

**Support of the Proposal for a Concerted Action for the Great Bustard (*Otis tarda*) in Asia  
At 12th Conference of Parties of the Convention on Migratory Species**

Ms. B. Shahriari

Department of Environment of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Thank you Mr. Chair,

Iran supports this opportunity to better coordinate with neighboring states for conservation of this unique bird species.

Iran's breeding populations of Great Bustard have decreased to less than 50 birds.

Previously, Great Bustards also arrived to northeastern Iran from Central Asia to overwinter. However these overwintering populations disappeared completely after 1971.

Our hopes were renewed in January 2008 with the appearance of a single bird, not far from our border with Turkmenistan.

Iran's Department of Environment has prepared an Action Plan for the conservation of the Great Bustard in Iran, and we are eager to extend the impact of our actions by working in coordination with other range states along the Asian migratory pathway, to avoid the extirpation of the Great Bustard from Iran.

Thank you.