

AMENDMENTS TO APPENDICES I AND II OF THE CONVENTION

A. PROPOSAL

Inclusion of Otididae spp. in Appendix II.

B. PROPOSANT

The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

C. SUPPORTING STATEMENT

1. Taxonomy

11. Class: Aves
12. Order: Gruiformes
13. Family: Otididae
14. Species: a full list of species is given below:
- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <u>Ardeotis</u> (= <u>Choriotis</u> ) <u>arabs</u>                                   | Arabian bustard                             |
| <u>Ardeotis</u> (= <u>Choriotis</u> ) <u>australis</u>                               | Australian bustard                          |
| <u>Ardeotis</u> (= <u>Choriotis</u> ) <u>kori</u>                                    | Kori bustard                                |
| <u>Ardeotis</u> (= <u>Choriotis</u> ) <u>nigriceps</u>                               | great Indian bustard<br>(already in App. I) |
| <u>Chlamydotis undulata</u>  | houbara bustard<br>(already in App. I)      |
| <u>Eupodotis</u> (= <u>Afrotis</u> ) <u>afra</u> (= <u>atra</u> )                    | black bustard                               |
| <u>Eupodotis caerulescens</u>  | blue bustard                                |
| <u>Eupodotis</u> (= <u>Lissotis</u> ) <u>hartlaubii</u>                              | Hartlaub's bustard                          |
| <u>Eupodotis humilis</u>   | brown bustard                               |
| <u>Eupodotis</u> (= <u>Lissotis</u> ) <u>melanogaster</u>                            | black-bellied bustard                       |
| <u>Eupodotis rueppellii</u>  | Ruppell's bustard                           |
| <u>Eupodotis</u> (= <u>Lophotis</u> ) <u>ruficrista</u><br>(inc. <u>E. savilei</u> ) | buff-crested bustard                        |
| <u>Eupodotis senegalensis</u>  | white-bellied bustard                       |
| <u>Eupodotis vigorsii</u>  | Vigors' bustard                             |
| <u>Eupodotis</u> (= <u>Houbaropsis</u> ) <u>bengalensis</u>                          | Bengal florican<br>(already in App. I)      |
| <u>Neotis denhami</u> (= <u>cafra</u> )<br>(inc. <u>N. burchellii</u> )              | Denham's bustard                            |
| <u>Neotis heuglinii</u>  | Heuglin's bustard                           |
| <u>Neotis ludwigii</u>   | Ludwig's bustard                            |
| <u>Neotis nuba</u>   | Nubian bustard                              |
| <u>Otis tarda</u>  | great bustard<br>(already in App. II)       |
| <u>Sypheotides indica</u>  | lesser florican                             |
| <u>Tetrax tetrax</u>   | little bustard                              |
15. Common Names: English: bustards  
French: outardes  
German: Trappen  
Spanish: avutardas

## 2. Biological Data

21. Distribution: The family occurs in Africa, Asia and Australia: see Annex I. The southernmost population occurs in Australia, south to 37°S; the northernmost is in the USSR and China, north to 50°N.
22. Population: Throughout their range, bustards are patchily distributed with their populations becoming more fragmented because of agricultural intensification and conversion of natural habitat. Their overall current status, where known, is given in Annex I (Cramp and Simmons, 1979; Urban Newman and Fry, 1986; Goriup and Vardhan, 1983).

Species may be locally common, with flocks in non-breeding season from a few to several thousand birds (in Tetrax tetrax). Other species such as the lesser florican Syphenotides indica are threatened, some with populations ranging from only 500-1,500 individuals, and are to be considered for inclusion in a new edition of the ICBP/IUCN Red Data Book. The great Indian bustard Ardeotis nigriceps is already listed as endangered in the Red Data Book, (King, 1981). Recent surveys have revealed densities of 0.4 birds per km<sup>2</sup> for Eupodotis ruficrista and 0.08 birds per km<sup>2</sup> for E. senegalensis in Tsavo National Park, Kenya (Lack, unpubl.) and 0.035 birds per km<sup>2</sup> for Ardeotis kori in Serengeti National Park, United Republic of Tanzania (Borner, Sinclair and Campbell, unpubl.).

In general, the family is declining due to habitat loss, international trade, trapping, hunting and disturbance.

Trade in some species has occurred increasingly since the early 1970's, for example, of houbara bustard Chlamydotis undulata, white-bellied bustard Eupodotis senegalensis, buff-crested bustard E. ruficrista, black bustard E. afra and Kori bustard Ardeotis kori. Trapping in some cases has led to steep reduction of local populations (pers. comm. ICBP East Africa).

23. Habitat: They inhabit savanna, grassland, steppe and shrub habitats, also unintensified agricultural areas. They occur from sea level to approximately 2,500 m altitude in either flat or slightly undulating plateaux or plains. All species nest on the ground and are very sensitive to disturbance by humans.

## 3. Trade Data

31. National Utilization: In many parts of their range bustards are hunted for food, for sport and for trophies, for example Tetrax tetrax in Spain. Some taxa are also collected for captive breeding schemes in domestic zoos and private collections.
32. Legal International Trade: There has long been a low level of trade in wild-caught bustards, mainly to supply zoological collections. A survey of British zoos by the ICBP Bustard Group in 1980 revealed 8 locations holding 26 bustards of 4 species, while the ISIS data base for the USA in 1986 held information on 45 birds of 3 species at 17 localities. Only the black bustard Eupodotis afra has been successfully bred in captivity (i.e. to the second generation) in a foreign country. It is not known

under what circumstances the remainder of the above wild caught species were obtained by the institutions concerned. However, exports of Kori bustards Ardeotis kori from Kenya and the United Republic of Tanzania are properly documented and may be sent to stations in Arab Gulf countries such as Al Ain Zoo in Abu Dhabi, U.A.E. labelled as "State Gifts" (J.P. Oriero *in litt.* to East African Natural History Society, 27 March 1986). Arabian bustards A. arabs have also appeared in Dubai (U.A.E.) as State Gifts (country of origin unknown). International animal dealers regularly advertise the availability of various bustards in their stocklists.

Recently, however, there has been a growing interest in the smaller African bustards by Arabian Gulf countries. Since the early 1980s, species such as the white-bellied bustard Eupodotis senegalensis, buff-crested bustard E. ruficrista and black bustard E. afra have been sent in shipments numbering up to 200 or more birds to at least Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (pers. comm. ex-curator of Al Areen Zoo, Bahrain). Buff-crested E. ruficrista and white-bellied bustards E. senegalensis have been seen leaving Mogadishu Airport in Somalia, and black bustards E. afra must come from Botswana, Namibia and/or South Africa since they only occur in these countries. The flock of white-bellied bustards E. senegalensis observed at Al Ain Zoo in Abu Dhabi in 1984 was of the restricted East African race E. s. canicollis and reports suggest that these are trapped on the Laikipia Plateau in Kenya and flown out from private airstrips or shipped to Mogadishu from the port Lamu (pers. comm. ICPB East Africa). The smaller bustard species are apparently used to train falcons prior to the houbara bustard Chlamydotis undulata hunting season, and there has been at least one record of a feral black bustard caught in Dubai, having been released in Abu Dhabi.

It is often only when these specimens are recorded in transit or are retained in a third state that some idea of the extent of this trade comes to light. In 1986 an unknown proportion of this trade was routed through the Netherlands:

<u>Ardeotis kori</u>	21 imported from U.R. of Tanzania 35 from U.R. of Tanzania, in transit to the United Arab Emirates
<u>Eupodotis senegalensis</u>	42 imported from U.R. of Tanzania 25 from U.R. of Tanzania in transit to the United Arab Emirates
<u>Eudopotis melanogaster</u>	23 imported from U.R. of Tanzania
<u>Eudopotis ruficrista</u>	20 in transit to the United Arab Emirates

The final destination of all those imported to the Netherlands is believed to be the Arabian Gulf states.

No official statistics exist to show the scale of this bustard trapping in East Africa. The practice has now spread to the United Republic of Tanzania, and other countries are likely to follow as present stocks are depleted. Already, Kori bustards A. kori are rare on the Laikipia Plateau in Kenya, where they were once quite common (pers. comm. ICBP East Africa). According to trappers' reports, dealers required them to keep birds for one month before purchasing them for about US\$10 each (the resale value is stated by zoo staff to be about US\$200 each); during this period, there is high mortality because the birds are very hard to feed. If a shipment of 200 birds represents a conservative 400 birds originally caught, this could comprise the bustard population of 1,000-5,000 km<sup>2</sup>, based on densities observed.

Giving trapping on this scale, it is urgent that monitoring is instituted as soon as possible. The best way of achieving this is by listing all so far unlisted bustards in Appendix II of CITES (all African species are potential targets for trade) so that records can be kept at least of official consignments. These data can then be used to help assess the impact of trapping on wild populations. This proposal was recommended by the International Symposium on Bustards held in Dubai, UAE, in November 1984.

33. Illegal Trade: In certain cases, international trade may violate national and international laws on the protection of bustard species:

For example, there is evidence that houbara bustards Chlamydotis undulata (in CITES Appendix I) are illegally removed from Pakistan and North Africa and taken to countries in the Arabian Gulf [(Indian) National Herald 26.5.82]. Dead houbara bustards C. undulata, killed by hunting parties in Pakistan, are exported to be consumed in the Gulf states.

Moreover, large numbers of buff-crested bustards Eupodotis ruficrista and white-bellied bustards E. senegalensis arrive in the Arabian Gulf countries, having been caught illegally in Kenya.

34. Potential Trade Threats: The trade threat to bustards of all species, especially the smaller bustards, is significant since they are in high demand for use for training falcons in the Gulf area.

There is a growing interest by aviculturists and zoos in collecting a wide range of species, many of which have never been bred in captivity before.

There is evidence of a decline, in some cases serious, for most species and the prices paid are sufficient to encourage considerable trade.

35. Parts and Derivatives: Mounted specimens of heads of great bustard Otis tarda were, in the past, popular but it is not known whether this continues today. Houbara bustards are taken from Pakistan for meat. Great bustard Otis tarda feathers have

in the past been imported into the United Kingdom to make fly-fishing feathers: there has been no recent legal trade for this purpose but it is not known if the demand continues.

4. Protection Status

41. National: The family as a whole is protected in many countries and a number of species are subject to individual protection in some countries:

Countries with legislation protecting all Otididae:

BOTSWANA	PAKISTAN
CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC	RWANDA
CHAD	SENEGAL
LESOTHO	SOMALIA
MALAWI	SOUTH AFRICA (Cape Province)
MOROCCO	SUDAN
MOZAMBIQUE	UGANDA
NETHERLANDS	ZAMBIA
NIGERIA	ZIMBABWE

Countries with species-related protection:

ANGOLA	<u>Ardeotis kori</u> , <u>Eupodotis ruficrista</u> <u>Neotis denhami</u>
AUSTRALIA	<u>Ardeotis australis</u>
BOTSWANA	<u>Ardeotis kori</u> , <u>Eupodotis ruficrista</u> <u>Neotis denhami</u>
BURKINA FASO	<u>Eupodotis senegalensis</u> , <u>Neotis denhami</u>
CAMEROON	<u>Eupodotis senegalensis</u> , <u>Neotis denhami</u>
CONGO	<u>Neotis denhami</u>
ETHIOPIA	<u>Ardeotis kori</u> , <u>A. arabs</u> , <u>Eupodotis senegalensis</u> , <u>E. hartlaubii</u> , <u>E. melanogaster</u> , <u>E. ruficrista</u> , <u>Neotis denhami</u> , <u>N. heuglinii</u>
FRANCE	<u>Tetrax tetrax</u>
GHANA	<u>Ardeotis arabs</u> , <u>Eupodotis senegalensis</u> , <u>E. melanogaster</u> , <u>Neotis denhami</u>
HUNGARY	<u>Tetrax tetrax</u> , <u>Otis tarda</u>
INDIA	<u>Ardeotis nigriceps</u> , <u>Eupodotis bengalensis</u> , <u>Sypheotides indica</u>
IRAN	<u>Tetrax tetrax</u>
KENYA	<u>Ardeotis kori</u> , <u>Eupodotis ruficrista</u>
MALAWI	<u>Neotis denhami</u>

MOROCCO	<u>Ardeotis arabs</u> , <u>Tetrax tetrax</u>
NIGERIA	<u>Ardeotis arabs</u>
PAKISTAN	<u>Tetrax tetrax</u>
PAPUA NEW GUINEA	<u>Ardeotis australis</u> , <u>Chlamydotis undulata</u>
PORTUGAL	<u>Tetrax tetrax</u> , <u>Otis tarda</u>
SENEGAL	<u>Ardeotis arabs</u> , <u>Eupodotis ruficrista</u>
SOUTH AFRICA	<u>Ardeotis kori</u> , <u>Eupodotis ruficrista</u>
SPAIN	<u>Otis tarda</u> , <u>Tetrax tetrax</u>
UGANDA	<u>Ardeotis kori</u>
ZAIRE	<u>Neotis denhami</u>

(Compiled from data provided by the IUCN Environmental Law Centre).

The degree of protection afforded by each country varies from total prohibition on hunting, killing or any other disturbance and trade, to limitations on hunting season and bag numbers.

Much international trade is in effect illegal because the requisite licences required by national law are rarely issued. This situation would be greatly improved by listing Otididae in Appendix II of CITES as proposed.

In some countries bustards are considered as game birds and there are open and closed seasons for hunting. However, owing to the value of many of these species, these seasons tend to be poorly enforced and widely flouted.

42. International: Most species of bustards occur in Africa; they are included as a Family in Class B of the Annex to the African Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources. The Parties to the African Convention are:

ALGERIA	BOTSWANA
BURKINA FASO	BURUNDI
CAMEROON	CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC
CHAD	CONGO
COTE D'IVOIRE	EGYPT
EQUATORIAL GUINEA	ETHIOPIA
GABON	GAMBIA
GHANA	GUINEA
KENYA	LESOTHO
LIBERIA	LIBYAN ARAB JAMAHIRIYA
MALAWI	MALI
MAURITANIA	MAURITIUS
MOROCCO	NIGER
NIGERIA	RWANDA
SENEGAL	SIERRA LEONE
SOMALIA	SUDAN

SWAZILAND  
TOGO  
UGANDA

UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA  
TUNISIA  
ZAIRE

This designation under the African Convention means that all 15 African bustard species are subject to the provisions of Article VIII(1)(ii), namely that they are totally protected but that hunting, killing, capturing or collecting is permissible under special authorisation granted by the competent authority. Article IX of the African Convention regulates trade in wildlife in a manner similar to that employed by CITES.

The principal effect of this present proposal is to bring CITES Appendices into line with the provisions of the African Convention with respect to bustards.

There are, at present, three species of bustard in Appendix I and one species in Appendix II of CITES.

Bustard species are listed for special protection in the EEC Bird Directive, and in the Berne and Bonn Conventions on European Wildlife and Migratory Species respectively.

43. Additional Protection Needs: Apart from the necessity of listing bustards in Appendix II of CITES, their conservation depends on arresting the loss and degradation of their habitat, especially in Europe, North and East Africa and Central and South-West Asia.

An increasing trend of legal and illegal hunting and trapping of bustard species in Africa must be curbed.

Hunting is increasing in Papua New Guinea and Irian Jaya (Indonesia) as human population increases; reserve areas need to be set aside.

Habitat protection remains an important need within Europe; a hunting ban imposed in 1980 in Spain has recently been extended. In all areas, local poaching and international trade remains a hazard for these species.

5. Information on Similar Species

There are no other bird species with which bustards are likely to be confused by a trained ornithologist, although all bustard species (especially females) look comparatively similar to each other. A person unfamiliar with such cursorial birds could easily confuse the smaller bustards with stone curlews Burhinus ssp. and seriama Cariama spp.

6. Comments from Countries of Origin

Both the Kenyan and Indian authorities have expressed broad support for the proposal, other range states have yet to be contacted.

7. Additional Remarks

The participants of the CITES Implementation Seminar for Asia and Oceania Region held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia (1-12 October 1984) all supported the idea of putting all so far unlisted bustards in Appendix II of CITES.

International symposia in Poland 1979; India 1980, Spain 1982 and Peshawar 1983, looking at bustard conservation, all recommended improved protective measures for bustards and their habitat, especially for bustards in Asia and Europe. The International Symposium on Bustards held in Dubai (UAE) in November 1984, has called for similar measures for the protection of all bustards.

8. References

Cramp, S. and K.E.L. Simmons (eds.), 1979. The Birds of the Western Palearctic. Vol. 2. Oxford UP.

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King, W.B., 1981. Endangered Birds of the World, The ICBP Bird Red Data Book. Smithsonian Institution Press/ICBP. Washington D.A.

Urban, E., K. Newman and H. Fry, 1986. The Birds of Africa. Vol. 2 Academic Press.