintering habitat.
3. Study possible threats and limiting factors to the species and its potential habitats.

The work on the project included close cooperation of BSPB with the Union of the Hunters and Anglers in Bulgaria (UHAB), as well as with the local farmers and people in the project areas. The project was intended to provide much better baseline data for planning the future activities on the Great Bustard in Bulgaria, including starting preparation of the National Action Plan for the species. One of the aspects of the project was to make an initial evaluation of viability of possible future reintroduction project. Even if there are still incidental breeders in Bulgaria the population is limited to its extinction threshold so the only reasonable long-term conservation option if chugged viable is reintroduction. During the field work on the project assessment was made of possible breeding habitats for the species with respect to their condition, threats to them and establishment of relations with possible stakeholders and partners.

The project was implemented in North Bulgaria where more recent records of the species exist. Mainly volunteers in cooperation with BSPB offices in Varna and Svishtov did the work. The field activities were managed and consulted with the Conservation Department at the HQ of BSPB (Dr. Nikolai Petkov and Dr. Petar Iankov - Director of Conservation).

The plan for the implementation of the project included the following details:

Years/ Months	2006 - 2007											
	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X	XI	XII	I	II	III	IV	V
Activities												
1. Preparation and distribution of a questionnaire among farmers and local hunter groups in order to collect data on possible sightings in order to establish current status of the species in Bulgaria.												
2 Carry out field research in specific locations where information on sighting exists or provide potentially good breeding and wintering habitat.												
3. Study possible threats and limiting factors to the species and its potential habitats.												

The project budget included:

Budget costs (in Euros)	
Operational costs	
1. Transport with a car (fuel)	1000.00
3. Per diem	315.00
4. Publication of questionnaire	400.00
Total	1 715.00
<i>BSPB contribution</i>	<i>715.00</i>
<i>BirdLife International contribution</i>	<i>1 000.00</i>

PART 2. PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

Preparatory phase

1. Ensuring the information base

1.1. Summarising the available information

All available sources of information about the Great Bustard were investigated. At first, review of the published information was done, analysing the respective data from monographs as *Birds in Bulgaria* (Patev, 1950), *Red Data Book of Bulgaria* (1985), *Fauna of Bulgaria* (Simeonov *et al* 1990), but also from separate publications on the species (Zehtindjiev *et al* 2002), project reports (Zehtindjiev 2001), etc.

The data about the species from the National Bird Databank with BSPB were extracted, including the information gathered during the Mid-Winter Census, carried out by BSPB at national level since 1988, the BSPB Atlas work 1996-2005, unpublished observations, trip reports, field notebooks, other written information, etc.

1.2. Methodological preparation

General information about the species was obtained from various sources. It concerns the knowledge mainly about the details in the species' biology, behaviour, etc., in order to better plane the timing of the field work, to choose appropriate field methods, etc.

On the base of the analysed data the target areas were identified, including specific villages and local sites to be visited and surveyed.

2. Technical preparation

2.1. Preparation of a national enquiry about the species

On the base of the signed agreement between BSPB and the Union of the Hunters and Anglers in Bulgaria (UHAB) decided to issue a common brochure-questionnaire for both advocating of the Great Bustard protection and collecting data about the species. BSPB was in charge with the development and issuing of the brochure, both organisations – with its distribution. The brochure (Figure 1) raises the question whether the Great Bustard still occurs in Bulgaria; it presents basic facts about the species, main threats and habitats and how people can help with providing information, by filling the special enquiry section of the brochure or calling the BSPB office. The brochure was printed in 1,000 copies, 600 of which the UHAB distributed amongst its members and the rest of 400 were spread by BSPB through its Regional Offices in Svishtov and Varna, as well as during the field expeditions in the relevant areas. In the brochure and enquiry information was included also about the Little Bustard, in order to be sure about the proper identification of the Great Bustard, but to eventually collect data about the Little Bustard, too. For similar purpose a sticker was produced in 1000 copies (Figure 2) by BSPB and sent to its local structures for spreading in the areas of the project implementation.

2.2. Technical insurance of the field work

All necessary topographic maps, optics, GPS and other field equipment were prepared together with standard recording forms for the field work, provided to the field teams.



Figure 2. The Great Bustard enquiry sticker

Implementation phase

1. Studied territory

Two main areas were studied: Central and Western Danube Plain and Southern Dobrudzha (Figure 3 and 4). The sites were visited according to a preliminary plan, including the subsequence of the sites, but also the approach to visit first the villages, enquiring local people and afterwards surveying the specific target areas around. A total distance of about 3,200 km was covered, about a third of which – around the villages, along cart trucks between the crop fields. Existing recent data were checked; new information was collected and sites were checked at the spot.

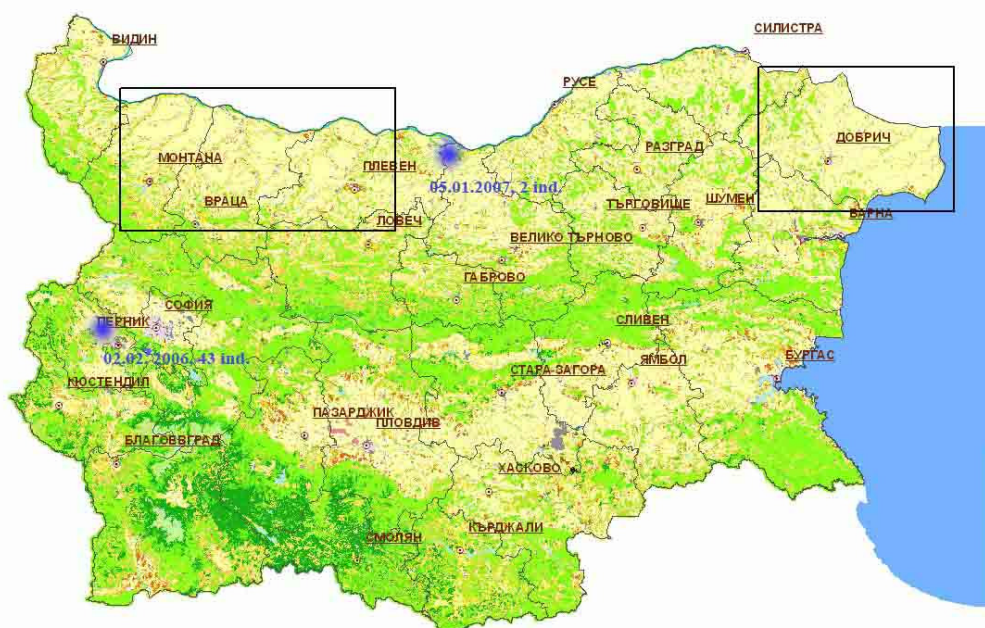


Figure 3. Main survey areas and localities of winter records of Great Bustard outside them



Figure 4. Project survey areas (Danubean Plain – upper; Southern Dobrudzha – lower)
 Red dots show the settlements visited with enquiry and investigations of potential breeding sites around; blue areas – sites of occurrence of birds outside breeding period; green areas – during the breeding period

2. Period covered by the study

Although the project duration was one year only (June 2006-June 2007), the study covers the state of the Great Bustard during the period of the last 7 years (2000-2007). Data

from the previous periods (1950-2000) were collected and used to direct additional surveys to some potential sites, where birds may occur in more recent time. Thus the study is completing the information and ensuring continuance of the knowledge about the past and present status of the species, systemised in some previous publications (Boev, 1985; (Zehindjiev et al 2001).

3. Methodology

Enquiry method was applied, based on requesting written information about the Great Bustard through a brochure-questionnaire and on oral communication with local people, asking those questions about the presence, numbers, localities, periods and other details, connected with the species in their area. Most of the total numbers of 1000 copies of the questionnaire (about 800) were sent to the project areas in November 2006, although some amount of them was spread amongst the local farmers and other people also during the field expeditions in November 2006-June 2007. Knowing the general situation and attitude of Bulgarians towards enquiries, the main efforts were directed to face-to-face conversation with the locals. In total 89 villages and towns were visited (37 in the Western and Central Danube Plain and 52 in Southern Dobrudzha) and in total 389 persons were enquired (254 in the Western and Central Danube Plain and 135 in Southern Dobrudzha). Every possibility was used to question the people working in the crop fields (drivers of agriculture machines, shepherds, farmers, etc. (Figure 5). Special attention was directed to the agriculture airfields, where pilots of the aircrafts were asked about the Great Bustard. All the information, including the names of the respondents, is stored in the National Bird Databank with BSPB.



Figure 5. Enquiring a local farmer

The BSPB Svishtov Regional Office involved local media in the area of the Danube Plain in the popularisation of the project and gathering additional information about the presence of the species.

As the period of crop harvest is the time most of the observations of the Great Bustard happened due to the sharp worsening of the hiding qualities of their habitat, special articles were published during the harvest time (end of June 2007) in the main national farmers newsletters – “Balgarski Fermer” (Bulgarian Farmer) and “Fermer Noviyat” (The New Farmer). They had basic information about the species, some pictures and a request to contact BSPB in case of seen such birds.

Direct and purposeful data gathering on the field took place during January-June 2007 through observation, assessment of the habitats, collecting information about the threats,

photographing, etc. (Figure 6). BSPB Svishtov team surveyed the Central and Western Danube Plain starting in January 2007. Another expedition was organised in April (when the Svishtov team was supported by another team of volunteers from Sofia (including students from Sofia University) for parallel survey of the largest areas, such as Zlatiyata (about 450 sq. km) and the plateau area of about 500 sq. km between the rivers Iskar and Skut (Figure 4). The larger area of Southern Dobrudzha (over 2000 sq. km) was covered by the BSPB Dobrich team (Varna Regional Office). One expedition took place in late March, another – in June, supported during the peak period of the work by volunteers from Shumen University. Sites where occurrence of birds was expected, were visited early in the morning or before the sunset, all necessary measures were taken observers not to expose themselves and to be visible from distance, including using local natural hides (e.g. tree lines, high grasses or crops, etc.) In this part of the work 19 people took part.



Figure 6. Field observation

Some field observations on the subject were done in parallel with other BSPB project activities in the target areas (Mid-Winter Waterfowl Census, Red-breasted Goose Monitoring Scheme, etc.).

4. Data processing and analysis

All collected data (including records of the birds, information about the threatening factors, pictures of the sites, GPS data, etc.) are processed and stored in the Great Bustard file of the National Bird Databank with BSPB. Information is following the chronology and all data from periods before the present study have been added to the file, but not used in the present report.

PART 3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Recent status of the Great Bustard in Bulgaria

1. General status

For the period 2000-2007 there are 16 known records of Great Bustard in Bulgaria (Table 1). Out of them 3 are during the breeding period and 13 – outside the time of breeding (Fig. 3 and 4). Without any doubt, in spite of the serious efforts done to collect all possible records, those are only part of the entire picture. For sure other records remained unknown for the present project due to some specifics of the Bulgarian farmland areas (predominantly older people living there, low level of responding, especially to printed enquiries, etc.).

Data shows that the species is still regular visitor during the late autumn - winter time (observed birds almost every year). Although there are very few indications about breeding, there are large suitable areas with conditions, allowing small breeding groups to remain unknown even for the people from the villages around. These conditions include existence of very open shallow valleys (preferable breeding sites in the past) covered by winter wheat (remaining almost unvisited by man until the harvest period), remote wells and other small water bodies there and all relief conditions birds to see the man from large distance and to avoid being spotted. Indirect indications of possible breeding of small groups are the two records of such groups of Great Bustard during the period of harvest (late June 2004 or 2005 by Stavertsi, Pleven Distr. and end of June 2005 by Bezhanovo, Dobrich Distr., see Fig. 4).

2. Occurrence during the breeding period

As mentioned, for the period 2000-2007 there are 3 records during the breeding season, including some about certain breeding (around 2000, non flying juveniles caught by farmers at Zlatiyata IBA BG009 to the east of Valchedrum, see Fig. 4). No Great Bustards were observed during the breeding season of 2007 and no data about occurrence of birds were received for this year, to be checked on the spot and the question whether the species breeds in Bulgaria to be resolved. Nevertheless, there is still no reason to consider the species definitely extinct as a breeder from the country.

3. Occurrence during the period of wandering and wintering

For the years 2000-2007 there are 13 records of the Great Bustard in Bulgaria outside the breeding season (Fig. 4).

Most of them (10 records) are from the region of Southern Dobrudzha, the rest are from Western Danube Plain (Kovatchitsa, Montana Distr.), Northern Central Danube Plain (area of Svishtov) and Western Bulgaria (Pernik Distr.). It is difficult without tagging of birds to know the origin of these individuals, which could be originating from populations relatively far from Bulgaria. It is possible however some of them to be also birds (with exception of the Great Bustards seen in Pernik Distr.), breeding not very far from the areas they have been observed – in Romania or in Bulgaria itself.

The records fall within the months September – first decade of March. Although due to the rough dating of most of the data it is difficult to have the exact picture of the distribution of the records during the separate months, it is obvious that most of the data are from the winter (especially January and February). Next is the numbers of the autumn records (September-November) and there is only one spring record (06.03.2003, Senokos, Dobrich Distr.).

Table 1. Records of the Great Bustard during in Bulgaria the period 2000-2007

№	Date/Year	District	Site			Observed birds			Behaviour of birds	Additional information
			Closest settlement	UTM square	Habitat	Numbers	Sex	Age		
1	around 2000	Montana	Valchedrum	GP03-04	crop fields	?		juv		non flying juveniles caught by local farmers
2	end October 2000	Dobrich	Kraishte	NJ75	crop fields	7			most of the birds lie on the ground, just one staying upright and watching, when approached, took off and fly into Romania	data from local farmer
3	late autumn, around 2000-2001	Montana	Kovachitsa	FP95	crop fields	9			staying upright	data from local hunter
4	06.12.2001	Dobrich	Balgarevo	PJ10	steppe area	2	m,f	ad	Flying SW at about 30 m height towards the Cape Kaliakra	observed by Dimitar Georgiev, BSPB
5	06.03.2003	Dobrich	Senokos	NJ81	crop fields	18-20				data from local farmer
6	winter 2004	Dobrich	Izvorovo	NJ75	crop fields	several				data from local farmer
7	winter 2004	Dobrich	Bezvoditsa	NJ71	crop fields	several				data from local farmer
8	winter 2004-2005	Dobrich	Shabla area	PJ11	crop fields	several				data from local farmer
9	late June 2004-2005, during the harvest time	Pleven	Stavertsi	KJ73-83	harvested crop fields	minimum 3	m,f	minimum 2 ad		data from local hunter
10	end June 2005, during the harvest	Dobrich	Bezhanovo	PJ14	peas field	6			Took off when people approached	data from local farmer
11	winter 2005-2006	Dobrich	Kamen bryag	PJ21	steppe area	5 to 10				Local hunters shot 2 of the birds
12	02.2.2006	Pernik	Noevtsi	FN52	open grasslands	43			Staying in the grass, remained there, as people moved away	observed by Dr. Hristo Mihaylov, Head of the Union of Hunters and Anglers
13	September-October 2006	Dobrich	Durankulak	PJ23	crop fields	6				data from local farmers
14	05.1.2007	Veliko Tarnovo	Svishtov	LJ62	crop fields	2			Stayng and watchin around, when the train approached, move with slight running, but not taking off	data from local person
15	January 2007	Dobrich	Durankulak	PJ23	crop fields	7			Flying towards SW	data from local farmer
16	January 2007	Dobrich	Kardam	NJ94	crop fields	3			Stayng in the field	data from local farmer

Concerning the numbers of the observed birds, it varies from 2 up to 43, most often between 3 and 10 individuals. The outstanding figure of 43 Great Bustards, observed on 02.02.2006 between the villages Noevtsi and Rezhantsi, Pernik Distr., could be explained with the very cold wheatear at that time (temperature around - 15° C). Such big numbers allows the assumption of possible affiliation of this big group with the relatively large population in Hungary.

Identified threats and limiting factors to the Great Bustard in Bulgaria

Habitat loss

Although there are still huge open areas in both Danubean Plain and Southern Dobrudzha, the shelter tree belts have been created at many parts, which reduce the territories suitable for the species. This is especially typical for Dobrudzha region, where on most of the territory of the tree belts are disposed relatively close, leaving quite restricted areas between them. This is not so often the case in the Danubean Plain. Unlikely the period 1990-2000, very few areas of fallow lands/waste places remained nowadays (Figure 7), which also means reduction of the suitable habitat for the Great Bustard.



Figure 7. Small uncultivated area in Dobrudzha (note also the relatively close situated tree shelter belts in the upper left part of the picture)

As specific aspect of habitat loss it is important to mention the **predominance of the spring cultures** versus winter ones. This widely spread practice during year 2007 without any doubt, was of very negative effect on the potential breeding habitats of the species. The caused by this practice purely open general landscape (Figure 8), almost without any vegetation on large territories was definitely not a suitable habitat for the species. During the survey single and relatively small fields with alfalfa were found (Figure 9). Data from the previous periods show that just the alfalfa fields are amongst the most preferable habitats by the Great Bustard, especially during the winter time. It is obvious that the type and species composition of the crops, as well as their territorial coverage and proportion are of very high significance for the presence or absence of breeding conditions for the Great Bustard.

Figure 8. On large areas spring crops were predominating

Concerning the composition of the crops, clear predominance of wheat was recorded in the both areas of the survey. The **spring wheat becomes suitable for breeding of the species much later than its normal breeding cycle**, which may cause difficulties for its reproduction.



Figure 9. Virtually single alfalfa fields were found in both areas of survey

Losses of eggs and chicks

Collection of non-flying juveniles is possible (one reported case in the Danubean Plain, although it is not documented for sure).

Predation

No data.

Powerlines

No data, but in the Danubean plain large high voltage powerlines cross the areas of Zlatiyata and other territories of potential importance for the species (Figure 10).



Figure 10. Power lines are quite common in the Danubean Plain

Human disturbance

During the field expeditions high level of human disturbance was recorded in almost all visited areas. There is increased intensity of the agriculture work in comparison with the period 1990-2000. The increase is expressed by much higher numbers of machinery working in the fields during the entire breeding period, including small low-flying aircrafts and by much more complete coverage of the territory by agricultural activities and human presence.

Pesticides

The use of chemicals is at very high and increasing level in the areas of potential occurrence of the species. Everywhere during the spring expeditions in both Dobrudzha and Danubean Plain it was common picture soil herbicides to be spread all day round during the entire period of the survey (Figure 11). Although there was no direct data about the negative effect of this factor to the Great Bustard, one may assume that such effect should not be ignored.



Figure 11. Everywhere soil herbicides were spread

Wire fences

No data, in the both areas no records of fences, which may cause negative effect.

Illegal hunting

In spite of the long time formal protection of the species, illegal shooting still takes place (2 Great Bustards shot by locals during the winter 2005-2006 near Kamen bryag, Dobrich Distr.). It should be mentioned the very low level of law enforcement in Bulgaria, especially with respect to the hunting and poaching.

Areas of highest probability for breeding and of interest for reintroduction

There are several areas of highest interest with respect to the present breeding of the species, as well as sites of potential reintroduction. Those are the following territories (Figure 12):



Figure 12. Territories of interest as potential present or future breeding areas
- the waste area covered mainly by wheat fields enclosed within the roads Knezha – Stavertsi – Krushovene – Ostrov – Selanovtsi (Figure 12). Besides the breeding observations from the period, there are numerous breeding data of the species here also in the 20th Century;



Figure 12. The area North-West from Stavertsi, Pleven Distr., where Great Bustards have been seen in late June 2004 or 2005.

- the territory covered by various crop fields around Bezhanovo – from the border with Romania to the villages south of Bezhanovo, as well as the adjacent area between the roads General Toshevo – Preselentsi – Belgun – Yovkovo and the Romaian border;



Figure 13. The area North from Bezhanovo, Dobrich Distr., view to remote territories near to the border with Romania

- the territory of IBA Zlatiyata (BG009).

To assess the potential of the above-mentioned territories from the point of view of eventual reintroduction of the Great Bustard, numbers of other factors should be taken into

account. They should concern both the sites themselves, and the disposition of the site towards the closest part of the natural range of the Great Bustard (in Hungary or Romania).

Great Bustard National Action Plan in Bulgaria

There is no National Great Bustard Action Plan, although the necessity of such plan is obvious. The information gathered during the project, together with the previously collected data, stored in the National Bird Databank with BSPB, is a good base for development of the species National Action Plan. BSPB can apply its experience in preparation of such plans for other Globally Threatened Species, as well as in working on the BirdLife International Great Bustard Action Plan.

PART 4 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

CONCLUSIONS

1. During the period 2000-2007 the Great Bustard occurs in Bulgaria annually outside the breeding period and occasionally during the breeding season, when small groups may be reproducing.
2. The numbers of the observed birds outside the breeding season varies from 2 to 43, most often in groups of 3-10 individuals.
3. Outside the breeding period Great Bustards have been observed between September and the first decade of March. Most of the data fall into the winter (January and February) and autumn (September-November) months.
4. Two main areas of occurrence of the species exist – Southern Dobrudzha and Central-Western part of the Danube Plain. Most of the wintering records are from the Dobrudzha area, two out of three breeding data are from the Danube Plain.
5. Amongst the identified threats and limitations of primary importance are the habitat loss, mainly due to intensification of the agriculture and to the specifics of the rotation of the crop cultures, losses of chicks, increased human disturbance, possibly pesticides, and illegal hunting.
6. There are several areas where breeding of small groups is still possible and where possible reintroduction could be discussed.
7. The character and rotation of the crops, determining the type and level of human disturbance within the potential breeding areas is of key importance for the possibility of the species to reproduce there.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Further very specialised investigation is necessary to finally resolve the question of the breeding status of the species in Bulgaria. It should include more than one breeding period, as well as aerial survey of the most probable territories, combined with more continuous and thorough observations at the spot, involving local people.
2. In case of positive results of the above mentioned survey opportunities for reintroduction should be discussed together with the BirdLife Partners in Hungary, Romania, and possibly Ukraine and Russia.
3. Development of National Great Bustard Action Plan should be started.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Budget costs (in Euros)		Expenditure (in Euros)
Operational costs		
1. Transport with a car (fuel)	1000.00	986.56
3. Per diem	315.00	418.15
4. Publication of questionnaire	400.00	314.67
Total	1 715.00	1719.38
<i>BSPB contribution</i>	<i>715.00</i>	<i>719.38</i>
<i>BirdLife International contribution</i>	<i>1 000.00</i>	<i>1 000.00</i>

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