

Intervention regarding Proposed Global Listing of Great Bustards  
on Appendix I of the Convention on Migratory Species

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Thank you Mr Chair,

The IUCN Bustard Specialist Group welcomes the proposal to list the Great Bustard globally on Appendix I.

Through our work in Central and East Asia, we have come to understand that these populations face severe and worsening threats across their migratory range.

These threats include high rates of adult mortality due to illegal hunting, poisoning, and collisions with powerlines.

We also observe low rates of reproduction due to severe weather events and agricultural practices incompatible with Great Bustard breeding.

Without intervention, we expect threats to increase in coming years.

Action is critical to facilitate the safe migratory movements of this species, and also to ensure continued dispersal and genetic flow between increasingly fragmented and isolated populations across range states.

Currently, Middle European populations of Great Bustard are listed on Appendix I. The proposed global listing will expand this protection to the distinctive East Asian subspecies, of which only 2000 individuals remain.

It will also aid the conservation of populations in Central Asia, where only 300 individuals remain, the Middle East, where only 500 individuals remain, and North Africa, where only 100 individuals remain.

I would like to echo the sentiments of the distinguished Delegate of Mongolia that the time to act to save these populations is now.

Thank you Mr Chair.