

## Saryarka, Kazakhstan

### Key facts

- Recommended by IUCN for inscription on the World Heritage List in July 2008 at the World Heritage Committee in Quebec City, Canada, for its biological diversity and ecological processes.
- Saryarka – Steppe and Lakes of Northern Kazakhstan – protects substantial, largely undisturbed areas of Central Asian steppe and lakes in the Korgalzhyn and Naurzum State Nature Reserves.
- The Korgalzhyn-Tengiz lakes provide feeding grounds for up to 15-16 million birds, including flocks of up to 2.5 million geese. They also support up to 350,000 nesting waterfowl, while the Naurzum lakes support up to 500,000 nesting waterfowl.
- The property's steppe areas provide a valuable refuge for over half the species of the region's steppe flora, a number of threatened bird species and the critically endangered saiga antelope (*Saiga tatarica*).
- The seasonal dynamics of the hydrology, chemistry and biology of the lakes, with the diverse flora and fauna of the wetlands, have evolved through complex wetting and drying cycles, and are of global significance and scientific interest.
- Contains more than 200,000 ha of Central Asian steppe, more than half of which is pristine.

### Key quotes

- *“The wetlands of Korgalzhyn and Naurzum State Nature Reserves are key stopover points for migratory birds,”* says **David Sheppard, Head of IUCN's Protected Areas Programme**. *“Some of these species are globally threatened. Saryarka offers them a safe haven on their journeys from Africa, Europe and South Asia to their breeding grounds in Western and Eastern Siberia.”*

### Media Contact

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### Photos

- For photos of Saryarka, Kazakhstan, please visit <http://data.iucn.org/temp/wh2008/>. Please note the images are copyright protected and can only be used to illustrate press releases in relation to IUCN's recommendations to the World Heritage Committee.



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