

### **Project Update: June 2013**

In September 2012, we were visited by Astrid Eisenberg and Birgit Block from the Brandenburg Bird Conservation Centre where they coordinate one of the German Great Bustard protection program. We visited our reserve together and observed how a female Great Bustard feeds a 1<sup>st</sup> year chick. To our knowledge, since 2008, this was the first observation of a chick in September. We exchanged experiences, and learnt a lot from them. The agricultural work in the Reserve was poorly conducted and supervised. The ranger service was discontinued due to lack of funding. Unfortunately in 2013 we still didn't manage to observe the last year's chick, so it is assumed that it didn't survive the winter.

During the winter months the field work was obstructed by the harsh field circumstances, the ground was covered with mud and the birds were very hard to approach and see. During these months we established a better communication with the hunting societies, the farmers and animal breeders. There was only one winter feeding in December, during this time the hunter society claims to have observed 16 specimens.

The harsh field circumstances, the lack of appropriate terrain vehicle, terrain equipment and low number of volunteers resulted in the outage of the winter census. In February 2013, we were visited by the Hungarian colleagues, in which time we discussed the circumstances of the Serbian Great Bustard team to visit the Convention on migratory species Great Bustard MOU Meeting in Sarvas, Hungary.

[http://www.cms.int/news/PRESS/nwPR2013/04\\_apr/nw\\_040413\\_greatbustard.html](http://www.cms.int/news/PRESS/nwPR2013/04_apr/nw_040413_greatbustard.html)



