



African Houbara (*Chlamydotis undulata*)

Annex 1
Region 4: Northern Africa

BUSTARD
Multi-species Action Plan

COUNTRY: Algeria

Species	Population Size	Population trend	National Red List status	Regional Red List status	National Protection Status	Presence in Country	Months of presence	Key sites	Key Threats	Priority Actions
African Houbara	2,720 ind. (2005)	Declining and precarious (wild lineages) Observations of released captive-bred birds have increased near border with Morocco	N/A	N/A	Hunting prohibited under Ordinance No. 06-05 of July 15, 2006. Certain authorizations are granted to hunt captive-bred ind.	Resident	Year-round	Biskra; Ouargla; Grand Erg Oriental (Béchar); Oued Mya; Grand Erg Occidental; M'Zab Region (Ghardaïa) Releases of captive-bred birds have been conducted from E (El M'Ghaier and Ouled Djellal) to W (El Bayadh; Nâama; Béchar; Béni Abbes)	C: Poaching; Unsustainable hunting H: Disturbance; Climate change (Aridification) M: Habitat loss, degradation and fragmentation (Overgrazing) U: Anthropogenically subsidized predation (Dogs)	Increase monitoring at critical areas, promote control of hunting.
Little Bustard	<40 ind.	Unknown	N/A	N/A	Protected	Resident, Irregular wintering	Year-round	Macta Marsh and Lake Telamine (irregular breeding)	C: Habitat loss and degradation; Agricultural intensification (Chemical application) H: Poaching M: Disturbance L: Anthropogenically increased predation (Dogs)	Keep a long-term monitoring scheme for the population, strengthen the surveillance of the key sites especially at the “leks” by hiring more wardens from local communities, promote extensive agriculture and best farming practices, reduce the use of pesticides, awareness raising of hunting associations and farmers communities.
Great Bustard	Last known observation >60 years ago	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

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COUNTRY: Egypt

Species	Population Size	Population trend	National Red List status	Regional Red List status	National Protection Status	Presence in Country	Months of presence	Key sites	Key Threats	Priority Actions
African Houbara	Wild population likely extinct. Captive-bred birds released	Declining, likely extinct as wild species. No recent evidence confirms breeding	N/A	N/A	Legally protected under Egyptian Law 4/1994 (amended 2009) for the Environment. National Plan for Controlled Hunting concerns captive-bred released birds	Formerly resident	Year-round	Siwa Oasis; Bahariya; El Alamein; Marsah Matruh (Release of captive-bred ind.) Note: Houbara in Sinai pertain to <i>Asian</i> species of Houbara; see “Asian Houbara”, below	C: Poaching; Unsustainable hunting H: Habitat loss, degradation and fragmentation (Infrastructure developments, Oil and gas exploration); Agricultural intensification; Disturbance (Off-road vehicles, Grazing); Climate change (Desertification, Resource scarcity)	Increase surveillance of critical areas. Promote sustainable hunting and hunting control.
Asian Houbara	~ 24 ind.	Declining	N/A	N/A	Legally protected under Egyptian Law 4/1994 (amended 2009) for the Environment. National Plan for Controlled Hunting concerns captive-bred released birds	Breeding, Irregular wintering	Resident Sinai birds: Year-round Winter visitors: Oct-Mar	Sinai Peninsula: E border region; Nekhel Note: W of the Nile, <i>African</i> species of Houbara previously resided and captive bred birds have been released; see “African Houbara”, above	C: Poaching; Anthropogenic disturbance (Off-road vehicles, Grazing) H: Habitat loss and degradation (Land-use change, Infrastructure developments, Oil and gas exploration); Agricultural intensification; Climate change (Desertification, Resource scarcity)	Increase anti-poaching enforcement and reduce disturbance to preserve fragile remnant resident breeding population.

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COUNTRY: Libya

Species	Population Size	Population trend	National Red List status	Regional Red List status	National Protection Status	Presence in Country	Months of presence	Key sites	Key Threats	Priority Actions
African Houbara	1,000 ind. (2004), wild population likely extinct	Declining, likely extinct as wild species	Unknown	N/A	Protected by Environmental Protection Law, Section 9 and Hunting Law	Resident	Year-round	Sirte Released captive-bred birds:100 ind. S of Derna city; 280 ind. in Ashouba E to Tobruk city	C: Disturbance (Military actions) H: Unsustainable hunting; Habitat degradation	Carry out detailed, regular surveys to accurately determine the current population size, distribution, and breeding success of the African Houbara in Libya. Identify sites important to any remaining wild birds and designate as nature reserves or protected areas. These areas should be large enough to support viable populations and should be protected from human activities that lead to habitat degradation. Provide training and resources to government agencies, NGOs, and researchers to enhance their ability to effectively manage and protect the species. Work with falconers to promote sustainable practices and discourage illegal and unregulated hunting. Disallow hunting of released captive-bred birds in areas near remaining populations of wild Houbara.

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COUNTRY: Morocco

Species	Population Size	Population trend	National Red List status	Regional Red List status	National Protection Status	Presence in Country	Months of presence	Key sites	Key Threats	Priority Actions
African Houbara	~5,000 ind. (incl. released birds and their offspring)	Likely extinct as wild species. Increasing numbers of released captive-bred birds with some offspring	N/A	N/A	Protected	Resident	Year-round	High Plateau of E Morocco; Zagora; Mhamid; Boulemane; La’ayoune; Missouri; Tata; Guelmim (captive-bred released birds)	C: Poaching H: Anthropogenically subsidized predation (Dogs); Genetic threats (Genetic swamping from lineages adapted to captivity, Hybrid swarms) L: Habitat degradation (Livestock)	Maintain a regular, long-term monitoring scheme for the population, with consistent methodology from year to year. Strengthen surveillance of key sites, especially “leks” (breeding sites) by hiring more wardens from local communities. Undertake awareness raising within hunting associations and farmers communities.
Little Bustard	<20 ind.	Declining	N/A	N/A	Protected	Resident, Rare wintering	Year-round	Tleta Rissana; Araoua; Tendafel; Arba de Ayacha; Briech; Adarouch Plateau Extinct in Trifa and Maâmora forest since mid-80s	C: Agricultural intensification H: Anthropogenic disturbance L: Agricultural intensification (Chemical application) Loc: Anthropogenically subsidized predation (Dogs)	Maintain a regular, long-term monitoring scheme for the population, with consistent methodology from year to year. Strengthen surveillance of key sites, especially “leks” (breeding sites) by hiring more wardens from local communities. Promote extensive agriculture and bustard-friendly farming practices, including reduction of the use of pesticides. Undertake awareness raising within hunting associations and farmers communities.
Great Bustard	74 ind. (2024), 40-44 ind. (2015)	Stable	N/A	N/A	Protected	Breeding, Wintering	Year-round	Tleta de Rissana; Araoua; Kanaouat; Tendafel; Chekbouchan; Mrhihtane; Had Kourt; Oued Tahadart	C: Agricultural intensification H: Poaching M: Habitat loss and fragmentation (Infrastructure development) L: Agricultural intensification (Chemical application) Loc: Anthropogenically subsidized predation (Dogs)	Maintain a regular, long-term monitoring scheme for the population, with consistent methodology from year to year. Strengthen surveillance of key sites, especially “leks” (breeding sites) by hiring more wardens from local communities. Promote extensive agriculture and bustard-friendly farming practices, including reduction of the use of pesticides. Undertake awareness raising within hunting associations and farmers communities.

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COUNTRY: Tunisia

Species	Population Size	Population trend	National Red List status	Regional Red List status	National Protection Status	Presence in Country	Months of presence	Key sites	Key Threats	Priority Actions
African Houbara	Small, relict populations	Declining	EN	N/A	Protected	Resident	Year-round	Gouvernorat de Mednine; Gouvernorat de Tataouine; Gouvernorat de Touzer; Gouvernorat de kKebili et notamment Sidi Toui NP; El Ouara; Jbil NP; Oum Chiah; Le Daher	C: Poaching H: Disturbance (Off-road vehicles, Dogs) Loc: Habitat loss (Land-use change)	Increase monitoring at critical areas. Considering the fragile status of any remaining populations, establish protected areas and reduce disturbance at their key sites, especially breeding areas. Undertake awareness raising in hunting communities and ensure enforcement of relevant laws.

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