

Chlamydotis undulata -- (Jacquin, 1784)

ANIMALIA -- CHORDATA -- AVES -- OTIDIFORMES -- OTIDIDAE

Common names: African Houbara; African Houbara Bustard

European Red List Assessment

European Red List Status

NT -- Near Threatened, (IUCN version 3.1)

Assessment Information

Year published:	2015
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Assessor(s):	BirdLife International
Reviewer(s):	Symes, A.
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Assessment Rationale

European regional assessment: Near Threatened (NT)

EU27 regional assessment: Near Threatened (NT)

Within the region this species is restricted to the eastern Canary Islands (Spain), where it has a moderately small, apparently stable population which approaches the thresholds for classification as Vulnerable. The Canarian population is a distinct subspecies and there is not considered to be any potential rescue effect from the mainland North African population, therefore the final category is unchanged and the species is classified as Near Threatened (D1) in both Europe and the EU27.

Occurrence

Countries/Territories of Occurrence

Native:

Spain; Canary Is. (to ES)

Vagrant:

Malta

Population

The European population is estimated at 850-1,200 mature individuals. The entire population is found in the EU27. For details of national estimates, see [Supplementary PDF](#).

Trend

In Europe and the EU27 the population size is estimated to be stable. For details of national estimates, see [Supplementary PDF](#).

Habitats and Ecology

Within Europe this species is confined to the eastern Canary Islands. It inhabits sandy and stony semi-desert and is specialised to arid conditions where trees are absent and both shrub cover and herb layer are sparse (Collar 1979, Goriup 1997, Snow and Perrins 1998, Martí and del Moral 2003). The breeding season runs from November to June, with peak activity in March and April (Collar and Garcia 2013). It typically lays two to four eggs in a scrape on the ground, usually near some cover (Collar and Garcia 2013). Eggs and young are susceptible to ground predators. Males attract their mates with an extravagant courtship display which they perform at the same site each year. Males defend these display areas which are approximately 500–1,000 m apart (Tucker & Heath 1994). The display begins with a period of strutting and culminates with the male retracting his head within an ornamental shield of erected neck feathers and then running at speed in either a straight or curved line. The display is often accompanied by a series of subsonic booming calls (Gaucher et al. 1996). It feeds on invertebrates, small vertebrates and green shoots (Snow and Perrins 1998). The species is sedentary (Collar and Garcia 2013).

Habitats & Altitude	Importance	Occurrence
Habitat (level 1 - level 2)		
Artificial/Terrestrial - Pastureland	suitable	non-breeding

Habitats & Altitude		
Habitat (level 1 - level 2)	Importance	Occurrence
Grassland - Subtropical/Tropical Dry	major	breeding
Grassland - Subtropical/Tropical Dry	major	non-breeding
Altitude	Occasional altitudinal limits	

Threats

The European population is considered threatened by collisions with powerlines (C. González and J. A. Lorenzo in litt. 2007, Lowen 2007), as well as habitat degradation caused by tourist facilities, off-road vehicles, military exercises, overgrazing, sand extraction and road development. It is also possible nest predation by introduced mammals and illegal hunting have an adverse impact (Martín. et al. 1997, Martín and Lorenzo 2001, Martí and del Moral 2003). Recent evidence suggests that the impacts of military exercises and hunting have reduced considerably in recent years, but mortality from powerlines may still be significant (C. González and J. A. Lorenzo in litt. 2007).

Threats & Impacts					
Threat (level 1)	Threat (level 2)	Impact and Stresses			
		Timing	Scope	Severity	Impact
Agriculture & aquaculture	Livestock farming & ranching (scale unknown/unrecorded)	Ongoing	Majority (50-90%)	Slow, Significant Declines	Medium Impact
		Stresses			
		Ecosystem conversion; Ecosystem degradation			
Agriculture & aquaculture	Nomadic grazing	Ongoing	Majority (50-90%)	Slow, Significant Declines	Medium Impact
		Stresses			
		Ecosystem conversion; Ecosystem degradation; Species disturbance; Reduced reproductive success			
Biological resource use	Hunting & trapping terrestrial animals (intentional use - species is the target)	Ongoing	Majority (50-90%)	Rapid Declines	High Impact
		Stresses			
		Species mortality; Species disturbance; Reduced reproductive success			
Human intrusions & disturbance	Recreational activities	Ongoing	Minority (<50%)	Negligible declines	Low Impact
		Stresses			
		Species disturbance			
Human intrusions & disturbance	War, civil unrest & military exercises	Ongoing	Minority (<50%)	Negligible declines	Low Impact
		Stresses			
		Species disturbance			
Human intrusions & disturbance	Work & other activities	Ongoing	Minority (<50%)	Negligible declines	Low Impact
		Stresses			
		Ecosystem degradation; Species mortality; Species disturbance			
Invasive and other problematic species, genes & diseases	Red Fox (<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>)	Ongoing	Minority (<50%)	Negligible declines	Low Impact
		Stresses			
		Species mortality; Reduced reproductive success			
Residential & commercial development	Tourism & recreation areas	Ongoing	Minority (<50%)	Slow, Significant Declines	Low Impact
		Stresses			
		Ecosystem conversion; Ecosystem degradation			
Transportation & service corridors	Roads & railroads	Ongoing	Minority (<50%)	Negligible declines	Low Impact
		Stresses			
		Ecosystem degradation			

Threats & Impacts					
Threat (level 1)	Threat (level 2)	Impact and Stresses			
Transportation & service corridors	Utility & service lines	Timing	Scope	Severity	Impact
		Ongoing	Minority (<50%)	Slow, Significant Declines	Low Impact
		Stresses			
Ecosystem degradation; Species mortality					

Conservation

Conservation Actions Underway

CITES Appendix I. EU Birds Directive Annex I. Bern Convention Appendix II. National legislation protects the species or controls hunting in most range states, however hunters are often able to circumvent these laws (Azafzaf et al. 2005). In the Canary Islands the species has received improved protection from poaching as well as the reduction of grazing (agricultural decline) and habitat management within protected areas (Martín et al. 1997, Martín and Lorenzo 2001, Martí and del Moral 2003). SEO/BirdLife purchased a 209-ha reserve to protect the species on Fuerteventura in 2005.

Conservation Actions Proposed

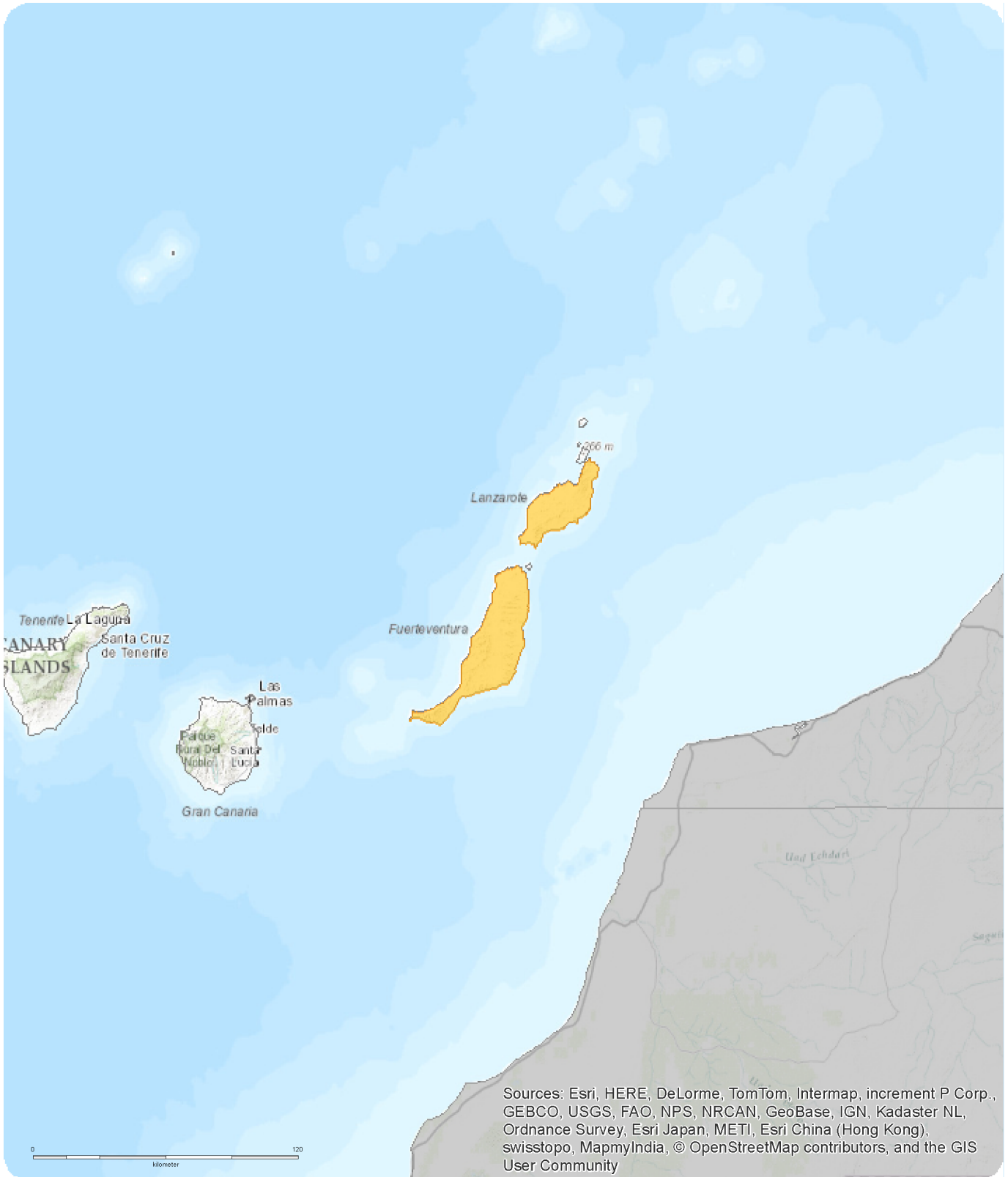
Designate new and expand existing special protected areas under European law. Increase wardening of key areas. Ensure safe powerline positions; conduct a rigorous census every five years. Undertake local awareness campaigns (Martín et al. 1997, Martín and Lorenzo 2001, Martí and del Moral 2003).

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Map (see overleaf)

European Regional Assessment

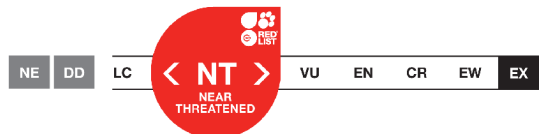


Chlamydotis undulata

Range

■ Extant (resident)

Citation:
BirdLife International (2015)
European Red List of Birds



Map created 05/12/2015

