

Great Bustard Work Programme of Macedonia

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Aims and objectives

National Programme aims:

- in the short to medium term: to prevent the further decline of the species and its habitats;
- in the medium to long term: to increase monitoring and research on the potential areas/ habitats.

National Programme objectives :

- improve policy and legislation;
- ensure the species and habitat protection;
- undertake inventory, monitoring and research;
- raise public awareness.

1. Policy and legislation

1.1 Improve and implement legislation

Activities:

- Ensure legal protection of the species and its nature key habitats;
- Promote the designation as protected areas of the important ecosystems;

Priority: essential.

1.2 Prepare and implement the Strategic Action Plan

Activities:

- Prepare the National Action Plan for the conservation of the key habitats of Great Bustard,
- Implement the National Action Plan of the Great Bustard habitats with cooperation of national institutions and NGOs.

Priority: essential.

2. Ensure the species and habitat conservation

2.1 Ensure the protection of migrating/wintering areas

Activities:

- Ensure the enforcement of nature conservation laws in key and potential key areas/habitats.

Priority: essential.

2.2 Carry out appropriate site management

Activities:

- Ensure the enforcement

Priority: essential.

3. Carry out monitoring and research

3.1 Monitor ecological change

Activities:

- Monitor habitat changes and identify responsible factors as potential key sites.

Priority: high.

4. Raise public awareness and undertake training

4.1. Raise public awareness

Activities:

- Inform farmers (land-users) and other relevant holders about the importance of the integral protection and conservation of the Great Bustard and its habitats (including potential key sites);
- Undertake public awareness activities with hunters, farmers, local communities, etc.;
- Produce and distribute relevant publications, leaflets, posters, video-cassettes, CD, etc.

Priority: high.

Timing of implementation of this activities:

Activities: (see p. 1-4)

Timing: 2005 and next 3-5 years.

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Alternative:

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Introduction

The Action Plan for implementation MoU of Great Bustard (*Otis tarda*) has been compiled by the experts and other competent government sectors and Bird Study and Protection Society of Macedonia (BSPSM).

The Great Bustard Work Programme (GBWP) is next step of the implementation sub-regional Action Plan for 2005 (SEE).

General measures

The main goal of this programme is integral protection and conservation all the recently used suitable habitat, including potential areas, and to reduce disturbance in the whole areas.

According to MoU paragraphs

4a. The Great Bustard has been legally protected in Macedonia since 1976.

4b. Many of the Great Bustard potential habitats are situated inside protected areas. Most of the display sites are protected.

Planned cross-border measures

Cooperation with other countries in this sub-region (SEE) is planned to increased process of better protection of the populations of the Great Bustard and its habitats. Cross-border cooperation with Albania, Greece, Bulgaria and Serbia and Monte Negro, in trying to find wintering areas favorable for Great Bustard, and than improving these wintering sites by cooperative measures: monitoring, education, training, etc.).