

# Arctic Migratory Birds Initiative

A photograph of two Arctic Skuas in flight against a blue sky with soft clouds. The birds are white with black caps and long, pointed wings. The background shows a blurred field of green and yellow vegetation.

**CAFF**  
Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna

**Risa Smith- Chair**  
Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna  
Biodiversity Working Group  
Arctic Council

Photo: Mark Medcalf/Shutterstock.com

## Project goal

A photograph of an Arctic Skua standing on the ground. The bird has a mottled brown and white pattern on its back and a reddish-brown breast. It is standing on a patch of moss and low-lying vegetation.

**CAFF**  
Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna

- Led by Canada, Norway, Russia
- Goal is to improve the status and secure the long-term sustainability of declining Arctic breeding migratory bird populations

Photo: Jochen Dierschke

## Project structure



**Step 1: Prioritizing species, groups of species, habitats, or threats**

**Step 2: Assessing state of knowledge**

**Step 3: Taking actions including reducing threats, recovering habitat, enforcing regulations, ensuring sustainable harvests**

Photo: Jan van de Kam

## Progress



- **First expert workshop - February**
  - Agreed on priority species/groups of species/ecosystems
  - Agreed to include a threats based approach to prioritization and critical actions
  - Results ready for Oct. SAO
- Second workshop back-to-back with Arctic Biodiversity Congress

Photo: Richard Fitzer/Shutterstock.com

## Main Threats



- Habitat loss and/or degradation.
- Unsustainable harvest.
- By-catch (emphasis on fisheries by-catch).

Photo: Arun Roisri/Shutterstock.com

## Priority Species and Ecosystems



### Species occurring on multiple flyways:

- Red Knot
- Dunlin
- Possibly Snowy Owl

### Most threatened species

- Spoon-billed sandpiper

### Priority Ecosystems

- Intertidal ecosystems on the East Asian Australasian Flyway, including the Yellow Sea
- Grasslands in the central flyway of N. & S. America
- Davis Strait/Baffin Bay/coastal Newfoundland

;



## Success depends on

- Participation of partners outside the Arctic
  - Observer countries along flyways have already provided data (Singapore, China, S. Korea) and participated in the expert workshop (Singapore, Netherlands, France, S. Korea, World Wildlife Fund)
  - Other key partners (Bird Life International, EAAFP)
  - Engaging along other flyways (e.g. Americas)
- Cooperation among Arctic countries
  - CAFF's Cbird Expert Group



## Next steps



- ✓ Identifying and filling essential knowledge gaps
- ✓ Identifying and taking conservation actions
- ✓ Tracking progress



Photo: Silvia Vaughn-Jones/Shutterstock.com