




## WHAT CAN BE DONE TO PROTECT THE GREAT BUSTARDS IN AGRICULTURAL LANDS

-  Leave a small part of your crop **unharvested** in the land,
-  Every year leave some of your lands on long-term **fallow rotation**,
-  Grow **cereals and leguminous crops**,
-  **Do not burn stubble**,
-  Do not **harvest at night**,
-  No **chemical fertilizers, herbicides and fungicides** on cereals and legumes between 1 March and 1 July,
-  No using of insecticides **during the 5-years commitment** for any crops,
-  No new **drainage**,
-  No new **fences**.

You can get in touch with us for more information:  
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## PROTECTION of **ENDANGERED GREAT BUSTARDS** LIVING in TURKEY



*Biodiversity sub-measure under Agri-Environment, Climate and  
Organic Farming Measure of IPARD Programme*



**REPUBLIC OF TURKEY**  
**MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE**  
**AND FORESTRY**

## What is Agri-Environment?

Agriculture is one of the most important negative effects of humans on agricultural environment.

For example; the excess use of ground water for agricultural practices, the pollution caused by agriculture, improper use of water for high water-demanding crops cause reduction of the water resources.

Erosion is among the most important environmental problems that Turkey faces. One of the factors causing erosion is inappropriate agricultural practices. Moreover overgrazing has resulted with erosion. Furthermore, agricultural activities are also causing soil pollution. As a result of excessive and careless use of irrigation, the quality of soil decreases, its salinity increases .

Factors like inappropriate use of agricultural lands, use of chemicals and fertilizers adversely affects biodiversity. During agricultural activities, stubble burning also cause the extinction of living creatures. From this point of view; Agri-Environment Measure encourages farmers for implementing sustainable and environmental-friendly farming methods that include the conservation of environment, landscape, natural resources, soil, biodiversity, surface and ground waters as well as protecting their own lands and improving their environments. This measure is in pilot level for candidate states. Payments are done for compensating the income forgone as a result of commitments.

The target of Biodiversity sub-measure under Agri-Environment, Climate and Organic Farming Measure of IPARD Programme is to enhance the great bustard population. Ankara-Polatlı is the pilot of this study, the aims are:

- To provide the stability and sustainability of Great Bustard population;
- To improve the habitats for Great Bustards under AE sub-measure;
- To raise awareness on the value of biodiversity and particularly the Great Bustard population;
- To test if this agri-environment sub-measure is an effective way to improve Great Bustard Habitat and stabilise the populations; thus to provide an example for similar biodiversity agri-environment measures.

## Threats for Great Bustard!

**Basic problems related to great bustard populations in Polatlı are:**

- Their sensitivity towards disturbances caused by every type of activities including agriculture;
- Too early ploughing of set aside land in spring, results in problems to find nesting places;
- Too early harvesting in summer, causes destruction of nests and death of chicks;
- The use of fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides diminishes insects and seeds and causes the decrease of food availability; furthermore Great Bustards consider granulated fertilizers and pesticides as food and eat them, thus this cause casualties;
- Legume fodder plant parcels are insufficient. Lack of food for Great Bustards is a significant threat especially in the winter. Diversity of crops and a rich crop pattern should be taken into account in the habitats of Great Bustard;
- Illegal hunting;
- Increased mortality caused mainly by land-use changes and infrastructure development works such as powerlines (if there are electricity posts in the selected area, this can be dangerous because these birds can be killed by collision);
- Illegal stubble burning;
- Overgrazing of pastures;
- Insufficient local awareness raising activities on the priority of conservation of Great Bustard.

