

Tundra Conservation Network

Statement of Purpose

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1BQF8GUcRHJfqStVu1ecKQG3Bfv6XF0rIJiiAG--NdCI/edit?usp=sharing>

The Tundra Conservation Network is an international body of scientists working together to understand the effects of global climate change on the Arctic tundra ecosystem. The Network is focused on the potentially complex effects of climate variability on the Arctic landscape and on endemic resident species of tundra wildlife and plants.

The Network's collective knowledge base arises through its members' individual expertise in aspects of the tundra food web, and from its members' working throughout the Arctic. The Network's expertise encompasses predator-prey interactions, plant ecology, and plant-herbivore interactions, as well as climate change research and modeling.

Mission:

To understand and predict the effects of climate change on Arctic ecosystem processes, specifically the tundra food web with Gyrfalcons, ptarmigan, and vegetation as integral components.

Goals:

1. Design and conduct collaborative research across scientific disciplines and international borders to describe the status of predator-prey-plant interactions in Arctic tundra and build knowledge on how these will be affected by changing global climate.
2. Through a collaborative, international forum for scientists representing diverse disciplines and geographic regions, provide objective, science-based information to resource managers, decision makers, policy-makers, stakeholders, and the general public regarding the effects of climate change on obligate tundra species and associated ecological processes that may disrupt the function and health of the whole ecosystem.

FIGURE 1. Possible conceptual model for tundra food web and interactive effects of climate change on ecological processes involving obligate tundra species.

