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Proposal to put the Middle-European population of Great Bustard (*Otis tarda*) to the Appendix I. of Bonn Convention

The following proposal has been prepared for the CMS Secretariat, Bonn by the Hungarian Scientific Councilor and the Hungarian Institute for Ornithology.

#### A. Proposal

Proposal to include the Middle-European population of Great Bustard (*Otis tarda*) into the Appendix I. of the Bonn Convention.

#### B. Proponent

Hungary

#### C. Supporting statement

##### 1. Taxonomy

1.1. Aves

1.2. Gruiformes

1.3. Otidae

1.4. *Otis tarda tarda* L. 1758

1.5. Great Bustard, Outarde Barbue, (Grande outarde), Ovutarda, Drofa (Russian), Grosstrappe, Tuzok.

##### 2. Biological data

###### 2.1 Distribution

The past and present distribution of the Great Bustard in and around the Carpathian Basin is shown in Figures 1. and 2.

## 2.2. Population (estimates and trends)

According to former estimates the number of the Great Bustard population was 12.000 specimen in the Carpathian Basin in the beginning of this century. Within the present Hungarian borders there were about 8.000 birds from the above mentioned number. There was not any significant change in the population size during the first decades of this century.

According to the censues in 1936 7600 and in 1941 8557 specimen were counted.

There was a great decline in the last two decades. In the year 1973 the population still exceeded the 3000 specimen. Following some stable years there was another great decline after 1986. In 1989 the Hungarian Great Bustard population was only 1.392 specimen (Faragó 1990). The decrease exceeded the 50% between 1981 and 1989. In the early 1990 s the population seems to be stabilised.

## 2.3. Habitat

The characteristic habitat selection in the breeding season is shown in Fig. 3.

## 2.4. Migrations

The Great Bustard population in Middle Europe is a short-distance migrant or resident. In mild winters the majority of the populasion is resident, only a small proportion (mostly females) migrates, but in severe winters (when the temperature is permanently less then  $-10$  C) the majority migrates to the Balcan peninsula or to Italy.

## 3 Threat data

3.1. The main causes of decrease of their population are a small proportion of their successful breeding due to agriculture and a loss during their migration in cold winters, both on way of the migration and in the winter quarters.

## 4. Protection status and needs

4.1. The Great Bustard is in the strictly protected category by the Hungarian laws.

## 5. Range States

5.1. Germany, Poland (extinct), Slovakia, Austria, Hungary, former Yugoslavia, Romania, Ukraina, Bulgaria (extinct?), Albania, (winters only), Italy (winters only)

6. From Poland it was extinct in the 1980 s.

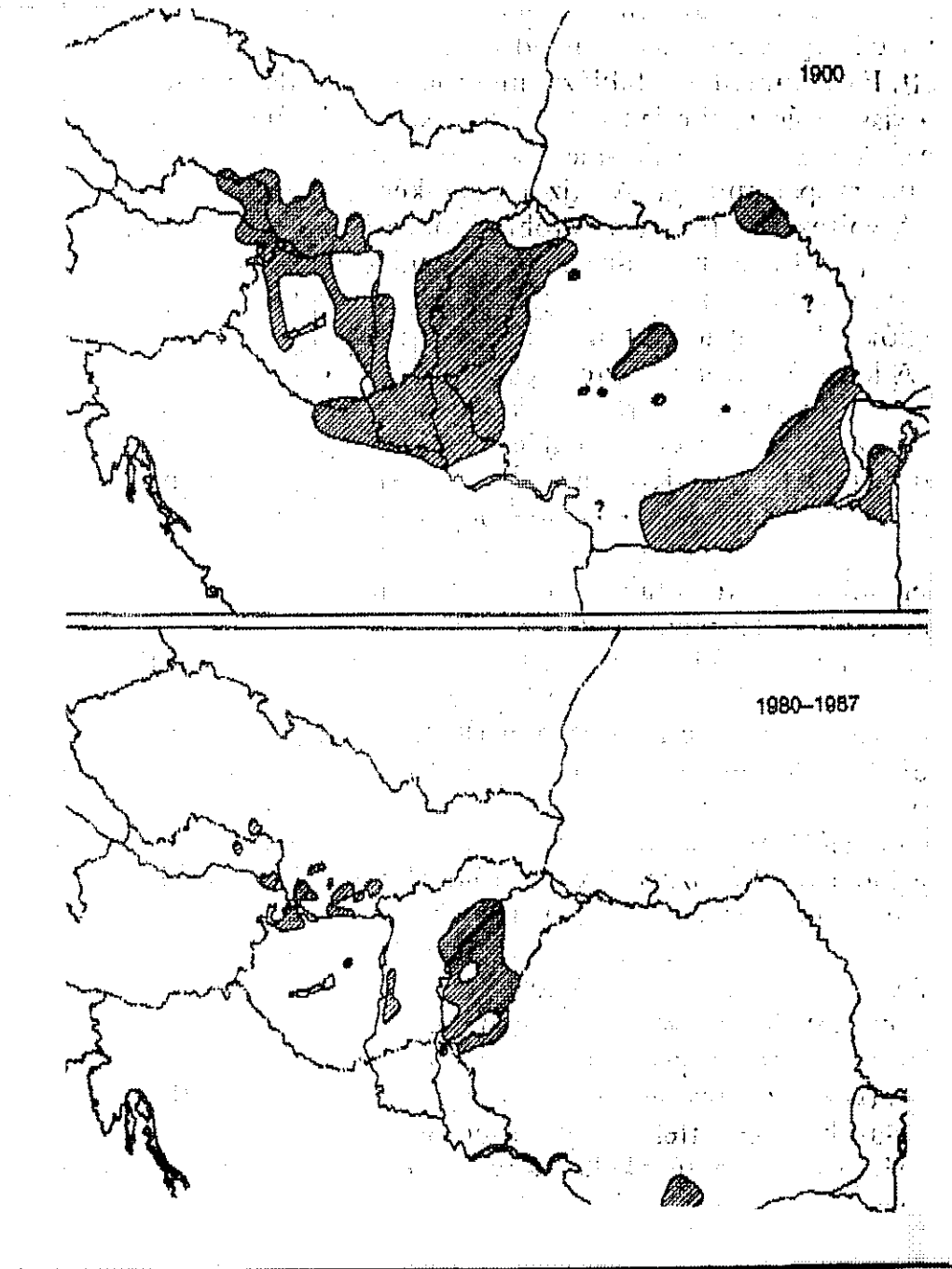
7.

## 8. References

Faragó S. 1990. A tuzok Magyarországon. *Venatus* pp.1-78.

Gewalt, W.1959. Die Grosstrappe (*Otis Tarda* L.) *Neue Brehm Bücherei* 223. Ziemsen Verlag Lutherstadt-Wittenberg 1959.

Osborn, P.-Collar, N.-Goriup, P.1984. *Bustards*, Dubai Wildlife Research Centre 1984. pp.31.



Figures 1 and 2

The former and present distribution of Great Bustard in and around the Carpathian Basin. (Faragó 1990)

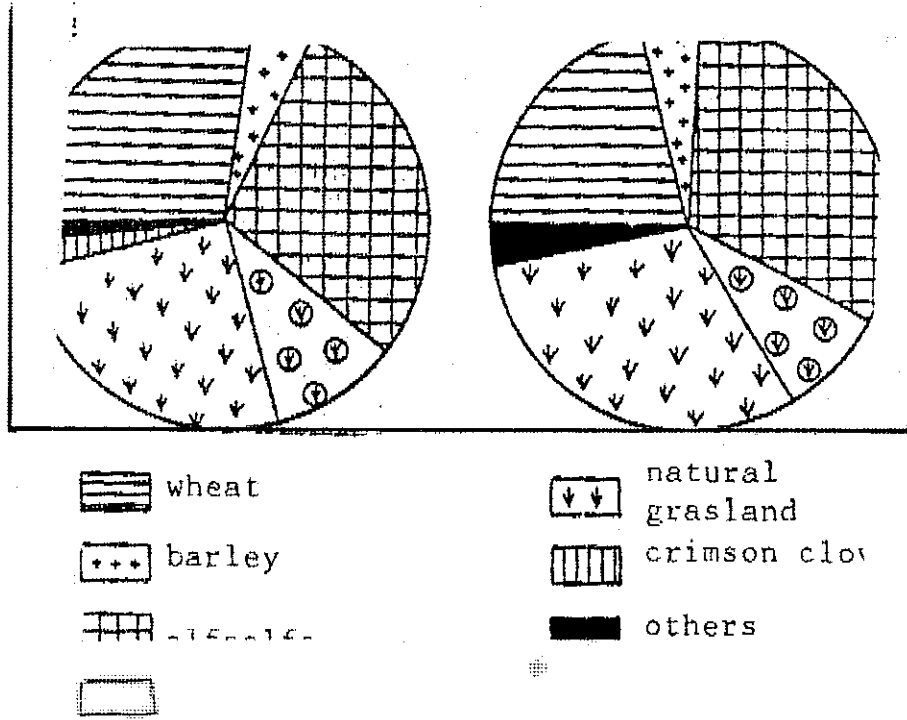


Figure 3