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Memo on the Arctic Migratory Bird Initiative (AMBI)

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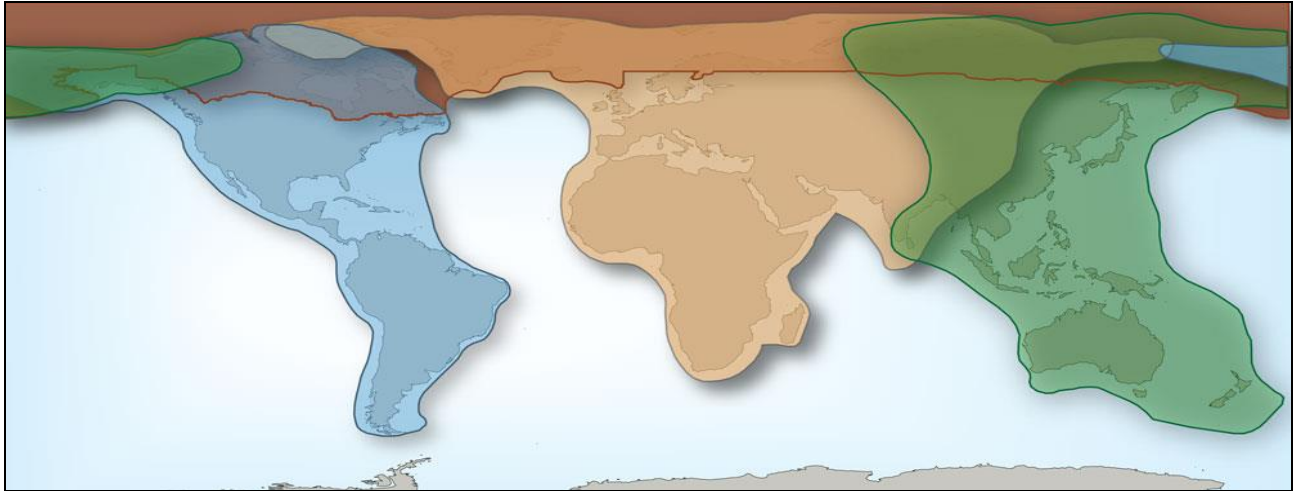
Type (e.g. report, progress report, etc.)

Information Document

Memorandum to Senior Arctic Officials 19/02/2016

The Arctic Migratory Bird Initiative (AMBI)

For information and guidance



AMBI flyways, in which prioritized species and implementation activities have been identified. Blue: Americas, brown: Circumpolar, tan: African-Eurasian, green: East-Asian Australasian.

CONTEXT

AMBI's goal is to improve the conservation status and secure the long-term sustainability of declining Arctic breeding migratory bird populations. Many bird populations are decreasing at an unprecedented rate for a variety of reasons including destruction of coastal wetlands for land reclamation and drainage, habitat degradation, trapping/poaching, unsustainable harvesting and climate change. For more information [AMBI website](#).



- Arctic Biodiversity Assessment Key Finding #3: *Many Arctic migratory species are threatened by overharvest and habitat alteration outside the Arctic, especially birds along the East Asian flyway.*
- Arctic Biodiversity Assessment Recommendation #8: *Reduce stressors on migratory species range-wide, including habitat degradation and overharvesting on wintering and staging areas and along flyways and other migration routes.*

AMBI is led by Canada, Norway, USA and Russia and coordinated and implemented through a multinational Steering Group with representatives from Canada, US, Russia, Norway, BirdLife International and UNEP. Further implementation is based on flyway teams comprised of scientific and policy experts

OBSERVER ENGAGEMENT

There is a great need to meaningfully involve non-Arctic countries (including Arctic Council Observers and non-Observers) in the work of the AMBI to address threats to Arctic-breeding migratory birds and improve the conservation status of priority species. At the October 2015 SAO meeting a special session was held focusing on Observer engagement in Arctic Council activities. AMBI was one of three initiatives selected for discussion and at this meeting Observers confirmed their interest in participating in AMBI. This memo provides an update on subsequent developments.

- Follow-up to the SAO special session entailed issuing invitations to Observer states to nominate representatives to AMBI and participate in country specific teleconferences with the CAFF Chair and AMBI coordinator. Calls have been planned/held with:
 - China, France, Germany, Japan, Netherlands, Republic of Korea, Singapore
- The Netherlands is hosting a three-day AMBI implementation workshop scheduled for April 5-7 2016 in Texel. This meeting will bring together flyway working group members, observers, multi-lateral environmental organizations and others to discuss AMBI flyway actions, coordination, partnerships and funding. The following non-Arctic countries and expert organisations are participating (** indicates an Arctic Council Observer*):
 - China*, France*, Germany*, Guinea-Bissau, Japan*, Netherlands*, Mauritania, Myanmar, Spain*, UK*
 - The Republic of Korea* and Singapore* have registrations pending for the workshop
 - Birdlife International, East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership, UN Convention on Migratory Species, Wadden Sea Secretariat, Wetlands International, World Conservation Society

ACTION

- Advice on path forward to engage Arctic Council Observers and non-Arctic countries in AMBI