

## Project Update: November 2008

During late spring and summer 2007 our research team carried out extensive field work in Northern Mongolia. Our team has harnessed four additional Great Bustards with satellite/GPS transmitters and is receiving data concerning the daily movements of these birds. By examining one discarded transmitter and interviewing local families, we also determined that the cause of mortality of one of the bustards which we harnessed last year was poaching.

We began longitudinal observations of nesting females in the spring and will continue to follow their broods through the early fall to determine reproductive success. We have continued our outreach programs in the local community, including work with rural schoolchildren.

Our team finished capturing Great Bustards for the attachment of satellite transmitters in autumn 2008. We are now monitoring their habitat use patterns and are awaiting their winter migration. Team member B. Dashnyam has been formally admitted to a biology masters program at the National University of Mongolia and has begun his research on Great Bustard diet.

We have located additional Great Bustard populations centres in northern Mongolia at which breeding will be verified next spring. We have also continued our popular educational programs with rural schoolchildren, expanding our program into a neighbouring county.

