



MIDCONTINENT SHOREBIRD CONSERVATION INITIATIVE (MSCI)

FACT SHEET – Central-Southern Andes/Patagonian Steppe Planning Unit



GEOGRAPHY

Major landscapes: Andean wetlands, Puna, Altiplano, Andean Forests, Saline Lakes, Patagonian Steppe.

Main habitats: Dry plains, Puna grasslands characterized by grasses, herbs, lichens, mosses, ferns, and shrubs, riverine wetlands, saline wetlands in shrub-dominated habitats.

Other characteristics: : There is a strong elevational, latitudinal, and west-east climate gradient with much drier conditions on the Pacific slopes and Altiplano to much wetter conditions on the eastern Andean slopes.

Countries:

-  Peru
-  Bolivia
-  Chile
-  Argentina



Fuegian Snipe



Puna Snipe



Gray-breasted Seedsnipe



Andean Avocet
©AdobeStock/Luciano



Diademed Sandpiper-Plover ©Diego Luna-Quevedo



Fuegian Snipe
©Victor Raimilla



Magellanic Plover
©Santiago Imberti

TARGET / KEY SPECIES

Fuegian Snipe, Puna Snipe, Gray-breasted Seedsnipe, Diademed Sandpiper-Plover, Andean Avocet, Magellanic Plover, Tawny-throated Dotterel, Wilson's Phalarope, Baird's Sandpiper



Andean Avocet



Magellanic Plover



Diademed Sandpiper-Plover



Wilson's Phalarope



Tawny-throated Dotterel



Baird's Sandpiper

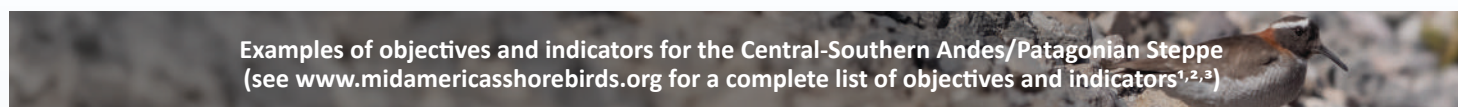
MAIN THREATS

This list reflects the highest-ranked threats identified for this planning unit. However, it does not encompass all threats affecting the unit. For a comprehensive assessment of threats and their relative importance, please refer to pages 24–36 of the MSCI Strategic Framework.

Threat Ranking in the Central-Southern Andes/Patagonian Steppe		
Threat	Impacts	Rating
Climate change	Alters hydrological regimes, temperature patterns, and the availability of high-elevation and steppe wetlands. Increased drought frequency, glacier retreat, and shifts in seasonal precipitation reduce the extent and predictability of saline lakes, puna wetlands, and riverine systems.	High
Incompatible livestock ranching practices	Unsustainable grazing regimes, including overstocking, continuous grazing, and inadequate timing, degrade native grasslands and wetlands by compacting soils, reducing vegetation heterogeneity, and altering natural disturbance dynamics. These practices accelerate desertification processes.	High
Oil, gas, and mining	Extractive industries present a growing and high-impact threat through direct habitat loss, water extraction, contamination, and infrastructure development. Mining and hydrocarbon (oil and gas) operations disproportionately affect saline lakes, high-Andean wetlands, and surrounding steppe habitats. Poorly regulated development fragments landscapes, disrupts hydrological systems, and introduces long-term environmental liabilities, posing substantial risks to both biodiversity conservation and community water security.	Medium

PRIORITY STRATEGIES AND MAIN OBJECTIVES

To address the complex and interlinked threats affecting shorebirds and their habitats in the Central-Southern Andes/Patagonian Steppe, the MSCI Strategic Framework identifies a set of complementary strategies that operate across scales and sectors. If you are implementing actions in this geography, please consider these indicators to monitor your progress towards achieving your results, and to better understand how you are contributing to implementing the MSCI Strategic Framework.



Examples of objectives and indicators for the Central-Southern Andes/Patagonian Steppe (see www.midamericasshorebirds.org for a complete list of objectives and indicators^{1,2,3})

Strategy: Strengthen and catalyze alliances for conservation¹

Objectives	Indicators
Establish and support new alliances where it is the most appropriate approach	Number of new alliances created that integrate shorebird conservation in their principles, in particular from the mining & energy (including renewable energy) sector
Mainstream shorebirds and their habitats as conservation targets into alliances' goals and objectives	Number of alliances that integrate shorebird needs in their guiding principles

Strategy: Manage existing and acquire new habitats²

Increase capacity and technical knowledge of land managers and key stakeholders where shorebird habitat management can be improved	Number of technical trainings (e.g., workshops) or other knowledge-sharing activities with land managers and key stakeholders, focusing on integration of shorebird conservation needs
Acquire lands that incorporate management and conservation actions for shorebirds	Area (e.g., hectares) of habitat acquired that incorporates management and conservation actions for shorebirds

Strategy: Build capacity for conservation by raising awareness and boosting education and training³

Increase capacity of key stakeholders to implement conservation actions that are beneficial to shorebirds	Number of participants who report an improvement in knowledge and/or skills to support shorebird conservation
Develop champion schemes to identify, train, support, and acknowledge the contribution of conservation champions	Number of champions schemes developed

1. See pages 42 and 44 of the MSCI Strategic Framework for a complete list
2. See pages 48 and 50 of the MSCI Strategic Framework for a complete list
3. See pages 60 and 63 of the MSCI Strategic Framework for a complete list