Order:	Gruiformes	**Family:**	Otididae
Scientific Name:	*Ardeotis kori*	**Common Name:**	Kori bustard

AZA Management: ☐ Green ☒ Yellow ☐ Red ☐ None

Photo (Male): males are twice as large as females. Weights for mature males range from 12-21kg. Males gain up to 4kg during the breeding season

Photo (Female): females average 6-7kg

NATURAL HISTORY:

Geographic Range:	Europe	☐	Asia	☐	North America	☐	Neotropical	☐
	Africa	☒	Australia	☐	Other	Click here to enter text.		
Habitat:	Forest	☐	Desert	☐	Grassland	☒	Coastal	☐
	Riverine	☐	Montane	☐	Other	Click here to enter text.		
Circadian Cycle:	Diurnal	☒	Crepuscular	☐	Nocturnal	☐	Other	Click here to enter text.
Cold Tolerance:	To 70° F	☐	To 60° F	☐	To 50° F	☐	To 40° F	☒
	To 30° F	☐	To 20° F	☐	Other	Kori bustards are susceptible to frostbite. Birds must be moved to heated sheds at 32F [dry conditions] and to heated sheds at 35F with precipitation		
Heat Tolerance:	To 30° F	☐	To 50° F	☐	To 70° F	☐	To 90° F	☐
	To 110° F	☒	Other	Areas of shade must be provided at temps above 80F. Kori bustards do not thrive in climates that are consistently wet, rainy, and damp				
Diet:	Frugivore	☐	Carnivore	☐	Piscivore	☐	Insectivore	☐
	Nectivore	☐	Omnivore	☒	Folivore	☐	Other (Add Below)	☐

Captive Dietary Needs:

Kori bustards are omnivores. Based on ecological studies and GI tract morphology, the recommended

diet for kori bustards should include nutritionally complete feeds, whole prey (vertebrate and invertebrate), and produce. Diets in zoos typically include fruits (e.g., apple), vegetables (e.g., cabbage), invertebrates (e.g., mealworms and crickets), whole vertebrate prey (e.g., mice), processed meats (e.g., beef, horsemeat), and some form of nutritionally balanced pelleted food (e.g., game bird pellets. Diet is fed 2x/day. Enrichment: chopped fruit [no citrus], insects, greens, peanuts, peanut butter. Crane pellets in a hopper should be made available 24/7. See AZA Kori Bustard (Ardeotis kori) Care Manual for further information.

Life Expectancy in the Wild:	Males:	Unknown, but est 15-20 years	Females:	Unknown but est 15-20 years
Life Expectancy in Captivity:	Males:	30 years	Females:	30 years

BREEDING INFORMATION:

Age at Sexual Maturity:	Males:	3 years	Females:	3 years [have bred at 3 years, but many do not begin to lay until they are 6+ yrs old]

Courtship Displays:	A lek-like breeding system, where males gather either singly or in loose lek-like formations during the breeding season and perform "balloon" displays to attract females. During a male's display, the esophagus can be inflated up to four times its normal size, and with the neck expanded, tail and wing feathers pointed downward, and the crest erected, the male emits a low-pitched six-note booming vocalization as he snaps his bill open and shut. Prior to copulation, males often spend 5-10 minutes pecking the head of the recumbent females; copulation itself lasts no more than a few seconds. Males play no role in egg or chick care, and continue to display to other females after copulation; males do not associate with females outside of breeding interactions.
Nest Site Description:	None other than a shallow scrape in the ground.
Clutch Size, Egg Description:	Most females lay only one egg per clutch although some lay two with the 2nd egg coming two days after the first egg. Remove eggs to incubator and replace with dummies.

Incubation Period:	23 days	**Fledgling Period:**	4 weeks

Parental Care:	Maternal only. Handrearing is recommended for all kori bustard chicks.
Chick Development:	The chicks of kori bustards are precocial, have open eyes at hatching, and are able to stand within hours. Do not pinion chicks.

CAPTIVE HABITAT INFORMATION:

Social Structure in the Wild:	By nature, kori bustards are generally solitary animals, except for females with chicks. In some instances, kori bustards in the wild have been observed to form small semi-social groups during the non-breeding season. In the

	wild, chicks separate from their mother at the start of the following year's breeding season.
Social Structure in Captivity:	In general, at least two kori bustards [but not two adult males] should be housed together to allow for social interactions, but this will be dependent on the sex and temperament of the birds, and the space provided (e.g., during winter housing). Maintaining single birds is not recommended on a long-term basis; optimum group size for kori bustards is 1-2 males and 2-3 females, depending on the enclosure facilities available. See AZA Kori Bustard (Ardeotis kori) Care Manual for further information.

Minimum Group Size:	1 male: 1 female	Maximum Group Size:	1 male: multiple females

Compatible in Mixed Species Exhibits:	Varies	**Comments:**	Limited options for mixed species exhibits. Check with SSP Coordinator for options

Optimal Habitat Size:	Large paddock-like enclosures are the most appropriate type of space for kori bustards, and exhibits ranging up to 4645m2 (50,000ft2) have been provided to this species. Kori bustards will thrive more effectively if provided with a few hectares of space, providing opportunities for their full range of species-appropriate behaviors, and allowing a complex environment to meet their physical and social needs. The recommended minimum space for outdoor enclosures is 13 m x 20 m (42.7 ft x 65.6 ft) per bird. All enclosures should be large enough for bustards to avoid animal caretakers when enclosures are cleaned, re- provisioned, etc., and to maintain their preferred flight distance from animal care staff. Indicators that the size and complexity of the enclosures are not meeting the needs of the birds may include poor physical health, pacing along fence lines, and increased behavioral displacements between females or between males and females. See AZA Kori Bustard (Ardeotis kori) Care Manual for further information.
Management Challenges:	Juvenile morbidity and mortality with many birds not reaching the age of first reproduction. Limited options for mixed species exhibits. Adults prone to "hardware disease", leg injuries.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

Kori bustards are listed by IUCN as Near Threatened and their population is decreasing.
Major Threats: Collisions with high voltage power lines are a major threat in the Karoo of South Africa and in Namibia, and presumably elsewhere where there are power lines within the range. Declines in Tanzania can probably be attributed to trade in the species during the 1990s and 2000s. There is also anecdotal information from South Africa indicating that the species is used in the muti (traditional medicine) trade, hunted for bush meat, and illegally kept as pets. The causes of population declines and range losses in many parts of the distribution are unknown, but have been hypothesized to include persecution, rangeland degradation and shrub encroachment. In Botswana, unregulated hunting appears to be a genuine threat.
BirdLife International 2013. Ardeotis kori. In: IUCN 2013. IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Version 2013.2. <www.iucnredlist.org>. Downloaded on 11 May 2014.

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Senyatso, K., Collar, N.J. and Dolman, P. 2012. Assessing range-wide conservation status change in an unmonitored widespread African bird species. Diversity and Distribution 1-14.

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COMPLETED BY:

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