

Memorandum to Senior Arctic Officials 17/09/2014

The Arctic Migratory Bird Initiative (AMBI) *Status report*

OVERVIEW

The AMBI– an early implementation item of the Arctic Biodiversity Assessment and an Arctic Council Chairmanship priority project– is led by Canada, Norway and Russia. AMBIs goal is to improve the conservation status and secure the long-term sustainability of declining Arctic breeding migratory bird populations - [AMBI website](#) / [Project plan](#).

ORGANISATION

Project steering committee members responsible for coordination:

- Environment Canada
- Norwegian Environment Agency
- All-Russian Institute for Nature Conservation (ARRINC)
- US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)
- CAFF Chair/Secretariat
- CAFF Circumpolar Seabird expert group
- Birdlife International (*Scientific advisors*)

At the sub-steering committee level, AMBI is organised via flyways technical teams (science and policy experts) current members include:

- *Americas*: Environment Canada, USFWS, Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network.
- *Circumpolar*: CAFFs Circumpolar Seabird expert group (CBird)¹
- *East Asian Australasian*: ARRINC, USFWS, BirdLife International, East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership (EAAFP).
- *African-Eurasian*: Norwegian Environment Agency, ARRINC, BirdLife, African Eurasian Waterbird Agreement (AEWA), International Wader Study Group.

PRODUCTS

- *Flyway* action plans scheduled for CAFF Board review/approval at CAFF Biennial, February 10-12.
- *Circumpolar* Seabirds plan under development.
- Arctic Migratory Birds Index, scheduled for CAFF Board review in November.

¹ Arctic Council countries and PPs will be the primary entities involved in seabird research and conservation actions. There are a few species (e.g. Arctic Tern) whose annual cycle takes them far from the Arctic. In those cases non-arctic countries will need to be involved. The existing CAFF expert group CBird is already well organized to undertake prioritization, knowledge assessment, and to identify conservation actions.

MEETINGS

- February 9: AMBI workshop, Canada
- September 16-17: East Asian Australasian workshop, China
- October 8: Migratory Birds side event at CBD COP12. Republic of Korea
- October 16-17: North American flyway workshop, US
- December 3: AMBI Session at Arctic Biodiversity Congress, Norway
- December 5: AMBI workshop, Norway

COMMUNICATIONS

- [Project plan](#) finalised November 2013
- [Montreal Workshop proceedings](#) published as a CAFF report
- Public event, February 12, Kuujuaq, Canada
- Short 2 minute film created to contribute to CMS activities for World Migratory day - [view here](#)
- Short film screened at Migratory birds conference, Singapore, May 10-11
- Regular progress reports/presentations to Senior Arctic Officials
- [AMBI website](#), social media (Facebook, Twitter)
- AMBI presented at meetings with Icelandic President, Swedish Crown Princess.

ACTIONS REQUIRED

- SAOs and PPs asked to take note of progress so far, provide guidance and encourage participation of Observer countries in AMBI.