

Strasbourg, 31 August 2018
[files09e_2018.docx]

T-PVS/Files(2018)9

CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE
AND NATURAL HABITATS

Standing Committee

38th meeting
Strasbourg, 27-30 November 2018

Other complaints

**Presumed risk of national extinction of
great bustards (*Otis tarda*)
in Serbia**

- REPORT BY THE GOVERNMENT -

*Document prepared by
the Ministry of Environmental Protection, Serbia*

- August 2018 -

Progress Report on the complaint No. 2016/6 – which assumes the risk of national disappearance of Great Bustard (*Otis Tarda*) population in Serbia

Proposal of the decision of the Government of the Republic of Serbia to sign the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation and Management of middle-European population of great bustards (*Otis tarda*) and Action Plan was made in April 2018;

Meanwhile, the information received from the Secretariat of the Bonn Convention that made a revised version of the International Action Plan for the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation and Management of middle-European population of great bustards;

16 July 2018. Mr. Tilman Schneider sent a corrected International Action Plan for the Great Bustard population of the Western Palearctic, which emphasized that it is now a new and only valid version, adopted at a meeting in March 20;

The procedure for obtaining the opinion of the competent authorities is ongoing in order to adopt conclusions of the Government of Serbia.

Coordinated and prepared by:
Ms. Snežana Prokić, MSc, Focal point for the Bern Convention,
Head of Department for Ecological Network and Appropriate Assessment



- February 2018 -

**Republic of Serbia
MINISTRY OF
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

No: 337-00-00070/2017-04

Date: 6th February 2018.

Belgrade

Iva Obretenova, Secretary
Council of Europe
Biological Diversity Unit
Secretariat of the Bern convention
F-67075Strasbourg Cedex
France

Subject: Progress Report according to Appeal No. 2016/6 – which assumes the risk of national disappearance of great bustard (*Otis tarda*) population in Serbia.

Dear Ms Obretenova,

In accordance with Council of Europe appeal No. 2016/6 – which assumes the risk of national disappearance of great bustard (*Otis tarda*) population in Serbia from 14. November 2017, regarding to notification which association Epar Subotica (Serbia) delivered to Council of Europe, on behalf of the Ministry of Environmental Protection, we would like to inform you of the following:

In accordance with Progress Report preparation, related to appeal No.2016/6, Ministry of Environmental Protection organised the meeting with competent authorities and organisations and civil society on 11 January 2018 in Belgrade.

It was considered the answer to the Secretariat of Bern Convention additional requests, including all forms of cross border cooperation and activity continuation, with the aim of removing the risk of national disappearance of Great Bustard population in the Republic of Serbia.

The following was agreed:

1. Taking activities to delay the mowing, in order to avoid the accidentally killing birds, and take the consultations with complainant and other relevant organizations and set appropriate grazing system.
2. Prepare updated report in connection with cross border cooperation project (IPA CBC INTERREG Hungary-Serbia) application status.
3. Consider adopting the Special Nature Reserve „Great Bustard Pastures“ Management plan, and providing the translation of adequate scope in English language, according to the request of the Secretariat, as soon as possible.
4. Intesify the adopting procedure of proposed regulation on declare Special Nature Reserve „Great Bustard Pastures“, including the extension of the boundaries.

5. Develop Management plan of protected area with new, extended boundaries, in line with national legislative and international contracts, and consider setting up the Action plan / Management plan for protection the great bustard population, according with the Convention of migratory species documents and through close cooperation with Hungarian experts, in order to improve conservation of Great Bustard population and its habitats in Serbia.
6. Intesify preparation and implementation of Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation and Management of the Middle-European Population of the great bustard sign procedure.
7. Initiate the meeting with Directorate for Agricultural Land at Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy, in order to provide support to international project IPA CBC INTERREG Hungary-Serbia.

Based on Protection study, as expert-documentary basis of Institute of Nature Conservation of Vojvodina province, which involves extension of the Special Nature Reserve „Great Bustard Pasture“, the Ministry of Environmental Protection prepared the proposal of regulation on declare extended protected area, provided public access and organised public debate for documentation concerned. Proposal of regulation is at final stage of consideration and adoption in the Government.

The Special Nature Reserve „Great Bustard Pastures“ with new, extended boudaries, is located on the territory of city of Kikinda and municipalites Čoka and Novi Kneževac and spreading over an area of 6779,77 ha, relative to existing area of 979 ha.

According to new regulation on protection, this area is taken under national protection, as category I area of national and international importance, in order to conserve unique mosaic of heath, salt and swamp habitats, and the only remaining great bustard (*Otis tarda*) population in Serbia. In the Special Nature Reserve „Great Bustard Pastures“ area, more than 20 different fragile types of plant communities, represents of rare and endangered flora (*Trinia ramosissima* – Burnet Saxifrage, *Silne viscosa* – White Sticky Catchfly, *Beckmannia eruciformis* – Slough Grass, *Peucedanium officinale* – Hog’s Fennel, *Plantago schwazenbergiana* – Schwarzenberg’s Plantain, *Centaurea sadleriana* – Pannonian Knapweed, *Scilla autumnalis* – Autumn Squill) and fauna (*Ophiogomphus cecila* - Dragonfly, *Pelobates fuscus* – Spadefoot toad, *Burchinus oediconemus* – Stone-curlew, *Asio flammeus* – Short-eard owl, *Spermophilus citellus* – European ground squirrel) and 135 bird species are identified, and their interrelation is the requirement for existence of great bustard, one of the most threatened birds on Earth.

3. Pursuant to protected area expansion, whitin new boundaries, protected measures and allowed and prohibited activities are defined, in order to improve mowing and grazing on public lands, in cooperation with Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy, with the aim of improving the management of great bustard’s habitats.

Accidentally killing issue, due to mowing, is partly solved with setting out the mowing conditions for nature protection; except of the mowing term, numerous measures of protection are defined, furthermore, preliminary field examination, presence of keeper, etc.

4. Article 9 of New Regulation on designation expended SNR „Great Bustard Pastures“ defines conservation, improvement and sustainable use, according to management plan, adopted by the manager, for a period of 10 years. Management plan involves objectives and priority tasks for conservation of protected area favorable condition, as well as fire protection preventive measures, according to the Law on Fire Protection (Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia No.111/09) and adopted regulation concerned.

In compliance procedure for Management plan, ministry competent for environmental protection issues provides opinions of ministries competent for science, education, agriculture, water economy, tourism, mining, energy, economy and finance issues.

Adopted Management plan will be submitted to Ministry by the Manager, no later than 10 months from the day this regulation enters into force.

5. Protected area management is entrusted to current manager - Hunting Association „Perjanica“, from village of Mokrin.

6. Management Plan draft, priority submitted to Ministry of Environmental Protection for compliance, in accordance with valid regulation on proclamation of existing SNR „Great Bustard Pasture“ (Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia No.37/97) is not adopted, because new regulation on proclamation of protected area with new boundaries will be brought, and new Management plan for that area within 10 months.

7. This protected area is identified as ecological important area of national and international importance „Great Bustard Pasture“ in attachment 1. Regulation on the ecological network (Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia No.102/2010), 2. Which is the Emerald candidate sites (RS 0000022), important bird area of international importance IBA (RS008IBA) and important plant area of international importance.

8. In the aim of advanced and more efficient protection and conversation of rare and endangered species, it continues cooperation with Hungary in order to prepare realisation of the project on conservation great bustards habitats – Conversation of key animal species of Pannonian Steppes in a border region between Hungary and Serbia, according to invitation of cross-border cooperation IPA CBC INTERREG HUNGARY-SERBIA, which involves more different partners from Serbia and Hungary.

Project implementation contract is signed. Project realises Institute for Nature Conservation of Vojvodina Province, as leading partner, in cooperation with Provincial Secretariat for Urban Planning, Construction and Environmental Protection in Vojvodina, protected area manager Hunting Association „Perjanica“ from Mokrin and Kiskunsag National Park from Hungary.

Priority project goal is improvement and implementation of conservation measures for the protection of the great bustard individuals and their natural habitats, which may, owing to financial assistance under Instrument for pre-Accession Assistance, significantly contribute to solving the risk of great bustard disappearance in Serbia.

However, there are unsolved issues of project implementation concerning public land use for the purpose of the project, with prior provided permissions from Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy, until adoption of the new regulation on proclamation SNR „Great Bustard Pastures“. Permission providing is expected after new regulation on proclamation of protected area with new boundaries adoption.

9. General Conclusion

Considering different risk factors and impact on survival of great bustards in Serbia, implementation of various protection measures achieved to decrease them. Proceeding on appeal, according to Secretariat of the Bern Convention request, Ministry of Environmental Protection continues with undertaking protection measures and habitats management, in order to provide appropriate conditions for increasing the Great Bustard population size in Serbia, including cooperation with competent authorities and organisations, as well as active informing and involving of non government organisations.

In expectation of your response, we want to thank the Secretariat in advance, for the highest consideration of this report.

Sincerely Yours,

MINISTER
Goran Trivan

Appendix:

- Extract from the Draft Management Plan of existing SNR „Great Bustard Pastures“.
- Protected area SNR „Great Bustard Pastures“ map, in accordance with new regulation.

APPENDICES

EXTRACT FROM THE DRAFT MANAGEMENT PLAN OF EXISTING SNR „GREAT BUSTARD PASTURES“.

INTRODUCTION

The Government of Republic of Serbia, brought up Decree of protection of Special reserve of nature „Pastures of Great bustard” („Official Gazette of RS”, number 37/97) by which the Special reserve of nature „Pastures of Great bustard” is classified as I category and protected as a natural good of exceptional importance in 1997.

According to the Article 9 Decree of protection on Special reserve of nature „Pastures of Great bustard” („Official Gazette of RS”, number 37/97) the management was entrusted to the Hunting association „Perjanica”, Mokrin.

According to the Article 42 Paragraph 3. Law on Environmental Protection („Official Gazette of RS”, number 66/91, 83/92, 53/93-dr.Law, 48/94-dr.Law, 53/95 and 135/04) Ministry of Environmental Protection and Spatial Planning initiated the process of enlargement of the SRP „Pastures of Great bustard” („Official Gazette of RS”, number 44/09).

During the time of adoption of the Decree of protection area of the Special reserve of nature „Pastures of Great bustard” it will be considered protected according to the Law on Environmental Protection from 1991. („Official Gazette of RS”, number 66/91, 83/92, 53/93-dr. Law, 67/93-dr. Law, 48/94- dr. Law, 53/95 and 135/04).

According to the Article 53 Law on Environmental Protection of Republic of Serbia („Official Gazette of RS”, number 36/2009, 88/2010, 91/2010 and 14/2016) the management plan contains in particular:

- 1) display the main and created values as well as natural recourses;
- 2) assessment of the state of environment of protected area;
- 3) the overview of concrete activities and processes that represent factors of threat to the protected area;
- 4) long-term goals, protection and promotion of sustainable development;
- 5) analysis and assessment of conditions for achieving the goals;
- 6) priority activities and measures on protection, maintenance, monitoring of condition and improvement in natural and created values;
- 7) priority tasks on scientific research and educational work;
- 8) planed activities on sustainable use of natural values, development and arrangement of the area;
- 9) spacious identification of planning purposes and regime of land use;
- 10) activities on promotion of the values of the protected area;
- 11) research, planning and design documentation needed for implementation of goals and activities;
- 12) cooperation and partnership with local population and other owners and users of the immovable property;
- 13) activities and measures on the implementation of the plan with its dynamics and with the subjects that are involved in the realization of the plan, with management and method of evaluating of the effectiveness of its implementation;
- 14) financial resources and other material preconditions for performing of the duties entrusted to manage with the protected area and the manner of their providing.

According to the Article 40 Paragraph 1 Law on Environmental Protection („Official Gazette of RS”, number 36/2009, 88/2010, 91/2010 corr. and 14/2016) and the Article 7, Paragraph 1, Decree on ecological network, the authorized manager of the CRP „Pastures of Great bustard”, the Hunting association „Perjanica”, Mokrin, at the same times manage the area of the ecological network.

According to the Article 48 of the same Law, management on strictly protected and protected wild species is defined in the way that Institute for Nature Protection takes care of them as well as the holders of such species, managers of protected areas, public enterprises for forest management, users of hunting grounds and fishing areas, who are obliged to plan and implement the measures and activities on monitoring and managing of the populations of strictly protected and protected wild species, in the programs and plans of management in accordance with this special law.

The implementation of obligations under ratified international treaties, Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats – Bern Convention („Official Gazette of RS” - International Contracts, number 102/2017) and issued recommendations number 157, on the status of area as the candidate for Emerald ecological network area and guidelines about criteria for their nomination, the basis acquires for establishing of management with Emerald area „Pastures of Great bustard”.

Name of the protected area: „Pastures of Great bustard”

Class of the protected area: Special reserve of nature

Category: I category – protected area of international, national and exceptional importance - Law on environmental protection („Official Gazette of RS”, number 36/2009, 88/2010, 91/2010)

Category of the protected area, according the classification of the world union for environmental protection (IUCN): IV category - reserve nature protection IUCN Category – Habitat and species management area. Protected area mainly for conservation through management intervention.

International status the protected area.

By the Decree on ecological network, annex I, a list of ecologically important areas was established in which there are:

- CRP „Pastures of Great bustard” under number 2;
- Area of special interest for protection, regarding Emerald network which was identified on the basis of Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats – Bern Convention, under the classification code Bern Convention PC0000022;
- Certain areas were defined in accordance with international programs for identification of significant areas for birds with classification code RC 008 IBA and,
- Significant areas for plants (IPA) including the area of Severni Banat and Slatinsko area -Čoka-Ostojićevo, which are outside of this protected area.

Under the name „Jazovo-Mokrin”, Reserve is entered in the register of international significant habitats of birds (Important Bird Area, IBA – 011 SER), as part of area of 8.000 hectares. Today IBA area, under the name „Pastures of Great bustard”RS011, occupies 20.522 ha, to which besides the enlargement of previous IBA area added the locations „Ciret” and „Кочоват” with their immediate surrounding as well as the locality „Crni rit” near the settlement Crna Bara.

4. LONG-TERM GOALS OF PROTECTION, CONSERVATION, IMPROVEMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The management plan for the special nature reserve (SNR) "Great Bustard Pastures" establishes the concept of protection, guidelines for its improvement and possible perspectives of sustainable development, the goal and principles of the protection of the protected natural asset. The concept of protection, development, regulation and management is harmonized both with the features of natural values, as well as with the type and category of the natural asset.

This concept implies a limitation of human intervention in order to preserve the natural values of this area, with particular review on habitat which serve to preserve rare endemic and endangered

species of flora, resident and migratory fauna, in accordance with nationally important individual species, their groups or biocenosis. Their sustained survival requires constant support by man, where protection is given priority over the management of natural or renewable resources. The general concept of protection and promotion of the SNR "Great Bustard Pastures" is guided by these policies. Besides the concept of active protection, they include interdisciplinary scientific research, monitoring, education and popularization, i.e. presentation of natural values and methods of work in the reserve. This all fits well with the planned ecotourism development.

It is necessary to harmonize the use of a natural asset with the capacity of the space and the needs related to species and habitats protection, as well as with landscape types which provide an optimal condition for survival for the living world, and above all for the survival and improvement of the population of great bustard, the fundamental value of this area. For achieving these measures it is necessary to provide a strict, scientific-ecological principle in defining measures and protection regime.

The long-term goals of protection, conservation and improvement of "Great Bustard Pastures" are primarily related to:

- 1) Preservation and improvement of the existing population of great bustard and its natural habitats
- 2) Sustainable development
- 3) International cooperation as a strategic aim in the development of a natural asset.

The most important long-term objective related to the SNR "Great Bustard Pastures" is the preservation and improvement of the basic values of the protected area in accordance with the adopted international agreements in the field of nature protection and biodiversity conservation.

This primarily refers to the preservation of the existing great bustard population and providing conditions for increasing its population and vitality. In addition, it is very important to preserve the unique Pannonian area as well as plant and animal species inhabiting it. The great bustard is a species that is highly dependent on well-targeted protection measures. Survival and improvement of the population are directly related to agroecological measures, keeping nests and eggs and revitalizing the habitat.

The main goal of protecting, preserving and improving SNR "Great Bustard Pastures", related to preserving and improving great bustard and its habitat is at the same time least achievable. To a certain extent aggravating factors are naturally conditioned because it's about marginal population. A small population of only 20 individuals with disturbed gender structure imposes genetic "saturation" as a permanent danger. Despite small population size and disturbed gender structure, there is a growing pressure of anthropogenic factors which is reflected primarily in habitat fragmentation, unintentional poisoning as well as other factors listed. Nevertheless, the ability to achieve the set goals of protection and conservation is growing every year owing to the acquired experience of the manager and the guarding service as well as the financial support from relevant institutions which is getting better every year and the expert assistance from the Provincial Institute for Nature Protection.



Photo 16. Male great bustard and hare

In order to protect the ecological network, in area of SNR "Great Bustard Pastures", are implemented:

Measures of protection in order to preserve the biological and landscape diversity, sustainable use and renewal of natural resources and improvement of the protected area, habitat types and habitats of wild species in accordance with the law regulating nature protection, and other regulations, as well as the act on the designation of the protected area and international agreements. Protection measures in an ecologically significant area which is also a protected area are implemented by legal and natural persons who use natural values and perform activities in accordance with the law governing nature protection. On this ecologically significant area technical and technological solutions are applied in order to preserve the favorable condition of the ecological network and to improve the disturbed state of the parts of this area as part of the ecological network.

In order to conserve biological diversity and indigenous habitats of this area surrounded by a cultural step, it is necessary to encourage forms of use that don't disturb the natural balance. Sustainable development is necessary to plan according to the ecological capacity of this sensitive area. Some of the possible directions of sustainable development in this area of SNR "Great Bustard Pastures" are:

- Sustainable grazing by autochthonous varieties, primarily Tsigai sheep and gray steppe, and wild horses – tarpans.
- Farming is performed in line with protection of great bustards and their environment
- The development of limited ecological tourism, as part of the general village touristic offer, with great bustard as a greatest attraction
- Healthy food production.

From a point of view of sustainable development, sustainable grazing has been present for a long time in this area. The traditional way of managing farms has significantly contributed to preserve biodiversity of this area. Mowing and grazing, which appear to be for centuries in contrary to degrading processes and contributed to the maintenance of a certain stage in succession of vegetation, should be applied as protection measures. Regular disposal of biomass, also reduces the negative impact of nitrogen and phosphorus inflow from adjacent arable lands and contributing preservation of a primary vegetation. In order to protect and preserve the specificity of this area, it is necessary to improve the scope and way of these activities. This primarily refers to increasing number of sheep "Tsigai" and establishment of permanent cattle of gray steppe that are not present on this area. Some of the possibilities are connecting cheese production and other dairy products with a Reserve and great bustard, and all with the aim of popularizing and promoting struggle for preservation of its populations and natural habitats.

The development of eco-tourism adapted to the conditions of SNR "Great Bustard Pastures" is one of the key tasks. Today, tourism represents inevitable form of development of every natural asset. The parts of preserved areas such as this, which are rare natural oases with preserved biodiversity, due to their specific characteristics inevitably become part of the tourist offer. The arrangement of space for tourist activities and reconstruction of old buildings in traditional style are integral part of the concept of protection of the natural asset. The expansion of the tourist offer should include the development of ecological educational tourism, as well as inclusion of cultural ethnographic values of the environment of the natural asset. In order for people from the countries abroad to familiarize with the extraordinary beauty, values and features of the Reserve, it is necessary to improve the current state by popularization and presentation through various media, commercial material as well as through a good hosting offer. The number of tourists visiting the natural asset must be strictly regulated and in accordance with the capacity of the area.

The first important steps on the path to popularize and promote the Reserve have already begun with the construction of a visitor center. This facility will be in future the basis for further work on sustainable promotion and education on the ground.



Photo 17. Visitor Center eko farm "Jaroš"

Hunting tourism represents a special form of development and it is an integral part of the tourist offer. The Protection of the Reserve does not exclude the possibility of hunting and development of hunting tourism if it is based on the principles of sustainable development and in accordance with and in the manner laid down in the Regulation on the Protection of the Special Nature Reserve "Great Bustard Pastures", ("Official Gazette of RS" No. 37/97). Hunting promotion should be carried out in the function of nature protection and activities such as revitalization of degraded areas in order to improve the habitat conditions for wild game, providing nurseries and feeding grounds according to the requirements of the Institute for Nature Conservation and in accordance with the Regulation on the protection of the SNR "Great Bustard Pastures", "Official Gazette of RS" No.37/97.

In achieving long-term goals of protection and development of a natural asset, the strategic aim is to connect with the countries in the region (Hungary and Romania) regarding the protection of great bustard and its habitats. It works on intensifying cooperation with permanent character with the Republic of Hungary. In order to enable the realization of such goals in practice, it is necessary to provide material resources from various sources, to implement measures for the protection, improvement and development of this natural asset.

In accordance with Recommendation no. 157 (2011) of the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention:

1. Appropriate protection and conservation measures shall be taken to preserve the ecological characteristics of areas that are candidates for the Emerald ecological network of the area "Great Bustard Pastures";
2. It will be ensured that, if and when necessary, these measures include administrative plans, development plans or management plans that are in line with environmental requirements for the long-term survival of species and habitats which are an integral part of proposed areas for the Emerald ecological network of the area, and in particular those listed in Resolution no. 4 (1996) and Resolution no. 6 (1998) of the Berne Convention or Recommendation no. 16 (1989), and to implement them at the latest by official determination of the area of special importance for conservation (ASCIs) by the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention;
3. In accordance with the EU Habitats and Birds Directives, measures will be undertaken for the protection and long-term preservation of habitat types and the favorable status of populations of strictly protected species and their habitats as well as for the improvement of the status of endangered species that are on the **verge of extinction**.

5. ANALYSIS AND ASSESSMENT OF CONDIITON FRO ACHIEVING THESE GOALS

Management plan of CRP „Pastures of Great bustard” contains plan activities of manager for the implementation of conservation of values of the Reserve on the one side and creation of conditions for

its realization on the other. Basic requirements for the realization of the plan CRP „Pastures of Great bustard” are: financial support and annual programs which provide the detailed set of tasks, the dynamics of their execution as well as financial resources and there providing on the annual level.

The realization of the Plan of management i.e. the implementation of the stated goals largely depends on the subjects that are legally obliged to participate in the realization of the Plan of management:

1. Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection
2. Provincial Secretariat for Urban Planning and Environmental Protection
3. Local authorities
4. Donations and projects

Success of implementation of the plan and program activities to the greatest extent shall depend on:

- a) Organization, equipment and personnel training of the manager

According to the Rule Book on the conditions that has to meet the manager of the protected area, („Official Gazette of RS”, number 85/2009), in order to carry out the works of protection, improvement, promotion and sustainable development of the protected area, the manager must have organized: service for protection, improvement, promotion of sustainable development and guard service.

The manager of CRP „Pastures of Great bustard” hired person with VII₂ level of education, the graduate ecologist for environmental protection and Master on agricultural science with the knowledge of English and Hungarian languages and passed professional state exam on the matters of environmental protection, who will perform duties of protection, improvement and promotion of the Reserve according to the Rule Book on the conditions that has to meet the manager of the protected area („Official Gazette of RS”, number 85/2009).

The guard service in CRP „Pastures of Great bustard” employs 2 guards for protected area also with the passed exam for the guarding the protected area and acquired certificate in accordance with the Rule Book and professional exam for guard of protected area („Official Gazette of RS”, number 117/2014). The guards are permanently employed.

In the future period it is planned that the guards will be engaged on volunteer basis or through engagement in the form of regular working actions organized by manager of Hunting association „Perjanica” for its members.

For successful organization, equipment and personnel training the manager needs to obtain financial resources from the local government as well as from the Republic and the Province. The special role in fulfilling these activities will have cross-border cooperation and the European funding for these purposes.

- b) Providing of financial resources from the planned resources by the Manager

The achievement of the objectives envisaged by the management plan will be feasible only if the necessary financial resources are provided. The lack of financial resources will inevitably affect the execution of the foreseen works. The plans related to measures of protection, function and improvement of protection shall be realized on a reduced scale.

- v) Providing of planned and other documentation

In order to exercise planning activities, the manager shall undertake all necessary measures with the aim of adopting and aligning the existing planning documentation which includes CRP „Pastures of Great bustard”(Spatial plan of municipalities Kikinda and Čoka, hunting bases).

- g) Cooperation with the responsible stakeholders

It is necessary to agree on joint cooperation with all stakeholders and users of the Reserve (local authorities, police, the competent institutions, NGO, hunting associations...)

SWOT analysis to achieve the objectives of protection

Analysis of positive and negative factors, which can affect the achievement of the strategic orientations and goals of protection, gives the timely possibility of intervention and adjustment of factors, in order to achieve the strategic goals of protection. The table shows SWOT analysis applied to CRP „Pastures of Great bustard”.

Table 4. SWOT analysis applied to CRP „Pastures of Great bustard”.

Benefits/ Strength (S) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Protection of primordial panonic habitats with endemic species of flora and fauna - The only habitat of Great bustard in Serbia - Favorable geographical position 	Deficiency/ Weaknesses (W) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Intensive agriculture production - Insufficient equipment of the guard service
Possibilities/ Opportunities (O) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Programs of protective measures to preserve the Great bustard and their habitats - Growing indigenous breeds of sheep and cattle and sustainable grazing - Development of training programs - Development of eco tourism - Development cross-border cooperation 	Risks/ Threats (T) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Giving agricultural land within the reserve for lease - Inadequately use - Fragmentation and destroying habitats - Shortage of financial resources

6. PRIORITY ACTIVITIES AND MEASURES ON PROTECTION, MAINTENANCE AND MONITORING OF THE CONDITION, AND IMPROVEMENT OF NATURAL AND CREATED VALUES

Priority activities and measures on protection, maintenance and monitoring of the condition and fundamental value of Great Bustard site improvement refer to:

1. Wintering, displaying, nesting, rearing juveniles and feeding great bustard habitat conditions improvement.

Providing new, highly quality habitats to secure optimally conditions for feeding, nesting and rearing juveniles. Creating these habitats, for more successful breeding, can be provided through set of active and favourable directed agro-environmental measures of protection, that include sowing various cultures, such as alfalfa and oilseed rape, on small areas and in the form of mosaic. This method of sowing directly affects the nesting conditions improvement, decreases anthropogenic impact and provides reproductive birds retention in a zone of the protected natural area. It is the way to reduce the possibility of creating nests on distant private properties, outside the protection regime.

Surfaces covered by reed, bushes and weed vegetation, or devastated by plowing, need to be mowed, or clearing, if necessary, in order to be converted into appropriate habitat for great bustard living activities.

In order to control dispersion of individuals outside of the protected area and provide conditions for easier food access during the winter period, it is considered further sowing of alfalfa, aniseed and oilseed rape on some parcels, periodically taking the silage out and orderly shoveling snow from more smaller areas.



Picture 18. Oilseed rape – the most important culture for Great bustard feeding in the winter period

Realization of planned activities will minimize negative affects of habitat succession and fragmentation, revitalize habitats and improve nesting and feeding conditions for great bustard. Better nesting and feeding conditions will provide new nests created in the central section of Reserve, in restricted use zone, which will contribute to successful hatching and rearing juveniles.

2. Maintenance of Reserve, active nests and juveniles of Great Bustard

Guardian service in Special Wildlife Reserve „Great Bustard Pasture“ was organized right after Reserve establishment (1997). Activities of Guardian service refer to:

- Controlling implementation of Internal Order and Security Guard Service Rule Book
- Preservation of protected area in the manner provided by the Rule Book
- Controlling implementation and maintenance of SWR „Great Bustard Pastures“ labels
- Control and prevent bringing unallowed things in the Reserve
- Giving necessary information to visitors
- Wearing official uniforme with identification item and carring weapons and means of communication
- Engaging in other activities according to Law on Nature Protection

Identifying and mapping of Great Bustard active nests provide cognition about the number of breeding pairs and their spatial order inside and out of protected area. Permanent guardian service presence is essential with a view to rescuing nests from destruction. Security Guard Service is obligated to locate, protect and secure undisturbed eggs incubation and juveniles rearing, by preventing negative impacts from agricultural mechanization, uninvited visitors and cattle appearance. In case of locating the nests on private farmland, it is necessary to prohibit its use and anticipate financial means for non-use of agriculture land, as compensation to owners.

In the aim of regular presence of guardian service, protection measures control, protection regime implementation and preservation of SWR „Great Bustard Pastures“ unique area, it is necessary to provide sources of financing and equipping.

3. Setting up of appropriate fence

In following planning period, one of priority tasks is setting up appropriate fence for great bustards around 60 ha of optimal breeding conditions area. Fence installation project developing will be based on successful models and experiences of neighbour countries, particularly Hungary, but adapted to SWR „Great Bustard Pastures“ area characteristics and conditions. Appropriate fence would minimize disturbance caused by human, cattle or dogs and protect eggs and chicks from predators, increasing chances for successful nesting and rearing juveniles.

Fence installation project will represent joint effort of Manager, Institute for Nature Conservation of Vojvodina Province, Provincial Secretariat for Urban Planning and Enviromental Protection and Ministry of Enviromental Protection, in cooperation with foreign experts for great bustard, in order to protect and improve critically endangered great bustard population.

Successful project implementation highly depends on providing financial means from national and EU funds.

4. Interventions for Great Bustard protection

Manager, Hunting Association „Perjanica“, engages in activities of additional feeding during the winter period, regulary for decades. In case of unfavourable weather conditions, Manager ensures cleaning oilseed rape fields from snow and ice.

5. Designation of Reserve

Reserve boundaries will be designated according to article 68 of the Law on Nature Protection (Official Gazette of the RS no. 36/09, 88/10, 91/10-correction, and 14/2016), in accordance with Rule Book on designation protected natural areas (Official Gazette of the RS no. 30/92, 24/94 and 17/96)

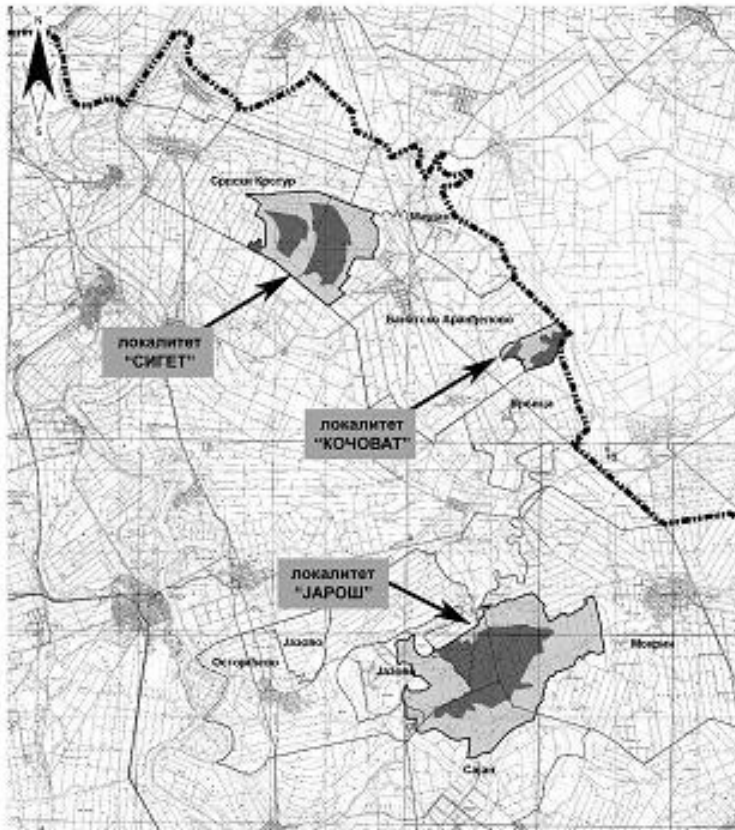
6. Predator control

In SWR „Great Bustard Pasture“ activities of controlling predators have been conducted since establishment, in order to regulate number of natural predators and minimize their impact to adult birds, eggs and juveniles. Predator control conducts in accordance with confirmed nature protection requirements. Responsibility implementation dynamics is regulated by regulation on protection SWR „Great Bustard Pastures“ (Official Gazette of the RS no. 37/97). Regulative implementation enforces from 1. October to 15. February. Manager provides stimulations for Hunting Association "Perjanica“ members, for every hunted fox, jackal, magpie or hooded crow individual. Regular records of number of hunted predators in SWR „Great Bustard Pastures“ are kept.

7. Agricultural land purchase

Land purchase is the most efficient long-term way of solving problems of agricultural production as major disturbance factor. This, primarily, applies on private plots within the Reserve boundaries. After purchase, farmland will be revitalized and restored into grasslands. Financial means, required for this action, will be provided from national and international sources, after ensuring that conditions for this are met.

PROTECTED AREA SNR „GREAT BUSTARD PASTURES“ MAP, IN ACCORDANCE WITH NEW REGULATION








Прилог 7.
СПЕЦИЈАЛНИ РЕЗЕРВАТ ПРИРОДЕ
"ПАШЊАЦИ ВЕЛИКЕ ДРОПЉЕ"

КАРТА СА ГРАНИЦОМ И РЕЖИМИМА ЗАШТИТЕ

1 : 200 000



Легенда:

-  Државна граница Републике Србије
-  Граница Катастарске Општине
-  Граница СРП "Пашњаци велике дропље"
-  Режим заштите II (другог) степена
-  Режим заштите III (трећег) степена

ИЗВОР: Геодетски, топографски карта 1:50 000

