



Great Indian Bustard (*Ardeotis nigriceps*)

Annex 1

Region 7: South Asia

BUSTARD
Multi-species Action Plan

COUNTRY: Afghanistan

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
Asian Houbara	Unknown	Unknown	N/A	N/A	Unknown	Migrant, Wintering, Formerly resident in S, and breeding migrant in N near Mazar-e-Sharif	Year-round	Unknown	H: Unsustainable hunting (Sport hunting, foreign parties) U: Illegal trade (Live birds)	As security conditions allow, increase survey efforts for this species, particularly during the breeding season. Take measures to reduce hunting levels and trade in live birds.
Little Bustard	Unknown	Unknown	N/A	N/A	Protected	Rare wintering, Breeding possible but unknown	Oct-Apr	Nangarhar	C: Unsustainable hunting	Conduct awareness activities at key sites during winter. As security conditions allow, increase survey efforts for this species, including during breeding months, and increase anti-poaching enforcement.

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COUNTRY: Cambodia

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
Bengal Florican <i>(Houbaropsis bengalensis blandini)</i>	165 displaying males (2025), 140 displaying males (2024), 176 displaying males (2023), 147 displaying males (2022)	Steep decline Only stable in PA’s and nearby project-supported farmland	Listed as "rare" species by Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries	CR	Protected	Breeding and non-breeding	Year-round Migrates locally to escape flooding during the wet season	Tonle Sap Floodplain Grasslands; Stung/Chi Kreng/ Kampong Svay; Baray and Chung-doung; Ang Tropeang Thmor; Veal Srongae; Stung Sen/Santuk/Baray; N Santuk; Boeung Prek Lapouv	C: Habitat loss and degradation (Conversion to rice fields, Agricultural intensification, Overgrazing and nest trampling by domestic buffalo); Collision (Overhead cabling) M: Poaching; Agricultural intensification (Chemical application)	Prevent conversion of native grasslands. Bury or re-route powerlines from critical sites; install bird diverters; engage utilities and local stakeholders. Act with urgency to conserve the subspecies <i>H. b. blandini</i> , which now occurs only here.

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COUNTRY: India

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
Asian Houbara	149 ind. in Gujarat state (2006-2007) Also observed in Rajasthan	Declining	N/A	N/A	Listed under Schedule 1 of Wildlife (Protection) Amendment Act, 2022	Wintering	Oct-Mar	Gujarat: Kutch Desert WS; Great Rann of Kutch; Little Rann of Kutch; Coastal Grasslands of Kutch; Abdasa Grasslands; Naliya Grasslands; Konathiya; Khirsara; Dhufi; Jakhau; Banni Grasslands Reserve; Grasslands around Pingleshwar Beach; Khavda; Mandvi; Positra and Mithapur; Jamnagar; Bhal area around Velavadar; Coastal grasslands of Gariyadhar; Jafrabad; Suigam; Par Village of Santalpur Taluka Rajasthan: Desert NP; Pokhran Field Firing Range; Phulia; Poochina; Mehboob-ka-par; Gaiamata; Sorsan; Sonkhaliya; Gosabara Wetland Complex	C: Habitat loss (Salt production, Agricultural intensification and expansion, Plantations and invasion of exotic tree species); Habitat degradation (Overgrazing); Hunting and poaching (along migratory route) H: Habitat fragmentation (Salt production, Irrigation canals, Transportation networks, Energy infrastructure); Collision (Energy infrastructure) M: Disturbance (Tourism) U: Poaching (Local)	Habitat protection and restoration, undergrounding/rerouting of critical power lines, installation of effective bird diverters on power lines, education and awareness, policy reforms, research and monitoring.
Great Indian Bustard	<150 ind. in the wild Of these: ~100 – 140 ind. in Rajasthan, <4 ind. in Kutch (Gujarat), <2 ind. in Maharashtra, <5 ind. in Karnataka, <5 ind. in Andhra Pradesh	Declining	N/A	N/A	Schedule I of Wildlife (Protection) Amendment Act, 2022 - Highest legal protection in India	Resident, may make seasonal movements	Year-round	Rajasthan: Thar Desert, particularly-Desert NP; Pokhran Field Firing Range; Rasla-Degrai Oran Area Gujarat: Abdasa and Mandvi talukas of Kutch District; Naliya Grassland; Kutch Bustard Sanctuary (KBS) & its Eco-sensitive Zone; Godhra-Dedhiya-Bayath-Jakhau Coastal Grasslands	C: Collision (Overhead cabling, (electric) Fences); Habitat loss, degradation and fragmentation (Plantation of exotic tree species, Invasive alien plant species incl. <i>Zizyphus nummularia</i> in Naliya Grassland and <i>Prosopis juliflora</i> , Conversion of grasslands and cereal steppes, Overgrazing, Transportation networks, Energy infrastructure); Agricultural intensification (Irrigation, Mechanization);	Undergrounding/rerouting/markings powerlines; habitat protection and restoration; dog control; community engagement through development or restoration of fodder plots/village pastures, promote bustard-friendly agriculture practices, Change in policy to remove grasslands from the wastelands list, Identify, protect and restore habitats for future release of captive-bred bustards from the Conservation Breeding Centre,

									Historical records: Banni Grasslands (1980s) in Kutch; Blackbuck NP (2005); Little Rann of Kutch (2008)	Anthropogenically increased predation (Dogs, Foxes); Legal obstacles (Lack of grasslands policy)	Removal of predators (natural and free-ranging dogs), especially from breeding enclosures.
										H: Agricultural intensification (Chemical application); Anthropogenic disturbance; Genetic fragmentation and inbreeding; Climate change	
										M: Predation (Natural predation); Lack of awareness	
										L: Collision (Traffic); Anthropogenically subsidized predation (Corvids)	
Bengal Florican <i>(Houbaropsis bengalensis bengalensis)</i>	~250 – 300 males	Steep decline	CR	CR	Schedule I of Wildlife (Protection) Amendment Act, 2022	Breeding	Year-round	Assam: Manas NP; Koklabari farms; Kaziranga; Orang NP; Nizamghat; Amarpur; Sadiya Plains; Barnadi WS; Laokhowa WS; Burhachapori WS; Majuli; Nameri NP; Pabitora WS; Sonai-Rupai WS; Subansiri; Chirang Reserve Forest; Maguri and Motapung Beels; Ripu Reserve Forest Arunachal Pradesh: D’Ering Memorial WS; Dibang Reserve Forest and adjacent areas; Chapories of Lohit Reserve Uttar Pradesh: Dibru-Saikhowa NP; Dudhwa NP; Pilibhit Tiger Reserve; Katerniaghat WS; Girijapur Barrage; Kishanpur WS; Lagga - Bagga Reserve Forest IBA	C: Habitat degradation (Overgrazing in non-protected areas, Invasive alien plant species, incl. <i>Chromolaena odorata</i> , <i>Mikania micrantha</i> and <i>Lantana camara</i>) H: Habitat loss and fragmentation (Conversion of shrublands, Transportation networks, Dam construction upstream, Unsustainable fire regimes); Agricultural intensification (Mechanization); Anthropogenic disturbance; Lack of awareness; Legal obstacles (Lack of grasslands policy); Climate change (Heavy rainfall during breeding season) M: Poaching; Anthropogenically increased predation (Dogs, Jackals, Corvids); Natural predation (Monitor lizards; Mongoose)	Habitat protection and improvement; installation of bird flight diverters; initiate conservation breeding, total control on poaching, revival of grasslands in Dibru-Saikhowa, Manas, and river islands of the Brahmaputra, particularly in north Assam and Arunachal.	

								West Bengal: Gorumara NP; Jaldapara WS; Mahananda WS	L: Habitat loss (Conversion of grasslands) U: Illegal trade (Live and dead birds); Collision (Overhead cabling, Fences, Traffic); Habitat loss and fragmentation (Conversion of cereal steppes, Energy & Transportation infrastructure); Agricultural intensification (Chemical application, Irrigation, Monocultures); Genetic threats (Genetic fragmentation and inbreeding); Climate change	
Lesser Florican	<300 ind. in the wild	Steep decline	CR	CR	Protected (Schedule I of Wildlife Protection, Amendment Act, 2022)	Breeding	Year-round	Rajasthan: Ajmer-kekri landscape; Arwara; Arain; Goyala; Kheerriya; Ratakot; Shokaliya Closed Area (Ramsar, Bandawada, Bhinay and 40 additional villages); Gulabpura; Shahpura in Bhilwada Gujarat: Velavadar NP; Abdasa and Mandvi talukas; Naliya Grassland Area; Kutch Bustard Sanctuary; Konathiya Grassland Area; Godhra-Bayath Grasslands; Jakhau and Daradvandh Coastal Grassland Area; Banni Grassland; Beyt (islands) with grasslands near Kala Dungar and Vighakot; Blackbuck NP; Forest Vidis of Saurashtra; Liliya-Krakach and Amreli Grasslands; Rampura Grassland-Dahod; Grassland Vidis near Chotila; Little Rann of Kutch; Chhari Dhand; Gir NP & WS	C: Collisions (Overhead cabling, (Net) Fences); Habitat loss, degradation and fragmentation (Afforestation with exotic tree species, Conversion of grasslands, shrublands and cereal steppes, Overgrazing, Unsustainable fire regimes, Invasive alien plant species incl. <i>Prosopis juliflora</i> , Transportation networks, Energy infrastructure); Agricultural intensification (Chemical application, Irrigation, Monocultures, Mechanization); Anthropogenically subsidized predation (Dogs, Foxes); Legal obstacles (Lack of grassland policy) H: Unsustainable hunting; Poaching; Anthropogenic disturbance; Climate change M: Illegal trade (Live birds); Natural predation (Monitor lizards, Mongoose); Lack of awareness	Habitat protection and restoration; Undergrounding or rerouting of critical powerlines; Installation of effective bird diverters on powerlines; education and awareness; policy reforms; research and monitoring. Conservation breeding with concomitant identification, protection and restoration of habitats for future release of captive-bred floricans.

	Madhya Pradesh: Sailana Kharmor Sanctuary; Sardarpur-Petlawad WLS; Jeeran Cheetakheda-Neemuch Lesser Florican Area; Kanha NP Maharashtra: Lateritic plateau areas in Ratnagiri; Tadoba NP; Ozar; Gangapur Dam and grasslands; Great Indian Bustard Sanctuary and adjoining grassland; Deccan Plateau: Open natural ecosystems of the districts of Yavatmal, Pune, Nashik, Akola, Solapur, Kolhapur, Buldhana, Washim, and Chandrapur Karnataka: Hesaraghatta Lake; Hessargatta; Bidar; Koppal; Gadag Andhra Pradesh: Rollapadu WS and vicinity	L: Illegal trade (dead birds); Collisions (Automobile, Trains); Anthropogenically subsidized predation (Corvids)
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COUNTRY: Nepal

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
Bengal Florican <i>(Houbaropsis bengalensis bengalensis)</i>	<100 ind.	Declining	CR	N/A	Strictly protected	Breeding	Year-round	Koshi Tappu WS; Koshi Barrage; Sukla Phanta NP; Chitwan NP; Bardia NP (incl. Buffer Zones of all NPs)	C: Habitat loss and degradation (Overgrazing) H: Invasive alien plant species L: Poaching	Implement Bengal Florican Action Plan (2024–2033); habitat restoration; enhance awareness; improve science-based monitoring. Strengthen anti-poaching enforcement.
Lesser Florican	<10 ind.	Declining	CR	N/A	Strictly protected	Breeding	Summer months	Koshi Tappu WR; Suklaphanta NP; Chitwan NP; Bardia NP (incl. Buffer Zones of all NPs)	C: Habitat loss, degradation and fragmentation (Overgrazing) H: Invasive alien plant species (e.g., <i>Mikania micrantha</i>) L: Poaching	Research and population monitoring. Enhance awareness and strengthen anti-poaching enforcement.

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COUNTRY: Pakistan

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
Great Indian Bustard	27 – 35 ind.	Unknown	N/A	N/A	Protected	Likely resident, breeding is not confirmed, however chicks seen by locals in Cholistan	Year-round	GIB WS in Cholistan Desert and District; TharParkar in Thar Desert	C: Poaching H: Agricultural intensification (Chemical application during locust control in Cholistan Desert) L: Habitat degradation	Confirm population estimation and breeding through surveys; protect habitat; community-based conservation.
Lesser Florican	Unknown (1 – 10 ind., unconfirmed)	Unknown	N/A	N/A	Protected	Rare vagrant	Unknown	S Sindh; Lasbela in Balochistan; Border areas of district Kasur in Punjab	Unknown	Conduct population monitoring and distribution surveys; raise community awareness on conservation.
Asian Houbara	20 – 30 breeding ‘pairs’ in Nag Valley (1999); 4,800 – 6,200 wintering ind.	Unknown	N/A	N/A	Protected by wildlife acts but special hunting permits issued to foreign dignitaries	Wintering Possibly residents remain	Nov-Mar Possibly residents persist year-round in Chagai; Nushk	Wintering: Punjab; Sindh; Balochistan; Khyber; Pakhtunkhwa provinces Small resident populations may exist in Chagai; Nushki; Kharan; Washuk districts	C: Habitat degradation H: Habitat Loss (Land-use change); Agricultural intensification M: Unsustainable hunting L: Poaching	Population monitoring; strengthen wildlife departments; protect and restore habitats; raise awareness and follow IUCN best practices for conservation translocations. Ensure hunting is at sustainable levels.
Little Bustard	~1 – 10 ind.	Unknown	DD	N/A	Protected	Rare migrant, Rare wintering	Nov–Mar	Punjab; Sindh; Balochistan; Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	C: Poaching M: Habitat degradation (Overgrazing) U: Climate change	Community awareness campaigns in areas where the species is observed; inform hunters about species identification and protection measures.

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COUNTRY: Viet Nam

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 Action
Bengal Florican <i>(Houbaropsis bengalensis blandini)</i>	~1 – 10 ind. (last recorded in 1994)	Declining, possibly extinct	N/A	N/A	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown, possibly extinct	Tram Chim NP; Ha Tien; historically in Plain of Reeds in the Mekong Delta & Tay Ninh Province; Tam Nông District	C: Habitat loss and degradation (Conversion to rice fields) H: Disturbance (Electro-fishing)	Monitor for remaining birds and assess any recently used habitat for protected area designation.

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