



**REPORT REGARDING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE  
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON THE  
CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF THE MIDDLE-  
EUROPEAN POPULATION OF THE GREAT BUSTARD  
DURING THE PERIOD 2012-2013**

**Designated Authority: Ministry of Environment and Climate Change**

**Name of the head of the institution: Mrs. Rovana PLUMB**

**Address: 12 Libertății Avenue, 5 District, Bucharest, Romania**

**Telephone: + 40 21 4089523**

**Fax: + 40 21 3124227**

**Name and contact officer: Dr. Nela MIAUTA**

**National Focal Point of the Great Bustard MoU**

**Ministry of Environment and Climate Change**

**Directorate for Sustainable Development and Nature Protection**

**12 Libertății Avenue, 5 District, Bucharest, Romania**

**Telephone: +40 21 4089545**

**Fax: +40 21 3124227**

**nela.miauta@mmediu.ro, nelamiauta@yahoo.com**

**Contributor that has provided input**

**Milvus Group Bird and Nature Protection Association**



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### **1. Scientific research and monitoring**

The conservation status of the Great Bustard (*Otis tarda*) was investigated in the Western part of the country, in Bihor County. According to the national law there are a Special Protection Area designated for the Great Bustards, ROSPA0097 Pescăria Cefa – Rădvani Forest and Cefa Natural Park with relevant habitats for this population.

Monitoring activities have been carried out through a project financed by the Romania-Hungary - Cross-Border Cooperation Programme 2007-2013, in the Special Protection Area ROSPA0097 Pescăria Cefa –Rădvani Forest and Cefa Natural Park.

The partners were Apuseni National Park from Romania and Körös-Maros National Park from Hungary.

The birds are coming from Hungary, Dévaványa Landscape Protection Area within the Körös-Maros National Park.

During the period 2012-2013, 14-35 individuals of Great Bustard were observed by the ornithologists from Milvus Group Bird and Nature Protection Association during the winter time.

## **2. Education and awareness**

- ❖ Public awareness campaigns of threats to the Great Bustard population and its habitats and enhance public participation in the conservation activities.
- ❖ Contacts with the stakeholders of land-users, local and governmental authorities.

## **3. Strengthening institutional capacity**

- ❖ Training needs were identified.

## **4. International cooperation**

- ❖ International cooperation with Hungary to improve the conservation status of the Great Bustard population and to facilitate exchange of information and experience with Hungarian experts;
- ❖ Cross-border conservation measures in the Western part of the country;

## **5. Protection of migratory species, conservation measures**

- ❖ Strict legal protection of the Great Bustard in the country.
- ❖ The collection of Great Bustard eggs or chicks, the possession of and trade of birds and their eggs are prohibited.

## **6. Administrative, institutional, legislative measures**

- ❖ Law No. 13/1998 for the ratification of the Convention regarding the conservation of migratory species of wild animals;

- ❖ Emergency Government Ordinance No. 57/2007 on the regime of natural protected areas, conservation of natural habitats, wild flora and fauna, modified and approved by Law No. 49/2011;
- ❖ Law No. 407/2006 of game and hunting fund modified and completed;
- ❖ Government Decision No. 971/2011 amending and supplementing the Government Decision No. 1.284/2007 declaring the Special Protection Areas as part of the European ecological network Natura 2000 in Romania.
- ❖ Law No. 69/1994 on ratification of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora.

## **7. Activities planned for next year**

- ❖ Coordinated census to produce detailed map of the “Important Great Bustard Areas;”
- ❖ Conservation of currently unoccupied but suitable habitats for the Great Bustards and their migration routes;
- ❖ Elaboration and the implementation of the Management Plan for ROSPA0097 Pescăria Cefa –Rădvani Forest;
- ❖ Introduce agri-environmental schemes or similar incentive measures to promote farming techniques compatible with the species’ requirements and monitor the effectiveness of such measures;
- ❖ Power line marking to reduce collision risk;
- ❖ Intensive collaboration with farmers and the hunters associations;

- ❖ Develop the cross-border cooperation with neighbouring countries and the international organizations by reviewing and coordinating research programmes, monitoring and protection of the Great Bustard population.