

Programme

19-24 October 2026, Hortobágy

Subject to change depending on weather conditions.

Monday, 19 October

Hajdúszoboszló

Arrival throughout the day

Tuesday, 20 October

Hajdúszoboszló

Breakfast

08:00 Bus departs every day from Hajdúszoboszló

Hortobágy National Park Visitor Centre

08:30	10:00	Conference registration / coffee break / poster mounting
10:00	10:20	Levente Kőrösi, State Secretary for Biodiversity Conservation, Ministry for the Living Environment Gergely Árpád Medgyesi, Director, Hortobágy National Park Directorate Opening of the XI. International Crane Conference
10:20	10:40	George Archibald - In memory of colleagues who have passed away
10:40	11:00	George Archibald - Stories from the past: previous conferences in pictures
11:00	11:10	József Katona - Organisational information for the conference
11:10	12:00	Gyula Szabó - Introduction to the Hortobágy National Park Directorate
12:00	13:30	Lunch at the Hortobágy Inn
13:30	14:00	Poster session / Eurococktail event / Visit to the exhibition at the Visitor Centre SESSION: PLENARY
14:00	15:00	Rich Beilfuss - (online / pre-recorded) From Endangered to Abundant—the State of the World's Cranes in 2026
15:00	16:00	George Archibald - Celebrating Cranes
16:00	17:30	Visit to the local Herders' Museum
17:30	21:00	Dinner / icebreaker at the Hortobágy Inn
21:00		Bus returns to Hajdúszoboszló

Wednesday, 21 October

Hajdúszoboszló

08:00 Bus departs from Hajdúszoboszló

Hortobágy National Park Visitor Centre

SESSION: LESSONS LEARNED FROM HPAI OUTBREAKS IN CRANES

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| 08:45 | 09:10 | Diana Boon -
Whooping crane mortalities from highly pathogenic avian influenza in North America |
| 09:10 | 09:35 | Anne Lacy -
Population-level impacts on Sandhill Cranes from a highly pathogenic avian influenza outbreak in the Eastern Flyway, USA |
| 09:35 | 10:00 | Uri Naveh -
Case study of H5N1 outbreak in Israel: What did we learn and what are we trying to do next? |
| 10:00 | 10:25 | Günter Nowald -
Avian Influenza (H5N1) in Eurasian Cranes (<i>Grus grus</i>) on the Western European Migration Flyway |
| 10:25 | 10:50 | Coffee break / poster session |
| 10:50 | 11:15 | Juan Carlos Alonso - (online / pre-recorded)
Estimated mortality of Common Cranes due to avian influenza along the western European flyway in autumn 2025 |
| 11:15 | 11:40 | József Katona and Endre Sós -
Mass mortality of Common Cranes during the 2023 HPAI outbreak in the Carpathian Basin |
| 11:40 | 12:40 | Workshop and discussion: Lessons learned from HPAI outbreaks in cranes |

Hortobágy Inn

12:40 14:10 **Lunch / poster session**

Wednesday, 21 October (continued)

Hortobágy National Park Visitor Centre

SESSION: RARE SPECIES CONSERVATION

14:10	14:35	Hillary Thompson - A 10-year plan to improve demographic rates for the Eastern Migratory Population of Whooping Cranes
14:35	15:00	Wu Heqi - International Cooperation for Black-necked Crane Conservation: Progress, Challenges, and Strategic Priorities
15:00	15:25	Yumin Guo - "Subadult Ecology" - Starting with Long-Lived Species: Cranes
15:25	15:50	Zhengwu Pan - Image-based individual identification of wild Black-necked Cranes (<i>Grus nigricollis</i>) using deep learning
15:50	16:15	Elena Mudrik - (<i>online / pre-recorded</i>) Molecular-genetic control of the Siberian Crane captive population renewal
16:15	16:45	Coffee break / poster session
16:45	17:10	Lisa Pourlak - (<i>online / pre-recorded</i>) Role of Indigenous Knowledge in Crane Conservation: Case study of the Wintering Ground of the Western Flock of the Siberian Crane
17:10	17:35	Tariku Mekonnen Gutema - Identifying Breeding Sites of Cranes: Baseline Ecology and Conservation Priorities in Southwestern Ethiopia
17:35	18:00	Dessalegn Obsi Gemed - Threats, Conservation Challenges, and Community Perceptions of Black Crowned Crane (<i>Balearica pavonina</i>) Conservation in Jimma Zone, Southwestern Ethiopia
18:00	18:25	Werner Schröder - Approaches for the successful conservation of Grey Crowned Cranes in East Africa: Examples from Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda, and Burundi
18:25	19:00	Film screening
19:00		Bus returns to Hajdúszoboszló

Dinner - on your own

Thursday, 22 October

Hajdúszoboszló

05:00 07:00 Weather permitting - dawn crane-watching at the roost

Hortobágy National Park Visitor Centre

SESSION: POPULATION AND MIGRATION ECOLOGY OF CRANES, MANAGEMENT OF CRANE POPULATIONS

08:30 09:00 **Arrival / coffee / poster session**

09:00 09:25 **Baasansuren Erdenechimeg -**

Migration and breeding surveys of endangered cranes in Mongolia

09:25 09:50 **Lijia Wen -**

The demographic impact of human infrastructure collisions on a migratory bird

09:50 10:15 **Kylee Warren -**

Ghost Migration: Documenting the Ecological and Cultural Echoes of the North American Flyway

10:15 10:40 **Elena Mudrik - (online / pre-recorded)**

Population genetic structure of the Demoiselle Crane in Russia based on microsatellite and mitochondrial DNA markers

10:40 11:10 **Coffee break / poster session**

11:10 11:35 **Alain Salvi -**

From North Africa to Southern Europe: a massive relocation in the wintering of Common Crane populations over a few decades

11:35 12:00 **Morgane Gicquel and Lovisa Nilsson -**

Insights from 37 years of colour-marking: Detection, survival and distributional change in the European Common Crane

12:00 12:25 **David Kever -**

Recent evolution of the status of the Common Crane (*Grus grus*) in Belgium

12:25 13:00 **Session discussion / programme buffer**

Hortobágy Inn

13:00 14:30 **Lunch / poster session**

Thursday, 22 October (continued)

Hortobágy National Park Visitor Centre

SESSION: POPULATION AND MIGRATION ECOLOGY OF CRANES, MANAGEMENT OF CRANE POPULATIONS

14:30	14:55	Markéta Ticháčková - Life Histories and Breeding Success of GPS-Tracked Common Cranes (<i>Grus grus</i>) in the Czech Republic
14:55	15:20	Petr Lumpe - Common Cranes (<i>Grus grus</i>) in the Czech Republic: Distribution, Non-Breeding Flocks and Migratory Shortening
15:20	15:45	Anne Kettner - Long-term changes in migration distance and wintering areas of Eurasian Cranes (<i>Grus grus</i>) from North-East Germany
15:45	16:15	Coffee break / poster session
16:15	17:00	Session discussion / programme buffer
17:00		Bus returns to Hajdúszoboszló
Dinner - on your own		

Friday, 23 October

Hajdúszoboszló

08:00 Bus departs from Hajdúszoboszló

Hortobágy National Park Visitor Centre

SESSION: POPULATION AND MIGRATION ECOLOGY OF CRANES, MANAGEMENT OF CRANE POPULATIONS

08:45 09:10 **Arrival / coffee / poster session**

09:10 09:35 **Ivar Ojaste -**
Daily use of breeding-season home ranges by Eurasian Crane families

09:35 10:00 **Ivar Ojaste -**
A shared staging region, contrasting schedules: spring migration of Eurasian Cranes returning to Estonia and Finnish Lapland

10:00 10:25 **Karoline Hemminger -**
CraneField: Systematic Assessment and Co-Designed Solutions for Crop Damage Caused by Common Cranes in Brandenburg

10:25 10:50 **Harindra Baraiya - (online / pre-recorded)**
Habitat Selection by Wintering Common Cranes in the tropical savannah and the agrarian landscape of western India

10:50 11:15 **Ayesha Zulfiqar -**
Evaluating Public Awareness and the Impact of Educational Initiatives on Crane Conservation Efforts

11:15 12:00 **Session discussion, conference conclusions and closing remarks**

Hortobágy Inn

12:00 13:30 **Lunch**

Hortobágy National Park Visitor Centre

14:00 Bus departs for a field trip to observe cranes flying to their roost at dusk

In the field

19:00 Bus returns to Tiszacsege / group dinner

Saturday, 24 October (extra day)

Hajdúszoboszló

09:00 Bus departs from Hajdúszoboszló

10:00 16:00 St Demetrius Day Ceremonial Livestock Return and Crane Festival

16:00 Bus returns to Hajdúszoboszló