



Nigel Collar

### Chair

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### Red List Authority Coordinator

BirdLife International

### Location/Affiliation

BirdLife Global Office, The David Attenborough Building, Pembroke Street, Cambridge, CB2 3QZ, UK.

### Number of members

42



### Mission statement

The mission statement of the SSC Bustard Specialist Group (BSG) is to actively promote bustard research and conservation by developing conservation action plans for the most threatened species, and by encouraging information exchange and cooperation amongst bustard specialists and with other relevant organisations to enhance conservation of bustards and their habitats worldwide.

### Projected impact for the 2017-2020 quadrennium

Detailed status review of all six Asian species of bustard, and enumeration and promotion of appropriate necessary interventions. Consultation with Rajasthan officials over the preservation of the Great Indian Bustard (*Ardeotis nigriceps*). Continuing programme of research on the Asian Houbara (*Chlamydotis macqueenii*).

### Targets for the 2017-2020 quadrennium

#### Assess

Red List: feed information into Red List reassessments of all bustard species.

Research activities: (1) inspire immediate management interventions on a grand scale for all six species of Asian bustards; (2) generate key data on Asian Houbara (*Chlamydotis macqueenii*); (3) coordinate regional surveys for Great Bustard (*Otis tarda*) in Asia.

#### Plan

Planning: develop an Action Plan for Great Bustards in Asia.

### Act

Conservation actions: provide advice on the conservation of the African Houbara (*Chlamydotis undulata*) in Lanzarote.

Policy: conduct and extend Concerted Action for Great Bustards in Asia via the Convention for the Conservation of Migratory Species (CMS).

Technical advice: (1) provide policy advice on Asian Houbara; (2) provide advice on the conservation of the Great Indian Bustard in situ in Rajasthan.

### Network

Membership: expand the membership of BSG.

### Communicate

Communication: (1) deliver weekly news and research output updates; (2) create a website for the Asian Houbara project; (3) communicate the importance of bustard conservation to audiences in North Eurasia.

Scientific meetings: facilitate communication between Specialist Group members and external researchers via symposia.

Technical advice: develop guidelines for the optimal management of power lines in bustard areas to minimise mortalities caused by collisions.

### Activities and results 2020

#### Assess

##### Red List

i. Reassessments have been supported for all threatened species of bustards. (KSR #2, 4)

##### Research activities

i. We published a paper on migration of Asian Houbara. (KSR #12)

ii. Regional surveys for Great Bustards in Asia were coordinated from 2019–2020. (KSR #12)



Captive individual of the Near Threatened Kori Bustard, *Ardeotis kori*, at the Smithsonian National Zoo  
Photo: Jesse Cohen



Vulnerable Asian Houbara Bustard, *Chlamydotis macqueenii*  
Photo: Gobind Sagar Bhardwaj

## Plan

### Planning

i. The Action Plan for Great Bustards in Asia has been reviewed by data contributors, and now should undergo review by additional stakeholders. (KSR #15, 26)

### Policy

i. BSG members played a role in achieving a global uplisting for Little Bustard (*Tetrax tetrax*), Great Indian Bustard and Bengal Florican (*Houbaropsis bengalensis*) under the Convention of Migratory Species. (KSR #26, 27)

## Act

### Conservation actions

i. A manuscript on the conservation of the African Houbara in Lanzarote was drafted for submission in 2021. (KSR #31)

### Policy

i. Concerted Action was extended for Great Bustard in Asia at CMS CoP13. (KSR #26, 27)

### Technical advice

i. We produced a position statement on sustainable hunting, which is in publication. We also produced a position statement on the use of captive breeding in Houbara conservation, yet to be published. (KSR #27)

ii. We played a role in creation of a spatial sensitivity map for Great Indian Bustard and renewable energy development. (KSR #32)

## Network

### Membership

i. Membership of the group has tripled.

## Communicate

### Communication

i. A weekly update is consistently published. (KSR #28)

ii. New materials on bustard conservation for audiences in North Eurasia have been added to the website of the Eurasian Bustard Alliance ([eurasianbustardalliance.org](http://eurasianbustardalliance.org)) in multiple languages. (KSR #28)

### Scientific meetings

i. Planning for an online conference for Specialist Group members is underway. (KSR #17, 28, 29)

### Technical advice

i. Data have been gathered, and guidelines for the optimal management of power lines in bustard areas to minimise mortalities caused by collisions are under development. (KSR #32)

## Acknowledgements

Our greatest appreciation to BSG Secretary Sara Hallager for her vital work in facilitating communications among the group members. Great thanks also to the group members who have dedicated their expertise and time to the conservation of bustards.

## Summary of activities 2020

Components of Species Conservation Cycle: 5/5

Assess	3	■■■
Plan	2	■■
Act	4	■■■■
Network	1	■
Communicate	4	■■■■

Main KSRs addressed: 2, 4, 12, 15, 17, 26, 27, 28, 29, 31, 32

KSR: Key Species Result