



International Snowy Owl Working Group

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Statement from the third ISOWG meeting, Salekhard, Russia March 2.-6. 2014

1. The ISOWG wishes to thank the Yamal government and local organizers for hosting the 3rd meeting of ISOWG in Salekhard, Yamal 2 - 6th March 2014.
2. Participants of the 3rd ISOWG meeting agreed that current data indicate declining population trends for the Snowy Owl and considerable future challenges due to climate change.
3. ISOWG will contact CAFF with a request to include the snowy owl on the list of priority species for Arctic Migratory Birds Initiative (AMBI).
4. Recent population estimates (likely no more than 14,000 pairs) based on two separate publications (with two separate methods) are considerably lower than those provided in the current IUCN red list and the BirdLife International SPEC-category (290 000 - 300 000 individuals), that is based on an estimate with low accuracy.
5. ISOWG recommends that Snowy Owl should be considered for inclusion in the IUCN International red list.
6. ISOWG will summarize population status and contact BirdLife International to consider including the Snowy Owl in the International red list. ISOWG will also contact the Ministry of Natural Resources and Ecology of the Russian Federation to consider including the Snowy Owl in the Red Data Book of Russian Federation.
7. Participants of the meeting underline the importance of the efforts of the Yamal Governor and the Yamal Government on scientific research conducted on the territory. ISOWG will contact the government of Yamal with a request to continue support of research and conservation activities on Arctic ecosystems and Snowy Owl in particular.
8. ISOWG acknowledges the importance of collecting traditional knowledge of indigenous people on Snowy Owl and stresses the importance of raising awareness in circumpolar communities to decrease the level of subsistence hunting of Snowy Owl and of collecting information on the level of subsistence hunting throughout the range.
9. ISOWG calls for increased International and National awareness and enforcement of current laws on illegal hunting, taxidermy and egg collecting activities, which pose a threat to Snowy Owls.
10. Given the nature of the Snowy Owl movements (across continents and hence National boundaries), the ISOWG highlights the need of a wider scale satellite/GSM/GPS tracking of Snowy Owls throughout the whole range, with special attention to the areas east of the Ural Mountains in Russia.

