



**CONVENTION ON
MIGRATORY
SPECIES**

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Agenda Item 28.1

**REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONCERTED ACTION
FOR THE ASIAN POPULATION OF THE GREAT BUSTARD (*Otis tarda*)**

Summary:

The Government of Mongolia, along with the Eurasian Bustard Alliance and Wildlife Science and Conservation Center of Mongolia, have submitted the attached report on the implementation of the Concerted Action for the Great Bustard (*Otis tarda*) in Asia, UNEP/CMS/Concerted Action 12.8.

**REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
CONCERTED ACTION
FOR THE GREAT BUSTARD IN ASIA**

UNEP/CMS/ CONCERTED ACTION 12.8

1. CONCERTED ACTION

Title: Concerted action for the asian population of the great bustard (*Otis tarda*)

Document number: UNEP/CMS/ Concerted Action 12.8

2. REPORTING GOVERNMENT or ORGANIZATION

This report is completed by the Government of Mongolia, along with the Eurasian Bustard Alliance and Wildlife Science and Conservation Center of Mongolia.

3. TARGET SPECIES

Class: Aves

Family: Otididae

Order: Otidiformes

Species: *Otis tarda*

4. PROGRESS IN ACTIVITIES

In May 2017, a Conference on Conservation of Great Bustard in Asia was held in Mongolia, involving participants from nine countries. At this meeting, discussion of conservation of the Great Bustard in Asia via CMS was discussed. A Proposal for a Concerted Action was developed and discussed at the Sessional Committee of Scientific Council in Bonn in July 2017. This proposal was approved at COP12 in Manila in October 2017. A follow-up conference was planned for 2018 but cancelled due to lack of funding. As an in-person meeting was not possible, information for a revised Action Plan for Great Bustards in Asia is being gathered through electronic correspondence and a draft Action Plan is almost complete as of this reporting date.

Since adoption of the Concerted Action for Great Bustards in Asia, one range government participating in the Concerted Action has produced a National Action Plan for the Great Bustard. Government Activities: the Islamic Republic of Iran in late 2017.

Research activities have been carried out, both within individual countries, and coordinated between range countries of the Concerted Action. These have included:

- 2017 - Eurasian Bustard Alliance, Association for Conservation of Biodiversity in Kazakhstan, and Dikaya Priroda carried out breeding surveys in several regions of Kazakhstan.
- 2018-2019 - Eurasian Bustard Alliance coordinated winter surveys in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan, along with NGOs Association for Conservation of Biodiversity in Kazakhstan, Dikaya Priroda, and Uzbekistan Society for the Conservation of Birds.
- 2018-2019 – The Government of Kazakhstan and the Government of Mongolia allowed capture of Great Bustard for attachment of satellite transmitters, but this activity was not feasible due to the low number of birds located on surveys.
- 2018 - Mongolian Bird Conservation Center and Beijing Forestry University carried out satellite tagging on Great Bustards in eastern Mongolia, which migrated into People's Republic of China
- 2018 – Winter surveys were coordinated across the People's Republic of China by NGOs China Biodiversity Conservation and Green Development Foundation, and China Birdwatching Association.

- 2019- Breeding survey of eastern subspecies in was carried out in eastern Russian Federation.

Conservation activities carried out in the region have included:

- Collection of poison grains to prevent poisoning of Great Bustards in fields in People's Republic of China, by NGO China Biodiversity Conservation and Green Development Foundation at China Conservation Areas in Hulunbuir, Changyuan, and Tianjin. This work also included public outreach.
- Supplemental food plots were provided in Tumuji National Nature Reserve and Tianjin China Conservation Area in People's Republic of China.

Outreach activities of which we are aware have included:

- Translation of a documentary about conservation of the Great Bustard produced by Eurasian Bustard Alliance and Wildlife Science and Conservation Center of Mongolia has been translated into Chinese and distributed in People's Republic of China by China Biodiversity Conservation and Green Development Foundation
- The Great Bustard has been named "Bird of the Year" for 2019 by the NGO Association for Conservation of Biodiversity in Kazakhstan, and outreach materials were produced for this event.

Challenges have included lack of funding for meetings, and for a coordinator for the program.

5. CHANGES TO THE ORIGINAL CONCERTED ACTION (IF ANY)

The timeline of the Concerted Action should be revised to reflect the challenges encountered in funding a follow-up meeting. Specifically, the conference planned for 2018 was not carried out as funding was not secured. Instead, consultation with experts for the revision of the Action Plan is occurring via email.

In addition, the following items may be added to the timeline:

- Late 2019: Completion of first draft of revised Action Plan for Great Bustards in Asia.
- 2020: Invite Democratic People's Republic of Korea to join on Great Bustard conservation activities because there is a lack of knowledge about wintering status of the species in this country. Great Bustards used to commonly winter there.
- 2020: Begin consultation process on Action Plan and development of final draft.
- February 2020: Extension of Concerted Action on Great Bustards in Asia at COP13.
- Mid-2020: Finalize revised Action Plan and begin implementation.
- 2021: Conference to review progress on implementation of Concerted Action and Action Plan.
- 2023: Submission of Action Plan for adoption at CMS COP14.

6. REFERENCES (if any)

7. ACTION

Action renewed. As activities have not yet been completed, the Concerted Action should be extended for the following triennium. We hope this extension will allow us to complete the planned actions.