

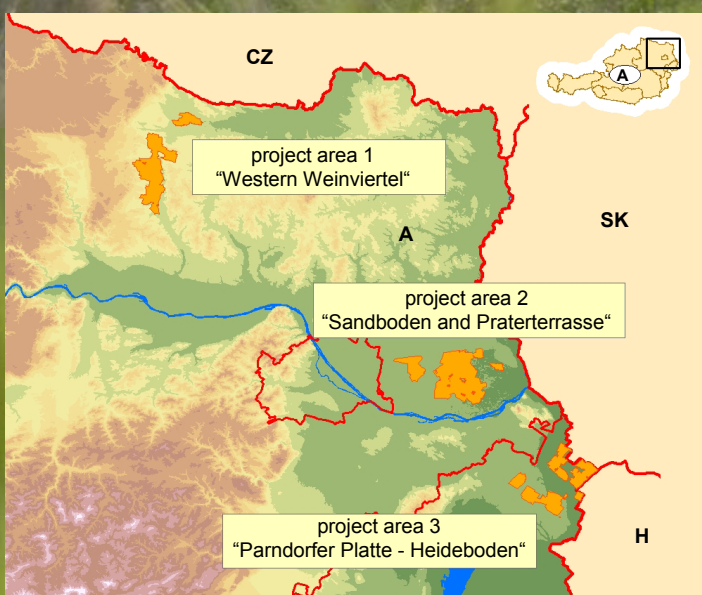


LIFE Project “Cross-border Protection of the Great Bustard in Austria“

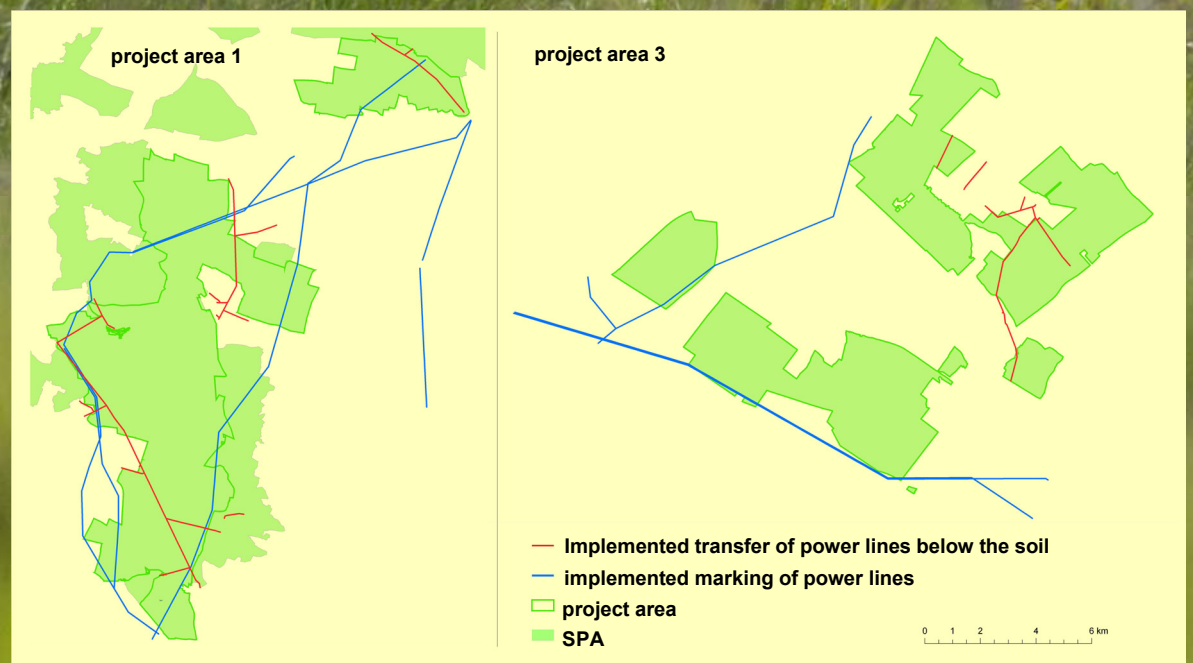


Objectives

The objectives of this LIFE project were to deal with the threat of collision with power lines, the no. 1 mortality factor for adult and immature Great Bustards in Austria, and at the same time to continue Austria’s intensive habitat management efforts. Thus, the result should be a long-term increase not only of the Austrian, but of the entire cross-border West-Pannonian population of the Great Bustard. Furthermore on the basis of bustard protection the unique value of the cultural landscape and the need for integrated nature conservation in the framework of Natura 2000 und LIFE shall be communicated to the public.



The three project areas.



Implemented transfer below the soil and marking of power lines in the project areas 1 and 3.



Transferring below the soil and the subsequent removal of a medium voltage power line as well as the marking of a high voltage powerline.



LIFE Project “Cross-border Protection of the Great Bustard in Austria“



Implemented actions

In Lower Austria and Burgenland from November 2005 till September 2008 47.4 km of medium voltage power lines (10 % more than originally planned) have been transferred below the soil and then the existing power line has been removed. Therefore larger power line-free areas were recreated for the Great Bustard by means of the LIFE Project.

Within the project around 153 km (22 % more than originally planned) of high voltage power lines have been marked with bird warning flags, bird warning plates and bird warning balls.

Due to these actions and due to further intensive conservation efforts such as the competent support of the Great Bustards and the extensive habitat management, the Austrian Great Bustard population increased from 140-165 individuals at the breeding time 2005 to 244-274 individuals at the breeding time 2010.

For maintaining living conditions and food supply for Great Bustards in Austria in a good state, an efficient cooperation of nature conservation with local farmers and hunters was required. Therefore around 550 farmers and more than 100 hunters were involved in the project.

As Great Bustards don't mind borders, an intensive cooperation between Austria and its neighbouring countries Hungary, Slovakia and the Czech Republic was carried out within the LIFE Project concerning the cross-border protection of the West-Pannonian Great Bustard population.

About this handout

Photos: Franz Kovacs, Eike Julius & Rainer Raab; Text & map preparation: Technisches Büro für Biologie Mag. Rainer Raab; Background data: BEV, Land NÖ, Land BGLD.

Further information and results on the LIFE Project: www.grosstrappe.at

The preparation of this handout and the whole project were financed by the European Union to 60 % with resources of the LIFE Nature Fund.

The LIFE Project LIFE05 NAT/A/000077 is supported by the EU and the following project partners and co-financiers:



LIFE Nature and these actions target the conservation of endangered species and habitats based on the EU Birds Directive and the Fauna Flora Habitats Directive, respectively. The protected area network **Natura 2000** contributes to the preservation of the animal and plant diversity in the wild and of their habitats all over Europe.